



September-October-November 2011

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Serving the Residents of
Culpeper, Orange, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Fredericksburg,
Caroline, King George



UPCOMING EVENTS! RGSC Fall "Open House"



**Thursday, September 8, 2011
7 – 9 p.m.**

**Kobler Hall @
Fredericksburg United Methodist Church**

**featuring a special presentation by VA
Chapter's Mary Rafferty on
Keep the Ban – Moratorium on Uranium
Mining**

Rappahannock Group Sierra Club's annual "Open House" is Thursday September 8, 7-9:00 pm at the United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg, VA. Join us as we launch another exciting year of conservation programs, events, outings and environmental initiatives.

A special presentation will be made by Virginia Chapter's Mary Rafferty who will educate and inform us on **Keep the Ban** on uranium mining in Virginia. The Fredericksburg region is especially vulnerable to downstream impacts of proposed uranium mining. See Graham Givens editorial on impact to the Fredericksburg region at this link: <http://keeptheban.org/?p=761>

The Open-House is great way to meet and re-connect with fellow RG club members and learn more about RG's activities and programs. SC calendars/cards available for purchase!

Bring a friend and an item for FUMC Food Pantry. Open to the public, refreshments served. Contact Eric Lawrence Stott: ericlawrencestott@gmail.com

**2011 Virginia Chapter Annual Gathering
September 30 to October 1
Prince William Forest Park, PWC**

Sign up now for Virginia Chapters annual gathering taking place at Prince William Forest Park in Prince William Virginia. For those RGSC members who attended last year, all agree that the location is close with wonderful hiking/biking trails. More info at this link:

<http://vasierraclub.org/2011/08/2011-annual-gathering/>

RGSC Keeps a Busy Summer Schedule



Gearing Up for Fall

by Linda C. Muller

It proved to be a busy Summer for RGSC. In June, RGSC sponsored a **clean-up at Alum Springs Park** as part of the annual membership picnic. Members and friends sported gloves, bags and "handy grabbers" and headed to the trails of Alum Springs Park. After the pick-up we proceeded to spread two bags of fresh mulch around the "Doris Whitfield" memorial Dawn Redwood tree and enjoyed a wonderful potluck lunch featuring RGSC Board Member Paula Chow's homemade Pad Thai Noodles, and Eric Lawrence Stott's MacN'Cheese. Also in June, RGSC members attended "**Keep The Ban**" **summer workshops** co-sponsored by the Virginia Chapter Sierra Club, Virginia Conservation Network and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters.

In July, RGSC sponsored a free public showing of the award winning documentary "**Gasland**", a film about the hazards of hydraulic fracturing (a.k.a fracking) at the Rappahannock Central Library, Fredericksburg.

In August RGSC was a featured refreshment seller at the **Bluemont Concert** featuring Pan Masters at Maury Stadium. Sales of the refreshments and baked goods offered an opportunity to help raise funds for RGSC and provide community outreach.

A special thanks to RGSC member Antoinette Franke for loaning her copy of "Gasland". The movie is available for groups interested in sponsoring a viewing. Please contact Eric Lawrence Stott ; ericlawrencestott@gmail.com

We also extend a big **THANK-YOU** to all of the volunteers who helped support our refreshment booth for the Bluemont Concert.. We had lots of baked goods and extra hands to assist with the busy evening!

Fall Previews

Now that the summer "break" is over and we enter a new Fall season, RGSC is gearing up for another active year of educational meetings and activities. Our **Fall Open House** will feature a special presentation on "**Keep the Ban**" by VA Chapter's Mary Rafferty. Upcoming membership meetings will feature special travelogues from RGSC member's trips in October. In November RGSC will sponsor the annual "**America Recycles**" (see [Paula Chow's article pg 2](#)). We look forward to seeing everyone at the Open House and the monthly membership meetings. Remember to bring a friend and a donation of canned goods for the FUMC's food bank.

Quick Notes and News



RGSC MEETING ROOM CHANGE

Please note RGSC monthly meetings will be held in Kobler Hall at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church through December 2011.

9/24/11 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TABLING AT RIVERFEST

RGSC will be sponsoring an information booth at Friend of the Rappahannock's annual Riverfest. Please contact Eric:
ericlawrencestott@gmail.com.

CONTACTING RGSC

Mailing address:

Rappahannock Group of the Sierra Club
 PO Box 7972
 Fredericksburg, VA 22404

RGSC News/Group Email (get the latest news and updates from RGSC)

rappsierraclub@gmail.com

Web address:

<http://virginia.sierraclub.org/rg/default.htm>

On Facebook: Friend Us!

www.facebook.com (search Rappahannock Group)

RGSC Board Member Contacts:

Chair: Eric Lawrence Stott
ericlawrencestott@gmail.com

ViceChair/newsletter: Linda C. Muller
lcmuller@mindspring.com

Program Chair: Paula Chow
paulachow132@gmail.com

Treasurer: Josephine Dodt
jodana@earthlink.com

Membership: Michael Johnson
johnson2000m@aol.com

Webmaster: Doug Ferguson
dougferg@verizon.net

Board Member: Jim Lynch
jplynch@crosslink.net

Message From the Chair

By reading our front page story of how RGSC spent the "Summer Vacation", you know that as an organization, we do not rest. I was pleased with the many opportunities our Club had in educating, reaching out and serving our region. We are especially fortunate to have volunteers and supporters who answer the call for service-sometimes in short notice. Again, thank-you!

Be sure to come out and bring a friend to our Open House, September 8th at United Methodist Church from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (please use the Charlotte Street entrance) @ Kobler Hall. Our guest speaker will be Mary Rafferty, Virginia Chapter Sierra Club on Keeping the Ban on Uranium mining in Virginia. Also we are planning a Keep The Ban Rally @ UMW. More details to follow.

Keep Virginia Clean, Green, & RECYCLE

Eric Lawrence Stott, Chair of the Rappahannock Group Sierra Club
ericlawrencestott@gmail.com



America Recycles Week November 6th -15th

by Paula Chow

The third annual America Recycles Week commences Nov. 6th with the kick-off event at Ten Thousand Villages at noon. This joint venture of RGSC and Ten Thousand Villages is scheduled in conjunction with the National America Recycles Day, Nov. 15th. The goals of this event are to raise awareness of and interest in environmental actions through the concepts of reducing, reusing and recycling and to increase residents' opportunities and participation to reduce, reuse and recycle.

How this works: Each participant receives a punch card at the kick-off event or at any participating business. Upon completion of recycling (bringing) the specified item(s) at each business, the card will be punched/marked by the business employee. At the end of the event, the cards are put in a drawing for door prizes. Prizes in the past years have been gift cards for as much as \$25.00, restaurant gift certificates and free services. With each year, this event continues to grow with more businesses participating and more activities planned.

A second card is planned for folks who bring their reusable bag at a participating business in which to put their purchase. These cards will be in a separate drawing with door prizes from these businesses.

At the time of this writing the returning businesses who have confirmed their participation are: Virginia Wine Experience, Cats Closet, Toy Store, VA Runner, Habitat for Humanity and Re-Run Shoppe. New businesses participating this year include Vintage Beaucoup and Fredericksburg Antique Mall. A river clean-up, swap meet, and other "recycled" ideas are planned for this year's event. The planning committee hopes to get the City of Fredericksburg and the schools involved.

There will be morning, afternoon and evening program events during the week. The RGSC website will have the updated list of participating businesses and schedule of events as the plans are completed in mid-October. If you are interested in participating in the planning committee, we could use your help! Contact Eric Stott at (540) 429-0878. ericlawrencestott@gmail.com

Riparian Lands Stewardship Fund: Lets Keep The Commitment

By Linda C. Muller



It was a tremendous collaborative regional effort to establish the 4000+ acre Rappahannock River conservation easement.

In order to protect and enforce terms of the easement, a watershed property manager (River Steward) position was established. In April 2006, the Fredericksburg City Council created the Riparian Lands Stewardship Fund from proceeds from the sale of the watershed property easement. The Fund was designed as an endowment, and Council's intent at the time was to grow the endowment to the point that interest earnings support the activities in the Fund. Financial support from Stafford and Spotsylvania Counties along with private donations have assisted in the funding.

However, due to a downturn in the economy, the endowment's interest earnings have faced challenging times. Fredericksburg Mayor Tomzak has reached out to RGSC and its members to urge localities to commit donations to the Fund. RGSC members can attend their local Board of Supervisor meetings and speak during open public comment time in support of the Riparian Lands Stewardship Fund. We all worked hard to make the Rappahannock River Easement a success-lets keep the commitment.

More on the Easement and River Steward: "Events Honor River Easement":

<http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2009/052009/052009/467083/index.html>

6/20/11 Fredericksburg City Manager
Memorandum on Riparian Lands Stewardship
Fund

<http://fredericksburgva.gov/agenda/2011/0628/11b.pdf>

Working Together To Keep VA Waterways and the Chesapeake Bay Cleaner

by Linda C. Muller



Chesapeake Bay: Source VA DEQ

When it comes to finding the ways and means of keeping Virginia's waterways cleaner, all interested parties need to work together towards solution based action. This year in Virginia, interested parties including homebuilders, conservationists and members of both political parties of the Virginia General Assembly came together to successfully pass SB1055 which regulates the use and application of fertilizer and de-icing agents. Virginia Senator Richard Stuart (VA 28th District) was the patron sponsor of the bill and was key in keeping the bill on track for successful passage :(vote: Senate 39-Y,1-N) (House: 95-Y, 0-N)

Highlights of SB 1055:

- requires training and certification for professionals and public sector applicators of fertilizers to nonagricultural lands
- prohibits the application of phosphorus to turf grass without a soil test;
- prohibits the application of nutrients to impervious surfaces;
- sets standards for soil analysis techniques, equipment calibration, and the timing of the application.
- sellers and appliers of fertilizer will report amounts sold or applied by locality.
- lawn and turf fertilizer bags will carry a statement cautioning against improper application.
- Effective July 1, 2012, and subject to exemptions for newly established turf grass and gardens, no businesses shall sell (a) turf maintenance fertilizer containing phosphorus without point-of-sale limitations; (b) deicing agent containing urea; and (c) fertilizer without prominently displaying cautionary signage regarding excessive use.

more on the bill here: <http://www.richmondsunlight.com/bill/2011/sb1055/>

Positive Impact of SB1055

According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation "Once effective in 2013, the law could reduce phosphorus pollution running off into the Chesapeake Bay from Virginia by at least 230,000 pounds per year, or 22 percent of Virginia's phosphorus reduction goal by 2017. That could save localities millions of dollars by reducing their need to install expensive storm water runoff treatment systems".

Special Thanks from Dept of Army, Fort A.P. Hill

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We wanted to share the special thank-you letter received by RGSC VP Membership Michael Johnson from Lieutenant Colonel, US Army Commanding, Ft. A.P. Hill. Michael helped coordinate RGSC's participation in the Earth Day Celebration held earlier this year at Fort A.P. Hill.

“Dear Mr. Johnson,

“I want to express my sincere appreciation for your participation in Fort A.P. Hill's Earth Day Celebration.” Your contribution was essential in supporting this important annual event that focuses attention on the protection of a healthy and sustainable environment. As one of the exhibitors, you provided a valuable contribution towards the promotion of environmental education and awareness. Your participation reflected great credit upon yourself and your organization.”

Again, kudos to Michael Johnson and RGSC Board member Jim Lynch for helping make this a successful event for RGSC!



Sierra Club Contact Information Rappahannock Group Sierra Club <http://virginia.sierraclub.org/rg/>

Virginia Chapter:

<http://vasierraclub.org/>

Sierra Club National

<http://vasierraclub.org/>

OTHER LINKS

Virginia Conservation Network

<http://vcnva.org/anx/>

Virginia League of Conservation Voters

<http://valcv.org/>

RG Program Schedule

Note: All RG meetings are free and open to the public. We do request that members and visitors bring a canned good to support FUMC's food bank.

September 8, 2011 7-9 pm, Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg, Kobler Hall RG “OPEN HOUSE”

“Keep The Ban” Special presentation by Mary Rafferty, VA Chapter Sierra Club on Uranium Mining. Come out and meet fellow RG club members, learn more about RG club activities, outings, and events. We will have informational displays and materials that will assist our members and visitors in “enjoying, exploring and protecting” the environment. Refreshments will be served. Free and Open to the public. Contact Eric: ericlawrencestott@gmail.com

October 13, 2011 7-9 pm, FUMC, Fredericksburg-Kobler Hall Program: Travel to China

SC Life Members Ed Sandtner and Paula Chow will provide slides and discussion on their recent trip to China. Contact Eric Lawrence Stott,

November 10, 2011, 7-9 pm, FUMC, Fredericksburg Program: America Recycles-

Join us with a special evening of skits, programs and educational presentations as part of the RGSC “America Recycles” Week (see Paula Chow's article, pg 2)

Coming Up

December 8, 2011, 7- 9 pm UMC, Fredericksburg Annual Holiday Party

OUTINGS sponsored by SC Potomac Region Outings(SCPRO) .

SCPRO is special activities section of the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter. Hikes and outings include difficulty ratings. More info here:

<http://www.sierrapotomac.org/events.htm>

Sun. Sep. 18 2011 Rated H. Day hike in Central SNP on White Oak Canyon. (Cool Summer Outing). Limerlost, AT, Hawksbill, & Cedar Run Trails. Medium to fast paced hike of 12.0 miles with 3500' of elevation gain, equal loss. Ted Fryberger, 410/312-2982, till 9:30pm, tkfryberger@comcast.net.

Sun. Oct. 9. Rated C. Manassas Battlefield National Park Hike. Missed the events commemorating the 150th Battle of First Manassas. Here's your chance to hike the First Manassas Trail without encountering the sesquicentennial crowds. The entrance fee for the park is \$3 per person. Leader: Gary Kosciusko, 703/765-0306 or NOVAHIKER@cox.net.

OTHER SIERRA CLUB SPONSORED/NON SPONSORED EVENTS

Sun Sept 18, Bids, Boots and Barbecue-Northern Neck Land Conservancy. Menokin historical site in Warsaw, VA from 3-6 pm. The theme this year is Preserving Local Heritage. The food is all local grown, and much of it is donated by area businesses. Includes silent auction and over 40 exhibitors will showcase their products and organizations. <http://www.nnconserve.org/>

Sat Sept. 24 Rappahannock Riverfest. Friends of the Rappahannock Farley Vale Farm - King George, Virginia. 4-8pm Great food, live entertainment, and our famous live and silent auctions. All you can eat Blue Crabs, plus a full catered meal by Virginia Barbecue with baby back ribs, rotisserie chicken, sides, and dessert. www.riverfriends.org

Fri.-Sun. Sep. 30-Oct. 2. Sierra Club Virginia Chapter's Annual Gathering. Come to Prince William Forest for a weekend packed with fun activities and great food throughout. Activities include speakers and special guests, demonstrations and workshops, live music, outings leader training, and hikes and other outdoor activity. Check the Virginia Chapter's website (<http://vasierraclub.org>) for updates and registration form.