

# Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Spring 2006

## Governor Ehrlich Rejects Smart Growth

Endorsement of mega-development near Blackwater Wildlife Refuge puts farmland, wetlands, bald eagles at risk

By Lisa McGreevy—When talking to people from the Mid-Atlantic region, it's not uncommon to hear folks say that they saw their first bald eagle at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, near Cambridge on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. With the largest breeding population of bald eagles on the Atlantic Coast outside of Florida, Blackwater Refuge is a popular destination in Cambridge and a source of pride to many Marylanders.

The 27,000-acre refuge, which has been labeled the "Everglades of the North," is best accessed via its Wildlife Drive, where visitors quickly appreciate its captivating charm. Beautiful wetlands stretch as far as the eye can see, loblolly pine trees line the quiet roads and trails, and eagles and ospreys hunt for fish over the Blackwater River—a spectacle that can provide cherished memories for a lifetime. At its heart, Blackwater Refuge represents all that is right about America's public lands.

But not all is well at Blackwater Refuge. The march of development is coming. It's in the air and it's on the drawing board. And soon the sounds of cement trucks

(continued on page 9)

## 2006 Legislative Session in Annapolis

### Stay Informed and Take Action

By Jan Graham—Maryland's explosive opening session focused on overrides of the Governor's veto of the Fair Share Health Care Act and more than a dozen bills that gained national attention for the state. With bills on

This energy in Annapolis created an opportunity for the Sierra Club's legislative committee to reach out to our members with concrete action items and to engage their interests in important issues.

The Maryland Chapter strongly supported the Fair Share Health Care Fund Act (better known as the Wal-Mart bill), which is being held up as a model for other states. Other Maryland bills also can be national models, if our work on vital environmental legislation passes this session. With our partners in the Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE), we identified the following pieces of legislation as priority issues.

### Healthy Air Act

A loophole in the Clean Air Act has allowed our oldest power plants to avoid installing modern equipment that would reduce smog and soot. The Healthy Air Act (SB154 and HB189)

requires that emissions of the four main pollutants—mercury, carbon, nitrogen, and sulfur—be reduced at the seven dirtiest coal-burning plants in Maryland.

(continued on page 3)



Little Blackwater River empties into Blackwater River at refuge.

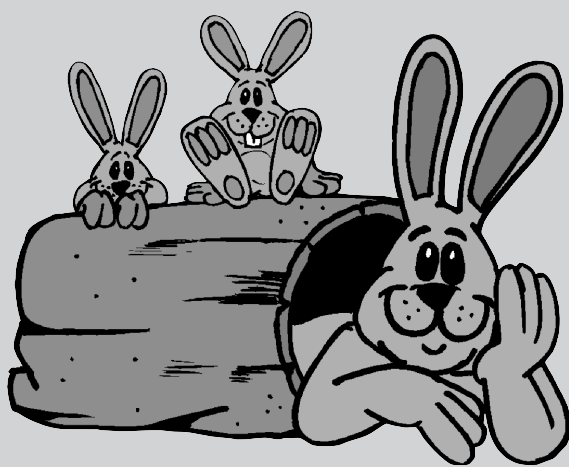
health care, minimum wage, juvenile services, commission for women, absentee voting, voters' rights, and several more, our legislators covered an incredible span of interests.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Spring Contents

- 2 Letter from the Chair
- 4 Emergency Contraception Without Prescription
- 4 Public Financing of State Campaigns
- 5 The Assembly on the Web: A Tour of the Virtual Statehouse
- 6 Power Plants and Global Warming
- 7 LNG Storage Coming to a Community Near You:
- 8 Sierra Student Coalition: Training for Environmental Leadership
- 10 Smart Growth Is Smart for Allegany County
- 11 In Your Backyard: Groups Are Active Throughout Maryland
- 12 Maryland Chapter Leaders
- 14 Habitat Gardens for Spring
- 15 Removing Invasive Plants Restores Habitats in Maryland
- 15 Invasive Species Removal Outings
- 19 Outings, Lots of Outings!
- 31 Ballot for PG Excom Elections



## Conserving Energy Is Personal and Political Responsibility



Betsy Johnson, Chair

In the January 29 edition of the *Washington Post*, the front-page article on climate change confirmed my suspicions that problems are accelerating. It seems that scientists are no longer arguing about whether climate change is real; they are arguing about whether we're already at the point where the warming trend is irreversible no matter what we do. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, 9 of the last 10 years were the hottest on record, with 2005 the warmest. The Earth's average temperature has risen 1 degree Fahrenheit over the past 30 years – that's a huge jump. And James E. Hansen, director of NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies program, says that another 4 degree increase would "imply changes that constitute a different planet." He also says that we need to act *now* if we are to have any hope of stopping the warming trend in time! Predictably, the Bush Administration is trying to shut this guy up.

President Bush, in his State of the Union message, cited our "addiction to oil" as a problem and offered a few remedies like alternative fuels, renewable energy, and nuclear power. Somehow this doesn't give me a warm feeling. Nowhere in his speech does Bush call for any changes in our individual lifestyles—which, let's face it, are gobbling up fossil fuels like there's no tomorrow. God forbid that anyone should suggest we sacrifice a few of our creature comforts in an effort to save the planet.

Where are the politicians like President Kennedy, who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country"? I yearn to be thrilled by the clarion call, inspired by a vision of national commitment, challenged to change in ways that don't have to do with tax cuts and personal savings. I want a "go to the moon" sort of goal to get us off the oil wagon.

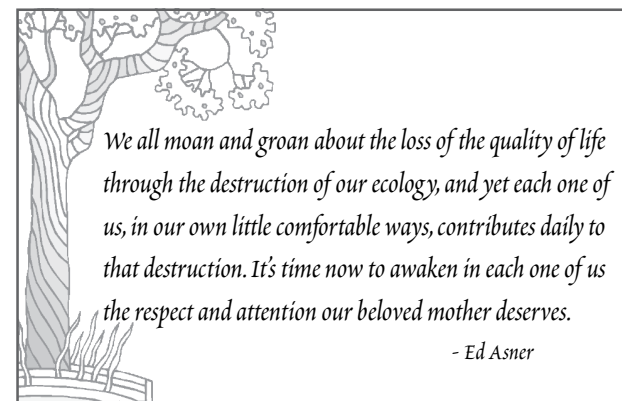
So while we're waiting . . . and waiting and waiting . . . for that kind of message from our so-called leaders, I challenge you to pony up some energy credits for the good of your country and the world. In an upcoming issue of the newsletter, we'll publish a one-time-only honor roll of energy conservationists. If you consider yourself a conservationist and believe that others could benefit from your good example, please prepare a list of the steps you've taken to reduce your consumption of

fossil fuels. Email it to [editorch@maryland.sierraclub.org](mailto:editorch@maryland.sierraclub.org). Include a picture of yourself, if you have one, and the town in which you live. If you don't have email, drop it in the mail to Sierra Club Energy Savings Committee, 7338 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 101A, College Park, MD 20740-3211. Reminder: this will be a one-time-only honor roll, so act now to be included!

I know a lot of you already are energy-conscious, but here are some easy energy-saving measures that you may not have thought of. Replace your light bulbs with compact fluorescents. Turn off lights and appliances when you leave a room. Hang up your clothes to dry rather than using a dryer (wooden racks work great and keep moisture in the air during the dry winter season). Drive less, and when you do have to go somewhere, try to carpool or take mass transit. Replace old appliances with energy-efficient ones. Turn your thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. Eat low on the food chain (less meat).

And, of course, we can pass legislation to deal with this problem. This year we have a great opportunity in Maryland to pass the Healthy Air Act—which, in addition to reducing emissions of three dangerous pollutants from power plants (sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide and mercury), will require Maryland to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. RGGI is a cooperative effort by Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through a sophisticated cap and trade program; see page 6 for more on RGGI. I urge you to call your legislators and ask them to support HB 189 and SB 154. Information on using the web to find and contact your legislators is on page 5.

Government actions can help, but we all need to work together to solve this problem. So thanks for your personal help in combating global warming. ■





## Our Mantra for the Legislative Session: Take Action

(continued from page 1)

### Program Open Space

Unlike the last several years, the state's fiscal year 2007 budget does *not* divert the funding of Program Open Space. Now, environmental groups must press their legislators to protect this full funding. We also must ask the Ehrlich administration to repay funds previously diverted to unrelated purposes.

### Agricultural Stewardship

For many years, the Sierra Club has worked on agricultural issues, which are an important component in maintaining open space and controlling growth. Each time we lose a farm, we guarantee a housing development and encourage sprawl. But the farms have presented a problem in nutrient management, hampering the restoration of water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The Agricultural Stewardship Act of 2006 (SB5 and HB2) promotes programs that enable farmers to farm and environmentalists to protect water sources through grants, educational programs, research, and a task force. The increased funds must be well spent. Only by monitoring farmlands and waterways can we verify the proper implementation of best-management practices and their positive effects.

### "Standing" Bills

Maryland community and environmental organizations often appear before zoning boards and similar public agencies, but they are consistently denied "standing to sue" – the right to contest or appeal adverse decisions in the courts. This is unfair to Marylanders, especially for citizens who have a number of environmental problems in their communities but are denied equal access to the courts.

We need a statutory solution to allow community leadership and individuals their rightful role in these legal pro-

cesses. We are asking for our right to stand in courts to protect our homes and communities from environmental injustice.

### Stormwater Management

Stormwater management will be a major problem as development increases all over the state. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) needs to require a watershed analysis prior to an activity to determine impacts and prevent downstream consequences. However, MDE's being understaffed and underfunded makes it difficult to inspect and enforce regulations. We need more inspectors to determine if permits have been violated. Passage of SB 625 could ensure the monitoring and testing of storm water runoff and would encourage the use of innovative technologies for erosion and sediment control.

Currently, all homeowners and businesses pay a set fee into the Bay Restoration Fund to cover septic systems as well as sewer hookups. Two recent bills, SB 174 and HB 276, have come before the legislature to exempt or option-out the septic component. The program will be doomed if some counties are exempt and others option-out. If all counties removed the tax on septic systems, the state would lose approximately \$14 million, \$5 million in loss to agriculture cover crops.

### Growth and Development

Healthy air, open space, agricultural stewardship, standing, and stormwater management—all the issues we care about—are affected by growth and development. How do we, as a state, want to grow? What places do annexation and/or growth allotments have in the process? Should these decisions stay with local governments—town, village, county? These questions must be answered, especially for the rural communities in southern, eastern and western Maryland.

Several examples can be found across the state. In Dorchester County, there's a struggle over a proposed housing development called Blackwater Resort Communities; on Kent Island, it's the Four Seasons Resort; and in Cecil County, there are several projects with water problems similar to those in Western Maryland.

Charles County's Senator Dyson recently decried the rapid growth and was quoted in *The Baltimore Sun* questioning the water resources for the future.

In the town of Millington, which Queen Annes and Kent Counties share, citizens have been engaged in a seven-year dispute over a proposed landfill that would border Unicorn Lake. The Eastern Shore Group has been an active participant, and legislation to save the lake may pass this year.

### Our Mantra: Take Action

As you can see from the above issues, problems abound; we Sierrans have our work cut out for us! We need to get involved in our communities in a very aggressive manner. Attend planning and

zoning, county commissioner, mayor and council meetings, and speak out for the environment. Unfortunately, too often we come into a situation too late. We can't afford to be too late. We must do more than pay our dues. We can't rely on our elected officials to protect us against exploding growth.

Without citizen participation, the air, water and land will degrade before our eyes, and Maryland will continue to become a paved-over suburb of Washington, a bedroom state without its own separate identity. We are a microcosm of the country. From the mountains to the sea, we have it all, and it is in our hands to preserve our heritage for the next generation.

We can only achieve this goal through the legislative process, by staying vigilant to spot bad bills, strongly support good bills, become educated voters, and elect officials who share our vision. We need to end this session with the same creative energy that started it and attract more Sierra Club members to participate with the legislative action in Annapolis. ■

## Two Opportunities; No Waiting

If you have bookkeeping or accounting skills or are just good with figures (and can balance your checkbook), the Sierra Club needs you.

The Chapter is looking for an assistant treasurer to start immediately. Training will be provided. You'll be helping the environment and your local Sierra Club Chapter.

Call Betsy Johnson, 301-656-4948, for more information.

Good with data? Good with words? Well organized? Willing to work for a worthy cause?

The chapter needs a membership chair. Could it be you? Call Betsy Johnson, 301-656-4948, for more information.



## Emergency Contraceptive Pills Without Prescription

By Cliff Terry—SB 297 and HB 828 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%. They are not abortion pills.

Half of the 6 million annual pregnancies in the U.S. are unintended. EC holds the potential to reduce unintended pregnancies by half, so it could also cut in half Maryland's abortion rate of 3 in every 10 pregnancies.

But emergency contraceptive pills are effective only within 72 hours after intercourse. Moreover, their effectiveness decreases by 50% with every 12 hours of delay even within those 72 hours. So women must be able to get them as soon as possible and on the spur of the moment, because that's the way the need arises. It may be impossible to get a physician's prescription quickly enough, especially on a weekend or holiday.

The American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists support making EC pills available to women without a prescription. Several states have allowed this for years.

Advisory committees for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration voted overwhelmingly that the pills are safe enough to sell nationwide without prescription, but under right-wing political pressure the FDA kept postponing a decision. That decision now appears to have become a "no" by inaction.

Here are some of the objections people have expressed to sale of EC without prescription, with responses:

1. In some cases the pills may work by preventing implantation of a fertilized egg in the uterus, and some churches that

users have unpleasant (but not dangerous) side effects, like nausea, which would discourage frequent use.



What makes EC a Sierra Club issue? Environmental concerns are only one of the reasons easy access to EC is important, but they are an important reason. All those unintended pregnancies contribute, of course, to continuing population growth. As you know, growth contributes directly to sprawl, road congestion, air pollution, extinction of species, and degradation of all of our natural environment.

For lots more information about emergency contraception, see <http://Not-2-Late.com>. For information about this bill, contact Cliff Terry, [cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org](mailto:cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org), or 410-944-9477.

Please call your senator, especially if on the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (though it's possible that committee will vote before you receive this, since the hearing was Feb. 15). And please call your delegates, especially if on the Health and Government Operations Committee, where the hearing is March 14. ■

oppose abortion call that abortion. In medical terms, however, it is not abortion because a woman is not pregnant until after implantation.

2. Some say EC will encourage promiscuity. But some say that about any contraception.

3. Some are leery about very young girls taking the pills without medical supervision. But the pills are far safer than either alternative—childbirth or abortion. Moreover, they could not be sold except after a screening by a pharmacist trained in a state-approved program, following a protocol developed by the state, and providing an instruction sheet written by the state.

4. EC does not protect against sexually transmitted diseases. But most other contraceptives don't either. Pharmacists will make sure purchasers understand that.

5. Some fear women will rely on EC as their regular contraception. But the pharmacist will warn them it is not effective enough for that. Also, about a quarter of

## Public Funding of Campaigns

By Cliff Terry—SB 569 and HB 1054 would provide full public funding for campaigns for the General Assembly.

Many of the legislators you lobby on environmental issues depend heavily for their campaign funding on contributions from businesses and industry trade associations. 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.

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: public financing of General Assembly campaigns, as recommended by the Study Commission on Public Funding of Campaigns in Maryland. This system would be similar to those working well for several years now in Maine and Arizona.

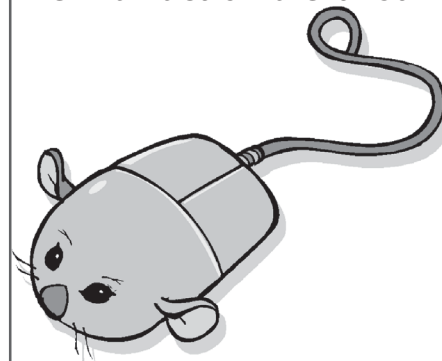
All General Assembly candidates who wish to receive public funding would first have to show broad public support by collecting a specified number and amount of "qualifying" contributions from registered voters in their districts. They must agree to abide by spending limits set for each office.

Please call your senator, especially if on the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, where the hearing was March 3. And please call your delegates, especially if on the Ways and Means Committee, where the hearing was March 2.

Tell them the current system encourages public cynicism about the influence of big contributions on legislators' votes, and that it forces candidates to spend too much time asking for money, time they should be spending talking to voters and, in the case of incumbents, doing their jobs. ■

Cliff Terry can be reached at 410-944-9477 or [cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org](mailto:cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org).

Join the Maryland Chapter  
e-mail action alert list



[www.marylandsierraclub.org/action](http://www.marylandsierraclub.org/action)

# Environmental Legislation

## Keeping Up with the General Assembly: A Tour of the Virtual Statehouse

by Cliff Terry—This year's 3-month session of the Maryland General Assembly began Jan. 11. Proposals of environmental importance include those to:

1. Reduce emissions of four major air pollutants by the state's seven dirtiest power plants (introduced as the "Healthy Air Act," Senate Bill 154 and House Bill 189);
2. Stop spending most of the money scheduled for land conservation and parks under Program Open Space on other things; and
3. Fund programs to reduce polluted runoff from farms into streams and the Bay.

To discover what's going on in the General Assembly, there's no better way than the General Assembly's website. This article will point you to some of the most useful items there. You could find them on your own, but some are easy to miss.

The site's home page is at <http://mlis.state.md.us/>, and much of what you'd want is listed right on the home page. The two-column table of contents

near the top of the page takes you mostly to items on that page, so browsing that page may be the best approach.

For a description of the steps from introduction of a bill to its becoming law, click on *Department of Legislative Services* in the section with the same name just above the bottom of the page, then *Documents & Publications*, then *2005 Drafting Manual*, and see chapter II.

The **Bill Indexes** section leads you to lists of every bill introduced on a subject you choose from a list. If you know the number of a bill you're interested in, the **Bill Information and Status** section leads you to its text, amendments if any, where it is in the process, and a statement of its fiscal impacts ("Fiscal Note"). The Fiscal Note also gives a good explanation of the bill. Links to *Senate Synopsis* and *House Synopsis* in the last line of that section give you lists of every bill introduced in the session so far.

The **Hearing Schedules** section tells you when and where the assigned committee will hold a hearing on a bill. Anyone can testify, which means you can give your opinion and any relevant facts you

can fit into the few minutes allowed, so don't be shy. See below on that page for information on parking and security.

In the next section, **Budget Information**, there seems to be plenty to help you find what you want to know.

Bills always show the existing statutory language they would change and some of the context, but if you need more, the **Statutes** section takes you to the full text of Maryland's existing statutes.

Toward the bottom of the home page, under the heading **Everything Else** and the subheading **What's Happening at the Maryland General Assembly**, click on *2006 Session - Dates of Interest Calendar* for critical dates in the session's schedule. Under the same subheading, click on *Helpful Hints and Reminders for General Assembly Visitors* for parking information and the warning that visitors must show photo ID and pass through a metal detector. (So don't carry sharp objects such as scissors and metal nail files.) In the same section, under the subheading **Publications from the Department of Legislative Services**, is a link to the *Legislative Wrap-up*, a weekly summary of

what's happening to bills.

Instead of, or in addition to testifying, you can contact your own legislators, and the **Contact Your Legislators** section near the top of the page can help. If you don't know who they are or your district, click on *Find your legislators using a street address* and type your address in. The other item in the section invites you to e-mail them. To identify your legislators if you know your district, scroll down to the **Roster** section and click on *View Roster and List of Committees*, then *Roster of Legislators by District*. For mailing addresses and phone numbers, also click on *View Roster and List of Committees*, but then *Senate Biographies* or *House of Delegates Biographies*. For a letter, however, the name plus Senate (or House) Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401 will suffice.

These are the highlights. There's a lot more on the General Assembly website, as you will discover when you visit. ■

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club acknowledges with gratitude the generous donations made in response to our annual spring letter.

The Maryland Chapter and our local groups are depending on your support this year to help promote legislation and candidates who share our concern about the continued assaults on our environment.

Please help. Make your contribution today!

Yes, I will help the Sierra Club meet the conservation challenges of the year ahead. I am enclosing a check payable to the **Sierra Club Maryland Chapter**, in the amount of

\_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\$250 \_\_\_\$500 \_\_\_Other

I would like to hear more about: (please circle):

donating stocks including Sierra Club Maryland in my will

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Mail to Sierra Club Maryland Chapter, Suite 101A, 7338 Baltimore Ave., College Park, MD 20740. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution, please make your check payable to Sierra Club Foundation / Maryland Chapter.



# Energy and Global Warming

## Power Plants and Global Warming

### Why Maryland Should Join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

The burning of fossil fuels is changing the global climate. The first signs of warming are already appearing, and future changes will have serious impacts on Maryland.

- Last year was the hottest year on record.
- Sea level has risen seven inches in Maryland in 100 years. Thirteen islands in the Chesapeake Bay have been totally inundated.
- Future sea level rise may move the shoreline of Dorchester, Somerset and Wicomico counties three to six miles inland.
- Scientists predict storms will be more severe due to global warming.



Flooding in Baltimore's Fells Point. Photo Karl Glazebrook

### Coal-Fired Power Plants Are Global Warming Culprits

Power generation is the biggest source of greenhouse gas emission in Maryland, with most of the emissions coming from just seven coal-fired power plants.

The seven dirtiest power plants released 31 percent of the state's global warming gas in 2004. That's as much as is released by 5.4 million cars and SUVs in a year.

If we don't improve energy efficiency, this problem may become worse. Maryland's demand for electricity is projected to increase 25 percent by 2018.

### How the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Works

Seven states in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast have created the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI, pronounced Reggie). Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine have agreed to stabilize global warming pollution from power plants through 2015 and then reduce emissions 10 percent by 2018.

Under the program, power companies pay for the right to continue emitting carbon dioxide. The money goes into a fund that the state uses to promote en-

ergy efficiency. The energy efficiency savings, combined with the renewable energy we are already gradually developing, enable us to be less dependent on our dirtiest sources of power. Energy companies can choose either to run their coal-fired power plants for fewer hours per year or to purchase credits from energy companies in other states that reduce the output of their plants.

### RGGI Is Feasible for Maryland

Energy efficiency and renewable energy could reduce emissions from coal-fired power plants.

By requiring more efficient appliances, better insulation in buildings and modernized industrial processes, Maryland could save enough energy to eliminate the need for any additional electricity generation even as our population grows.

We're already developing renewable energy. By 2019, 7.5 percent of the electricity sold in Maryland will come from clean, renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power.

Taken together, the renewable energy we are already developing plus cost-effective energy efficiency will allow Maryland to cut emissions by 15 percent

from coal-fired power plants by 2018. Since RGGI calls for only a 10 percent reduction, the program is very feasible for Maryland.

### Saving Money While Reducing Emissions

The best way to meet the requirements of RGGI is to invest in energy efficiency. Such efficiency would save money for Maryland consumers.

Energy efficiency is cheaper than buying electricity because efficient equipment costs less than the electricity needed for wasteful appliances. The amount of energy efficiency that would happen under RGGI could reduce the average household electricity bill by \$30 to \$50 per year.

Power companies would pay \$8-12 million per year statewide, but families and small businesses would save money from reduced energy use. With profits in the hundreds of millions of dollars, power companies can easily build these expenses into the costs of doing business.

### A Great Opportunity for Maryland

Our neighboring states have finalized the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and invited us to join. No longer can we hide

behind the excuse that one state cannot solve global warming on its own. We know what it will take to get the ball rolling.

Participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative would be our first step toward addressing what is likely to be the biggest environmental problem of our generation. And it would benefit the economy at the same time.

### Call MDE Today

The Maryland Department of the Environment could decide at any time to bring Maryland into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, but so far has resisted doing so. The Department needs to hear from you. Call them at 410-537-3245. ■

### Healthy Air Coalition

*Chesapeake Climate Action Network . Clean Energy Partnership . Clean Water Action . Maryland League of Conservation Voters . League of Women Voters of Maryland . MaryPIRG Foundation . Physicians for Social Responsibility, Baltimore Chapter . Presbytery of Baltimore . Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter.*



Join us on May 20-21 for a trip to Kayford Mountain in WV to see the devastation caused by mountaintop removal mining. Larry Gibson, a Kayford Mountain resident, and Julian Martin, Vice President of the WV Highlands Conservancy, will lead the tour. For trip info, send an email to Aleen Starkweather at Aleenst@aol.com. Please put Mountaintop Removal in the subject line. See [www.ohvec.org](http://www.ohvec.org) for more information on the destruction of the Appalachians, and a gallery of stunning photos of the ruins left by the mining operations.

## Coming to a Community Near You: An LNG Storage Facility

### Washington Gas Safety Expert Tells Zoning Hearing Audience: "Get Used to It"

By Linda Fennell and Imani Kazana—In a colorful and honest manner, Jeffrey Beale, President of CH IV International, a technical services company specializing in LNG terminal start-ups, laid the fact straight out on the table: "There will be LNG facilities in communities and people will live around them." This was his response to a question asking whether the gas company had investigated alternative sites that would be more appropriate for a hazardous material facility. That was an interesting statement to the Avondale Citizens Association, the Washington Gas Watch Alliance and other interested persons who listened to eight hours of Washington Gas experts' testimony before the Prince George's County Zoning Hearing Examiner on January 18.

This hearing was a continuation of the Washington Gas Company's zoning application for a special exception to construct a liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage facility at 2130 Chillum Road in Hyattsville, Maryland. The Hyattsville area is home to families of various ethnic and economic backgrounds. In close proximity to the proposed LNG site are churches, shopping centers, skilled nursing facilities and a host of multi-family dwellings. At the January 18 hearing, the audience and the Zoning Hearing Examiner listened to the Chief EMS state that it would be a challenge for first responders to quickly evacuate this segment of the population. Mr. Beale and the project manager, Kevin Murphy, discussed various aspects regarding the construction of the facility.

#### **Plant Safety Challenged**

February 10, 2006, the third day of testimony before the Zoning Hearing Examiner, was an even more positive day for community opponents of the Chillum Road proposal. The safety expert, Mr. Beale, was forced again to admit that

mechanical and equipment failures can and do occur at LNG facilities, offering no guarantees to those who might live close to them. He was also questioned about a preliminary "thermal heat zone analysis" report, which the gas company had been trying to shield as "confidential." This study revealed that the federal government's minimal standard only considers spills and minor fires at the top of an LNG storage tank, discounting what would happen if there were an incident involving the processing equipment at the more vulnerable bottom of these tanks. The study also focuses on an average winter weather condition, discounting times when the temperature might be below 31 degrees, with a relative humidity below 35%, and a wind speed greater than 16 mph. The company claims that a 567 ft. buffer zone would be inadequate if an incident occurred on a day where the temperature fell below 31 degrees, providing credence that a minimum of 800 ft. is more realistic.

Steven McElroy, a gas company security expert from Boston, was questioned by the community and its attorney in a manner which successfully negated the applicant's claims of absolute safety. The line of questioning revealed that high-powered terrorist weapons are capable of penetrating the proposed outer concrete tank and that the site is quite vulnerable to attacks from the adjoining

neighborhood, Metro line properties and airplanes. Their plan for protection outside the property line fence is totally dependent upon the resources of the Prince George's County Police Department. The audience immediately chuckled at that concept, as it is common knowledge that this police department is understaffed because it continues to lose personnel to competing public and private security agencies in the region.

#### **Community Expresses Opposition**

On December 3, residents of the Avondale community, along with residents from Mt.

Rainier, Hyattsville and other surrounding towns, braved the bitter cold morning to express their opposition to the gas utility company. Janice Hall, past



Prince George's citizens rally in opposition to LNG Plant.

president of the Avondale Citizens Association, organized the event. With bullhorn in hand, Hall and fellow community leaders Amber Waller, 8<sup>th</sup> Precinct, and Mayor Malinda Miles of Mt. Rainier led a crowd of 40 community supporters to protest the gas company's request. "We know that LNG is the new energy technology and we welcome the technology. But the placement of such a facility in a heavily populated area is unacceptable," said Avondale resident Janice Hall. Maryland Chapter Sierra Club Chair Betsy Johnson and Vice Chair Mike Martin were also among the protestors. Martin agreed with Janice Hall, saying,

"We are not against LNG; we have a lot of concerns about the siting of such facilities not only in this area but in other densely populated areas throughout Prince George's County."

The Washington Gas Company appeared before the Prince George's Zoning Hearing Examiner on December 7 as the first of a series of hearings after the Prince George's Park and Planning Commission Board recommended that the utility company's request for a special exception be denied. Citing neighbors' concerns, the planning board agreed that this proposed facility would be inappropriate for the area and forwarded the recommendation to the Zoning Administrator for additional review. Over the past three months, the Zoning Administrator and community residents have heard a range of 'experts' in the different fields related to the LNG industry. It was revealed at the zoning hearing, Washington Gas concurrently has an application before the Public Service Commission seeking permission to construct the facility. It was also revealed that some of the key professionals that are involved in the implementation of the gas company's LNG plans have never had, or have limited experience in, managing an LNG processing and storage facility. Jeffrey Beale, designated as the gas company's safety expert, stands by his belief that this facility will be constructed to exceed federal safety laws.

#### **General Assembly Getting Involved**

Meanwhile, the Maryland General Assembly has its eye on this project. The gas company has dispatched five lobbyists to plead their case for the need of the Chillum Road LNG site to members of the Prince George's and Montgomery County delegations. A proposed bi-county bill is making its way through the legislative process. PG/MC 111-06,

(continued on page 8)



## Avondale Resists Gas Storage Plant

(continued from page 7)

Prince George's County-Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities – Approval Limitation was introduced by Delegate Dereck Davis. The proposed legislation prohibits the District Council in Prince George's County from approving a special exception to construct certain liquefied natural gas storage facilities unless three-quarters of the District Council votes in approval. MC/PG 111-06 would provide Prince George's residents the level of special exception appeals that Montgomery County residents already enjoy. In Montgomery County, a standard of review is in place for utility special exceptions that requires a supermajority vote (4 of 5) from their Board of Appeals. This legislation would provide the same standard for Prince George's County since the District Council performs this identical function.

The Prince George's delegation overwhelmingly approved the measure, but it is currently held up in the Montgomery County Subcommittee. This logjam is due to the fact that the M-NCPPC is a bi-county agency and any changes to its procedures must be agreed upon by both counties. Montgomery County delegates are hesitant to sign on to the proposed legislation due to Washington Gas's argument that if the Chillum site is not selected, choosing an alternative site would cost customers \$540 million. According to the Washington Gas press statement, Adrian P. Chapman, the company's Vice President of Operations, Regulatory Affairs and Energy Acquisition, stated that building at the Chillum site would cost \$110 million in construction and operating costs over 20 years. After further questioning before the Senate Finance Committee in early February, Washington Gas officials admitted that the \$580 million would amount to only a small increase of \$1.00 a month for each house-

hold beginning in 2009.

Prince George's resident and co-chair of the Washington Gas Watch Alliance Stu Eisenberg says, "Montgomery County is deciding whether or not it is in the interest of its county to support Prince George's residents' desire to establish their own land use standards". Eisenberg added, "Prince Georgians deserve the same standards that Montgomery County residents enjoy."

### How You Can Help

If you would like to volunteer your services for this campaign, please call Imani Kazana at 301-799-6948, or Linda Fennell and Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111. If you would like to contribute to the Avondale Citizens Association Legal Fund, please make your check payable to The Sierra Club Foundation, (note: LNG Legal Fund). Mail contributions to Avondale Citizens Association, P.O. Box 5891, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782. ■

## Insulate Your Home and Get Paid!

By Charlie Garlow—The new federal energy law, passed in 2005 makes you eligible for up to \$500 for insulating your home. This is a tax credit, taken off your taxes due, rather than a less generous deduction.

The credit is for 10% of the cost of the insulation, not including the installation labor costs. So, if you are buying \$5000 worth of insulation, you can get the full \$500 credit.

Homeowners can spend the money over two years (January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007) on one project or on several projects until the maximum credit is reached. The credit must be taken in the tax year in which the improvement is made. This credit is also available for other energy efficiency measures. ■

Details at [www.simplyinsulate.com](http://www.simplyinsulate.com)



## Students — This Summer, Learn How to Make a Difference SSC Offers Environmental Leadership Training Programs

Have you ever seen an environmental problem in your neighborhood or on your campus, but you weren't sure what you could do about it? Do you hear about problems like global warming and unsafe air or water, and wish you could be a part of the solution?

Every year, the Sierra Student Coalition, the student-run arm of the Sierra Club, runs a series of week-long summer programs for environmentally-minded high school and college students. The programs are planned and run by students, and have, for over a decade, been building a new generation of environmental leaders. While there, you will meet people from across the country who share a common love for the environment and new ideas for how to make things better.

The programs combine rustic settings and outdoor activities with intense training on how to plan and run environmental campaigns, communicate effectively about the environment, and build school or campus environmental groups. Guest speakers provide new insights into the problems facing our planet and how all of us can get involved to solve them.

Many participants have gone on to lead their student environmental groups and Sierra Club Chapters to new levels of organizing and effectiveness.

The programs cost \$180. Scholarships are available. Special Group Rate: \$480 for 4 people/\$420 for 3 people.

Applications will be accepted until April 15 or until the programs are full. Space is limited to 30 students per training session. Get more information at [www.ssc.org](http://www.ssc.org) or by calling 1-888-JOIN-SSC.

### 2006 Student Summer Training Program dates and locations:

**August 13-20 Northeast Student Summer Program:** Raccoon Creek State Park, near Pittsburgh, PA

**June 18-25 Southeast:** William B. Umstead State Park, Raleigh, NC

**June 25-July 2 North Central/Plains Region Student Summer Program:** St. Croix State Park, near Minneapolis, MN

**July 9-16 Southwest Student Summer Program:** Hualapai Mountain Park, near Flagstaff, AZ

**July 16-23 Northwest Student Summer Program:** Lewis and Clark State Park, near Seattle, WA

**July 24-30 Environmental Justice Student Summer Program:** near Los Angeles, CA

**Puerto Rico Student Summer Program:** Dates TBA: Para más información, por favor visitáis [www.ssc.org](http://www.ssc.org). (native Spanish-speakers only, please)



## Treasured Blackwater Refuge Threatened by Mega-Development Proposal

(continued from page 1)

will drown out the screams of eagles.

The farmland that leads to Blackwater Refuge has caught the eye of developer Duane Zentgraf, who at this moment is pushing for final approval of his Blackwater Resort Communities, a billion-dollar project that will be located two miles from the Refuge along Egypt Road. Once completed, the mega-development will bring 3,200 single-family and multi-family homes, a 100-room hotel/conference center, a golf course, and a retail center to 1000-plus acres of what is now farmland. Within the project zone are over 300 acres of "Critical Area" land, which includes a designated "Resource Conservation Area" and "Habitat Protection Areas."

The project is adjacent to the Little Blackwater River (LBR)—a river that feeds directly into the heart of Blackwater Refuge and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff at Blackwater have not officially opposed the project, but have raised grave concerns regarding the impact of stormwater runoff on water quality and aquatic life in the brackish wetlands of the refuge. Southern Dorchester County is known for its poorly drained soils, high tides, and rising sea levels, and Egypt Road has a history of flooding. In her testimony before the Dorchester County Council, Blackwater senior biologist Dr. Dixie Birch addressed the danger of more paving: "We have analyzed the changes to impervious surfaces that the Blackwater Resort Communities development will have on the LBR watershed by working with the Environmental Protection Agency modeling system called 'NEMO'. This development project will increase the impervious surfaces of the LBR by 12 to 13%. Previous scientific studies by Galli in 1994 and the Center for Watershed Protection in 2000 have clearly demonstrated that when the impervious surfaces in a watershed exceed 10% there is a sharp

decline in fish populations and water quality."

### **A Failure of Maryland Government**

The most surprising aspect of the Blackwater Resort Communities project is not that a developer wanted to buy farmland near the shore—it's that so many members of Maryland government failed to stop the ill-advised scheme when they had the chance.

To accommodate the developer, the Cambridge city government annexed the 1000-plus acres of farmland to bring it within city limits, since it was not near the town and was not in the city's growth plan. Dorchester County's comprehensive plan designated it a town/incorporated area after annexation, and the property was rezoned from "Agricultural" to "Planned Water Resort District." Governor Ehrlich's Department of Planning then designated the site a state "priority funding area," making the project eligible for state funding for roads and sewers.

When Planning Secretary Audrey Scott was asked to defend their decision to approve the plan—since it will eat up farmland, degrade water quality, and threaten a major wildlife refuge—she first replied that they didn't have the authority to reject it. When it was pointed out to her that she indeed did under the 1997

Smart Growth Act, she said they feared getting sued.

Maryland's Critical Area Commission will get its say in the final approval of the growth allocation that the devel-

oper needs to reclassify a "resource conservation area" to an "intensely developed area." Mary Owens, chief of program implementation for the state Critical Area Commission, told

*The Baltimore Sun* that she didn't see the commission stopping it since "I hate to see farmland get subdivided and municipal boundaries extended, but this is the land the developers are interested in."

Al Barry, a Baltimore-based planning consultant who helped Cambridge write its land-use plan, told *The Baltimore Sun* that, "The state and city are abdicating their planning responsibility to react to the developer's whim."

### **Cambridge Citizens Get Angry**

The developer has performed his own environmental assessment. But the senior biologist and refuge manager at Blackwater NWR are calling for a baseline study of water quality and quantity conditions of the Little Blackwater River before growth allocation is awarded, since the project lacks an environmental im-

pact statement. And this issue concerns the residents of Cambridge, who have been told repeatedly by local politicians and the developer that the project is environmentally sound.

Out of desperation, the citizens of Cambridge have asked for help, and that help has arrived in the form of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. On Monday January 30, 2006, the CBF held a town hall meeting in the Cambridge American Legion Hall, where 350 residents crowded into a standing-room-only meeting and demanded that the project be terminated to protect their environment and their quality of life. Republican Congressman Wayne Gilchrest—the only local politician who is apparently listening—told the crowd that he was fully supportive of the CBF's intervention and he opposed the project, which he said sets a dangerous precedent for towns throughout Maryland. Toward the end of the meeting a farmer, a waterman, a doctor, and numerous local residents came forward to condemn the project. Chants of "NO, NO, NO" could be heard from many in the crowd as they voiced their frustration.

But as this newsletter goes to press, the Cambridge City Council is indicating it will follow the lead of the Dorchester County Council and give final approval to the largest growth allocation in Maryland history, which will allow Blackwater Resort Communities to build a golf course and housing in the designated "Critical Area" habitat near the Little Blackwater River.

### **Wrong Development in the Wrong Place**

The CBF is vowing to fight the project with every tool available. Aiding their effort is Senator Jim Brochin (D-42) of Baltimore who has introduced bill SB 257 in the Maryland Senate, which will prevent growth allocation for development

(continued on page 10)



Blackwater Refuge bald eagle. Photo by Bob Quinn.

# Sprawl and Development

## Blackwater Refuge Threatened by Mega-Development

### The Value of Blackwater Refuge

Protects one of East Coast's largest populations of bald eagles

Protects largest remaining population of endangered Delmarva fox squirrels

Protects over 270 state and federally threatened and endangered species

Protects over 300 species of migratory birds

Wetlands of International Importance per the Ramsar Convention.

Internationally Important Bird Area

(continued from page 9)

within 1000 feet of a major tidal tributary near a wildlife refuge. Senator Richard Colburn (R-37) from Dorchester County has been puffing about in anger that "outsiders" are attempting to get involved, but Colburn's indifference to his constituents' concerns is driving the need for action by someone who is willing to listen to the citizens of Cambridge.

The CBF is currently collecting signatures for a petition that asks Governor Ehrlich to intervene on behalf of the citizens of Cambridge. Unfortunately, this is the same governor who was caught trying to sell Maryland conservation land to a construction executive without the public's knowledge, and who had planned to create a database of other state lands he could sell.

Journalist Tom Horton, formerly of *The Baltimore Sun*, warned of Ehrlich's disdain for conservation land in a January 21, 2005 *Sun* article, when he wrote,

"When I interviewed him, running for governor a couple of years ago, two things stood out. He said he would do his darndest to clean up sewage pollution. But he had no enthusiasm for preserving land or fighting sprawl... In Ehrlich's administration, even using the words 'Smart Growth' is discouraged."

The origin of Maryland's celebrated 1997 Smart Growth Act can be credited to Parris Glendening, the Democrat who preceded Ehrlich as governor, and who was always a fierce champion of the bill. John W. Frece, a former Glendening aide who is at the University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, highlighted Ehrlich's failure in leadership when he told *The Baltimore Sun*: "the key to making it work was always leadership at the governor's level." Governor Ehrlich's response to the Blackwater Resort controversy has been to label it a local issue and to say he will likely veto any bill that stops the project.

### ***Maryland's Future in the Balance***

The question is simple: Will Maryland citizens be allowed to pursue smart growth on their own terms or will politicians—dazzled by wealthy developers—be allowed to violate the public will? The Maryland Sierra Club fully supports the citizens of Cambridge in their effort to encourage smart growth, to protect their quality of life, and to safeguard their natural resources. We wait to see if Maryland's politicians will afford them the same consideration.

### ***How to Help:***

Visit the Maryland Sierra Club website for updates on the Blackwater project: <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/>

Visit the Chesapeake Bay Foundation website for updates on their Blackwater campaign: [www.cbf.org/blackwater](http://www.cbf.org/blackwater). ■

## In Allegany County, Smart Growth Makes Sense

By Dale Sams—Does it make sense to be concerned about Smart Growth in an area that hasn't seen much growth? Citizens for Smart Growth in Allegany County believe the answer is yes, of course it does, and we're opposing a proposed new development known as Terrapin Run.

This would be a 4,300-unit housing and commercial development situated on about 900 acres. Located in rural eastern Allegany County along Scenic Route 40, an important heritage tourism area, it would be bordered by Green Ridge State Forest and the Billmeyer Wildlife Management Area. With a state forest and a wildlife management area as neighbors, the closest high school and middle school would be more than 30 miles to the east

discharged into it every day.

The federal and state endangered wildflower, *Harperella*, found in only 11 locations globally, germinates in Fifteen Mile Creek during low summer flows. The addition of this large amount of effluent would adversely impact *Harperella*'s ability to survive. The waste treatment plant's effluent, along with chemical-laden storm water runoff from parking lots, a shopping center, and many new streets, roads, and lawns, would all end up in the Potomac River.

The Allegany County Planning Commission, in a split vote in May 2005, decided to allow the developer to proceed with research and analysis. Despite the fact that the area is zoned for agriculture

**The developer expects that the working residents of Terrapin Run, some 10,000 to 11,000 of them, would drive the I-68, I-70 and I-270 corridors to Frederick, Baltimore and Washington, DC, a commute of 150-200 miles, while students would make a 60-mile round trip each day in the opposite direction.**

in Cumberland, the nearest elementary school 15 miles away in the small community of Flintstone. The developer expects that the working residents of Terrapin Run, some 10,000 to 11,000 of them, would drive the I-68, I-70 and I-270 corridors to Frederick, Baltimore and Washington, DC, a commute of 150-200 miles, while students would make a 60-mile round trip each day in the opposite direction.

The proposed development is named after a small tributary of Fifteen Mile Creek, a high-quality trout stream, into which the developer eventually plans to discharge the effluent of a wastewater treatment plant. During many months of the year, Terrapin Run is a dry creek bed; nevertheless, if this development is built, 750,000 gallons of treated waste will be

and conservation, the Board of Zoning Appeals, again on a split vote, granted a special exception by approving this development. Citizens for Smart Growth in Allegany County have appealed this decision with the Circuit Court of Allegany County, where a hearing is scheduled for April 21, 2006.

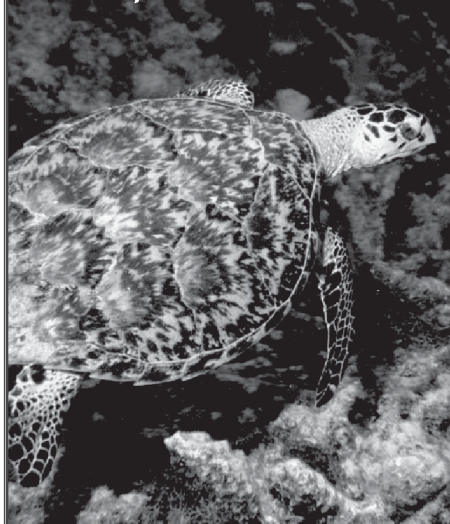
The Board of Zoning Appeals based its decision primarily on highly debatable economic benefits to the county. Smart-growth principles point to the high cost of a new community in an area that is 30 miles from a population center. Experience shows that \$1.50 or more is required for every \$1 collected in new real estate taxes to build the necessary infrastructure and provide all the necessary services. Terrapin Run violates every one of

(continued on page 14)



# Group News Roundup

## GOING, GOING... GONE?



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

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

**Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



My Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

**INTRODUCTORY** ☐ \$25

**REGULAR** ☐ \$39 ☐ \$47

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

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Groups Are Active Throughout Maryland

By Mary Corddry—This is the first roundup of activities and issues of the nine Sierra Club Groups in Maryland: Anne Arundel County, Catocin, Eastern Shore, Greater Baltimore, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Southern Maryland, and Western Maryland. There is a link to each Group's website on the Maryland Chapter's home page at [www.maryland.sierraclub.org](http://www.maryland.sierraclub.org). If you have information to contribute to future "Roundups" for the *Chesapeake* newsletter, please contact Mary Corddry at [XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com) or at 410-248-0423.

Common themes are evident in the Groups' priorities: preservation of "special places" to maintain quality of life for current and future generations; support of "smart growth" in areas with the necessary infrastructure; opposition to sprawl, unplanned development, and unsustainable growth; importance of closely reviewing local comprehensive plans and rezoning proposals; and necessity for constantly monitoring local activities for adverse environmental impacts.

Each Group has an Executive Committee with a Chair, and sends a Delegate to the Maryland Chapter's Executive Committee. Most Groups have vacant leadership positions such as Executive Committee members, treasurer, newsletter editor, webmaster, committee chairs, and outings leaders. Volunteers are needed and welcome in any capacity.

Groups have various ways to come together—socials, dinners, picnics, special topic forums, environmental movies, outings. The Groups are closely monitoring environmentally-related legislation being considered by the General Assembly in this year's session. They will be interviewing candidates for local office in this year's elections, in order to recommend endorsements.

### **Anne Arundel Group**

Chair: Ann Wolfe, 410-867-0900

The Group had a dinner in February.

A moratorium is proposed on annexation of further property into Annapolis, to prevent additional development from overwhelming Annapolis Neck.

The Group endorsed candidates in Annapolis elections during November 2005. The main concerns were the growing environmental impact of overheated development and the increasing traffic in and around Annapolis.

In January, the Group had an outing at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, as part of its effort to honor special places in the county that are in need of continued protection. Other areas of concern are Waterworks Park and the Crownsville site.

The Group is seeking entries for a juried photo exhibit it is sponsoring at Arundel Center for April 2007.

### **Catocin Group (Carroll, Frederick, Washington Counties)**

Chair: Kim Stenley, 410-756-6402, [kstenley@earthtones.com](mailto:kstenley@earthtones.com)

The Catocin group works to inform people about the environmental and public health issues we face at the local, state and national levels by hosting films and discussions. We also offer stream monitoring training where we teach others how to use equipment purchased with a national Sierra Club grant to help monitor water quality in the Monocacy watershed.

Some members have been meeting monthly in Carroll County to work on clean air and energy issues, such as clean diesel and solar power. The group also provides feedback on the counties' master and comprehensive zoning plans and regulations.

The group is planning Earth Day activities in Carroll and Frederick coun-

ties, including a Friday evening film and discussion at the library and a Saturday, April 22, event in downtown Frederick. If you would like to participate or have any ideas, please email Kim Stenley ([kstenley@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:kstenley@mcdaniel.edu)).

We are also planning more hikes and outdoor activities this year. The next one is tentatively scheduled for Saturday March 18. We are putting together an email list of Frederick, Carroll and Washington hikers and outdoor enthusiasts. If you are interested in being notified of these activities, please send your email address to Chris Hodge at [chrishodge@adelphia.net](mailto:chrishodge@adelphia.net) (guests from adjacent areas are more than welcome). Also, let us know if you would be interested in being an outings leader.

### **Eastern Shore Group (Cecil County and Eastern Shore counties)**

Chair: Diane Bedlin, 410-643-3283 [dianebedlin@gmail.com](mailto:dianebedlin@gmail.com)

A major issue is the proposed mega-development of 3,200 new houses, shops, and golf courses near Blackwater National Refuge in Dorchester County.

The Group is also concerned about saving Unicorn Lake in Queen Anne's County from environmental devastation, due to plans for a 58-acre landfill next to the lake.

### **Greater Baltimore Group (Baltimore City and County, Harford County)**

Chair: Ron Henry, 410-838-9119, [RonLHenry@msn.com](mailto:RonLHenry@msn.com)

Dru Schmidt-Perkins, Executive Director of the 1000 Friends of Maryland, presented at the Group's January Executive Committee meeting about the 2006 General Assembly legislative priorities of the Citizens' Campaign for the Environment.

The Greater Baltimore Group col-

(continued on page 13)

# Maryland Chapter Leaders

## **Executive Committee**

**Betsy Johnson, At-Large Del., Chair**

301-656-4948

betsy.johnson@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Mike Martin, At-Large Del., Vice Chair**

michael.martin@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Dan Boone, At-Large Del.**

301-704-5632

dan.boone@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Ellen Pepin, At-Large Del., Conservation Chair**

ellen.pepin@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Jon Robinson, At-Large Del.,**

301-422-0064

Jon.Robinson@sierraclub.org

**Marc Scott, At-Large Del., Secretary**

marc.scott@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Earl Bradley, Anne Arundel Del., ACE Representative**

Earl.Bradley@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Gregor Becker, Catocin Del.**

410-876-2182

gregor.becker@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Diane Bedlin, Eastern Shore Del.**

410-643-3283

dianebedlin@gmail.com

**Ron Henry, Greater Balt. Del.**

443-474-7449

RonLHenry@msn.com

**Kathleen Sheedy, Howard Del.**

Kathleen.Sheedy@gmail.com

410-730-4178

**Ginny Barnes, Montgomery Del.**

301-762-WATR

ginny.barnes@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Fred Tutman, Prince George's Del.**

301-249-8200 ext 7

Fred@paxriverkeeper.org

**Bonnie Bick, Southern MD Del.**

301-839-7403

bonnie.bick@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Sam White, Western MD Del.**

301-264-4162

sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org

## **Issues Contacts**

**Sam White, Agriculture and CAFO Chair**

301-264-4162

sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Marc Imlay, Biodiversity, Invasive Species, and Habitat Stewardship Chair**

301-283-0808

marc.imlay@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Cliff Terry, Campaign Finance Reform Chair**

410-944-9477

cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Chris Carney, D.C. Metro Region Challenge to Sprawl Campaign, Building Environmental Communities Campaign**

202-237-0754

chris.carney@sierraclub.org

**Bonnie Bick, Environmental Justice Chair**

301-839-7403

bonnie.bick@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Bob DeGroot, Forests Chair**

301-340-8348

**Rich Norling, Groundwater Chair**

410-734-7720

rich.norling@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Kim Birnbaum, Pesticides Chair**

410-379-1075

Kim.Birnbaum@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Ed Stennett, Population Chair**

301-948-0168

bev-ed.stennett@worldnet.att.net

**Joan Willey, Public Lands Chair**

301-948-0168

joan.willey@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Steve Caflisch, Transportation Chair**

301-654-3288

steve.caflisch@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Ed Merrifield, Water Chair**

202-222-0707

ed@potomacriverkeeper.org

**Jon Robinson, Wildlife Chair**

301-422-0064

Jon.Robinson@sierraclub.org

## **Other Contacts**

**Walter Jones, BICO Chair**

443-394-8192

Walter.Jones@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Joan Willey, Fundraising Chair**

joan.willey@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Jan Graham, Legislative Chair**

jan.graham@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Daniel Soeder, Outings Chair**

410-969-9465

djsoeder@yahoo.com

**John Fay, PAC Treasurer**

301-946-5599

john.fay-mc@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Charlie Garlow, Political Chair**

charlie.garlow@juno.com

301-593-9823

**Clay Birkett, Postmaster**

postmaster@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Sherry Dixon, Treasurer**

sdixon@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Rick Andrews, Webmaster**

Andrews4art@yahoo.com

**Darla Tewell, Newsletter Editor**

dtewell@maryland.sierraclub.org

## **Chapter Staff**

**Laurel Imlay**

301-277-7111

laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org

## **Office Address**

7338 Baltimore Avenue #1A

College Park, MD 20740

Tel: 301-277-7111

Fax: 301-277-6699

http://maryland.sierraclub.org

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

to Newly Elected  
At-Large Delegates  
to the Chapter Executive Committee

Dan Boone  
Betsy Johnson  
Mike Martin

## Create an Environmental Legacy

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

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

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



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



# Group News Roundup

## Groups Bring Environmentalism Home

(continued from page 11)  
laborated with Friends of Harford to independently review about 328 rezoning requests being considered by Harford County as part of its first Comprehensive Zoning Review since 1998. Recommendations were presented in a report to the County Council. Updates on the process are at [www.friendsofharford.com](http://www.friendsofharford.com) or [www.co.ha.md.us/PlanningZoning/ComprehensiveZoningReview](http://www.co.ha.md.us/PlanningZoning/ComprehensiveZoningReview).

Baltimore City is holding nine hearings between February and April on its first comprehensive master plan in 30 years. The plan and information about the hearings are at [liveearnplaylearn.com](http://liveearnplaylearn.com).

Meetings have begun for the Liquid Natural Gas terminal facility proposed at Sparrows Point.

Baltimore City proposed a plan for a bicycle network. For information see [www.baltimorecity.gov/government/planning/bikeplan.html](http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/planning/bikeplan.html).

In November 2005, a conference on "Clean Money – Campaign Finance Reform: A Real Solution for Maryland" was sponsored by the Greater Baltimore Group, Common Cause Maryland, and others.

In 2005, the Greater Baltimore Group had about 34 outings. Additional outings were offered by the Young Sierrans and by the Baltimore Inner City Outings.

### **Howard County Group**

**Chair: Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, [kenclark7@comcast.net](mailto:kenclark7@comcast.net)**

In 2005, the Howard County Group's outings program had a record year of 87 outings and 918 participants. The number of outings has increased every year for more than 10 years.

In January, there was a legislative issues summit, at which Terry Cummings of the Citizens' Campaign for the Environment (a coalition to which the Sierra Club belongs) presented about environmental bills that may be proposed during this year's General Assembly session.

On March 17, there will be an environmental film night at the Howard County Recreation and Parks Headquarters in Columbia.

Earth Day, Saturday April 22, is the next major event for the Conservation Committee.

### **Montgomery County Group**

**Chair: Anne Ambler, 301-946-5599, [anneambler@comcast.net](mailto:anneambler@comcast.net)**

The Group has a Scorecard on its website for County Council members' votes with significant environmental implications. An update is in progress.

The Group hosts environmental programs at least monthly in members' homes, with a potluck meal and then a speaker, film, or discussion.

It also hosts four auditorium programs a year, currently at Brookside Gardens Auditorium in Wheaton. In April, the program will be an environmental career fair.

Concerns include protecting the county's agricultural reserve from development by private institutional facilities, stopping urban sprawl, Turn the Tide for actions that individuals can take for measurable impact on the environment, Parks Not Pavement Campaign to protect the seven conservation areas and stream valley parks in the path of the proposed InterCounty Connector (ICC), opposition to the ICC, and stopping sediment from going into streams from developments.

### **Prince George's County Group**

**Chair: Chip Reilly, 301-218-3920, [cbreilly@his.com](mailto:cbreilly@his.com)**

In Prince George's County, the group is busily laying plans for its annual event, tentatively set for the evening of Saturday, April 1st. We'll present the Maloney Environmental Service Award to a deserving politician. With your attendance, the fun and the fulfillment will surpass last year's great event.

We are asking members to contact the Prince George's County Council to insist that they pass a viable and fair "Transfer of Development Rights" bill, to fulfill their promise to do growth management. Tell them that we want growth management funded reasonably, not by allowing developers to cut the trees (using off-site mitigation) and not by disregarding master plans (through widespread density increases) in the Developing Tier. The "TDR bill" (CB-5-2006) creates a mechanism whereby rural landowners get paid to not sub-divide their land, so that the county can afford adequate public services in the established areas, instead of diverting resources to far-flung new housing projects. We also support, with qualifications, proposed bills CB-4-2006 and CB-6-2006 requiring that design of new sub-divisions include at least 50% open space and improved design standards.

For details on the above matters, see <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/pg/>. If you wish to speak to someone about the annual event, call Alex Hirtle at (301) 927-2105, or about growth management bills, call Chip Reilly, at (301) 218-3920. We need your interest in these affairs.

### **Southern Maryland Group**

**(Calvert and St. Mary's Counties)**

**Chair: Bob Boxwell, 410-394-6153, [bobboxwell@hotmail.com](mailto:bobboxwell@hotmail.com)**

On June 3, the Group is sponsoring the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Potomac River Swim for the Environment. The event, which is the Group's largest fund-raiser, takes swimmers 7.5 miles from Hull Neck, Virginia across the river to Point Lookout State Park, Maryland. There will be a picnic at Point Lookout. Contact Donna Cave at 301-932-7249 or [DonnaCave@aol.com](mailto:DonnaCave@aol.com).

A Public Forum on Clean Energy was held in February, sponsored by the Southern Maryland Group and the Southern Maryland Greens. Over 60 people attended to discuss what we can do about our rapidly changing climate

and how we can use alternative energy sources to lessen our dependence on foreign oil, conserve energy, and use more efficient, less polluting sources of power.

Also in February, there was a "Walk on the Wild Side" at Myrtle Point Nature Center on the banks of the Patuxent River. This marked the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of hikes to increase public awareness of this unique treasure.

### **Western Maryland**

**(Allegany and Garrett Counties)**

**Chair: Sam White, 301-264-4162, [cedarrockcsa@yahoo.com](mailto:cedarrockcsa@yahoo.com)**

Residents continue to fight Terrapin Run, a 4,300 home subdivision proposed for eastern Allegany County, in an area that is an ecological buffer zone for Green Ridge State Forest. (See article page 10.)

In November 2005, the Group had a get-acquainted dinner followed by a public program. Betsy Johnson, chair of the Maryland Chapter, spoke about sprawl—how to keep unsustainable growth out and promote development within the existing local infrastructure.

The Group is holding an Excom election this spring. Anyone interested in volunteering a few hours each month should contact Sam White at 301-264-4162 or Mark Diehl at 301-724-6238.

The Group proposed a Citizen's Forest Watch for each State forest to report on forest issues. Contact Mark Diehl if you are interested. ■

We are not talking here about the preservation of "the American way of life." We are talking about the preservation of life itself.

—WENDELL BERRY

## Smart Growth Makes Sense in Allegany

(continued from page 11)

Maryland's smart-growth initiatives: concentrate development in suitable areas, protect the environment, direct growth to existing population centers, provide stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay, and ensure that public facilities and infrastructure are adequate.

Citizens for Smart Growth in Allegany County is a loosely formed group of artists, educators, environmentalists, foresters, hunters and sportsmen, scientists, and others. Many moved to the county to escape the megalopolis; all have joined forces to oppose Terrapin Run and voice their concerns about land-use planning. Smart growth is logical, sensible growth – and it is just as applicable to counties that are growing slowly, such as Allegany County, as to those that are growing more rapidly.

Visit our website at [www.acgrowth.org](http://www.acgrowth.org) or contact [acgrowth@yahoo.com](mailto:acgrowth@yahoo.com) for more information. ■

## Maryland Chapter Outings Leaders Meeting and Training.

New leaders, experienced leaders, group chairs, and people who want to be leaders, please come and meet each other and the chapter outings chair.

**Saturday, Mar 11:** *Meeting:* 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., College Park City Hall *Outings Leader Training* 101: 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. Learn about planning a hike, dealing with trail emergencies, group dynamics, and getting the most out of leading an outing. The Sierra Club requires that all outings leaders complete this training. The training will repeat on April 1st, and April 9<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Laurel Imlay ([Laurel.Imlay@sierraclub.org](mailto:Laurel.Imlay@sierraclub.org)) for directions if needed. Leader/Instructor: Dan Soeder (410-969-9465, [Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org](mailto:Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org))

**Saturday, Apr 1:** Outings Leader Training at Bowie City Hall from 12 noon to 3 PM. Please contact Laurel Imlay ([Laurel.Imlay@sierraclub.org](mailto:Laurel.Imlay@sierraclub.org)) for directions.

**Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup>:** Outings Leader Training at Sierra Club Office, Suite 101 A, 7338 Baltimore Ave, College Park College Park, 12 noon – 3pm. Contact Dan Soeder (410-969-9465 or [Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org](mailto:Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org)) to sign up, and Laurel Imlay ([Laurel.Imlay@sierraclub.org](mailto:Laurel.Imlay@sierraclub.org)) for directions.

## Think about a Habitat Garden for a Spring Project!

By Jim and Teresa Gallion—We live in chaotic times. Some days it seems that the world has gone absolutely bonkers! But one thing remains the same during times of upheaval: Nature offers us a peaceful refuge. When I talk to fellow gardeners and native plant enthusiasts, it is clear that they rely upon the natural world as a source of optimism and serenity in difficult times, just as my wife Teresa and I do. Teresa and I will often seek our garden's soothing sights and sounds for relief of stress—the birds chirping and frogs croaking, waters falling into our pond and the beautiful blooms of native plants that attract butterflies and other pollina-



We often hear people speak of their desires to simplify their lives and focus on what is truly important. One thing that is increasingly important is our connection to nature. Perhaps this explains the increased interest in the use of native plants for conservation-based landscaping or habitat gardens. We plant native plants not only for our enjoyment, but also for the butterflies, birds and all forms of wildlife that will be attracted to the plants. This connection to the natural world provides us with a sense of being a part of the larger, wonderful world of nature with all its sounds and beauty right in our own backyard.

Here in Frederick County, from the forests to the valleys, streams and rivers, farm fields and meadows, plant communities are made up of hundreds of species carpeting wild places. These plant communities transform energy from the sun and nutrients from the soil into food for themselves and wildlife. They also provide wildlife with cover and places to raise their young and sources of clean water. These diverse plant communities are the foundation of all ecosystems—including your yard.

Native plants are plants that occur naturally within a region or ecosystem without human intervention. Regionally native plants are the best choice for habitat gardens. The life cycles of plants and animals in each region of the world have evolved to complement each

other. There are many examples of this kind of co-evolution: migratory wildlife travel between ranges at the time of year when their plant and animal food sources are producing the most food; wildlife species have developed hibernation behaviors that coincide with plant dormancy; and plants offer blooms that take advantage of the life cycle and physical shape of their wildlife pollinators.

As human populations have increased and expanded, we have removed the native plant communities in the regions we inhabited and have replaced them with plant species from other parts of the world. Non-native or exotic plants are plants that have been introduced, through human activity, to areas where they would not naturally have grown. Many of these plants have escaped our gardens, landscapes and farms

and have invaded natural areas. Invasive plants are non-native plants that out-compete native plants, spread rampantly and alter our natural ecosystem. Often a small number of these introduced invasive species will replace entire native plant communities. The result is habitat destruction for the wildlife species that depend on native plants. Removal of our native plant communities is one of the reasons that habitat loss is the number one threat to wildlife today.

Take some time this spring to re-evaluate your gardening and landscaping practices. Think about reducing your turf and creating or restoring a habitat garden. Whole communities have been involved in habitat gardening and there is help out there to get you started. You will be helping our wildlife friends and find great enjoyment watching them! To learn more about some great programs to help you, check out these websites: The National Wildlife Federation at [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org), Wildones Natural Landscapers at [www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org), Monarch Watch at [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org), the Maryland Native Plant Society at [www.mdflora.org](http://www.mdflora.org) and the Society's gardener's guideline to using native plants to attract butterflies at <http://www.mdflora.org/publications/gguidelines03.pdf>.

*Jim and Teresa Gallion garden in Walkersville, MD. Their website is [www.gardeningatadventures.com](http://www.gardeningatadventures.com).*



# Invasive Species and Habitat Restoration Outings

## Removing Invasive Plants Restores Habitats in Maryland



By Marc Imlay—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 crept over 20-90% 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 Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club is establishing a program to provide local groups and public and private landowners with various methods for invasive species removal. We are assisting to develop a major work effort at each site, to remove massive populations of about a dozen species over the next three to five years. Regular stewardship projects are conducted in all seasons year-round. A high-intensity effort is followed by lower intensity annual maintenance to eliminate plants that we missed, or that are emerging from the seed bank or migrating from neighboring areas.

The *Chesapeake* newsletter announces monthly invasive species removal projects at over 30 sites in Maryland. Almost all projects started as a result of hands-on workshops conducted by Sierra Club members in Charles and Montgomery Counties. The Nature Conservancy has also conducted projects for many years.

The Maryland Native Plant Society (MNPS) and the Sierra Club sponsor monthly projects at Chapman Forest, Swann Park, and Greenbelt National

Park. With the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS), they co-sponsor removal projects in Little Paint Branch Park and Cherry Hill Road Community Park in Beltsville, and Magruder Park in Hyattsville, and provide considerable assistance with other projects.

This year, AWS brought out 1,075 volunteers at 12 parks, including three stream bank stabilization sites. Also, AWS integrated invasives-oriented curricula components into our Watershed Explorers/River Habitat environmental education programs, involving 176 students from local schools.

These sites serve as a visible example of what can be accomplished. Our biggest challenge is to ensure that all the successful projects continue. Restoration of our native ecosystem is realistic but requires leadership, partnerships, and continuing commitment by volunteers ready to work.

At least 80% of the natural areas are salvageable by applying a combination of mechanical eradication (digging, pulling, cutting) and carefully targeted chemical control. We remove all the class 1 and class 2 exotic species, typically 5-20 species, because if you eradicate just one exotic, another may replace it. Re-vegetation is usually not necessary. Once the invasives are removed, the natives return on their own to recover the majority of the surface area.

In the natural areas, we only use carefully targeted, biodegradable herbicides, such as glyphosate and triclopyr, which do not migrate through the soil to other plants. Instead of spraying invasive trees such as Ailanthus, Norway Maple, and Chinese Privet, we inject concentrated herbicide into the tree, either by basal bark, hack and squirt, or cut stump. Seedlings are easy to hand pull. We wait for wet soil after a rain, then loosen the soil with a garden tool such as a four-prong spading fork, so the center

of the plant rises perceptively, ready to pull.

These methods are effective if the initial cover of non-native invasive species is less than 30% of the total plant cover, and are adequate if they cover less than 70%. At a higher percent coverage, more chemicals are necessary to eradicate the invasives. Native plant re-vegetation may be necessary, using native species that are not cultivars but are obtained from the wild or from nursery stocks originally collected locally in the wild. There are several mixes that include 12 to 16 herbaceous and shrub species, including nitrogen fixers.

A total of 109 individuals worked 635 hours at 800 acres in Chapman Forest last year. At the 200-acre Swann Park, we are essentially in the maintenance phase after five years of almost completely eradicating all of the park's 19 non-native species except for the Japanese stiltgrass and garlic mustard.

At Magruder Park in Hyattsville, we are re-introducing native plants in order to control potential erosion on a steep slope where a monoculture of English ivy was removed. Local volunteer steward Judith Malioneck has been spreading a thin layer of leaves from the site on the few bare areas, and no erosion appears evident. It is a highly disturbed and isolated park, to which native plants will not return without assistance. Volunteers have reduced the percentage of non-native cover in this five-acre park from an estimated 80% to 70%.

Join us at any on-going invasive plant removal site around the state. Experience, help, and learn! Remember our five-year goal: for such invasive plant removal projects to become routine throughout the region, the nation, and the world. ■

*Marc Imlay is the Invasive Species and Habitat Restoration Chair for the Maryland Chapter.*

## Restoration Outings

**Anne Arundel and Prince George's or Howard Counties Fort Meade**

Help remove Japanese stilt grass, English ivy, garlic mustard, tree of heaven, multiflora rose, crown vetch, Japanese honeysuckle, common privet, phragmites, Asiatic tearthumb, etc. Prior to removing the weeds, there will be a short training session on identification, and control techniques of non-native invasive plants.

People of all ages, backgrounds and interests are invited to spend a few hours outdoors, hand-pulling some non-native plants while learning about the differences between native and non-native invasive plants and how these invasives adversely impact our natural ecosystem.

### *Where and When*

Fort Meade Army Installation Second Saturday of every month at 10 a.m.

*Directions:* Take Route 175 East from the 295 Baltimore Washington Parkway. Take Mapes Road Entrance onto the installation. Bring hand tools, gloves, lunch and water. Long sleeves and pants recommended. At least one day prior to the event, contact Don Marquardt, Installation forester, Fort Meade, by e-mail, donald.marquardt@us.army.mil, or by phone at 301-677-9185.

**Middle Patuxent Environmental Area Conservation Stewardship Project** at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) will be meeting on the fourth Tuesdays of the month from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. from March to October. 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 Carol Filipczak, cfilipczak@comcast.net. The Conservation Stewardship project is sponsored by

(Outings Continued on Page 16)

# Invasive Species and Habitat Restoration Outings

(Outings Continued from Page 15)

Howard County Recreation and Parks and the Howard County Master Gardeners.

## Patuxent Research Refuge

In partnership between the Department of the Army (Fort Meade), the Maryland Native Plant Society, the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club and Patuxent Research Refuge and volunteers.

Non-native invasive plants are threatening our wildlife habitat. We need YOU to help stop them. Come out for one of our "Weed Warriors Days" and help us treat garlic mustard, mile-a-minute, Japanese stiltgrass and other non-native plant infestations on the refuge. All ages and abilities are welcome. Do your part to protect Patuxent from alien invaders, and become a Weed Warrior! You will receive a short educational briefing explaining the effects of invasive plants on wildlife and wildlife habitats and how to identify and control these plants. Wear long sleeves and pants and bring gloves. Please register for this event by calling 301-497-5887. Dates for 2006 events are as follows (dates and times subject to change if necessary):

Saturday 4/22 - Earth Day event, Weed Warriors Kickoff. North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 1-4 p.m.

Tuesday 5/16 - National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Saturday 6/3 - National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Monday 6/12 - North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Wednesday 8/9 - North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Saturday 9/9 - National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Directions to the North Tract Visitor Contact Station: From I-295, take the exit for MD-Route 198 towards Fort Meade. Go approximately 1.5 miles until you see "Glory Days Auto Salvage" on your near

right corner and baseball fields on your far right. Turn right between the two onto Bald Eagle Drive. Proceed through the gate and continue about 1/2 mile to the Visitor Contact Station. Directions to the National Wildlife Visitor Center: The National Wildlife Visitor Center is located off of Powder Mill Road between MD Route 197 and the Baltimore/Washington Parkway, south of Laurel.

For additional information, call 301-497-5763 or visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov>.

## Riverfront Park, Laurel

Wishing for weeders in Laurel

When: Sunday, March 12 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., followed by potluck. All are welcome. We'll be sure to have something to warm the body and soul. Sunday, April 9, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., followed by potluck.

*Directions:* From I 95 north or south: take MD Route 216-Laurel exit. At the second traffic light (Main Street) turn right. Go to the end of the next block, turn right at 9th Street and park at the swimming pool.

Brigitte Fortin-Zaidan 240-506-8976  
[bfzaidan@Safe-mail.net](mailto:bfzaidan@Safe-mail.net)

## Baltimore

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. Please contact Kimberley Mead at 410-396-0359 or by e-mail at [Kimberley.Mead@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Kimberley.Mead@baltimorecity.gov) for directions, RSVP or with questions.

Weed Warrior Training Session Saturday, March 11th from 10a.m. until noon, Cylburn Arboretum mansion

Keep Saturday, April 1st open as Shape Up the Parks Day will have numerous fun-filled activities scheduled.

Weed Warrior Coordinator, Baltimore City Parks and Recreation, 410-396-0359

## Calvert County

### Hellen Creek Preserve

*Directions:* From Washington, take Rt. 4 south to Calvert County. Turn right at the second light in Lusby, which is Coster/Mill Bridge Road. Take Coster. After passing two rights (Bassford) look for three black mailboxes on the right and turn at the third. Follow Clifton Drive to the first left. Follow to Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust sign. For more info, or to receive updates about workdays 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](mailto:bobboxwell@hotmail.com).

## Caroline County

### Adkins Arboretum

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

## Charles County

### Ruth Swann Park and Chapman Forest

*Dates:* First Sundays, monthly, Mar 5,

April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, Aug 6, Sept 3, Oct 7, Nov 5, Dec 3 Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Remove invasive non-natives from the 200-acre Swann Park and 800 acre Chapman State Park. There will be time for plant identification and a beautiful beach lunch. Participating organizations include MNPS and Sierra Club. 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 main gate of Chapman Forest, 20 miles south of Washington Beltway (I-495) on Rt. 210 (Indian Head Hwy). Give yourself 30 to 40 minutes from the Beltway. INFO about the area and map <http://www.chapmanforest.org> CARPOOL: Meet at Sierra Club Md. Chapter office at 8 am; return 5 pm. Call Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111. Bring gloves, lunch, and water. Durable long sleeves and pants recommended. Contact: Marc Imlay 301- 699- 6204 [ialm@erols.com](mailto:ialm@erols.com).

## Garrett County

Battling Botanical Bullies in Bear Pen Wildland

Leaders: Ron Boyer & Liz McDowell  
Date: April 21 and June 16, 2006  
Time: 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Exotic Removal Workday: Volunteers are needed to continue control efforts of Japanese spiraea in the Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Forest. Bear Pen is designated as a Type 1 Wildland and like other natural areas around the state; it is threatened by a variety of exotic invasive species. In 2005, Ed Thompson, Maryland Heritage & Wildlife Service ecologist, identified the removal of *Spiraea japonica* from Bear Pen as a



# Invasive Species and Habitat Restoration Outings

high priority project. We'll be working on Friday April 21st and Friday June 16th from 9 to 12 to continue our efforts to reduce the infestation using both mechanical and chemical control methods. Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist with the Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service, is providing technical support. Mike Gregory, New Germany State Park manager, is providing free camping the night before for any out-of-town volunteers. Ron Boyer and Liz McDowell, Elk Ridge NatureWorks, are coordinating the project and providing snacks and drinks for volunteers.

For more details or to register, contact Ron at 301-895-3686 or [info@elkridgenatureworks.com](mailto:info@elkridgenatureworks.com).

## Howard County Patapsco State Park

For regular monthly events resuming in the spring sponsored by Patapsco Riverkeeper for about ten species of non-native plants contact Lee Walker Oxenham, Patapsco Riverkeeper, Inc 410-313-8826

Our endeavors will take place at Patapsco Valley State Park - right off Rte 1 in Elkridge. Light refreshments will be provided. Bring any pruning and digging gear you have, especially gauntlets.

The area is suffering from invasive everything—especially kudzu and ivy and grape vines—but we also have tree of heaven and mile-a-minute. It's a depressing sight seeing all the vines taking over and literally pulling the trees down. Can't wait til we drag them down and FREE THE TREES!

## Kent County

### Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, May 13: Special Service Outing: Wineberries with Garlic Mustard (rated easy) A new type of exotic fruit salad? Not quite. These are two invasive plant species that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would like help removing from Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge (1730 East-

ern Neck Road, Rock Hall, MD). Garlic mustard is a newly arrived invasive species, and is a management priority. Wineberry is a raspberry-like plant that begins to ripen with fruit between June and July. This will be a joint service outing with the Maryland Native Plant Society and the Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club. Since many of us don't know garlic mustard from French's Mustard, we will be guided in our weed pulling by Rachel Cliche, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist and the invasive species specialist for the Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Garlic mustard is pulled by hand, but a 4-pronged spading fork works best on wineberry. Rachel has six forks available for volunteers to use, but if you have one please bring it. High boots (for ticks) are recommended, along with a DEET-based bug repellent, a hat and gloves. We will be grilling burgers of both the veggie and beefy variety in the Eastern Neck NWR picnic area. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. Families are welcome. There are many other "Weed Warrior" opportunities in MD for pulling invasive plants (see article by Marc Imlay), but we are sponsoring this one as an outing because Rachel is in the early stages of building up a cadre of regular volunteers to help with invasive species control. Please reserve with the leader by May 10 for information on food, carpools and start time. Leader: Dan Soeder 410-969-9465 [djsoeder@yahoo.com](mailto:djsoeder@yahoo.com)

## Montgomery County

### Invasive Plant Control Workdays in the Potomac Gorge.

Help protect native plant biodiversity near DC!

The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with the National Park Service, will continue all season with invasive plant control workdays in the Potomac Gorge, a 15-mile stretch of river valley between Great Falls and Georgetown with over 200 rare plants and five globally rare

plant communities. Volunteers are welcome to sign up for a variety of workdays, where we cut or pull some of the most problematic weeds, often in scenic areas. We will hold two more Weed Warrior trainings, where volunteers learn 13 non-native plant species, adopt an area and work independently in the National Parks in the Potomac Gorge.

For more information or to sign up, go to: [www.nature.org/maryland](http://www.nature.org/maryland) for a list or workdays, or contact Mary below if you would like to sign up a school or organizational group for a workday, or be added to our email list: Mary Travaglini [PotomacGorgeVol@tnc.org](mailto:PotomacGorgeVol@tnc.org) (301) 897-8570.

## 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](mailto:stacy.parsons@mncppc-mc.org). Websites: [www.BrooksideGardens.org](http://www.BrooksideGardens.org) and/or [www.MC-MNCPPC.org/environment/weed\\_warriors/intro.shtm](http://www.MC-MNCPPC.org/environment/weed_warriors/intro.shtm)

## Woodend Nature Sanctuary, Chevy Chase

The Audubon Naturalist Society needs your help to remove invasive non-native plants from its Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD! Join us for monthly group work sessions where training will be provided. Trained volunteers may also be authorized to work independently.

For more information or to sign up, contact Liz Jones by e-mail at [volunteer@audubonnaturalist.org](mailto:volunteer@audubonnaturalist.org) or at 301-652-9188 x 30.

## Montgomery County Parks Weed Warriors Wanted!

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) Forest Ecologist is assembling a team of volunteers (Weed Warriors) to monitor

and remove non-native invasive plant species in Montgomery County Parks, and we need your help! As a Weed Warrior volunteer, you will receive a short 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 32,500 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 - Removing Invasive Plants Project Friends of Sligo Creek is holding occasional winter and spring events in different parts of the park, and welcomes newcomers. For a schedule see <http://www.fosc.org/RIPEventSched.htm> From mid-April to mid-June we will work on removing all garlic mustard. Be sure to check <http://www.fosc.org> for last-minute weather changes. For a list of sites between New Hampshire and Arcola, contact Lea Bonfiglio, 301-807-4697, [leabonfiglio@yahoo.com](mailto:leabonfiglio@yahoo.com)

## Prince George's County

### Greenbelt Homes Inc Housing Cooperative, Greenbelt

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

# Invasive Species and Habitat Restoration Outings

scheduled are bird counts and native landscaping seminars and guided hikes. For more information on GHI Woodlands Committee activities, contact Matt Berres, Landscape Specialist, mberres@ghi.coop or 301-474-4161 ext 132.

## Belt Woods

Ongoing Saturday invasive species workgroups, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. We will focus on the old-growth South Woods section during the fall and winter. It's very interesting and beautiful! Join us in removing creeping euonymus, oriental bittersweet, Japanese honeysuckle, winged burning bush, multiflora rose, etc. Tools and gloves provided. E-mail Maureen Fine at maureenfine@earthlink.net or call 301-464-9306.

**Greenbelt National Park, Greenbelt** Invasive Plant Removal first Saturday of each month 11a.m.-3p.m.. Located just 12 miles from Washington D.C., Greenbelt Park is a beloved retreat from the city and an important refuge for native plants and animals. Come join us in defending Greenbelt Park from encroachment by alien invasive plant growth. Volunteers will be hand pulling harmful non-native plants such as Japanese honeysuckle, beefsteak mint, mile-a-minute weed and garlic mustard. People of all ages, backgrounds and interests are invited to spend a fun day outdoors while learning about the differences between native and non-native plants and helping to preserve the health and native wildlife of this local natural area. Bring lunch, drink, appropriate clothing for weather.

*Directions:* From the Beltway, take Kenilworth Avenue south about 1/4 mile to Greenbelt Rd, MD 193 (Kenilworth goes under 193). Stay to the right so you can take MD 193 East (a left to go over Kenilworth) for only a few hundred yards to the park entrance. Follow the signs to the Sweetgum picnic area. For any ques-

tions and information about upcoming events, contact Tom Crone at tomnjan@erols.com or 301-864-1959.

## Cheverly

The Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek hosts the monthly removal of non-native invasive plants from Woodworth Park.

All age groups can help rescue our native flowers, ferns and other plants from the non-native species which are covering 30-90 percent of the surface area of our parks we have worked so hard to preserve. Tools are provided, but wear work gloves and sturdy shoes.

Contact Cathy and Dan Smith at 301 386-0889.

*Directions:* Take 202 East under the BW parkway. Go one block and turn right on Cheverly. Go one mile and turn left on Forest Road. Go 2 blocks passing Church on left and turn right on Parkway. Go 2 blocks and turn left on Wayne for one block. We meet there at the park by the small playground.

**Little Paint Branch Park and Cherry Hill Road Community Park in Beltsville** March 9, March 25, and April 3 all 10-3. Meet at the Beltsville Community Center parking lot at 10 a.m.

There are full indoor toilet facilities and a large seating area for lunch. We will continue the wonderful progress accomplished last year by the Americorps workers, General Electric Volunteers, Robert Goddard French Immersion and Montessori Elementary School, Washington Quaker Work Camps, and World Bank volunteers at Little Paint Branch Community Park.

Our day will include natural history and special features of the park, methods and reasons for the project to control the spread of invasives. Native flowers and other plants will be identified as we work to rescue them. There will be a sign-in and safety orientation with handouts. Gloves and tools are provided. Our objective is to remove the invasives to allow

natives to grow back.

*Directions:* Take U.S. 1 north from the beltway. Go about 1 mile, passing the National Agricultural Research Center, and turn left at the light on Montgomery Rd. Go 3 blocks and turn left on Sellman Road. Go about 5 blocks and turn right into Little Paint Branch Park at the bottom of the hill.

## Some Background Information on the Project

Several of the worst invasive species in the Mid-Atlantic region, including English ivy, Asiatic bittersweet, garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle and porcelain berry, are in the early stages of invasion in this park. Japanese stiltgrass covers about 5% of the park. Research indicates that Japanese stiltgrass is a major contributor of nitrogen pollution in the Chesapeake Bay and reduces by half the ability of any land it dominates to hold water and release it slowly. Non-native invasive plant removal will reach maintenance phase following a major work effort at each site in the Mid-Atlantic region and around the world for about 3 to 5 years to remove the massive populations of 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 for plants we have missed, plants emerging from the seed bank, and occasional plants migrating in from neighboring areas.

The project supporters are now removing English ivy, wineberry, periwinkle, ground ivy, Japanese pachysandra, bush honeysuckle, and multiflora rose to rescue the incredible diversity of native plants and animals at this particular park. Unlike most parks in the area the 150-acre Little Paint Branch Park is in the early stages of invasion and is essentially the native plant nursery for the Paint Branch itself.

## Magruder Park, Hyattsville

Another ongoing project. Contact Marc Imlay, Ph.D., Conservation biologist, Anacostia Watershed Society(301-699-6204, 301-283-0808) for dates and times and more information.

## 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 bobbboxwell@hotmail.com.

## American Chestnut Land Trust

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

---

**Chesapeake Natives** is looking for people to adopt a species at the wildflower farm in Davidsonville, Maryland. Adoption entails weeding, mulching and harvesting seed from a row of wildflowers, grasses, or shrubs. Some rows are small and can easily be managed in one hour per month, while other rows will require up to four hours per month. Usually there is no work to do in the hottest or coldest months of the year. Your sponsorship of a row means that seeds will be available for restoration projects, park plantings and school gardens. Please help! For more information call Dr. Sara Tangren at (301) 580-6237 or visit [www.ChesapeakeNatives.org](http://www.ChesapeakeNatives.org).



# Outings (March)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dan Soeder,  
Chapter Outings Chair  
410-969-9465  
[djsoeder@yahoo.com](mailto:djsoeder@yahoo.com)

## MWROP’S HIKE RATING SYSTEM

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

### HIKE RATINGS

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

## March

### Saturday, Mar 4:

Conservation Outing: Birding at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge (*rated moderate*) Bring your binoculars to participate in this bird-watching hike of approximately seven flat miles. Bombay Hook (2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna, DE) was established in 1937 as a link in the chain of refuges that extends from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. It is primarily a refuge and breeding ground for migrating birds and other wildlife. The value and importance of Bombay Hook for the protection and conservation of waterfowl has increased greatly over the years, primarily due to the loss of extensive surrounding marshland to urban and industrial development. There is an entrance fee for the refuge and there will be a dinner stop on the way home. Meet at 9:00 AM at the South West Park & Ride. Leader: Bill Diggs (GB) 410-574-1453. (map: [http://www.mtmaryland.com/services/sports/ravens/New\\_Southwest\\_Map.cfm](http://www.mtmaryland.com/services/sports/ravens/New_Southwest_Map.cfm))

Special Outing: Oregon Ridge Pancake Hike (*rated easy*) 5 mile hike, with some hills and stream crossings, followed by a pancake breakfast. The park demonstrates the boiling down of maple syrup, and has a fundraising pancake breakfast for \$5.00 per person (breakfast is optional; participants are responsible for their own cost). Depart at 8:30 AM from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29, or meet in the parking lot by the Oregon Ridge Lodge at 9:10 AM. Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306 ([kenclark7@comcast.net](mailto:kenclark7@comcast.net))

# Outings (March)

## Sunday, Mar 5:

Conservation Outing: Woodcock Walk (*rated easy*) 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, contact leader for reservations and to confirm date. Leader: Sue Muller (HC) 301-498-8462 (sonicsue@boo.net)

Service Outing: Invasive Species Removal, Chapman Forest and Swann Park (*rated easy*) 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 Maryland Native Plant Society and Sierra Club. This is a regular activity that runs on the first Sunday of each month from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Coordinator: Marc Imlay (301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808)

## Saturday, Mar 11:

Beahms Gap/Thornton Hollow, SNP, VA (*rated moderate*) 8 mile circuit hike with several potentially challenging stream crossings and 1700 feet of elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32 in Columbia. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

Annapolis Rocks (*rated moderate*) 11-mile hike along the Appalachian Trail, from Washington Monument State Park to Annapolis Rocks and return. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for an 8:30 AM departure. Leader: Tim Ryan (HC) 410-248-2974 before 9:30 PM (timothy\_ryan@urscorp.com)

Weed Warrior Training Session (*not rated*) 10 AM until noon, Cylburn Arboretum mansion. Contact: Marc Imlay (301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808) or Kimberley Mead at Kimberley.Mead@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-0359 for directions, RSVP or with questions.

Hike Across Maryland, The Easy Way (*rated moderate*) Hike the AT from Gathland Park to Weverton Cliffs and back. Approximately 12 miles of gently rolling trail with lunch at the cliffs and a spectacular view of the tri-state area. Enjoy the AT from both directions in the same day. Only four miles from Harper's Ferry, it is a historically and geologically rich section including a 5-star shelter. Time and weather permitting we will also tour the structures in Gathland Park, including the first (and possibly only) monument to war correspondents. Meet at RT 32 Park and Ride, 8:30 AM. Leader: Joyce Fletcher (GB) 410-254-7240.

Special Event: Maryland Chapter Outings Leaders Meeting and Outings Leader Training 101 (*not rated*) Outings leaders meeting from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM at College Park City Hall. New leaders, experienced leaders, group chairs, and people who want to be leaders, please come and meet each other and the chapter outings chair to get updated on the latest from San Francisco, help plan a new strategy for the outings program, and enjoy each other's company. At 1:30 PM, a classroom session of Outings Leader Training 101 (OLT101) will begin, lasting until approximately 4:30 PM. This training is required by the Sierra Club for outings leaders to meet club standards. Learn how to plan a hike, how to deal with trail injuries and emergencies, group dynamics, and how to get the most out of leading an

outing. The training will repeat on April 1st, if you can't make it to this session. Please contact Laurel Imlay (Laurel.Imlay@sierraclub.org) for directions if needed. Leader/Instructor: Dan Soeder (410-969-9465) Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

Conservation Outing: Full Moon Hayride and Farm Tour (*rated easy*) Cost will be \$8.00 per person. We will meet at 7:00 PM at the church parking lot on Seminary Ave at Dulaney Valley Road 1/2 mile north of I695. Tractor-pulled hayride starts at 7:30 PM at Yoder's Land of Promise Farm in Long Green. We will learn about land use issues of small farms and the relative risks to the environment compared to suburban development. After the hayride we will have refreshments of cocoa, cider, hot dogs, and marshmallows around a bonfire, with guitar music and sing along. Extra instruments invited! Activity will end about 10:00 PM. Children OK with prior approval. Leader: Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889 (pstech@smart.net)

## Sunday, Mar 12:

Patapsco Valley State Park, Glen Artny/Orange Grove (*rated moderate*) 10 mile hike on the Soapstone, Ridge, Cascade and Morning Choice trails. Energetic pace. Get warm as we make our way up several hills, enjoy walking along a meadow and relax to the sound of water at Cascade Falls. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 10:00 at the I-195 @ MD 166 (Rolling Road) Park & Ride. Reservations required. Leader: Mary (GB) 410-889-6323 before 9 PM (starrways@cs.com)

Service Outing: Wishing for Weeders in Laurel (*rated easy*) Wholesome river with lots of curves seeks outgoing naturalists for invasive species removal and native plant propagation, possibly leading to complete restoration. Join

us at Riverfront Park in Laurel, MD from 12 Noon to 4 pm to make this dream come true. Includes potluck afterward. Our second date will be Sunday, April 9, same place, same time. After that, who knows? Leader: Brigitte Fortin-Zaidan (PG) bfzaidan@Safe-mail.net or 240-506-8976

## Saturday, Mar 18:

Beginner Backpacking Seminar (*not rated*) Oregon Ridge Nature Center Auditorium, 10:00 to 12:00 noon. Learn about the basics and equipment for 3-season weekend backpacking. Optional post-seminar trip to REI to check out gear. Registration required. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com).

Stevensville 10K Hike (*rated moderate*) Joint outing with the Annapolis Amblers. A flat-trail hike along the Chesapeake Bay Eastern Shore beaches, through the Terrapin Natural Preserve, and past the antique shops, cafes and bakery in the quaint town of Love Point. Leader: Adele Degnan (AA) 410-757-7899 (adeleonthego@hotmail.com)

## Sunday, Mar 19:

Gambrill State Park (*rated moderate*) 8-mile hike on wooded trails, with several scenic overlooks. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for a 9:30 AM departure. Leader: Kathleen Sheedy (HC) 443-538-4084 (kathleen.sheedy@gmail.com)

## Saturday, Mar 25:

Swan Creek Wetlands with the North County Land Trust (*not rated*) 9:00AM Leader: Earl Bradley (AA) (410) 849-2804

Rose River Falls/Hawksbill Summit, SNP, VA (*rated moderate*) 10 mile circuit hike with 1600 feet of elevation gain, including the tallest peak in SNP at



# Outings (March, April)

4050 feet. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32 in Columbia. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

## Sunday, Mar 26:

Blue Mash Trail, Montgomery County MD (*rated easy*) 5-mile hike, with stops for waterfowl viewing. Bring a snack and water. Depart at 9:00 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32, or meet at the Zion Rd. parking lot at 9:45 AM. Leader: Sue Muller (HC) 301-498-8462 (sonicsue@boo.net)

Conservation Outing: Cromwell Valley Park (*rated moderate*) A child-friendly hike along 4 miles of lesser-known trails in this Baltimore County park that is a working farm with woodlands, hilly meadows, and streams. Learn about the park's historical and natural features, including limestone kilns and a brook bubbling out of the ground. A parent or other responsible adult must accompany children under 18. Optional brunch afterwards at Sander's Corner Restaurant. Meet in the parking lot at 10 AM in the Sherwood Farm section of the park. Leader: Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

## April

## Saturday, Apr 1:

Conservation Outing: Gunpowder Falls State Park (*rated moderate*) Will talk about the history of the Panther Branch with lunch at the Raven Rock Falls. Meet at 11:00 AM at Mt. Carmel Park 'n Ride. Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

Service Outing: Double Rock Park

(*rated easy*) 2 miles of stream clean up as part of Project Clean Stream, an annual event coordinated by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Help to clean up trash in and around the stream at this neighborhood park that includes a waterfall and trails through woodlands. Children are welcome, but if under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Students may earn Service learning hours. Wear footwear for wading in shallow water. Clean-up supplies will be provided. Meet at 9 A.M. in the parking lot at the park's entrance on Texas Avenue in Parkville, Baltimore County. Leader: Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423

Service Outing: Project Clean Stream (*rated easy*) Take part in this regional stream cleanup organized by Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Pick up trash along the Little Patuxent River in Howard County, 9:00 AM to noon. Bring gloves. Leader: Sue Muller (HC) 301-498-8462, sonicsue@boo.net.

South River Falls, SNP, VA (*rated strenuous*) 11-mile circuit hike with 2000-foot elevation gain. Explore the ruins of an old Episcopal Mission, graveyards, and an 80-foot waterfall. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32 in Columbia. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC), 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Outings Leader Training 101 (*not rated*) Classroom training for new (and not so new) Sierra Club outings leaders. Learn how to plan a hike, how to deal with trail injuries and emergencies, group dynamics, and how to get the most out of leading an outing. Bowie City Hall from 12 noon to 3 PM. Please contact Laurel Imlay

(Laurel.Imlay@sierraclub.org) for directions. Instructor: Dan Soeder (410-969-9465) Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

## Sunday, Apr 2:

Service Outing: Invasive Species Removal, Chapman Forest and Swann Park (*rated easy*) See March 5 notice for more info. (don't forget to change your clock!)

Patuxent River Park - Jug Bay (*rated moderate*) 7-mile hike in P.G. County. Observe a large variety of plants and animals in the forest, fields, and wetlands. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 AM (don't forget to change your clock!) from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32 in Columbia. Leader: Ken Clark (HC), 301-725-3306 (kenclark7@comcast.net)

Conservation Outing: North Point State Park, From Carousels to Conservation (*rated easy*) Explore the history of this southeastern Baltimore county state park which was once the site of a popular amusement park. Hike approximately five flat miles with a stop at the park visitor center to look at old photographs. Park is located off Old North Point Road in Edgemere. Meet at parking lot near park entrance (entrance fee required) at 10:00 AM. (don't forget to change your clock!) Leader: Bill Diggs (GB) 410-574-1453.

## Monday, Apr 3:

Special Event - Greater Baltimore Group Outings Committee Meeting (*not rated*) Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. New and prospective outings leaders welcome. Pot Luck dinner at 6:30 PM. Coordinator: Christine (410-752-0104).

## Saturday, Apr 8:

Surprise Hike (*rated moderate*) This trip is unscouted as yet. It will be a moderately paced hike of 12 miles or less in Susquehanna State Park. The trail is undecided as yet but will be partly along the river. We will observe plenty of riparian buffer and discuss the erosive effects when it is removed. Remnants of rail beds and mills along the way. Call leader after April 2nd for more details. Meet at Whitemarsh Park and Ride, 8:30 AM. Leader: Joyce Fletcher (GB) 410-254-7240

Rose River Circuit Hike (*rated strenuous*) The hike will proceed up the Rose River along the rocks to the Rose River Loop Trail. Excellent waterfalls at Upper Dark Hollow and Lewis Falls. Return via Rapidan Fire Road. 16 miles, 3,000 ft. elevation change. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center at 7:30 AM. Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. Leaders: William Needham (MW) 410-884-9127 (Needham82@aol.com) and Jack Thorsen (MW) 703-339-6716 (Thorsen4@juno.com)

Nicholson Hollow / Stony Man, SNP, VA (*rated strenuous*) 10 - 11.5 mile circuit to the second tallest summit in SNP at 4010 feet. Elevation gain of 1900 to 2400 ft depending on distance. May include a side trip to #1 falls of White Oak Canyon. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32 in Columbia. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

Harpers Ferry (*rated strenuous*) 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

# Outings (April)

town, and ascend to Maryland Heights, Loudon 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. Leader: Tim Ryan (HC) 410-248-2974 before 9:30 PM (timothy\_ryan@urscorp.com)

## Sunday, Apr 9:

Basic Outdoor Equipment Workshop (*not rated*) Are you confused about the dizzying variety of outdoor equipment? And prices? Perhaps you are thinking about getting involved in outdoor activities, but holding back because you don't know what kind of equipment you need. Or maybe you have some equipment, but you're not sure if it's the right stuff. Well, just in time for the spring and summer outings season is your chance to learn about outdoor equipment. We'll give you the straight talk on what is necessary and what isn't, what works and what doesn't, and what you ought to spend money on versus what you can get at a thrift store. This workshop is intended to cover the basics of boots, technical clothing, camping gear, backpacking gear and other items that can increase your fun in the outdoors, protect you, and maybe even help you survive. Experts will be on hand afterward to answer questions. This workshop is free and open to the public. It will be held at the REI store in College Park from 11 AM to 1 PM. Reservations are required; attendance is limited to 25 people. Leader: Dan Soeder (410-969-9465) [djsoeder@yahoo.com](mailto:djsoeder@yahoo.com). For directions, contact the store at 301-982-9681 or visit their website at [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com).

Paw Paw Tunnel (*rated moderate*) 7 mile hike, over and through the C&O canal tunnel, with stops to observe wildflowers. Bring lunch, water, and a flashlight. Depart at 8:30 AM from the

park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306 ([kenclark7@comcast.net](mailto:kenclark7@comcast.net)).

Wishing for weeders in Laurel (*rated easy*) See notice from March 12.

## Saturday, Apr 15:

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (*not rated*) Explore rehabilitation efforts of the Bay Ridge Land Trust. Leader: Sandy Sweeney (AA) 410-263-3056

## Saturday-Monday, Apr. 15-17:

Chuck Keiper Trail Backpack, Sproul State Forest, PA. (*rated strenuous*) Tentative - weather dependent. This is a 22-mile, 3-day backpacking trip to scout a new trail. Visit scenic streams and waterfalls. Reservations required. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, ([mjuskelis@cablespeed.com](mailto:mjuskelis@cablespeed.com))

## Saturday, Apr 15:

Harford Glen (*rated moderate*) Approximately 8 miles around Atkinson Reservoir. Slow-paced enough to look at wildflowers and spring migrants. Bring binoculars if you like, also water and lunch. Expect mud. Meet at Harford Glen (first lot on right, by pond) at the west end of Wheel Road at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Betsy (GB) 410-569-5202.

Easter Sunrise Service and Hike at Rocks State Park (*rated moderate*) We will meet at 5:30 AM at the church parking lot on Seminary Ave at Dulaney Valley Road 1/2 mile north of I695, and carpool to Rocks Park for the non-denominational service at the King and Queens Seat at 6:30 AM, and learn the true meaning of Easter. A short fellowship featuring donuts, coffee, and hot cocoa will follow. We will then take a moderate 3-4 mile hike on the trails, with elevation gain of about 400 feet. We should return to our meeting point near Towson by

10:30 AM. Children OK with prior approval. Leader: Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889 ([psstech@smart.net](mailto:psstech@smart.net))

## Friday-Sunday, Apr 21-23:

Rickett's Glen Car Camping, PA. (*rated moderate*) Focal point of the trip will be a 9-mile hike culminating in a visit to 22 named waterfalls, the tallest at 80 feet. Reservations required. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 ([mjuskelis@cablespeed.com](mailto:mjuskelis@cablespeed.com))

## Saturday, Apr 22:

Carderock Wildflowers (*rated moderate*) 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 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306 ([kenclark7@comcast.net](mailto:kenclark7@comcast.net))

Kelly's Run & Pinnacle Overlook (*rated moderate*) 7 to 8 miles with great views of the Susquehanna River. Good chance to see bald eagles. Will also see hawks and waterfowl as they migrate along the Susquehanna River. Meet at K-Mart on Belair Road (RT.1) just north of Beltway exit 32, at 10:00 AM. Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

Fundraiser: Earth Day Race and Walk: (*not rated*) The Anne Arundel Group's 12th annual Race & Walk - the group's major fund-raising event of the year, will be held at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. The entry fee is \$17 before April 7, and \$20 on Race Day. Registration is from 7:30-8:00 AM, and the race starts at 8:30 AM. Point of contact: Mike (AA) 410-268-2845

Service Outing: Invasive plant removal at Patuxent Research Refuge (*not*

*rated*) Join volunteers from Fort Meade, the Maryland Native Plant Society, the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club and Patuxent Research Refuge to help remove non-native plant infestations on the refuge. All ages and abilities are welcome. Meet at North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 1 p.m. Wear long sleeves and pants and bring gloves. Please register for this event by calling 301-497-5887. Sierra Contact: Marc Imlay (301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808)

Service Outing: Annual Earth Day Cleanup on the Anacostia River (*not rated*) Volunteers needed to pick up trash at multiple sites along the river in Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland, and in Washington, DC. This is an annual event sponsored by the Anacostia Watershed Society, and celebrates the Anacostia River, its communities, and the spirit of Earth Day. Groups, troops, families, friends and students - all are welcome! Cleanup is 8:30am-Noon, with a rally afterward from 1-2 PM with food, live music and special speakers. Contact Robin at 301-699-6204, or e-mail [robin@anacostiaws.org](mailto:robin@anacostiaws.org). Visit [www.anacostiaws.org](http://www.anacostiaws.org) for more information. Sierra Club Contact: Laurel Imlay ([Laurel.Imlay@sierraclub.org](mailto:Laurel.Imlay@sierraclub.org))

Dog Day at the Garden (*rated easy*) Tired of everyone complaining when you bring your faithful trail companion on a hike? Well, take Fido on a "dog hike" instead. These pet-friendly walks are designed to be interesting for both dogs and their humans. This hike will be on one of the nature trails near Clyburn Arboretum in Baltimore (near Pimlico). Dogs must be on a leash, up-to-date on shots, and play well with others; bring a muzzle if necessary. Also bring plastic doo bags, water, and snacks. Dreadful weather cancels.



# Outings (April, May)

Contact leader for details. Leader:  
Susan Falcon Soeder 410-969-9465,  
(justfalcon@yahoo.com)

## Saturday, Apr 29:

Gunpowder - Panther Branch (*rated moderate*) 8-mile hike through Hereford area of Gunpowder Falls State Park. Follow the Panther Branch past remnants of the gunpowder industry, including earth dams, waterwheel pits, and fieldstone buildings. Lunch at Raven Rocks where a country stream cascades down two-stories of granite rocks. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. Leader: Ron Arnold (HC) 410-767-0106.

Visit/explore Looper Forest (*not rated*) Largest protected forested area North of the Magothy River with the Magothy River Land Trust. Leader: Sally Hornor (AA) 410-647-6242

## Sunday, Apr 30:

Conservation Outing: Bike and Hike the Crescent Trail and Roosevelt Island (*rated moderate*) We'll push off at 9:30 AM from downtown Bethesda and ride the Crescent Trail into Georgetown, cross the Key Bridge onto the Mt. Vernon bike trail, and continue south to the entrance to Roosevelt Island. Roosevelt Island is one of the National Park lands Congress is discussing as a candidate for being sold-off. We will discuss the politics and status of the debates as we hike around the island. We should be back in Bethesda around noon. Sierra Club requires all participants to wear helmets on bicycle outings. Appropriate walking shoes and a bike lock are needed. Bring water and snacks, reserve with leaders prior to date; rain date is May 7. Leaders: Helen Daniel (helendaniel@verizon.net) and

Dan Soeder 410-969-9465  
(djsoder@yahoo.com)

## May

### Saturday-Sunday, May 6-7:

Green Ridge Mountain Backpack, MD (*rated moderate*) Beginner's backpacking trip, 5 miles in, 5 miles out. Bring "water whacking" shoes for an optional splash hike. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com).

### Sunday, May 7:

Service Outing: Invasive Species Removal, Chapman Forest and Swann Park (*rated easy*) See March 5 notice for more info.

C&O Towpath or North Central Rail Trail - Bike Trip (*rated moderate*) Sierra Club requires all participants to wear helmets on bicycle outings. Leaders: Susan Hartsfield & Paul Warren (AA)

### Saturday, May 13:

Special Service Outing: Wineberries with Garlic Mustard (*rated easy*) A new type of exotic fruit salad? Not quite. These are two invasive plant species that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would like help removing from Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge (1730 Eastern Neck Road, Rock Hall, MD). Garlic mustard is a newly arrived invasive species, and is a management priority. Wineberry is a raspberry-like plant that begins to ripen with fruit between June and July. This will be a joint service outing with the Maryland Native Plant Society and the Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club. Since many of us don't know garlic mustard from French's Mustard, we will be guided in our weed pulling by Rachel Cliche, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist and the invasive species specialist for

the Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Garlic mustard is pulled by hand, but a 4-pronged spading fork works best on wineberry. Rachel has six forks available for volunteers to use, but if you have one please bring it. High boots (for ticks) are recommended, along with a DEET-based bug repellent, a hat and gloves. We will be grilling burgers of both the veggie and beefy variety in the Eastern Neck NWR picnic area. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. Families are welcome. Rachel is in the early stages of building up a cadre of regular volunteers to help with invasive species control. Please reserve with the leader by May 10 for information on food, carpools and start time. Leader: Dan Soeder 410-969-9465 (djsoder@yahoo.com)

C&O Canal-Sharpsburg to Shepherdstown (*rated moderate*) 7-mile hike along the C&O Canal from Sharpsburg to Shepherdstown and back. We will examine how the canal and locks were constructed and operated. Possible dinner stop after hike. Meet at 9:30 AM at Southwest Park & Ride. Leader: Bill Diggs (GB) 410-574-1453.

Conway River, Pocosin Trail (*rated strenuous*) Ascend the Conway River Trail to the AT, proceeding south over Bear Fence Mountain and returning via the Pocosin Trail. Excellent 360-degree view from Bear Fence Mountain. Several water crossings. 16 miles, 3,000 ft. elevation change. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center at 7:30. Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. Leaders: William Needham (MW) 410-884-9127 (Needham82@aol.com) and Jack Thorsen (MW) 703-339-6716 (Thorsen4@juno.com)

Knob Mountain/Jeremy's Run, SNP, VA. (*rated strenuous*) 13 mile circuit hike with 1900 feet elevation gain and 15 stream crossings (some may be challenging). Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32 in Columbia. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com).

### Saturday-Sunday, May 13-14:

NJ Pine Barrens canoe trip (*not rated*) Sierra Club requires that personal flotation devices (PFDs) be worn by all participants while on the water. Leader: Liz Vanden Heuvel (AA) 410-267-9009

### Sunday, May 14:

Leakin Park (*rated easy*) Child-friendly hike through 3 miles of woodlands and meadows at Leakin Park in Baltimore City, including a stop at Carrie Murray Nature Center to see the bug zoo, snakes, and birds of prey. A parent or other responsible adult must accompany children under 18. If we're lucky, we can ride the model stream trains that day in the park. Optional bicycle ride on the Gwynns Falls Trail after lunch. Meet at 10 A.M. in the parking lot on Windsor Mill Road, with lions at the entrance where the Crimea mansion is located. Leader: Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423

Patapsco, Daniels Area (*rated moderate*) 6-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 9:00 AM at the Daniels Dam parking lot, on Daniels Rd. Bring a snack and water, and optionally bring a lunch dish to share at a party at Stella's house after the hike. Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306 (kenclark7@comcast.net).

# Outings (May-June)

## Tuesday May 16:

Service Outing: Invasive plant removal at Patuxent Research Refuge (*not rated*) Meet at National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10 AM. See April 22 notice for details.

## Wednesday, May 17:

Gunpowder River Sunset Hike (*rated easy*) 2 miles along the Gunpowder River and the Sweathouse Branch. Meet at Gunpowder Parking lot on Belair Road (Rt.1) and the Big Gunpowder River just north of Perry Hall at 7:00 PM. Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

## Friday-Sunday, May 19-20-21:

Conservation Outing: Assateague Island National Seashore (*rated moderate*) This is yet another valiant attempt at the outing that got cancelled twice last fall due to bad weather. Before the bugs, heat and crowds get to the beaches, enjoy camping at Chincoteague, on the south end of Assateague Island. The campground has 104 oceanside sites and 49 bayside sites (tent camping only). From a base camp, we will day-hike to explore this marvelous barrier island's flora and fauna, including the famous wild ponies, and discuss park management challenges such as the surrounding land-use practices and water quality in Chincoteague Bay. Plan on community breakfasts; everyone helps to either cook or clean up. Lunch and dinner are on your own - there are numerous restaurants nearby in town. Bring enough money to cover the park entrance fee, cost for your individual camp site (starting at \$14 a night), and chip-in for a share of the food. Limited to first 10 sign-ups (we will reserve ten campsites).

Children okay with prior permission. Leaders: Dan and Susan Soeder (410-969-9465) Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

## Saturday, May 20:

Gunpowder - Prettyboy Dam (*rated moderate*) 9-mile hike through Hereford area of Gunpowder Falls State Park, to the dam and back, following the Gunpowder Falls River as it tumbles over granite boulders. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 AM from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. Leader: Ron Arnold (HC) 410-767-0106.

Tuckahoe State Park (*not rated*) Kayak trip. Sierra Club requires that personal flotation devices (PFDs) be worn by all participants while on the water. Leaders: Judy Mauriello & Sandi (AA)

## Sunday, May 21:

Great Falls Billy Goat Trail (*rated moderate*) 8-mile hike over the rocks by the Potomac River on the Billy Goat A & B trails, and through the woods on the Gold Mine Trail. Observe a variety of birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Includes some short rock scrambles. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Pkwy at Rt. 32. Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306 (kenclark7@comcast.net)

## Wednesday, May 24:

Cromwell Valley Park (*rated easy*) Child and dog-friendly hike through 3 miles of woodlands and meadows, and along a stream at Cromwell Valley Park in Baltimore County. A parent or other responsible adult must accompany children under 18. Come exercise yourselves, your children, and your dog. Meet in the parking lot at 6:30 P.M. in the Sherwood Farm section of the park. Leader: Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423

## Saturday-Monday, May 27-29:

Canaan Mountain Backpack, WV (*rated moderate*) 29-mile backpack through mature hardwood and evergreen

forests. Includes approximately 4 miles of road walking and astounding views from Table Rock and Libby Point. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com).

## June

## Friday - Sunday, Jun 2-4:

Special Outing: "I got dem Hikin' Blues" (*not rated*) We will leave the Baltimore area about 4:00 PM Friday evening and stay at the Hagerstown/Antietam KOA Kampground Friday and Saturday evenings (tent, RV, or Kabin camping). Carpooling is encouraged, and alternate arrangements may be made among participants. We will discuss the history of the canal and the City Park, and consider positive and negative environmental impacts of commercial campgrounds. Saturday morning is a good opportunity to visit the Hagerstown factory outlets, including LL Bean and Timberland. From about noon to 8 PM we may attend the Western Maryland Blues Festival downtown, which costs about \$25 per person. Sunday morning, we will take a 3-5 mile easy hike on the C&O canal near Williamsport, and visit the museum. From about noon until 5:00 PM we may attend the second half of the Blues Festival (no charge) at the beautiful City Park. We will do an easy circuit hike of about 2 miles. Reservations required two weeks ahead. Children OK with prior approval. Leader: Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889 (pstech@smart.net).

## Saturday, June 3:

Kayak demo & instruction (*not rated*) Sierra Club requires that personal flotation devices (PFDs) be worn by all participants while on the water. Leader: Liz Vanden Heuvel (AA) 410-267-9009

Kelly's Run, PA (*rated moderate*) 8-mile hike through a scenic gorge with majestic rock formations, rhododendron tunnels, and towering stands of hemlock, tulip poplar and sycamore trees. Lunch stop at Pinnacle Rocks overlooking the Susquehanna River. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. Leader: Ron Arnold (HC) 410-767-0106.

Special Conservation Outing: Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Paddle Trip (*rated moderate to difficult*). Joint outing with the Washington D.C. Canoe Cruisers Association. Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge occupies 26,000 acres along the Blackwater River in Dorchester County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The refuge is composed of coastal marshlands, forested wetlands, and some upland areas. Blackwater is a major stopover point for migratory waterfowl, and provides year-around habitat for many birds, including several dozen nesting pairs of bald eagles, osprey, herons, egrets and others. Nearly 8,000 acres of marshland has deteriorated into open water since the 1940's due to sea level rise, nutria, land development and other stressors. The trip leader has been investigating the hydrology of the marsh for 3 years, and will discuss the environmental issues and restoration plans for the marsh. Participants will meet at the canoe launch on the Blackwater River at the Route 335 bridge, and shuttle to the put-in at Parsons Creek. The trip will follow a 19th century timbering canal to Goose Dam Pond, cross into the headwaters of the Blackwater River and continue downstream to the takeout point. The total length of the paddle is about 8 miles of generally shallow flatwater, but with sometimes-strong tidal currents. This trip is for



# Outings (June)

experienced paddlers only, and the number of participants is limited. Reservations are required. Participants must supply their own watercraft. Local canoe/kayak rentals may be available; check with the leader prior to the outing. Be prepared for sun, bugs, mud and heat. Sierra Club requires that personal flotation devices (PFDs) be worn by all participants while on the water. High winds/thunderstorms cancel; rain date is June 10. Leader: Dan Soeder (410-969-9465) djsoder@yahoo.com

Service Outing: Invasive plant removal at Patuxent Research Refuge (*not rated*) Meet at National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10 AM. See April 22 notice for details.

## Sunday, Jun 4:

Service Outing: Invasive Species Removal, Chapman Forest and Swann Park (*rated easy*) See March 5 notice for details.

## Saturday, Jun 10:

Vance Cove Trail (*rated strenuous*) Starting at Waite's Run in GWNF, WV the hike will proceed up the Pond Run Trail to The Tuscarora Trail, completing the circuit through Vance Cove. There are a number of vernal ponds where we will look for salamanders. 17 miles, 4,000 ft. elevation change. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center at 7:30 AM. Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. Leaders: William Needham (MW) 410-884-9127 (Needham82@aol.com) and Jack Thorsen (MW) 703-339-6716 (Thorsen4@juno.com)

Conservation Outing: Heathcote Intentional Community (*not rated*) We will visit this famous Intentional Community in Freeland, MD, and will learn about permaculture, Community Land Trust, and how they have created

an environment that is ecologically friendly and socially stimulating. Arrive at 8:00 AM for a community breakfast, and spend the morning helping with community workday hands-on projects. Enjoy a vegetarian lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 in a historic millhouse, and then go on a tour of the many residences, gardens, projects, and outbuildings. The Sierra Club group will go on a 2-3 mile easy afternoon hike. You may also choose to relax in a hammock, or interact with the children and adults who make up the community. Come together again for a potluck dinner at 6 PM, followed by a sing-along, visiting, and discussions from 7 to 10 PM. Optional overnight stays can extend your visit from Friday evening 5:00 PM through Sunday 1:00 PM. Approximate cost \$15/day and \$10/overnight. Children OK with prior approval. For details, please consult the website at [www.heathcote.org](http://www.heathcote.org). Reservations required; call Jette at 410-357-8890 to reserve. Contact trip leader also. Leader: Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889 (pstech@smart.net).

## Saturday-Monday, Jun 10-12:

Allegheny Front Trail (West) Backpack (*rated moderate*) 25-mile circuit backpack featuring beautiful streams, vistas, and the mystical Moss-Hanne Bog. Watch for the carnivorous pitcher plant! Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com).

## Saturday, Jun 10:

Conservation Outing: Jug Bay, Patuxent River Park. (*rated easy to moderate*) Explore this tidal marsh by canoe or kayak, then hike a mile for a different perspective. Observe a variety of birds and other animals. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 from the "bus patron" (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. Sierra Club requires that personal flotation devices (PFDs) be worn by all participants while on the water. Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306 (kenclark7@comcast.net).

## Monday, Jun 12:

Service Outing: Invasive plant removal at Patuxent Research Refuge (*not rated*). Meet at North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9 AM. See April 22 notice for details.

## Thursday, Jun 15 to Tuesday, Jun 20:

Conservation Outing: Patuxent River Sojourn: (*rated easy to moderate*) Sign up for a day, or two or the whole journey. The Sojourn will start at Kings Landing Park in Calvert County, and end at Jefferson Patterson Park. We will see Native American settlements, plantations and discuss the contributions of African-Americans in present and past times. Good food, entertainment, informative sessions and great company are expected along the way. Register early! Paddling experience is not necessary, and canoe/kayak rentals are available. Sierra Club requires that personal flotation devices (PFDs) be worn by all participants while on the water. Leader: Liz Vanden Heuvel (AA) 410-267-9009 (liz2vh@olg.com)

## Saturday, Jun 17:

Great Falls Dinner & Hike (*rated moderate*) History meets nature at the Great Falls section of the C&O Canal. We will examine how the canal and locks were constructed and operated. We will take the boardwalk to the Great Falls Overlook on Olmsted Island. Length will be 4 miles depending on weather and condition of trails. Entrance fee required. There will be a dinner stop in Rockville before the hike. Meet at 3:00 PM at the Southwest Park & Ride. Leader: Bill

Diggs (GB) 410-574-1453.

Falls Ridge, GWNF, VA/WV (*rated strenuous*) 11.7 mile circuit hike with an elevation gain of 1900 feet, 1700 in the first two miles, and a very steep descent. Short rock scrambles lead to views to the east and west. Little shade, so bring a hat, sunscreen, extra water, and lunch. Depart at 8:00 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

Hosack Run, Michaux Forest, PA (*rated moderate*) 7.5 mile hike featuring towering hemlocks and deciduous trees, 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. Leader: Ron Arnold (HC) 410-767-0106.

## Wednesday, Jun 21:

Loch Raven Sunset Hike (*rated easy*) 2 to 3 miles on fire trails. Meet at Morgan Mill Road and Loch Raven Drive at 7:00 PM. Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

## Saturday-Monday, Jun 24-26:

Cranberry Wilderness Backpack, WV (*rated moderate*) Backpack in 7 miles on the Big Beechy Trail and set up a base camp on day one. On day two do a 10+ mile hike through the Wilderness. Day three backpack out 8 miles along the scenic Middle Fork of the Williams River. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

## Saturday, Jun 24:

Gunpowder River Tube Trip (*rated easy*) Bring a tube or rent one. Wear old shoes or water shoes and have a way

# Outings (June, July, August; MWROP March)

to keep your keys from falling out of your pockets. Sierra Club requires that personal flotation devices (PFDs) be worn by all participants while on the water. Meet at Monkton Station at 1:00 PM. Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

## Sunday, Jun 25:

Flag Ponds Nature Park (*rated easy*) 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. Bring lunch to eat on the beach. Depart at 8:30 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32 in Columbia. Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306 (kenclark7@comcast.net)

## July

## Saturday-Sunday, Jul 1-2:

Laurel Forks Backpack, GWNF, VA (*rated moderate*) Backpack 18 miles in this wild and scenic area. May be suitable for novices but be prepared for several stream crossings. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

## Sunday, Jul 2:

Invasive Species Removal, Chapman Forest and Swann Park (*rated easy*) See March 5 notice for more info.

## Tuesday Jul 4

Gunpowder River Tube Trip (*rated easy*) Repeat of June 24 outing. Bring a tube or rent one. Sierra Club requires that personal flotation devices (PFDs) be worn by all participants while on the water. Meet at Monkton Station at 1:00 PM. Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

## Saturday, Jul 8:

Lewis Mountain Loop, SNP, VA (*rated strenuous*) 12 mile circuit hike with 2400 feet elevation gain and potentially challenging stream crossings. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

## Tuesday, Jul 11:

Special Conservation Outing: Horseshoe Crab Paddle, Delaware Inland Bays (*rated easy*) Joint outing with the Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club. Paddle trip on Rehoboth Bay by the light of the full moon to see horseshoe crabs coming onto the beaches to lay eggs at high tide. We will launch from Delaware Seashore State Park near Indian River Inlet. Exact time will depend on tides, but it will be afternoon/evening. Participants must supply their own watercraft; rentals are available in the area. Bring flashlights and chemical glow sticks. Reservations required at least one week in advance – leader will be at the beach. Sierra Club requires that personal flotation devices (PFDs) be worn by all participants while on the water. High winds or thunderstorms cancel. Leader: Dan Soeder (410-969-9465) djsoder@yahoo.com

## Saturday-Monday, Jul 15-17:

Pedlar Ranger District Backpack, GWNF, VA (*rated strenuous*) 27 mile backpack with up to 4500 feet elevation gain. Visit Cole Mountain, Tar Jacket Ridge, The Priest, Tye River, Three Ridges and the falls and gorge of the Mau-Har Trail. Requires a car shuttle. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

## Friday-Sunday, Jul 28-30:

North River Gorge Car Camping, GWNF, VA (*rated moderate*) Camp at primitive North River Campground and hike 10 moderate miles using a segment of the Wild Oak National Trail and the scenic North River Gorge Trail. Over 10 stream crossings. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

## August

## Saturday-Monday, Aug. 5-7:

St. Mary's Wilderness Backpack, GWNF, VA (*rated moderate*) Backpack in 4-6 miles on day one, visiting waterfalls and swimming holes as we go, then set up a base camp. Day two will be a 10-12 mile hike. Day three backpack out. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

## Sunday, Aug 6:

Invasive Species Removal, Chapman Forest and Swann Park (*rated easy*) See March 5 notice for more info.

## Saturday-Sunday Aug 12-13:

Quehanna Trail Backpack, PA (*rated moderate*) Overnight scouting backpack in Moshannon State Forest. Approximately 16 moderate miles plus some easy out and back hiking to find campsites for an upcoming trip. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

## Saturday-Monday, Aug 26-28:

Otter Creek Wilderness Backpack, MNF, WV (*rated moderate*) Day one, backpack in using Otter Creek, Yellow Creek, McGowan Mt and Moore's Run Trails, visiting the bogs before we descend to camp. Day 2 hike on the Possession Camp Trail, Green Mt Trail and Otter Creek Trail, exploring the

many falls and pools of Otter Creek. Easy 5-mile backpack out on day 3. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

## MWROP

## Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP)

MWROP is an activity section of the Virginia chapter, with an extensive outings program run by leaders who live in and around the Washington, D.C. area. A listing of their many outings is included below for March and April, 2006. Please check their website ([www.mwrop.org](http://www.mwrop.org)) for a calendar of activities, more information and updates.

## MWROP MARCH EVENTS

### Sat. Mar. 4.

Rated E (or C). W&OD Trail (Get Fit for Spring, One Day Hike series). Out-and-back hike of 18 mi. (or do a 12-mi. option), on paved surfaces, with only a few small inclines, between Vienna and Herndon (or Reston). Meet 9am in the parking lot of the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna, Va. Leaders: Christine Ford 703/425-6899 and Marjorie Richman 301/320-5509.

### Sun. Mar. 5.

Rated B. Rock Creek Park. Explore the beauty of Rock Creek Park in "early spring." Meet at 1pm at street level by the Cleveland Park Metro station elevator. Bring water and snack. Kids who can walk 7+ mi on "relatively" level terrain are welcome. Leaders: Jim Finucane 301/365-3485 (before 9pm) and Bob Mathis 301/589-7539.



# Outings (MWROP March)

## Sun. Mar. 5

Rated C. Bull Run-Occoquan Trail. Enjoy scenic Bull Run in western Fairfax Co. near historic Clifton. Explore both Bull Run Marina and Hemlock Overlook Regional Parks along a forested stream valley that seems remarkably remote. Distance: 9 mi. To carpool, meet at 9:30am at the Vienna Metro station (north lot), off 66. Leader: Glenn Gillis 703/430-0568.

Rated E. Little Devils Stairs. This relatively short but challenging 8-mi. circuit in the northern SNP is for those with good gear and agility. Both will be needed for icy stream crossings and the 1,800 ft. climb up the steep Keyser Run gorge that finishes the hike (and maybe some of the hikers). Call for meeting time/place and fallback route (probably around Sugarloaf Mountain in Maryland) in event bad weather closes Skyline Drive. Leader: Larry Broadwell 301/215-7135 (before 9pm).

## Tue. Mar. 7

Rated H. Camp Roosevelt. We'll do a figure-eight route on Gap Creek, Scothorn Gap, Massanutten and Stephens Trails: 18 mi. and 3,300 ft. of climb, or do a 15 mi. option (with short car shuttle). Leader: Chris Nolen chrishiker@erols.com or 301/469-8931.

## Sat. Mar. 11

9am-2pm. Rated A. Northwest Branch Conservation Walk. A leisurely 6-mi. stroll through one of the most interesting stream valleys in the metro area, with opportunities to discuss some of the conservation issues and potential threats (such as the ICC) to this park. Leader: Ron LaCoss, 301/946-1106 (before 9pm) or ronenviroed@aol.com.

Rated D (or C). C&O Towpath (Get Fit for Spring/One Day Hike series). From

Swains Lock (at towpath mile 16.54) either do 19 mi. in two out-and-backs (first up to milepost 23 and back; then down to Lock 15 at mile 13.5 and back), or do only the first part, for a 13-mi. option. Meet at 8:30am at Swains Lock parking lot. See [www.MWROP.org](http://www.MWROP.org) or call for directions. Leaders: Pat Hopson 703/379-1795 (before 10pm) and Carol Ivory carolivory@verizon.net.

Rated H (lower for option). Kennedy Peak, Duncan Knob. This 17-mi. circuit hike will start at Camp Roosevelt on Massanutten Mountain, ascend Kennedy Peak to overlook Shenandoah Valley, and then climb Duncan Knob. Elevation gain: 4,000 ft. A shorter option will be available at the halfway point. To carpool, meet at 7:30am at Oakton Shopping Center. Inexperienced hikers call for requirements. Leaders: William Needham 410/884-9127 or Needham82@aol.com and Jack Thorsen 703/339-6716 or Thorsen4@juno.com.

## Sun. Mar. 12

Rated B. Brookland (Get to Know DC series). Wiggly figure-eight hike of 9 mi. through distinctive "Little Rome" section of Northeast Washington. Visit and learn about Brookland's cultural, educational, and religious institutions—and historic Rock Creek Cemetery and funky cafe. Meet at 10am at basilica parking lot off Harewood Rd. at Michigan Ave. (0.5 mi. from Brookland-CUA Metro station on Red Line). Call for driving directions. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott 703/256-6351 and Helen Epps 202/363-0936.

## Tue. Mar. 14

Rated H. SNP: High along the AT. Hike south from Panorama to mile 49.2 on Skyline Drive at Fishers Gap; 15.5 mi.

and 3,500 ft. of elevation gain. Several close approaches to Skyline Dr. can accommodate any dropouts. Car shuttle with key exchange will be used. Leaders: Cliff Noyes 540/373-8267 or hclmnoyes@yahoo.com and Chris Nolen 301/469-8931 or chrishiker@erols.com.

## Fri. Mar. 17

Rated B. Key-Chain Circuit. Hike up the Potomac Heritage Trail (PHT) to Chain Bridge, cross the bridge, and then take the C&O Canal towpath and Key Bridge back to the trailhead. About 9 mi. with modest elevation change but some rocky sections and a few minor stream crossings. Some PHT stretches may also be muddy if the weather has been wet. Optional foray into Georgetown for a cup of cheer. Meet at 10am sharp at the Theodore Roosevelt Island parking lot. Bring lunch and water. Joint hike with PATC. Leaders: Ray Evert (MWROP) 703/893-3792 or hikerdude22@msn.com and Gary Abrecht (PATC) 202-546-6089 or GAlbrecht@aol.com.

## Sat. Mar. 18

Not Rated. Seventh Annual End-of-Winter Celebration: Canoeing Antietam Creek. Celebrate end of winter and overcome cabin fever. Practiced-novice trip of 12 mi., with class 1-2 white water, running through Antietam National Battlefield Park. Canoe and life jackets required. Dry bags with clothing change strongly suggested. Cosponsored with Canoe Cruisers Association and Blue Ridge Voyager Canoe Club. Leader: Jim Finucane 301/365-3485 (before 9pm).

Rated B. Piscataway Park, southern Prince George's Co., Md. We'll do 8.5 mi. with minimum elevation change and experience woodlands, Ecosystem Farm, National Colonial Farm, and views of Mt. Vernon. To carpool, meet

at 8am on ground floor of Huntington (Alexandria) Metro station. Leader: Russ Norfleet 703/294-6068 or russnorfleet@verizon.net.

Rated F (or D). Rachel Carson Greenway/Sligo Creek Trail (Get Fit for Spring/Train for One Day Hike series). This 21-mi. circuit hike (or you can do a 15-mi. option), will take us along Northwest Branch and Sligo Creek stream valleys of Maryland suburbs, using wooded and paved trails, and also enable us to learn about suburban environmental threats. Meet at 9 am at athletic fields parking lot in Wheaton Regional Park near bathrooms and soda machines. Call leaders for directions or Metro station pickup. Joint hike with AMC/DC. Leaders: Mike Darzi 301/593-4551 and Paul Elliott 703/256-6351.

## Sun. Mar. 19

Rated B. Fairfax County Cross County Trail Hike #1. Scenic, one-way 7.6-mi. hike in Springfield area, along parkland-encased Pohick Creek and Accotink Creek, starting at Wadebrook Terrace and ending at Lake Accotink dam. Meet at 9:30am at foot of dam in Lake Accotink Park. Car shuttle required. Joint event with PATC. Leaders: Ray Evert 703/893-3792 or hikerdude22@msn.com and Henri Comeau HenriComeau@aol.com.

## Tue. Mar. 21

Rated H. Overall Run Falls. We'll climb Overall Run from Thompson Hollow, view the falls, continue to Mathew's Arm and Elkwallow, and return via Beecher Ridge: 16 mi. and 3,500 ft. of climb. Leader: Chris Nolen chrishiker@erols.com or 301/469-8931

## Sat. Mar. 25

Rated C. Metro-accessible Hike: Northwest Branch Trail. On this unofficial version of the Rachel Carson

# Outings (MWROP March, April)

Greenway celebration, we'll hike approx. 11 mi. from the Hyattsville station (Green Line) to the Glenmont station (Red Line) on the Northwest Branch Trail. Be prepared for a variety of walking conditions, on both paved and natural surfaces, with minimal elevation gain. Meet at 10am at entrance to Hyattsville station. Leader: Scott Wilson 301/220-3248 or swilson@rrnrlc.org.

Rated C. Trails of Mason Neck. Enjoy our national river as we explore nearby Mason Neck in southern Fairfax Co. This 12-mi. circuit hike includes both Mason Neck NWR and Mason Neck SP, which are now connected by High Point Trail. Watch for bald eagles as they hover high over the Potomac River. To carpool, meet at 9:30am at the Vienna Metro station (north lot), off I-66. Leader: Glenn Gillis 703/430-0568.

Rated G (or D). Modified "Parade of Parks" (Get Fit for Spring/Train for One Day Hike series). Circuit of 23 mi. (or 14.4-mi. option) on paved and dirt trails in DC and Maryland parklands, with some gentle elevation change. Meet 8am at Fletchers Boathouse, off Canal Rd. Leaders: Mike Gingerich 703/590-3188 and Frank Wodarczyk 703/569-6737 (before 9:30 pm).

## Sun. Mar. 26

Rated B. Lower Magruder Trail and Magruder Branch Trail. Out-and-back hike of about 9 mi. in Damascus area of upper Montgomery Co. We'll look for botanical and avian signs of spring in a stream valley that passes through woods, wetlands, and fields. To carpool, meet at 9:30am at Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro station (Red Line) just inside garage (area 2C) in Park&Ride lot. Or call for trailhead location and meeting time. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott 703/256-6351.

## Tue. Mar. 28

Rated H. Bear Church Rock. We'll ascend the Jones Mountain Trail to Bear Church Rock, continue to Cat Knob, and return via Fork Mountain and Staunton River Trails. About 18 mi. and 4,300 ft. of elevation gain. Great views of the historic woods roads. Leader: Chris Nolen chrishiker@erols.com or 301/469-8931.

## Fri.-Sun. Mar. 31-Apr. 2.

Not Rated. Backpack Trip: Virginia's Triple Crown—Dragon's Tooth, McAfee Knob, and Tinker Cliffs. A challenging loop, partly on the AT, and including some of Virginia's best overlooks. Unscouted outing covering 35.9 mi., with 7,760 ft. of elev. gain. Based on 50 Hikes in Southern Virginia by Leonard M. Adkins. Leader: Dimitri Tundra 301/770-9639 or tartakd@hotmail.com.

## MWROP APRIL EVENTS

### Sat. Apr. 1

Rated A (afternoon hike only). Spring Meeting of Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP). This event will feature a program focusing on the almost-completed, 40-mi. Fairfax County Cross County Trail (CCT) and including an illustrated talk by CCT "father" Bill Niedringhaus—plus a short afternoon hike on the trail. There will also be the usual business meeting and potluck lunch. The event will be held at Colvin Run Mill in Great Falls, Va. Although the event is intended chiefly for MWROP's 40-plus volunteer leaders, guests are most welcome. Details will be e-mailed to MWROP leaders (and any prospective guests) and posted on www.mwrop.org by March 5.

### Sun. Apr. 2

Rated B. Carderock/Gold Mine Tract. Easy 7-mi walk in suburban Maryland along C&O Canal towpath and the

Gold Mine Tract to Great Falls Tavern; return via towpath. Meet at 1pm (daylight savings time) at Carderock (take Clara Barton Pkwy. for 1 mi. west of beltway, cross over pkwy. and pass under canal, turn right, and drive to farthest parking lot). Bring water and snack. Leader: Jim Finucane 301/365-3485 (before 9pm).

### Sun. Apr. 2

Rated H (or D/E). "Alexandria-Arlington Slow Marathon" (Get Fit for Spring/Train for One Day Hike series). Circuit of 27 paved mi. on Mount Vernon Trail and other Alexandria and Arlington trails, with a few minor undulations. Shorter, Metro-assisted version also available (don't forget your Metro card if you choose this option). Meet at 8am (daylight savings time) at north parking lot at Belle Haven, on George Washington Pkwy. south of Alexandria. Leaders: Gary Kosciuszko 703/765-0306 and Russ Norfleet 703/294-6068 or russnorfleet@verizon.net.

### Tue. Apr. 4

Rated H. Mountain Highway—West Virginia. Hike south along Tuscarora Trail from Rte. 55 to Waites Run and return via Wilson and Vance Cove trails: 20 mi. and 1,600 ft. of elevation gain. Leader: Cliff Noyes 540/373-8267 or hclmnoyes@yahoo.com.

### Sat. Apr. 8

Rated A. Two Views of the Potomac. Red Rock Wilderness Overlook Regional Park and Balls Bluff Battlefield Regional Park. Two little gems on the outskirts of Leesburg, with Potomac River vistas and wildflowers. For more information, see www.mwrop.org after March 15 or contact leader: Carol Ivory 703/476-8730 or carolivory@verizon.net.

Rated F, G, or H. "Shadbush Half-Hundred" (Get Fit for Spring/Train for

One Day Hike series). Moderate-/fast-paced circuit hike of between 18 and 33.4 miles on hilly and open back roads in farmlands around Poolesville in western Montgomery Co. and on flat and shady segment of C&O Canal towpath. Meet at 8am at Poolesville H.S. on West Willard Rd.. Call for directions, if carless, or if interested in carpooling to trailhead. Leaders: Paul Elliott 703/256-6351 and Frank Wodarczyk 703/569-6737.

Rated H. Rose River. This 16-mi. circuit hike will begin with bushwhack up Rose River to the Loop Trail, then proceed past Upper Dark Hollow Falls and Lewis Falls. Elev. gain: 3,000 ft. Inexperienced hikers call for requirements. To carpool, meet at 7:30am at Oakton Shopping Center. Leaders William Needham 410/884-9127 or Needham82@aol.com and Jack Thorsen 703/339-6716 or Thorsen4@juno.com.

### Sun. Apr. 9

Rated A (or B). Annual Bloomin' Monument Hike (Get-to-Know-DC series). Celebrate the coming of spring in Washington with an easy 4-plus-4-mi. walking tour of major memorials and monuments during peak bloom of the beautiful cherry blossoms after most tourists leave. The first part includes the Tidal Basin and West Potomac Park; the optional second half includes Hains Point in East Potomac Park, with sweeping views of the river. Meet at 9:30am near Ripley Center kiosk (on Jefferson Dr. near both Freer Gallery and Smithsonian Metro station's Mall entrance). Leashed dogs OK. Leader: Mike Darzi 301/593-4551 or mike\_darzi@ssaihq.com.

Rated B. Fairfax County Cross County Trail Hike #2. One-way and scenic 8.8-mi. hike in Springfield/Fairfax area, along Lake Accotink shoreline, along



# Outings (MWROP April)

Accotink Creek, and through Wakefield Park to Thaiss Park. Meet at 9:30am at foot of Lake Accotink dam, in Lake Accotink Park. Car shuttle required. Joint event with PATC. Leaders: Ray Evert 703/893-3792 or hikerdude22@msn.com and Henri Comeau HenriComeau@aol.com or 703/451-7965.

## Tue. Apr. 11

Rated H. Franklin Cliffs. Our 16-mi. circuit with 4,300 ft. ascent begins at Hawksbill parking lot, goes south on the Skyland-Big Meadows Trail to the Rose River Loop Trail, up the Dark Hollow Falls Trail to Big Meadows and Lewis Falls, and returns on the AT. We'll finish with a climb of Hawksbill Mountain. Leader: Chris Nolen chrishiker@erols.com or 301/469-8931.

## Fri. Apr. 14

Rated A/B. Moonlit Hike on the Mall. Explore the beauty of DC's Mall and monuments by the full moon. Bring water. Kids who can walk 7+ mi. (or 3 mi.) on relatively level terrain are most welcome. Meet at 7:30pm on the Mall side of Constitution Ave. halfway between 15th St. and 17th St. Use Metro (Federal Triangle station is nearby) or park on Constitution Ave. near "16th St." line. Leader: Jim Finucane, 301/365-3485 (before 9pm).

## Sat. Apr. 15

10am-about 2pm. Rated A. Spring Wildflower/Geology Walk. A naturalist and geologist from EcoStewards Alliance will identify spring wildflowers and discuss geology of the Great Falls area on this 3-4 mi. walk. Limited to 15 people. Call for reservations/directions. Leader: Jim Fremont 301/681-7475 (before 9pm).

9:30am. Rated B. Change of Seasons Hike. We'll do 10 mi. along riverside trails and C&O Canal towpath,

checking the wonders of early spring. Between pauses, we'll proceed with alacrity on the Billy Goat South Trail toward the hike's midpoint (which has flush toilets!). Bring lunch and children (and nice dogs, but check first with the leader). Meet at 9:30am at Minnehaha Bridge in Glen Echo Park, near Clara Barton House and proximal to the intersection of Goldsboro Rd. and MacArthur Blvd. in Bethesda, Md. Leader: David Burd 703/998-9390 or dburd301@netzero.com.

Rated E, F, G, or H. C&O Canal Towpath (Get Fit for Spring/Train for One Day Hike series). Out-and-back hike on scenic towpath segment to familiarize those planning to do the 50K option on Apr. 29 with their starting point. Begin at Edwards Ferry (towpath mile 30.8) and turn around at Whites Ford (mile 40), Monocacy Aqueduct (mile 42.2), Nolands Ferry (mile 44.6), or "Downtown" Point of Rocks (mile 48.2), for round-trip hike of 18.4, 22.8, 27.6, or 34.8 mi., respectively. Meet at 8am at Edwards Ferry parking lot, off River Rd. Visit [www.onedayhike.org](http://www.onedayhike.org) or call leaders for driving directions. Leaders: Gary Kosciusko 703/765-0306 and Christine Ford 703/425-6899.

## Sun. Apr. 16

Rated B/C. Woodstock Equestrian Park. Scenic circuit hike of 10.5 mi. in spacious new park in Beallsville area of Montgomery Co. Leashed dogs okay. To carpool, meet at 9:30am at Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro station (Red Line) just inside garage (area 2C) in Park & Ride lot. Or call for trailhead location and meeting time. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott 703/256-6351 and Helen Epps 202/363-0936.

Rated D/E. Round Up the Usual Poetry Hike. As usual the leader hasn't yet picked a route, but also as usual it will

be a fun hike somewhere with some poetry. Limited to 20 people. Leader: David Cheng 301/980-6112 (before 9pm) or dmcheng@yahoo.com.

Rated H. Susquehanna State Park. This northern Maryland hike includes part of the Mason-Dixon Trail and several other trails. We'll see an old mill, farmhouse, furnace, and Holtwood Dam, plus bald eagles and vistas of the Susquehanna River as we walk along several small streams, through grassy fields, through the forest, and along the river: 16 mi., with 2,000 ft. of elev. gain. Leader: Dimitri Tundra 301/770-9639 or tartakd@hotmail.com.

## Tue. Apr. 18

Rated H+. Redbud IV. The Fourth Annual Dogwood Memorial Hike, a loop of 30+ mi. around Massanutten Mountain following the route of PATC's annual long-distance hike of a dozen years ago. This self-supported reprise will loop from Elizabeth Furnace west on the Tuscarora Trail, south on the Massanutten Mountain West Trail, and north on the Massanutten Mountain East Trail and Tuscarora Trail back to Elizabeth Furnace. Leaders: Chris Nolen chrishiker@erols.com or 301/469-8931 and Cliff Noyes hclmnoyes@yahoo.com or 540/373-8267.

## Sat. Apr. 22

Rated D. Waterfalls of Shenandoah Park. Celebrate Earth Day with a hike near Big Meadows in SNP. The circuit includes Dark Hollow and Lewis Falls as well as Rose River and the Swamp Nature Trail. Distance: 10 mi. Dinner at Big Meadows Lodge afterward, with spectacular views of Shenandoah Valley. To carpool, meet at 8:30am at Vienna Metro station (north lot), off I-66. Leader: Glenn Gillis 703/430-0568.

Rated D. Catocin Mountain Park/

Cunningham Falls State Park, Thurmont, Md. Moderate-paced 8.5-mi. circuit hike with about 1,800 ft. of elev. change. We'll hear about local conservation efforts and the park's history before rambling on to a beautiful waterfall and five overlooks with magnificent views. Limited to 12 people. Leader: Ted Conwell 301/589-1513 (before 9pm).

Rated C, E, or H. C&O Canal Towpath between Point of Rocks and Harpers Ferry (Get Fit for Spring/Train for One Day Hike series). This ODH tune-up has three options: end at Harpers Ferry (13 mi.), with car shuttle; return to Brunswick (19 mi.), with car shuttle; or return to the start (26 mi.)—ideal warm-ups for the 50K, 80K, or 100K a week later. To carpool, meet at 8:15am at Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro station's Park&Ride back lot. Leaders: Larry Broadwell 301/215-7135 and Mike Darzi 301/593-4551.

## Sun. Apr. 23

Rated A. Fairfax County Cross County Trail Hike #3. One-way 6-mi. hike in Oakton/Reston area, partly hilly and partly along scenic Difficult Run, starting at Oak Marr Park and ending at Lawyers Rd. Meet at 9:30am at Oak Marr Park RECenter, off Jermantown Rd. Car shuttle required. Joint event with PATC. Leaders: Glenn Gillis 703/430-0568 and Henri Comeau HenriComeau@aol.com.

## Tue. Apr. 25

Rated G. Trillium Hike. Our annual excursion wanders among the fabulous trilliums and other wildflowers of a wildlife management area. About 15 mi. and 3,300 ft. of elev. gain. Leader: Chris Nolen chrishiker@erols.com or 301/469-8931.

## Fri.-Sun. Apr. 28-30

Not Rated. Backpack Trip: Fourth

## Outings (MWROP, April)

Annual Cranberry Backcountry Outing. On the first day, we will visit the Brooks Arboretum at Watoga State Park, W. Va. On the second and third days, we will cover the Pocahontas and Fork Mountain Trails in their entirety (part of the Cranberry Backcountry). Total distance: 24.5 mi. Car shuttle required. On the way back, we will drive along picturesque Maury River and stop at Jefferson Baths (natural hot springs). Leader: Dimitri Tundra 301/770-9639 or tartakd@hotmail.com.

### Sat. Apr. 29

Not Rated. Raptor Watching Canoe Trip. Experienced novice-level, with class 1-2 white water. You must have your own canoe; life jackets required. We will paddle a section of the Rappahannock River where many bald eagles have been seen and nest. Sponsored by Sierra Club, Canoe Cruisers Association, and the Blue Ridge Voyager Canoe Club. Leader: Jim Finucane 301/365-3485 (before 9pm).

### Sat. Apr. 29

Rated D. Whiteoak Canyon and Cedar Run, in SNP. An 8-mi. circuit hike with 2,900 ft. of elev. change. The hike will ascend Whiteoak Canyon and return via Cedar Run, two of the steepest ravines in SNP. We will enjoy long stops at lunch and a swimming hole. SNP entry fee: \$5/person. To carpool, meet at 8am at Vienna Metro station (north lot), off I-66. Leader: Marcia Wolf 301/565-3165 (before 9pm) or wolfmk@comcast.net.

Rated H+. One Day Hike to Harpers Ferry, on C&O Canal towpath. The 33rd annual 100K hike with concurrent 80K and 50K options. For details and volunteer opportunities, visit [www.onedayhike.org](http://www.onedayhike.org) or call leaders (registration closes April 17). Leaders: Paul Elliott 703/256-6351 or

metrohiker@yahoo.com and Carol Ivory carolivory@verizon.net.

### Sun. Apr. 30

Rated A. Virginia State Arboretum. We'll do 5-6 mi. wandering through the meadows and finding tree specimens from all over the world, after good rains will have made for the most beautiful scenery this side of the Blue Ridge. To carpool, meet at 9am at Oakton Shopping Center, at Starbucks. Be sure to bring a good picnic lunch. Leader: Dave Burd 703/998-9390 or dburd26@hotmail.com.

## The Anacostia Watershed Society needs volunteers for its annual Earth Day Cleanup on the Anacostia River.

Volunteers pick up trash at multiple sites along the river in Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland, and in Washington, DC. This is an annual event celebrating the Anacostia River, its communities, and the spirit of Earth Day.

Groups, troops, families, friends and students – all are welcome!

Cleanup is Saturday, April 22  
8:30am-12pm

Join us afterward from 1-2pm for food, live music and special speakers.

Contact Robin at 301.699.6204 or [robin@anacostiaws.org](mailto:robin@anacostiaws.org). See [www.anacostiaws.org](http://www.anacostiaws.org) for more information.



## BICO Outings

### BICO

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

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

### March 4 or 11

FYC Winter survival skills and snowtubing at Liberty Mountain

### March 6

All BICO Meeting

### March 11

DHILL Hiking, Gwynns Falls Trail

### March 18

CGCC Animal Tracking, Eden Mill Nature Center

### April 8

HCGC Hiking, Billy Goat Trail, Potomac River

### April 15

DHILL Camping and outdoor education, Patapsco State Park

### April 22

FYC Community service project and picnic, Department of Parks & Recreation

### May 6

CGCC Sheep & Wool Festival

### May 13

DHILL Hiking, Soldiers Delight

### May 20

FYC National Zoo & D.C. monuments

### June 3

FYC Days' End Horse Rehabilitation Farm & strawberry picking at Larriland Farms

### June 10

DHILL Camping in Pocomoke State Park

### July 15

FYC Canoeing

### BICO Teams:

CGCC (College Gardens Community Center)

DHILL (Dickey Hill)

FYC (Franciscan Youth Center)

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



# Prince Georges Group Excom Ballot

## Prince Georges Group Only: Vote for as Many as Seven Candidates for PG Group Excom

Joint Member  
Only

☐☐

### Tom Topping

I have a deep sense of commitment to the betterment of Prince George's County, where I have lived for 15 years. The county has one major asset—its undeveloped lands—and it is essential that we direct land use to ensure an affordable, safe, and healthy lifestyle for all residents. I have long been active in campaigns against projects that would have violated the principles of smart growth and our General Plan. I seek to hold our politicians to action for the public good, not special interests. It is my firm commitment that citizens must give both time and money to influence the direction of political decision-making. For example, my wife, Jennifer, and I support the effort to stop politicians from abusing text amendments, while contributing to good politicians, such as Tom Dernoga, the 2004 winner of the Maloney Environmental Service Award. In the hope of making a difference at this critical time in county history, it would be my pleasure to serve on the executive committee of the Prince George's group of the Sierra Club.

Joint Member  
Only

☐☐

### Chip Reilly

Chip Reilly desires to make the Prince George's group a powerful force in local environmental and community protection efforts. As a magnet for high-profit development prospects, Prince George's is in dire need of an effective organization like the Sierra Club, as a technical and organizing resource. In recent years one of our group's most notable successes has been forging of working relationships with civic groups and with key legislators. As such, we have made a positive difference in some county bills and land use cases. In the next term, I will empha-

size activities to draw in more people to the organizational and issues work. While Prince Georgians share Sierra's aims, we need to motivate them to take concrete action in supporting health and well-being for all through "revitalization not sprawl."

Joint Member  
Only

☐☐

### Mike Martin

Over the last nine years, I have worked with the Sierra Club at the national, state, and local levels. I have had the opportunity to work with and learn from Club leaders across the country on political strategizing, organizational development, and a broad range of conservation issues. I have also traveled around the country to train other Club activists.

Our county is facing a lot of problems, but in the last few years, we have shown that we can make things better. But in order to win, we need to strengthen our Group. To do this, I propose the following:

- Build a stronger sense of community among our leaders and our membership.
- Reach out more broadly to other groups and new constituencies, including communities of color, religious organizations, and students.
- Hold trainings to give our membership the skills to win positive changes for the environment.

Joint Member  
Only

☐☐

### Fred Tutman

Fred Tutman is the full-time "Patuxent Riverkeeper" and works as a professional activist on water quality and growth management issues in seven counties. Previously, as a volunteer activist, Tutman served as the President of the Conservation Federation of Maryland during the 1990's (a National Wildlife Federation affiliate), helped found the Environmen-

tal Fund for MD, served as President of the Patuxent River Civic Association, served on the MD Department of Natural Resources "Outdoor Caucus" and also on the State of MD Patuxent River Commission. Tutman has been active in a number of civic causes related to conservation of the Patuxent River and has been a frequent presence in zoning and planning causes aimed at preserving rural lands in Maryland in general, as well along the Patuxent River as well as preserving the culture and social framework of farming in and near the Patuxent River in particular. He is a longtime Sierra Club member.

Fred is a part-time law student in his third year of study, who also has spent some years in various environmentally-related clerking and mentoring assignments. Tutman has worked for the General Counsel of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority, clerked on land use matters for various local attorneys in appellate matters related to conservation, and presently serves on a task force to help rewrite the zoning ordinances for Prince George's County.

Joint Member  
Only

☐☐

### Jon Robinson

I have been active in the Prince George's Group of Sierra Club since the mid- 1980's. I have served as chair for the Group and the Maryland Chapter and I am currently the Vice Chair for the Group. I was a leader in the Belt Woods Campaign which lead to the creation of a Maryland State Wildland for the Belt Woods property in Prince George's County. This woodland is so productive, it has the highest density of breeding song birds of anyplace in North America.

The biggest challenge the environment faces is growth of human numbers and activity. To paraphrase Kenneth Boulding, "Only fools and economists

believe in infinite growth on a finite planet." I am committed to working to help both the public and the politicians to understand and act on the limits to growth. True environmental protection is contingent on understanding biology and having the courage to make the hard choices available to us.

Joint Member  
Only

☐☐

### Alex Hirtle

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1990. I started out becoming involved in the Anne Arundel Group as Political and Fundraising Chair, coordinating the endorsements of candidates, and creating an annual Earth Day 5K run which became very successful and provided additional financial resources for our group, as well as made the public more aware of our community efforts. Since moving to Prince George's County, I have joined the Ex-com. as the Social Chair, and initiated an annual potluck dinner and awards ceremony, which recognizes a citizen within the County for their environmental achievements. As Social Chair, I want to continue to build the "community" of the Group for greater effectiveness in preserving the beauty and natural resources of Prince George's County.

Joint Member  
Only

☐☐

### John Straub

He was active in the Sierra Club for many years prior to moving to Maryland. He is active in his Adelphi community and maintains the website for the Prince George's Group of Sierra Club.

**Return ballots to**  
**SIERRA CLUB / Prince George's**  
**7338 Baltimore Avenue,**  
**Suite 101A**  
**College Park, Maryland 20740**  
**or fax to 301-277-6699**

## Return Ballots by March 20

## Credits

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Writers and Contributors:** Lisa McGreevey, Jan Graham, Betsy Johnson, Cliff Terry, MaryPIRG, Linda Fennell, Imani Kazana, Mike Martin, Dale Sams, Mary Corddry, Jim and Teresa Gallion, Marc Imlay, Dan Soeder

**Editors:** Betty Brody, Mary Corddry, Donna Engle, Laurel Imlay, Betsy Johnson, Sue Kunkel, Janis Oppelt, Cindy Paré, Ellen Pepin, Annie Rehill, Mike Spain, Ed Stennett, Darla Tewell

**Outings Editor:** Dan Soeder

**Photos:** Karl Glazebrook, Bob Quinn

**Layout and Typography:** Darla Tewell

## Your Two Cents



Want to comment on something you've read in *Chesapeake*?

Send your comments by email to [editorch@sierraclub.org](mailto:editorch@sierraclub.org) with "For Chesapeake" in subject line. Please include your name, address, and phone number. We'll post comments on the Chapter website, [www.marylandsierraclub.org](http://www.marylandsierraclub.org).

*Material may be edited for length, content or clarity at the discretion of the editor.*



### inside this issue . . .

- *What's Important in Annapolis*
- *Sprawl from the Mountains to the Shore*
- *Prince George's Invasive (LNG) Plant*
- *Your Local Group News*
- *Habitat Gardening for Spring Outings, Events, & Much More*

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