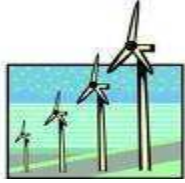


Up Coming Events Offshore Wind Energy



**Thursday, March 10
 7-9 pm. Fredericksburg
 United Methodist Church
 Speakers: Ivy Main and Susan
 Stillman, Virginia Chapter Sierra
 Club Renewable Energy Activists**

The Gulf oil spill put a temporary halt to proposals for oil and gas drilling off Virginia's coast, but some politicians remain convinced that drilling offers a new source of revenue for state coffers and potentially some new jobs. Would these benefits outweigh the risks to marine life, wetlands and beaches, and to sectors of our economy dependent on fishing and tourism? And why are the Navy and NASA opposed?

Meanwhile, scientists say offshore wind energy could provide a better way forward—bringing jobs and economic development without pollution, and propelling Virginia to the forefront of the emerging clean energy economy. But what are the costs, and what is needed to make this vision a reality?

Join us for a presentation and discussion of the issues. All are welcome, and refreshments will be served. Ivy Main is the Virginia Chapters Renewable Energy Chair. This event is sponsored by the Rappahannock Group Sierra Club. For more information, contact Eric Lawrence Stott at ericlawrencestott@gmail.com or 540-429-0898.

**Also coming up:
 Saturday March 19, 2011:
 World Water Day Hurkamp
 Park, Fredericksburg
 see pg 2**

Earth Day on the Rappahannock !!

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Old Mill Park-Fredericksburg

11:00 am. - 3:00 pm.

RAIN OR SHINE

River Clean-up sponsored by F.O.R.
 starts at 8:30 am.



This year's Earth Day celebration promises to be bigger and better than ever. The family fun event returns to Old Mill Park along the Rappahannock River, Fredericksburg with dozens of exhibits, demonstrations, wild critters, games, music and outdoor activities. The Rappahannock Group's UMW's intern Desiree De Haven has also planned a very special event: Trashion Show. Its a fashion show featuring apparel made from recycled materials. Desiree has encouraged the participation of area students who will strut their "green stuff" of creative couture. The Trashion Show offers "a fun way to engage students and the community into thinking about the positive impact of recycling!"

This years Earth Day Celebration is organized by Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation, Rappahannock Group Sierra Club, Friends of the Rappahannock, American Canoe Association, Mountain View High School Learn and Serve, and AmeriCorp*Vista.

Friends of the Rappahannock kicks off the day with a scheduled River Clean-up (8:30 am.). Persons interested in participating in the River clean-up can call F.O.R at 373-3448. The Rappahannock Group is sponsoring the annual "Green Living" Award and will have an exhibit and display booth.

Earth Day Volunteers are always welcomed and are encouraged to call Fredericksburg Parks & Rec.: 372-1086 x213. Rappahannock Group members who wish to assist with our booth and display, please contact: Rappahannock Group Chair Eric Lawrence Stott: ericlawrencestott@gmail.com or 540-429-0898.

QUICK NOTES**World Water Day****March 19, 2011****Hurkamp Park Fredericksburg****9 am – 12 pm**

by Cate Huxtable

Friends of the Rappahannock is hosting the first annual celebration of World Water Day, the water equivalent of Earth Day.

The theme of this year's WWD is "Urban Water Management," so join us to learn what you can do to conserve water in your own home. Activities will include rain barrel art painted by students and local professional artists, interactive community barrels being painted on site, Build Your Own Rain Barrel Workshops, rain garden and retrofit displays, and more!

Featuring a very special skit by the Sierra Club, this event is one for the entire family! At Hurkamp Park on Saturday, March 19th from 9 am - 12 pm. FREE. Call (540) 373.3448 if you have questions.

Stay Connected Sign-up Now!
RGSC Group E-mail



RGSC is initiating a group email for RG Club members. The group email list will be used for Club announcements, notices, and e-newsletters. Please sign up by emailing to our group email address: rappsierraclub@gmail.com

Volunteer With Your RGSC

Have a flair with words? Enjoy planning exciting and new programs? Love to meet and greet people? RGSC thrives best with an active group of volunteers...perhaps you can help. We are looking for Newsletter Editor/writers, program planners..or even if you just want to share your ideas. Please contact Eric Lawrence Stott : ericlawrencestott@gmail.com or Linda C. Muller at: rgsc@mindspring.com.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIR

by Eric Lawrence Stott

Spring and Summer are just around the corner!

As I look back on my first year as Chair of the Rappahannock Group I am pleased to see all of the environmental issues and events we have successfully accomplished: a very nice farewell to Doris Whitfield including a special memorial tree planting at Alum Spring Park, Earth Day (First Living Green Awards), Stafford County Fair tabling, speaking on behalf of the Group at the Stafford County Planning Commission, participating in UMW's Eco-Club's Sustainability Day, and our second annual America Recycles event which had more information in the local newspapers than we did the year before.

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and support over this past year. The Rappahannock Group needs the support of its members to help carry the message of Explore, Enjoy and Protect our communities. Are you ready to roll up your sleeves and have fun in the process?

The following events need volunteers to HELP set up, attend and break down table and canopies:

Friends of the Rappahannock World Water Day Saturday, March 19th at Hurkamp Park in Fredericksburg from 9 am. to 12 pm.

Earth Day at Fort AP Hill Thursday, April 14th 9:00am to 3:00pm

Fredericksburg Earth Day Old Mill Park Saturday, April 16th 9:00am to 3:00pm also help with the Rappahannock Group Trash in Fashion

Keep Virginia Clean, Green & RECYCLE,

Eric Lawrence Stott

Chair of the Rappahannock Group

ericlawrencestott@gmail.com

**UMW Ecology Club Students Attend
Conservation Lobby Day
January 17, 2011**

This years annual Conservation Lobby Day was held at the renovated and historic Richmond Center Stage. <http://www.richmondcenterstage.com>. Members of the University of Mary Washington Ecology Club joined fellow citizen lobbyists to speak to local elected officials on important environmental legislation. We applaud the student's efforts and dedication!



UMW Ecology Club Members Graham Givens, Emily Montgomery, and Abby Rogers

Keep the Ban on Uranium Mining

National Academy of Science Town Hall
Meeting 2/7/11
By Linda C. Muller

pg 3 March-April-May 2011

(Keep the Ban on Uranium Mining cont)

Concerned citizens from across the state of Virginia turned out for The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) town hall meeting in Richmond on Monday February 7, 2011 to support the moratorium on uranium mining. Virginia Uranium, Inc, which has funded the NAS study, is a Canadian owned company, and seeks to repeal a 25 year statewide ban on the mining of uranium, the milling of yellowcake, and the disposal of radioactive waste in Virginia.

According to the Southern Environmental Law Center "Uranium occurs naturally in the ground, but when exposed to air and water, radiation is released into the environment. Virtually all uranium mining in the U.S. has occurred in the arid, sparsely populated regions of the West. In these areas and other parts of the world, uranium extraction and processing have caused serious problems, such as the contamination of groundwater and surface water and increased cancer risk for workers and the public.

There is no precedent for large-scale uranium mining in eastern states such as Virginia, where the population density puts more people at risk and where a wetter climate increases the chance of radiation contaminating streams and groundwater.

Virginia has no regulations for uranium mining, and the federal government has virtually no experience regulating the activity in a wet climate."

http://www.southernenvironment.org/cases/uranium_mining_in_virginia

The City of Virginia Beach commissioned its own study on the impact of uranium mining and released its findings on February 1, 2011. (web site here: <http://www.vbgov.com/vgn.aspx>) From the Executive Summary of the study: "Climatic and geologic conditions surrounding uranium ore deposits in Pittsylvania County make the area prone to extreme rainfall events including tropical storms and hurricanes, some of which have generated substantial flooding. Although presently uranium tailings are required to be stored in specially designed waste disposal facilities called containment cells or structures in compliance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations, there is concern that a failure of uranium tailings containment structures could result in the contamination of down stream drinking water supply sources along the Banister River, Roanoke River, Kerr Reservoir and Lake Gaston."

(cont next column)

When completed, The National Academy of Science study will make a recommendation to continue or not continue the moratorium on uranium mining. It is ultimately up to the Virginia State Assembly to decide to maintain the moratorium. It is important that Sierra Club members and supporters let their elected officials know that Virginia should keep the moratorium in place.

Virginia State Assembly web site: <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>. VA Chapter Sierra Club information: www.vasierraclub.org

UDA's Urban Development Areas-Stay Involved

by Linda C. Muller

In 2007 the Virginia state legislature passed HB 3202 that mandates high growth communities create Urban Development Areas (UDAs) within their Comprehensive Plan to meet projected residential and commercial growth in the locality for a period of at least ten but not more than twenty years. Urban Development Areas means: an area designated by a locality that is appropriate for higher density development due to proximity to 1) transportation facilities 2) availability of public water and sewer system, 3) developed area, 4) redevelopment or 5) infill development. Embraced by leading Virginia smart growth and conservation groups, UDA's were hailed as a means to save taxpayers money, strengthen our communities, save energy, reduce traffic congestion, and protect farmland and natural resources. The process of actually siting UDA's into a comprehensive plan is unfolding through-out our region and special attention should be paid to proposed placement of sites. While the UDA legislation provides guidelines for siting (items 1-5 above), it does not guaranty that a locality will necessarily follow the guidelines-which makes citizen input and transparency of process very important.

During the December 14, 2010 the Stafford County Board of Supervisors public hearing, the two more environmentally sensitive UDA locations: Stafford Station in Widewater and Brooke Station located in and around the Brooke train station were removed from the proposed comprehensive plan. Both sites are currently without public water and sewer, are designated green fields, and bordered by resource protection areas. The Brooke UDA site has subsequently been placed back into the UDA planning maps for reconsideration and will be subject to another Stafford County Planning Commission public hearing on/before April 1, 2011. More information is here: http://www.co.stafford.va.us/Departments/Planning_&_Zoning/Urban_Development_Area_Planning/Index.shtml

Spotsylvania County has taken an early pro-active citizen approach in UDA planning by holding several informational and townhall meetings to draw citizen input on suggested UDA sites. For more information on Spotsylvania Planning go to: <http://www.spotsylvania.va.us/content/2614/147/2740/169/205/8536.aspx>

The "take away" is: citizens must remain active in local planning processes. What happens on a local level can have significant environmental impacts on a regional level, such as cumulative run-off that ends up in the Chesapeake Bay. While no planning project is ever perfect, the more concerned citizens are informed and engaged in civil discourse at the local level, the more local planning can reflect citizens interests.





Rappahannock Group Spring Program Schedule

RGSC meetings are held at the Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, 308 Hanover Street, Fredericksburg, VA 7 pm to 9 pm All meetings are free and open to the public. We suggest members and visitors bring a canned good to support FUMC's food bank. Thank-you!

Paula Chow, Rappahannock Group's Program Chair appreciates your feedback and suggestions for Club programs. You can contact Paula at paulachow132@gmail.com

RG ON THE WEB:

www.virginia.sierraclub.org/rg/

VIRGINIA CHAPTER:

www.virginia.sierraclub.org

SC NATIONAL:

www.sierraclub.org

Join Rappahannock Group

facebook

www.facebook.com

RG LEADERSHIP

CONTACT LIST

(*) Denotes Voting ExCom Members

ERIC LAWRENCE STOTT*,
CHAIR/RECYCLING CHAIR
 540-429-0898.
ericlawrencestott@gmail.com

LINDA MULLER*, VICE CHAIR
 /NEWSLETTER EDITOR 540-907-0198
lcmuller@mindspring.com

DESIREE DE HAVEN, SECY
hugatreenow@gmail.com

JOSEPHINE DODT, TREAS
jodana@earthlink.net

MICHAEL JOHNSON*, MEMBERSHIP
 CHAIR, 804.448.2319,
johnson2000m@aol.com

PAUL CHOW, PROGRAM CHAIR
paulachow132@gmail.com

DOUG FERGUSON * : WEBMASTER
dougferg@verizon.net

Volunteers Needed in All Areas!

March 10, 2011, FUMC 7pm-9pm

Program: Renewable Energy! Virginia Off Shore Wind Energy-speakers Ivy Main and Susan Stillman, Virginia Chapter Sierra Club

Join us for a special presentation on Virginia's Clean Energy Resource: Offshore Wind Energy. Virginia is moving rapidly to becoming the East Coast's premier Wind Energy producer and manufacturer of Wind Turbines. Ivy Main is the Virginia Chapters Renewal Energy Chair.

April 14, 2011 FUMC 7pm to 9 pm

Program: Spring into Planting and Tending -Speaker Jim Scibek President of Central Rappahannock Chapter Virginia Master Naturalist

Whether you are interested in growing or tending to flowers, vegetables, healthier lawns, you will benefit from Jim Scibeks helpful information and tips to tackle your special spring growing projects

May 12, 2011 FUMC 7 pm- 9 pm

Program: Keep the Moratorium on Uranium Mining-Speaker Mary Rafferty, Virginia Chapter Sierra Club Virginia is considering lifting the near 30 year moratorium on uranium mining. (see article page 3) The largest uranium deposit east of the Mississippi rests in Pittsylvania County, VA. Virginia's unique hydrology, geology and geography makes it a dangerous proposition. Learn more...what can YOU do?

Mark your calendar.... June 11 Annual RGSC picnic Alum Spring Park

Other Outings and Events

For extensive listing of outings sponsored by the Sierra Club Potomac Region Outings go to: http://www.sierrapotomac.org/about_us.htm

Sat. March 19 10:00 am. 12:00 pm. Identifying tracks, trails and markings Caledon State Park Meet at Visitor Center. Check out some of the common signs including tracks, markings and scat. Great fun for the whole family. Call the park for more info and to make the required reservations. \$3 per person or \$8 per family. (540) 663-3861 Caledon@dcr.virginia.gov www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/cal.shtml

March 19, 2011 9 am – 12 pm World Water Day Hurkamp Park -Rain barrel painting contest, skits and more! Fredericksburg. FREE Contact Cate Huxtable (540) 373.3448

April 14 Earth day at Fort A.P. Hill. Caroline County VA. RGSC is tabling at this annual event. Volunteers are needed for display set up/break down. Contact Eric Lawrence Stott: ericlawrencestott@gmail.com

April 16 11 am – 3 pm Earth Day on the Rappahannock. Old Mill Park, Fredericksburg. See page one of newsletter. Dozens of displays, educational booths, "Trashion" Show..Living Green Award. Need assistance with booth/display. Contact Eric Lawrence Stott: ericlawrencestott@gmail.com

Friday, April 22, 2011 Green Communities, Green Jobs Conference 8:15am-1:30pm Germanna Community College's Joseph R. Daniel Technology Center Culpeper, VA Registration is \$20 includes lunch <http://www.germanna.edu/workforce/> 18121 Technology Drive, Culpeper, VA 22701

Sat. April 23 8:30 am. to 5 PM White Oak Canyon Nature Trail Hike. Join FOR Environmental Educator Shari Rosenberg on an interpretive hike in Shenandoah National Park. One of the best waterfall hikes in the park \$15 individual/\$45 family. Bring a bag lunch. Contact FOR: 540-373-3448. www.riverfriends.org

Special note to our members: This is our first E-Newsletter. The format will be updated for easier e-distribution in future issues. Printing and publishing newsletters are resource intensive (think paper, paper, paper) and subject to additional copying and mailing costs. Let us know what you think! Contact Linda C. Muller lcmuller@mindspring.com or Eric Lawrence Stott: ericlawrencestott@gmail.com