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

Volume 45, Number 2

March 2015

**March Event**

Saturday,  
March 21

**Chestnut  
Heritage  
Preserve Hike**



**April Meeting**  
Wednesday, April 14  
7:30 P.M.

**Frank  
Holleman,  
SELC**



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>

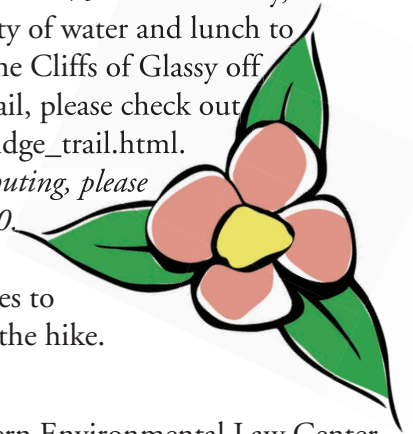
**Chestnut Heritage Preserve Hike**

*by Jean Wilder*

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, along with sturdy footwear. 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](http://www.brendajwiley.com/chestnut_ridge_trail.html).

To obtain details for this hike and to register for this outing, please call **Jean Wilder** at (864) 561-0794 or (864) 244-9630.

You may also e-mail Jean at [jeanwilder1@att.net](mailto:jeanwilder1@att.net). She will provide you with details about carpooling and times to meet. A liability waiver will need to be signed prior to the hike.



**coming in April: Frank Holleman, SELC**

Frank Holleman, a senior attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), will discuss his current priority project: a three year legal effort to protect local drinking water from coal ash following a devastating spill on the Dan River.

In South Carolina, a combination of legal action and public pressure from SELC prompted all three of the state's major utilities to begin a significant cleanup of leaking coal ash lagoons on South Carolina's rivers—a historic accomplishment for clean water in South Carolina.

**Stay Connected with Your Bartram Sierra Club**

*by Ron Sobszak*

Starting with this March bulletin, we are sending out the bulletin both electronically (pdf format) and in printed form.

If you did not receive the an email copy of the bulletin 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 the bulletin electronically in the future, please send your email address to me, [sobczakr@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:SierraUpstate@gmail.com) to your address book so that emails from the Bartram group do not end up in your spam folder. We always try to keep our membership informed through emails, our web page, <http://sierraupstate.org/>, and facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bartramgroup/>

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 Jean Wilder, (864) 561-0794 or (864) 244-9630.

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, 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, along with sturdy footwear. 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](http://www.brendajwiley.com/chestnut_ridge_trail.html).

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## Adopt-a-Highway

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

## Saturday, May 16 •

## Adopt-a-Highway

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](mailto:stephenjohnroot@gmail.com) or (864) 346-3081 for details or to let him know you will join us.

## From the ExCom

by Kathleen Kempe

## Update on Oconee Safety Upgrades

The Greenville League of Women Voters and the Bartram Group of the Sierra Club held two seminars last year on nuclear issues as they relate to SC-the aging nuclear state.

One of the speakers, Dave Lochbaum, from the Union of Concerned Scientists, documented Duke Energy's long and lengthening string of broken promises regarding safety upgrades at the Oconee Nuclear plant (Oconee). Here is a summary of the latest "stall". Duke's opening paragraph of their letter to NRC reminds us that they promised on November 30, 2006 (that's right, 2006), safety upgrades to protect emergency equipment from damage by a tornado.

Duke revised the target date for these upgrades several times over the years, most recently by letter dated December 19, 2013. Duke promised to have the upgrades completed by January 31, 2015. Well, that did not happen.

After developing a design for the tornado fixes, Duke determined that the design was "neither feasible nor constructible." Duke now promises to complete the long overdue safety upgrades by September 30, 2015.

Can we expect Duke to complete the safety upgrades by September 30, 2015?

NRC seems to be okay with Duke just promising to install the safety upgrade to protect thousands of Americans living near the plant and gambling that nothing bad will happen.

Duke seems ok with opting for the cheaper path of sending in a 49 cent letter every so often rather than spending dollars for safety and gambling that nothing bad will happen.

The people living around Oconee and downwind of Oconee seem ok with just the promise of protection against a tornado and gambling that nothing bad will happen.

So I repeat the question: Can we expect Duke to complete the safety upgrades by September 30, 2015? It's not much of a gamble to say no.

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# Still Crazy After All These Years

by Dennis Chamberlain

One of the many benefits of Sierra Club membership is the lasting friendships developed with folks that share the same environmental concerns and love of the outdoors. In the 1980's, the Bartram outing program was especially strong. Kip Conner, Chip Simmons,

Steve Root, Ed Marsh, Don Pilzer, and others were especially active in leading hiking, climbing, canoeing, service outings and backpacking trips. I know for a fact all of them are still out there enjoying and exploring the outdoors. In fact, Steve is leading an Adopt a Highway Bartram outing this month and he and Ed lead many Natural History Association hikes. Kip and Ed are going  
*continued on page 4*


## 2015 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	Ron Sobczak*	213-9504
Vice Chair	Trey Fouché*	569-9393
Secretary	Jean Wilder*	JeanWilder1@att.net
Treasurer	Bob Church	268-4769
Adopt-a-Highway	Steve Root	346-3081
Chapter Delegate	Roger Finch*	905-6690
Alternate Chapter Delegate	Trey Fouché*	569-9393
Conservation	Trey Fouché*	569-9393
Legal	Michael Corley*	232-5870
Membership	Dave Wilder	dave@wilddave.com
Newsletter Distribution	Trey Fouché*	569-9393
Newsletter Editor	M.E. Hill	wbartramnews@gmail.com
Outings	Jean Wilder*	JeanWilder1@att.net
Political Compliance Ofcr.	Kathleen Kempe	sobczakr@yahoo.com
Programs	Pat* & Ben* Rudd	834-9779
Volunteer Coordinator	Trey Fouché*	569-9393
Web Master/Facebook	Dave Wilder	dave@wilddave.com



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*Deadline for April bulletin is  
Friday, March 20*

## 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  
wdchamberlainlaw@greenvillelaw.net

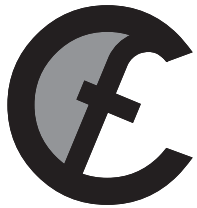
**Michael G. Corley • Rothstein Law Firm, PA**  
*Environmental Law and Land Use • Legal Issues related to Employment*  
1312 Augusta Street, Greenville, SC 29605; (864) 232-5870  
mcorley@rothsteinlawfirm.com

**Ronald A. Maxwell**  
*With Emphasis on Personal Injury and On the Job Injuries*  
225 Chesterfield Street, NW Aiken, SC 29801; (803)641-6700  
516 West Avenue, North Augusta, South Carolina 29861  
(803) 202-1100; maxwell@maxwellawfirm.com

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

**Andrew Poliakoff**  
*Workers Compensation, Auto Accidents, and Wrongful Death Claims*  
152 Magnolia Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306; (864) 583-8212  
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*  
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We must begin  
thinking like a  
river if we are to  
leave a legacy  
of beauty and  
life for future  
generations.

— David Brower



**SIERRA CLUB**  
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**SIERRA CLUB**  
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The Bartram Group of the Sierra Club—Upstate, SC



*printed on recycled paper*

*Still Crazy continued from page 3*

with me for an 8 day back pack in the Wind River Range this summer.

It was 30 years ago this February when I officially cancelled a Bartram Group winter backpack on the Grassy Ridge section of the Appalachian Trail. A meeting was conducted and 8 of us decided unofficially to go despite the fact an “Arctic Air Mass” was forecasted. It turned out to be the coldest day in North Carolina weather recorded history (25 degrees below zero and a wind chill over 50 below). We all got through it with only a few frozen noses and toes. Ed, Kip, Don, Steve and Chip were not on that trip, but most of the folks on that trip are out there hiking, biking and exploring our great outdoors and several continue to do long backpacks with me.

The Grassy Ridge trip did inspire the only poem I have ever written and was published in the Bartram Bulletin 30 years ago. (See below.)

I will be pulling things from the Bartram achieves this year. If you have a special story or mention you would like to share and publish in the Bartram Bulletin, please let me know. Email me at dennis@greenvillelaw.net or call me at (864) 430-3754.

**Ode to A Wild Bear**

Tramping and Plowing We Did Go  
 Through the Wind the Weather and Three Foot Snow  
 And then Came Tony with Hardly a Care  
 The Poor Boy’s Backside He had to Bare  
 One Lesson We Learned at 25 below  
 Is when you got to go you got to go

**Volunteers In Action**

Special thanks to Eric Payne, Ilse Peterson, and Lauren Taylor, Students in the Dept. of Outdoor Leadership at North Greenville University. Each month they take time to prepare the bulletins for mailing with a positive attitude and dedicated mindset.

We would like to thank Jose Ortiz and Happy Ending for providing musical entertainment at the Bartram Christmas party. For any of you that would like to hear more from this band, they play regularly on Thursday nights at 9pm at Wild Wing Café in Greenville and you might want to check out Luna Rosa Gelato Café on Washington Street in downtown Greenville.