



## Piedmont Plateau - May 2022 E-News

PPG traditionally sponsors outings, trail/creek clean-ups, social gatherings and educational programs that address climate and environmental concerns in Guilford, Rockingham, Randolph, Richmond, and Montgomery Counties. Joining together to Explore, Enjoy and Protect our Planet!



### May Program & General Meeting

Tuesday \* May 10, 2022 \* 7:00 to 8:30 PM



### Haw River Assembly's River Watch Project

Guest speaker, **Kyleene Rooks** will update us on the Haw River Watch Project which monitors local streams to give us a clearer picture of the health of the Haw River by conducting the type and location of pollution sources. Teams are trained and equipped to monitor water quality through biological, chemical and visual parameters.

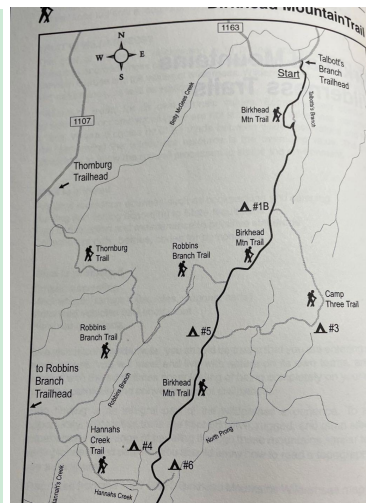
Kyleene has coordinated various events including the Haw River Learning Celebration, the annual Clean-Up-A-Thon, and the Haw River Festival since 2019. As a Certified NC Environmental Educator she also assists with other environmental education programming throughout the year. She lives in Carrboro with her two cats and enjoys spending time outside, traveling and camping.

Join the Zoom meeting at: <https://uncg.zoom.us/j/94297090612> or sign up at: [www.meetup.com/ppgsierraclub](http://www.meetup.com/ppgsierraclub).



### Join us for a Hike at the Tot Hill Farm Birkhead Wilderness Trailhead

Sunday \* May 22 \* 10 AM - 12 PM



We will meet at the Birkhead Trailhead parking lot at 10:00 AM Sunday, hike to Camp #5 and turn around to hike back to the parking lot. According to the map this trailhead is also known as the Talbott's Branch Trailhead.

**Directions:** Go South from on 220 towards Asheboro; exit at 49S in Asheboro towards Charlotte. Go about 5-6 miles to Tot Hill Farm Rd. At the sign, turn LEFT onto Tot Hill Farm Rd. Go about 1 mile to the stop sign at Airport Rd. Continue through the stop sign. Go about another 1 mile. You will see the golf course on your left. The trailhead parking lot will be on the left, just after crossing the small bridge.

For more info about the hike, contact Karen at 336 848-2094 / [kskatula@uncg.edu](mailto:kskatula@uncg.edu) or Tom at 336 402-6100 / [tnt2703@yahoo.com](mailto:tnt2703@yahoo.com) Sign up at: [www.meetup.com/ppgsierraclub](http://www.meetup.com/ppgsierraclub)



## Special Announcements

~From the Piedmont Plateau Group:

### **Message from Linda Margo, PPG's Secretary and Program Chair:**



This year's Earth Day Plant Exchange was a great success. It was held at Sylvan Pathways, the home and gardens of Lou and Rudy Gordh. All the attendees got to take home a variety of plants and bushes. It was such a success that we decided to make this an annual event. So water and fertilize your garden so that you have an abundance of plants to thin out next year and take home many new and unusual ones.

Earth Day Plant Exchange, April 22, 2022

**PPG's Conservation Committee** is currently developing four advocacy programs that will provide protection of our region's natural areas, forests, watersheds and farmlands. This program will better prepare our group to respond to neighborhoods who are dealing with urban growth and development issues. Neighborhoods that need assistance and those who would like to serve on the Conservation Committee as advocates can contact Don Henza at: [drhenza@gmail.com](mailto:drhenza@gmail.com).

**Check out the Conservation Advocacy Programs and review PPG's recently updated website at:** [www.sierraclub.org/north-carolina/piedmont-plateau](http://www.sierraclub.org/north-carolina/piedmont-plateau).

~From Local Environmental Group Efforts:

### **Picket-Line Protest During Duke Energy Shareholder Meeting held on May 5**

Duke Energy has proposed a massive overhaul of "net metering," the policy that allows solar homeowners to receive fair compensation for excess solar power they share with the grid. Fifty-six nonprofit organizations oppose the plan, which they say harms all customers – especially low-income customers – and discourages solar at the very time the climate crisis and state law demand rapid decarbonization. These groups, organized as [Save NC Solar](http://www.SaveNCSolar.org), gathered at Duke's former headquarters as Duke holds its annual shareholder meeting virtually. It's too late to join the picket-line, yet there's still time to contact Governor Cooper at [www.NCWarn.org](http://www.NCWarn.org) and email the Utilities Commission at [statements@ncuc.net](mailto:statements@ncuc.net). Mention Docket E-100, Sub 180CS in the subject line and tell them to reject Duke Energy's plan.

### **Wood pellet mill stopped in Lumberton , NC!**

Through the actions of a coalition of local citizens and various environmental groups, Active Energy Renewable Power (AERP) will not operate a black wood pellet production facility in Robeson County, North Carolina. This is a win for the environment, climate, and local citizens. It was predicted that over 9,000 forested acres would have been clear cut to produce the wood pellets. North Carolina is the largest exporter of wood pellets. This victory confirms that through the actions of ordinary citizens, polluting and

environmentally destructive industries can be stopped. For more information see <https://borderbelt.org/active-energy-departure-met-with-relief-in-roberson-county/>

**Recycle your Styrofoam™**, including **clean** packaging material, coolers, meat trays, egg cartons, take out trays, plates and cups, at **Tiny Houses Community Development, 1310 W. Gate City Blvd** and other drop-off locations in **Greensboro and High Point**. For more info, go to Triad Foam Recycling Coalition's new website at: [Home | Recycling Foam](#)

### **Haw River Festival**

**Saturday, May 7, 4 to 8pm in Saxapahaw, NC**

The annual festival draws hundreds of people each year. Live music, the opening of the Saturdays in Saxapahaw market season, a Paperhand Puppet parade, a guided river walk, canoe rides for kids, a kayak raffle, a silent auction, food trucks, and more! <https://hawriver.org/haw-river-festival/>

### **Nature as Your Classroom**

**Monday, May 9, 7 – 8 pm**

Join this Zoom program featuring Shannon Earle, founder and managing director of Forest Explorers LLC, a small business providing outdoor education classes for children ages 6-12 in Takoma Park, MD. Forest Explorers programs explore basic elements of science through investigations sparked by children's observations, questions and interests. Classes also dedicate time to move, PLAY and be creative outside, including storytelling, mindfulness, journaling, drama, art, building and wilderness awareness. Hosted by the **Kathleen Clay Library**. To register for this Zoom program, e-mail [melanie.buckingham@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:melanie.buckingham@greensboro-nc.gov)

### **~From the North Carolina Chapter of Sierra Club:**

**Tell Governor Cooper: Reject the Mountain Valley Pipeline!**

This pipeline poses threats to the environment and communities in its path. Let your elected officials know this is an issue you care about, and you'd like to see them publicly oppose the MVP! **Sign: [NC, Sierra Club AddUp petition](#) now!**

### **From the National Office of Sierra Club:**

**Tell America's Largest Banks: Don't Fund New Gas Exports!**

All six US banking giants are among the top LNG financiers in the world, directly enabling the destruction of communities along the Gulf. Tell the CEOs of the largest US banks to stop financing new gas exports at: [Sierra Club AddUp Petition](#)

**Tell President Biden to Protect Our Old-Growth and Mature Forests!**

Forests on federal land must be protected in order to safeguard our communities from the future impacts of climate change. **Sign [Sierra Club AddUp petition](#) now!**

#### **PPG Officers, Committee Chairs and Advisors**

***Hazel Landers, Group Chair, E-news Editor***

***Karen Katula, Vice Chair***

***Tom Taylor, Treasurer, Outings Chair***

***Linda Margo, Secretary, Programs Chair***

***Don Henza, Conservation Chair***

***Marie Noel, Water Conservation Advisor***

***Boots Howard, Membership Chair***

***Ned Pearson, Communications Chair***

***Nicole Gaines, Political Chair***

***Thomas Hatfield, Website Team Advisor***

#### **Sierra Club 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 the human environment.**

Comments or suggestions? Contact us at [Sierrapiedmontplateau@gmail.com](mailto:Sierrapiedmontplateau@gmail.com).

Websites: [North Carolina Chapter](#) | [Piedmont Plateau Group](#)