



*Exploring * Enjoying * Protecting Our Planet*

May 2020 Newsletter

The Piedmont Plateau Group (PPG) addresses climate and environmental justice concerns in the counties of Guilford, Rockingham, Randolph, Richmond and Montgomery Counties.

Introducing PPG's 2020 Executive Committee:

Group Chair, Nicole Gaines served as group chair in 2017-2018 and returned for another term in January 2020. She also serves on the NC, SC, Chapter Steering and Equity Committees and the Greensboro Community Sustainability Council. Nicole teaches adult education at Guilford Technical Community College.

Nicole reminds us that “We live in an age of extreme transition. Our society, our environment, and our planet are changing at record rates; some are catastrophic, while other events have given us pause and hope...” Since coming to the Piedmont Plateau Group as a volunteer in 2015, Nicole witnessed within herself, and more importantly within others, the desire to act against climate crises and environmental justice; the action we must all immediately take to save the planet and ourselves.

Vice Chair, Hazel Landers has been a member of the Sierra Club for 21 years. She served as PPG's vice chair, group chair and head of the Sustainability Speakers' Group in 2011 through 2013. Hazel has spent much of her “shelter-in-place” time converting the old speakers' group into a ‘green team’ network. She's revised several of the group's slide shows, developed a green team website and created a new presentation. The web site provides educational slideshows, videos, magazine articles, handouts, petitions and samples for letter-writing campaigns. Hazel encourages you to let www.GreenTeamsUSA.org be a guide and educational tool for you, your family and your neighborhood.

As the speaker for the May 12th general zoom meeting, Hazel presented a slide show entitled, [Where Have All the Forests Gone?](#) The slide show illustrates the major issues caused by clear-cutting and provides clear steps for addressing these issues. These steps include the vital need to urge local decision makers to

Where Have All The Forests Gone?



declare a moratorium on clear-cutting and to enforce stronger requirements for replanting the barren land. Hazel encourages everyone to view the slide show and email your mayor and city council representative. See sample letter below. Hazel reminds us:

**This is an extremely crucial time for taking steps to protect and save our mature trees & forests!
We cannot fight climate change and diseases without oxygen-releasing TREES!**

Program Chair: Linda Margo joined PPG in 2012 and has scheduled many relevant programs during the past seven years. Linda moved to Greensboro from New Jersey and joined the Sierra Club, not only for the socialization aspect, but for her passion for all things environmental.

For June, Linda is planning PPG's first ever VIRTUAL Annual Picnic! So, bring a snack and your recycling to our zoom meeting to try and "THROW THE PRO!" You'll be able to ask all your tough trash and recycling questions—even bring examples to show and ask. **Tori Carle, the City of Greensboro's Waste Reduction Supervisor will share some basic tips about recycling and waste reduction, then she'll sit in the hot seat for your recycling Q&A. Join PPG's Annual Picnic - VIRTUALLY-- on Tue, Jun 09 · 7:00 PM EDT at: [meetup.com/ppgsierraclub](https://www.meetup.com/ppgsierraclub)**

Treasurer and Outings Leader: Tom Taylor is a long-time member of the Sierra Club. He previously served as PPG's program chair, chief fundraiser, and organizer for PPG's annual photo contest. He has also served as an organizer of PPG's Meet-up page since 2013. Tom will be scheduling several enjoyable outings for this summer and fall.

Conservation Chair: George Wissmiller has been a member for 4 years. He moved to Greensboro from Illinois, where he was an activist in various groups for nearly 30 years. George's main focus has been on water conservation. He plans to resume the Muddy Creek Clean-up and tours of the Greensboro Water Treatment Plant and other local sites in July.

From taking care of our local community by providing information on Covid-19 to providing opportunities to explore, enjoy and protect the planet, the [Piedmont Plateau Group of the Sierra Club](#) is here to serve you!

Sample Letter:

Many trees have recently been destroyed in Greensboro and Guilford County. Immediate actions must be taken to protect all forestland. Mature, oxygen-releasing, carbon absorbing trees are essential for supporting good health, curbing catastrophic weather conditions and improving air quality.

I strongly urge you to take immediate action by: 1) declaring a MORATORIUM on the clear-cutting of mature trees and 2) enforcing strong regulations for REPLANTING for all developers and contractors of recently constructed businesses, housing complexes and highways.

Write to Greensboro Mayor, Nancy Vaugan and City Council Members at:

E-mail: www.greensboro-nc.gov/government/city-council/e-mail-city-council

Mailing Address: PO Box 3136, Greensboro, NC 27402-3136

Find addresses for Guilford County Commissioners at:

<https://www.guilfordcountync.gov/our-county/board-of-commissioners>

[North Carolina Sierra Club AddUp Campaign](#)

Protect NC forests and the climate! Stop the wood pellet industry from destroying our native forests and expanding an industry that contributes to climate change and harmful emissions of particulate matter, volatile organic compounds that create smog, and other hazardous pollutants.

The [North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club](#) advocates across the state from the mountains to the coast, and in our capitol, for a clean, healthy North Carolina. The chapter has more than 100,000 members and supporters and 12 local groups across the state.

Since 1970, the North Carolina Sierra Club has worked to protect natural areas, ensure clean air and water for all citizens, expand access to clean energy, and much more across our state. Learn more about the major issues for the state chapter at www.sierraclub.org/north-carolina/issues

While the country is reeling from the pandemic, Big Oil & Gas are trying to gobble up giant swaths of public lands and waters on the cheap and push through massive new extraction projects. Demand the Department of the Interior stop the sale of all public lands and waters. [Sign the Petition here!](#)
