

Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Winter 2006-2007

Lasting Impressions

By Betsy Reeder—They say you never forget your first love. I fell in love for the first time when I was seventeen, on a spring-break trip to West Virginia.

Having persuaded a few parents to serve as chaperones, a group of us—graduating seniors—set out for our vacation spot: Canaan Valley. It was mid-April, with the first greens appearing on tulip trees along the route from central to western Maryland. Late-day light soon succumbed to darkness; my carpool friends and I couldn't see the mountains rising above us as we approached the Allegheny Front. After several miles of switchbacks, our headlights alternately shining on jagged rock faces and empty black space, we reached the West Virginia Highlands.

We woke the next morning in a state-park cabin to the sound of wind. Snowflakes somersaulted out of a heavy sky. Perfect weather for exploration!

After a hurried breakfast of oatmeal, Boyfriend Bill and I set our sights on the nearest mountain. The ascent was rugged and steep enough to warm us; we were winded and red-cheeked by the time we reached the rocky top. What we saw were more mountains, wooded and stark beyond a veil of light snow. Although rhododendrons, hemlocks, and spruce wore their valley greens, the upland hardwoods showed not a suggestion of spring color—they slept in winter grays.

From the snow-frosted summit, Bill and I plunged down the mountain by a different route, our descent accompanied by screams of delight as we grabbed slender trunks with mitten-clad hands and swung around

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Plan for Charles County Highway Imperils Mattawoman Creek

We Need Your Help to Keep Mattawoman Creek, the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay Healthy and Productive

Charles County's plan to build a new four-lane highway poses an immediate threat to the health of the Mattawoman Creek, the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. The proposed highway would be parallel to Rt. 228 and connect Rt. 301 to Bryans Road. Like all new highways in a lightly populated area, it would lead to enormous and inappropriate growth—sprawl. The impact would be especially severe for the Mattawoman and downstream waterways. Other predictable results include increased traffic, overcrowding in local schools, and added strain on our already stressed ground-water supply of drinking water, particularly in western Charles County. And the environmental threat is not just local and regional. The leveling of forests and their replacement with congested highways causes an increase in carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas associated with global warming. Our quality of life is being compromised.

Why is Mattawoman Creek important?

A 1992 Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) study reported that Mattawoman Creek is the Chesapeake Bay area's most productive spawning and nursery ground for migratory fish. Its concentration of juvenile anadromous fish, that is, those which live in the sea, but spawn in fresh water, is more than forty times that of other estuaries that the DNR has studied. Among these, it's the healthiest fish food web of the Chesapeake Bay. On the eastern seaboard, anadromous fish number only a small percentage of their historical levels, making the health of the Mattawoman of national concern. Charles County also looks to the Creek as one of its greatest tourist draws, especially because of the numerous bass fishing tournaments held at Smallwood State Park. These attract fishermen from all over the mid-Atlantic region.

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Betsy Johnson, Chair

Chapter Chair to Leave on a High Note!

I'm having trouble with re-entry into the real world after a heady week of great election news. Day after day, the news got better and better. First we had huge wins in Maryland at the federal, state, and local levels. Of the candidates we endorsed, 82 percent won their seats! The headlines on Wednesday morning, 8 November 2006, told us that the Democrats had taken control of the House of Representatives.

Later that morning, I learned that Richard Pombo, the anti-environmental Chair of the House Resources Committee from southern California, was defeated—thanks in part to the massive campaign against him that environmental groups and others had conducted. (See article on page 3.)

Wednesday afternoon brought Rumsfeld's resignation—long overdue—and Thursday brought Virginia senator George Allen's concession and the news that the Democrats had taken the Senate. The dominoes were all falling in the right direction. Election nirvana!

My thanks go out to all the Sierra Club members who volunteered their time campaigning for our candidates, and who donated money to candidates who needed grassroots support. All of this helped immensely. Our strength is in the dedication of individuals willing to spend time and money to support our values of clean air, clean water, and a healthy ecosystem. We did great in this election. Kudos to everyone who participated—and especially who voted.

Now our challenge is to use these results to get

some traction on issues that have been languishing because of certain elected officials' intractability. Opportunities abound at all levels of government to promote environmentally sound approaches to solving our addiction to oil and transportation challenges. We need to save ecosystems not just for ourselves, but for the health of the planet and all its creatures. To start, there are some bills that will be introduced in the state legislature. Please give these bills your support. They are listed below.

This is my last column as your Chair. I will be stepping down as of 20 January 2007. The new Chair will be selected at our Executive Committee meeting on that date. I have been in this position for three years. During that time, we have seen global warming become a much more urgent issue. I am happy that we have a thriving Cool Cities campaign in Maryland that has volunteers on the ground working with local municipalities to help them reduce their global warming emissions. I plan to do more work on that issue after I turn over control of the Chapter to the new Chair.

But first I will just enjoy nature for a while. As John Muir once said: "Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountain is going home; that wildness is necessity; that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life."

We all need to drink from those fountains on a regular basis. ■

Potential Legislative Action in Annapolis

There is not much information on possible legislation for the upcoming General Assembly session, but the following are likely to be introduced and, if so, will be priorities for the Club.

Clean Cars Bill – will specify that a certain percentage of sales for each car manufacturer must be advanced technology vehicles (hybrids) in order to address emissions contributing to global warming and air pollution.

Energy Efficiency Legislation – will address the efficiency standards of primarily commercial products, but also residential gas furnaces and boilers.

Watch our website for more information on legislative priorities: maryland.sierraclub.org. Sign up for action alerts on the web site by clicking on "Take Action" on the right-hand menu. ■

Politics and Politicians

Election 2006: It's All Over But the Glow of Satisfaction

The following is from an election account by former Sierra Club President Larry Fahn. For those who are unfamiliar with Richard Pombo, Chair of the House Resources Committee, he is a property rights proponent who believes that no land should be owned by the public. His list of public lands to sell for development included our own Theodore Roosevelt Island! Pombo was from a majority Republican district, and no one thought he could be defeated. This is an inspiring David and Goliath story — enjoy!

—Betsy Johnson

Wow! We helped ease some of the biggest knuckle draggers in DC into early retirement. How sweet it is!

To name just a few:

- Rick Santorum in Pennsylvania.
- Chainsaw Charley Taylor in North Carolina.
- Senator Jim Tallent in Missouri.
- Conrad Burns in Montana.
- Clay Shaw in Florida.
- Chris Chocoma in Indiana.
- And George Allen in Virginia

Unfortunately, some of our few moderate Republican friends like Jim Leach and Nancy Johnson and Lincoln Chafee also bit the dust.

The sweetest victory of all was wiping the smirk off the face of soon-to-be Ex- Chair of the House Resources Committee, Richard Pombo, and retiring him back to his ranch in Tracy, California. It was a nail-biter as we waited until late in the night for returns from Pombo's strongholds in San Joaquin, Stockton, and Tracy Counties to come in. When they did come in, Pombo was toast. He lost most of the precincts in his home county too, and, to add insult to injury, the Pombo "victory party" was at a restaurant named The Waterloo. He reportedly slipped out the back around midnight without conceding or addressing his supporters.

I was one of the few in Sierra Club leadership who thought we might actually take out Pombo in California's District 11 (CD11). When we began discussing possible targets early last spring, I went out on a limb with the wild idea that if we focused on getting the word out how badly out of touch this guy was, we might have a chance at the impossible. After Pete McClosky softened him up in the primary by taking nearly a third of the Republican vote, it was "full speed ahead" on voter education in CD 11.

I became more cautiously optimistic about the race

over the past month, having been walking precincts the last three weekends, and running into fewer and fewer diehard Pombo supporters. Even many of the Republicans I talked to were doubtful about him as their representative, especially when told about his records on endangered species and offshore oil drilling, his plan to sell off 15 national parks units, and his promotion of dog fighting, snowmobiling in pristine parts of Yellowstone, and commercial whaling! Last Saturday was a great collaboration of staff and volunteers from the Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Humane Society of the US. We had almost 400 extremely well-coordinated volunteers going out walking, with up-to-date voter-ID'ed precinct lists, maps, clipboards, tally sheets and door hangers. We even had a few dozen precinct captains with rented vans to get folks out to their assigned "turf". Other groups such as Clean Water Action and MoveOn, plus our own Loma Prieta Chapter politicos, had canvassers in other parts of the district, and were making phone calls to voters into the district.

Pombo had George Bush, then Dick Cheney, then Laura Bush, and finally Duncan Hunter (a far right wing Congressman from Southern California, who is thus far the only announced Republican candidate for President for '08) come through stumping on his behalf. Our guy, wind energy consultant Jerry McNerny, responded with Bill Clinton, Carl Pope and actress Jennifer Garner, each of whom made appearances at volunteers' rallies during the last week. To pull off this huge upset in such a Republican-drawn district was nothing short of miraculous. Major thanks to everyone who participated. We had people from all parts of the Bay and even as far away as LA coming to help.

Now that we've started the process of taking our country back, it's time for all of us to begin working cooperatively with the environmental friends we've helped to elect. We must help them present a progressive agenda to the country which will begin weaning us off our addiction to foreign oil, curbing our greenhouse gas emissions, making strides on reducing toxics emissions, protecting our forests and wetlands, improving fuel efficiency, cleaning up the water and our electoral process and promoting environmental justice. Onward! ■

Chapter Elections

Another Election: MD Chapter Excom

This issue of *Chesapeake* includes the ballot for electing members of the executive committee of the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club is a grassroots environmental organization that elects its own leadership. Every member is entitled to vote and to run for leadership positions in the club. The executive committee (excom) runs the Chapter and determines the Chapter's policies and responses to the many environmental challenges we face in Maryland. In addition to working our legislative agenda, setting priorities for conservation campaigns, and facilitating communication between the Chapter and the groups, the excom faces the challenge of achieving fiscal stability despite rising operational costs and a reduction in funds from the national club.

The excom comprises six at-large members elected by the Maryland membership, and one delegate from each of our nine groups. At-large members are elected for two-year terms. Three of the six at-large positions are up for election each year. The executive committee elects the Chapter chair and other officers from its own ranks.

Maryland Sierra Club members are encouraged to read the candidates' statements, fill out the ballot and mail it to the Chapter office at this address:

Elections Committee
Maryland Chapter/Sierra Club
Suite 101A
7338 Baltimore Ave.
College Park, Maryland 20740-3211.

The excom meets six times a year on the third Saturday of every odd month. Those elected will take their position at the January 20, 2007 meeting. Ballots are due in the office by January 12, 2007. Please read the candidates' statements carefully and vote in this election for members-at-large for the Executive Committee of your Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club. ■

See Candidates' Statements

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Chapter Elections

Candidates for At-Large Delegate to Chapter Excom

Bonnie Bick

Bonnie Bick has been active in and concerned about politics in many ways for more than 15 years. Since 1990 she has been a visible environmental activist in Maryland, and played a major role in getting the state of Maryland to acquire Chapman Forest—2300 acres of old-growth forest along the Potomac River in southern Maryland.

Over the last seven years she has been deeply involved in the Campaign to Reinvest in the Heart of Oxon Hill—an environmental, economic, and social justice campaign focused on affecting the evolution of the largest commercial development project in Maryland's history in a way that will benefit the public. She is a resourceful on-the-ground activist, experienced in making decisions and providing support. She is asking for your vote to become an at-large member of the Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter.

Jon Robinson

I am running for the Maryland Chapter Executive Committee because I believe there is still value in being the voice that points out the inconvenient truth: that all of our efforts to protect the environment will fail if we do not stop growth. If we do the arithmetic we can see that if the population doubles, people must cut their use of resources in half for the impact to be the same as if there were half as many: half as much space for living, half as much energy use, half as much food. With the U.S. population growing at a little over 1% per year, we will reach that doubling point in less than 70 years. Today, the U.S. is already the third most populous nation in the world, after China and India!

As the late Garrett Hardin pointed out, there are potholes all around the world, but we do not speak of a global pothole problem. The same is true for

population growth. The impact is greatest at the location where the growth occurs: clearing increasing tracts of land for housing and infrastructure further and further away from jobs, clearing forests for crops, mining minerals for ever more commodities, and so on.

I have been active in the Sierra Club since the 1980's, serving as chair of the Prince George's Group for many years and as chair of the Maryland Chapter for 3 years. Over the years, I have seen less willingness in the Club to deal with the difficult question of growth, and a preference for dealing with the symptoms, such as fighting a highway here or a subdivision there. Efforts are made to alleviate symptoms of growth by trying to get more people to live in high-density urban areas with insufficient thought for the effect on the residents already living there.

I believe my science background, a PhD in Systematics & Ecology, and years of leadership in environmental activism give me a valuable, if not always popular, perspective on our environmental challenges. If you agree, I ask for your vote. As I write this (October 25th), I am on a plane to Antarctica to serve as a volunteer photographer for a Smithsonian-sponsored scientific project. (Google Smithsonian and "Antarctic expedition" to find out more—so you see, I do go out occasionally and have fun.)

Joan Seward Willey

For 30 years I have worked in a variety of capacities for the Sierra Club, including as field staff for 10 years organizing the grass roots on forest and clean air issues. I currently serve as Maryland Chapter Conservation Chair, Anne Arundel Group Excom member and Secretary. I'm co-founder of the Anne Arundel Group and Past Maryland Chapter Chair. I'm a Sierra Club Life Member and member

since 1970. I have a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University and SUNY.

At the national level I am Vice President for Training and a member of the Conflict Resolution Committee.

Past positions I've held include Severn River Commissioner, Chair of Lower Western Shore Tributary Strategy Team and member of the national Sierra Club Political Committee.

I've worked for clean air, clean energy, Program Open Space and for Chesapeake Bay restoration and protection for more than 20 years. I worked with the local conservation committee to facilitate the purchase of Quiet Waters Park, 375 acres that were slated for intense housing development. I've been active with the local and state Political Committees working for the elections of good environmentalists and holding them accountable through legislative action.

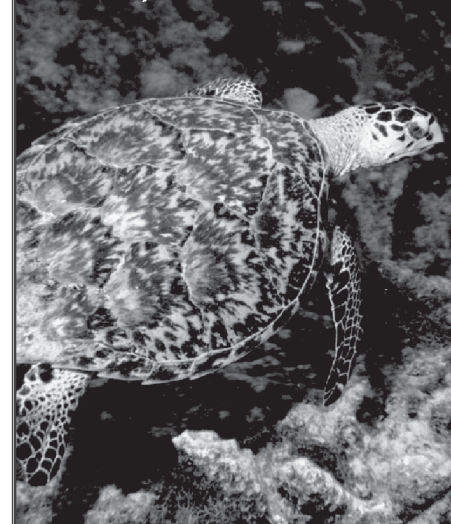
As a member of the Maryland Chapter Executive Committee, I will work diligently for the mission and goals of the Club.

You may contact me at 410-267-0716 days or evenings or by e-mail at joanwilley@verizon.net.

*Your Club.
Your Leaders.
Your Vote.*

*Find your ballot
inside the back
cover.*

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!**



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☐ Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
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Exp. Date ____/____

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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

Group News Roundup

Groups Encourage Conservation, Fight Sprawl and Global Warming

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

All Groups during the summer and fall of 2006 were extremely active with reviewing, surveying, and interviewing candidates for county and state offices. The endorsees welcomed the Sierra Club's support, and experienced success in the primary and general elections.

Anne Arundel Group

Chair: Ann Wolfe, 410-867-0900

The Group is seeking entries for a juried photo exhibit it is sponsoring at Arundel Center for April 2007. Entries are open to members and non-members. The categories are: Landscape, Water, Maryland Flora, Maryland Native Animals, Patterns, and Nature with People. For more information, contact Deede Miller at 410-268-2845.

In October, the Group sponsored a "Cool Cities" workshop on how to fight global warming in Annapolis.

After two heated public meetings attended by hundreds, the City of Annapolis dropped further work on its proposed Mixed Use Study of proposed intensive development near the Hillsmere community.

Mary Lou Pontius, a 50-year Sierra Club member, was selected by the *Capital* newspaper as its Volunteer of the Week

for its July 5th edition. She led the cleanup and restoration of Hawkins Cove.

Over 80 people participated in the June 2006 Patuxent Sojourn, co-sponsored by the Anne Arundel County Group, making it the most successful yet. Participants paddled all or part of the way from Kings Landing to Jefferson Patterson Park.

Last spring, the Group co-sponsored with the Coalition of Anne Arundel Land Trusts a series of hikes to areas of significant natural resource value that are protected by conservation easements.

Catocin Group (Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties)

Chair: Kim Stenley, 410-756-6402, kstenley@earthtones.com

By Kim Stenley, Chair—Catocin Group began to build an outings program in 2006. We have offered hikes nearly every month, ranging from an easy walk along the C&O canal designed to be family and senior friendly, to more challenging hikes along the Appalachian Trail and other trails. We had several joint hikes with Maryland Native Plant Association and one with the Frederick Ski Club. Turnout has continued to increase. We had our first afternoon hike followed by dinner in early November. Also, we have instituted "Second Tuesday" social hours on the second Tuesday of every month at a downtown Frederick Brewpub.

Cool Cities Westminster

The Cool Cities (CC) Westminster campaign kicked off September 2006 with 17 Carroll Countians in attendance. Dan Andrews, Kim Stenley, and Gregor Becker introduced themselves and offered an overview explaining the Cool Cities campaign. The short version of "Kilowatt Ours" was shown and two handouts were reviewed—one concerning the problems

and effects of global warming and the other, a simplified abstract of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Initial goals were announced such as:

- get towns and cities to make constructive environmental changes and
- develop an active organization where volunteers engage other people and form partnerships to spread global warming awareness.

Several groups were formed to discuss: Why they were there? What are they willing to do to help this effort? Whom could they invite to the next meeting to help aid in this effort? Several people reported their findings. Generally, those in attendance seemed excited to be a part of the campaign.

At the October meeting, the group (12 people attending) democratically decided that the local CC campaign should focus on the City of Westminster due to its population density and political influence. Then, three reasons to participate in the Cool Cities campaign were announced:

- 1) Personal - To learn for themselves and their families ways to help stem the problem known as global warming, climate change, and/or the greenhouse effect. These include: energy efficient techniques, lifestyle changes, green building technologies, fuel efficient vehicles, renewable energy (solar, wind, ground-source heat, green tags, and others), and other ways to live durably.

- 2) Activism - To work actively to convince your local governments to adopt the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

- 3) Community - To become part of a group in which the whole is greater than the sum of its individual parts.

Individuals were asked to stand and tell the group why they attended the meeting. Local global warming statistics were discussed, to stress the importance of dealing with global warming at a local

level. Solar photovoltaics and thermal solar collection modules were displayed. The State of Maryland's monetary grants and the federal tax credits related to solar energy were discussed. The members then broke into groups based on who would like to:

- 1) reach out and invite participation of community partners
- 2) research current energy policies and actions, or influence the Mayor and town council.

Each group reconvened and announced their goals and intentions. Again, the members seemed to enjoy the participation and seemed willing to develop strategies to engage the City when the time is right. The November meeting is scheduled for Nov. 28th in Westminster.

Cool Cities Frederick Update

(11/11/06)

After a brief break for the mid-term elections, the Cool Cities Frederick Campaign (CCFC) is back on track. The CCFC teamed up with the local Frederick Film Festival in October in support of the showing of *An Inconvenient Truth* at the festival. Members of the coalition talked about what is being done locally to address the issue of global warming and answered audience questions about what they can do in their own homes. At our table in the theatre lobby, CCFC team members distributed literature and people signed up to join the campaign. As a result of our participation in the film festival, the *Frederick News Post* picked up the story and published a very informative article on the Cool Cities initiative. We were also interviewed by the local AM radio station (WFMD) about our efforts in Frederick City. A great deal of interest has been generated by all the publicity. As a result, our next meeting will take place late November. We will contact other local organizations and other po-

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Group News Roundup

Groups Promote Cool Cities and Transportation Solutions

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tential coalition partners, and we plan to make a presentation to the mayor and Board of Aldermen by the beginning of the new year. All in all a very successful month! People can join the CCFC e-mail list by sending a blank e-mail to: coolcitiesfrederick-subscribe@yahoo.com or contact us at: kceidel@verizon.net or by phone: (310) 696-5933.

Fort Detrick

The Frederick membership of the Catocin Group has been working with a group of local citizens concerned about the proposed expansion of the Fort Detrick bio-warfare facility. The group is initiating a legal challenge to the woefully inadequate and misleading Environmental Impact Study (EIS) presented by the military. The group has obtained the assistance of a local public interest attorney who has volunteered to research the issue and make recommendations to the group *pro bono*. The as yet unnamed group is looking into applying for tax-exempt status, and will begin fund raising efforts in order to assist with the costs of setting up a web site and upcoming legal expenses. Read more at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2006/02/26/AR2006022601423.html>.

To get more information about the effort, contact the group's organizer, Robert Kozak, at kzagr@aol.com.

Eastern Shore (Cecil County and Eastern Shore counties)

Chair: Howard Bedlin, 410-643-3283, Howard.Bedlin@ncoa.org

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

The Group is also concerned about saving Unicorn Lake in Queen Anne's

County from environmental devastation, due to plans for a 58-acre landfill next to the lake. In July, the Group had a picnic at the Lake, which attracted a large crowd and a number of elected officials and candidates.

Greater Baltimore (Baltimore City and County, Harford County)

Chair: Ron Henry, 410-838-9119, RonLHenry@msn.com

As part of the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" Campaign, the Greater Baltimore Group has been encouraging Baltimore City and Baltimore County to take measures to reduce global warming. Baltimore City signed the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, and Baltimore County is considering signing. The Group co-sponsored a showing of *Kilowatt Ours*, about simple ways that homeowners and local government can work together to reduce energy costs, carbon dioxide emissions, and dependence on fossil fuels.

The Group's Chair Ron Henry has been attending meetings about a proposal for a Liquefied Natural Gas off-loading terminal and storage tanks at Sparrows Point and a pipeline running into Pennsylvania. A letter detailing concerns with the proposal was sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Patrick McMahon participated in regional and Statewide meetings of Reality Check Plus, conducted by the National Center for Smart Growth Research & Education, the Urban Land Institute, and 1,000 Friends of Maryland. Invitees were asked to envision and brainstorm about how and where the development should occur from population and job growth, especially what will result from the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) to impact Aberdeen Proving Ground and Fort Meade. Patrick tracks various transportation-related planning activities, such as for another Chesapeake

Bay bridge crossing, Baltimore City Bike Plan, and mass transit in the Baltimore area.

Howard County

Chair: Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net

In November, the Group had a presentation by the National Coalition for Marine Conservation about their striped bass and menhaden conservation efforts.

On December 4th, there will be a gift-swap-and-recycle event. Attendees will buy, sell, or trade their unwanted gifts and lightly used items.

Upcoming programs include Legislative Issues in February and an Environmental Film Night in March. Check the Group's website for details and updates at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/hc/> or contact Kim Birnbaum at 410-379-1075.

Montgomery County

Chair: Anne Ambler, 301-946-5599, anne.ambler@maryland.sierraclub.org

By Anne Ambler, Chair—The Montgomery County (MC) Group joined forces with about 20 other civic and environmental organizations to push for a stronger State storm water permit, one with measurable goals. Since MC's permit is the first in the renewal cycle, it is hoped that permits for other counties will follow suit. We have been successful in inundating the Maryland Department of the Environment's Secretary Philbrick with letters of support for our demands, including several from legislators.

Led by ExCom member Pam Lindstrom, the Group continues to advocate for city design and transportation appropriate for the impending global climate crisis. Pam helped our Planning Board design a series of three public roundtables about redeveloping transit-served commercial centers and redesign-

ing a strip-mall lined major arterial.

A team led by ExCom member Tom Ralph is organizing a local Cool Cities Campaign. Already the two largest cities in the county and two small towns (Kensington, Chevy Chase, Gaithersburg, and Rockville) have taken Seattle Mayor Nickels' pledge and signed the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to reduce emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012. Recognizing that governments alone cannot meet the goals, we expect the campaign to extend to changing citizens' energy use habits as well.

ExCom member Bob Goldberg serves on a county task force whose goal is to resolve the thorny problem of how to preserve our vaunted Agricultural Reserve without devaluing the land for the current owners. Recommendations are expected in December.

Caren Madsen, Ginny Barnes, and Anne Ambler serve on a county task force aimed at improving implementation of the Forest Conservation Law. This law has not been working well in conserving forest and does nothing for urban trees. After the task force concludes, we intend to develop a tree ordinance for urban trees.

The ICC remains a big issue with us, undercutting transit-oriented development and sapping funds for needed transit. We continue our participation in efforts to educate the public and to reduce public and political support for this highly destructive project.

Many MC Group members worked with candidates to improve the political climate in the county and State. Our relative success inspires hope that the environmental agenda will move up in priority at both levels and that we will have a good working relationship with the incoming Council and County Executive, who has invited the MC Group Chair to serve on his Transition Team.

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Group News

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Groups Take Action

(continued from page 6)

Prince George's County

Chair: Chip Reilly, 301-218-3920,
chip.reilly@maryland.sierraclub.org

Southern Maryland (Calvert and St. Mary's Counties)

Chair: Bob Boxwell, 410-394-6153,
bobboxwell@hotmail.com

Western Maryland (Allegany and Garrett Counties)

Chair: Sam White, 301-264-4162,
sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org

The Western Maryland Group is holding ExCom elections. Anyone interested in serving on the ExCom should contact the Chair, Sam White.

In August, the Western Maryland Group helped to sponsor a showing of Al Gore's documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. The Group had a table at the movie theatre, with materials about global warming and the Sierra Club's Cool Cities Campaign. ■

The Bay Watershed

Highway Threatens Mattawoman Creek

(continued from page 1)

The Mattawoman is home to Maryland's largest breeding wood duck population. The watershed is also an important black duck wintering ground and has a strong presence of nesting bald eagles. It is one of only three Maryland sites with a wild population of the beautiful and rare native lotus.

Taxpayers would pay, in real dollars and in loss of valuable environmental services.

We face a crucial window of opportunity to defend the Mattawoman watershed from the loss of forests, with their natural water filtration systems, and the installation of paved surfaces impervious to rainwater. Once destroyed, the forested watershed cannot be recreated.

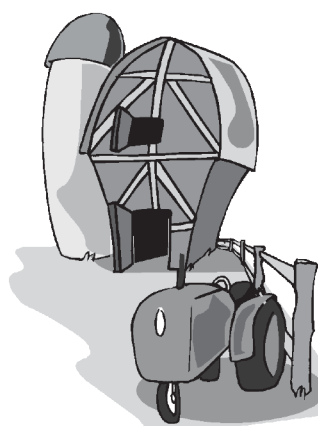
The proposed cross-county connector would extend a four-lane highway through a lightly populated area to Bryans Road. It would parallel Rt. 228. Does our area need *two* connectors? Of course not. It is a developers' highway. *And it would*

be funded 100% by Charles County taxpayers.

Keep Mattawoman Creek a positive contributor to the health of the Bay.

Before the impervious surfaces have gone over the limit that the watershed is able to sustain, we must make clear the choice between maintaining the health of an invaluable natural resource that serves the entire Bay area, and succumbing to the lure of short-term economic gains to be shared by few. It is our job to keep Mattawoman Creek a positive contributor to the Bay's health. We cannot lose the Mattawoman and still claim that we are working to save the Bay. Future generations will have no trouble weighing the relative merits of the two considerations—long-term public interest vs. short-term private gain—correctly. Hearings will be held in January. Please sign up for updates or to volunteer to help at www.mattawomanwatershedsociety.org. ■

Bonnie Bick, Laurel Imlay, and Betsy Johnson contributed to this article.



FARMERS NEEDED

INTERESTED IN PRODUCING NATIVE SEED ON YOUR FARM?

We are looking for nine Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) eligible farmers to participate in a three-year trial producing locally native seeds as alternative crops.

USDA will provide a small payment to compensate for use of about 1/4 acre.

Please respond to Dr. Sara Tangren (301) 580-6237, or
ATangren@ChesapeakeNatives.org.

Lasting Impressions

(continued from page 1)

them to keep from accelerating into a fall.

We emerged from the woods and crossed an old orchard and a gravel road, lured by another peak. We once again became overheated and breathless as we climbed and climbed through steep-faced pastures. There was no one in sight, only we two and the wind, the snow intensifying as each murky cloud swam by. Occasional breaks let light pour down in golden fingers that spotlighted an individual maple or a swath of distant forest.

We reached the new summit, which offered a magnificent view of wooded mountain ridges, and began to talk in whispers, feeling awed by the sight and sheepish about trespassing. With pangs of reluctance, we headed back.

That night I lay awake reliving the cold, the wind, the snow-dusted slopes. I could picture Canaan Valley, stretched around me like a vast welcoming hammock between wooded mountain ridges. Even in its seeming slumber, the landscape hummed with life, as if charged with electricity and waiting for Spring to pull the switch.

Over the years, I've returned to West Virginia—for adventure, comfort, inspiration, and renewal—more times than I can count. The only cloud that has darkened my time there is persistent anxiety about strip mining, a practice that has largely replaced the more dangerous and labor-intensive method of sending miners underground for coal. I've never had more than glimpses, however; mining companies are careful to keep the worst of the devastation away from roads and trails.

Then, a few years ago, I read about something even worse than strip mining, something called mountaintop removal, or MTR. The coal industry had started taking *entire mountaintops* off to get at the coal below. Not only are oaks and

maples and rhododendron thickets and mossy springs wiped off the face of the earth, but entire water-chiseled, 400-million-year-old mountaintops are blasted away and dumped into neighboring valleys, thereby destroying valley ecosystems, with their inevitable streams, to boot.

I couldn't believe such a thing could be legal. Don't we have laws that protect our waters? And who owns the mountains—aren't they a national treasure for

southern wintering grounds, the Appalachian forests in which they nest may be even more critical to their ultimate survival than the tropical forests to which they migrate.

And, these forests are beautiful beyond description. They are verdant mosaics of hardwoods and evergreens, yielding to fern- and blueberry-clad "balds" at higher elevations. An understory of rhododendron and laurel bewitches when



Mountains in southeast West Virginia are being reduced to sterile plateaus in quest for coal. Photo by Darla Jewell.

all of us, and generations yet unborn? Someone gets to *remove* them??

Mountaintop removal has been called "strip mining on steroids." It's been called "mountain *range* removal." It's been called *ecocide* because it destroys entire ecosystems. And these ecosystems are some of the most biologically diverse to be found in the U.S. West Virginia alone boasts thirty-four species of salamander. Its forests also serve as breeding grounds for many species of neo-tropical songbirds, which make a journey thousands of miles long to return to forests—not mutilated mounds of rock—each spring. Many of these migrant species are in decline. Because they don't breed in their

it blooms. And on a clear night—oh, the stars. "Almost heaven" is a line that rings true not only for West Virginia but for all of Appalachia—save those cursed parts devastated by mining.

Besides their aesthetic appeal, the mountains of Appalachia offer renowned recreational opportunities—to camp, rock climb, hunt, fish, hike, backpack, bird watch, mountain bike, horseback ride, photograph, ski, canoe, kayak, and white-water raft in the wilds of the East. Coal companies' profits represent the irreplaceable loss of tourist dollars, not to mention immeasurable quantities of sheer human enjoyment.

Coal mining has an even darker un-

derbelly. I read about a boulder, freed from a Virginia mountain's grip by mining activities, that rolled downslope in the middle of the night to crush a boy as he slept in his bed. I also read a published letter in which the writer described a visit to Blair, West Virginia:

I was in Blair yesterday. . . . They have moved in and they are taking it! The houses in the community have burnt one after another. . . . One house has a sign next to it that says, 'keep out we still live here' because of looters stealing from other houses.... When everyone got what they wanted the coal company came in with backhoes and a dumpster and hauled away what was left.... They are offering rock bottom price for the people's homes. They only pay for the square footage of the homes and say that the property is part of the deal.

The historic road signs in Blair disappeared overnight. They are gone...there is not one left."

I wondered how many other towns have already disappeared. And how many acres have been lost.

An answer came from John G. Mitchell in the March 2006 issue of *National Geographic*: "So fast has the practice spread that there's no accurate accounting of the area affected, but surface mining in general has impacted more than 400,000 acres (160,000 hectares) in this four-state Appalachian region, including more than 1,200 miles (1,900 kilometers) of streambeds. If the practice continues until 2012, it will have squashed a piece of the American earth larger than the state of Rhode Island."

That was it; I had to take action, however small, to stop this unspeakable crime against the Earth and its inhabitants.

First, I needed to know how my lo-

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Mountains and Mining

Lasting Impressions

(continued from page 8)

cal utility company generates electricity and what, if any, other options I have as an energy consumer. After some searching on the web, I had my answer. My utility company relied on fossil fuels, and fifty percent of its electricity came from burning the dirtiest of them all, coal.

I was aghast. Every time I turned on a light, I was supporting the leveling of mountains in West Virginia? That realization didn't sit well, to say the least.

I thought about all the ways I could save electricity. I bought energy-saving fluorescent bulbs. I adjusted the thermostat. I bought a "blanket" for my hot-water heater. I tracked down the most energy-efficient refrigerator I could afford when the old one died. And thanked my lucky stars that I have double-pane glass in my windows, a reasonable cushion of insulation wrapping my house, and a pellet stove that lets my aging heat pump work less hard. I even began to double up when I bake: if a casserole is in the oven, so are brownies.

Still, I wasn't satisfied. How could the changes I made in my little townhouse possibly send a message to the coal industry, especially when "McMansions" are sprouting all around me, to the delight of everyone who makes money off energy and material resources?

I did more research. I soon found another utility-company option, one that offers "green electricity" made from burning biomass. When compared with fossil fuels, biomass is cleaner burning; it generates less global-warming carbon dioxide; and it doesn't require that mountains be blasted into valleys. And power generators fueled by biomass such as switchgrass can, like coal, deliver power to the grid in a timely response to demand, so their production could be fully applied to reducing the need for new coal-fired plants. Green electricity, as it turns out, costs more than the fossil-fuel type, but I

couldn't sign up fast enough, tempering my smug satisfaction with a reminder that energy conservation is still only a partially-achieved goal in my home and habits.

Maybe my actions haven't stopped mountaintop removal, but they could. Suppose that from a grassroots level America rises up and says this hideous means of mining coal—mountaintop removal—must stop. We will no longer support or tolerate it. We will conserve energy, boycott coal-burning utilities, and demand that our leaders support renewable energy resources, now.

This is my plea and my prayer, that we will make King Coal stop destroying what we owe our children: a landscape graced with mountains—lovely, fertile, and intact. ■

For energy-saving tips, see "Sierrans Step Up to the Energy Conservation Challenge" in the June 2006 edition of Chesapeake. See also Gerald Winegrad's article at right.

For information about Maryland's Energy Star program and products, see <http://www.energy.state.md.us/energystar/html/consumers.html>.

For information about tradable renewable credits, which allow customers to purchase green electricity from out-of-state providers, see http://www.green-e.org/your_e_choices/otherstates_home.html.

For information about Pepco's green electricity (available in Maryland, Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, and Virginia), see www.pepcoenergy.com/NaturalGasElectricity/default.aspx.

Betsy Reeder is an educator and environmentalist living in Harford County.

Air and Energy

Reducing Power Consumption, Reducing Pollution

By Gerald W. Winegrad—The recent utility rate increases give an added impetus for consumers to cut back on electrical energy use. The oft-quoted figure of a 72% average increase for BGE's 1.2 million residential customers is a 94% increase in the pure cost of each kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity for summer use, and an astounding increase of 157% for winter usage. For Sierra Club members and all concerned with the environment, energy conservation is the most critical way to better protect the environment.

While speaking with Maryland Chapter Chair Betsy Johnson on a hot summer day in Annapolis, we discussed electrical consumption and home energy use. A heat wave in August brought record electrical consumption in the region, taxing the power system. These peak periods cause the most polluting and inefficient power plants to operate, producing even more pollution per kWh. I mentioned how little electricity my wife and I use in our home, and Betsy asked me to write this article.

\$571 Powers 1,730 Square Feet

Our 1988 two-story home in Annapolis is 1,730 sq. ft. It is an all-electric home, heated and cooled by a heat pump. We frequently have family and friends over, some spending the night. Our total electricity cost for this past year was \$571, plus \$82 deferred under the higher BGE rates, for a total of 7,099 kWh. The U.S. average cost for home energy use is about \$1,900 a year. Using an Energy Star calculator, our energy use is more efficient than 97.5% of comparable households. How do we do it without the installation of solar panels or a wood stove?

The Power Hogs

First, the greatest use of electrical energy in the home is for heating and cooling,

accounting for 50% or more. When our old heat pump was dying, we replaced it with a high SEER-rated Energy Star heat pump. We have it maintained and regularly change furnace filters. I insulated the pipes from the heat pump going into the house and under the house in the crawl space. We don't run the heat pump unless absolutely necessary. We keep the heat and a/c off from about Labor Day to mid-November, and from mid-April until July. In cold weather, we wear sweaters and keep the drapes and shades open during the day to allow the sun in, closing them at night. In warmer weather, we close the drapes and shades during the day, leave all windows open, and use fans where we cook, eat, and sleep, turned on only when we are present in that room. We use plastic register covers to direct air flow away from the drapes and into the room.

Our heat is always set at 60-62, and at 64 when guests arrive. Our a/c is never set lower than 80. We have replaced energy inefficient windows and sliding doors with high energy efficient windows and sliders. If we are out of the house for eight hours or more on very cold or hot days, we keep the thermostat at lower or higher levels than normal. When away for three days or more, we turn off all lights, the hot water heater, all clocks, DVD players, etc., and never leave the a/c on. If necessary, we keep the heat at 50 to prevent freezing.

Energy Saver Switches

We are among the 225,000 of BGE's 1.2 million customers who participate in a program in which energy saver switches are connected to central air conditioners and water heaters. During periods of high demand for electricity, a radio signal activates the energy saver switch to cycle the compressor or water heater on and off in

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Energy Conservation Reduces Use of Fossil Fuels

(continued from page 9)

15-minute intervals. Cycling of the switch can be activated any time throughout the year, but typically occurs in the summer months between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. I have never noticed this occurring and it saves us \$15 a month, typically \$60 annually, and prevents the most polluting power plants from having to crank out juice. It costs nothing to hook-up.

Every house needs to be properly insulated and to have cracks sealed. Good attic insulation, good windows, storm doors, and electrical socket insulators are all important and these all are in place in our home. We rarely turn on the kitchen or bathroom air ventilators as they can suck out a lot of heat or a/c. I close the fireplace flue damper in winter and open it in summer. We rarely use the fireplace.

Choosing and Using Major Appliances

The hot water heater is the next major user of energy. I have a thermal blanket on the water heater, insulation around the pipes, and set the water temperature at 120 degrees F. I installed flow restrictors on all faucets and water conservation shower heads. We have an Energy Star high efficiency refrigerator and always keep the lowest temperature settings necessary for the freezer and refrigerator. We try not to leave the door open very long and keep the coils clean from dust accumulation. We also replaced the old dishwasher with an Energy Star high efficiency model, although I prefer to wash dishes by hand. My wife uses it sparingly and with full loads. We also replaced a dryer with a more efficient model and use it only with full loads, cleaning the lint filter with each use. We use only cold water in the washing machine.

We have replaced nearly all lighting with compact fluorescent bulbs (about \$1.50 each at discount houses) and never leave lights on when we are not in a room.

Home computers now use 9%-10% of all energy in a home and many people leave them on 24/7. I always turn my computer off when not in use and also turn off the power bar to which it is connected.

We recycle more than 75% of household waste, including yard waste. I average only 6,000 miles a year in my used fuel-efficient vehicle, and carpool and use public transit.

Saving and Stewardship

Why do we conserve? Of course, nearly all of the measures we have taken save money, but ethically, as good stewards of the Earth, we need to drastically reduce the use of fossil fuels.

As Sierra Club members we all need to set an example in energy conservation and efficiency in our own living habits and conserve energy.

Plugging into Coal

Remember, 57% of the electrical supply we are using comes from the most dan-

gerous and dirty fuel on Earth—coal. Another 34% comes from nuclear energy, while 1.5% comes from oil. Only 1.8% comes from renewables, mostly from hydro (dams) and burning solid waste. I am a strong supporter of wind energy and as electrical demand grows, the importance and necessity of energy conservation and shifting from fossil-fueled electrical generation to renewable energy becomes paramount. But at least 94 large, new coal-fired electric power plants with the capacity to power 62 million American homes, are now planned across 36 states. These new plants would add another 20% to the U.S.'s current coal-generating capacity.

Pollution Generating Plants

Electrical generating power plants produced 36% of the carbon dioxide (global warming), 68% of the sulfur dioxide, 38% of the nitrogen oxide, and 23% of toxic heavy metals in the U.S. Nearly 48 tons of mercury are emitted each year by coal burning power plants, more than

40% of all human-released mercury. One of ten women of childbearing age have mercury levels high enough to damage their babies' brains. Mercury has contaminated our state fish, the rockfish, and human consumption advisories exist for this fish throughout the Bay.

Roughly 700 premature deaths, 30,000 asthma attacks, and 400 pediatric emergency room visits per year are linked to fine particulate pollution from six of the seven power plants covered by the Healthy Air Act enacted in Maryland in 2006 (Dr. Jonathan Levy, Harvard School of Public Health).

Power plant combustion is also a major contributor of one of the key pollutants affecting the Bay, the nutrient nitrogen. Together with vehicle exhausts, power plants and other air emissions contribute as much as 33% of the total nitrogen to the bay system, creating dead zones.

Each time you turn on your heat or a/c or leave a light on, think global warming, acid rain, mercury contamination, nitrogen pollution of the Bay, massive forest and stream destruction, and human sickness and deaths. ■

Gerald W. Winegrad is a long-time Sierra Club member and served in the State Legislature from 1978-1995, the latter 12 years as a Senator where he championed environmental causes.



Compact fluorescents use at least 2/3 less energy than standard incandescent bulbs to provide the same amount of light. And, they last up to 10 times longer.

They save \$30 each or more in energy costs over each bulb's lifetime and generate 70% less heat, so they're safer to operate and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling.

The Maryland Chapter has an urgent need for a Conservation Chair.

If you're interested, please call Betsy Johnson, 301-656-4948.



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VOLUNTEER with US!

Sierra Club offers many different types of volunteer opportunities for anyone looking to become more involved in helping to protect the planet. By volunteering, you will be given the exciting opportunity to contribute to the betterment of our world and our future. So get active, meet new people, and have some fun!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Country _____

Home Phone (____) _____

Work Phone (____) _____

Fax (____) _____

Email _____

Please select the activities that interest you.

- ☐ Attend and/or Testify at a Hearing
- ☐ Door Hanger/Literature Delivery
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Ground Truthing/Forest or Timber Sale Monitoring
- ☐ Host Club Leaders Visiting My Area
- ☐ Lead an Outdoor Activity or Inner City Outing
- ☐ Perform Legal Services
- ☐ Phone Calling
- ☐ Media Relations
- ☐ Signature Gathering
- ☐ Work at Club Booths at Fairs and Events
- ☐ Use My Vehicle to Transport People and Supplies
- ☐ Work in the Club office
- ☐ Work at a Mailing Party
- ☐ Trail Maintenance, Tree Planting or Other Outdoor Activity
- ☐ Volunteer Coordination
- ☐ Work on the Web Site
- ☐ Write Letters

Please list your top three conservation issues:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Please send form to: Laurel Imlay
Maryland Chapter/Sierra Club
Room 101A
7338 Baltimore Ave.
College Park, MD 20740



Population

300 Million and Counting

By Kim Stanley—In the United States, a baby is born every seven seconds; someone dies every 13 seconds; and one international migrant enters the country every 31 seconds, for a net gain of one person every 11 seconds.

Last month, the U.S. population reached 300 million.

According to Lester Brown of the Worldwatch Institute, "With births exceeding deaths by nearly two to one, the U.S. population grows by almost 1.8 million each year, or 0.6 percent. Adding nearly 1 million immigrants per year brings the annual growth rate up to 0.9 percent, raising the total addition to 2.7 million. As things now stand, we are headed for 400 million Americans by 2043."

When we talk about growth, pollution and global warming, it's typically in terms of the economy and services or inanimate objects, such as vehicles, houses or wells. We talk as if the number of people weren't a problem. But it is.

Each new person requires food, clothing and shelter and will likely become a worker who will need a job, a driver who will need transportation, a renter or homeowner, a consumer, who by his or her mere existence demands a share of available resources—resources that are drying up.

U.S. rivers and lakes are disappearing, and more farmers are selling their water rights to cities. The city of Frederick is planning to draw water from the Potomac, thus diverting water away from communities downstream.

Water is also a growing concern in Carroll County, as the incidences of drought and contamination continue to rise.

According to the nonprofit Population Connection, "Only 0.3 percent of the planet's water is available for human use. Due to mismanagement, over 40 percent of the groundwater in the U.S. is contaminated by industrial, agricultural and household pollution, making it extremely difficult and costly to purify."

And we're burning fossil fuels faster than we're moving to renewable energy. More people require more appliances, electronics, lighting, heating and cooling and vehicles, thus more coal and oil, both finite resources that will run out.

Brown asserts, "The United States,



richly endowed with oil, has largely depleted its petroleum reserves within two generations. The use of oil has exceeded new discoveries in the United States for some 25 years. As reserves shrink, U.S. production falls and imports climb, helping to drive up world oil prices. And as population increases, so do the emissions of the Earth-warming gas carbon dioxide."

More people require more food. More beef, chicken, pork and dairy products take more energy and water to produce. It takes 23 times more water to produce 1 ton of beef than it does to produce 1 ton of grain. And the land we depend on to grow crops is threatened by development while fish species in our coastal

waters are threatened by overfishing.

A growing population also affects quality of life. Habitable places become too crowded as more roads or developments are added. One can't traverse Carroll County without encountering traffic congestion somewhere along the way. Brown claims "Traffic congestion in the United States in 2003 caused 3.7 billion hours of travel delay and wasted 2.3 billion gallons of fuel."

All of this stress affects personal well-being and family life. And it's getting harder to get away for a little while as public spaces and vacation spots are increasingly crowded.

In his book, *In Growth We Trust*, available at the library, Edwin Stennett, founder of Growth Education Movement Inc., asserts that "failing to address U.S. population growth will increasingly diminish the quality of life of our children and grandchildren; our mushrooming population is neither inevitable nor economically necessary; and U.S.

population stabilization can be achieved by voluntary means supported by the vast majority of Americans."

Brown and the nonprofit Negative Population Growth Inc., among others, advocate for a "national population policy that would lead to population stabilization sooner rather than later."

I hope we can start talking honestly about population, as I'm concerned about the world my son, an only child by choice, and his peers are inheriting.

The more we can do for them now, the better off they and the world will be. ■
Kim Stanley is Chair of the Catoclin Group. Column reprinted with permission of The Carroll County Times.

Jon's Antarctic Expedition

By Jon Robinson—Hello from Antarctica. I arrived at McMurdo Station, Antarctica on October 31, to serve as the volunteer photographer for a seal study, funded by the National Science Foundation, and staffed by the Smithsonian. It is springtime in Antarctica, but it is still cold. In preparation for the flight from Christ Church, New Zealand to McMurdo Station, we had to wear our “extreme weather clothing” in case the plane, an Air Force C17, crashed, although the crew cheerily pointed out that the ocean was so cold, that, should we have to make a water landing, we wouldn't need our underseat flotation devices for very long. Most of the airplane was filled with cargo, with only one “pallet” of seats installed. My eventual destination was a field camp at Hutton Cliffs, about 12 miles as the skua* flies from McMurdo Station.

However, before being allowed to go on the ice, I had to take two courses: Snow Craft I (a.k.a.

Happy Camper School) and Ice Safety. For Snow Craft I, we listened to a short lecture and then piled into a bus with large balloon wheels to our camp site. There, we set up a camp that consisted of two Scott tents, three mountain tents, a quantee (a pile of snow that is packed down and then hollowed out like an igloo), and several trenches about 3 feet deep with a 4 or 5 foot cold well at one end. The warmth of the trenches is typically increased by cutting snow blocks and sliding them over the opening after you have laid your sleeping bag on the bottom. We were lucky that the temperature of -17 C (1.4 F) was much warmer than it had been earlier in the year. I slept in one of the Scott tents, which is supposed to be warmer than the mountain tents and not as claustrophobic as the quantee or the snow trench. I was a little cold that night and, just about the time I had gotten warm, I had to make a visit to the ultra air-conditioned outhouse. I never got warm again that night. In the morning, the walls of the tent were lined with frost,

and my water bottle, which had been outside my sleeping bag by my head, was frozen solid.

The ice training was less stressful. It involved going out in a Hagglund snow vehicle to cracks in the ice sheet, and drilling down to the water at various places along a transect that went from one ice sheet to the next, through the refrozen water that filled up the crack. Finally, on Tuesday, November 7, I was able to take a snowmobile ride out to our camp.

The first two days were quite warm by Antarctic

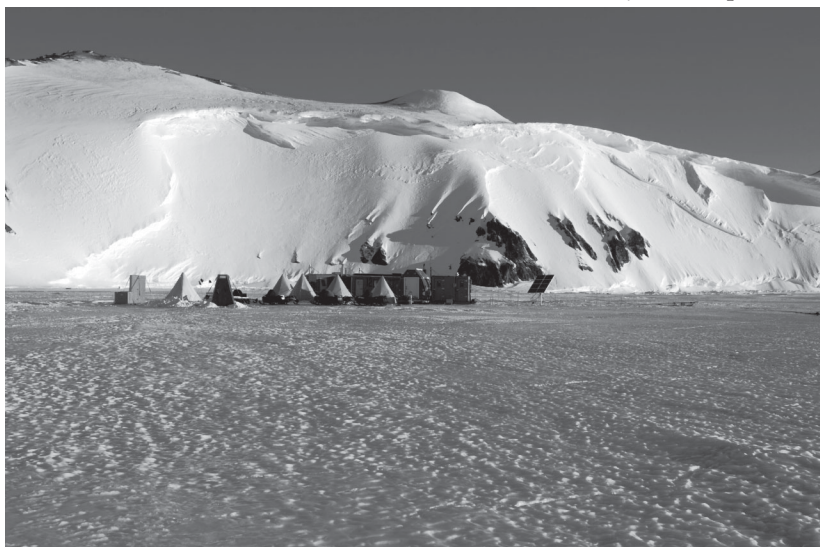
standards, and, with no wind, were quite enjoyable. I slept the first two nights in a Scott tent. I had learned my lesson at Happy Camper School and layered up before crawling into my sleeping bag. I was quite warm

are typically stronger than those for which it was designed. This time of year, the solar cells and battery pack work well because the sun never sets.

I've taken many hundreds of photographs since arriving in Antarctica, some of which should be showing up on the Smithsonian's website by the time you read this. <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/AquaticEcosystems/Antarctica/Science/>. The website also explains the science experiments being carried out. ■

* The skua is a large, seagull-type bird that needs to scavenge dead meat before the meat freezes, which means that frequently the skua's food is not quite dead before the skua starts pecking away at it. This behavior has not made the skua a popular animal with those who like to see nature as peaceful and idyllic.

Jon Robinson is Wildlife Chair for the Maryland Chapter.



Starting from the right, the solar panel, the battery hut, the lab hut; behind the first Scott tent, the cooking hut; and behind the second and third Scott tents is the sleeping hut. The little dark building with the sloping walls is the outhouse. Hutton Cliffs is in the background. Photo by Jon Robinson.

enough at night, but getting up and dressed in the morning would have been more pleasant if it had been a little warmer. Since then I have moved into a heated bunk cabin made from an ice fishing hut, and sleeping and dressing in the morning have been much more comfortable. The wind has picked up significantly, creating a situation where any exposed skin can be frostbitten in 3 minutes. Also, exposed skin must be covered with heavy duty sun screen, since the ozone hole means there is no protection from the sun's ultraviolet radiation.

Our camp is powered by a solar panel with a hut full of batteries, propane for cooking and heating in two of the huts (sleeping and cooking), diesel fuel for heating the lab hut, and two-cycle oil-gas mixture for the snowmobiles. The camp had a small wind turbine before I arrived, but it was taken down because it made a lot of noise. The noise disrupted people's sleep, and it could be heard all the way to the seal colony. Also, the turbine didn't generate much electricity, as the winds



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Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting our Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. This makes you an essential part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife and to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. **Thank you.**

Maryland Chapter
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An Omnivore Asks “What’s for Dinner?”

A Review of *The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*

Michael Pollan, The Penguin Press (2006), 411 pages

By Betty Brody—When we start a nice meal in a restaurant, the last thing we want to think about is where our food came from, especially our animal food. We don’t like to consider ourselves mammals, with animal needs for clean air and water, and for safe and nutritious food.

Michael Pollan, an award-winning journalist, see www.michaelpollan.com, tells how he investigated food production in this country and explains, in an easy-to-read style, scientific facts about that production. He asks, “What should we have for dinner? When you can eat just about anything nature has to offer, deciding what you should eat will inevitably stir anxiety, especially when some of the potential foods on offer are liable to sicken or kill you.”

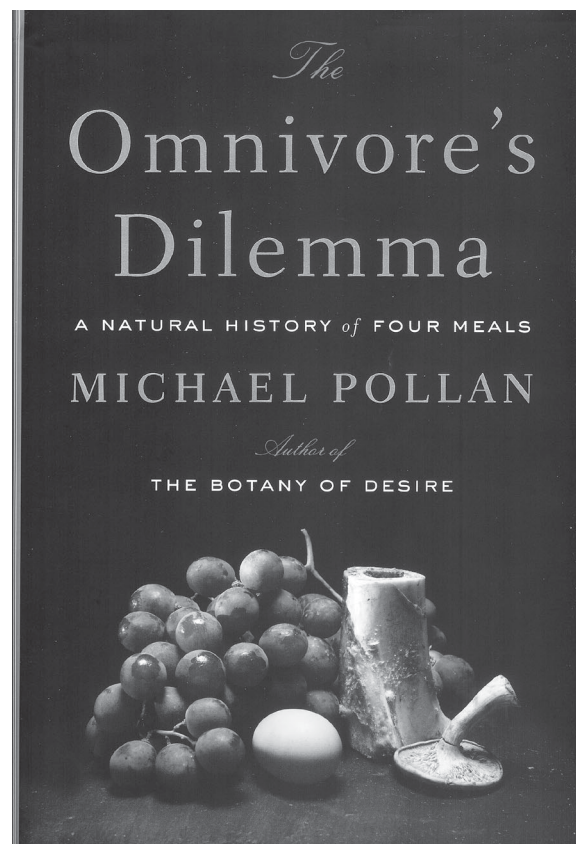
Our dilemma is selecting which food will be good for us (nutritious, tasty, ethically proper) and which food will poison us, either immediately (rancid food or poisonous mushrooms) or slowly (food high in saturated fats or heavy metals or pesticides or hormones, or food produced and transported in a way that harmed the environment necessary to our survival). Four-fifths of the energy used to feed Americans is spent processing food and moving it around. Pollan discusses, with many interesting details: 1. “fast food” and supermarket food (food from corn); 2. organic food (food from grass); and 3. food hunted and gathered (food from the forest).

1. Corn feeds American cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry and farmed fish; becomes cooking oil; and appears in many guises as a sweetener. Our supermarkets sell about 45,000 items which seem to be different, but more than 25% of them contain corn. Our corn is grown as a monoculture. Devoting so many acres to one crop and simplifying crop production is contrary to nature, which is complex and diverse.

Though agribusiness produces huge quantities and feeds masses (without it, would there again be hunger in America?), it relies heavily on fossil fuels to create fertilizers, pesticides, and food packaging, and to transport the food. These fertilizers and pesticides end up in our water supply and, with a slew of other pollutants, travel down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico, creating there a dead zone the size of New Jersey.

Bison once thrived on the arid Great Plains, but Europeans preferred to graze cattle on that land. Later, when American corn, government-subsidized and grown efficiently with artificial fertilizer, became cheap, Americans started fattening cattle with corn in huge feedlots. Cattle, ruminants, only graze on grasses, and their stomachs are neutral. Eating corn makes their stomachs acidic, causing them medical problems, which require treatment with antibiotics.

2. *Consumer Reports* recently endorsed organic



foods (big and little organic farmers are battling over the legal definition of “organic”), and, as more Americans wanted organic products, Wal-Mart and supermarkets started selling them. But a lot of products in Whole Foods Market are not organic. Many are highly processed (such as organic frozen dinners), and some just claim to be “natural,” whatever that means. Many organic products are grown on huge monoculture farms and are prohibitively expensive. Organic milk must be ultrapasteurized to insure its safety, since the cows from which it comes have not received antibiotics or other medications.

A few farmers do not grow organic food industri-

ally; they do not try to dominate nature, just to mimic it. Joel Salatin farms this way on Polyface Farm in Swoope, VA. His cattle, chickens, turkeys, pigs, and rabbits eat grass, and the fowl and pigs eat insects in and under the grass. All those animals are raised with no need for medications.

3. Author Pollan hunted and gathered a meal. He shot a feral pig, gathered wild mushrooms, captured yeast from the air, and picked fava beans and lettuce from his garden and cherries from a neighbor’s tree. His valiant attempt to harvest abalone from the sea came to naught. From a gargantuan effort, Pollan served an unusual meal to his friends, mostly proving how impractical it is for Americans to “live off the land.”

Still, we might help the environment and improve our health by eating little or no meat (a lot of corn and energy go into its production), and eating the least processed, least packaged, organic food from local farms. And, odds are, this food will taste better! ■

D.C. Metro Area Sierrans Plan Monthly Restaurant Outings

The Virginia and D.C. Chapters of the Sierra Club invite you to learn about the true cost of the food we eat by participating in our local area restaurant dining events. To learn more about the National True Cost of Food Campaign, visit: www.truecostoffood.org

If you’d like to attend any of these True Cost of Food Campaign monthly restaurant outings, please RSVP to Susan Prolman at susanprolman@aol.com or Diana Artemis at: artemdi@yahoo.com.

2007 Scheduled Events

Thursday, January 25, 2007

6:30 pm

India Curry House

3181 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA

(across street from Clarendon Metro/Orange Line)

Thursday, February 22, 2007

6:30 pm

The Vegetable Garden

11618 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD

(across street from White Flint Metro/Red Line)

Organic & Macrobiotic Cuisine

(continued on page 14)

True Cost of Food

True Cost of Food Metro D.C. Restaurant Outings

(continued from page 13)

Thursday, March 22, 2007

6:30 pm

Singh Thai

2311 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA

(across street from Court House Metro/Orange Line)

Thursday, April 26, 2007

6:30 pm

Nirvana

1810 K St., NW; Washington, DC

Indian/Vegetarian

Thursday, May 24, 2007

6:30 pm

Lebanese Taverna at Pentagon Row

1101 S. Joyce St., Arlington, VA

(Located near the Pentagon City Metro station)

Thursday, June 28, 2007

6:30 pm

Vegetate

1414 9th Street, NW, Washington, DC

(two blocks east from Mount Vernon Square Metro)

Local & Organic Cuisine

Thursday, July 26, 2006

6:30 pm

Sunflower

2531 Chain Bridge Rd., Vienna, VA

All-Vegan Chinese Cuisine

There will be a special weekend outing to a local farm or farmer's market in August

Thursday, September 27, 2007

6:30 pm

Java Green

1020 19th. Street N.W.; Washington D.C.

(Two blocks from Farragut West Metro)

Vegan/Vegetarian

Thursday, October 25, 2007

6:30 pm

Myanmar Restaurant

7810 Lee Highway, Falls Church, VA

(A 20-minute walk from the Dunn Loring Metro/Orange Line)

Burmese Vegetarian

Celebrating the Holidays with Earth-Friendly Feasts

By Diana Artemis—It's the holiday season once again. In the over-stressed times we live in can we pause and do more to put thanks and love back into our holiday celebrations? The Sustainable Consumption Committee (SCC)'s True Cost of Food Campaign makes it clear that our choice of food, now more than ever during the holiday season, affects our earth, our health, and what we leave as a legacy to our children and our children's children. Let's pause and think about where the food we eat came from, and at what cost to the environment.

What is Eco-Cuisine?

In his book, *Eco-Cuisine: An Ecological Approach to Gourmet Vegetarian Cooking*, Ron Picarski writes, "Ecology is an awareness of the interrelationships between living organisms and their environment. Eco-Cuisine is about the human diet and its relationship to our personal health and the natural environment. We must begin to look at food as a route back to nature and a way to understand our connections with natural cycles. We need to live in harmony with nature and within our biological boundaries that are part of that natural system."

During this holiday season, let's think about our health, our children's health and the health of our planet.

A delicious cooked meal, especially if it's shared with friends and family, provides nourishment for the spirit as well as the body. Food that is locally grown by organic farmers is healthy for our communities and local economy. Respecting the earth and its animals when producing and eating food creates the harmony that we seek in relating to each other and our planet, and allows us truly to celebrate in a way that honors our earth and each other. Historically, food was a celebration of life: growing, preparing and eating the fruits of the field were once one of the strongest ties to community spirit.

As Sierra Club members, let's lead the way. This year, invite your friends, neighbors, and family members to a low-impact, cruelty-free holiday meal that is mindful of its origins and the connections that bind us all to a sustainable planet. ■

Diana Artemis is Co-Chair, Sierra Club National Sustainable Consumption Committee and the National True Cost of Food (TCOF) Campaign. To learn more about the TCOF Campaign, visit: www.truecostoffood.org.

Choosing Food for a Healthy Family and a Healthy Planet

By Bonnie Lane Weber—Sustainable consumption is the use of goods and services that satisfy basic needs and improve quality of life while minimizing the usage of irreplaceable natural resources. We all need to consciously think about our food choices in terms of sustainability and appreciate the effect these choices have on the environment. Here are some ideas and suggestions to consider implementing in your personal food choices to help minimize our impact on the environment through the food we eat:

- ♦ Eat lower on the food chain. Raising grain and vegetables for human consumption is more efficient than feeding it to animals, which are then in turn eaten by humans.
- ♦ Make food choices without regard to advertising, and teach your children to think independently about the food they eat. Large food companies spend as much money to influence our food choices as is spent to influence tobacco sales – their goals are not the same as yours.
- ♦ Eat the greatest variety of the least processed food.
- ♦ Buy locally grown food and/or organically grown food. The further food is shipped to arrive at its consumer, the more pollution it creates through fossil fuel-based means of transportation. Some food grown overseas is doused with chemicals that are not allowed to be used here in the U.S. Purchasing organic and locally grown food cuts down on the amount of chemicals going into the soil and water (and into our food), and pollution going into the air.
- ♦ Shop at farmers' markets. Find farmers markets on www.localharvest.com. Eat at local restaurants that use local farmers' products. Ask in restaurants and stores where the food is from. Encourage them to buy locally. Compliment them on the delicious local items that they do carry.
- ♦ Ask food store managers to stock locally-grown items when they are available and in-season. Many food store managers say that if they get two requests for a product, they will stock it. Our voices and dollars do count! ■

Reprinted from 3000 Miles, the newsletter of the Sierra Club Sustainable Consumption Committee, Spring 2004.

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Outings

Baltimore

Become an Urban Weed Warrior!

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks has started its own Urban Weed Warriors program. Weed warriors can come to any of the sessions listed below to learn about the non-native invasive problem in Baltimore City parks. Training will include weed ID, removal techniques and native alternatives to exotic flora. The training will lead to certification as a weed warrior, whereby volunteers can work on their own to help control non-native invasives in Baltimore City parks. There will also be information about organized weed-pull activities throughout the spring and summer. Please contact Kimberley Mead, Weed Warrior Coordinator, at Kimberley.Mead@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-0359, for directions, RSVP or with questions.

Baltimore County

Jones Falls Restoration Project, Towson
December 9th: Meadowood Park is a special place in the Jones Falls Watershed—the Jones Falls and two of its important tributaries, Deep Run and Dipping Pond Run, flow through the park. Join us as we continue to battle the alien invasion along the park's forested creek buffers. We'll pull Japanese honeysuckle, English ivy, porcelain berry and other invasive species that are crowding out Maryland natives and smothering trees. No experience is necessary! Tools and gloves will be provided. Time, 9:30 a.m. til noon; location, Meadowood Park, 10650 Falls Road, Lutherville-Timonium, Maryland 21093.

For questions or to register, please contact Suzanne Greene at the Jones Falls Watershed Association, 3000 Chestnut Avenue, Suite 100, at 410-366-3036 or sgreene@jonesfalls.org. Thanks for your help!

Calvert County

Hellen Creek Preserve

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

Caroline County

Adkins Arboretum

Adkins Arboretum on Maryland's Eastern Shore is seeking volunteers to assist the staff in the removal of invasive non-natives on the Arboretum's 400-acre site. Volunteers will be trained by the Arboretum staff. Workdays are Wednesday from 1p.m. to 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.

There are general methods and species-specific methods, such as best season for species, wet soil condition for pulling, handouts, extent of area of natives seen rescued, delayed gratification, targeted use of herbicides, and matching funds for staff to do what volunteers find

hard to do.

Non-native invasive plant removal will reach maintenance phase following a major work effort at each site in the Mid-Atlantic region and around the world for about three to five years to remove the massive populations of species. Regular stewardship projects are conducted in all seasons including winter, early spring, late spring, summer, and late summer. This high-intensity program is followed by a low-intensity annual maintenance program for plants we have missed, plants emerging from the seed bank, and occasional plants migrating in from neighboring areas.

Casual clothing, long sleeves and pants, sturdy comfortable walking boots/shoes, gloves are encouraged for these events.

For information about the area and map, see www.chapmanforest.org.

Contact: Marc Imlay, 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808. I can be reached at 301-442-5657 on my cell phone on these dates.

DIRECTIONS: First Sunday, meet at main gate of Chapman Forest. Directions to Chapman Forest, Chapman State Park, Mount Aventine and the Glendening Natural Environment Area. Take the Washington Capital Beltway to Indian Head Highway (MD 210) south toward Indian Head (from VA Exit 2; from MD Exit 3A). At 14 miles, continue through on MD 210 through the traffic light at MD 227 (This crossroads is the center of the community known as Bryans Road). At about 1.1 miles past the light, veer to the right onto Chapmans Landing Road. Follow for 1.6 miles to the gated entrance of Mount Aventine and Chapman State Park.

CARPOOL Info: Meet at Sierra Club Md. Chapter office at 9 a.m.; return 5 p.m. Call Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111

DIRECTIONS: Following Saturday, meet at Ruth B. Swann Park-Potomac Branch Library parking lot, 20

miles south of Washington Beltway (I-495) on Rt. 210 (Indian Head Hwy), about a mile and a half south from the traffic light on Rt. 210 in Bryans Road. Give yourself 30 to 40 minutes from the Beltway. **CARPOOL Info:** Meet at Sierra Club Md. Chapter office at 9 a.m.; return 5 p.m. Call Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111.

Garrett County

Savage River State Forest

Battling Botanical Bullies in **Bear Pen Wildland**, Garrett County Leader/s: Ron Boyer & Liz McDowell.

Exotic Removal Workday description: Volunteers are needed to continue control efforts of Japanese spiraea in the Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Forest. Bear Pen is designated as a Type 1 Wildland and like other natural areas around the state, it is threatened by a variety of exotic invasive species. In 2005, Ed Thompson, Maryland Heritage & Wildlife Service ecologist, identified the removal of *Spiraea japonica* from Bear Pen as a high priority project. For more details or to register, contact Ron at info@elkridgenatureworks.com ("Sharing unique nature experiences in every season.") or at 301-895-3686.

Howard County

Patapsco State Park

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

Our endeavors will take place at Patapsco Valley State Park - right off Rte 1 in Elkridge. Light refreshments will be provided. Bring any pruning and digging gear you have, especially gauntlets. The area is suffering from invasive everything—especially kudzu and ivy and grape vines, but we also have tree of heaven and mile-a-minute. It's a depress-

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ing sight seeing all the vines taking over and literally pulling the trees down. Can't wait til we drag them down and FREE THE TREES!

Howard / Anne Arundel / Prince George's County 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, hand-pulling some non-native plants while learning about the differences between native and non-native invasive plants and how these invasives adversely impact our natural ecosystem.

Where and When:

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

Directions: Take Route 175 East from the 295 Baltimore Washington Parkway. Take Mapes Road Entrance onto the installation.

Bring hand tools, gloves, lunch and water. Long sleeves and pants recommended. At least one day prior to the event, contact Don Marquardt, Installation forester, by e-mail at donald.marquardt@us.army.mil or by phone at 301-677-9185.

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, Clarksville

Conservation Stewardship Project at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) will be meeting November 28th from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.. Each trip will have both an educational component and a work component. For information, directions or to register, contact Aylene

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

Patuxent Research Refuge

In partnership between the Department of the Army (Fort Meade), the Maryland Native Plant Society, the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club and Patuxent Research Refuge and volunteers. Non-native invasive plants are threatening our wildlife habitat. We need YOU to help stop them. Come out for one of

our "Weed Warriors Days" and help us treat garlic mustard, mile-a-minute, Japanese stiltgrass and other non-native plant infestations on the refuge. All ages and abilities are welcome. Do your part to protect Patuxent from alien invaders, and become a Weed Warrior! You will receive

a short educational briefing explaining the effects of invasive plants on wildlife and wildlife habitats and how to identify and control these plants. Wear long sleeves and pants and bring gloves. Please register for this event by calling 301-497-5887.

Directions to the North Tract Visitor Contact Station:

From I-295, take the exit for MD-Route 198 towards Fort Meade. Go approximately 1.5 miles until you see Glory Days Auto Salvage on your near right corner and baseball fields on your far right. Turn right between the two onto Bald Eagle Drive. Proceed through the gate and continue about 1/2 mile to the Visitor Contact Station.

Directions to the National Wildlife Visitor Center: The National Wildlife Visitor Center is located off of Powder Mill Road between MD Route 197 and the Baltimore/Washington Parkway, south of Laurel.

For additional information, call 301-497-5763 or visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov>. Christopher Wicker, Wildlife Biologist Patuxent Research Refuge, 12100 Beech Forest Road, Suite 138, Laurel, MD 20708. Phone 301-497-5949 or Christopher_Wicker@fws.gov

Riverfront Park, Laurel

Wishing for weedeers 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.
November 12, 2006
December 10, 2006
January 14, 2007

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 bfzaidan@Safe-mail.net or 240-506-8976.

Montgomery County Brookside Gardens

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

Contact: Stacy Parsons 301-962-1417 or stacy.parsons@mncppc-mc.org. Websites: www.BrooksideGardens.org and/or www.MC-MNCPPC.org/environment/weed_warriors/intro.shtm

Montgomery County Parks Weed Warriors Wanted!

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) Forest Ecologist is assembling a team of volunteers (Weed Warriors) to monitor and remove non-native invasive plant species in Montgomery County Parks, and we need your help! As a Weed Warrior volunteer, you will receive a short training session from the forest ecologist in the identification of, removal and control techniques for non-native invasive plants. Weed Warriors can then work at their own pace and choose a schedule that best suits them. Many current Weed Warriors live near a M-NCPPC Stream Valley Park or Regional Park and do their volunteer work while walking their dogs or taking an occasional hike through their neighborhood park. Whether you choose to work individually or in a group, your efforts will contribute to the control of non-native vegetation in the 32,500 acres of Montgomery County parkland. Contact: Carole Bergmann, M-NCPPC Forest Ecologist, at 301-949-2818 for more info or to sign up.

The Potomac Gorge

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

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15-mile stretch of river valley between Great Falls and Georgetown with over 200 rare plants and 5 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 training sessions, 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 below if you would like to sign up a school or organizational group for a workday, or be added to our email list: Mary Travaglini PotomacGorgeVol@tnc.org or 301-897-8570.

Sligo Creek Park

The RIP - Removing Invasive Plants Project

Friends of Sligo Creek is holding occasional winter and spring events in different parts of the park, and welcomes newcomers. For a schedule see www.fosc.org/RIPEventSched.htm. From mid-April to mid-June we will work on removing all garlic mustard. Be sure to check <http://www.fosc.org> for last-minute weather changes. For a list of sites between New Hampshire and Arcola, contact Lea Bonfiglio, phone 301-807-4697, or email leabonfiglio@yahoo.com or Sally Gagne, 301-588-2071.

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 by email at volunteer@audubonnaturalist.org or

301-652-9188 x 30 for more information or to sign up. Liz Jones, Volunteer Coordinator.

Prince George's County

Belt Woods, Bowie—Ongoing Saturday invasive species workgroups, from 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. We will focus on the old-growth South Woods section during the fall and winter. It's very interesting and beautiful! Join us in removing creeping euonymus, oriental bittersweet, Japanese honeysuckle, winged burning bush, multiflora rose, etc. Tools and gloves provided. E-mail Maureen Fine at maureenfine@earthlink.net or call 301-464-9306.

The Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek, Cheverly hosts the monthly removal of non-native invasive plants from Woodworth Park. All age groups can help rescue our native flowers, ferns and other plants from the non-native species which are covering 30-90 percent of the surface area of our parks we have worked so hard to preserve. Tools are provided, but wear work gloves and sturdy shoes. Contact Cathy and Dan Smith at 301-386-0889. Directions: Take 202 East under the BW parkway. Go one block and turn right on Cheverly. Go one mile and turn left on Forest Road. Go two blocks passing church on left and turn right on Parkway. Go 2 blocks and turn left on Wayne for one block. We meet there at the park by the small playground. Anacostia Watershed Society Assists Weed Warriors.

Greenbelt Homes Inc Housing Cooperative, Greenbelt

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

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

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

Little Paint Branch Park and Cherry Hill Road Community Park, Beltsville March 9, March 25, and April 3, all 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Meet at the Beltsville Community Center parking lot at 10 a.m. There are full indoor toilet facilities and a large seating area for lunch. We will continue the wonderful progress accomplished last year by the Americorps workers, General Electric Volunteers, Robert

Goddard French Immersion and Montessori Elementary School, Washington Quaker Work Camps, and World Bank volunteers at Little Paint Branch Community Park.

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

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

Some background information on the project: Several of the worst invasive species in the Mid-Atlantic region, including English ivy, Asiatic bittersweet, garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle and porcelain berry, are in the early stages of invasion in this park. Japanese stiltgrass covers about 5% of the park. Research indicates that Japanese stiltgrass is a major contributor of nitrogen pollution in the Chesapeake Bay, and reduces by half the ability of any land it dominates to hold water and release it slowly. Non-native invasive plant removal will reach maintenance phase following a major work effort at each site in the Mid-Atlantic region and around the world for about three to five years to remove the massive populations of species. Regular stewardship projects are conducted in all seasons including winter, early spring, late spring, summer, and late summer.

This high-intensity program is followed by a low-intensity annual maintenance program for plants we have missed, plants emerging from the seed bank, and

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Invasives

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occasional plants migrating in from neighboring areas.

The project supporters are now removing English ivy, wineberry, periwinkle, ground ivy, Japanese pachysandra, bush honeysuckle, and multiflora rose to rescue the incredible diversity of native plants and animals at this particular park. Unlike most parks in the area, the 150-acre Little Paint Branch Park is in the early stages of invasion and is essentially the native plant nursery for the Paint Branch itself. Please contact, Marc Imlay, Ph.D., Conservation Biologist, Anacostia Watershed Society (301-699-6204, 301-283-0808) for more information.

Magruder Park, Hyattsville

Ongoing. Contact Marc Imlay, Ph.D., Conservation Biologist, Anacostia Watershed Society (301-699-6204, 301-283-0808) for more information.

St. Mary's County

Myrtle Point Park

Directions: From Washington, take Rt. 4 south, crossing over the Patuxent River at Solomons. About two miles past the bridge, make a right onto Patuxent Blvd. Go about two miles to Myrtle Point Park. Meet in the Park lot. For more info, or to receive updates about workdays email or call Bob Boxwell, Executive Director, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, P.O. Box 336, Lusby, MD 20657, 410-394-1300, or bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

American Chestnut Land Trust, Port Republic

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. ■

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Steve Caflisch, Transportation Chair

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Don't forget!

It's time to vote for at-large delegates to the Maryland Chapter Executive Committee. Ballots are on the inside back cover of this *Chesapeake*.

Wintertime

Short days, long nights, and a chill in the air. Yes, it's winter, and the slow time of the year for our outings program. But many activities are still planned, and thanks to that big body of water to our east, the Atlantic Ocean, temperatures around here tend to stay fairly tolerable until at least mid-January.

I grew up in Cleveland, where it's not unusual to have a foot or more of "lake effect" snow on the ground by Thanksgiving. I don't even bother trying to get there for a visit at Christmas anymore, because the chance of snow is too great. I learned the hard way that it can be a long, miserable drive in a snowstorm. Yet, since moving to the Baltimore area, I have been delighted several times by being able to ride my bicycle down the B&A Trail on New Years Day, wearing shorts! We walk the dogs, hike in the woods, and even do some mountain biking in winter. About the only outdoor activity I won't do locally is kayaking, because cold water is a lot more dangerous than cold air.

Of course, some people actually enjoy snow, and see it as something other than a nuisance to be shoveled off the driveway. There are some activities on the list below for the skiers, sledders and snowshoe fanatics among us. Many of these are open-ended on the dates, because it is hard to predict snow around here, but if you are interested in participating, contact the leader for the plans when you see white stuff falling from the sky.

The keys to safe winter outdoor activities are simple: 1) pay attention to the weather, and 2) dress properly for the conditions. If a storm is coming through with rain, snow, wind and cold temperatures, skip the trip. This is an outings program, not Navy SEALs training. We don't have to go out in dangerous weather, and we shouldn't. Going outdoors in bad weather greatly increases the opportunities for get-

ting lost, being stranded, or worse. Many hikers have come to grief that could have been avoided if someone had simply checked the weather forecast first.

Dressing properly for the cold means dressing in layers. Layers allow you to add on or peel off clothing in response to changing conditions. Winter clothing should consist of at least three different layers. The base layer against the skin ought to be something soft and comfortable that will wick moisture away, keeping you dry. Silk long johns are my personal favorite, but there are many synthetic "technical" fabrics that work even better. Avoid cotton—it absorbs moisture and keeps the wetness next to your skin, where it will chill you. The next layer should be insulating—a synthetic fleece or a wool sweater that will trap air and warmth, but won't absorb water. The outer layer should be a wind-and-water resistant shell, such as a nylon or polyester parka, or wool coat. Cotton is okay as an outer layer if it is treated to repel water.

Why the paranoia over water? Because it chills us. Water absorbs much more heat than air at the same temperature. It is also extremely effective at carrying heat away as it evaporates, which is why sweating cools us in the summer, and chills us to the bone in winter. If the body gets too cold and the core temperature drops below 96 degrees F, we enter a state called hypothermia. This can be very dangerous—hypothermia is the fourth most common cause of death in the outdoors. (The top three are falls, drowning and cardiac arrest—see *Backpacker* magazine, October, 2006, for details.) A person in the early stages of hypothermia will shiver uncontrollably, and have difficulty walking, talking and thinking clearly. He or she needs to get inside and get warm. More advanced hypothermia may result in a state of extreme mental confusion, lack of muscle coordination and possible unconsciousness. This is a medical emergency; if you encounter someone with

serious symptoms of hypothermia, a call to 9-1-1 is in order.

The other medical problem to worry about in cold weather is frostbite. This occurs when exposed skin or extremities begin to freeze under cold temperatures or high wind chill. The best way to avoid frostbite is to stay dry, wear warm gloves and socks, cover all exposed skin (including ears, nose and cheekbones), and remember that cold and windy is more dangerous than just cold. People with poor circulation are especially vulnerable. Soaking in warm water can rewarm cold extremities. A body part that actually freezes requires immediate medical attention.

Speaking of medical issues, I want to mention that the Howard County Group has scheduled a Wilderness First Aid Training class for two weekends in January. If you spend a lot of time outdoors, especially in backcountry areas where the paramedics may not be close, you should consider taking this class. It deals with diagnosing and responding to injuries and illness when you are 6-8 hours from medical aid. It certainly won't turn you into a physician, but it will allow you to render some meaningful help to a victim when the professionals may not be available for awhile. Please contact Ken Clark at 301-725-3306 or kenclark7@comcast.net for details.

Despite the need to dress for the cold and be aware of the weather, wintertime can be wonderful for outdoor activities. The bugs are gone, the trails are virtually empty, and with the leaves down, the vistas are open and long. The cold air is bracing, and a hiking a forest path after a fresh snowfall can be an incredibly magical journey. Please check out the outings offered below. More information and updates are available on the chapter and group web pages. So bundle up and go take a hike! See you outside.

—Dan Soeder, MD Chapter Outings Chair (Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org)

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. Check their website (www.mwrop.org) for a calendar of activities, 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
- AMO: Appalachian Mountain Club
- AT: Appalachian Trail
- CG: Catoctin Group
- CCA: Canoe Cruisers Association (Washington, D.C.)
- FFA: Family Friendly Activity (kids/dogs ok, but check with leader)
- 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



Outings (December, January)



Saturday, Dec 2

Glen Ellen - Seminary Trail (*rated moderate*) Hike 7 miles beside Loch Raven Reservoir, along streams, and through woodlands, walking along paths and a fire road. Meet at 11 a.m. on Seminary Ave. to the left off of Dulaney Valley Rd., north of the Baltimore Beltway. Leader: Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Bull Run Mountains Conservancy, VA (*rated moderate*) 7.4-mile circuit hike visiting a historic mill, graveyards, and Civil War battle sites, plus a grand view of Fauquier County. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8 a.m. 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.

Saturday, Dec 9

Caledonia / Michaux Forest, PA (*rated moderate*) 8-mile circuit hike including the Dark Hollow and Quarry Gap trails, with a couple of steep climbs. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8 a.m. from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday, Dec 10

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

Saturday, Dec 16

Pole Steeple, Pine Grove Furnace SP, PA. (*rated moderate*) 7.5-mile circuit hike, featuring a vista, lakes and pretty streams. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8 a.m. from the park & ride just

north of I-70 on Rt. 32. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday, Dec 17

Savage Park, Wincopin Trail (*rated moderate*) 7 mile hike along the Middle and Little Patuxent Rivers, easy except for a few hills and rocky parts. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Patuxent Valley Middle School, off Vollmerhausen Road just west of Savage Guilford Rd. Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

TRAINING: Outings Leader Training 101 (*no rating*) Classroom training for Sierra Club outings leaders in the chapter College Park office from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Please contact Laurel Imlay (Laurel.Imlay@sierraclub.org) for directions if needed. Leader/ Instructor: Dan Soeder (410-969-9465) Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

Saturday, Dec 23

Gambrill State Park (*rated moderate*) 8-mile hike on wooded trails, with several scenic overlooks. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for a 9 a.m. departure. Leader: Tim Ryan (HC) 410-248-2974, before 9 p.m., timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.



Monday, Jan 1

FFA: New Years Day Hike (*rated moderate*) Begin the new year with a fresh start by getting up, going outside and working on those resolutions with this moderate hike around Oregon Ridge Park. The trail is well maintained over somewhat hilly terrain with a number of stream crossings. Distance is about 5 miles. We

will see and learn about the quarry, ski slope, amphitheater, sugar bush and remnants of the old mining/logging settlements. The area has gone through a number of transformations and is currently resisting encroachment from residential and commercial development. Kid friendly, dog friendly trip with a high risk of enjoyment so be prepared for unbridled fun. Meet at 1 p.m. at the Nature Center parking lot. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult; dogs must be sociable and on a leash. Leader: Joyce Fletcher (GB) 410 254-7240.

Bluff Trail/AT, SNP, VA (*rated strenuous*) 13.3-mile circuit hike featuring 2 vistas. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8 a.m. 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.

Anytime, Jan 2007

Cross Country Ski Trips (*rated moderate*) Ski locally in the Baltimore area or in Western Maryland when there is enough snow. Contact leader when conditions appear to be favorable. Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

Thursday, Jan 4

Greater Baltimore 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 p.m. Leader: Joyce Fletcher (GB) 410 254-7240.

Saturday, Jan 6

FFA: Cromwell Valley Park (*rated moderate*) Children and dogs are welcome on this 4-mile hike through a Baltimore County park that is a working farm with woodlands, hilly

meadows, and streams. Learn about the park's historical and natural features, including limestone kilns and a brook bubbling out of the ground. Optional brunch afterwards at Sander's Corner Restaurant. Meet at 11 a.m. in the parking lot beside the house in the park's Sherwood Farm section on Cromwell Bridge Road off Loch Raven Boulevard. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult; dogs must be sociable and on a leash. Leader: Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Saturday, Jan 6

Great Falls, VA (*rated moderate*) Six mile hike on dramatic cliffs overlooking the Potomac River, along the historic Patowmack Canal, and past the scenic Difficult Run rapids. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:30 a.m. 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, Jan 13 & 20

TRAINING: Wilderness First Aid (*no rating*) For anybody that spends a lot of time in remote locations, particularly for backpackers and hike leaders, we highly recommend this American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid class. This is an 18-hour class, including CPR, which is taught on two consecutive Saturdays. ARC WFA certification is good for three years, and CPR certification lasts one year.

NOTE: This training is not free. The cost is \$120 per person, with possible partial reimbursement for SC hike leaders. Held at the Howard County Conservancy in Woodstock MD. For information/reservations contact: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Outings (January, February, March, April)

Sat. Jan 20

White Oak Canyon, VA. (*rated strenuous*) 9 mile hike in Shenandoah National Park, featuring several ice-covered waterfalls. Bring lunch, water, and good hiking shoes. Depart at 7:30 a.m. from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Sign up in advance. Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, Feb 3

Great Falls Hike and Dinner (*rated moderate*) History meets nature at Great Falls section of the C&O Canal in Potomac, MD. 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 of hike will be 4 miles or less depending on weather and condition of trails.

Entrance fee required. There will be a dinner stop in Rockville after the hike. Meet at 1 p.m. at the South West Park & Ride. Leader: Bill Diggs (GB) 410-574-1453.

Saturday, Feb 10

FFA: Urban Trot (*rated easy*) All are welcome, but kids and dogs will enjoy this easy walk of about 5 miles around Lake Montebello and Herring Run Park. We will skirt by the water filtration plant and learn about the treatment process and the recreational improvements being made to the lake area, descend into the stream valley and return through a beautifully designed and well maintained neighborhood of posh houses and lush gardens. Good cushioned walking shoes recommended as we will be on paved surfaces most of the way.

Optional lunch stop afterwards at a local pub. Meet at the parking lot on the corner of Hillen Road, 33rd Street and Curran Drive at 10 a.m. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult; dogs must be sociable and on a leash. Leader: Joyce Fletcher (GB) 410-254-7240.

Friday-Monday, Feb 17-19

Cross Country Skiing in Western Maryland (*rated moderate*) Cross country skiing at New Germany State Park. If not enough snow, day hikes will be held. For details, call leader by February 3rd if interested. Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963.

Saturday, Feb 24

FFA Gunpowder at Belair Rd. (*rated moderate*) Hike 4 miles along the Gunpowder River. Learn how river habitat changes in the winter. Dress for the weather. Meet at 11 a.m. in the parking lot for the trails on Belair Road, on the north side of bridge over the river. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult; dogs must be sociable and on a leash. Leader: Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Sunday, Feb 25

Local Cross Country Skiing (*rated moderate*) If not enough snow, a hike will be held. Meet at Loch Raven High School – Cromwell Bridge Road and Cowpens Avenue at 11 a.m. Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963.



MARCH

Saturday, Mar 3

Jerusalem Mill (*rated easy*) Good beginner hike: 2.5 miles with optional additional mile to a covered bridge. Easy-paced but may be muddy. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Jerusalem Mill parking lot on Jerusalem Road at 10 a.m. Leader: Betsy Reeder (GB) 410-569-5202.

Friday, Mar 9

Social Event - Happy Hour (*no rating*) Join fellow members (and non-members) for a relaxing evening at Bill Bateman's to meet and mingle. Happy hour runs from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday's offerings are all you can eat fajitas and tacos as well as reduced prices on drinks. Stop by for a little while or stay the whole night. So come out, bring a friend and get acquainted without the need for boots, sunscreen or trekking poles. No hills to climb or streams to cross, just a complimentary Tex Mex buffet with indoor plumbing included at no extra cost. Located at 8810 Waltham Woods Road at North Plaza Mall off Joppa Road (beltway exit 30). Contact: Joyce Fletcher (GB) 410-254-7240.

Saturday, Mar 24

FFA: Loch Raven (*rated moderate*) Kids and dogs are welcome on this 4 mile hike through woodlands and along the drive at Loch Raven Reservoir. Learn how watershed habitat changes in the winter. Dress for the weather. Meet at 11 a.m. in the parking area on Morgan Mill Road off Loch Raven Drive. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult; dogs must be sociable and on a leash. Leader: Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Saturday, Mar 31

North Point State Park: From Carousels to Conservation (*rated moderate*) Explore the history of this southeastern Baltimore county state park which was once the site of a popular amusement park. Hike approximately five flat miles with a stop at the park visitor center to look at old photographs. Park is located off Old North Point Road in Edgemere. Meet at parking lot near park entrance (entrance fee required) at 10 a.m. Leader: Bill Diggs (GB) 410-574-1453.

APRIL

Sunday, Apr 1

Gunpowder Falls State Park (*rated moderate*) No foolin'! We will learn about the history and geology of the Gunpowder River and the Panther Branch. Lunch at the Raven Rock Falls. Meet at 11 a.m. at the Mt. Carmel Park & Ride. Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963.

Saturday, Apr 14

Harford Glen (*rated moderate*) Approximately 7 miles around Atkinson Reservoir. Slow-paced enough to look at wildflowers and spring migrants. Bring binoculars if you like, also water and lunch. Expect mud. Meet at Harford Glen (first lot on right, by pond) at the west end of Wheel Road at 10 a.m. Leader: Betsy Reeder (GB) 410-569-5202.

Sunday, Apr 15

Wildflowers and Limericks (*rated moderate*) If you haven't filed your taxes yet, hide from the IRS in the woods and enjoy the spring wildflowers along the Gunpowder River. If we are lucky, the timing for blooms will be just right. This is about 6 miles of moderate terrain with some

Outings (April, May, BICO)

hills, stream crossings and a lost pond. There is a strong likelihood of mud in the lowlands and, possibly, two tricky crossings if there has been a lot of rainfall. We will learn about wildflowers, both native and exotic, and the impact of development along riparian areas. Trail has remains of mills and an old fort and dam. There will be a cookie break at Pot Rocks, an area of geological interest and an optional lunch stop afterwards at a local inn. Bring footwear that can handle mud and wet, drinking water, and your favorite PG-rated limericks to share. This trip is suitable for families with older children. Meet at the Gunpowder Falls State Park parking lot at the Gunpowder River Bridge on Belair Road (about 10 minutes north of the beltway) at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Joyce Fletcher (GB) 410-254-7240.

Saturday, Apr 28

Kelly Run & Pinnacle Overlook (*rated moderate*) Hike 7 to 8 miles with great views of the Susquehanna River. Good chance of seeing bald eagles. Meet at K-Mart on Belair Road (Rt.1) just north of Beltway Exit 32 at 10 a.m. Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963.



Saturday, May 5

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

BICO Outings

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

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

January 2007

- 12-15 Overnight trip, Blackburn Cabin DHH
- 13 National Aquarium DHILL
- 20 Scavenger hunt & ice skating at Patterson Park (Backup date: 27) FYC

February 2007

- 2-4 Overnights at Blackburn Cabin DHILL
- 10 Environmental crafts and snow tubing at Liberty Mountain FYC
- 19 Smithsonian Museums DHH

March 2007

- 2-4 Camping, Elk Neck DHH
- 24 Hiking, Rocks State Park FYC (Backup date: 31)

April 2007

- 6 or 13 Camping, Luray Caverns DHH
- 21 Living Classroom's shipboard education program FYC

May 2007

- 12 Hiking, Billy Goat Trail DHH
- 19-20 Blackburn Cabin overnight FYC

June 2007

- TBD Patuxent River Sojourn, hosted by Alliance for Chesapeake Bay DHH

July 2007

- TBD Camping, Pocomoke DHH

BICO Teams:

- CG CC (College Gardens Community Center)
- DHILL (Dickey Hill)
- DHH (Digital Harbor High)
- 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.

Catoctin

Catoctin Group Excom Candidates' Statements

Kim Stanley

I've served as the Catoctin Group chair for 3 terms (6 years) and have worked to re-energize the group with regularly scheduled executive committee meetings and new programs. With the help of fellow excom members, we have generated a new web page, launched active Cool Cities campaigns in Frederick and Westminster, and sponsored a range of outings and events. We continue to partner with individuals and groups to host educational programs in our communities. I'm seeking re-election to this committee to help keep the momentum going. I'd like to organize an invasive species removal team and establish Sierra Club Student Coalitions on college campuses in our area. I'm a deep ecologist who believes that education and a spiritual connection to Nature are necessary for any real, systemic change to occur. Ours is a noble cause. The more help we have the more we can do. Join our team. It's rewarding to work with a dedicated group of people who care about the future of our planet and humanity. I can assure you: you won't be asked to do any more than you want or feel capable of doing. Together, we can change the world.

Neal Spungen

I've been an outdoor enthusiast for the past 30 years. I enjoy hiking, biking, camping, and white water rafting. I served as a Boy Scout leader and led several camping trips. I've lived in the Mt. Airy area for about 15 years. I have my own company that focuses on helping high-tech companies develop new business. I am passionate about protecting the environment, and see volunteering on the Catoctin executive board as a way to make a difference.

Catoctin Group Excom Ballot
Carroll, Frederick, & Washington Counties ONLY

Joint Member Only

☐ ☐ I am a member of the Catoctin Group. I live in Carroll, Frederick, or Washington County.

VOTE FOR UP TO 3 (THREE) CANDIDATES.

Joint Member Only

- ☐ ☐ Kim Stenley: See Kim's statement at left on page 22.
- ☐ ☐ Neal Spungen: See Neal's statement on at left on page 22.
- ☐ ☐ Other: You may write in another member, even yourself!

Catoctin Group Voters Only: Please vote for both Catoctin Group excom and Maryland Chapter excom. Leave your Catoctin Group excom ballot attached to your Maryland Chapter excom ballot and send to the address shown on the Chapter ballot below.

Maryland Chapter Excom Ballot
All Chapter Members

Vote for no more than three (3) candidates.
(Candidates' statements appear on page 4)

Clip and return to:
Election Committee
Maryland Chapter/Sierra Club
Room 101A
7338 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Ballots must be received by January 12, 2007.

Leaders of the Sierra Club are chosen democratically from candidates who volunteer their time and talent to protect our Earth. Please honor this democratic tradition by voting.

Joint Member
Only

- ☐ ☐ Bonnie Bick
- ☐ ☐ Jon Robinson
- ☐ ☐ Joan Seward Willey



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

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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.



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