



WENOCA SIERRAN

Newsletter of the
Western North Carolina Sierra Club

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

NOV 2012 - JAN 2013

Upcoming Events:

Unitarian Church
1 Edwin Place
(corner of Charlotte St. & Edwin Pl.)
Social: 7 pm / Program: 7:15 pm

Wednesday, November 7 Chris Mathis

*Why Buildings Matter:
Sustainability Challenges*

Wednesday, December 5 Holiday Party

All are warmly invited to
attend our 3rd Annual
Holiday Party and
Recognition Awards.
Please bring a potluck dish
to share and a book to swap.

Wednesday, January 2 Wayne Caldwell & Steve Woody

*Cataloochee and the
Great Smoky Mountains
National Park*

WENOCA will hold meetings on
the first Wednesday of the month.
Executive Committee meetings
will be held at 5:30 pm prior
to the monthly programs.

All members are invited to attend.

For more information, call
Judy Mattox at 828-683-2176
or email judymattox@sbcglobal.net.

WENOCA SIERRAN is the newsletter
of the Western North Carolina Sierra Club.
The newsletter is published four times a year.
Articles and comments are welcome.

Why Buildings Matter: Sustainability Challenges and Building Science Lessons from the Honey Bee



Chris Mathis

Join us on Wed.,
Nov. 7 when Chris
Mathis will remind
us of the critical
importance of our
buildings and re-
shape our under-
standing of buildings,
especially looking at
their role in our state's
and nations overall
energy, power and
water demand.

Some of the questions explored include:
What truly defines 'high performance
buildings'? What are the systemic
impediments to accomplishing sustainability
goals? Where do we go from here?

The presentation will conclude addressing
lessons we might learn from the 90 million
years of evolution and building science

embodied in the work and structures of the
honey bee. From temperature management,
thermal storage, indoor air quality, active and
passive ventilation techniques and energy
efficiency, the honey bee has developed a
highly efficient construction system to
support its biological needs.

*R. Christopher "Chris" Mathis is a building
scientist who has spent the past 30 years focusing
on how buildings and building products perform –
from energy efficiency to code compliance to
long-term durability and sustainability. He has
been involved in both state and national code
development, and is one of the principal investiga-
tors on a 3-year project to improve the minimum
efficiency defined in the NC Energy Conservation
Code by at least 30%. He is a widely published
building scientist and educator having authored
over 30 articles and technical papers on a variety
of building science subjects. His company, Mathis
Consulting, provides an array of building science
services to strategically aligned clients.*

Cataloochee and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Wayne Caldwell, renowned Appalachian
author, and Steve Woody, one of the
founders of Friends of the Smokies will
present a Sierra Club program on Wed.,
Jan. 2 on life in Cataloochee before and
after the establishment of the Great Smoky
Mountains National Park.

Both Wayne & Steve's grandfathers and
great-grandfathers lived and pioneered in
the Cataloochee area, and witnessed the
development of the Park. The program
should be a delightful insight into the real
lives of the people of the Smoky Mountains.

Steve will give history and facts about
Cataloochee and the GSMNP, while Wayne
will read excerpts from his books. Steve
graciously allowed his grandfather to be
used as the basis of a character in Caldwell's
book.

*Wayne is the author of **Cataloochee**, a
novel that chronicles three generations of*

*post-Civil War fami-
lies - their dreams,
their downfalls, and
their faith. He has
also written a follow-
up novel, **Requiem
by Fire**, which tells
the story of a close-
knit mountain village
and its inhabitants'
fight to keep the land
they have spent
their lives cultivating.
Wayne is the winner
of the 2010 Thomas
Wolfe Memorial Literary Award.*



Wayne Caldwell

*Steve is one of the founders and board of
directors of Friends of the Smokies, which has
raised \$30 million for the Great Smoky
Mountains National Park. He is also trustee of
the NC Natural Heritage Trust Fund which
partners with conservation groups to protect
lands in the WNC area.*

NC Sierra Club Political Strategy for 2012 Elections

By Ken Brame, Political Chair

After the unprecedented assault on environmental regulations by the new majority in the NC General Assembly, it is important that the Sierra Club send a clear message: votes cast by our elected governmental representatives on environmental issues have consequences!

Sierra Club has a powerful election strategy this year. We will be focusing our money and our efforts in five very competitive legislative races in Western NC where we can make a significant difference. In addition to these targeted general assembly races, we also have very competitive county commission races in Buncombe County where an environmental majority is at risk.

All of our targeted races will be very close with unaffiliated voters and the number of drop off voters (those voters who vote for President Obama but not for our candidates further down the ballot) deciding the outcome. The Sierra Club strategy will focus on getting environmental voters, unaffiliated voters, and drop off voters to vote in these critical races for our endorsed candidates.

Our polling has demonstrated that the "positive brand" of the Sierra Club makes our recommendations especially trustworthy for: Younger voters (especially college-educated), Women (especially mothers who care about the quality of the air and water for their kids); Hispanic voters (our polling has shown that they are more concerned about the environment than other voters); and Unaffiliated Voters (they don't trust Democrats or Republicans, so we can be an independent validation voice for our candidates).

It is important not only that we win these races, but that our message is clear: environmental votes have consequences!

We will be implementing the following strategies to accomplish both of these objectives:

- Have a full-time organizer for 3 weeks prior to the election to mobilize environmental volunteers to help elect our candidates.
- Communicate who our environmental candidates are to our members and thousands of non-member environmental supporters in Western NC and make sure they vote.
- Distribute over 50,000 endorsement flyers to voters at the polls in our targeted districts during early voting and on election day, to prevent drop off voters and to get unaffiliated voters to vote for our candidates.
- Direct contributions to our endorsed candidates so that our candidates not only have the resources they need but to show that the environmental community has "financial power" as well as volunteers to help candidates.

We need your help to elect our endorsed candidates. Can you volunteer a few hours between now and election November 6th to help with phone calls, to go door to door, or to work at early voting locations or on election day to hand out cards listing our endorsed candidates? If so, email kenbrame@sbcglobal.net, or call 828-683-2176 to volunteer or if you have questions.

Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates

Council of State

- Lt. Governor: Linda Coleman
- Attorney General: Roy Cooper

State Treasurer

- Janet Cowell

Judicial

- Supreme Court: Sam Ervin IV

US House of Representatives

- District 10: Patsy Keever
- District 11: Hayden Rodgers

NC State Senate

- District 47: Phil Feagan
- District 49: Martin Nesbitt
- District 50: John Snow

NC State House

- District 114: Susan Fisher
- District 115: Susan Wilson

- District 116: Jane Whilden
- District 118: Ray Rapp
- District 119: Joe Sam Queen

Buncombe County Commissioners

- David Gantt: Chair
- Holly Jones: District 1
- Brownie Newman: District 1
- Ellen Frost: District 2
- Carol Peterson: District 2

- Terry Van Duyn: District 3
- Michelle Pace Wood: District 3

Buncombe Co. Register of Deeds

- Drew Reisinger

Referendums

- **Vote NO** on the sale or lease of the Asheville Water System Referendum

'Defending Our Water: What You Need to Know Before You Vote' - Oct. 22

Join us on Monday, October 22 from 6:30-8 pm at Jubilee! on Wall St. for an update and educational forum, **'Defending Our Water: What You Need to Know Before You Vote.'** The event is being held to address the decision by the NC State legislature to remove control of the water system from the city of Asheville - and to discuss the referendum that will appear on the upcoming ballot on this issue. Guest speakers

include City Councilwoman Esther Manheimer; Renee Maas & Mary Grant of Food & Water Watch, Washington, D.C.; and local activist Barry Summers.

The forum is co-sponsored by Mountain Voices Alliance, Clean Water for NC, WNC Alliance and WENCOA Sierra Club. For more information, call Elaine Lite at 828-255-8537 or email info@mvalliance.net.

The WENOCA Group of the Sierra Club

Executive Committee Nominating Ballot

The following members have been nominated to serve a two-year term. Please vote for two candidates (three including a write-in).

For those who have joint memberships, the ballot provides space for two people to vote. Bring your completed ballot to the

November 7 or December 5 meeting or return by mail to PO Box 469, Asheville, NC 28802 by Dec. 5, 2012.

	MEMBER 1	MEMBER 2
Lisa McWherter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rich Wasch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Executive Committee has two open seats. Please contact Judy Mattox at 828-683-2176 or judymattox@sbcglobal.net if interested.

Float Beyond Coal - Oct. 14

On Sunday, October 14, at 1:30 pm, people from across Western North Carolina will be coming to tell Duke Energy Progress that it's time to move Beyond Coal.

We will be meeting at Lake Julian, Pavilion #5, and paddle out onto Lake Julian, holding banners, and creating a strong

visual statement that we value our health and environment. Boaters and shore lovers alike are welcome!

The Asheville Coal Plant is contributing to air pollution that threatens our health and our environment. Let's move Asheville beyond coal to a clean energy future! For more info or to get more involved, call Jackie Trevino at 828-251-1272 or email at jackelin.trevino@sierraclub.org.

Help Stop Clearcutting of Billboards - Oct. 25

On Thursday, Oct 25 at 5:30 pm, Ryke Longest of Scenic NC will talk about clearcutting of billboards and the legal strategies to fight against this law which takes away local governmental authority and allows for football length areas to be cut in front of billboards throughout the state. Residents of Asheville and Western NC had an excellent turnout for the Dept. of Transportation hearing on August 13 at the Asheville Public Works Building. Please join us as we learn more about this important issue, how we can help to fight this law, and how we can work to reduce the presence of billboards in the future.

The meeting will be held at the Unitarian Church, at the corner of Charlotte St. & Edwin Place in Asheville and is co-sponsored by the Earth and Social Justice Ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville, Billboard Free Asheville, the Sierra Club, and the Western North Carolina Alliance. For more information, contact billboardfreeasheville@gmail.com.



Fall & Early Winter Hiking Schedule



Saturday, November 3 - Daniel Ridge - Meet in Asheville at 10 am and return around 4 pm. Moderate 4 mile loop hike in Pisgah Forest near the Fish Hatchery has a nice waterfall at the end. Wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots, bring water and a lunch or snack. RSVP to hike leader Jane at janelaping@sbcglobal.net or 828-772-0379.

Saturday, December 29 - Corn Mill Shoals - Meet at 10 am in Asheville and return about 4:15 pm. Distance around 4 miles. Level of difficulty is moderate-to-easy. This is a great hike up and over a knob, but it is not too steep. Features areas of exposed rock. Return is on an easy trail along a stream. This hike is very nice but lesser known one in DuPont Forest. **NOTE:** Will look for alternative hike location if roads are closed or weather is icy. To sign up, RSVP to hike leader Lisa McWherter at lisamcw2@gmail.com or call 828-713-4994.

Saturday, January 12 - Mountains-to-Sea Trail starting at Bent Creek Gap - Meet at 10:30 am in Asheville and return around 4:15 pm. Distance approximately 5.5 miles. Easy-to-moderate level. This trail is mostly sheltered from the wind; is also away from road noise. Will plan to access trailhead from parkway, but will attempt it from Bent Creek Rd if parkway is closed. Will consider alternative hike location if both routes are closed due to snow/ice. To sign up, RSVP to hike leader Lisa McWherter at lisamcw2@gmail.com or 828-713-4994.

Saturday, January 26 - Pisgah Forest near Cradle of Forestry - Meet at 10 am in Asheville and return about 4 pm. Easy 5 mile loop hike with little elevation change in Pisgah Forest near the Cradle of Forestry has good winter interest. Wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots, bring water and a lunch or snack. RSVP to leader at janelaping@sbcglobal.net or 828-772-0379.



WENOCA GROUP
SIERRA CLUB
PO Box 469
Asheville, NC 28802-0469

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The Executive Committee meets monthly. For more information, please contact Judy Mattox at 828-683-2176 or at judymattox@sbcglobal.net. All WENOCA members are invited to attend.

Our website is www.wenoca.org.

WENOCA OFFICERS - 2012 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Judy Mattox – Chair - 828-683-2176
Lisa McWherter - Outings Leader
Dave Erb - Transportation Committee
Kris Cunningham - State Executive Committee
Grace Curry - Publicity Committee

Ken Brame - Political Committee
Gene Keil - Website/Membership Committee
Elaine Lite - Newsletter Editor
Kelly Martin - Beyond Coal - 828-251-1272

State of North Carolina 2012 Election Voting Information

- October 12: Regular deadline for voter registration
- Oct. 18 - Nov. 3: Early Voting & same-day registration period
- November 6: General Election Day

To find your polling place for Early Voting:

- Visit www.goo.gl/Bip51 or call 919-733-7173

To find your polling place for Election Day:

- Visit www.ncsbe.gov/PrecinctFinder.aspx or call 919-733-7173

For general election information:

- Visit the State Board of Elections website at www.ncsbe.gov

Buncombe County EARLY VOTING (18 sites)

Voters can vote at any Early Voting site in the county. This is very different than Election Day in which voters must vote in their assigned precinct.

- October 18 - November 3 - Monday – Friday 10 am – 6 pm
- Saturday, Oct. 20 & 27 - 10 am – 6 pm

- *Sunday, Oct 21 & 28 - 1 - 6 pm - select locations / see below)
- Saturday, Nov. 3 - 8 am - 1 pm

(*Sunday voting at select locations only.) Four libraries will offer Sunday voting on October 21 & 28 from 1 to 6 pm: N. Asheville Library; S. Asheville Library; W. Asheville Library; and Black Mountain Library.

If you have any questions, contact Election Services at 828-250-4200 or voter.buncombecounty.org.

A 'straight party' vote does not include the office of President or any non-partisan race or issue. You must vote for President/Vice President separately from the other offices. Nonpartisan offices and issues also must be voted for separately, such as judges, school board and any referendums. More detailed instructions are on your ballot.

For paper ballots, be sure to turn the ballot over.

Get acquainted with Sierra Club members through these social networking venues!

Find the WENOCA Group of the Sierra Club on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/pages/Wenoca-Group-of-the-NC-Sierra-Club/119353431450105.
We're also on Meetup at www.meetup.com/WENOCA-Sierra-Club-WNC.