

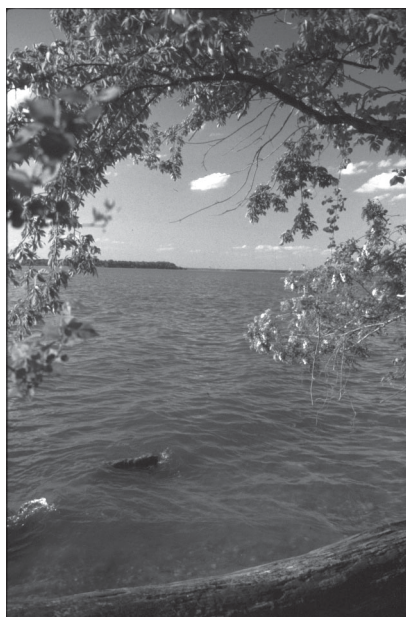
Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Autumn 2005

Chapman Forest:

How We Got to Where We Are, and What the Forest Needs Now



Photos courtesy Jim Long

By Bonnie Bick—The people of our region will best benefit from the preservation of Chapman Forest if they consider it in context rather than in isolation. Looking at it through that lens, we must consider that Chapman Forest is surrounded by thousands of acres of preserved lands on both sides of the Potomac River. If residents and regional planners view Chapman Forest as being united with the preserved lands of Mason Neck, Virginia, and the contiguous saved lands on both sides of the river, they will realize and respect the fact that we have a functioning bioserve that provides an enormous degree of ecological service. Without this ecological service, the economy, health and aesthetics of life in this area would be greatly degraded.

This 13,500 acre bioserve immediately south of our nation's capital along the Potomac River can become a way for us to gain the conviction and dedication we will need if we are to do our part, regionally, in the efforts to reverse the tide of destruction that now assaults our natural world. If we establish some form of official recognition of the already existing and functioning bioserve, important benefits will follow.

For one thing, preservation will be more secure, because the combined land will present a formidable obstacle to any future governmental entity inclined to fragment or deal off these bioserves. Given the ebb and flow of enlightenment in government and society, this protection is essential. And a formally established and protected bioserve will have a positive effect not only on the flora and fauna, but also on the collective

ecological thinking of our region. It is the strength or weakness of this understanding that will determine how much and what kind of a future the flora and fauna—and the residents of the region—will have.

These two benefits are interdependent: achieving this greater vision, as stated above, while moving strongly and steadily toward the goal that has motivated thousands of people across the region to lend a hand in the preservation of Chapman Forest. That goal is to protect the exceptional biodiversity and values of this large temperate forest, along with the cultural values associated with its rich history.

The preservation of Chapman Forest is a great achievement for the Maryland environmental movement. We started with a “done deal” of immense and intense development proposed to replace the forest. Working together, we first broke the sense of inevitability of destruction, and gradually alerted the public to what was at stake. We moved past the threat of a “compromise” that would have undermined the purpose of saving Chapman Forest, and finally reached a deal that involved giving up 50 acres of the 2,250 acre forest so that the rest could be preserved intact.

Then we survived numerous efforts to cast the land, though preserved, as a free, tamed recreation spot that would relieve local developers from providing adequately for the residents of the new projects springing up in the vicinity. At every turn, the understanding of keeping an unfragmented forest grew. Most recently, within the

(continued on page 8)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

2005 Autumn Contents

- 2 Letter from the Chair
- 3 Call for Nominees for Chapter Ex-Com
- 3 Mark Your Calendar for the Jamboree
- 4 Avondale Citizens Say No to LNG Storage Tanks
- 5 The ICC: 1950s Solution to a 21st Century Problem
- 5 Energy Efficiency Standards Go National
- 6 Whale Lovers Needed!
- 6 House Effort for ESA "Recovery" Will Result in Extinctions
- 9 Why Should We Buy Exxon Gasoline?
- 9 Behind Our Global Warming Problem Is Our Own Demand for Energy
- 11 Why Autumn Leaves Make You See Red
- 12 Maryland Chapter Jamboree
- 14 Judgment Day at Hand for Arctic Refuge
- 15 Maryland Chapter Leaders
- 16 Invasive Species Removal Outings
- 19 Outings
- 22 BICO Outings
- 23 Members Interests Survey



Betsy Johnson, Chair

A Reason for Optimism in a Time of Oil Shortage

As I write this, I'm sweating through a suffocating August day in the summer from hell. Hopefully by the time you read this, it will be a lot cooler. The relentless heat, of course, is a reminder that climate change is a real threat to the planet and, whether or not this summer is a result of planetary warming, it behooves us to pay attention.

For a long time, we Americans have been the beneficiaries of cheap oil. We live in big homes, drive gas-guzzling cars, commute hours each day, fly all over the world (air travel is one of the most oil-consuming ways to travel), and purchase large quantities of cheap goods that travel thousands of gas-gobbling miles to our stores. The low price of oil has, thus, exacerbated the U.S. contribution to global warming.

But, due to oil and gas shortages that are here to stay, all of that is about to change. China is in heavy competition with the industrialized countries for oil, and the demand is already exceeding the supply. Everything I've read confirms that we are on the downward side of the oil peak, which means that future extraction will be far more expensive than it has been. This will probably lead to heavy-duty inflation in the not-too-distant future, since our entire economy is firmly dependent on oil. Think about it: there is not much that is produced in this world that does not depend on oil in some stage of its production or distribution. It's inevitable that prices are going to rise for just about everything.

The federal government has seen fit to attend to this problem by giving huge tax breaks to energy companies to encourage them to drill in our wild places. Public lands in the West are under assault, and it can only get worse as oil and gas reserves are depleted.

But the energy bill also gives incentives for individual actions. From 2006 until 2010, purchasers of the first 60,000 hybrid vehicles that each auto manufacturer sells will be eligible for tax credits of \$3,400 per vehicle. In 2006 and 2007, there will be tax credits for builders of new homes who make them more energy-efficient; tax credits for the manufacture of Energy Star rated appliances, so those appliances should be much more plentiful and affordable; and tax incen-

tives for certain energy-efficiency home improvements. All of this is a pittance compared with what the energy companies are getting, but let's take advantage of the largesse and prepare for what lies ahead.

If I allow my usually pessimistic self to think optimistically about this scenario, I can envision a future in which new homes are smaller and much more energy-efficient. I see road projects being abandoned for more energy-efficient mass transit. I see community friendships blossoming as people look locally for diversions rather than traveling to faraway places. I see local agriculture doing great business because it will be price-competitive with imported food. And organic farming that does not rely on oil-based fertilizers will become the norm rather than the exception. People will be walking more and driving less, so the air will be cleaner and people will be healthier. And our global-warming emissions will plummet!

This is not to deny that there will be hard times for many people. But if we stick together, prepare early, and live simply, then we could be the ones to lead our country to self-sufficiency and its citizens to happier lives. Let's do it! ■



Join the
Maryland Chapter
e-mail action alert list

www.marylandsierraclub.org/action

Nominations

Call for At-Large Nominees for Chapter Executive Committee

Each year, the Maryland Chapter holds elections for "At Large" delegates to the chapter executive committee. This fall, the members of the chapter will elect three people to serve two-year terms on the committee.

The chapter's nominating committee, Marc Scott, Mike Martin, and Laurel Imlay, invite all interested members of the Maryland Chapter to enter the race for these positions. We are looking for at least six people who can bring management skills, a firm commitment to protecting the environment, and a willingness to invest their time and energy for the next two years to help manage the chapter. While experience on the executive committee of a local Sierra Club group would be helpful, it is not necessary. Your work and life experience, and your common sense, are equally important credentials.

If you would be willing to serve for a two-year term, please submit a brief biography, no longer than 400 words, which describes your qualifications, your experience, and what you believe you can contribute. Send to the nominating committee c/o Laurel Imlay, 7338 Baltimore Ave, College Park, MD 20740, by e-mail to laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org or by fax at 301-277-6699.

Please respond by October 24, 2005. The nominating committee will review the qualifications described in the biographies, attempt to bring forward a slate of six candidates, and report the slate of candidates to the executive committee. The candidates' statements and a ballot will be published in the winter issue of *Chesapeake*.

For additional information and a sample biography, please contact Laurel Imlay at the above address, or call 301-277-7111. ■

A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

— Margaret Mead

Don't Miss the Jamboree

Mark your Calendar—It's Time for the Maryland Chapter's 2005 Jamboree!

A Weekend of Fun and Enlightenment

From Friday evening, October 14th through Sunday afternoon, October 16th, Catocin Mountain Park in Thurmont will be the site of the Maryland Chapter's Jamboree.

We had a *great* time at the Jamboree two years ago and we've got a super agenda shaping up for this year! Join us in the beautiful mountains to enjoy the outdoors, share conversation and activities, exchange ideas and information, and build ties with new and veteran activists and student Sierrans.

Here's some of what's planned. Read it over; you're sure to find something to look forward to, outdoors and in!

Outdoors

- ♦ Nature hikes and bird walks with Dan Boone, Jack Wise, and Bob Goldberg
- ♦ Stream monitoring with Marcia Watters
- ♦ Bike ride with Matt Webb
- ♦ Invasive species removal and native plant identification with Marc Imlay and Nancy Adamson
- ♦ Outdoor nature photography with Jon Robinson
- ♦ Saturday night campfire and singing with Spice
- ♦ Stargazing

Indoors

- ♦ Contra Dancing Saturday night
- ♦ Volley ball and Basketball in the gym
- ♦ Yoga, games and environmental films

Programs, Training, and Workshops

- ♦ Activating new volunteers: How to recruit activists, with Joan Willey
- ♦ Citizen involvement
- ♦ Conservation biology
- ♦ Environmental justice with Bill Price & Linda Fennell
- ♦ Finding and recruiting new members
- ♦ First aid training for new outings leaders with Anita Anderson
- ♦ Forest workshop with Dan Boone and Bob DeGroot
- ♦ Meeting facilitation with Marc Scott
- ♦ Outings/hike leader training with Dan Soeder
- ♦ Population growth: issue consciousness-raising with Ed Stennett

- ♦ Riverkeepers: Fred Tutman/Patuxent, Ed Merrifield/Potomac, Lee Oxenham/Patapsco
- ♦ Simplicity and the environment with Marney Bruce
- ♦ Student Sierra Coalition workshop
- ♦ Success stories: Bring your success stories! with Bonnie Bick
- ♦ Writing a letter to the editor

Chapter Awards

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for a program, press campaign, newsletter or other volunteer work for the chapter? How about an outings leader, membership chair, recruiter, fundraiser, community activist, teacher, or state legislator? Send in your suggestions for nominations.

Networking Sessions, Facilitated by Chapter or Group Committee Chairs

Meet the people around the state who do your job (or a job you might like to try out...)

- ♦ Group and Vice Chairs
- ♦ Conservation Chairs
- ♦ Membership/Programs
- ♦ Newsletter Editors
- ♦ Political Chairs
- ♦ Outings (Committee strategy meeting)
- ♦ Treasurers
- ♦ Web Masters /Technology

Silent and Live Auction

Donate your stuff, talents, labor! Call Betsy at 301-656-4948.

All meals and rustic dormitory accommodations are included in registration price. Reports were good from people who slept in the dorms in 2003. We will assign people in categories: families, couples, single women, single men, night owls, mourning doves, snorers. Think of it as a big sleepover! For more private accommodations, campgrounds and hotels are also nearby; to request a list, e-mail to maryland.chapter@sierraclub.org.

See page 13 for fees and registration form. Don't wait; get your pen and register now! ■

Avondale Citizens Say No to LNG Storage Tanks

By Linda Fennell—The last thing Imani Kazana and her neighbors want to see in their Avondale community is a liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage tank. And if their campaign continues its present success, they won't.

Washington Gas Company is requesting a special exception permit to convert the Chillum Natural Gas Facility at 2130 Chillum Road to accommodate LNG. This facility operated for 66 years until the two natural gas storage tanks were decommissioned in 1999. Now, the gas company wants to renovate the facility and add an LNG storage tank. The company maintains that the Chillum Road location offers convenient access to the network of underground pipelines that will transport processed natural gas, thus meeting the increased needs of customers and providing additional storage capacity.

But Washington Gas faces significant opposition. Avondale, Chillum and Hyattsville residents are aghast that the company would attempt to locate a facility in such a densely populated area. Their concerns are valid: LNG can produce a cloud of dangerous natural gas when it comes in contact with air or water. When it interacts with electrical wire or heat, intense fires can result.

Over 3,000 people of various ethnicities and backgrounds live within 2,000 feet of the proposed facility. The West Hyattsville Metro station is only 1,500 feet away, and the property lies 180 feet from the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River and 650 feet from the Chillum Community Park bleachers.

This opposition was reflected when over 150 community members packed into a gymnasium for a public information meeting in March. The community met with County Councilmember Will Campos (D-District 2), Washington Gas Company managers and other Prince George's County officials to make their position clear: They do not want the LNG storage tank in their backyards.

Residents repeatedly asked, "Why should the facility be located *here*?" And they still haven't gotten a

satisfactory answer. The gas company claims that it considered other sites; however, no information on these alternative areas has been provided.

"Everyone involved, except the Gas Company, believes that the densely populated Chillum Road area is the wrong place for this industrial use," says Kazana, who is now a spokesperson for the Avondale Citizens Association. "We believe that Washington Gas is trying to take advantage of our cultural

and economic diversity, having perceived us as a weak opponent for their bad idea. They underestimated our determination to protect our families and our environment."

Not long after the meeting, Washington Gas experienced a public relations disaster when a gas explosion completely destroyed a home in the District Heights section of Prince George's County. This catastrophe heightened fears among Avondale and Chillum residents, who have first-hand experience with the gas company's tendency to neglect gas leaks.

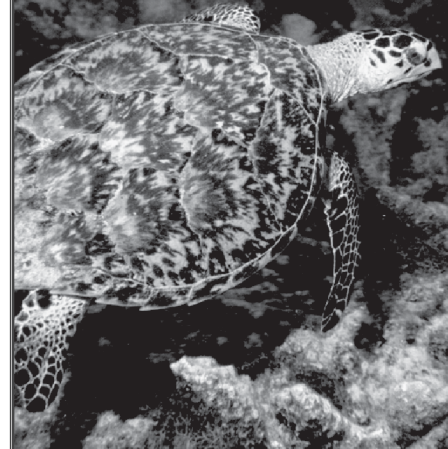
Kazana and fellow community residents demanded that the Maryland Parks and Planning Commission hold a public hearing on Washington Gas's application. After a flurry of letters and faxes, the planning board voted in July to hold the hearing. The date is yet to be determined, but the community is ready.

In addition to their success in getting the county's attention, Avondale citizens also have gained a new ally in their fight. The Washington Gas Watch Alliance—a community coalition—meets on a bi-weekly basis to inform citizens of planning board and County actions concerning the Chillum Road facility as well as other aspects of the Washington Gas Company's operation. The next meeting will be held at the end of September. ■

Linda Fennell is the D.C. Area Environmental Justice Organizer for the Sierra Club. Contact her at lfennellsc@earthlink.net for more information.

LNG can produce a cloud of dangerous natural gas when it comes in contact with air or water. When it interacts with electrical wire or heat, intense fires can result.

GOING, GOING...GONE?



Sea turtles date back nearly 90 million years and are among the Earth's oldest surviving species. Yet the Kemp's Ridley sea turtle is quickly fading away—it is losing its habitat at an alarming rate. At the Sierra Club, we've mounted a major campaign to defend the Endangered Species Act and preserve threatened habitats before their inhabitants are gone forever.

Please join the Sierra Club today and help protect threatened and endangered animals.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



My Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

email _____

☐ Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
Please charge my ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ AMEX

Exp. Date ____/____/____

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Membership Categories **INDIVIDUAL** **JOINT**

INTRODUCTORY ☐ \$25

REGULAR ☐ \$39 ☐ \$47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q W 1**
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

The ICC : 1950s Solution to a 21st Century Problem

By Betsy Johnson — On 11 July 2005, Governor Ehrlich announced that the state had chosen an alignment for the Inter-County Connector (ICC); precisely the master plan route that in 1998 the EPA had deemed too environmentally sensitive for a highway project. This route runs through 552 acres of forest, three important watersheds, a special protection area of irreplaceable beauty and ecological significance, and dozens of homes. The route will create debt that will cost every Maryland household \$1,473. It will eat enough of Maryland's share of federal transportation funds so that important rail projects such as the Purple Line and the Baltimore Rail Project will likely not get funded for decades. At a cost of \$3 billion, the ICC is the third most expensive project in the country. Once we begin repaying this massive debt, Maryland will be hard-pressed to make any further transportation improvements anywhere in the state.

One would think that for all that cost, the road would actually accomplish something really special for the area, in terms of relieving traffic congestion. Supporters say the ICC will relieve local roads and provide a route from the northwestern part of Montgomery County to BWI. But the state's own study shows that while some local roads in the ICC corridor will see improvement, many will actually see more traffic, and only about 1 percent of the trips currently taken will use the ICC to travel between the I-270 and I-95 corridors. This study shows that the ICC will actually exacerbate congestion on many north-south commuter routes in Montgomery County, that it will not relieve more than 20 failing intersections in the county and could worsen some of these, and that it will increase traffic on the Montgomery side of the Washington DC beltway. For all this goodness, a person traveling on the ICC will pay tolls of from



\$3 to \$5 one way. What a deal!

The ICC was proposed in the 1950s, when beltways were all the rage. It was a time when there was little attention paid to the ecological value of forests and wetlands. Supporters of this highway argue that it should be built because it's been on the county master plan for 50 years. But this argument ignores the growing evidence that forests and wetlands provide community amenities that cannot be mitigated. Forests, even small ones, cool the air and provide places of refuge from the stresses of daily life. And wetlands provide flood control. Highways, on the other hand, introduce noise, excessive and toxic runoff, and diminished air quality to surrounding communities. They also encourage sprawling development, which is the source of our congestion problems in the first place.

The Sierra Club and other organizations funded a study that explored non-

road options to relieve congestion. The encouraging results showed that a mix of transit, toll pricing on the beltway, and land-use changes would perform better and cost less than the ICC. Please click on the ICC Alternatives Report on the maryland.sierraclub.org web site to read the findings.

Two days after the governor's announcement, the *Washington Post* Business Section featured this headline: "More Intense Development Likely with Md. Connector." The story appeared just below a photo that looked like the gridlocked Washington beltway in morning rush-hour traffic. But it wasn't the beltway—it was Beijing!

With the United States and China in competition for dwindling oil supplies, is this really the time to invest in another road that will enable more sprawl development and encourage more driving and oil guzzling?

The fight is not over. We need for all of you in other parts of the state to call your state senators and delegates and tell them you are worried about the effect of the ICC funding plan on your transportation priorities. And we need letters to the editor in local papers all across the state. Candidates will try to make this a campaign issue in the 2006 election—and we need to let people know the facts. The ICC is a solution for a time that has passed. We need and deserve transportation that will serve us well in an era of higher and higher oil prices, and we need to let our elected officials know how we feel. ■

Energy Efficiency Standards Go National

By Charlie Garlow — Maryland's energy efficiency standards — the ones we had to work doubly hard to get enacted over the Governor's veto — are going nationwide. The federal energy bill conferees gave final approval to a set of national energy efficiency standards that includes all nine products covered by Maryland's law, and six more as well. For eight out of the nine products in our law, the new federal standards will be as strong or stronger than ours.

The ninth is ceiling fans, which turned out to be the most controversial in the group — both here in Maryland and in Congress. Home Depot, which lobbied unsuccessfully against the Maryland bill, popped up with an amendment accepted by the House that would have preempted Maryland's law, while requiring no specific efficiency improvements. It would have been left to the Department of Energy to set any national standards for efficiency. Should such standards be set, manufacturers would not have to comply until 2009. The Senate did not accept this approach, calling instead for the Department of Energy to undertake a rule-making for a federal standard, but preserving state standards until the federal rule was in place. This goes to show that our efforts here in Maryland can help to move even *this* Congress to do the right thing.

Unfortunately, much more needs to be done to increase our efficiency. For more information on energy efficient appliances, visit www.energystar.gov. (Thanks to Ed Osann for much of this write up.) ■

Endangered Species

Whale Lovers Needed!

Help Us Save the Northern Right Whale and Defend the Endangered Species Act

By Earl Bradley — Just off our Virginia coast, the northern right whale is the most endangered of the large whales, with approximate 350 whales remaining—so few that scientists have names for each one of them. This slow-moving whale is increasingly at risk from ship strikes and from entanglement in fishing gear.

Sierra Club's Atlantic Coast Ecoregion has identified saving the right whale as one of its two priorities for 2005. With murmurs in Congress about weakening the federal Endangered Species Act, there may never be a more urgent time to get involved to save the northern right whale and to defend the Endangered Species Act.

Increased ocean traffic with larger, faster ships increases the likelihood of ship strikes. In the past few months, four northern right whales were killed as a result of ship strikes and entanglement. The whales migrate along the Atlantic Coast bearing their young each winter in the warm waters off of Georgia and Florida and spending their summers feeding in northern waters, including the Bay of Fundy. Survival of the northern right whale will require stricter enforcement of the Endangered Species Act in the United States and prevention of habitat destruction and disruption from projects like the massive Digby Neck Quarry in Nova Scotia, Canada. This quarry, proposed by Clayton Concrete of New Jersey, would provide basalt aggregate for road building in the mid-Atlantic. Blasting associated with this quarry and the increased shipping traffic to transport the stone represent major threats to the continued survival of the northern right whale.

Defending the Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act works! The recovery of the bald eagle, the alligator, the grey wolf and the grizzly bear is a testament to the effectiveness of the Act.

Unfortunately, the Bush Administration and Congress are proposing changes to the Act that would considerably weaken protections. Even without these changes to the law, new designations of endangered species are being held up and resources to protect those species currently classified as endangered are being cut. Without a strong Endangered Species Act, the progress made over the past 30 years could slip away along with magnificent creatures like the right whale.



Volunteer today to save the Right Whale

We need folks to write letters, design publications, develop curriculum and materials for schools, update our website, make calls, give presentations, contact Congresspersons, etc. Please contact Tyla Matteson at tmatteson1@mindspring.com or 804-275-6476. We need your help! ■

Earl Bradley is the Anne Arundel County delegate to the MD Chapter ex-comm and represents the Chapter on the Atlantic Coast Ecoregion Task Force. He can be reached at Earl.Bradley@maryland.sierraclub.org.

House Effort for ESA “Recovery” Will Result in Extinction

By Ellen Pepin and Dan Boone — The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has served as the cornerstone for much of the conservation work done over the last thirty years. Ninety-nine percent of all species listed under the ESA are still with us today, and the survival of hundreds of species is mainly pegged on this legislation. But Congressman Richard Pombo (R-CA), continuing his perennial effort to gut national environmental protections, intends to replace the ESA with the “Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act (TESRA) of 2005.”

TESRA is expected to be filed after the August recess period.

A recently leaked 73-page draft of TESRA was reviewed by the Center for Biological Diversity, which is joined by the Sierra Club and 360 other groups in the Endangered Species Coalition in opposing changes that weaken the ESA (see www.stopextinction.org). Dubbed the Extinction Bill, the draft measure “takes a wrecking ball to the whole Endangered Species Act” by changing its mission, disabling enforcement tools and loosening controls on agencies like the Forest Service and the Army Corps of Engineers, according to Jamie Rappaport Clark, the executive vice president of Defenders of Wildlife.

TESRA will provide loopholes in the law on behalf of oil companies, large-scale developers, timber companies, mining corporations, and other special interests. This is counter to the original intent of the law, which was to ensure that human activities do not cause the demise of any species.

An analysis of the leaked draft of TESRA by the Coalition pointed out the following problems:

- ♦ The draft bill abandons the national commitment to recover endangered species to the point where they no longer need protection.

(continued on page 7)

Endangered Species

“Extinction Bill” Would Take a Wrecking Ball to the Endangered Species Act

(continued from page 6)

- ♦ It sharply diminishes habitat protections. Only those habitats that barely allow the species to survive will have to be protected.
- ♦ The bill exempts all federal agencies from the ESA's current requirement that they consult with wildlife experts to assess the damage a potential project may do.
- ♦ It replaces the definition of endangered species with one that says a species is endangered only if its survival is threatened in its current remaining habitat.
- ♦ TESRA provides for legal appeals during every step of the species conservation process. This will serve as a delaying tactic and bury agencies in paperwork.

In addition to those problems, TESRA calls for the “best available science” for making decisions. While that may sound like a good thing, it gives one scientific method preference over another. It calls for the use of “empirical data,” which can be hard to gather if the species numbers are small. More common currently are studies based on statistical models of species' number, range and viability.

It's hard to imagine worse news. However, in keeping with the goal of “extinction,” the planned bill sets the year 2015 for the Endangered Species Act to “sun-set.” After that there will be no protection.

Who's Pushing TESRA

TESRA's champion, Congressman Pombo, chair of the House Resources Committee, is a member of what Carl Pope, Sierra Club's Executive Director, calls “the Hammer Gang” to denote his shared goals with Rep. Tom DeLay. (DeLay, the ethically challenged former pest exterminator from Texas, earned the “Hammer” appellation for his tactics in the House of Representatives.) Pope describes Pombo and DeLay as “driven by a common contempt for the idea that it is the national government's job to keep Americans safe from irresponsible corporate behavior and environmental depredation.” As Carl noted in his May 9, 2005 column, “Taking the Initiative,” Pombo has his own ethics problems. Rep. Pombo sent a letter to Interior Sec. Gale Norton to demand she withdraw federal guidelines for protecting wildlife at industrial wind energy facilities, while not revealing that his family stood to benefit financially from wind turbines at the infamous Altamont “wind farm” where over a thousand birds of prey, including



golden eagles and other hawks and owls, are killed each year. Pombo also received a Political Action Committee contribution from the American Wind Energy Association (johnrsweet.com/Personal/Wind/PDF/Pombo-FWS-WindPac.pdf).

What you can do:

Please ask your Representative in Congress to oppose the Pombo extinction bill. The following weblink provides draft text for a letter you can use to mail a personal note, or to send electronically via email: actionnetwork.org/campaign/ESA05. ■

Sources—New York Times, July 4, 2005; Center for Biological Diversity, biologicaldiversity.org; Environmental Media Services; Defenders of Wildlife (www.defenders.org)

Ellen Pepin and Dan Boone are the co-chairs of the Maryland Chapter conservation committee.

Maryland Chapter
Jacoboree
October 14-16, 2005

See page 13 for details and registration information.

Why is California's Richard Pombo so eager to remove the environmental protections provided by the Endangered Species Act?

One answer might be suggested by a list of the industries whose contributions topped his 2004 campaign donors list:

Oil & Gas \$85,693

Lobbyists \$65,923

Crop Production & Basic Processing
\$54,200

Casinos/Gambling \$51,000

Lawyers/Law Firms \$43,050

Electric Utilities \$40,450

Real Estate \$36,750

Forestry & Forest Products \$33,750

Agricultural Services/Products \$31,000

Mining \$24,659

Misc Transport \$20,900

Livestock \$19,181

Source: Center for Responsive Politics
Opensecrets.org

It Takes A World to Heal A Planet

Explore the connections between the issues that matter most today
Environmental Sustainability • Health • Social Justice • Peace

Chesapeake Bioneers Conference

October 14-16, 2005

At the University of the District of Columbia, Van Ness Metro

Engage in a fertile, local network of individuals and groups passionate about renewing our world.

Listen and learn from over 50 local and national luminaries, in person and by satellite link.

Get inspired with new ideas, successful models, tools, and resources.

Connect with local visionaries and innovators in organic food and farming, green business, education, sustainable architecture and building, and more.

Join and launch important local projects.

Enjoy music, dance, and theater.

For more information and to register
<http://zope2.adytum.us:8580/clients/Bioneers/Chesapeake/site/events/conferences/form/refresh>

To inquire about sponsorship, ads in our program, and exhibit space
Telephone 202-686-9813.
ChesapeakeBioneers@earthlink.net
www.WholesnessforHumanity.com

Enjoyment and Use of Chapman Forest Has Steadily Grown

(continued from page 1)

last year, plans to sell off all or part of Chapman Forest were beaten back.

Meanwhile, the public's use and enjoyment of Chapman Forest has steadily grown. There are well-attended seasonal monthly open houses that provide history talks and other attractions, and outdoor environmental education programs that have been successful with school children, parents and teachers.

In the early part of this year, the Chapman Forest Foundation accomplished a significant milestone. Over the years, the Charles County government had been determined to get the city of Chapman's Landing built. When that failed, they dedicated themselves to turning the property into a support system for surrounding development that included ball fields, equestrian and other forest-fragmenting uses.

But now, local and statewide political conditions have emerged, especially in regard to the public awareness of threats to public lands statewide, that allowed the Chapman Forest Foundation to reach a meeting of minds with Charles County government officials in April 2005. The county commissioners signed an agreement with the Foundation acknowledging it as the embodiment of informed public will with regard to how best to use Chapman Forest.

This is a huge step forward and a relief. For so long, a negative cloud hovered over the uncertainty of the county commissioners' next moves. Now we are looking to the county to be a partner.

This is a critical time for us to take the next step, to get the forest firmly and perpetually in the control of the people of the state. To accomplish this, we need to expand our programs to the right degree and with the right quality so that the people can lay claim to Chapman Forest forever. The people reading this article include a great many of the most in-

formed, committed people in the state, the people most able and willing to lend a hand.

Now is a critical time to take the next step forward. We need energy from many of the same people who helped save Chapman Forest in the first place, and also newcomers to the issue who understand its importance. We would like to set up a state-wide advisory committee that could help us execute the best next steps. Some of the people reading this might be interested in getting involved in such a committee. We need workers especially. Perhaps some of you will bring your skills to the table to help us with our programs. We need your expertise in grant-writing, program design, fundraising and science.

If you understand the importance of Chapman Forest to the people of Maryland, and have these skills, we need you now. For more information, go to www.chapmanforest.org. ■



Student Sierrans in Chapman Forest. Photo courtesy of Jim Long.

Exxpose Exxon Campaign

Exxon Doesn't Buy the Evidence of Global Warming. Why Should We Buy Exxon Gasoline?

SC Urges Members to Boycott Exxon/Mobil

By Carl Pope —Every year, the destruction caused by the drilling, production and use of oil and gasoline gets worse. Instead of advocating changes which will decrease our reliance on oil, the petroleum industry is looking instead to drill for more crude, no matter the location, no matter how damaging.

To add insult to injury, these same companies are reaping huge profits while Americans must cut deeper into their families' budgets to pay for the rapidly increasing price of gas.

Exxon is the worst

Of all the Big Oil companies, Exxon is the worst. Let me tell you why:

- ♦ Exxon is leading the lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C. to open the pristine Arctic Refuge in Alaska for drilling.
- ♦ After more than a decade, Exxon has still not kept its promise to pay for the extreme damage that resulted from the

Exxon Valdez spill in Prince William Sound.

- ♦ And while you and I are being gouged at the gas pump, Exxon is reaping record high profits — over \$25.3 BILLION in 2004 — money that is paying for junk science designed to stop and stall action on global warming.

This needs to stop.

I'm asking you to join our boycott of the ExxonMobil Corporation by helping us to "Exxpose Exxon" — our campaign to force ExxonMobil to reverse its anti-environmental policies — *policies which exploit our natural environment and the pocketbooks of the American public.*

Please consider making an urgent donation to support the Sierra Club and its efforts to send a strong message to the executives at Exxon with this boycott: Keep your hands off the unspoiled Arctic Refuge and stop funding junk science with the profits you make by gouging

Americans at the pump!

You can do something

While it is easy to feel hopeless during these difficult times, and unable to fight back against a mighty behemoth such as the Exxon Corporation, you can do something about it — work with us to EXXPOSE EXXON. We urge you to do the following two things right now:

First, please sign the petition to the Chairman and CEO of ExxonMobil, Lee Raymond, expressing your outrage at this company's irresponsible actions and pledge to participate in this boycott. Look for the Exxpose Exxon logo at www.maryland.sierraclub.org and click on "Sign the Petition to Exxpose Exxon."

And second, make an urgent donation to support the Sierra Club's efforts in organizing this campaign and our many other efforts to preserve our environment and natural treasures. Go to www.maryland.sierraclub.org and click

on "Make a Donation to Exxpose Exxon."

Your action today is critical — unless we "Exxpose" Exxon's disgraceful environmental record, we can not expect to achieve our goal — to force Exxon to change its policies and practices and become a responsible business — or even to admit that the problem exists!

Of all the major oil companies, none poses a greater danger to our environment than Exxon. That's why I hope you will support this boycott campaign. We really need your support. Giving online saves time and paper, and is completely secure. Your urgent donation will provide the resources we need to organize this boycott campaign and also support all of the Sierra Club's other important efforts to protect our land, air, water and wildlife. Please sign our petition and make a contribution today. ■

Carl Pope is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club.

Carl, Behind Our Growing Global Warming Problem Is Our Own Relentlessly Increasing Demand for Energy

An Open Letter from Ed Stennett in Response to Carl Pope's Appeal

Mr. Carl Pope
Executive Director, Sierra Club

Subject: Sierra Club Exxpose Exxon! Campaign

Dear Mr. Pope:
Certainly Exxon deserves censure, and hopefully the Club-sponsored boycott will garner good media attention and more than a few new Club members. But there is something about singling out

Exxon (or any other oil company) that makes me uncomfortable.

Sure, I know Exxon is intent on drilling for more oil rather than advocating changes that will decrease our reliance on fossil fuels. Indeed all major oil companies—including those few who are publicly investigating alternative energy sources—are focused on finding more oil. The uncomfortable fact is that America wants these companies to drill for more oil. We dream of a future with clean al-

ternative fuels, but regardless of the rhetoric about ethanol, hydrogen, etc., practical substitutes for oil are many years away. In the meantime Americans demand that *more and more* oil be delivered with each passing year.

In 1990 the U.S. demand for oil stood at 17 million barrels/day. In 2025 it is projected to be 27.3 million barrels/day.¹ The overwhelming cause of this huge increase is our population growth—100 million more people (consumers) in

the 35 year interval!

It has been said that Exxon's push to drill in the Arctic is "the linchpin in a broader agenda where no place is off-limits to big oil." Such an agenda infuriates and depresses us. But what disturbs me even more is that ultimately *the American public will not allow any place to be off-limits.*

The United States is running out of conventional oil. If we were to rely on

(continued on page 10)

Exxpose Exxon

America's Increasing Demand and Decreasing Domestic Supplies Are More Serious Threats

(continued from page 9)

domestic sources only, we would exhaust our discovered oil (proven reserves AND reserve growth²) within the next 12 years.³ Since we import much of the oil we consume, it will of course take longer than 12 years to exhaust our discovered domestic oil. Nevertheless, with each passing year there will be greater pressure for new domestic discoveries. The worry over increasing dependence on foreign oil and the angst over increasing oil prices means that the American public will demand that more oil be discovered on U.S. lands. Unfortunately, the only places left to look for domestic oil are in areas that have previously been off-limits. So while Exxon's push into the Arctic Refuge makes our blood boil, it is America's increasing demand and decreasing domestic supplies that are the more serious threats.

Exxon has really made our blood boil by paying for junk science designed to stall action on global warming. Yet an uncomfortable reality should be gnawing at our consciences. It is not Exxon that is behind our growing global warming problem. Rather it is our own relentlessly increasing demand for energy.

In 1990 (the Kyoto Protocol base year) U.S. carbon emissions totaled 5 billion metric tons; in 2025 it is projected to be 8 billion metric tons.⁴ If Exxon were to cease its junk science activities immediately, it is hard to believe that there would be any perceptible change in our contribution to global warming. 100 million new consumers are a force far more threatening than the repugnant efforts of Exxon. As Walt Kelly famously said through his creation Pogo, "We have found the enemy and he is us."

Your letter accuses Exxon of exploiting the pocketbooks of the American public. Such an accusation can surely be applied more broadly. Billions in windfall profits are going to all U.S. oil companies and our foreign suppliers. This

wealth transfer is causing economic adversity—particularly for low income Americans. On the other hand, it seems that higher oil prices are the only way to effect change in our society. In my own state of Maryland the higher gasoline prices are changing driving habits.

Maryland gasoline tax receipts for the month of June were \$1 million less than expected. State officials say that they are confident that the shortfall is due to



the higher price of gasoline, i.e., people are driving less in order to save money.⁵ In fact this shortfall indicates that in the single month of June, Marylanders drove 90 million miles less than they would have with 2004 gasoline prices. No doubt higher gasoline prices are also causing many people to think more about fuel efficiency when they purchase a car.

We all yearn for some tangible action we can take on behalf of the environment. And boycotting Exxon may benefit the environment. But U.S. population is projected to more than double this century. Even if we were to cut our per capita energy consumption in half, we would still be consuming more energy at century's end than we do today.

The inescapable fact is that we cannot achieve our environmental vision unless we vigorously address the issue of U.S. population growth.

I suspect that you know this. After all, you gave a generous endorsement for my book, *In Growth We Trust, Sprawl, Smart Growth, and Rapid Population Growth*. Yet the Club acts as though U.S. population growth is relatively unimportant. This pretense by the nation's pre-eminent environmental organization is resulting in a tragic unintended consequence: many Americans have concluded that population growth is either not a problem or that nothing can be done about it.

Yes, the population issue is thorny, and yes it requires sensitivity and careful ethical consideration. But if the Club's work is to have lasting value, we have no choice but to confront the issue. At a bare minimum the Sierra Club must speak forcefully about the impact that U.S. population growth has on our environment.

Sincerely,
Edwin Stennett
Life Member
President, Growth Education Movement, Inc. (www.growtheducation.org) ■

(Endnotes)

¹ DOE/EIA-0484(2005), Table A4

² *Growth in existing fields due to advanced extraction technologies*

³ *From calculation based on DOE/EIA-0484(2005), Table 4 and Table A4*

⁴ DOE/EIA-0484(2005), Table A10

⁵ "Pain At The Pump," Washington Post, August 27, 2005

Ed Stennett is the Chair of the population committee of the Maryland Chapter. For further information contact Ed via e-mail at bev-ed.stennett@worldnet.att.net.



Solar & Energy- Efficient Homes

T O U R

The largest number of homes ever on the Greater Washington, DC/Annapolis/Baltimore/Frederick Tour of Solar Homes will be showcased on Saturday and Sunday Oct 1 & 2, from 11 - 5 PM.

This is an open-house, self-guided tour.

Tickets can be obtained at www.solartour.org and at local book stores, ice cream shops and outdoor gear outlets listed on the website.

If you would like to help publicize the event, download and print flyers to post at local grocery stores, YMCAs, churches, and wherever people look for fun and educational activities.

Contact Charlie.Garlow@juno.com or 301-593-9823 for more info.

The Mysteries of Nature

Why Autumn Leaves Make You See Red

By William Needham—The coloration of autumn leaves is one of science's perennial conundrums. Given the intellectual efforts of legions of scientists over decades one would think that the question of "why leaves turn red" would have an equally accepted and plausible answer. It doesn't.

Some parts of the leaf coloration phenomenon are understood, of course. For example, we know that leaves change color in the fall because plants sense the colder temperatures and shut down their production of chlorophyll—the green-colored, photosynthetic cells upon which most (if not all) life depends. When the green disappears, other pigments are revealed; the color of the leaf depends upon the pigments present in a particular plant. The yellow color, for example, comes from carotenoid pigments (carotene and xanthophyll) and the red color from anthocyanin pigments. Ultimately, they all turn brown due to tannin, and most fall off. Leaves from the white oak and others, however, hang on the trees all winter.

A more scientific explanation is that deciduous trees have a layer of cells at the base of each leaf called the abscission layer. When temperatures get colder, signaling the onset of winter with shorter days and less sunlight, the abscission cells grow a cork-like membrane that interrupts the flow of nutrients to the leaf. The production of chlorophyll declines, and the green fades. However, other molecules in the plant remain.

Carotene, like chlorophyll, is a large molecule contained in the chloroplasts—the disc-shaped structures that are the photosynthetic factories of the plant. Carotene is an accessory absorber for chlorophyll, aiding in absorbing energy from a slightly different spectrum. It is much more stable than chlorophyll so it persists, resulting in the yellow leaves of such trees as hickories and birches.

Why do leaves turn red?

The red color of leaves is another matter. The classic explanation (Peterson's *Field Guide to Eastern Forests*, for example) is that plants with high sugar content, such as maples and sumacs, produce anthocyanin. When the abscission layer forms in the fall, the sugar trapped in the leaf converts to anthocyanin.

Thus, when you have a dry summer, little sugar is produced, and it would seem that the fall colors would be subtler. However, quite the opposite is true, as a hot, parched summer is likely to yield more color. Recent

research has demonstrated that anthocyanin production by different plant species is a complicated phenomenon and not just a matter of sugar.

Scientists have studied anthocyanin for several centuries. Known as "colored cell sap," it is formed by the reactions among the sugar produced by the plant and proteins in the sap. German botanist Ludwig Marquart named it in 1835. The Greek *anthos* means flower combined with *kyanos*, which means blue. It is responsible for reds and blues of many plants, according to the acidity of the sap. Early research focused on the red and blue anthocyanin coloration of fruits and flowers, as the color was important in attracting seed-dispersing and pollinating animals and insects to economically important agricultural products, like apples and flowers.

Research Findings Vary

Scientists are now conducting experiments that will ultimately answer the question why leaves turn red or, more broadly, why some leaves produce anthocyanin. Two recent discoveries are germane. One involves a phenomenon known as photoinhibition.

Under bright-light conditions, damage to photosynthetic plant tissues occurs when one part of the two-part photosynthesis process is blocked, or inhibited. One property of anthocyanin is that it absorbs damaging light wavelengths that are outside the range of other leaf chemicals. To limit the damaging effects of photoinhibition, an individual plant may, among other strategies, produce anthocyanin.

The second research discovery is that anthocyanin is an antioxidant. Intense sunlight results in the production of reactive oxygen species and free radicals (molecules with a negative charge due to having one free, unpaired, electron), which react strongly with cell membranes, proteins, and DNA, the destruction of which can lead to cell death.

In fact, all living things subjected to free radicals experience this same problem. To fight the repercussion of free radicals, human beings take antioxidants like vitamin C (ascorbic acid) and vitamin E because they react with the free radicals to neutralize them. Anthocyanin has four times the antioxidant capacity of these vitamins. This is the source of the general precept that a glass of red wine, which contains the anthocyanin of the grape skin, a day is good for you.

Getting back to plants, the anthocyanin performs the same function for a leaf as vitamin E, only better.

Even with the demonstrated protective capacity of anthocyanin to reduce photoinhibition damage and to neutralize free radicals, it is not clear why a tree would produce this rather large molecule (with constituents that could be better invested in food storage for the winter) just before it sheds its leaves.

There are a number of other theories that have been advanced to explain why this is so.

One is that the anthocyanin is a catalyst that allows the plant to reabsorb nutrients such as nitrogen from the leaf before it falls, reinforcing the plant for its eventual emergence from the senescence of autumn to the refulgence of spring.

Another theory concerns the function of anthocyanin during a plant's life cycle. The biological evolutionary explanation is that the red color either acts to protect the leaf from being eaten by other animals or attracts selected animals to eat the leaf for propagation purposes, like the red and blue fruits. Red and orange coloration is used throughout nature as a means to ward off predators. The red eft (the juvenile stage of a red-spotted newt) and the monarch butterfly are good examples.

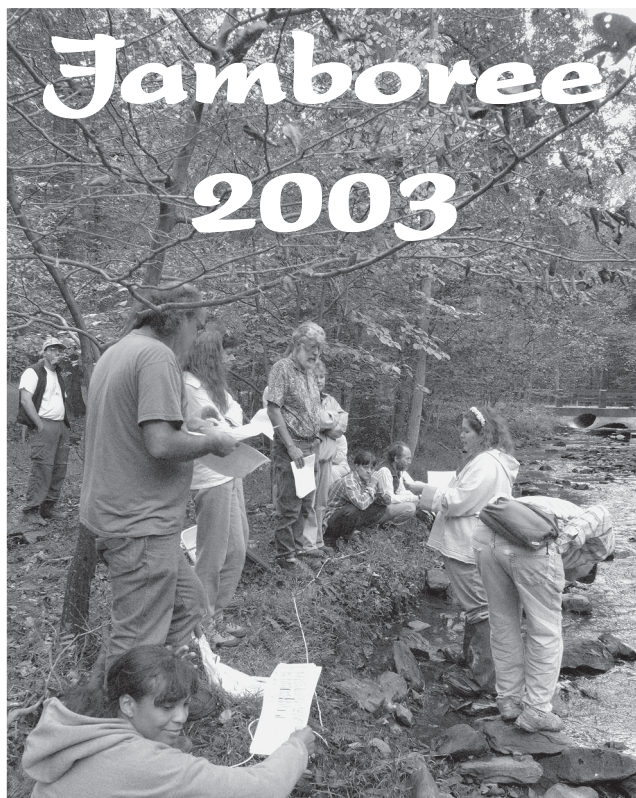
There is evidence that some tropical trees have red tips to ward off predators until they mature, at which time the leaves turn green to maximize production. Conversely, there is some evidence that chimpanzees and monkeys in Uganda use the red coloration of leaf tips to locate the tenderest leaves.

Nature's Mysteries Remain

So, why do leaves turn red? They turn red because that they contain anthocyanin. Why do leaves produce anthocyanin? We don't know. We know that anthocyanin absorbs blue and green light and, therefore, appears red. We know that the green chlorophyll masks the red color until chlorophyll production stops.

There are some theories about the nature of anthocyanin production, but, if it is so beneficial to a plant, why do only some plants have it? And why aren't more leaves red all the time?

I think the answer lies in the marvelous complexity of nature and the intricacies of evolution. Each plant and animal finds its own niche through trial and error. Chance mutations lead each organism down a circuitous path that leads ultimately to a unique place in the ecosystem. And that is the glory of nature. Which is why leaves turn red. ■



Mountains and streams, working and playing, listening and talking, singing and dancing.
You won't want to miss the 2005 Jamboree! Photos courtesy Jon Robinson.

Jamboree

We had a great time in 2003. Don't miss the fun this year! The Jamboree is back!

October 14-16, 2005

Maryland Chapter

Jamboree

in the mountains

Catoctin National Park, Thurmont, MD

Events: Bird walk, bike ride, outdoor photography, auction, contra dancing, speakers, environmental films, and workshops. Have fun, explore the mountains, and meet others from your local Sierra Club!

Accommodations: Rustic dormitory accommodations are included with registration. Private accommodations are available at nearby hotels and campgrounds.

Meals: All meals are included.

Travel: Approximately one and a half hours drive from Washington or Baltimore.

Price: \$60 per person, \$40 for students/seniors/limited income. Children ages five and under are free. We will need a limited number of cooks and cleanup helpers, who may sign up for \$30 until all spaces are filled.

Maryland Chapter Jamboree Registration Form

Name: _____

e-mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

_____ I am willing to give someone a ride.

_____ I need a ride.

Will your party be joining us at dinner on Friday? _____

Names in your party, including ages of any children:

Are you vegetarian, vegan, or allergic to any food? Anything else we should know? _____

Please check appropriate registration levels for yourself and anyone you're bringing. We will reimburse you if the level is full and we cannot accommodate you. *Sorry, no refunds for cancellations after October 5.*

Children ages five and under are free.

_____ x \$60 regular= \$ _____

_____ x \$40 student/senior/low income= \$ _____

_____ x \$30 worker (kitchen/setup/cleanup)= \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

Mail checks and registration to

Sierra Club Maryland Chapter

Attn: 2005 Jamboree

7338 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 101A

College Park, MD 20740

For information call the Club office at

301 277-7111

Information and registration also available at

<http://maryland.sierraclub.org>.

Judgment Day at Hand for Arctic Refuge

By John Byrne Barry— Maine's two senators, Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe, consider themselves champions of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. They have voted several times against Arctic drilling and joined the filibuster against it in 2003.

But Maine Sierra Club staffer Maureen Drouin says that because Bush administration allies in Congress snuck projected revenues from Arctic drilling into the \$2.5 trillion budget reconciliation bill—which also includes provisions affecting Maine's struggling shipbuilding industry and Medicaid program—Collins and Snowe could end up tipping the balance in favor of drilling.

Of course, Maine's two senators aren't the only ones who hold the Arctic Refuge's fate in their hands. The budget bill vote, expected in late September, will be close. "We can win," says Melinda Pierce, who's leading the Club's efforts to protect the Arctic. "In the House, traditionally a more difficult landscape, we lost the budget vote in April by three votes, and of the 15 Republicans who broke with their party to vote against it, 11 did so because of the Arctic."

Pierce says a growing group of moderate Republicans has pledged to oppose a final budget bill if it has Arctic drilling in it.

When Collins and Snowe ultimately voted for that first round of the budget bill in April, with the Arctic drilling in it, Drouin was crushed.

"Shortly before the vote," she says, "a delegation of Maine Sierra Club volunteers and staff met with Senator Collins and we thanked her for her past support of the Arctic Refuge and for her support of boosting automobile fuel economy and focusing more attention on global warming. It was a very good meeting. She was very respectful. She said she was going to try."

Snowe circulated a letter to Republican leadership urging that Arctic drilling authorization be stripped from the budget bill and both she and Collins voted for an amendment to do so, but that failed by two votes. Then the two senators voted for the entire package.

"They admitted to the press that it was a hard vote for them because it included Arctic drilling," says Drouin. "This upcoming vote is crucial and will show if Senators Snowe and Collins are the Arctic champions they claim to be." Maine Sierra Clubbers are bird-dogging Collins and Snowe while the senators are in the state

during the August recess to remind them of their strong record of support and to make clear this vote would open the Refuge to drilling.

Of course, President Bush and Vice President Cheney will be applying pressure as well.

Budget bills are usually party line votes and congressional Democrats have been united in their opposition to the budget so far this year. So the Club is focusing its grassroots organizing efforts on the seven Republican senators who have opposed Arctic drilling in the past—Snowe, Collins, Mike Dewine of Ohio, Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island, John McCain of Arizona, Gordon Smith of Oregon, and Norm Coleman of Minnesota—and the 29 moderates in the House who have done so as well.

"Plan One is to get Arctic drilling out of the budget," says Drouin. "If that doesn't work, we need 51 votes to defeat the budget bill."

Budget bills are not subject to the filibuster, so a simple majority can pass or stop the bill.

Pierce blasts the administration for abusing the legislative process and slipping this into the budget bill. "Congress should give the Arctic Refuge the complete and careful consideration it deserves—not as a backdoor addition to the budget reconciliation. The speculative revenue gains are too small and the sacrifice too great."

Congress used the same budget maneuver in 1995, but President Clinton vetoed it.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge comprises 19 million acres, but its biological heart is the narrow 1.5 million-acre coastal plain on the shores of the icy Beaufort Sea, home to polar bears, wolves, countless migratory birds, and the birthing grounds for the 129,000-member Porcupine Caribou herd.

"Big oil wants to drill in the very heart of this spectacular landscape—this is the last place in the world we should drill," says Pierce. "Arctic drilling would do nothing to lower the price of gas at the pump, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, or strengthen our national security."

The Sierra Club supports accelerated investment in energy-efficient technologies and the development of renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Pierce says that simply requiring automakers to make cars and trucks that average 40 miles per gallon would save far more oil than could ever be extracted from the



Photographs by Ken Whitten

Arctic Refuge.

Take Action

Sign the Club's petition in support of protecting the Arctic at sierraclub.org/petition/arctic, send a letter to your senators and representative, and write letters to the editor of your local newspapers. (And if you have friends or relatives in Maine, call them and urge them to tell Senators Snowe and Collins that the Arctic Refuge is a national treasure that the majority of Americans want protected.) ■

For more information, contact Jeff Waner at (202) 675-7914 or Melinda Pierce at (202) 675-7912.

Maryland Chapter Leaders

Executive Committee

Betsy Johnson, At-Large Del., Chair
301-656-4948
betsy.johnson@maryland.sierraclub.org

Dan Boone, At-Large Del., Conservation Co-Chair
301-704-5632
dan.boone@maryland.sierraclub.org

Bob DeGroot, At-Large Del.
301-340-8348
ellen.pepin@maryland.sierraclub.org

Ellen Pepin, At-Large Del., Membership Chair, Conservation Co-Chair
ellen.pepin@maryland.sierraclub.org

Jon Robinson, At-Large Del.,
301-422-0064
Jon.Robinson@sierraclub.org

Marc Scott, At-Large Del., Secretary
marc.scott@maryland.sierraclub.org

Earl Bradley, Anne Arundel Del., ACE Representative
Earl.Bradley@maryland.sierraclub.org

Gregor Becker, Catoctin Del.
410-876-2182
gregor.becker@maryland.sierraclub.org

Matt Webb, Eastern Shore Del.
302-831-8163
mctavern@udel.edu

Cliff Terry, Greater Balt. Del. (Alt)
410-944-9477
cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

Glenda Kruger, Howard Del., Co-Treasurer
410-995-1940
glenda.kruger@maryland.sierraclub.org

Ginny Barnes, Montgomery Del.
301-762-WATR
ginny.barnes@maryland.sierraclub.org

Mike Martin, Prince Georges Del.
michael.martin@maryland.sierraclub.org

Bonnie Bick, Southern MD Del.
301-839-7403
bonnie.bick@maryland.sierraclub.org

Sam White, Western MD Del.
301-264-4162
sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org

Issues Contacts

Sam White, Agriculture and CAFO Chair
301-264-4162
sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org

Marc Imlay, Biodiversity, Invasive Species, and Habitat Stewardship Chair
301-283-0808
marc.imlay@maryland.sierraclub.org

Cliff Terry, Campaign Finance Reform Chair
410-944-9477
cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

Chris Carney, D.C. Metro Region Challenge to Sprawl Campaign, Building Environmental Communities Campaign
202-237-0754
chris.carney@sierraclub.org

Bonnie Bick, Environmental Justice Chair
301-839-7403
bonnie.bick@maryland.sierraclub.org

Bob DeGroot, Forests Chair
301-340-8348

Rich Norling, Groundwater Chair
410-734-7720
rich.norling@maryland.sierraclub.org

Kim Birnbaum, Pesticides Chair
410-379-1075
Kim.Birnbaum@maryland.sierraclub.org

Ed Stennett, Population Chair
301-948-0168
bev-ed.stennett@worldnet.att.net

Joan Willey, Public Lands Chair
joan.willey@maryland.sierraclub.org

Steve Caflisch, Transportation Chair
301-654-3288
steve.caflisch@maryland.sierraclub.org

Ed Merrifield, Water Chair
202-222-0707
ed@potomacriverkeeper.org

Jon Robinson, Wildlife Chair
301-422-0064
Jon.Robinson@sierraclub.org

Other Contacts

Walter Jones, BICO Chair
443-394-8192
Walter.Jones@maryland.sierraclub.org

Joan Willey, Fundraising Chair
joan.willey@maryland.sierraclub.org

Jan Graham, Legislative Chair
jan.graham@maryland.sierraclub.org

Daniel Soeder, Outings Chair
410-969-9465
djsoder@yahoo.com

John Fay, PAC Treasurer
301-946-5599
john.fay-mc@maryland.sierraclub.org

Eric Luedtke, Political Chair
ericluedtke@yahoo.com

Clay Birkett, Postmaster
postmaster@maryland.sierraclub.org

Sherry Dixon, Co-Treasurer
sdixon@maryland.sierraclub.org

Rick Andrews, Webmaster
Andrews4art@yahoo.com

Darla Tewell, Newsletter Editor
dtewell@maryland.sierraclub.org

Chapter Staff

Laurel Imlay
301-277-7111
laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org

Office Address

7338 Baltimore Avenue #1A
College Park, MD 20740
Tel: 301-277-7111
Fax: 301-277-6699

Create an Environmental Legacy

Bequests have played a key role in the Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter. For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

John Calaway
Director, Gift Planning
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-977-5639 or e-mail
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Invasive Species Removal and Habitat Restoration

Free the Trees! Removal of Invasives Allows Native Species to Recover

Baltimore

Become an Urban Weed Warrior!

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks has started its own urban Weed Warriors program. Weed warriors can learn about the non-native invasive problem in Baltimore City parks. Training will include weed ID, removal techniques and native alternatives to exotic flora, and will lead to certification as a weed warrior, whereby volunteers can work on their own to help control non-native invasives in Baltimore City parks. There will also be information about organized weed-pull activities. For more information or directions, contact Janelle Burke, Weed Warrior Program Coordinator, at 410-396-0359 or janelle.burke@baltimorecity.gov.

Calvert County

Hellen Creek Preserve

Directions: From Washington, take Rt. 4 south to Calvert County. Turn right at the second light in Lusby, which is Coster/Mill Bridge Road. Take Coster. After passing two rights (Bassford) look for three black mail boxes on the right and turn at the third. Follow Clifton Drive to the first left. Follow to Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust sign. For more info or to receive updates about workdays, e-mail or call Bob Boxwell, Executive Director, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, P.O. Box 336, Lusby, MD 20657, 410-394-1300, or bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

Caroline County

Adkins Arboretum

Adkins Arboretum on Maryland's Eastern Shore is seeking volunteers to assist the staff in the removal of invasive non-natives on the Arboretum's 400-acre site. Volunteers will be trained by the Arboretum staff. Workdays are Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.. For more information, contact Sylvan Kaufman at 410 634-2847, ext. 24.

Charles County

Ruth Swann Park and Chapman Forest

Dates: First Sundays, monthly
Time: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.. Remove invasive non-natives from the 200-acre Swann Park and 800-acre Chapman State Park. There will be time for plant identification and a beautiful beach lunch. Participating organizations include MNPS and Sierra Club. We'll discuss both general methods and species-specific methods, including seasons for individual species removal, wet soil conditions for pulling, extent of area of natives rescued, delayed gratification, targeted use of herbicides, and matching funds for staff to do what volunteers find hard to do. Directions: Meet at Chapman Forest front gate, 25 miles south of Washington Beltway (I-495) on Chapmans Landing Road off Rt. 210 (Indian Head Hwy). Give yourself 30 to 40 minutes from the Beltway. Carpool Info 301-277-7111 Meet at Sierra Club Md. Chapter office at 8:00 a.m.; return 5:00 p.m. Bring gloves, lunch, and water. Durable long sleeves and pants recommended. Contact: Marc Imlay 301-283-0808. RSVP welcome.

Garrett County

Savage River State Forest

Battling "Botanical Bullies" in the Bear Pen Wildlands

Volunteers are needed to help control an infestation of Japanese spiraea in the Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Forest. Bear Pen is designated as a Type 1 Wildland according to the Maryland Wildlands Act. Like other natural areas

around the state, Bear Pen is threatened by a variety of exotic invasive species. However, Ed Thompson, Maryland Heritage and Wildlife Service ecologist, recommended the removal of Spiraea japonica from Bear Pen as a high priority project. First introduced as an ornamental

in the late 1800's, this perennial, deciduous shrub is still sold by many nursery centers. Japanese spiraea forms dense colonies, displacing and reducing populations of many native plants. We'll try to reduce the infestation using two mechanical control methods: cutting with loppers and pulling by hand and/or four-prong spading forks. We'll compare the effectiveness of both techniques. If neither works, we'll consider a chemical control method (pending approval by Maryland DNR staff). Mike Gregory, manager of the Savage River Complex, will provide free camping the night before at New Ger-

many State Park for out-of-town volunteers. We'll provide snacks and drinks. Anyone interested in exploring the Bear Pen Wildlands with us following their volunteer work should pack a brown bag lunch. For more information or to register, please contact Ron Boyer or Liz McDowell at Elk Ridge NatureWorks (info@elkridgenatureworks.com or 301-895-3686).

Howard County

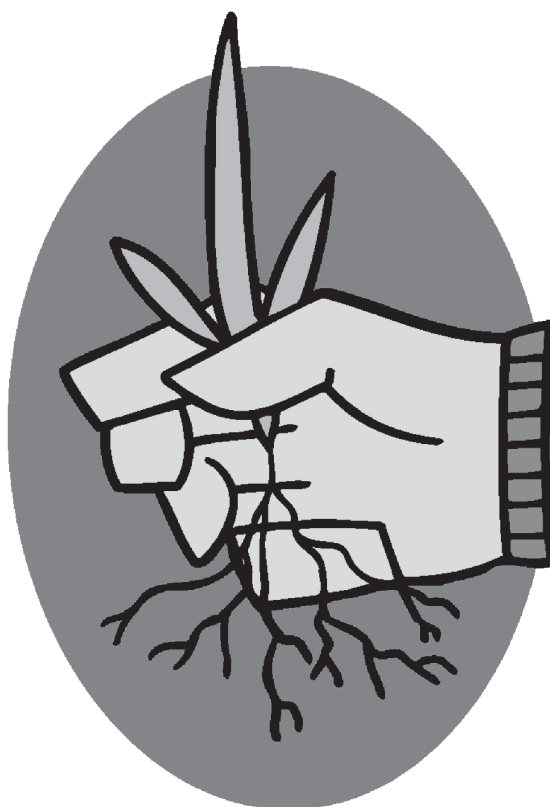
Fort Meade

A partnership between the Department of the Army, the Maryland Native Plant Society, the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club, and volunteers. Help remove Japanese stilt grass, English ivy, garlic mustard, tree of heaven, multiflora rose, crown vetch, Japanese honeysuckle, common privet, phragmites, Asiatic tearthumb, etc. You will receive a short training session from volunteers from the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club or the Maryland Native Plant Society in the identification of, removal and control techniques for non-native invasive plants. People of all ages, backgrounds and interests are invited to spend a day outdoors, hand-pulling some non-native weed populations while learning about the differences between native and non-native plants and helping to preserve the health and native wildlife of the natural areas located on a U.S. Army installation.

Where and When: Fort Meade Army Installation Second Saturday of every month at 10 a.m.

Directions: Take Route 175 East from the 295 Baltimore Washington Parkway. Take Llewellyn Avenue South onto the installation. A Ft. Meade representative will meet you at guard station to escort you to work site. Bring hand tools, gloves, lunch and water. Long sleeves and pants recommended. For information contact

(continued on Page 17)



Invasive Species Removal and Habitat Restoration

Free the Trees!

(continued from Page 16)

Don Marquardt at 301-677-9185 or marquardtd@emh1.ftmeade.army.mil.

Invasive workshops on Patuxent

Research Refuge Patuxent is holding a series of environmental education workshops that will combine a brief educational talk with a work day for any volunteers who come out. Contact Marilyn Eames, Wildlife Biologist, Patuxent Research Refuge, 12100 Beech Forest Road, Suite 138 Laurel, MD 20708, 301-497-5949 or Marilyn_Eames@ws.gov.

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

Do your part to protect Patuxent from alien invaders. Become a weed warrior! Middle Patuxent Environmental Area Conservation Stewardship Project at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) and elsewhere in Howard County will be meeting on the fourth Tuesdays of the month from 9:30 a.m.-noon. Each trip will have both an educational component and a work component. The Conservation Stewardship project is sponsored by Howard County Recreation and Parks and the Howard County Master Gardeners. For information, directions or to register, contact Aylene Gard, 410-992-9889, or Robin Hessey, rmhessey@umd.edu.

Patapsco Valley State Park

For regular monthly events sponsored by Patapsco Riverkeeper for about 10 species of non-native plants contact Lee Walker Oxenham, Patapsco Riverkeeper, Inc at 410-313-8826. Our endeavors will take place at Patapsco Valley State Park - right off Route 1 in Elkridge. Light refreshments will be provided. Bring any pruning and digging gear you have, especially gauntlets. The area is suffering from invasive everything—especially kudzu, ivy

and grape vines, but we also have tree of heaven and mile-a-minute. It's depressing to see all the vines taking over and literally pulling the trees down. Can't wait til we drag them down and FREE THE TREES!

Montgomery County Brookside Gardens

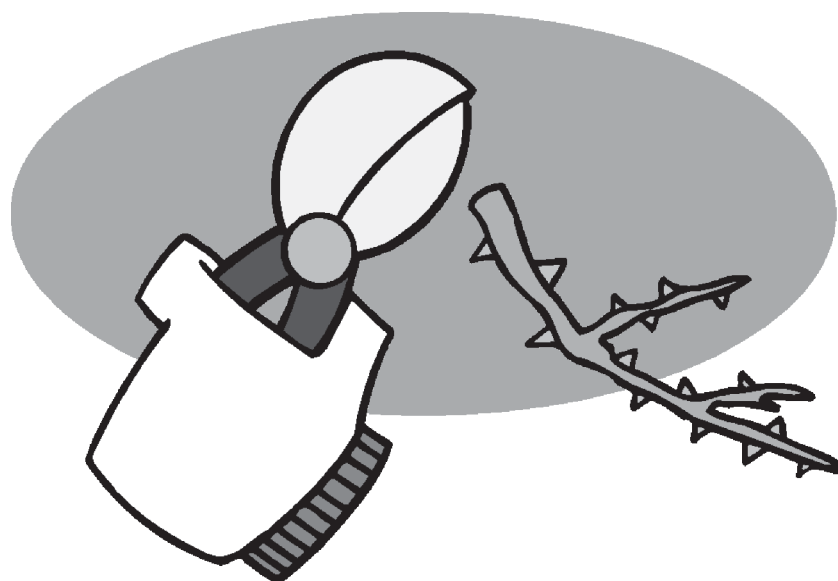
Weed Warriors are needed for the forested areas surrounding the gardens. You will be given directions so that you may work independently, weekends or weekdays, on

Volunteer Coordinators, Audubon Naturalist Society.

Montgomery County Parks

Weed Warriors Wanted!

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) Forest Ecologist is assembling a team of volunteers (Weed Warriors) to monitor and remove non-native invasive plant species in Montgomery County Parks, and we need your help! As a Weed Warrior volunteer, you will receive a short



your own schedule. For information contact: Stacy Parsons 301-962-1417 or stacy.parsons@mncppc-mc.org. Websites: www.BrooksideGardens.org and/or www.MC-MNCPPC.org/environment/weed_warriors/intro.shtm.

Chevy Chase Woodend Sanctuary

The Audubon Naturalist Society is seeking volunteers to help remove non-native plants from its Woodend Sanctuary, in Chevy Chase, MD, every second Saturday of the month between 9 a.m. and noon. Volunteers will be trained by staff and/or experienced volunteers. Call 301-652-9188 x 30 for more information or to sign up. Liz Jones and Regina Sakaria,

est Ecologist, at 301-949-2818 for more info or to sign up.

Sligo Creek Park

The RIP Project in Sligo Creek Park Friends of Sligo Creek expects to launch RIP, its Removing Invasive Plants Project in April. RIP is an all-out effort to remove the invasive vines and shrubs in Sligo Creek. We will gradually build a corps of residents to come out for regular organized events in each section of the park. We welcome anyone who would like to take part in the fun! All Friends of Sligo Creek plant removal activity is done under the auspices of the Parks Department. For more information see www.fosc.org/RIPP.htm, or contact Sally Gagne, sgagne@erols.com, 301-588-2071.

Friends of Sligo Creek invites newcomers to shrub removal events on most fall weekends, October to December. Emphasis on wineberry, bush honeysuckle and multiflora rose. For a list of sites between New Hampshire and Arcola, contact Lea Bonfiglio, 301-807-4697, leabonfiglio@yahoo.com.

Prince George's County

Greenbelt Homes Inc Housing Cooperative, Greenbelt

The Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) housing cooperative in Old Greenbelt has 85.6 acres of stewardship forest as well as other wooded parcels. The Woodlands Committee is actively involved with urban forestry management. Regular work sessions for the removal/eradication of non-native invasive plant species and tree plantings are scheduled throughout the year. Also scheduled are bird counts and native landscaping seminars and guided hikes. For more information on GHI Woodlands

(continued on Page 18)

Invasive Species Removal

Efforts Underway Statewide to Restore Native Habitat

(continued from Page 17)

Committee activities, contact Matt Berres, Landscape Specialist, mberres@ghi.coop or 301-474-4161 ext 132.

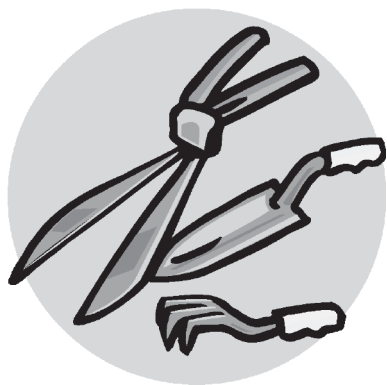
Greenbelt National Park

Greenbelt Invasive Plant Removal first Saturday of each month 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Located just 12 miles from Washington D.C., Greenbelt Park is a beloved retreat from the city and an important refuge for native plants and animals. Come join us in defending Greenbelt Park from encroachment by alien invasive plant growth. Volunteers will be hand pulling harmful non-native plants such as Japanese honeysuckle, beefsteak mint, mile-a-minute weed and garlic mustard. People of all ages, backgrounds and interests are invited to spend a fun day outdoors while learning about the differences between native and non-native plants and helping to preserve the health and native wildlife of this local natural area. Bring lunch, drink, appropriate clothing for weather. Directions: From the Beltway, take Kenilworth Avenue south about 1/4 mile to Greenbelt Rd, MD 193 (Kenilworth goes under 193). Stay to the right so you can take MD 193 East (a left to go over Kenilworth) for only a few hundred yards to the park entrance. Follow the signs to the Sweetgum picnic area. For any questions and information about upcoming events, contact Tom Crone at tomnjan@erols.com or 301-864-1959.

Cheverly

The Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek hosts the monthly removal of non-native invasive plants from Woodworth Park. All age groups can help rescue our native flowers, ferns and other plants from the non-native species which are covering 30-90 percent of the surface area of our parks that we have worked so hard to preserve. Tools are provided, but wear work gloves

and sturdy shoes. Contact Cathy and Dan Smith at 301 386-0889. Directions: Take 202 East under the BW parkway. Go one block and turn right on Cheverly. Go one mile and turn left on Forest Road. Go 2 blocks passing Church on left and turn right on Parkway. Go two blocks and turn left on Wayne for one block. We meet there at the park by the small playground.



Anacostia Watershed Society Assists Weed Warriors

Non-native invasive species of plants such as English ivy, Japanese stiltgrass and kudzu are covering the natural areas that we in the conservation movement have worked so hard to protect from destruction, erosion and water pollution. Just as we are making progress on wetlands, stream bank stabilization, and endangered species, these plants from other parts of the world have covered 30-90% of the surface area of our forests, streams and meadows. Many of us feel demoralized and powerless to combat these invaders that have few natural herbivores or other controls.

The Anacostia Watershed Society is establishing a program to provide local friends groups and public and private landowners with several models to draw upon in the Anacostia watershed and in the region. We are assisting in developing a major work effort (three to five years) at each site to remove massive

populations of about a dozen species. Regular stewardship projects are conducted in all seasons including winter, early spring, late spring, summer, and late summer. This high-intensity program is followed by a low-intensity annual maintenance program to eliminate plants we have missed, plants emerging from the seed bank, and occasional plants migrating in from neighboring areas. Several ongoing projects we are presently conducting include Magruder Park, Hyattsville, Little Paint Branch Park and Cherry Hill Road Community Park in Beltsville. Please contact Marc Imlay, PhD, Conservation biologist, Anacostia Watershed Society (301-699-6204, 301-283-0808) for dates and times.

St. Mary's County

Myrtle Point Park

Directions: From Washington, take Route 4 south, crossing over the Patuxent River at Solomons. About two miles past the bridge, make a right onto Patuxent Blvd. Go about two miles to Myrtle Point Park. Meet in the Park lot. For more info, or to receive updates about workdays e-mail or call Bob Boxwell, Executive Director, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, bobboxwell@hotmail.com. or 410-394-1300.

American Chestnut Land Trust

Join the Holly Arboretum Volunteer Crew as they maintain the historic holly trees at Warrior's Rest. Work includes invasive vine removal, mulching, mowing & pruning. Bring work gloves, clippers and a smile. September 10, 2005, American Chestnut Land Trust, Post Office Box 204, Port Republic, MD 20676 Phone: 410-586-1570 Fax: 410-586-0468. ■

True Cost of Food Campaign



Monthly Restaurant Outings

Monday, September 26 6:30 pm

AMMA VEGETARIAN KITCHEN
3291 M St., NW (upstairs)
Indian

Georgetown

Metro to Metro Bus: Dupont Circle to 62 Georgetown U Bus at P St & 17th St to P St and 33rd St. OR

Metro to Connection Bus: Foggy Bottom or Dupont Circle to Georgetown Metro Connection Bus.

Monday, October 24 6:30 pm

MESKEREM ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT
2434 18th St, NW

Ethiopian

Adams Morgan

Bus: L2, 90, or 98 Bus

Metro: Woodley Park plus a 10-15 minute walk

Saturday, November 19 12:00-4:00 pm

THANKSGIVING DINNER AT POPLAR
SPRING ANIMAL SANCTUARY

15200 Mt. Nebo Road,
Poolesville, Maryland

Participants are asked to bring a \$10 donation to the sanctuary and a vegan dish to share.

Please RSVP to Susan Prolman at prolmans@aol.com

Outings (September)

Sierra Club outings are open to everyone, members and non-members alike. Activities are normally held “rain or shine” at the leader’s discretion, but some outings, such as those involving watercraft, may be postponed in the event of severe weather. Please check with the leader if the weather appears threatening. Reservations are generally not required, unless noted in the announcement.

Each outing is intended to be a wholesome, safe, and enjoyable experience in the outdoors. Participants must have the proper clothing, equipment, and stamina suitable to the event. Sierra Club policy requires that helmets be worn on bicycling outings, and that personal flotation devices (PFDs) be worn on outings using watercraft.

Participants are encouraged to select trips that match their own individual suitability for outdoor adventures. The Club offers a variety of activities from “easy” to “strenuous” that suit all activity levels. The difficulty of each outing activity is clearly designated at the end of the announcement. (See the note below on how outings difficulty is calculated and rated). If you have questions about the terrain, the duration of the trip, or about recommended clothing or equipment, please contact the outing leader. Please remember that the Club outing leader is responsible for the safety of all participants. The leader has the final authority to decide whether or not an individual may participate on a specific outing.

Unless noted in the announcement, Club outings are intended for adults. Before bringing a minor to an outing that is not specifically designated for children, please consult the leader to determine if it is appropriate. Minors (under 18 years of age) must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian, or they must have both 1) a signed permission slip, and 2) the leader’s prior consent, to participate in the Club outing.

All outdoor activities carry some risk. Participants should be aware that

some of the more adventurous Club outings are to places where professional emergency medical aid may be two or more hours away. People with health concerns should consult their doctor to determine the advisability of participating in these or similar activities.

Sierra Club outings normally begin and end officially at the trailhead, canoe put-in/take-out point, or some other similar staging locality. Travel to the official starting point and back, even from an advertised meeting place, is the sole responsibility of each participant. While the Club encourages car-pooling, such arrangements are strictly between the riders and the drivers, and are not a part of the outing. Participants must assume full responsibility and liability for all risks associated with such travel.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, it is available on the Sierra Club website, at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/index.asp>.

Most outings in the Maryland Chapter are run at the group level, with limited chapter and inter-chapter events. The group originating the outing is identified in parentheses at the end of the leader contact information. These and other abbreviations are detailed below:

AA: Anne Arundel County Group
CG: Catoclin Group
ES: Eastern Shore Group
GB: Greater Baltimore Group
GWNF: George Washington National Forest (VA)
HC: Howard County Group
MC: Montgomery County Group
MD: Maryland Chapter
MNF: Monongahela National Forest (WV)
MW: Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP)

SM: Southern Maryland Group
SNP: Shenandoah National Park
WM: Western Maryland Group

Sierra Club outings are free of charge, unless specified in the announcement. However, the Club may ask for a donation to help defray the expenses associated with the outings program. Sierra Club outings practice “leave-no-trace” trail techniques. Take only pictures, leave only footprints, and have fun out there. See you outside!

Dan Soeder,
Chapter Outings Chair
410-969-9465
djsoeder@yahoo.com

MWROP’S HIKE RATING SYSTEM

One point is assigned to each mile & each 400 feet in elevation change (up and down) - the higher the points, the more difficult a hike. For example, a 5 mile hike with 1,200 feet of elevation change (400 feet up plus 800 ft. down), is given a total of 8 points and rated “B”; an 8 mile hike with an elevation change of 3,600 feet is assigned a total of 17 points and rated “E”

HIKE RATINGS

Rating	Points
A (Easy)	7 or fewer
B (Easy)	8-10
C (Moderate)	11-13
D (Moderate)	14-16
E (Moderate)	17-19
F (Hard)	20-22
G (Hard)	23-25
H (Hard)	>25

September

Sat. Sep. 10: Sunset Rocks, Michaux Forest, PA. (*Rated Moderate*) 9 mile circuit hike with a scenic overlook, rock scrambling on the Sunset Rocks Trail and rambling along Toms Run on the Appalachian Trail. 600 ft. elevation change. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ron Arnold, 410-767-0106 (HC).

Sat. Sep. 10: Great North Mountain Circuit Hike. (*Rated Strenuous*) Big Schloss and Little Schloss. Scenic overlooks of West Virginia mountains. 17 miles with 3,000 feet elevation change. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center 7:30 AM. Inexperienced hikers call for requirements. **Leaders:** William Needham 410-884-9127 or Needham82@aol.com and Jack Thorsen 703-339-6716 or Thorsen4@juno.com (MW)

Sat. Sep. 17: Little North Mountain, GWNF, VA. (*Rated Moderate*) 7.5 mile circuit hike with a half mile of bushwhacking and one mile of road walking. Grand views of the Shenandoah Valley and Massanutten Mountain. Discover an out-of-place sphagnum peat bog. Wear long pants for the bushwhack.. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com (HC).

Sat. Sep. 17: International Coastal Cleanup Day. (*Not Rated*) Pick up beach trash at Terrapin Nature Area on the Chesapeake Bay, then eat lunch on the beach and return to Columbia by 1:30. Bring lunch and water. Depart at

Outings (September, October)

8:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Sue Muller, 301-498-8462, sonicsue@boo.net (HC)

Sun. Sep. 18: Gunpowder Falls, Sweet Air Area. (Rated *Moderate*) Energetic 10-mile hike at a strenuous pace. Observe a variety of vegetation as we hike through rolling woods, around open fields, cross the Gunpowder twice and end in a beautiful grove of pine trees. Enjoy simple plaques with quotes to ponder throughout the park. Bring water shoes for the crossings, lunch, water and a ready spirit. Depart at 9:00 from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. Or call to meet north of Baltimore. **Leader:** Mary Starr, 410-889-6323, starrways@cs.com (HC)

Sat. Sept. 24: Tuckahoe Creek Canoe/Kayak Trip (Not Rated) We will identify and celebrate the abundant wildlife and discuss the ecology as we paddle down this beautiful, secluded stream. Sierra Club policy requires personal flotation devices be worn by all participants on water outings. **Leaders:** Sandy and Lee Curry, 410-267-0324, and Judy Mauriello, 410-647-9641. (AA)

Fri.-Sun. Sep. 23-25: High Meadows/Seneca Creek Backpack, MNF, WV. (Rated *Moderate*) Car camp at primitive Spruce Knob Campground on Friday night. Backpack 13 miles from Spruce Knob to the headwaters of Seneca Creek on Saturday/Sunday. Enjoy the outstanding early fall foliage. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com (HC).

Sat. Sep. 24: Blockhouse Point (Rated *Moderate*) 7 mile hike, starting flat at Pennyfield Lock on the historic

C&O canal, then over hilly terrain leading to a great view of the Potomac River from the cliffs over the canal. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:**



Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net (HC).

Sat. Sept. 24: Catoctin Mountain Park/Cunningham Falls State Park, Thurmont, MD. (Rated *Moderate*) Moderately-paced 8.5-mi. circuit hike with about 1800 feet of elevation change. See beautiful waterfall, then 5 overlooks with magnificent views. Limited to 12 people. **Leader:** Ted Conwell, 301-589-1513 before 9 PM. (MW)

Sun. Sep. 25: Lands of American Chestnut Land Trust. (Rated *Moderate*) Two circuits totaling about 11 mi. of moderate-paced hiking and about 2,000 ft. of elev. change in private nature preserve close to Chesapeake Bay in Calvert Co., Md. The route traverses secluded area of woodlands, fields, and marshes, including one huge chestnut. See MWROP website after Sept. 15 for details. Joint event with AMC/DC. **Leader:** Paul Elliott 703-256-6351. (MW)

October

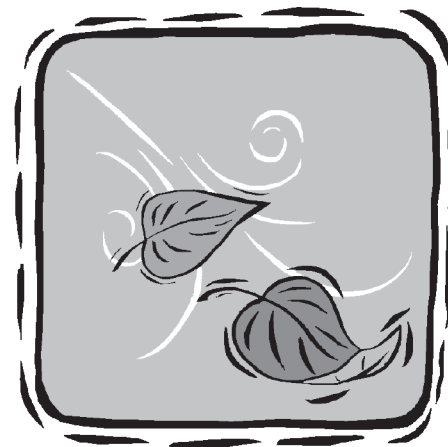
Sun. Oct. 2: Susquehanna State Park. (Rated *Moderate*) 8 mile hike beginning at the historic Rock Run Grist Mill by the Susquehanna River. Hike through tall stands of deciduous and pine trees, including a stop at one of oldest white oak trees in Maryland. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. **Leader:** Ron Arnold, 410-767-0106 (HC).

Sun. Oct. 2: Bike BWI (Rated *Moderate*) Take a bicycle ride on the BWI Hiker-Biker Trail, and see how enviro-friendly MTA can be when they want to. Meet at Marley Station Mall (Route 2 just north of Route 100) at 10 AM in the parking lot by JC Penney. We'll ride the BWI loop trail at a moderate pace around the airport for a total of about 20 miles. Trails are asphalt paved, family-friendly, and kids accompanied by an adult are welcome on this outing. There are many opportunities to bail out early for those wishing to ride shorter distances. Longer-distance riders can participate in an optional 20-mile ride afterward on the B+A trail to Route 50 and back. Heavy/steady rain cancels. Bring bicycle, snack and water. Sierra Club policy requires all participants to wear helmets. **Leader:** Dan Soeder, 410-969-9465, djsoder@yahoo.com (MD).

Sat. Oct. 8: Old Rag Mountain, VA. (Rated *Strenuous*) 9 mile hike with some rock scrambling. Enjoy the fall color and a great view. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 7:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net (HC).

Sat. Oct. 8: Southern SNP Circuit Hike. (Rated *Strenuous*) Furnace Mountain and Jones Run Trail. Three waterfalls. Return on Madison Run Fire Road. 16 mi., 3,500 feet elevation change. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center 7:30am. Inexperienced hikers call for requirements. **Leaders:** William Needham (410-884-9127 or Needham82@aol.com) and Jack Thorsen (703-339-6716 or Thorsen4@juno.com) (MW)

Sat.-Mon. Oct. 8-10: Great North Mountain Backpack, GWNF, VA/WV. (Rated *Strenuous*) 21+ mile backpack featuring four fantastic overlooks. Observe the effects of long ago and recent logging in this otherwise beautiful area. Hike 7 miles on day 1, 10 miles on day 2 and 5 miles on day 3. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com (HC).



Fri.-Sun. Oct. 14-16: Maryland Chapter Jamboree. (Not Rated) Big gathering in Catoctin Mountain Park. Outing activities during the Jamboree will include bird watching, conservation and nature hikes, outing leader training, and outings strategic planning. More details are available on the web at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org>. Also, donations are needed for a silent auction fundraiser. If you have any

Outings (October, November)

goods or services to offer (like books, pictures, tee shirts, massage, art lessons, etc.), please contact Betsy Johnson at
betsy_johnson@comcast.net (MD)

Sat. Oct. 15: Rachel Carson Conservation Park. (Rated *Easy*) 5-6 mile hike, to view fall foliage and late summer wildflowers. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:15 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Sue Muller, 301-498-8462, sonicsue@boo.net (HC).

Sat.-Mon. Oct. 15-17: Cranberry Wilderness Backpack, MNF, WV. (Rated *Moderate*) Backpack 24 miles over 3 days (7+10+7). Enjoy fall colors on this circuit along the North Fork of Cranberry River, Cranberry River, Beechlog Run, Laurelly Run and Middle Fork of Williams River. Experienced backpackers only. Limit of 10 participants. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com (HC).

Sun. Oct. 16: Appalachian Trail in Maryland, Smithsburg-Wolfsville Rd. to Pen Mar. (Rated *Moderate*) We'll do 10 mi. on the AT from the Smithsburg-Wolfsville Rd. crossing to PenMar State Park at the MD/PA border, with about 1,500 ft. of elev. change. Meet at 8AM at Shady Grove Metro tunnel entrance to carpool. **Leaders:** Marjorie Richman 301-320-5509 (before 9pm), mar0522@aol.com and Christine Ford 703/425-6899 (before 9pm). (MW)

Sat.-Sun Oct. 22-23: Conservation Outing: Assateague Island National Seashore (Rated *Easy to Moderate*) From a base camp, we will day-hike to explore this marvelous barrier island's flora and fauna, including the famous wild ponies, and discuss park management challenges such as

surrounding land-use practices and water quality in Chincoteague Bay. This joint Sierra Club event sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP), the Maryland Chapter and the Delaware Chapter will be a great way to meet others from the tri-state area and swap wilderness tales. Park entrance fee required. Limited to first 20 sign-ups. **(Full, but sign up for the waiting list.) Leaders:** Bob Goldberg (MWROP), 301-540-2915 before 9pm, or r.n.goldberg@att.net, Dan Soeder (MD) and Jenny Egan (DE).

Sat. Oct. 29: Kings Gap Environmental Center, PA. (Rated *Moderate*) 8.3 mile circuit hike through a hardwood forest with some views. Search for unusual mushrooms. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com (HC).

Sat. Oct. 29: Sweet Air (Rated *Moderate*) Approximately 6 miles of hilly terrain. Mud is likely in places. Bring lunch and water. Will discuss the ecology of this area. Meet at the small shopping center on the southeast corner of the intersection of 152 and Baldwin Mill Road at 10:00. **Leader:** Betsy, 410-569-5202. (GB)

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 29-30: Michaux Forest Camping at Caledonia State Park. (Rated *Moderate*) Day hiking along lakes and streams with good mountain views. Will discuss the history of this area. **Leader:** Jack, 410-256-3963. (GB)

Sun. Oct. 30: Savage Park, Wincopin Trail. (Rated *Moderate*) 7 mile hike along the Middle and Little Patuxent Rivers, easy except for a few hills and rocky parts. Bring lunch and water.

Meet at 9:00 (change your clock!) at Patuxent Valley Middle School, off Vollmerhausen Road just west of Savage Guilford Rd. **Leader:** Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net (HC).

November

Sat. Nov. 5: Kelly's Run & Pinnacle Overlook (Rated *Moderate*) 7-8 miles with great views of the Susquehanna River. Good chance of seeing bald eagles. Will also see hawks and water fowl as they migrate down the Susquehanna River. Meet at the K-Mart on Belair Road (Rt. 1) just north of Beltway exit 32 at 10:00 AM. **Leader:** Jack, 410-256-3963. (GB)

Sat. Nov. 5: Little Devils Stairs, SNP, VA. (Rated *Strenuous*) 8-mile hike in Shenandoah NP, rough and steep at times. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 7:30 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net (HC).

Sat.-Sun. Nov. 5-6: Massanutten Mountain Backpack, VA. (Rated *Strenuous*) 16+ mile trek with 2500+ feet of elevation gain, following the southern sections of the east and west ridges. Visit Duncan Knob and close

the loop at Jawbone Gap / Crisman Hollow. Experienced backpackers only. Limit of 10 participants. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com (HC).

Sun. Nov. 12: Muddy Creek Hike (Rated *Moderate*). 7-8 miles on Mason Dixon Trail through a very scenic steam valley. Will discuss the geology of the area. Meet at the K-Mart on Belair Road (Rt. 1) just north of Beltway exit 32 at 10:00 AM. **Leader:** Jack, 410-256-3963 (GB)

Sat. Nov. 12: Central SNP Circuit Hike (Rated *Strenuous*) 17 mi., 4,000 feet elevation change to Double Top Mountain. Visit to Camp Hoover, the original presidential retreat. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center 7:30 AM. Inexperienced hikers call for requirements. **Leaders:** William Needham (410-884-9127 or Needham82@aol.com) and Jack Thorsen (703-339-6716 or Thorsen4@juno.com) (MW)

Sat. Nov. 19: Bull Run Mountains Conservancy, VA. (Rated *Moderate*) 7.5 mile circuit hike visiting a historic mill, graveyards, and Civil War battle sites. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com (HC).

Fri. Nov. 25: Work off that turkey meal! (Not Rated) Hike TBA, leader's choice. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com (HC).



Outings (December, January)

December

Sat. Dec. 3: Gunpowder Falls State Park (Rated *Moderate*) Hike 6 to 8 miles below Prettyboy Dam. Meet at Mt. Carmel Park & Ride at 11:00 AM. **Leader:** Jack, 410-256-3963. (GB)

Sat. Dec. 3: Sugarloaf Mountain. (Rated *Moderate*) 8-mile hike featuring rocky outcrops with sweeping views. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com (HC).

Sat. Dec. 17: Chimney Rocks, Michaux Forest, PA. (Rated *Moderate*) 9-10 mile circuit hike with one very steep climb. View Waynesboro Reservoir from high atop Buzzard Rock. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com (HC).



Sun. Dec. 18: Gunpowder Falls, Hereford Area. (Rated *Moderate*) Energetic 10 mile hike, at a brisk, strenuous pace. Hike along the Gunpowder and through rolling

woods. Enjoy the sparkle of some of the cleanest water around as it winds around and over rocks. Bring lunch, water and a ready spirit. Depart at 9:00 from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. **Leader:** Mary Starr, 410-889-6323, starrways@cs.com (HC).

January 2006

Sun. Jan. 1, 2006: Buck Hollow Loop, SNP, VA. (Rated *Strenuous*) 10+ mile circuit hike. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com (HC).

Fri.-Mon., Jan. 13-16 : Cross Country Skiing in Western Maryland (Rated *Moderate*) Cross Country skiing at New Germany State Park. Beginners welcome. For details call leader by December 31st (if possible) **Leader:** Jack 410-256-3963 (GB).

Sun. Jan. 22: Local Cross Country Skiing (Rated *Moderate*) If there is not enough snow a hike in Loch Raven will be held. Meet at Loch Raven High School, Cromwell Bridge Road and Cowpens Avenue at 11:00 AM. **Leader:** Jack at 410-256-3963. (GB)

BICO Outings

Sierra Club Inner City Outings is a community outreach program providing opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world.

Baltimore Inner City Outings (BICO) was founded in 1999 with the goal of providing under-served Baltimore City youth with educational, enjoyable and safe outdoor experiences at no cost to them. Since start-up, BICO has conducted more than 210 outings, serving over 2300 youngsters.

September 2005

Sat 10 Hiking at Harper's Ferry FYC
Sun 11 BICO Meeting All
Sun 18 Hiking at Patapsco State Park Choice

October 2005

Sat 15 Living Classrooms shipboard program DHH, CGCC & FYC
Sun 16 Ellioak Farm Choice
Sat-Sun 29-30 Leadership Training, Assateague Island National Park All



November 2005

TBD Harper's Ferry Choice
Sat 12 or Sat 19 National Zoo, Washington, D.C. FYC

December 2005

Sat 17 Recreation & Parks service outing and ice skating at Patterson Park FYC

BICO Teams:

Choice (UMBC Shriver Center's Choice program)
CG CC (College Gardens Community Center)
DHH (Digital Harbor High School)
FYC (Franciscan Youth Center)

For additional information on BICO (Baltimore Inner City Outings), see www.sierraclub.org/ico/baltimore. Call Walter Jones at 443-394-8192, or by e-mail at wjones@icmarc.org for information on rain delays.

Members Interests Survey

May We Have a Minute or Two of Your Time?



Please take a couple minutes to tell us what environmental issues you care most about, and how we can better recruit and activate new members.

1. What life experiences inspired your concern for the environment?
2. What environmental issues concern you most? Why?
3. Have you taken any initiatives (in addition to joining the Sierra Club) to help protect the environment?
4. Would you like to attend regular meetings or activities with other Sierra Club members in your area?
☐ Yes ☐ No
5. If so, when would you be available? Please check all that apply.
☐ Friday evening ☐ Saturday evening ☐ Sunday afternoon ☐ Sunday evening ☐ Other _____
6. If you were to participate in a local Sierra Club committee, which one(s) would you prefer?
☐ Conservation ☐ Membership ☐ Outings ☐ Education ☐ Legal ☐ Political ☐ Fundraising
☐ Legislative ☐ Other _____
7. Would you be interested in participating in any of the following?
☐ Staffing an information table ☐ Attending a hearing or event ☐ Making phone calls ☐ Helping with mailings
☐ Hosting a meeting at your house ☐ Planning programs

Questions? Call 301-277-7111 or e-mail Laurel at laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org. THANKS!

Name _____ County _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

Occupation & skills _____

Please Clip and Mail to: Sierra Club MD 101A, 7338 Baltimore Ave, College Park, MD 20740



Credits

The Chesapeake is published quarterly by the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club. Annual Sierra Club membership dues pay for subscription to this publication. Non-members may subscribe for \$20.00 per year.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are in general aligned with those of the environmental community in Maryland but are strictly those of the authors and not necessarily official policy of local, state or national Sierra Club entities. The Sierra Club prides itself on being a grassroots volunteer organization. The concerns and opinions of all its members are welcome in these pages.

Items for publication are best submitted by email to <maryland.chapter@sierraclub.org> or <laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org> with "For Chesapeake" and title in subject line. Items must include the author's address and telephone numbers. Material may be edited for length, content or clarity at the discretion of the editor. Photographs, illustrations and other works of art are welcome. Materials cannot be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self addressed envelope.

Change of address: send address changes to the Sierra Club, 85 Second Street (2nd Floor), San Francisco, California 94705-3441. For fastest service, please include your old and new addresses along with your 8-digit membership number. For local membership information contact the Maryland Chapter Office 301-277-7111 or write: Maryland Chapter/Sierra Club, 7338 Baltimore Ave (Suite 101A), College Park, MD 20740.

Advertising: For display and classified advertising rates and information, contact:
Editor, The Chesapeake
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
7338 Baltimore Ave, Suite 101
College Park, MD 20740

The Maryland Chapter wishes to thank those who contributed to this issue of *Chesapeake*.

Writers and Contributors: Bonnie Bick, Betsy Johnson, Laurel Imlay, Linda Fennell, Charlie Garlow, Earl Bradley, Ellen Pepin, Dan Boone, Carl Pope, Ed Stennett, William Needham, John Byrne Barry, Marc Imlay, Dan Soeder

Editors: Dan Boone, Laurel Imlay, Betsy Johnson, Janis Oppelt, Ellen Pepin, Annie Rehill, Ed Stennett, Darla Tewell

Outings Editor: Dan Soeder

Photos: Jim Long, Jon Robinson, Ken Whitten

Layout and Typography: Darla Tewell

Action Items

September: Call or write your senators and representative to oppose drilling in the Arctic!
October 1-2 Tour of Solar and Energy-Efficient Homes
October 14-16 Chapter Jamboree in the Catoctins
By October 24: Submit statement for ex-com election
Anytime: maryland.sierraclub.org/action

Put in your two cents worth! See our interest survey, page 23.



inside this issue ...

- *Register for the Jamboree!*
- Chapman Forest, Past and Future
- The ICC: It's Not Over Yet
- The Endangered Species Act Endangered
- Exxpose Exxon! Drive Past the Pump!
- Judgment Day for the Arctic Refuge
- No to LNG Storage in Avondale
- Outing, Events, Much More

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WALDORF, MD
PERMIT NO 152