

Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Spring 2005

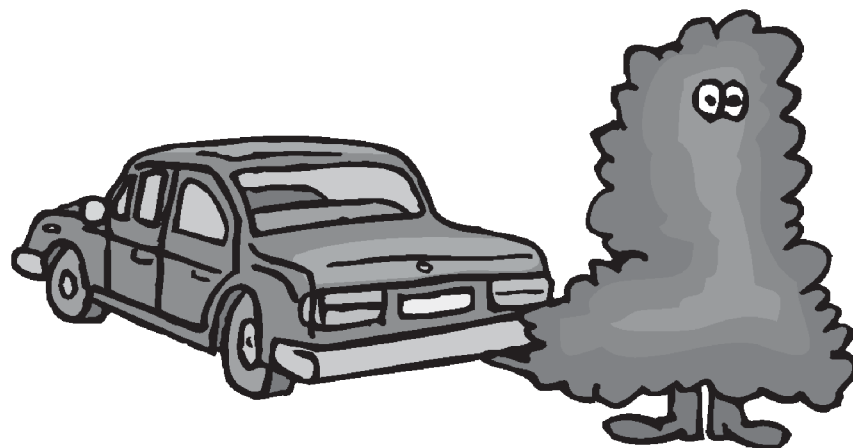
Cleaner Air, Cleaner Cars, and Other Green Legislation Pending in Annapolis

Cleaner Cars Campaign Kicks into Overdrive!

by Charlie Garlow —The Clean Cars Act, Senate Bill 366 and House Bill 564, has been introduced, and the Sierra Club's campaign has peeled out in first gear!

Our opening salvo was a poll showing that Maryland residents support cleaner cars legislation and don't trust the car companies to clean up their act without a kick in the tailpipe. The results were overwhelming 80 percent or more support our position in favor of cleaner cars. We hope to use this and other information to persuade the Legislature to adopt this bill after years of bottling it up in committee.

More welcome news: Our nearby neighbor New Jersey passed this same bill last year, effectively adopting the more stringent multistate, low-emission vehicle standards, level II (LEVII), first required by California and now by several other states, including New York and most of New England. Canada has pledged to do better than the weaker federal standards, too. We are on a roll. Adopting these cleaner standards will make it possible for Marylanders to get more of the super ultralow emission vehicles and the even cleaner partial zero emis-



sion vehicles (PZEV) at their local auto dealers, usually high-mileage hybrids, without having to wait so long.

SB 366, introduced in the Judicial Proceedings Committee by Senator Grosfeld and ten other senators, is the companion bill to HB 564, introduced in the House Environmental Matters committee by thirty-two delegates including Bobo, Bronrott and other friends of environmental legislation.

We need this bill because the weaker federal car standards have not been doing enough to clean up the severe non-attainment (violation) status of the Baltimore and Washington DC suburban air quality. Smog is fierce

(continued on page 3)

Four Pollutants Bill to Curb Emissions at Power Plants

by Charlie Garlow —SB 744 and HB 1169, the "4Ps" bill, would require the best available control technology on coal plants to reduce emissions of NO_x, SO₂, mercury and CO₂. Here are a few of their effects: smog and nitrogen loading in the Bay, acid rain, neurological damage from mercury, and global warming from the carbon dioxide.

But: good news! The president of the Senate, Mike Miller, said recently that the 4Ps bill will pass. This bill is needed because coal-fired power plants are one of the biggest sources of all four pollutants. If we can get this bill passed into law, we will knock a large hunk out of our air and water pollution problems, as well as providing leadership to other states and, eventually, to the U.S. Congress. Wow. What a way to start the session, with that kind of enthusiasm from the leadership!

This bill is akin to similar legislation proposed on the federal level by Senators McCain and Lieberman, which would cut emissions of these four pollutants. Though the U.S. Senate bill failed last year, it got many more votes than expected. In the House, a companion bill was introduced by two of Maryland's own congressmen, VanHollen (D) and Gilchrest (R). It makes one proud to be a Marylander!

Call the state legislature to support the 4Ps bill, 1-800-492-7122 or call Charlie at 301-593-9823. ■



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Betsy Johnson, Chair

Wind Is Proving To Be a Promising Part of Our Energy Picture in Certain Parts of the Country. But Is It Right for Maryland and the East Coast?

There are no panaceas. I'm old enough to know that everything has its ups and downs, its positives and negatives. And through the years we have seen "solutions" result in new problems that need to be solved. From hydroelectric and nuclear power to invasive plants and animals that were introduced to solve specific problems, there is a long list of solutions that have resulted in new problems—some severe, some only irritations. But, still, we tend to race to accept the next big engineering marvel, helped along by a hyperactive advertising industry and highly paid lobbyists.

Now we have wind turbines. Wind is proving to be a promising part of our energy picture in certain parts of the country. The Sierra Club has a position in favor of wind energy as long as it is *properly sited*. And therein lies the rub: What constitutes proper siting? This has proved to be a controversial topic, and you may have seen some news about this in the papers recently. This article intends to inform you about positions and actions taken by your Chapter Executive Committee on the subject of the siting of wind turbines.

In Maryland, there are three places that have enough wind to make wind energy here economically viable*: the Appalachian ridge tops in Western Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Ocean City and Assateague National Seashore. Since it is less expensive to develop the ridges and no federal permits are required on these sites (thus avoiding NEPA safeguards), the wind companies are going there first.

Your Chapter Executive Committee has concerns about this. The Appalachian ridges are long-time migration routes for a number of species of birds. Bats are also plentiful there, and recently completed studies have shown that existing wind facilities in West Virginia and Pennsylvania have significantly affected them. The forests on those mountain ridges constitute an ecosystem that is important to a whole range of species. There are serious problems associated with forest fragmentation that would occur as the roads and clearings are created to support the wind projects. (See <http://johnrsweet.com/Personal/Wind/windpix4.html>.)

Moreover, as the chart on page 10 shows, even if we developed all of the potential wind facilities on the Appalachian ridges in the Mid-Atlantic region, the

amount of available wind energy would provide only a small portion of the electricity needed to supply the region's demands. We question whether that small increase in renewable energy justifies damaging an important ecosystem.

Therefore, the Executive Committee has voted to support the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommendations that three consecutive years of wildlife studies be completed before wind facilities are sited atop Appalachian ridges. We have also voted to be intervenors in the permitting of a wind plant proposed by Synergics Wind Energy LLC.

As intervenors, we have learned that Synergics plans to use a one-year study commissioned by another company, Clipper Windpower Inc, in its own application for permits to build facilities on another Appalachian site. The findings of the Clipper study have not been released.

We do not feel that it is appropriate for Synergics to use Clipper's study, as it was done for a different site, and for only one year. Thus, we support the controversial position of four intervenors in the Clipper permitting case that the study not be released.

One of those intervenors is our Conservation Chair, Dan Boone. Dan, a conservation biologist, was involved in the case before he become our Conservation Chair. The study results remain sealed because Clipper initially required that a non-disclosure clause be included in the settlement agreement with the intervenors.

Unfortunately, some wind power enthusiasts have chosen to publicly attack *only* Dan Boone for not agreeing to release the study data. In their attacks, they do not reveal the reason for Dan's reluctance, which is that the study data would be used to further the permitting case of a wind developer whose permit the Maryland Chapter is contesting. Nor do they reveal that all of the intervenors must agree to release the study data. This public attack diminishes all in the environmental community, and we have requested that those responsible cease and desist.

If you would like to comment on this issue we welcome your remarks. ■

** Utility-scale wind energy projects generate relatively large amounts of electricity and have considerable federal tax and other incentives to spur their development. However, there are substantial opportunities to install smaller turbines in Maryland that would have far fewer environmental impacts and would significantly help to offset local demand for power.*

Annapolis Watch: Forests, Energy

Protect the Crabtree Creek Old-Growth Forest

Designation as Wildland Would Grant Permanent Protection

by Bob DeGroot—The Maryland Chapter is supporting HB 1244, the bill that would permanently protect the Crabtree Creek old-growth forest by designating it as a “Wildland.” Under the Wildlands law, the legislature can protect certain publicly owned areas from logging or other incursions, and thus preserve them for future generations. Designating Crabtree Creek a Wildland will ensure that this rare forest remains intact to nurture species that depend upon its conditions.

On a slope above Crabtree Creek is the largest old-growth forest left in Maryland—the only site where one can view

and enjoy an extensive area forest that has remained relatively undisturbed by commercial logging activity throughout its history. This amazing natural area is not just aesthetically pleasing. The conditions found in the old-growth forest support an incredible diversity of species, providing abundant food and shelter to a variety of plants and animals that cannot find congenial habitat in frequently logged areas.

Please contact your legislators to express your support for this bill. For more information, contact Bob DeGroot, Forests Chair, at BobDeGroot@comcast.net or 301-340-8348. ■

Creating an Appalachian Preserve

by Bob DeGroot—An Appalachian Wildlands Preserve is being proposed to provide wildlife with connecting corridors from Georgia up through Pennsylvania. Only by designing large bioregions can we ever hope to return balance to the animal kingdom and provide sufficient habitat for all species of plants and animals.

This bill will attempt to protect the 43,000 acre Green Ridge State Forest in Western Maryland as a step toward creating the Appalachian Preserve. The New York State Legislature took a similar step in 1892 when they created the Adirondack Forest Preserve, which now covers more than 6 million acres.

Many species of plants and animals require mature forests of relatively large

acreage to ensure their survival. These species include a variety of birds that spend much of their life in the tropics, but fly to the United States or Canada during the summer months to rear their young. Many of the less common species of lichens are found only in mature forests. The richness of herbaceous plants like ferns, especially those associated with springs or wet areas, is consistently found in greater abundance in older forests. Large mature forests occur infrequently in the East and old-growth forests (usually considered to be forests over 200 years old) are the most rare type of habitat. Scientists have recommended that “diversity maintenance zones” for species adapted to old-growth conditions be preserved in contiguous blocks of at least 50,000 acres or more.

Please contact your legislators to express your support for HB 1240. For more information, contact Bob DeGroot, Forests Chair, at 301-340-8348 or e-mail at BobDeGroot@comcast.net. ■

Energy Savings Bill Poised for Passage

by Charlie Garlow —The Energy Savings Investment Program, HB 490, cross-filed with SB 397, is another of the most important bills for ensuring clean air and clean energy. For several years, the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club has worked on this bill, but today we are more confident of victory. Why? Because last year it did much better than we had ever hoped, so we feel some momentum.

What will it do? It puts a small fee, one-tenth of a penny, on each kilowatt hour of electricity and a similar fee on each unit of natural gas, to be fed into a fund that will be used to encourage energy conservation/efficiency projects. All involved parties agree that the best way to reduce environmental harm from energy production is to not waste energy in the first place. Then there's no need for installation of smokestack controls on that energy.

In the House of Delegates, this bill has been referred to the Economic Matters Committee, and in the Senate it was sent to the Finance Committee. Senators Frosh and Middleton, key leaders in the Senate, are sponsors, so don't just keep your fingers crossed. Let those fingers do the walking over to your toll free phone number, 1-800-492-7122. Call now.

Questions? Call Charlie Garlow, Air Quality Chair, at 301-593-9823. ■

Help Clear the Air: Write to Support the Clean Cars Bill

(continued from page 1)
in Maryland. We also have most of the state in violation of the new particulate matter (soot) standards. We have to do better, and we can. If the CO₂ portion of this bill survives the court challenges already mounted by the auto industry, then this bill will also help to curb global warming emissions.

The best thing you can do to help is write a personal letter, by hand or computer, to your delegates and senator. The easiest thing to do is to call them and leave a message of support for cleaner cars. Bombard them with opinions! Call toll free: 1-800-492-7122. Ask for the operator to connect. Get mailing and e-mail addresses from the website: www.mlis.state.md.us. For further information, see our maryland.sierraclub.org web site, or call Charlie Garlow, Air Quality Chair, at 301-593-9823. ■



Looking for your legislators?
www.mdelect.net

Want to read about a bill?
www.mlis.state.md.us

Members in Allegany and Garrett Counties

Please send candidate statements for Western Maryland Group Executive Committee to Sam White at sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org.

For more information about the Western Maryland Group, contact Sam White at 301-264-4162.

Sierra Club Opposes ICC

ICC Would Be Expensive, Ineffective, and Destructive

by Steve Caflisch— The Sierra Club opposes the enormously expensive, ineffective, environmentally destructive Intercounty Connector (ICC). We also believe that the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) is fundamentally flawed, both procedurally and substantively. The DEIS ignores meaningful alternatives and uses flawed modeling techniques and faulty land use assumptions. It systematically overstates the ICC's benefits and understates its adverse effects. The various glossy brochures mailed in such vast numbers at public expense, and those used at public hearings, are simply dishonest propaganda. The study and related documents are so flawed that nobody should believe any of the claims made for the ICC.

State Modeling Irreparably Flawed

Everyone realizes the ICC would significantly increase development in the study area, but the State Highway Administration's (SHA) traffic modeling assumes that the ICC would have no impact on development. When combined with SHA's use of a seriously outdated version of the Council of Governments's (COG) traffic model, SHA's failure to include ICC-induced development in modeling the ICC produces irreparably flawed modeling results. In particular, the DEIS substantially understates the induced traffic the ICC would create. Thus, there is no reason to believe any of the favorable claims made in the DEIS.



The DEIS should be a full study of meaningful alternatives, with valid models and land use assumptions, and a complete, honest presentation of the results. Since it fails to meet any of these basic requirements, the DEIS is an elaborate, very expensive fraud.

End Gridlock? Oops. Just Kidding.

Despite its flaws, the DEIS does reveal two striking facts regarding the ICC's ineffectiveness. First, the ICC would have a “negligible impact on freeway operations, including the Beltway, I-270 and I-95” (pages IV-343 to 344) and would add traffic to the Beltway in Montgomery County (Table IV-91 at pages IV-316 to 317). Second, an analysis of the data, as opposed to the claims, shows the ICC would provide no meaningful reduction in congestion at the vast majority of intersections in the study area. We hope

ICC supporters will now drop their claim that the ICC would “drastically ease traffic congestion and relieve gridlock for the entire region” (source: 2002 campaign mailer from the “End Gridlock Team”). ■

Steve Caflisch is the Transportation Chair of the Maryland Chapter. Parts of this article were based on materials published by the Montgomery & Prince George's Monitor. For more information see www.savecommunities.org.

ICC 101: Hey, Maryland, This Isn't Just About Montgomery and PG Counties

by Steve Caflisch— **What Is the ICC?**

The proposed Intercounty Connector (ICC) would be a six-lane tolled highway from I-270 to I-95 near Laurel. Federal agencies rejected it in the 1980s and 1990s, largely because it would devastate a series of environmentally sensitive, forested stream valley parks containing some of the best habitat in the region. The Ehrlich and Bush administrations have revived it and placed it on a fast track that shortcuts environmental reviews and consideration of alternatives. The State Highway Administration (SHA) has produced a completely biased Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and is moving toward approval of the ICC. Meanwhile, ICC supporters are scrambling for ways to finance the ICC's ballooning cost.

Third most expensive road in U.S. jeopardizes other priorities

Maryland taxpayers will be obligated to pay for every cent of the ICC. And from the moment that burden is made legal, every other transportation need in the state will become hobbled for a long, long time—including roads that require substantial safety improvements.

— Michele Dyson,
The Washington Post, 11/28/04

The projected cost of the ICC is now at over \$3 billion and rising, excluding financing costs that would increase the cost to \$3.7 billion or more over time. Financing would depend on massive borrowing to be repaid primarily by mortgaging Maryland's future federal transportation funds and Maryland's toll revenues from facilities other than the ICC. It also de-

pends on charging substantial tolls on all vehicles using the ICC.

To cope with rising costs, ICC supporters are urging the legislature to dramatically increase the amount Maryland can borrow to finance the ICC.

Prince George's County Council strongly opposes ICC.

The Prince George's County Council unanimously opposes the ICC, which they have labeled the “Prince George's County Bypass,” because it would shift jobs and investment away from Prince George's County. Prince George's top competitive advantage is its Metro system, which includes 17 stations. Most of these stations currently are largely parking areas. Transit such as the Purple Line, including rail on the Wilson Bridge, would greatly strengthen efforts to turn these underutilized station areas into vital centers. The ICC would be the wrong priority, encouraging development in the wrong places and draining funds that could be better used on other projects.

Take Action

Write or call your state senator and delegates. Tell them you oppose the ICC on its merits and because it would drain too many resources. Ask them to oppose the ICC and any attempts to increase borrowing to finance it. Urge friends and family from all parts of Maryland to write or call their legislators, too. To find your state senator and delegates, see <http://mdelect.net/>. A letter or a call is best, but E-mail is ok, too.

See www.savecommunities.org or call Brian Henry at 301-652-9188 ext 18 for updates on what is happening or to see what you can do. ■

New Study Rates ICC as Worst Option, Finds Alternatives Perform Better

Groups Study Alternatives after State Refused

A new study of the ICC and alternatives finds four less expensive, less environmentally damaging options perform better than the Intercounty Connector (ICC) on most measures, including reducing traffic and air pollution. The report was sponsored by regional and national environmental, transportation and smart-growth groups and conducted by Smart Mobility, Inc., a nationally recognized traffic modeling firm.

The groups commissioned the study after the state refused to look at meaningful alternatives and insisted on limiting the study to two alternate routes for the ICC and a "No Build" alternative.

The cost estimates for each package of alternatives range from \$626 million to \$2 billion, all less than the \$2.1 to \$2.4 billion in construction costs (well over \$3 billion with financing costs) currently projected for the ICC.

Results of the Study

"This study shows that almost any other option performs better than the ICC for reducing traffic on local roads," said Neal Fitzpatrick of Audubon Naturalist Society. Indeed, the ICC performed the worst on almost every measure, including time spent driving, delay due to congestion, total amount of driving or vehicle miles traveled, the total number of trips made each day, and polluting emissions.

"The alternatives that performed the best included a combination of increased transit with more jobs and housing near transit, and a better east-west balance of jobs and housing," noted Steve Caflisch of the Sierra Club.

ICC would cost more to build, mean more time spent driving and create more pollution.

"The results certainly show that a more measured analysis of alternatives such as

suggested by your necessarily quick study and analysis, would be in order before embarking on construction of the Intercounty Connector," noted Keith Lawton, a national traffic modeling expert and former Director of Technical Services at Portland Metro, the regional entity similar to the Council of Governments, who reviewed the report.

Delegate Adrienne Mandel (District 19, Montgomery County) noted, "There are alternatives to this destructive highway that the state has not considered."

Environmental Impact

While the state continues to claim the ICC would be "environmentally sustainable," its study shows even more destruction of forests, wetlands, and streams than previous studies. Compared to the ICC, the alternatives would not take thousands of acres of forests and wetlands and would significantly reduce air pollution, the cause of much childhood asthma and a significant contributor to nitrogen pollution in the Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia River.

"We analyzed air pollution and our best alternative produces less NO_x air pollution, by a half million pounds/year, than the ICC," noted Lee Epstein of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

The Report was commissioned by Environmental Defense, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Audubon Naturalist Society, Solutions Not

Sprawl, Sierra Club and the Coalition for Smarter Growth. The sponsors believe the array of options and policies discussed in the report deserve full evaluation in the environmental impact study of the proposed Intercounty Connector as reasonably available, feasible, and prudent alternatives. Every

sponsor does not necessarily endorse every alternative or policy discussed in the report.

The full report and a summary can be accessed online at: www.SmarterGrowth.net and www.environmentaldefense.org/gol-iccptions. ■

Key Study Findings

- ◆ In all alternatives to the ICC, less time is spent in cars than with the ICC.
- ◆ All alternatives show fewer hours of delay due to congestion than the ICC.
- ◆ The ICC was the only alternative that would increase vehicle miles traveled and vehicle trips made each day.
- ◆ The ICC ranks second to last in removing traffic from local roads and major arterial roads.
- ◆ Three alternatives increase average speed more than the ICC.
- ◆ All alternatives, except the ICC, result in lower air pollution emissions for the study area and the region.
- ◆ The two best performing alternatives include new rail transit, development of housing and jobs near Metrorail stations, and a better east-west balance of jobs and housing.

Cardinal Scale Rankings for Alternatives to ICC

1=Best 6=Worst

SCENARIOS	Avg Rank	Vehicle Hours of Travel	Vehicle Hours of Delay	VTMT* All Facilities	VTMT* Local Roads	Total Transit Trips	Travel Speed	Air Quality	Total Cost
Hybrid: Transit-Oriented Hot Lane Rail and Express Bus	1.8	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	4
Transit Oriented Land Use & Investment	2.3	3	2	3	1	2	1	3	5
Add Toll Lane Express Bus	3.3	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	3
Convert HOT Lane- Express Bus	3.6	2	4	1	6	4	6	1	2
No Build	4.6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	1
ICC Build	5.4	6	6	6	4	6	4	6	6

*Vehicle Miles Traveled

Annapolis Watch: EC, Reports on Subsidies to Businesses

Emergency Contraception Without A Prescription

by Cliff Terry — SB 541 and HB 1145 would allow women to buy emergency contraceptive (EC) pills without a prescription.

EC pills, often called morning-after pills, are ordinary birth control pills taken in special doses after unprotected intercourse (the condom breaks, say, or intercourse was not planned) to reduce the risk of pregnancy by up to 95 percent. They are not the abortion pill.



It can be hard, especially on weekends or holidays, to get a prescription and get it filled within the 72 hours after intercourse when the pills must be taken.

The bills would not allow over-the-counter sales. Pharmacists would be required to screen customers to verify medical appropriateness.

Half of the 6 million annual pregnancies in the United States are unintended. The EC holds the potential to reduce unintended pregnancies by half, so it could also cut in half Maryland's abortion rate of three in every 10 pregnancies.

The American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists support making emergency oral contraception available to women without a physician's prescription. Several states have allowed it for years.

Advisory committees for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) voted overwhelmingly that the pills are safe enough to sell without prescription nationwide, but the FDA keeps postponing a decision. Right-wing political pressure is likely to affect that decision.

What makes EC a Sierra Club issue? Environmental concerns are only one of the reasons easy access to EC is important, but they are important reasons. All those unintended pregnancies contribute, of course, to continuing population growth. Maryland's population grew by

11 percent from 1990 to 2000. That may not sound rapid, but at that rate there would be twice as many of us in the state every 63 years. As you know, growth

contributes directly to sprawl, road congestion, air pollution, and degradation of our natural environment.

SB 541 is in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee with no hearing scheduled as of this writing. Similar bills failed in the 2003 General Assembly by the narrowest possible margin. This year its sponsors include only one senator short of a committee majority. Two senators are new on the committee, so their votes may be up for grabs: Jim Brochin at 410-841-3648 and Allan Kittleman at 410-841-3671.

HB 1145 is in the House Health and Government Operations Committee with no hearing scheduled as of this writing. Please call committee members to urge their support. The committee office numbers are 410-841-3770 (Annapolis/Baltimore) or 301-858-3770 (Washington, D.C. area). For lots more information about emergency contraception, go to <http://Not-2-Late.com>. Or contact Cliff Terry at 410-944-9477 or e-mail to cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org. ■

Reports on Subsidies

by Cliff Terry — The Maryland Sierra Club advocates ending the practice of granting tax breaks and other subsidies as incentives for businesses to move into, or expand within, the state or county. It grants rare exceptions, such as for those areas with exceptionally high unemployment, for encouraging redevelopment, or for environmentally beneficial businesses.

SB 780 (Economic Development and Tax Incentive Act) would require detailed annual reports of development subsidies (expenditures of state funds to stimulate economic development) and of their benefits in terms of employment and wages. The reports would be readily available to the public. We support the bill because we believe increased public awareness of the costs and benefits of economic development subsidies would lead to a reduction in such subsidies.

The usual argument for subsidies to lure businesses is jobs. But numerous studies show that most of the new jobs in a state or locality generally go to new residents, leaving the state's or locality's unemployment problem about as bad as before. But its schools and roads are more crowded and its natural environment is diminished and impaired, thanks to the influx of people to take the new jobs. And the state or local government is poorer, less able to pay for new schools and roads, due to the tax breaks or other subsidies for the new businesses that attracted the new residents.

The bill is in the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and is sponsored by a majority of the committee. Please contact them, because sponsorship doesn't guarantee they'll vote for it: Senators Lawlah, DeGrange, Hogan, Jones, Kasemeyer, McFadden, and Ruben. No hearing is scheduled as of this writing. There will probably be a House version of the bill.

For more information contact Cliff Terry, Campaign Finance Reform Chair, at cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org. ■

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
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Annapolis Watch: Public Funding for State Elections

National Population Activist Training Washington, D.C . April 2-4, 2005!

Join us for the 2005 National Population Activist Training Event, featuring forums on the latest population issues. Don't miss this opportunity! Now is the time for your voices to be heard!

Learn valuable activism skills

Meet inspiring people

Become better advocates for international family planning

We cannot let the threats of the Bush Administration go unnoticed or unheard by the American public or by our decision-makers. Come to Washington to learn how we can work together to

Re-fund the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Increase funding for the International Family Planning Program

Repeal the Global Gag Rule

Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program will pay for lodging and almost all of your meals. We encourage Sierra Club members to ask local chapters or groups for assistance in paying for travel costs to and from DC. For more details, please contact Sarah Fairchild at 202.675.2396 or sarah.fairchild@sierraclub.org. There are limited spaces available for the 2005 training.

To find out more about Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program, please visit our website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/population>.

Bill Would Provide Public Funding for Assembly Elections

by Cliff Terry — Many of the legislators whom you lobby on environmental issues depend heavily on contributions from businesses and industry trade associations for their campaign financing. And the financial self-interest of many of these big contributors puts them on the "anti-environment" side of some of the issues you care most about.

SB 725 and HB 1031 would provide full public funding for campaigns for the General Assembly.

Big campaign contributions cannot help but influence General Assembly members' votes on bills that will help or hurt the contributors.

No amount of tinkering with the current system of financing campaigns will solve this problem. We need a new system. That new system is public financing of General Assembly campaigns, as recommended by the Study Commission on Public Funding of Campaigns in Maryland. It would be similar to systems working well in Maine and Arizona.

All General Assembly candidates who wish to receive public funding would first have to show broad public support by collecting "qualifying" contributions of at least \$5 each from a specified num-

ber of registered voters in their legislative districts. They must then agree to abide by spending limits set for each office.

How can we afford this when the state government is in dire budgetary straits? Funding would come from closing a corporate tax loophole.

SB 725 is in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and is sponsored by four of the six members needed for a majority of the committee. The committee members most important to call are Chair Paula Hollinger, who has said she supports the principle but needs to be convinced there's money for it, at 410-841-3661; and Vice Chair Joan Carter Conway, who

has been a cosponsor in the past, at 410-841-3145.

HB 1031 is in the House Ways and Means Committee with no hearing scheduled as of this writing. Please contact committee members to urge their support. The committee office numbers are

410-841-3469 (Annapolis/Baltimore) or 301-858-3469 (Washington, D.C. area). For more information contact Cliff Terry, Campaign Finance Reform Chair, at cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org or 410-944-9477. ■



Annapolis Watch: Public Lands, How to Contact Legislators

Not For Sale! Keep Our Public Lands Off the Block!

Not only are Maryland's land conservation programs losing their dedicated funding, now it looks as if precious state lands that are already protected could be for sale. A recent secretive land deal in Southern Maryland would have sold off critical land and wetlands purchased for land conservation without a guarantee of preservation. In addition, the Department of Natural Resources has posted a "List of Potential Excess Property Candidates" identified by the state for possible sale or transfer.

Lands purchased for conservation should be protected from development. These lands are important for protecting the Chesapeake Bay, providing wildlife habitat, preserving farmland, providing recreation areas, and leaving a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

That's why we're asking you to support a constitutional amendment (Senate Bill 102 and House Bill 67) that would require the Governor to get approval from the General Assembly to sell any state lands bought with conservation funding. If this bill passes this session, citizens in Maryland would be able to vote on whether to adopt the constitutional amendment at the polls in 2006. According to a recent poll, 3 out of 4 Maryland voters (72 percent) say they would vote "yes" on such a proposed constitutional amendment.

The citizens of Maryland own these lands...shouldn't we be the ones to decide if they are sold off?

Other bills designed to protect Program Open Space funds are in the works but do not have bill numbers yet. When you contact your legislators please let them know that you want Program Open Space money to be used for the purpose for which it was intended and not to balance the budget. Our open spaces are rapidly being gobbled up by development. Land, once developed, is gone. We want to preserve as much of it as possible and as soon as possible.

Call or e-mail your state legislators and let them know you want to preserve our public lands! ■

This piece was extracted from materials prepared by the Maryland League of Conservation Voters at www.mdllcv.org.

How Do I Contact My Legislators in Annapolis?

By Phone...

If you know your state senator's and delegates' names, you can call 1-800-492-7122 from Maryland and ask the operator to connect you with the office of that senator or delegate. Delegates are sometimes in the same office bay area, so one call connects you to all of your delegates.

If you don't know your senator or delegates by name, but you know what district you are in, you can give your district number to the operator, who will connect you. If you don't know your district, you may ask for help on the phone, but it is often faster to use the web at <http://mdelect.net>. On this site, click on "Find your Federal and State Elected Officials." Type in your address. You will find out what your district is and who your delegates are. Click on their names to display their addresses, e-mail addresses, and direct-dial, toll-free phone numbers.

When you call, usually you will get a voice-mail machine or a secretary, not your senator or delegate, although you can ask to speak directly to them if they are available. But even if you don't talk directly to a delegate or senator, it is still important to leave your message. Often, the secretary/aide will tell Delegate Joe that he got ten calls on this issue and one call on something else. Legislators pay attention to the number of calls they are getting. It lets them know what the hot topics are. Let's FLOOD those senators and delegates with calls for support for the bills that our chapter is supporting.

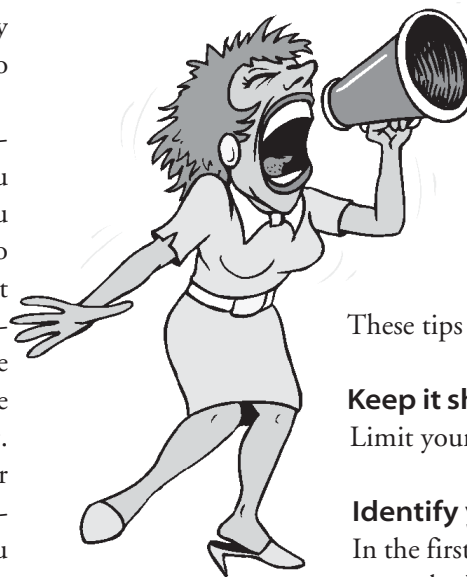
What should I say?

You don't have to be very eloquent, as the secretary will probably just be counting calls, but do try to be clear. "Please tell my delegate that I live in District xx, at 123 Cherry St, Elkton, MD." This lets them know you are really one of his or her voters. "Please tell Delegate Joe to vote for the (fill in the blank) bill." That's all you have to say, or words to that effect. ■

Or By Mail...

It is important that we tell elected officials where we stand on issues. Our input on clean water, sprawl, trade, and other issues shapes the way our representatives create and implement environmental and social policy.

E-mails, postcards, and phone calls are good communication tools, but letters and faxes are the most effective and persuasive way of communicating our views to elected officials.



These tips will help you write a persuasive letter:

Keep it short.

Limit your letter to one page and one issue.

Identify yourself and the issue.

In the first paragraph of your letter state who you are and what issue you are writing about. If you are referring to a specific bill, identify it by number (e.g. HB 2372 or S1287).

Focus on your main points.

Choose the three strongest points to support your argument and develop them clearly. Too much information can distract from your position.

Make it personal.

Tell your legislator why the issue matters to you and how it affects you, your family, and your community. Make a connection to the legislator. Did you vote for her? Did you contribute to the campaign?

Ask for a reply.

Include your name and address on both your letter and envelope.

Trust your voice.

Be polite and take a firm position in your letter. Be confident in your understanding of the issue and remember that the legislator may know less than you. Thank elected officials when they vote the way you want.

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Annapolis Watch

Contacting Legislators

Or By E-Mail...

(continued from page 8)

Go Online to Voice Your Concerns.

While a personal letter is probably still the best and most effective way to communicate with your elected official, e-mail offers a new and easy tool for citizens. Remember though, not all legislators have e-mail or the ability to respond to it.

Some additional tips for e-mail users will help identify your message as one from a constituent:

- ♦ Use the 'subject' line to identify yourself as a constituent.
- ♦ Be sure that your name and return address (both mail and e-mail) are included.
- ♦ Don't write anything in an e-mail that you would not write in a personal letter or say in person. ■

Wind Power

The Reality of Wind Power

The winds desert us in the summer when our energy needs are greatest

by Bob DeGroot—Wind power holds the promise of providing a clean, unlimited source of energy without the pollution that comes from coal or gas/oil generating plants. Almost everyone supports the transition to clean energy alternatives, but we need to take a close look at all aspects of the technology before concluding it's a panacea for energy needs. Fifty years ago we thought hydroelectric power was the clean, renewable energy solution. Later, we found the dams largely decimated irreplaceable populations of migrating fish. If we find similarly that wind technology has too many drawbacks, then we need to continue looking for better energy sources that are less damaging.

Wind power will provide clean energy, but the newer and taller 400-foot turbines seem to have a greater impact on migrating birds and bats. This is because they are being sited in areas with high concentrations of these creatures, specifically the high-elevation ridge tops. The ridge tops appear to be the most problematic sites for wind plants in our region. While some animal fatalities can probably be tolerated, large numbers of bird and bat kills will likely jeopardize the entire wind industry. Some of the early wind power installations in the east have resulted in much larger bat kills than ever recorded at other wind plants studied in the U.S. Forty-four new wind turbines on the Mountaineer Wind Energy Project in West Virginia have been killing nearly 4,000 bats each year during two years of operation. This is about 100 bats each year per turbine.

This high rate of mortality is probably beyond acceptable levels. It also shows the importance of locating facilities away from migration routes of birds and bats. Other facilities seem to be more benign, but studies that would reveal the true situation at each facility were often poorly done, or were not even required. Potential fixes to reduce the number of bat deaths have been proposed, but currently

there are no solutions that have proven effective. At Altamont, California, the wind turbines constructed in the 1980s continue to kill thousands of hawks, owls, and eagles each year despite the millions of dollars spent on research to reduce this high mortality.

The U.S. Department of Energy reports that wind power development is constrained by the intermittent nature of wind. This leads to the need for backup capacity from other power sources to ensure that consumers' needs for electricity can be met at all times. Wind

energy is particularly fickle during summer, when energy demands are greatest. This requires almost redundant generating capacity for wind energy in the summer time, when the average efficiency of wind turbines drops to 15 percent or less.

There are no plans to close down even the worst of

the polluting coal or gas/oil generating plants because wind energy is being developed, so the suggestion that pollution or global warming will be suddenly reduced by developing wind power is simply a false assumption. Although wind power may reduce the need for additional conventional energy plants, newer conventional plants are also much cleaner than older plants, and not the cause of 80 percent of the pollution. Both energy sources operating simultaneously means environmental damage will come from both sources.

The largest wind turbines now installed in our region are rated to produce 1,500 kilowatts (1.5 megawatts) at peak output. But their average output is only about 30 percent of their capacity, because of wind fluctuations. The Mt. Storm coal-burning plant in West Virginia, a single, relatively large conventional power plant, produces 1,560 megawatts annually. It would take over 2,500 turbines to produce a similar amount of electricity each year. Even then, these 2,500 turbines would require nearly redundant conventional backup power to keep power flowing during periods of peak consumption when turbine output is 15 percent or less.

Still, the damage done by 2,500 turbines might be acceptable unless you put them in the wrong locations.

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There are no plans to close down even the worst of the polluting coal or gas/oil generating plants because wind energy is being developed.



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Windpower

The Reality of Wind Power

(continued from page 9)

If built in a place like the Mountaineer Project, these turbines could be killing about 250,000 bats per year. This would be catastrophic when you consider bats can eat nearly 2,000 mosquito-like insects per hour when hunting, keeping insect populations in check. The bats from one bat cave in Texas are reported to eat 200 tons of insects per night. Keeping down mosquito populations reduces incidents of West Nile virus and other diseases borne by mosquitoes.

At a county hearing on a bill designed to promote wind energy in Montgomery County, residents from western Maryland drove hours to testify that they didn't feel urban areas should be exporting power problems to the mountains of Appalachia any more than they thought urban trash should be sent to them. A realtor from Western Maryland reported that property values in the vicinity of a wind facility had plummeted 50 to 80 percent. He mentioned that not only are the wind facilities an eyesore, but they produce unacceptable noise levels and flickering shadows annoying to nearby residents. How would anyone feel if a 40-story structure was being built next door to their home?

Turbines are built at about eight per mile along ridgelines. In forested areas, about four acres are bulldozed to erect each turbine. If placed improperly, the construction of 2,500 turbines could result in clearcutting of 10,000 acres of forests along more than 300 miles of mountain ridgelines. Many current projects are fragmenting large intact forests.

We need to carefully evaluate each new wind project

and determine if the resulting damage is acceptable. But when Public Service Commissions issue permits to build wind turbines without requiring environmental studies, accurate damage assessment is impossible.

An examination of the best potential wind areas in the Appalachian Mountains shows that about 30,000 wind turbines could be built atop ridges throughout the mid-Atlantic states. This is equivalent to about 12 conventional power plants. Knowing that over 3,000 miles of mountaintop forest habitat could be destroyed and fragmented to build these 30,000 industrial wind turbines

makes a close look at benefits versus the damages imperative.

Wind facilities also require new roads to access the turbine locations, and new transmission lines to send the electricity down the mountain. People might be equally concerned to realize that in spite of this destruction, the power industry will still insist on building several new conventional power plants to back up the notably unreliable wind facilities, and to meet the ever-growing demand for electricity in our region, which is expected

to expand two percent each year in the foreseeable future. ■

Bob DeGroot is President of Maryland Alliance for Greenway Improvement and Conservation, 301-340-8348, www.Magicalliance.org, and Forests Chair for the Maryland Chapter.

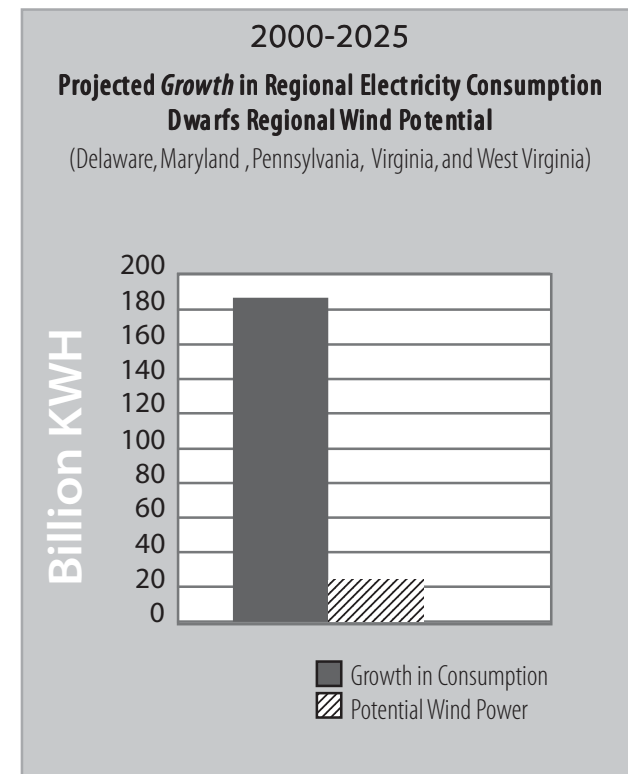


Forest fragmented by installation of wind turbines.

For additional pictures see <http://johnrsweet.com/Personal/Wind/windpix4.html>

Industry will still insist on building several new conventional power plants to back up the wind facilities, and to meet the growing demand for electricity in our region

Projected Growth in Regional Energy Consumption Exceeds Potential of Wind Power Generation



Sources:

Current Electricity Consumption:

Energy Information Agency 1990 - 2002 Retail Sales of Electricity by State by Sector by Provider (EIA-861)

Electricity Consumption Growth 2000 - 2025:

DOE Annual Energy Outlook 2005, Table A8 Note: growth rate projected for the nation (1.8% per year) is assumed to be applicable to the five state area.

Wind Potential:

http://www.eere.energy.gov/state_energy/states.cfm?state=; Note: wind potential includes total on-shore Class 4 (utility grade) wind in the five state region except for the following exclusions: 50% of forest area, 30% of farm area, and 10% of range area. These exclusions are assumed by the energy department in recognition that certain areas are not suitable for wind turbines. This chart was provided by Ed Stennett.

Food and Farming

**The typical American diet creates nearly as much carbon dioxide as the typical car!
But it's easy to switch to a climate-friendly way of eating.**

Food and the Climate Crisis: What You Eat Affects the Sky

by Mike Tidwell— Few of us realize it, but the food we put in our mouths each day dramatically affects the global climate. The typical American diet requires the staggering equivalent of 400 gallons of oil each year. That, in turn, generates nearly as much planet-warming carbon dioxide as the average U.S. car creates.

We all know cars cause smog and contribute to global warming. But our chicken nuggets? Our winter strawberries? Our Häagen-Dazs fudge swirl? Who knew? Our country derives almost all of its energy from fossil fuels—oil, coal, and natural gas—whose use generates millions of tons of CO₂ annually. And nearly one fifth of that energy is devoted in some way to food.

How? Well, let's start with fertilizer. Virtually all of our food crops—those directly consumed by humans or diverted to meat production—are raised with petroleum-based fertilizers. We actually extract the nitrogen we need for plant stimulation from various petroleum products. This alone takes up 30 percent of our energy budget for food.

Then there's our complementary use of petroleum-based herbicides and pesticides, as well as diesel fuel and gasoline for combines, tractors, and other farm machinery. We also need fossil fuels to irrigate our crops before harvest and often to dry the same crops after maturity.

Our nation's great consumption of meat, eggs, and dairy products amplifies all of these energy needs many fold since roughly 80 percent of all corn and other grains grown in this country goes to feed animals, not people. Not only does our annual per capita consumption of about 230 pounds of meat require an ocean of oil, it leaves us drowning in twice the government's daily recommended allowance of protein.

Once shipped from the farm, of course, much of our food is then refrigerated, processed, and packaged into everything from Pop Tarts to Atkins-approved microwave dinners. This requires—among other inputs—enormous amounts of electricity, which means burning whole mountains of coal. Over half of our nation's electricity, after all, comes from the combustion of pulverized coal.

Finally, there's the runaway explosion in food transportation. Thanks to globalization, artificially low gas

prices and massive government highway subsidies, the average kilogram of food in Maryland (and nationwide) travels at least 1,500 miles from farm to plate. That's an increase of 25 percent just since 1980. Indeed, the average prepared meal in the United States includes ingredients produced in at least five other countries. In this modern food transportation system, wasted energy reaches absurd levels. For example, a lettuce farmer near Atlanta, Georgia, who wants to sell lettuce to a Safeway in Atlanta must first ship the lettuce 621 miles to Upper Marlboro, MD for inspection, then ship it back down to Georgia. This transportation not only consumes fossil fuel but takes up extra road space and leaves the lettuce less fresh!

It should be easy now to see that we're basically eating fossil fuels when we sit down to dinner in America, the equivalent of 400 gallons of oil per capita. Yet even

trucked thousands of miles gets easier every year. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, regionally based farmers' markets with a wide variety of fruits and vegetables have grown from 300 in the mid 1970s to 3,100 in America today. That growth has certainly been seen in Maryland, D.C., and many other states. Such markets simultaneously decrease transportation inputs while increasing community interconnectedness. One study estimates that people have 10 times as many conversations at farmers' markets as they do at supermarkets. (Visit www.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/map.htm for a farmers' market near you.)

People across America can also buy directly from a specific farm nearest their home thanks to a practice called "community-supported agriculture (CSA)." For a set annual price, you essentially "subscribe" to a farm, receiving a standard weekly share of whatever the farm

produces during the growing season. For years, my family has been getting most of its annual fresh vegetables directly from Claggett Farm in Prince George's County, Maryland. (Visit www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/csa/csastate.htm for a CSA nearest you.)

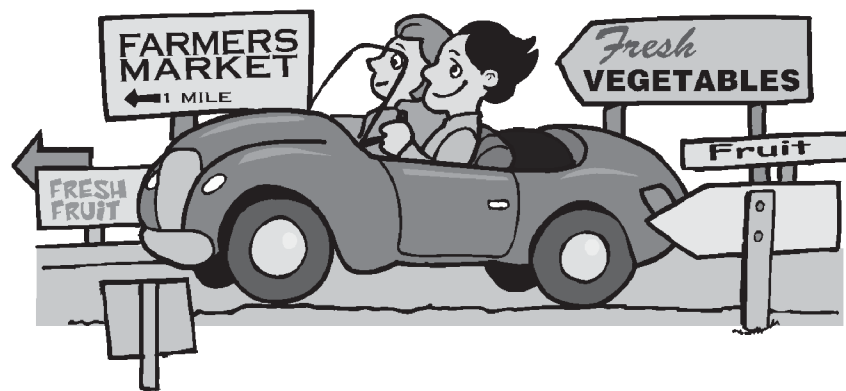
A second important step, beyond buying locally, is to buy organically raised food. Organic agriculture eschews petroleum-based fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides, relying instead on manure and plant-based fertilizers and reducing losses to insects by building healthy soils and planting a wide diversity of

crops.

On average, organic farms use 37 percent less energy than conventional farms. Also, unlike soils rendered nearly biologically lifeless from petroleum inputs, organic soils are full of plant matter and various biological processes that naturally absorb carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. According to a 23-year study by the prestigious Rodale Institute, one acre of organic crops "sequester" as much as 3,700 pounds per year of CO₂, the world's leading greenhouse gas. So organic food consumers fight climate change with every meal they eat.

Both fresh and processed organic foods are now widely available in this country, including at many chain supermarkets. Just as encouraging, Cuba, a nation where

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people who consider themselves environmentalists and political liberals, who use efficient light bulbs and join the Sierra Club, rarely consider the impact of their food choices. A person who drives a trendy Toyota Prius hybrid car, for example, but who maintains a typical U.S. diet heavy on meats and processed foods, is actually generating twice the annual CO₂ from his diet than from his car.

Solution: Eat organic foods grown in your region. All of these diet-related impacts on our climate and natural environment could be dramatically and painlessly reduced if Americans took three easy steps.

1. Buy locally raised foods whenever possible.
2. Buy organic foods.
3. Reduce meat and dairy consumption.

Thankfully, buying local food that has not been

Foor and Farming

What You Eat Affects the Sky

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life expectancy is actually longer than in the United States, has made a nearly total national switch to organic agriculture since 1991, disproving previous criticism that modern organic practices could not feed entire nations at affordable prices.

It's easy to cut down on meat. The last critical step in the food/energy equation is reducing one's consumption of animal products. Meat, eggs, and dairy products are high-energy, high-impact foods. It takes 40 pounds of grain to produce one pound of beef, and every kilocalorie of eggs produced in America requires 39 kilocalories of energy. Simply put, America could feed most of Africa with the grains we feed to livestock.

A vegetarian diet also dramatically reduces your risk of heart disease, the nation's number one cause of death. You can choose to make the vegetarian switch gradually thanks to a host of great vegetarian "meats" now on the market, from veggie burgers to soy sausage to chicken-like nuggets.

Here's the bottom-line good news: By making the switch to mostly regionally raised, organic food—including savory vegetarian meat substitutes—each American can reduce his or her personal food greenhouse gas budget by at least 60 percent. That's from around 400 gallons of oil equivalent each year to around 160.

With even the oil industry-friendly Bush Administration now openly admitting that fossil fuels are disrupting our life-giving global climate, and with a full 17 percent of U.S. energy use now devoted to food, it's clear we'll never solve the climate crisis with wind farms and hybrid cars alone. We must—and obviously can—cultivate and consume "clean-energy" food, grown close to home for the benefit of the whole world. ■

Mike Tidwell, a vegetarian, is director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network in Takoma Park, MD. He can be reached at mwtidwell@aol.com or 301-920-1633. To learn more about food and global warming, visit www.chesapeakeclimate.org.

Endnotes supplied by the author were deleted for space considerations, but are available upon request. Please contact Chesapeake editor at dtewell@maryland.sierraclub.org.

Porous Paving

Head for the Porous

by Annie Collier Rehill — Outside my office window runs a road atop what used to be fields, part of a farm probably. School buses cough by in the afternoon, followed by early commuters escaping back to their neighborhoods ahead of the metal floods. Every one of these vehicles weighs a ton or more, and all that metallic obesity waddles down the road, back and forth, back and forth, all day long, beginning at dawn and into the evening. The road is allowed a few hours' quiet between commuting, but mainly it's a fast lane to the ozone hole.

Of course, this is just one more manifestation of too many people driving too many vehicles, urban sprawl, ruined old woods, and everything else that's quickly transforming country into condos. Staring out gloomily at my road, I realized I'd never given much thought to what goes on *underneath* roads and parking lots.

Can worms or insects live down there? Have they burrowed out little tunnels for furtive pass-throughs? Or has everything been crushed by an ever-growing load of humans sitting in millions of tons of metal spewing deadly gases into the heavens?

I ferreted around a bit and discovered that some of the new pavement may actually not be too bad—that is, having accepted that cars are here to stay, and in growing numbers. Many types of organizations have, for some time already, been devoted to solving problems associated with this grim reality. Lucie Griggs, executive director for Georgia Cool Communities, delves into some of the technicalities:

"In addition to creating storm water pollution, urban sprawl is also upsetting the hydrologic cycle by causing much higher flows than normal in streams during and after rainfall events, and causing much lower flows in streams between rainfalls. The low flow occurs because of less moisture available in the soils to help recharge the streams."¹

I already understood that water seeps into the ground slowly, when impervious surfaces don't interfere, and that the more pavement there is, the faster rain and melting snow rush into rivers, lakes, and oceans, carrying oils and all the other debris that our cars vomit.

But many of the efforts to cut down on pollutants were news to me. The nonprofit, research-oriented American Planning Association (APA) represents one.

For-profit organizations have also taken note, for instance Cahill Associates, an environmental-consulting firm in southeastern Pennsylvania. (Among their award-winning projects is the parking lot at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Tinicum Cusano Environmental Education Center.) Engineer Michele C. Adams observes, "There is nothing very exciting about a parking lot."² But as she shows us how porous pavement is constructed, using a "stormwater best management practice (BMP) that reduces impervious areas, recharges groundwater, improves water quality, eliminates the need

for detention basins, and provides a useful purpose besides stormwater management," she gives nature-loving readers a reason for hope.

"With the right soil conditions and careful design, installations retain their ability to infiltrate," assures a subheading. The article illustrates how it's all in the preparation.

First, the construction is planned using the land's natural lines—"avoid excessive earthwork (cut and fill). Design with the contours of the site." The targeted area is dug out and filled with layers of filters and stones; finally, the pavement itself is porous. Water drains directly through it and seeps down over several days, thereby cutting down on the noxious waste that reaches our ground and surface water. Built-in contingency plans help with storms and nearby rooftops: underground pipes feed directly into the stone layer, and gravel beds border the pavement to handle occasional overloads. The stone also retains heat, so that the pavement doesn't freeze as easily as impervious surfaces. Some of Cahill's "systems" are 20 years old, still functioning as planned, and have yet to be repaved.

One drawback, though: Salt (which dissolves—and can overload a natural ecosystem, at least temporarily) rather than sand must be used if the surface does freeze. It should be kept on the clean side with twice-yearly vacuuming, so sand is counterproductive. Another short-

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For more information see our website, www.maryland.sierraclub.org.

Parking Lots with Open Pores

(continued from page 12)

coming: This system isn't up to major highways—yet.

“Porous paving offers a solution for low traffic areas such as parking lots, access roads and bike paths,” says Griggs. “Parking lots, in particular, hold a tremendous potential for this material because of the amount of oil and other hydrocarbon liquids that seep from parked cars. Porous pavements can be made of concrete, asphalt, open-celled stones, and gravel that are mixed in a manner that creates an open cell structure allowing water and air to pass through.”

Researchers continue their work in the lab, with experiments on “allowing runoff to return to soil after passive physical-chemical treatment”³ and ways to “improve porous pavement design (e.g., to assess the minimum thickness of an open-graded friction course needed to avoid surface runoff).”⁴

Urges Georgia Cool's Griggs: “A new mindset is needed when designing stormwater management systems . . . incorporating porous pavement will be much more effective in reducing total runoff and increasing the amount of filtered groundwater. The material's ability to retain stormwater while improving water quality and enhancing tree and vegetation growth makes this material an innovative example of green and sustainable building practice.”

Regardless of what we think of them, cars have become an integral aspect of the modern human condition, almost globally. Naturally, because humans have such a profound effect on everything around us, the Sierra Club and other environmental groups continue to push for cleaner cars and more effective roads.

“In many new development projects, two-thirds of the new impervious surfaces are related to the automobile,” Cahill's Adams points out. “Lost recharge, depleted groundwater levels, low stream baseflows, eroded streambanks, and degraded water quality all are effects of this extensive paving program. Flood and drought are both worsened by a development program of ‘sealing the earth's surface.’” But, she adds: “We can put parking lots to work for better stormwater management.” It's a good start, and routinely pro-environment-constructed highways are sure to follow at some point.

And what of my question about who lives underneath these roads? Griggs offers some enlightenment.

“Unlike traditional concrete or asphalt, porous pavements typically provide a void content of 15–20 percent, offering improved filtration and an enormous amount of surface area to catch oils and chemical pol-

lutants,” she says. “Some experts believe that the bacteria living in these spaces break down pollutants preventing much of the polluted runoff that normally occurs with traditional pavements.”

So bacteria might survive in the layer of stone—good. That's life, at least; probably the only life form that can handle such a toxic environment. I haven't found out yet whether there are any worms and insects down there, but I doubt it. Too abrasive, compressed, and foul. They probably thrive in the surrounding areas, though, marshes and wetlands and rivers receiving the cleaner water more gradually.

I'd never paused to mull over who plans our roads, what factors those designers and builders take into consideration. But I see now that just as in politics, different philosophies lead down different roads, some less harmful to the Earth than others. Which means we need to pay close attention to who is awarded contracts for building our roads and parking lots, who their consultants are, and where they stand vis-à-vis environmental stewardship. And, of course, we can also look right in our own yards, as we choose materials for driveways, walkways, and terraces. ■

Endnotes

¹ Lucie Griggs, “Innovative Air and Water Quality Solutions,” *American Planning Association (APA) Division of Environmental, Natural Resources, and Energy (ENRE)*, 2003: <http://www.apa-enre.org/coolcol.htm>.

² Michele C. Adams, “Porous Asphalt Pavement with Recharge Beds: Twenty Years and Still Working,” *Stormwater: The Journal for Surface Water Quality Professionals*, May-June 2003: http://www.forester.net/sw_0305_porous.html.

³ Z. Teng and J. Sansalone, “In Situ Partial Exfiltration of Rainfall Runoff,” *Journal of Environmental Engineering, ASCE* 130 (Sept. 2004): 1008-1020.

⁴ V. Ranieri, “Runoff Control in Porous Pavements,” *Bituminous Paving Mixtures 2002, Transportation Research Board National Research Council, Washington DC: Transportation Research Record (1789) 46-55, 2002.*

Sustainable Development

Excerpts from Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2004 Lecture

We are called to assist the Earth to heal her wounds and in the process heal our own—indeed, to embrace the whole creation in all its diversity, beauty and wonder.

Wangari Muta Maathai

Oslo, 10 December 2004

(Speech by Ole Danbolt Mjøs)

... In this year's prize, the Norwegian Nobel Committee has placed the critical issue of environment and its linkage to democracy and peace before the world. ... Recognizing that sustainable development, democracy and peace are indivisible is an idea whose time has come. ... My inspiration partly comes from my childhood experiences and observations of Nature in rural Kenya. ... As I was growing up, I witnessed forests being cleared and replaced by commercial plantations, which destroyed local biodiversity and the capacity of the forests to conserve water. ...

In 1977, when we started the Green Belt Movement, I was partly responding to needs identified by rural women, namely lack of firewood, clean drinking water, balanced diets, shelter and income.

Throughout Africa, women are the primary caretakers, holding significant responsibility for tilling the land and feeding their families. As a result, they are often the first to become aware of environmental damage as resources become scarce and incapable of sustaining their families.

The women we worked with recounted that unlike in the past, they were unable to meet their basic needs. This was due to the degradation of their immediate environment as well as the introduction of commercial farming, which replaced the growing of household food crops. But international trade controlled the price of the exports from these small-scale farmers and a reasonable and just income could not be guaranteed. I came to understand that when the environment is destroyed, plundered or mismanaged, we undermine our quality of life and that of future generations.

Tree planting became a natural choice

Tree planting became a natural choice to address some of the initial basic needs identified by women. Also, tree planting is simple, attainable and guarantees quick, successful results within a reasonable amount time. This sustains interest and commitment.

So, together, we have planted over 30 million trees



Nobel Laureate Wangari Muta Maathai. Photo International Institute for Sustainable Development

that provide fuel, food, shelter, and income to support their children's education and household needs. The activity also creates employment and improves soils and watersheds. Through their involvement, women gain some degree of power over their lives, especially their social and economic position and relevance in the family. This work continues.

Initially, the work was difficult because historically our people have been persuaded to believe that because they are poor, they lack not only capital, but also knowledge and skills to address their challenges. Instead they are conditioned to believe that solutions to their problems must come from "outside." Further, women did not realize that meeting their needs depended on their environment being healthy and well managed. They were also unaware that a degraded environment leads to a scramble for scarce resources and may culminate in poverty and even conflict. They were also unaware of the injustices of international economic arrangements.

In order to assist communities to understand these linkages, we developed a citizen education program, dur-

ing which people identify their problems, the causes and possible solutions. They then make connections between their own personal actions and the problems they witness in the environment and in society. ...

On the environment front, they are exposed to many human activities that are devastating to the environment and societies. These include widespread destruction of ecosystems, especially through deforestation, climatic instability, and contamination in the soils and waters that all contribute to excruciating poverty.

They are the primary custodians and beneficiaries of the environment that sustains them.

In the process, the participants discover that they must be part of the solutions. They realize their hidden potential and are empowered to overcome inertia and take action. They come to recognize that they are the primary custodians and beneficiaries of the environment that sustains them.

Entire communities also come to understand that
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Sustainable Development

There can be no peace without equitable development; and there can be no development without sustainable management of the environment in a democratic and peaceful space.

(continued from page 15)

while it is necessary to hold their governments accountable, it is equally important that in their own relationships with each other, they exemplify the leadership values they wish to see in their own leaders, namely justice, integrity and trust.

It soon became clear that responsible governance of the environment was impossible without democratic space.

Although initially the Green Belt Movement's tree planting activities did not address issues of democracy and peace, it soon became clear that responsible governance of the environment was impossible without democratic space. Therefore, the tree became a symbol for the democratic struggle in Kenya. Citizens were mobilized to challenge widespread abuses of power, corruption and environmental mismanagement. . . .

Through the Green Belt Movement, thousands of ordinary citizens were mobilized and empowered to take action and effect change. They learned to overcome fear and a sense of helplessness and moved to defend democratic rights. . . .

Using trees as a symbol of peace is in keeping with a widespread African tradition. . . . the elders of the Kikuyu carried a staff from the thigi tree that, when placed between two disputing sides, caused them to stop fighting and seek reconciliation. Many communities in Africa have these traditions.

Such practices are part of an extensive cultural heritage, which contributes both to the conservation of habitats and to cultures of peace. With the destruction of these cultures and the introduction of new values, local biodiversity is no longer valued or protected and as a result, it is quickly degraded and disappears. For this reason, the Green Belt Movement explores the concept of cultural biodiversity, especially with respect to indigenous seeds and medicinal plants.

As we progressively understood the causes of environmental degradation, we saw the need for good governance. Indeed, the state of any country's environment is a reflection of the kind of governance in place, and without good governance there can be no peace. Many countries, which have poor governance systems, are also likely to have conflicts and poor laws protecting the environment.

In 2002, the courage, resilience, patience and commitment of members of the Green Belt Move-

ment, other civil society organizations, and the Kenyan public culminated in the peaceful transition to a democratic government and laid the foundation for a more stable society. . . .

We are faced with a challenge that calls for a shift in our thinking, so that humanity stops threatening its life-support system.

Activities that devastate the environment and societies continue unabated. Today we are faced with a challenge that calls for a shift in our thinking, so that humanity stops threatening its life-support system. We are called to assist the Earth to heal her wounds and in the process heal our own—indeed, to embrace the whole creation in all its diversity, beauty and wonder. This will happen if we see the need to revive our sense of belonging to a larger family of life, with which we have shared our evolutionary process.

In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground. A time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other.

That time is now.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has challenged the world to broaden the understanding of peace: there can be no peace without equitable development; and there can be no development without sustainable management of the environment in a democratic and peaceful space. This shift is an idea whose time has come.

I call on leaders, especially from Africa, to expand democratic space and build fair and just societies that allow the creativity and energy of their citizens to flourish. . . .

There is also need to galvanize civil society and grassroots movements to catalyze change. I call upon governments to recognize the role of these social movements in building a critical mass of responsible citizens, who help maintain checks and balances in society. On their part, civil society should embrace not only their rights but also their responsibilities.

The extreme global inequities and prevailing consumption patterns continue at the expense of the environment and peaceful co-existence.

Further, industry and global institutions must appreciate that ensuring economic justice, equity and ecologi-

cal integrity are of greater value than profits at any cost. The extreme global inequities and prevailing consumption patterns continue at the expense of the environment and peaceful co-existence. The choice is ours.

I would like to call on young people to commit themselves to activities that contribute toward achieving their long-term dreams. They have the energy and creativity to shape a sustainable future. To the young people I say, you are a gift to your communities and indeed the world. You are our hope and our future.

The holistic approach to development, as exemplified by the Green Belt Movement, could be embraced and replicated in more parts of Africa and beyond. It is for this reason that I have established the Wangari Maathai Foundation to ensure the continuation and expansion of these activities. Although a lot has been achieved, much remains to be done. . . .

I reflect on my childhood experience when I would visit a stream next to our home to fetch water for my mother. I would drink water straight from the stream. Playing among the arrowroot leaves I tried in vain to pick up the strands of frogs' eggs, believing they were beads. But every time I put my little fingers under them they would break. Later, I saw thousands of tadpoles: black, energetic and wriggling through the clear water against the background of the brown earth. This is the world I inherited from my parents.

Today, over 50 years later, the stream has dried up, women walk long distances for water, which is not always clean, and children will never know what they have lost. The challenge is to restore the home of the tadpoles and give back to our children a world of beauty and wonder. ■

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This excerpted version of Ms. Maathai's speech was prepared by Annie Collier Rehill.

National Elections for Sierra Club Board of Directors

Club Members to Consider 15 Candidates and Three Ballot Measures

Ballots Must Be Cast by Noon April 25

Another potentially contentious Sierra Club election is upon us. This year, 15 candidates are running for the board of directors, and there are three ballot measures, two of which would alter rules for future elections, and a third about whether the Club should adopt a policy on limiting immigration into the United States.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization that depends on members to make important decisions about its governance. "Democracy works," says Club President Larry Fahn, "but only if everyone participates."

Voting in elections at all levels of the Club is both a privilege and a responsibility of membership, he says, and the Club requires a free flow of views on policy and priorities in order to function effectively.

Members will elect five representatives to serve three-year terms on the 15-member board, which oversees staff and volunteer activities, sets conservation priorities, and approves the annual budget. The candidates are listed below.

The Population Ballot Question asks members: "Shall the Sierra Club policy on immigration, adopted by the Board of Directors in 1999 and revised in 2003, be changed to recognize the need to adopt lower limits on migration to the United States?" The Club board of directors recommends a "no" vote on this question.

The two other ballot measures propose changes to the bylaws that affect the election. Bylaws Change #1 would remove the requirement to provide space for write-in candidates on the ballot. Bylaws Change #2 requires one year of continuous membership in the Sierra Club in order to run for the board. (Currently, members can file a petition to run for office on the same day they become a member.) The board recommends a "yes" vote on the two bylaws changes.

Last year, shortly after the Club election cycle ended, Fahn created the Sierra Election Reform Task Force, chaired by long-time leader Susan Heitman, and including representatives from various groups within the Club. The task force recommendations led to the proposed bylaws changes.

In addition, the board adopted a new rule giving chapters the opportunity to endorse board candidates and publish their endorsements in their newsletters and websites. (This is a one-year experiment.)

Two-thirds of the executive committee must vote

to endorse, and the statement of endorsement can only be one sentence: "The [name of chapter] recommends a vote for [name(s) of candidates] in the upcoming election for the Sierra Club Board of Directors." Chapters and groups may take positions on ballot questions and publish their recommendations in newsletters and websites as editorials. Other published material, such as letters to the editor or official statements by ballot question position coordinators, must be balanced for pro and con views when published. Newsletters and websites cannot accept advertising promoting positions or candidates.

Seven of the board candidates were selected by the nominating committee, an eight-member body that reviews aspiring candidates every year and puts forward a slate of candidates. Eight candidates are running as petition candidates, which means that they have collected signatures supporting their candidacy from one-twentieth of 1 percent of members. (That's 381 signatures for this election.)

Overseeing the election to ensure fairness and resolve disputes are three "inspectors of election" appointed by the board. Chief Inspector Marvin Baker, a retired University of Oklahoma geography professor and member since 1968, says that the board acted in response to calls from grassroots leaders to involve the chapters in a more meaningful way in the election. "Our goal is to make the elections as fair and participatory as possible," he says.

Last year's election controversy generated a spate of coverage in local and national newspapers, even a *New York Times* editorial. Due to the extensive publicity, more Club members voted than ever before – 171,616 voters, or 22.7 percent of Club members.

To find out more about the candidates and measures, visit www.sierraclub.org/bod/2005election, which will include a candidates forum where candidates answer questions posted by members.

Club members should receive their ballots in the mail by mid-March. Votes must be cast by noon eastern daylight time on April 25. To vote online, follow the instructions in your printed ballot.

An independent company with long experience in conducting elections for national organizations will count the ballots.

Here are the candidates for director:

Jim Bensman (petition candidate)
Joni Bosh (nominating committee candidate)
Gregory Bungo (petition candidate)
Jim Catlin (nominating committee candidate)
Jim Dodson (nominating committee candidate)
Jim Dougherty (nominating committee candidate)
Jennifer Ferenstein (nominating committee candidate)
Richard Fiddler (petition candidate)
Barbara Frank (nominating committee candidate)
Christine Garcia (petition candidate)
Alan Kuper (petition candidate)
Jim McDonald (petition candidate)
Chuck McGrady (nominating committee candidate)
Robert Roy van de Hoek (petition candidate)
Tony Ruckel (petition candidate) ■

Earth-Friendly Business?

We have more than 16,000 members in Maryland who care about the environment. Your advertisement can reach them in *Chesapeake*.



**For specifications and rates, contact
Laurel Imlay at 301 277-7111.**

Maryland Chapter Leaders

Chapter Leaders

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club congratulates the three members of the Executive Committee elected in January: Ellen Pepin, Jon Robinson, and Marc Scott. Congratulations also go to Betsy Johnson and Jon Robinson, who will continue to lead the Chapter as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

Executive Committee

Betsy Johnson, Chair

301-656-4948

betsy.johnson@maryland.sierraclub.org

Jon Robinson, Vice Chair

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Jon.Robinson@sierraclub.org

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Bob DeGroot, At Large Del., Forests Chair

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Ellen Pepin, At Large Del., Membership Chair

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Marc Scott, At Large Del., Secretary

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March 18, Washington, D.C.

Food Featured in Film Fest

On Friday, March 18, 2005, at 2 p.m., the Sierra Club and Worldwatch Institute will present two films highlighting how our food choices affect our planet and our health.

The bad news:

Agribusiness is the number one detriment to the planet, requiring more energy, water and land than any other industry.

The good news:

We can roll back these effects ourselves by choosing to eat local, organic and low on the food chain every time we sit down to a meal.

The films *True Cost of Food* and *Think Globally, Eat Locally* will be followed by a discussion with Diana Artemis, Sierra Club Committee on Sustainable Consumption; Maria Erades, Vice President and Senior Producer, Greentreks Network; Brian Halweil, Senior Researcher, Worldwatch Institute, and author of *Eat Here*, and Jonah Sachs, Principal, Free Range Graphics.

Location:

Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives on 1201 17th St., N.W.
(nearest metro: Farragut North)

For more information, visit:

www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org

Invasive Species

Invasive Species Removal and Habitat Restoration Events

Baltimore

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Become an Urban Weed Warrior!

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks has started its own Urban Weed Warriors program. Weed warriors can come to any of the sessions listed below to learn about the non-native invasive problem in Baltimore City parks. Training will include weed ID, removal techniques and native alternatives to exotic flora. The training 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 throughout the spring and summer. Contact Janelle Burke, Weed Warrior Program Coordinator, at janelle.burke@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-0359 for more information or directions.

Date: March 15, 2005

Time: 4-6pm

Where: 3001 East Drive, in Druid Hill Park. E-mail for detailed directions.

Date: March 26, 2005

Time: 10am-12noon

Where: The Conservatory in Druid Hill Park

Date: April 21, 2005

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Where: Herring Run Watershed Association, 3545 Bel Air Rd.

Date: May 10, 2005

Time: 5pm-7pm

Where: Carrie Murray Nature Center

Date: May 28, 2005

Time: 10am-noon

Where: Leakin Park, Herb Festival trail office (admission fee for festival)

Invasive Removal Work Day

Gwynns Falls

Date: March 19, 2005

Time: 9am-12pm

Where: 4000 block of Clifton Avenue, near the Gwynns Falls Conservation Trail

sign. Email or call for directions. The Baltimore City Office of Park Conservation and Community Outreach has designated this site a weed management area. Kudzu has taken over much of the surrounding vegetation. Come help to remove this kudzu early in the season before it takes over, and plant native trees and shrubs. Volunteers are encouraged to help out and rid our city park of the 'vine that ate the South'. Contact Janelle Burke at janelle.burke@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-0359 for more information or directions.

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 1pm to 3pm. For more information, contact Sylvan Kaufman at 410 634-2847 ext. 13.

Charles County

Ruth Swann Park and Chapman Forest

Dates: First Sundays, monthly

Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

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. To empower ourselves, there are general methods and species-specific methods such as best season for species, wet soil condition for pulling, handouts, extent of area of

natives seen rescued, delayed gratification, targeted use of herbicides, and matching funds for staff to do what volunteers find hard to do.

Directions: Meet at the Ruth B. Swann Park-Potomac Branch Library parking lot, 20 miles south of Washington Beltway (I-495) on Rt. 210 (Indian Head Hwy). Give yourself 30 to 40 minutes from the Beltway. **Carpool Info:** Meet at Sierra Club Md. Chapter office at 9:00 a.m.; return 5:00 p.m. Call Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111. Bring gloves, lunch, and water. Durable long sleeves and pants recommended. Contact: Marc Imlay 301-283-0808. RSVP is 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. Dan Boone, Conservation Chair for the Sierra Club's Maryland Chapter, describes the Japanese *spiraea* in Bear Pen as a "mess". It forms dense colo-

nies, displacing and reducing populations of many native plants. Boone thinks that the timing on this removal project couldn't be better.

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). We'll be working on Friday, April 15 and Friday, July 22 from 9 to 12. Mike Gregory, manager of the Savage River Complex, will provide free camping the night before at New Germany 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, 301-895-3686 or info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

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-

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Invasive Species

Invasive Species Removal and Habitat Restoration Events

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 10:00 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. Contact Don Marquardt at marquardtd@emh1.ftmeade.army.mil or 301-677-9185.

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 9:30am-noon. Each trip will have both an educational component and a work component.

For information, directions or to register, contact Aylene Gard, 410-992-9889, or Robin Hessey, rmhessey@umd.edu. The Conservation Stewardship project is sponsored by Howard County Recreation and Parks and the Howard County Master Gardeners.

Patapsco State Park

Garlic Mustard Challenge

The next Garlic Mustard Challenge is on Sunday afternoon, May 1, in the Avalon Section of Patapsco State Park, off of Route 1. This is a fun family affair. We concentrate on removing the invasive

garlic mustard and teaching the dangers of invasive species to the park. Publicity includes poster contests in local schools.

For information call Friends of the Patapsco Valley and Heritage Greenway, 410-480-0824.

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 your own schedule.

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.

Montgomery County Parks

Weed Warriors Wanted!

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (MNCPPC) 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 training session from the forest ecologist in the identification of, removal and control techniques for non-native invasive plants. Weed Warriors can then work at their own pace and choose a schedule that best suits them.

Many current Weed Warriors live near a M-NCPPC Stream Valley Park or Regional Park and do their volunteer work while walking their dogs or taking an occasional hike through their neighborhood park. Whether you choose to

work individually or in a group, your efforts will contribute to the control of non-native vegetation in the 28,000 acres of Montgomery County parkland. Contact: Carole Bergmann, M-NCPPC Forest 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.

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 are scheduled throughout the year. Also scheduled are bird counts and plant identification seminars and field experience. The City of Greenbelt has passed, in principle, a forest ordinance for large parcels of its woodlands. The City is establishing a committee to work out the management details. For more information on GHI Woodlands Committee activities, contact Mary Kingsley at mkingsley@hotmail.com. Mary and her husband, Roger, are also Sierra Club members.

Greenbelt National Park, Greenbelt

Invasive Plant Removal first Saturday of each month

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.



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Invasive Species

Invasive Species Removal and Habitat Restoration Events

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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 Croneat tomnjan@erols.com or 301-864-1959 or Kate Odell at kateo@wam.umd.edu or 301-474-5395

St. Mary's County

Myrtle Point Park

Directions: From Washington, take Rt. 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 email 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.

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 habitat 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 assisting include Magruder Park, Hyattsville, Lower Beaverdam Creek in Cheverly, 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.

May 7 is No Ivy Day 2005 A De-vine Time to Save Our Trees

Portland, Oregon issues a challenge to weed-busters everywhere

English ivy is a green, viney villain holding our trees hostage! On May 7, 2005, between 9 A.M. and 12 P.M. commu-

nity members will rise up against this public menace and fight back to restore habitat health!

Hedera helix, the ivy species originally used for landscaping, is infesting more than 25,000 acres of parks and natural spaces in the Portland metropolitan region and nearby areas. When left unchecked, ivy shrouds trees, causing their premature death and the loss of forest canopy. Ivy's biological bullying will backfire on No Ivy Day when Ivy Busters strike a blow in the name of bio-diversity.



Now in its third year, No Ivy Day has made great strides involving the community in habitat reclamation. In its first year alone over 3,300 trees were freed from ivy. In 2004, 900 Ivy Busters crashed ivy's party on a total of 63 different sites around the region. Having heard of our phenomenal success, people from the east coast and British Columbia will transform No Ivy Day 2005 into a bicoastal, international punch-out leaving ivy's mat down for the count! The Portland metro area will compete against all other combined sites to free the most trees. In the end, our trees will win!

Join the fight on No Ivy Day to stop this threat to our natural beauty and environmental quality. Together we are pulling for the future!

See www.NoIvyLeague.com for more information on the work party site closest to you. ■

Environmental Career Program

Brookside Gardens Visitors Center

1800 Glenallan Avenue
Wheaton, Maryland

Wednesday, April 27,
7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The Montgomery Group of the Maryland Chapter invites you to join us at our second Environmental Careers program at the Brookside Gardens Visitors Center. The program will begin with a presentation by David Baron, attorney advocate for Earthjustice, a non-profit public interest law firm dedicated to environmental protection. Other speakers will follow to give short reviews of career options. A number of non-profits, universities and government agencies will be staffing tables to disseminate information and talk to high school and college students.

The Sierra Club encourages young people to consider a career in an exciting, rewarding and increasingly important field. Please inform your children, grandchildren, friends, youth groups, churches and any educators about this event....and bring them!

For further information or to receive a flyer for the program, contact Ron LaCoss 301-946-1106 or ronenviroed@aol.com; B. J. Altschul at sunrises111@hotmail.com, or Dawn Walker at dsvtx2@comcast.net.

Outings (March)

Sierra Club outings are open to everyone, and normally go, “rain or shine.” Reservations are not required, unless noted in the announcement.

Each outing is intended to be a wholesome, safe, and enjoyable experience in the out of doors. For that to happen, each participant must have the clothing, equipment, and stamina suitable to the event. Inexperienced/new participants are encouraged to first join trips that are rated “easy” or “moderate”, to evaluate their own individual suitability for more difficult adventures.

If you have questions about the terrain, the duration of the trip, or about recommended clothing or equipment, please contact the outing leader.

Each outing participant should carry an adequate supply of food (lunch, snacks or more), a personal first aid kit, any personal medications that may be needed during the event, and at least one quart of water for every two hours that he or she expects to participate in the event. On hot days or on more strenuous outings, more water is likely to be needed.

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 adventure activities carry some risk. Participants should be aware that Club outings are often to places where professional emergency medical aid may be two or more hours away. All participants should consider the implications of this fact. People with health concerns should consult their doctor to determine the advisability of participating in these activities.

Sierra Club outings normally begin and end at the trailhead, canoe put-in/take-out point, or some other similar starting/ending point. Travel from the advertised meeting place to the starting point and back, 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>.

The following outings are planned and managed by volunteers from the Chapter’s local groups, and the Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP). Each organization is identified in the announcement by the following abbreviation:

AA = Anne Arundel Co. Grp.
CA = Catocin Group
ES = Eastern Shore Group
GB = Greater Balto. Group
HC = Howard Co. Group
MC = Montgomery Co. Grp.
MW = M.W.R.O. Program
PG = Pr. George’s Co. Grp.
SM = Southern Md. Group
WM = Western Md. 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.

Take only pictures, leave only footprints, and have fun out there. ■

John Railey – Outings Coordinator
410-752-0104 – jrailey7007@aol.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

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

March

Sat. Mar. 5

GB – Moderate: North Point State Park / Black Marsh Walk
About 4 flat miles through woodlands and marsh, and along the Patapsco shore, in what was the old “Bay Shore Amusement Park”. As we walk, we will talk about the history of the area, and the wildlife that has resettled here. And, for those who want to add a little more to their outing, we will drive to Fort Howard Park, after we have completed the North Point circuit and explore this abandoned fortification. This outing is appropriate for children. Meet at the first parking lot, just beyond the North Point entrance station, at 11:00 AM. Nominal entrance fee.

For more information, or directions, call John; 410-752-0104 (between 4 & 8 PM).

Sat. Mar. 5

HC – Moderate: Catocin National Park
9 mile circuit hike along a trout stream and ridge top, to several rock outcrop overlooks. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sun. Mar. 6

HC – Easy: Oregon Ridge Pancake Hike
5 mile hike, with some hills and stream crossings, optionally followed by pancakes. The park demonstrates the boiling down of maple syrup, and has a fundraising pancake breakfast for \$5.00. Depart at 8:30 AM from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. Or meet us at the nature center at 9:15. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Sat. Mar. 12

HC – Moderate: Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, PA.
A 6 to 8 mile hike, observing snow geese, swans and other waterfowl.

Outings (March, April)

Bring binoculars, lunch, and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, east of Rt. 29. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Sat. Mar. 12

GB – Moderate. Young Sierrans Group Hike!

The Group hosts socials and outings for young people ('20-30 somethings') looking to make in an impact on our environment. During this monthly outing we'll do a 4-6 mile hike different from the one we did last month. Meet at 11:00 AM at the parking area near the Forest Glen Trail in the Hilton Area of Patapsco State Park. We should finish by 4:00 PM. Angela 410-783-0680.

Sun. Mar. 13

HC – Easy: Woodcock Walk
A short walk starting around dusk, to witness the sky dance of woodcock in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area in Columbia. Bring a flashlight. Limit of 15.
Call for reservations, Sue Muller, 301-498-8462, sonicsue@boo.net.

Sat. Mar. 19

HC – Difficult: AT Shuttle / Mary's Rock, VA.
9 mile hike on the AT, crossing the third highest peak in Shenandoah, the Pinnacle. Lunch on Mary's Rock. Depart at 8:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sun. Mar. 20

HC – Easy: Rachel Carson Conservation Park.
5-6 mile hike, looking for early spring wildflowers. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:15 AM from the west lot of



the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32.
Call Sue Muller, 301-498-8462, sonicsue@boo.net.

Sat. Mar. 26

GB – Moderate: Gunpowder River Hike
Moderate 7 to 8 miles below Prettyboy Dam. Expect some hills and a rocky area. Meet at Mt. Carmel P&R at noon. Call Jack at 410-256-3963.

HC – Moderate: Annapolis Rock
11 mile hike along the Appalachian Trail, from the historic Washington Monument State Park to Annapolis Rock and return. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for an 8:30 AM departure.
Call Tim Ryan before 9:30 PM, 410-248-2974, timothy_ryan@urscorp.com

MWROP – Difficult: Signal Knob on Massanutten Mountain, VA.
10-mile circuit hike with about 3,200 ft elevation change. Exceptional views to west, north, and east. Meet at 8 AM at Vienna Metro station north entrance. Marcia Wolf 301/565-3165 before 9 pm or wolfmk@comcast.net

April

Sat. Apr. 2

HC – Difficult: Rose River / Dark Hollow / Lewis Springs Falls
6 or 9 mile (your choice) figure-8 circuit hike visiting two overlooks and several waterfalls.
One steep climb out of Dark Hollow.
Depart at 8:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32.
Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

HC – Moderate: Project Clean Stream.
Take part in this regional stream cleanup organized by Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Clean a pond and the Little Patuxent River in Savage, 9:00 to noon. Bring gloves. Call Sue Muller for directions, 301-498-8462, sonicsue@boo.net

Sun. Apr. 3

HC – Moderate: McKeldin area, Patapsco State Park
4 mile hike along the Patapsco River, past McKeldin Falls. Bring lunch and water.
Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for a 10:00 AM (change your clock!) departure. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net

MWROP – Moderate: Rated B. Rock Creek Park
Explore the beauty of Rock Creek Park in "early Spring". Meet next to the ground level of the elevator at the Cleveland Park Metro at 1PM (Daylight Savings Time). Bring water and a snack. Kids who can walk 7+ miles on relatively level terrain are welcome. Leader: Jim Finucane 301/365-3485 before 9pm

Sat. Apr. 9

GB – Moderate: Kelly Run and Pinnacle Hike
7 to 8 miles with a good view of the Susquehanna River. Good chance of seeing bald eagles. Will talk about the eagles decline and recovery in this area. Meet at K-Mart on Belair Road (Rt.1) just north of the Beltway Exit 32 at 10:00 AM. Jack: 410-256-3963

GB – Moderate: Susquehanna State Park Clean Up
RSVP for April 16th Clean Up (see description)

HC – Strenuous: Overall Run, VA
8.5 mile hike featuring wading pools and Shenandoah's tallest waterfall (90 ft.). Footwear change suggested for multiple stream crossings. Bring lunch and water.
Depart at 8:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

Sun. Apr. 10

GB – Moderate: Wildflower Hike
Enjoy the spring wildflowers along the Gunpowder River. This is about 5 miles of moderate terrain with some hills and stream crossings. Strong likelihood of mud in the lowlands. We will talk about wildflowers, both native and exotic, and the impact of development along riparian areas. Trail has remains of mills and an old fort and dam. There will be a snack break at Pot Rocks, an area of geological interest. This trip is suitable for families with older children. Meet at the Gunpowder Falls State Park parking lot at the Gunpowder River Bridge on Belair Road (about 10 minutes north of the beltway) at 9:00 AM. ALWAYS bring water!
Call Joyce at 410 254-7240.

Outings (April, May)

Sat. Apr. 16

HC – Moderate: Carderock Wildflowers 8.5 mile hike on the C&O canal towpath, and over rocky terrain by the Potomac River on the Billy Goat B and C trails. We will take a slow pace in some areas to identify and enjoy the profusion of wildflowers. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

GB – Moderate: Susquehanna State Park Clean Up
Celebrate Earth Day early by helping to clean up a small, but important part of the earth. Susquehanna State Park has one of the best wildflower displays in Maryland. However, due to the heavy use of Susquehanna State Park in the spring a large amount of trash accumulates. Most of the trash consists of bottles and cans. Lunch and T-shirts will be provided for all volunteers. Meet at the White Marsh Park & Ride at 9:00 AM or meet at Susquehanna picnic area at 10:00 AM. White Marsh park and ride is located just west of I95 next to Ikea and White Marsh Mall. Susquehanna picnic area is located about 15 miles north on I95. Take I95 and turn left on RT. 155 to 161

(right turn @ flashing lights) to Rock Run Road and take a left on Stafford Road. Picnic area on left before the bridge. RSVP by April 9. Wear old clothing and bring gloves.
Jack Wise: 410-256-3963

Sat.-Mon. Apr. 16-18

HC – Moderate: North Fork Mountain, WV Car Camping
Camping in Monongahela National Forest, at modern Seneca Shadows campground.

Day 1: Set up camp and hike to Seneca Rocks. Day 2: Moderate 10 mile shuttle hike to Chimney Rocks. Day 3: Break camp and head home. Reservations recommended.
Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

Sat. Apr. 16

MWROP – Moderate: Northwest Branch Conservation Hike
A leisurely 6-mi. walk through one the most beautiful stream valleys in the Metro area, with discussion of some of the conservation issues and potential threats (ICC) to this park. Leader: Ron LaCoss, 301/946-1106 before 9pm or ronenviroed@aol.com

Sat. Apr. 23

GB – Moderate: Harford Glen.
A 7-mile hike at a relaxed pace, looking at wildflowers and migrating songbirds. We'll hike around Harford County's Atkinson Reservoir. Mud is likely in spots. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 10:00 AM at Harford Glen (first lot, on right, by pond) at the west end of Wheel Road. For details, call Betsy at 410-569-5202.

HC – Strenuous: Harpers Ferry
9 or 11 mile hike through 3 states, with spectacular overlooks of historic Harpers Ferry at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. Follow the C&O canal, walk through town, and ascend to Maryland Heights, Loudoun Heights, Split Rocks, and Jefferson Rocks. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for an 8:30 AM departure.
Call Tim Ryan before 9:30 PM, 410-248-2974, timothy_ryan@urscorp.com

Sat.-Sun. Apr 30-May 1

HC – Strenuous: Green Ridge Backpack
4.5 mile backpack in and return on scenic Fifteen Mile Creek Trail. Camp by beautiful Long Pond. Explore other portions of Fifteen Mile Creek. Limit of 10 participants.
Contact Mike Juskelis to register, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

May

Sun. May 1

GB – Moderate: Fundraising Hike
Get out the winter kinks and help the club to raise funds on this moderate 7 mile hike. The trail rambles over rocky hills and streams in the Gunpowder Falls Central area. We will talk about the ecological impact of human encroachment on wild areas and the

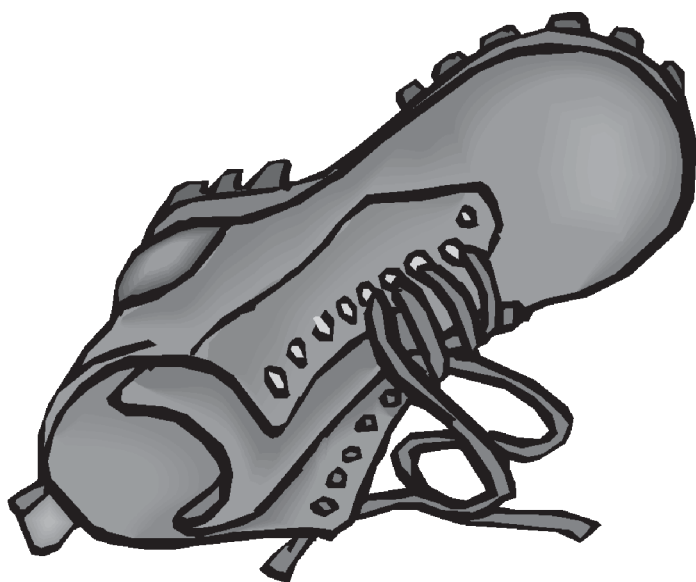
increasing necessity for buffers, corridors and greenways. We will have a brief snack break but no lunch as there is an optional and reasonably priced lunch stop afterwards at a nearby inn overlooking the river. On this trip, the Greater Baltimore Group is requesting a \$10.00 donation (checks should be made out to The Sierra Club), to help defray administrative expenses (stationary, postage, first aid training, etc). As always, a donation is not required to participate in Group outings.

The outing meets at 9:00 AM, at the Gunpowder Falls State Park parking lot at Gunpowder Falls bridge and Belair Road. ALWAYS bring water. Call Joyce at 410 254-7240.

Sat. May 7

AA – Moderate: Walk & Stretch at Quiet Waters
Observe and learn the beauty and power of nature in land and water. 5+ mile hike, mostly flat. Tai Chi stretch overlooking South River - no Tai Chi experience required. Meet 10:00 a.m. at Bay Ridge shopping plaza parking lot across from park entrance. Call Young Lee-410 849-2720 (leave message) for information

GB – Moderate: Fair Hills/Big Elk Creek Hike
7 miles through forests and fields, and along Big Elk Creek in the Fair Hills NRMA, near Elkton Md. This hike will visit a covered bridge and several ruins that may date to colonial times. As we ramble, we will talk about the history and ecology of the area. Nominal NRMA entrance fee. Depart the White Marsh Park & Ride on Honeygo Blvd. at 10:00 AM.
Call John 410-752-0104 between 4 and 8:00 PM.



Outings (May, June)

HC – Strenuous: Signal Knob, VA
10.2 mile circuit hike with overlooks of the Shenandoah Valley. Trails are extremely rocky at times with a 1200-foot increase in elevation over approximately 4 miles. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32.
Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

Sun. May. 8

HC – Moderate: Patapsco, Daniels Area
7 mile hike along both sides of the river, visiting ruins of the old mill town. Wade across the river or cross railroad bridge. Meet at 9:30 at the Daniels Dam parking lot, on Daniels Rd. Bring lunch and water. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net

Sat. May 14

HC – Strenuous: Jeremy's Run, Neighbor Mountain, VA
13.5 mile circuit hike with 14 stream crossings. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32.
Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat-Sun May 14-15

AA – Moderate: Canoe trip to Dismal Swamp, N.C.
For information and a reservation, call Liz Vanden Heuvel at 410-267-9009

Sun. May 15

HC — Moderate: Gunpowder - Prettyboy Dam
9 mile hike through Hereford area of Gunpowder Falls State Park, to the dam and back, following the river as it tumbles over granite boulders. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt.

100, just east of Rt. 29. Call Ron Arnold, 410-767-0106.

Fri.-Sun. May. 20-22

HC – Easy: Cape Henlopen Camping, DE
Camp under the full moon near the beach at this Delaware state park. Various easy slow-paced walks, observing horseshoe crabs and birds. Sign up early to reserve a camp site. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net

Sat. May 21

HC – Moderate: Gunpowder, Sweet Air Area
7 mile hike along the Little Gunpowder and Barley Pond. Bring lunch and water. Depart Columbia at 9:30 from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29.



Or call to meet at the trailhead. Call Tim Ryan before 9:30 PM, 410-248-2974, timothy_ryan@urscorp.com

Wed. May 25

GB – Easy: Gunpowder River Sunset Hike.
2 miles along the Gunpowder River. Meet at Gunpowder Parking Lot on

Belair Road (Rt.1) and the Big Gunpowder River, just north of Perry Hall at 7:00 PM.
Jack: 410-256-3963.

Sat.-Mon. May 28-30

HC – Strenuous: Canaan Mountain, WV Backpack
22+ mile, 2 night, backpack through this under-utilized but beautiful part of the Monongahela National Forest. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

June

Sat. June 4

HC – Moderate: Mudhole Gap / Bear Wallow, VA
10 mile circuit on some under-utilized trails on Massanutten Mt. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32.
Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

Sat. Jun. 4

GB – Moderate: Soldiers Delight
Five miles. Easy to moderate figure-8 hike covering both the east side and west side trails. Will discuss unique serpentine geology and efforts to remove invasive pines. Meet at Visitor Center parking lot, off of Deer Park Road, at 1:00 PM.

Alan: 443-334-2190 (weekdays)

Sun. June 5

HC – Moderate: Weverton Cliffs
12 mile up and back hike along the Appalachian Trail from Gathland State Park to Weverton Cliffs and return. Visit the unique Ed Garvey Shelter and enjoy a sweeping view of the Potomac River valley. Bring lunch

and water. Depart at 8:30 AM from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. Call Ron Arnold, 410-767-0106.

Sat. June 11

HC – Moderate: Jug Bay, Patuxent River Park
Explore this tidal marsh by canoe, then hike a mile for a different perspective. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 AM from the west lot of the park & ride at Rt. 32 and Broken Land Parkway. Sign up early to reserve a \$15 canoe or kayak, or bring your own. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net

Sat.-Sun. June 11-12

HC – Moderate: Dolly Sods Backpack, WV
14 mile Backpack with sweeping views, vistas, streams and waterfalls. Will try to hike 7 miles each day. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

Sun. Jun. 12

GB – Easy: Gunpowder Tubing Trip
Tube the chilly Gunpowder for one or more bridges. The river is not very deep or wide but it is very cold. Climb up a slippery slope and walk back on the NCR trail to warm up again. Bring a tube or rent one at the trailhead. Wear plenty of sunscreen, old sneakers or water shoes, and attach keys and other valuables. We will talk about the importance of adequate riparian buffers and their role in erosion control. You will see and feel the dynamics of flowing water, why and how rivers can shift course over time. Meet at the north end of the Deercro Road Park and Ride at 10:00 AM OR at Monkton Station on Monkton Road at 10:30. Call Joyce at 410 254-7240.

Thu /Tu, Jun. 16 – 21

AA – Moderate: Patuxent Sojourn

Outings (June, July, August)

Sojourners will travel down the Patuxent River, over a five-day period, from Jun. 16th through the 21st. The trip will follow the river from the 4H Center near Central Avenue to Benedict. The theme will be 10,000 Years of History on the Patuxent, with the possibility of participating in some archaeology. Children, youth, students and families are especially welcome! You may come for a day or two or the entire trip. Kayaks, canoes and non-motorized boats are welcome. Call Liz at 410-267-9009 for more information.

Sat. June 25

HC – Moderate: Hosack Run, Michaux Forest, PA
7.5 mile circuit hike featuring towering hemlocks and mountain streams bordered by rhododendron. Includes parts of Locust Gap Trail and the Quarry Gap portion of Appalachian Trail, 800 ft. elevation change. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 AM from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. Call Ron Arnold, 410-767-0106.

Sat.-Mon. June 25-27

HC – Moderate: Rohrbaugh Plains Camping, MNF, WV
Camp at modern Seneca Shadows with all facilities. Day 1: Set up camp and hike to the top of Seneca Rocks. Day 2: Moderate 10 mile shuttle hike in Dolly Sods featuring spectacular views, waterfalls and a few challenging creek crossings. Day 3: Break camp and head home. Reservations recommended. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat. June 25

GB – Easy: Gunpowder Tubing Trip. Bring a tube or rent one, wear old shoes or water shoes and have a way to keep keys from falling out of your pocket. Water can sometimes be very

cold. Meet at Monkton Station at 1:00 PM. Jack: 410-256-3963

Sun. June 26

HC – Easy: Flag Ponds Nature Park
4 mile hike down to the beach on the Chesapeake Bay, where we will hunt for shark teeth and other fossils eroded from Calvert Cliffs. Optional trip to Solomons for a restaurant lunch, then visit the Maritime Museum. Or bring lunch to eat on the beach. Depart at 8:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net

July

Sat. July 2

HC – Strenuous: Pond Run / Racer Camp Hollow, VA/WV
9 mile circuit hike with multiple stream crossings and a visit to White Rocks vista. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

GB – Easy: Gunpowder Tubing Trip. Bring a tube or rent one, wear old shoes or water shoes and have a way to keep keys from falling out of your pocket. Water can sometimes be very cold. Meet at Monkton Station at 1:00 PM. Jack: 410-256-3963

Sat.-Mon. July 9-11

HC – Strenuous: Otter Creek Wilderness Backpack, MNF, WV
14+ mile backpack with several wide stream crossings. Camp near beautiful waterfalls and swimming holes. Limit of 10 participants.

Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

Sun. July 10

GB – Easy: Gunpowder Tubing Trip
Tube the chilly Gunpowder for one or more bridges. The river is not very deep or wide but it is very cold. Climb up a slippery slope and walk back on the NCR trail to warm up again. Bring a tube or rent one at the trailhead. Wear plenty of sunscreen, old sneakers or water shoes, and attach keys and other valuables. We will talk about the importance of adequate riparian buffers and their role in erosion control. You will see and feel the dynamics of flowing water, why and how rivers can shift course over time. Meet at the north end of the Deercro Road Park and Ride at 10:00 AM Or at Monkton Station on Monkton Road at 10:30. Call Joyce at 410 254-7240

Thu.-Sun. July 21-24

HC – Moderate: Tea Creek Back Country Car Camping, MNF, WV
Primitive car camping at the junction of the Williams River and Tea Creek. Hike 2 moderate 10 mile circuits with beautiful streams and at least one vista. Chose one or both! Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

Sat. July 23

GB – Easy: Daniels Trail
6 mile out-and-back hike along the south side of the Patapsco River, with one climb to the top of the ridge. Will examine remnants of the B&O railroad track and visit the Davis Tunnel. May be some muddy spots. Meet at the trailhead by the small lot near the end



of Daniels Road, at 1:00 PM. Additional parking is around the corner by the dam. Alan: 443-334-2190 (weekdays)

August

Fri.-Sun. Aug. 5-7

HC – Strenuous: North River Gorge Car Camping, GWNF, VA
Primitive car camping along the New River. Strenuous 10 mile circuit hike featuring wooded paths and over 10 challenging crossings of this beautiful trout stream (degree of difficulty depends on water level). Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

Sun. Aug. 14

GB – Easy: Gunpowder Tubing Trip
Tube the chilly Gunpowder for one or more bridges. The river is not very deep or wide but it is very cold. Climb up a slippery slope and walk back on the NCR trail to warm up again. Bring a tube or rent one at the trailhead. Wear plenty of sunscreen, old sneakers or water shoes, and attach keys and other valuables. We will talk about the importance of adequate riparian buffers and their role in erosion

Outings (Aug., Sep.)



control. You will see and feel the dynamics of flowing water, why and how rivers can shift course over time. Meet at the north end of the Deerco Road Park and Ride at 10:00 AM OR at Monkton Station on Monkton Road at 10:30. Call Joyce at 410 254-7240.

Sat.-Sun. Aug. 20-21

HC – Strenuous: Ramsey's Draft Backpack, GWNF, VA
14+ mile backpack with several stream crossings (challenging if the water is high). Visit some of the oldest, most majestic hemlocks before they are no more!
Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

September

Sat.-Mon. Sep. 3-5

HC — Strenuous: Roaring Plains/ Hidden Passage/Canyon Rim Backpack 13+ miles with packs plus an optional side trip w/o packs along Long Run Canyon. Night #2 may be dry. Loads of fantastic views!
Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Stream Monitoring Will Resume in the Spring



Volunteers have been monitoring streams in Washington, Frederick and Carroll counties for years. The Catocin Group is working with other organizations in the region to put the data to use improving the quality of local and regional waterways. Monitoring will resume in the spring, and training is required. For more information, please contact Marcia Watters at mdwatters@juno.com or 301-790-3808.

BICO Outings

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.

MARCH

Sat 5

Migratory bird search *Choice*

Maple sugaring & hike at Cunningham Falls State Park *LI*

Mon 7

BICO Meeting *All*

Sat 12

tba *CGCC*

Sat 26

Hike: tba *DHH*

APRIL

Sat 2

Canoeing on Potomac River *LI*

Project Clean Stream (Norway Maple clearing) with the Jones Falls Watershed Association *Choice*

Sat 16

CBF's Clagett Farm Study Center *CGCC*

MAY

Sat 14

Backpacking on C&O Canal (tentative) *LI*

Sat 21

Hiking at Great Falls *Choice*

BICO Teams:

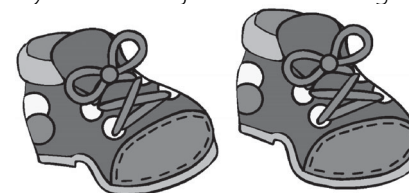
Choice = the UMBC Shriver Center's *Choice* program

DHH = Digital Harbor High School

LI = Learning, Inc.

CG CC = College Gardens

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.



Catoctin Film Festival

Sierra Club Catoctin Group Announces Spring Film Series

If you wish the Environmental Film Festival in Washington D.C. were closer to home, please join the Sierra Club Catoctin Group as we present and discuss four films in Washington, Frederick and Carroll counties in March, April and May.

The films explore population issues and the “growth is good” myth; the effects of global warming on the Chesapeake region and possible solutions for halting or reversing climate change; one man’s journey of turning his family’s farm away from herbicides and pesticides into a model organic farm; and the Gwich’in peoples’ struggle to save the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, their home for centuries and “the place where life began,” from oil exploration.

March 3, 7 p.m.

Westminster library, Carroll County: *In Growth We Trust*, with a discussion led by author and producer Edwin Stennett, president of Growth Education Movement, Inc.

March 10, 7 p.m.

Hood College, Marx Center, Frederick County: *We Are All Smith Islanders*, with a discussion involving author and filmmaker Mike Tidwell, founder and director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

March 17, 7 p.m.

Hagerstown Community College, Classroom 111, Washington County: *My Father’s Garden*, with a discussion led by local farmer, environmental lawyer and Sierra Club Catoctin Group activist Marcia Watters, who will be joined by other members of the farming community.

April 7, 7 p.m.

Westminster library, Carroll County: *We Are All Smith Islanders*, with a discus-

sion involving author and filmmaker Mike Tidwell, founder and director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

April 14, 7 p.m.

Hood College, Marx Center, Frederick County: *Oil on Ice*, with a discussion about national energy policy, the nationwide debate on drilling for oil in one of America’s last great wild places and the Sierra Club’s position on these issues.

April 21, 7 p.m.

Hagerstown Community College, Classroom 111, Washington County: *We Are All Smith Islanders*, with a discussion involving author and filmmaker Mike Tidwell, founder and director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

May 5, 7 p.m.

Westminster library, Carroll County: *Oil on Ice*, with a discussion about national energy policy, the nationwide debate on drilling for oil in one of America’s last great wild places and the Sierra Club’s position on these issues.

The Westminster library is located at 50 E. Main St. in Westminster. For more information about films being shown at this location or directions, please contact Gregor Becker at lorax4@carr.org or 410-876-2182.

The Marx Center is located on the Hood College campus in Frederick. For more information about the films being shown at this location or directions, please contact Ken Eidel at kceidel@sndi.net or 301-696-5933.

Hagerstown Community College is located at 11400 Robinwood Drive. For more information about films being shown at this location or directions, please contact Andrea Norouzi at andibonita@earthlink.net or 301-834-7581. ■

Letter to the Editor

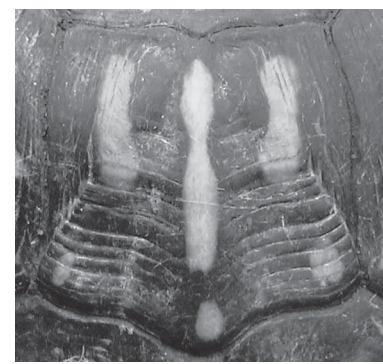
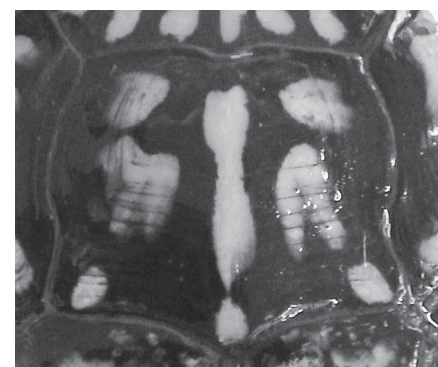
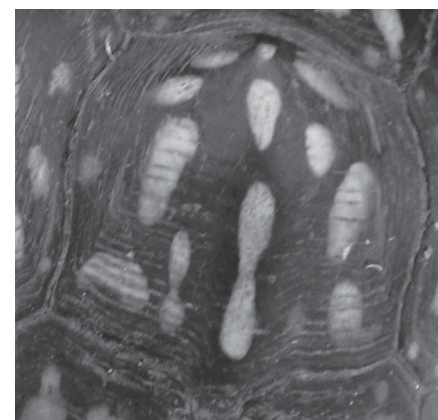
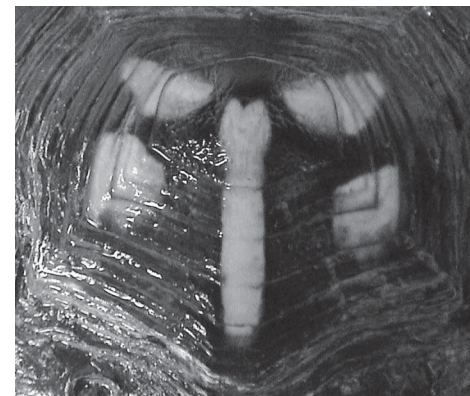
Box Turtle Watching

Elaine Friebele’s article on box turtles in the winter issue was extremely interesting. I am fortunate to find box turtles wandering about my property in western Howard County fairly frequently, and a few years ago I decided to investigate how many individuals were responsible for these frequent sightings. I found that adult individuals could be recognized by the distinctive patterns on their shells. It was easiest to look at just the plate on the front of the shell, just above the head: examples from five turtles are shown here. By taking a digital picture of this plate on each turtle, I have been able to identify 14 individuals, some of which have returned several times in the four years since I started, others of which have been seen only once.

I’m happy to say that I have also found young turtles on my property, some scarcely larger than a 25-cent coin, others about half the size of an adult. These young turtles do not yet have the distinctive markings of the adults. However, on the adults which have returned after several years, the markings have shown absolutely no change.

So, if you are lucky enough to have these animals on your property, take pictures of each one and later you will know if an old friend has reappeared.

—Bob Schaefer



Photos of box turtle shells courtesy of Bob Schaefer

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:
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Action Items

Now:

Call, write, or e-mail your delegates to urge their support for the Chapter-supported bills. The legislative session ends April 11. Call now!

By noon April 25:

Vote in the Sierra Club national election

Anytime:

maryland.sierraclub.org/action



- Clean Cars Bill, Four Pollutants Bill, Forest Preservation Bills, Campaign Finance Reform Bill...Good reasons to write or call your legislators, and some tips for doing it effectively
- The ICC: It's the wrong solution to Montgomery's transportation woes, and it will affect all of Maryland
- Wind Power. It's clean; why is it controversial?
- Events, outings, and more

inside this issue...

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