



The Central Ohio Sierran

News of the Central Ohio Group

September-October 2010

Volume 39, Number 5

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

All programs, meetings, events and outings in this newsletter are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

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Club members who would like to receive this newsletter by mail, or would like to receive email notification when current newsletters hit the web, please contact COG Chair Doug Calem [douglas.calem\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:douglas.calem(at)gmail.com).

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Chair's Corner *By Doug Calem*



Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Central Ohio Group's electronic newsletter. While we still print paper copies for publicity purposes and to send to a handful of people who have requested to continue receiving a paper version, this is the first edition in which we are only distributing electronically to those of you who have opted in. To all of you who responded with either your electronic or paper preference, thank you for expressing your desire to stay in touch.

I also want to let you know that the Executive Committee has recently decided to make a change how we conduct our monthly programs. We have decided to move away from a presentation-only format and begin using monthly gatherings to rally for a specific local or national conservation issue or outdoor event. We're still in the initial stages of formulating ideas and will not abandon our traditional monthly format. We'll be sure to keep you all informed through the newsletter, Facebook, Twitter, and old fashioned phone calls.

Our "September" program is actually at the end of August! Please join us at the August 29 movie screening. Stay tuned to the web for October events.

Some Sierrans from Central Ohio are hoping to go to the Gulf to help with oil-spill related activities and would like to hear from others who might be interested. For specifics on this, contact Salle Cleveland [scleveland\(at\)columbus.rr.com](mailto:scleveland(at)columbus.rr.com).

Special Movie Screening, 4-6pm, Sun. Aug 29 "Defend the Gulf"

Location: Northwood High Building, 2231 North High St. Room 100

On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the Sierra Club will host a *Defend the Gulf* movie screening. The event is being put on by the Sierra Club and sponsored by the Gulf Restoration Network, a Gulf conservation coalition located in New Orleans, to mark the anniversary of Katrina and help the Gulf's people and environment. For years the fishing industry, coastal cultures and unique wildlife of Louisiana's coast have been affected by the loss of a football field's worth of wetlands every 45 minutes. Now, the Gulf Coast is experiencing the biggest environmental disaster our country has ever seen. BP's oil drilling debacle has been wreak-

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Citizen's Public Hearing on Coal Ash 6:30 pm, Wed., Sept. 1

Location: Columbus library auditorium, 96 S. Grant Ave.

Coal ash is the residue left from burning coal. It contains heavy metals including arsenic, mercury, chromium, cadmium and lead. This ash is currently unregulated at the federal level, but the EPA rulemaking now underway proposes two options. One option, Subtitle C, proposes to regulate coal ash as a "special waste" under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA aka Superfund). Control of the waste under Subtitle C would involve permitting and comprehensive "cradle-to-grave" oversight. The other option, Subtitle D, would also utilize RCRA authority, but under this option coal ash would be treated like household garbage. Subtitle

(Continued on page 2)

Streamside with the Water Conservation Coordinator

By Matt Trokan

What's new with the clean water campaign? Well, we have been busy here along the streamside. The Aveda Institute Columbus has been a major supporter of the Sierra Club's Clean Water Campaign. In April 2010, Aveda expanded our partnership across the state, increasing the number of communities involved in water quality issues and raised close to \$65,000 for clean water. A big thank you goes to Aveda! While the goals of the Clean Water campaign are shared across the State, monies raised by the Columbus Institute will remain local and support our efforts to protect and enhance the quality of the Olentangy and Scioto watersheds.

Awareness: We continue to educate people about water quality issues and ways that they can get involved and make a difference. In April 2010 we developed a new interactive tabling display and have gone to water-related events in April, June, and July. Events like Three Creeks fest, Earth Day and ComFest have been a great opportunities to engage the public about water issues.

In July and August the Sierra Club and local watershed organizations designed and implemented a series of 6 workshops around backyard conservation techniques. The backyard conservation series promotes healthy yards and healthy streams by teaching participants about watersheds, native plants, organic lawn care/gardening, rain gardens, rain barrels and composting.

Action: The Clean Water Campaign is taking action to protect the Olentangy and Scioto watersheds through coordinating outing events. In partnership with Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) and the Ohio State University Olentangy Research Park, Sierra Club has coordinated 3 river clean ups in April, June and July.

We have had over 100 people volunteer at these cleanups to remove trash, clear invasive species, plant wetland plants and test water quality.

Advocacy: The Clean Water Campaign advocates not just for responsible regulations, but also for sustainable solutions. In June and July we met with the Columbus Department of Public Utilities, the City of Columbus Environmental Steward and the Ohio EPA.

We are asking the City of Columbus to create a dedicated source of funding for green infrastructure and have requested a review of green infrastructure expenditures. **The Department of Public Utilities has not been forthcoming with green infrastructure expenditures and the payment of overflow fines.**

The Clean Water Campaign raised public awareness about overflows through articles and letters in the Columbus Dispatch. We also submitted comments to the Ohio EPA on the 2.5-million-dollar OSIS Augmentation Relief Sewer that will run underneath downtown and south Columbus. Three organizations (and thanks to our action alert, 70 individuals) joined us in submitting comments asking for further review and a public hearing. Unfortunately, the Ohio EPA is moving forward with this project without further review.

Overall, the Clean Water Campaign has continued to protect our water at the source and engage people around water issues. A special thanks to all the members who have helped out over the past months, way to go! If you would like to come to a water-related event or learn more about the Clean Water Campaign please do not hesitate to contact your local water coordinator Matt Trokan at 614-461-0734x311 or [matt.trokan\(at\)sierraclub.org](mailto:matt.trokan@sierraclub.org).

See you by the streamside.

Citizens' Public Hearing on Coal Ash

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D would result in EPA issuing standards for coal ash disposal, but there would be no authority for EPA to enforce those standards. Moreover, the Subtitle D standards cover only disposal of ash, while Subtitle C would cover generation, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal.

In June 2009, US EPA made public a list of 26 communities in 10 states where residents are potentially threatened by coal-ash storage ponds similar to one that flooded millions of tons of toxic substances from a coal ash impoundment in Tennessee in 2008. The list includes three Ohio communities with a total of six sites. At that time the Ohio Dept. of Natural Re-

sources had not inspected dams at several ponds in the state in more than a decade.

Because the EPA is not holding any public hearings in Ohio, despite our state being the third largest recipient of Coal Ash waste at 11 million tons annually, a **Citizens' Public Hearing** has been scheduled by interested individuals and organizations for Sept. 1 at the downtown Columbus library auditorium, 96 S. Grant Ave. It is important to have as many citizen comments as possible, which will be recorded and submitted to the EPA.

A great website for information on coal ash is at EarthJustice: www.earthjustice.org/our_work/campaigns/coal-ash-contaminates-our-lives.

Columbia Gas of Ohio Home Energy Audits: An Outstanding Bargain!

— Save money by saving energy. Check out these and other energy efficient programs.

By Pat Marida

Columbia Gas of Ohio is offering its customers home energy audits for \$50 (\$20 for income-eligible customers). This is a \$500 value! The program, called *Home Performance Solutions*, also comes with a free low-flow showerhead and a free programmable thermostat! A trained energy auditor will analyze your home for ways to make it more energy efficient such as increasing insulation, air sealing, or getting a new high-efficiency gas furnace.

A blower door is used to locate and measure air leaks. A combustion efficiency analyzer is used to check stoves, gas furnaces and gas water heaters for safety and efficiency. An infrared camera can pinpoint areas where there is inadequate insulation, air leakage, or other problems that waste heating and cooling energy.

You will receive a computer report of work that is recommended. You will also receive a list of contractors that will give estimates and are trained to do the remediation work. Rebates of up to 70% are available if you have more than one measure installed. Even higher rebates are available for income-eligible customers.

For a limited time, if you have a home energy audit performed through Columbia's Home Performance Solutions program, if you have one of our participating contractors install any qualified improvement within 30 days of the audit, you may be eligible for an additional incentive of \$150.

Although Columbia lists sizes of homes that benefit most from an audit, any home can greatly benefit, and the homeowner can choose what work to have done. Renters can also benefit; please check with your landlord.

For more information on Home Performance Solutions, visit www.columbiagasohio.com/hps. To schedule an audit, contact Columbia's service provider, Conservation Services Group, at 877-644-6674.

Columbia Gas of Ohio also has 3 other energy efficiency programs:

1) Warm Choice, for income-eligible customers, can provide most of the above services at little or no cost. For Franklin County and Columbus, contact the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) at 614-



621-1171. If you are not a Columbia customer these services are available from MORPC under the Ohio Department of Development Office of Energy Efficiency's Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP).

2) Simple Energy Solutions gives rebates on qualified programmable thermostats and energy-efficient showerheads. You can shop for these products at local retailers or online at www.ColumbiaGasOhio.com/e-store.

The e-store has many efficiency products and also has rebate forms, or you can get rebate forms by calling 866-542-4767.

3) Small Business Energy Solutions offers instant rebates on qualified energy efficiency improvements. Visit www.ColumbiaGasOhio.com/SBES or call 877-644-6674.

Visit www.columbiagasohio.com for more information on Columbia Gas of Ohio's energy efficiency programs.

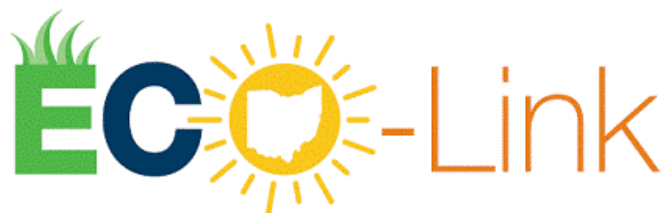
Federal Programs

On top of all this, **Federal Energy Tax Credits** are available for qualified energy efficiency improvements. Ask your contractor or speak with a tax specialist. More information is available at the U.S. Department of Energy website www.energy.gov/taxbreaks.htm



State Programs

To help Ohioans save money, create jobs and reduce Ohio's carbon footprint, the Ohio Treasurer's Department of Economic Development has instituted the **Energy Conservation for Ohioans (ECO-Link)** program which provides homeowners a 3% rate reduction on 5-year bank loans when completing energy efficiency projects in their homes. To learn more visit ecolink.ohio.gov or call 800-228-1102.



Columbus Answers Sierra Club Recycling Questions

Cincinnati and more. Continuing on, the team reviewed past studies done by the city, coordinated an

By Leslie Strader, Assistant Environmental Steward, City of Columbus, Office of the Mayor

In the article written by Pat Marida in the July / August issue of *The Central Ohio Sierran*, important questions were raised regarding the development of a curbside recycling and yard waste program in the City of Columbus. Mayor Michael B. Coleman shared the same concerns and therefore, in February 2010, tasked a Recycling and Yard Waste Advisory Team to thoroughly research and discuss how to best make the program a success. So, while the City did not expend public resources to hire a consulting firm to create the program plan, a group of qualified individuals volunteered their time to assist the Mayor. These advisors included city employees and members Mayor's Green Team who live and/or work in the City including

- **Jeff Cahill, Rick Dodge, Albert Iosue, John Remy and Kristi Higginbotham** with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO)
- **Joe Bonnell**, The Ohio State University
- **Angel Arroyo-Rodriguez**, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- **David Brehm**, Brehm Consulting
- **Dan Weisenbach**, Weisenbach Recycled Products
- **Elan Daniel**, Columbus Community Coalition and Urban Nature
- **Gloria Zebbs** Anderson of the North Central Area Commission
- **Mark Kelsey**, Director of Public Service
- **Erin Miller**, Environmental Steward
- Leslie Strader, Assistant Environmental Steward
- **Pam O'Grady**, Director of Government Affairs
- **Steve Lennon**, Refuse Collection Division Administrator
- **Rick Tilton**, Assistant Director of Public Service
- **Dave Bush**, Assistant Finance Director
- **Ted Rundio**, Assistant Director of Public Service

The Team began working together immediately following the State of the City Address when news of a coming recycling program was first announced. The assigned task was to design a program to include yard waste and single stream recycling collection at the curbside to single family residents (units of four or less) by the year 2012. Regular trash service would remain a constant and the program would not add any additional cost for residents. The starting point for discussion was a concept to alternate yard waste and recycling collection in order to make the program more affordable and reduce unnecessary truck trips and related emissions. The program becomes affordable as it makes use of savings in landfill fees, reduced hauler costs to collect yard waste every other week, as opposed to weekly, and a share in the profits from the sale of recyclable commodities. The remainder of the program cost will become part of the City's operating budget.

Before finalizing this initial concept, the Team had a lot of work to do. As Pat Marida recognized in her article, there are several cities that have a long tradition of curbside recycling from which Columbus can gain insight. For this reason, the team looked at recycling programs offered in a variety of cities including: Chicago, New York City, Austin, Philadelphia,

informational Council briefing and press events, toured a material recovery facility, and interviewed haulers, bin manufacturers and end users of recycled material. Most importantly, the Team conducted focus groups with residents in order to better understand their attitudes towards recycling. Based on this input the Team developed a recycling survey which was made available online at www.recyclecolumbus.com and was also mailed out to a random sample of 1200 residents.

As of July 1st, over 4,400 residents had responded to the survey.

- The majority of residents (53%) prefer yard waste collection every-other week or less.
- The majority of residents (63%) prefer collection of recyclables every-other week or less.
- The majority of residents (over 70%) prefer a cart style recycling container 35 gallons or larger.
- Over 60% of residents report that the most important feature of a recycling container is that it be large enough to hold their recyclables.

Responses from the public survey weighed heavily in the decision making process for the Team. These results show that the majority of surveyed residents are favorable to the Mayor's proposal to alternate collection of yard waste and recycling each week. The Team chose a 65 gallon cart to satisfy resident preference for a cart container, including a lid and wheels, large enough to hold two weeks of recyclables. Collection of recyclables would be located in the same areas as trash is currently collected, equating to curbside or alley service depending on neighborhood features. Existing drop box locations would be relocated to better serve multi-family households that will not be served by the curbside program. Final decisions on the program design will be laid out in a bid document in order to determine the hauler and the full program cost. Implementation is expected to begin being phased in throughout 2012.

Protecting the environment is a top priority for Mayor Coleman and he has led the City to success in a variety of areas including an award winning green fleet, an impressive greenway trail system and collaborations to protect water quality. However, he recognizes that in order for Columbus to be considered a true first class city, we must have a curbside recycling program. Simultaneously the program will help SWACO meet its own landfill diversion goals, help the environment and aid in the development of a culture of sustainability in our community. Organizations like the Sierra Club play a valuable role in encouraging this culture. The Environmental Steward's Office was specifically formed to address the community's environmental needs in one central point. So as questions arise, please feel welcome to contact the Environmental Steward's Office at 614-645-7671. City representatives can schedule time in order to respond to interviews, attend events or present at meetings. representatives can schedule time to respond to interviews, attend events or present at meetings.

AEP Ohio Rebates on Appliance Recycling, Lighting!

By Don Watts

In a surprising turn of events, over the past year electric utilities across Ohio have begun actively trying to get their customers to use LESS POWER! AEP Ohio and the other investor-owned utilities—FirstEnergy, Dayton Power & Light, and Duke Energy—are all rolling out new programs to encourage you to make changes to use less electricity. Why would they want you to use - and charge you for - less? The utilities have realized that using the power plants they already own smarter is cheaper, and makes profits higher, than building new ones to meet growing needs, even when sales are lower. But even more importantly, Senate Bill 221, passed in 2008, states that investor-owned utilities must implement energy efficient programs in order to meet annual energy savings goals - or pay fines.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) regulates costs and prices (and profits) for the states utility companies and they have approved a small fee to be added to each AEP Ohio customer's electric bill to pay for running these savings programs. Starting this month, about \$3 a month will be added to your bill. That adds up to \$36 a year. But there are ways for you to get that money back:

- AEP Ohio is still offering a rebate of \$25 for your old working refrigerator or freezer. You know the second one you keep in the garage for drinks and ice? Do you really need to keep that much stuff cold at once? You could save about \$100 a year in energy, on top of the rebate. They even come pick it up and haul it away for you for no charge. See www.gridsmartohio.com or call 877-545-4112 for more details.
- AEP Ohio has a residential lighting program called **Smart Lighting**. They have established partnerships with retailers to offer instant rebates on energy efficient lighting products. Look for signs where you shop to save on compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs).
- If you are a business, even more incentives are available. AEP Ohio's **GridSmart** program for businesses offers rebates up to 50% on efficient lighting - fluorescent tubes, CFLs, cold cathodes and LED bulbs and fixtures.

Don Watts is the owner of Watt Works, an energy efficiency consulting firm and lighting store located at 1078 Goodale Blvd. in Columbus. Watt Works has helped many Central Ohio businesses sort through paperwork and apply for rebates.

2011 Sierra Club Calendars at a 15% Discount

Printed on recycled paper and still the best, these calendars are welcome in any household or office. As always, Sierra Club calendars make great gifts. Your gift is also a gift to the Sierra Club: by buying Sierra Club Calendars from the Central Ohio Group, you are helping COG support its conservation and outreach goals.

Detach this form and **mail with payment enclosed to:** Doug Calem
4890 Sharon Ave.
Columbus, OH 43214

Orders must be accompanied by check or money order payable to the **Central Ohio Sierra Club**

Yes, I want to order: Wilderness Wall Calendar(s) @ **\$11.00 ea.** including tax
 Engagement Calendar(s) @ **\$12.00 ea.** including tax

I will pick up my order at the Nov. 10 or Dec. 8 monthly program at the Northwood High Building

Please mail my order.

Alternatively, orders may be picked up in Worthington, pay at pickup. Contact Ken Johnsen at 614-846-3108.

Name (please print clearly) _____

Address _____

Enclosed is payment for calendars \$ _____

Shipping and Handling \$ _____

Please add \$3.00 for each additional calendar sent to a different address.

SAME LOW PRICE AS SINCE 2001!



Shipping and Handling	
Any one calendar	\$3.50
2-3	5.00
4-5	5.50
6-10	7.00
11-15	8.00



Outings: September/October

Outings are open to all; you do not have to be a member of the Sierra Club to participate. In fact, if you are interested in joining the Sierra club, we encourage you to go on an outing and get to know some Sierrans. We think you're likely to come back! To aid you in selecting outings that fit your experience and fitness levels, please see our Outings Rating System.

- *The general policy of Sierra Club is that dogs not be taken on hikes unless the write-up mentions that they may be included.*
- *In order to participate in one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver.*
- *Outings are free of charge unless otherwise noted.*
- *We support energy conservation and carpooling wherever possible and appropriate. Participants may voluntarily contribute gas money to the driver.*

Outings Rating System

Each outing is rated twice. Both scales are one to five; the E scale indicates the required experience level and the S scale shows the physical activity level anticipated.

E Scale

- 1 Novice - no experience required.
- 2 A little experience is required.
- 3 Moderate experience required.
- 4 Considerable experience required.
- 5 For the very experienced only.

S Scale

- 1 Not strenuous.
- 2 Could be strenuous.
- 3 Somewhat strenuous.
- 4 Strenuous.
- 5 Very strenuous.

If you are interested in an outing but are unsure if you can manage it or if you wish to meet the group at the trailhead instead of the assembly point, call the leader and discuss the trip in greater detail. Be advised that many day hikes are 10 miles or longer and require proper equipment. Here's a list of what you should bring:

1. Sturdy hiking boots or shoes. Make sure your footwear is broken in before you attempt a 10-mile hike.
2. Clothing appropriate to the season. Layering works best in cold weather to prevent overheating. Raingear is essential for comfort as hikes may proceed rain or shine.
3. A small first aid kit with band aids or moleskin for blisters.
4. At least one liter of water (two liters in warm weather). Note that water is usually not available on the trail.
5. Snacks or lunch if mentioned in the hike description.

Hike leaders reserve the right to deny participation to anyone deemed to be inadequately prepared.

Wednesday, September 1, 6:30 pm: Wednesday Night Hike, Franklin Park, Ratings: E/S 1/1 Enjoy the variety of plantings and waterways to be found in this park located at 1777 E. Broad St., close to downtown Columbus. We will meet by the east entrance to the conservatory for an hour-long walk through the park, leaving time for you to explore the Conservatory at your leisure after the walk. Leader: Chris Tisdale, 614-260-2109.

Friday, September 3, 7 pm: Friday Night Hike, New Albany, Ratings: E/S 2/2 Join us for a hike in New Albany. We will walk around the New Albany Country Club and the surrounding neighborhoods. Meet at 200 Market Street in New Albany, near the library. Park on the northeast corner of the lot. From Columbus, take I-670 to Hwy 62. Two miles north the roundabout, turn left on Market Street. Optional dinner afterwards. Leader: Line Martineau at 614-749-1447.

Sunday, September 5, 9 am: Scioto Trails State Park Hike, Ratings: E/S 4/5 The forest and park are nestled in the high ground of the Appalachian foothills rising above the Scioto River Valley. This historic area was home of the Shawnees as late as the 1700s and saw the arrival of early American explorers who traveled up the Scioto River. This hike of 11+ miles has most trails in the forest and is comprised of rugged terrain that rapidly descends or rises. While offering expansive views of the area, this is strenuous hike and may have additional weather-related challenges. Bring water, lunch, suitable attire and meet behind Tim Hortons in the Great Southern Shopping Center on U.S. 23 just north of I-270. Leader: Jose Cabral, [cabral.1\(at\)osu.edu](mailto:cabral.1@osu.edu).

Friday, September 10, 7 pm: Friday Night Hike, Victorian Village, Ratings: E/S 1/1 Meet at the Dennison Avenue parking lot of Goodale Park. We will walk about 3 miles through Victorian Village and the south OSU campus area and enjoy an optional dinner in the area afterwards. Light, reflective clothing is recommended. Leaders: Jim & Ellen McDonald, 614-262-2666.

Sunday, September 12, 9 am: Zaleski State Forest Middle Loop Hike, Ratings: E/S 3/4 We'll hike approximately 10 miles on the south loop of the Zaleski State Forest backpack trail. This area is steeped in history. We'll see the old Hope Furnace, which was used to produce iron before the Civil War; walk on a stretch of the old Marietta to Chillicothe Road that was used by Indians and early settlers; and pass a small Adena Indian mound and a portion of a long-abandoned rail line. This is a strenuous hike, so be prepared. Bring comfortable hiking boots, water and a lunch. Meet at 9 am behind McDonalds at Winchester Square Shopping Center, near US 33 and Gender Road. We will return to Columbus around 6 pm. Leader: John Fiske, [jrob48\(at\)aol.com](mailto:jrob48@aol.com), 614-457-3699.

Friday, September 17, 7 pm: Friday Night Hike, Grandview, Ratings: E/S 1/1 We will hike on one of our favorite neighborhood walks through Grandview. Meet promptly at 7 pm in the parking lot of the Grandview library, 1685 W. First Ave, two blocks west of Grandview Avenue. After the hike, we will have dinner in one of the Grandview restaurants. Light, reflective clothing is recommended. Co-Leaders: George Huntley, 614-444-1970, and Barbara Daniel.

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Friday Night Hikes

Friday Night Hikes are a great way to unwind from a hectic week, a respite from the hurry, and a transition to a more relaxed weekend. There are usually 3 to 4 miles of brisk walking with an optional stop afterward for refreshments and conversation. When days are long, most of our Friday Night Hikes are in area Metro Parks. When days are short, we hike in lovely area neighborhoods. But wherever they are, Friday night Hikes are always wonderful. So, have some fun, make some friends, and meet some new people--come on a Friday Night Hike! Please note, however, that heavy weather generally cancels a Friday Night Hike. If it looks questionable, check with the leader for that particular Friday.

(Outings, Continued from page 6)

Sunday, September 19, 9 am: Tar Hollow State Park Hike, Ratings: E/S 4/4 Tar Hollow is an area of many ridges and valleys carved by erosion of the western portion of the Appalachian Plateau. This 11+ mile hike will take us through the North Loop of the Logan Trail that stretches throughout the park and forest. The area's deep ravines, valleys, ridge-tops and recent logging may pose hiking challenges. Bring water, lunch, suitable attire and meet at 9 am behind Tim Hortons in the Great Southern Shopping Center on U.S. 23 just north of I-270. Leader: Jose Cabral, [cabral.1\(at\)osu.edu](mailto:cabral.1(at)osu.edu).

Friday, September 24, 7 pm: Friday Night Hike, Franklin Park/North Bexley, Ratings: E/S 1/2 We will venture through several parks that buffer the west side of Bexley and flank the banks of Alum Creek. If conditions are dry, we will hike the nature trail by the creek at an easy pace for about 3 miles. Meet at Franklin Park, 1777 E. Broad St. at the east parking lot entrance by the Conservatory. Light, reflective clothing is recommended. Leader: Chris Tisdale, 614-260-2109.

Sunday, September 26, 9 am: John Bryan State Park, Glen Helen Nature Preserve, Yellow Springs Day Hike, Ratings: E/S 3/4 This is a *dog-friendly* hike. We will hike through John Bryan State Park to Glen Helen Nature Preserve to visit the Raptor Center. The hike continues to the "Yellow Springs" and we will hike on an old stagecoach road that offers some great scenery. This is a brisk-paced hike of 11 miles, so please be aware of your hiking abilities and limitations. Bring lunch, water, and hiking boots and meet behind Bob Evans Restaurant at Westland Shopping Center (just east of I-270 and West Broad St.) We will leave there promptly at 9 am. Leader: Jim Halverson, 614-325-6415, [jimhalvey\(at\)aol.com](mailto:jimhalvey(at)aol.com).

Friday, October 1, 7 pm: Friday Night Hike, Scioto Audubon Metro Park, Ratings: E/S 1/1 Join us for a walk starting from the Grange Insurance Audubon Center at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park. We will look for birds on the Whittier Peninsula, followed by a hike through the park and the Brewery District. Meet at the Audubon Center parking lot at 7 pm. Wear sturdy shoes for uneven walkways. The Audubon Center is located at 505 West Whittier Street in downtown Columbus. We will be walking about 3.5 miles, followed by an optional dinner after the hike. Light, reflective clothing is recommended. Leaders: Avalon and David Espinoza, [avespinosa\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:avespinosa(at)hotmail.com).

Sunday, October 3, 10 am: Black Dog Farm Day Hike, Ratings: E/S 2/3 We'll walk about 5 miles at a good pace, stopping occasionally to admire the beauty of this hilly property. The farm is located at 7213 Morse Road in Alexandria, about 11 miles east of Hwy 62. If you wish to carpool, meet at the corner of Hwy 62 and Morse Road (by Coldwell Banker and Donato's Pizza) where co-leader Tom Ruf will be from 9:30 until 9:40 am. If you are driving eastbound directly to the farm, turn right from Morse Road, follow the dirt road down a hill and to the right over a creek, go approximately 1/4 mile until you see a red cabin on the left, and park there. Plan on arriving by 10 am. Wear sturdy footwear in case we encounter wet

areas. Co-Leaders: Line Martineau, 614-749-1447, Tom Ruf, 614-406-5336.

Wednesday, October 6, 6:30 pm: Wednesday Night Hike, Franklin Park, Ratings: E/S 1/1 Enjoy the variety of plantings and waterways to be found in this park located at 1777 E. Broad St., close to downtown Columbus. We will meet by the east entrance to the conservatory for an hour-long walk through the park, leaving time for you to explore the Conservatory at your leisure after the walk. Leader: Chris Tisdale, 614-260-2109.

Friday, October 8, 7 pm: Friday Night Hike, Downtown Columbus, Ratings: E/S 1/2 Join us for a true urban adventure as we hike the streets of downtown Columbus. Meet at 7 pm at the Dennison Ave. parking lot at Goodale Park. We'll walk across the park to Front St. and make our way through the Arena District to North Bank Park along the banks of the Scioto. From there we'll follow the curve of the Scioto to Bicentennial Park and then head east to the statehouse. We'll make our way back north along High Street to Goodale Park. There are no hills on this hike, but there are plenty of steps (and some street and sidewalk construction), and we will be walking on hard surfaces for the entire length, so wear comfortable shoes. Light, reflective clothing is recommended. Leaders: John Fiske, [jrob48\(at\)aol.com](mailto:jrob48(at)aol.com) and Marilyn Fiske, [mjean49\(at\)aol.com](mailto:mjean49(at)aol.com), 614-457-3699.

Sunday, October 10, 11:00 am: Day Hike I, Chestnut Ridge Metro Park, Ratings: E/S 2/3 If you've thought about doing some of our great Sunday hikes, this is a good entrée hike to check your abilities. This small park is popular with trail runners and high school running teams for its challenging trails on gravel or mulched surfaces. Hike as far as you care or just come to enjoy the wonderful views. We will hike in a figure 8 pattern, break for a snack at our start point then repeat in the opposite direction at 1pm for late starters. The total distance for the day should be 3-5 miles at an easy pace. Water, hiking boots, and a snack are recommended. Directions: from I-270 or

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Outings

Continued from page 7

I-70 take U. S. 33 East toward Lancaster. Go about 11 miles and turn right on Winchester Road (Carroll, OH) at the traffic light. The entrance is about 3 miles on the left. Leader: Chris Tisdale, 614-260-2109.

Sunday, October 10, 9 am: Day Hike II, Hocking Hills, Ratings: E/S 3/4

This is a *dog-friendly* hike. The scenery in and around Old Man's Cave, Cedar Falls, Rose Lake, and Ash Cave is unequaled for its beauty and serenity. You will see and learn about the gritty, reddish stone, called Blackhand Sandstone, and how it was left behind more than 200 million year ago when Ohio's ancient ocean drained from the land. We will be hiking 12 miles at a brisk pace and tackling some challenging hills, so please be aware of your hiking abilities and limitations. Bring lunch, water and hiking boots and meet at 9 am behind McDonald's at Route 33 and Gender Rd. Leader: Jim Halverson, 614-325-6415, [jimhalvey\(at\)aol.com](mailto:jimhalvey(at)aol.com).



Friday, October 15, 7 pm: Friday Night Hike, German Village, Ratings: E/S 2/2 Join us for a walk through historic German Village. We will walk around the German Village neighborhoods and visit Fetch Park. Meet at Schiller Park (Deshler and Jaeger) at 7 pm. We will be walking about 3 miles and will stop for an optional dinner at a local area restaurant. Wear sturdy footwear appropriate for uneven walking surfaces. Light, reflective clothing is recommended. Leader: George Huntley, 614-444-1970.

Sunday, October 17, 9 am: Great Seal State Park Hike, Ratings: E/S 4/5 This is one of our youngest state parks and takes its name from the emblem of Ohio which it helped to inspire. Great Seal is situated on the western edge of the Appalachian Plateau and offers views of the Scioto Valley to the west and south. This 9+ mile hike spans the southern region, the hilly Bunker Hill and Mt. Ives Trails, and then extends northward to Rocky Knob. It is a strenuous hike on steep hills and

ridgetops. Bring water, lunch, suitable attire and meet at 9 am behind Tim Hortons in the Great Southern Shopping Center on U.S 23 just north of I-270. Leader: Jose Cabral, [cabral.1\(at\)osu.edu](mailto:cabral.1(at)osu.edu).

Friday, October 22, 7 pm: Friday Night Hike, Old Worthington, Ratings: E/S 1/1 Join us for a 3-mile hike starting in downtown Worthington and taking in some of the nearby neighborhoods and areas of interest. There will be an optional dinner at a Worthington area restaurant after the hike. Meet at 7 pm at the parking lot next to FedEx (Kinko's), located 2 blocks north of Route 161 on the east side of the High Street behind Dairy Queen. Please wear footwear appropriate for the weather. A flashlight and light, reflective clothing are recommended. Leader: Tom Ruf, 614-406-5336.

Sunday, October 24, 10 am: Granville Day Hike, Ratings: E/S 3/4

This is a *dog-friendly* hike. The town of Granville offers all the beauty and charm of a New England community. We have a great place for a Sunday hike, with the Denison University campus at the edge of the town. We will be walking about 6 miles throughout the town and campus and an additional 4 miles in the Denison University Biological Reserve. The pace will be brisk and the hills challenging, so be prepared for a vigorous day. Bring water, snack, and hiking boots (recommended for the trails in the Reserve). Meet at 10 am behind Tim Hortons on Cleveland Ave., just north of SR 161. Leader: Linda Halverson, 614-325-6415, [imat1010\(at\)aol.com](mailto:imat1010(at)aol.com).

Friday, October 29, 7 pm: Friday Night Hike, Old Westerville, Ratings: E/S 1/1 Join us for a 3+ mile hike in Old Westerville. We will be walking through some of Old Westerville's quaint neighborhoods and around the charming Otterbein College campus. Our hike will end with an optional dinner at an area restaurant. Meet at 7 pm in the parking lot located behind Graeter's Ice Cream Parlor at the corner of State St. and College Ave. Bring a flashlight and wear sturdy footwear as

we may encounter some wet and muddy areas. Light, reflective clothing is recommended. (*W. Main St. is closed between Cleveland Ave and West St. at the Alum Creek bridge until 2011*) Leader: Linda Halverson, 614-325-6415, [imat1010\(at\)aol.com](mailto:imat1010(at)aol.com).

Sunday, October 31, 10 am: Slate Run Metro Park Day Hike, Ratings: E/S 2/2 We'll hike approximately 6 miles through Slate Run Metro Park. The hike will cover a variety of terrain including forest, meadows and wetlands. We'll also stop at the Slate Run Living Historical Farm for a brief visit. Bring water and lunch or a snack. Meet at 10 am at the Shady Grove picnic area. Directions: From I-270 take U.S. 33 east toward Lancaster to the Canal Winchester/S.R. 674 exit. Turn right onto Gender Rd./S.R. 674 and go about 2 miles until it ends at Lithopolis Rd. Turn left and go about 1/2 mile to S.R. 674. Turn right and go about 4 miles to the entrance on the right. Once inside the park, take the first left past the ranger station and park in the picnic area at the end of the road. Leaders: John and Marilyn Fiske. Contact John at 614-457-3699 [jrob48\(at\)aol.com](mailto:jrob48(at)aol.com) for further information.

Wednesday, November 3, 6:30 pm: Wednesday Night Hike, Franklin Park, Ratings: E/S 1/1 Enjoy the variety of plantings and waterways to be found in this park located at 1777 E. Broad St., close to downtown Columbus. We will meet by the east entrance to the conservatory for an hour-long walk through the park, leaving time for you to explore the Conservatory at your leisure after the walk. Leader: Chris Tisdale, 614-260-2109.

Defend the Gulf

Continued from page 1

ing havoc on the Gulf Coast for months, and an already fragile ecosystem is now inundated with oil. Learn what can be done to make sure that the Gulf is restored, that communities are made whole, and that this can never happen again. The federal government must do more, and BP must be held accountable. For further information you can visit www.healthygulf.org.

Join a MORPC Work Group and Participate in Regional Planning

The Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission has 5 volunteer Work Groups and would like Sierra Club members to join. **The Greenways & Water Quality Work Group** meets on first Fridays of even-numbered months at 9 am. This Group deals with issues important to the Club's clean water work. It is a great place to meet area movers and shakers who are advocating for green space and protection of our rivers and wetlands. Other Committees are the **Energy and Air Quality Work Group**, the **Sustainable Planning and Development Work Group**, **Materials Management (Waste) Work Group**, and the **Agriculture & Local Food Work Group**. Individuals signing up for committees must attend the majority of meetings each year in order

to retain membership. All committee meetings are on weekdays. A calendar for meetings can be found at www.morpc.org/info_center/calendar/calendar.asp.



To join or find out more about any of these committees, contact Jerry Tinianow, Director of MORPC's Center for Energy and Environment, jtinianow@morpc.org or 614-233-4178.

The Greenways & Water Quality Work Group has just initiated a **Water Quality & Land Use Subcommittee** which also meets on weekdays. To find out more about this subcommittee, contact Jennifer Fish at 614-486-9613 or jennifer.fish@franklinswcd.org.

Building Green in Central Ohio

By Ted Tinkler

Featured Company: Miles-McClellan Construction

Featured Building: American Honda's Midwest Consolidation Center

When some people think of green building, images of unusual homes with earthen walls and a roof full of solar panels come to mind. However, green building is far more sophisticated today, especially as it relates to commercial and industrial construction.

The built environment has a profound impact on our natural environment, economy, health and productivity. According to the United States Green Building Council, buildings account for 72% of electricity consumption, 40% of all raw materials consumed and 30% of waste output (136 million tons annually). In light of this, it is imperative that we build structures that conserve natural resources and protect the health of the occupants.

A local commercial construction company, Miles-McClellan Construction, is doing just that. Miles-McClellan understands the importance of green building and LEED certified facilities. In fact, they require all employees in their Management Development Training program to become LEED accredited.

One of their largest LEED projects was American Honda's Midwest Consolidation Center. The 500,000 sq/ft facility is located in Troy, Ohio and was completed in April of 2007. It is LEED Gold certified, and was one of only 300 such buildings in the United States at the time of construction.

The facility boasts a wide variety of environmentally conscious features. For example, more than 50% of the previously farmed 58.2 acre site was restored to low maintenance grasses and other plantings. The facility also makes

use of high-efficiency heating and cooling systems and insulated building envelope materials.

Water conservation plays a major role in the efficiency of the Honda facility. Storm water runoff from the building site is diverted to a permanent pond which serves not only as an attractive water feature, but as a water quality basin designed to remove contaminants. The pond also serves as the sole water source for the limited landscape irrigation system. Water is conserved inside the building with low flow fixtures installed throughout.

The recycling of construction waste was also an important part of the success of the project. Construction waste materials were sorted and sent to recycling/reuse facilities at every opportunity. In fact, Miles-McClellan maintained six 30-yard dumpsters on site tended by a full time staff member designated for the task of sorting. In the end, over 90% of the waste generated on site was diverted from landfills and sent to local recyclers.

In addition to recycling waste, Miles-McClellan and Honda made use of a variety of local and recycled materials for the project. This included recycled steel, recycled stone and glass chip terrazzo flooring as well as recycled wood decking in the mezzanine office space.

Other sustainable elements included the extensive use of light colored concrete pavement and a highly reflective roof to reduce the heat island effect.

These are just a few of the design details that made this LEED Gold certified project a success for Miles-McClellan and Honda. Achieving LEED Gold status is not an easy task, but the payoffs for the community, the building occupants and the environment are well worth the extra effort and planning. Hats off to both Miles-McClellan and Honda for building green in central Ohio!

Ted Tinkler is a LEED architect who worked on the Honda project.

Non-Sierra Club Community Events

The following activities are not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published because they may be of interest to our readers. These events are all open to the public. They are free unless otherwise noted.

WEEKLY: Audubon Center Director's Tours

At 10am each Wednesday Grange Insurance Audubon Center staff guide participants through the LEED Certified building and the surrounding landscape on the Whittier Peninsula. Location: 505 W. Whittier St.

Wed., Sept. 1—Ohio Environmental Council's Green Screen at the Gateway Film Center The featured film *Living Downstream* starts at 7 pm. Based on the book by ecologist and cancer survivor Sandra Steingraber, this poetic 85-minute film follows Sandra during one pivotal year as she travels across North America, working to break the silence about cancer and its environmental links. Join us before the show for cocktails at the Martini Shot Bistro, located within the film center. \$8.50 adult, \$5 student.

Thurs., Sept. 2—Stormwater Best Management Practices Workshop from 6:30-8:30 pm at Liberty Township Hall, inside the Fire Station at 7761 Liberty Road, Powell, OH. Amy Dutt, Landscape Designer from Urban Wild, will speak on why stormwater Best Management Practices are important and how they can be implemented to protect the Olentangy River. After the talk, participants will tour a current stormwater BMP project at Liberty Township Park. In exchange for attending the Workshop, each participant is requested to volunteer 2 hours in the summer and fall. For more information visit www.olentangywatershed.org or phone Kim Williams at 614-267-3386.

Thurs., Sept 2—Greenovate Workshop "Garage & Transportation" From 6-8 pm at Greenovate, 9 E. Second Ave. Learn how to create a more healthful garage with proper ventilation and safe disposal of household hazardous waste. This workshop will also identify health hazards associated with automobile exhaust and benefits associated with alternative modes of transportation such as biking.

Sat., Sept. 11—Wild Ones Ash Seed Collection - Saving Native Ash Tress from Extinction 10AM at Inniswood Metro Park, 940 S. Hempstead Rd. in Westerville. The Emerald Ash Borer, a half-inch long invasive insect from Asia, has killed nearly 30 million ash trees in 9 states, including Ohio, since it arrived in the US in 2001. Despite containment efforts there is a high probability that all of America's ash trees will be destroyed in our lifetime. Rather than see native ash trees become extinct, the Natural Resources Conservation Service created the National Ash Seed Collection Initiative to collect and preserve seeds. Steve Crawford, an NRCS Earth Team volunteer with the Collection Initiative, will talk about the issue and show us how to collect, package and drop off seeds.

Sun., Sep. 19—Fall Foraging & Preservation at Dawes Arboretum on Ohio Rt. 13, five miles south of Newark and 3 miles north of I-70, Exit 132. Forage the woods, fence rows

and fields in search of tasty edibles. Learn how to prepare and preserve some of these wild foods such as persimmon, paw-paw, crabapple and nuts—hickory, walnut, acorn. Cost is \$20, reservation required at 800.44.DAWES or www.dawesarb.org.

Wed. Sept. 22—MORPC Pedestrian and Bicycle Counts Volunteers are needed to collect data regarding the usage and demand of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. These counts are part of a nationally coordinated effort. There will be two counting shifts: 7-9am and 11am-1 pm. To volunteer, contact Ariel Godwin at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission 614-233-4123 or [agodwin\(at\)morpc.org](mailto:agodwin(at)morpc.org). For more information visit www.morpc.org/transportation/bicycle_pedestrian/project.asp.

Sat., Sept. 25—Friends of Alum Creek & Tributaries (FACT) Cleanup, from 9-1 at Academy Park, 250 S. Nelson Rd. in Columbus. Suggested attire: long pants, sturdy shoes, and hats. Work gloves, trash bags, beverages and some snacks will be provided. See www.friendsofalumcreek.org.

Sat., Sept. 25—Harvest Fair at the Stratford Ecological Center, 3083 Liberty Rd. outside Delaware, 10am-4pm. Stratford's biggest event of the year transforms the farm into a playground and celebration of the season with puppet shows, entertainers, kites, crafts, a giant Earth ball, cider-making, horse-drawn wagon rides and much more! Stratford sells home-grown food for lunch and volunteers provide a great array of baked goods for sale. \$6/adults, \$4/children 2-12 www.StratfordEcologicalCenter.org.

Sat., Sept. 25—Plant Propagation at the Franklin Park Conservatory, 1777 E. Broad St. Learn the basic principles to produce new plant material from those already in your garden. From 10am-12pm, cost is \$20. For additional information or to register, call 614-645-5923 or visit www.fpconservatory.org.

Sat/Sun Oct 2-3—Green Energy Ohio's Annual Solar Tour This free statewide event provides the opportunity for people to visit hundreds of Open House Sites and talk with owners living and working with clean energy technologies. Visit an Ohio farm powered by wind, a home heated and cooled by ground source heat pumps, a commercial building supplemented by solar electricity, or a school with a 'living-machine' and LEED certified dorms. Visit www.GreenEnergyOhio.org to create a self-guided tour to open house sites. A few organized guided tours will be available as well.

Fri., Oct. 8—Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair Students for Recycling are hosting the fair from 11-4 on the South Oval of OSU's campus, or in the Union in case of rain. The fair will highlight OSU's sustainability initiatives and the community's environmental achievements. There will also be booths featuring environmentally friendly businesses and organizations, live music, special guest speakers and food and drink.

Generation Green, A Green Goods Store

By Carisa Holmes

Sawmill Road is not a place in Columbus that looks particularly “green”. Coated in asphalt and lined with a dizzying array of shopping centers, it’s about as metro as it gets in the ‘burbs. However, there is one *Green Spot** to be found. It’s Generation Green, a general green goods store located at 6351 Sawmill Rd. in the Trader Joe’s Plaza.

Generation Green has been in business since 2008, but moved in March 2010 to a larger location right next door to Trader Joe’s. Husband and wife team Steve and Heather Johnson are the “head honchos” of the operation. The store has an open, friendly feel and carries all manner of green goods, from hand made soaps and stainless steel water bottles to organic clothing and rain barrels.

I spoke with Heather on one of my visits to the store to learn a bit more about their philosophy. The Johnsons want to help people understand that they *can* make a difference with just a few small changes. They want to provide the tools and resources necessary to help make those small changes easier. Their ultimate goal is to educate people about greener, healthier and more sustainable product choices. Heather and Steve want their Generation Green store to become not only a local resource for household and personal products, but also a venue to spread awareness about earth-friendly products and related social issues such as Fair Trade—selling only products that have been made by people who are paid fair wages for their work.

Heather stated, “We search for vendors that are green from the ground up and don’t just add one green item to an otherwise eco-un-friendly product line”. This type of “greenwashing” is common in the personal care product industry as well as other markets.

Heather went on to describe their commitment to conducting green business: “We, too, strive to be green from the ground up with the management of our company. We are *Columbus Green Spot** *Certified* and we used eco-friendly carpet tiles and non-VOC paints throughout the store. We print only when necessary, and when we do, we print 2-sided

and on draft quality, when possible. We even found many of our display cases at garage sales and we compost our organic waste and recycle whatever we can.”

Nice.

The pair also does community outreach to help spread awareness and educate about green issues. They speak to groups such as gardening clubs, neighborhood associations and churches. They also speak to children’s groups and at local schools. The presentations are tailored to be age appropriate, and are usually based on subjects such as green living, community involvement, fair trade, recycling and composting.

Browse the store to find all sorts of goods to get you through your day. When you’re finished making your healthy lunch, pack your food in a Snack Taxi reusable sandwich bag and toss the scraps in your countertop compost pail – both available at Generation Green. Heading to the gym or a yoga class? Grab your Klean Kanteen stainless steel water bottle and Life is Good organic

apparel and throw it all in a ChicoBag reusable (and pretty much indestructible) tote. Need to tidy up around the house? Generation Green has Nellie’s Laundry Soda and EcoDiscoveries Household Cleaners to keep things clean and green.

Before I departed, I asked Heather one last burning question: “What is the one thing you want everyone to know about Generation Green?”

She replied, “That it’s easy to become more sustainable with simple changes. We are here to help.”

The message? The small choices we make as individuals have an enormous impact collectively on our local economy, our nation and the entire earth. We *can* make a difference.

You can find out more at www.generationgreenstore.com. Happy green shopping!

*To be a Columbus Green Spot, businesses make mandatory commitments in 5 environmental categories, plus additional ones tailored to the business. Green Spot businesses report to the City each year on new and continued initiatives.

Sierra Club Meetings

Central Ohio Group (COG) Executive Committee

First Wednesdays: September 1 and October 6 at 6:45 pm

Meets the first Wed. of most months at the Upper Arlington Library, 2800 Tremont Rd. Contact Group Chair Doug Calem at 614-430-9399 [douglas.calem\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:douglas.calem@gmail.com) for more information or if you have a subject for the agenda.

COG Conservation Committee

Third Wednesdays: September 15 and October 20 at 7 pm

Conservation subcommittee representatives and interested individuals meet on the third Wed. of most months. Contact Ohio Sierra Club Conservation Program Coordinator Matt Trokan at 614-461-0734 x 311 [matt.trokan\(at\)sierraclub.org](mailto:matt.trokan@sierraclub.org) for location, more information or if you have an agenda item.

COG Political Committee

Fourth Sundays: September 26 and October 24 at 2 pm

Committee members interview Central Ohio candidates and make recommendations for endorsements. There will be a very important election in Nov. 2010. The committee also meets with elected officials to keep them informed of the Group’s position on local issues. We often have speakers at these meetings. Contact PolCom Chair Melanie Braithwaite at 614-326-4670 [melbraithwaite\(at\)aol.com](mailto:melbraithwaite@aol.com) for location, information, or to be put on the email list.

Ohio Chapter Conservation and Executive Committees

Sun., September 19 — 10 am ConsCom, 1 pm ExCom

Held at the Ohio Sierra Club office, 131 N. High St. in downtown Columbus. Lunch will be served. Contact Chapter Chair Enid Nagel at 513-435-4074 [enidsierra\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:enidsierra@yahoo.com) for more information or if you have a subject for the agenda.

Sierra Club Central Ohio Group
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Join the Sierra Club!

Joining from this link will give part of your membership dues to the Central Ohio Group.
www.ohio.sierraclub.org/central/MembershipForm.asp

Sierra Club Central Ohio Group Directory

For E-mail addresses, see the Directory on the Central Ohio Group website at www.ohio.sierraclub.org/central

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All contributions to the newsletter will be considered, especially those of interest to central Ohio residents. Articles published in the newsletter also appear on the Central Ohio Group website.

Visit our website at

www.ohio.sierraclub.org/central

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