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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 3

April 2014

*April meeting*  
**Sunday, April 13**  
**\*3:00–5:00 P.M.**

***Sustainability at  
Furman University***  
**Yancey Fouché**  
*Associate Director of the  
Shi Center for Sustainability*



*Coming*  
***in May***  
Wednesday, May 21  
7:30 P.M.

***Alternative Energy  
Legislation***  
**Samantha Siegel**



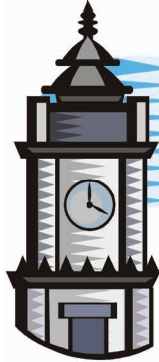
The William Bartram Group meets  
the 3rd Wednesday of each month  
(except July) at 255 Enterprise  
Blvd. Greenville, SC 29615-3577  
at 7:30 P.M.—  
**unless otherwise noted.**



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

**Sustainability at Furman University**

*by Trey Fouché*



**Yancey Fouché**, Associate Director of the Shi Center for Sustainability, will describe how Furman University equips students to be leaders in a complex and rapidly changing world. Wear your walking shoes, because after the brief talk we'll explore the features of Southern Living Magazine's first green showcase home and the adjacent organic teaching garden, as well as other sites of interest.

***\*Note this meeting is at a different time and day than the standard monthly meeting. Hope to see you on Sunday, April 13 at 3:00 P.M.***

***May program***

**Samantha Siegel joins us to discuss  
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.



# 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 Eric Thompson (864) 297-6015.

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

April 19 (*revised*) • May 17 • September 20 • October 18 • November 22

#### Saturday, April 19 • Trail Service Outing

Please plan to join us on the Saturdays listed above during 2014. These Trail Service Projects improve and preserve the existing trails at these mountain parks. If you enjoy these trails, please plan to join us on one or more of the 2014 outings. For more details, contact Jim Majors at 864-233-7576 or [jim\\_majors@bellsouth.net](mailto: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 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. This month, we will have new Sierra Club tools to help in the process. Join us to pick out yours. 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 Chair

by *Trey Fouché*

### Greenville Citizens Roads Advisory Commission

In November, 2013 the Greenville County Council unanimously passed Resolution #1486 "to initiate the development of a project list of roads, intersections, and bridges to be improved." This resolution created a 19-member citizen commission charged to "consider proposals for road improvements and related projects within Greenville County's boundary." The idea is for the Commission to conduct public input meetings throughout Greenville County regarding potential improvements to roads and bridges. This is the first step in a process to hold a 2014 referendum on a penny sales tax for funding the "transportation improvements."

It is important to note that the resolution does not allow for a portion of funding to be used for sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and public transit. This is strictly a "Roads Only" commission. This shortsighted approach does not allow citizens to give input on other transportation options. An effective transportation system needs to include components such as transit, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and walking paths.

In 2013, Upstate Forever and the Greenville Transit Authority sponsored a poll of active Greenville County voters. Key findings include that 75% of the voters either strongly or somewhat agree that in addressing the county's current and future transportation problems, our elected leaders should support and fund a wide variety of options, including roads, public bus systems, bicycle

*continued on page 3*

*"The Unique Outdoor Shop"*

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*From the Chair continued*


trails and walking paths. However, the Citizens Road Commission is not allowed to consider these quality of life options.

If a penny sales tax passes, it would generate at least \$65 million per year in Greenville County. Under the current framework, none of this money will be spent on public transit, bicycle trails, or walking paths. If you are a citizen of Greenville County, please consider contacting your County Council member to let them know your concerns with this approach. 🌱

Individually,  
we are  
one drop.  
Together,  
we are  
an ocean.  
—Ryunosuke Satoro

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April 22 is



Plant  
a  
tree.

Easy Save the Planet Tip Easy Save the Planet Tip Easy Save the Planet Tip



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*📅 Deadline for May bulletin is  
Friday, April 18*

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

## Lawyers Supporting the Environment

**Dennis Chamberlain**  
*General Practice • Emphasis on Bankruptcy, Financial and Business Issues*  
819 East North Street, Greenville, SC 29601; (864) 331-3069  
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**Frank J. Dana III, CELA**  
*Certified as an Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation*  
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704 East McBee Avenue, Greenville, SC 29601; (864) 242-4899  
[tom@conlaw.com](mailto:tom@conlaw.com)

**Ronald A. Maxwell**  
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225 Chesterfield Street, NW Aiken, SC 29801; (803)641-6700  
516 West Avenue, North Augusta, South Carolina 29861  
(803) 202-1100; [maxwell@maxwelllawfirm.com](mailto:maxwell@maxwelllawfirm.com)

**Don Pilzer**  
*Social Security Disability only*  
300 University Ridge, Greenville, SC 29601; (800) 518-0234  
[don@donpilzer.com](mailto:don@donpilzer.com)

**Andrew Poliakoff**  
*Workers compensation claims and auto accidents*  
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[andrewpoliakoff@bellsouth.net](mailto:andrewpoliakoff@bellsouth.net)

**Gary W. Poliakoff**  
*Representing Victims of Personal Injury and Toxic Exposure and Contaminated Property • We represent no violators of environmental law. Website: [gpoliakoff.com](http://gpoliakoff.com)*  
215 Magnolia Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306; (864) 582-5472  
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**SIERRA CLUB**  
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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

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Our task must be  
 to free ourselves  
 by widening our circle  
 of compassion to  
 embrace all living creatures  
 and the whole  
 of nature and its beauty.

~ Albert Einstein

**Volunteers In Action**

Thanks to the March 19th Trail Workers for their effort on Caesars Head: **Marty Goreckii, Jim Kelly, Dale Bartels, Pam Schoon, Curtis Koch, and Jim Majors.**

**The Green Spot**



*Sharing the Green*

**WATER Conservation**

- If you drink your daily recommended 8 glasses of water /day from the tap, it will cost yo about 50¢/year. If you choose to drink it from water bottles, it can cost you up to \$1,400.
- More than 25% of bottled water comes from a municipal water supply—the same place that tap water come from.
- While usage varies from community to community and person to person, on average, Americans use 183 gallons of water a day for cooking, washing, flushing, and watering purposes. The average family turns on the tap between 70 and 100 times daily.
- Americans use more water each day by flushing the toilet than they do by showering or any other activity.
- A running toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water/day.
- At 1 drip per second, a faucet can leak 3,000 gallons/year.
- **Water is part of a deeply interconnected system. What we pour on the ground ends up in our water, and what we spew into the air ends up in our water.**

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