

Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Spring 2007

Downsizing Begins at National Wildlife Refuges

Bush administration forces cuts in staff, public use, and wildlife protection

By Lisa M. Mayo—On March 14, 2003, then-Secretary of Interior Gale Norton, along with prominent conservationists and local dignitaries, attended the 100th anniversary celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System, an event that was appropriately held at the nation's first wildlife refuge—Pelican Island NWR in Florida.

At the Centennial ceremony, Secretary Norton warned that, "The danger to refuges in the next century is if people lose touch with wildlife and the natural world. Too often children are watching animals only on television and playing in the woods or forest only in video games." In President Bush's address for the Centennial he similarly stated that, "These are special places where we can teach our children to respect nature and appreciate the beauty of God's creation."

But despite the rhetoric at the 2003 ceremony, President Bush's decreasing annual budgets for the Refuge System tell the real story regarding his commitment to conservation and environmental education. As a result of reduced funding and a crippling \$3 billion maintenance backlog, the Refuge System is now issuing workforce reduction plans for every region, resulting in a 20% reduction of staff, the possible closing of refuges, and the elimination of biological and educational programs. The cuts are so severe that Pelican Island NWR will lose its biological staff and its only public-use ranger, which will likely eliminate most public outreach—thus



Bald eaglets. Dave Menke, USFWS.

depriving many school children of the environmental education that Norton and Bush once claimed to value.

The American National Wildlife Refuge System

America's National Wildlife Refuge System is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is an agency within the federal Department of Interior. The Refuge System is currently composed of 545 refuges, 37 wetland management districts, and 3,000 waterfowl production areas representing all 50 states and totaling about 96 million acres. The System protects approximately 280 endangered species and millions of migratory waterfowl, yet 90% of the Refuge System is open to the public for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, and environmental education. This accessibility results in visitation by more than 40 million people annually and over \$1.4 billion generated in annual total economic activity, in addition to the creation of over 24,000 private sector jobs.

Despite the immense value and popularity of the

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Legislative Session Opens; Environmental Legislation Gets Governor's Support

By Jan Graham—This is a "new day" for our legislative agenda! Governor O'Malley stated in his acceptance of our endorsement, "Today Tony and I are proud to officially join in partnership with the Sierra Club to create a better, stronger Maryland for our children." He continued, "It's time for a governor that works for our environment instead of special interest polluters." The opportunity is here and it is up to us as Sierrans to see that we make full use of our partnership with Governor O'Malley. To this end, the legislative committee chose as our Maryland chapter priorities: clean cars, energy efficiency (several bills), Program Open Space, wildlands, and all issues having to do with global warming.

The clean cars issue was heard in the Senate and the House. Governor O'Malley was true to his word; not only did his newly-appointed Secretaries of MDE and DNR testify, but the Governor personally spoke in favor of the legislation.

The Governor has pledged to fully fund Program Open Space and support efficiency measures. Fortunately we have an administration that is supportive in light of the huge challenges that face us, and the Governor's wise choices for department heads bode well for our environment and state as a whole.

These challenges include global warming, the health of the Bay, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), transportation (Inter-County Connector), and

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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Legislative Update

Yeas and Nays for Pending Legislation

By Betsy Johnson—It's difficult to write about legislation for the newsletter when the legislature is in session because things move rapidly and get out of date very soon. As I write this, many bills are still on the drawing board and have not yet been introduced.

The good news this year is that global warming is on everyone's radar—and there are many good bills which address this issue. We hope that the combination of increased public awareness and the work of our members, other environmental organizations, and our fellow citizens will encourage wide support for these bills by our legislators.

Our Maryland Chapter website, <http://maryland.sierraclub.org>, has information about legislative priorities, though it won't give you the most up-to-date information on the status of the bills as they make their way through the legislative process. But you can follow legislation on the Maryland General Assembly website, <http://mlis.state.md.us/>.

Letting your senator and delegates know of your concern for the environment in Maryland is another way for you to act as a good steward of our land, air, and water. It would be helpful if you would contact your legislators and urge them to pass these good bills, and to reject the one bad bill we've identified so far.

Bills to support

The Clean Cars Act

SB 51/HB 44—SENATOR BRIAN FROSH/DELEGATE LIZ BOBO

Requires that Maryland's new-car dealers sell cars that meet California's emission standards, including a standard for carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. It is likely to pass due to support from leadership in the House and Senate and the Governor himself. The Maryland Sierra Club has designated this bill as its top priority for the session and has been working hard on getting our members in key districts to call their legislators and put pressure on them to vote for the bill. I expect that this will have been voted on by the time you read this.

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard—Solar Energy

SB 595/HB 1016—SENATOR ROB GARAGIOLA/DELEGATE SUE HECHT

Requires that a certain percentage of the renewable energy portfolio comes from solar installations in the state.

Should this bill pass it will give solar power a real boost in Maryland, putting us on a par with California and New Jersey with respect to solar energy usage.

Global Warming Solutions Bill

SB 409/HB 890—SENATOR PAUL PINSKY/DELEGATE KUMAR BARVE

Requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and creates an Office of Climate Change within the Department of the Environment.

Local Government—Street Lighting Equipment

SB 423/HB 875—SENATOR RICH MADALENO/DELEGATE JANE LAWTON

Authorizes local governments to purchase street lighting equipment from electric utility companies. Local jurisdictions providing maintenance for street lights are much more likely to use more efficient lights to control their costs.

Solar Energy Grant Fund

SB 186/HB 328—SENATOR ROB GARAGIOLA/DELEGATE ANN MARIE DOORY

Creates a dedicated funding source for the Solar Energy Grant Fund. If renewable energy is too expensive, utilities can pay into a fund rather than comply with the percentage requirements of the Renewable Energy Standard (RPS). Currently, the money goes into a Maryland Renewable Energy Fund, which may or may not be used for solar. Probably very little of it would. With this bill, half of that money would go straight to the Solar Grant Fund.

Electric Companies—Energy Efficiency and Conservation Measures and Services

SB 562/HB 631—SENATOR BRIAN FROSH/DELEGATE BRIAN FELDMAN

Restores energy efficiency programs for residential utility customers. Requires that 1% of electricity sales per year comes from energy efficiency.

MD Energy Efficiency Standards Act of 2007

SB 674/HB 909—SENATOR PAUL PINSKY/DELEGATE BILL BRONROTT

Establishes energy-efficiency standards for nine types of electrical products.

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Legislative Update

Legislative Session Opens; Environmental Legislation Endorsed by Governor

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a myriad of other concerns too numerous to mention. However, we as Sierrans must look at these issues as challenges and opportunities.

How You Can Help

We look to our elected officials for leadership, and they need our support to succeed. What can you do?

- Write "letters to the editor."
- Call your legislators not only to encourage their vote, but to say "thank you" when they do the right thing.
- Visit Annapolis to testify on bills that are crucial to our agenda.

We need to show our strength through the grassroots endorsement of our members so that our voice can be heard.

The Challenge of BRAC

The health of the environment, not just in our state but worldwide, is at stake. The decisions that we make will have an impact on future generations. In Maryland, the growth we face as BRAC moves forward will strain our communities. We will be facing a rapid population growth around our military bases. How to accommodate jobs, schools, housing, and at the same time protect water resources, open space, and the Bay will be a great challenge.

Are you ready for these new issues and opportunities? Get involved! There has never been a time as important as now.

Get More Information

For more information on pending legislation in the Maryland Assembly, point your browser to <http://mlis.state.md.us>, and scroll down to enter bill number or other search criteria. ■

Governor O'Malley Commits to the Environment in State of the State Address

Following are excerpts from Governor O'Malley's State of the State Address, given in Annapolis on January 31, 2007.

When it comes to the urgent work of protecting and improving the health of our Chesapeake Bay watershed for the benefit of generations to come, there is no time to waste. Nor is there a better time to begin looking toward the next generation of technologies to protect our environment and build our economy.

Sustainable Growth

Because smart sustainable growth is absolutely central to preserving our quality of life in this sensitive Bay watershed, I have directed our Secretary of Planning to reestablish the Office of Smart Growth within his agency—to help coordinate growth across agencies lines.

Performance Measurement for Bay Restoration

As we move forward with the development of BayStat—to apply performance measured management to all of our Bay restoration efforts – please know that the following items are all contained in the proposed budget before you:

Program Open Space, Water Systems, and Agricultural Support in Budget

- Every dollar of Open Space funding this year—an estimated \$289 million—will be spent on open space.
- An additional \$138 million, with your support, will go to improve local water and wastewater systems for the benefit of the health of the Bay.
- And with your support, this budget will also provide record funding for cover

crops and will triple Maryland's investment in the development of agriculture and resource-based industries through Maryland Agricultural and Resource Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO).

By making sustainable farming in Maryland more profitable, we preserve open space and improve the health of the Bay.

Oyster Restoration Act

Speaker Busch has been a tremendous champion of another bill I am asking you to support. The Oyster Restoration Act will, for the first time, allow our Department of Natural Resources to lease parcels of land on the floor of the Bay for oyster restoration projects. We need to restore this natural aquatic filter to the Chesapeake if we hope to turn it around.

Global Warming and Clean Cars

As we accept our responsibility in the fight against global warming, I ask you to support the Clean Cars Act, adopting stricter

pollution emission standards for cars sold in Maryland. By taking action, we can help children suffering with asthma. We can remove pollutants from the air and the Bay. And we can join 11 other states in getting this done, this year.

Clean, Renewable Energy

We will also be revamping the Maryland Energy Administration to spearhead our state's effort advancing the development of clean and renewable energy, including the next generation of biofuels—like cellulosic ethanol—which our academic institutions and private companies are already pursuing. And government should lead the way by increasing the percentage of clean fuels we purchase each year and by investing in green building technologies. Maryland can and should lead on energy independence. ■

Thanks to Alice Neily Mutch for providing these excerpts.

The Governor and the ICC

Governor O'Malley has repeatedly expressed his support for the Inter County Connector (ICC)—a massively expensive and destructive highway in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties that will do little to reduce congestion, according to the state's own study.

If you agree that this is bad for the environment, bad for taxpayers, and a bad transpor-

tation plan, please write to the Governor and ask him to do a cost/benefit re-evaluation of all transportation projects in the state, including the ICC.

Let's ensure that we are spending our hard-earned taxes on the most effective projects.

The Governor can be reached via e-mail from his web page: www.governor.maryland.gov/mail/.

Legislative Update

Pending Bills Pro and Con

(continued from page 2)

Tax General—Income Tax

Credit—Energy-Efficient Residential Heating and Cooling Systems

SB 615/HB 595—SENATOR RICH

MADELENO/DELEGATE JON CARDIN

Establishes tax incentives for installing energy-efficient heating and cooling systems.

Solar Energy Grant Program

SB 187/HB 253—SENATOR ROB

GARAGIOLA/DELEGATE NANCY KING

Increases the amount per grant that can be awarded from the Solar Energy Grant Fund. This bill would increase that limit from 20% of a project's cost to 30%.

Stormwater Management Act of 2007

SB 784/HB 786—SENATOR JIM

ROSAPEPE/DELEGATE JANE LAWTON

Requires local governments to update zoning ordinances to allow for the implementation of environmental site design techniques in specified stormwater management practices.

Bill to oppose Environment—Water Appropriation Permits—Groundwater Recharge Area

SB 499—SENATOR DAVID BRINKLEY

Will allow water within state parks and preserved lands to be used to calculate water capacity for growth. It is driven by several requests by developers to withdraw waters from state lands. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) failed to develop a policy satisfactory to the public last year. So now it is being brought by the Senate, in response to applications from Terrapin Run and Wisp, and some Carroll County issues. If it passes, it will change the entire structure of Capacity Management for drinking water and allow developers to use the lands in state parks and forests to calculate recharge areas for withdrawals. ■

Public Funding for Campaigns for the General Assembly This is the year to push it through!

By Cliff Terry—Last year, after several years of trying, bills to provide full public funding for campaigns for the General Assembly passed the House of Delegates AND the Senate Committee on Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs. That's the first time public funding passed either hurdle. This year we should be able to boost it all the way.

Here's what it's about. Many of the legislators you lobby on environmental issues depend heavily for campaign contributions on businesses and industry trade associations. And the financial self-interest of many of these big contributors puts them on the "anti-environment" side of some of the issues you care most about.

For example, this session's Clean Cars bill would reduce emissions from Maryland cars, including the carbon dioxide that contributes to global warming. But the bill is opposed by well-funded car makers and dealers.

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

No amount of tinkering with the current system of financing campaigns

will solve this problem. We need a new system. That new system is public financing of General Assembly campaigns, as recommended by the Study Commission on Public Funding of Campaigns in Maryland.

It would be similar to systems that have been working well for several years in Maine and Arizona. All General Assembly candidates who wish to receive public funding would first have to show broad public support by collecting a specified number of and amount of "qualifying" contributions from registered voters in their districts. They must agree to spend essentially nothing on their campaigns except the public funding they receive.

The bills are SB 546 and HB 731, cross-filed. Please call your senator and delegates and ask them to support them.

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

Cliff Terry, Campaign Finance Reform Chair, can be reached at 410-944-9477 or cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org.



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, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. **Thank you.**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Recycling

Corn-Based Plastic Bottles Would Disrupt Recycling Efforts

The economics of making ethanol and plastics from plants have improved as the price of oil and gas, against which they compete, has increased. There is no disputing that a shift to a carbohydrate economy can help to move us away from our dependence on non-sustainable petroleum.

But that transition should be done in such a way that does not disrupt or destroy existing recycling infrastructures.

Polylactic acid (PLA), the first commercial bio-based plastic produced from corn, made its debut in 2002, and was initially used for carryout food packaging and service ware. This is a good use for bio-based plastics, as there is no existing recycling system in place for these items, and it will be a better use when cellulosic feedstocks are used instead of corn. However, PLA is now also being pushed by its manufacturer, NatureWorks, for bottles. The company has focused on PLA's unique capacity to be composted, since there is no existing recycling infrastructure to handle its end of life.

In practice, however, even though that is theoretically possible, PLA bottles will not be composted because of the scarcity of commercial facilities capable of doing so and the high cost of reaching those sites, which will charge instead of pay to accept them. And, composting does not recover the energy that went into producing the bottle, as recycling does.

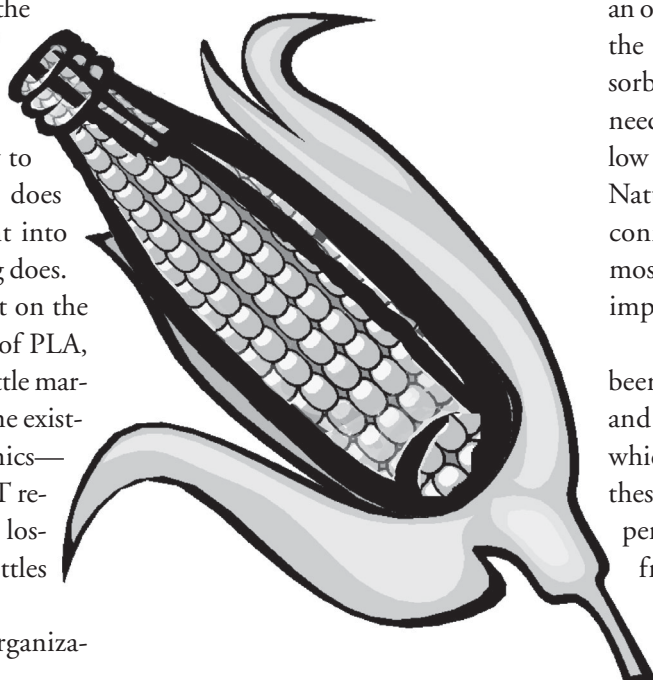
Not only is there no market on the horizon to recycle bottles made of PLA, but PLA's growing presence in bottle markets could significantly undermine existing recycling programs' economics—first, by disrupting successful PET recovery programs, and, next, by losing the high value in the PET bottles it displaces.

A coalition of recycling organiza-

tions, including the Grassroots Recycling Network, the Plastic Redesign Project, the Container Recycling Institute, the Institute for Local Self Reliance and all of the local non-profit recycling programs, is asking NatureWorks to place a temporary moratorium on PLA bottles until end-of-life systems are developed to recycle or compost them economically. Others are asked to join their petition.

If you would like to learn more about these issues, visit the website <http://plasticredesignproject.org/PLAHome.htm>. To sign a petition to NatureWorks for a moratorium, go directly to www.plasticredesignproject.org/Petition.htm.

For more information about the new Sierra Club Zero Waste Committee go to <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/committees/zerowaste>. To join the team working on zero waste and extended producer responsibility initiatives join our discussion group by signing up at the "Members-Only list subscription page": <http://www.sierraclub.org/memberlists?listname=CONS-EQST-WASTE-FORUM>. ■



Watersheds

They Paved Paradise and Killed the Fish

Impervious Surfaces Impair Watersheds

This article was excerpted from The Washington Post, January 11, 2007. The original article is available online at www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/10/AR2007011000585.html.

By David A. Fahrenthold, *Washington Post* Staff Writer—A group of Maryland state biologists, making an unusual series of public appeals about the environmental cost of unchecked development, are using the Severn River as a great example of a very bad thing.

The scientists' . . . message is that when too much of a river's watershed is eaten up by concrete and asphalt, the result is a cascade of mud and pollution that can deplete fish populations.

They say the Severn, where yellow perch populations have dropped sharply as streets and shopping centers have sprouted nearby, makes for a sad Exhibit A.

"It's our poster child for how bad things can get," said Jim Uphoff, a scientist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. . . .

The relationship between concrete on the land and fish in the water is not an obvious one. Explaining why one hurts the other requires discourses on the absorbent properties of dirt and the oxygen needs of algae. But Uphoff and four fellow biologists from the Department of Natural Resources are trying to make the connection better known. They spend most of their time talking about so-called impervious surfaces.

These are parts of the land that have been covered in something man-made and solid, such as asphalt or a house, which water can't easily penetrate. When these hard surfaces cover more than 10 percent of a watershed, the area of land from which rainwater drains to a stream, problems begin to abound.

That's because the surfaces

short-circuit nature's way of dealing with rainwater. Before the land was settled, the scientists say, the water would usually soak into the ground and would release slowly into creeks and streams.

But now, rainwater hitting hard surfaces is shunted into storm drains, moving at high speed. It erodes loads of dirt, which clouds the water and buries plants downstream and brings toxic chemicals and other pollutants that feed unnatural algae blooms.

These blooms are a particular problem because they consume underwater oxygen, which fish and crabs need to breathe.

"It's not just one thing," Uphoff said. "It's multiple. There are multiple insults to the system."

There are problems with uncontrolled, polluted storm water all over the Chesapeake region. . . . But the scientists use the Severn as their example because they have studied its decline so closely. Until the 1950s, the Severn had so many yellow perch that state officials took fish from there to start their hatcheries. But then came waves of development—week-end cottages, then a web of waterside neighborhoods—that have left about 17 percent of the watershed covered by hard surfaces, they say.

The impact of that development has shown up in a crash of the yellow perch population, officials said. Eggs do not hatch, possibly because of toxic contaminants or a low level of oxygen. Even adult fish that migrate in from other areas are under stress in the Severn, trying to find a place where they can breathe. . . .

"You end up with murky water. You end up with reduced wildlife habitat. You end up with lousy yellow perch habitat, for example," said John Page Williams, a senior naturalist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. When you develop an area like the Severn's watershed, Williams said, "the tradeoff is in the creek and the river." ■

Study Finds Highway Exhaust Stunts Lung Growth in Children

This article was excerpted from The New York Times, January 30, 2007. The original article is available online at www.nytimes.com/2007/01/30/health/30lung.html?ex=1327813200&en=b6b807b2d47391f6&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss

By Nicholas Bakalar, *The New York Times*—A new study suggests that children who grow up within a third of a mile of a freeway may be sustaining permanent respiratory problems. . . .

Researchers studied developing lung function in 1,445 children living in 12 Southern California communities for eight years, from age 10 to 18. They found that the closer the children lived to a freeway, the more likely they were to experience reduced growth in lung function. . . .

“That living near freeways is a health issue is something we’ve known about for a long time,” said Gennet Paauwe, a spokeswoman for the California Air Resources Board, which financed part of the research. . . . “But I think this would translate to any other part of the U.S. where people are living near heavily trafficked roadways.”

The findings were published online Friday by the British journal *The Lancet*.

“Our finding of a larger impact on small lung airways is consistent with what is known about the types of pollutants that are emitted from the tailpipe,” said W.

J a m e s Gauderman, the lead author and an associate professor of preventive medicine at the University of Southern California. These pollutants, he continued, “can be inhaled deeply into the lung and may have the largest impact on the smallest lung airways.”

. . . “Our findings were observed in all of these children, including those liv-

ing in areas of lower pollution,” Dr. Gauderman said, “so it suggests that in any urban area where children are living near busy roads, they are likely to have adverse respiratory effects.

It’s not just L. A.”

The development of lung function was also lower in nonasthmatic and non-smoking teenagers living near freeways, suggesting that the highways had an adverse effect on otherwise

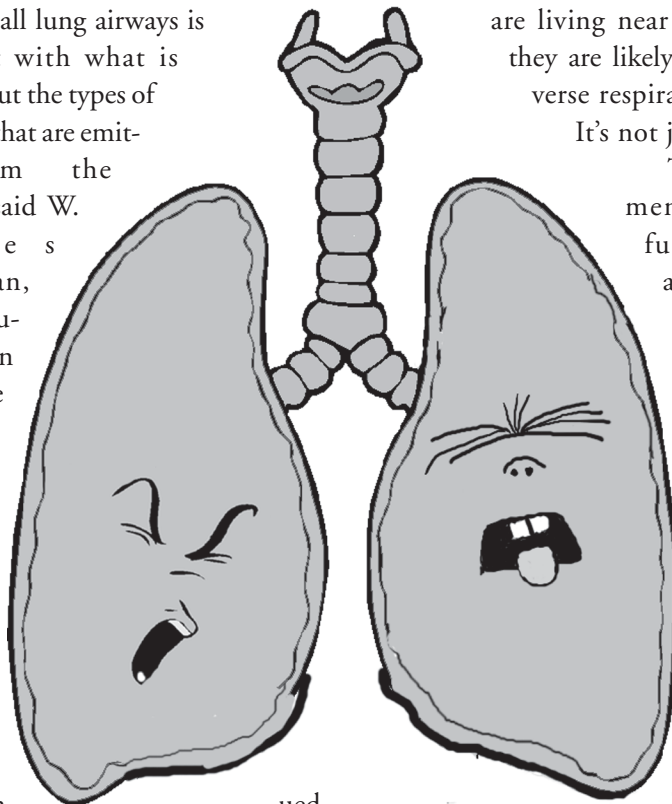
healthy children. Growth of lung strength and capacity, the researchers write, is largely complete by age 18, and this means that a child with a deficit at that age will probably suffer lifelong dimin-

ished lung function.

“The study is significant in the finding that it isn’t just regional air pollution, which policy makers have focused on,” said Frederica Perera, director of the Columbia Center for Children’s Environmental Health at the Mailman School of Public Health in New York. . . .

The researchers started with a group of 3,600 children, using questionnaires to gather information on parental income, history of asthma, prenatal exposure to maternal smoking and household exposure to smoking and pets. Then, using yearly questionnaires, they tracked asthma status, personal smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke. They also recorded the distance of each child’s home from the nearest limited-access highway and from other major nonfreeway roads.

To determine lung function, the scientists used standard tests that measure how much air a child can exhale during a forced expiration and how forcefully he can do so. Normally, these numbers gradually increase as children grow. The children were tested an average of six times over the eight years of the study. . . . ■



The Eastern Shore Group Presents

Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-Energize America

Please join us to see this 38-minute film that reveals the consequences of our coal-powered economy and tips for saving up to \$600 annually on energy bills!

Discussion and guest speakers will follow. Pick up a FREE compact fluorescent light bulb (while they last!) and a guide to energy conservation in your home.

Food provided. This program is sponsored by Pickering Creek Audubon Center and the Maryland Sierra Club, Eastern Shore group.

Talbot County Free Library Thursday, March 29 6:30-7:45pm
Members/Non-Members: Free

Conservation Buyers Needed

Appalachian Trail/Shenandoah River

Residential lots will be for sale adjoining Rolling Ridge Foundation’s (RRF) 1400-acre private nature sanctuary on a trail leading to the Appalachian Trail. Lots have access to the Shenandoah River.

Fifteen one- and two-acre wooded sites will be available on a country road with utilities. Located in Jefferson County, WV, near Charles Town and Harpers Ferry, this land is a one- or two-hour drive from Northern Virginia or Washington, DC.

Lots will be sold on a first come basis. Conservation restrictions will apply to homes. The conditions will be based on a conservation agenda, that is, limited impact of home sites, e.g., size, colors, vegetation, access to a river lot dedicated to the owners’ use.

Contact Paul Pritchard, National Park Trust, at 301-279-PARK, ext. 11 or at paul@parktrust.org.

Think Local for the National Day of Climate Action, April 14, 2007

Step It Up!—and Help Fight Global Warming

As some of you may already know, this April 14, tens of thousands of Americans will come together to tell Congress:
“Step it up. Cut carbon 80 percent by 2050.”

This National Day of Climate Action (Step It Up 2007) is a grassroots effort started by author Bill McKibben and co-sponsored by the Sierra Club and dozens of other environmental groups. We encourage Club members to participate as individuals in scheduled events or, better yet, start an event with your chapter or group.

While Step It Up is focusing on documenting the problem of global warming, the Sierra Club will also focus on documenting solutions — we’ll be asking your help in taking photos of progress where you find it, whether it’s an array of photovoltaic cells or that hybrid parked in your garage.

Step It Up is one part of the Club’s menu of Earth Day activities planned for April. Stay tuned—see www.stepitup2007.org.

A Letter from Writer and Environmentalist Bill McKibben

Dear Friends,

This is an invitation to help start a movement—to take one spring day and use it to reshape the future. Those of us who know that climate change is the greatest threat civilization now faces have science on our side; we have economists and policy specialists, courageous mayors and governors, engineers with cool new technology.

But we don’t have a movement—the largest rally yet held in the U.S. about global warming drew a thousand people. If we’re going

Step it up, Congress! Enact immediate cuts in carbon emissions, and pledge an 80% reduction by 2050. No half measures, no easy compromises—the time has come to take the real actions that can stabilize our climate.

As people gather, we’ll link pictures of the protests together electronically via the web—before the weekend is out, we’ll have the largest protest the country has ever seen, not in numbers but in extent. From every corner of the nation we’ll start to shake things up.

By its very nature, this action needs all kinds of people to help out. We can’t make it happen—it has to assemble itself.

Sign up to host an action. We’ll coordinate the responses, introducing you to others from your area, and give you everything you need to be a leader, from banners to press releases.

You don’t have to have ever done anything like this—you’re not organizing a March on Washington, just a gathering of scores or hundreds in your town or neighborhood.

We need creativity, good humor, commitment. If you are active in a campus group or a church or a local environmental group or a garden society or a bike club—or if you just saw Al Gore’s

movie and want to do something—then we need you now.

And by now, we mean now.

The best science tells us we have ten years to fundamentally transform our economy and lead the world in the same direction or else, in the words of NASA’s Jim Hansen, we will face a “totally different planet,” one infinitely sadder and less flourishing.

The recent elections have given us an opening, and polling shows most Americans know there’s a problem. But the forces of inertia and business-as-usual are still in control, and only our voices, united and loud, joyful and determined, can change that reality.

Please join us. ■



to make the kind of change we need in the short time left us, we need something that looks like the civil rights movement, and we need it now. Changing light bulbs just isn’t enough.

So pitch in. A few of us are trying to organize a nationwide day of hundreds and hundreds of rallies on April 14. We hope to have gatherings in every state, and in many of America’s most iconic places: on the levees in New Orleans, on top of the melting glaciers on Mt. Rainier, even underwater on the endangered coral reefs off Key West.

We need rallies outside churches, along the tide lines in our coastal cities, in cornfields and forests and on statehouse steps.

Every group will be saying the same thing:

Mountains and Mining

Speaking of Mountains

By Kim Stenley—I first met Larry Gibson in the pages of *Harper's Magazine*. He was one of many Appalachian residents author Erik Reece interviewed for the article, “Death of a Mountain: Radical Strip Mining and the Leveling of Appalachia,” which appeared in the April 2005 issue. It was also the first time I heard about mountaintop removal mining (MTR).

I was shocked to learn that something so destructive had been going on for so long in West Virginia and Kentucky, among other places, unbeknownst to me, a reasonably well-read environmentalist. But it had, and does, by design. According to coal miner's daughter and activist, Judy Bonds, of Coal River Mountain Watch, “It's the best kept dirty little secret in America.”

The story of MTR has been ignored by mainstream media. In Jeff Barrie's documentary, “Kilowatt Ours,” we learn of the devastating 1972 Buffalo Creek disaster, in which breached slurry ponds, the byproducts of coal processing, washed away hundreds of homes and took 125 lives. Though the spill was 30 times the size of the Exxon-Valdez oil spill, few outside town limits heard about it.

The MTR story continues to get little media play, perhaps because the coal industry, like other fuel industries, has succeeded in hiding its destructive practices from an incurious public accustomed to cheap power. Drive along major highways in coal country and you won't see the treeless plateaus where mountains used to rise. But you will see billboards that proclaim, “Coal keeps the lights on.”

And, as Reece explores in “Moving Mountains: Will Justice Have Its Day in Coal Country?,” which appeared in the January/February 2006 issue of *Orion*, the coal lobby is far reaching, has deep pockets, and is proving to be a tough opponent to those seeking to put an end to this practice that is destroying so many lives.

MTR isn't just about losing flora and fauna; it's also about people losing their lands, homes, and cultures. The people Reece met are doing their best to hold on to what little they have left. The bulldozers and draglines are encroaching, their wells are contaminated, their lawns, homes and lungs are constantly coated with coal dust, and they are suffering from pollution-related diseases. But they are fighting like hell to save themselves and their ancestral homelands.

National Geographic focused its lens on Appalachia in “The High Cost of Cheap Coal” in its March 2006 issue. In “The Coal Paradox,” author Tim Appenzeller explores our nation's and the world's relationship to coal. John G. Mitchell, in “When Mountains Move,” looks at how MTR is affecting the people of southern West

period. He meditates on the disappearance of the mountain, destroyed for its coal, which is shipped to 22 other states and other countries, and on the process by which it came to pass. His “is the story of how the richest ecosystem in North America is being destroyed, and how some of the poorest people in the United States are being made poorer by a coal industry that operates with little conscience or constraint.”

Other writers also made pilgrimages to MTR sites and surrounding neighborhoods. Their reflections, in the form of essays, short stories and poems, make up *Missing Mountains: We went to the mountaintop but it wasn't there; Kentuckians Write Against Mountaintop Removal*. The variety of voices and genres and the honesty with which the authors communicate their impressions of MTR make this a powerful book.

I was fortunate to make such a pilgrimage to Kayford Mountain in May, 2006. After reading so much about the destruction, I had to see it for myself. I found the pictures don't accurately portray the massive scale of mountaintop removal mining. It's numbing to think our species has evolved to the point where we can dismantle mountains, eons old, within a few years' time, destroying large ecosystems in the process.

While in West Virginia, I got to meet Gibson. He is a humble man with a passion for place rarely seen anymore. He lives and breathes to save his home, his ancestral burial grounds, and the mountains many of us love. It takes courage for a person to say no to the coal companies, who are fighting to take ownership of one's land, while watching the mountains surrounding one's home crumble to the ground. Gibson is a hero, fighting for his rights, his neighbors' rights and the rights of all living things in Appalachia.

But he, Judy Bonds and the others need our help against a formidable opponent. We can begin by learning as much as we can about the problem and its solutions, supporting individuals and organizations working to right this wrong, and speaking out against mountaintop removal mining.

Knowledge and action are our only hope for trying to save the Appalachians and the people who call them home. ■



Larry Gibson and Kim Stenley at Larry's home on Kayford Mountain

Virginia, whose family roots in coal mining run deep. In this article I met Judy Bonds, who, like Larry Gibson, is an outspoken advocate for the mountains and its people.

Reece's articles in *Harper's* and *Orion* became a part of *Lost Mountain: A Year in the Vanishing Wilderness, Radical Strip Mining and the Devastation of Appalachia*, a book published in 2006. Reece teaches writing at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. His work is a heartfelt, beautifully written, first-person account of the destruction of a mountain in Kentucky over a one-year

Mountains and Mining



View of mountaintop removal mining site from Kayford Mountain in West Virginia

For more information on MTR

Erik Reece's article in *Orion* magazine is available at www.grist.org/news/maindish/2006/02/16/reece/.

Lost Mountain: A Year in the Vanishing Wilderness Radical Strip Mining and the Devastation of Appalachia by Erik Reece (Paperback) 288 pages; Riverhead

Missing Mountains: We went to the mountaintop but it wasn't there by Kristin Johannsen (Editor), Bobbie Ann Mason (Editor), Mary Ann Taylor-Hall (Editor) (Paperback) 220 pages; Wind Publications

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, www.wvhighlands.org, promotes conservation in West Virginia, especially in the Highlands Region, and provides speakers on MTR.

Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, www.ohvec.org/issues/index.html, provides a MTR fact sheet and explains what individuals can do to help stop MTR.

Coal River Mountain Watch, <http://webpages.charter.net/crmw/links.htm>, aims at stopping MTR in the area, provides many MTR links, and sponsors a "road show," www.mountainroadshow.com/

Appalachian Voices, www.appvoices.org/, provides information about MTR, including maps of permits and virtual flyovers, and allied with other organizations to launch iLoveMountains.org, www.ilovemountains.org/ to stop MTR.

Natural Selection

DNR Historian Robert F. Bailey Describes a Century in Maryland's Forests and Parks

By Barbara Garner— *Maryland's Forests and Parks, A Century of Progress*, by Robert F. Bailey, III, on behalf of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, is a recently published book in the Images of America series by Arcadia Publishing. It is a well-documented account of Maryland's forests and state parks beginning in 1906, and tells, largely with photographs and captions, the story of 100 years of work. The book opens on a somber note with a chapter on "A Crisis in Maryland's Forests" and closes more optimistically with "New Realities and Opportunities."

Throughout are sections devoted to the development of physical facilities such as campgrounds for overnight visits, lakes for fishing, boating and swimming and cabins for vacationing. Ties are made to major events and programs affecting the nation including the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the war years. Many of Maryland's present day facilities are thanks to the work of the CCC.

For those who enjoy the out-of-doors and activities such as hiking, skiing, fishing, boating and swimming, leafing through the photographs reveal time and again familiar places. Some are shown in the early days of operation and

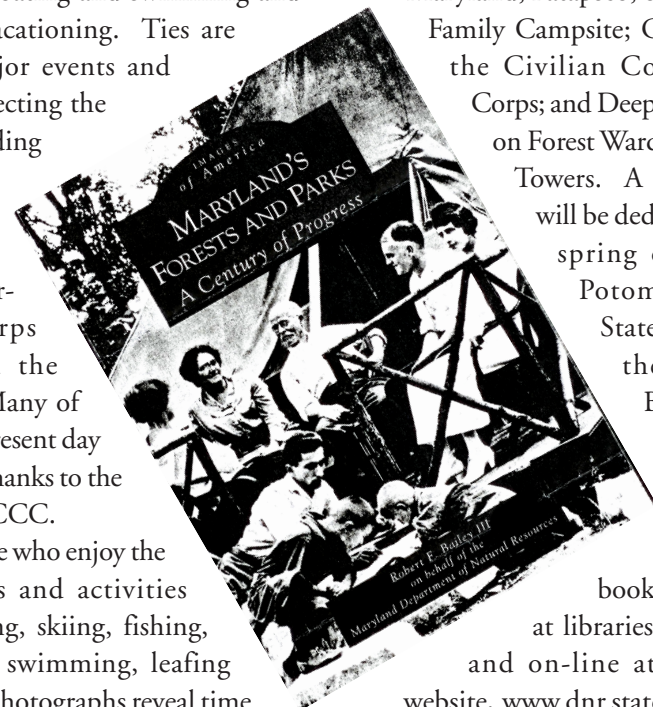
others are of more modern times.

The work of Fred Besley, a Maryland's first State Forester, is covered in the early chapters. A recent photograph near the end of the book shows Besley and a 1930s Maryland forest warden being portrayed at a plaque dedication in Patapsco Valley State Park in 2006.*

This is a small book worth reading for a comprehensive review of all that is involved in caring for and managing public lands for the good of the resource and the benefit to people. It leads one to appreciate what Maryland has to offer.

*Other plaques dedicated during the 2006 Centennial Year in state parks were at Wye Oak, on Forestry in Maryland; Patapsco, on the Besley Family Campsite; Gambrill, on the Civilian Conservation Corps; and Deep Creek Lake, on Forest Wardens and Fire Towers. A final plaque will be dedicated in the spring of 2007 at Potomac Garrett State Forest, on the Garrett Brothers Donation of Forest Land.

The book is available at libraries, bookstores and on-line at the DNR website, www.dnr.state.md.us. ■



Downsizing Reduces Staffs at the National Wildlife Refuges

(continued from page 1)

Refuge System, it is one of the most cash-strapped land agencies in the federal government with an annual budget of less than \$4 per acre, which is a miserly amount when compared to the National Park Service, which operates on a budget of more than \$20 per acre.

Currently the Refuge System needs an annual increase of at least \$16 million just to keep up with inflationary costs such as rising energy, technology, maintenance and salary expenses, as well as the expense of new refuges added to the System each year.

Just before this article went to print, President Bush released his FY08 budget, in which the National Wildlife Refuge System received a small increase that still leaves the system more than \$55 million behind the inflation adjusted 2004 funding level.

Jamie Rappaport Clark, former director of the USFWS under President Clinton and now executive vice president of Defenders of Wildlife said, "Daily we are seeing reports of the impacts of severe budget shortfalls in the refuge system. Overall, the system is losing a fifth of its staff. Across the country refuges are eliminating active outreach, visitor programs, habitat maintenance, wildlife restoration and education programs. Without more funding the refuge system will not be able to fulfill its vital mission to conserve our nation's fish, wildlife and their habitats for generations to come."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representatives have gone on record as saying the budget cuts are necessary due to military operations and the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort. But this excuse is challenged by people like Grady Hocutt—former refuge manager and a Refuge Keeper with the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility—who points out that "Redirecting a tiny fraction of what audits show is wasted and stolen in

Iraq would allow for full funding of all refuge system needs."

Unfortunately, the Bush administration has shown little interest in the wise management of our federal funds, and even less interest in adequately funding domestic wildlife conservation. So refuge staff positions will now be eliminated, since people are the only meat left on the bone in the Refuge System.

Workforce Reduction Plans

The Northeast regional office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was the first to release its refuge workforce reduction plan to the public. The report stated that in the first phase of cuts, approximately 24 permanent positions will be eliminated and 20 other positions will be reassigned. Cuts in Maryland and Virginia refuges include the following:

- ♦ Eastern Neck NWR (MD) will lose two refuge managers
- ♦ Blackwater NWR (MD) will lose an administrative position
- ♦ Martin NWR (MD) will de-staff and transfer its boat operator to complex headquarters
- ♦ Plum Tree Island NWR (VA) will de-staff and transfer its public-use position to complex headquarters
- ♦ Chincoteague NWR (VA) will lose three refuge manager positions and a biologist
- ♦ Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR (VA) will lose a public-use specialist
- ♦ Potomac River NWR Complex (VA) will lose a refuge manager, maintenance position, and part-time IT specialist

The Southeast and Midwest regional offices were the next areas to release their workforce reduction plans. The Southeast region will eliminate as many as 80 full-time staff positions over the next three years.

This follows the elimination of 64

take action

Write Secretary Kempthorne, President Bush, and your congressional representatives and senators. Request that they increase funding for the Refuge System to ensure adequate staffing, continued access to all public refuges, and a reduction of the maintenance backlog.

Urge your Congressional Representative to join the new House Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus, which will fight for better management of the Refuge System.

Visit www.refugenet.org and learn about joining a refuge Friends group and volunteering at a refuge near you.

Dirk Kempthorne,
Secretary of the Interior,
Dept. of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable (Name)
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rep. (Name)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

field positions from 2004–2006 and will result in a 20% reduction in staff. In the Midwest region, a total of 71 positions will be abolished—or 20% of the workforce—and three additional refuges will be de-staffed. In the coming months, the remaining USFWS regions will release their workforce reduction plans as well.

Impacts of the cuts include a reduction of environmental education programs for thousands of school children, reduction of biological surveys and invasive species monitoring, reduction of monitoring for poaching and ATV abuse, reduction of hunting and fishing access, and closures at numerous Visitor Centers for multiple days during the week, which will greatly impact local tourism dollars. In addition, de-staffed refuges will deteriorate as the managers overseeing them will sometimes be located hours away at neighboring refuges and will be unable to provide proper oversight and upkeep.

Currently over 40,000 Americans volunteer at national wildlife refuges—many in the form of nonprofit Friends groups—but now more citizens are being called upon to step up and help fill

the void created by the cuts. Unfortunately, no matter how many volunteers come forward, these citizens cannot replace highly skilled wildlife and public-use professionals at the nation's wildlife refuges. In fact, without USFWS employees to oversee volunteer efforts, many refuges could see a decrease in their volunteer-run programs.

The Need for Wildlife Refuges

Despite President Bush's declining interest in America's wildlife refuges, the reality is that as pressure builds on the nation's stressed wildlife populations—pressure from global warming, pollution, sprawl, invasive species, poaching, and wetlands destruction—the need for a well managed, scientifically sound Refuge System has never been greater.

With a new party in charge of congressional budgets, now is the time for Americans to demand that Congress, Secretary of Interior Dick Kempthorne, and President Bush protect the Refuge System that they are charged with overseeing. The money is there, but Americans must produce the political will. ■



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 Roundup

Sierrans Exploring, Enjoying, and Protecting Maryland

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

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 are involved with local land use issues to encourage agricultural preservation, retain and expand the forest canopy, protect waterways and the Chesapeake Bay, and promote Smart Growth. Now that the 2007 State legislative session is in full swing, the Groups are involved with promoting the Sierra Club's legislative agenda and other environmental priorities of the local jurisdictions.

Anne Arundel Group

Chair: David Prosten, dprosten@yahoo.com

- The Group is seeking entries for a juried photography exhibit at Arundel Center in April. Call Deede Miller for information at 410-268-2845.

- Nine of the 14 candidates endorsed by the Group for the General Assembly and County Council won in the November elections. All four candidates won who were endorsed for the County Council.

- Cool Cities meetings are scheduled on an ongoing basis.

- The Anne Arundel Sierra Club Annual Birthday Celebration was held in Janu-

ary, with a potluck dinner and a speaker—Drew Koslow, Riverkeeper for the South River.

- A Remembrance Walk at Downs Park honoring the memory of Sierra Club activist Mike Rixham raised \$1,250 for the Group and \$2,200 for Hospice of the Chesapeake.

- The Group publishes a bimonthly newsletter, "The Sierra Log."

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

Catocin Group (Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties)

Chair: Chris Hodge, 240-388-6446, chrishodge@adelphia.net

- The Group has a second Tuesday Social and Informal Meeting at Isabella's Restaurant and Tapas Bar in Frederick. Members are invited to come for drinks and/or dinner, as a way to meet fellow outdoor lovers and environmentalists. In March, the event will be on the 13th at 6:30. For information, contact mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

- Al Gore's movie, "An Inconvenient Truth," was shown at the Carroll Arts Center in January, followed by a discussion moderated by the Group. The film was also shown at St. Paul's Church of Christ in Westminster on February 11th, the day before the Catocin Group and citizens presented to the Westminster City Council.

- The Catocin Group Energy Film Fest '07 has monthly screenings in Frederick and Mount Airy of movies about the impact of global warming and how to implement sustainable and clean energy solutions. The movies begin at 6:30 p.m., following by a discussion. The events are free to the public. On March 15, the Group will show at the Mount Airy library the film "Rising Waters," showing the physical and cultural impact of glo-

bal warming on Pacific Islanders. On March 21 at the Frederick library, the film offering will be "Earth to America!" - a hilarious special celebrating life on Earth by taking aim at the serious problem of global warming. The film series began in January with a showing of "Rising Waters" in Frederick and a showing at Mount Airy library of "Kilowatt Ours," "We're All Smith Islanders," and "The Vineyard Energy Project." In February, "Out of Balance: Exxon Mobil's Impact on Global Warming" and "Who Killed the Electric Car?" were shown. Contact Kim Stenley at kstenley@mcdaniel.edu or 410-756-6402 about the Frederick library film series, and Neal Spungen at nspungen@gmail.com or 240-235-6802 about the Mount Airy library film series.

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

Eastern Shore (Cecil County and Eastern Shore counties)

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

Due to the large geographic area covered by the Group, the meetings are by conference call. The Group needs participation by representatives from all areas. The Group is looking for a Membership Chair, Outings Chair, and Outings leaders.

Greater Baltimore (Baltimore City and County, Harford County)

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

- After its extensive involvement last year with Harford County's comprehensive rezoning process in collaboration with Friends of Harford, the Group is gearing up for involvement with Baltimore County's comprehensive zoning map process this year in collaboration with the

(continued on page 12)

Group News Roundup

From the Shore to the Mountains, Maryland Groups are at Work and Play

(continued from page 11)

North County Institute and other citizens' organizations. The Group will also be involved with planning activities related to the Base Realignment and Closure process that will have extensive impacts on the region, particularly in Harford County and the surrounding area.

- The Group is involved with the public opposition to a proposal for a liquid natural gas off-loading terminal and storage tanks at Sparrows Point in Baltimore County, a pipeline crossing Baltimore and Harford Counties into Pennsylvania, and dredging to accommodate the tankers.

- The Group has been quite involved with the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" campaign. Representatives met with Baltimore County staff to discuss the importance for the County to sign the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement to fight global warming. Since Baltimore City has signed the agreement, the Group wrote a letter to the new Mayor Dixon recommending steps for implementing the vision of the agreement.

- The Group publishes a quarterly newsletter, "The Sierra 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. Besides numerous hikes of varied lengths and difficulty levels, many of which are suitable for children and are dog-friendly, the Group has a TGIF happy hour on March 9, hayride on March 31, stream cleanup for Earth Day on April 22, and invasive plant removal and bike ride on May 19.

Howard County

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

By Ken Clark—In January, five members of the Group's Executive Committee had a very positive meeting with the newly

elected County Executive Ken Ulman, whom the Group endorsed in the election last fall. He was already off to a "green" start, purchasing a hybrid vehicle for his own use.

- On Saturday, April 14, 9:00 – noon, take part in the Project Clean Stream regional stream cleanup organized by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Contact Sue Muller for details at 301-498-8462 or sonicsue@boo.net.

- The Group sponsors lectures and films, with accompanying discussion. In February, there was a lecture at Centennial High School in Ellicott City. Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, talked about how today's children suffer from "Nature Deficit Disorder," with healthy development hampered by limited exposure to nature.

- In February, there was a TGIF Happy Hour at Nottingham's in Columbia.

- The Group publishes a newsletter, which is mailed to members.

- The Howard County Group has a very active outings program, leading 92 outings in 2006, totaling 1,017 participants. Hike leader Mike Juskelis led a remarkable 39 outings last year, including 14 backpacking trips! Check the Group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events. You can ask to get on an email listing of outings and events by contacting Ken Clark.

Montgomery County

Chair: David Hauck, 301-270-5826, hauck_D@msn.com

By Anne Ambler—David Hauck of Takoma Park, longtime Sierra Club member, is our new chair. The group awarded outgoing chair Anne Ambler a plaque and a tree in appreciation for her years of service. David sees this as an

exciting time as many more people realize that the "business as usual" approaches to housing, transportation, and energy will no longer work. David brings environmental experience gained as VP of Green Seal, and volunteer-building experience gained as volunteer coordinator and trainer at two Takoma Park Schools. With several new faces on our County Council and a new County Executive, David plans to seize the opportunity to build our volunteer base and enable the Sierra Club to lead the way to a more sustainable future.

- The Group continues to hold environmental monthly Saturday evening programs in members' homes. The events begin with socializing during a potluck lunch or supper, followed by a speaker or film with discussion. For information, contact Anne Ambler on 301-946-5599.

- Organization meetings for the County's Cool Cities Campaign were held in January and February at Brookside Gardens. The towns of Chevy Chase, Kensington, Gaithersburg, and Rockville have signed onto the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement to reduce emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. Montgomery County signed onto an earlier agreement, and is now reexamining the

emissions inventory it produced for that agreement. Sierra Club members are planning campaigns for each signing entity.

- Also in January, the Group held a program highlighting environmental bills that will come before the General Assembly in its 2007 session. In addition to the clean cars, land preservation, and energy efficiency issues pushed by The Citizens' Campaign for the Environment, attendees heard about the global warming implications of the InterCounty Connector highway and a repeat proposal to permit public control of streetlights so that the county and municipalities can replace inefficient lighting.

- The Group testified at several public hearings before the County Council: on a proposed "time out" for development applications, on proposed changes to the county's road code, and on what the county's transportation priorities should be.

- The Group cosponsored an all-day symposium with the MNCPPC on the environmental value of trees. The program continued the Brookside Gardens series Green Matters, now in its third year.

- On March 21, 7-9:30 p.m., the Group will sponsor its 4th Annual Environmental Career Evening at Brookside Gardens

(continued on page 13)



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!

Group News Roundup

From the Shore to the Mountains, Maryland Groups are at Work and Play

(continued from page 12)

Visitors' Center Auditorium, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. This year, participants will be able to talk one-on-one with representatives of environmental, educational, and government institutions to learn about career and volunteer activities, but may also choose to see a selection of environmental films in another room. This program appeals to home-schoolers, teachers, college students, and adults looking for a career change.

Prince George's County

Chair: Chip Reilly, 301-218-3920, chip.reilly@maryland.sierraclub.org
Group's office: 301-277-0600 or 301-277-7111

By Chip Reilly—Prince George's Group members actively supported environmentally friendly candidates in the 2006 elections, including newly elected County Councilman Eric Olson of District 3.

- The Group supports rail on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and transit-oriented redevelopment, as opposed to new or expanded roads that induce sprawl and traffic such as the undesirable InterCounty Connector in the north and the CrossCounty Connector in the south. We spoke out at hearings before the County Council's Transportation, Housing and Environment Committee. We are on record against the proposed "Melford" development in Bowie at Rte. 50 & 301, which proposes a high density mega-development close to the Patuxent River.

- The Group contributes to Sprawled Out Accokeek's string of lawsuits against the County Council to stop the misuse of text amendments, essentially "spot zoning" bills that allow developers to bypass master plans and public participation. Support is needed to sustain this watchdog activity. For more information, visit www.geocities.com/sprawled_out_accokeek/

- Members, such as Janis Oppelt in College Park and Mary McKinley-Ward in Mt. Rainier, have promoted Cool Cities efforts to help their towns reduce global warming gas emissions. There are invasive plant warriors working all over the county (and waiting for your help), such as Maureen Fine working in Beltwoods in Bowie and Tom Crone in Greenbelt National Park. With the Peace & Justice Coalition and CCAN, the group co-sponsored a well-attended "Greenbelt Town Meeting on Clean Energy and the Maryland Clean Car Bill" on January 9th.

- There are many ways to get involved to protect the environment and the quality of life in our county. The Prince George's Group needs you to help with writing articles, producing newsletters, and doing legislative and issues work. To join us for a SierraClub101 gathering, check <http://www.sierraclub.org/dc/sprawl/> or call Chris.Carney@SierraClub.org 202-237-0754. Sign up for occasional news about activities of the Prince George's group by sending a message to LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG. In the message body put SUBSCRIBE MD-PG-FORUM your name.

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

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

- If you would like to help reduce global warming gas emissions in Charles County or your town, call Alice Imlay 301-283-0808 to join the Cool Cities campaign.

- On the first Sunday and the following Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., there is an invasive species removal at an 800-acre portion of Chapman Forest (Sunday) and the 200-acre Ruth Swann Park (Saturday). Check out www.chapmanforest.org or contact Marc Imlay at 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808. For more information about work-

days at Hellen Creek Preserve and Myrtle Point Park, contact Bob Boxwell at bobboxwell@hotmail.com or 410-394-1300. To join the Holly Arboretum Volunteer Crew at Warrior's Rest, contact the American Chestnut Land Trust at 410-586-1570.

- There was a workshop in February with the Mattawoman Watershed Society, an alliance of concerned citizens dedicated to preserving Mattawoman Creek's health. For more information, visit www.mattawomanwatershedsociety.org. A four-lane highway, the Charles County Cross-County Connector Extension, is proposed to cross the Creek.

- The Group arranged to donate money for environmentally themed books for adults and children at public libraries in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties.

- 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

By Sherri Loomis—Western Maryland Group Offering Free Climate Change Training: Sam White was selected to attend climate change training led by Al Gore on January 8-10. He is offering local climate change seminars to any interested group west of Hagerstown, MD. Anyone interested in hosting a session is encouraged to contact Sam directly by calling 301-264-4162 or emailing cedarrockcsa@yahoo.com. For additional information on The Climate Project, please visit www.theclimateproject.org.

- On March 13, there will be a public program on Energy at the HRDC Senior

Citizen Center at the corner of Liberty and Frederick Streets in Cumberland, MD. The film "Kilowatt Ours" will be shown and discussion will ensue on lowering your electric bill. The program will begin at 7:30 pm.

- The Group is donating DVDs of "An Inconvenient Truth" to any high school science teacher willing to show the film in class.

- During May, there will be an invasive species eradication at Green Ridge State Forest, led by Sam White.

- In January, there was a Sierra Club N'Beer at the Draft Zone in Frostburg, for casual discussions about the environment over beer.

- The Group has an email discussion group/Listserv for its members at MD-WMD-FORUM@lists.sierraclub.org. To join, go to <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/MD-WMD-FORUM.html>. The Listserv is used to discuss conservation issues pertaining to Western Maryland and to announce Group meetings, outings, and other events.

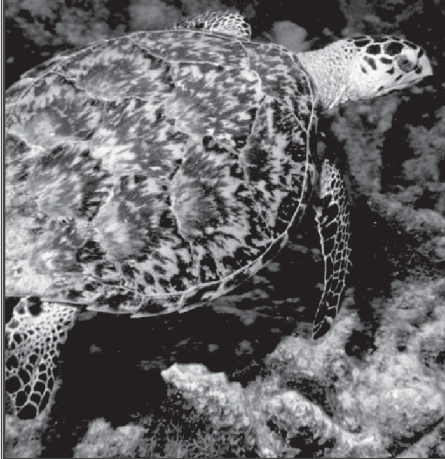
- In the winter 2007, the Group resumed publication of a quarterly newsletter, "Nature's Advocate of Western MD." Get more information about the Western Maryland group in the Winter 2007 newsletter at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/Western-MD>. ■

I love to see anything
that implies a simpler
mode of life and a greater
nearness to the Earth.

—Henry David Thoreau

Maryland Chapter Leaders

GOING, GOING... GONE?



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

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

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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., ACE Representative

Earl.Bradley@maryland.sierraclub.org

Chris Hodge, Catocin Del.

240-388-6446

chrishodge@adelphia.net

Howard Bedlin, Eastern Shore Del.

410-643-3283

howard.bedlin@ncoa.org

Kathleen Sheedy, Howard Del.

Kathleen.Sheedy@gmail.com

410-730-4178

Ginny Barnes, Montgomery Del.

301-762-WATR

ginny.barnes@maryland.sierraclub.org

Fred Tutman, Prince George's Del.

301-249-8200 ext 7

Fred@paxriverkeeper.org

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

Sam White, Agriculture and CAFO Chair

301-264-4162

sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org

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

301-283-0808

marc.imlay@maryland.sierraclub.org

Cliff Terry, Campaign Finance Reform Chair

410-944-9477

cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

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

202-237-0754

chris.carney@sierraclub.org

Bonnie Bick, Environmental Justice Chair

301-839-7403

bonnie.bick@maryland.sierraclub.org

Bob DeGroot, Forests Chair

301-340-8348

Rich Norling, Groundwater Chair

410-734-7720

rich.norling@maryland.sierraclub.org

Kim Birnbaum, Pesticides Chair

410-379-1075

Kim.Birnbaum@maryland.sierraclub.org

Cliff Terry, Population Chair

410-944-9477

cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

Steve Cafilisch, Transportation Chair

301-654-3288

steve.cafilisch@maryland.sierraclub.org

Ed Merrifield, Water Chair

202-222-0707

ed@potomacriverkeeper.org

Jon Robinson, Wildlife Chair

301-422-0064

Jon.Robinson@sierraclub.org

Other Contacts

Walter Jones, BICO Chair

443-394-8192

Walter.Jones@maryland.sierraclub.org

Betsy Johnson, Fundraising Chair

301-656-4948

betsy.johnson@maryland.sierraclub.org

Daniel Soeder, Outings Chair

410-969-9465

djsoeder@yahoo.com

John Fay, PAC Treasurer

301-946-5599

john.fay-mc@maryland.sierraclub.org

Charlie Garlow, Political Chair

charlie.garlow@juno.com

301-593-9823

Clay Birkett, Postmaster

postmaster@maryland.sierraclub.org

Sherry Dixon, Treasurer

sdixon@maryland.sierraclub.org

Rick Andrews, Webmaster

Andrews4art@yahoo.com

Darla Tewell, Newsletter Editor

editorch@maryland.sierraclub.org

Chapter Staff

Laurel Imlay

301-277-7111

laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org

Office Address

7338 Baltimore Avenue #1A

College Park, MD 20740

Tel: 301-277-7111

Fax: 301-277-6699

http://maryland.sierraclub.org

**ENVIRONMENTAL
CAREER FAIR**

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Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Outings

Baltimore

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sat. May 19 GB – Invasive Plant Removal in Leakin Park.

Join the Baltimore City Weed Warriors to pull invasive vines out of beautiful old trees in Leakin Park. As well as getting satisfaction from freeing trees that are being choked and strangled, you will be rewarded with excellent exercise. Tools and gloves will be available. Meet at 9 A.M. at the Carrie Murray Nature Center in Leakin Park, off of Windsor Mill Road in Baltimore City. Call Mary at 410-248-0423.

Weed Warrior Training Sessions
Become a certified Urban Weed Warrior! Be trained in the identification, threat, and control of invasive plant species like English ivy and Japanese honeysuckle. Once certified, you can work on your own or in organized groups to help rid the city of invasives that are harming Baltimore parks. A PowerPoint presentation will be followed by a short walk through Cylburn Arboretum, Wyman Park Dell or Leakin Park! Specific locations and times to be announced.

Please email weeds@baltimorecity.gov or call 410-396-0359 for current dates, to reserve a place or for further information.

Baltimore County **Cromwell Valley Park**

Monthly removal work parties at Cromwell Valley Park in Baltimore County on the 2nd Saturday of each month 9-12. Rain date is the following day, at the same time. Tools and refreshments are provided

Cromwell Valley Park is a wonderful rural park just outside the Beltway on Cromwell Bridge Road. The “Beehive Woods” is looking much better—we are almost down to the road. The stream has now been revealed and is quite pretty. We even found an old pump house in among the bushes and a little dam that had been created for collecting water for the farm. Our Habitat Restoration Team has a tough assignment to eliminate non-native invasives, and needs all the help we can get. We have tackled multiflora rose, Japanese barberry, kudzu, garlic mustard, mile-a-minute and many others. There is still lots to do.

For information contact Bill Breakey at breakeys@comcast.net. The park office is at 410-887-2503. or check out the park's website at cvpark@bcpl.net. Volunteers are placed on an e-mail notify list.

Herring Run

Herring Run Watershed Association
<http://www.herringrun.net/>
Contact Angela with questions at (410) 254-1648 or agaude@herringrun.org

Calvert County **Hellen Creek Preserve**

Directions; From Washington, take Rt. 4 south to Calvert County. Turn right at the second light in Lusby, which is Coster/Mill Bridge Road and an immediate left onto Coster. After passing two rights (Bassford) look for the MACHINE SHOP sign on the left then ahead and on the right for Clifton Drive. Turn here

and follow to the first left. You'll see a handmade sign with the number 11785. Turn here and follow to the sign and gate. For more info, or to receive updates about workdays email or call Bob Boxwell, Executive Director, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, 11785 Clifton Drive, P.O. Box 336, Lusby, MD 20657, 410-394-1300, or bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

Port Republic

American Chestnut Land Trust
Join the Holly Arboretum Volunteer Crew as they maintain the historic holly trees at Warrior's Rest. Work includes invasive vine removal, mulching, mowing and pruning. Bring work gloves, clippers and a smile.

American Chestnut Land Trust
Post Office Box 204
Port Republic, MD 20676
Phone: 410-414-3400
land@actweb.org

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. For more information, contact Sylvan Kaufman at 410 634-2847, ext. 24.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

April 5, 2007 - Identifying and Controlling Invasive Plants class at Adkins Arboretum, 2 - 3:30 p.m. Join Adkins Arboretum's Conservation Curator Sylvan Kaufman for a hands-on class on identifying and controlling invasive plants common on the Delmarva. Weather permitting, we will try control techniques outside as part of the class. Pre-registration required, fee of \$12.

Call 410-634-2847 x0 or e-mail info@adkinsarboretum.org.

April 14, 2007 - Project Clean Stream garlic mustard pull, Tuckahoe State Park,

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Ridgely, MD. Tools and gloves provided. Call or e-mail Sylvan Kaufman at 410-634-2847 x24, skaufman@adkinsarboretum.org. This project is one of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Project Clean Stream activities.

June 7, 2007 - Invasive plant field identification and book signing. Adkins Arboretum. Time to be announced. Join Sylvan Kaufman, co-author of “Invasive Plants, Guide to Identification and the Impacts and Control of Common North American Species”, Stackpole Books, 2007, to learn about invasive plant identification and control using this practical new field guide.

Call 410-634-2847 x0 or e-mail info@adkinsarboretum.org after March 1st for more information.

Charles County **Chapman Forest and Ruth Swann Park**

Dates: First Sundays and following Saturday, monthly. Time: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Remove invasive non-natives from the 200-acre Swann Park and 800-acre portion of Chapman Forest designated Chapman State Park. There will be time for plant identification and a beautiful beach lunch. Participating organizations include Maryland Native Plant Society, Sierra Club and Chapman Forest Foundation.

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

Non-native invasive plant removal will reach maintenance phase following a major work effort at each site in the Mid-Atlantic region and around the world for about three to five years to re-
(Outings continued on following page)

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Outings

(Outings continued from preceding page)
move the massive populations of species. Regular stewardship projects are conducted in all seasons including winter, early spring, late spring, summer, and late summer. This high-intensity program is followed by a low-intensity annual maintenance program for plants we have missed, plants emerging from the seed bank, and occasional plants migrating in from neighboring areas.

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

INFO about the area and map <http://www.chapmanforest.org> and www.mattawomanwatershedsociety.org
Contact: Marc Imlay, 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808. I can be reached at 301-442-5657 on my cell phone on these dates.

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

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

DIRECTIONS: Following Saturday, meet at Ruth B. Swann Park- Potomac Branch Library parking lot, 20 miles south of Washington Beltway (I-495) on Rt. 210 (Indian Head Hwy), about a mile

and a half south from the traffic light on Rt. 210 in Bryans Road. Give yourself 30 to 40 minutes from the Beltway. CARPOOL Info: Meet at Sierra Club Md. Chapter office at 9 a.m.; return 5 p.m. Call Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111.

Garrett County

Savage River State Forest:

Battling Botanical Bullies in Bear Pen Wildland, Garrett County

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

We'll be working on Friday April 13th and Friday June 15th from 9 to 12 to continue our efforts to reduce this infestation using mechanical and chemical control methods.

Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist with the Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service, is providing technical support. Larry Maxim, Savage River State Forest manager, is providing work tools. Mike Gregory, Big Run & New Germany State Park manager, is providing free camping the night before for any out-of-town volunteers. Ron Boyer and Liz McDowell, *Elk Ridge NatureWorks*, are coordinating the project and providing snacks and drinks for volunteers. Contact Ron for more details or to register. Phone 301-895-3686 or e-mail info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

Howard County

Patapsco Valley State Park

Sunday, May 6 - The popular 8th Annual Garlic Mustard Challenge in Patapsco Valley State Park in Relay, Maryland. 1-5 p.m. - Rain or shine, we pull and dine! Join the Friends of the Patapsco

Valley & Heritage Greenway where volunteers pull out the invasive garlic mustard weed throughout the park for two hours.

After the volunteer pulling challenge, all participants are treated to prizes, live music, several environmental displays, old-fashioned games (like egg toss, potato sack races, etc.), nature scavenger hunt for kids, toasting marshmallows and more. Kids can participate in the "Villain of the Valley" poster contest where the winner receives a \$100 savings bond. Everyone is encouraged to compete in the chef challenge where participants make delicious recipes using the garlic mustard herb as one of its ingredients. Winners of the chef challenge receive \$25 gift certificate to their choice of renowned restaurants in the Patapsco Valley area. \$5 fee/group for pulling challenge and \$5/fee per recipe submitted for chef challenge. Volunteers not participating in the challenges pay no fee and are appreciated! Call Betsy McMillion at 410-480-0824 or e-mail patapscofriend@comcast.net.

Patapsco Valley State Park

Please join the Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park on the second Wednesday evening of each month at the Avalon area to eradicate invasive vines. This is the worst place in the park for non-native vines where they have killed or broken many trees in that area, so we need lots of help. Wear long clothes and bring gloves as there is some poison ivy. If you have them, bring hand pruners and loppers (the 2 handed cutters for larger vines). We will have a few extra tools if you need to borrow some. See our web site for updates at <http://www.fpvsp.org/>

Contact Jim Palmer to confirm date/time at 410-531-2065 or via e-mail at J.G.Palmer@jhuapl.edu.

Meet at the Avalon contact station.

From I -95 take I-195 east to Rt. 1 toward Elkridge. Turn right immediately on South St. Park entrance is on the

left. Proceed 1/2 mile to the contact station.

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

Conservation Stewardship Project at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) will be meeting on the fourth Tuesdays of the month from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. from March to October. Each trip will have both an educational component and a work component. For information, directions or to register, contact Aylene Gard, 410-992-9889, or Carol Filipczak, cfilipczak@comcast.net. The Conservation Stewardship project is sponsored by Howard County Recreation and Parks and the Howard County Master Gardeners.

Howard / Anne Arundel / Prince George's Counties

Fort Meade

Help remove Japanese stilt grass, English ivy, garlic mustard, tree of heaven, multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, common privet, phragmites, Asiatic tearthumb, etc. Prior to removing the weeds, there will be a short training session on identification, and control techniques of non-native invasive plants. People of all ages, backgrounds and interests are invited to spend a few hours outdoors, hand-pulling some non-native plants while learning about the differences between native and non-native invasive plants and how these invasives adversely impact our natural ecosystem.

Where and When

Fort Meade Army Installation Second Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. (time is flexible if enough volunteers are available).

Directions: Take Route 175 East from the 295 Baltimore Washington Parkway. Turn Right onto Reece Road to enter the post, immediately turn left onto Ernie Pyle Street, go approximately 1 mile to

(Outings continued on following page)

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Outings

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Llewellyn Avenue, turn left on Llewellyn, then turn right onto Chisholm Avenue, turn left on 3rd Street, turn right on Ross Road and go to 2nd building on the right, Environmental Division Office. Bring hand tools, gloves, lunch and water. Long sleeves and pants recommended. At least three days prior to the event, contact Don Marquardt, Installation forester, by phone at 301-677-9185 or by e-mail, donald.marquardt@us.army.mil. A list of names should be provided to the forester that will in turn be provided to guard personnel at Reece Road entrance to ensure access on to post.

Patuxent Research Refuge

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

Non-native invasive plants are threatening our wildlife habitat. We need YOU to help stop them. Come out for one of our "Weed Warriors Days" and help us treat garlic mustard, mile-a-minute, Japanese stiltgrass and other non-native plant infestations on the refuge. All ages and abilities are welcome. Do your part to protect Patuxent from alien invaders, and become a Weed Warrior! You will receive a short educational briefing explaining the effects of invasive plants on wildlife and wildlife habitats and how to identify and control these plants. Wear long sleeves and pants and bring gloves. Please register by calling 301-497-5887. Dates for 2007 events are as follows (dates and times subject to change if necessary):

Sunday 04-22-2007

Earth Day event - Weed Warriors kickoff. North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 1-4PM

Tuesday 05-22-2007, National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10AM-1PM

Monday 06-11-2007, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9AM-12PM
Thursday 07-12-2007, National Wildlife Visitor Center, 9AM-12PM
Tuesday 07-24-2007, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9AM-12PM
Wednesday 08-08-2007, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9AM-12PM

Directions to the North Tract Visitor Contact Station:

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

Directions to the National Wildlife Visitor Center:

The National Wildlife Visitor Center is located off of Powder Mill Road between MD Route 197 and the Baltimore/Washington Parkway, south of Laurel. For additional information, call 301-497-5763 or visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov>. Christopher Wicker
Wildlife Biologist
Patuxent Research Refuge

Laurel Riverfront Park

Wishing for weeders in Laurel: Wholesome river with lots of curves seeks outgoing naturalists for invasive species removal and native plant propagation, possibly leading to complete restoration of the wild.

Where: Riverfront Park, Laurel

When: Second Sunday of every month, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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

Contact: Brigitte Fortin-Zaidan
bfzaidan@Safe-mail.net or 240-506-8976.

Kent County

Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge

Wineberries with garlic mustard: A new type of exotic fruit salad? Not quite. These are two invasive plant species that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would like help removing from Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge (1730 Eastern Neck Road, Rock Hall, MD). Garlic mustard is a newly-arrived invasive species, and is a management priority. Wineberry is a raspberry-like plant that begins to ripen with fruit between June and July. The weed-pulling guide is Rachel Cliche, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist and the invasive species specialist for the Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Garlic mustard is pulled by hand, but a 4-pronged spading fork works best on wineberry. High boots (for ticks) are recommended, along with a DEET-based bug repellent, a hat and gloves. Rachel is always looking for volunteers to help pull weeds. Contact her at Rachel_Cliche@fws.gov or 410-639-2108 for details about when and where.

Montgomery County

Brookside Gardens

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

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

Montgomery County Parks

Weed Warriors Wanted!

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

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

The Potomac Gorge

Invasive Plant Control Workdays in The Potomac Gorge.

Help protect native plant biodiversity near DC!

The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with the National Park Service, will continue all season with invasive plant control workdays in the Potomac Gorge, a 15-mile stretch of river valley between Great Falls and Georgetown with over 200 rare plants and 5 globally rare plant communities. Volunteers are welcome to sign up for a variety of workdays, where we cut or pull some of the most problematic weeds, often in scenic areas. We will hold two more Weed Warrior training sessions, where volunteers learn 13 non-native plant species, adopt an area and work independently in the National Parks in the Potomac Gorge.

For more information or to sign up, go to: www.nature.org/maryland for a list of workdays, or contact Mary Travaglini if you would like to sign up a school or organizational group for a workday, or be

(Outings continued on following page)

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Outings

(Outings continued from preceding page)
added to our email list:

Mary Travaglini
PotomacGorgeVol@tnc.org
(301) 897-8570

Sligo Creek Park

The RIP - Removing Invasive Plants Project

Friends of Sligo Creek is holding occasional events in different parts of the park, and welcomes newcomers.

For a schedule see www.fosc.org/RIPEventSched.htm From mid-April to mid-June we will work on removing all garlic mustard. Be sure to check <http://www.fosc.org> for last-minute weather changes.

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

Chevy Chase

Woodend Nature Sanctuary

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

Contact Liz Jones via e-mail at volunteer@audubonnaturalist.org or 301-652-9188 x 30 for more information or to sign up.

Northwest Branch of the Anacostia

Dates: Third Saturdays, monthly
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Please join us for a walk in the forest and to remove invasive plants including garlic mustard and multi-flora rose. Then we'll relax and have a vegetarian lunch. All are welcome.

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. 10204 Big Rock Road.

Bring: Water and gloves. Vegetarian lunch provided.

Contact: Jane Osburn, 301-754-1564, or jgosburn@earthlink.net.

Prince George's County

Belt Woods, Bowie

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

Cheverly

Woodworth Park

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

All age groups can help rescue our native flowers, ferns and other plants from the non-native species which are covering 30-90 percent of the surface area of our parks we have worked so hard to preserve. Tools are provided, but wear work gloves and sturdy shoes. Contact Cathy and Dan Smith at 301 386-0889.

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

Suitland Bog

Invasive Plant Removal Days

Leader: M-NCPPC Park Ranger Chris Garrett

Dates: March 17 and April 14

Time: 9a.m.-12noon

Workday description: Manual removal of honeysuckle and multiflora rose using shovels, pruners and perseverance. Come and help preserve this unique habitat. Meet in the parking lot.

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 Road. Stay on Allentown Road through five lights. Turn left onto Suitland Road at the 6th light. Follow Suitland Road until it passes under Suitland Parkway. The entrance to the Suitland Bog is to the right.

Bring: water, work boots, durable clothes, long sleeves, gloves, pruners, and shovels.

Note: Light refreshments will be provided. There is some poison ivy at work site. M-NCPPC Park Ranger Office 301-627-7755.

Berwyn Heights

Indian Creek Trail at Lake Artemesia

Title: Garlic Mustard Pull-off

Leader: M-NCPPC Park Rangers Chris Garrett and John Dillon

Dates: May 12, 2007

Time: 9a.m.-12noon

Workday description: Teams compete in removal of the non-native invasive weed garlic mustard. Prizes given to winning team for largest amount pulled in a given area and time. Meet in the Lake Artemesia parking lot along Berwyn Road.

Location: Indian Creek Trail @ Lake Artemesia, Berwyn Hgts, Prince George's County

Location/Directions - The lake is located on Berwyn Road in College Park. From the south, the Capital Beltway (I-495), take Exit 23 (Kenilworth Avenue) toward Bladensburg. Make a right onto Route 193 (Greenbelt Road). Make a

right onto Branchville Road. (This road turns into 55th Avenue). The parking lot is on the left at the Berwyn Road intersection.

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

Bring: water, work boots, durable clothes, long sleeves, gloves. Light refreshments will be provided. There is some poison ivy at work site. Contact: M-NCPPC Park Ranger Chris Garrett or John Dillon at M-NCPPC Park Ranger Office 301-627-7755.

Upper Marlboro

Watkins Regional Park

Weed Warrior Work Day

Leader: M-NCPPC Park Ranger John Dillon

Date: Sun. April 29, 2007

Time: 9a.m. - 12noon

Workday Description: Manual removal of the non-native invasive weed garlic mustard. Location: Watkins Nature Center at Watkins Regional Park, Prince George's County. Meet at Watkins Nature Center parking lot.

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

From the Capital Beltway (I-495), take Exit 15A (Central Avenue) east. Continue for approximately three miles. Turn right onto Watkins Park Drive (Route 193) and follow the park signs to the facility.

From Route 301, turn onto Central Avenue (Route 214) west. Continue for approximately three miles (past Six Flags America). Turn left onto Watkins Park Drive and follow to the park entrance on the right.

Bring: water, work boots, durable
(Outings continued on following page)

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Outings

(Outings continued from preceding page)
clothes, long sleeves and gloves. Light refreshments will be provided. There is some poison ivy at work site. Contact: M-NCPPC John Dillon or Chris Garrett at M-NCPPC Park Ranger Office, 301-627-7755.

Greenbelt Greenbelt Homes Inc Housing Cooperative

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



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

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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

Greenbelt Greenbelt National Park

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

Beltsville Anacostia Watershed Society Weed Warriors!

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

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

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

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

Some background information: Several of the worst invasive species in the Mid-Atlantic region, including English ivy, Asiatic bittersweet, garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle and porcelain berry, are in the early stages of invasion in this park. Japanese stiltgrass covers about 5% of the park. Research indicates that Japanese stiltgrass is a major contributor of nitrogen pollution in the Chesapeake Bay, and reduces by half the ability of any land it dominates to hold water and release it slowly.

Non-native invasive plant removal will reach maintenance phase following a major work effort at each site in the Mid-Atlantic region and around the world for about three to five years to remove the massive populations of species. Regular stewardship projects are conducted in all seasons including winter, early spring, late spring, summer, and late

summer.

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

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

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

Hyattsville Magruder Park

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

St. Mary's County Myrtle Point Park

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

Outings (March)

A National Perspective on the Sierra Club Outings Program

In addition to my work with the outings program in the Maryland Chapter, I chair the national Sierra Club Local Outings Support Committee (LOSC), a subcommittee of the Outdoor Activities Governance Committee (OAGC). Many outdoor program leaders are surprised to learn that there is a national committee to provide oversight and support. The biggest outings programs are in southern California and the San Francisco Bay area. The Angeles Chapter has dozens of day hikes, wilderness backpacks, camping trips, and other events every weekend year-round, thanks to the favorable California weather. The large chapter size allows for specialized activities, including singles hikes, women-only backpacks, outings for seniors, gay and lesbian trips, pet-friendly outings, and even some international outings to Mexico and Central America. Small chapters in the eastern U.S. tend to have much smaller outings programs.

Surprisingly, at the national level, the Sierra Club does not have precise figures for the number of outings run annually by local entities, the number of participants, or even the types of outings. Our conservative best guess is that 20,000 people annually participate on about 5,000 local entity outings, the majority of which are day hikes.

A large program is bound to have some complaints. The committee investigates the incident and advises the local entity on how to resolve the problem. Most of the complaints are minor, and some are even silly. Some complaints are more serious, including another in California where a trip leader in a wilderness area got confused about a campsite location and led a caravan of vehicles cross-country. Driving off-road in a wilderness area is a felony, and one of the participants complained to the Bureau of Land Management as well as to the Club.

The training requirements for out-

ings leaders are based on safety concerns and the need for all Sierra Club outings leaders to follow Sierra Club policies. In a little over two years, there have been five fatalities nationwide on Club outings—three heart attacks and two falls. The falls were on separate mountaineering outings in the Sierra Nevada. One person fell off a cliff-edge trail, and the other slid down an ice field and off a cliff after being unable to self-arrest using ice axes. The mountaineering program underwent a thorough review by an outside Alpine expert after these incidents, and the recommended changes have been implemented.

The cardiac incidents happened to middle-aged men, who perhaps should have been under medical care. One occurred on a day hike in Hawaii, another took place in camp on a wilderness backpack in Yosemite, and the third happened on an international outing at high altitude in Peru. The Medical Advisory Committee is currently working on developing better pre-trip participant screening procedures to help leaders identify those who might be at risk. In each of the five fatalities, the outings leaders rendered what aid they could, looked after the rest of the group, and got help as quickly as possible. Their training and cool heads kept a bad incident from getting worse.

A compilation of nationwide accident and incident reports reveals that the single most common injury on Sierra Club outings is twisted, sprained or broken ankles sustained from falls on trails. Considering that day hikes in the woods are our most common outing, this is not surprising. I cringe every time I encounter someone on a trail wearing sneakers, low-top athletic shoes, or worst of all, flip-flops. Please, if you are going to participate in Sierra Club hikes, remember that the trails are usually not paved, generally not level, and contain abundant, foot-

snagging, ankle-twisting, slip-sliding, tripping hazards such as roots, branches, vines, logs, sticks, rocks, pea gravel, wet leaves, moss, and rodent holes. Leave the flip-flops in the shower, invest in a good pair of boots, and join us on a hike from the variety presented below.

See you outside!

Daniel J. Soeder,
MD Chapter Outings Chair
Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

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
FFA: Family Friendly Activity (kids/dogs ok, but check with leader)
GB: Greater Baltimore Group
GWNF: George Washington National Forest
HC: Howard County Group
MNF: Monongahela National Forest
MW: Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP)
NPS: National Park Service
SF: State Forest
SNP: Shenandoah National Park



March

Saturday, Mar 3:
Maryland Chapter Outings Leaders Meeting (*not rated*) Maryland chapter and group outings chairs and outings leaders are invited to meet at Dan and Susan Soeder's home in Glen Burnie from 3 to 5 PM to discuss Club policies, the full implementation of leader standards in 2007, and other issues. Pizza will be served. If the weather cooperates, we will set up a telescope afterward to view the total lunar eclipse beginning at moonrise. Please RSVP to Dan or Susan by phone at 410-969-9465, or via e-mail (Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org) for directions and more information.

Jerusalem Mill (rated easy) Good beginner hike: 2.5 miles with optional additional mile to a covered bridge. Easy-paced but may be muddy. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Jerusalem Mill parking lot on Jerusalem Road at 10:00 AM. **Leader:** Betsy Reeder (GB) 410-569-5202.

Sunday, Mar 4:
Oregon Ridge Pancake Hike (*rated easy*). 5 mile hike, with some hills and stream crossings, optionally followed by pancakes. The park demonstrates the boiling down of maple syrup, and has a fundraising pancake breakfast for \$5.00. Depart at 8:30 AM from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. Or meet us in the parking lot by the Oregon Ridge Lodge at 9:10. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

More outings →

Outings (March)

Friday, Mar 9:

Social Event – Greater Baltimore Group Happy Hour (*not rated*) Join fellow members (and non-members) for a relaxing evening at Bill Bateman's to meet and mingle. Happy hour runs from 5 to 7 PM. Friday's offerings are all you can eat fajitas and tacos as well as reduced prices on drinks. Stop by for a little while or stay the whole night. So come out, bring a friend and get acquainted without the need for boots, sunscreen or trekking poles. No hills to climb or streams to cross, just a complimentary Tex Mex buffet with nice indoor plumbing included at no extra cost. Located at 8810 Waltham Woods Road at North Plaza Mall off Joppa Road (beltway exit 30).
Contact: Joyce Fletcher (GB) 410 254-7240.

Saturday, Mar 10:

Edinburgh Gap to Woodstock Gap (*rated strenuous*). Massanutten Mountain Circuit Hike, 17 miles with 3,500 feet elevation gain. The hike will proceed along the Massanutten Loop Trail to the tower at Woodstock Gap for excellent views of Shenandoah Valley and Great North Mountain. The return trip will be via Waonaze Mountain. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center on route 123 off route 66 near Vienna, Virginia at 7:30 AM. Inexperienced hikers call for requirements. **Leader:** William Needham (MW) 410-884-9127, Needham82@aol.com

Tuscarora State Forest, PA - Iron Horse Trail (*rated moderate*) 8.5 mile circuit with an 1100-foot elevation gain and rocky tread. Previously unscouted. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Patapsco - Rockburn Branch (*rated moderate*) 7-8 mile hike with several steam 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.

NOTE: Daylight Savings Time Resumes 3-11-07.

SPRING FORWARD!

Sunday, Mar 11:

Woodcock Walk (*rated easy*) A short walk starting around dusk, to witness the courtship "sky dance" display of woodcock in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Bring a flashlight. Meet at 6:45 PM (change your clock!) in Clarksville. Limit of 15, call for reservations. **Leader:** Sue Muller (HC) 301-498-8462, sonicsue@boo.net.

Tuesday, Mar 13:

Social Event - Catoctin Second Tuesday Meeting (*not rated*) Meet at Isabella's Restaurant and Tapas Bar in Frederick, MD around 6:30 PM. 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. We have moved this to a non-smoking location! Isabella's is downtown on the East side of Market Street between Patrick and Church. Go right on Church then take an immediate left for garage parking. We'll be in the back room to the left. RSVP appreciated but not required. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Mar 17:

Gunpowder Falls State Park, Central Area (*rated moderate*) 5 or 10 mile hike, starting with a 5 mile circuit in the Wildlands section, followed by an optional 5 mile circuit to Pot Rocks. Bring lunch and water. Depart Columbia at 9:30 AM from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. Or call to meet at the trailhead. **Leader:** Tim Ryan (HC) 410-248-2974 before 9:30 PM, timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.

Sunday, Mar 18:

Weverton Cliffs and the Appalachian Trail (*rated moderate*). Hike 7 to 8 miles with beautiful views of the Potomac River. One long uphill stretch at the beginning. Meet a few minutes before 10 AM at the Weverton parking area. Take 340 to MD 67 north, then take the first right onto Weverton Rd. Just after turning, there is a dirt and gravel parking area to the right. Bring a snack or lunch and water as well as appropriate hiking shoes. Dress in layers. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG), mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Mar 24:

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

Massanutten East, Shawl Gap / Sherman Gap, GWNF, VA (*rated moderate*) 9.4 mile circuit along the eastern ridge of Massanutten Mt. with

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

Saturday, Mar 31:

Tuscarora State Forest, PA - Colonel Denning SP/Tuscarora Trail (*rated strenuous*) Previously unscouted, 8.5 mile circuit with approximately 2000-foot elevation gain to Flat Rock Vista. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

North Point State Park: From

Carousels to Conservation (*rated moderate*) Explore the history of this southeastern Baltimore county state park which was once the site of a popular amusement park. Hike approximately five flat miles with a stop at the park visitor center to look at old photographs. Park is located off Old North Point Road in Edgemere. Meet at parking lot near park entrance (entrance fee required) at 10:00 AM. **Leader:** Bill Diggs (GB) 410-574-1453.

Saturday, Mar 31:

FFA Hay Ride (*not rated*) Enjoy the emerging warmth of early Spring with a Hay Ride at Yoder's Land of Promise Farm in Long Green. There will be a tractor-pulled farm tour, followed by food and drink around a bonfire, and finally a sing-along with guitar music. Please bring your instruments to join in. Meet at church parking lot on Seminary Ave W of Dulaney Valley Rd at 7:00 PM. Cost will be \$10 per person, which includes hot cocoa, cider, snacks, and sausage and burgers cooked on open fire. Children OK with

Outings (March, April)

prior approval. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net

Patuxent River Park - Jug Bay (*rated moderate*) 7-mile hike in P.G. County. Observe a large variety of plants and animals in the forest, fields, and wetlands. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net



April

Sunday, Apr 1:
Gunpowder Falls State Park (*rated moderate*) No foolin'! We will learn about the history and geology of the Gunpowder River and the Panther Branch. Lunch at the Raven Rock Falls. Meet at 11:00 AM at the Mt. Carmel Park & Ride. **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963.

Sunday, Apr 8:
FFA Easter Sunrise Service & Hike (*rated easy*) Celebrate the true meaning of Easter at a non-denominational Sunrise Service at Rocks State Park. It will be followed by fellowship with coffee, cocoa, and donuts, and an easy to moderate hike of about 3-4 miles. Children OK with prior approval. Meet at church parking lot on Seminary Ave W of Dulaney Valley Rd at 5:30 AM. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net

Saturday, Apr 14:
Harford Glen (*rated moderate*) Approximately 7 miles around Atkinson Reservoir. Slow-paced enough to look at wildflowers and spring migrants. Bring binoculars if you

like, also water and lunch. Expect mud. Meet at Harford Glen (first lot on right, by pond) at the west end of Wheel Road at 10:00 AM. **Leader:** Betsy Reeder (GB) 410-569-5202.

Double Top Mountain and Camp Hoover (*rated strenuous*) Central SNP Circuit Hike. We will hike from the Rose River Fire Road over Doubletop Mountain to the Rapidan Fire Road. On the return, there will be a stop at Camp Hoover, the first presidential retreat. Overall distance of 16 miles, with 3,000 feet elevation gain. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center on route 123 off route 66 near Vienna, Virginia at 7:30 AM. Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. **Leader:** William Needham (MW) 410-884-9127, Needham82@aol.com

Project Clean Stream. (*not rated*) Take part in this regional stream cleanup organized by Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Bring gloves. The Howard County project will be 9:00 AM to noon. **Leader:** Sue Muller (HC) 301-498-8462, sonicsue@boo.net.

Sunday, Apr 15:
Carderock Wildflowers (*rated moderate*) 8.5 mile hike on the C&O canal towpath, and over rocky terrain by the Potomac River on the Billy Goat B and C trails. We will take a slow pace in some areas to identify and enjoy the profusion of wildflowers. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net

FFA Wildflowers and Limericks (*rated moderate*) If you haven't filed your taxes yet, hide from the IRS in the woods and enjoy the spring wildflowers along the Gunpowder

River. If we are lucky, the timing for blooms will be just right. This is about 6 miles of moderate terrain with some hills, stream crossings and a lost pond. There is a strong likelihood of mud in the lowlands and, possibly, two tricky crossings if there has been a lot of rainfall. We will learn about wildflowers, both native and exotic, and the impact of development along riparian areas. Trail has remains of mills and an old fort and dam. There will be a cookie break at Pot Rocks, an area of geological interest and an optional lunch stop afterwards at a local inn. Bring footwear that can handle mud and wet, drinking water, and your favorite PG-rated limericks to share. This trip is suitable for families with older children. Meet at the Gunpowder Falls State Park parking lot at the Gunpowder River Bridge on Belair Road (about 10 minutes north of the beltway) at 9:30 AM. **Leader:** Joyce Fletcher (GB) 410 254-7240.

Saturday, Apr 21 to Sunday, Apr 22:
Pedlar Ranger District Backpack, GWNF, VA. (*rated strenuous*) 12.7 mile loop on the AT and Mau-Har trails, with a 6800-foot elevation change, offering outstanding views and an impressive canyon. Register with leader in advance. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Apr 21:
Paw Paw Tunnel (*rated moderate*) 7 mile hike, over and through the C&O canal tunnel, with stops to observe wildflowers. Bring lunch, water, and a flashlight. Depart at 8:30 AM from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net

Sunday, Apr 22:
FFA Earth Day Stream Cleanup at Double Rock Park (*rated easy*)

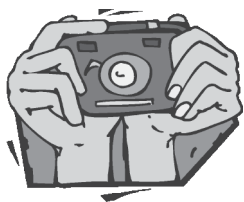
Celebrate Earth Day on this Child-Friendly Outing by cleaning up trash (bottles, cans, plastic bags, etc.) in and around the stream at this neighborhood park that includes a waterfall and trails through woodlands. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Wear footwear for wading in shallow water. Trashbags and gloves will be provided. Meet at 10 AM in the parking lot at the park's entrance at the end of Texas Ave. off Harford Rd. in Parkville. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423

Saturday, Apr 28:
Kelly Run & Pinnacle Overlook (*rated moderate*) Hike 7 to 8 miles with great views of the Susquehanna River. Good chance of seeing bald eagles. Meet at K-Mart on Belair Road (Rt. 1) just north of Beltway Exit 32 at 10:00 AM. **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963.

Weverton Cliffs (*rated moderate*) 12 mile hike along the Appalachian Trail from Gathland State Park to Weverton Cliffs and return. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for an 8:30 departure. **Leader:** Tim Ryan (HC) 410-248-2974 before 9:30 PM, timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.

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

Outings (May, June)



May

Friday, May 4 to Monday, May 7:
FFA Camping at Assateague Island (*rated easy*) Before the bugs, heat and crowds get to the beaches, enjoy camping at Assateague Island National Seashore on the north end of Assateague Island. We will attempt to reserve 4 sites relatively close together and near the water. This is a rather busy season at the campground, and participation is limited to first 8 tents (two tents per site). From a base camp, we will day-hike or paddle to explore this marvelous barrier island's flora and fauna, including the famous wild ponies, Chincoteague Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean surf zone. Campers should bring their own equipment, including watercraft, bicycles, food and supplies, and as much firewood as you can carry. We will do some community meals. Bring enough money to cover the park entrance fee, cost share for your individual camp site (start at \$14 a night), and chip-in for a share of the food. Leash-trained children and well-behaved dogs okay with prior permission. Information on the park is available at <http://www.nps.gov/asis/index.htm>. Register with leaders in advance. **Leaders:** Dan and Susan Soeder (410-969-9465), Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

Saturday, May 5 to Monday, May 7:
Chuck Keiper Trail Backpack, Sproul State Forest, PA. (*rated strenuous*) 30+ mile backpack featuring mature forest and deep hollows with pretty streams. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, May 5:
C&O Canal (Sharpsburg to Shepherdstown) (*rated moderate*) 7-

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

Sunday, May 6:
Bicycle the Mt. Vernon Trail (*rated easy to moderate*) Ride into D.C. from Georgetown, cross the Potomac on the 14th St. bridge and follow the Mt. Vernon Trail to Alexandria, where we will eat *al fresco* at the Chart House. Finish the 24-mile round trip by returning via the Roosevelt Bridge. Meet at 10:00 AM at Fletcher's Boathouse on Canal Rd., N.W. Washington, D.C. (be careful about difficult entrance to parking) and meet at the bridge over the canal. Bring money for lunch. Sierra Club requires all bicycle riders to wear a helmet. **Leader:** Susan Roberts (301-320-4451), seroberts05@yahoo.com.

Saturday, May 12 to Sunday, May 13:
Rocky Knob - Quarry Gap Backpack, Michaux Forest, PA. (*rated moderate*) 15 mile backpack suitable for novices. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, May 19:
Invasive Plant Removal in Leakin Park. (*not rated*) Join the Baltimore City Weed Warriors to pull invasive vines out of beautiful old trees in Leakin Park. As well as getting satisfaction from freeing trees that are being choked and strangled, you will be rewarded with excellent exercise. Tools and gloves will be available. Meet at 9 AM. at the Carrie Murray Nature Center in Leakin Park, off Windsor Mill Road in Baltimore City. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Saturday, May 19:
FFA Bicycle Ride on the Gwynns Falls Trail (*rated easy to moderate*) Children are welcome. Explore all or part of the new 15-mile bike trail that runs from near Rt. 70, through a series of parks along the Gwynns Falls to Middle Branch Park at Baltimore City's waterfront. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Meet at 1 PM with your bicycle at Trailhead # 2, Winans Meadow - Leakin Park, 4500 Franklinton Rd. Sierra Club requires all bicycle riders to wear a helmet. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Wednesday, May 23:
FFA Clyburn Arboretum (*rated easy*) Children and dogs are welcome on this 2-mile evening stroll along woodland trails and through formal gardens around a mansion house from the 1880s. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Dogs must be friendly and leashed. Meet at 6:30 PM in the parking lot. The park is in Baltimore City on Greenspring Ave. just off the Jones Falls Expressway between Coldspring Ave. and Northern Parkway. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Saturday, May 26 to Monday, May 28:
Cranberry Wilderness Backpack, WV (*rated moderate*) Backpack in about 7 miles on the Big Beechy Trail and set up a base camp on day one. On day two do a 10+ mile day hike through the Wilderness. Day three backpack out about 8 miles along the scenic Middle Fork of the Williams River. Some potentially challenging stream crossings. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.



June

Wednesday, Jun 6:
FFA Herring Run Trail (*rated easy*) Children and dogs are welcome on this 1½ mile stroll on a summer evening along Herring Run stream in Herring Run Park of Baltimore City. Learn how the neighbors and Herring Run Watershed Association care for this beautiful park with the wooded stream, open fields, and Lake Montebello. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Dogs must be friendly and leashed. Meet at 7 PM beside the playground in Herring Run Park off Harford Rd. The turnoff for the park is immediately right off of Harford Rd. after the light for Argonne Dr. to the west and Parkside Dr. to the east, if you are heading south. It is south of E. Cold Spring La. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Saturday Jun 9 to Monday, Jun 11:
Old Logger's Trail Backpack, Loyalsock Forest, PA (*rated moderate*) Lots of scenic streams and an occasional vista on this 27-mile backpack utilizing old railroad grades and footpaths. Some potentially challenging stream crossings. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Jun 9:
Sweet Air (*rated moderate*) Children and dogs are welcome on this 4-mile hike through beautiful hilly woodlands, around a frog pond, through meadows, and along a stream at Sweet Air. We will look for berries and spring flowers, and wade in this stream known for its swimming holes. Children under 18 must be

Outings (June, After June, MWROP)

accompanied by a responsible adult. Dogs must be friendly. Meet at 10:00 AM at the Harford Road park-and-ride just north of the Baltimore Beltway, for a carpool to the park. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Sat.-Mon. June 30-July 2:
Brown Mountain - Rockytop Backpack, SNP, VA. Strenuous 18-mile backpack over 3 days. Lots of vistas and beautiful streams. Total elevation gain approximately 5100 feet. Register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.



After June

Sat.-Mon. July 14-16:
Black Forest Trail Backpack, PA. Strenuous 25 mile backpack with several steep climbs, pretty streams and fantastic vistas. The best PA has to offer. Register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat.-Mon. July 28-30:
Dolly Sods Backpack, MNF, WV. Moderate 20 mile backpack through portions of beautiful Dolly Sods North and Dolly Sods Wilderness. Visit Raven Ridge, Rock Ridge, the Lions Head, the Forks and more. Register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat.-Mon. Aug. 4-6:
Allegheny Front Backpack, Moshannon SF, PA. Moderate 30 mile backpack along beautiful streams, ridges and bogs. Some steep and rocky sections on the second day. Register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat.-Mon. Aug. 18-20:
Quehanna Trail, Moshannon SF, PA. Moderate 27-29 mile backpack along a beautiful plateau and deep hollows. Some potentially challenging stream crossings. Register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat.-Mon. Sep. 1-3:
Laurel Fork Wilderness / Allegheny Trail Backpack, WV. Approximately 28 miles. Main trails are old railroad grades that parallel beautiful streams. Otherwise a mixture of footpaths, and old woods roads with modest elevation gains, and 5 miles of road and rail trails. Some potentially challenging stream crossings. Register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat.-Mon. Sep. 15-17:
Roaring Plains Backpack, MNF, WV. Day 1: Backpack in 2.5 miles on the east segment of the South Prong Trail visiting several vistas along the way and set up a base camp in a pretty hollow next to a stream. Explore a seldom-visited vista of the South Prong drainage. Day 2: 11 mile day hike over some of the most rugged and beautiful terrain on the east coast. Day 3: Backpack out from whence we came. Register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat.-Mon. Sep. 29-Oct. 1:
Little Pine State Park Car Camping, Tiadaghton SF, PA. 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. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat.-Mon. Oct. 6-8 (Columbus Day):
Cranberry Backcountry Backpack, MNF, WV. Strenuous 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 with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat.-Mon. Oct. 20-22:
Cole Mt, Mount Pleasant Backpack, GWNF, VA. 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 Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat.-Sun. Nov. 3-4:
Big Schloss Backpack, GWNF, VA. 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 Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.



MWROP

Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP)
MWROP is an activity section of the Virginia chapter, with an extensive outings program run by leaders who live in and around the Washington, D.C. area. Selected outings are listed briefly below. Please check their

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

MWROP MARCH EVENTS

Sat. Mar. 3.
Rated A/B. Moonlit Hike on the Mall. Explore the beauty of DC's Mall and monuments by the full moon. Leader: Jim Finucane, 301/365-3485 (before 9 pm) or jim.finucane@yahoo.com.

Rated B. Patuxent River Park. Enjoy beautiful marshes and abundant wildlife at the Jug Bay Natural Area along the scenic Patuxent River in nearby Prince Georges Co. Leader: Glenn Gillis 703/430-0568.

Rated E or C. W&OD Trail. Out-and-back hike of 17 mi. (or do a 12-mi. option) on paved surfaces, with only a few small inclines, between Vienna and Reston (or Herndon). Leaders: Mike Fischetti, 703/771-8559 or michael.fischetti@hq.doe.gov, and Ray Evert 703/893-3792 or hikerdude22@msn.com.

Sun. Mar 4.
Rated B. Carderock/Gold Mine Tract, suburban MD. Easy 7 mi. walk along the C&O towpath and the Gold Mine Tract to Great Falls Tavern; return via the towpath. Leader: Jim Finucane, 301/365-3485 (before 9 pm) or jim.finucane@yahoo.com.

Sat. Mar. 10.
Rated E or D. C&O Towpath. From Swains Lock at towpath mile 16.5 to MP 23 and back, then down to Lock 15 at mile 13.5 and back. Leaders: Ray Evert, 703/893-3792 or hikerdude22@msn.com, and Pat Hopson, 703/379-1795 (9 am-10 pm).

Sun. Mar. 11.
Rated D. Prince William Forest Park. Explore the largest protected forest in

Outings (MWROP)

northern Virginia on this hike near Quantico in nearby Prince William Co. Leader: Glenn Gillis 703/430-0568.

Rated D. Catoctin Trail. Follow an old charcoal-makers' and timber-cutters' route along ridgeline from Hamburg, MD, north to old ironworks near boundary of Catoctin Mountain Park. Total of 11 mi. with nice views, stream crossings. Car shuttle required. Leader: Larry Broadwell, 301/215-7135 (before 9 pm).

Sat. Mar. 17.

Rated D. Sky Meadows State Park. Moderate circuit hike of 8.5 mi. with about 1500 ft. of elev. change. Leader: Marcia Wolf, 301/565-3165 (before 9 pm) or wolfmk@comcast.net.

Rated D. Rachel Carson Greenway/Sligo Creek Trail. Do a 21 mi. circuit or a 15 mi. circuit on natural-surface and paved woodland trails-and a few stretches of sidewalk-along the Northwest Branch and Sligo Creek stream valleys of the Maryland suburbs. Leaders: Mike Darzi, 301/593-4551 or michael.darzi@saic.com, and Paul Elliott, 703/256-6351.

Rated H. Old Rag and Whiteoak Canyon, Central SNP. Up and down Old Rag (magnificent views), up Whiteoak Canyon (spectacular waterfalls), and down Corbin Hollow. Leader: Russ Norfleet, 703/294-6068 or russnorfleet@verizon.net.

Not Rated. Edwards Ferry Cleanup. Pick up trash, enjoy a beautiful part of the C&O Canal towpath, and make it even more beautiful. Leaders: Pat Hopson, 703/379-1795 (9 am-10 pm), and Carol Ivory, carolivory@verizon.net.

Sat. Mar. 24.

Rated A. Cabin John Regional Park. Enjoy a moderately easy 4.3 mi. hike,

partly along Cabin John Creek. No pets. Leader: Jim Fremont, 301/962-4703 (before 9 pm).

Rated G or D. Modified "Parade of Parks" Circuit of 23 mi. (or 14.4-mi. option) on paved and dirt trails in DC and Maryland parklands, with some gentle elevation change. Leaders: Mike Fischetti, 703/771-8559 or michael.fischetti@hq.doe.gov; Gary Kosciusko, 703/765-0306; and Larry Broadwell, 301/215-7135 (before 9 pm).

Sun. Mar. 25.

Rated D. Prince William Forest Park. Same hike as March 11. Leader: Glenn Gillis 703/430-0568.

Rated F. Central and Northern Rock Creek Park. A choice, two-loop hike of 12.5 mi. Leashed dogs welcome for either loop (but check first with leader). Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott, 703/256-6351.

Sat. Mar. 31.

Not Rated. Spring General Meeting of Sierra Club's Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program. Contact: Paul Elliott, 703/256-6351.

MWROP APRIL EVENTS

Sun. Apr. 1.

Rated B. Fairfax County Cross County Trail Hike #2. Scenic and one-way 7.7 mi. hike in Reston/Great Falls area from Leigh Mill Rd. to Lawyers Rd. Leaders: Frank Wodarczyk, fwhiker44@cox.net or 703/569-6737, and Henri Comeau, hencom75@msn.com or 703/451-7965.

Rated H or E. Alexandria-Arlington Slow Marathon. Circuit of 27 paved mi. on Mount Vernon Trail and other Alexandria and Arlington trails, with a few minor undulations. Leaders: Ray Evert, 703/893-3792 or hikerdude22@msn.com; Mike

Gingerich, 703/590-3188 or m.gingerich@comcast.net; and Russ Norfleet, 703/294-6068 or russnorfleet@verizon.net.

Thu.-Sun. Apr. 5-8.

Rated H. Black Forest Backpack in PA (GPS Hike series, unscouted). We'll take two full and two half-days to do this loop on the Black Forest Trail in north-central PA, covering 42.1 mi. and climbing 6700 ft. Leader: Dimitri Tundra, 301/770-9639 or tartakd@hotmail.com.

Sat. Apr. 7.

Rated A. Mount Pleasant and Adams Morgan via New DC Heritage Trails. Learn about DC history and see the buildings and areas that enshrined it on a 6 mi. walk along city streets. Leader: Helen Epps, 202/363-1278 (leave message).

Rated H or D. C&O Canal Towpath. Starting at Rileys Lock (Seneca) and heading up canal, do a 28.4 mi. out-and-back to MP 37, or turn around sooner. Leaders: Paul Elliott, 703-256-6351; Mike Gingerich, 703/590-3188 or m.gingerich@comcast.net; and Herb Bastin, 240/423-7566.

Sun. Apr. 8

(date subject to change). Rated A/B. Annual Bloomin' Monument Hike. Celebrate the coming of spring with an easy 4-plus-4 mi. walking tour of major DC memorials during peak bloom of beautiful cherry blossoms. Date may be changed +/-7 days to match predicted peak bloom; check website, or with leaders, after March 26 for final hike date. Leaders: Mike Darzi, 301/593-4551 or michael.darzi@saic.com, and Jane Hudson, 301/589-8708 (before 10 pm) or janedc2002@yahoo.com.

Sat. Apr. 14.

Rated A. Two Views of the Potomac: Red Rock Wilderness Overlook and Balls Bluff Battlefield Regional Parks. Two little gems on the outskirts of Leesburg, with Potomac River vistas and wonderful wildflowers. Leaders: Carol Ivory, 703/476-8730 or carolivory@verizon.net, and Dave Burd, dave.burd@verizon.net.

Rated D. Little Devil Stairs, Northern SNP. Moderate 8 mi. hike beginning with a steep, rocky ascent of a stream-crossed ravine, then descending along Piney Branch Trail and passing the lovely Bolen Cemetery on the return. Leaders: Pat Hopson, 703/379-1795 (9 am-10 pm), and Marjorie Richman, 301/770-3608 (until 9 pm).

Sun. Apr. 15.

Rated A. Fairfax County Cross County Trail Hike #3. One-way 6 mi. hike in Oakton/Reston area, partly hilly and partly along scenic Difficult Run, starting at Lawyers Rd. and ending at Oak Marr Park. Leaders: Frank Wodarczyk, fwhiker44@cox.net or 703/569-6737, and Henri Comeau, hencom75@msn.com or 703/451-7965.

Rated C. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. Moderate, wiggly, and early-spring hike of 11 mi. in secluded and teeming wildlife sanctuary on eastern shores of Patuxent River's Jug Bay in Anne Arundel Co., across from Patuxent River Park. Leaders: Paul Elliott, 703/256-6351, and Glenn Gillis, 703/430-0568.

Tues. Apr. 17.

Rated E. Great Falls Park in Maryland. Hike Billy Goat Trail sections A, B, and C, plus River, Gold Mine, and Valley trails and sections of the C&O towpath. Leader: Mike Moran, mjm.9406@cox.net or 703/281-4630.

Outings (MWROP, BICO)

Sat. Apr. 21.

Rated E. Little Devils Stairs, in Northern SNP. Moderate to fast-paced hike of 9 mi. and 2000 ft. of elev. gain. Very scenic hike up a narrow rocky canyon. Should see some redbud trees in bloom. Leader: Ted Fryberger, 410/312-2982 (until 9:30 pm) or tkfryberger@comcast.net.

Rated H. Overall Falls Northern SNP. Hike up Overall Run Trail from Thompson Hollow to Mathews Arm and Elkwallow and down Beecher Ridge Trail. Total of 16 mi. with 3500 ft. of elev. change. Leader: Russ Norfleet, 703 /294-6068 or russnorfleet@verizon.net.

Sun. Apr. 22.

Rated D. Conservation and History Hike at Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD. Moderately paced 8.5 mi. circuit hike with about 1800 ft. of elev. change. Leader: Ted Conwell, 301/589-1513 (before 9 pm).

Rated E. Sky Meadows State Park. Celebrate Earth Day with a hike through beautiful Sky Meadows along the crest of the Blue Ridge. Leader: Glenn Gillis, 703/430-0568.

Sat. Apr. 28.

Rated H++ or H+. One Day Hike to Harpers Ferry/ Bolivar, WV. This 34th annual 100 kilometer (62 mi.) hike with a concurrent 50 km. option is almost entirely on the C&O Canal towpath. For details and volunteer opportunities, visit www.onedayhike.org or contact leaders (registration closes April 16!). Leaders: Paul Elliott, 703/256-6351 or metrohiker@yahoo.com, and Mike Darzi, 301/593-4551 or michael.darzi@saic.com.

Sun. Apr. 29.

Rated A. Virginia State Arboretum. An easy walk of about 5 mi. for tree lovers, with a picnic stop. Leader: Dave Burd, dave.burd@verizon.net or 240/418-9697.

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.

March

2-4	Camping, Elk Neck	DHH
10	TBA CGCC	
23-25	Blackburn Cabin, VA	FYC

April

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

May

12	Hiking, Billy Goat Trail	DHH
19	Hiking, Rocks State Park	FYC

June

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

July

TBD	Camping, Pocomoke	DHH
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Abbreviations:

CGCC: College Gardens Community Center

DHH: Digital Harbor High

FYC: Franciscan Youth Center

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

Other Events

4th Annual Environmental Career Event

On Wednesday, March 21, the Sierra Club Education Committee will present the annual Environmental Career Fair at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland. Students, home-schoolers, teachers, college students, and adults looking for a career change are invited to meet with representatives from environmental, educational, and government institutions to learn about career and volunteer opportunities. Environmental films will be shown in adjacent classrooms, and refreshments will be available. Attendees can view films and visit with representatives from participating organizations.

Past year's events have included representatives from the D.C. Dept. of Environmental Health Habitat Restoration

Program, the Peace Corps, the Montgomery Co. Dept. of Environmental Protection, American Rivers, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Hood College, American University, Ecological Society of America, the National Institutes of Health Department of Environmental Protection, the National Park Service, Dickinson College, Filmmakers for Conservation, Patuxent Research Refuge, the Anacostia Watershed Society, Juniata College, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mark your calendar to attend Wednesday March 21st from 7:00–9:30 p.m. at Brookside Gardens Visitors Center, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton.

Maryland Public Television (MPT) Presents Chesapeake Bay Week

A week of public television programming will celebrate the Chesapeake Bay's bounty and address important issues facing the Bay's health.

Chesapeake Bay Week begins Saturday April 21st and runs until April 29th.

We think that viewers will be so moved by what they see on our programs that they will be stirred to act, to do something, to make a difference.

That's why this year we've added something new to Chesapeake Bay Week. We are turning viewers into Doers.

MPT has partnered with over a dozen Bay-related non-profit organizations that are ready and eager to accept volunteer help. The volunteer tasks are suitable for all ages and lifestyles: from planting grasses

and removing litter to making phone calls and helping with mailings.

On the last day of Chesapeake Bay Week, MPT will air a special Volunteer-a-thon, whereby viewers can call in and pledge their volunteer hours to help restore the health and vitality of the bay and its environs.

Any Sierra Club Member who is interested should watch MPT on April 29th from 4:30 to 6:00 PM.

Watch MPT on April 29th to learn how you can help the Bay. Let the Channel change YOU.

SC Election

Election of Sierra Club's National Board of Directors

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. In March, those of you who are eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

Two years ago the Board started allowing Chapters to make endorsements in the national Club election. Therefore, the Maryland Chapter recommends a vote for Allison Chin and Ken Langton in the upcoming election for Sierra Club's Board of Directors.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club's election website: www.sierraclub.org/bod/2007_election. This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

Letter to Ed.

Article Makes a Lasting Impression

Thank you, Md. Chapter, for printing Betsy Reeder's "Lasting Impressions" article in the Winter '06-'07 edition. I am a descendent of Appalachian economic migrants. There are hundreds of thousands of us scattered around the country, maybe millions. My family vacationed, like Betsy, to the West Virginia state parks, in the 1950's, taking our grandparents back to the mountains they loved. But I am glad they died before having to witness mountain-top removal coal mining.

My request to the Maryland Chapter leadership: Please publish in Chesapeake websites of our fellow organizations' that are struggling to stop this destruction. At ilovemountains.org, visitors can see several excellent videos, including Mary Ann Hitt of Appalachian Voices, and Maria Gunnoe, a mom-turned-activist who has lost her home to King Coal. This site also links to other great groups—the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Coal River Mountain Watch, and others.

Thanks.

Neil Williamson
Greenbelt, MD

Editor's note: For more about mountaintop removal mining, see Kim Stanley's essay, "Speaking of Mountains," on page 8. Kim provides a list of resources following her essay for those interested in learning more about this environmental catastrophe.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choices and cast your votes. You will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark. A growing number of members find the user-friendly Internet-voting option to be very convenient as well as saving postage. ■

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

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Writers and Contributors: Lisa Mayo, Jan Graham, Betsy Johnson, Alice Neily Mutch, Cliff Terry, Kim Stenley, Barbara Garner, Mary Corddry, Ken Clark, Anne Ambler, Sherri Loomis, Dan Soeder, Neil Williamson

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

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.marylandsierraclub.org.

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



What's inside?

- An Environmental Agenda in Annapolis
- Our New Gov's State of the State
- National Wildlife Refuges' Shrinking Budget
- Mining Turns Mountains to Moonscapes
- Local Groups: Conservation & Conviviality
- Outings, Events

& much more!

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