



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

The William Bartram Group
Serving Greenville, Laurens, Spartanburg, and Union Counties

Bartram Bulletin

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet.

Volume 45, Number 6

August 2016

August Program

Wednesday, August 17

7:30 P.M.

**Naturaland Trust
Presentation**
Mac Stone
Executive Director

coming in October

Wednesday, Oct. 19

7:30 P.M.

**Critical Land
Prioritization and
Protection Campaign**

Upstate Forever
Andrea Cooper
Executive Director

The William Bartram Group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except July) at University Center (UC), 225 S. Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville, SC 29607 (Rm 202) at 7:30 P.M.

unless otherwise noted.



see web site for directions

<http://sierraupstate.org>

Journey through the Naturaland Trust

by Steve Root

Naturaland Trust, founded by visionary and conservationist Tommy Wyche, is one of the southeast's oldest land trusts and is based in Greenville, South Carolina. Through decades of partnerships and tireless efforts Naturaland Trust has helped protect over 100,000 acres of special places in the Blue Ridge. These places now



define the region: Caesars Head, Jones Gap, Raven Cliff Falls, the Mountain Bridge Wilderness and Jocassee Gorges. Today, the Trust continues to carry the torch Tommy ignited with milestone conservation efforts like the Swamp Rabbit Trail, Nine Times Forest, and the South Saluda River corridor.

Mac Stone, the current executive director and acclaimed photographer, will take the audience on a visual journey through the

landscapes and ecosystems that make this area of the Blue Ridge worth our collective adoration and vigilant protection.

We will meet in the Fellowship room at the Greenville Unitarian Church at 1135 State Park Road on Wednesday, August 17 at 7:30 P.M.

coming in October

Upstate Critical Land Prioritization and Protection Campaign

Andrea Cooper, Executive Director of Upstate Forever, will speak of the group's Upstate critical land prioritization and protection campaign. Meeting is to be held in the Unitarian Universal Church, 1135 State Park Road Fellowship hall at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, October 19.

ExCom Volunteers Needed

Bartram Sierra is looking for volunteers to serve on the Executive Committee. If you are interested, please send your name to Bob Church, Chair of the Nominating Committee, 101 Sutherland Hill Dr., Greenville, SC 29615 no later than September 12, 2016.

See *Schedule* on page 3.





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 Dennis Chamberlain, (864) 430-3754.

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.

Adopt-a-Highway

Remaining 2016 dates are: August 20th and November 19th.

Saturday, August 20 • Adopt-a-Highway

Join us for the third Adopt-a-Highway of 2016. 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 9:00 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, and orange safety vests. We cover two miles,



both sides of the street, and are very fortunate to have sidewalks on the entire route. Contact Brandi McCauley at brandimc81@gmail.com or (864) 350-8300 for details or to let her know you will join us. ♪

From the ExCom

by Ron Sobczak

Help Support Our Continued Success at the State House

The South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club defeated ALL anti-environmental bills during South Carolina's 2016 legislative session! Please consider becoming a member of or making a donation to the South Carolina Chapter to show your support for our success. <https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr...>

In sum, the South Carolina Chapter's lobbying

efforts defeated (1) a bill to remove the automatic stay on development projects when challenged before SC Administrative Law Courts, (2) a bill to remove citizens' ability to file nuisance suits over pollution, (3) a bill to eliminate the DHEC Board's ability to review legally challenged staff permitting decisions, (4) a bill to eliminate citizens' right to file lawsuits for illegal pollution under the Pollution Control Act, and (5) a bill to roll back DHEC regulations and to strip Lowcountry counties from recognition as coastal zone critical areas.

We stopped them all!!! At the same time, the Sierra Club helped pass many environmentally-friendly bills that will result in the following:

- Unregulated, for-profit petroleum pipeline companies cannot use eminent domain to seize private property for three years in SC;
- Unrecycled coal ash must be deposited in Class III, hazardous waste landfills;
- SC's coast has a permanent baseline beyond which ocean-ward development cannot encroach, protecting Captain Sam's Spit, among other coastal treasures;
- SC DHEC is fully funded to return to monthly water quality monitoring of its public streams and rivers at nearly \$1 million and funded at a bit over \$1 million for upgraded lab supplies to do such testing and monitoring;
- SC DHEC is fully funded to improve its dam safety program at \$660,000;
- SC DHEC is fully funded to continue monitoring the Pinewood hazardous waste landfill and to make \$5 million in capital improvements to its most crucially impaired lining;



Thank you for allowing the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club the opportunity to fight on behalf of the Palmetto State's natural resources!

Our work would not be possible without your help, so please make a donation

(<https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr...>) or become a member of the SC Chapter by clicking on the following link: <http://bit.ly/1YjfuO6>

ExCom Elections for 2017 Election Schedule

- September 12 Nominations due; all members interested in being candidates must submit a statement of their desire to run for the Executive Committee.
- September 16 Nominating Committee reports nominated candidates to the chapter Executive Committee.
- October 3 Petition Candidate deadline; those candidates that the Nominations Committee has chosen not to nominate, may petition to be on the ballot. *Please see below for the petitioning procedure.*
- October 10 Ballot Statements from all candidates are due. Bios must be no more than 350 words and include a picture of the candidate.
- October 28 Ballots mailed to members.
- December 1 Close of election; election ballots must be received at the South Carolina chapter office by 3:30 P.M. on this date.
- December 2 Ballots counted and results announced

Criteria for Valid Petitions

1. Must be received by 4 pm on October 3, 2016
2. Must have at least 15 endorsements
3. Must be in writing
4. Petitions received by email will not be accepted
5. Each endorser of a petition must include his/her
 - a. Sierra Club ID Number
 - b. Endorser's Printed Legal Name
 - c. Endorser's Legal Signature



ReWa Tour a Success

by Trey Fouché



Fifteen Bartram members get a first-hand look at the water treatment plant.

Fifteen Bartram Group members met on a warm afternoon this past month to tour Renewable Water Resource's (ReWa) largest treatment facility along the Reedy River, just off Mauldin Road. The tour was enlightening on the processes that ReWa uses to filter and clean waste water before returning it to the Reedy. ReWa uses a number of methods to promote a cleaner environment and recycle by-products of the treatment process. They capture methane gas to use for energy at the center. This cuts their draw from the power grid by 25%. Additionally, the biosolids that are collected during the treatment process are given to area farmers as a safe, organic material for their fields. ReWa does all testing at the farms to make sure the product is serving its purpose and not polluting the land or groundwater. This process provides the farmer an organic fertilizer at no cost, but it also saves ReWa money because the cost of giving it to farmers is less than otherwise disposing of the biosolids.

Sierra members were able to see the advancement in waste treatment processes since the days when textile factories were dyeing the Reedy a rainbow of colors. These processes have not only cleaned up local waterways, but they maintain safe drinking water for communities downstream such as Greenwood.

If you would like the Bartram Group to arrange a tour to see how other industries are tackling environmental issues, please contact Trey Fouché at jwfouche@yahoo.com.

Sierra in Action



Michael Corley representing Bartram Sierra at the public hearing about the wood chip plant in Laurens

Join Us On Facebook



The Bartram Group of the Sierra Club—Upstate, SC

**Deadline for September bulletin is
Friday, August 19**

Send your submissions to wbartramnews@gmail.com

The Green Spot



Sharing the Green

Time to Buy a Car?

Drivers have never had more choices when buying a green (or greenish) car, and that's both a blessing and a curse. Yes, there are hybrids, plug-in hybrids, and battery-electric vehicles, but the options can be overwhelming. Which one to purchase?

Here's a guide to some of the more affordable plug-in models, new and used, with a cap at \$30,000 after federal tax credits.

- There's a robust market for used plug-ins. Your best bet is the Nissan Leaf, which you can find online for less than \$10,000.
- The Volkswagen e-Golf has taken the battery-car world by storm thanks to its excellent handling, nicely turned-out cabin, quietness, and range.
- Ford made a bold move with its crossover C-Max, which is available only as a hybrid and a plug-in hybrid. The hybrid has a \$25,045 base price and a roomy interior for five people plus luggage. It also has a 500-mile cruising range. The Energi plug-in hybrid's MSRP goes up to \$28,638 after the federal tax credit.
- A gently handled BMW i3 EV (which I've seen listed for \$27,000) makes a good choice. Seven seconds to 60 mph, and this car is a joy to drive.
- The 2015 Prius Plug-in, which offers 13 miles of electric-only range, is an obvious choice, but you might want to hold out for the longer-range 2017 model. If you're in the market for a greenish car, you'll check out the Prius anyway.
- Check out a 2016 Hyundai Sonata Hybrid Limited. The highly regarded plug-in hybrid version has 27 miles of electric range and sells for just under \$30,000 after the federal tax credit. It's a very roomy, near-luxury sedan with every convenience and safety feature.

Reprinted in part from the May/June 2016 issue of Sierra Magazine, by Jim Motavalli.

Member contributions are welcomed. Send your green submissions to wbartramnews@gmail.com



If there is magic
on the planet,
it is contained
in the water.

~ Loren Eisley

*Bartram picnickers from the May
event.*

Photo by Dave Wilder