

July - Sept 2005



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# Battlefields Group of the Sierra Club

The Newsletter of the Battlefields Group of the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club, Serving Caroline, Culpeper, Fredericksburg, King George, Orange, Stafford, Spotsylvania and Surrounding Areas

## Putting Your Support for the Environment Into Action *by V. Thull*

In the June Newsletter our (out-standing) intern, Bridget Wandelt, shared with us the many ways she has begun to 'walk the walk', and not just 'talk the talk' in active support of the environment. In this issue, we continue that focus, learning about some ways that we as individuals can easily become more actively involved in supporting our environment.

In her "Pleasure and Purpose" article on page 2, Helen points out one enjoyable way we can all make a difference is to **share what we love and enjoy about the environment with others** who haven't experienced as much of it! Share an outing or bring a friend to any of the many environmentally oriented programs available in the Fredericksburg area.

See our Networking section (pg 3) for local environmental program ideas! The Native Plant Society's really excellent environmental offerings over the next 6 months include nature photography, bird calls, native gardens, native trees, and acid wetlands biology.

Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) offers many educational and 'active' outdoor adventures, see web at [www.riverfriends.org](http://www.riverfriends.org) or you can join with them (and us) on October 22, for **FOR's Annual Fall River Cleanup**. Call 373-3448 to sign-up. 60 to 80 percent of the trash in the ocean is from rivers and streams, and threatens human and animal health alike.

Perhaps you would like to organize a stream cleanup in your own neighborhood? How about learning how to test and fertilize your lawn properly, and sharing what you learn with others! Improper lawn fertilization



A happy Earth Day participant, her face painted with a blue and green planet earth, and her orange and red zinnia in its own little pot!

is a huge contributor to nutrient runoff pollution. It's the worst problem facing our local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay! Excellent brochures and ideas are available from the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation at 1-877-42-WATER, and they have an Adopt-A-Stream program to get you started! Just call!

Keeping in mind that every little bit makes a difference, visit Consumer Report's excellent new website at: [www.GreenerChoices.org](http://www.GreenerChoices.org) for practical tips and ideas that anybody can use to make more environmentally friendly choices. Share what works for you with friends, neighbors and co-workers!

Let's not forget: Recycle, and buy Recycled products! As you discover which products are good and which are harmful, let manufacturers and even local merchants know how you feel about what they are/are not doing to help protect the environment. Even the "big" companies are now beginning to act more pro-actively on energy and envi-

ronmental issues! GE announced a new more stringent environmental initiative, and called for the U.S. government to "develop a clear environmental policy on issues such as climate change and use of renewable energy" (from *GE CEO Immelt...* by Maya Jackson Randall on May 9, 2005 at 6:47 p.m. on the DOW JONES NEWSWIRES)

The National Park Service can no longer pick up trash at the Battlefields, due to budget cuts, and is very interested in getting some help! We now clean the Hwy on Rt 3, at the visitors center, perhaps we can get a group together to work on other areas of the park? Come to our Open House, or contact a co-chair if interested.

A great opportunity is coming up this fall, on Friday, Sept. 9th, when Caledon will host a program for Home Schooled students! They are expecting in the neighborhood of 500 kids, and will really appreciate all the help they can get! If you would be interested in demonstrating a skill or manning a booth, please contact Doris at 540-775-7856.

In September you can also come to the BSG Open House, Thur. Sept. 15, 7-9 pm, to share your ideas, learn about BSG's activities, projects and plans, and even support BSG's efforts by buying some 2006 calendars!

Put your support into action today! If you don't walk the walk, then you are still part of the problem!

**Be part of the solution!!!**

### Fall Sierra Club Open House, Thur, Sept 15 Featuring 2006 Sierra Club Calendars on Sale!

Our Fall Open House is where the new 2006 Sierra Club calendars will make their debut. We will have both wall calendars and a few Engagement Calendars this year, which feature the best nature photography to be found anywhere. The Engagement calendars are becoming more popular, with double the gorgeous photos of the wall calendars. Price is \$10 each, which is 20% below suggested retail. Calendars will be available at all BSG meetings through December, and proceeds will help defray the cost of our BSG newsletter. See the Meetings Schedule on page 5, for dates, times and directions to BSG meetings.

## Pleasure and Purpose *By Helen Sanders, Conservation Chair*

Two of my goals for this summer are to introduce someone to the pleasure of an outdoor activity and to lobby for limits on mercury pollution from power and industrial plants.

You've heard the observation that folks will not work to save what they don't know and love. Many children and adults seem uneasy in the outdoors. Fear or concern over bugs and snakes are a factor for some. Others simply are not in the habit of spending time in nature. My candidate is a friend who wants to be more physically active. We probably won't get any further than a local park.

Past summers have been spent helping with outdoor children's programs. You could see some of the children gain confidence within a short time. Their excitement takes over their initial reservation about being on a trail or along the river.

My second project is to find a local decision maker or leader who is interested in pressing for limiting mercury pollution on the state level. The city government of Alexandria is challenging an old power plant to either dramatically lower levels of pollution or close, so local action is possible. It's known that mercury is causing harm to children.

Delegate Reid's bill to reduce power plant pollutants (which did not get out of committee this past General Assembly) asked for a study on mercury pollution. The Birchwood coal power plant in King George County is designed to produce less pollution. It can be done.

The main counter argument seems to be the increased cost of energy to consumers if improvements are made to power plants and factories.

Mercury poisoning has costs, too. These costs are in dollars and also in the cost to

our health. Our elected representatives and utility officials need to know that we value our health, and that we don't want to be used as an excuse not to make improvements!

I hope you can spend time this summer on a favorite trail, and share your ideas for conservation actions with your friends and family. Bring your friends and your ideas to BSG's September 15 Open House! Together we can work more effectively to preserve our natural treasures, and ensure a healthier environment for our families.

To let your representatives know how you feel about limiting rather than increasing the dangerous toxins that impact our health, see the Leadership box on the back page for contact info.

You can also contact Conservation Chair Helen Sanders for more information at 540-371-6982 (or) by e-mail at: s.sanders2@att.net

## Synthetic Fragrances A Danger? *by V. Thull*

A recent study at Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station in California found that some synthetic fragrances damage an animal's ability to detect and dispose of poisons and other foreign materials. We humans have the same type of cellular defense system in our intestines, the placenta and the blood-brain barrier! These results should send up a red flag to us all!

Stanford's postdoctoral fellow Till Luckenbach and biologist David Epel studied the effect of concentrations of 300 parts per billion or less of six different common synthetic musk compounds, on the gills of California mussels. When placed in a solution of water with red dye alone, a protein in the cell membranes called an efflux transporter recognizes the dye as foreign and disposes of it. However, after the musk was added to the dyed water, the efflux transporters no longer recognized the dye as a threat, and allowed it to accumulate in the cells.

These chemical compounds from shampoos, soaps, detergents, air fresheners, cosmetics and the list goes on and on, get into the environment through sewers and drains. Wastewater treatment facilities aren't equipped to remove them. These compounds are only a small group of thousands of synthetic chemicals that end up in our environment, threatening not only aquatic life but perhaps us as well?

After traces of the compounds were found in human breast milk, blood and body fat, Japan banned the use of synthetic musk, and Germany instituted a voluntary ban. In the U.S. however, it is only prohibited in orally applied products. I guess the U.S. government and manufacturers figure Americans don't care enough, about the environment, or themselves, to stop buying harmful products. They'll continue to think so until we begin to let them know differently!

This article was based largely on information from an online article by Mark Schwartz of the Stanford News Service, [www.stevenspublishing.com/stevens/eppub.nsf](http://www.stevenspublishing.com/stevens/eppub.nsf) on 11/9/2004.

For more info online, visit: [www.stanford.edu/%7Edepel](http://www.stanford.edu/%7Edepel) or <http://www.epa.gov/esd/chemistry/pharma/musk.htm>

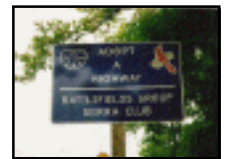
**Recycle Electronics!**  
**Be Part of the Solution!!!**

Recycling is a simple way you can help the environment! Bring your old CDs, floppy disks, batteries, inkjet cartridges, laser cartridges, cell phones, or rechargeable batteries to the next BSG meeting.

In the fall we'll give them to the UMW Ecology Club Students who will add them to their campus-wide recycling program!

### Adopt-A-Hwy

*by Bill Hulse*



The next road clean-up isn't scheduled yet, as it really depends on how dirty the road is, and if the state workers have had a pick-up. When we do pick-up, we meet at the Chancellorsville Visitor's Center parking lot, on Rt. 3 West, on Saturdays at 10:00 am. Bring work gloves and of course, an appetite for treats!

Let Bill know your phone number, so he can call you if there is a pick-up before the next newsletter: [hulsejw1@verizon.net](mailto:hulsejw1@verizon.net) or phone 540-972-0070.

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## Regional Air Quality Update by Catherine Farley

On April 27, 2005, the Fredericksburg Air Quality Committee voted to submit to EPA a request to redesignate the area to "attainment" status for ozone (from "moderate non-attainment"), together with the required maintenance plan. This affects Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania only, as Stafford remains in the Northern Virginia air quality group.

Air quality designations are determined by taking the average local air monitor readings for ozone over a three-year period. The readings for 2002, one of the hottest, driest summers on record, raised the three-year average, moving our area into non-attainment status for the first time. Redesignation became a possibility because the monitor readings for 2004, an unusually cool, wet summer, dropped the three-year average back into attainment range. But redesignation to attainment is not automatic. You have to ask, and submit a legally binding maintenance plan.

Non-attainment regions are required to use reformulated gas (RFG) because of its impressive air quality benefits, to the tune of an estimated 19% reduction in cancer rates. However, RFG contains the additive MTBE, and there is evidence that MTBE is accumulating in the groundwater as non-attainment areas are added. The EPA's Office of Water states that "available data are not adequate

to estimate potential health risks of MTBE at low exposure levels in drinking water but... the data support the conclusion that MTBE is a potential human carcinogen at high doses."

Although Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recommended RFG for our region, our elected officials were uncomfortable about groundwater impacts, and rejected its inclusion in the proposed maintenance plan.

The two options facing the Fredericksburg Air Quality Committee - remaining in non-attainment or being redesignated to attainment - target different pollution sources.

Remaining in non-attainment requires that incoming industries meet stringent requirements for pollution control technology, plus "offset" requirements: For every new emissions source, the region would have to identify an offset in emissions of 15% greater.

Under redesignation to attainment, the maintenance plan targets the smaller sources of pollution that are most prevalent in our region, rather than large industry, which is not our main source of emissions. Additionally, we would not be forced to add more MTBE to our groundwater.

For these reasons, the Fredericksburg Air Quality Committee voted to request redesignation under the maintenance plan. Responding to public concerns that new industries were inadequately regulated under the maintenance plan, the committee appointed a subcommittee to craft ordinance enabling better regulation through the City and Counties' land use requirements. All agreed that the goal was to have all participating localities subscribe to the same stan-

dards, before a problem developed. I applaud this cooperative, regional approach, and will keep BSG apprised of developments.

More info see an unabbreviated version of this article, on our web page, at <http://>

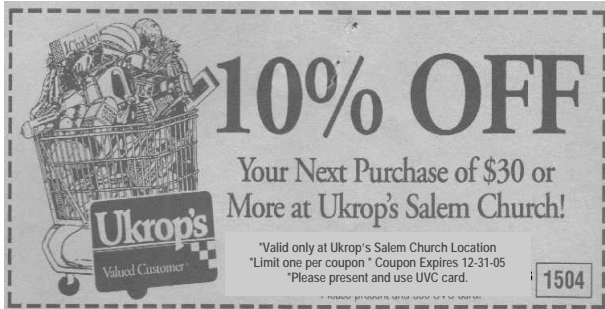


### Chancellorsville Tree-Planting

The 2½-year fight to save the 140 acre Mullins Farm site at Chancellorsville was won last Nov. This April nearly 100 volunteers, members of the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) and the Coalition to Save Chancellorsville, gathered at the 140 acre site to plant 2,000 trees and begin restoration of what is now the Lick Run Battle Site. The torrential downpour had us all talking of what it must have been like that week in 1863, without the shelter, where 30,000 plus died. For info see CWPT's: [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org)

### Warner Vetoes Offshore Drilling

On March 29, 2005 Governor Warner stood up for Virginia's environment when he vetoed SB 1054, which would have encouraged exploration and drilling for oil and gas off Virginia's coast. Thanks to all who contacted him on this issue!



## Environmental Community Networking Events

**June 28, Tue 7pm - Nature Photography** by Nicky Staunton **FACVNPS** (Fred. Area Chapter of the Native Plant Society) at Salem Church Library. **FACVNPS Contact: 540-371-6982, s.sanders2@att.net**

**July 26, Tue 7pm - Bird Calls** with Donna Finnegan **FACVNPS** at Salem Church Library

**Aug. 23, Tue 7pm - Native Garden** with Francis Nuehard **FACVNPS** at Ebenezer Baptist Church

**Sept 9, Friday - Caledon Natural Area -An all day Event for Home-Schooled Children**, for info or to

volunteer contact Doris Whitfield at [djwhit@crosslink.net](mailto:djwhit@crosslink.net) or Kim Boshela at [caledon@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:caledon@dcr.virginia.gov)

**Sept. 20, Tue 7pm - Native Trees** with Guy Mussey **FACVNPS** at Salem Church Library

**Sept. 24, Weekend, VA Conservation Network** hosts the annual **Virginia Environmental Assembly** in Ashland, VA. Citizens, elected officials, conservation and environmental groups, and conservation leaders from across VA learn from experts and each other about issues affecting the state's natural resources. See or contact Carey Whitehead at [carey.vcn@gmail.com](mailto:carey.vcn@gmail.com).

**Oct 22, Sat, 9am-1pm, FOR's Fall River Cleanup!** Take a morning to help clean our beautiful river! Bags and gloves are provided. Check in 9-10am at shelter D in Old Mill Park. Pre-registration requested, call 540-373-3448 Free lunch for volunteers at 1pm! [www.riverfriends.org](http://www.riverfriends.org)

**Oct. 25, Tue 7pm - Acid Wetland Ecology** with John Hummer **FACVNPS** at Salem Church Library

**Nov. 22, Tue 7pm - Environmental Panel** with Hal Wiggins **FACVNPS** at Salem Church Library

**Crow's Nest Update:** The next few months are crucial as development plans advance and funding to purchase and preserve Crow's Nest will evaporate if not used. Learn about it and take action with an automatic link to your elected officials at: <http://www.savescrownest.org>.

## Renne DuVall

REIKI HEALER



By Appointment

(540) 895-9769

## Battlefields Sierra Group History, Part 2 by Doris Lindsey Whitfield, Chair, 1999-2004

Mary Becelia's BSG April-June article provided a first hand account, by an original member, of how the Group started in 1994 as a Nature Club at Lake of the Woods. We have since grown to over 500 members and are one of the most active Groups in the VA Sierra Club Chapter!

When John and I returned to the Fredericksburg area in 1993, we, like Mary, were unwilling to travel to Richmond to attend SC meetings, and were happy to join the new, local group in 1995, as Conservation Co-chairs! With VA backsliding on its obligation to protect its open land, farms, rivers, wildlife habitat and natural resources, there was a shift in focus toward more "grassroots" issues. Helen Sanders also served as Conservation Chair, and has been instrumental in guiding conservation efforts toward more local issues.

The group began to identify issues and set priorities and objectives. Sprawl, land conservation, transportation and clean air and water issues continue to be our foremost issues. We also work on protecting Virginia's State and National forests and roadless areas, preserving the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Reduce, Recycle, Reuse programs, out of state trash importation regulations, energy alternatives and the Lake Anna Nuclear Power Plant expansion plans.

Some of the highlights of our Group's first ten years include partnering in river advocacy and restoration projects with FOR, networking with Va. Conservation Network, The Coalition For Smarter Growth, The Chancellorsville Coalition, The Va. League of Conservation Voters (to whom we owe a great deal of appreciation for their support), Save Crow's Nest and others. Save Crow's Nest began in 1999 with hikes and canoe trips led by Hal Wiggins, and is still a high priority today. Many BSG members

marched in the 1997, Jamestown "Save the Mattaponi!" campaign parade led by Carl "Lone Eagle" Custalow and attended subsequent vigils, canoe rallies and lobbying events.

Chair Thom Savage expanded BSG endorsement activities with the formation of local VSS organizations, helping to achieve slow growth majorities in Fredericksburg, followed by Stafford and Spotsylvania. BSG joined the Coalition for Outer Connector Alternatives, with Catherine Farley, as transportation chair, representing BSG at many of the hearings and forums involving local transportation, growth and sprawl issues.

Coordinating projects in 1997 with the MWC Ecology Club led to the annual sponsorships of MWC Interns, whose projects and efforts have added enormously to our effectiveness and productivity! Our 2004-2005 interns, Jane Minerly and Bridget Wandelt were "tops"!

Other Educational programs included an environmental grant sponsorship in 1999, working with "Discovery", an Orange County Experiential Education Program on environmental remediation activities at Alum Spring Park and Ferry Farm.

BSG Adopted Alum Spring Park, and helped start Friends of Alum Spring Park, now providing numerous restoration, educational and "just fun" outdoor learning activities. In 2004, Environmental Education Committee members Donna Pienkowski, Aviv Goldsmith and Scott Howson coordinated the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Alum Spring Earth Day, a resounding success!

The BSG Outings Program has grown into a dependable and diverse offering of outdoor and educational activities under the guidance of Kristi and Larry Gross! We've shared local bird, flower and critter hikes, to

Mott's Run, Caledon, Berger and Lake Anna, hiking and canoeing to Crow's Nest, and along the Rappahannock, Battlefields bike outings and for the hardier, Old Rag in the winter!

We have volunteered for service projects from our own Adopt-A-Hwy pick-up, coordinated by Bill Hulse, to Rappahannock River and Caledon-Potomac River clean-ups, Stafford Earth Day pick-ups, riverbank restoration projects with FOR and trail work outings at Ferry Farm and the KG CSX Railroad Trail.

Communicating what we are and do is critical, so we owe a great deal of appreciation to newsletter editors, Mary Becelia, 1995-2001, and Virginia Thull, 2001 to the present, as well as our WEB creators, Celia Williams and Katie McDonough!

Some of the officers who have kept us on track include, Secretaries, Evelyn Bradshaw, 1998-2004 and Bill Wemmerus, 2004-2005, Treasurers Ernie Patakay, 1994-2000, Jim Lynch, 2001-2003, and Linda Hiross, current Treasurer and Fund-raising Chair "Extraordinaire!"

Our Annual "Kick-off-the-Holiday" Parties and Alum Spring June Picnics help to round out BSG activities, and we owe tremendous thanks to Hospitality Chairs, Linda Hiross, Joan Hulse and Jan Tyndall, along with a round of applause for Bob Gramann's original songs, singing and playing!

It's been an exciting and productive ten years, thanks to the efforts of all our members, leaders and supporters.

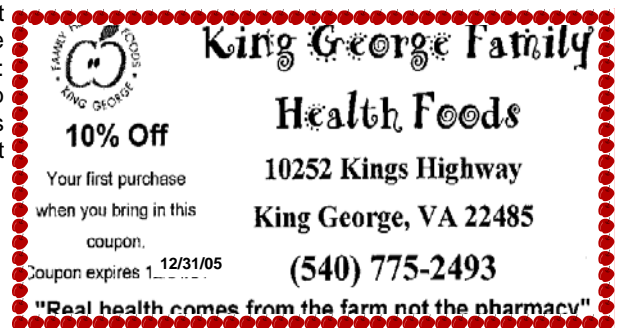
Finally, a hearty thanks to our current Co-Chairs, Jim Lynch and Larry Gross! You'll be hearing from Jim and Larry in our next newsletter, with feedback on about BSG's future direction, following the BSG Strategic Planning Session this July 7th.

## Sierra Club Summit and Strategic Direction Setting by Jim Lynch

The Sierra Club Summit, this Sept. in San Francisco, will be the *'first ever'* national environmental convention and expo. To facilitate Direction Setting, groups have been asked to participate in a deliberative, local session using a combination of discussion guides and surveys. This is our opportunity to voice what we see as the real needs of the Club. All members are encouraged to participate to assure full representation.

**BSG's session will be on July 7<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 8 pm**, at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church (our usual meeting place, see directions on back pg). Participants will be asked to discuss and respond to a range of open-ended and specific questions about where we find ourselves as environmental activists today, how we envision the future, and specifically what we believe the Club as a whole should commit its energy to nationwide. There will be a range of questions, but the outcome of the Summit sessions will center around: How the Club should support and engage our grassroots capacity, and how the Club should work, nationwide, to build momentum for key conservation goals. The results of our session will be compiled with other groups' results, and summarized for use at the convention.

  
BSG Web-Site:  
<http://virginia.sierraclub.org/bfg/>



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**July 23 - Rappahannock Tube Outing** - Cool off and experience the river "up close and personal"! Learn about local history hands-on! See the original walls and canal associated with the Hunter Iron Works! This event is 'kid-friendly' but requires a parent's presence. Difficulty is EASY. Trip time 2-3 hours. Meet at Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) at 2 p.m. Be prepared to get wet. Bring sun protection and a dry change of clothes. Tube and life jacket rental costs will apply.

**Aug 6 - Animal Tracks** - We'll explore some neat sand bars searching for and identifying critter tracks, and then making plaster-of-paris molds to take home as souvenirs! This outing will help everyone appreciate that we share our environment with other critters and the importance of maintaining a healthy, clean environment for them. This event is 'kid-friendly' but requires a parent's presence. Difficulty - EASY to MODERATE. Trip time 2-4 hours. Meet at FOR at 10 am. Be prepared to get wet. Bring sun/rain protection/gear and lunch.

**Sept 10 - Canoe with the 'Crow'** - We'll explore and learn about the Crow's Nest Peninsula via canoe. Children 12 and older accompanied by parents. See how special Crow's Nest is, and learn why it is important to try to preserve it. Difficulty - MODERATE, learn first hand how wind and tides can affect navigation. Trip time 3-6 hours. Bring lunch. Be prepared to get wet and have a dry change of clothes. Hat/windbreaker/rain jacket/sunblock recommended. Meet at FOR at 9 am. There is a rental canoe/shuttle cost.

**Oct 15 - Rappahannock River Hike** - Discover and enjoy a riverside hike that could become a local hike/bike Trail. Learn why hiking/biking trails are an important part of our local environment. Difficulty - EASY to MODERATE. 4-5 miles. Trip Time: 3-4 hours. Meet at Friends of the Rappahannock at 2 p.m. Wear sturdy shoes and sun/rain protection.

**Nov 19 - Fall Leaves Hike** - The goal of this outing is to enjoy the fall colors while collecting and identifying leaves. Learn about the diversity and importance of trees in our environment. Hike location TBD. Difficulty - EASY to MODERATE. This event is 'kid-friendly' but requires a parent's presence. Trip time: 2-4 hours. Meet at Gander Mountain on Route 3 at 10 a.m. Wear sturdy shoes, rain/wind/cold protection. Bring Lunch.

**Dec 3 - Old Rag Mountain**—Learn about the exceptional geologic formations, and discover why it is important to protect and preserve areas with special features like Old Rag! Difficulty - MODERATE TO DIFFICULT. 6-8 miles. Wear sturdy shoes, rain, snow/sun protection. Bring lunch, water. Trip Time: 5-8 hours. Meet at Rt 3 & Rt 20 McDonalds west of Fredericksburg.

**All Outings: Contact Kristi (kristigross@pobox.com) or Larry (lgross@pobox.com) or 540-786-6843  
Larry Gross P.O. Box 37 Spotsylvania, Va. 22553**

**Nearest medical facilities:** Mary Washington Hospital except for Old Rag, which is Culpeper Memorial Hospital. In case of emergency, be advised in all cases, medical assistance will take longer because we are away from roads.

BSG Group Meetings feature environmentally oriented programs. Meetings, open to all, are held once a month (except July and August.) from 7 to 9 pm. Time is included for questions, discussion and refreshments. We have a magazine exchange table, collect electronic recyclables, and bring canned food donations for the Fredericksburg United Methodist Church Food Pantry. **(See back page for BSG Executive Committee Meeting times, dates and location.)**

**Thur. July 7, 6-8 pm Sierra Club Strategic Direction Setting for SC Fall 2005 Summit** Members are encouraged to participate, for effective feedback to National about where the SC should focus its efforts. **See page 4!**

**Thur Sept. 15, 7-9 pm Battlefields Sierra Group Open House** As summer draws to a close it's back-to-school, back-to-work, and back-to-BSG. We end our summer hiatus from meetings with a get-together to greet old and new friends, find out what BSG committees have in store, and have some fun together. 2006 calendars will be available for those early-bird holiday shoppers! It will be a fun and informative evening, feel free to bring a friend or two with you! This is THE MEETING to come to, whether you've never been to a BSG meeting or you've been to them all!

**Thur. Oct. 13, 7-9 pm The Pathways Proposal for Fredericksburg** The Pathways Committee will present an update on The Pathways Proposal for Fredericksburg. This system of trails for walking and biking will connect to Spotsylvania and Stafford, and possibly beyond! The Pathways Committee has worked with the community to develop their proposal.

**Thur. Nov. 10, 7-9 pm How Politics Works by Delegate Albert Pollard \*\*Meets at FLS Community Room** Learn from a 'pro' how Environmental issues are handled by the VA General Assembly (GA). Del. Pollard served as the VA SC Chapter Director before his election in 1999 as Del. for the 99<sup>th</sup> District, becoming the youngest sitting member of the GA. PLEASE NOTE LOCATION: **\*\*\*Meeting will be held at The Free Lance Star Community Room! \*\*\***

**Thur. Dec. 8, 7-9 pm Annual BSG Holiday Pot-Luck Celebration.** Come and join us for fun and frolic. Entertainment, door prices, and more! More details will be in the Oct-Dec Newsletter.

**Directions to BSG Monthly Meetings at the Fredericksburg United Methodist Church,  
308 Hanover Street, in Downtown Fredericksburg: The Charlotte Street parking lot behind the church is available.**  
**From Stafford,** come across the Falmouth Bridge, crossing the Rappahannock River, on Rt. 1. At the first traffic light after crossing the river, turn left onto Princess Anne St. Travel thru downtown Fred. Past William St, George St. and Hanover St. turning right onto Charlotte St. Travel about 1/2 block to the church parking lot on the right. A BSG Sierra Club Sign will be at the parking lot entrance.  
**From Spotsylvania,** traveling on Rt 3-East, cross over I-95. Go through 5 lights. Get in the far left lane and turn left at the sixth light onto Rt. 3-East Business (William St.). Go 1.1 miles through 4 lights and turn right at the fifth light onto Princess Anne St. (Route 17-South). You will cross George St. and Hanover St. Turn right on Charlotte St., travel 1/2 block. The church parking lot is on the right - The BSG Sierra Club Sign will be at the parking lot entrance.  
**\*\*\*Bring Non-Perishable Foods for the UMC Food Pantry\*\*\***  
Please call 540-786-6843, 540-775-7002, or 540-972-9640 for additional information.



Battlefields Sierra Group Newsletter  
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**Conservation Chair:** Helen Sanders, 540-371-6982,  
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**Education Chair:** Donna Pienkowski, Pienkowski1@aol.com

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**Newsletter Editor:** Vacant If interested please contact

Jim Lynch or Larry Gross

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Jim Lynch or Larry Gross

**Webmaster:** Vacant If interested please contact

Jim Lynch or Larry Gross

#### Sierra Club Contacts

**BSG Website:** <http://virginia.sierraclub.org/BFG/>

National Website: <http://www.sierraclub.org>

State Website: <http://virginia.sierraclub.org>

National Headquarters: 415-977-5500

National Membership: 415-977-5653

State Headquarters: 804-225-9113

#### Government Contacts

VA State: [www.state.va.us](http://www.state.va.us), 804-786-2211

Governor Warner: 804-786-2211

Sect. Natural Resources, W.Taylor Murphy, 804-786-2211

U.S. Congress, 202-225-3121

Senator George Allen, [senator@allen.senate.gov](mailto:senator@allen.senate.gov)

**BSG Executive Committee (ExComm) meetings**, for planning and organization are held at  
FOR Hdqtrs, 3219 Fall Hill Ave, Fred, VA All are welcome! Info: 540-786-6843 or 540-775-7002  
Upcoming Meetings: Wednesdays: Sept 7, Oct 5, Nov 2 and Dec 7 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm



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