

## OPEN HOUSE 2013



### “The Latest Buzz On Bees”

Thursday September 12, 2013

7:00 pm – 8:30pm.

Fredericksburg United Methodist  
Church, 308 Hanover Street,  
Fredericksburg, (enter on Charlotte St)  
**FREE** and open to the public. Donation  
suggestion: canned goods for FUMC’s  
Food Pantry

**Special guest speaker:** Beekeeper and educator Kim Fraser will be the guest speaker to discuss bees, beekeeping and the issues beekeepers face.

The RGSC Fall Open House 2013 will include information displays, updates on upcoming events, light refreshments, and of course great company!

Volunteers are always appreciated to help support: refreshments, set up, and clean-up. Please contact Paula Chow, Program Chair [paulachow132@gmail.com](mailto:paulachow132@gmail.com) or Linda Muller [rgscchair@gmail.com](mailto:rgscchair@gmail.com) if you can help assist /volunteer with our Fall Open House.

### Register Now!

**VA Chapter Annual Gathering 2013**  
Friday, September 20, 2013 – Sunday,  
September 22, 2013. Caroline Furnace,  
George Washington National Forest, VA

Virginia Sierra Club members join together for a weekend of hiking, music, fun and of course, learning about how to protect our natural environment.

More info:

<http://vasierraclub.org/about/gathering2013/>

## The Latest Buzz About Bees

By Paula Chow



(photo by Linda Muller)

Beekeeping and honey collection dates back to the Stone Age. Honeybees are not native to the United States. They were imported by early settlers. And today, there are serious concerns about the future of bees with colony collapse disorder affecting their survival. Learn more at Rappahannock Group’s OPEN HOUSE on Thursday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Fredericksburg United Methodist Church (enter from Charlotte Street parking lot), lower floor. Beekeeper and educator Kim Fraser will be the guest speaker to discuss bees, beekeeping and the issues beekeepers face.

Kim Fraser is a native Virginian and public school educator for over 20 years. She has been raising and training a myriad of animals to include dogs, cats, horses, rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchillas, and of course bees for over 40 years. Kim has a background in animal husbandry and a bachelor’s degree in biology. She has been involved in beekeeping since 2004 and is one of the founding members of the Rappahannock Beekeepers Association, an affiliation of the Virginia State Beekeepers Association. Their goals include educating the public about the problems and to facilitate research. Virginia’s beekeepers have challenges ahead and the problems in the industry could affect crop production. Learn about how you can help advance solving the issues.

The connection of bees and food on our table cannot be emphasized enough. “Bee” there and learn what the buzz is all about. Light refreshments are served.



## Keep the Ban on Uranium Mining Update-Call Gov. McDonnell Now!

By Paula Chow

In 2012 recognizing that mining uranium would put Virginia's health, heritage, and economy at risk, a powerful coalition made up of over 60 government entities, public health organizations, regional chambers of commerce, small businesses, farmers, doctors, churches, and more than 10,000 citizens (growing to 18,000 in 2013) had taken a firm stance in support of the ban, preventing bills to overturn the ban from gaining traction in the General Assembly in 2013.

The bill did not get out of committee in 2013 but the advocates for lifting the ban have been pushing the governor to begin the process of drafting and promulgating regulations under the Administrative Process Act. But according to the governor's Uranium Working Group Report, it explains that if a bill to lift the moratorium is passed by the legislature and signed into law, "then and only then could the agencies begin the process of drafting and promulgating regulations under the Administrative Process Act."

Virginia has no regulations for uranium mining, and, with less than 1% of the state's general fund revenues dedicated to environmental programs, Virginia is ill-prepared to sufficiently oversee the industry.

In the Aug. 13, 2013 Danville Register and Bee, an editorial quotes part of Gov. McDonnell's speech that week. "If it can be mined and milled safely, I think we ought to do it, and if it can't, I think it shouldn't. I've done a lot of reading of the reports, and I think it's more likely than not that it can be done safely. Ultimately, that decision was up to the General Assembly. The study commission felt that it could, but it did not draw the support during the session. It's taken us 32 years just to get to today from the last time it was considered."

The VA Chapter Sierra Club and your local Rappahannock Group encourage individuals who have not done so, to call Gov. McDonnell urging him to honor the will of the people who have spoken through their elected representatives to keep the ban on uranium mining. **His phone number is (804) 786-2211. We must be vigilant and persistent**

## Marching Nationally-Acting Locally



(RGSC members Paula Chow, Ed Sandtner and Linda Muller are joined by Sierra Club Board Member Aaron Mair and Sierra Club supporters)

***"Protect Our Environment. Protect Our Democracy"***. The message was simple but very important as Sierra Club members and supporters participated in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary March On Washington held August 24, 2013. As part of the Democracy Initiative, Sierra Club members and supporters gathered early on the Mall to stake out a strategic spot near the Reflecting Pool and the Lincoln Memorial. The day was filled with remembrances, inspiration and calls for continued action. Sierra Club National Board Member Aaron Mair, (pictured holding the Unite Here! sign) served as our march leader and coordinator. Aaron made sure our group remained together and "in-line" during the march that commenced @ 1:30 pm from the Lincoln Memorial and finished @ 3:30pm near the Washington Memorial. (more pics posted on our Facebook page)

## Democracy Initiative

Formed in 2013, the Democracy Initiative is composed of a diverse group of organizations concerned with the impacts of voting rights in light of the recent Supreme Court ruling that removed a significant section of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Sierra Club's mission of "Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet" is often realized by supporting pro environmental/conservation policies and elected officials at the local, state and federal levels. We recognize that any encumbrances on voting rights are a roadblock to the democratic process. In Virginia, and in our own communities, we face many environmental challenges and opportunities. As we enter another election season its important to remain engaged.

Please join us for our annual **Fall Open House September 12, 2013 at 7pm** at the Fredericksburg United Methodist Church-308 Hanover St. Fredericksburg for a special program on bees. See you there!

Yours in Exploring, Enjoying and Protecting the Planet

Linda C. Muller  
Chair, Rappahannock Group

VA Chapter SC PAC: <http://www.votegreenva.com/>

More info: <http://www.keeptheban.org>

**Regional WORKSHOP**

**“What you need to know about Hydraulic Fracturing.”**

**Tuesday September 24, 2013**

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

England Run Library, 806 Lyons Boulevard,  
Fredericksburg, VA 22406

The Virginia Conservation Network and the VA League of Conservation Voters are sponsoring a special workshop focused on regional Hydraulic Fracturing a.k.a. Fracking. Find out what's happening in the **Fredericksburg Region** related to hydraulic fracturing; learn about this type of drilling and how it can impact our communities. Learn about the Conservation Action Team Program and take action to protect our environment. Sierra Club members and friends are encouraged to attend. Registration/info: Contact Dana Roberts @ VCN 804-644-0283 or online <http://www.vcnva.org/>

**Connect with Rappahannock  
Group Sierra Club**



RAPPAHANNOCK GROUP  
SIERRA CLUB

**“Like” US On FACEBOOK!**

**RGSC Website**

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

**RGSC Email News Group sign-up**  
[rappsierragroup@gmail.com](mailto:rappsierragroup@gmail.com)

**Mailing Address****RGSC****P.O. Box 7972****Fredericksburg, VA 22404****RGSC Programs, Events & Outings**

\*\*\* RGSC meets at the **Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, 308 Hanover Street. Enter on Charlotte Street Entrance.** All meetings are open to the public. Donations of canned goods accepted for FUMC Food Pantry. Bring a Friend! Check website for updates:  
<http://virginia.sierraclub.org/rg/>

**Sierra Club/ RGSC Programs**

**Thursday, September 12, 7:00 pm- 8:30 pm** RGSC Annual Open House w/special guest speaker Bee Keeper /Educator-Kim Fraser. Bring a friend! Contact Program Chair: Paula Chow [paulchow132@gmail.com](mailto:paulchow132@gmail.com)

**Fri-Sat-Sun September 20-22, 2013**

**VA Chapter Annual Gathering** Caroline Furnace Lutheran Retreat Center, Online registration. Register for one day or full week-end. Cabins and tent sites available. Fee. <http://vasierraclub.org/about/gathering2013/>

**EVENT Tabling****Thursday October 24, 2013 10 am to 1 pm**

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Learn & Serve Community Partnership Fair, Massad Family Y, 211 Butler Rd. Fredericksburg, VA. RGSC is supporting and tabling at this event for Learn&Serve Students. Sponsored by the Stafford County Public Schools

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Thursday December 12, 7 pm to 8:30 pm** RGSC Annual Holiday Party w/special guests TBA

***Other Events/Non RGSC Sponsored Events***

**Saturday September 21 Riverfest! Friends of the Rappahannock 4 to 8pm** Farley Vale Farm, King George, VA Contact: Friends of the Rappahannock. Tickets and info: <http://www.riverfriends.org>

**Tuesday September 24, 2013** 6 pm to 8 pm Hydraulic Fracturing (fracking) Workshop. England Run Library, 806 Lyons Blvd. Fredericksburg, VA. More info: <http://www.vcnva.org>

**Saturday September 28**, National Public Lands Day. Virginia State Parks celebrate with special events. Listings for Caledon State Park, Lake Anna State Park, and Westmoreland State Park. Website: <http://www.publiclandsday.org/> and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/state\\_park.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/state_park.shtml)

**Saturday & Sunday Oct 5 & 6.** Autumn Conservation Festival, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Front Royal. VA. Fees, Car pass \$30.00 up to 6 passengers. More info: <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ActivitiesAndEvents/Celebrations/ACF/default.cfm>

***Outings***

There are many outings offered via SCPRO- Sierra Club's Potomac Outings Program. Please contact the SCPRO website for listings:  
<http://www.sierrapotomac.org/>

Additional Hiking/Outings Non Sierra Club:

**Northern Virginia Hiking Club:**

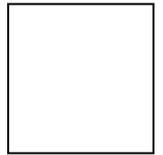
<http://www.nvhc.com/>

**Potomac Appalachian Trail Club:**

<http://www.patc.net/PublicView/>

**Rappahannock Group of the Sierra  
Club**

**PO Box 7972  
Fredericksburg, VA 22402**



**RGSC Open House!  
Thurs. Sept, 12, 2013  
see pg 1 for more info**



**Walnut Hill Farm, LLC  
449 Kellogg Mill Road  
Falmouth, VA 22406**

<http://walnuthillfarmva.com/site/>

**2013 RGSC's Green Living  
Award**