



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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

Volume 45, Number 1

February 2015

February meeting

Wednesday,
February 18
7:30 P.M.

Greenlink

Pat Dilger

*Chair of Greenville
Transit Authority*



*If you are not receiving
Bartram emails, please
check the website
(sierraupstate.org) for up-
dates to programs and ac-
tivities. Inclement weather
can result in cancellation of
programs.*



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>

greenlink
Connecting Greenville

Transit, Trolleys, & Development in Greenville & the Upstate

by Trey Fouché

Did you know that annual ridership of Greenlink, Greenville's public transit system, topped 1,000,000 in 2014? Have you ridden the new trolleys that began rolling down Main Street over the summer? Are you interested in leasing one of the ten new bike lockers coming soon? Have you heard that a group of business leaders and concerned citizens came together to form the Upstate Transit Coalition (UTC)? Want to learn more?

Come hear **Pat Dilger**, *Chair of the Greenville Transit Authority* and principal of Overstreet Studio, an urban design firm that specializes in sustainable, walkable communities, at the February Bartram Group meeting. Pat will discuss the recent improvements made to Greenlink as well as plans for things to come. Additionally, she will address the importance of land use planning for public transit to be a truly viable option in Greenville and the Upstate. Come learn about the emergence of the Upstate Transit Coalition and the role it plays in educating our public leaders and the community as a whole.

Stay Connected with Your Bartram Sierra Club

by Ron Sobczak

Because of a scheduling conflict (on the part of your group chair – me), we had to cancel the January Bartram general meeting. We always try to keep our membership informed through emails, our web page, <http://sierraupstate.org/>, and facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bartramgroup/>

If you did not receive an email from us, it either means that we do not have your email address or that the email went into your spam folder. If you would like to receive notices from the Bartram group in the future, please send your email address to me, sobczakr@yahoo.com and put "Bartram email" in the subject line. I will add you to the email list and reply to your email to let you know. Also please add SierraUpstate@gmail.com to your address book so that emails from the Bartram group do not end up in your spam folder.

Another reason to send us your email address now is that we are considering going to electronic newsletters to save on postage and your email address will insure that you continue to receive our bulletin.



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.

Adopt-a-Highway

The remaining date as scheduled by DOT for 2015 is: February 21, May 16, August 22, and November 14.

Saturday, February 21 • Adopt-a-Highway

Join us for the first pick-up of 2015. 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 or (864) 346-3081 for details or to let him know you will join us.

Saturday, March 21

• Chestnut Heritage

Preserve Hike Please join us for a delightful springtime hike to the Pacolet River. We hope to see trillium, bloodroot and Jack-in-the-Pulpit. The hike is 2.75 miles one-way,

with a gradual elevation change of 500 feet. Please bring plenty of water and lunch to eat. The trailhead is near the Cliffs of Glassy off Route 11. For more information and pictures of the trail, please check out this website: http://www.brendajwiley.com/chestnut_ridge_trail.html

We will meet and carpool from the McDonalds (located in the Publix parking lot) near Furman University. The address of the Publix is 5000 Old Buncombe Road, Greenville, SC, 29617.

To register for this outing or if you have questions, please call Jean Wilder at (864) 561-0794 or 244-9630.

From the ExCom

by Ron Sobczak

South Carolina Gold Rush—Part 2

In the last Bartram Bulletin, I discussed Sierra Club's objections to the proposed Romarco Minerals's permit to reopen the Haile Goldmine in the Kershaw and the environmental and ethical issues with South Carolina's permitting process. Today I want to tell you about SC Sierra Club's success in challenging the original terms (\$60 million for remediation with only \$5 million in cash from Romarco) of the DHEC permit. Attorney Bob Guild, Conservation Chair for SC Sierra Club, challenged the agreement as insufficient protection for South Carolina taxpayers and the environment. Under the new agreement, Romarco will post a total bond of \$65 million for cleanup which includes \$10 million in cash (twice as much cash as the original agreement). Chapter Chair Susan Corbett added nothing in this new permit "limits our commitment or ability to closely monitor future compliance by Haile with all regulatory requirements, to question future changes or expansions of mining activities, or to seek reform and strengthening of our state's mining laws to better protect us from future mining activities." Note that we still have in place a Governor's office that will use the promotion of economic development to limit the amount of bond money for the protection of taxpayers who may end up paying for clean-up down the road. SC Sierra Club was the only environmental group in South Carolina to challenge this permit.

This points out that we need your money to be able to mount these challenges when they occur. This is a major success to protect South Carolina's Environment. But we need your support. Please consider donating to the SC Sierra Club by going to <http://myscsierra.org/chapter/> and making a pledge on the website. Thank you for your support of the environment.

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Bartram Group of the Sierra Club

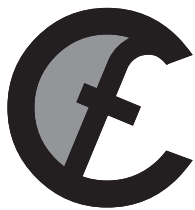
(Executive Committee Members denoted by asterisk)

Sierra Club Membership & Officers listing is the property of the Bartram Group of the Sierra Club and cannot be distributed without permission.

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Vice Chair	Trey Fouché*	569-9393
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 **Deadline for March bulletin is Friday, February 21**

Send your submissions to wbartramnews@gmail.com



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A foolish
consistency is the
hobgoblin of
little minds,
adored by
little statesmen
and philosophers
and divines.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



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The Bartram Group of the Sierra Club—Upstate, SC



Volunteers In Action

Thanks to all the people that made the 2014 Christmas Party such a success. Special thanks to: **Jean and David Wilder** for reserving the wonderful new Activities Room at the Greenville UU Church, having everything set up and handling all the dishes afterwards. **Katherine Muller's Mother** for decorating the hall so beautifully with greenery and candles. **Katherine Muller** for preparing multiple posters listing some of the accomplishments of South Carolina Sierra Club for 2014, and for inviting several new people (potential new members for Sierra Club), and for getting us a live band. Thank you to everyone who brought delicious food, drink and eclectic gifts for the gift exchange. Kathleen and I are still enjoying our Skiing Squirrel.



The Green Spot

Sharing the Green

Improve Your Vehicle's Fuel Economy by 35%

- 1. Easy Does It**
You can pick up as much as 25% in fuel savings by avoiding jackrabbit starts, not accelerating into an obvious mandatory stop and by not speeding.
- 2. Remove unnecessary heavy items from your vehicle.**
An extra 100 pounds in the trunk can reduce your miles per gallon by up to 2%.
- 3. Use Cruise control on the highway.**
Cruise control will help you maintain a constant speed and in most cases, save gas. But don't use cruise control in the rain. If you hydroplane across a puddle, it could attempt to adjust your speed and cause your wheels to spin.
- 4. Keep your car in shape.**
These simple items can increase your fuel economy by 8% or more: maintain your engine according to the manufacturer's recommendation, inflate tires to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended pressures, and use the recommended grade of motor oil.

Share your ideas and "finds". Send your "green" submissions to: wbartramnews@gmail.com