

2013 MARCH APRIL MAY 2013

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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



UP COMING EVENTS

Earth Day On the Rappahannock

Saturday April 13, 2013
Old Mill Park, Fredericksburg
11 am to 3 pm FREE
(Rain date April 20th)



EARTH DAY ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

By Paula Chow

Mother Nature's living creatures are celebrating Earth Day on the Rappahannock at Old Mill Park on Saturday, April 13th from 11:00am to 3:00pm (rain date is April 20th). This tenth anniversary of the local festival is family friendly with exhibits, activities, presentations, food vendors, on-going live music, and encouragement to just enjoy the setting.

This year's exciting news is that this will be the first year the Earth Day Festival is applying for a "Green Event" certification. The festival and all of its participants must meet certain standards.

The first Earth Day was held across the country on April 22, 1970 as an action to increase awareness about pollution and other environmental concerns. In December 1970, in response to the public's demand for cleaner air, water and land, President Nixon created the Environmental Protection Agency. Today, the public continues to step up and turn their concerns about the planet into action.

Across the country more and more people recognize that the future of their environment is at stake. They realize that environmental stewardship is a necessary practice if they are to enjoy clean air, water, land and wildlife in the future. To this end, people are joining campaigns and initiating ongoing actions towards sustainable practices. Earth Day activities and the exhibit booths promote exploring, enjoying and protecting the planet.

Learning about sustainability can be fun. Anyone can go home with compost and a seedling to plant in their yards, as one action to reduce their carbon footprint. From young children to outdoors enthusiasts, the Earth Day Festival has a lot to offer.

RGSC's exhibit booth will be located next to the entrance. We welcome additional volunteers to help with the effort. Contact paulachow132@gmail.com to volunteer. Mark the date of April 13th to come out to support and enjoy the festival. Keep in mind, "there is no planet B."

RGSC is co-sponsor of this annual family event. Environmental educational activities, food and fun! RGSC will be presenting their annual Living Green award. See related front page article and page 2: Living Green Award for more info! See you there.



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

Message from the Chair

By Linda C. Muller

**Living Green Award**

By Paula Chow

RGSC is in its fourth year of awarding the “Living Green Award” at the Earth Day Festival. The Living Green Award was created in 2010 to publically acknowledge a local business or organization of its efforts and practices that contribute to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

In the past years, the Living Green Award was given to Ten Thousand Villages and Hyperion Espresso (2010), Bistro Bethem and Foode (2011), and Harvest Market (2012).

This year, new Executive Committee member John Valvo refined the criterion and process for the Living Green Award. He has helped make this more streamlined and efficient.

A business or organization can nominate themselves, submitting an application or any person can also suggest a nomination to RGSC and an application will be sent to the suggested nominee. The nominee must be located within the RGSC catchment area – Fredericksburg, King George, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Culpeper, Orange, Westmoreland County and Caroline County. Our website has more detailed information about the Living Green Award.

RAPPAHANNOCK GROUP
SIERRA CLUB**Spring 2013: Busy Earth Day “Season”**

Its Spring season and most assuredly thoughts turn to enjoying the outdoors again after a relatively mild winter season in the Fredericksburg region. The upcoming annual Earth Day on the Rappahannock on Saturday April 13 at Old Mill Park, Fredericksburg offers a perfect opportunity for members and friends to enjoy a day of fun and educational environmental activities. We will be presenting our Living Green Award as well as staffing a RGSC booth. Be sure to stop by! If you have an hour to volunteer please contact program chair Paula Chow:

paulachow132@gmail.com We look forward to seeing you!

RGSC is also participating in the Earth Day at Fort A.P. Hill in Caroline County, VA on Thursday April 18, 2013. This special Earth Day Event takes place on Fort A.P. Hill and is attend by hundreds of local students in the region.

Continuing in the “Green Theme”, RGSC will be tabling at GEICOS’s Green Committee Vendor Day in Stafford, VA on Monday April 22, 2013.

We welcome the opportunity to participate in local events throughout our region. If you would like Rappahannock Group Sierra Club to participate in an event in your community please contact me rgscchair@gmail.com or Paula Chow, Program Chair paulachow132@gmail.com.

Keeping the Ban On Uranium Mining ...Staying Engaged

It was a “short” Virginia General Assembly session 2012-2013 but for those who were engaged as citizen lobbyist, it was an intense session. The uranium mining ban still remains in place in Virginia (for now). A bill to lift the ban was ultimately withdrawn from committee due to a lack of support. Gov. McDonnell was pressed by supporters of uranium mining to move forward with a review of uranium mining regulations despite the bill’s failure in the General Assembly. The broad coalition of citizens and organizations through-out Virginia who stepped up in support of Keeping The Ban on uranium mining will remain engaged in this important issue. With upcoming state and local elections across Virginia its important to discuss with legislators and candidates the importance of keeping the ban on uranium mining.

www.keeptheban.org

Yours in Exploring, Enjoying and Protecting the Planet

Linda C. Muller

Chair, RGSC

Geoff Urda VA Chapter Research**Intern: Hydrofracturing****(East of I-95)**

By Linda C. Muller

On March 14, 2013 RGSC's quarterly membership meeting feature a special presentation on Hydro Fracturing a.k.a. fracking by VA Chapter Research Intern Geoff Urda. Geoff's presentation included an overview of fracking and potential environmental impacts to regions currently targeted in Virginia's Taylorsville Basin. The Taylorsville Basin is located east of I-95 and includes portions of King George, Caroline, and Westmoreland Counties. Fracking utilizes enormous quantities of water mixed with chemicals (often solvents like benzene) to force natural gas through targeted shale deposits. Primary environmental concerns from fracking include contamination to ground water from errant fracking chemicals. Another concern is "methane migration" into adjacent water wells from the fracking process. One of the more memorable scenes from the movie "Gas Land" involves citizens "lighting" their water faucets due to methane gas in their well water supplies. Geoff provides more information on Hydrofracking in the Old Dominion Sierran Spring 2013 newsletter. Link is here:

<http://vasierraclub.org/ODSSpring2013.pdf>

RGSC Board Member Contacts:**Chair:** Linda C. Muller

rgscchair@gmail.com

Vice Chair: John Valvo

jvcolonies@aol.com

Program Chair: Paula Chow

paulachow132@gmail.com

Treasurer: Josephine Dodt

jodana@earthlink.net

Acting Secretary/UMW Intern

Ria Firth rfirth49@gmail.com

Membership: Michael Johnson

johnson2000m@aol.com

Webmaster: Doug Ferguson

dougferg@verizon.net

Board Member: Jody Lochmiller

Jody_lochmiller@hotmail.com

RGSC Programs, Events & Outings

RGSC schedules quarterly membership events. Our next membership event will be Saturday June 8, 2013 at Alum Springs Park, Fredericksburg @ 9:30 am – 12 pm for our annual membership "Pick-Up PicNic".

Our Annual Fall Open House will be held at the Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, 308 Hanover Street, Fredericksburg, VA [Open House Thursday September 12, 2013 7pm – 9 pm.](#)

Sierra Club/ RGSC Programs/Sponsored Events

Saturday April 13, 2013 11 am to 3 pm Earth Day on the Rappahannock, Old Mill Park Fredericksburg VA. FREE. (Rain date Sautrday April 20)

Join fellow RGSC members and friends for a fun family friendly event along our beautiful Rappahannock River. Displays, demonstration, games, food and fun. Contact RGSC Program Chair: Paula Chow paulachow132@gmail.com

Sunday April 14, 2013 " 1-3 pm "Electric Slide Toward Clean Energy"

Richmond, VA 1-3 pm sponsored by the Virginia Chapter Sierra Club.

Join supporters of clean energy with a rally and dance! RSVP and more info: Vasierraclub.org/electricslide

Save the Dates!

Saturday June 8th 10 am to 1 pm RGSC Annual picnic, Alum Springs Park, Fredericksburg, VA RGSC membership "Pick-UP-PicNic". We will start the day with trash pick-up at Alum Springs Park..followed by a "potluck" covered dish picnic. Contact Paula Chow, Program Chair paulachow132@gmail.com

Thursday September 12, 2013 7pm to 9 pm RGSC Annual Open House Fredericksburg United Methodist Church.

VA Chapter Annual Gathering 2013 : September 20-22.

Vasierraclub.org/gathering2013

Other Events

Saturday June 1, 2013 10 am to 9 pm ACA Paddle Green Event, Riverfront Park Fredericksburg, VA Learn to kayak, Stand Up Paddle (SUP), evening film festival. RGSC is tabling at this event and encourages members and friends to enjoy a day in and around the Rappahannock River w/ American Canoe Association. More info : www.americancanoe.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/>