

Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Autumn 2007

Cool Cities and Counties Fight Global Warming

Chapter's Campaign Brings New Commitments to Reduce Emissions of Greenhouse Gases

By Dave O'Leary—As the weather cools down this fall, our level of activity around global warming is heating up. It is difficult to avoid news about global warming and climate change. Our challenge is to convince people (citizens, elected officials, business owners, and others) to take action.

Here are the most important things for you to do:

First, write or call Governor O'Malley, urging him to work with the Maryland Commission on Climate Change to commit the state to strong action in reducing global warming impact.

Second, find out what is going on in your local community, and encourage action at the local level. Check with the Sierra Club Cool Cities committee to get the latest information for your area.

Third, talk with your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and any organizations about what they can do to reduce their global warming impact.

Some great news is that we have additional help this fall. The Club has hired two enthusiastic organizers, Annie Sanders and Claire Miller, to work with us. Annie and Claire are Green Corps organizers who arrived in Maryland at the end of August and will be working with us through early December.

In July, the National Association of Counties created a program called "Cool Counties," similar to the

(continued on page 16)

Nuclear "Solution" Includes Hidden Costs

By Frank Fox—Potential local economic gain should not drive state and federal energy policy. The people of Maryland would be better served by a thoughtful long-term conservation and energy efficiency program that reduces demand for electrical energy. The assertion that nuclear power is the only energy source capable of solving global warming in the short term is erroneous.

According to New Mexico Sierra Club staffer Shrayas A. Jatar, an expansion of nuclear power will damage the environment in several ways: Uranium enrichment—an integral stage in the nuclear fuel cycle—releases chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) into the atmosphere, contributing to the depletion of the ozone layer. The uranium enrichment plant in Paducah, Kentucky, is the largest source of CFC emissions in the U.S. Uranium mining, milling and conversion, as well as transportation and plant construction activities, also foul our air with carbon emissions.



Furthermore, nuclear power cannot make a decisive difference in the short term. An additional 1,500 to 2,000 nuclear reactors are required to make a sizable impact on global warming, according to studies conducted by MIT and the International Atomic Energy

(continued on page 6)

Court of Appeals To Hear Suit Filed by Terrapin Run Opponents

By Dale Sams—The Maryland Court of Appeals has agreed to hear the lawsuit filed by opponents of Terrapin Run, a large-scale development project proposed for Allegany County by PDC, Inc., of Columbia, Maryland.

Terrapin Run is a proposed 4,300-unit housing development and commercial center that would be located on a 935-acre tract of forest land in the rural Town Hill area of eastern Allegany County. It would be adjacent to Green Ridge State Forest and the Billmeyer Wildlife Management Area along a stretch of Scenic Route 40, approximately 25 miles east of Cumberland and 45 miles west of Hagerstown. The nearest elementary school is 15 miles to the west in Flintstone, and the nearest middle and high schools are in Cumberland, approximately 30 miles away. Water supplies are limited in the area. To compensate, the developer has proposed to take surface water from Fifteen Mile Creek, a Tier II stream*, to supplement the limited ground water that is available. He has also proposed to build a waste treatment plant at some undetermined point in the future, from which approximately one million gallons of effluent would be discharged daily into a small, often-dry stream called Terrapin Run, which flows into Fifteen Mile Creek and ultimately into the Potomac River.

If built as proposed, Terrapin Run would become the second largest city in Allegany County, more popu-

(continued on page 5)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Contents

Contents

- 2 Sierra Club Mourns Death of Mary Marsh
- 2 In Memory of Meyer Zeiler
- 2 In Memory of Hans Scheltema
- 3 ICC!!! CCC!!! I-95 Expansions!!! YECCCHHH!!
- 4 The Other Connector—Taking Aim at the Heart of Mattawoman Creek
- 6 A Third Reactor at Calvert Cliffs? An Update from a Public Hearing in Calvert County
- 7 Public Comments Sought as Administration Eases Rules for Mountaintop Removal Mining
- 8 Eating for a Healthy Planet
- 9 Resilient Habitats and the Effects of Warming on Wild Places
- 10 Rachel Carson's Legacy Attacked by Right-Wing Misinformation Campaign
- 12 Is China Headed for Sustainable Development?
- 14 Group News Roundup
- 16 Nominations for Chapter Excom Sought
- 17 Maryland Chapter Leaders
- 18 Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Outings
- 22 Outings Near and Far
- 22 Outings
- 26 BICO Outings
- 26 Opportunity for Organizer
- 26 Letters to the Editor
- 27 Jamboree 2007 Registration

Remember to Register!

Maryland Chapter Jamboree!

October 19-21,
Catoctin National Park

Registration Form on Page 27

In Memorium

Sierra Club Mourns Death of Mary Marsh

Sierra Club members throughout the state are mourning the death of long-time activist Mary Marsh, who lived in Arnold and served the club and the state's environmental movement for many years.

Mary, 48, died July 5 after suffering a stroke the day before. She is survived by her husband Steven and two adult daughters, Elizabeth and Kathryn.

"Mary's death is a tremendous loss to the Maryland environmental community," said Anne Arundel Group Chair David Prosten. "She was incredibly knowledgeable and a real fighter."

Over the years Mary had served on the Anne Arundel Sierra Club's Executive Committee and had been group political chair from 2002 through 2005. She had also served the Sierra Club at the statewide level by serving at times as state legislative chair and state membership chair.

At the time of her death she was employed as an environmental consultant for EcoLogix Group, working with community groups, government agencies, and corporations to bring them together to understanding and agreement on projects so that the environment would be protected. Previous to this she served as president of the Maryland Conservation Council, a coalition of environmental groups. She also had served as managing editor of the Conservation Report, a newsletter for coordinating legislative actions and informing legislators on critical environmental efforts in Maryland.

She was an advisor to the 2007 gubernatorial transition Energy Working Group and had served on numerous Maryland State advisory committees over the years.

She was a candidate for county council in 1998 and had helped pro-environment candidates in many races.

The Anne Arundel Sierra Club made a memorial contribution in her name to the Maryland Conservation Council. ■

In Memory of Meyer Zeiler

Meyer Zeiler was born in Los Angeles 93 years ago and died in June, 2007 in Rockville, Maryland. A committed Sierra Club member, Meyer took action in opposition to the Glen Canyon dam construction, took his family on Sierra Club Base Camp trips to the Sierra Nevadas in the 1960's, and supported the formation of Santa Monica Mountain National Recreation Area.

Meyer passed his love and appreciation for the importance of a legacy of wilderness to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchild.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club.

In Memory of Hans Scheltema

Johannes (Hans) Scheltema, 79, died August 11, 2007. Hans was an avid outdoorsman who, with his children, led numerous family hiking and backpacking trips for the Greater Baltimore Sierra Club in the 1970's. He held a long-time interest in alternative energy sources. Before it was fashionable to do so, he commuted to work by bike, and developed rooftop solar hot water systems for his home. In 1977, he moved to York County, PA, where he spent years working on his dream to live self sufficiently, off the power grid, and to raise his own food.

He retired from the State of Maryland Department of Health in 1992, where he worked as a health physicist for many years. After retirement, Hans volunteered with a York County group to monitor water quality in the Codorus Creek. He resided in Glen Rock, PA. He is survived by his wife, Grace Heckman Scheltema, and his four children, Christina Scheltema and Hans Scheltema of Washington, DC, Katrina Sweeney of Matawan, NJ, and Rose Scheltema of Venice, CA.

Contributions in memory of Hans may be made to the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Fighting Sprawl



**ICC!!! CCC!!!!
I-95 EXPANSIONS!!!!
YECCCHHHHH!!!!**

By Ron Henry —From Harford County through Baltimore City, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's and Charles Counties, the "solutions" Marylanders are offered for traffic clog seem to be more lanes, more highways, more connectors. If we were waiting for a transportation crisis, it's here, and it is high time for all of us to stop this mode of participation (or lack thereof)! If we don't act, we risk losing everything that is most necessary and valuable to us, from the perspective of our quality of life. Simply, we risk incomprehensible environmental damage to our state.

It is time to open our eyes fully and to be sure we are truly awake, alert, and aware! By not paying close attention and thinking through what is being planned and stated by transportation officials—and more importantly, reading between the lines for what is not being stated—we are in severe danger of being taken for the "ride of our lives!" Unfortunately, that ride won't be on mass transit, the only practical solution for the long term.

It is totally incongruous for our political establishment to state—on the one hand—that global warming and climate change is a threat so severe that, starting now, all that can be done must be done if there is to be any hope of arresting and possibly reversing it, and then, with full realization that the major contributor to

CO₂ emissions and greenhouse gases is motor vehicles, to fund major highway expansions so that more motor vehicles will be creating more CO₂ emissions.

All of this takes place while cutting funds for mass transportation, such as commuter rail lines and expanded bus transportation!

Current plans call for various expansions of highways in several of our counties. In Montgomery, Howard and Prince George's Counties, the ICC debacle continues! In the southern Maryland areas of Prince George's and Charles counties, the CCC debacle continues! In the area of Howard County near Fort Meade, development pressure exacerbated by Base Reduction and Closing (BRAC) matters, the ICC and a proposed "Shopping Mall Mecca" and concomitant other developments are major drivers! In Harford and Baltimore counties, in response to BRAC considerations, a huge, costly I-95 expansion is proposed. It would involve an increase to eight lanes in each direction (with HOV and EZ Pass-only lanes, and tolls on the others), gigantic interchanges at each major state route (MD 24, MD 22, MD 152, etc.), and the attendant environmental wetland construction issues!

On the surface it appears that this is as it should be, for it is very easy for one to be lulled by the hype that all of these things are completely necessary and there

are no other ways to accomplish it—no other recourse!

Just what do each of these expansions mean to the Marylanders already living in the respective counties? In Harford County, particularly for those who travel every day to work in Baltimore City or other counties, it will probably be a very welcome, but temporary, reprieve from many of the horrendous driving times currently experienced!

But, hear this: It is temporary! The I-95 expansion with those gigantic large land-eating areas (wetlands at that!) at each interchange and increased lanes will serve only to drop you off into the local road system a little further away from I-95. This will eventually create another traffic bottleneck, which, within a few years, citizens will demand to alleviate. Read that as an open invitation to expand the "development envelope" to accommodate developers' demands. If we don't limit the proposed I-95 expansion and the intended gigantic interchanges, then we will have created an inverse "Field of Dreams"—build the I-95 expansion and "they will come!" How easy it is to be drawn into a scenario that is exactly what we do not want to pass on to our future generations! I shudder to think that my future progeny may someday say, "My granddad did not do enough to prevent this!!"

Is this a current event? You bet! In Baltimore County, in the White Marsh area located at the I-95/I-695 Beltway complex, a colossal multi-cloverleaf interchange is already in progress! Are these plans "done deals"? Some like the one just described may well be!

BUT, that does not mean that the rest cannot be challenged! And those must be successfully challenged or the efforts we are expending and have expended with respect to reducing CO₂ and greenhouse gas emissions with legislation will be for naught! ALL of these things are very much connected, and it is very much a

system effect!

I have focused on the I-95 Expansion /Interchanges and the negative effects it will have on Harford County's land usage and subsequent quality of life. The same concerns are applicable to the ICC debacle for Montgomery, Howard and Prince George Counties, the BRAC- pressure-engendered Howard County proposed "Shopping Mall Mecca" concerns, and the CCC debacle for southern Maryland in Prince George and Charles Counties.

In each of these, there are severe concomitant environmental issues that argue against the proposed paving, whether it is the ICC, CCC, or I-95 expansion.

Am I missing something here? I don't believe so. The missing element is the lack of intestinal fortitude and will-power to commit to what must be done!

I challenge you to make that commitment with me! Let us pass on to the next seven generations what is rightfully theirs. It must be done! We can do it by becoming proactive through writing "Letters to the Editor," letters of comment and concern to the State Highway Administration, the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board, all elected officials for city, county, and state, as well as our Maryland Congressional Representatives and Senators. But most important, we must first change our attitudes and commitments so that we can be effective advocates for the changes that are needed. ■

Ron Henry chairs the Greater Baltimore Group and serves as Vice Chair of the Maryland Chapter. He can be reached at RonLHenry@msn.com.

The “Other Connector”—Taking Aim at the Heart of Mattawoman Creek

New highways unleash a flood of new urbanization, with discouraging results for the health of the Chesapeake Bay. At a time when Bay restoration remains illusive, forces are working to piecemeal the construction of the Maryland leg of an outer beltway, which would bury huge tracts of forested watershed with the impervious surface of roofs, roads, and parking lots associated with degraded aquatic resources. The proposed InterCounty Connector between Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, the Waldorf Bypass proposed for Prince George's and Charles Counties, and Charles County's own desire to extend a Cross County Connector across the Mattawoman Creek watershed all point to providing the pavement or enabling the growth to promote a new Potomac crossing at Chicamuxen, a dream of outer beltway builders incorporated in plans since the early 90's.

Against the backdrop of these highway proposals, it is now official that Bay restoration efforts are unable to cope with the flood of urbanization. A 2006 report released this past spring by the Chesapeake Bay Program finds “pollution increases associated with land development (e.g., converting farms and forests to urban/suburban developments) have surpassed the gains achieved from improved landscape design and stormwater management practices. The rapid rate of population growth and related residential and commercial development has made this pollution sector the only one in the Bay watershed to still be growing, and thus ‘progress’ is negative.” (See http://www.chesapeakebay.net/assess/2006_restoration.htm.)

As the costs of Chesapeake clean-up efforts demonstrate, an ounce of preservation is worth a pound of restoration. Because of the present high value of Mattawoman Creek, it serves as a poster child of what is at stake if preservation is

neglected. State studies document Mattawoman as a key to the Potomac River's largemouth bass fishery and Maryland's most productive nursery for migratory fish, to such a degree that fisheries biologists have advised Charles County government that it is “the best, most productive tributary to the Bay.” This gem is in jeopardy, however, because its watershed is nearing the tipping point of 10% impervious cover, widely acknowledged as a threshold not to be crossed if significant degradation is to be avoided (see Fig. 1).

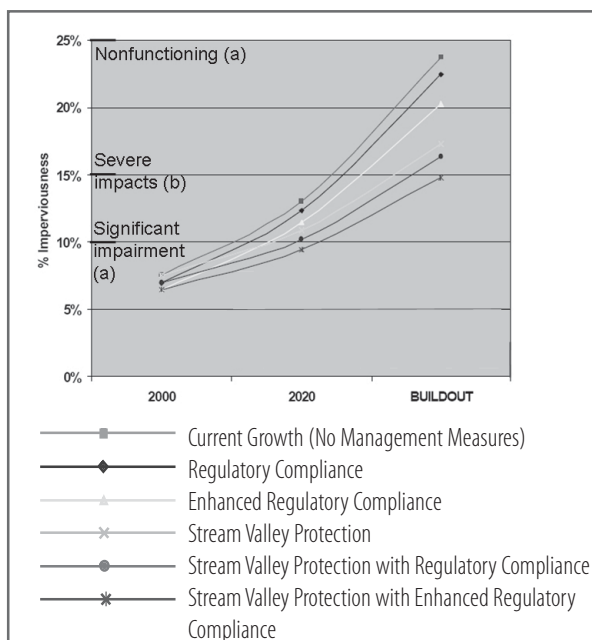


Fig. 1 Projection of the fraction of the Mattawoman watershed covered with impervious surface for various management scenarios. Graph is copied from Charles County's Mattawoman Watershed Management Plan authored by the Army Corps of Engineers. The characterizations of impairment have been added based on: (a) Center for Watershed Protection; (b) the Watershed Management Plan itself.

Yet county officials are clamoring for permits to build a new four-lane highway, the Cross County Connector extension, which if built would slice through Mattawoman's watershed, pumping Bryans Road into a growth center like Waldorf and smothering a large swath of

watershed with sprawl development. The proximity of the highway to areas presently zoned rural conservation (deferred) would tempt upzoning and accelerate the loss of even more forest, the best land use for aquatic quality. The area that would be impacted drains into Mattawoman reaches used by spawning River Herring, a migratory ocean species that is severely depleted along the Atlantic seaboard, but which concentrates in Mattawoman and is an important reason the Creek is considered so valuable.

County officials acknowledge the high value of the Creek but, when confronted with threats posed by the highway, hold up as a shield technology like stormwater management and best management practices. But as the Chesapeake Bay Program report cited above makes clear, such measures are no magic potion: urbanization is overtaking our efforts to protect aquatic resources. Furthermore, the County's own Watershed Management Plan finds that such measures, while necessary, fail to adequately protect the resource (see Fig. 1).

Preservation remains our best means for protecting valuable resources. This could be accomplished by outright land preservation, proper administration of smart growth concepts like concentrating development in present growth centers (growing up) and servicing these areas with public transportation including light rail, and imposing caps on impervious surface area.

It appears that the county would

rather not know the impacts of the highway. Hoping to replace knowledge with politics, Charles County officials have asked Senator Cardin for aid in obtaining permits before review of cumulative and indirect impacts. In fact, the county denies any growth-inducing effects of its highway proposal. According to the *Maryland Independent*, this is causing problems for the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps, along with the Maryland Department of Environment, must make wetland-permitting decisions for the highway using a process that meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

John Griffin, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, augments the battle cry of Smart Growth with the admonition to “grow wiser.” It would be smarter if all parties recognized the wisdom of full study of this new Charles County highway proposal through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If properly scoped, an EIS would inform on many fronts, including indirect and cumulative impacts and climate change issues, that should be of keen interest to true stewards of our environment and quality of life. In addition, alternatives could be examined in detail, such as the obvious one making use of recently constructed Route 228 and widened Middletown Road. Remarkably, neither permitting agencies nor the county have taken steps to require an EIS for a new, dualized four lane highway aimed at the heart of Mattawoman. Instead, they appear ready to rush the process. In response, the Sierra Club, Maryland Bass Federation Nation, and Mattawoman Watershed Society have formally requested an EIS.

If the Bay is to be restored, we cannot afford to lose what remains viable. For Mattawoman Creek, the impacts of

(continued on page 5)

Fighting Sprawl

CCC Threatens Pristine Mattawoman Creek

(continued from page 4)

new highways in its watershed, such as the Cross County Connector extension and the western Waldorf Bypass, would tip the balance toward irreversible and severe degradation. We would have replaced a preservation opportunity with a restoration project. Additional stepping stones and false motivation would have been placed by the development industry for an outer beltway, which would inflict far flung and deep environmental damage on the region. A first step to avoiding this scenario is fully informed decision making, which an EIS is supposed to support.

What you can do:

Get informed: check out www.mattawomanwatershed.org

Get involved: ask to be included on the mailing list using the form at the above website.

Attend an upcoming but yet unannounced wetland hearing: there will be a wetland hearing on the Cross County Connector extension at some time in the near future. When the date of the hearing is known, it will be announced on the website and emailed to those on the mailing list. The hearing will be held in the evening, probably near Waldorf or La Plata. *A large turnout will be invaluable* in convincing the Army Corps and Maryland Dept. of Environment that the public cares about water quality and the Bay, and convincing them to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. In addition, controversy can serve as an argument for triggering an EIS. ■

This article was provided by the Mattawoman Watershed Society, www.mattawomanwatershed.org.

Terrapin Run Opponents Go to Court

(continued from page 1)

lous than Frostburg in half the area, with some 11,000 to 12,000 residents. Traffic on the narrow and winding Scenic National Road would increase from approximately 500 to over 31,000 vehicle trips per day.

Terrapin Run received approval of its application for a Special Exception under the Allegany County zoning ordinance in 2005 on a split decision by the Allegany County Board of Zoning Appeals. The Zoning Board based its decision on the finding that there would be no site-specific adverse impact caused by such a development and that the development was "in harmony" with the county's Comprehensive Plan. Opponents, believing that the Zoning Board had failed to adhere to the Comprehensive Plan when it granted the special exception, filed suit in Circuit Court, arguing that the proposed development had to "conform" to the Comprehensive Plan as required by the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR).

When the Circuit Court decided that the Zoning Board had used the incorrect test in its deliberations and instructed that the case was to be reconsidered under a more stringent standard of "consistent with" the Comprehensive Plan, opponents filed an appeal to the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, continuing to argue that the correct standard would require the development to "conform" to the Comprehensive Plan.

In its 2007 opinion, the Court of Special Appeals stated that the Comprehensive Plan is merely advisory in nature, that strict compliance is not required, and that terms such as "in harmony with," "consistent with," and "conformity" are essentially interchangeable. It reaffirmed the original findings of the Allegany County Board of Zoning Appeals.

Opponents then filed their petition

for a writ of certiorari with the Court of Appeals. The Maryland Department of Planning, believing that the decision of the Court of Special Appeals undermines citizen-based planning in Maryland and threatens the tenets of Maryland's Smart Growth visions, also filed a petition to enter the case. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation also requested to enter the case.

The Court of Appeals granted the opponents' petition on August 22, and also granted the petitions of the Maryland Department of Planning and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to participate in the case. Argument in the case is scheduled for December. ■

**Per the Maryland Department of Environment, a Tier II Stream is a high-quality stream whose water conditions are better than necessary to support fishing and swimming.*

The Maryland Chapter considers this a precedent setting case and has contributed financially to the costs of the lawsuit.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

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
Sierra Club
Room 101A
7338 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Get \$5: Use a Canvas or Net Bag

Frequently carrying flimsy plastic grocery bags caused a painful nodule on my left middle finger. The nodule disappeared after I began using a canvas shopping bag that I bought for \$.99. The canvas bag was vastly superior ergonomically; the annoyances of full plastic and paper bags ripping and of having bags to recycle disappeared; and some markets gave me at checkout a small rebate for using the canvas bag.

I want to encourage others to switch. If you send me a receipt for a canvas or net bag, with a promise to use it, and your name and address, I will send you \$5.

B. Brody, 10300 Strathmore Hall St., #212, N. Bethesda, MD 20852.
Offer limited to first 50 respondents. One rebate per person.
Offer expires 11/1/07.

A Third Reactor at Calvert Cliffs?

Nuclear “Solution” Has Hidden Costs

(continued from page 1)

Agency. This translates to a new reactor coming online every two weeks for the next 60 years—an impossible schedule given that the current average time frame ranges from six to 10 years.

Nuclear power is not a solution to global warming in the long term either. Nuclear power only addresses electricity generation, and not emissions from vehicles and buildings.

Jatkar also notes that reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel would not obviate the need for multiple Yucca Mountain radioactive waste storage centers. Reprocessing does not reduce the volume of waste: fuel pellet volume is magnified; high-level liquid waste is created; and radioactive gases such as tritium are released into the environment. Similarly, reprocessing does not lower the total radioactivity of the waste—it only spreads out the radioactivity into multiple forms.

Reprocessing, which is sometimes referred to as recycling, has been an environmental and economic disaster. In the United States alone, storage tanks containing reprocessing waste are leaking and threatening nearby bodies of water as well as the communities that depend on them. Examples include the Snake River Aquifer (Idaho National Laboratories, ID), the Savannah River (Savannah River Site, SC), and the Columbia River (Hanford Nuclear Reservation, WA).

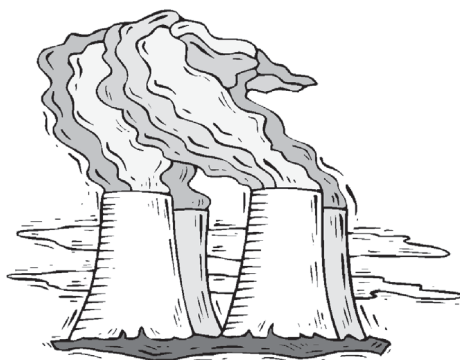
As Harvard University’s Matthew Bunn notes, reprocessing also leads to the proliferation of weapons-grade plutonium, which would make the world less secure.

Nuclear power, like coal, should be a relic of the past, and has no place in our energy future. The only way that the nuclear industry has survived this long is with the support of huge government subsidies—in other words, at the expense of taxpayers. Far better alternatives exist, including energy efficiency measures, conservation, and wind and solar power generation.

We here in Maryland should embrace a green energy economy, which would attract investment, provide good jobs, meet our country’s energy needs, and save consumers money, while protecting our health and environment. Unlike nuclear power, we need not wait 10 years to enjoy the benefits of a local, green energy economy.

Transition away from dirty, fossil fuel-based energy can promote new jobs and manufacturing here in the United States while creating safe, clean energy. American ingenuity can also vastly expand conservation through development of fuel-efficient vehicles, energy-saving lighting, and innovative building techniques.

This year both houses of the Maryland General Assembly considered the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2007 (SB 409/HB 890) which is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland. Neither SB 409 or HB 890 were voted out of committee. We must encourage passage of this strong legislation next year to fight global warming, clean up the Chesapeake Bay, and protect our health. ■



An Update from a Public Hearing in Calvert County

By Bob Boxwell—August 14 marked the opening round of the public involvement in the UniStar proposal to build a third nuclear reactor at Calvert Cliffs. Though billed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as “an information hearing about the application process,” the event was more of a pep rally for the company. Most of the audience not wearing suits and ties (the official wear of the NRC) were employees of the company. The business community also showed up in force to support the perceived economic benefits of the proposed expansion. Unistar was depicted as a stalwart corporate citizen whose employees donated over 2,000 hours of community service annually. But for a company of 800 employees, I personally was not overly impressed.

Most of the pro-nuclear statements were just that—statements, not questions. And when legitimate questions were asked, frequently the answers were non-answers. An example was the question I posed: “What is the contingency plan for citizens living south of the plant for evacuation in case of an emergency, if the bridge is closed as it was in the late 1980’s?” The “answer” from Sheriff Mike Evans was that the county keeps informed of traffic flow and issues with the bridge. I felt like a little boy getting his head patted. “There, there, don’t worry (be happy), we have a plan. Can’t tell you what it is (as was the later response after the meeting to another Club member), but we have a plan.” Delegate Jamieson from Charles County even called nuclear power “green” energy. Glowing green, perhaps. Even if a nuclear plant does not produce greenhouse gases in the production of the power, it certainly produces it during the extraction and processing of the fuel.

Another old saw brought out was that it would reduce our dependence on foreign markets for our fuel. Oh, really? Seventy percent of nuclear fuel is im-

ported. And guess who is financing a large portion of this expansion? “Citizens of the United States” is an acceptable answer! UniStar, a consortium formed by Constellation Energy and the French company AREVA, has secured a pledge for \$300 million in tax relief from Calvert County, and is demanding that the U.S. Department of Energy agree to back 100% of the debt.

Think a new reactor will lower our skyrocketing energy bills in Calvert County? Think again. The power produced here is sold on the open market (and by the way, 2015 is the date I am hearing before we might see any power coming out of this new reactor).

It boils down to economics. The company promises new jobs during construction and new positions once on line. With the deficits facing all levels of government, this is an enticing argument. So enticing the county will give them a 50% discount on their taxes the first fifteen years of production. Wow! What a precedent. Maybe we can locate the low-level nuclear waste facility here too, since I am sure that will provide jobs and tax revenue as well. We’ll need somewhere to put that waste, once Barnesville, South Carolina shuts down in two years.

Meanwhile, tons of radioactive spent-fuel rods continue to be stored on site. If the new reactor does go forth, Calvert County will have the largest nuclear facility in the country. Why do I feel like I have a target on my back? ■



Public Comments Sought as Administration Offers Rule to Ease the Way for Mountaintop Removal and Stream Destruction



approved 1,603 more valley fills that have destroyed or will destroy 535 more miles of streams.

Rather than enforcing the buffer zone rule, on August 24, 2007 OSM proposed exempting from the rule the very mountaintop removal activities that are most

destructive to streams, including dumping into “permanent excess spoil fills, and coal waste disposal facilities” (that is, giant valley fills and sludge-filled lagoons). The proposal would allow more than 1,000 miles of streams to be destroyed each decade after it goes into effect.¹ According to Earthjustice, a non-profit public interest law firm, “This wholesale exemption for mountaintop removal mining will have significant impact to downstream water quality, permanently filling and destroying important headwaters that feed larger waters that function as drinking water sources and fishing and recreational waters for thousands of Americans.”

Also on August 24, 2007, the Bush administration released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to go along with the proposed rule change. Federal law requires an EIS to accompany a proposal and, here, requires the EIS to analyze alternatives to repealing the buffer zone rule. But this EIS does not even consider leaving the buffer zone rule in place. Joan Mulhern, Senior Legislative Counsel for Earthjustice, called OSM, for this and its past behavior, the “Office for Slicing Mountains” and “Office of Stream Mangling.”

And once these streams are destroyed, they are probably gone forever. The OSM assumes all stream loss will be

fully “mitigated,” even though it freely admits that stream mitigation has generally failed.

The OSM itself wrote, “While proven methods exist for larger stream channel restoration and creation, the state of the art in creating smaller headwater streams onsite has not reached the level of reproducible success... Attempts to re-establish the functions of headwater streams... have achieved little success to date.” Dianne Bady, of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, said, “The coal companies have yet to show that they can successfully recreate streams after they completely destroy these mountains and bury these waters....”

The OSM is accepting public comment on this proposed rule change until October 23, 2007. Please take the opportunity to oppose this rule change. A sample comment is presented below, but you are encouraged to compose your own comment in response to this proposed gift to the coal industry as it continues to level the Appalachians.

Comments can be submitted by U.S. mail or on the internet. If you comment by mail, address your letter to OSMRE
Administrative Record
Room 252 SIB
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20240.
Please identify your comment by writing on it: RIN 1029-AC04.

To submit your comments via the internet:

1. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main>.
2. Scroll down to Search Documents.
3. Under Optional Step 2, click on the drop-down box and scroll down to Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Reinforcement.

4. Click on that name to select it.

5. Click on Submit button which appears beneath “optional step 4.” Results are displayed.

6. Click on the yellow comment icon shown for Document ID OSM-2007-0007-0001, Excess Spoil, Coal Mine Waste, and Buffers for Waters of the United States. The comment form will appear.

7. Enter your comments and click on Next Step to review your entries. Review your comment and click Submit.

Please do not let the “user unfriendliness” of this government site stop you from making a comment! ■

This material was provided by The Appalachian Center for the Economy and the Environment (www.appalachian-center.org), Earthjustice (www.earthjustice.org) and Public Justice (www.publicjustice.net). For more information, see www.wvhighlands.org

(Endnotes)

¹ To see the proposal, go to www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main, and search for Document ID “OSM-2007-0007-0001.”

SAMPLE COMMENT

Excess Spoil, Coal Mine Waste,
and Buffers for Waters of the
United States:
Docket Number RIN 1029-AC04

Please do not weaken or eliminate the decades-old stream buffer zone rule. This rule, when enforced, is important in preventing coal mining wastes from causing further degradation and destruction of streams in Appalachia. Thank you for considering my opinion.

True Cost of Food

Eating for a Healthy Planet

True Cost of Food – A Campaign Whose Time Has Come

In just two years some 20 Sustainable Consumption committees have sprung up nation-wide in the Sierra Club to promote an Earth-friendly diet. Events have varied from a few folks enjoying a potluck to hundreds of people attending a fund-raising concert with gourmet appetizers.

Why have these outings proved so popular?

- ♦ They're a great new angle on having fun while helping the Earth. A mantra of the True Cost of Food campaign is "Eat for your health and your planet's health."
- ♦ Multitudes of Earth-friendly people are conscientious about diet and health. This is a reservoir of environmentalism that Sierrans have not fully tapped.
- ♦ Local Sierrans are always looking for innovative ideas to build membership while raising ecological consciousness.

Now for some background

The planet simply cannot sustain our wasteful lifestyle indefinitely. In the U.S. we consume ten times more resources per capita than the median for all other countries, and about double that of the other industrialized nations. But that's not all. Goaded by U.S.-driven globalization, the rest of the world is scrambling to catch up. Take, for instance, the 1.3 billion Chinese—over four times the U.S. population—who also are striving to drive Hummers, eat fast-food jumbo burgers, and refrigerate their homes in summer. China has made it a top priority to surpass the U.S. economy by about 2020.

What can we, as individuals, do about this?

A lot, it turns out. The Union of Concerned Scientists states that individuals can make a big difference by shifting a few basic consumption choices. Not surprisingly, the number one choice involves energy, especially in transportation or in

heating and cooling our homes. But a clear number two involves our diet. Three times a day we can help the planet by shifting our food choices towards more:

- ♦ Plant-based
- ♦ Organic
- ♦ Locally-grown

These rules are not doctrinaire. Simply put, the more you choose plant-based, organic, or locally grown, the better. How much better, you ask? The Sierra Club's True Cost of Food campaign wants you to know that:

- ♦ For each a pound of beef you pass up, you save a gallon of gasoline, 2500 gallons of water, five pounds of grain and an acre of land that went into its production.
- ♦ By choosing certified organic food, you keep a toxic brew of pesticides and chemicals out of the soil, water, and air.
- ♦ The average U.S. meal travels 2,000 miles to reach our tables. If you avoid imported foods or support farmers markets, you can prevent thousands of pounds emissions from polluting the atmosphere.

These choices protect not only the environment's health but your own. The highest mortality in the U.S. now stems from an epidemic of degenerative diseases linked to the saturated fats, empty calories, pesticides, and chemicals that we ingest. On the other hand, numerous studies have shown that a diet high in whole grains, legumes, fresh vegetables and fruit prolongs both length and quality of life. Buying organic, moreover, decreases our exposure to toxins, while locally grown foods retain more nutrients along with flavor.

American Agribusiness trumpets our diet as the most plentiful, tasty, and affordable in history, and pushes it relentlessly through saturation advertising, fast-food outlets, and 'hundred-acre' supermarkets. We have seen, however, that this "cheap" food has an exceedingly high—

and largely hidden—cost to our health and to our planet. But now the Sierra Club is exposing these costs through its True Cost of Food campaign and acclaimed video (See contacts below).

So far we have laid out how your individual food choices can make a difference. But now, let's look at how you can magnify that impact through the grass-roots activism that is the Sierra Club's greatest strength. Here is a sampling of what is possible:

Terry Jensen has engaged both large Sierran groups in the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex. One of their current programs is called 'Sustainable Sundays,' an example of which was a plant-based restaurant buffet that drew close to 100 for socializing, updates on sustainability, and a "walk-it-off" hike afterwards. These events have inspired a nearby Texas group—which had been struggling to put on meetings—to reinvigorate itself around similar events.

Diana Artemis, of the D.C. area, has reached out to both sides of the Potomac with a smorgasbord of outings ranging from a trip to a local organic farm to a cooking demo by ethnic chefs at a member's home. These events often bring in a speaker on a relevant topic, say, smart-growth alternatives to the sprawl overrunning family farms and small businesses.

Lynn Heath of Orange County, CA included fellow food activists to form a local True Cost of Food committee that started off spectacularly with environmentalist actor Ed Begley, Jr. who key-noted a hike-and-dine event with his message of simplicity and sustainability. Next they sponsored a concert with organic food and wine that drew 300 people; this event was her local group's largest in years.

Now, along with regular restaurant events, they are planning an organic gardening party and a possible joint nutrition outreach with the Club's Inner City

Outings.

Most of our Sustainable Consumption committees around the country hold Earth-friendly dining outings. We might ask a restaurant to feature a plant-based meal. Conversely, we might set up one that features a menu of organic or locally-grown food that supports sustainable family farms. Restaurants are delighted to get the business, and local groups often add a fund-raising surcharge. These social events easily recruit new activists. Often people comment that they had been Club members for years, but had never attended a meeting before.

Would you like to get involved? The national Sustainable Consumption Committee is looking for folks to help locally with this campaign. Our popular 15 minute animated DVD, "The True Cost of Food," is a good way to get started. This gripping yet humorous video dramatizes what our so-called "cheap" food really costs and makes a great presentation for a local Club meeting.

Please don't hesitate to contact us for information, names of other interested people in your area, and guidance on how to approach your local Club leaders to include sustainable consumption and True Cost of Food among their outings and conservation efforts.

Contacts:

By email: Gordon LaBedz at
GLaBedzMD@aol.com.

By phone: Michael Beck at 818-246-3661 (24-hour phone number)

Websites:

Sierra Club Sustainable Consumption:
www.sierraclub.org/
sustainable_consumption

True Cost of Food Campaign and Video:
www.truecostoffood.org

Parks and Wild Lands

Resilient Habitats and the Effects of Warming on Wild Places

By Vicky Hoover—Climate change, or global warming, gives us new reasons to protect wild places. Conservation biologists have told us for decades that we need to preserve large wild core areas and to link them together with corridors to protect wildlife from the impacts of human development. Now we are learning that over a million species worldwide are at risk due to climate change, and protecting large wild places and linked corridors is one of the best strategies to provide for their survival. This gives us another special focus for our work to protect wild lands, a focus that is highly likely to engage broader public attention and interest.

Why climate change demands more protected habitat

Climate change stresses wildlife through alterations to its habitat. As weather warms, forests dry up and are more susceptible to insect infestations and fire; snowpack is reduced and runoff happens earlier; rivers, lakes and marine environments heat up; grasslands become drier; coral bleaches and dies; and ecosystems start to collapse and shift. Critters (and plants!) may need to move afield, most often northward or to a higher elevation in search of cooler habitats. While the ability to move might work for lower elevation species, some alpine species, like the pika and ptarmigan, cannot escape by moving higher. In the American West, extensive roadless areas on public lands provide the best habitat and potential wildlife movement corridors—especially when combined with existing wilderness and park areas. When roadless areas are joined together into a connected continental network of large core protected areas and corridors between them, they really help wildlife adapt to changing climates.

As noted above, habitat may also be lost to fires, which are expected to in-

crease as weather becomes warmer and drier and insect infestations spread to higher elevations. Roadless lands can make it easier for wildlife to relocate if fires shrink habitat. Furthermore, in roadless areas, human-caused fires may be less likely to start. Already, fires are a big issue throughout the West. The U.S. Forest Service has become the U.S. Fire Service, and fire fighting is now its largest budget item. Consider, for example, this summer's fires in Nevada. According to a July 21, 2007 press release by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the 2006 and 2007 wildland fires in Nevada are "an environmental disaster. We are losing habitat year after year, with no end in sight."

Fire intervals in Nevada are decreasing, the release continues. In lower elevation sagebrush habitat, historic 200-or-more year intervals have decreased to about 10 to 20 years. This decrease favors non-native species like flammable cheatgrass and doesn't let slower-growing sagebrush get established. Such habitat conversion threatens sage-dependent species such as sage grouse, sage thrasher, vesper sparrow, and pygmy rabbit; deer are losing critical winter range.

The idea of working for wildlife corridors is catching on around the world. According to a 7/9/07 Reuters news release, Australia plans to establish a continent-spanning wildlife corridor "to allow animals and plants to flee the effects of global warming." The 1740-mile "spine" will link Australia's southern snow-covered Alps with the tropical north.

Of course, global climate change is far from the only cause of stress to wildlife habitat. "We need to continue our vigilance against off-road vehicle incursions, overgrazing, poisoning of water from mining or toxic herbicides, timber clear cutting, and other damaging human activities everywhere," says Jerry Sutherland, of the Sierra Club national



Maryland Chapter Jamboree Catoctin National Park

This year, we'll be paying special attention to our **National Parks** as they turn 100, and to **global climate change**. Plan to join your fellow Sierrans for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and environmental awareness.

The registration form appears on page 27. For more info, call Laurel at 301-277-7111, or Laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org.

October 19-21, 2007

Conservation Governance Committee. "Mitigating or eliminating these stresses will make it easier for species to adapt to the new stress from climate change and remain resilient."

Sierra Club focus on "Cool Habitats"

As the Sierra Club strives to curb global warming and move to clean energy solutions, wilderness activists also emphasize the importance of our traditional efforts to preserve our nation's threatened wild lands.

To help connect our wild lands advocacy with the new global warming campaign, Sierra Club Associate Executive Director Bruce Hamilton has helped prepare a major new "Resilient Habitats" objective that will frame protection of wild places and wildlife habitats in terms of need to combat changes brought about by global warming.

The Sierra Club Resilient Habitats initiative emphasizes BIG protected areas, ecosystem-scale megacorridors such as the "Yellowstone to Yukon" initiative. However, smaller-scale land preservation designations can be part of a bigger scheme if they are strategically located to connect to other protected areas. Thus, in wilderness work we should give highest priority to setting aside those wild places that can be linked to others.

As Bruce puts it, we will "build

on the existing system of U.S. protected areas (wilderness, parks, wildlife refuges etc.) to establish an ecologically-based network of protected areas, corridors, and buffer zones spanning federal, state, and private lands and waters that will preserve the full range of biodiversity from the adverse impacts of climate change."

A key concept to promote is *ecosystem resilience* – the ability of species and ecosystems to adapt to and withstand climate change. We make our natural ecosystems more *resilient* by having them connected by biological corridors to allow the interchange of genetic material.

How will the new campaign differ from our past work? Bruce points out, "Historically we've protected wild places by defending the Endangered Species Act, passing new wilderness and parks bills, cutting the budget for logging, blocking oil and gas and coal leasing etc. These are all still important. But this proposal suggests putting a Climate Recovery Campaign frame on our overall lands protection agenda to unify it and make sure that the solutions we advocate not only protect roadless areas, endangered species, and scenic areas, but also will enable ecosystems and the full range of biodiversity to survive climate change. In doing this we are insuring the survival of our 100-year investment in protecting the earth's wild places." ■

Rachel Carson's Legacy Attacked by Right-Wing Misinformation Campaign

By Lisa M Mayo—On May 27, 2007, environmentally aware citizens across the globe celebrated the centennial birth of Rachel Carson, the former U.S. Fish and Wildlife scientist and author who penned *Silent Spring*, which became the seminal classic that many attribute with igniting today's modern environmental movement. Centennial events in the U.S. included plays, book readings, tours of Carson's former homes in Maryland and Pennsylvania, and speeches filled with praise. However, not everyone wanted to pay tribute to Carson. A certain group of right-wing activists and pundits were ramping up their effort to taint Rachel Carson's legacy and spread a misinformation campaign that ultimately seeks to label her a mass murderer.

One of the leaders of this anti-Carson campaign is the Washington-based Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI), whose efforts include a website titled "Rachel Was Wrong." Its home page features a graphic showing a blood-red mosquito over a green outline of Africa and photos of young malaria victims. CEI is a right-wing think tank whose sponsors have included Dow Chemical and Monsanto — two of the former manufacturers of DDT. The anti-environmental thrust of the CEI website is that Rachel Carson single-handedly brought about the banning of DDT in the U.S., and was responsible for the millions of malaria victims who have died from the disease worldwide.

WHO endorses DDT

Adding fuel to this right-wing fire was the controversial decision last year by the World Health Organization (WHO) to support indoor residual spraying of DDT in malaria-prone regions. According to WHO, each year more than 500 million people suffer from acute malaria, resulting in more than 1 million deaths; and at least 86 percent of these deaths are in sub-

Saharan Africa. At the present time, experts state that several of the best ways for fighting malaria include using biological controls and insecticide-treated bed netting, as well as improving health care, public education, water drainage, and sanitation.

Residual indoor spraying of DDT carries significant risks. As the Pesticide

nity is now protesting their poisoning as a result of emissions from this factory."

Despite the calls for increased use of DDT, studies have shown that there are regions where malaria is being controlled without the use of the chemical. Since 2000, Mexico has eliminated the need for DDT in its battle against malaria, using drugs, improved personal and household hygiene, and biological elimination of mosquito breeding sites. In Kenya, a non-DDT program is reducing malaria by improving water management in rice-growing communities and by using biological controls and mosquito netting. Vietnam reduced malaria deaths by 97% when they abandoned DDT for drugs, mosquito netting and health education. And the World Wildlife Fund has experienced success in the Kheda district in India, where non-chemical methods were found to be more cost-effective.

The Sierra Club, along with several other major environmental organizations, raised alarms about WHO's decision to endorse DDT. According to the Sierra Club website, "The Sierra Club is deeply concerned that WHO's new position statement on 'indoor residual spraying' increases the potential for widespread misuse and accidents due to the continued manufacture, storage and applications of DDT... The Sierra Club believes that DDT should be considered as the option of last resort only, when all feasible non-toxic and less toxic alternatives have been tried and proven ineffective. Sierra Club encourages governments and the WHO to give priority to increasing the informed use and accelerated development of such non-

toxic and less toxic alternatives."

Concerns About DDT Persist

The Sierra Club is right to be worried about the misuse and abuse of DDT. In 2001, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a paper examining the probability that heavy use of DDT in the United States before 1966 may have produced a previously undetected epidemic of premature births. A NIEHS press release stated that scientists "found elevated levels of DDT's breakdown product, DDE, in the stored blood of mothers recorded as giving birth to premature or low birth weight infants." Dr. Matthew Longnecker, the lead author on the study, said "The findings of our study strongly suggest that DDT use increases pre-term births, which is a major contributor to infant mortality. If this association is causal, it should be included in any assessment of the costs and benefits of insect control using DDT." Dr. Longnecker also stated that other agents that are less toxic and less persistent, but more expensive, should be used to control malaria. Longnecker is now reportedly working with epidemiologists in Mexico to see if women from malaria-prone areas, who were exposed to DDT, are experiencing an increase in pre-term births.

Centennial Observance Marred

Despite the controversy of WHO's decision, right-wing political figures quickly jumped on the organization's pro-DDT actions and sought to use Rachel Carson's centennial birthday as an opportunity to launch a major campaign to poison the reputation of one of the most honored heroines in the environmental movement.

(continued on page 11)



Carson at microscope in 1951. Used with permission of Connecticut College

Action Network International reports, "Often DDT intended for public health use is diverted to illegal agricultural use, carrying greater danger for human exposure than indoor residual spraying, and hastening the development of resistant mosquito populations. New DDT use adds to exposure from old stockpiles that are not properly contained or controlled...and demands for DDT use for malaria control also increase the burden on the communities living near production plants. A DDT factory in the Eloor-Edayar region in India has a long record of contaminating the environment, including rivers. The local commu-

Pesticides and Politics

Despite Misinformation Campaign, Scientists Continue to Find Hazards in Use of DDT

(continued from page 10)

Sadly, this misinformation campaign even spread to Maryland's General Assembly. In the 2007 session, Senator Brian Frosh (D-16-Montgomery) introduced a bill to officially declare May 27 as "Rachel Carson Day." Carson was born in Pennsylvania but spent much of her life living in her home off New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring, Maryland, and not only wrote *Silent Spring* at that residence but also died there in 1964, after a long and difficult battle with metastatic cancer. (Her Silver Spring home is now a National Historic Landmark.)

To mark Carson's centennial birthday, the Newton Marasco Foundation sponsored a two-month celebration in the spring, co-chaired by Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-8th), that included a play about Carson presented on Capitol Hill. Despite the general acclaim of the centennial celebration, the Maryland General Assembly failed to pass the "Rachel Carson Day" bill. Frosh expressed frustration with the shortsightedness of Maryland's politicians and their unwillingness to honor one of the state's most respected citizens—a woman who had earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom and authored a book that is often listed as one of the most important works in American literary history. Comments by Senator Andrew Harris (R-7-Baltimore County) — who has a lifetime score of only 9% from the Maryland League of Conservation Voters and who is running to unseat Congressman Wayne Gilchrest revealed the politically charged reasoning behind the snubbing of Carson's bill in the Assembly. In March, 2007, a *Washington Post* article quoted Harris as saying "Millions of people — literally millions of people — died as a result of banning DDT as a result of that book." Fortunately for Marylanders, Governor Martin O'Malley saw through the political rhetoric being peddled by Republicans

and officially declared May 27 as "Rachel Carson Day."

In May 2007, Republicans in the U.S. Senate also jumped on the anti-Carson bandwagon. Two bills to honor Carson were introduced in the Senate by a bi-partisan coalition of senators — including Senators Arlen Specter (R-PA), Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) — but both bills were stopped with a parliamentary hold by Senators Tom Coburn (R-OK) and Norm Coleman (R-MN). Coburn's spokesman John Hart told media outlet *Raw Story*, "Dr. Coburn believes the tremendous harm Carson's junk science claims about DDT did to the developing world overshadow her other contributions. Millions of people in the developing world, particularly children under five, died because governments bought into Carson's junk science claims about DDT. To put it in language the Left understands, her 'intelligence' was wrong and it had deadly consequences." This same position has been parroted by conservative media sources ranging from the FOX News Channel to Rush Limbaugh to the *New York Times'* John Tierney to ABC's John Stossel, revealing a coordinated misinformation campaign by the right-wing echo chamber that so often succeeds at manipulating America's national dialogue to serve a narrow ideological agenda.

Lies and Facts

One of the most frequent lies spread by anti-Carson pundits is the oft-repeated refrain that Rachel Carson supported the banning of DDT—a notion that has even been repeated in respected publications such as *The Washington Post*. In fact, Carson never called for the banning of any pesticide. This important fact is highlighted on the U.S. Department of State's centennial website tribute to Carson called "Pen Against Poison" where it states:

Oddly enough, many people on both sides of the debate still don't quite understand the central message of *Silent Spring*. Carson was no lover of mosquitoes, or of insects in general, and in fact never advocated abandoning chemical control methods. On page 12 of *Silent Spring* she unambiguously writes, "It is not my contention that chemical insecticides must never be used. I do contend that we have put poisonous and biologically potent chemicals indiscriminately into the hands of persons largely or wholly ignorant of their potential for harm."

Another lie often repeated is that Carson's science was entirely wrong. In fact, Carson's warnings about the unintended impact of DDT on wildlife was undeniably correct, and the banning of DDT in the U.S. is the reason why President George Bush was able to remove the American bald eagle from the Endangered and Threatened Species List in 2007. Without a serious reduction of DDT use in America, bird species at the top of the food chain, such as eagles, ospreys, pelicans, and falcons, would have continued to accumulate DDT in their fatty tissues and been faced with possible extinction due to thinning eggshells.

Despite the well-documented evidence of DDT's impact on birds' eggshells, conservative pundits today still dismiss the fact that DDT reduced the calcium content in shells. Yet even today we can see the impact of DDT on eagles. From the 1940's through the 1970's, Montrose Chemical Corporation discharged tons of DDT waste into California's coastal waters, and now more than 110 tons of DDT remain concentrated in 17 square miles of sea bottom. The company's actions have devastated the ability for birds in the area—such as eagles—to breed around the Channel Islands of California. For years, scientists

were forced to remove fragile eagle eggs from nests there and incubate them artificially so the shells would not crack under the weight of the parents. On March 31 and April 1, 2007, an eagle pair on Santa Catalina Island successfully hatched two healthy chicks, and these are the first eagles known to hatch on Santa Catalina Island without human assistance since 1945, due to the impact of DDT in the local environment.

In 2001, Montrose agreed to a financial settlement for the environmental impact of the company's DDT discharges. In the 2005 settlement report, authored by the California state and U.S. federal government agencies serving as settlement trustees, they confirmed: "Strong correlations have been reported between concentrations of DDT and eggshell thinning in seven families of birds, including pelicans, cormorants, herons, ducks, eagles, falcons, and gulls. Eggshell thinning has also been experimentally induced in three families of birds... In addition, geographical patterns of eggshell thinning across the United States are consistent with the locations of high environmental concentrations of DDT. The final piece of evidence supporting the connection between DDT and eggshell thinning is that attempts to experimentally induce eggshell thinning with other compounds such as PCBs, dieldrin, mercury, and lead have failed at concentrations of these compounds typically found in the environment."

Scientists Find Continued Impact of DDT Exposure

As for the impact of DDT on human health, Rachel Carson offered a warning based on the best science of the day. And as illustrated by the NIES report, even now—45 years after the publication of *Silent Spring*—scientists are still discovering the unintended impact of DDT use.

(continued on page 13)

Is China Heading for Sustainable Development?

By Cathy Kunkel—"The biggest change is that we are always changing," said a college-age Chinese friend in response to my question about developments he has witnessed. And, after living in Beijing for a year, I agree. Change is the common theme. The pace of development in China is staggering. One thousand new cars are added every day in Beijing. The World Bank estimates that about half of the world's new building construction until 2015 will take place in China. The government is planning for energy consumption to quadruple between 2000 and 2020. The list goes on.

Coal, Today and Tomorrow

I moved to Beijing last fall to work as a research assistant studying biomass energy policy. Before going to China, I was very interested to see how my Chinese colleagues would view the future of their nation's energy supply, currently dominated by coal. Because of China's huge coal reserves, coal makes up 61 percent of the country's primary energy supply (compared with 23 percent in the United States). Part of the reason for the dominance of coal is that environmental and safety regulations are often not enforced, making coal mines and power plants cheaper to operate.

The consensus among Chinese energy experts with whom I interacted is that coal will be dominant in the energy supply for the foreseeable future. There is a lot of interest in "clean coal" technologies and carbon sequestration, although limited work has been done to assess sites for underground carbon storage.

China's biggest energy supply problem is probably liquid fuels. The country lacks sufficient reserves of oil and natural gas and is reluctant to become too dependent on imports. Already China is second only to the United States in oil imports. As a result, it is now promoting

biofuels and coal-to-liquids technology. Targets for biofuels are ambitious: 2 million tons of ethanol by 2010, and 10 million tons by 2020.

The major problem with biofuels in China is shortage of sufficient land for both growing energy crops and feeding the huge population. China has already stated that it will not be expanding corn ethanol production. As a result, plans for coal-to-liquids development dwarf those for biofuels.

The Shenhua Group, one of China's largest coal producers, plans to produce more than 30 million tons of oil annually by

2020 via coal liquefaction. Unfortunately, coal liquefaction without underground carbon storage results in about double the carbon emissions than just burning petroleum fuels.

Ambitious Targets for Renewable Energy

In terms of renewable energy, the government has fairly ambitious targets, including 30 GW wind, 1 GW solar, and 30 GW biomass by 2020, up from 2 GW wind and 0.025 GW biomass in 2006. To put these numbers in perspective, in 2005 China's total electric power generation capacity was 510 GW.

In the long term, wind and solar will probably have a larger role to play in China's electricity supply than biomass. The agricultural situation is very different from that of the United States or Europe; the dominance of small farms makes it difficult and expensive to collect a large amount of biomass for centralized applications. However, China already dominates the world market for solar water heating. In nearly every city one sees row

after row of apartment buildings with solar water heaters on their roofs. Solar photovoltaics have yet to take off, although the city of Rizhao has successfully promoted solar power with a set of policies, including a mandate that all new buildings install solar panels. Furthermore, studies indicate that wind could, theoretically, supply almost all of China's electricity needs.

The most effective step that China

The most effective step that China could take to reduce emissions and energy demand would likely be to improve energy efficiency

could take to reduce emissions and energy demand would likely be to improve energy efficiency. Industrial energy efficiency in

China is quite low. Per dollar of economic output, China uses 3 times more energy than the world average and 11 times more energy than Japan. The government has ambitious targets for improving energy efficiency by 2010, but so far it appears unlikely that these targets will be met.

Hopeful Trends?

So are there any hopeful trends in terms of environmental improvements? I think so. Information is more publicly available than it used to be, and the general trend is toward more public participation in environmental affairs. There are over 3,000 registered environmental NGOs in China today, a rapid increase from less than 50 only five years ago. These NGOs are gradually becoming more sophisticated and effective.

One of the most innovative NGOs is the Institute for Public and Environmental Affairs, founded in 2006 by Ma Jun, author of the influential book *China's Water Crisis* (Beijing: China Environmental Sciences Publishing House, 1999). His institute has created an online map of

water pollution in China, and is using this information to pressure multinational companies to green their supply chains and stop purchasing from polluting factories. In addition, China has seen a rise in the number of direct, grassroots environmental protests. In 2005 the state-owned press estimated the number of environmental protests at 50,000, up almost 30 percent from the previous year.

One of the most talked-about environmental protests this year was in the city of Xiamen, Fujian Province. The people protested in the streets for several days against a planned chemical plant that would have produced carcinogenic paraxylene only 1.5 km from a residential area. As a direct result of the protest, the project was suspended.

Moreover, the next generation of leaders will doubtless have a very different perspective than the current generation, many of whom are older than modern China. I spent a fair amount of time this year interacting with student environmental leaders and also attended the 4th Annual College Environmental Forum, which brought together student leaders from across China. Although they face many more challenges than their counterparts in the United States in terms of finding funding and getting university support for their activities, they are equally passionate and very interested in learning from Americans and adapting our tactics and ideas. They often talk about the need to find a new model of development that doesn't follow the West. Of course these are not your typical students; as in the United States, students involved in environmental activism constitute a very small percentage of the total.

In short, China's energy and environmental problems are indeed severe and overwhelming. But along with its rapid economic growth, the country is also

(continued on page 13)

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

Anti-Carson Crusade Is Part of Campaign Against Regulation of Environmental Hazards

(continued from page 11)

Examining health articles on websites such as the Pesticide Action Network of North America reveals that recent studies are finding retired malaria-control workers with reduced liver function and chronic nervous system effects from long-term exposure to DDT, elevated levels of DDE (DDT's breakdown chemical) in mother's blood serum leading to biological deformities in male children, and DDE in women's bodies interfering with their ability to lactate. In addition, DDT and DDE have been tied to higher incidences of undescended testes and poor sperm quality in human males, and the International Agency for Research on Cancer continues to list DDT as a possible human carcinogen.

One final issue that many conservative critics often ignore completely is a topic that Carson discussed in *Silent Spring* — the propensity for mosquitoes to develop immunity to DDT. May Berenbaum, head of the department of entomology at the University of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign, wrote an article en-

titled, "If Malaria's the Problem, DDT's Not the Only Answer," *The Washington Post*, June 5, 2005. The article stated, "By 1972, when the U.S. DDT ban went into effect, 19 species of mosquitoes capable of transmitting malaria, including some in Africa, were resistant to DDT. Genes for DDT resistance can persist in populations for decades. Spraying DDT on the interior walls of houses — the form of chemical use advocated as the solution to Africa's malaria problem — led to the evolution of resistance 40 years ago and will almost certainly lead to it again in many places unless resistance monitoring and management strategies are put into place." Berenbaum also issued the same warning that the Sierra Club issued regarding the ill-advised promotion of DDT, "Overselling a chemical's capacity to solve a problem can do irretrievable harm not only by raising false hopes but by delaying the use of more effective long-term methods."

Attacks on Carson Mask Attacks on Environmental Movement

Despite the determination and prevalence of the right-wing campaign against Rachel Carson, the reality is that Carson never placed the lives of animals and insects over the lives of human. Protecting life — all life — was always at the forefront of Carson's efforts.

As pro-industry politicians and think tanks continue their attacks against Rachel Carson, it becomes evident that their campaign is less about the tragic deaths of malaria victims and more about the desire to attack the environmental movement itself. Carson was a major figure in the history and development of environmentalism in America; her writings inspired the creation of the EPA, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and Earth Day. Even today, she still inspires countless young people to take up the cause of environmental activism and to

fight for tougher environmental regulations — and that is what the right-wing echo chamber seeks to diminish.

On May 27, 2008 — the next "Rachel Carson Day" — may all Marylanders remember that one of their own fought illness, hardship, and tremendous personal attacks to ensure that future generations would better understand the symbiotic relationship between humans and their environment. Better than anyone, Carson understood that what we do to our world, we ultimately do to ourselves. ■

Fundraising Opportunity



The Chapter is enlarging its fundraising committee to build additional resources for our exciting Smart Energy Solutions campaign.

We continue to expand our Cool Cities program which now has active committees in eight locations around the state. We have been successful in signing on numerous mayors and county executives to the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement.

Now our campaign is seeking resources to leverage the work of dedicated volunteers throughout Maryland to build on our successes.

We are searching for individuals with experience in fundraising and grant writing. If you are interested, please contact Betsy Johnson at 301-656-4948 or betsy_johnson@comcast.net

Sustainability in China?

(continued from page 12)

changing politically and culturally. I won't presume to predict whether the changes that China is experiencing will be enough to effect the transformation to sustainable development which is so desperately needed. But certainly the decisions made in the next ten to fifteen years will be crucial for China's own and the world's environment. ■

Cathy Kunkel graduated from Princeton University in 2006, and is the daughter of Chesapeake editorial team member Sue Kunkel.

Group News Roundup

Arsenic to Zoning, Groups Work for Cleaner, Greener Maryland

Edited by Mary C. Corddry—Following is a roundup of what's happening with 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. 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.

The local Groups of the Sierra Club are active with the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" initiative, encouraging local governments and citizens to take action for addressing global warming. They survey and interview local candidates for public office, and make endorsements in collaboration with the State Chapter. They are involved with local land use and environmental issues. They volunteer for service outings to eradicate invasive plants, plant native species, maintain trails, and clean up streams. They enjoy the environment by hiking, biking, kayaking, stargazing, camping, and backpacking. They mingle and socialize at dinners, picnics, slide shows, movies, and speaker series.

There is something for everyone. Contact your Group to get linked with your favorite issue or activity. The Maryland Chapter's home page has a link to each Group's website at www.maryland.sierraclub.org.

Anne Arundel Group

Chair: David Prosten, 410-263-6341 or 410-703-0847, dprosten@yahoo.com
By David Prosten

- ♦ The Anne Arundel Group testified on behalf of legislation proposed for Annapolis that would ban plastic checkout bags in the city, and has been working with the sponsoring Councilman, Sam

Shropshire, to rally support for the measure. Group Chair David Prosten testified at a public hearing that the Sierra Club's preferred supermarket solution is the use of reusable bags, but that, ultimately, paper bags were a less harmful alternative than plastic. Plastic bags are found throughout area's waterways, killing vegetation and wildlife and forming "sandbags" that create havoc with runoff.

- ♦ With the assistance of volunteer Minerva Rivera, the group is establishing an e-mail alert list, attempting to sign up as many as possible of the group's 1,400 members. Participants are being told that the list will be used on an as-needed basis, on pressing issues only.

- ♦ The group helped organize, and several members participated in, the June 14-19 Patuxent Sojourn 2007. In all, about 75 people signed up for the event, in which canoers and kayakers spent days on the river and nights camping out, with a lot of nature talks and related activities throughout. The Sojourn's main sponsor and coordinator is the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

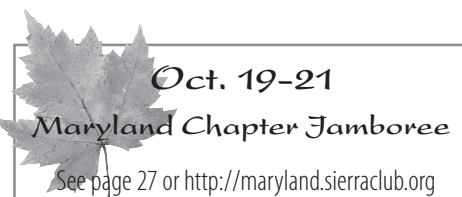
- ♦ The group's Cool Cities program is continuing apace.

Catocin Group (Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties)

Chair: Chris Hodge, 240-388-6446, mdhiker2@yahoo.com

Eastern Shore (Cecil County and Eastern Shore counties)

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



Greater Baltimore (Baltimore City and County, Harford County)

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

- ♦ The Group participated with the Baltimore City League of Environmental Voters and the Maryland League of Conservation Voters to survey, interview, and endorse candidates for Baltimore City Mayor and County Council in the September primary elections. One of the key environmental issues is the Cool City campaign initially signed by Governor O'Malley as Mayor.

- ♦ Baltimore County's Comprehensive Zoning Map Process is underway, during which residents and civic organizations may propose any property for rezoning in the open filing period, September 4 – October 15. The County Council will vote on the rezoning issues late next summer, and new zoning maps will be issued next November. Group members participated with the North County Preservation to develop a Geographical Information System (GIS), and are now assisting civic organizations and residents with using the GIS to identify properties for downzoning to a more restrictive rural conservation classification. Users of the GIS select layers of information from State and County databases for mapping and analyzing County properties to make the case for preservation.

- ♦ The Group publishes a quarterly newsletter, "The Baltimore Sierran," which is mailed to members and also is available on its web site.

- ♦ Check the Group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events. The Group has numerous hikes of varied lengths and difficulty levels, many of which are suitable for children and are dog-friendly. The Group also has happy

hours, kayak outings, bike rides, star-gazing, camping, hayrides, stream cleanups, trail maintenance, and invasive plant removals.

Howard County

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

- ♦ Green Building Legislation: On July 30, the Howard County Council unanimously approved landmark legislation requiring green building design for building plans that are filed after July 1, 2008. Publicly funded buildings over 10,000 square feet will be required to reach a LEED-Silver rating (except for jails and schools, which would require State regulation for such a requirement). Non-publicly funded buildings over 50,000 square feet must meet LEED-certified level. In addition, new and existing buildings that meet higher LEED ratings are eligible for property tax credits, up to 75% for platinum-level.

- ♦ The County government is considering making an Office of Environmental Sustainability, which would report to the County Executive.

- ♦ After years of delay, Turf Valley Golf Course, now undergoing redevelopment, has divulged soil test results that revealed arsenic contamination levels 60 times the level considered safe, and lead levels also exceeding standard. County Health Commissioner Peter Beilenson told developers of the Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center that cleanup is required before housing could be built there. The Sierra Club has been pushing for legislation requiring testing of all golf courses slated for redevelopment, due to contamination caused by now-banned pesticides.

(continued on page 15)

Group News Roundup

Groups Helping Maryland Get Greener

(continued from page 14)

♦ Sat. Sept. 29 12-2:30, Howard County Sierra Club Fall Social: At the Howard County Conservancy, 10520 Old Frederick Rd., Woodstock. Rain or shine. This event is for members or prospective members and their significant others and/or family members. Meet other Sierra Club members, meet the Executive Committee chairs, check out the new John L. Clark Honors Garden, and explore the beautiful grounds.

For more information please visit our website, <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/hc/>, or contact Kim at 410-379-1075 or Kim.Birnbaum@maryland.sierraclub.org. RSVPs appreciated but not required.

Directions to the Conservancy: From Rt. 29, go north until it ends at Rt. 99. Turn left onto Rt. 99. Mt. Pleasant will be on your right in approximately 3.5 miles. It is between the Still Ridge Herb Farm and the snowball stand at Woodstock Road, and it is across the street from the Waverly Woods Development.

♦ Mon. Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m., Program Topic: Green Weddings: at the Howard County Recreation and Parks Headquarters, 7120 Oakland Mills Rd., Columbia.* Free and open to the general public; walk-ins are welcome. For more information, call 410-379-1075.

♦ Wed. Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m., Program Topic to be announced: at the Howard County Recreation and Parks Headquarters, 7120 Oakland Mills Rd., Columbia.* Information will be posted on our website once available at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/hc/>, or contact Kim at 410-379-1075 or Kim.Birnbaum@maryland.sierraclub.org.

*Directions to HCRP From Washington: I-95 north, exit to Rt. 32 west, exit to Broken Land Parkway north, take first right onto Snowden River

Parkway, at 3rd light turn right onto Oakland Mills Rd. Just before RR crossing turn right into parking lot. From Baltimore: I-95 south, exit to Rt. 175 west, turn left to Snowden River Parkway, at 3rd light turn left to Oakland Mills Rd. Just before RR crossing turn right to parking lot.

♦ The Howard County Group has a very active outings program, including frequent backpacking trips. Check the Group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events. You may contact Ken Clark about getting on an email listing of outings and events.

Montgomery County

Chair: David Hauck, 301-270-5826; david.hauck@maryland.sierraclub.org

By Anne Ambler

♦ The Cool Cities Campaign, now joined by Sierra Club's "Cool Counties" of which Montgomery County is a founding member, continues to light volunteers' fires. Over the summer, volunteers distributed 50 compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) door-to-door along with factsheets about CFLs and about how individuals can cut back their greenhouse gas emissions.

♦ Putting our new volunteers' enthusiasm to work, the group continues its successful "Happy Hours" series. On August 21, Happy Hour was in Takoma Park. On September 18, it will be in Rockville. For information about this series, contact Stephanie DeMoss at skdemoss@hotmail.com or 202-494-3511.

♦ A new series of house parties, "Putting Your Home on a Low-Carbon Diet," will begin in September. These show-and-tell discussions aim to demonstrate greenhouse gas emission economies that may be made at home and also to get commitments from participants to make

them. The first will be September 20 in Takoma Park, followed by September 27 in Rockville. For more information, contact Barbara Newland at bnewland@verizon.net or 301-926-5922.

♦ Other activities: Unusual for this time of year, the Montgomery County Group has interviewed and endorsed candidates to be selected by the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee to fill legislative slots vacated mid-term in Districts 39 and 16.

♦ The fall session of the County Council promises to be hectic as the Council attempts to revise our forest conservation law, decide on Agricultural Reserve preservation measures, and redesign Growth Policy so that it both reflects reality and prepares the county for the challenges of our century. Sierra Club members have provided input on all these issues, either through testimony or as task force members. All the issues will require close attention as they move through the Council's committees. ExCom member Pamela Lindstrom has been appointed by the County Executive to the County's Housing Opportunities Commission. Pam's international experience with how other cities provide affordable housing while preserving trees and open space will be invaluable to the Commission and the county. Pam can be reached at Pamela.lindstrom@gmail.com

- Finally, the Montgomery County Group welcomes new ExCom member Susan Eisendrath. Susan is a former Peace Corps volunteer in Africa, who for 20 years managed health promotion and medical education projects. She is a mover/shaker in the Green Schools Program and was attracted to the Sierra Club by the Cool Cities Campaign. Susan's e-mail is susan.eisendrath@gmail.com.

Prince George's County

Chair: Chip Reilly, 301-218-3920, chipreilly@mac.com

Group's office: 301-277-0600 or 301-277-7111

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

Chair: Frank Fox, 301-884-8027, ff725@yahoo.com

♦ Mattawoman Creek - A Remarkable Resource at Risk: The Group has been urging that an Environmental Impact Statement be developed related to Charles County's proposal for a four-lane highway through a forested, lightly populated region of the Mattawoman Creek watershed, that is important for fish spawning. This Cross County Connector Extension would bring massive sprawl from development, engender longer commutes, stimulate additional traffic, and irretrievably harm Mattawoman Creek and the environment.

♦ The Group has been monitoring the recommendations of the Tri County Council of Southern Maryland and the Charles County Board of Commissioners for construction of a western Waldorf bypass and limited upgrade of the most congested U.S. 301 intersections. A \$5 million State-funded Draft Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared after public workshops in March. The alternatives being studied are essentially the same as in a previously discarded study, with all alternatives moving traffic congestion to La Plata by a western bypass of Waldorf, rather a U.S. 301 upgrade through Waldorf.

♦ On September 14, the Group is sponsoring a showing of Al Gore's movie "An Inconvenient Truth" at the Government Building Auditorium in La Plata. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the film

(continued on page 16)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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



Group News

Groups Engage in Politics and Partnerships

(continued from page 15)

will begin at 7:00. After the film, Chester and Donna Joy from Al Gore's Climate Project will answer questions, and light refreshments will be served. The Charles County Commissioners permitted the use of the building and equipment without charge.

♦ In late May, the Group partnered with the Chapman Forest Foundation and the Chesapeake Bay Trust to sponsor two days of field trips to Chapman State Park for Charles County school children. They were immersed in Bay ecology and also pulled invasive plants and picked up trash along the river.

♦ The Group publishes a bimonthly newsletter, *News from Southern Maryland*.

♦ Check the Group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events.

Western Maryland (Allegany and Garrett Counties)

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

In the winter of 2007, the Group resumed publication of a quarterly newsletter, *Nature's Advocate of Western MD*. ■

Cool Cities

Cities and Counties Take the Pledge

(continued from page 1)

U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, which we use as a basis for Cool Cities. This is great news for Maryland, since so much happens at the county level in Maryland. Twelve counties across the country were the initial signatories to the agreement, and two of these (Montgomery County and Queen Anne's County) are in Maryland! Carroll County also signed the Cool Counties agreement at the end of August. Anne Arundel, Howard, and Montgomery Counties signed agreements earlier this year making a commitment to reducing their production of global warming pollution.

Please attend the Chapter Jamboree (See page 27 for information and registration) and participate in workshops and discussion about this campaign and many other important topics. A special focus for the Jamboree is on how Cool Cities and global warming campaigns fit in with the many other environmental issues that the Club is working on now. The Jamboree will be a lot of fun, too!

If you are interested in helping with the campaign, please speak with your Group Chair or contact David O'Leary (daveol@earthlink.net), or Claire and Annie at the Chapter office, 301-277-7111. ■

Excom Election

Call for At-Large Nominees for Chapter Executive Committee

Each year, the Maryland Chapter holds elections for "At Large" delegates to the chapter executive committee. This fall, the members of the chapter will elect three people to serve two-year terms on the committee. The chapter's nominating committee, Marc Scott, Mike Martin, and Laurel Imlay, invite all interested members of the Maryland Chapter to enter the race for these positions. We are looking for at least six people who can bring management skills, a firm commitment to protecting the environment, and a willingness to invest their time and energy for the next two years to help manage the chapter. While experience on a group's executive committee would be helpful, it is not necessary. Your work and life experience, and your common sense, are equally important ingredients. If you would be willing to serve for a two-year term, please submit a brief biography, no longer than 400 words, which describes your qualifications, your experience, and what you believe you can contribute. Send to the nominating committee c/o Laurel Imlay, 7338 Baltimore Ave, College Park, MD 20740, by e-mail to laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org, or by fax at 301-277-6699.

Please respond by November 1, 2007. The nominating committee, chaired by Bonnie Bick, will review the qualifications described in the biographies, attempt to bring forward a slate of six candidates, and report the slate of candidates to the executive committee. The candidates' statements and a ballot will be published in the winter issue of *Chesapeake*.

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget.

When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able - and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Make your contribution to
Maryland Chapter, Sierra Club
7338 Baltimore Ave., #1A
College Park, MD 20740

Thanks so much!

Maryland Chapter Leaders



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Sky's the limit?

Even today in 2007 over *half* of America's electricity is generated from coal-fired power plants. Consequentially, we are being exposed to soot, smog, acid rain, and dangerous toxins such as mercury, which threaten people and wildlife alike. Bush's "Clear Skies" plan will allow 520% *more* mercury pollution by 2010, not to mention delaying the enforcement of public health standards for smog and soot until the *end* of 2015. The sky isn't getting any higher, and the air we breathe isn't getting any cleaner. The sky IS the limit.

JOIN Sierra Club to keep breathing easy.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!



☐ Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____
Exp. Date ____/____/____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to 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 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

F94Q W 1

Executive Committee

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

michael.martin@maryland.sierraclub.org

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

443-474-7449

RonLHenry@msn.com

Bonnie Bick, At-Large Del.

301-839-7403

bonnie.bick@maryland.sierraclub.org

Betsy Johnson, At-Large Del.

301-656-4948

betsy.johnson@maryland.sierraclub.org

Jon Robinson, At-Large Del.

301-422-0064

Jon.Robinson@sierraclub.org

**Joan Willey, At-Large Del.,
Conservation Chair**

joan.willey@maryland.sierraclub.org

Earl Bradley, Anne Arundel Del.,

Earl.Bradley@maryland.sierraclub.org

Chris Hodge, Catoclin Del.

240-388-6446

mdhiker2@yahoo.com

Howard Bedlin, Eastern Shore Del.

410-643-3283

howard.bedlin@ncoa.org

**Karen McGullum, Alt. Greater Balt.
Del.,**

443-394-8572

kmcgullam@hotmail.com

Kathleen Sheedy, Howard Del.

443-538-4084

Kathleen.Sheedy@maryland.sierraclub.org

Ginny Barnes, Montg. Del.

301-762-WATR

ginny.barnes@maryland.sierraclub.org

Fred Tutman, Prince Geo.'s Del.

301-249-8200 ext 7

Fred@paxriverkeeper.org

Marc Imlay, Southern MD Del.

301-283-0808

marc.imlay@maryland.sierraclub.org

Sam White, Western MD Del.

301-264-4162

sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org

Issues Contacts

Joan Willey, Conservation Chair

joan.willey@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Earl Bradley, ACE, Right Whale,
Special Places Chair**

410-224-3236

Earl.Bradley@maryland.sierraclub.org

Sam White, Agriculture Chair

301-264-4162

sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org

Charlie Garlow, Air Quality Chair

301-593-9823

charlie.garlow@juno.com

**Marc Imlay, Biodiversity, ESA, Inva-
sive Species, and Habitat Steward-
ship Chair**

301-283-0808

marc.imlay@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Cliff Terry, Campaign Finance
Reform Chair**

410-944-9477

cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

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

202-237-0754

chris.carney@sierraclub.org

David O'Leary, Energy Chair

daveol@earthlink.net

**Bonnie Bick, Environmental Justice
Chair**

301-839-7403

bonnie.bick@maryland.sierraclub.org

Mark Diehl, Forests Chair

mad55@mindspring.com

301-724-6238

**David O'Leary, Global Warming/
CAFE Chair**

daveol@earthlink.net

Rich Norling, Groundwater Chair

410-734-7720

rich.norling@maryland.sierraclub.org

Kim Birnbaum, Pesticides Chair

410-379-1075

Kim.Birnbaum@maryland.sierraclub.org

Cliff Terry, Population Chair

410-944-9477

cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

Joan Willey, Public Lands Chair

joan.willey@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Fred Tutman, Stormwater Mgmt.
Chair**

301-249-8200 ext 7

Fred@paxriverkeeper.org

Steve Caflisch, Transportation Chair

301-654-3288

steve.caflisch@maryland.sierraclub.org

Ed Merrifield, Water Quality Chair

202-222-0707

ed@potomacriverkeeper.org

Other Contacts

**Kathy Harget, Baltimore Young
Sierrans**

410-440-9896

youngsierrans@gmail.com

Bob Iacovazzi, BICO Chair

bicobob3@copper.net

Betsy Johnson, Fundraising Chair

301-656-4948

betsy.johnson@maryland.sierraclub.org

Ellen Pepin, Membership Chair

ellen.pepin@maryland.sierraclub.org

Daniel Soeder, Outings Chair

410-969-9465

Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

John Fay, PAC Treasurer

301-946-5599

john.fay-mc@maryland.sierraclub.org

Betsy Johnson, Political Chair

301-656-4948

betsy.johnson@maryland.sierraclub.org

Clay Birkett, Postmaster

postmaster@maryland.sierraclub.org

Jan Graham, State Legislative Chair

410-648-5476

jan.graham@maryland.sierraclub.org

Sherry Dixon, Treasurer

sdixon@maryland.sierraclub.org

Rick Andrews, Webmaster

Andrews4art@yahoo.com

Darla Tewell, Newsletter Editor

editorch@maryland.sierraclub.org

Chapter Staff

Laurel Imlay

301-277-7111

laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org

Office Address

7338 Baltimore Avenue #1A

College Park, MD 20740

Tel: 301-277-7111

Fax: 301-277-6699

<http://maryland.sierraclub.org>

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Outings

Events Across Maryland to Restore Threatened Habitat by Removing Invasive Plants

Compiled by Mark Imlay—Experience delayed gratification. Non-native invasive plant removal will reach maintenance phase if there is 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 may be conducted in all seasons. A 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.

You may attend training in invasive plant removal and habitat restoration to learn about weed identification, control and removal techniques, and native alternatives to exotic flora. You may conduct your own removals or join an organized group. There are general methods and species-specific methods for removals, such as best season for removing species, targeted use of herbicides, and the use of wet soils for pulling. Following is information on numerous activities to rid the State of invasive species and to plant native species.

Baltimore

Baltimore City Parks

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks supports an Urban Weed Warriors program. If you get trained as a weed warrior, you may work on your own to help control invasives in Baltimore City parks. Weed-pull activities are scheduled throughout the fall, with tools and refreshments provided.

DATES: Weed pulls at Winans Meadow in Leakin Park on October 27 and November 3, 10-noon.

CONTACT: Heide Grundmann at 410-945-0586, or the City at 410-396-0359 or weeds@baltimorecity.gov

Chinquapin Park

DATE: September 22, 9 - 12. Join the Friends of Chinquapin Park for weed pulling along Chinquapin Run. This area is in desperate need of weed control. Tools and gloves are provided. Wear durable work clothes.

DIRECTIONS: Meet at the bridge by Northwood Dr. and Lenton Ave., between Northern Parkway and Belvedere Ave. CONTACT: Roberta Cowan at 410-365-1351 or robcow@gmail.com.

Cromwell Valley Park

DATE: 2nd Saturday of each month 9-12 at Cromwell Valley Park on Cromwell Bridge Rd. off the Baltimore Beltway. The rain date is the following day, at the same time. Tools and refreshments are provided.

CONTACT: Bill Breakey at breakkeys@comcast.net or the Park office at 410-887-2503. Check the Park's website at cypark@bcpl.net.

Herring Run Watershed Association

CONTACT: For information about invasive removal activities in Herring Run Park in Baltimore City, contact Angela at agaude@herringrun.org, or phone 410-254-1648, or check the website at www.herringrun.net.

Jones Falls Watershed Association

CONTACT: Suzanne Greene at sgreene@jonesfalls.org or 410-366-3036.

Calvert County

Hellen Creek Preserve

Join the Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust for invasive removals at Hellen Creek Preserve.

DIRECTIONS: From Washington, take Rt. 4 south to Calvert County. At Lusby, turn right at the 2nd light at Coster/Mill Bridge Road then take an immediate left onto Coster. After passing two rights (Bassford), look for the MACHINE SHOP sign on the left and then turn right

at Clifton Dr. Take the 1st left. Turn at a handmade sign with the number 11785. Follow to the sign and gate for the Preserve.

CONTACT: Bob Boxwell at 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. Bring work gloves and clippers.

CONTACT: American Chestnut Land Trust at land@actweb.org or 410-414-3400.

Caroline County

Adkins Arboretum

Adkins Arboretum trains volunteers to assist the staff in the removal of invasive non-natives on the Arboretum's 400-acre site. Workdays are flexible.

CONTACT: Sylvan Kaufman at 410-634-2847, ext. 24, or e-mail to info@adkinsarboretum.org.

Charles County

Chapman Forest and Ruth Swann Park

Remove invasive non-natives from the 800-acre portion of Chapman Forest designated as Chapman State Park on the 1st Sunday and from the 200-acre Swann Park the following Saturday each month, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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 on MD 210 through the traffic light at MD 227. (This crossroads is the center of the community known as Bryans Rd.) At about 1.1 miles past the light, veer to the right onto Chapmans Landing Rd.

Follow for 1.6 miles to the gated entrance of Mount Aventine and Chapman State Park. Meet at main gate of Chapman Forest.

To Ruth B. Swann Park: 20 miles (30 to 40 minutes) 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 Rd. Meet at the Potomac Branch Library parking lot.

CONTACT: Marc Imlay at 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808. On outings days, on cell phone at 301-442-5657. For information and a map, check out www.chapmanforest.org and www.mattawomanwatershedsociety.org. For carpools, meet at the Sierra Club Md. Chapter office at 9 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. Call Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111.

Garrett County

Savage River State Forest

Volunteers are needed to continue control efforts of Japanese spiraea in the Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Forest.

CONTACT: Ron Boyer of Elk Ridge NatureWorks at 301-895-3686 or info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

Howard County

Patapsco Valley State Park

DATE: Join the Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park at 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday each month at the Avalon area. This is the worst place in the park for non-native vines, where they have killed or broken many trees. Wear long clothes and bring gloves, as there is some poison ivy. Bring hand pruners and loppers (the 2-handed cutters for larger vines). We have some tools to borrow.

CONTACT: Jim Palmer to confirm date and time at 410-531-2065 or via email at J.G.Palmer@jhuapl.edu. See web site for updates at www.fpvsp.org.

(Outings continued on following page)

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Outings

Events Across Maryland to Restore Threatened Habitat by Removing Invasive Plants

(Outings continued from previous page)

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

The Conservation Stewardship Project at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) meets on 4th Tuesdays monthly from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. from March to October. Co-sponsors are the Howard County Recreation and Parks and the Howard County Master Gardeners. CONTACT: Aylene Gard at 410-992-9889 or Carol Filipczak at cfilipczak@comcast.net.

Howard/Anne Arundel/Prince George's County

Fort Meade Army Installation

DATE: 2nd Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. Time is flexible if enough volunteers are available. Bring hand tools, gloves, lunch, and water. Wear long sleeves and pants.

DIRECTIONS: Take Route 175 East from the 295 Baltimore Washington Parkway. Turn right onto Reece Rd. to enter the post, immediately turn left onto Ernie Pyle St., go approximately 1 mile, turn left on Llewellyn Ave., turn right onto Chisholm Ave., turn left on 3rd St., turn right on Ross Rd., and go to 2nd building on the right—Environmental Division Office.

CONTACT: At least 3 days before the event, contact Don Marquardt, Installation Forester, to get your name put on the list at 301-677-9185 or donald.marquardt@us.army.mil.

Patuxent Research Refuge

Outings are conducted 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.

DIRECTIONS:

To the North Tract Visitor Contact Station: From I-295, take the exit for MD-Route 198 towards Fort Meade. Go ap-

proximately 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 them onto Bald Eagle Drive. Proceed through the gate and continue about 1/2 mile to the Visitor Contact Station.

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

CONTACT: Christopher Wicker via e-mail Christopher_Wicker@fws.gov or phone 301-497-5763 or on the web at patuxent.fws.gov. Please register for outings by calling 301-497-5887.

Riverfront Park, Laurel

DATE: 2nd Sunday of each month, 1 - 4 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: From I-95, take the MD Route 216-Laurel exit. At the 2nd traffic light (Main St.), turn right. Go to the end of the next block, turn right at 9th St., and park at the swimming pool. CONTACT: Brigitte Fortin-Zaidan bfzaidan@Safe-mail.net or 240-506-8976.

Kent County

Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking help removing invasives from the Refuge at 1730 Eastern Neck Rd., Rock Hall. Bring bug repellent, gloves, high boots, and a hat.

CONTACT: Rachel at 410-639-2108 or Rachel_Cliche@fws.gov.

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 on your own schedule.

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

Montgomery County Parks

Become a Weed Warrior volunteer to remove invasives individually or in a group in the 32,500 acres of county parkland by completing a two-part online course and then attending a two-hour field training led by Carole Bergmann, Montgomery County Department of Parks forest ecologist.

CONTACT: Paul Carlson, Volunteer Coordinator for Weed Warriors, at 301-942-4709.

Potomac Gorge

The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with the National Park Service, has invasive plant control workdays in the Potomac Gorge, a 15-mile stretch of river valley between Great Falls and Georgetown with over 200 rare plants and 5 globally rare plant communities. At Weed Warrior training sessions, volunteers learn about 13 non-native plant species, adopt an area, and then work independently in the National Parks in the Potomac Gorge.

CONTACT: Contact Mary Travaglini at (301) 897-8570 x235 or PotomacGorgeVol@tnc.org, or find out about workdays at www.nature.org/maryland.

Sligo Creek

The RIP—Removing Invasive Plants—Committee of Friends of Sligo Creek holds plant removal events in different parts of Sligo Creek Park between New Hampshire Ave. and the headwaters in Kemp Mill and Wheaton.

CONTACT: For a schedule, see www.fosc.org/RIPEventSched.htm. Check http://www.fosc.org for last-

minute weather changes or call Sally Gagne at 301-588-2071.

Woodend Nature Sanctuary, Chevy Chase

Join the Audubon Naturalist Society to remove invasives from its Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD. Training will be provided. Trained volunteers may be authorized to work independently. CONTACT: Liz Jones at volunteer@audubonnaturalist.org or 301-652-9188 x 30.

Northwest Branch of the Anacostia, Montgomery County

DATE: 3rd Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. each month. Join us for a walk in the forest and to remove invasives. A vegetarian lunch is provided. Bring water and gloves.

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of 29 (Colesville Road) and University Blvd in Silver Spring, go east on University and turn (there's only left) on Williamsburg Drive. Stay on Williamsburg at the first fork you come to (bear left), and then at the second fork (Williamsburg N. vs. S.) bear left again. Williamsburg turns into Big Rock Road at the bottom of the hill. Go to 10204 Big Rock Road.

CONTACT: Jane Osburn at 301-754-1564 or jgosburn@earthlink.net.

Prince George's County Belt Woods, Bowie

DATE: Ongoing Saturday, Sunday, and occasional mid-week invasive species workgroups. Times and dates vary based on available team leader. Tools and gloves are provided, but feel free to bring your favorite tool or gloves.

CONTACT: For schedule call 301-390-0797 or pamelakcooper@verizon.net.

Woodworth Park, Cheverly

DATE: Friends of Lower Beaverdam

(outings continued on following page)

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Outings

Events Across Maryland to Restore Threatened Habitat by Removing Invasive Plants

(Outings continued from previous page)

Creek, Cheverly will resume invasive plant removals in the fall on the last Saturday of each month. All age groups can help rescue our native flowers, ferns, and other plants from non-native plants covering 30 to 90 percent of our parks that we have worked so hard to preserve. Tools are provided, but wear work gloves and sturdy shoes.

CONTACT: Cathy and Dan Smith at 301-386-0889.

DIRECTIONS: Take Rt. 202 east under the Baltimore Washington Parkway. Go one block and turn right on Cheverly. Go one mile and turn left on Forest Rd. Go two blocks passing a church on the left and turn right on BW Parkway. Go 2 blocks and turn left on Wayne for one block. We meet at the park by the small playground.

Suitland Bog Invasive Plant Removal Days

Help to preserve this unique habitat by removing honeysuckle and multiflora rose with shovels and pruners. Bring water, work boots, durable clothes with long sleeves, gloves, pruners, and shovels. Light refreshments will be provided. There is some poison ivy.

DIRECTIONS: From the Capital Beltway (I-495), take Exit 7A (Branch Avenue), toward Waldorf. Take Route 5 south. Take the Allentown Road exit. Make a left onto Allentown Rd. and go through 5 lights. Turn left onto Suitland Rd. at the 6th light. Follow Suitland Rd. until it passes under Suitland Parkway. The entrance to the Suitland Bog is to the right. Meet in the parking lot.

CONTACT: M-NCPPC Park Ranger Chris Garrett at 301-627-7755.

Indian Creek Trail at Lake Artemesia, Berwyn Heights

Bring water, work boots, durable clothes with long sleeves, and gloves. Light re-

freshments will be provided. There is some poison ivy.

DIRECTIONS: Meet in the Lake Artemesia parking lot along Berwyn, at Indian Creek Trail at Lake Artemesia, Berwyn Hgts. The lake is located on Berwyn Rd. in College Park.

From the south from the Capital Beltway (I-495): take Exit 23 (Kenilworth Avenue) toward Bladensburg. Make a right onto Route 193 (Greenbelt Rd.). Make a right onto Branchville Rd. (This road turns into 55th Ave.). The Lake Artemesia parking lot is on the left at the Berwyn Rd. intersection.

From the north from the Capital Beltway (I-495): take Exit 25 (Route 1) toward College Park. Make a left onto Route 193 (Greenbelt Rd.), then a left onto Branchville Rd. (This road turns into 55th Avenue.) The parking lot is on the left at the Berwyn Road intersection.

CONTACT: M-NCPPC Park Ranger Chris Garrett or John Dillon at 301-627-7755.

Watkins Regional Park

Join us for Weed Warrior Work Days at Watkins Nature Center in Watkins Regional Park. Meet at Watkins Nature Center parking lot. Bring water, work boots, durable clothes with long sleeves, and gloves. Light refreshments will be provided. There is some poison ivy.

DIRECTIONS: Located in Upper Marlboro at Watkins Regional Park, one mile west of the Six Flags America amusement park.

From the Capital Beltway (I-495): take Exit 15A (Central Ave.) east. Continue for approximately 3 miles. Turn right onto Watkins Park Dr. (Route 193) and follow the park signs to the facility. From Route 301: turn onto Central Ave. (Route 214) west. Continue for approximately 3 miles (past Six Flags America). Turn left onto Watkins Park Dr. and follow to the park entrance on the right.

CONTACT: M-NCPPC Park Ranger John Dillon or Chris Garrett at 301-627-7755.

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 has regular work sessions throughout the year for the removal/eradication of non-native invasive plant species and tree planting.

CONTACT: Matt Berres, Landscape Specialist, at mberres@ghi.coop or 301-474-4161 ext 132.

Greenbelt National Park, Greenbelt

DATE: 1st Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Volunteers will be hand-pulling harmful non-native plants. People of all ages, backgrounds and interests are invited. Bring lunch, drink, and appropriate clothing for weather. DIRECTIONS: Located just 12 miles from Washington D.C. From the Washington Beltway, take Kenilworth Ave. south about 1/4 mile to Greenbelt Rd, MD 193 (Kenilworth goes under 193). Stay to the right so you can take MD 193 east (a left to go over Kenilworth) for a few hundred yards to the park entrance. Follow signs to the Sweetgum picnic area. CONTACT: Tom Crone at 301-864-1959 or tomnjan@erols.com.

Little Paint Branch Park and Cherry Hill Road Community Park

DATE: September 29, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. There will be a sign-in and safety orientation with handouts. Information will be provided about the Park's natural history and special features, and the methods and reasons for controlling the spread of invasives. Native flowers and other plants will be identified as we work to

rescue them. Gloves and tools are provided.

DIRECTIONS: Meet at the Beltsville Community Center parking lot. There are bathrooms and a large seating area for lunch. Take U.S. 1 north from the Washington, D.C. Beltway. Go about 1 mile, past the National Agricultural Research Center, and turn left at the light on Montgomery Rd. Go 3 blocks and turn left on Sellman Rd. Go about 5 blocks and turn right into Little Paint Branch Park at the bottom of the hill.

CONTACT: Marc Imlay, PhD Conservation Biologist, Anacostia Watershed Society, 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808.

Magruder Park, Hyattsville

DATE: September 29, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and ongoing outings.

DIRECTIONS: Meet at the Magruder Park parking lot. Take Eastwest Highway (410) east almost to Route 1 in College Park. Turn right on Queens Chapel Rd. about a mile before Route 1. Go south about a mile and turn left on Hamilton. Pass the Safeway on the right, pass 38th St., go about one block, and turn right into the park. Magruder Park is approximately a 10-block walk from the West Hyattsville Metro stop on the Green Line.

CONTACT: Marc Imlay, PhD Conservation Biologist for the Anacostia Watershed Society, at 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808.

St. Mary's County Myrtle Point Park

DIRECTIONS: From Washington, take Rt. 4 south, crossing over the Patuxent River at Solomons. About 2 miles past the bridge, make a right onto Patuxent Blvd. Go about 2 miles to Myrtle Point Park. Meet in the Park lot.

CONTACT: Bob Boxwell, Executive Director, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, at 410-394-1300, or bobboxwell@hotmail.com. ■

Outings Near and Far

By Daniel J. Soeder—Just because the Maryland chapter and groups run a local outings program, it doesn't mean we have to restrict ourselves to the immediate areas of these groups. Many chapters with large programs—such as Angeles, Loma Prieta, and San Francisco Bay—run outings all over the country.

Angeles even has a thriving international outings program, with frequent trips to Mexico, Central America, and other localities. Our East Coast neighbors in New Jersey run international outings occasionally to places like Europe. The point is that we can go almost anywhere we want.

A couple of places where I've run trips that are out of our immediate area are the Delaware Water Gap in New Jersey and White Mountains of New Hampshire. If there is a special place that interests you, please let me know.

I'm planning to lead an outing next spring to Las Vegas. I lived out there in the 1990s and discovered dozens of wonderful hiking trails within a few minutes' drive of the city. I was always slightly saddened that most people who visit Vegas never get any farther than the big hotels on the Strip, missing the beautiful mountains, desert, and canyons just a short dis-

tance from town.

Closer to home, autumn is the best time to be in the Mid-Atlantic. With cooler weather, fewer insects, and colorful trees, this part of the country is simply beautiful. I'm originally from the Cleveland, Ohio, area, and my first experience with the Mid-Atlantic outdoors came back in 1974, on a geology field trip in college. We stayed in Hagerstown the first night, and started the trip at Harpers Ferry, where the Potomac cuts through the Blue Ridge. We spent two more days traveling up into the panhandle of West Virginia, stopping to view incredible rock exposures, sedimentary layers and structures in the folded mountains. We topped out on the flat-lying rocks of the Appalachian Plateau near Morgantown. I don't remember all the places we visited, but I do recall several fall days with spectacular scenery, including crimson and golden leaves against a stunning blue sky. On that trip, I fell in love with both the outdoors and the science of geology.

My career as an Earth scientist has taken me many places, but autumn in the Appalachians remains very special to me. It's one thing I really missed about the East when I lived in Nevada, because there isn't much of a fall season there. It just goes rather suddenly from being really hot to really cold. Most of the trees are conifers, so there isn't much of a show in any case. Please look over the wide variety of trips offered below. Get out there and enjoy another gorgeous autumn in the Mid-Atlantic! See you outside. ■

Dan Soeder is the Maryland Chapter outings chair. He can be reached at Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org.



Join the
Maryland Chapter's
action alert e-mail list

www.marylandsierraclub.org/action

Information for Outings Participants

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

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

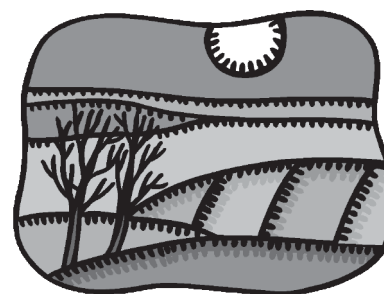
Participants are encouraged to select trips that match their own individual suitability for outdoor adventures. The Club offers a variety of activities from "easy" to "strenuous" that suit all activity levels. The difficulty of each outing activity is clearly designated at the end of the announcement.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

Unless noted in the announcement, Club outings are intended for adults. Before bringing a minor to an outing that is not specifically designated for children, please consult the leader to determine if it is appropriate. Minors (under 18 years of age) must be accompanied by a parent

or a legal guardian, or they must have both 1) a signed permission slip, and 2) the leader's prior consent, to participate in the Club outing.

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

Sierra Club outings normally begin and end officially at the trailhead, canoe put-in/take-out point, or some other similar staging locality. Travel to the official starting point and back, even from an advertised meeting place, is the sole responsibility of each participant. While the Club encourages car-pooling, such arrangements are strictly between the riders



and the drivers, and are not a part of the outing. Participants must assume full responsibility and liability for all risks associated with such travel.

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

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

The Sierra Club's California Seller of Travel identification number is CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Outings (September, October)

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
AT: Appalachian Trail
BLM: Bureau of Land Management
CG: Catoctin Group
C&O: Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
DE: Delaware
FFA: Family Friendly Activity (kids/dogs ok, but check with leader)
FWS: (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service
GB: Greater Baltimore Group
GWNF: George Washington National Forest
HC: Howard County Group
MNF: Monongahela National Forest
MW: Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP)
NJ: New Jersey
NPS: National Park Service
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
PA: Pennsylvania
PFD: Personal Flotation Device (lifejacket)
SF: State Forest
SP: State Park
SNP: Shenandoah National Park
VA: Virginia
WV: West Virginia

MWROP

Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program

MWROP is an activity section of the Virginia chapter, with an extensive outings program run by leaders who live in and around the Washington, D.C. area. Please check their website (www.mwrop.org) for a calendar of activities, information, and updates.

September

Saturday, Sep 22: FFA Prettyboy Reservoir Hike (*rated moderate*) Dogs are welcome on this hike along 6 miles of shoreline and through forests around Prettyboy Reservoir, following fire roads, lost trails, and fishing paths. Look for beaver activity. Enjoy the pristine water. Look for the beginning changes of fall. Hike is too strenuous for little kids; check with the leader before bringing a dog. Meet at 10:30 AM at the Mt Carmel Rd. park and ride off Rt. 83 north of the Baltimore Beltway. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Saturday, Sep 22: Patapsco Valley State Park (*rated moderate*) 8-mile circuit hike in the Glen Artney/Orange Grove areas of the park, on the Soapstone, Valley View and Vineland Spring Trails. Lunch at the Cascades. Bring lunch and water. Hike starts at 9:30 from the I-195 @ MD 166 (Rolling Road) park & ride. **Leader:** Tim Ryan (HC) 410-248-2974 (before 9:30 PM), timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.

Saturday, Sep 29: Exploratory paddling trip on the Sassafras River (*not rated*) Contact leader by September 26 to sign up and to learn where and when to meet for a route-finding paddle trip on this Eastern Shore stream. Sierra Club requires all participants on paddlecraft outings to wear a PFD. **Leader:** Liz VandenHeuvel (AA) 410-267-9009, liz2vh@olg.com

Saturday, Sep 29: Hike Sugarloaf Mountain (*rated moderate to strenuous*) Hike begins at 10 AM. Contact leader for details. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

Saturday-Monday, Sep 29-Oct 1: Little Pine State Park Car Camping, Tiadaghton SF, PA (*rated moderate to strenuous*) Day 1: Moderate 5 mile hike from camp for early arrivals. Day 2: Strenuous 9 mile hike on the Golden Eagle Trail, touted to be the best day hike in all of PA. Day 3: break camp. Reservations for campsites required. Register with leader in advance. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday, Sep 30: Sugarloaf Mountain (*rated moderate*) 8-mile hike featuring rocky outcrops with sweeping views. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for a 9:00 departure. **Leader:** James Perschy (HC) 410-964-1902, jmatp@starpower.net.



October

Thursday, Oct 4: GB Outings Planning Meeting (*not rated*) New and prospective outings leaders are welcome to attend the next quarterly meeting of the Greater Baltimore Group's Outings Committee. Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. If you're interested in leading outings and are curious about what is involved, come and talk with the outings leaders. The meeting will be held at the Panera Bread restaurant in Timonium, beginning with dinner and socializing at 6:30 in a quiet

corner and meeting to follow at 7:00. From I-83 north, take exit 16 Timonium Rd. east, turn left on York Rd., then turn right at the next light for the Timonium Center. **Leader:** Bette Thompson (GB) 410-666-2696.

Saturday-Monday, Oct 6-8: Cranberry Backcountry Backpack, MNF, WV (*rated strenuous*) Enjoy the Columbus Day weekend on a 31-mile backpack with a 4500-foot elevation change, utilizing the beautiful Pocahontas and Fork Mt trails. Several vistas. Three miles of road walking. Tentatively, the trek starts at Summit Lake near Richwood. Register in advance with leader. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Oct 6: Harpers Ferry (*rated strenuous*) Hike through 3 states, with spectacular overlooks of historic Harpers Ferry at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. Follow the C&O canal, walk through town, and ascend to Maryland Heights, Loudoun Heights, Split Rocks, and Jefferson Rocks. 9 to 11 mile hike depending on route. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for an 8:30 AM departure. **Leader:** Tim Ryan (HC) 410-248-2974 (before 9:30 PM), timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.

Sunday, Oct 7: Conservation Event: DC Green Festival (*not rated*) Learn to be more "green" by attending workshops, hearing speakers and browsing green business displays. Great food and music too! Visit <http://greenfestivals.org/> for more info. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Depart at 10:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Sue Muller (HC) 301-498-8462, sonicsue@verizon.net.

Outings (October cont.)

Tuesday, Oct 9: Catoctin Group Social and Informal Meeting at Isabella's Restaurant and Tapas Bar, Frederick (not rated) Come for drinks and/or dinner. This is a good chance to meet fellow outdoor lovers and environmentalists, as well as make suggestions for Sierra Club activities you'd like to see. Isabella's is all non-smoking and is in downtown Frederick on the East side of Market Street between Patrick and Church. For garage parking, go right on Church then take an immediate left into the garage. We'll be at a table in the back. RSVP appreciated but not required. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

Friday – Sunday, Oct 12-14: Outings Leader Training 101/201 in New York State (not rated) The Niagara Group of the Atlantic Chapter is hosting Sierra Club professional training staff from San Francisco for an OLT class at Camp Hoover near Preble, NY (between Syracuse and Cortland). OLT101 is required for anyone leading Sierra Club Class 1 outings (dayhikes), and OLT201 is required for Class 2 outings (overnights). This rare Northeastern workshop still has a few open slots; some attendees are coming from as far away as Tennessee. Check-in begins on Friday at 5 PM with dinner at 6. Opening program begins at 7:30 PM sharp. Workshop ends after lunch on Sunday around 1 PM. Reimbursable fee of \$45 includes all meals, snacks, lodging (bunk style), materials, raffle entry, and an Outings t-shirt. **Maryland Leader:** Dan Soeder (410-969-9465), e-mail: Dan.Soeder@Sierraclub.org Niagara Group Leader: Jane Jontz. Training Staff: Sascha Paris, Tom Libby, plus others.

Saturday & Sunday, Oct 13-14: Pig Roast (not rated) Join GB leaders at the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's annual Pig Roast at Blackburn Trail Center on the AT near Harpers Ferry, WV. Optional stop at "The Chili Man" on the way there (or back) to buy zesty organically grown hot sauces. Saturday features hiking and games (scary pumpkin carving, etc.) for the kids, followed by a Cuban style roast pig with black beans and rice, tamales, etc. Campfire sing-along in the evening. Arrive early to get indoor bunk space, or camp nearby. Optional stop at the famous flea markets in Halltown and Harpers Ferry, and also hiking and historical adventures. Cost is \$25; includes Sunday morning breakfast. For details, see the PATC website at <http://www.patc.net/>. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net

Saturday, Oct 13: White Oak Canyon / Cedar Run, VA. (rated strenuous) Circuit hike featuring 10 miles of waterfalls and cascades. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken

Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Saturday, Oct 13: Furnace Mountain and Jones Run Trails (rated strenuous) Southern SNP circuit hike. Three waterfalls and possibly some good chanterelle mushrooms. Return on Madison Run Fire Road. Hike is 16 miles, with 3,500 ft elevation gain. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center off Route 66 on Route 123 just outside Vienna, Virginia at 7:30 AM. Inexperienced hikers call for requirements or directions. **Leader:** William Needham (MW) 410-884-9127.

Saturday, Oct 13: Conservation Outing: FFA Jerusalem Mill Hike (rated moderate) Dogs and older children are welcome on this 6-mile hike in the Jerusalem Mill section of Gunpowder Falls State Park. Hike through a covered bridge and along a wilder section of the Gunpowder River, with beautiful rapids over rocks and trees beginning to show fall color. Afterwards, stay for the Colonial Craftsmen Weekend Encampment. Living history interpreters and re-

enactors will re-create village life in the 1750-1790 era at the historic Jerusalem Village and its mill. Meet at 10 AM in the Jerusalem Mill parking lot beside the blacksmith shop. Reach the park from Belair Rd. north of the Baltimore Beltway, taking the fork onto Jerusalem Rd. in Kingsville. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Sunday, Oct 14: Fall Foliage Hike at Catoctin Park (rated moderate) We will hike about 5-6 miles in this park north of Frederick with moderate climbs. Meet at 10 AM at the visitors' center off of Rt. 77 near Thurmont. Hike will finish around 5 PM. **Leader:** Joe Pepin (AA) 410-674-6127.

Sunday, Oct. 14: Morgan's Run at Liberty Reservoir (rated moderate) 8 mile hike with some stream crossings. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for a 9:00 AM departure. **Leader:** James Perschy (HC) 410-964-1902, jmatp@starpower.net.



Chapter Members collect data on water quality at local stream at 2005 Jamboree.

Maryland Chapter Jamboree

October 19-21, 2007

The biennial Jamboree has become an eagerly anticipated event for the Maryland Chapter. This year, we'll be paying special attention to our National Parks as they turn 100, and to global climate change. Plan to join your fellow Sierrans in the Catoctins for a week-end of fun, fellowship, and environmental awareness.

The registration form appears on the inside back cover of this issue of *Chesapeake*. For more information, contact Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111, or laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org.

Outings (October cont., November)

Friday to Sunday, Oct 19-21: Outings at the Maryland Chapter Jamboree, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD (*rated easy to moderate*) Outdoor activities at the Jamboree will include hikes, bird walks, water monitoring, conservation and stewardship outings. There will also be an Outings Leader Training (OLT101) class on the agenda for new leaders. Call the office at 301-277-7111, or visit the website at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/> to sign up.

Saturday-Monday, Oct 20-22: Cole Mt, Mount Pleasant Backpack, GWNF, VA (*rated moderate*) Day 1: Backpack approximately 4 miles with 2400 feet of elevation gain, and set up base camp at Cow Camp AT Shelter. Day 2: day hike approximately 12 moderate miles visiting 3 magnificent vistas: Cole Mt, Mount Pleasant and Pompey Mountain. Day 3: backpack back down the mountain. Register with leader in advance. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday, Oct 21: Conservation Outing: Mingo Forks/Bunker Hill Circuit Hike (*rated moderate*) This beautiful hike in Gunpowder Falls State Park should highlight the fall colors as it traverses 4 miles of stream valleys and upland forests on the south side of the Big Gunpowder. Will discuss efforts to protect river quality. Meet at Mt. Carmel Park & Ride at 1:00 PM. **Leader:** Alan (GB) 443-212-5082, email: f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu.

Saturday, Oct 27: Little Devils Stairs, VA. (*rated strenuous*) As the name implies, rough and steep 8-mile hike in SNP. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Wednesday, Oct 31: FFA Haunting Halloween Hike (*rated moderate*) Escape the doorbell and come haunt the waterfront with us for an easy walk along the harbor promenade in Canton and a loop through Fells Point. Kid-friendly walk will be 4 to 5 miles on paved surfaces. We will learn about the historical evolution of the seaport; efforts at improving the waterfront and cleaning the sorely abused Patapsco River; the ongoing saga of the unfinished promenade; and tell tales of ghosts, hauntings and mysterious happenings around town. All are welcome, costumes and spooky stories are encouraged. Possible dessert stop at a local pub afterwards. Meet at the Korean War Memorial off Boston Street at 6:30 PM. **Leader:** Joyce Fletcher (GB) 410-254-7240.



NOVEMBER

Saturday-Sunday, Nov 3-4: Big Schloss Backpack, GWNF, VA (*rated moderate*) 12 mile backpack, suitable for novices who are experienced hikers. The hardest part is a 1400-foot climb over 4 miles on the first day. The short out and back to the primary vista will be packless. Register with leader in advance. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Nov 3: Patapsco - Rockburn Branch (*rated moderate*) 7-8 mile hike with several stream crossings, following the Patapsco River on the Valley View Trail. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 10:00 AM in Rockburn Branch Park, the entrance off Landing Road one mile north of Montgomery Road; park in the lot at the end of the road under the power lines. **Leader:** James Perschy (HC) 410-964-1902, jmatp@starpower.net.

Sunday, Nov 4: Conservation Outing: Kelly Run & Pinnacle Overlook (*rated moderate*) Good chance of seeing bald eagles on this 8-mile hike. Meet at 10:00 AM. at K-Mart on Rt. 1 just north of the Beltway Exit 32. **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963.

Saturday, Nov 10: Conservation Outing: Prettyboy Watershed CCC Trail Hike (*rated easy*) Examine work of the Civilian Conservation Corps on this 4-mile circuit hike with spurs. Pleasant trail through diverse forest on the peninsula. Meet at 1:00 PM at trailhead on Traceys Store Rd. From I-83, take Mt. Carmel Road west 3.6 miles to Prettyboy Dam Road, and turn right. After 1 mile, turn left onto Traceys Store Road; continue 1.1 mile to parking lot at a bend in the road. **Leader:** Alan (GB) 443-212-5082, email: f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu.

Saturday, Nov 10: Kennedy Peak and Duncan Knob (*rated strenuous*) Massanutten Mountain Circuit Hike. Panoramic view of Shenandoah Valley and western slopes of Blue Ridge. Hike distance is 16 miles with 3,000 ft elevation gain. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center off Route 66 on Route 123 just outside Vienna, Virginia at 7:30 AM. Inexperienced hikers call for requirements or directions. **Leader:** William Needham (MW) 410-884-9127.

Saturday, Nov 10: Hike Maryland Heights (*rated moderate*) Hike begins at 2 PM, followed by optional dinner in Harpers Ferry. Contact leader for details. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

Sunday, Nov 11: Bicycle to Annapolis (*rated moderate*) Ride the Baltimore and Annapolis Hiker-Biker Trail from Route 100 about 15 miles to the Annapolis waterfront and back. Route has modest grades, but be prepared for a 30-mile round trip. Meet in the parking lot behind JC Penney at Marley Station Mall (Route 100 and Route 2) at 11 AM with bike, helmet, water, a bike lock and lunch money. Ride the paved rail-trail south, crossing the Severn River on the Naval Academy Bridge and arriving at Dock Street in time for a fashionable lunch, but without all the usual Naptown parking hassles. After lunch, we'll ride back to work it off. Heavy/steady rain or snow cancels. Sierra Club requires all riders to wear helmets. **Leader:** Dan Soeder (410-969-9465), e-mail: Dan.Soeder@Sierraclub.org.

Tuesday, Nov 12: Catoctin Group Social and Informal Meeting at Isabella's Restaurant and Tapas Bar, Frederick (*not rated*) See October 9 notice for details. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Nov 17: Conservation Outing: FFA Help Remove Invasive Plants along Glen Ellen-Seminary Trail (*not rated*) Before hiking at 11:00 AM, help cut invasive vines and pull other non-native plants along the Glen Ellen-Seminary Trail in the Loch Raven Watershed. Meet at 8:30 AM on Seminary Ave. just past the light to the left off Dulaney Valley Rd., north of the Baltimore Beltway. Tools and gloves

Outings (November cont., December, 2008)

will be provided. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Saturday, Nov 17: Conservation Outing: FFA Glen Ellen-Seminary Trail Hike (*rated moderate*) Dogs and older children are welcome on this 6-mile hike around coves bordering Loch Raven Reservoir, along streams, and through woodlands, walking along relatively flat paths and a fire road. Learn about this diverse habitat, including invasive vines creating meadows by snapping off trees. Meet at 10:30 AM on Seminary Ave. just past the light to the left off Dulaney Valley Rd., north of the Baltimore Beltway. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Saturday, Nov 24: FFA Full Moon Hayride and Farm Tour (*rated easy*) Cost will be \$10.00 per person. We will meet at 7:00 PM at the church parking lot on Seminary Ave at Dulaney Valley Road, 1/2 mile north of I-695. Tractor-pulled hayride starts at 7:30 PM at Yoder's Land of Promise Farm in Long Green. We will hopefully see the (almost) full moon, and maybe some live turkeys that escaped being part of Thanksgiving dinner. After the hayride we will have refreshments of cocoa, hot spiced cider, sausage, burgers, and marshmallows around a bonfire, with guitar music and singalong. Extra instruments and voices invited! Activity will end about 10:00 PM. Children OK with prior approval. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net



DECEMBER

Cross Country Skiing - Anytime when snow conditions allow, there is a potential for a ski trip to Western Maryland or West Virginia. Keep an eye on the weather and Jack's phone number on your speed dial. **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

Saturday, Dec 1: FFA Lake Roland and Robert E. Lee Park (*rated moderate*) Dogs and older children are welcome on this 5-mile hike beginning at the Lake Roland dam and walking on relatively flat trails around the lake, along the Jones Falls stream, through woodlands, and up to a cliff in the Bare Hills serpentine area. Learn about this beautifully diverse habitat in the Jones Falls Watershed. Meet at 11 AM in the street parking beside the Lake Roland dam. Follow the sign for Robert E. Lee Park on Lakeside Dr. off Falls Rd. and drive past the light rail parking lot. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423

Saturday, Dec 1: Patuxent Branch Trail (*rated easy*) 7-mile "sneaker hike" on paved trails in Columbia, along the Little Patuxent River, around Lake Elkhorn, and return before lunch. Look for wintering waterfowl on the lake. Meet at 9:00 at the trailhead parking lot, across from 9175 Guilford Rd, Columbia. **Leader:** Sue Muller (HC) 301-498-8462, sonicsue@verizon.net.

Sunday, Dec 2: Hemlock Gorge (*rated moderate*) See some of the largest hemlock trees left in the state on this 7 to 8-mile hike. Meet at 10:00 AM at the Schawan Road Park & Ride just off of I-83 north Exit 20B. **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

Saturday, Dec 8: Hike the Appalachian Trail in western Maryland (*rated moderate*) Hike begins at 10 AM. Contact leader for details. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, Dec 11: Catoctin Group Social and Informal Meeting at Isabella's Restaurant and Tapas Bar, Frederick (*not rated*) See October 9 notice for details. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, Dec 25: Holiday Escape (*rated moderate*) Avoid the in-laws while you work up a holiday appetite with a bracing walk through the Wildlands area of Gunpowder Falls Park. About 6 miles of hilly woods and damp valleys with stream crossings and a stretch of flat path along the river. Learn about the importance of riparian buffers and the interconnectedness of creek, river and bay. Meet at 10 AM at Big Gunpowder Falls Park on Belair Road. **Leader:** Joyce Fletcher (GB) 410-254-7240.



BEYOND DECEMBER

Wednesday-Friday, May 21-23, 2008: Hike Las Vegas (*rated moderate*): Meet us in fabulous Las Vegas, Nevada. Not for the shows, the games or the buffets, but for some spectacular day hikes just a short distance from Glitter Gulch. The leader is a former 8-year resident, and knows some easy to moderate trails at Red Rock Canyon, Spring Mountains NRA, Valley of Fire State Park, Lake Mead, and Death Valley. Go on some or all. Trip limited to 12 participants; reserve by the end of March. Airfare, hotels and meals are on your own, and we will split the cost of a rental van. Plan to arrive by Tuesday evening and leave Friday night or Saturday. Contact the leader for logistics and details. **Leader:** Dan Soeder (410-969-9465), e-mail: Dan.Soeder@Sierraclub.org.

Create an Environmental Legacy.

Bequests have played a key role in 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 info and confidential assistance, contact
Gift Planning Program
85 Second St, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932-4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Outings (BICO)

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.

BICO provides environmental education and promotes respect for the outdoors, teamwork and leadership skills and a community service ethic.

For more information, or to volunteer with the BICO program, contact BICO Chair Bob Iacovazzi at bicobob3@copper.net.

September

22-23 Camping, Assateague National Seashore FYC
29 Biking, C&O CGCC
29 Biking, C&O DHILL

October

TBA Service outing, Department of Parks & Recreation FYC
19-21 Camping, Pocomoke DHH
27 Community service, Baltimore Recreation & Parks CGCC
27 Community service outing DHILL

November

TBA Hiking, Maryland Heights and Museum tours, Harpers Ferry, WV FYC
16-17 Camping, Assateague DHH
17 Hiking, Patapsco and swimming, UMBC CGCC
17 Hiking, Patapsco State Park and swimming DHILL

December

TBA Ice skating with Santa, Patterson Park FYC
8 Patterson Park cleanup, skating DHH
8 or 15 Orienteering, Patterson Park, ice skating, and pizza CGCC
8 or 15 Orienteering, Patterson Park and ice skating DHILL

Abbreviations:

CGCC: College Gardens Community Center

DHH: Digital Harbor High

FYC: Franciscan Youth Center

DHILL: Dickey Hill Elementary School

ISO

Exciting Opportunity

Become involved in the Maryland Chapter's Smart Energy Solutions program!

The Maryland Chapter is looking for a person with good organizing skills to provide staff support for its Cool Cities Program and other conservation initiatives.

Qualifications include:

BA/BS degree in Environmental Studies, Political Science or a closely related field

Valid driver's license, satisfactory driving record, and proof of auto insurance (required)

1-2 years experience in the environmental field, including campaign research and organization, press relations, and public speaking

Excellent written and oral communication skills

Proficient computer skills

Demonstrated ability and effectiveness working with volunteers.

If you are interested in applying, please send an email to Joan Willey at joanwilley@verizon.net.



CORRECTION

The photographer who contributed the beautiful photos of birds at the Blackwater NWR for the Summer 2007 *Chesapeake* should have been identified as **Bob Quinn**. Darla is sorry to have made the error.

Letter to the Ed

Law 'N Lawns

I enjoyed the "Living Green" article by Betty Brody in the Summer issue of *Chesapeake*. I agree with her point that there are better ways to keep one's land than as a lawn. In fact, I have been trying to follow that advice by reforesting about an acre of land adjacent to parkland in Montgomery County. In her article Betty states "But wait . . . you needn't have a lawn at all. You can replace your lawn with low maintenance native bushes, trees and ground covers."

Unfortunately, Montgomery County does not go along with that idea. Any land zoned residential must be mowed. While this may make sense in developments where homes are on 1/4 acre lots, where I live, there is no public water supply, so homes are on 2 acre or larger lots. The "lawns" are therefore a couple of acres in size. My attempt at reforesting met with resistance.

This past February, a Montgomery County inspector told me I had to mow the land being reforested. When I explained that there were a number of seedlings hidden in the tall grass, he said the land was zoned residential so it had to be mowed. The irony is that when the County plants trees in residential area, just the opposite is true. It is illegal to mow those areas. When I contacted my county councilman, Michael Knapp, about this problem, he was not interested in the issue. So, while Betty Brody's idea is excellent, Montgomery County remains hostile to anything but lawns.

Frank Ierardi
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

**Maryland Chapter Jamboree
Registration Form**

Name: _____

e-mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

_____ I am willing to give someone a ride.

_____ I need a ride.

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

Names in your party, including ages of any children:

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

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

Children ages five and under are free.

_____ x \$65 regular= \$ _____

_____ x \$45 student/senior/low income= \$ _____

_____ x \$35 worker (kitchen/setup/cleanup)= \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

Mail checks and registration to
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
Attn: 2005 Jamboree
7338 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 101A
College Park, MD 20740
For information call the Club office at
301 277-7111

Information and registration also available at
<http://maryland.sierraclub.org>.



October 19-21, 2007

**Catoctin
National Park,
Thurmont, MD**

We had a great time in 2005! Don't miss the fun at this year's Jamboree! We'll be paying special attention to our National Parks, and to global climate change.

Events: Bird walk, auction, Saturday night dance band, speakers, and workshops. Have fun, explore the lovely Catoctin Mountains, and meet others from your local Sierra Club!

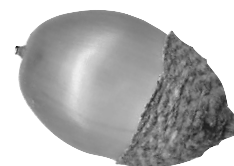
Accommodations: Rustic 10-bed cabin accommodation included in registration price. Private accommodations are available at nearby hotels and campgrounds.

Meals: All meals are included.

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

Price: Regular \$65, Senior/Student/Ltd. Inc. \$45. Cooks and cleanup crew may sign up for \$35 until those spaces are filled. Early bird discount : \$10 off for registration and payment received by October 1. Children ages 5 and under are free. Non-Sierra Club members, please add \$10 surcharge.

Maryland Chapter Jamboree



Credits

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

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

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

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

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

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

Writers and Contributors: Dave O'Leary, Frank Fox, Dale Sams, Laurel Imlay, Ron Henry, Jim Long, Bob Boxwell, Betty Brody, Vicky Hoover, Gordon LaBedz, Lisa Mayo, Cathy Kunkel, Mary Corddry, Dan Soeder, Frank Ierardi

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

Outings Editor: Dan Soeder

Habitat Restoration Outings Editor: Marc Imlay

Layout and Typography: Darla Tewell

Your Two Cents



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

Send your comments by email to editorch@maryland.sierraclub.org with "For Chesapeake" in subject line. Please include your name, address, and phone number. We'll post comments on the Chapter website, www.maryland.sierraclub.org.

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



What's inside?

- Fighting Sprawl at Terrapin Run, Mattawoman Watershed, and Greater Baltimore/Washington
- A *Third* Reactor at Calvert Cliffs?
- Politics, Pesticides, and Rachel Carson
- The Future of Energy in China
- Mountain Removal Mining
- **2007 Jamboree Registration**

! AND more

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ELKTON, MD
PERMIT NO 85