



Sept-Nov 2014

## NEWSLETTER

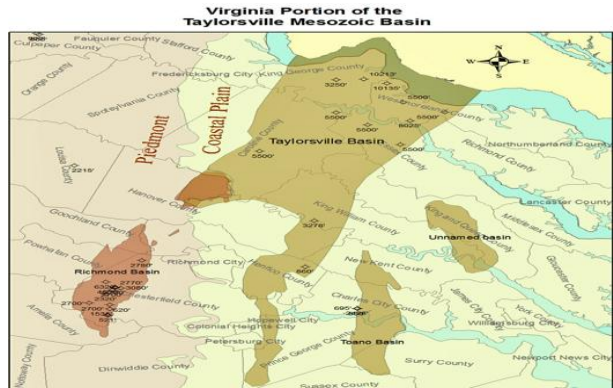
Serving the residents of Caroline, Culpeper, Fredericksburg, King George, Orange, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Westmoreland

## FALL OPEN HOUSE 2014



**"Biking Across America"**  
San Francisco to Virginia Beach

## FRACKING East of I-95 - TAYLORSVILLE BASIN Citizens Stay Engaged



(image source: VA Dept of Mines Minerals & Energy)

Thursday September 11, 2014

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**

Join RGSC members and friends for a special guest presentation by Boy Scout Troop 165 Spotsylvania, VA . They will share their recently completed cross country bicycle adventure with slides and video. National Geographic Adventure includes bicycling across America in their top ten classic "quintessential" adventures. Bicycle enthusiasts (and fans) of all ages and experience will enjoy the presentation. Bring a friend!



Its been two short years since RGSC offered informational meetings on the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing east of I-95 in the Taylorsville Basin. Fracking leases have been signed in Caroline, King George, Westmoreland, Essex and King and Queen Counties. Local citizens, organizations and elected officials have held town hall meetings and educational sessions on fracking's potential impacts to aquifers, waterways, and agricultural land. Engaged citizens have raised valid concerns about methane migration, toxicity of fracking fluids, degradation of quality of life and property values as a result of the industrial activity of fracking. More questions and concerns raised include potential release of radioactive waste water (flowback), fracking induced earth quakes, and atmospheric release of methane (an "uber" greenhouse gas). The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, & Energy established a Regulatory Advisory Panel (RAP) to determine whether ingredients used in hydraulic fracturing should be disclosed, to review existing best practices, and to determine whether additional requirements are necessary for drilling in different regions of the Commonwealth.

The good news? No fracking permits have been issued in the Taylorsville Basin(yet) and engaged citizens want their elected officials to address their concerns. **The RAP's next scheduled meeting is September 24, 2014 9 am at University of Mary Washington, Dalgren Campus, King George, VA.** RAP website: <http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DGO/RegulatoryAction.shtml>

RAP meetings are open to the public. Citizens are encouraged to remain engaged in this important issue.

**-Fredericksburg Workshop: Help Chart Virginias Energy Future :**  
Sep. 16, 2014 6:00 - 8:00 pm England Run Library (806 Lyons Blvd. Fredericksburg, VA 22406) Sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Network.  
Registration/info click [here](#)

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

**-The People's Climate March "LET'S MAKE HISTORY!" September 21, 2014**

New York City. The People's Climate March will be held just days before the United Nations Climate Summit. Sierra Club is just one of hundreds of local, national and international organizations participating in the march. To sign-up/transportation more info [here](#):

<http://www.sierraclub.org/peoples-climate-march>

**-Virginia Sierra Club Fall Annual Gathering**  
**September 26, 2014 thru September 28 2014** - Join for a weekend of hiking, music, fun and great food!

Location: Caroline Furnace Lutheran Church Camp and Retreat Center  
2239 Camp Roosevelt Road Fort Valley, VA 22652 registration/info-click [here](#)

<http://vasierraclub.org/>

**-Virginia Environmental Assembly October 3-4 Richmond, VA**  
Presentations on hydraulic fracturing, coal ash, toxins and water supply. Sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Network.  
More info/registration click [here](#)  
[www.vcnva.org](http://www.vcnva.org)

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**12/7/14 : RGSC Holiday Open House**

**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)

## Whats YOUR Next Adventure? A Lifetime Experience!

**Adventure:** "an undertaking usually involving danger and unknown risks; an exciting or remarkable experience."

We often think of an adventure as something that requires travel, great physical exertion, and some level of danger. Yes, an adventure can include all of that. This summer my husband and me, along with six fellow climbers and four guides, successfully summited Mt. Rainier. Located in Washington state, Mt. Rainier is a 14,411 ft glaciated active volcano that is subjected to rock slides, avalanches, large crevasses, and unpredictable weather.

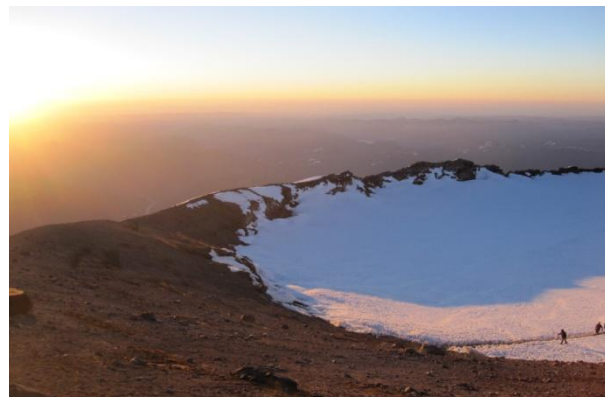
According to the National Park Service, of the 10,000 climbers who attempt the summit, only half actually make it. Poor weather, altitude sickness, cold, exhaustion, and injury can cancel out ones best intentions to hit the peak. How well I understand. In September 2012, we trained for our first Mt. Rainier summit. We reached the Ingraham Glacier @ 11,000 ft, but had to retreat due to an injury . All of the time and energy invested in training and preparing for our summit could never be retrieved. Needless to say it was very disappointing and frustrating. But the experience and knowledge gained from that first attempt was priceless.

Whether its climbing a mountain or working to restore and maintain a clean healthy environment, we draw on our courage, strength, and perseverance to keep moving forward- sometimes one slow step at a time. We can accomplish truly amazing feats .

I hope you can join RGSC members and friends for our Fall Open House September 11, 2014. Boy Scout Troop 165 will share their amazing cross county bicycle adventure with slides and video.

Yours in Exploring, Enjoying and Protecting the Planet

Linda C. Muller  
Chair, Rappahannock Group



Sunrise at Mt. Rainier July 11, 2014. Photo by Lynd