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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 43, Number 5

June 2013

No June meeting

***Bicycle Outing
on the
Swamp Rabbit
Trail
Saturday, June 22***

***Remember:
No July meeting
or bulletin.
See you in August.***



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>

GREAT Program for June

by Karen Mascaro

Bike the Swamp Rabbit Trail to Traveler's Rest, join us for lunch at Williams Hardware and top it off with a honey tasting at Carolina Bee Supply on Saturday, June 22nd.

If you would like to bike to Traveler's Rest, we will meet at Linky Stone Park (under the Academy street bridge) at 10 A.M. and bike our way to Williams Hardware for a great lunch on their porch overlooking the Swamp Rabbit Trail. After lunch, and just across the road, we will stop in at Carolina Bee Supply for a short program and tasting of some of the best local honey in the south.



If you plan to bike, please call Dennis Chamberlain at 430-3754. If you just want to join us for lunch and the honey tasting, please call Karen Mascaro at 360-6254 as we will need a count for lunch and the honey tasting. Hope to see you!

Update on Paris Mountain Condo Project

by Karen Mascaro

After numerous County Council and Commission hearings, with lines of residents, citizens, civic organizations, our own member Dennis Chamberlain speaking against this project, countless letters and phone calls to Council and Commission members, meetings at the site and a 2,000 signature petition objecting to this project (commonly known as Altera), the developer, Greenfield Consortium, LLC has WITHDRAWN the application to rezone the 44 acre property on Paris Mountain.

The application sought to rezone the property at 1240 Altamont Road from ESD-PM (Environmentally Sensitive District) to FRD (Flexible Review District) to allow a 74 unit, 3 story, 336,000 square foot condo project, parking for 550 cars, several out buildings and commercial space.

The controversy, however, is not over. The developer obtained "preliminary approval" from Council last year for a subdivision of 55 homes on smaller lots. An Appeal of that decision was filed in the Greenville County Circuit Court. At this writing a hearing on that appeal has been scheduled. Along with concerns of waste water treatment and the only access of narrow and curvy Altamont Road continuing as major objections, many of the residents want to amend ESD-PM with more stringent and specific language. As one resident wrote "We need specific zoning language that goes well beyond what we currently have. Without that, development on the mountain will continue to be subject to abuse and respect for environmental sensitivity will be an illusion."

Bartram Group will continue to keep a watchful eye on this issue as it evolves.



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.



Trail Service Outings at Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area for 2013 • September 21 • October 19 • November 23

Saturday, September 21

Please join us on Saturday, September 21, 2013 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 September 21, or one or more of the other 2013 outings. For more details, contact Jim Majors at (864) 233-7576 or jim_majors@bellsouth.net.

Adopt-a-Highway Dates for 2013

August 24 • November 16

Saturday, August 24

The Bartram Group has a two mile stretch on East North (also known as) Old Spartanburg Road between Mitchell Road and Brushy Creek. We will meet at 9:00 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 (864) 346-3081 or stephenjohn-root@gmail.com, or Dennis Chamberlain at (864) 430-3754.

Volunteers In Action

Thanks to the following folks who worked on the May Trail Service: **Dale Bartels, John Cummings, Wally Schulte, and Jim Majors.**

Making Your Yard Irresistible To Birds

An easy way to start out attracting birds is to put up a bird feeder. Choose feeders and foods that appeal to the birds you want to attract. In addition, locate your feeder properly and keep it clean and full.

Many birds that don't eat seeds or plant nectar need a source of water. So adding a water feature to your yard is a great way to attract birds from their natural cover for close-up viewing.

Water will attract the insect and worm-eating birds that would not otherwise be drawn to your yard, as well as other birds who just want to bathe or drink. 🐦



*Joy in
looking and
comprehending
is nature's
most beautiful
gift.*

—Albert Einstein

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From the Chair

by Eric Thompson

Climate Change Do You Really Believe It?

I was flipping through the channels a few days ago while I was eating breakfast. On a business station in a morning show called Squawk Box, it caught my eye that a climate expert was talking about how the recent data shows that CO2 and climate change are not really valid. This view played into the traditional business view of “hands-off” and “no regulation” held by the hosts of the show.

As it happened, the same day, the results of a survey of scientists and of the general public on their views of climate change were reported. For scientists, those who have published in peer reviewed science journals, 97% believe that



man-made causes, primarily CO2, are causing climate change. In the general public, that number is about 40%.

This huge gap between those experts who believe in climate change and much of the general public, who do not, begs for an answer.....why? The social scientists hypothesize that loud noise on the opposite view, such as what I heard

on Squawk Box is given the same weight in public opinion as the scientists. The concept of peer reviewed scientists does not get into the consciousness of the US public. I would add that our news reporting techniques do not help. The democratic tradition of news reporting means that the opposing views are sought and quoted with equal weight.

Our mission is to help spread the knowledge of science. 🐾



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 **Deadline for August bulletin is
Friday, July 19**

Send your submissions to 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

Looking for a challenge? We have open positions for:
 Membership and Publicity.



2013 Officers

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.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chair | Eric Thompson* | h 297-6015 w 797-6117 |
| Vice Chair | Ron Sobczak* | 213-9504 |
| Secretary | | |
| Treasurer | Bob Church* | h 268-4769 |
| Adopt-a-Highway | Steve Root | 346-3081 |
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| Outings | Eric Thompson* | h 297-6015 |
| State ExCom Rep. Alternate | Kathleen Kempe Trey Fouché* | 569-9393 |
| Trails Maintenance | Jim Majors | h 233-7576 |
| Programs Fund Raising | Karen Mascaro* | w 250-4620 |
| Web Master/Facebook | Dave Wilder | dave@ wilddave.com |

The Green Spot



Sharing the Green

This year is the 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act. Widely regarded as one of our country's strongest conservation laws, the Act has brought back 99 percent of the species it protects from the brink of extinction-- including the protection and recovery of the American bald eagle, the peregrine falcon, and the American alligator.

Keeping our nation's wildlife protected is good for the environment, but also good for our economy. Wildlife areas are a key part of our nation's multi-billion dollar outdoor recreation economy and the people it employs. Think of all the tourists who flock to Florida to see manatees, or to Yellowstone to see wolves and bears

We have a responsibility to protect wildlife and wild places and leave a better world for future generations. The natural legacy we leave our children and grandchildren depends on the steps we take today as stewards of America's wild places and wildlife. Even as we get ready to celebrate the successes so far, we continue to work to protect other endangered species at risk.

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