

August 2009

Sierra

North Alabama Group



Visit our website
<http://alabama.sierraclub.org/na.html>

**Picnic at Monte Sano Pool,
Thursday, August 20, 6:00pm**

Tuesday Night Hikes

Meet at 6:00pm at the Monte Sano
Hiker's Parking lot.

Pool Party and Potluck at Monte Sano Pool

On Thursday, August 20, put on your swim suit and bring a covered dish to share. Drinks, ice, paper plates, and plastic forks will be provided. We'll start eating at 6:30 but you can arrive and relax or swim as early as 5:00pm. At the entrance window, explain that you are with the Sierra Club; you must sign in and pay \$2, even if you don't plan to swim. Please do not bring any glass bottles. Beer cans must have koozies or brown bags.

Directions from Bankhead Pkwy: At top of mountain, continue straight ahead on Fearn at 4-way stop. Turn left onto Nolen Ave at next stop sign. After one block turn right onto Cooper. After two blocks turn left onto unnamed street. From Governor's Dr.: Turn onto Monte Sano Blvd. After passing the school and fire station on right, turn right on Mae Dr. Make the left turn at the end of Mae Drive, then turn right on Georgetta Ave. For more information, call Doug Horacek, 772-6788.

For the September monthly meeting, Bob Fanning, a local beekeeper, will talk about bees, focusing on the lives of bees and the social organization of hives. This should be an interesting topic given the attention in the media on colony collapse.

The North Alabama Sierra Club meets at 6:30 the third Thursday of every month at the Huntsville Madison County Public Library in the main auditorium. The library is in downtown Huntsville on Monroe St. just off Governor's Drive. Everyone is invited.

- The Editor

Alabama Water Watch Workshop Planned

A citizens' water quality monitoring class will be held Saturday, August 29th, 2009 at The City of Huntsville Public Services Building at 320 Fountain Circle. The class is sponsored by the Flint River Conservation Association and Alabama Water Watch. Participants will receive instruction on water resources and how to determine water quality using chemical tests, and bacteriological methods. Dr. Bill Deutsch from Auburn University, known around the world for his clean water advocacy, will be the primary instructor.

The Alabama Water Watch program (AWW) fosters the development of citizen volunteers, water quality monitoring of Alabama's lakes, streams and rivers. AWW's mission is to improve both water quality and policy through citizen monitoring and action and one of its goals is to have at least one citizen monitoring every stream and lake in the state. Since the program began in 1992, about 250 citizen groups have participated and have cumulatively sampled more than 1,880 sites on 700 water bodies. For many streams in Alabama, citizen data is the primary or only source of water quality information.

Be prepared to get your feet wet up to the knees, and wear sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses. Snacks and water will be provided and you are encouraged to bring your own lunch. Recertification will also be offered from 10:30 to 12:30, and then everyone will break for lunch. Existing AWW volunteers should please bring their monitoring kit to the workshop.

There is no charge for the class but preregistration is required. Register online at alabamawaterwatch.org or Contact Rita at 888-844-4785 toll free, or locally call 427-5116 to register with Soos.

Upon successful completion of the class, participants will be certified through Alabama Water Watch to submit monthly (or a minimum of 9X per year) monitoring results that will be available for all to see on the Alabama Water Watch website. This data is sent to AWW at Auburn for quality assurance, then entered into databases that are shared with ADEM and EPA. Monitoring groups frequently

use the information to propose water quality solutions to agencies, elected officials, citizens' groups and developers.

For more information on Alabama Water Watch, visit www.alabamawaterwatch.org

- the Editor

New Members Wanted!

Checks (\$25.00) should be mailed to:

David Kostowny

116 Pebblebrook Circle, Madison, AL 35758.

Phone: 325-2296. E-mail: daverave@knology.net

Join the Sierra Club or Renew your Membership for \$25

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your chapter newsletter.



Support New Wilderness Area in East Tennessee

The Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club in Knoxville is gathering support for a new wilderness area. Tennessee is fortunate to have some incredibly beautiful wilderness, but there remain many areas that lack full protection from development. The Wilderness Act of 1964 provides for a legislative process that gives permanent protection of wilderness. Three areas being proposed for protection under the Act are: Bald River Gorge Wilderness addition, Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness addition, Upper Bald River Wilderness. All three of these are already part of the Cherokee National Forest and are contiguous to existing wilderness areas. The first two are additions to existing wildernesses, and the third will create a new wilderness entity, but they still lack full protection under the Wilderness Act. For details on the areas, see <http://www.tnwild.org/campaigns>.

The best way to gain full protection for wilderness areas is for citizens to become involved and let legislators know that there is strong local support to keep these areas undeveloped so we can enjoy them. Remember that as hikers, we are the prime beneficiaries of wilderness designation.

First, contact U.S. Senators, Alexander and Corker of Tennessee. Senator Shelby helped with the Walls of Jericho area protection so it would also help to contact him. Go to www.senate.gov to find contact information. Written letters or phone calls are best, but an email is better than nothing. Let them know that we use and appreciate the wilderness areas in this part of the country.

- Ron Shrieves, Outings Chair, Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club

Paper Newsletter to End in September

Due to economic pressures and the move to electronic media, this newsletter will go electronic only starting in October. The cost of paper continues to go up as does postage, and donations to the Sierra Club have dropped dramatically in the past year. The newsletter is already posted on the web at <http://alabama.sierraclub.org/na.html> and many people already receive an email copy. If you wish to get the newsletter by email, please send your email address to Tom Burley at tdburleyhiker@bellsouth.net or Jack Drost at drostj@bellsouth.net.

- the Editor

2009 ExCom Members

Chair	Mirko Rakigijja	772-8548
Vice-Chair	Judy Burley	883-4267
Treasurer	Sam Denham	539-1033
Conservation	Doug Horacek	772-6788
Fundraising	Charlotte Buening	772-7348
Membership	Dave Kostowny	682-1233
Outings	Tom Burley	883-4267
Political chair	Joe Imhof	858-3626
Publicity	Sandy Kiplinger	498-1023
Secretary	Linda Griffin	772-8653
Tues Hikes	Michael Stewart	656-5836
Newsletter	Jack Drost	880-2644
Web Page	Steven Baty	489-0990

Picnic at Monte Sano Pool

Thursday, August 20, 6:00pm

Hike Ratings

General Note: Saturday outings may take all day and last into early evening. The Sierra Club encourages carpooling to save fuel, but you should be prepared to drive your own car on club outings.

Easy-Less than 5 miles, no serious elevation changes, no trail obstacles.

Moderate-5 to 10 miles, some elevation changes or rough trail (rock hopping), or trail obstacles such as creek crossings.

Strenuous- Over 10 miles, substantial elevation change (1000 ft or more), trail may be rocky, obstructed or nonexistent.

Exploratory - any event where the leader has not experienced the event, may fit any class above.

Saturday, Aug 15 - Spider Lily Walk.

Moderate. Meet at the Monte Sano Hiker's parking lot at 9:00am. We will walk the Mountain Mist and Sinks trails looking for Spider Lilies and other late summer flowers. Bring water and sturdy hiking boots. Call Doug Horacek for more information at 772-6788.

Tuesday, Aug 18, 6:00pm - Mountain Evening Hike. Easy. 3-4 mile hike. Meet at the Monte Sano Hiker's parking lot. Charlotte Buening, 772-7348.

Sunday, Aug 23 - Water Falls & Swimming Holes. Moderate. The South Cumberland Recreation Area is located near Tracy City, TN, and has several beautiful waterfalls and hiking areas. We'll explore the Grundy Forest Area and Blue Hole Falls. A short drive away is the Foster Falls Small Wild Area where we'll hike and enjoy Foster Falls. Picnic areas and restrooms are located at each trailhead. Total hiking mileage for the

day should be around 5 miles. Swimming is allowed at the waterfalls so come prepared to hike and cool off in the water. Bring lunch, water, appropriate footwear, towel, and sun protection. Rated moderate due to rocks in and around waterfalls. Meet at 9:00am at the Publix in Hampton Cove on Hwy 431. Contact Michael Stewart at 256-656-5836 or athikerstew@yahoo.com

Tuesday, Aug 25, 6:00pm - Mountain Evening Hike. Easy. 3-4 mile hike. Meet at the Monte Sano Hiker's parking lot. Judy Burley, 883-4267.

Thursday, Aug 27 - Excom meeting 5:30pm. Mirko Rakigijja, 772-8548.

Tuesday, Sept 1, 6:00pm - Mountain Evening Hike. Easy. 3-4 mile hike. Meet at the Monte Sano Hiker's parking lot. Alan Greene, 534-7849.

Tuesday, Sept 8, 6:00pm - Mountain Evening Hike. Easy. 3-4 mile hike. Meet at the Monte Sano Hiker's parking lot. Gerdi Keyser, 922-2251.

Newsletter Labeling

Wednesday, Sept 9, 5:30pm. Stanlieo's Sub Villa, corner of Monroe St. Governors Dr. Contact Jack, drostj@bellsouth.net.

Sunday, Sept 13 - Monte Sano hike. Strenuous. An approximately 10-12 mile loop across Monte Sano Mountain.

Rough trail and significant elevation changes can be expected. Meet at the Hiker's Parking lot (Monte Sano Blvd, near turn off for Burritt Museum) at 8:30am. Bring plenty of water, lunch, and appropriate hiking shoes. Michael Stewart, (256) 656-5836, athikerstew@yahoo.com

Tuesday, Sept 15, 6:00pm - Mountain Evening Hike. Easy. 3-4 mile hike. Meet at the Monte Sano Hiker's parking lot. Nancy Dudney, 882-9408.

Saturday, Sep 19 - Pigeon Mountain Dayhike, Strenuous. Pigeon Mountain is a spur off the east side of Lookout Mountain and is part of the Cumberland Plateau. We will hike the Pocket Trail which includes a picturesque waterfall, wildflowers, and a wide range of geological formations. Bring lunch and water. The hike is 8 miles and rated strenuous due to the 1200 ft elevation gain. We will eat at a local restaurant on the way back. Meet at the Publix in Hampton Cove at 8:15am. For more information contact Tom Burley at 883-4267 or tdburley@bellsouth.net

Sunday, Sept 20 - Honeysuckle elimination. Meet Across from Fagan Spring Apartments at 1:00pm. Bring loppers and gloves to help remove invasive honeysuckle shrubs from forest floor on the Landtrust property. I will provide water, 2 sets of loppers, extra

gloves, and a popper. Call Doug Horacek at 772-6788 for more information.

Sunday, Sep 20 - Monte Sano hike. Strenuous. An approximately 10-12 mile loop across Monte Sano Mountain.

Rough trail and significant elevation changes can be expected. Meet at the Hiker's Parking lot (Monte Sano State Park, near the campground) at 8:30am. Bring plenty of water, lunch, and appropriate hiking shoes. Michael Stewart, (256) 656-5836, athikerstew@yahoo.com

Tuesday, Sept 22, 6:00pm - Mountain Evening Hike. Easy. 3-4 mile hike. Meet at the Monte Sano Hiker's parking lot. Ken Shrider, 772-9442.

Friday, Sept 25 - Quarter Moon Walk on Wade Mountain. Easy. Easy walk to the glades on top of Wade Mountain, first glade on Wade Mountain Trail, then Devils Racetrack. Once on top we will not use flashlights. Bring insect repellent, flashlight, sturdy boots, water, and binoculars. Enjoy some binocular astronomy, owls, and a moonlit trail. This is also part of the Landtrust outings. Meet at the trail head on Spragins Hollow Road at 7:00pm, or meet at Olive Garden at 4:00 for dinner before the hike. Call Doug Horacek for more information at 772-6788.

Tuesday, Sept 29, 6:00pm - Mountain Evening Hike. Easy. 3-4 mile hike. Meet at the Monte Sano Hiker's parking lot. Michael Stewart, 656-5836.

Tuesday Evening Hikes

We usually walk 3 - 4 miles. We walk to different locations on each hike. In the summer (during daylight saving time) we hike in the park on Monte Sano. Although not strenuous, all hikes are vigorous.

All Tuesday Evening hikes leave from the Monte Sano State Park Hiker's parking lot at 6:00pm. There is a small hiker fee. All dogs must be on a lease while in the parking lot and while on the trail.

Contact: Michael Stewart at 656-5836 or athikerstew@yahoo.com