

Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Summer 2007

“Change of Climate” Brings Legislative Success

By Jan Graham— April 9, 2007, ended a legislative session that was more productive and less contentious than last year’s session. A change of climate (pun intended) both statewide and national, plus Al Gore’s award-winning documentary on global warming, *An Inconvenient Truth*, set the stage for progress on environmental issues.

How well did Maryland do? In terms of our focus on clean cars, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and Program Open Space (a state program providing funds for state and local parks and conservation areas), this was a successful session.

- ♦ Governor O’Malley signed the Clean Cars Act, adding carbon dioxide, the primary cause of global warming, to the list of pollutants covered by vehicle emission standards. The Act also strengthens the standards for other pollutants and requires that a percentage of new cars sold in the state each year be advanced technology vehicles, such as hybrids. Maryland will now join other states in reducing pollutants that contribute to global warming, cancer, smog, and to the dead zone in the Chesapeake Bay.

- ♦ Energy efficiency is considered a “low hanging fruit.”
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Less Global-Warming Gas, More Quality of Life *Well-Managed Watersheds Key to Restoring Bay*

The adage “you are what you eat!” applies equally well to the Chesapeake Bay: thousands of tributaries feed the Bay whatever is served by their watersheds. Hence proper management of local watersheds is key to restoring the Bay’s integrity, as is well known. Less obvious is that a well-managed watershed also reduces the produc-

as discussed below. Curbing sprawl development is critical for forest preservation and also yields very significant reductions in CO₂ emissions because of reduced demand for transportation and for heating and cooling of large houses. Preserving forests also improves quality of life because of green space, decreased traffic congestion and air pollution, and increased recreational opportunities.

To realize these benefits, we must provide attractive housing opportunities in mass-transit-oriented and pedestrian-friendly communities. The planning community has long understood the advantages of this shift, as well as the excess costs of sprawl to the taxpayer.¹ Enlightened watershed management reduces costs, enhances quality of life, and, as current scientific evidence shows, abates global warming and improves the health of our aquatic habitats.

Mattawoman Creek Threatened by a Sprawling Greenhouse

A local watershed that serves as a poster child for the plight of the Chesapeake Bay,

and epitomizes the connection between land use and global warming, is that of Mattawoman Creek, a 95-square-mile watershed that drains to the lower Potomac River at Indian Head, Maryland, at the frontier of Washington, DC’s rapidly expanding urban gradient.

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Tidal portion of Mattawoman Creek. Photo by Jim Long.

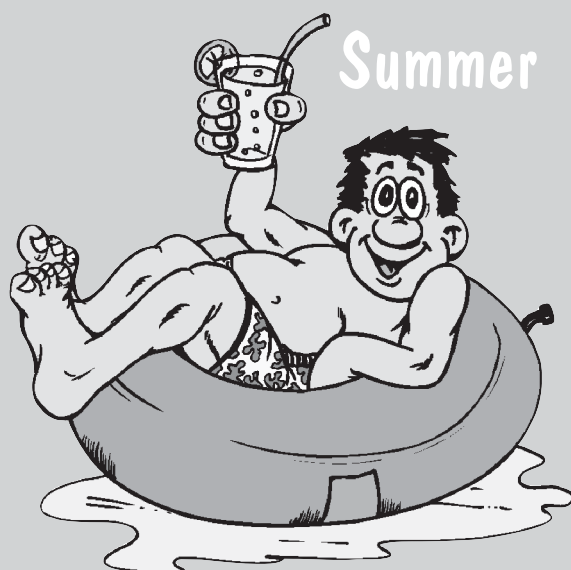
tion of the greenhouse gases responsible for global warming.

Because a watershed managed for water quality necessarily preserves forest cover, the greenhouse gas CO₂ (carbon dioxide) continues to be sequestered in wood,



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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Legislative Action

Legislative Successes Leave Some "To Dos"

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It is easy to get and very satisfying! Starting in 2009, eight additional home products will be added to the list of those covered by minimum efficiency standards mandated by the state.

- ♦ Promoting renewable energy were 1) the solar energy program, an income tax credit for purchase and installation of solar elements, and 2) a solar energy addition to the renewable portfolio; both passed.
- ♦ The Governor announced that he will fully fund Program Open Space. The Maryland budget for next year is in for major cuts, so the public should carefully monitor the funding process.

Other bills were extremely important this year:

- ♦ Storm Water Management Act passed. Passage of this major piece took the cooperation and coordination of all our environmental partners right up to the last moment. Considering the intense growth Maryland will be experiencing in the next few years, controlling runoff from development is vital to the health of the Chesapeake Bay.
- ♦ The Global Warming Solutions Act did not pass, in spite of its many sponsors and support from the environmental community.
- ♦ Green Building Standards passed. This creates a council to evaluate high-performance building technology and make recommendations about state facilities.
- ♦ Utility Efficiency Program did not pass. It would have restored energy efficient programs for utility customers by giving tax incentives for heating and cooling equipment.
- ♦ Oyster Restoration passed. It establishes an advisory commission on oysters.
- ♦ Diamondback Terrapin bill passed. It prohibits taking diamondback terrapins for commercial purposes.
- ♦ Phosphorus dishwashing detergent bill passed. It bans by 2010 detergent containing more than 0.5 percent of phosphates.

Even though a number of favorable bills passed, the public should be involved in seeing them executed, especially since BRAC (the military Base Realignment and Closure process) will be bringing jobs and development to the western and northern parts of the state. It will be a challenge to insure that the passed legislation, such as the Storm Water Management Act, is fully implemented.

The Storm Water Management Act is very specific about the requirements for handling polluted runoff from new developments. Now the Maryland Department of the Environment needs to write the regulations to implement the law, and the regulations must be as strong as possible.

The proposed Inter-County Connector (ICC) is an expensive toll road through Montgomery and Prince George's Counties that would take money away from other transportation projects needed to accommodate additional development spurred by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) project. Lt. Governor Brown is heading the committee recently formed by the Governor to study the implications of BRAC on Maryland infrastructure, and to present a comprehensive report. We need for citizens to write to the Governor and tell him that we can't afford the ICC in light of other state priorities. (See more on the ICC on page 4.)

Development is the number one issue on the local level. Our members should stay involved. Lots of bad stuff can happen when politicians think we're 'sleeping' during the summer months. Check newspaper notices for hearings, and send an email if you see a problem. It will always be up to the individual to protect the environment and one person can make a difference!

Overall, this was a very good year in the Maryland legislative process. Special thanks to the Governor and all of our senators and delegates who worked so hard to pass environmentally sound legislation. The legislation is a start, and now the hard part of implementation begins. We, the Sierra Club, must improve and expand our efforts to curb global warming pollutants: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, and soot. If we don't, we cannot hope to reduce the terrible consequences of our lifestyle. ■

Jan Graham is the Legislative Chair for the Maryland Chapter.

Legislative and Regulatory Action

Public Financing for General Assembly Campaigns

By Cliff Terry—"The main reason many politicians side with the polluters is their never-ending need for campaign cash. Public campaign financing will eliminate the influence of donors who want to weaken environmental laws, and it will shift power back to voters and volunteers," said the Sierra Club's national president a few years ago. Little has changed since.

A bill to provide full public funding for campaigns for the Maryland General Assembly passed the Assembly's House of Delegates for the first time last year. This year, the Maryland Senate voted on the plan for the first time, and it failed to pass by just one vote.

The Baltimore Sun attributed the Senate defeat largely to the opposition of Senate president Mike Miller, whose reasons have been quoted variously as the plan's cost, presumed voter distaste for it, and his belief that it would be bad for Democrats.

The Sierra Club's Maryland Chapter has submitted testimony supporting similar bills for several years and presumably will again next year. Such groups as the Maryland Conservation Council, the League of Women Voters, Common Cause, the NAACP, and the AFL-CIO have also supported the bills. The hard work and astute strategizing of Sean Dobson of Progressive Maryland has been indispensable every year in mobilizing support for the bill, and this year, staffers of a national group, Public Campaign, beefed up the effort. ■

Cliff Terry is the Maryland Chapter's Campaign Finance Reform Chair.

Liquefied Natural Gas Processing and Storage Plant: Community Sustains Effort to Halt Unwanted Development

By Imani Kazana—Since late 2004, the Washington Gas Company has continued its efforts to gain approval to build a liquefied natural gas (LNG) processing and storage plant in a densely populated area of West Hyattsville, located on the edge of Northeast DC. For over two years, this utility has been filing applications with county and state agencies in search of permission for this project, which the community feels is inappropriate and unsafe. To date, every county zoning review of the proposed facility has considered the information and arguments from the opposition, and denied the applications.

In its determination to put profits and its own corporate interests over the interests of the community, the gas company took the matter to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County early in 2007. It filed a memorandum with this court in March, claiming that the county's zoning bodies, including the District Council (a/k/a County Council), made errors in its rulings. The company is asking the court to overturn the denial, and place the matter solely in the hands of the state's Public Service Commission—an agency that has demonstrated a bias in favor of approving the utility projects it reviews.

Attorneys for both the County Council and the City of Hyattsville filed memoranda in opposition in the court at the end of April in response to Washington Gas Company's claims. These memoranda presented considerable case law supporting their positions that the denials were properly granted, being based on substantial evidence; that the District Council's zoning authority was not preempted by federal or state law; and that the county's zoning system is properly different from that of Montgomery County.

On June 1, a hearing is scheduled

during which time the court will decide whether or not to consider this case.

Meanwhile, the community is gearing up to seek changes at all levels of government (county, state and federal) to establish improvements in the laws and regulations regarding how LNG facilities will be evaluated and approved in the future.

No community should have to go through this confusion and struggle ever again. Clearly there are communities from coast to coast, including Baltimore County, fighting proposals to bring potentially hazardous LNG facilities close to homes. Laws need to catch up with the rapidly changing utility industry to ensure that new facilities will be placed in remote areas as recommended by the U.S. General Accounting Office in 1979. We *must* work hard to make our government move faster on this; the lives and health of communities across this country are at stake.

Action Steps You Can Take

Between now and mid-June, it will be important to make every effort to block

the reappointment of Joe Kelliher as chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Under his leadership during the past five years, FERC has exhibited a pro-utility posture, approving nearly every construction proposal put before the body. It did not approve proposals to modify procedures for establishing larger safety zones (exclusion zones), which would provide greater protection to the public. A change is needed; having him as the head of FERC for another five years would be detrimental for communities.

Each concerned person should urge his/her U. S. Senator to contact the Senate Energy and Commerce Committee requesting that Mr. Kelliher's reappointment be blocked. The contact numbers are: Senator Barbara Mikulski at 202-224-4654 and Senator Benjamin Cardin at 202-224-4524. ■

Imani Kazana (imanikazana@msn.com) is a founding member of the Washington Gas Watch Alliance and president of the Avondale/North Woodridge Citizens' Association.

Students Can Be a Force for Change



Sierra Student Coalition

We teach you how at
Student Environmental Leadership Trainings

To learn about our Summer 2007 programs visit www.ssc.org/sprog or call 1-888-JOIN SSC

The ICC, Inter-County Connector, Impeller of Climate Change

By Greg Smith—We are used to thinking about the Inter-County Connector (ICC), the proposed toll road through Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, in terms of stream and forest and neighborhood destruction. We are used to thinking about fighting global warming in terms of solar power, green buildings and hybrid cars. In fact, the ICC and global warming are intimately linked.

Scientists say we have ten years to turn CO₂ levels in the atmosphere from rising levels to falling levels. Our approach to transportation and land use will play a big role in determining if we meet this goal.

The ICC's Effect on Global Warming: Like Throwing Gasoline on a Roaring Bonfire

Four reports released in May should convince Governor O'Malley and other elected officials to drop the ICC now, before wasting millions of tax dollars attempting to defend the indefensible in court and before taking any more homes or land for the ICC.

First, in early May, the *Washington Post* reported that global warming emissions from power plants and motor vehicles in the Washington region rose by

more than 13 percent between 2001 and 2005—twice as fast as the national average. If this is a trend, and if it continues, the region's power plant and vehicle emissions could double by 2025.

Second, in mid-May, the National Aeronautic and Space Administration released findings that average summer time temperatures in the eastern United States may soar by 10 degrees Fahrenheit by the mid-2080s—several degrees hotter and perhaps decades faster than previously predicted.

Third, in late May, the Global Carbon Project and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences reported that since 2000, worldwide emissions have risen three times faster than in the 1990s. If this trend continues, worldwide emissions could double in less than 25 years.

Fourth, on May 23, the Washington Council of Governments released preliminary findings that, without serious reduction measures, emissions from motor vehicles in our national capital region will increase by nearly 50 percent between 2002 and 2030.

Building the ICC would be the equivalent of throwing gasoline on this already-roaring bonfire, and feeding the fire three billion dollar-bills. Increased

driving stimulated by the ICC likely would wipe out most of the emissions reductions that might be achieved in Montgomery County through Maryland's brand new Clean Cars Act.

Three major transportation studies in 10 years have predicted that the ICC would sharply increase automobile use in the Washington region. On some roads, such as I-495, it would worsen congestion, not ease it. The latest such study, the 2006 Bush-Ehrlich Environmental Impact Study (EIS), predicted that the ICC would increase vehicle miles traveled in the ICC Study Area (much of Montgomery County and part of northwestern Prince George's County) by 20 percent, or 700 million miles per year—excluding automobile trips generated by the sprawl that the ICC would help trigger in Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, and perhaps Anne Arundel counties. The 2001 Transportation Policy Report, published by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the 1997 Draft EIS published by the administrations of President Clinton and Governor Glendening offered similarly disturbing results.

Concern about global warming should persuade the governor to abandon the ICC

The first step to slowing, then stopping, global warming is to kill projects and programs likely to boost global warming emissions. The second is to implement the types of energy efficiency and clean energy measures called for by the Sierra Club and other organizations. Quite simply, Maryland cannot cut global warming emissions rapidly enough if we waste billions of dollars speeding in the wrong direction.

Concern about global warming should persuade Governor O'Malley to abandon the ICC. With our local, state and federal governments facing massive budget shortfalls, with the Chesapeake Bay and many of its tributaries decades behind in their recovery, with petroleum becoming increasingly expensive in all terms, and with three major studies in 10 years showing that this \$3+ billion project would do little or nothing to relieve congestion, the Governor has many reasons to abandon the ICC project and no good reason to pursue it. ■

Pam Lindstrom also contributed to this article.

Take Three Steps to Tell the Governor to Abandon the ICC

1. Write *and* call Governor O'Malley as soon as possible. Urge him to drop the ICC, stop taking homes and land for the ICC, invest in public transit, and put Maryland on the path to sustainability.

Please e-mail him, then write him via fax or regular mail, then call.

E-mail: governor@gov.state.md.us
Phone: (800) 811-8336
Fax: 410- 974-3275
Mailing Address:
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

2. Share this issue of *Chesapeake* with friends, neighbors, and local officials in your community. Fact sheets on the cost of the ICC and the

General Assembly Letter can be found at: <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/>

3. Sign the Sierra Club's on-line petition to stop the ICC, and join us to promote climate-friendly, community-friendly alternatives to highways and sprawl.

Fighting Sprawl

Board of Public Works Approves Major Land Purchase Near Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

“Diverse interests, when determined, can work together to preserve and protect our natural resources.”

By Lisa M. Mayo—On November 6, 2006—one day before the governor’s race was to be decided at the polls—then-Governor Robert Ehrlich, Jr. announced that the state of Maryland planned to spend \$10 million to purchase over 700 acres of the 1,072-acre Blackwater Resort development land, which sat upstream from Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

As was reported in the spring 2006 issue of *Chesapeake*, developer Duane Zentgraf had proposed a mega-development project approximately two miles from the nationally renowned Blackwater NWR, near Cambridge, Maryland, which is located in Dorchester County on the Eastern Shore. The original plan was for 3,200 single-family and multi-family homes, a 100-room hotel/conference center, a golf course, and a retail center on what is now farmland. Within the project zone were over 300 acres of “Critical Area” land near the Little Blackwater River, which flows directly into Blackwater NWR and eventually into the Chesapeake Bay. The “Critical Area” included a designated “Resource Conservation Area” and “Habitat Protection Areas,” and was located in a region known for frequent flooding and poorly draining soils.

An Election Eve Deal

Throughout the Blackwater Resort controversy, Gov. Ehrlich’s spokesman had repeatedly stated that the governor believed the Blackwater Resort development project was a local matter that did not require his intervention. During this same time, gubernatorial candidate Martin O’Malley had disagreed with Ehrlich, stating that he believed the state should offer to buy a portion of the land, and this concern eventually took the form of a letter sent by O’Malley and former

Maryland governor Harry Hughes to Ehrlich, urging him to change his mind and strike a deal with the developer to buy the majority of the land using money from the state’s Program Open Space preservation fund. O’Malley’s position was supported by thousands of citizens who had signed a Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) petition urging the governor to protect the Refuge and farmland. Calls for Ehrlich to protect the land appeared to go unheeded, until suddenly on the Monday before Election Day, it was an-

tract that includes Blackwater Refuge and who, along with O’Malley, had publicly supported the campaign to protect the Refuge and farmland.

After the November 2006 elections, Governor O’Malley and Comptroller Peter Franchot joined Treasurer Nancy Kopp as members of the Maryland Board of Public Works. On April 18, 2007, this board unanimously approved an agreement under which the state will buy 728 acres of the Blackwater Resort land at a cost of \$10.3 million, and developer

sources.”

Kim Coble, Maryland Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation—which skillfully led the public campaign to oppose the project—expressed her approval: “We applaud the O’Malley Administration for negotiating a settlement that allows for development to occur that is limited in size and scope; farming to continue in a region that has a strong agricultural community; and the environment and water quality to be protected. Truly, this is a win-win outcome for all.”

Plans for Land Restoration

According to reports from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the developer of the acreage on which the adult community will be built will employ bio-retention and other best management practices used for storm water control.

In addition, the developer has agreed to contribute over \$1.9 million for a major restoration project on the 728 acres purchased by the state. The restoration plan will be devised by the Maryland DNR and the Dorchester County Soil Conservation District, and will be reviewed by a task force comprised of natural resource professionals as well as non-governmental representatives from groups such as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Ducks Unlimited.

The Maryland DNR stated that, “The restoration will provide for substantial water quality improvements through riparian forest buffer and wetland establishment, creation of diverse wildlife habitats, and implementation of state-of-the-art agricultural best management practices.”

According to Kevin Smith of the DNR’s Watershed Services, the purchased
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Osprey surveying Blackwater Refuge. Photo by David Quinn.

nounced at a hastily arranged press conference that a deal had been reached between the state and the developer. The CBF was not invited to the press event, but local Republican politicians were invited, including Eastern Shore State Senator Richard Colburn (R-37), who was running for reelection. He had once vehemently opposed any efforts by the state to intervene, but suddenly appeared to undergo a miraculous “green conversion” as the election neared. One politician who was conspicuously absent from the staged event was Republican Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, who represents the dis-

Zentgraf will retain 328 acres, on which will be constructed an adult community of approximately 675 houses, away from the banks of the Little Blackwater River and closer to the Cambridge town center.

Upon passage, Governor O’Malley stated, “The Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding lands are a national and a state treasure, and I am proud to be able to protect this critical land for future generations. This transaction demonstrates how diverse interests, when determined, can work together to preserve and protect our natural re-

Fighting Sprawl

State to Purchase Buffer for Blackwater NWR

(Continued from page 5)

land will be part of the Chesapeake Forest Lands Complex and will be maintained by revenue generated from lands within that complex. Smith also reported that a segment of the 728 acres will be preserved as a working farm—an issue that was important to farmers near Blackwater Refuge, concerned about the rapid disappearance of farmland and the decline of the local farming community. Smith stated that the farmland will be managed with best management practices and will have runoff buffers that will be maintained by the DNR.

Local officials and environmental groups were overwhelmingly pleased

with the outcome of the Blackwater Resort land sale, and several citizens closest to the debate stated that they believed it was the best outcome possible. However, concern remains that Maryland's environmental community will be lulled into thinking that there is no longer a need to advocate for the Blackwater NWR watershed.

Bill Giese, a Cambridge-area farmer who has been a long-time member of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff at Blackwater NWR and is also an official with the Dorchester County Soil Conservation District, says he is afraid the local community will lose sight of the big picture and think the battle is done. Giese has been part of the effort to monitor the health of the Little Blackwater River and sees that the river has deteriorated over time. Giese also believes that the impervious surfaces from the 675-home adult community could have a detrimental im-

pact on the river — a concern that Kevin Smith of DNR shares. Both men were clear in warning that this preservation project alone will not save the Little Blackwater River or Blackwater Refuge from the impact of a growing Cambridge economy.

New housing projects are coming to the Cambridge area, and the water that flows into the Blackwater NWR will have to be monitored and protected over the long term. To aid in this effort, there are

currently plans to set up a riverkeeper group for the Little Blackwater River, and local officials will continue to collect data on the health of the river and the effectiveness of local

stormwater control projects.

Although environmentalists were justified in celebrating this major victory of land preservation, the war to protect the Little Blackwater River and Blackwater NWR from development is not over—it has just entered a new, and potentially more challenging, phase. ■



Blackwater NWR. Photo by David Quinn.

Nuclear Energy

Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant Expansion Expands Risk

Constellation Energy has proposed expanding the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant in Maryland. Building a third reactor at Calvert Cliffs would be expensive, threaten public health, and damage the environment.

A third reactor at the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant increases the risk of an accident or terrorist attack. An accident or attack at the plant could harm over a million residents in Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia.

The new reactor at Calvert Cliffs could generate an estimated 1,250 metric tons of radioactive waste during its 40 years of operation. Much of this waste will be stored, at least temporarily, at the site of the reactor, where it would pose an attractive target for a potential terrorist attack.

The two existing reactors at Calvert Cliffs have been fined for safety lapses. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) fined the plant \$50,000 in 1996 for problems with emergency equipment that had been identified in 1992 but still had not been repaired four years later.

If the federal nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain is opened, waste from Calvert Cliffs will be transported by rail or truck to Nevada, passing

within five miles of 3.1 million people in Maryland.

Radioactive Waste Management Associates, a consulting firm working for the state of Nevada, has estimated that 100 to 450 accidents will occur as nuclear waste is transported via train and truck to Yucca Mountain. A single serious accident could cause thousands of cancers and cost billions of dollars.

Nationally, 107,500 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel and 22,280 canisters of high-level radioactive waste will be moved to Yucca Mountain over the course of 38 years. The waste would be shipped in casks that would each contain as much as 240 times the amount of radioactive material released by the Hiroshima bomb.

No long-term solution exists to store the highly toxic radioactive waste that the plant generates. The United States has never had a plan for safe disposal of spent fuel.

Radioactive waste generated at nuclear power plants must be guarded and kept from the environment for tens of thousands of years; what amounts to financial eternity. To date, the federal government has spent \$58 billion trying to

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It's the 9th Annual Lower Potomac Wade-In!



Bring your family and your white sneakers for a fun-filled day of family-oriented activities at the 9th Annual Lower Potomac Wade-In.

The Wade-In is an enjoyable, non-technical way of measuring water clarity.

Participants will wade into

the Lower Potomac, and mark the depth where they can no longer see their feet. Last year we recorded a depth of 24.5 inches.

This year's event will be held on June 24th from 2-5 p.m. on the grounds of the Mirant Corporation's Morgantown power plant.

You can also enjoy a raptor show, learning about oysters and sturgeon, information on our local

watersheds and more.

Refreshments will be provided by Mirant, the site host.

Take Route 301 south (past MD 257) to the last left before the Governor Harry Nice Bridge. Turn left into the Morgantown Plant and follow the signs. For more information, contact Mike Bilek at mbilek@dnr.state.md.us or 410-260-8988.

Nuclear Energy

Nuclear Power Plant Expansion Threatens Safety, Budget

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devise a storage solution for nuclear waste from across the country.

The Yucca Mountain site is too small and will run out of room before it can take the spent fuel from the power plants already operating around the country. Adding a third unit at Calvert Cliffs means that more waste will be stored, temporarily or permanently, here in Maryland.

Calvert County has granted \$300 million in tax breaks to Constellation Energy. This is equal to \$4,500 per taxpayer in Calvert County. The new plant will add 450 full-time jobs in the county, but at a cost to taxpayers of approximately \$750,000 per job. Taxpayer subsidies should not support dangerous forms of energy like nuclear power.

Constellation may seek additional financing from the state. Constellation also could seek to have some of the cost of the new plant paid for by electricity ratepayers, by adding the cost of the plant to the rate base that consumers pay.

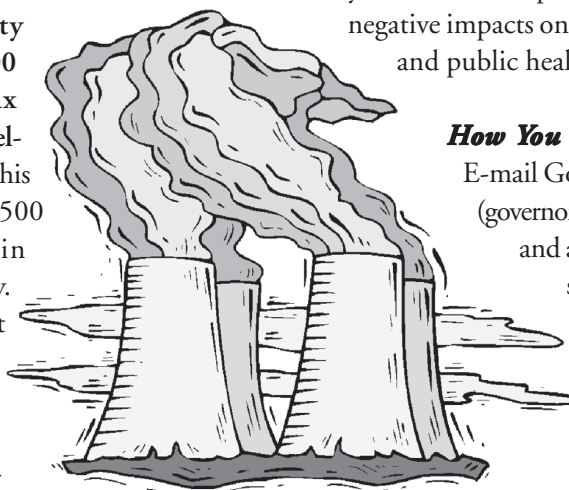
Despite claims by the nuclear industry, nuclear power is not an environmentally benign source of electricity.

Mining and processing uranium destroys land and creates toxic and radioactive waste. While generating electricity from nuclear power does not directly emit global warming pollution, the nuclear fuel cycle does. As the world demand for nuclear energy and uranium rises, the quality of uranium that will be available

will decline, and require more energy intensive (and more costly) processing. Eventually, global warming pollution from nuclear energy may be higher than that from natural gas plants.

Producing more life-threatening waste in exchange for lower warming emissions is a poor trade-off. Fortunately, it is one we do not have to make.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, such as wind, solar, and ocean power, can compete economically with nuclear power without the negative impacts on the environment and public health and safety.



How You Can Help

E-mail Governor O'Malley (governor@gov.state.md.us) and ask him to oppose state subsidies to Constellation and its partners to help fund the new nuclear reactor.

To join the campaign or for more information, contact:

Frank Fox, Southern Maryland Group, at 301 884-8027 or ff725@yahoo.com.

Maryland PIRG 410-467-9389 or Johanna@marylandpirg.org. ■

This article adapted from MaryPIRG materials, and submitted by the Southern Maryland Group.

Population

Dare To Deal With Population Growth

by Cliff Terry—Smart Growth by itself cannot prevent open space from disappearing, and much else of what we value along with it. We must also curb growth itself. But we, the environmental movement have been far too silent about the issue of population growth.

That was the message of Ed Stennett, former population chair of the Sierra Club's Maryland Chapter, in a presentation to a Friday Night Forum at the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church in October 2005. Unfortunately, every bit of his message is still just as true today. Here is a drastically condensed version:

The year I was born the population of the U.S. was about 130 million. 56 years later when my granddaughter Katie was born, the population was 270 million. If Katie's first grandchild is also born 56 years after her birth, the projected population will be 425 million. And 56 years after that, the projected population will be essentially 600 million people. Allowing our population to increase this way absolutely assures our failure to protect our environment.

Smart Growth programs have mitigated the damage done by out-of-control growth. But Smart Growth programs cannot alone prevent open space from disappearing. This is because the amount of developed land varies in proportion to both the population of the region and the per capita land consumption. That is, if either of these two factors increases by 10%, say, and the other is unchanged, 10% more land will be developed.

Thus, any benefit from achieving lower per capita land consumption is only temporary. Unless we stabilize our population, we will eventually lose our open space even with more frugal per capita land use. The difference is only that with more people each using more land, we would lose open space even faster.

If we examine traffic congestion,

susceptibility to drought, the precarious state of the Chesapeake Bay, and a number of other environmental concerns, we find that population growth makes each problem worse. But it seems that the more we grow, the less we want to face reality.

It's Time to Deal with Growth Itself

We in the environmental movement need to acknowledge and address the problems that US population growth poses so that we don't lead people to falsely conclude that either: a) our population growth is not a major issue or b) nothing can be done about it. So do the news media. They need to stop avoiding the population component in stories about environmental problems. We and the media both need to reject the two widely held misconceptions that:

1. Growth is necessary for prosperity, and
2. Population growth is too hot a topic to discuss.

We unconsciously accept the "growth is good" myth because it is human nature to believe what we are told over and over again. Our indoctrination begins early with high school history textbooks extolling the early expansion of the U.S. But by far the most persistent promoters of the story are those who profit from growth: newspapers, politicians, and business associations.

A 2002 Brookings Institution study of the 100 largest metropolitan areas in the U.S. determined there was negligible correlation between population growth and personal income growth. Obviously, the total economy of a region increases with population. But for the typical citizen, this does not translate into greater personal prosperity.

As to the second misconception, there is no question that many people consider population growth a hot topic. Negative images pop into people's minds: images of their procreative freedoms be-

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Population

Dealing with Growth

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ing abridged, racial issues, and emotional debates about immigration. But there was a time when Americans were comfortable discussing the need to stabilize U.S. population. President Nixon spoke of it in speeches, and the Sierra Club even proposed 1990 as the target stabilization date. But today, after increasing our population by nearly 100 million people in just 35 years, environmental organizations and nearly all Americans tiptoe around this elephant in the kitchen.

Speaking Up

Effective environmental lobbying depends on public support. Stabilizing the U.S. population is virtually impossible as long as Americans remain uncomfortable discussing the issue.

When we read or hear something that promotes population growth or asserts that population growth is inevitable, our job is to speak up—contradict the false assertions. When we see local organizations fighting subsidized growth, our job is to lend support by articulating that growth brings a loss in the quality of life. When we observe environmental organizations pretending that population growth does not necessarily contribute to adverse environmental impact, our job is to protest—let them know that their pretense foretells ultimate failure.

Our society is engaged in a crime against future generations. Most Americans can plead not guilty by reason of ignorance, but not environmentalists. ■

Cliff Terry is the Maryland Chapter's Population Chair.

Watersheds and Global Warming

Well-Managed Watersheds Key to Saving Bay and Reducing Greenhouse Gases

(Continued from page 1)

Mattawoman is regarded by state fisheries biologists as “the best, most productive tributary in the Bay.” It is celebrated as the Chesapeake’s most productive nursery for migratory fish; as the center of the Potomac’s \$30 million dollar bass fishery; and for its outstanding biodiversity. But sprawl development and the associated loss of forest are primary threats to its continued health.² In addition, it has the misfortune of lying in the path of the Outer Beltway scheme, presently disguised in proposals for the ICC as well as, in Mattawoman’s watershed, the western Waldorf Bypass. The growth fostered by such a bypass, and by Charles County’s proposed Cross County Connector extension, would serve as a cheerleader for a new Potomac River crossing at Chicamuxen, at Mattawoman’s mouth.

Mattawoman exemplifies the connection between global warming and land use because its watershed is being rapidly converted from forest, a CO₂ sink, to sprawl, a CO₂ source.

The impact of greenhouse gases

When distributed in our atmosphere, a greenhouse gas like CO₂ traps heat much as a pane of glass does in a greenhouse: it is transparent to sunlight but blocks Earth’s radiant heat from escaping into outer space. In addition to the documented increase in global surface temperatures, the price of disturbing our atmosphere with excess greenhouse gases is predicted to include altered patterns of storm frequency and intensity, new rainfall distributions with attendant drought and desertification. In two words: climate change.

And disturbing the atmosphere we are. The obfuscations of climate change nay-sayers have recently been put to rest. A 2006 report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), an independent body of top U.S. scientists tasked to evaluate

technical issues for our government, states, “In the judgment of most climate scientists, Earth’s warming in recent decades has been caused primarily by human activities that have increased the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.”³ This conclusion was reinforced this spring by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which in a politically tempered report stated that CO₂ has “increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceeds pre-industrial values determined from ice cores spanning many thousands of years. The global increases in carbon dioxide concentration are due primarily to fossil fuel use and land use change...”⁴

The three most significant greenhouse gases, in order of importance, are water vapor, carbon dioxide, and methane.⁵ Earth is hospitable to life only because these gases assist sunlight in warming the globe. But the balance between heat input and the loss mediated by greenhouse gases is not immutable. Human activity is pouring prodigious quantities of CO₂ into the atmosphere (see Fig. 1, page 9), which is leading to global warming. The NAS reports, “The recent rapid rise in both surface temperature and CO₂ is one of the indications that humans are responsible for some of this unusual warmth.”⁶

Exurban sprawl-development is increasingly recognized as a significant contributor to excess CO₂ emissions, because it depends so highly on burning fossil fuels for extended vehicle trips and for heating and cooling large houses. For a mostly forested watershed like that of Mattawoman, sprawl is a double-edged sword: we not only lose the natural CO₂ uptake, or sink, afforded by forest, but we replace it with a CO₂ source, sprawl.

Deforestation = More CO₂

Forest is the best land use for water qual-

ity.⁷ This is justification enough for the preservation of woodlands that protect a Chesapeake Bay resource as stellar as Mattawoman Creek. Protection of water quality, like soil creation, oxygen and food production, and climate regulation, is one of the many “ecological services” that nature provides us. In fact, per acre, the ecological services provided by forests have the highest value of all dry-land habitat types.⁸

With respect to climate change, a growing forest converts CO₂ in the atmosphere to wood through the chemistry of photosynthesis, and hence acts as a “sink” for CO₂. Thus, the biomass of a forest sequesters CO₂ from the atmosphere. The vast majority of Mattawoman forests, as in the rest of Maryland, are second growth, meaning they have a cen-

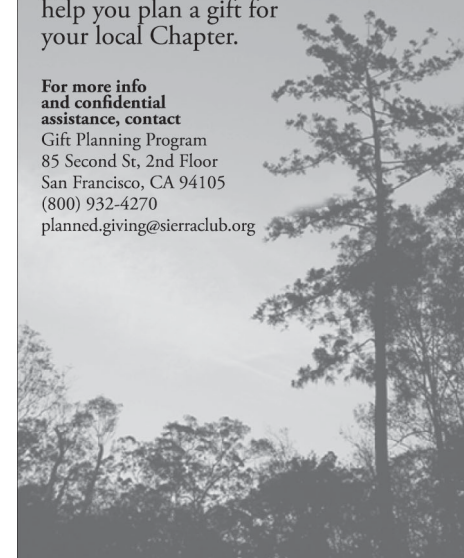
(Continued on page 9)

Create an Environmental Legacy.

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

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

For more info and confidential assistance, contact
Gift Planning Program
85 Second St, 2nd Floor
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(800) 932-4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



Watersheds and Global Warming

Mattawoman Creek's "Near Ideal" Conditions Deserve Protection from Over-Development

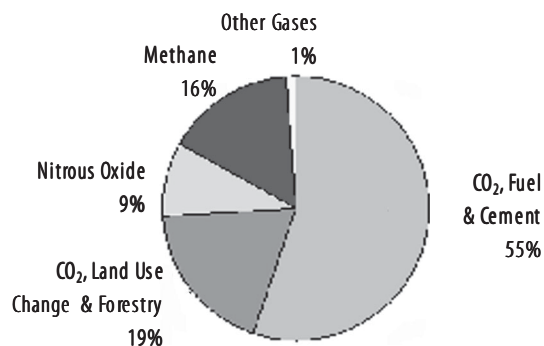


Figure 1: Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Percent (2000)
(Corrected for differences in global warming potential)
Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/globalghg.html

trast, asphalt is highly absorptive, contributing a warming influence. The effects of albedo for various landscapes are presently a subject of scientific research, but the Earth's forests appear to play a significant role.

When

(Continued from page 8)
tury or more of growth before CO₂ removal from the atmosphere may be balanced by CO₂ emissions (due to decaying tree fall, for example).⁹

Estimates for northern hardwood forests arrive at sequestration rates in excess of two tons of CO₂ per acre per year.¹⁰ Our mid-Atlantic forests, with larger trees and a longer growing season, sequester even more. So preservation of our forested land, which helps decelerate the rapidly increasing CO₂ levels, is a worthy endeavor.

The practice in our locale of clear-cutting for subdivisions and other development exacerbates CO₂ emissions, because a substantial fraction of our woodlands are simply burned. This converts the carbon bound in wood and roots back into CO₂. In addition, vast quantities of carbon bound in forest soils begins a conversion to CO₂ once the overlying forest is cleared, and is further degraded during grading operations.¹¹

Finally, there is the question of "albedo," which refers to the fraction of incident sunlight that is directly scattered and reflected from Earth back to space. Snow is very reflective (has high albedo), and so has a cooling influence. In con-

compared with bare ground or many croplands, a forest is more absorptive.¹² But compared with the urban environment, broadleaf forests such as those in our region appear to be more reflective.¹³ Therefore, the replacement of forest with more absorptive urban landscapes potentially represents yet another contribution to global warming, in addition to loss of forest sequestration, CO₂ emitted by burning, and conversion of soil carbon to CO₂.

Sprawl = Even More CO₂

Exurban development sprawls over the landscape at a rate that exceeds population growth, especially in our region.⁴ Consider, for example, that in the twenty-five years preceding 2020, more land will be converted to housing in the Chesapeake Bay region than in the past three and one-half centuries, according to the Maryland Office of Planning.

New highways through lightly populated areas use taxpayer funds to subsidize development. The ensuing sprawl constitutes a recognized "growth inducing impact" of highways. And sprawl is recognized as a significant contributor to global warming because of its large demands for fossil fuels. The burn-

ing of fossil fuels, such as oil and coal, is the primary source of CO₂ emissions.¹⁵ In this mix, houses and cars are not minor players (see Fig. 2 below), and it would be wise to reduce these contributions. The United States, with 5 percent of the world's population, accounts for 23 percent of the global CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel.¹⁶

Consider the workday commute of about 25 miles (one-way) to Washington, DC by a vehicle from the area that would be opened to development by Charles County's Cross County Connector extension. Using government data,¹⁷ one can

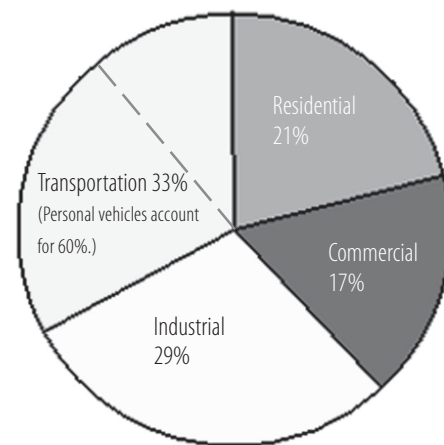


Figure 2: U.S. CO₂ emissions by sector (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ref. 15)

compute that a *single* average vehicle (with a consumption of 20 miles per gallon) would contribute 6 tons of CO₂ to the atmosphere every year.

An alternative is pedestrian-friendly housing complexes, as noted earlier. In this scenario, the transportation emissions of CO₂ engendered by the sprawl model would be significantly curtailed.

Like transportation emissions, CO₂ emissions from electricity production to heat and cool exurbia are also disproportionately large. From 1970 to 1990, house size increased from a national average of

fewer than 1,500 square feet to greater than 2,000, and it continues to climb.¹⁸ In Montgomery County, average house size now exceeds 2,500 square feet.¹⁹ In two similar domiciles of 1,700 and 2,200 square feet, the larger house emits more than *two additional tons* of CO₂ annually.²⁰ Quantitative results vary depending on many details, but it is clear that larger houses emit more greenhouse gases.

Electricity is provided primarily from coal-fired power plants. Therefore, additional benefits of reducing electricity usage are less mercury emission and preservation of cherished landscapes like

the Appalachian Mountains. Whole mountaintops are being shoved into stream valleys to reveal coal seams in a mining process called mountaintop removal.

An important step we can take to turn these destructive processes around—and at the same time improve our quality of life—is starting locally, and placing watershed health on the balance scale. Presently, the ethics of decision making is geared to facilitate sprawl, with its attendant contribution to climate change. We

need to add weight to the other side of the scale, by recognizing the value and benefits of protecting our watersheds. How else to save a creek that is feeding the Chesapeake such a healthy diet that Maryland's Department of Natural Resources has stated, "Mattawoman represents as near to ideal conditions as can be found in the northern Chesapeake Bay, perhaps unattainable in the other systems, and should be protected from over-development." ■

Adapted with permission from the Mattawoman Watershed Society, www.mattawomanwatershedsociety.org

(Endnotes appear on page 21)

Group News Roundup

From Air Quality to Zoning, Maryland Groups Address Environmental Issues Close to Home

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. A link to each group's webpage appears on the Chapter's site, 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 promote agricultural preservation, retain and expand the forest canopy, protect waterways and the Chesapeake Bay, and promote Smart Growth. They lobby and plan for important local environmental issues by participating at hearings and meetings, making telephone calls, and writing e-mails and letters. They volunteer for service outings to eradicate invasive plants, plant native species, maintain trails, and clean up streams. They mingle and socialize at dinners, picnics, slide shows, movies, and speaker series. They enjoy the great outdoors by hiking, biking, kayaking, tubing, camping, and backpacking. There is something for everyone.

Anne Arundel Group

Chair: David Prosten, 410-263-6341, dprosten@yahoo.com

By David Prosten

- We held our 13th annual Anne Arundel Sierra Club Earth Day 5K Run (and Walk) at Quiet Waters Park on April 21, drawing about 150 participants and netting \$3,000 in this, our major yearly

fundraiser to help support publication of our bimonthly newsletter and other projects. Area merchants purchased sponsorships printed on the race T-shirt and donated goods and services for prizes.

- The Group held its first juried photography show on March 31 at Maryland Hall in Annapolis. There were 128 entries in six categories, judged by two professional photographers. The top three winners received cash prizes. A lively reception opened an exhibit of the winners the following day at the Quiet Waters Park gallery. Deede Miller coordinated the show, with assistance from Michael Murdoch and many other volunteers.

- A New Member Social on April 21 brought 30 new members and veteran activists together for an evening of desserts and talk. We called and sent letters to members who had joined the group during the preceding few months. Also, we published a notice in our newsletter inviting all new members as well as veteran members who wanted to get more involved. Several of those attending have since become more active in the group.

- We have an active Cool Cities Committee, meeting monthly, led by Joan Willey. They had Cool Cities displays for an April 20 Step It Up event in Annapolis and on April 21 for Earth Day.

- The Group was represented at a public hearing in the city of Annapolis on Adequate Public Facilities legislation designed to control growth in the area.

- Seven group members paddled in the Blackwater Refuge on April 28 for the first paddling trip of the season. Many eagles and a huge eagle nest were spotted. The group is working to revitalize its outing program, to attract more participants and leaders.

- Reservations are filling up rapidly for this year's Patuxent Sojourn, set for June 14-19 on the upper part of the river. The Anne Arundel Group is one of the sponsors, along with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and a number of other local government and non-government organizations. Call to see if space is still available.

- The group presented the first annual Anne Arundel Sierra Club/Mike Rixham Memorial Award at the county's public schools Regional Science and Engineering Fair. The \$100 gift card for Eastern Mountain Sports was the top prize from the club, and two Certificate of Merit winners received \$50 EMS gift cards. Ten club members, coordinated by group vice-chair Judy Mauriello, helped in the judging.

Catocin Group (Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties)

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

By Kim Stenley

The Sierra Club Catocin Group has been working to raise awareness about plans to build a joint municipal solid waste incinerator or two individual facilities in Carroll and Frederick counties. The Sierra Club opposes these facilities as stated in its municipal solid waste policy: "Effective waste management should be based on communities, industries, and individuals taking responsibility for their own wastes. ... Management plans should include, in priority order: waste reduction, reuse, recycling, materials recovery, composting and landfilling. Municipal incineration is not considered acceptable because of its adverse environmental and health effects and the destruction of materials that could be conserved while sav-

ing energy through other management methods."

The Catocin Group's Kim Stenley has been working with Frederick resident Sally Sorbello and Neil Seldman of the nonprofit Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) to educate people in both counties about the benefits of diverting materials from the waste stream. Nearly 75 percent of the municipal solid waste stream contains recoverable material that can be reused, recycled, or composted. When resources are burned or buried, materials must be replaced by virgin material. Studies show that "three to five times more energy can be saved by recycling materials than by burning them. For every ton of material destroyed by incineration, many more tons of raw materials must be mined, extracted, processed or distributed to manufacture new product to take its place. ... The environmental costs of landfilling and incineration become magnified when the environmental costs of extracting virgin materials and producing goods in the first place are taken into account" (ILSR).

In May, Kim Stenley presented the Club's position to the Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council and highlighted communities throughout the nation that enjoy materials recovery rates of over 50 percent. It is estimated that Carroll County's residential recycling rate is only 15 percent and its commercial rate only 17 percent, for a combined 32 percent. Kim suggested the county hire a firm to audit the county's waste stream to help determine the true costs of any waste management program, including incineration. A resource management analysis would provide information about what materials are being trashed, what is recoverable, the most effective way(s) to recover them, and how much those materials are worth. The EAC voted to recommend the Board of Carroll County

(Continued on page 11)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Group News Roundup



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



Maryland Groups Address Environmental Issues Close to Home

(Continued from page 10)

Commissioners pursue this type of study. The board approved \$15,000 for such a study and moved to issue requests for qualifications/proposals.

For more information or to help with this campaign, contact Kim Stenley at kstenley@mcdaniel.edu.

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.

This fall the Eastern Shore Group will hold an election to choose individuals to serve on our executive committee.

The Eastern Shore Group consists of the nine counties east of the Chesapeake Bay: Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester. Members residing in any of these counties are eligible to serve or to nominate candidates. Interested members should contact Jan Graham at 410-648-5476 or e-mail at jangraham@verizon.net.

Greater Baltimore (Baltimore City and County, Harford County)

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

- The Group is gearing up for involvement with Baltimore County's comprehensive zoning map process this year in collaboration with the North County Institute and other citizens' organizations.

Existing zoning is being researched to identify environmentally significant or ecologically sensitive areas that are at risk under current zoning. In June, Richard Klein is holding four workshops for citizens and community association leaders to learn about options for preventing adverse effects on property and preserving quality of life in neighborhoods. For more information, call 410-654-3021 or send an email to info@ceds.org.

- The Group is involved with planning activities related to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process that will have extensive impacts on the region, particularly in Harford County and the surrounding area.

- During the past two years, the Group has been involved with the Greater Dundalk Alliance LNG Opposition Office and others in 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. Now the Greater Sparrows Point Peninsula communities have retained pro bono attorneys to represent them in bringing a class action lawsuit for remediation of the residents' alleged ill health effects from cumulative exposure to an array of pollutants and toxins over several generations.

- Several Group members are participating on workgroups providing recommendations for a Master Plan for the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. The Master Plan will present land use, public policy, and maintenance recommendations for the area; identify potential funding sources; and specify an implementation strategy and timetable.

- For the "Cool Cities" campaign, signatures are being collected to encourage Baltimore County to sign the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement to fight global warming. Since Baltimore City has signed the agreement, the Group and petitioners are encouraging the City to take steps to implement the agreement.

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

- Check the Group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events. The Group has numerous hikes of varied lengths and difficulty levels, many of which are suitable for children and are dog-friendly. The Group also has happy hours, kayak outings, tubing trips, camping, hayrides, stream cleanups, invasive plant removals, and bike rides.

Howard County

Chair: Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kencClark7@comcast.net
By Lee Walker Oxenham

What a difference a change in administration makes! In his first Executive Order, County Executive Ken Ulman declared Howard County a "Cool County," and in his second he set up a Commission on the Environment and Sustainability – to which he appointed Lee Walker Oxenham, Conservation Committee co-chair of the Sierra Club's Howard County Group.

The Commission divided into Committees, and Lee is chairing the Committee on Air and Water Quality. This Committee has a broad mandate to identify new policies and legislation, and is even redrafting subdivision regulations. Please send any ideas/suggestions/complaints to Lee at lwoxenham@comcast.net by June 5 for inclusion in the Committee's work.

(Continued on page 12)

Group News Roundup

Maryland Groups Address Environmental Issues Close to Home

(Continued from page 11)

Over the last month, our Group participated in a downtown Ellicott City Step-It-Up event with Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) – see the photo and write-up posted to the Group's website. Earth Day was celebrated at Howard County Community College and by tree planting with Howard County Recreation and Parks.

Our ongoing campaigns are focused on riparian buffers/stream buffer protection and toxics. Our toxics work has paid off, with Health Commissioner Peter Beilenson taking the lead to ensure comprehensive chemical testing prior to redevelopment at the Turf Valley Golf Course. Our Pesticide Campaign is gaining new force in concert with Clean Water Action, Environment Maryland, and the Maryland Pesticide Network.

In May the Group hosted a free program open to the general public on Global Warming and Transportation Issues in Central Maryland. The presentation focused on transportation alternatives, the InterCounty Connector, and the nexus between climate change and air quality issues.

The Howard County Group has a very active outings program, including frequent backpacking trips. Check the Group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events. You can ask to get on an email listing of outings and events by contacting Ken Clark.

Montgomery County

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

We have been working hard to increase the number of active Sierra Club members in Montgomery County through tabling events, a social event at my home, and our Environmental Career Evening in March. Also, we passed out "Cool

Cities" brochures at one of our member's energy-efficient home, which was on Takoma Park's House and Garden Tour. It's working, and we now have new volunteers helping us with strengthening our press relations, redesigning our website (July 1 launch planned), and planning new events for members.

April was a big month for our "Cool Cities" campaign. In a letter to County Council members, we proposed that the Council commit to a 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from all sources (businesses, residences, transportation, and government) by 2020. On April 20, the Montgomery County Council announced its commitment to achieving that target and is now working on a package of legislation and incentives aimed at reducing greenhouse gases.

Members of our Cool Cities Task Force are researching potential actions the county can take to incorporate greater energy efficiency into the building code, encourage energy efficient retrofits in commercial and residential buildings, and direct the county's future growth into areas with higher density and improved access to rapid and reliable public transit.

Other members of the Cool Cities Task Force are planning events to educate individuals and businesses on how they can reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The events will build grassroots support for actions the county will have to take to achieve its 25 percent reduction target by 2020. For more information on the Cool Cities campaign or about how you can help, contact David Hauck or Anne Ambler at anneambler@comcast.net.

Pam Lindstrom, vice-chair of our Ex Com, participated on a May 5 panel of business, developer, and community representatives discussing proposed

changes to Montgomery County's Growth Policy. Although still somewhat nebulous, considerations of sustainable development are supposed to be incorporated in the final recommendations. For more information on land use and transportation planning issues in Montgomery County, contact Pam at Pamela.lindstrom@gmail.com.

Jim Fary, our Conservation Committee chair, continues his efforts to reduce storm water runoff into the Bay. In addition to being a member of the Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee, Jim and other volunteers have flagged several violations of storm water management procedures at building sites around Montgomery County. Jim can be reached at jimfary@earthlink.net.

Prince George's County

Chair: Chip Reilly, 301-218-3920, chipreilly@mac.com
Group's office: 301-277-0600 or 301-277-7111
By Chip Reilly

Join us to work for the good of the county!

This fall the Prince George's Group will hold an election to choose individu-

als to serve on our Executive Committee. We are asking members living in the county to consider entering their name as a candidate in this election. This is an opportunity to work with friendly people on one or more activities of your choosing, such as outings, newsletters, and organizing around issues. You will be able to take a leading role in the direction of the Group. Please express your interest in serving on the Committee by sending in your name now to Group Chair Chip Reilly at chipreilly@mac.com or call him at (301) 218-3920.

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

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

-Join us for a fun-filled day of family-oriented educational activities at the 9th annual Lower Potomac Wade In at Mirant's Morgantown power plant site on June 24, 2 – 5 p.m. The Wade In is a unique, non-technical way of measuring water clarity. Participants wade into the Potomac River and mark the depth when they can no longer see their feet. Other activities include a raptor show, learning about oysters and sturgeon, information

(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

Groups Address Environmental Issues Close to Home

(Continued from page 12)
about local watersheds, and refreshments provided by the site host Mirant. For more information, contact Mike Bilek at mbilek@dnr.state.md.us. or 410-260-8988.

-The Group is a co-sponsor of the 14th annual Potomac River Swim for the Environment on June 2. The event takes swimmers from Hull Neck, Virginia across the river to Point Lookout State Park in Maryland, where there will be a picnic hosted by environmental groups. For more information or to volunteer to help, contact Cheryl Wagner at 202-387-2361 or cherylw@crosslink.net.

-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 workdays 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.

-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

-The Group is donating DVDs of "An Inconvenient Truth" to any high school

science teacher willing to show the film in class.

-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." ■



Wilderness Preservation

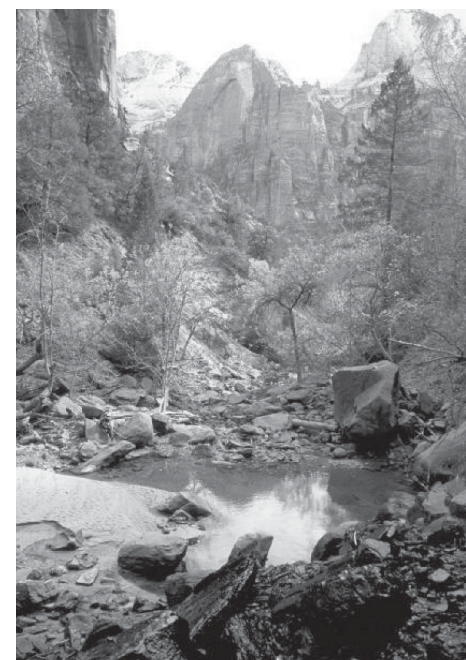
Club Urges Passage of Redrock Wilderness Act

Passage of "America's Redrock Wilderness Act" (ARWA) is one of the Sierra Club's top wilderness legislative priorities. It will designate as wilderness some of the most spectacular lands in our country, 9.4 million acres presently under BLM management stretching from Zion and Bryce Canyon National park to Arches National Park.

These special places, managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), include the Great Basin area of western Utah, the Zion and Mojave Desert region outside of Zion National Park, the Grand Staircase-Escalante, the Moab-LaSal canyons south and east of Arches National Park, the Henry Mountains, the Glen Canyon region, the archeological treasures in the San Juan-Anasazi area, Canyonlands Basin, the San Rafael Swell, and the remote Book Cliffs and Uinta Basin. They are presently threatened by off-

road vehicles and potential oil and gas exploration. Senator Cardin and Representatives Cummings, Van Hollen, and Wynn have agreed to support the legislation.

Please contact the other members of Maryland's Congressional delegation to urge that they join their colleagues in supporting this legislation. ■



Utah's spectacular Zion Canyon

Get on the Bus for Paddling Adventure

Tour Area Waterways with Waterkeepers

Introducing the River Bus



Patuxent Riverkeeper and other area Waterkeepers have teamed up to provide fun-packed itineraries on the region's most enjoyable waterways. Offering day trips as well as overnights, the River Bus is fully equipped to get you to your chosen destination where you can paddle, hike,

sightsee, and relax on a journey of pure adventure with a small group (limited to 12 participants per trip). The 2007 River Bus tour season runs May through October. Visit our website for a schedule of tours and fees.

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ISO

The Maryland Chapter Executive Committee has an opening for someone who has been active with either the Chapter or their group.

This is an opportunity to work with Maryland's Sierra Club leaders and have influence in the setting of priorities for our Chapter.

If you are interested please send a short bio, including your activist activities, to betsy_johnson@comcast.net.

Maryland Lawn Grasses, Nonnative and Ubiquitous, or “Paulie, You Broke My Heart”

By Betty Brody—When I lived in New Orleans, I convinced Paulie (a pseudonym), a Refuge Manager at the Bayou Sauvage, NWR, to stop mowing the small lawn at a park in the refuge tended by my bird club. The lawn quickly became habitat for a myriad of wonderful wild flowers, insects, spiders, reptiles, crayfish, and more. However, Paulie was concerned that visitors to the park might be harmed by “critters” in the taller grass, and the Refuge resumed mowing, destroying the habitat and most plants and animals living in it.

The May, 2007 issue of *Consumer Reports* contained an article entitled, “How to Fix the Top 10 Lawn Problems,” with a subsection, “Growing great grass.” The “fixing” and “growing great” that this article advised entailed a lot of tedious physical labor and watering, and applications of fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, and rodent poison. The next article, “Mowers & Tractors,” recommended a number of gas mowers and electric push mowers ranging from \$200-470.

Globally, the consumer lawn and garden industry is an almost \$7 billion business. Revenue for Scotts Miracle-Gro Company alone, for its fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, was \$2.7 billion. U.S. demand for lawn and garden products is forecast to be \$9.1 billion in 2010.

Lawns displace valuable natural habitats; they also require lots of water and polluting fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides. And, quart for quart, 2006 gas lawn mower engines, which have no catalytic converters, contribute 93 times more smog-forming emissions than 2006 cars. Electric mowers, though they don't give off emissions, must be charged with electricity, the creation of which, in Maryland, is mostly from coal and does give off harmful emissions.

But wait . . . you needn't have a lawn at all. You can replace your lawn with low maintenance native

bushes, trees, and ground covers. Native plants survive best because nature has selected them, over ages, to survive in the climate, soil, and plant community where they are growing. For in-depth information on reasons to “go native,” read *The Landscaping Revolution: Garden With Mother Nature, Not Against Her*, McGraw-Hill/Contemporary; reprint edition (2002) and *Building Within Nature*, U. of Minn. (2006), by Andy Wasowski and Sally Wasowski, authors of nine books about gardening and landscaping with native plants.

Begin by learning what plants are native to your area and making a garden plan. If you live in Howard,

Prince George's, or Baltimore County, the National Wildlife Federation (a nonprofit conservation organization protecting wildlife in America) will, free of charge, send a well-trained volunteer to view your lawn and advise you how to replace it with native vegetation. To make an appointment with a volunteer, contact

the N.W.F. Habitat Steward® program at habitatstewards@NWF.org. Also, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Bayscapes program will soon have information on its web site, www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/bayscapes.htm, on how to make a garden plan, and the site currently has valuable information on native plants.

Further, you can buy native plants, and probably get planning help, at the nurseries listed by the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection and the Potomac Conservancy: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/DEP/RainScapes/nurseries.htm, and at nurseries listed by Bayscapes: www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/BayScapes/bsresources/bs-nurseries.htm#PA.

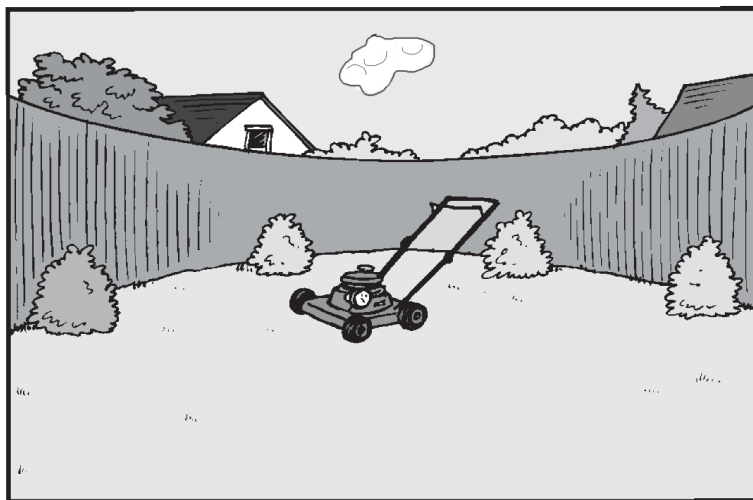
You might get some native plants free. Many native seeds are already in your lawn, and different seeds might arrive in the air or in the other ways nature transports seeds. If you set your mower at four inches, you can mow less, and wild ground cover will take hold. In

that wild ground cover, you might also have non-natives, which you should remove.

Some non-natives are deemed invasive because they spread rampantly and overtake native species; examples are mile-a-minute, multiflora rose, lesser celandine, and English ivy. For a more complete list of invasives, see: www.mdinvasivesp.org/list_terrestrial_plants.html. If you live in a less urban area, you can transform your lawn into a natural meadow by mowing only once, in late winter. In no case should you have “noxious weeds,” non-native plants forbidden by the Maryland Weed Control Law, such as plumeless thistle, musk thistle, shatter cane, and johnsongrass.

For more information on replacing lawns with native plants, see www.stolaf.edu/depts/environmental-studies/courses/es-399%20home/es-399-04/Projects/Schwarten_Project/revolution/revolution.html; www.for-wild.org/landscap.html; www.for-wild.org/land/tufts_op.htm.

For information about plants native to Maryland, visit www.mdflora.org/about.html, the Maryland Native Plant Society. ■



Lawn Care Campaign

Maryland Pesticide Network, a coalition of organizations including the Sierra Club MD chapter, is participating in the National Coalition for Pesticide-Free Lawns, and is seeking volunteers to staff tables and talk to residents at community events.

This outreach project will educate homeowners about alternatives to chemical lawn care practices, and the health and environmental advantages of non- and least-toxic lawn care. Training and resources will be provided.

Please call Kim Birnbaum at 410-379-1075 for more information.

Lighting and Mercury: Facts Support Choice of CFLs

By Richard Reis, P.E.— In speaking with other attendees at the recent Takoma Park Green Building Conference and other similar events, I heard some confusion about whether using a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) is really good for the environment, considering that it contains mercury. One person said that a CFL contains only 3 micrograms of mercury. At some booths, I was told that CFL lighting was irrelevant, as light-emitting diode (LED) lighting is available, more efficient, and cost-effective. Another person said that efficiency does not matter because solar cells can provide ample power at lower costs. (Contact the author for articles about lighting technology and efficiency versus alternative energy.)

The “back-of-the-envelope” calculations in this article address the question: What are the environmental and cost tradeoffs in using lamps that contain mercury compared with using conventional lamps that are much less efficient? (I call these calculations “back of the envelope” because they are based upon limited data and are approximate.)

Many types of lamps, particularly efficient lamps, contain mercury. This article will focus on CFL lighting.

To assess the impact, consider the following factors:

1. When any lamp is properly disposed, the mercury is recovered and not discharged into the air, land, or water.
2. The electric-generating stations emit mercury as well as other pollutants in proportion to power demand.
3. Conventional (incandescent) lamps demand more power than CFLs.

How does mercury harm humans?

The National Institutes of Health¹ (NIH) state the following: “Elemental (metallic) mercury and all of its compounds are toxic, exposure to excessive levels can permanently damage or fatally injure the brain and kidneys.” This NIH web site

article describes the life cycle through which mercury emitted by burning coal can accumulate as it travels up the food chain and becomes part of the food we eat.

How much mercury is emitted per unit of electric energy?

Wisconsin, like the Mid-Atlantic region, relies most heavily on coal-fired electricity generation, except during rare summer peaks. In a report² for the State of Wisconsin, Table 1-3 shows emissions of about 0.05 pounds of mercury per gigawatt hours (GWh) (1,000,000 kilowatt hours [kWh]). Using common conversion tables, this is equivalent to 0.023 milligram (mg) per kWh. This electrical generation also produces other pollution such as oxides of sulfur and nitrogen and global-warming gases. A coal-fired generating station emits about two pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the most common global-warming gas, for each kWh of electricity. We can also choose higher-cost electricity produced from alternative energy, such as wind.

How much mercury do CFLs and conventional lamps contain?

In an article entitled “Mercury Use in Lighting,”³ Table 2 shows that 66 percent of CFLs contain 0 to 5 mg of mercury, 30 percent contain between 5 and 10 mg, and 4 percent contain between 10 and 50 mg. Assuming that each lamp in its cluster has the middle level of mercury, the level computes to 5.1 mg of mercury.

The two examples below provide a comparison between a CFL and a conventional lamp. (An mg is 1/1000 of a gram. A microgram is 1/1000 of an mg.)

Ten 100-watt conventional lamps have a lifetime equal to one CFL.

Each conventional incandescent lamp lasts 1,000 hours. The 10 lamps then consume 1,000 kWh (100w x 10,000 hours)

over their lifetimes. To supply these lamps, power plants will emit about 23 mg of mercury and 2,000 pounds of CO₂. A consumer will spend \$5 to buy these lamps (50¢ each) and \$100 in energy costs to power them at 10¢ per kWh for a total of \$105. The light output is 1,500 lumens or about 15 lumens per watt. *Note:* Conventional bulbs may contain lead solder, and lead is a powerful toxin as well.

One 23-watt CFL has the equivalent output of a 100-watt incandescent lamp.

The lamp lasts 10,000 hours and consumes 230 kWh over its lifetime. To supply that lamp, power plants will emit about 5.2 mg of mercury and about 460 pounds of CO₂. Improper disposal of the lamp (for example, if it is consumed in a municipal incinerator) will result in 5.1 mg of mercury entering the environment. In this case the total emissions will be 10.3 mg mercury or about half of the emissions using conventional lamps. However, most jurisdictions provide facilities that allow residents to responsibly dispose of CFLs and other hazardous waste.

For example, Montgomery County residents can dispose of CFLs at its transfer station and at special hazardous waste collection events. The City of Takoma Park accepts used CFLs at its public works building on Oswego Avenue during business hours and in a drop box at other times. Ikea stores have recycling stations that accept light bulbs, batteries, and plastic bags. (You can find out more about lamp recycling at Earth911.org and LampRecycle.org.) One can buy these lamps at Home Depot and other places for \$2.50 each and spend \$23 (again at 10¢ per kWh) to power them—a total cost of just \$25.50 versus \$105 using conventional lamps. The light output is 1,500 lumens or 65 lumens/ watt.

LED Lighting

Light-emitting diode (LED) lighting has a bright future, but may not be ready for prime time for most applications. I found it difficult to obtain comparable data on available LED lamps in lumen output. However, Lighting Science sells a flame-tip lamp for \$16.95, which emits a warm-white glow of 25 lumens and uses 1.2 watts or about 20 lumens per watt. We would need 60 lamps to match the lighting output of a single 100-watt incandescent or 23-watt CFL. Reports from Sandia National Laboratories⁴ and the Lighting Research Center⁵ predict significant progress in solid-state lighting in light output and lighting efficiency. It is also worth noting that LED lamps last 5 to 10 times longer than CFLs and 50 to 100 times longer than incandescent lamps.

Other Lighting Resources

Lighting vendors are beginning to address the need for sustainable lighting solutions. For example, Philips developed a web page⁶ that can help assess a “Sustainable Lighting Index.”

Summary and Action Step

CFL lighting results in less mercury and other pollution than conventional lighting even if these lamps are not disposed of correctly. Of course, it is far better to responsibly dispose of these lamps. Efficient lighting is a very cost-effective way to reduce pollution while saving money. The fact that monetary and environmental costs of electricity far outweigh the costs of the lamps themselves overrules the ethic of not discarding anything that is working; one should replace conventional lamps immediately. ■

Richard Reis, P.E. is a consulting engineer. He can be contacted at 301-384-0540 or rreis@verizon.net.

(Endnotes appear on page 21)

Maryland Chapter Leaders



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Sky's the limit?

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

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Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

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

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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.,

Earl.Bradley@maryland.sierraclub.org

Chris Hodge, Catocin Del.

240-388-6446

mdhiker2@yahoo.com

Howard Bedlin, Eastern Shore Del.

410-643-3283

howard.bedlin@ncoa.org

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

443-394-8572

kmcgullam@hotmail.com

Kathleen Sheedy, Howard Del.

443-538-4084

Kathleen.Sheedy@maryland.sierraclub.org

Ginny Barnes, Montg. Del.

301-762-WATR

ginny.barnes@maryland.sierraclub.org

Fred Tutman, Prince Geo.'s Del.

301-249-8200 ext 7

Fred@paxriverkeeper.org

Marc Imlay, Southern MD Del.

301-283-0808

marc.imlay@maryland.sierraclub.org

Sam White, Western MD Del.

301-264-4162

sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org

Issues Contacts

Joan Willey, Conservation Chair

joan.willey@maryland.sierraclub.org

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

410-224-3236

Earl.Bradley@maryland.sierraclub.org

Sam White, Agriculture Chair

301-264-4162

sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org

Charlie Garlow, Air Quality Chair

301-593-9823

charlie.garlow@juno.com

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

301-283-0808

marc.imlay@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Cliff Terry, Campaign Finance
Reform Chair**

410-944-9477

cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

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

202-237-0754

chris.carney@sierraclub.org

David O'Leary, Energy Chair

daveol@earthlink.net

**Bonnie Bick, Environmental Justice
Chair**

301-839-7403

bonnie.bick@maryland.sierraclub.org

Mark Diehl, Forests Chair

mad55@mindspring.com

301-724-6238

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

daveol@earthlink.net

Rich Norling, Groundwater Chair

410-734-7720

rich.norling@maryland.sierraclub.org

Kim Birnbaum, Pesticides Chair

410-379-1075

Kim.Birnbaum@maryland.sierraclub.org

Cliff Terry, Population Chair

410-944-9477

cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

Joan Willey, Public Lands Chair

joan.willey@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Fred Tutman, Stormwater Mgmt.
Chair**

301-249-8200 ext 7

Fred@paxriverkeeper.org

Steve Caflisch, Transportation Chair

301-654-3288

steve.caflisch@maryland.sierraclub.org

Ed Merrifield, Water Quality Chair

202-222-0707

ed@potomacriverkeeper.org

Other Contacts

**Kathy Harget, Baltimore Young
Sierrans**

410-440-9896

youngsierrans@gmail.com

Bob Iacovazzi, BICO Chair

bicobob3@copper.net

Betsy Johnson, Fundraising Chair

301-656-4948

betsy.johnson@maryland.sierraclub.org

Ellen Pepin, Membership Chair

ellen.pepin@maryland.sierraclub.org

Daniel Soeder, Outings Chair

410-969-9465

Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

John Fay, PAC Treasurer

301-946-5599

john.fay-mc@maryland.sierraclub.org

Betsy Johnson, Political Chair

301-656-4948

betsy.johnson@maryland.sierraclub.org

Clay Birkett, Postmaster

postmaster@maryland.sierraclub.org

Jan Graham, State Legislative Chair

410-648-5476

jan.graham@maryland.sierraclub.org

She rry Dixon, Treasurer

sdixon@maryland.sierraclub.org

Rick Andrews, Webmaster

Andrews4art@yahoo.com

Darla Tewell, Newsletter Editor

editorch@maryland.sierraclub.org

Chapter Staff

Laurel Imlay

301-277-7111

laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org

Office Address

7338 Baltimore Avenue #1A

College Park, MD 20740

Tel: 301-277-7111

Fax: 301-277-6699

<http://maryland.sierraclub.org>

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Outings

Removing Invasive Plants Restores Habitat for Native Species

Compiled by Mark Imlay—Experience delayed gratification. Non-native invasive plant removal will reach maintenance phase if there is a major work effort at each site in the Mid-Atlantic region and around the world for about three to five years to remove the massive populations of species. Regular stewardship projects may be conducted in all seasons. A high-intensity program is followed by a low-intensity annual maintenance program for plants we have missed, plants emerging from the seed bank, and occasional plants migrating in from neighboring areas.

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

Baltimore

Baltimore City Parks

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

CONTACT: For information about training and activities, to get on the e-newsletter list, or with questions, contact Amanda Holloway, Urban Weed Warrior Coordinator, at 410-396-0359 or Amanda.Holloway@baltimorecity.gov.

Cromwell Valley Park

DATES: Monthly removal work parties are scheduled at Cromwell Valley Park in northern Baltimore County on the 2nd Saturday of each month 9-12 (8-11 in July and August). The 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 Baltimore Beltway on Cromwell Bridge Road. The “Beehive Woods” is looking much better—we are almost down to the road. The stream is revealed and is quite pretty. The former “Kudzu Hill” is being replanted with native trees and bushes, and is now “Dogwood Hill.” Our Habitat Restoration Team needs all the help we can get to eradicate invasives and plant natives. We have tackled multiflora rose, Japanese barberry, kudzu, garlic mustard, mile-a-minute and many others.

CONTACT: For information contact Bill Breakey at breakeys@comcast.net. The Park office number is 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 Watershed Association

CONTACT: For any questions about upcoming invasive removal activities in Herring Run Park in Baltimore City, contact Angela at (410) 254-1648 or agaude@herringrun.org. Check out the website at <http://www.herringrun.net/>.

Jones Falls Watershed Association

DATE: Western Run Invasive Plant Removal on July 14, 9:30 a.m. – noon. Free the trees! Help to remove invasive vines from trees along Western Run creek in the Mt. Washington neighborhood.

CONTACT: Suzanne Greene at sgreene@jonesfalls.org or 410-366-3036 for more information or to register for this or future outings.

Jones Falls Watershed Association
3000 Chestnut Avenue, Suite 100
Baltimore, Maryland 21211
410-366-3036

Calvert County

Hellen Creek Preserve

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

DIRECTIONS: From Washington, take Rt. 4 south to Calvert County. At Lusby, turn right at the second light at Coster/Mill Bridge Road then take an immediate left onto Coster. After passing two rights (Bassford), look for the MACHINE SHOP sign on the left and then turn right at Clifton Drive. Take the first left. Turn at a handmade sign with the number 11785. Follow to the sign and gate for the Preserve.

CONTACT: For more information or to receive updates about workdays, email or call Bob Boxwell at 410-394-1300 or bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

American Chestnut Land Trust, Port Republic

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

CONTACT:

American Chestnut Land Trust
P. O. 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.

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

Charles County

Chapman Forest and Ruth Swann Park

DATES: Chapman Forest on the first Sunday and Ruth Swann Park the following Saturday each month. 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 as Chapman State Park. There is time for plant identification and a beautiful beach lunch. Participating organizations include Maryland Native Plant Society, Sierra Club, and Chapman Forest Foundation. Casual clothing, long sleeves, pants, sturdy comfortable walking boots/shoes, and gloves are encouraged.

DIRECTIONS:

For first Sundays, directions to Chapman Forest, Chapman State Park, Mount Aventine, and the Glendening Natural Environment Area: Take the Washington Capital Beltway to Indian Head Highway (MD 210) south toward Indian Head (from VA Exit 2; from MD Exit 3A). At 14 miles, continue on MD 210 through the traffic light at MD 227. (This crossroads is the center of the community known as Bryans 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. Meet at main gate of Chapman Forest.

For the following Saturday, directions to Ruth B. Swann Park: 20 miles (30 to 40 minutes) south of Washington Beltway (I-495) on Rt. 210 (Indian Head Hwy),
(Outings continued on following page)

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Outings

(Outings continued from preceding page)
about a mile and a half south from the traffic light on Rt. 210 in Bryans Road. Meet at the Potomac Branch Library parking lot.

CONTACT: Marc Imlay at 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808. On outings days, I can be reached on my cell phone at 301-442-5657. For information and a map, check out www.chapmanforest.org and www.mattawomanwatershedsociety.org.

For carpool information, meet at the Sierra Club Md. Chapter office at 9 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. Call Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111.

Garrett County

Savage River State Forest

DATE: Battling Botanical Bullies in Bear Pen Wildland from 9 a.m. to noon Friday June 15. Volunteers are needed to continue control efforts of Japanese spiraea in the Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Forest. Kerrie Kyde, DNR Invasive Plant Specialist, is providing technical support. Elk Ridge NatureWorks is coordinating the project and providing snacks and drinks for volunteers.

CONTACT: For more details or to register, contact Ron Boyer at 301-895-3686 or info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

Howard County

Patapsco Valley State Park

DATE: Join the Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park on the second Wednesday evening 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, 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.

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

DIRECTIONS: Meet at the Avalon contact station. From I-95 take I-195 east to Rt. 1 toward Elkridge. Turn right immediately on South St. The park entrance is on the left. Proceed 1/2 mile to the contact station.

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

DATE: The Conservation Stewardship Project at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) meets on fourth Tuesdays monthly from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. from March to October. Each trip has an educational component and a work component. The Conservation Stewardship project is sponsored by Howard County Recreation and Parks and the Howard County Master Gardeners.

CONTACT: For information, directions, or registration, contact Aylene Gard at 410-992-9889 or Carol Filipczak at cfilipczak@comcast.net.

Howard/Anne Arundel/Prince George's County ***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. 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 plants and non-native invasive plants and how these invasives adversely impact our natural ecosystem.

Fort Meade Army Installation

DATE: 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, turn left on Llewellyn Avenue, 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.

CONTACT: At least three days before the event, contact Don Marquardt, Installation Forester, at 301-677-9185 or by e-mail at donald.marquardt@us.army.mil. A list of names must be provided to the Forester, who provides them to guard personnel at the Reece Road entrance to ensure access to the Post. Bring hand tools, gloves, lunch, and water. Long sleeves and pants are recommended.

Patuxent Research Refuge

Outings are conducted in partnership between the Department of the Army (Fort Meade), the Maryland Native Plant Society, the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Patuxent Research Refuge and volunteers. Non-native invasive plants are threatening our wildlife habitat. Do your part to protect the Patuxent from alien invaders. Become a Weed Warrior! We need YOU to help stop them. Come out for one of our "Weed Warriors Days" and help us treat the garlic mustard, mile-a-minute, Japanese stiltgrass, and other non-native plants infesting the Refuge. Warriors of all ages and abilities are welcome. You will receive a short educational briefing. Wear long sleeves and pants and bring gloves.

DATES (subject to change if necessary): Monday, June 11, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Thursday, July 12, National Wildlife Visitor Center, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Tuesday, July 24, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Wednesday, August 8, North Tract Visi-

tor Contact Station, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

DIRECTIONS:

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

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

CONTACT: For additional information, call 301-497-5763 or visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov>. Please register for these events by calling 301-497-5887.

Christopher Wicker, Wildlife Biologist USFWS, Patuxent Research Refuge 12100 Beech Forest Road, Room 138 Laurel, MD 20708
E-mail: Christopher_Wicker@fws.gov
Fax: (301) 497-5515

Riverfront Park, Laurel

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

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

DIRECTIONS: From I-95, take the 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.

(Outings continued on following page)

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Outings

(Outings continued from preceding page)

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 at 1730 Eastern Neck Road, Rock Hall. Garlic mustard is a newly arrived invasive species, and is a priority for management. 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.

CONTACT: 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 (M-NCPPC) Forest Ecologist is assembling a team of volunteer Weed Warriors to monitor and remove non-native invasive plant species in Montgomery County Parks. We need your help! As a Weed Warrior volunteer, you will receive a short training session from the forest ecologist. Weed Warriors can then work at their own pace and choose a schedule that best suits them. Many Weed Warriors live near a M-NCPPC Stream Valley Park or Regional Park and do their volunteer work while walking their dogs or hiking through their neighborhood park. Whether you choose to work individually or in a group, your efforts will contribute to the control of non-native vegetation in the 32,500 acres of Montgomery County parkland.

CONTACT: Carole Bergmann, M-NCPPC Forest Ecologist, at 301-949-2818 for more information 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 about 13 non-native plant species, adopt an area, and then work independently in the National Parks in the Potomac Gorge.

CONTACT: For more information or to sign up, go to: www.nature.org/maryland

for a list of workdays, or contact Mary below if you would like to sign up a school or organizational group for a workday, or want to be added to our email list: Mary Travaglini, 301-897-8570 or PotomacGorgeVol@tnc.org.

Sligo Creek

The RIP—Removing Invasive Plants—Committee of Friends of Sligo Creek holds plant removal events in different parts of Sligo Creek Park between New Hampshire Ave and the headwaters in Kemp Mill and Wheaton. The group invites local residents and other newcomers to work on shrubs in fall and winter, garlic mustard in spring, mile-a-minute in summer, and vines throughout the year.

CONTACT: For a schedule, see www.fosc.org/RIPEventSched.htm. Be sure to check <http://www.fosc.org> for last-minute weather changes or call Sally Gagne at 301-588-2071.

Woodend Nature Sanctuary, Chevy Chase

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

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

Northwest Branch of the Anacostia, Montgomery County

DATE: Third Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. monthly

Join us for a walk in the forest and to remove invasive plants including garlic mustard and multi-flora rose. Afterwards, we'll relax and have a vegetarian lunch

that is provided. All are welcome. Bring water and gloves.

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

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

Prince George's County

Belt Woods, Bowie

DATE: Ongoing Saturday, Sunday, and occasional mid-week invasive species workgroups. Times and dates vary based on available team leader. Please call or email for schedule. We will be removing creeping euonymus, Japanese honeysuckle, winged burning bush, multiflora rose, oriental bittersweet, Japanese Stiltgrass, Garlic Mustard, etc. from various parts of the property. Tools and gloves are provided, but feel free to bring your favorite tool or pair of gloves.

CONTACT: To be added to the contact list email pamelakcooper@verizon.net or call (301) 390-0797.

Woodworth Park, Cheverly

DATE: The Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek, Cheverly will not be working in June - August, but will resume invasive plant removals in the fall on the last Saturday of every month.

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

(Outings continued on following page)

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Outings

(Outings continued from preceding page)

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

DIRECTIONS: Take Rt. 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 a church on the left and turn right on BW Parkway. Go 2 blocks and turn left on Wayne for one block. We meet at the park by the small playground.

Suitland Bog

Join us for manual removal of honeysuckle and multiflora rose using shovels, pruners, and perseverance. Come and help preserve this unique habitat. Bring water, work boots, durable clothes, long sleeves, gloves, pruners, and shovels. Light refreshments will be provided. There is some poison ivy at the work site.

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. Meet in the parking lot.

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

Indian Creek Trail at Lake Artemesia, Berwyn Hgts

DIRECTIONS: Meet in the Lake Artemesia parking lot along Berwyn Rd., at Indian Creek Trail @ Lake Artemesia, Berwyn Hgts., Prince George's County. The lake is located on Berwyn Road in College Park.

From the south from the Capital Beltway (I-495), take Exit 23 (Kenilworth Avenue) toward Bladensburg. Make a

right onto Route 193 (Greenbelt Road). Make a right onto Branchville Road. (This road turns into 55th Avenue). The Lake Artemesia parking lot is on the left at the Berwyn Road intersection.

From the north from the Capital Beltway (I-495), take Exit 25 (Route 1) toward College Park. Make a left onto Route 193 (Greenbelt 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, and gloves. Light refreshments will be provided. There is some poison ivy at the work site.

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

Watkins Regional Park

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

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

From the Capital Beltway (I-495), take Exit 15A (Central 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.

Contact: M-NCPPC John Dillon or Chris Garrett, M-NCPPC Park Ranger Office, 301-627-7755.

Greenbelt Homes Inc Housing Cooperative, Greenbelt

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

CONTACT: For more information on GHI Woodlands Committee activities, contact Matt Berres, Landscape Specialist, at mberres@ghi.coop or 301-474-4161 ext 132.

Greenbelt National Park, Greenbelt

DATE: 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, and 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.

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

Little Paint Branch Park and Cherry Hill Road Community Park, Beltsville

DATE: June 21 and August 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We will continue the wonderful progress 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. There will be a sign-in and safety orientation with handouts. Information will be provided about the Park's natural history and special features, and the methods and reasons for controlling the spread of invasives. Our objective is to remove the invasives to allow natives to grow back. Native flowers and other plants will be identified as we work to rescue them. Gloves and tools are provided.

DIRECTIONS: Meet at the Beltsville Community Center parking lot. There are bathrooms and a large seating area for lunch. Take U.S. 1 north from the DC 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.

Several of the worst invasive species in the Mid-Atlantic region are in the early stages of invasion in this park. Japanese stiltgrass covers about 5 percent of the park. Research indicates that Japanese stiltgrass is

(Outings continued on following page)

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Outings

(Outings continued from preceding page)

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.

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 in the 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.

CONTACT: Marc Imlay, Ph.D. Conservation Biologist, Anacostia Watershed Society at 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808 for more information.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

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

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Magruder Park, Hyattsville

DATE: June 14, 9a.m. to 2 p.m. and on-going outings.

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

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

CONTACT: For more information or to receive updates about workdays, email or call Bob Boxwell, Executive Director, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, P.O. Box 336, Lusby, MD 20657, 410-394-1300, or bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

Fall, 2007

Maryland Chapter Jamboree

<http://maryland.sierraclub.org>

Watershed Management and Global Warming

(Continued from page 9)

Endnotes

¹ For development alternatives to the sprawl model, including transit-oriented development with a regional context, consult the Coalition for Smarter Growth, www.smartergrowth.net/. For extensive additional discussion, consult <http://sierraclub.org/sprawl/articles/>.

² U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District. "Mattawoman Creek Watershed Management Plan," Charles County, MD, August 2003.

www.charlescounty.org/pgm/planning/plans/environmental/mattawoman/management.htm.

³ "Understanding and Responding to Climate Change: Highlights of the National Academies Reports," <http://dels.nas.edu/basc/Climate-HIGH.pdf>.

⁴ Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Summary for Policymakers, www.ipcc.ch/WG1_SPM_17Apr07.pdf.

⁵ "Understanding and Responding to Climate Change: Highlights of the National Academies Reports"

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ K. Mountford, "Past is Prologue," *Bay Journal*, 16, no. 6 (Sept. 2006), www.bayjournal.com/article.cfm?article=2891. "About Forests," Chesapeake Bay Program, click on links to "habitat" at www.chesapeakebay.net.

R. Hanmer, director, Chesapeake Bay Program, "Money Doesn't Grow on Trees—Or Does It?" *Bay Journal*, 16, no. 10, p. 25, www.bayjournal.com/index.cfm?issue=280.

⁸ R. Costanza et al., "The Value of the World's Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital," *Nature* 387 (1997): 256, table 2.

⁹ See, for example, studies conducted by Brown University, summarized at <http://envstudies.brown.edu/thesis/2001/rowland/index.htm>, especially http://envstudies.brown.edu/thesis/2001/rowland/Calc_subpages/scenario_example.htm.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² S. Gibbard et al., "Climate Effects of Global Land Cover Change," *Geophysical Research Letters* 32, p. L23705 (2005).

¹³ M. Lin, "Urban albedo impact using NCAR single column CAM2/CLM2," presentation at annual meeting, American Meteorological Society 2005, http://ams.confex.com/ams/Annual2005/techprogram/paper_86078.htm. Urban heat-island discussion, Dr. David Sailor, Portland State University, http://web.cecs.pdx.edu/~sailor/UHI_mitigation.htm.

¹⁴ F. K. Benfield, M. D. Raimi, and D. T. Chen, *Once There Were Greenfields: How Urban Sprawl Is Undermining America's Environment, Economy and Social Fabric* (New York: Natural Resources Defense Council, 1999), as excerpted at www.nrdc.org/cities/smartgrowth/rpave.asp. Sierra Club analysis of sprawl and population growth, http://www.sierraclub.org/sprawl/SprawlPop_2003.pdf.

¹⁵ "Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse gas emissions and sinks: 1990-2004," U.S. Environmental Protection Agency report USEPA #430-R-06-002 (2006), <http://epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/downloads06/06ES.pdf>.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/co2.shtml>. <http://www.epa.gov/oms/climate/420f05004.htm>.

¹⁸ Eben Fodor, "Better Not Bigger." Average house size, based on 1995 statistics from U.S. Census Bureau. Jerri-Jan Knapp et al., National Center for Smart Growth, "Measuring Patterns of Urban Development: New Intelligence for the War on Sprawl," www.smartgrowth.umd.edu/research/pdf/KnaapSongNedovic-Budic_NewIntelligence_022305.pdf.

¹⁹ Knapp et al., "Measuring Patterns of Urban Development."

²⁰ The amount of CO2 emitted per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity consumption depends on locale. In Maryland, the figure is 1.4 pounds of CO2 per kWh, according to the U.S. Dept. of energy. See <http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/e-factor.html>. Data from an energy-savings calculator developed by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. See <http://hes.lbl.gov/>.

Lighting and Mercury

(Continued from page 15)

Endnotes

¹ NIH Office of Research Facilities, <http://orf.od.nih.gov>, search "mercury hazards"

² Focus on Energy Public Benefits Evaluation Estimating Seasonal and Peak Environmental Emissions Factors—Final Report May 21, 2004 Evaluation Contractor: PA Government Services Inc.

³ "Mercury in Lighting," www.newmoa.org/prevention/mercury/imerc/factsheets/lighting.pdf, Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association

⁴ <http://lighting.sandia.gov>

⁵ www.lrc.rpi.edu/programs/solidstate/index.asp

⁶ www.nam.lighting.philips.com/us/sustainability/



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www.marylandsierraclub.org/action

The California Seller of Travel Law

I spend a fair amount of time in California for the Sierra Club. It is a fabulous place, with the best scenery in the country combined with the best climate. Most of the people who live there don't know how good they have it. After growing up in Cleveland and living in Chicago for a decade, I couldn't believe that people actually complain about living in California! I speak from experience, having lived next door in southern Nevada for nearly a decade. Las Vegas is so full of California transplants that it is basically the farthest suburb of Los Angeles. Probably the only thing I don't like about California is the pizza – they put things like tofu, broccoli and goat cheese on it, and it's just weird compared to real Chicago deep dish or the pizza you get in Fells Point.

Laws passed in California set trends for the rest of the nation. They were the first state to ban smoking in restaurants more than 10 years ago, and now it is unusual to go into a restaurant anywhere in the country and still have them ask "smoking or non?" The state is also well-known for passing strict vehicle emission standards, innovative tax rules, and consumer protection laws.

One of those consumer protection laws now affecting us in the Sierra Club outdoor activity program is called the "California Seller of Travel Law," and it applies to any organization operating in California that sells "land or water vessel transportation, either separately or in conjunction with other travel services." The law is intended to protect consumers from unscrupulous travel agencies and tour operators. Sierra Club falls under it because both Local and National Outings programs have some activities that often include some form of land, sea or air transportation. Since the entire Sierra Club is a single corporation chartered in California, all Club outings and activities nationwide are subject to the Cali-

fornia Seller of Travel law, regardless of whether or not fees are charged.

Just to make sure, the Sierra Club engaged the services of an expert travel law attorney to confirm that the law pertains to the Club. It does. Even an activity as simple as guiding an organized hiking trip can be considered "travel." The report from the attorney makes it clear that there are a number of basic obligations imposed on the Club by the law. These include:

1. *Separate Bank Account*

All money collected for any outdoor activity must be deposited directly into a separate bank account. This means that outings funds must be kept separate from funds used for day-to-day chapter or group operations. For practical purposes, even though all outings that charge money are subject to the separate bank account requirement, the Club has set a materiality threshold and only outings charging more than \$25 per person must adhere to the separate bank account requirement. This would apply to big events like camping trips or cabin rentals where a fee would be collected in advance to cover the cost of using the facilities.

Part of the reason for this rule is to ensure that consumer payments for travel are readily available and identifiable in case of refund. The other reason for a separate travel account is to prevent what auditors call "commingled funds." Commingling of funds is an old trick of unscrupulous characters who want some leeway on handling other people's money. When funds from different sources are all mixed together in the same pot, it is extremely difficult for an auditor to trace if the money paid in for a particular product or service was actually spent on that or something else.

2. *Travel Confirmation*

If air or sea transportation is provided as part of the outing, tickets or equivalent

travel confirmations must be sent to the participant within three business days of full payment.

3. *Marketing and Advertising*

All outing marketing and advertising materials must include the Club's Seller of Travel identification number. In addition, a statement that the Club does not participate in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund (TCRA) must also be included. These requirements pertain to print, email, and web marketing and advertising.

The national outings committees are still figuring out how to implement the requirements imposed by this law. There will be a 90-day "phase-in" period when Club headquarters in San Francisco will send guidance and additional information out to the chapters. So there is no need to be overly-concerned about this – I think in most cases for eastern chapters like ours, the amount of money we collect for outings is usually well below the \$25 per person threshold, and most of this won't even apply. However, if you want to lead a ski trip, or charter a boat, please talk to me first.

If we do need to set up separate bank accounts for outings, this should be fairly easy and straightforward. Most banks are used to dealing with this sort of thing, and often provide "linked" accounts that allow separate deposits to be made without charging extra fees.

So chill out, dudes and dudettes...it's laid-back, mellow and relaxed California. Yes, they do have more attorneys there than grains of sand on the beach, and apparently they are all keeping busy. In the meantime, go enjoy one of the many activities planned for you from the list below. Surf's up! 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

MWROP Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program

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

Outings (June, July)



June

Anytime tubing throughout the summer (rated easy) Join the Sierra Club anytime on hot days throughout the summer for tubing on the Gunpowder Falls. Trips will range from 1 to 4 hours, depending on water and weather conditions. Wear sun protection, sneakers or water shoes and attach your valuables. Bring or rent a tube and meet at Monkton Station on Monkton Road, under the trees. The water is always cold, so be prepared. Call Joyce Fletcher 410-254-7240 to form a float group.

Friday, Jun 15: Greater Baltimore Happy Hour and Social (not rated) Location: Timber Creek Tavern, Kingsville, 6 to 8 PM. Members and non-members are invited to meet for socialization, happy hour, and dinner (crabs if available). Tavern is on Belair Rd. north of the Baltimore Beltway, on the south side of the Gunpowder River, across from where popular hiking trails begin on the other side of the bridge. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423

Sunday, Jun 17: Flag Ponds Nature Park. (rated easy) 4 mile hike down to the beach on the Chesapeake Bay, where we will hunt for shark teeth and other fossils eroded from Calvert Cliffs. Bring lunch to eat on the beach. Depart at 8:30 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Thursday, Jun 21: FFA Evening Solstice Hike (rated easy) Celebrate the summer solstice with this kid-

friendly, short evening walk along the Big Gunpowder Falls. Distance is about 2 miles with a wide stream crossing that could result in wet shoes. See river carved rocks and learn about the erosive power of water. Meet at 6:30 PM at the Big Gunpowder Falls State Park on Belair Road. **Leader:** Joyce Fletcher (GB) 410-254-7240.

Saturday, Jun 23: Hike Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve in PA (rated moderate) This is a beautiful park in the Pennsylvania mountains near Ski Liberty with a variety of habitats to explore, including wet and dry woodlands, ponds, pristine meandering mountain streams and wetlands. This will be a joint event with the Maryland Native Plant Society and will include some interesting plant identifications. Meet at 10 AM in the parking area. Bring plenty of water, a lunch and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Strawberry Hill parking is at 1537 Mt. Hope Rd., Fairfield, PA 17320. Carpooling is encouraged but not organized by Sierra Club. Directions and more information can be found at www.strawberryhill.org. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Jun 23: Great Falls, VA (rated moderate) Six mile hike on the cliffs overlooking the Potomac River, then along the Difficult Run rapids. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** James Perschy (HC) 410-964-1902, jmatp@starpower.net.

Sunday, Jun 24: Patapsco – McKeldin (rated moderate) 4 mile hike along the Patapsco River, past McKeldin Falls and Liberty Dam. Bring water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for a 1:30 PM departure.

Leader: Kathleen Sheedy (HC) 443-538-4084, kathleen.sheedy@gmail.com.

Monday, Jun 25: Greater Baltimore Outings Committee Planning Meeting (not rated) New and prospective outings leaders are welcome. Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. If you're interested in leading outings and are curious about what is involved, come and talk with the outings leaders. Meeting will be held at a Leader's house in Parkton beginning with a short hike at 6:00 with the meeting to follow at 7:00. If you want, bring a dessert, finger food or drinks to share. Call Alan for details at 443-212-5082.

Wednesday, Jun 27 Gunpowder River Sunset Hike (rated easy) Two miles along the Gunpowder River. Good chance of seeing wildlife. Meet at the Gunpowder River and Rt. 1 (Belair Rd) just north of Perry Hall at 7:00 PM. **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

Saturday, Jun 30 Loch Raven Sunset Hike and Star Party (rated easy) Come just for the hike, just for the gaze, or both! The HIKE will be 2 miles to a scenic overlook above the reservoir. The GAZE will be to watch the conjunction of Venus and Saturn after sunset. This is really quite special—the planets will be less than 1 degree apart. They are easily seen with the naked eye, but certainly bring binoculars or a small telescope if you have them. Also bring something to sit on (such as a folding chair), and refreshments if you like. Meet at 7 PM at Loch Raven Drive and Morgan Mill Rd. for the hike. For the gaze we will set up one-half mile south on the lawn near the "island." Hike will still take place if cloudy.

Leader: Alan (GB) 443-212-5082, email: f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu.

Saturday, Jun 30: Patapsco Valley State Park, Hilton area (rated moderate) 7 mile hike. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 10:30 AM inside the park, off Hilton Avenue, at the parking lot just inside the park entrance on the right. **Leader:** James Perschy (HC) 410-964-1902, jmatp@starpower.net.

Saturday – Monday, Jun 30-Jul 2: Brown Mountain - Rockytop Backpack, SNP, VA (rated strenuous) 18-mile backpack over 3 days. Lots of vistas and beautiful streams. Total elevation gain approximately 5100 feet. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com. Register in advance.



July

Sunday, Jul 1: Gunpowder Tube Trip (rated easy) Bring tube or rent one. Have a safe way of keeping keys in your pocket. Meet at Monkton Station at 1:00 PM. **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

Sunday, Jul 1: Splash in the Middle Patuxent, in Columbia (rated easy) Cool down with a leisurely 2 hour walk in the middle of the river, through the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Learn how this area was protected from development when Columbia was formed. Wear old sneakers, and be prepared to get wet. Optional restaurant lunch afterwards, so bring a change of clothes. Meet at 10:00 AM, 0.8 mile south of Rt. 108 on Trotter Road, at the gravel parking lot on the left (east). **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Outings (July, August)

Saturday, Jul 7: Overall Run, SNP, VA (*rated strenuous*) Steep 9.5 mile hike featuring wading pools and Shenandoah's tallest waterfall. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the "bus patron" (west) lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Tuesday, Jul 10: Catoctin Second Tuesday Social and Informal Meeting (*not rated*) Location: Isabella's Restaurant and Tapas Bar, Frederick at 6:30 p.m. See June 12 write-up for details. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Jul 14: Kayaking and Day at the Beach at Hammerman State Park (*rated easy to moderate*) Kayak where the Gunpowder River and Dundee Creek empty into the Chesapeake Bay. Explore the marshes and shoreline and look for wildlife in the air, in the water, and along the shores. Meet at 10 AM on the beach at the Hammerman Area of Gunpowder State Park. The park is on Ebenezer Rd. reached from the Whitemarsh Blvd. east exit off Rt. 95. Bring your own or rent a kayak from Ultimate Watersports. Sierra Club requires all paddlecraft participants to wear a life jacket. There is an admission fee to the park. Stay afterwards or join us later for a picnic lunch and day at this sandy beach which has picnic tables, a bathhouse, playground, etc. Kayaking is weather-dependent—no threat of thunderstorms and no high waves in the Bay. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Saturday, Jul 14: Catoctin Group Meeting, Picnic and Hike, Catoctin National Park (*not rated*) There will also be a lecture on invasive and native plants and an opportunity to remove some invasives. **Leaders:** Kim

Stenley (kstenley@mcdaniel.edu) and Chris Hodge (mdhiker2@yahoo.com)

Saturday – Monday, Jul 14-16: Black Forest Trail Backpack, PA (*rated strenuous*) 25 mile backpack with several steep climbs, pretty streams and fantastic vistas. The best PA has to offer. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com. Register in advance.

Saturday, Jul 21: Great Falls Dinner and Hike (*rated moderate*) History meets nature at Great Falls section of the C&O Canal in Potomac, MD. We will examine how the canal and locks were constructed and operated. We will take the boardwalk to the Great Falls overlook on Olmsted Island. Length of hike will be 4 miles or less depending on weather and condition of trails. Entrance fee required. There will be a dinner stop in Rockville before the hike. Meet at 3:00 PM at the South West Park & Ride **Leader:** Bill Diggs (GB) 410-574-1453.

Saturday, Jul 21: Splash in the Middle Patuxent, in Savage Park (*rated easy*) Cool down with a leisurely 3 hour walk in the middle of the river, from Murray Hill Road to Savage Park. Discover clams and other wildlife. Wear old sneakers, and be prepared to get wet. Due to hidden slippery rocks in the river, this hike is not appropriate for people with bad ankles/knees/back. Bring a snack and water, and a change of clothes for an optional restaurant lunch after the hike. Meet at 9:30 at the Savage Park Wincopin Trail parking lot, off Vollmerhausen Road, a quarter mile east of the bridge over I-95. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Wednesday, Jul 25: FFA Gunpowder River Sunset Hike (*rated easy*) Well-behaved children and friendly dogs

are welcome for this hike 2 miles along the Gunpowder River. See how a river and its shoreline look in summer. Look for wildlife that comes out at dusk. Visit an isolated pond. Meet at 6:30 PM in the park's parking lot at the Gunpowder River and Rt. 1 (Belair Rd) in Kingsville, north of the Baltimore Beltway. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Stay for dinner (crabs if available) at the Timber Creek Tavern on the other side of the bridge over the river. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Saturday – Monday, Jul 28-30: Dolly Sods Backpack, MNF, WV (*rated 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. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com. Register in advance.

Saturday, Jul 28: Soldiers Delight (*rated easy*) 3 miles on the east side trails. Will discuss efforts to preserve unique serpentine geography and visit historic chromium mines. Meet at the Visitor Center off of Deer Park Rd. at 1 PM. **Leader:** Alan (GB) 443-212-5082 email f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu.



August

Friday, Aug 3: FFA Sunset Walk (*rated easy*) Meet at the park for this kid-friendly 2 mile stroll through woods, marsh and creek. Relax and enjoy water fowl, reptiles, amphibians, fish and learn about the importance of wetlands and their moderating effect on storms. The paths are asphalt, grass,

or earth and level. Meet at Eastern Regional Park visitor center at 6 pm. The park entrance is near Chase Elementary School on Eastern Avenue. **Leader:** Joyce Fletcher (GB) 410-254-7240.

Saturday-Monday, Aug 4-6: Allegheny Front Backpack, Moshannon SF, PA (*rated moderate*) 30 mile backpack along beautiful streams, ridges and bogs. Some steep and rocky sections on the second day. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com. Register in advance.

Wednesday, Aug 8: FFA Cromwell Valley Park Sunset Hike (*rated easy*) Children and dogs are welcome on this 2-mile hike through a Baltimore County park that is a working farm with draft horses, woodlands, hilly meadows, streams, limestone kilns, and a brook bubbling out of the ground. Look for wildlife that comes out at dusk. Meet at 6:00 PM in the parking lot beside the house in the park's Sherwood Farm section on Cromwell Bridge Rd. north from the Baltimore Beltway. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Stay for dinner at Sander's Corner Restaurant nearby. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Saturday, Aug 11: Kayaking and Day at the Beach at Rocky Point State Park (*not rated*) Kayak from this waterfront park to Hart Miller Island directly across in the Chesapeake Bay. Hart Miller Island (built from dredge spoil) is a favorite hangout for boaters, and has a small park, camp ground, observation tower, and floating vendors of snowballs and lunch food. Meet at 10 AM on the beach at Rocky Point State Park. Bring your own kayak. Sierra Club requires all participants in

Outings (August, September, October)

watercraft outings to wear a life jacket. There is an admission fee to this park, which has a sandy beach, grassy shady area with picnic tables and playground, and marshy area with a fishing pier. Stay afterwards or join us later for a picnic lunch and day at the beach. The park is reached from Rt. 702 and Back River Neck Rd. from the Baltimore Beltway 695 east. Kayaking is weather-dependent—no threat of thunderstorms and no high waves in the Bay. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423.

Saturday, Aug 11: Splash in the Middle Patuxent, Gorman Area Park (*rated moderate*) Cool down with a leisurely 4 hour walk in the middle of the river, from Rt. 29 to Murray Hill Road. Due to hidden slippery rocks in the river, this hike is not appropriate for people with bad ankles, knees, or backs. Bring lunch and water, and a towel or change of clothes for the car. Depart at 9:30 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.

Monday, Aug 13: Prettyboy Sunset Hike and Star Party (*rated easy*) Come just for the hike, just for the gaze, or both! The HIKE will be 2 miles on the Frog Hollow trail above the reservoir. The GAZE will be to watch the Perseids meteor shower after sunset. There will be a new moon this year. Bring binoculars or a small telescope if you have one. Also bring something to sit on (such as a folding chair), and refreshments if you like. Meet at 7 PM at 18860 Spooks Hill Rd., about 5 min. from the Middletown Rd. exit of I-83. See Google Maps for location. Hike will still take place if cloudy. **Leader:** Alan (GB) 443-212-5082 or email f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu.

Saturday-Monday, Aug 18-20: Quehanna Trail, Moshannon SF, PA (*rated moderate*) 27-29 mile backpack along a beautiful plateau and deep hollows. Some potentially challenging stream crossings. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com. Register in advance.

Saturday, Aug 25: Signal Knob, VA (*rated strenuous*) 10 mile circuit hike with overlooks of the Shenandoah Valley. Trails are extremely rocky at times with a 1200-foot increase in elevation over 4 miles. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 7:30 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.



September

Saturday-Monday, Sep 1-3: Laurel Fork Wilderness / Allegheny Trail Backpack, WV (*rated moderate*) 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. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com. Register in advance.

Sunday, Sep 2: Trolley Line #9 (*rated moderate*) Take a trip down an old trolley line with a side trip to Banneker Park and a tour of Ellicott City with a lunch break at the supposedly haunted Female Institute. Members may choose to break off for lunch or

shopping in town and regroup on the return trip. Trail will be mostly paved and about 7 miles long. We will see conservation efforts at the historic Banneker buildings and adaptive reuse of the trolley line; learn about the birth of railroading and the importance of the Patapsco River and its tributaries to the development of Ellicott Mills. Meet at 10:30 AM at the end of Edmondson Avenue at Stonewall Road. **Leader:** Joyce Fletcher (GB) 410-254-7240.

Saturday-Monday, Sep 15-17: Roaring Plains Backpack, MNF, WV (*rated moderate*) 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. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com. Register in advance.

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

Saturday-Monday, Sep 29-Oct 1: Little Pine State Park Car Camping, Tiadaghton SF, PA (*rated moderate to*

strenuous) Day 1: Moderate 5 mile hike from camp for early arrivals. Day 2: Strenuous 9 mile hike on the Golden Eagle Trail, touted to be the best day hike in all of PA. Day 3: break camp. Reservations for campsites required. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com. Register in advance.



Beyond September

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

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

Wednesday, Oct 31: FFA Haunting Halloween Hike (*rated moderate*) Escape the doorbell and come haunt the waterfront with us for an easy walk along the harbor promenade in

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

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

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

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.

| | | | |
|--|--|------|--|
| June | | | |
| 14-19 | Patuxent River Sojourn, hosted by Alliance for Chesapeake Bay | DHH | |
| 16 | Canoeing, Loch Raven Reservoir or Park School challenge course | FYC | |
| July | | | |
| TBD | Camping, Pocomoke | DHH | |
| 14 | Biking, NCR trail and Sparks Nature Center | CGCC | |
| 16 | BICO Meeting | | |
| 21 | Hiking and swimming, Cunningham Falls State Park | FYC | |
| August | | | |
| 18 | Service project | CGCC | |
| 25 | Environmental education, swimming, and cookout, Sandy Point State Park | FYC | |
| September | | | |
| 22-23 | Camping, Assateague National Seashore | FYC | |
| October | | | |
| TBA | Service outing, Department of Parks & Recreation | FYC | |
| November | | | |
| TBA | Hiking, Maryland Heights and Museum tours, Harpers Ferry, WV | FYC | |
| December | | | |
| TBA | Ice skating with Santa, Patterson Park | FYC | |
| Abbreviations: | | | |
| CGCC: College Gardens Community Center | | | |
| DHH: Digital Harbor High | | | |
| FYC: Franciscan Youth Center | | | |

Join Us for Exciting Summer True Cost of Food Events!

While you're considering these activities, you can take the "Green Eating" pledge and learn more about this local campaign to eat healthy, while reducing air emissions, at: <http://virginia.sierraclub.org/mvg/localfood.html> Not only will you improve your health and the health of the planet, but those taking the pledge will be eligible for a monthly drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to My Organic Market!

You might also want to have a read of the timely article in Bon Appetite magazine, *An Inconvenient Truth: Food Is Major Contributor to Climate Change*, at: www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/04-17-2007/0004567354&EDATE

Thursday, June 28, 2007 6:30 pm
Vegetate
1414 9th Street, NW, Washington, DC (two blocks east from Mount Vernon Square Metro)
Local & Organic Cuisine
Please RSVP to Susan Prolman at: susanprolman@aol.com by Wednesday, June 27th

Sunday, August 19, 2007
Trip to Stoney Lonesome Farm in Gainesville, Virginia
For information about the farm and directions, visit: www.slfarm.us
(Please RSVP to Diana Artemis at: artemdi@yahoo.com and indicate if you would like to carpool & whether you can give a ride or need one.)

Join us for this interesting event at the small farm of Esther and Pablo Mandelheim one hour outside of Washington, D.C. Note: You can either arrive at 9:00 a.m. or noon. Please bring a lunch item – preferably vegan (plant-based) and prepared with local, organic food to share. See recipe ideas at:

(Continued on page 27)

True Cost of Food Events!

(Continued from page 26)

www.vegcooking.com/veganMenus.asp
and: www.sierraclub.org/sustainable_consumption/recipes/

Event details:

1. Arrive around 9:00 a.m. to participate in that day's harvest (a working morning session to work up an appetite), or
2. Arrive at noon for a BYO beverage and potluck lunch that is prepared with local, preferably vegan (without animal products) ingredients.
3. While we eat our potluck lunch (between noon and 1:00 pm) Esther will do a presentation on the origination and operation of her farm, teaming with a speaker from the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) on farm land conservation, or alternatively, a speaker on sustainable forest management (www.greenmanforestmanagement.com)
4. Tour the farm between 1-2:00 pm.
5. Optional hike into the 90-acre surrounding lands or return home (between 2-3:30 pm)

Thursday, July 26, 2006 6:30 pm
Sunflower Restaurant
(Seven Corners_
6304 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA
Tel: 703-237-3888

All-Vegan Chinese Cuisine
Please RSVP to Grace Holden at:
gmh829@aol.com by Wednesday, July 25.

Be sure to bookmark the calendar of TCOF events at: <http://sierraclub.org/dc/sprawl/bec/food.html>

You needn't be a Sierra Club member to attend; please feel free to invite a friend!

Check out the TCOF page at:
www.truecostoffood.org
and our Sustainable Consumption website at: http://www.sierraclub.org/sustainable_consumption/

Volunteering

The Sierra Club—A Volunteer Opportunity for Every Person (and Personality!)

You'd really like to do something for the environment, but after a day at work you can't stand to be around people. Or maybe you'd really like to do something for the environment, but after a day at work you've just got to spend some time with people. Either way, the Sierra Club has something for you.

You'd like to volunteer, but you're looking for something challenging—a real learning experience—not some mindless clerical task. Or maybe you'd like to volunteer, but with your busy life, you only have energy for a soothingly mindless task—no challenges, please. Either way, the Sierra Club has something for you.

You'd like to advance your favorite cause; you're willing to do almost anything for it, but you don't want to be distracted with unrelated matters. Or maybe you'd like to help the environment, but you really don't have any particular favorite cause; you want help in knowing what's most important. Either way—you've figured it out by now—the Sierra Club has something for you.

You'd like to volunteer, but you hate

making phone calls? That's all right; at times we need phone callers, but we'll find people who like making them or who at least feel comfortable with the challenge. You hate stuffing envelopes? That's fine; other folks will eagerly do that kind of work. You hate sitting still and reading complicated materials? OK, we'll find other people who like doing this. The effectiveness of the Sierra Club as a volunteer organization is that everyone has different likes and dislikes, and different strengths and weaknesses, but when we all work together, there's a congenial role for everyone, and everyone gets to fill a real need.

Perhaps you don't feel educated enough? Then you have a choice of volunteer opportunities that don't require prior knowledge, including lots of opportunities to learn while doing. Sometimes you get to learn a lot! Which kind of opportunity do you want? We have it!

Perhaps you have a disability? That doesn't keep you from volunteering. Many of our volunteers have disabilities—but we focus on their abilities. Some are champion envelope-sealers; some are

champion conservation organizers. Just as for any other volunteer, we try to help you find the volunteer opportunities that fit your skills and interests. We don't pigeonhole you; we try to give you the chance to contribute in the way you want.

Sierra Club volunteering is very much about you as an individual: what do you want to do? In fact, the most effective volunteers are people who find slots that fit their interests, their schedules, and their personalities. When you call us to find a volunteer opportunity, we will try to help you find an opportunity that fits your personal desires.

If you'd like to volunteer, give us a call. Our Chapter administrator, Laurel Imlay, is a champion at helping you to find your individual place as a Sierra Club volunteer. Contact her at the chapter office at 301 277-7111, or e-mail laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org. ■

This article adapted with permission from The Yodeler, the chapter newsletter of the SF Bay Chapter in California.



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

Maryland Chapter Jamboree

October, 2007

The biennial Jamboree has become an eagerly anticipated event for the Maryland Chapter. Planning for the 2007 Jamboree is underway, and details will be forthcoming.

If you'd like to help plan this year's Jamboree, or to be notified when registration opens, please contact Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111, or laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org.

Credits

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

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

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

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

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

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

Writers and Contributors: Jan Graham, Jim Long, Cliff Terry, Imani Kazana, Greg Smith, Lisa Mayo, David Quinn, Frank Fox, Mary Corddry, David Prosten, Kim Stanley, Lee Walker Oxenham, David Hauck, Chip Reilly, Betty Brody, Richard Reis

Editors: Betty Brody, Mary Corddry, Becky French, Laurel Imlay, Betsy Johnson, Sue Kunkel, Janis Oppelt, Cindy Paré, 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.maryland.sierraclub.org.

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



What's inside?

- How Did We Fare in Annapolis?
- Global Warming and Our Watersheds
- Global Warming and the ICC
- Greening Your Lawn and Lamps
- A Reprieve for the Blackwater Refuge
- Group News, Outings, Events

AND more

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