

DC and Prince George's Collaborate to Restore Watts Branch

Local Activists Seek to Expand Watts Branch Subwatershed Group

By Linda Fennell—Dennis Chestnut and James Hunter seem to be running on pure adrenalin. Both are fond of the outdoors; Chestnut is a former Boy Scout and Hunter, an avid boater. Both love the Anacostia River. But Watts Branch is their favorite stream. Their eyes light up when they talk about Watts Branch. Reminiscing on the “good old days,” these two local residents can sit for hours telling interesting stories of their experiences with

Watts Branch and the Anacostia River. That is why they are working together to expand an educational and advocacy campaign for Watts Branch. Chestnut and Hunter have partnered with Steve Coleman of Washington Parks and People to re-energize the Watts Branch Community Alliance.

Formed five years ago by Coleman and led by the late Earl Simpson, the Alliance is housed at the River-

side Center in the Far Northeast Section of Ward 7 in Washington, D.C. The Riverside Center is the focal point of the work that Coleman, Chestnut, Hunter, and other community members are doing to save a wonderful community asset. Working together with District, Maryland, and federal agencies, the Alliance has produced the largest community park revitalization in D.C. history. The Alliance focuses on bringing together the D.C. and Prince George's neighborhoods

Park) and the Watts Branch headwaters on issues relating to the park, the stream, the Anacostia River, and the surrounding communities.

Watts Branch, a tributary of the Anacostia River, begins in Capitol Heights and continues across the District line, flowing through several communities in the Far Northeast section of DC. Marvin Gaye Park is the District's longest city park.

The Alliance collaborates with such other watershed groups as the Anacostia Watershed Society, Clean Water Action, The Casey Trees Foundations and the Sierra Club's Environmental Justice Program in activities like as tree plantings, stewardship projects and educational programs in the District. In a partnership with the Town of Capitol Heights, there will be a public education campaign in Prince George's County.

In March, 2005, these groups, in collaboration with the Town of Capitol Heights, Maryland, kicked off their restoration efforts by sponsoring a massive clean-up in the London Woods subdivision. Hundreds of volunteers, including members of the Sierra Club, staff from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other Prince George's County agencies, pulled tires, furniture, and other trash from the headwaters of Watts Branch. Weekly clean-ups continued through the months of April and May. The town has received a \$100,000 grant from the Maryland Depart-

(continued on page 9)



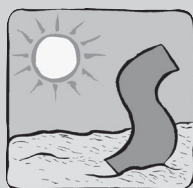
Watts Branch Cleanup. Photo by Linda Fennell

that surround Marvin Gaye Park (formerly Watts Branch



Contents

- 2 Letter from the Chair
- 3 Legislature Protects Unicorn Lake from Landfill
- 3 Judge Protects Green Ridge State Forest from Residential Development
- 5 Action on Air and Energy
- 6 Sierrans Step Up to the Energy Conservation Challenge
- 7 Growing Naturally and Easily
- 8 Not by a Wing and a Prayer
- 9 Cause to Celebrate, Not to Rest
- 10 Protect the Wilderness in Allegheny Forest
- 10 Maryland Chapter Leaders
- 11 What's Holding You Back?
- 12 Grand Adventure Inspires Catoctin Grandmother
- 13 Invasive Species Removal and Habitat Restoration Outings
- 16 Outings Galore
- 22 BICO Outings
- 22 Cool Cities Training
- 23 Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet as a Sierra Club Intern



Summer

All Is Politics



Betsy Johnson, Chair

“Senator Paul Sarbanes to Step Down!” So screamed the *Washington Post* headline early last year that began the Maryland political season now in full swing. A retiring U.S. senator caused a domino effect that is being felt throughout the state. Congressman Ben Cardin resigned his seat to run for Senate, State Senator Paula Hollinger resigned her seat to run for Cardin’s seat along with a host of other candidates, and now loads of people are lining up to run for Hollinger’s seat. If that weren’t enough activity for one year, all of Maryland’s state and local elected officials run for reelection this year, from the governor down to the county councils in all jurisdictions. We have a lot of work to do.

The Sierra Club has a well-defined political program with rules for making endorsements. Many of our members don’t understand our endorsement policy, and I often get angry calls when we endorse a candidate they don’t like. But the policy makes sense, and I would like to outline it for you briefly:

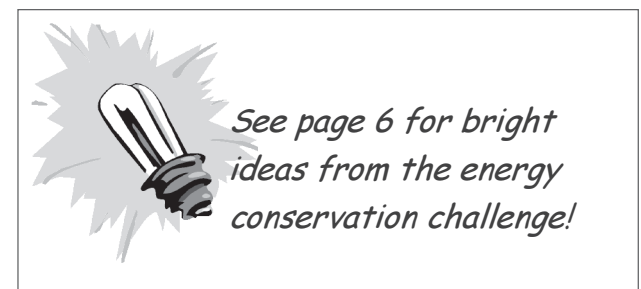
- ♦ We are a non-partisan organization. We can endorse viable candidates from any party if they support us on our issues.
- ♦ Incumbency matters. Incumbents who heed requests to vote for our agenda usually get our endorsement. They have proved that we can rely on them to help get our agenda through, and we reward those actions with an endorsement even if a challenger has a better environmental platform. We do this in order to send a consistent message to elected officials that if they work for our issues, we will support them.
- ♦ Viability matters. Challengers need to prove that they have the campaign structure and enough money to mount a credible campaign. Such a candidate may not be the person who has the best talking points on the environment. Our goal is to get good people elected to office, not to fall on our swords in support of an idealistic message.
- ♦ Political landscape matters. We strive to get the best person elected that we can get in a particular district. That may mean we endorse someone who does not have stellar environmental credentials, but who is still the best of the bunch.

There are always exceptions, but for the most part we follow those rules very closely. Our endorsement process includes having the candidates fill out a questionnaire and submit to an interview by Club leaders, who then make recommendations to the appropriate executive committee. All endorsement recommendations must be approved by two levels of the Club. For local and state candidates, those levels are the group and state. For federal candidates, they are the chapter executive committee and the national political committee.

Much of the Sierra Club’s influence with legislators at all levels of government is derived from its political program. Legislators listen to us because they know that our endorsements tend to swing lots of voters. We are considered the “good housekeeping seal of approval” for the environmental community when it comes to elections, and our endorsement is sought by many candidates in Maryland. But the endorsement is only the first step. Its effectiveness depends, in large part, on the actions of our members. We need you to be involved in the political process!

We also know that there are Sierra Club members who don’t vote. Your vote is very important, and we have enough members to swing a close election. Many races are decided in the primary—so it’s important to vote in both primary and general elections. If you will not be here on election day, request an absentee ballot. You can do that at the local board of elections for your county, or online at www.elections.state.md.us/registered_voters/absentee_ballot.html

This election year is filled with dangers and opportunities. Many who have stepped down from their elected positions have been good environmental supporters. We must not let those seats go to our opponents. We need the Sierra Club presence to be felt out there. If you would like to get involved, please call me at 301-656-4948. Rest assured that we will find something for you to do. ■



Western Maryland and Eastern Shore Enjoy Victories in Protecting Special Places

**Advocates for Unicorn Lake and Supportive Legislators Protect the Lake from Landfill Construction;
Thank the Legislators and Celebrate at Our Picnic**

By Loretta C. Walls—Residents of Queen Anne's County and Prince George's County scored a major victory in the General Assembly, with the passage of Senate Bill 51 (SB 51), the Unicorn Lake Bill. This bill prohibits the construction of any landfills within four miles of Unicorn Lake, and, as passed, grants a three year moratorium on landfills in that area. The amended version of the bill just made it under the wire, as it was approved by the House of Delegates less than two hours before the Maryland General Assembly ended. Senator Mike Miller really put some teeth in the bill when he added an amendment which also banned landfills along the Potomac tributaries in Prince George's County.

Queen Anne's County Commissioner Gene Ransom wrote the original bill for the 2004-2005 General Assem-

bly session and encouraged the support of all five county commissioners. They, in turn, encouraged the Eastern Shore delegation to present the bill in the General Assembly. Also, U.S. Congressman Wayne Gilchrest has been very supportive of the Unicorn Lake issue since the Millington Quality of Life Preservation Coalition was formed in 1996.

The Unicorn Lake bill failed in the House and Senate in 2005, but this year Senator E.J. Pipkin took it to the Senate, and Delegate Michael Smigiel sponsored it in the House. Though the bill was supported by Senator Mike Miller, it was struck down in the House by Environmental Matters Committee Chairperson Maggie McIntosh. We then asked Speaker Michael Busch to help us save SB 51.

Many people worked as a team and many members and friends made count-

less calls to Annapolis to garner support for SB 51. On the last day of the General Assembly session, Commissioner Ransom and Jay Falstad of the Unicorn Conservancy followed every move of the General Assembly

We appreciate all the help from the Sierra Club's Maryland Chapter and Eastern Shore Group; the Chester River Association; the Washington College Student Alliance; The Millington Quality of Life members; and John Nickerson, Environmental Health Officer for Queen Anne's County. We appreciate the investigative work and documentation of Sveinn Storm, who reported on the pollution done by New Earth Services and Days Cove Reclamation in Dorchester County and brought in the news media from Channel 11.

The May 2 signing of the bill by

Governor Ehrlich was a momentous occasion. Several members of local groups attended the signing in Annapolis.

This was a bipartisan bill that showed that Democrats and Republicans can put their minds together for the good of the county and our state.

The Eastern Shore Sierra Group is planning a picnic at Unicorn Lake near Millington with a tentative date of Sunday, July 30, 2006 and a rain date of Sunday, August 6, 2006. As plans are still in the making, we will give more information in the next month. You are welcome to bring your canoes, kayaks and fishing poles (don't forget your fishing license), so you can thoroughly enjoy this 42-acre lake.

You may call Diane Bedlin at 410-643-3283 for information. Come help us celebrate our victory! ■



**You Can't
VOTE
Unless You've
Registered!**

June 19, 9 p.m.
Deadline to change party affiliation before the Primary Election

August 22, 9 p.m.
Last day to register to vote before the Primary Election

Information on voter registration, districts, polling places, etc.
<http://www.elections.state.md.us/faq.html>

Judge Denies Residential Zoning Exception Near Green Ridge State Forest in Allegany County



Green Ridge State Forest. Photo by Mike Juskelis

By Sam White—The proposed 4,300 unit development near Green Ridge State Forest in Allegany County was dealt a setback in early May, bringing great news to anti-sprawl activists throughout Maryland. A decision to grant a residential zoning exception to the development planned for an agriculture zoning area by Allegany County's zoning commission

was remanded to them by Circuit Court Judge Gary Leasure.

Judge Leasure found that the development was not "in harmony with" the county's comprehensive zoning plan. The zoning commission's decision was appealed in court by Citizens for Smart Growth, a well-organized group of local citizens which includes some Sierra Club members.

The Western Maryland Group is seeking volunteers for the ExCom. Anyone interested should contact Sam White, at 301-264-4162 or e-mail sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org; or Mark Diehl at mad55@mindspring.com or 301-724-6238. ■

A SPECIAL OFFER ONLY FOR SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS!

Just Beyond
The Bay.

Cool.

**SIERRA CLUB ICELAND
GETAWAY**

\$1074*
from
per person, double occupancy

Iceland has it all. Learn all about Iceland's unique flora and fauna while enjoying horseback riding, hiking, spa treatments, gourmet dining, geothermal pools – and some of the most pristine nature in the world.

The perfect start to creating your own educational adventure in Iceland! Includes round-trip air, two nights hotel in Reykjavik, Scandinavian buffet breakfast every day but arrival and airport/hotel transfers.

Contact your travel agent, call Icelandair at **(877) 435-7962**, or book online at **www.icelandairholidays.com/sierra** and save even more!



* Valid from Baltimore/Washington (BWI). Packages subject to availability and price change and only available to Sierra Club members. Valid for departures 01JUN-31AUG06. All nights must be in hotels booked through Icelandair Holidays. Cancellations/changes subject to \$400 penalty 30-60 days prior to departure; nonrefundable/nonchangeable 29 days or less prior to departure. All fees are per person. Personal travel insurance not included. Lower priced packages may be available on icelandairholidays.com. Other restrictions apply. Seats are limited. Prices quoted are exclusive of applicable taxes and official charges by destination of approx. \$90, including the September 11th Security Fee.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ICELAND ROVERS

Reykjavik
Copenhagen
Oslo
Stockholm
Helsinki

Amsterdam
Paris
Frankfurt
Munich

Berlin
London
Glasgow
Manchester

ICELANDAIR
www.icelandair.com



Action on Air and Energy

By Charlie Garlow—This year has seen a lot of action on this front !

Heating oil, gasoline, and natural gas prices are gobbling larger chunks of the consumer dollar, and electricity customers are bracing for hefty rate increases this summer. But the upside is that people are thinking about alternatives, and friends of the environment can celebrate a legislative victory for clean air.

The President admits that we are “addicted to oil.” High **gasoline** prices have led to more serious comments from Congress about improving vehicle fuel efficiency. Improving the Corporate Average Fuel Economy [CAFE] has been a long time Sierra Club priority, and maybe now something will really happen. The pinch at the pump has been encouraging people to bike, walk, take mass transit, buy high-efficiency hybrid electric cars, and consider other alternative fuels.

You can help. Bike, walk, take transit and if you must own a car, buy a hybrid. Buy one of the fuel-efficient ones, not the giant hybrid trucks which get 18 mpg, instead of 12 mpg !!! Did I mention bike, walk and take transit? It bears repeating!

Of course, there is the downside to oil prices at \$70 or more a barrel. There is more pressure to drill in Alaska and offshore because of high gasoline prices. Energy companies are making record profits, which they will use to lobby against CAFÉ improvements and for drilling in Alaska and offshore.

High **natural gas** prices have caused the poor to suffer from higher heating bills. But rising prices have encouraged conservation and purchases of more efficient home-heating units.

You can help. Insulate. Upgrade your furnace. Buy a solar hot water heater, probably the most efficient solar purchase.

In addition to higher costs to the consumer, the downside to high natural

gas prices is an increase in drilling. Coal-bed methane drilling is among the nastiest. Importing more liquified natural gas, LNG, will cause more money to be sent to overseas bad guys, increasing our trade deficit and causing heartaches for those who live near LNG terminals or new distribution pipelines needed to carry this supply of natural gas.

Electricity rates are being deregulated in Maryland, causing shock and awe for consumers receiving bills, and scrambling by politicians to answer public outrage. The electricity rate hikes carry many of the same pluses and minuses: pain in the wallet, but an incentive to conserve and consider alternatives like renewable electricity. They also embolden electricity producers to push for more nuclear power, which the Sierra Club has long opposed.

Meanwhile, global warming continues to get worse. Polar ice caps are melting even faster and the polar bear is on the endangered list. Coral reefs are dying off faster. Weird weather happens.

What's Next in Maryland!

Following up our victory in passing the Healthy Air Act, we may focus our efforts on cleaning up car and truck emissions in the next legislative session. We have urged passage of a clean-cars bill in several past sessions, so the groundwork has been laid. Perhaps 2007 will be the year for Maryland to join several New England states and Canada in adopting the California clean-cars standard, which requires CO₂ reductions. The California law is under legal attack by: guess who? The car companies and the Bush Administration. So much for conservatives' support for states rights!

You can help. Call your delegates/ state senators and urge them to support a clean cars bill. Just before election time, they may be more responsive. Call 1-800-492-7122 toll free from Maryland phones

at any time (leave a voice mail message in the middle of the night if you want!) to contact your state representatives.

Other good ideas, like more money for energy efficiency and solar power, cost the state money. We try to stay away from things that impose costs on the state, as that is a sure path to rat-hole oblivion in a money sub-committee.

Mark your calendars now for the Annual Tour of Solar Homes on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 7 and 8, 2006. Over 30 solar homes and office buildings will be on display. See www.solartour.org for details. Call Charlie Garlow at 301-593-9823 if you want to help stop global warming. ■

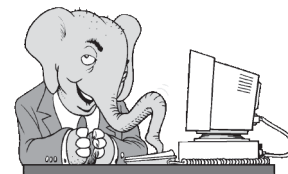
June 19: Last day to change party affiliation before the Primary Election

August 22: Last day to register to vote before the Primary Election

Voter information: <http://www.elections.state.md.us/faq.html>



**GET READY
TO VOTE**



MaryRuth and Rich Reis joined our Conservation Challenge “honor roll” by sending us their list of ways in which they conserve power. After inventorying their energy usage using a watt-hour meter, they conscientiously reduced their consumption. See how they and our other honor roll members are conserving in our story on page 6.



Chesapeake Conservation Challenge

Sierrans Step Up to the Energy Conservation Challenge

Energy Challenge Honor Roll

Anne Ambler
Marney Bruce
James Fary
Charlie Garlow
Laurel Jmly
Rich and MaryRuth Reis
Cliff Terry
Sam White
Nancy Williamson
Schneider Wolfger

In the last issue of *Chesapeake*, Betsy Johnson, Chair of the Maryland Chapter, challenged readers to share and inspire with how they've reduced consumption of fossil fuels. Following are tips from the honor roll of energy conservationists:

The Unusual

"I am a global warming activist and have made myself a polar bear costume, complete with two stuffed polar bear 'children' to use as street theater to bring home the message of how important it is to save energy, support clean renewable energy, and save all the creatures on the planet. It takes education and action, in our homes and in our communities."

The Extreme

- ♦ In winter, keep the hot water in the bathtub from showers and baths to humidify and warm the air. Then use it to flush the toilet.
- ♦ Limit showers to once a week in the winter, and wash in a basin in between.
- ♦ Compost used teabags and put the teabag paper tags into the paper recycling.

Around the House

- ♦ Turn off the water while you lather up.

- ♦ Use an automatic dishwasher instead of washing by hand. Run it only when full.
- ♦ Have heated our water using solar since 1986.
- ♦ Hang up clothes to dry—in summer outside where the sun does a splendid job and leaves the clothes smelling sweet, and in winter around the house to add humidity to the air.
- ♦ Use a programmable thermostat.
- ♦ In winter, bake food in the oven to provide heat.
- ♦ In summer, don't install an air conditioner; instead use fans, close windows in the morning to keep cool air in during the day, and abandon the hot upstairs.
- ♦ Have shades that keep out winter cold and summer heat.
- ♦ Put extra insulation in the attic. Blew cellulosic insulation into the wall cavities.
- ♦ Hired a company to do an energy audit of the house to see what else we could do to save energy, or to use a "door blower" to find air leaks using an infra-red camera.
- ♦ Inventoried our energy usage using a watt-hour meter.
- ♦ Unplug appliances when not in use because they use energy even when turned off.
- ♦ Use natural light instead of flicking the switch.

In the Yard

- ♦ Recycle water with a rain garden and three rain barrels.
- ♦ Allowed moss to replace much of our front lawn, which means less mowing and no fertilizer.

Out and About

- ♦ Drive no more than the speed limit.
- ♦ Shop with a friend, and combine errands in one trip.
- ♦ Bought a hybrid car for work, longer trips, and hauling. Use a bicycle or walk for all short trips.

- ♦ Drive an all-electric pickup truck, moped, hybrid car.
- ♦ Get around by walking, bicycling, or public transit.
- ♦ For light grocery shopping, walk a mile or so each way to the grocery store and put groceries in a backpack. What doesn't fit serves as hand weights for exercise.
- ♦ Live downtown, so walk as much as possible.
- ♦ Changed jobs to be within bicycling distance.
- ♦ Travel by Amtrak, which is more efficient than driving or flying.
- ♦ Never take a long trip unless other people go with me.



Conservationist Nancy Williamson recycles everything that can be recycled, walks for as many errands as possible, and wants a government that encourages conservation.

In the Stomach

- ♦ Mostly eat vegetarian, joined a CSA and are reaping the benefits of lovely organic

spring salad greens, and shop at a co-op with lots of organic and locally grown food.

- ♦ Use meat as flavoring rather than as the main course.
- ♦ Raise organic vegetables.

Composting and Recycling

- ♦ "Freecycle" by listing online what we no longer need for people to come and take what they need.
- ♦ Compost kitchen waste.
- ♦ Usually find what we need at the thrift store.
- ♦ Pick up trash whenever I am walking, and recycle if possible.
- ♦ Buy just what we need, give away usable items we no longer need, and recycle the rest.

For the Children

- ♦ Raise your children to be environmentally conscious and to advocate for their lifestyle choices.
- ♦ Encourage your children to ride their bikes or walk to friends' houses.
- ♦ Try to keep the kids from asking for new plastic junk.
- ♦ Instead of concocting birthday "goody bags," spread out books and asked the kids to pick one or two.
- ♦ Annually, give a guest lecture at school about solar energy, energy efficiency, electric cars, and global warming.

Product Consumption

- ♦ Use energy-saving light bulbs. Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- ♦ Installed windows with double-pane glass filled with argon gas.
- ♦ Don't have a T.V.
- ♦ Have one medium-sized refrigerator, rather than giant-sized.
- ♦ Have few appliances; purchase Energy Star appliances.
- ♦ Use rechargeable batteries.

(continued on page 21)

Growing Naturally—and Easily

By Jeri Metz—I am a lazy gardener. So when I discovered there was no need for Miracle Gro, only the right recipe to feed the soil, the appeal was immediate. Today, I plan our whole half-acre around a few simple principles.

Composting

When a plant or animal dies in nature, it decomposes. If the climate is cool and dry this takes longer; if conditions are warm and wet, it's faster. The time required to create humus also depends on the size of the pile and compostable objects. When in doubt, think about what happens in the wilds.

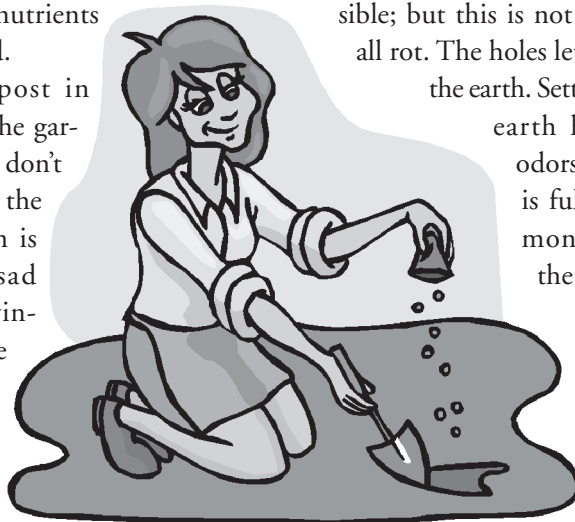
If it was once living, it has the chemistry to improve soil structure. The only thing I don't compost is pressure-treated wood. I use cardboard boxes, vacuum cleaner debris, kitty litter, store-bought flowers, chewing gum, nail clippings, animal products and byproducts. If I suspect anything may bring rats, I bury it deep. One caveat: if you're pregnant, don't handle cat litter.

Decaying matter is in a chemical form unavailable to the root systems of plants. Earthworms degrade matter by eating it. They leave their own high-quality soil, worm castings. Microorganisms, bacteria, fungi, and actinomycetes break

down animal and plant parts and digest them. When microorganisms decompose, they release chemical components—in exactly the form that roots can take up. As long as there is a constant influx of humus, dead soil critters slowly release all the nutrients that plants need.

I compost in the middle of the garden. This way I don't have far to lug the soil. My garden is messy and sad through the winter—but I have little work and no trips to buy fertilizer.

Here's how: At the bottom, put twigs, sticks, anything hard to break down. A four-by-four-foot pile, several inches high, is enough to bring air underneath the pile. Make wet and dry layers of waste, always topping off with the latter because it smothers odors. Wet includes just-mowed grass and byproducts of food preparation. Dry might be autumn leaves, sawdust, newspaper (except glossy and color), or paper towels. Weigh down paper with a tarp and



bricks. You can also use garden soil for dry layers.

The trashcan method requires two cans. Metal is best because it conducts heat. Drill holes in the bottom (some hardware stores will do it for you). Dig a shallow pit several inches deep and set in the trashcan. Layer wet and dry if possible; but this is not essential. It will all rot. The holes let liquid drip into the earth. Setting the can in the

earth helps eliminate odors. When the can is full, let it sit for a month, then dump the humus. If some items are not fully composted, put them back in and start again.

For things that are slow to break down, diseased, too appalling to look at, poisonous, or full of seed heads, I have a long-term pile in the far end of my yard. Unless I'm sure it will break down within three months with no chance of contaminating my soil or plants, it goes out back. After two years, it's all dirt. Under enough heat and pressure, even dog poop and Christmas trees become unrecognizable dark, rich humus.

Tilling

I used to "double-dig," even though I don't like to sweat. Now I simply plant in the mess I never cleaned up last fall. Tilling not only disrupts the soil's micro community, it also over-aerates the earth. And constantly turned soil gives off more CO₂ to the atmosphere. We want to keep the carbon in the soil, to feed the microscopic critters. Even cultivating the top few inches negatively impacts the immediate soil ecosystem. It is detrimental to the worms and destroys their complex channels that conduct water and provide oxygen to plant roots.

Plants need varying distributions of nutrients, but don't go crazy trying to figure this out. Just leave your annuals and herbaceous perennials where they die. Do not remove the leaves that drop from evergreens. All the chemicals, in just the right proportions for that plant, will rot and be available the next season. If you don't like the look of the leggy dried flower stalks, cut them—but leave them on the ground, covering the roots.

Only remove sick plants. Cut them off at ground level and place them deep inside the compost pile. Pathogens will be killed by the intense heat. ■

(Reprinted with permission from Jeri Metz © www.pomegranateseeds.net)

Some Composting Tips:

- If you're just starting, use soil from a friend's garden instead of buying compost starter. Stick a handful right in the center of your pile. There are more than enough microorganisms in that handful to start colonies that will eat your garbage.
- Move your piles around. In winter, choose sun. After dampening, cover to hold in heat. Quick-to-break-down trash also gives you compost to start seedlings in January. In summer, build your pile in shade to keep it moist.
- I separate acidic debris from garden compost. If I don't feel like walking out to the long-term pile, I open my kitchen door and dump coffee grounds right into my hollies and azaleas.

Residential Lot for Sale in Local Ecovillage

1/3 acre FSBO in Loudoun Co., VA near Lovettsville. Water well & electric service installed; septic drainfield site pre-approved by county. Peaceful rolling hills, forest, and creeks. MARC train 10-min drive away. Part of new 180-acre green cohousing community requiring eco-friendly construction. 8 homes now built and occupied. Standard house plans available; custom designs also allowed. Lot price includes usage & shared ownership of over 100 acres of common land and forthcoming community house & swimming pool. \$143,700.

Info on this lot: contact Mike, Opitz@macconnect.com, 301-962-5060

Info on the Ecovillage: www.ecovillages.com

How Birds Migrate Not By a Wing and a Prayer



By Janis K. Oppelt—I first saw the Baltimore oriole, our state bird, in April a few years ago in the midst of a rain forest in Belize, Central America. There we were, my husband, Russ, and I, contentedly floating down a tropical river on a boat tour when our naturalist guide pointed him out to us. With binoculars, we could see the markings of the male oriole clearly: solid-black head, back and most of the wings black; broad white wing bars; and those telltale orange shoulders and under-parts.

As I admired this fine, feathered fellow, I realized that in spite of his namesake, I had never seen him in Maryland. I'd *assumed* that Mr. and Mrs. B. Oriole took their temporary winter respites in the tropics, but I discovered differently when I began researching neotropical bird migration. After reading the works of several notable ornithologists, I recently spoke with Bruce Peterjohn, a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland. "Baltimore Orioles only spend about two to three months a year on their northern breeding grounds," he explained. "Between August and April, they cross the southern U.S. border to their winter [non-breeding] grounds."¹

What a surprise to learn that when "our" avian representatives, and other migrants, arrive in the spring, they are just visiting, not necessarily coming "home." They stay only long enough to find mates, procreate, and raise a family. This confirmed much of what I'd read while delving into the mysteries of migration.

Going South

In his book *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*, Scott Weidensaul provides a straightforward answer to one of the questions I had in Belize: Why *do* birds migrate, anyway?

"It isn't cold, it isn't snow, it isn't summer heat or monsoon rains that drive birds to travel, but the pursuit of a full belly," Weidensaul opines.²

But Peterjohn takes a broader view and puts a more scientific spin on the phenomenon: "There are different theories why birds migrate. A lot of 'why' has to do with the availability of food supplies [as well as] individual adaptability, and the costs and the benefits of doing so."

The costs are high for long-distance migrants, as are their mortality rates. For those that don't migrate or only go short distances, there may be benefits. For example, their populations may stay steady or improve as long as they can survive the winter.

Many species can tolerate cold weather as long as there is enough food, which includes flying insects, caterpillars, fruits, and nectar. If birds eat *only* insects—and there are very few who do, says Peterjohn—they must leave the area when the temperatures and insect populations drop, or else they die.

Birds with more adaptable eating habits may stay put when winter comes. For example, woodpeckers, which delight in insects, shift their diets to insect larvae, eggs, or pupae that hide in dead wood, as well as to seeds and other available food.

According to an online fact sheet from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, the ultimate reason for the persistence of migration is that it increases "breeding success."

"Birds are able to raise more young on average by migrating than they would if they remained in the tropics. The abundant, protein-rich food, longer daylight hours, greater area over which the birds can spread, and, possibly, fewer predators accounts for the potential to raise more young."³

Perfect Timing

Migratory birds leave their northern breeding grounds in August, when daylight begins to dwindle. (Fear of the dark is not, of course, among the reasons they leave.) Scientists think that certain changes in a bird's environment stimulate the production of hormones that, in turn lead, to changes in the bird's behavior and physiology, preparing it for migration.⁴

"Part of their strategy may be that they want to pass through temperate areas while there is still an abundance of food," Peterjohn adds. Instinctively knowing that they must leave in August allows them to "get the nourishment they need to continue their journeys south."

The required nourishment boils down to a full storehouse of fat. Before long journeys, migrants must gorge themselves to build it up. Some larger birds can even reduce the size of certain organs for a short period and use that internal space to store fat.

To maintain their energy, along the way most make pit stops, which last anywhere from one day to a few weeks.⁵ Unfortunately, as environmentalists are keenly aware, changes and reductions in natural habitat, and the food that goes with it, can seriously affect their success of finding nourishment.

"Habitat changes mean that there are fewer areas for them to refuel," says Peterjohn. "It's particularly an issue if they have large areas to cross, such as the Gulf of Mexico. They must have a place to fuel up before they attempt to get across the Gulf to the northern Yucatan without stop."

Not By a Wing and a Prayer

Now for the million-dollar question: How do birds find their way between their breeding and non-breeding sites? The easiest answer is instinct: the abilities needed to migrate seem to be programmed into their genes. Researchers say that songbirds, on their first migratory journey, seem to have a sort of automatic pilot leading them to their ancestral grounds.⁶ Experience helps them to fine-tune subsequent journeys.

Other birds, like cranes, geese, and swans, migrate in family groups, so it's the parents that lead their fledglings to non-breeding grounds and back again for the first time. But even in this case, the first-ever set of birds to fly still had to get the directions from somewhere, and it was probably from their genes.

According to scientific speculation, it appears that an internal map and a compass are "hard-wired" into their genetic codes. The *Sibley Guide to Bird Behavior* elaborates: "Simply put, orientation is the ability of a bird to use an internal compass to accurately align itself in an appropriate direction . . . Navigation, by comparison, is the ability to find a specific geographical location without using a map."⁷

In addition to instincts and genes, birds seem to use a variety of environmental "cues." Different birds

(continued on page 9)

Not By a Wing and a Prayer

(continued from page 8)

use different cues, explains Peterjohn.

Diurnal migrants (daytime travelers), such as hawks and vultures, rely upon the rising currents of air that enable them to soar and glide. These currents occur only during daylight hours, when the sun's rays heat the Earth.

Songbirds and others that migrate at night (nocturnal migrants) may use patterns of stars in addition to the location of the setting sun and the pattern of polarized light it creates.⁸ Other possible environmental cues include topographic features—such as coastlines, rivers and mountain ranges—and prevailing wind patterns. Some scientists postulate that even sounds and smells could help them arrive at their destinations.

It's likely that the Earth's magnetic fields play a key role in migration. The April 2004 issue of *Science* included an article on this topic, and here's a quick summary of what the authors found when they studied the "interaction of magnetic, stellar, and twilight orienta-

tion cues in free-flying songbirds."

"We exposed *Catharus* thrushes to eastward-turned magnetic fields during the twilight period before take-off and then followed them for up to 1,100 kilometers. Instead of heading north, experimental birds flew westward. On subsequent nights, the same individuals migrated northward again. We suggest that birds orient with a magnetic compass calibrated daily from twilight cues."⁹

Yet Still a Mystery

Genes, maps, compasses, stars, the Earth's magnetic field, and more—they're all plausible theories of how birds migrate. The more I read, the further I was from finding "the" answer. However, it gave me some comfort to hear Peterjohn confirm my findings and feelings about a topic that arose in my mind when I saw what I thought was an avian Yankee quite at home in a Belizean jungle.

"In a lot of ways, we don't know how they do it, although we are trying to understand," says Peterjohn.

"One of the most fascinating things is their ability, year after year, to find very specific locations on the ground in both their breeding and non-breeding sites and return yearly. It's mind-boggling." ■

References

1. Phone interview with Bruce Peterjohn, Thursday, February 9, 2006.
2. Scott Weidensaul. *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*. North Point Press. New York, 1999, 74.
3. Mary Deinlein. "Neotropical Bird Basics," *Smithsonian National Zoological Park*, *Migratory Bird Center*, fact sheets. (http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Fact_Sheets/default.cfm?fxsh=9).
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid.*
7. Sibley Guide to Bird Behavior. *National Audubon Society*, *Chanticleer Press*. New York, 2001, 64.
8. William W. Cochran, H. Mouritsen, and M. Wikelski. "Migrating Songbirds Recalibrate Their Magnetic Compass Daily from Twilight Cues," *Science*, April 16, 2004: 405-8.
9. *Ibid.*

Community Alliance Seeks to Unite DC and Maryland Around Watts Branch

(continued from page 1)

ment of the Environment for the Livable Communities and Stream Restoration Project for Watts Branch. The state funds will be matched by Prince George's County for grading, sediment and erosion control, and storm water management. Just ask Chestnut about his work with communities in this endeavor: "I am very excited about this effort, especially working with Capitol Heights," says Chestnut. "I have an opportunity to share my experiences with the stream with my neighbors who did not know that it is a tributary to the Anacostia River." James Hunter, currently the Vice President of the Alliance, agrees with Chestnut. "We want to reach as many people as we can in both DC and Maryland to work together to restore the stream," says Hunter. "It is a valuable asset to our communities." Hunter seems rather quiet, but is just as enthusiastic about the restoration project.

The Alliance has several goals:

1. Make Watts Branch—both the park and creek—safe, clean, attractive, and accessible.
2. Establish a permanent Watts Branch partnership for community-based protection and arts and educational programming along the stream.

3. Provide every resident of the Watts Branch basin with access to information about the stream, its links to the Anacostia River, and how to get involved in reclaiming both the stream and the river.

4. Reach out to every Watts Branch area school, church, and community organization to forge a new commitment to the future of the stream.

5. Promote Watts Branch as a vital link to the Anacostia River, the Fort Circle, the Metro, and beyond.

6. Develop a positive daily relationship between inner-city residents and the Anacostia River.

The Watts Branch Community Alliance Advisory Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Meetings are held at the Riverside Center, 5200 Foote Street N.E. (Division Ave. & Foote Street).

For more information, contact: Dennis Chestnut (202) 345-5693 or via email dchestn@msn.com.

For more information about Marvin Gaye Park, visit the website www.washingtonparks.net. ■

Linda Fennell is an Environmental Justice organizer for the Sierra Club.

Cause to Celebrate, But Not to Rest LNG Plant Barred from Prince George's Neighborhood

The Prince George's County Council has voted to approve a new zoning map for the area around the West Hyattsville Metro Station. This new zoning, which took effect immediately, specifically prohibits utility companies' "fuel storage tanks" within this zone. This was a blow to Washington Gas, which has sought to build a liquid natural gas storage facility in the Avondale neighborhood.

The gas company has announced its intention to challenge the law in court, but community organizers will continue to support the Council in its rejection of the storage facility. For more information on the zoning hearing and other matters related to the LNG campaign, contact Imani Kazana at 301-779-6948 or e-mail imanikazana@msn.com; or Stuart Eisenberg at 301-779-1426 or e-mail [swaisenberg@covad.net](mailto:sweisenberg@covad.net). ■

Protect the Wilderness in Allegheny National Forest

By George Alderson—A campaign to protect more wilderness in Pennsylvania is underway. The U.S. Forest Service is taking public comments on a draft forest plan for the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) in northwestern Pennsylvania. Scheduled for release in mid-May, the draft presents the agency's proposal for management of the ANF.

Let's show them Marylanders want more wilderness protected! In Maryland we have no national forests, so we look to those in our neighbor states for remnants of the wild mountains. I was among many Sierra Club members who were active in the 1970s in a campaign that brought wilderness protection for several areas in the national forests of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia. (The Forest Service then argued that nothing in the East could qualify for wilderness status.)

The Pennsylvania Chapter has joined in a coalition effort to advocate wilderness protection for eight areas of the Allegheny National Forest. Thus far the Forest Service has refused to even consider five of them, even though they were identified as roadless areas in the agency's RARE-II inventory.

There are now two wilderness areas in the ANF totaling 9,000 acres. That is only 2 percent of the 513,000 acres in the ANF. The current campaign by citizen groups identified 54,000 acres in eight units that meet the standards of the Wilderness Act. A comprehensive proposal appears on the web site of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness at www.pawild.org.

Best known of the proposed wilderness units is the Tionesta Wilderness—15,000 acres including the largest tract of old-growth forest in Pennsylvania (also the largest in the East between the Great Smokies and the Adirondacks).

As soon as conservationists have analyzed the Forest Service draft, the results

(continued on page 15)

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.

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

Chris Hodge, Catocin Del.

301-865-5630

chrishodge@adelphia.net

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

Cliff Terry, Population Chair

410-944-9477

cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

Joan Willey, Public Lands Chair

joan.willey@maryland.sierraclub.org

Steve Caflisch, Transportation Chair

301-654-3288

steve.caflisch@maryland.sierraclub.org

Ed Merrifield, Water Chair

202-222-0707

ed@potomacriverkeeper.org

Jon Robinson, Wildlife Chair

301-422-0064

Jon.Robinson@sierraclub.org

Other Contacts

Walter Jones, BICO Chair

443-394-8192

Walter.Jones@maryland.sierraclub.org

Joan Willey, Fundraising Chair

joan.willey@maryland.sierraclub.org

Jan Graham, Legislative Chair

jan.graham@maryland.sierraclub.org

Daniel Soeder, Outings Chair

410-969-9465

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

editorch@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>

Take a Hike, Lead a Hike

What's Holding You Back?

By Dan Soeder—The success of an outings program doesn't require an enormous amount of effort, but it does require sustained effort. We have a good program, and it's getting better, but attendance on outings, even across the country, can be described most charitably as "uneven." Jenny Egan, the outings chair of the Delaware Chapter, recently told me that she had to cancel almost half of their planned outings last year due to lack of participants. Deborah Holt in the Massachusetts Chapter has had similar problems. Few things are more disappointing, and turn off new leaders more quickly, than to put significant effort into planning an outing, only to have no one show up. Membership in the Maryland chapter is in the tens of thousands. Surely someone out there is interested in outdoor activities.

Outings Aren't Just for Athletes

Some people think that Sierra Club outings are only for those extreme athlete guys who free-climb Half Dome at Yosemite, or those outdoorsy women who run the New River Gorge in little plastic boats. The exaggerated way in which outdoor activities are often portrayed on TV or in popular culture is enough to scare off all but the most adventuresome.

For the record, I think that extreme outings are a great deal of fun and an important part of our program. Strenuous activities appeal to a group of athletic, enthusiastic outdoors people. I am glad that a subset of Sierra Club outings leaders are dedicated to leading such trips, even though my knees would probably give out halfway through one of their hikes. But the outings program also offers nature walks, birding, conservation trips to National Wildlife Refuges, service trips to fix trails or remove invasive vegetation, flatwater canoe paddles, family camping trips, dog-friendly hikes, and bicycle rides. Indeed, there is something

for everyone.

Please consider participating on some outings. You can go on any outing offered by any group listed in the newsletter. You don't have to be a Sierra Club member to participate (in fact, outings are a good way to recruit new members). Find something that appeals to you, contact the leader for details, and come on out. If you are an outdoor neophyte, we've got some easy outings scheduled. If you prefer more moderate to strenuous challenges, we have those as well. And if you have been holding back because you don't know what equipment you might need, check out our equipment workshops, or simply ask the trip leader. You'd be surprised how far you can get with just a good pair of hiking boots and a modest pack.

I believe that outings should be for everyone, not just people who are prepared to survive a week in the wilderness with little more than a pocketknife. The Sierra Club needs three things to have a successful outings program: 1) more participants, 2) more leaders and 3) more relevance to the rest of the club. Increasing the variety of outings will increase the appeal and relevance of the outings program. Variety will bring out more participants, grow more leaders, and make outings a more integral part of the club's activities.

Almost Anyone Can Lead an Outing

Almost anyone can lead an outing. I always tell people to lead an outing for an activity they would be doing anyway. If you go on walks, or you like to ride your bicycle or paddle a canoe, why not do it as an outing, and invite some Sierra Club people to come along? And if no one shows up, hey, it was something you planned to do anyway.

I'd enjoy seeing more new outings leaders like Helen Daniel. Helen told me

about a wonderful bike trail she likes to ride. I convinced her to become an outings leader and plan the activity. She took the OLT101 training, got certified in first aid, and planned and scouted the trip. About a dozen people turned out, including several long-time Sierra members who had never been on an outing and several non-members who expressed an interest in joining the club. We rode from Bethesda to Roosevelt Island, a beautiful, nearly wild island that Rep. Pombo was talking about selling-off to raise money for the National Park Service. I doubt that anyone left the island thinking that turning it over to the developers would improve it. The participants ranged from 13 year-old Natalie Bezerra to Wil Chase, who at age 86 stayed with the group the entire way and then rode home.

There is an old German saying that the most difficult part of any journey is going out your front door. The Sierra Club outings program is competing for attention against cable television, DVDs, satellite TV, video games, computer games, e-mail, web surfing and the 1001 other diversions in modern society. We need to convince people to go out their front doors and onto outings, at least some of them with the Sierra Club. Those who do seek out outdoor activities are beset by a zillion other trail clubs, outdoor activity groups, and commercial outfitters vying for their attention. If the various groups cooperate, rather than compete, they can build on each other's strengths. This is why we have some joint outings with the DC Canoe Cruisers, the Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club and others.

I Want People to Be Inspired

I want people to be safe, have fun and enjoy the outdoors, but I also want them to be inspired. Love and respect for nature is why most of us joined the club in the first place. John Muir started the club outings program in Yosemite over 100

years ago to show others the magnificent landscape he was trying to protect. I think the conservation or "environmental" aspect of Sierra Club outings provides us with a niche that a lot of other outdoor activity programs don't have. Sierra Club outings are not just outdoor recreation. People expect our leaders to be knowledgeable about the environmental issues in a particular place, and to discuss them during the outing. This is one of our strengths as an organization, and we should use it to help improve the outings program.

Some have argued that the outings leader standards established last year by the Sierra Club make it more difficult to recruit leaders. Sure, there are a few hoops to jump through, but having outings leaders who meet a set of minimum standards puts Sierra Club a notch above many other outdoor activity groups. Most of the outdoor leaders in any organization will be safe, knowledgeable, and equipped to deal with problems. In Sierra Club, it will be all the leaders.

See you outside! ■

Dan Soeder is the MD Chapter Outings Chair.

Do you know how most hiking trails in the United States are kept in repair? No, not by an army of government employees. Volunteers maintain miles of trails by fixing washouts, clearing deadfalls, and replacing blazes and markers. Mike Juskelis, one of our premier outings leaders, has helped set up a website called Mid-Atlantic Hikes. It lists area hiking trails and has a feedback feature to report trail damage and maintenance needs. Please check out the site, and if you run across a problem on a trail, let somebody know.

Thanks!

www.midatlantichikes.com/ma.htm

Grand Adventure Inspires Catoctin Grandmother

By Donna R. Engle—Rosamund “Roz” and Derek Bray are qualified to “herd cats.” And, perhaps, to galvanize Sierra Club members into taking more active roles in their local chapters.

The Brays have honed their herding skills for the past four years, starting as understudies to Betty and Jim Watters, who led the annual “Just for Grandparents and Grandkids” Sierra Club outing. Then, in 2005, Roz and Derek took over leadership of the outing—a week of hiking, swimming, picnicking, rafting, and kayaking in California’s Sierra Nevada mountains, for grandchildren ranging in age from 6 to early teens and grandparents ranging from 50s to “I remember the Big Bopper and poodle skirts.”

The evidence is strictly anecdotal that the willingness of leaders like Roz and Derek to share their time and skills may inspire participants in the outings to become more involved in their local chapters. It is based on the unscientific report of one grandparent’s experience—you’re reading it here.

I returned from a 2005 outing with the thought that here were people who would spend two weeks trekking grandparents and grandchildren through non-stop days, without losing anyone or suffering visible stress-out. Elsewhere, other volunteers were weeding out invasive species, lobbying Congress, maintaining trails. So, where was I?

Roz’s own transition from Sierra Club member to actively involved member was similar only in that it too involved individual contact. She and Derek, a semiconductor design engineer, had been lured to Silicon Valley from their native England in 1963 by the booming electronic industry. Roz, a physical therapist, had done a lot of camping and hiking in the United Kingdom, “wetly, I might add,” she commented. The couple and their four children found California to be an outdoor person’s paradise.

Roz added, “I don’t remember when we first joined the Sierra Club, as we didn’t do any more than pay our membership (dues) for a number of years—while bringing up kids, I suppose. In the early 1980s I was asked if I could help run a women’s backpack (trip) . . . I was hooked. That is when I first met Jim (Watters) and signed up to go on his ‘training trip.’”

On the “training trip,” Roz learned



more about leading backpack trips. She began leading trips through the Sierras in 1985, and when Mr. and Mrs. Watters were looking for trainees for the Grandparents outing four years ago, they turned to Roz and Derek. It was a good fit. Derek is retired, and the outings would provide an opportunity for the Brays’ grandchildren to spend vacation time with their grandparents.

An advertisement for the “Grandparents and Grandkids” trip in a 2005 issue of *Sierra* prompted me to rope in my spouse, call our daughter to ask if we could borrow Allison and Colin for a week, sign up, and send all the medical

data. A Sierra Club member for two years, I had joined because of a conviction that our environment—the one we’re bequeathing to our grandchildren—is under attack by assorted Washington, D.C. foxes who have taken over henhouse security. Until then, I hadn’t had any noticeable involvement other than paying dues and attending one meeting of the Catoctin Group.

Serendipitously, 2005 was the right time to build rapport with our grandchildren: Allison was 11, Colin, 8. In about two to three years, it would become uncool for Allison to be seen with grandparents, and Colin was old enough to keep up with the activities and not get homesick. We were admitted into a group of 12 adults and 18 children, and thus found ourselves spending a week swimming in California’s Donner Lake, kayaking around the lake, ice skating high above the Olympic flame in Squaw Valley and eating ice cream in downtown Truckee.

Roz and Derek lived Sierra Club involvement, but didn’t preach it. I don’t know whether other adults in the group went back to their homes in Arizona and Texas, California and New Mexico, with intentions to increase their commitment, but I did.

So, am I in line for Catoctin Group new activist of the year? No way. We’re talking toe in the water, not plunge. I signed up to help edit *Chesapeake* articles, have gone on several Greater Baltimore Group hikes, and am looking for other niches into which I might fit. It’s a start. ■

Donna Engle is a member of the Catoctin Group. For information about Sierra Club trips such as that taken by Donna and her family, see www.sierraclub.org/outings/national.

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

Invasive Species Removal & Habitat Restoration Outings

Statewide

Maryland's Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture and State Highway Administration have launched a new program to find and remove the invasive purple loosestrife from Maryland's marshes and waterways. We are doing this with the assistance of trained volunteers who spend time outside in places where loosestrife is likely to be found. Please check out our new website which explains the whole program, and consider becoming a Loosestrife Scout. It's easy. And we truly have the chance to nip this invader in the bud in Maryland, because it isn't completely out of hand here—yet.

For information please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/PurpleLoosestrife/purplels.asp>.

Contact us with any questions or comments. And please come to a training session! We need you, the already well-aware and educated invasion fighters.

Anne Arundel and Prince George's County or Howard County

Fort Meade

Patuxent Research Refuge

Project supported by 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: 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 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>.

Fort Meade

Help remove Japanese stilt grass, English ivy, garlic mustard, tree of heaven, multi-flora 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, 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 every month at 10 a.m. Directions: Take Route 175 East from the 295 Baltimore Wash-

ington 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, by phone at 301-677-9185 or by e-mail, donald.marquardt@us.army.mil

Baltimore

Urban Weed Warriors!

The growing season is well underway and vines are creeping as you read. Vines like mile-a-minute and kudzu can grow 6-16 inches, respectively, per day. So, why are you still sitting there reading? Get out and pull some invasive plants!

Thank you to everyone who has been sending in their hours pulling invasive plants. If you have done any invasive plant pulling in April or May, please send a note to weeds@baltimorecity.gov with the number of hours you spent, the names of the species you justifiably executed, and a rough estimate of the size of the area cleared. These numbers are extremely important as our continued funding depends on them. Contact: Kim Meade, weeds@baltimorecity.gov, 410-396-0359.

Wyman Park Restoration

Come spread the spring beauty by volunteering to help in some Wyman Park Restoration projects. Start your week right with fresh air and a little bit of dirt under your nails (gloves provided if wanted). Restoration projects may include planting or invasive removal. Volunteers will meet at 37th Street and Beech Avenue at 9:30 a.m. No experience necessary. Please contact Kimberley Mead at Kimberley.Mead@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-0359 for current dates.

Cromwell Valley Park

Second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Contact Bill Breakey at breakeys@comcast.net at 410-887-2503.

Herring Run Watershed Association

Regular invasive plant removal outings. Contact volunteer@herringrun.org or call 410-254-1577.

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, 410-394-1300, or bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

Caroline County

Adkins Arboretum

Adkins Arboretum on Maryland's Eastern Shore is seeking volunteers to assist the staff in the removal of invasive non-natives on the Arboretum's 400-acre site. Volunteers will be trained by the Arboretum staff.

Workdays are Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Sylvan Kaufman at 410-634-2847 ext. 24.

Charles County

Chapman Forest and Ruth Swann Park

Dates: First Sundays and following Saturday, monthly. Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Remove invasive non-natives from the 200-acre Swann Park and 800-acre portion of Chapman Forest, designated Chapman State Park. There will be time for plant identification and a beautiful beach lunch. Participating organizations include Maryland Native Plant Society, Sierra Club and Chapman Forest Foundation.

Directions: Meet at main gate of Chapman Forest. For info about the area and map, see www.chapmanforest.org.

Invasive Species Removal & Habitat Restoration Outings

Carpool Info: Meet at Sierra Club Md. Chapter office at 8 a.m.; return 5 p.m.. Call Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111. Bring gloves, lunch, and water. Durable long sleeves and pants recommended.

Garrett County

Battling Botanical Bullies in Bear Pen Wildlands

Date: Friday, June 16, 2006. Time: 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Volunteers are needed to continue control efforts of Japanese spiraea in the Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Forest. 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 info@elkridgenatureworks.com or 301-895-3686.

Howard County

(see also Anne Arundel and 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 at 410-313-8826.

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

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

Riverfront Park, Laurel

Wishing for weeders in Laurel! Wholesome river with lots of curves seeks outgoing naturalists for invasive species removal and native plant propagation, possibly leading to complete restoration of the wild. Where: Riverfront Park, Laurel, MD When: Second Sunday of every month, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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. Contact Brigitte Fortin-Zaidan at bfzaidan@safe-mail.net, or call 240-506-8976.

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 Carol Filipczak, cfilipczak@comcast.net, or Aylene Gard, 410-992-9889. The Conservation Stewardship project is sponsored by Howard County Recreation and Parks and the Howard County Master Gardeners.

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 for a list or workdays, or contact Mary 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, 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 at stacy.parsons@mncppc-mc.org or 301-962-1417.

Websites: www.BrooksideGardens.org or 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. Contact Liz Jones at 301-652-9188 x 30 or volunteer@audubonnaturalist.org for more information or to sign up.

Montgomery County Parks Weed Warriors Wanted!

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (MNCPPC) Forest Ecologist is assembling a team of volunteers (Weed Warriors) to monitor and remove non-native invasive plant species in Montgomery County

Parks, and we need your help! As a Weed Warrior volunteer, you will receive a short training session from the forest ecologist in the identification of, removal and control techniques for non-native invasive plants. Weed Warriors can 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 Project—Removing Invasive Plants—in Sligo Creek Park is always interested in having volunteer help. Events in several sections will be held for garlic mustard and then mile-a-minute until July 15.

We will resume later work in October. For information see www.fosc.org/RIPEventSched.htm or phone Sally Gagne, 301-588-2071.

For a list of sites between New Hampshire and Arcola, contact Lea Bonfiglio, leabonfiglio@yahoo.com, or 301-807-4697.

Prince George's County

(see also Anne Arundel and 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

Invasive Species Removal & Habitat Restoration Outings

for the removal/eradication of non-native invasive plant species and tree plantings are scheduled throughout the year. Also scheduled are bird counts, native landscaping seminars, and guided hikes. For more information on GHI Woodlands Committee activities, contact Matt Berres, Landscape Specialist, mberres@ghi.coop or 301-474-416, ext 132.

Belt Woods

Ongoing Saturday invasive species workgroups, from 9 a.m. -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. Call Maureen Fine at 301-464-9306, or e-mail maureenfine@earthlink.net.

Greenbelt National Park, Greenbelt Invasive plant removal first Saturday of each month 11a.m.-3 p.m. Located just 12 miles from Washington D.C., Greenbelt Park is a beloved retreat from the city and an important refuge for native plants and animals.

Come join us in defending Greenbelt Park from encroachment by alien invasive plant growth. Volunteers will be hand pulling harmful non-native plants such as Japanese honeysuckle, beefsteak mint, mile-a-minute weed and garlic mustard. People of all ages, backgrounds and interests are invited to spend a fun day outdoors while learning about the differences between native and non-native plants and helping to preserve the health and native wildlife of this local natural area. Bring lunch, drink, appropriate clothing for weather.

Directions: From the Beltway, take Kenilworth Avenue south about 1/4 mile to Greenbelt Rd, MD 193 (Kenilworth goes under 193). Stay to the right so you

can take MD 193 East (a left to go over Kenilworth) for a few hundred yards to the park entrance. Follow the signs to the Sweetgum picnic area. For any questions and information about upcoming events, contact Tom Crone at 301-864-1959 or e-mail tomnjan@erols.com.

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 to 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 two blocks passing church on left and turn right on Parkway. Go two blocks and turn left on Wayne for one block. We meet there at the park by the small playground.

Anacostia Watershed

Little Paint Branch Park and Cherry Hill Road Community Park in Beltsville and **Magruder Park**, Hyattsville.

Anacostia Watershed Society Assists Weed Warriors

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 to Little Paint Branch Park: Take U.S. 1 north from the beltway. Go about one mile, passing the National Agricultural Research Center, and turn

left at the light on Montgomery Rd. Go three blocks and turn left on Sellman Road. Go about five blocks and turn right into Little Paint Branch Park at the bottom of the hill.

Please contact Marc Imlay, Ph.D. Conservation biologist, Anacostia Watershed Society (301-699-6204, 301-283-0808) for information on current dates.

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, 410-394-1300, or bobboxwell@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 and 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. ■

ISO Wilderness Protection for Allegheny National Forest

(continued from page 10)
will be posted on the Friends web site (www.pawild.org), or you can contact me at george7096@comcast.net.

The comment period runs for 90 days, until about August 15. Comments may be sent to: Forest Plan Revision, Allegheny National Forest, PO Box 36, Warren, PA 16365. (Fax: 814-726-1465. Email: r9_anf_fpr@fs.fed.us.) The Forest Service web site for this project is at http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny/projects/forest_plan_revision. ■

Create an Environmental Legacy

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

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

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



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Outings (June)

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 in 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, the 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 in 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>.

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. Please check their website (www.mwrop.org) for a calendar of activities, more information and updates.

Abbreviations Used

Most outings in the Maryland Chapter are run at the group level, with a few chapter and inter-chapter events. The group originating the outing is identified in parentheses by the leader’s name. These and other abbreviations used are listed below:

AA: Anne Arundel Group
AMC: Appalachian Mountain Club
AT: Appalachian Trail

CG: Catocin Group

CCA: Canoe Cruisers Association (Washington, D.C.)

New!

FFA: Family Friendly Activity (kids/dogs ok, but check with leader first)

GB: Greater Baltimore Group

GWNF: George Washington National Forest

HC: Howard County Group

MNF: Monongahela National Forest

MW: Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP)

P&R: Park and Ride (meeting locations)

SNP: Shenandoah National Park

Sierra Club outings are free of charge, unless specified in the announcement. However, the Club may ask for a dona-

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

tion 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

June

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 (no rating,

FFA) 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

Outings (June)

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. 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).

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.

Saturday, Jun 17:

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 8:00AM 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.

Sunday, Jun 18:

North Point State Park (rated easy) 5 mile hike through woods and wetlands along the Chesapeake Bay. Bring binoculars to look at bald eagles and other birds. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:45 from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride at Rt. 32 and Broken Land Parkway. **Leader:** Sue Muller (HC) 301-498-8462 (sonicsue@boo.net)

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:

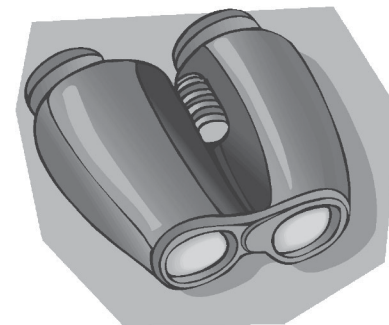
Cranberry Wilderness Backpack, WV (rated moderate) Backpack in 7 miles on the Big Beechy Trail and set up a base camp on day one. On day two do a 10+ mile hike through the Wilderness. Day three backpack out 8 miles along the scenic Middle Fork of the Williams River. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964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

Saturday, Jun 24:

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



Outings (July)

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)

Tuesday Jul 4:

Gunpowder River Tube Trip (*rated easy, FFA*) 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

Independence Day in Frederick (*no rating, FFA*) Celebrate Independence Day at Baker Park in Frederick, MD. Enjoy the sounds of a variety of bands, including well known classic rock and country entertainers, as well as local musical talent, big band, and patriotic music. Have a picnic in the park, play volleyball, hike along Carroll Creek, and explore historic downtown Frederick. Finally, experience one of the biggest and best fireworks displays on the east coast. Plus, as appropriate for this day, it's FREE! We will meet at 1:00 PM at the Lutherville light rail station on Ridgely Road. Children OK with prior approval. Leader: Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889 (pstech@smart.net). Website: www.cityoffrederick.com/departments/SpecialEvents/july.htm

Thursday, Jul 6:

GB Outings Committee Meeting (*no rating*) Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. New and prospective outings leaders welcome.

Pot Luck dinner at 6:30 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)

Sunday, Jul 9:

Splash in the Middle Patuxent, in Columbia (*rated easy*) Cool down with a leisurely 2 hour walk in the middle of the river, through the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Learn how this area was protected from development when Columbia was formed. Wear old sneakers, and be prepared to get wet. Optional restaurant lunch afterwards, so bring a change of clothes. Meet at 10:00, 0.8 mile south of Rt. 108 on Trotter Road, at the gravel parking lot on the left (east). Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306 (kenclark7@comcast.net)

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 PFDs be worn by all participants while on the water. High winds or thunderstorms cancel. Leader: Dan Soeder (410-969-9465) djsoeder@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)

Saturday, Jul 22:

Splash in the Middle Patuxent, in Savage Park (*rated easy to moderate*) Cool down with a leisurely 3 hour walk in the middle of the river, from Murray Hill Road to Savage Park. Discover clams and other wildlife. Wear old sneakers, and be prepared to get wet. Due to hidden slippery rocks in the river, this hike is not appropriate for people with bad ankles, knees or backs. Bring a snack and water, and a change of clothes for an optional restaurant lunch after the hike. Meet at 9:30 at the Savage Park Wincopin Trail parking lot, off Vollmerhausen Road, a quarter mile east of the bridge over I-95. Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306 (kenclark7@comcast.net)

Wednesday, Jul 26:

Double Rock Park (*rated easy, FFA*) Two-mile evening stroll along the wooded stream at Double Rock Park with a waterfall and frog pond. Easy stream crossings. Children and dogs welcome; children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Dogs must be friendly and leashed. Meet at 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot at the park's entrance at the end of Texas Ave. off Harford Rd. in Parkville. Leader: Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423

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)

Saturday, Jul 29:

C&O Canal Towpath (*rated easy, FFA*). Family-friendly hike along the level C&O canal towpath. View the old canal, locks and lockkeepers' houses on one side and the Potomac River on the other. 5 to 7 miles. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Point of Rocks parking area. Leader: Chris Hodge (CG) 301-865-5630 (chrishodge@adelphia.net).

Signal Knob, VA. (*rated strenuous*) 10 mile circuit hike with overlooks of the Shenandoah Valley. Trails are extremely rocky at times with a 1200-foot increase in elevation over 4 miles. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 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)

Outings (July, August, September)

Saturday, Jul 29:

Sweet Air (*rated moderate*) Four miles through hilly woodlands and along a stream at Sweet Air. Optional concert afterwards at Boordy Vineyards with Escencia Tropical (salsa) beginning at 7:00 (gate open at 5:45) cost \$15 per person. Bring a picnic (no alcohol) and a blanket or chair for the concert. Food, drinks, and, of course, wine are available for purchase. Meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Harford Road park-and-ride north of the Baltimore Beltway. Leader: Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

August

Saturday, Aug 5:

Wemberly Cliffs/Appalachian Trail (*rated moderate*) Afternoon hike followed by optional dinner in Harpers Ferry. Beautiful views of the Potomac River. Hike has one long, strenuous uphill stretch at the beginning, but the remainder is moderate. About 7 to 8 miles total. Meet at 3 p.m. at the Wemberly parking area. Leader: Chris Hodge (CG) 301-865-5630 (chrishodge@adelphia.net).

Splash in the Middle Patuxent,

Gorman Area Park (*rated moderate*) Cool down with a leisurely 4-hour walk in the middle of the river, from Rt. 29 to Murray Hill Road. Due to hidden slippery rocks in the river, this hike is not appropriate for people with bad ankles, knees, or backs. Bring lunch and water, and a towel or change of clothes for the car. Depart at 9:30 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)

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)

Saturday, Aug 12:

Furnace Mountain and Jones Run Trail (*rated strenuous*). Southern SNP Circuit Hike. The hike will proceed up Furnace Mountain Trail from the west side of Shenandoah National Park to the Appalachian Trail. The return trip, via the Jones Run Trail will pass three waterfalls. Return on Madison Run Fire Road. 16 mi., 3,500 feet elevation gain. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center 7:30am. Inexperienced hikers call for requirements. Leaders: William Needham (MW) 410-884-9127 (Needham82@aol.com) and Jack Thorsen (MW) 703-339-6716 (Thorsen4@juno.com)

Perseid Meteor Shower Hayride and

Farm Tour (*no rating, FFA*) 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 hopefully see some spectacular meteor activity from the annual Perseid shower. After the hayride we will have refreshments of soda, cider, hot dogs, and marshmallows around a bonfire, with guitar music and singalong. Extra instruments invited! Children OK with prior approval. Activity will end about 10:00 PM. Leader: Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889 (pstech@smart.net).

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. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

Sunday, Aug. 20:

Patapsco - McKeldin (*rated moderate*) 6 mile hike along the Patapsco River, past McKeldin Falls and Liberty Dam. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for a 9:30 departure. Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306 (kenclark7@comcast.net)



Sunday, Aug 20:

Dundee and Saltpeter Creeks Park (*rated easy*) Hike 2 miles at this Baltimore County park situated on the Chesapeake Bay. We will visit the Marshy Point Nature Center located within the park. This park offers stands of old forest, swatches of newly overgrown soybean fields, dense marshlands, wooded and open wetlands, and tidal creeks open to the Chesapeake Bay. Meet at 10:00 AM in the nature center parking lot. Leader: Bill Diggs (GB) 410-574-1453.

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)

September

Saturday-Monday, Sep 2-4:

Black Forest Trail (South) Backpack, PA (*rated strenuous*) 22 mile circuit backpack with several steep climbs, pretty streams and fantastic vistas. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

Saturday-Sunday, Sep. 9-10:

Cape Henlopen Camping, DE (*rated easy, FFA*) Camp near the beach at this Delaware state park. Various easy, slow-paced walks, observing nature. Sign up early to reserve a camp site. Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306 (kenclark7@comcast.net)

Saturday, Sep. 9:

Moorman River Trail and AT (*rated strenuous*) Southern SNP Circuit Hike. We will hike up the Moorman River Trail, with about 6 crossings and a side trail to a waterfall, completing the 16 mile circuit on the Appalachian Trail and the Turk Mountain Cutoff Trail. 3,000 feet elevation gain. 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)

Sunday, Sep 10:

Patuxent North Tract hike (*no rating*) Leader: Joe Pepin (AA) 410-674-6127

Outings (September, October)

Saturday-Monday, Sep 16-18:

Dolly Sods Backpack, MNF, WV (*rated moderate to strenuous*) Approximately 30 miles of hiking through everything that is Dolly Sods: Raven Ridge, Cabin Mountain, the falls of Red Creek, Big and Little Stonecoal, The Lions Head, The Forks and Dobbin Grade. This trip is a combination of the Dolly Sods Wilderness and Dolly Sods North backpack trips. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

Sunday, Sep. 17:

Blockhouse Point. (*rated moderate*) 8 mile hike, starting flat at Pennyfield Lock on the historic C&O canal, then over hilly terrain leading to a great view of the Potomac River from the cliffs over the canal. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 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)

Saturday, Sep. 23:

Gifford Pinchot State Park, PA. (*rated moderate*) 9 mile hike with views of scenic Lake Pinchot utilizing the Lakeside, Quaker Race and Mason-Dixon Trails. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

Friday-Sunday, Sep 29 - Oct 1:

Seneca Creek Backcountry Backpack, MNF, WV (*not rated*) First day optional, car camp at primitive Spruce Knob Lake Campground. On the next day explore seldom-mentioned trails on the western flank of Allegheny Mountain before descending to camp below Seneca Falls. On the final day backpack up Seneca Creek, visiting all

of the falls and chutes as we go. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)



Saturday, Sep 30:

Catoctin Park (*rated moderate*) Hike to the falls and to the John Houck area. 6 to 8 miles, some significant elevation changes. Meet at the John Houck parking area 10 a.m. (we will shuttle to the start of the hike and end at John Houck). Leader: Chris Hodge (CG) 301-865-5630 (chrishodge@adelphia.net).

October

Sunday, Oct. 1:

Bike to Naptown (*rated moderate*) Ride the Baltimore and Annapolis Trail on your bicycle from Route 100 about 15 miles to the Annapolis waterfront and back. Route has modest grades, but it is a 30-mile round trip. Meet in the parking lot behind JC Penney at Marley Station Mall (Route 100 and Route 2) at 10 AM, and ride the paved rail-trail south, crossing the Severn on the Naval Academy Bridge and arriving at Dock Street in time for a fashionable early lunch, but without all the usual Naptown parking hassles. After lunch, we'll ride back to work it off. Bring a bike lock and money for lunch. Heavy/steady rain cancels. Sierra Club requires all riders to wear helmets. Leader: Dan Soeder (410-969-9465) dsoeder@yahoo.com

Saturday-Monday, Oct. 7-9:

Cranberry Backcountry Backpack, WV (*rated moderate*) This is NOT Cranberry Wilderness! Backpack approximately 30 miles through this scenic area. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

Saturday-Sunday, Oct 7-8:

Dismal Swamp, NC (*no rating*) Kayak trip. 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

Saturday, Oct. 14:

Appalachian Trail (*rated moderate*) Hike 6 to 8 miles. Leader: Chris Hodge (CG) 301-865-5630 (chrishodge@adelphia.net).

Susquehanna State Park, MD. (*rated moderate*) 10-12 mile hike along the magnificent Susquehanna River, past the ruins of the old Susquehanna Canal, a shot tower, and a gristmill.

Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 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)

Sunday, Oct 15:

C&O Canal (*rated easy*) Bike trip. Sierra Club requires all participants to wear helmets on bicycle outings. Check Anne Arundel Group outings web site for details and leader contact information closer to activity date. Leader: Sue Hartsfield (AA)

Saturday, Oct. 21:

Little Devils Stairs, VA. (*rated strenuous*) 8 mile hike in Shenandoah NP, rough and steep at times. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 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)

Sunday, Oct 22:

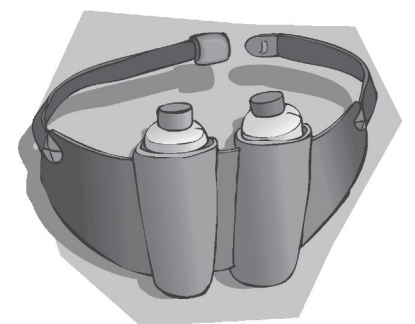
Catoctin Mountain Preserve (*no rating*) Fall Colors Hike. Check Anne Arundel Group outings web site for details closer to activity date. Leader: Joe Pepin (AA) 410-674-6127

Saturday-Monday, Oct 21-23:

Quehanna Trail Backpack, PA (*rated moderate*) Backpack 30 miles through the mountain meadows of the Black Moshannon Forest. Check Howard County Group outings web site for itinerary closer to activity date. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

Saturday, Oct 28:

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

Outings (October, November, December)

Challenge

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.

Saturday, Oct. 28:

Cowans Gap State Park / Buchanan SF, PA. (*rated strenuous*) 10-12 mile circuit hike with some steep and rocky sections. Hike along the Tuscarora Tr, Cove Mountain and a scenic creek and lake. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

November

Saturday, Nov 4:

Kelly's Run & Pinnacle Overlook (*rated moderate*) 7-8 miles with great views of the Susquehanna River. Good chance of seeing bald eagles. Will also see hawks and waterfowl as they migrate down 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

Full Moon Hayride and Farm Tour (*no rating, FFA*) 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 hopefully see the full moon. After the hayride we will have refreshments of cocoa, hot spiced cider, hot dogs, and marshmallows around a bonfire, with guitar music and singalong. 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).

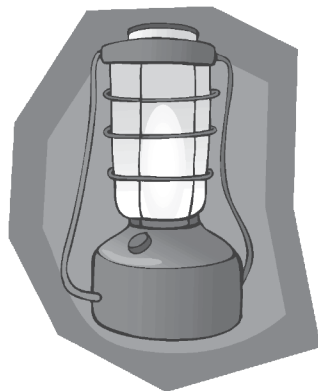
Saturday-Sunday, Nov 4-5:

Michaux Forest Backpack, PA (*rated moderate*) Approximately 17-mile trip that may be suitable for novices. Some road walking and bushwhacking required to close the loop. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964 (mjuskelis@cablespeed.com)

Saturday, Nov 11:

Gambrill Park hike (*rated easy to moderate*) 6 to 8 miles. Meet at the lower parking area at 10 a.m.. Leader: Chris Hodge (CG) 301-865-5630 (chrishodge@adelphia.net).

White Clay Creek State Park and Natural Area, DE. (*rated moderate*) 8-10 mile hike through one of the prettiest parks DE has to offer. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 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)



Sunday, Nov 12:

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

Saturday, Nov 18:

TRAINING: Outings Leader Training 101 (*no rating*) 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. Sierra Club College Park office from 12 noon to 3 PM. Reserve with instructor at least one day prior to training date. Please contact Laurel Imlay (Laurel.Imlay@sierraclub.org) for directions if needed. Leader/ Instructor: Dan Soeder (410-969-9465) Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

December

Sunday, Dec 10:

Gunpowder River Hike (*rated moderate*) 6 to 8 miles below Prettyboy Dam. Expect some hills and a rocky area. Meet at Mt. Carmel P&R at 11:00 AM. Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

Sunday, Dec 17:

TRAINING: Outings Leader Training 101 (*no rating*) 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. Reserve with instructor at least one day prior to training date. Sierra Club College Park office from 12 noon to 3 PM. Please contact Laurel Imlay (Laurel.Imlay@sierraclub.org) for directions if needed. Leader/ Instructor: Dan Soeder (410-969-9465) Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

Ideas Aplenty in the Energy Conservation Challenge

(continued from page 6)

♦Use cloth shopping bags instead of paper or plastic.

Spreading the Word and Getting Help

♦Educate local officials and others on Green Building and Low Impact Design energy-saving technologies.
♦Raised money through our PTA and applied for an energy grant to put solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of our elementary school.

Respondents' Comments

♦You have to do many prosaic little things, and make energy-saving choices at every opportunity.
♦I have cut my KWH in half since 1998 when I woke up and started paying attention. All kinds of little things and some big ones have contributed.
♦I get satisfaction from thinking about saving energy in all aspects of my life without losing joy or being thought of as a cheapskate.
♦The most effective way I save energy is by not having children. They would use lots of energy and would likely have children and grandchildren who would also use lots of energy.
♦We need a government that encourages conservation.
♦I engage in many conservation activities that may not decrease our use of fossil fuels, but would decrease our negative impact on the environment if many people engaged in them. ■

Thanks to the energy heroes: Anne Ambler, Marney Bruce, James Fary, Charlie Garlow, Laurel Imlay, Rich and MaryRuth Reis, Cliff Terry, Sam White, Nancy Williamson, and Schneider Wolfger.

For more of the heroes' conservation tips, visit www.maryland.sierraclub.org.

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.

June 10

DHILL Camping in Pocomoke State Park

June 15-20

DHH Patuxent River Sojourn, hosted by Alliance for Chesapeake Bay

July 15

FYC Canoeing

CGCC Biking, NCR trail

TBD

DHH Camping, Pocomoke State Park

22 Biking, NCR Trail DHILL

August 5

CGCC Hiking & butterflies, Brookside Gardens

August 19-20

FYC Camping, Elk Neck State Park

August 26

DHILL Camp out

BICO Teams:

CG CC (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. Call Walter Jones at 443- 394-8192, or by e-mail at wjones@icmarc.org for information on rain delays.



Cool Cities Training

Fight Global Warming in Your Community

Stopping global warming is one of the greatest challenges facing our country and the world. All over America, individual citizens are rising to the challenge and making a difference in the fight to stop global warming by promoting smart energy solutions in their communities. Find out more about how you can get involved in the Cool Cities campaign.

Sierra Club Cool Cities Training

Sunday June 25th 2006

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

College Park City Hall

4500 Knox Rd, College Park

BYO bag lunch; drinks and snacks will be provided.

Directions

Car: 495 Beltway to exit College Park Route 1 South. Pass UMCP campus on right. Pass the southern most UMCP entrance, College Avenue. Turn left at next light on to Knox Road. City Hall is on left.

Transit: Green Line to College Park Metro Station. Exit east side facing Paint Branch Parkway. Take #83 bus marked "Rhode Island" to Baltimore Avenue/Route 1 & Hartwick road. Or exit west side for a 10 minute walk through the neighborhood; go 1 block up Calvert Road, take 1st right on Dartmouth, then 1st left on Knox Road. Go 6 short blocks.

For more information call 301-277-7111 or visit www.maryland.sierraclub.org.

On the day of the event only: 240-682-1558.

- ☐ Please sign me up to attend Cool Cities Maryland Training on Sunday, June 25th, 2006
- ☐ I want to work on the Cool Cities campaign in my neighborhood but I can't attend June 25th. Please invite me to attend the next one!

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____

Notes/

Occupation/

Interests _____

Mail to: Laurel Imlay/Sierra Club
7338 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 1A
College Park, MD 20740



Internship Opportunities

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet as a Sierra Club Intern

Wondering what you can do to build your skills, get school credit, and help the Maryland Chapter Sierra Club at the same time? As a volunteer or intern, you can: manage an office, do web design, advocate for the environment, report environmental news, or get involved in politics, marketing, outdoor education, advertising and research. The club office is conveniently located on Route 1 near the University of Maryland campus in College Park. The list below tells more about how you can put your skills to work for a greener earth.

Assistant Office Manager

Help the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter Coordinator run the office and coordinate volunteers to support educational outreach, campaigns, and training programs.

Activist Communication System

Use phone, e-mail, and web postings to establish and manage the activist communication system. The system works to influence legislators to vote to protect the environment and consumer welfare. It also promotes club member participation in activities.

Community Organizer

Empower and educate a community to effect positive changes for the environment and quality of life.

Cool Cities Campaign

Be a part of the Sierra Club's Cool Cities Campaign. You can educate and recruit Sierra Club members, the public and local cities to participate in the campaign. Cool Cities will help change our energy using habits and make choices to reduce global warming gas emissions.

Invasive Plant Removal Project Coordinator

Invasive plant species are one of the biggest threats to biodiversity on the planet. Sierra Club works with statewide inva-

sive plant removal project leaders to stop the invasions. Your role: coordinate and promote participation at invasive plant removal sites, work with site leaders, get information on requirements and hazards to volunteers, coordinate carpools, and distribute education sheets to participants.

Invasive Plant Removal School Site Organizer

Participation in invasive plant removal projects is a great way for students to learn about the natural environment. School site organizers are needed to coordinate and participate in invasive plant removal field trips for elementary, middle or high school classes in Prince George's County schools.

Marketing/Advertising

Create a new section of advertisements for the Chesapeake Newsletter to help offset printing costs. Set up new distribution locations.

MD General Assembly Legislation

Influence, track and analyze legislation, attend hearings, prepare alerts, distribute fact sheets to legislators and the public, write and deliver testimony to legislative committees, and arrange constituent meetings with legislators. Generate support for pro-environmental bills through phone calls to Sierrans and letters to the editor. Write updates for the Maryland Conservation Council Report and the Maryland Sierra Club website. This internship may require access to a car.

Media

Update contact information, databases, and fax files to improve the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter's press outreach systems. Support campaigns with media releases and public service announcements. Collect media coverage of local Sierra Club activities.

Outings

Assist Outings Chair in promoting Sierra Club Outings Program. Collect write-ups from outings leaders for website and newsletter. Go on Sierra Club outings and distribute conservation materials. You can train to become a Sierra Club outings leader and co-lead two outings.

Political

Work with the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter political committee to elect candidates to office who will protect the environment. Tasks may include researching and producing candidate scorecards and green voter guides, distributing and evaluating candidate questionnaires, organizing candidates forums and creating and distributing campaign materials to support candidates.

Publications

Generate and solicit materials, design and manage printing and mailing of local group newsletters. Assist a chapter newsletter editor and editing team with production. Create brochures, leaflets, and flyers to promote campaigns or to inform the general public about the Maryland Sierra Club and its goals.

Website

Help design and improve web pages for the chapter or for one of the nine local groups: www.maryland.sierraclub.org.

Sprawl and Smart Growth

Help the public learn about sprawl development versus smart growth, land use and transportation planning, and the Metro Purple Line concept, in Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia.

True Cost of Food Campaign

Learn about, participate in, and promote the Sierra Club's True Cost of Food Campaign. Educate and recruit Sierra Club members and the public to change their eating and food-buying habits.

To Arrange Credit

It is a great time to intern with the Sierra Club. We have internships during the summer as well as in the fall and winter. Students can arrange to receive school credit by contacting a professor to sponsor them in a department suitable to the internship. An agreement is arranged between the student, professor, and the Sierra Club as to what the internship will consist of. This may include a certain number of hours, a task or set of tasks, a journal or paper to be written, or completion of some other product, and a schedule of meetings with the Sierra Club person directing your internship. Generally one credit is equivalent to 45 hours, two credit hours to 90 hours, three credits to 135 hours, etc. Internships may be somewhat tailored to specific situations and individual needs. ■

Ready to sign up? Just fill this out and mail to:

Laurel Imlay/Sierra Club
7338 Baltimore Ave, Suite 1A
College Park, MD 20740
For more information, call Laurel at 301 277-7111
or e-mail laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

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: Linda Fennell, Betsy Johnson, Loretta C. Walls, Sam White, Charlie Garlow, Mary Corddry, Jeri Metz, Janis Oppelt, George Alderson, Dan Soeder, Donna Engle, Marc Imlay, Laurel Imlay

Editors: Betty Brody, Mary Corddry, Donna Engle, Becky French, Laurel Imlay, Betsy Johnson, Sue Kunkel, Cindy Paré, Ellen Pepin, Annie Rehill, Darla Tewell

Outings Editor: Dan Soeder

Photos: Linda Fennell, Mike Juskelis

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@maryland.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.

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



inside this issue

- A Community Comes Together at Watts Branch
- It's All Politics
- Bright Ideas for Conserving Energy
- The Lazy Gardener's Guide to Compost
- Winged Migration
- Donna Goes West; Dan Takes a Hike
- Fight the Heat with Cool Cities Training Outings, Volunteer Opportunities, and

much more!

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