



Team Member: Chris Arrington

Age: 30

Profession: Environmental Professional

Employment: Michael Baker Engineering, Inc. Greensboro, North Carolina

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Furnitureland, High Point, NC

Personal Profile

Chris is a 30 year old Environmental Professional. He joined Michael Baker Engineering Inc. in Baker's Greensboro office nearly 5 years ago as an Environmental Associate. His background includes natural resources, environmental toxicology, and biological field studies. His current responsibilities include ensuring compliance for environmental plans and permits for clients, data analysis, compilation, and summary for reports, providing construction management representation for wetland and stream mitigation projects, and coordinating environmental compliance activities with local, state, and federal agencies. Chris also has completed a number of design projects for water and sewer systems, and handles many responsibilities related to the coordination of construction projects with local municipalities and utility companies for both future and ongoing construction.

Chris graduated from Western Carolina University in 2001 with a B.S. in Environmental Health and from Clemson University in 2005 with a M.S. in Forest Resources. Chris is excited about the Group Study Exchange Program and its opportunity to offer a unique chance to observe firsthand the environmental issues that Australians face in day to day life. His current position primarily deals with wetlands and streams in all aspects of development and restoration. For his vocational exchange days he would ideally like to spend time with a representative of the Australia Department of the Environment, or the local Queensland Environmental Protection Agency learning some specifics on environmental policy and regulation pertaining to wetlands and streams. Alternately, or in addition, time spent with local consulting or engineering firms that deal with wetland, streams, or stormwater and erosion control issues would also be of great interest and value to Chris and his career.

On a personal level, Chris would greatly enjoy any time that could be arranged to spend in the more rural areas of the host district. Chris has a great appreciation for, and interest in rural and farm life. He enjoys sitting, talking and interacting with the locals and getting a taste for the real culture of an area. This is because, in his words, "The real joy in travelling is not being accommodated as an American, or a North Carolinian, but in being immersed in the local culture." Chris has no allergies to pets or any foods and is always eager to try local specialties.

Some of his personal interests and hobbies that he would love to be able to share with those in the host district are of music and rugby. Chris played rugby competitively throughout his time spent in undergraduate and graduate studies at university for 6 years, and has played on and off with men's clubs and alumni sides ever since. He would greatly enjoy seeing any live matches regardless of level of competition, and a chance to hit the pitch for a practice with a local university side or local men's club would be fantastic. Also, Chris has a love for music. Chris has a good knowledge of local "mountain music" or bluegrass and "old time" music and would love an opportunity to sit and swap songs with someone who shares a like interest of Australian folk music. He has already been working on his "Waltzing Matilda"!!