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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 4

May 2014

**May meeting**

Wednesday, May 21  
7:30 P.M.

**The Energy System  
Freedom of  
Ownership  
Act**

*Samantha Siegel*



**Coming**

**in June**

Sunday, June 29  
2:00 P.M.

**Club Picnic Brunch  
at  
Cleveland Park**



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>

**The Energy System  
Freedom of Ownership Act**

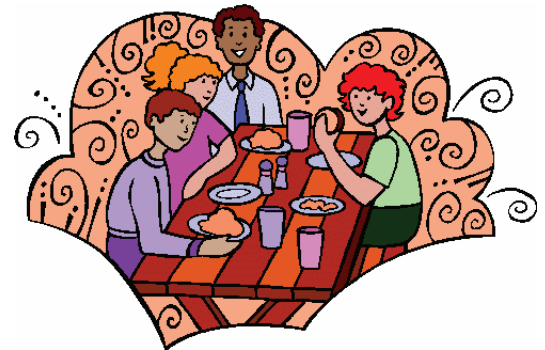
As electricity rates across South Carolina climb higher and higher each year, South Carolinians want a market place that offers solutions to the strain of rising energy bills. Third party ownership of distributed energy systems like solar panels allows property owners to lower their bills and increase control over where their power comes from. Around the country, substantial amounts of private capital are being invested in this business model, and legislative bill S.536 ensures South Carolinians will also be allowed to participate in a growing market that will stimulate local job creation while advancing the state's economy.

S.536 allows South Carolinians to become consumers of energy without having to shoulder the high upfront cost of buying equipment like solar panels outright, as opposed to financing them. Through this innovative, free market solution, any business, homeowner, church, school, hospital, retirement center, military base, non-profit, etc. can lock in affordable, long-term financing rates for electricity produced on their own property. The bill makes such financing possible by allowing third parties (such as banks, credit unions, etc.) to sell electricity to existing utility customers, a practice which is currently prohibited because SC utilities hold exclusive rights to sell electricity within their service territories. These third parties would not have to be registered utilities in order to lease out solar panels.

**June program**

**Sunday Picnic Brunch in Cleveland Park**

Please join us for a wonderful afternoon picnic near the Fernwood Trail in Cleveland Park. 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 Trail or the Fernwood Trail afterwards. Hope to see you there! Call Jean Wilder at (864) 244-9630 if you have questions.





# 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.

## 2014 Trail Service Outings • Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area

May 17 • September 20 • October 18 • November 22

### Saturday, May 17 • Trail Service Outing

Please join us on Saturday, May 17 for a Trail Service Project to improve and preserve the existing trails at these mountain parks. If you enjoy these trails, please plan to join us on May 17, or one or more of the other 2014 outings. For more details, contact Jim Majors at 864-233-7576 or jim\_majors@bellsouth.net.

## Adopt-a-Highway

The dates as scheduled by DOT for 2014 are: May 17 • August 23 • November 15

### Saturday, May 17 •

## 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

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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 [stephanjohnroot@gmail.com](mailto:stephanjohnroot@gmail.com) for any details or to let him know you will join us.

Note: The Adopt-A-Highway program is now under Palmetto Pride. All the signs will be changed out eventually to read "Palmetto Pride". Until we get them all changed, there will be a mixture of the old and new signs. We basically are the same program as before, just under a different department.

## From the ExCom

*by Karen Mascaro*

## Remembering Earth Days Past

The first Earth Day was April 22, 1970, the day the modern environmental movement was born. The idea came to Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a US Senator from Wisconsin, after witnessing the massive oil spill in Santa Barbara and inspired by the student anti-war movement, he looked to infuse that energy with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution.

1970 was the height of the hippie and flower child culture in the US. That year brought the death of Jimmie Hendrix, the last of the Beatles albums and Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge over troubled water." Protest was the order of the day. I remember a co-worker finding her co-ed daughter on the cover of Life magazine protesting in a fountain in Paris.

At the time, Americans were guzzling leaded gas through massive V-8 sedans while industry belched out smoke and sludge, primarily viewed as the smell of prosperity. Rachel Carson's 1962 "Silent Spring" had sold over 50,000 copies in 24 countries and represented a watershed moment for the modern environmental movement.

As Nelson had envisioned, Earth Day 1970 capitalized on the emerging consciousness while channeling the energy of the anti-war protest movement. Environmental concerns were thrust into the national political agenda.

Fast forward to 1990. Earth Day celebrations and festivities were now celebrated throughout the country and worldwide. Then with the Atlanta Sierra Club

*continued on page 3*

*From the ExCom continued*

group, we built a huge display and an 80ft. replica of the Chattahoochee River as it coursed its way through towns, cities, farms and mills to the Gulf of Mexico.

So what happened to all that enthusiasm? If you were looking for an Earth Day celebration in 2014, you would have to search. We are still guzzling gas through massive vehicles. The Environmental Protection Act has been stripped to a shell of its original intent, mutant shrimp are being caught in the Gulf of Mexico and trash cans are full of recyclables. The fight for a clean environment continues in a climate of increasing urgency as the ravages of climate change become more manifest every

day.

April 22 will mark 44 years since the first Earth Day. You are invited to remember our Mother Earth this year. Take a stand, make a commitment, lend a hand and spread the word. This is a pretty amazing planet, lets keep it.

I think  
having land  
and not  
ruining it  
is the most  
beautiful art  
that anybody  
could ever  
want to own.

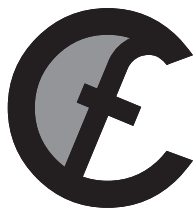
—Andy Warhol

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**Deadline for June bulletin is  
Friday, May 23**

Send your submissions to [wbartramnews@gmail.com](mailto:wbartramnews@gmail.com)

## Lawyers Supporting the Environment

### Dennis Chamberlain

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**Address Changes**

For subscription inquiries and address changes, contact Sierra Club Member Services, PO Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80328-2968. Send old and new addresses and a Sierra label. Or e-mail changes to <address.changes@sierraclub.org>.



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The Bartram Group of the Sierra Club—Upstate, SC



**Two Junior Division Winners  
 in the Roper Mountain Science Center  
 Science Fair**

*by Bob Church*

The Greenville County & South Carolina Regional Science Fair, organized and hosted by the Roper Mountain Science Center, was held on Monday, March 24 at the TD Center. Judging was held at the TD Center and award presentation at Roper Mountain Science Center. For the past several years the Bartram Group of the Sierra Club has awarded \$50 each to the Junior and Senior division winners on environmental and conservation issues. This year the awards went to two Junior division winners since there were no Senior entries. The winners are Vignesh Rajmohan, Sterling School, for his project “Carbon Dioxide in Ocean Water: A Global Nightmare” and Gracie Schirle, St. Mary’s School for “Mud: The Fuel of the Future”.

Our thanks to Ben Rudd for doing a wonderful job in judging and Ben and Pat Rudd for presenting the awards.



**The Green Spot**



*Sharing the Green*

**Top 10 Birds  
 to Control  
 Pest**

- 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. 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 songsters to visit again,” says Tufts. As a result, the birds may return and combat a new generation of insects the next year.
- send your “green” submissions to: wbartramnews@gmail.com*

**Volunteers In Action**

Thanks to **Dennis Chamberlain** and **Frank Hollerman** for a great hike in the *Nine Times Preserve*. 27 people were able to enjoy a beautiful hike. Thanks to **Jim Majors** for 12 years of leading the Bartram Sierra trail maintenance program in the Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area. Also, thanks to **Ben and Pat Rudd** for doing a wonderful job with the Roper Mountain Science Center science fair.