



**WE'RE BACK!
 OPEN HOUSE 2012**



**Thursday September 13, 2012
 7:30 pm – 9pm. (doors open at 7pm)
 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: Dr. Penelope Firth, Deputy Division Director of the Environmental Biology Division of the National Science Foundation. Dr. Firth is presenting **“Ecosystem Services”** Wetlands clean our water, bees pollinate our crops – these are just some of the “services” Dr. Firth will discuss in her fascinating lecture. Students, conservationists, educators, Sierra Club members and friends will find Dr. Firth’s presentation educational and enlightening. Time will be allotted for questions at the conclusion of her presentation.

The RGSC Fall Open House 2012 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 if you can help assist /volunteer with our Fall Open House.

Join Our Email List:
rappsierragroup@gmail.com

RGSC Awarded Keep Virginia Beautiful Grant
 By Paula Chow



(Volunteer Kathy Rivers of 10,000 Villages at Fredericksburg Farmers Market)
 Photo by Linda C.Muller

Thirty organizations in Virginia were each awarded a Keep Virginia Beautiful (KVB) grant earlier this year. KVB had two grant categories – litter/beautification and single use plastic bag reduction. RGSC applied for the latter and was awarded \$750 to implement this campaign.

Ten Thousand Villages, a fair trade nonprofit store located in Central Park, partnered with RGSC for this grant. Kathy Rivers, store manager, provided volunteer power to help implement this project. (fyi, Ten Thousand Villages is moving to the Village at the Spotsylvania Towne Center in late September.)

The campaign, currently in progress, targeted three venues – a home improvement store (Lowe’s at Central Park), a grocery store (Giant at Eagle Village) and a Farmers Market (Hurkamp Park). The Assistant Manager at Lowe’s, Adam Moore, who already had a green consciousness, helped RGSC pull the project together. Lowe’s was willing to match our purchase of 100 reusable bags, giving us a total of 200 bags to giveaway. An educational poster was displayed for 3 weeks before bags were given away on the weekend of June 30 and July 1 which is considered their last biggest sales weekend of the year. This was also the week of the hottest temperatures with the subsequent storms and power outages. The RGSC committee’s goal was to encourage shoppers to bring reusable bags to all stores, not just grocery stores.

The first Saturday of August Farmer’s Market at Hurkamp Park was the next targeted giveaway. Market Manager Gayle Price helped RGSC put out our educational poster every Saturday and Wednesday for a month prior to the August 4th Market and Family Table event. She added 35 reusable bags from Virginia Grown to add to our 200 reusable bags purchased from Giant. The goal was to encourage people to put their produce directly into the reusable bags rather than using the single use plastic bags and then placing the filled plastic bags into the reusable bag.

(Cont page 2)

Notes from the Chair

By Linda C. Muller

Giant matched our purchase of 300 reusable bags which will be given away during the weekdays and weekends in late August and in September. If you shop at Giant, check out our educational posters. One is displayed on an easel in front of the store and the second one is displayed on Giant's Green Team Communication board behind Customer Service. Store Manager Kenny Compher has been working on bringing green practices into the store and has been very accommodating.

The campaign will be completed by November per the KVB grant requirements. Keep Virginia Beautiful website:
<http://www.keepvirginiabeautiful.org/>



VA Chapter Annual Gathering September 21-23, 2012

New Location @ Caroline Furnace Lutheran Retreat Center, in George Washington National Forest about 30 miles from Front Royal. Join fellow club members for a weekend of hiking, music, fun and, of course, learning about how to protect our natural environment in Virginia. This 3 day, 2 night gathering includes nature hikes, Virginia Sierra Club happenings, great music and fellowship.

Online registration link:

<http://action.sierraclub.org/site/Calendar?id=165621&view=Detail>

Or go to <http://vasierraclub.org/> and click on 2012 Annual Gathering. Sign Up Today!



ISO Volunteers: RGSC needs volunteer members to assist with our newsletter, social media, and hospitality. The RGSC Winter 2012-2013 newsletter deadline is Nov 15 2012. Please contact
Linda C. Muller: rgscchair@gmail.com
Paula Chow: paulachow132@gmail.com

Dear RGSC Members, Friends and Supporters,

We're Back!

Autumn is fast approaching and with it a renewed commitment to our club, our members and our communities. Over the past six months, RGSC has been busy reaching out to the community by supporting and participating in local community events. **The Fall Open House**, scheduled on September 13, 2012 (story page 1) will provide an opportunity for members, friends and supporters to reconnect with RGSC. We are very excited that Dr. Firth will be joining us, and her presentation on "Ecosystem Services" will enlighten and educate us on the unique qualities of ecosystems. Plan to attend !

Keep the Ban On Uranium Mining

We face many pressing environmental issues, and one that is bearing down hard on Virginia and our region is uranium mining. Through-out our summer "tablings" we shared and distributed information on "**Keep The Ban**". It was not surprising to discover that many citizens were not aware that Virginia is considering lifting the ban on uranium mining. The good news is informed citizens were willing to sign petitions and/or write to their Virginia state legislators on keeping the ban on uranium mining. Have you contacted your Virginia state legislator to tell him/her that you support keeping the ban on uranium mining? Do it now before the Virginia Assembly session starts January 2013. Here are resources to help: 1) find my VA representative:

<http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>

2) get more information on Keeping the Ban:

<http://keeptheban.org/>

Elections 2012

The National Sierra Club PAC was joined by Environment America, the League of Conservation Voters, and Clean Water Action in endorsing President Obama for re-election. Additionally, the NSC PAC endorsed Virginia senate candidate Tim Kaine. As a reminder, the Sierra Club is a nonpartisan organization that is committed to supporting candidates who support important environmental issues. An activated grassroots can make or break an election, and your participation is important. For more information on Sierra Club's candidate endorsements and how you can get involved please refer to the Sierra Club's PAC Endorsements web page:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/politics/endorsements/>

Thank-You Volunteers

I'd like to personally thank the RGSC Executive Committee and our volunteers who have generously given their time and energy for RGSC. As a not-for profit volunteer organization, volunteers are the **BACKBONE** of RGSC.

Yours in Exploring, Enjoying and Protecting the Planet,
Linda C. Muller, Chair RGSC

Connect with Rappahannock Group Sierra Club



“Like” RGSC on FACEBOOK!
www.facebook.com

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

RGSC Email News Group
 send an email to sign-up
rappsierragroup@gmail.com

RGSC Mailing Address:
RGSC
P.O. Box 7972
Fredericksburg, VA 22404

Email Contacts for RGSC Ex-Com

RGSC Board Member Contacts:

Chair: Linda C. Muller
rgscchair@gmail.com
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Acting Secretary/UMW Intern
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Membership: Michael Johnson
johnson2000m@aol.com
Webmaster: Doug Ferguson
dougferg@verizon.net
Board Member: Jim Lynch
jplynch@crosslink.net



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 13, 7:30 pm- 9:00 pm RGSC Annual Open House w/special guest speaker Dr. Penelope Firth, of the National Science Foundation Light Refreshments. Bring a friend! Doors **“open” at 7 pm.** Contact Program Chair: Paula Chow paulchow132@gmail.com

Fri-Sat-Sun September 21-23, 2012
VA Chapter Annual Gathering Caroline Furnace Lutheran Retreat Center, Online registration. Register for one day (\$40) or full week-end (\$90)
<https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/Ticketing/1256566757>

Thursday October 11, 2012 7 pm to 9 pm RGSC meeting. Featured presentation Keep The Ban on Uranium Mining. The VA General Assembly is considering lifting the ban on uranium mining. Learn what you can do to help keep the moratorium on Uranium mining. VA League of Conservation Voters guest speaker. Contact Program Chair: Paula Chow, Paulachow132@gmail.com

Thursday November 8, 7pm to 9 pm RGSC meeting: “America Recycles”kick-off for the annual America Recycle Program: skits/info and special presentations on reducing, re-using and recycling! Contact Program Chair Paula Chow paulachow132@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday December 13, 7 pm to 9 pm RGSC Annual Holiday Party w/special guests TBA!

Other Events/Non RGSC Sponsored Events

Saturday September 15 Riverfest! 4 to 8pm Farley Vale Farm, King George, VA Contact: Friends of the Rappahannock. Tickets and info:
<http://www.riverfriends.org>

Saturday September 29, National Public Lands Day. Events listed for Caledon State Park, Lake Anna State Park, and Westmoreland State Park. Website:
<http://www.publiclandsday.org/>

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/>

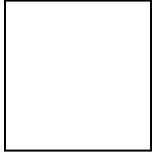
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club:
<http://www.patc.net/PublicView/>

Rappahannock Group of the Sierra

Club

PO Box 7972

Fredericksburg, VA 22402



RGSC Open House!

Thurs. Sept, 13, 2012

see pg 1 for more info

HARVEST MARKET
7610 Heths Salient Street
Suite 112
Spotsylvania, VA 22553
www.hrvstmkt.com

2012 RGSC's Green Living Award