



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

# WENOCA SIERRAN

Newsletter of the  
Western North Carolina Sierra Club

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sept/Oct. 2008

## Upcoming Programs:

Unitarian Church

1 Edwin Place

(corner of Charlotte St.  
& Edwin Pl.)

Social 7 PM / Program 7:30

Thursday, September 25

Artist / Author

Emily Eve Weinstein

Discussion & slide show  
of her new book,  
*Saving Magic Places*

Thursday, October 23

Pre-election Meeting

Political discussions,  
endorsements, and more.

Check web site for updates.

The next Executive  
Committee meeting will be  
held on September 25 at 6 pm  
prior to our monthly program  
at the Unitarian Church.

All WENOCA members  
are invited to attend.

For more information, call  
Don Baker at 299-4171.

## Wild & Scenic: Environmental Film Festival

Thursday, October 9 / 7 pm  
Asheville Pizza & Brewing Co.  
on Merrimon Ave.

Hosted by Clean Water for NC  
& Partner Organizations

A festival **by and for** activists!

- Local speakers • Raffle
- Networking opportunities.

## Saving Magic Places Fundraiser!

The WENOCA Chapter of the Sierra Club and Mountain Voices Alliance have teamed up with author/artist Emily Eve Weinstein in presenting her new book, *Saving Magic Places*.

The artist talk and slide show will be held on Thursday, September 25 at 7 pm at the Unitarian Church, 1 Edwin Pl.

Ms. Weinstein will also be signing books as part of a joint fundraiser for the WENOCA Chapter and Mountain Voices Alliance. Ten dollars of every book sold at the event goes towards helping save some of Asheville's magic places.

*Saving Magic Places* is Emily Weinstein's fourth published art/gift book, and has taken three

years to create. Emily both wrote and illustrated the book.

This angst-riddled adventure of saving a part of the decommissioned Duke Forest in Durham, NC took every bit of three years, four jurisdictions and thousands of supporters. A dozen or so villains working behind the scenes helped give the story nail-biting suspense as they undercut the efforts of dedicated environmentalists who sacrificed their everyday lives - working non-stop to pursue saving this magical space.

Weinstein will also be painting on location in front of Asheville City hall

on September 25 from 11 am to 4 pm. The artist will donate 35% from the sale of this painting to WENOCA Sierra Club and Mountain Voices Alliance to share equally.

In honor of the recent valiant fight descendants of the Pack family and citizens of Asheville and Buncombe County waged against the Parkside Condominium project slated for City/County Plaza, Ms. Weinstein will paint the beloved Magnolia Tree in front of City Hall. This majestic tree had become the symbol for all the overdevelopment and destruction the mountains have endured in the past few years.

Printed in the United States and published by Beau Soleil Publishing, the book is 8.5" x 8.5", 104 pages with 98 full-color plates. Emily uses her paintings to evoke

the landscapes of the area, neighboring and connected greenways, a trip to Holland, and other sundry meanderings. She painted on wood and cut out action figures of 30 key players in the book, including elected notables, rising activists, and several established environmentalists.

Please be sure to join us for our September program and invite friends and family! The event is free and open to the public.

To learn more about Emily and her work, please go to [www.WeinsteinArt.com](http://www.WeinsteinArt.com).

*"A joyful narrative of  
passionate people  
protecting what they love ..."*

- Lisa Renstrom, past President,  
Sierra Club of America



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The WENOCA GROUP  
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The Executive Committee meets monthly. For more information, please contact Don Baker at 299-4171 or at [wenocan.president@gmail.com](mailto:wenocan.president@gmail.com). All WENOCA members are invited to attend. Our website is [www.nc.sierraclub.org/wenoca](http://www.nc.sierraclub.org/wenoca).

## County Commission Candidate Statements

### From David Gantt, Democratic Candidate for Chairman Buncombe County Commission

I have been blessed to have lived in, raised my family in and started a successful business in Buncombe County. As a resident for the last 27 years I have watched as many changes have come to our mountains - with more changes, more people, and more residents on the way.

When I first started my tenure on the Buncombe County Commission, I was shocked by the lack of vision and lack of regulation when confronted with the development of our steep slopes, ridge tops and mountains tops. Over the last twelve years I have worked diligently for rules such as storm water regulations, steep slope density, and neighborhood notification when development is happening next door.

I was instrumental in getting Voluntary Conservation Easements and we have now protected 2000 acres of Buncombe County open space against development. As Chairman of the Buncombe County Commission, I will provide the vision, the drive and the leadership to further conservation efforts, open dialogue with developers and land owners about wise development and growth and work to create a workable, livable, vibrant environment for our children and grandchildren.

### From Holly Jones. Candidate for Buncombe County Commissioner

I am running for Buncombe County Commissioner because I believe there is an urgent need for stronger leadership at the regional level to address the challenges of growth and development. I will make the creation of a new regional plan for growth management that addresses the need for watershed protection, preservation of prime farmlands and natural areas and multi-modal transportation planning a top priority.

Buncombe County is going to grow, but we should insist that new growth be as green as possible. We must assure that our community remains a great place for regular working people to live, rather than becoming a place that only the most affluent can call home. I am proud that as a member of Asheville City Council, we committed to reduce our global warming emissions by 80% and that all future city buildings must be certified at the LEED Gold standard for green building. People interested in volunteering or supporting

the campaign or learning more about where I stand on the issues can visit my web site at [www.hollyjones.org](http://www.hollyjones.org).

### WENOCA OFFICERS 2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Don Baker – Chair - 299-4171  
Dave Erb - Vice-Chair  
Grace Curry - Treasurer  
Sara May - Publicity  
Margaret Sticpewich - Membership  
Joyce Birkenholz  
Don Jeffries - Webmaster

Susan Keene - Political Chair  
Elaine Lite - Newsletter Editor

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

## WENOCA NEWS

➤ If any members would like to be included in a list serve which would convey timely and pressing information regarding the WENOCA Group and environmental matters, please email Chair Don Baker at [woodlandgnome2001@yahoo.com](mailto:woodlandgnome2001@yahoo.com).

➤ Our chapter is considering a change of venue for our monthly meetings for next year. We are looking at the Girl Scout building on Weaver Blvd. near UNCA. Please email Don Baker at [woodlandgnome2001@yahoo.com](mailto:woodlandgnome2001@yahoo.com) with your thoughts about this possible change.

➤ Welcome to our new Excom members Sara May and Don Jeffries. We appreciate your volunteering to fill the seats vacated by Cathy and Bill Punshon. And thank you to Bill and Cathy for their past service.