



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

The William Bartram Group
Serving Greenville, Laurens, Spartanburg, and Union Counties
Bartram Bulletin
Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet.

Volume 44, Number 5

June 2014

June gathering

Sunday, June 29

2:00 P.M.

***Club Picnic
Brunch
in
Cleveland Park***



***Reminder:
No Meeting
or
Bulletin
in
July***

The William Bartram Group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except July) at 255 Enterprise Blvd. Greenville, SC 29615-3577 at 7:30 P.M.—
unless otherwise noted.



see web site for directions
<http://sierraupstate.org>

Sunday Picnic Brunch in Cleveland Park

Please join us for a wonderful afternoon picnic near the Fernwood Trail in Cleveland Park on ***Sunday, June 29***. We will gather at 2:00 P.M. in the afternoon, weather permitting, for a pot luck brunch.

Sierra Club has reserved shelter #6 (across the stream from the dog park) in Cleveland Park for the afternoon. There is parking very close to the shelter. Bring your family and friends, plus a dish to share. The Bartram Sierra Club will furnish drinks, utensils and paper goods.



Also, bring comfortable shoes if you wish to walk on the Swamp Rabbit Trail or the Fernwood Trail afterwards. Hope to see you there! Call Jean Wilder at (864) 244-9630 if you have questions.

From the ExCom

by Jean Wilder

Insects are a good thing....believe it or not!

Many Sierra Club members enjoy watching wildlife in their yards. Knowing the basics of providing food, water and shelter is a great beginning to attracting wild creatures.

But what is also important to know is that many creatures that inhabit our yards consume insects either as a major part of their diet or while raising their young. The list of insect eaters includes birds, bats, reptiles, small mammals, spiders and amphibians. Unfortunately, if most of the plant material in your yard is from a nursery, the insects will not be attracted to your area. This is because most plant nurseries sell plant materials from countries far away from the US. The plants are selected for showy flowers rather than their benefit to local wildlife.



Why can't the insects survive on exotic plants? All plants have evolved over thousands of years to ward off insect pests by making noxious chemicals in their tissues. In conjunction, insects have built up a tolerance to certain native plants by consuming them over time. If native plants are not in your yard, the insects will not be there either. Think of the Monarch butterfly and milkweed. Their symbiotic relationship has been built over thousands of years.

continued on page 3



Outings

and Dates to Remember

Nonmembers of the Sierra Club are welcome to join us on our outings. Please call the trip leader to let him/her know that you are going. She/he can then give you a location to meet as well as information on last minute changes. Discuss how strenuous the trip is, and any health problems you may have of which she/he should be aware. Please, no pets, guns, radios, etc. on hikes. Interested in leading a trip? Call Dennis Chamberlain, (864) 430-3754.

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms>> or call (415) 977-5630.

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Saturday, June 21 • Intro Day Hike to the Smokies

We will follow the trail along **Big Creek** in the Smokey Mountain National Park for 7-8 miles round trip, but moderate. We'll also take some time to wade and cool off our feet in the ice cold Big Creek during a long lunch break. There is a nice campground at Big Creek. Dennis is not organizing an overnight on Friday night, but up to 12 (limit) may join him. Maybe do some fishing in the Creek. Contact Dennis for details (864) 430-3754 or dennis@greenvillelaw.net.

Saturday, July 12 • Dayhike to Oconee Station

We will be hiking with Cary Hall of the Palmetto Trail. Continuing our theme of "trails just don't happen," this should be an easy hike with a chance to get wet in the waterfalls. The hike begins at Oconee State Park and descends about 3 1/2 miles to Oconee Station. A short spur trail leads to Station Cove Falls, a beautiful 60 ft. plus waterfall. At Oconee Station the blockhouse still stands, built in 1792 as one of a series of blockhouses along the border with Indian territory.

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We will learn about the Palmetto Trail history and future as well as the parks.

We will leave the McDonald's near Furman at 8:00 A.M. and drive to Oconee State Park. We will need to leave some vehicles at Oconee Station. I highly recommend some swim wear to possibly get wet. Bring a lunch and appropriate water, lunch, footwear, and rain gear. We plan to be back to Greenville by 4 or 5 P.M. **Please let Dennis know if you are coming and whether you will be at McDonald's or Oconee State Park.** Limit 24. Call Dennis (864) 430-3754.

Adopt-a-Highway

The remaining dates as scheduled by DOT for 2014 are:

August 23 • November 15

Saturday, August 23 • Adopt-a-Highway

Join us for one or more of the pick-ups of 2014. The Bartram Group won a South Carolina award last year for our work on this program. We have a two mile stretch on East North (also known as) Old Spartanburg Road between Mitchell Road and Brushy Creek. We will meet at 8:00 A.M. at Mitchell Road Elementary School which is on the corner of Mitchell Road and Old Spartanburg Road. If it is pouring rain, we'll not meet. You will be provided the bags, twisty ties, work gloves, orange safety vests and water. We cover two miles, both sides of the street, and are very fortunate to have sidewalks on the entire route. Contact Steve Root at stephenjohnroot@gmail.com for details or to let him know you will join us.

Saturday, September 13 • Picnic on the Saluda River with Frank Holleman

Our guest will be Frank Holleman of the Southern Environmental Law Center. This will be a picnic on the Saluda River to learn about coal ash and other threats to the Saluda River. Very informal. No limit. Call Dennis for details (864) 430-3754.

OTHER AREA EVENTS

Sunrift Adventures • Mini Clinics


This spring, summer, and fall Sunrift Adventures is hosting a series of in-store mini clinics: boat demos at Paris Mountain State Park and the Saluda river, stand up boat demos on the Saluda river, midnight paddles at Paris Mountain State Park, fish casting clinics, and mountain bike rides. The in-store mini clinics range from outdoor cooking, light backpacking, to bicycle repairs. To learn more please call (864) 834-3019 or visit the website Sunrift.com and click on "Schedule" below "Out and About" at the bottom of the home page and then #4.

From the ExCom continued

So, what is the answer? Keep your eye open for a native plant sale or ask for native plants at your local nursery. Probably some of the best trees that you can plant for attracting insects are native oak, willow, cherry and birch. Each of these native species will attract over 300 species of insect each. Also, trees add beauty and value to your property and they help regulate heat gain in your home. It is very easy to pick up a sprouting acorn under an oak tree. Watching it grow in your property will reward you and the wildlife that will thrive because of the tree. Best of all...it's FREE! 🌱

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The wilderness
holds answers
to questions
man
has not yet
learned
to ask.

—Nancy Newhall



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**Deadline for August bulletin is
Friday, July 18**
Send your submissions to wbartramnews@gmail.com

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The Bartram Group of the Sierra Club—Upstate, SC

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The Green Spot



Sharing the Green

Top 10 Birds to Control Pest

- **Top 10 Pest Controllers:** Purple Martin, Red-Eyed Vireo, Chipping Sparrow, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow Warbler, Eastern Bluebird, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Phoebe, Baltimore Oriole, and House Wren.
- These ten birds, of course, are not alone in consuming backyard pests. Many other species—such as the northern cardinal and black-capped chickadee—eat insects or feed them to their young during the summer.
- Along with native vegetation, offer birds a water source and a few different nesting sites: brush piles, ledges, nest boxes, shrubs and various types of trees—including dead tree limbs and trunks.
- Needless to say, birds will not completely rid your yard of insects, and even if they could, you wouldn't want them to do so. Some insects are imperative for a healthy garden, and birds do not discriminate between destructive and beneficial bugs. But they can help keep insect populations in your neighborhood at a stable, balanced level, benefiting both you and your neighbors. Subsequently, you'll have a nicer garden to show for it throughout the summer. Yet as summer winds down, your efforts to attract birds shouldn't come to a halt. The natural foods you provide in your yard throughout the year will encourage these birds to return and combat a new generation of insects the next year.

send your "green" submissions to: wbartramnews@gmail.com

When we contemplate the whole globe as one great dewdrop, striped and dotted with continents and islands, flying through space with other stars all singing and shining together as one, the whole universe appears as an infinite storm of beauty.

—John Muir