



Exploring * Enjoying * Protecting Our Planet

Fourth Quarter 2020

Newsletter

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

Upcoming Programs

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM EDT

Piedmont Plateau Group Forum:



The “Save Our Trees” Forum will be based on an in-depth study of the global, national and local crises that have been caused by clear-cutting and deforestation. The study, conducted by *PPG* in 2019 and 2020, will be the basis for the forum, as well as a *Sierra Club Addup* campaign/petition. The study serves as a reminder that mature, oxygen-releasing, carbon-absorbing trees are essential for supporting good health, curbing catastrophic weather conditions and improving air quality in our city, as well as globally. We cannot fight climate change and diseases without our forests, so we must take immediate action to Save Our Trees!

Three local residents will serve on a panel to discuss the following aspects of this timely topic: 1) how recent clear-cutting operations have affected local neighborhoods; 2) how high levels of CO2 have effected weather conditions and the general health of human and wildlife populations; 3) how Greensboro has taken steps to replant trees; 4) how other cities are taking further steps to address this most critical issue.

Hazel Landers, PPG Vice Chair and head of the research committee, will serve as the moderator. Panel members include:

Happy Rieth, long-time resident of Greensboro, member of the *Piedmont Plateau Group* and environmental advocate. She has served as a stream monitor for the Haw River Assembly for the past nine years.

Sarah Praskievicz, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability, *The University of North Carolina at Greensboro*. Sarah specializes in hydrology, fluvial geomorphology and water resources.

Christina Larson, owner of *Guilford Garden Center* and the chair of *Greensboro Beautiful's* Public Gardens Committee, which includes Greensboro Arboretum & Bog Garden. She is also a member of the *City of Greensboro* Commercial Landscaping Ordinance Revision Committee.

Join the Zoom meeting at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87214587676> or
<https://www.meetup.com/ppgsierraclub/>

Introducing the Piedmont Plateau Speaker Series:

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM EST

“Environmental Justice, Pesticides, and You”



This presentation is provided by Toxic Free NC with guest speaker, **Phoebe Gooding, M.S.** Phoebe will explore environmental justice issues around pesticides. She will also share some DIY non-toxic home remedies that people can use right away, as well as some specific actions participants can take to reduce toxic chemicals in our environment and communities. Phoebe is a Community Organizer with Just and Sustainable Agriculture and Toxic Free NC. Toxic Free NC’s Mission is to engage North Carolina in initiatives that advance environmental health and justice by advocating for safe alternatives to harmful pesticides and chemicals.

Online event: <https://www.meetup.com/ppgsierraclub/>

Piedmont Plateau Speaker Series Continues

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM EST

Now What? Climate Change and Activism:



What exactly is climate change?

How do we know it's us? What is the best path forward?

OUR MISSION IS TO CATALYZE A GLOBAL SOLUTION TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS BY MAKING URGENT ACTION A NECESSITY ACROSS EVERY SECTOR OF SOCIETY.

The Earth is facing a climate crisis, driven by fossil fuels.

Urgent action to cut greenhouse gas emissions and speed the global shift to renewables. Urgent action to halt the Trump Administration's radical fossil fuel agenda.

Urgent action to make world leaders strengthen and honor their Paris Agreement commitments. Led by former US Vice President Al Gore and CEO and President Ken Berlin, we do it by empowering everyday people to become activists, equipped with the tools, training, and network to fight for solutions and drive change planet-wide.

Speaker, **Kim Piracci** is an Al Gore trained climate speaker supported by scientists and other activists all over the world. Her focus is to explain exactly what science is, and offer pathways forward in a rapidly changing social and environmental landscape.

Online event: <https://www.meetup.com/ppgsierraclub/>

Program Chair, Linda Margot is responsible for lining up all these fine speakers. Many kudos to Linda! She invites all of you to join us for *PPG's* virtual meetings and speakers series! Linda looks forward to scheduling many other exciting and informative programs in 2021.

Comments from Group Chair, Nicole Gaines: 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! During this extremely critical election, please remember the importance of voting. This is a great opportunity to reverse the 100 environmental rollbacks that the current administration has imposed on our nation. We must **VOTE** for those who pledge to support clean, renewable energy and protect our environment, natural places and wildlife!

Report from Conservation Chair, George Wissmiller: George plans to resume the Muddy Creek Clean-up and tours of the Greensboro Water Treatment Plant and other local sites when the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted. George has also become the group's web master and is in the process of designing PPG's new website!

Report from Outings Leader, Tom Taylor: Tom will be scheduling several enjoyable outings for spring and summer, 2021, after the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.

Vice Chair, Hazel Landers, requests that you write letters to the Greensboro Mayor and City Council in support of the "Save Our Trees" petition. [Sample letter:](#)

Many trees have recently been destroyed in Greensboro, NC. 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

Upcoming Events
Sierra Club Piedmont Plateau Group
Executive Committee Meetings
Tuesdays, November 3 & December 1 at 7:00 PM

All PPG members and friends are welcome to join our virtual ExCom meetings online at: <https://www.meetup.com/ppgsierraclub/>
Nicole Gaines has graciously hosted all previous meetings and will continue to keep you informed about upcoming events on Meetup and Facebook.
Your participation is needed as follows: Communications Committee, Membership Chair and Recording Secretary for the PPG ExCom * Text 336 686-4806, if interested

Sierra Club's Statement of Purpose:

- To explore and protect the wild places of the Earth.
- To practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources.
- To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.

Comments from Newsletter Editors:

Linda Margo and Hazel Landers

We apologize for this gap in communications and appreciate your patience while the Executive Committee addresses issues within the communications committee.

We look forward to being of better service to you in 2021.

[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](#)