



**SPRING 2012**

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

*Serving the Residents of  
Culpeper, Orange, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Fredericksburg,  
Caroline, King George*



**Upcoming Events!!**



**EARTH DAY  
ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK  
Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup> 2012  
Old Mill Park,  
Fredericksburg, VA  
11 am - 3 pm  
(rain date April 21)**

Join Us! The Rappahannock Group Sierra Club (RGSC) is a co-sponsor of the Earth Day on the Rappahannock. Join fellow RGSC members and friends for a day of festivities that will include live music, great food, displays, guided walks, and educational activities for kids and adults alike. RGSC will have a display booth with educational materials, activities, and visitor “freebies”.

RGSC needs volunteers to help with booth set-up/take-down and booth attendance through-out the day. Set-up begins at 8:30 am, and booth volunteers can assist an hour or two starting at 11am to 3pm. Take-down begins at 3 pm. Your assistance is much appreciated! Please contact: Linda C.Muller: [rgscchair@gmail.com](mailto:rgscchair@gmail.com) or Paula Chow : [paulachow132@gmail.com](mailto:paulachow132@gmail.com) if you can volunteer for Earth Day on the Rappahannock.



**Sign-Up for RGSC Email Updates:  
[rappsierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:rappsierraclub@gmail.com)**

**One More . . .**



By Paula Chow

Most, if not all of you have heard the mantra “Just do one more green thing” around the time Earth Day events are advertised. Some folks roll their eyes, others make nasty comments and still others gasp at what more they could yet do. For those of us who are committed to the cause yet feel that we can not possibly squeeze in one more task or pledge, there could be a way “out,” to do something different to break up the monotony, so to speak.

What about one more person? Influence one more person you know to do one green thing. Perhaps you have family and friends who don’t even engage in the basic practices of reusing and recycling, for instance. This is where your influence CAN make a difference. Give the person a beautiful reusable bag for shopping as a gift. You could fill the bag with eco-friendly products. And for every gift thereafter, give eco-friendly gifts. The message will eventually be considered if not taken up - it’s a first step.

With kids, you could simply start a discussion on a particular topic. For instance, did you ever think about not using straws? One 9 year old boy in Vermont started a campaign called Be Straw Free which has garnered the attention of the restaurant association and the legislature in his state. This can be inspiring to other kids who want to make a difference.

But what if you take this up on a bigger scale? Perhaps if you have the energy, time and motivation, you could target an organization, favorite club, your favorite vendor, a teacher or professor, the school principal, your doctor or dentist’s office, local sports team or church to do one green thing that they’re not doing. Chances are rather high that you can help bring about some change if you have some kind of relationship with any one of these entities. Start with something simple.

When I’ve approached organizations to start up recycling, responses have been positive with comments such as, “We just never thought about it.” “We didn’t know how to make it work.” and “It was something we’ve been meaning to do but never got around to it.” All it took was a question and a conversation.

The wonderful thing about this approach is that if you succeed, the impact on greening the planet is multiplied by bigger numbers. It also increases the possibilities of the domino effect where the persons implementing the green actions will consider this in their home life. It’s a start. You plant the seed.

Be an influence. Be the spark. One more for the planet.

## ✧✧Keep the Ban on Uranium Mining✧✧ Update

The National Academy of Science's (NAS) released its report on Uranium Mining in Virginia in December 2011. The 250 + page study highlighted major public health and environmental concerns regarding uranium mining. The study was not site specific which means that the unique geology, hydrology, climate, and area demographics of the proposed Pittsylvania VA location was not specifically studied.

On January 19, 2012, Governor McDonnell, noted that the NAS study identified "important questions related to the health and safety of workers, the public, and the environment". There was tremendous public support to keep the ban in Virginia. And though anticipated, there was no legislation introduced in 2011-2012 to lift the ban on uranium mining. The ban on uranium mining remains in place through 2012, however, the Governor ordered a special Uranium Working Group (UWG) to draft uranium mining statutes and regulations to be presented to the VA General Assembly in 2013.

Creating draft statutes and regulations via the appointed UWG places a large foot in the door towards lifting the ban on uranium mining in Virginia. The appointed "workgroup" is publically funded but offers a filtering of information made available via a website and quarterly public update meetings.

In viewing the UWG's 18 page 3/7/12 power point presentation there is no mention of "radiation" and only one mention of "radioactive", pg 8, "waste rock containing naturally occurring radioactive minerals".

Its important for citizens to remain engaged in this process, and to demand transparency and open access. Well funded mining interests and investment firms have placed large "bets" in VA that the ban on uranium mining will be lifted. Its up to dedicated and concerned citizens to demonstrate that when it comes to protecting Virginia's most essential natural resource, fresh/clean drinking water, we do not "gamble". [Keep the Ban!](#)  
[www.keeptheban.org](http://www.keeptheban.org)

Uranium Working Group:  
[www.uwg.vi.virginia.gov](http://www.uwg.vi.virginia.gov)

## Message from the Chair, Linda C. Muller

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves." John Muir, Sierra Club Founder "[Our National Parks](#)", 1901

### Spring 2012: Refresh-Renew-Reengage

In January 2012, the Rappahannock Group Executive Committee (Ex-Com) held a strategy work session to consider ways to refresh, renew and reengage our members. We recognized that our monthly meetings, though well planned and educational, were lightly attended. We also recognized the need to include more "explore" and "enjoy" along with the "protect" of our local planet. For the remainder of 2012, we will focus on quarterly regional events, (in lieu of monthly meetings) which will offer members and the community opportunities to participate locally in environmental/conservation activities, explore and enjoy regional natural resources, and engage in protecting our "local" planet.

We will continue to provide news and event updates via the RGSC email list, Facebook and the RGSC web site. As an organization that is mindful of natural resources, we are shifting away from paper publications and towards digital formats and social networking as a means of getting our message out. Be sure to sign up for the RGSC email list and to "friend" us on FaceBook.

We "kick-off" our first event on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Earth Day Along the Rappahannock at Old Mill Park, Fredericksburg 11 am-3 pm. (Rain date is April 21) RGSC is a co-sponsor of Earth Day, so we encourage members to come out with family and friends and enjoy the days festivities. Volunteers for Earth Day are always welcomed and certainly appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering an hour or two, please contact me at [rgscchair@gmail.com](mailto:rgscchair@gmail.com), or Paula Chow at [paulachow132@gmail.com](mailto:paulachow132@gmail.com)

And while we explore and enjoy our "local" planet, we will continue to support efforts to protect and preserve our natural resources. We remain engaged to keep the ban on uranium mining, protect our water ways, preserve environmentally sensitive regions, support re-use and recycling, support clean energy alternatives, support regional hiking/biking trails (to mention a few).

The EX-Com meets the first Thursday of the month at the Friends Of the Rappahannock headquarters @ 6:30 p.m. We welcome your enthusiastic support/ideas for RGSC. We are looking forward to an exciting year for RGSC.

Linda C. Muller  
Chair, Rappahannock Group Sierra Club 2012

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet  
[rgscchair@gmail.com](mailto:rgscchair@gmail.com)



## UMW RGSC Interns

RGSC welcomes two UMW Interns for the 2011-2012 year: Eve Cederbaum and Ria Firth. Eve and Ria bring their talents and enthusiasm in supporting RGSC projects and events. Eve and Ria played key roles in our 2011 America Recycles week, and both are working on special educational displays for our upcoming events. We welcome and appreciate the student's contributions to RGSC!

## Connect with Rappahannock Group Sierra Club



**RGSC on FACEBOOK!**  
[Friend Us!](#)

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

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

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

### RGSC Board Member Contacts:

**Chair:** Linda C. Muller  
[rgscchair@gmail.com](mailto:rgscchair@gmail.com)  
**Program Chair:** Paula Chow  
[paulachow132@gmail.com](mailto:paulachow132@gmail.com)  
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**Board Member:** Jim Lynch  
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**Newsletter Editor:** Linda C. Muller

The RGSC Executive Committee (ExCom) meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at Friends of the Rappahannock HQ at 6:30 pm. If you interested in helping your club plan programs, publish newsletters, lead outings, etc..plan to attend out next Ex-Com meeting. Contact: Linda C. Muller, [rgscchair@gmail.com](mailto:rgscchair@gmail.com)

## Sierra Club/ RGSC Supported Events

**Saturday April 14, 2012 11 a.m. to 3 pm Earth Day On the Rappahannock Old Mill Park, Fredericksburg.** RGSC is a co-sponsor of Earth Day. Great food, activities, guided hikes, educational demonstrations. Rain date: April 21. Volunteer to set-up/take down, or attend the booth. Contact: Paula Chow: [paulachow132@gmail.com](mailto:paulachow132@gmail.com)

**Thursday, April 19, 2012 Earth Day @ Fort A.P. Hill 10 am to 2 pm.** RGSC is sponsoring an educational display booth for this event that is attended by local students. Volunteers need to sign up by April 5, 2012. Contact: Linda @ [rgscchair@gmail.com](mailto:rgscchair@gmail.com)

**Friday April 20<sup>th</sup>, One World Symposium, 3pm to 7 pm Mountain View H.S. Stafford, VA** Hosted by Learn & Serve MVHS. RGSC is sponsoring an educational display booth. Contact: Paula Chow: [paulachow132@gmail.com](mailto:paulachow132@gmail.com)

**Saturday May 5, 2012 Stafford Community Yard Sale, County Administration Building, 8 am to 1 pm (rain or shine)** RGSC is sponsoring a display/educational booth. Need volunteers to assist with set-up/take down..and assist at the booth. Contact: Linda: [rgscchair@gmail.com](mailto:rgscchair@gmail.com)

### Other RGSC events...

**June 2012- RGSC annual members and friends picnic with litter pick-up: Alum Springs Park, Fredericksburg, VA (date tba) check RGSC website for update.** first or 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday

**Thursday September 13, 2012, RGSC Annual Open House, 7pm-9pm** Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, 308 Hanover, enter on Charlotte Street

**\*\*\*Attention Members\*\*\*:** If you have a local community event and would like RGSC to be there with a display booth, please contact our Programs Chair: Paula Chow : [paulachow132@gmail.com](mailto:paulachow132@gmail.com).

### Other Events/Non RGSC Sponsored Events

**April 21-28 Historic Garden Week tours through-out Virginia, including Fredericksburg (Tuesday April 24).** tickets/info: [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)

**Saturday May 5, 2012 9am-1pm Crow's Nest Spring Field Day.** Sponsored by the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation. Guided hikes between 1 and 4 miles. Rain or shine. RSVP: Faye McKinney (804)786-7951.

**May is National Bike Month.** Bike to work day: **Friday May 18.** More info: [www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.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/>

**RGSC Web site:**  
<http://virginia.sierraclub.org/rg/>