

# Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Winter 2007-2008

## Donna Edwards Receives 2007 Conservationist of the Year Award

### Maryland Chapter Recognizes Local Environmental Leader

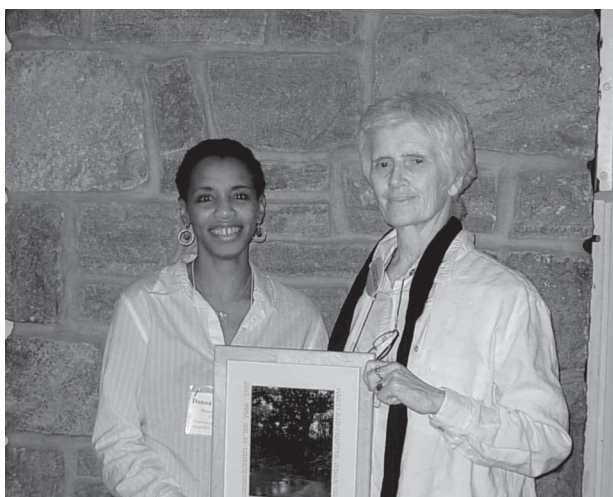
By Bonnie Bick and Betsy Johnson—Donna Edwards was honored for her years of commitment and service to the environment with the 2007 Conservationist of the Year Award from the Sierra Club's Maryland Chapter. Bonnie Bick and former board chair Betsy Johnson, on behalf of the Maryland Chapter and its chair, Mike Martin, presented the award to Ms. Edwards at the Sierra Club Jamboree held at the Catoctin Mountain National Park.

"It's an honor and a privilege to receive this award from the Maryland Chapter of Sierra Club," said Ms. Edwards. "I have worked with many of these dedicated individuals on various environmental issues and I am proud to receive this recognition from my peers. I look forward to many more years of working together on the local and national levels to promote environmental conservation and to address global warming."

"Donna Edwards is a true environmental leader," said Chapter Chair Mike Martin. "She has consistently provided the vision and the hard work needed on behalf of environmental issues locally and nationally for many, many years."

"I was so proud to be able to present this award to a long-time environmentalist," said Bonnie Bick. "Her hard work to make National Harbor more environmentally friendly and an all around better development for the community is a testament to her dedication." National Harbor is a 300 acre residential/commercial development on the Potomac River in P.G. County.

In addition to the Sierra Club's Conservationist of the Year award, Edwards received this month, together



Donna Edwards, left, receives her award from the Maryland Chapter's Bonnie Bick.

with Bonnie Bick of the Sierra Club, a Capital Region Visionary Award from the Coalition for Smarter Growth, for their work in Oxon Hill in Prince Georges County, southeast of the District. Donna Edwards and Bonnie Bick are exemplars of effective civic activism in planning the future of their community, and they received the award for their leadership of the Campaign to Reinvest in the Heart of Oxon Hill.

Two years ago, the very talented Donna Edwards ran for Congress in Maryland's 4th Congressional District, and almost unseated the entrenched incumbent, Albert Wynn. Now she is running again. Donna Edwards is well known to the Sierra Club in Maryland because she is a founder and leader of the Campaign to Reinvest in the Heart of Oxon Hill, a campaign in which

Sierra Club joined because of its important smart growth aspects. Edwards has been a leader in the environmental movement for years, in various capacities, notably, as a director of the national League of Conservation Voters, and as Executive Director of the Arca Foundation, which gives grants to campaigns for the environment.

Edwards, after years of working for non-governmental public interest organizations, has decided to run for Maryland's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District again. She is endorsed by the League of Conservation Voters, Emily's List, Progressive Maryland, the Friends of the Earth Action PAC, the Association of Community for Reform Now PAC, Democracy for America, Democracy for Montgomery County, Progressive Cheverly, the National Organization of Women and the Woman's Campaign Forum.

Edwards already accomplished something with her first run for office. She forced Congressman Albert Wynn to compile a much better "green" voting record in Congress over the last two years. Since he now understands that his constituents truly care about the environment, he has reversed himself on several important issues. But Donna Edwards is the real thing. She has worked on environmental issues because she understands the consequences of not addressing them. She is truly one of us. ■

*Please visit <http://www.donnaedwardsforcongress.com/> to see how you can contact the Donna Edwards campaign and get involved.*



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Winter  
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## Chapter Executive Committee Elections

### It's Time to Vote for Our Chapter Leaders

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

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

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

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

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

The excom meets six times a year on the third Saturday of every odd month. Those elected will take their position at the January 19, 2008 meeting. Ballots are due in the office by January 12. Please read the candidates' statements carefully and vote in this election for members-at-large for the Executive Committee of your Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club.

**Nomination statements submitted by the candidates follow, in random order.**

### Statements from Excom Candidates

#### David O'Leary

Sierra Club Experience:

Member of the Sierra Club since 1989, in California, Michigan, New Jersey, and Maryland. Life Member.

Chair of Chapter Cool Cities and Smart Energy Solutions Campaigns, spring 2006–present. Led two annual Chapter Cool Cities workshops, and supported establishing Cool Cities efforts across the state. Active participant in local, state and federal energy legislative efforts.

Currently representing Chapter on the Alliance for Global Warming Solutions, coordinating efforts with other statewide organizations.

Participated in Healthy Air Act and Clean Cars campaigns, including several trips to Annapolis for Environmental Lobby days, rallies, hearings, and other lobbying visits.

Currently serving on staff oversight committee, coordinating closely on campaign planning and supervision of our two Green Corps organizers, and participating in hiring process for new Chapter campaign organizer.

Trained as an Outings leader. Attended Maryland Chapter Jamboree in 2005 and 2007, including participating in planning committee and presenting a workshop in 2007. Participated Chapter Executive Committee planning retreat in January, 2007. Attended Sierra Club Northeast and Southern Appalachian regional workshops on energy and global topics in the fall of 2006.

Group Outings Chair and Group Conservation Chair, Raritan Valley Group, New Jersey Chapter 2004-05

Participation in various Club campaigns (anti-Sprawl, recycling, land protection, etc.) and Club outings (hiking and canoeing) while a member in various chapters - 1989–present.

Other non-profit experience:

- board level experience at local and national level with

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# Chapter Executive Committee Elections

## Statements from Excom Candidates (cont.)

(continued from page 2)

### David O'Leary (cont.)

other non-profits, including roles involving managing relationships

- member of several other outdoor and environmental organizations
- Leave No Trace Master Educator

Professional experience includes more than twenty years in the data communications, Internet service provider, and telecommunications equipment businesses. Currently Director of Technology for Better World Telecom, and advisor or board member for other socially responsible business startups.

My vision for the Maryland Chapter includes:

- Strengthening Groups through involving new and existing members and providing tools for success to activists and leaders
- Development of an integrated campaign regarding Smart Energy Solutions and many other conservation campaigns
- Further integration of conservation efforts with local outings
- Improving the Chapter's strategic planning process, so we are more proactive and solutions-oriented

I appreciate your consideration and support. ■

### Mike Martin

I have been an active Sierra Club member since I was 17 years old. I have held a variety of positions ranging from Sierra Student Coalition regional coordinator to Maryland Chapter Chair. I have been on the Maryland Chapter Executive committee for three years and have been the Maryland Chapter chair for the last year.

I want to push for increased capacity for our chapter, with better fundraising, more events, and a stronger presence in Annapolis. This will be ac-

complished, in part, by an improved professionalism in how we run things in the chapter, coupled with broader recruitment and training of new leaders. Another element will be building stronger social ties among leaders, which will build motivation and a stronger sense of responsibility among activists and leaders.

We also need to put effort toward identity building, internally among our members and activists, and externally among our allies, our public constituencies, and our opponents. People need to know who the Maryland Sierra Club is, what we stand for, and what we are capable of.

Internal identity will come through the social fabric mentioned above, improved cultural definition within the organization, and greater attention to our organizational stories. We have many stories to tell; stories about Pfred the Pfiesteria Pfish fighting for environmental candidates, stories about protecting Maryland's wildlands such as Belt Woods, and countless more. But they don't get told enough. We need to build in places for story telling and use online resources, such as YouTube and blogging tools to record and disseminate our stories.

External identity starts with achievements, but those achievements have to be celebrated and branded. The Sierra Club name has to be associated with our victories, whether achieved on our own or in coalition, and our members need to know about them. We must also work to express our values in public settings so that the public understands why we fight for things. Simply saying "Stop the ICC" gives no sense of why we oppose the highway. The public needs to know that the ICC will put soot and smog into the air we breathe and pollute our drinking water.

If we can successfully build our identity, we will build our organization and bring in members and funding. If we in-

crease the professionalism inherent in that identity, we will be able to leverage new members and increased funding to make real changes for Maryland's environment. ■

### Betsy Johnson

The Sierra Club's conservation mission has always been of critical importance to me, and from the start I've been involved in leadership. Among my accomplishments over the years, I have:

- ♦ Served as Chapter Chair for three years and am now serving as Fundraising Chair and Political Chair. During that time I have improved the Chapter's fundraising efforts. Bequests that the Chapter received during my tenure are enabling us to hire a conservation organizer for our Cool Cities Campaign. I am committed to raising more political funds to help state and local candidates in the 2010 election.
- ♦ Served as Montgomery County Group Chair for three years, while also serving as Chapter Vice-Chair.
- ♦ Worked on transportation and land-use issues since becoming active in 1997—specifically against the Inter-County Connector and for balanced land use and transit. In support of the effort, I represent the Chapter on the Challenge to Sprawl Campaign, a nationally funded regional program that focuses on these issues in the metro DC area.

If elected, I promise time-tested reliability: if I say I will do something, I will do it. I am committed to the Sierra Club conservation mission and have enjoyed working with members at all levels over the years, from co-chairs and committee members to volunteers during lobby days. I am a team player, and I hope to continue serving the Maryland Chapter Executive Committee and improving our outreach to the community on our important conservation activities. ■

### Charles "Chris" Yoder

I have been a life member of the Sierra Club for almost thirty years.

I first experienced the challenges and responsibilities of Club leadership in 1980 after asking a Club staffer why there was no local group where I lived (Boise, Idaho). She replied that I should start one and so I did. There were about 80 members when I started and over 500 members when I left Idaho to pursue a career change. In addition to serving as the group's founding chair, I had served as group conservation chair, chapter EXCOM member and vice-chair and chapter representative on the national Sierra Club Council. I led chapter campaigns for BLM wilderness and the group's National Forest planning participation as well as coordinating the group's political efforts.

There was a hiatus in my club activities after I left Idaho for Washington, D.C. where I served 12 years on the staff of a Senate Committee rising to the level of Deputy Staff Director. In addition, I served four years as Counselor to a Cabinet Secretary (Veterans Affairs) and two years as policy advisor and speechwriter for a Deputy Secretary. I also served as a staff supervisor for a Congressionally chartered Commission. While not directly related to the Club's conservation agenda, my Washington experience gives me a deep understanding of the development and implementation of public policy.

Retirement from my federal career enables me to once again focus my energy on the goals I share with the Sierra Club. For ourselves and our children: stewardship of the environment entrusted to us by our forebears. For our planet: Protection of the natural values upon which all living beings depend and that inspire humankind to better understand ourselves and our universe. I serve now

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# Chapter Executive Committee Elections

## Statements from Excom Candidates (cont.)

(continued from page 3)

### Charles "Chris" Yoder (cont.)

as membership chair of the Greater Baltimore Group. I hope to meld my Sierra Club and Washington experience with the energy and commitment our Chapter's leaders and members to build on the Club's unequaled record of effective advocacy and environmental leadership.

My commitment to Club activism is not contingent on the outcome of the Executive Committee election. I am running for the EXCOM because I believe I have something to offer to the Chapter and its members. ■

### Ron Henry

Although I have been an environmental advocate for many years I did not formally join the Sierra Club until 2001 and became a Life Member in 2006.

I have served in the Sierra Club as the Harford County representative on the Greater Baltimore Group Executive Committee. Commensurately, I have been active in a local Harford County conservation group known as Friends of Harford (FOH) as a board member. During the timeframe of 2004-2006, GBSC partnered with FOH and made major inputs into the 2004 Harford County Land Use Master Plan. Subsequently we were proactive with the 2006 Comprehensive Re-Zoning Process (CRZP) and authored a separate, independent report based on physical evaluation of a nominal 350 rezoning properties requests. That report was provided to all Council members, the County Executive and the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) department that agreed with our recommendations.

In July of 2004 I accepted the Chair of GBSC and have been active with many issues in the GBSC purview. Those include supporting the Greater Dundalk Alliance (a coalition of community groups) in their opposition to a proposed LNG terminal on the Sparrows Point

Peninsula that is contraindicated since the proposed site is in a populous area, an Earth Justice Class Action lawsuit to redress extreme long-term health issues to the economically disadvantaged populace of the Greater Sparrows Point Peninsula that are directly attributable to local, long-term heavy industry pollutants, and an anti-dredging suit against further contraindicated dredging in the Patapsco River to prevent further damages to an already fragile Upper Chesapeake Bay ecosystem that has only enjoyed a minimal improvement since the massive SuperFund Cleanup of the 1980's that recommended no further deeper dredging ever.

I have also worked actively with environmental groups such as CCAN, CBF, LCV, Environment Maryland and others during the MD legislative sessions, political endorsements for city, state and county offices, and campaigns such as our recent MD Chapter Climate Action Campaign to achieve common environmental objectives. I fully believe that all environmental groups must work together in order to achieve those common objectives. Together we will win—separately we will fail! We don't have the numbers, resources or available time otherwise!

I am a practicing Native American that believes in conservation because this environment that we call Mother Earth has been too long abused. There are many factors involved that have contributed to our environmental dilemmas. They all must be addressed if we are going to pass this planet over to the next seven generations in a corrected condition that will sustain them. It is an onerous but not impossible task. One of our main purposes is to be good stewards of this Mother Earth and it is we adults who must show the way so that our children will have the example to follow.

I have worked actively at chapter level by attending chapter meetings as

GBSC Chair/Delegate/Alternate Delegate, involvement as Conservation Committee member, Retreat and Jamboree Committees and GBSC Political Committee liaison and Vice Chair. I look forward to serving in a chapter at-large capacity. ■

### Richard Reis

#### Accomplishments and Goals:

Richard (Rich) Reis joined the Sierra Club in 1968 and is now a life member. As a licensed professional engineer, he uses his skill to support advocacy on air quality, transportation, and the urban environment. Rich formed Sierran Bicyclists to support a most efficient and environmentally sensible form of travel. SB held several meetings; its advocacy led to the hiring of a full time bicycle planner for the MCPPC, the plan of bikeways for Montgomery County, and bikes on Metrobuses. Rich has worked with the American Lung Association in improving both indoor and outdoor air quality. He has lead the Verizon Rides bicycling team, which raises thousands of dollars for the Association's Kid with Asthma Program each year. Rich as co-leader of the Earth Ethics Committee of the Washington Ethical Society (WES) instituted 40% energy-savings, helped introduce Integrated Pest Management, recruits speakers on the environment, and produced an Earthkeeping pamphlet. This year Rich spoke at WES and at the Northern Virginia Ethical Society on what we must do to meet the environmental challenges of our times. Rich's article, "Lighting and Mercury", appeared in this past summer's issue of Chesapeake. Rich practices personal environmental stewardship by using solar heating, using transit as well as his bicycle and feet for transportation, avoiding meat, and helping small businesses to conserve energy. Rich savors back country hikes, sailing his yacht (ac-

tually dinghy), swimming, and of course, bicycling.

As member of the executive committee, Rich will work for:

- ♦ Alternative transportation, including walking, bicycling, and transit
- ♦ Low impact recreation
- ♦ Lowering emissions of global warming gases and local pollutants
- ♦ Energy conservation and alternative energy
- ♦ Protection of wild areas ■

## Create an Environmental Legacy

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

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



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# Anti-Environment Republicans Target Bay-Champion Wayne Gilchrest in Primary Race



Congressman Wayne Gilchrest

by Lisa M. Mayo—Perhaps the most competitive Maryland primary race in 2008 will be the Republican contest for the state's 1st Congressional District for the U.S. Congress. This district includes the Eastern Shore of Maryland, as well as parts of Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Harford Counties. Incumbent Republican Congressman Wayne Gilchrest has held this seat since 1991, but as a moderate, he has drawn the ire of local GOP critics who have questioned his credentials as a conservative and his commitment to furthering the goals of the Bush administration.

Gilchrest has faced challengers in the Republican primary before, but 2008 could present more of a contest since his main opponent—State Senator Andrew Harris (R-7-Baltimore and Harford

Counties)—has secured the backing of Eastern Shore State Senator Richard Colburn, former Governor Robert Ehrlich, Jr., and the ultra-conservative PAC, Club for Growth.

The League of Conservation Voters, which tracks the “green” voting records of incumbents at the national level, and the Maryland League of Conservation Voters, which tracks those records at the local level, recently held a joint press conference announcing their endorsement of Congressman Wayne Gilchrest for the 2008 primary election. Although GOP members often score poorly on “green voting” on Capitol Hill and in Annapolis, Wayne Gilchrest earned respectable “green-voting” scores of 50% and 67% during the

two sessions of the 109th Congress—the last Congress for which the LCV issued a scorecard. In giving their support to Gilchrest, both groups made a point of highlighting his important environmental leadership as a co-chair of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force and as co-chair and co-founder of the Congressional Climate Change Caucus.

In contrast, State Senator Colburn, State Senator Harris, and former Governor Ehrlich have some of the worst environmental voting records in Maryland politics. Senator Colburn, who sits on the powerful Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee in Annapolis, has a lifetime score of 15%, according to the Maryland League of Conservation Voters, while Senator Harris has earned the dubious distinction of having one of the lowest lifetime scores, nearing the bot-

tom of the barrel with only 9%; oddly Harris’ described himself as “a common sense environmentalist,” according to the *Star Democrat*, an Eastern Shore newspaper. The environmental record of former Governor Ehrlich, despite the realization of his first-term Flush Tax (to upgrade Maryland’s major sewage treatment plants), was one of the main targets of challenger Martin O’Malley, who, during his successful bid for the governorship, effectively differentiated himself from Ehrlich on all matters relating to environmental law enforcement, Smart Growth and funding of Program Open Space.

Now these two different factions of the Republican Party in Maryland are coming together in a primary race that could hinge on the support that Wayne Gilchrest receives from the environmental community. While Gilchrest has been a strong supporter of restoring the Chesapeake Bay, Harris has shown that he could very well kill any support for Chesapeake Bay restoration in the House of Representatives. Many voters tend to sit out the state’s primary elections, but this is one race that should draw the attention of all Marylanders, and especially those who care about the environment.

### A History of Clashing Priorities

One recent Chesapeake Bay issue best illustrates the difference between Republicans like Colburn, Harris, and Ehrlich, and “green” Republicans like Gilchrest: the controversial Blackwater Resort Communities development project that was to be built in an area of Maryland currently represented by both Colburn and Gilchrest.

The mega-development project would have included 2,700 single-family and multi-family homes, a 100-room hotel/conference center, a golf course, and

a retail center—all upstream from the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge near Cambridge, Maryland, on the Eastern Shore. Within the project zone would have been 313 acres named by the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission as “Critical Area” land, including a designated “Resource Conservation Area” and “Habitat Protection Areas.” These areas were near the Little Blackwater River, which feeds directly into the Blackwater refuge and eventually into the Chesapeake Bay.

In January 2006, during the first large-scale meeting that was held in Cambridge to discuss the Blackwater Resort project, Congressman Gilchrest was the first politician to speak. He told the packed room that he was opposed to the development and that he supported Cambridge citizens, conservationists, farmers, and watermen against the mammoth proposal. During his speech, Gilchrest reiterated his long-standing commitment to protect the Chesapeake Bay, and he emphasized his belief that the project was too big and too close to the river and the refuge.

On the other hand, Governor Ehrlich remained passive throughout the many months of the Blackwater debate, insisting that the Blackwater Resort was a local issue, even though he received many letters and petitions from across the state pleading with him to intervene. Senator Colburn, however, was not passive but was one of the most vocal supporters of the development, often throwing temper tantrums on the Senate floor when more conservation-minded members voiced their support for a proposed bill that would have reined in the project.

The contentious issue finally came to a head when, less than twenty-four hours before the polls opened for the

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# Politics: Maryland Primary

## Anti-Environment Republicans Target Congressman Gilchrest

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2006 elections, Colburn and Ehrlich—who were both facing difficult opponents in their respective races—hastily organized a press conference at which it was suddenly announced that Ehrlich's administration had reached a deal with the developer and would use money from Program Open Space to buy a large chunk of the developer's land—particularly those parcels near the river. The press event was filled with GOP members suddenly anxious to appear "green" to undecided voters on the eve of the election. But one dignitary was conspicuously absent from the staged event: Wayne Gilchrest, the only politician who had been looking out for the bay and the refuge all along.

### The Campaign of State Senator Andrew Harris

State Senator Andrew Harris, who is Gilchrest's primary challenger, has not focused his campaign attacks on Gilchrest's environmental record, but has instead attacked Gilchrest's positions on ending the Iraq War, dealing with government spending, and fighting illegal immigration. Unfortunately, Harris' allegations regarding Gilchrest are often based on false or misleading information, most notably the claim that Gilchrest is a prime source of "earmarks," or pork spending, on Capitol Hill. Yet an analysis of earmarks by Congressional Quarterly "puts him [Gilchrest] near the bottom of House members seeking funding for local projects." When Gilchrest has voted for spending, he's voted for laws like the recent Farm Bill, which included millions of dollars in new annual funding to help Bay-area farmers implement conservation practices and methods. According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, "This is by far the largest amount of federal funding ever devoted to protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay, and would bring Bay-restoration programs approximately halfway to their required funding and implementation levels." (At this

stage, President George W. Bush has threatened to veto the Farm Bill.)

Despite Gilchrest's often being commended by taxpayer watchdog groups, Harris has attempted to distort Gilchrest's record and cast him as a "tax and spend" liberal Republican. These deceitful campaign tactics by Harris drew a rebuke from Gilchrest, who said, "I think a debate of the issues is healthy, but that depends on candidates' being honest, which doesn't appear to be happening now."

Harris's campaign is receiving a large chunk of its funding from medical industry PACs (Harris is a doctor and an opponent of universal health care) and money from the Club for Growth PAC, which has called for abolition of agriculture subsidies, privatization of Social Security, defeat of the popular State Children's Health Insurance Program bill, defeat of the minimum wage hike, and additional tax cuts for the rich. The Club's views might not be popular with most Marylanders in District 1, yet Harris has embraced his endorsement by the Club and has readily accepted major funding and public relations support from the powerful PAC.

Fortunately for environmentally conscious Marylanders, Republican Wayne Gilchrest offers an alternative to Harris in this primary race. Gilchrest, unlike many Republicans in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, is not bound by rigid ideology, but instead understands the grave moral responsibility Americans have to protect the natural systems that support the local and national economy. Above all else, Gilchrest is a Republican who can legislate responsibly even while protecting the environment that supports the Maryland way of life.

If Marylanders ever hope to realize even a portion of the state's goals for restoring the Chesapeake Bay, Gilchrest must be victorious on February 12. ■



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### 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!

## MAGIC Seeks Executive Director

Maryland Alliance for Greenway Improvement and Conservation (MAGIC) is a non-profit regional 501(c)3 environmental activist group. Our 3 main initiatives are protection of forests, connection of greenways for wildlife habitat and diversity, and support of general environmental causes.

MAGIC has tremendous potential to become an agent in the fight against global warming. We seek a volunteer Executive Director/expert in regional forest issues to do public speaking, meet with legislators and policy-makers, and promote our initiatives.

See [www.magicalliance.org](http://www.magicalliance.org) for further information.

Contact [stanhopkins@comcast.net](mailto:stanhopkins@comcast.net) or [cherylkassed@yahoo.com](mailto:cherylkassed@yahoo.com)

## Campaign Opposing Waste Incineration Heats Up

By Kim Stenley—The anti-incineration campaign in Carroll and Frederick counties is heating up. At the end of October, the Catoctin Group issued a Freedom of Information Act request to the Frederick Board of County Commissioners, in an effort to bring to light the process by which the incinerator plan was developed. Upon being informed that we would have to pay \$500 up front to cover potential costs, and that some information could be “private and confidential,” we submitted a request for fee waiver, stating: “If the business of government is to do the people’s work, then any information pertaining to a decision that ultimately affects taxpayers should be made available for public scrutiny.” We are awaiting a response.

### **The Plan**

According to a Frederick County departmental staff report, the plan involves building a 1,500-ton-per-day, mass-burn incinerator next to the Ballenger Creek–McKinney Wastewater Treatment Plant on the Monocacy River. The facility would be designed, built, and operated by the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority and cost a reported \$323 million (translate to at least \$650 million over 20 years). The authority would finance the facility with tax-exempt and taxable revenue bonds. Frederick would earn a Renewable Energy Benefit of 5 percent of net electricity sales per year, paid by the authority, for hosting the facility.

The incinerator plan is based on the assumption that Frederick will provide 900 tons of waste per day, 100 tons more than the county exports to Virginia landfills now, and Carroll would provide roughly 20 tractor trailer truckloads of trash per day. The facility would burn biosolids and receive effluent from the waste treatment facility for use in operations. The authority would request ap-

proval from Frederick to “optimize energy recovery rates . . . by sub-contracting excess waste capacity to another Authority member,” according to the report.

### **The Raison d’Etre**

This plan is happening in part because the State of Maryland recognizes municipal solid waste as a renewable resource. We need all of those working on energy issues at the state and national levels to help reverse this trend away from recycling and resource recovery. If that does not happen, the authority here, and others across the nation—encouraged by the Environmental Protection Agency—will work to build incinerators anywhere with sufficient populations to support them. Incineration is being touted as a smart growth strategy for handling waste.

In its fall 2007 newsletter *WasteWatch*, the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority invoked the Sierra Club’s aversion to unclean coal to bolster the Authority’s work: “Renewable energy, much touted for being cleaner and kinder to the climate, is catching on. The Authority’s three waste-to-energy facilities are the largest renewable energy providers in the State of Maryland.”

But the Authority does not quote the Club’s actual position regarding municipal incineration, which Sierra considers “not considered acceptable because of its adverse environmental and health effects and the destruction of materials that could be conserved while saving energy through other management methods.”

By far the cleanest and kindest thing to do is to reduce energy use through conservation and resource recovery, things that Maryland, overall, doesn’t do very well. Half the counties have failed to reach the current 40 percent voluntary recovery rate set for 2005. According to the Pembina Institute, recycling a ton of mixed waste processed at the most energy-efficient mass-burn incinerator in

Europe “would result in about 5.4, 1.6 and 2.6 times the energy savings than incinerating with electricity recovery; heat recovery; or combined electricity and heat recovery.” And contrary to proponents’ arguments, “Compared to coal fired technology [in Ontario], mass-burn incineration contributes about 33 percent and gasification about 90 percent more GHG emissions per Kwh of electricity produced.”

### **Citizens Strike Back**

After studying solid waste management strategies for 10 months, the Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council presented its findings to the Carroll Board of County Commissioners. The council unanimously recommended a change in paradigm from solid-waste management to resource management and greater investment in reduction, reuse, and recycling efforts, including economic incentives and related educational programs to increase materials recovery. The council recommended that such a strategy be implemented and measured for effectiveness before any decision was made on waste-to-energy.

Residents in Frederick formed WasteStudyGroup.org to inform citizens about the economic and environmental consequences of incineration and alternative resource-management strategies. Meanwhile, the Frederick BOCC voted to hold a public hearing (held 7 p.m., 11 December 2007, Winchester Hall in downtown Frederick) about the incinerator plan near the proposed site. After that, they will decide whether to invite Carroll County to join in building a regional waste-to-energy facility. ■

*For more information, contact Kim Stenley at [kstenley@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:kstenley@mcdaniel.edu).*

## When to Turn Off Personal Computers

If you’re wondering when you should turn off your personal computer for energy savings, here are some general guidelines from the U.S. Department of Energy to help you make that decision.

Though there is a small surge in energy when a computer starts up, this small amount of energy is still less than the energy used when a computer is running for long periods of time. For energy savings and convenience, consider turning off the monitor if you aren’t going to use your PC for more than 20 minutes, both the CPU and monitor if you’re not going to use your PC for more than two hours.

Make sure your monitors, printers, and other accessories are on a power strip/surge protector. When this equipment is not in use for extended periods, turn off the switch on the power strip to prevent them from drawing power even when shut off. If you don’t use a power strip, unplug extra equipment when it’s not in use.

Most PCs reach the end of their “useful” life due to advances in technology long before the effects of being switched on and off multiple times have a negative impact on their service life. The less time a PC is on, the longer it will “last.” PCs also produce heat, so turning them off reduces building cooling loads.

### **Power-Down or Sleep Mode Features**

Many PCs available today come with a power-down or *sleep mode* feature for the CPU and monitor. ENERGY STAR computers power down to a sleep mode that consume 15 Watts or less power, which is around 70% less electricity than a computer without power management features. ENERGY STAR monitors have the capability to power down into two successive “sleep” modes. In the first, the monitor energy consumption is less than or equal to 15 Watts, and in the second,

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# Group News Roundup

## Chapter Groups Think Globally, Act Locally

Edited by Mary C. Corddry—The following is a roundup of what's happening with the nine Sierra Club Groups in Maryland: Anne Arundel County, Catoctin, Eastern Shore, Greater Baltimore, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Southern Maryland, and Western Maryland. If you have information to contribute to future "Roundups" for the *Chesapeake* newsletter, please contact Mary Corddry at XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com or at 410-239-4590.

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

There is something for everyone. Contact your Group to get linked with your favorite issue or activity. See the Maryland Chapter's home page, [www.maryland.sierraclub.org](http://www.maryland.sierraclub.org), for a link to each Group's website.

### Anne Arundel Group

*Chair: David Prosten, 410-263-6341 or 410-703-0847, [dprosten@yahoo.com](mailto:dprosten@yahoo.com)*

By David Prosten—About 50 people gathered at the Annapolis waterfront November 3 for a Step It Up rally organized by the Anne Arundel Group's Cool Cities program and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. Included in the crowd: an Asian elephant, a coral reef, a

Komodo dragon, and a Siberian tiger...well, at least that's how some students from Broadneck High School's Environmental Club were dressed, while others wore t-shirts reading: "I'm here to Save the Planet!" Annapolis Alderman Sam Shropshire spoke to the crowd at the rally in Newman Park coordinated by volunteers Cherie Yelton and Joan Willie. A group photo was submitted to Step It Up for streaming to Congress and all Maryland legislators, asking for passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act.

- The Anne Arundel Group continued its support for passage in the City of Annapolis of a ban on plastic point-of-sale bags, of the sort typically found at supermarkets. The Club's position is that reusable canvas or string bags are the ideal. Plastic bags are a particular problem because of the area's proximity to water and marine life. The Group helped pull together an October 24 news conference of two dozen city merchants who came out to support the ban.

- The group continues to successfully use its new e-mail list for members who want to participate in the e-mail alert program.

- Plans are underway for the group's annual birthday potluck dinner celebration, scheduled for January 26. The dinner features a noted speaker — prior speakers have included Governor Parris Glendening and Speaker of the House Mike Busch — and award presentations to environmental activists in the county.

- Executive Committee members Earl Bradley and Joan Turek are representing the Group on the newly-formed, countywide Growth Action Network, which will monitor and attempt to influence county policy on growth issues.

### Catoctin Group (Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties)

*Chair: Chris Hodge, 240-388-6446, [mdhiker2@yahoo.com](mailto:mdhiker2@yahoo.com)*

By Gregor Becker—The Sierra Club Catoctin Group, which includes Carroll, Frederick and Washington Counties, generally communicates with our members electronically. Visit our website at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/catoctin/> OR just go to [sierraclub.org](http://sierraclub.org), and then select Maryland Chapter and Catoctin Group OR email us at [mdhiker2@yahoo.com](mailto:mdhiker2@yahoo.com) to receive alerts on actions, hikes, or meetings.

- Great news on waste. Frederick County has decided not to import trash, that is, not to partner with Carroll County to build a joint incinerator. Frederick County will hold a public hearing on proceeding with an incinerator on the banks of the Monocacy River. Frederick is waiting to see what Carroll will do. The Catoctin Group requested a Freedom of Information Act disclosure regarding the county and Northeast Waste Authority Director Kim Davindov. Carroll County is left with the option of building an incinerator alone, a far less financially attractive option. If either county builds an incinerator, it may need to hold down resource recovery rates from recycling and/or consider importing waste from other jurisdictions in order to feed the incinerator. Suddenly, prospects are brighter for significantly raising recycling rates and rejecting an incinerator. A huge part of the success of the Catoctin Group's campaign to increase recycling rates before considering incineration is due to the efforts of Sally Sorbello in Frederick County and Kim Stanley in Carroll County. A huge thank you to Sally and Kim for your amazing efforts!

- Also great news on local global warming efforts. Two of the three Carroll County Commissioners voted to approve the National Association of Counties (NACO) Cool Counties Agreement. The Catoctin Group's Energy Chair, Dan Andrews, is now in charge of a county committee to examine and reduce energy usage in the county office building. Last year Dan won a county environmental awareness award for his local energy efforts. Dan has also recently been appointed to the county Environmental Affairs Committee, which advises the commissioners on environmental questions. Three Carroll County towns—Sykesville, Mt. Airy and Westminster—have signed a Cool Cities document or something similar. One Frederick County Commissioner said he expected the county to pass the new NACO official standard Cool Counties agreement, which would supersede the already passed unofficial version. Frederick City has been cool to approaches so far. Brunswick Mayor Carroll Jones has failed to respond to phone calls or email on the subject. Kudos to Ken Eidel for his efforts to make the city consider energy efficiency and global warming.

- While some members congratulate us, others ask why we haven't done more—been to their town council meetings or done presentations in their town. It's an old story—over 900 members are in our group, but only a handful are really active. General membership meetings will be held every other month (in even numbered months like December) at 11 a.m. at the Community Room in the Common Market in Frederick. Any Sierra Club member, or non-member who is interested in learning about the club's activities or possibly joining is welcome to attend. We'd also like to see you on a hike or at a Tuesday night social in Frederick—see our web page.

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# Group News Roundup

## Maryland Groups Think Globally, Act Locally

(continued from page 8)

"Polite conservationists leave no mark save the scars upon the Earth that could have been prevented had they stood their ground." —David Ross Brower

The Catoctin Group is conducting its election for delegates to the group excom. The ballot appears on the inside of the last page of this newsletter, just above the ballot for the chapter excom election.

The candidates have submitted the following statements. Catoctin Group members are asked to read the statements and cast their ballots!

**Chris Hodge:** I have been an active hiker, camper, and environmentalist for most of my life. I have been a Sierra Club member for many years, an Outings Leader with the Catoctin Group, on the Catoctin Group excom for the past two years, and the Chair of the Catoctin Group excom for the past year. I am also on the Maryland Chapter excom. I am passionately committed to preserving our natural areas and preventing sprawl.

**Dan Andrews:** Having hiked over 700 miles of the Appalachian trail, I have high regard for the natural world, as well as for future generations. I am greatly concerned, especially for the future of my daughter, about the effects of environmental destruction and climate change.

**Ken Eidel:** Our quality of life is linked to environmental quality and growth control, but also to a strong business climate locally. I was active in the Catoctin Group about ten years ago and joined the Ex Com again four years ago. The Sierra Club works nationally and locally to protect quality of life.

### Eastern Shore (Cecil County and Eastern Shore counties)

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

### Greater Baltimore (Baltimore City and County, Harford County)

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

By Mary Corddry—The Group is involved as part of the Alliance for Global Warming Solutions with a Climate Action Campaign, to convince Governor O'Malley to commit to reducing 80 percent of our global warming pollution by 2050. The Maryland Chapter hired two field organizers through Green Corps, Claire Miller and Annie Sanders, to help local citizens organize and take action. After a kickoff community planning meeting, there have been media events, two town hall meetings, and a campaign to send postcards to the Governor, write letters to the editor of local newspapers, and distribute petitions for signatures at community events.

- ♦ The Group joined the Baltimore County Climate Coalition of 19 local environmental organizations, faith communities, and businesses. The Coalition wrote Baltimore County Executive James Smith, encouraging him to adopt a comprehensive climate protection plan for the County government and to lobby the Governor and State legislature to adopt and implement statewide, science-based greenhouse gas reduction goals of 20 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050.

- ♦ Baltimore County's Comprehensive Zoning Map Process is underway. During an open filing period in the fall, residents and civic organizations proposed properties for rezoning. The County Council will vote on the rezoning issues late next summer, and new zoning maps will be issued next November. Group

members participated with the North County Preservation to develop a Geographical Information System (GIS), assisted civic organizations and residents with using the GIS to identify properties for downzoning to a more restrictive rural conservation classification, and are now helping to review the properties proposed for rezoning and provide information to community groups, the County Zoning Department, and County Council about environmental issues related to the proposals.

- ♦ Two meetings have been held with Harford County residents about forming a Harford County subgroup to encourage more proactive involvement with issues impacting the County. The Group is part of planning groups for revising the County's zoning code and preparing for the impact of BRAC (Defense Base Closure and Realignment) on the County.

- ♦ The Group partnered with the Greater Dundalk Alliance to oppose a liquid natural gas terminal and storage facility at Sparrows Point and related dredging in the Patapsco River. It is also working on a class action lawsuit about the adverse health impacts of the area's past industrial activity.

- ♦ 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 hikes of varied lengths and difficulty levels, including outings that are child and dog friendly. The Group also has happy hours, kayak outings, bike rides, star-gazing, camping, hayrides, stream cleanups, trail maintenance, and invasive plant removals.

### Howard County

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

By Kim Birnbaum—The following are the Howard Group's upcoming events:

Friday, Dec. 7, 7:30 pm Polar Bears, "Where's the Ice?" Back by popular demand, club member Sue Muller will give an encore presentation on her Nov. 2006 adventure to Churchill, Manitoba in search of polar bears. Learn how global warming is affecting these magnificent creatures. At the Howard County Recreation & Parks headquarters building, 7120 Oakland Mills Road in Columbia. Brownies provided; feel free to bring your own drink (no alcohol) or snack. RSVP appreciated to [sonicsue@verizon.net](mailto:sonicsue@verizon.net).

Tuesday, Jan. 15, 7:00 pm Town Hall Meeting on the Environment at Howard County Rec & Parks, 7120 Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia. We need a big turnout for this meeting, so please mark your calendars. Details will be posted on our website in January.

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

### Montgomery County

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

By David Hauck—On October 28, the Group's Executive Committee, key volunteers, and other Sierra Club members held a half-day meeting to help identify the goals we will work on over the next two years. As a jumping off point, we took the national Sierra Club's three conserva-

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# Group News Roundup

## Chapter Groups Think Globally, Act Locally

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tion initiatives—Smart Energy Solutions, Safe and Healthy Communities, and America's Wild Legacy—and considered how these initiatives could be furthered at the county level.

After a facilitator-led discussion that generated several possible high-priority goals for the Group, participants voted for the three they felt were most important. Going forward, we will be concentrating our efforts on achieving the following goals:

- ♦ Increase voluntary actions by Montgomery County residents and businesses to conserve energy and expand the use and development of renewable energy.
- ♦ Encourage the adoption of "smart growth" principles that will result in new communities that are more energy efficient, use much less open land, and help improve air quality by expanding the use of public transit.
- ♦ Protect natural, critical spaces in Montgomery County including the Agricultural Reserve, forests, and local streams.

Over the next two months, the Executive Committee and key volunteers will develop strategic plans for each of these priority goals. These plans, and the specific roles that volunteers can play in implementing them, will be presented to the Group's membership in February.

We continue to expand the number and kinds of events open to Sierra Club members and nonmembers alike. In October and November we held two Sierra Club Happy Hours; two "Putting Your Home on a Low Carbon Diet" energy efficiency house meetings; a "True Cost of Food" visit to a local farm; a talk by Ex Com co-chair Pam Lindstrom on lessons from the Netherlands that we can use in designing sustainable communities here; and a Saturday afternoon spent distributing CFL light bulbs and getting people to sign postcards letting Governor O'Malley know that Maryland citizens

want aggressive greenhouse gas reduction targets adopted for the State.

The majority of participants report that these events are the first local Sierra Club events they have ever attended. Barbara Newland (bnewland@verizon.net), the very busy chair of the Group's Membership/Volunteers Committee, faithfully records in HELEN (the Sierra Club's central database) who's coming to events and their interests, information that proves invaluable for identifying potential activists.

Stephanie DeMoss, the chair of our Events Committee and the newest member of the Ex Com, is also keeping busy. Stephanie joined the Sierra Club in 1997 while living in Phoenix and witnessing the suburban sprawl engulfing the Sonoran Desert. Later, she received a master's degree in Environment and Development from the University of Cambridge in England and moved to Washington D.C. After being an active volunteer for the D.C. Chapter for four years, Stephanie moved to Montgomery County and is using her enthusiasm and talents to help our Group grow and become even more effective. Her e-mail address is skdemoss@hotmail.com.

### Prince George's County

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

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

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

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

Summarized from the Group's newsletter:

- ♦ A National Sierra report, America's Wild Legacy, features Mattawoman Creek as one of 52 exceptional places in the country whose high environmental value

makes them must-saves. The creek is threatened by growth in Prince George's and Charles Counties. Charles designated much of Mattawoman's watershed as a Development District, larger than the Washington, D.C. The county is promoting proposals for the Cross County Connector extension and the Western Waldorf Bypass that would crisscross the watershed. The Southern Maryland Group is working with the Maryland Bass Federation Nation, a bass fishers' group, and the Mattawoman Watershed Society to bring lasting protection to Mattawoman Creek.

- ♦ The Group is involved with the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland to encourage residents' input to a Southern Maryland Transportation Needs Assessment. Three open houses were held to identify transportation goals, issues, and needs in Southern Maryland.
- ♦ The Group sponsored a table at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Patuxent River Appreciation Days Celebration in October.
- ♦ A showing of "An Inconvenient Truth" was sponsored in La Plata in September. There were tables for literature, food, and drink. Representatives from Al Gore's Climate Change organization were on

hand to answer questions from the approximately 80 attendees.

- ♦ The Group publishes a bimonthly newsletter, "News from Southern Maryland." Check the Group's website for a schedule of outings and other events.

### Western Maryland (Allegany and Garrett Counties)

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

By Sam White—The Western Maryland Group is seeking local volunteers to work on persuading the cities of Frostburg and Cumberland to join the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (aka Cool Cities). Also, there is a Garrett County subcommittee being formed. The subcommittee will work on Garrett County issues and have a representative attend the Western Maryland Group's Ex Com meetings on a regular basis. For info on either of these, contact Sam White, Chair, at sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org or 301-264-4162.

The Group publishes a quarterly newsletter, "Nature's Advocate of Western MD." ■

### Get \$5: Use a Canvas or Net Bag

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

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

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

**Act Now! Offer expires 02/15/08.**



# Memories of the Jamboree

## Jamboree 2007: A Great Sense of Community

By Janis K. Oppelt.—What do you get when you combine members of the Maryland chapter; a picture-perfect fall weekend in the Catoctin Mountains—complete with changing leaves; and an agenda full of educational workshops, networking time and loads of fun? Jamboree 2007, of course!

From October 19 through 21, first-time attendees discovered just how rewarding a weekend with like-minded environmentalists could be. Veterans of past Jamborees also reveled in the opportunity to air problems and share solutions, to

together for a good time and also wanted to get involved in helping to protect the state's environment."

For the last four months, Sanders has worked closely with members of the Prince George's County group on their Cool Cities efforts. In early December, she and her colleague, Claire Miller, whose focus has been Greater Baltimore County, moved on to their next assignment. At the Jamboree, they conducted three valuable workshops: volunteer recruitment, relationship building, and campaign planning.

"People in our workshops were eager to learn and were lots of fun," Sanders said—an opinion with which Miller heartily agrees. "Everyone had things to contribute—experiences, issues, problems etc. Annie and I weren't the only sources of information."

Many others who attended the Jamboree also felt that their time was well spent, and relished the chance to be out in the woods on such a beautiful weekend. As Miller opined, "It was very wholesome."

The Jamboree planning committee should be congratulated on the varied and interesting workshops offered. Here are just a few examples of topics from which participants could choose: leadership development, solar energy basics, Native Americans and naturalism, introduction to invasive species removal, and native grassland.

In addition to a good balance of educational opportunities, the Jamboree planning committee used creative techniques to encourage networking. At mealtimes, it arranged seating in varying groups, such as similar geographic locations or areas of interest. This small but effective decision made it easier for people to mingle and immediately have something in common to talk about.

Last but not least, the Jamboree was fun! One clear highlight of the weekend was Saturday night's bonfire complete with song-singing and marshmallow-roasting.

Another was the closing ceremony on Sunday. Both of these special times delivered an "amazing sense of community" for Sanders and Miller.

To close the 2007 Jamboree, attendees came together

in a circle and held hands. Walking together toward the center of the circle, each person was asked to say one word that represented the weekend for them. Words like *love*, *community*, *nature*, and *organizing* rolled off their tongues. Returning to the outer edges of the circle, everyone was reminded that they had all come together to



learn about the environment and how to protect it, and that it was now time to go back to their respective communities to make Maryland a better place for all. ■

Photos: top left, Dave O'Leary conducts a workshop; Center left, Mike Martin and Joan Willey at awards ceremony; Bottom left, Joan Willey, Laurel Imlay, Betsy Johnson and Susan Soeder enjoy autumn in the mountains; Top right, Dan Soeder at the grill; Bottom right, Closing ceremony. Photos courtesy Betsy Johnson



listen to innovative ideas and offer a few of their own, and, of course, to visit with old and new friends. Even visitors to Maryland—and to the chapter's functions—exclaimed over the positive experiences.

Annie Sanders, an environmental organizer from Green Corps (<http://www.greencorps.org/>), attended her first Maryland chapter jamboree. Annie said, "I was excited to meet so many passionate and committed members from throughout the state. I enjoyed being part of this group, which came



# THE CLIMATE ACTION CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

As part of the Alliance for Global Warming Solutions, the Maryland Sierra Club has been working hard this fall to convince Governor O'Malley to be a leader in global warming solutions.



Claire Miller and Annie Sanders of Green Corps arrive to work with the Maryland Sierra Club for the fall on the Climate Action Campaign.

## TAKING ACTION!



Oct. 9th

With the Maryland Student Climate Coalition, Sierra Club members held a successful news conference on Federal Hill in Baltimore.



Sept. 19th The Climate Action Kickoff Meeting for the Prince George's Group in College Park

September

October

Sept. 26th

The Climate Action Kickoff Meeting for the Greater Baltimore Group in Towson



Oct. 25th

The Alliance for Global Warming Solutions delivers 4,000 postcards to the Governor's office for a total of over 12,000 this year! His staffer could barely hold them all!





The Governor's Commission on Climate Change will have released its early action recommendations for Maryland by the end of November, making this winter a crucial time to show support for global warming solutions. We need at least 20% reductions of global warming pollution by 2020 and 80% by 2050. To get the message out for the month of action, we co-organized eight Town Hall Meetings across the state.

## NEXT STEPS

### YOU ARE INVITED

Join us in Annapolis on Jan. 17th  
To make Global Warming Solutions  
a priority in the General Assembly  
this spring, we need to show them  
we care!



Alana.Wase@mdsierra.org  
301-277-7111

Meet the new  
Conservation  
Program  
Coordinator  
Alana Wase!  
Alana will  
be working on  
Cool Cities  
and the Climate  
Action  
Campaign.



Nov. 3rd

In the Inner Harbor of Baltimore, Sierra Club Members came together for the national day of action on global warming, Step It Up.



Nov. 3rd College Park held a joint Step It Up action and Town Hall Meeting for global warming solutions.

## November- Month of Global Warming Action

Nov. 7th  
Greenbelt



Nov. 6th  
Catonsville

Nov. 15th  
Accokeek  
Prince  
George's  
County  
Councilman  
Tom Dernoga  
speaks.



### TOWN HALL MEETINGS ON GLOBAL WARMING ACTION!

More than 700 people turned out!

Nov. 12th  
Towson





## Lighting Up the Season: Is Your Tree Invasive?

By Annie Collier Rehill— Usually an ornamented tree is associated with a Christian holiday, but it can just as well be part of another celebration—not necessarily even religious. The seasonal use of a tree, or of branches, originated long before Christianity and has more to do with the solstice, the shortest day of the year, December 21–22. The most popular Christmas trees in the United States are Balsam fir, Fraser fir, Noble fir, Scotch pine, Virginia pine, and White pine, but trees such as Arizona cypress, Canaan fir, Colorado blue spruce, Eastern red cedar, Eastern white pine, Grand fir, Leland cypress, Norway spruce, White fir, and probably others, are also used.<sup>1</sup>

After the solstice, the days grow longer, and the planting season is in sight. People have been celebrating that moment for thousands of years. In Egypt, palm rushes placed about the house symbolized life. Romans feasted with their Saturnalia (named for the god of agriculture, Saturn), surrounded by evergreen branches. The Druids adorned places of worship with evergreen boughs, and the Vikings held evergreens as sacred plants.

In the 1500s, Christian Germans started bringing entire trees into the house—which, with a few detours, brings us to where we are today. American Puritans scorned the tradition as pagan-inspired, but German immigrants eventually won out. Queen Victoria finally and definitely popularized the Christmas tree in 1846.<sup>2</sup>

### **But Are They Invasive?**

This is a question with no simple answer, or at least no enduring answer. For now, it seems clear that most conifers are not invasive species in the United States. However, they are very much so in other parts of the world, particularly in the Southern Hemisphere. Researchers David M. Richardson and Marcel Rejmánek, who conducted a global survey, clarified some of the complicating factors: “As

more species are planted over larger areas, as environments and biota change, and genetic changes occur (through the evolution of landraces and increased genetic diversity through the introduction of new genotypes), more species will become naturalized and invasive, and some that invade now may become less invasive.”<sup>3</sup>

Naturalized species are those “known to reproduce consistently and sustain populations over several life cycles,” Richardson and Rejmánek specify, whereas invasives “reproduce reproductive offspring, often in large numbers, at considerable distances from parent plants.”<sup>4</sup>

The shifting pattern differs tremendously according to geographical area. For example, the jack pine, *Pinus banksiana*, is invasive in Lithuania and New Zealand, but not in the United States. Here the jack pine is endangered in Illinois, threatened in New Hampshire and Vermont, and rare in Indiana and New York.<sup>5</sup>

Even the classification *invasive* can be tricky. *Pinus clausa*, the sand pine, is listed in Richardson and Rejmánek’s survey as an invasive in Florida, but the U.S. Department of Agriculture describes its invasive process like this:

It will establish in and eventually dominate scrub oak communities. Sand pine will invade longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) forests in the absence of fire. Sand pine scrub vegetation, in which sand pine grows in very dense, even-aged stands of 8,000 to 10,000 trees per acre, is considered a fire-climax community.

If fire occurs once every 20 to 60 years in sand pine stands, the vegetation community will not change. In the absence of fire, a xeric hardwood forest of oak and hickory will succeed sand pine. If there is frequent fire, oak scrub or slash pine (*P. ellottii*) will replace sand pine.<sup>6</sup>

In fact, the USDA tells us, the sand pine is dominant naturally but also in jeopardy, thanks to human intervention. “Natural stands of sand pine are disappearing from Florida. Many former stands have been converted to citrus groves, subdivisions, or recreational vehicle parks. Twenty-one federally endangered or threatened plant and animal species live in sand pine forests.”<sup>7</sup>

The Forest Service is working to protect pines and firs and restore them in many places, as part of its program to rehabilitate degraded areas and prevent invasive species from recolonizing.<sup>8</sup> And the Choctawhatchee sand pine, with its short, heavily foliated branches and dark green needles, is grown for Christmas trees.

But even the beloved Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Oregon’s state tree topped in heights only by the Coast Redwood, is invasive far from its native lands. Imported to Europe and elsewhere, it must be controlled in Britain, Chile, and New Zealand.

Another invasive consideration is piggybacking. Firs can carry species such as pitch canker disease. “Like stealthy predators,” warns Stephanie Klunk of the University of California’s Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program, “Douglas-fir trees can harbor the pathogen responsible for pitch canker disease for a year without showing any symptoms and pass it off to other susceptible species.”<sup>9</sup>

Researcher Tom Gordon studies this problem and how to control it in Christmas tree farms and other managed areas. As Gordon explains, the fungus *Fusarium circinatum*, which causes pitch canker, is usually “so limited that no visible damage results, and in that sense, there is no disease.” But while it colonizes the Douglas-fir, the fungus produces spores that the wind or insects transport who knows where—including to other plants that suffer damage.<sup>10</sup>

Unknown until about 60 years ago, pitch canker has rapidly spread in Cali-

fornia. Monterey pines are particularly susceptible, but most pines native to the state are at risk (except, so far, in the Sierra Nevada). While scientists continue their research, Douglas-firs and other hosts are closely monitored to protect uninfested areas.<sup>11</sup>

To help you find out if a particular farm uses responsible practices, the National Christmas Tree Association’s website is a good starting place: [www.christmastree.org/home.cfm](http://www.christmastree.org/home.cfm). The association joined with Earth 911 in 2000 and is committed to promoting recycling.

You can also contact local and state agencies for agricultural or invasive species information. Contacts and resources are listed at the USDA’s website, [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/resources/orgstatemulti.shtml](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/resources/orgstatemulti.shtml). And, as always, talk to people. Health-food stores and coops may be repositories of abundant local information.

### **A Few Resources and a Touch of Personal Encouragement**

Tips on having a greener festival abound. The Sierra Club offers excellent suggestions at [www.sierraclub.org/holidays/](http://www.sierraclub.org/holidays/). Regarding the question of whether to buy a live tree, the Club comments: “Ninety-eight percent of Christmas trees were grown on farms, not in forests, so at least it’s not as if you’re cutting down an ancient tree.”

But if you don’t like to use a real tree, you can decorate with branches and lights. Or go the fake route, which the National Christmas Tree Association advises against: “You have two choices: First, you can use a renewable, recyclable natural product grown on farms throughout North America; or, you can use a non-renewable, non-biodegradable, plastic and metal product made in a Chinese factory. You pick. It is much better environmentally to use a natural, organic crop and recycle it after the Holidays.”<sup>12</sup>

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# Seasons Greenings

## Are Christmas Trees Invasive?

(continued from page 14)

Actually, you have far more than two choices. You can also buy trees in pots, alive, and replant to keep them that way. Some people decorate their homes while dropping the greenery concept altogether. Make your own ornaments, or support worthy organizations by buying theirs. For luminosity, light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are now easily available. They cost more, but they also use less power and last longer.

Last year, *Time* magazine ran a feature about how to enjoy a greener season, pointing the reader to the websites LivingChristmasTrees.org; Friends of the Urban Forest of San Francisco (Fuf.net), which rents nontraditional trees and then plants them on city streets; Freshchristmastree.com, for those who prefer cut trees (grown using sustainable methods); and Earth911.org.<sup>13</sup>

A list of Maryland Christmas tree farms is at [www.christmas-tree.com/real/md/](http://www.christmas-tree.com/real/md/). Note that it may not be comprehensive, so check your Yellow Pages, too. A phone call can yield a lot of information. Ask if the farming techniques used are at least partly organic (and if so, in what way). Do they use integrated pest-management (IPM) techniques? I figure the worst that can happen is, as once happened to me when I asked a supermarket butcher if he knew how a particular company treated the animals, you get a disdainful snort in reply. (He was an exception in my experience, by the way; most butchers have seemed pleased to share whatever information they had.)

### Alternative Celebrations

Many find the season depressing, or simply hate it. If this means you, maybe you get through it with the help of like-minded friends, or perhaps by going away on a *not*-Christmas adventure of your own. If you feel you have no one to celebrate with, perhaps you'd enjoy volunteering at a soup kitchen or attending a

church service. With a little open-mindedness, even atheists can find here a few moments of joy and beauty. Note: for the best singing (which is good for both spirit and body), Protestant churches often do a better job. Speaking as someone who was raised Irish Catholic (now agnostic), this is not an easy thing to recommend. At one time it could have sent us straight to Hell, but today Catholics are permitted to range freely.

Or head for the outdoors! Check the upcoming Sierra outings (see schedule in this issue of *Chesapeake*), or participate in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. You'll learn more about our world as well as getting exercise and air; perhaps you'll even meet a few new friends.

Those who do enjoy the season often cite simply the atmosphere of exuberance. It's a time to give thanks for the good things of life. Even Scrooge was eventually infected with the season's buoyant spirit. And, of course, to enhance it there are those decorated, lighted, fragrant trees. ■

<sup>1</sup> National Christmas Tree Association, "Christmas Tree Types," <http://www.christmastree.org/types.cfm>. Accessed 5 October 2007.

<sup>2</sup> The History Channel, "Christmas Trees: How It All Got Started," [http://www.history.com/minisite.do?content\\_type=Minisite\\_Generic&content\\_type\\_id=1284&display\\_order=4&mini\\_id=1290](http://www.history.com/minisite.do?content_type=Minisite_Generic&content_type_id=1284&display_order=4&mini_id=1290). Accessed 30 September 2007.

<sup>3</sup> David M. Richardson and Marcel Rejmánek, "Conifers As Invasive Aliens: A Global Survey and Predictive Framework," *Diversity and Distributions* 10, no. 5–6 (September 2004): 321–31. Many thanks to Joyce Bolton of the National Invasive Species Information Center, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD, for providing information and leads ([jbolton@nal.usda.gov](mailto:jbolton@nal.usda.gov)). See also <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>.

<sup>4</sup> Richardson and Rejmánek, "Conifers As Invasive Aliens," 328.

<sup>5</sup> USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plants Profile, *Pinus banksiana*, jack pine, <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=PIBA2>.

<sup>6</sup> Jennifer H. Carey, "Pinus clausa," in Fire Effects Information System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fire Sciences Laboratory (Producer), <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/tree/pincla/all.html>. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plants Profile, *Pinus clausa*, sand pine, <http://plants.usda.gov/java/nameSearch>. Both accessed 17 October 2007.

<sup>7</sup> Carey, "Pinus clausa," USDA.

<sup>8</sup> USDA Forest Service, Invasive Species Program, "Restoration and Rehabilitation," <http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/restoration.shtml>. Accessed 30 September 2007.

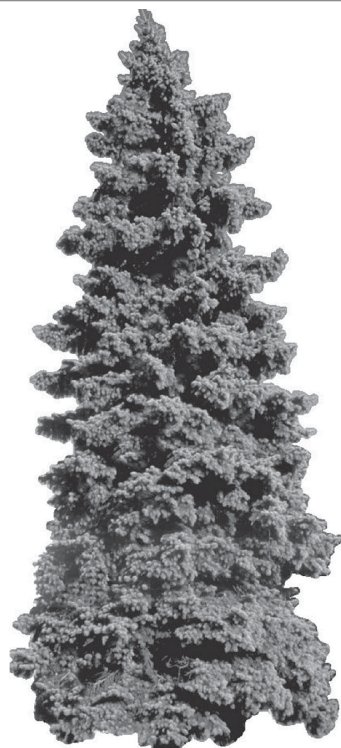
<sup>9</sup> Stephanie Klunk, "Douglas-Fir Trees Are Cunning Carriers of Pitch Canker Disease," University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, News and Information Outreach, Governmental and External Relations, 1 May 2007, <http://news.ucanr.org/newsstorymain.cfm?story=965> or [http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/NEWS/pitch\\_canker-news.html](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/NEWS/pitch_canker-news.html).

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. The University of California Exotic/Invasive Pests and Diseases Research Program funded this research. For more information about pitch canker, visit UC IPM Online, the University of California's Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program: [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu). Tom Gordon can be reached at [trgordon@ucdavis.edu](mailto:trgordon@ucdavis.edu).

<sup>11</sup> Klunk, "Douglas-Fir Trees Are Cunning Carriers of Pitch Canker Disease."

<sup>12</sup> National Christmas Tree Association, Frequently Asked Questions, "Isn't it bad for the environment to cut down a tree and use it for Christmas?" <http://www.christmastree.org/faqs.cfm>. Accessed 5 October 2007.

<sup>13</sup> MaryAnne Murray Buechner, "How to Have a Green Christmas," *Time*, 11 December 2006, <http://www.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1568660,00.html>.



### Christmas Tree Trivia

- The trees mature in 6–8 years in 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska. California, Oregon, Michigan, Washington, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina produce the most trees.
- More than 1,000,000 acres are used, and 77 million trees are planted annually (at an average of more than 2,000 per acre).
- 34 to 36 million are grown annually. Of those, 95 percent are sold from Christmas tree farms.
- 100,000 people work in the industry.
- In the past, cherry and hawthorns have also been used as Christmas trees.

Source: The History Channel, "Tree Trivia," <http://www.history.com>

# Maryland Chapter Leaders



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



## Sky's the limit?

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

JOIN Sierra Club to keep breathing easy.

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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,  
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## Conservation and Outings

By Dan Soeder—We need some new outings leaders in Maryland, and one of them could be you. Yes, you! Why? Because you joined the Sierra Club, which means you are probably interested in and concerned about the state of our natural environment. Maybe you joined because of a specific issue, like the Intercounty Connector (ICC), or to save a wetland or bit of forest, or maybe you're here for a more global reason like clean water, or addressing energy and climate change. Whatever your environmental "cause," outdoor activities are a great way to get conservation messages across, and to build support for your issue.

Take the ICC, for example. We've been hearing about all the damage this proposed mega-highway will do to wetlands, watersheds and neighborhoods in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. Yet in the five years I've been in the Maryland Chapter, I haven't seen a single outing proposed to go view these wetlands and watersheds that the Sierra Club is trying to save. Where are these places? What are their stories? Somebody must know. Maybe some ICC-related outings were run early on, before my time, but repeat visits are needed to keep the story alive and to introduce the issue to new people. We ought to get out there and see it. People have to care about something before they will protect it.

I was running a survey last spring in some of our neighboring chapters to gather data on the size and strength of their outings programs. A woman in one of the southern Virginia groups told me that they are all elders down there, and are far too busy dealing with conservation issues to be out "goofing off in the woods," as she put it. Sadly, this attitude is not uncommon. It is a far cry from the old days when John Muir led outings for the express purpose of showing people the forests he was asking them to conserve. At a national level, the Club recognizes the need to address this issue of perceived

incompatibility between conservation and outings, although I'm not sure they know what to do about it.

On the Outdoor Activities Governance Committee, we are trying to increase the diversity of outings participants, especially younger people and Hispanics, two groups that are under-represented on Sierra Club trips. (There are many other groups we could also pursue, but for once we decided not to try to take on too much.) We also want to align outings more closely with the conservation goals of the Club. Many of the most fiercely-fought conservation issues are local, like the ICC. Since a lot of the folks championing the issue are young Sierrans who are not regular outings participants, it occurred to me that we might accomplish both goals through some local, conservation outings.

These things are not hard to plan—the issue is usually right there in front of you. I led a canoe/kayak trip a couple of years ago at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge to show people the state of the Refuge, and the threats from proposed development near Cambridge. We had a good turnout and a great paddle, except for the thunderstorms that came up at the end. Look at some of the conservation outings designated on the winter calendar—a lot of these are just regular old hikes, but with a conservation component added. Sometimes that's all it takes. Think about your favorite conservation issue, and how an outing might be structured to explain and show that issue to interested participants. Then contact me and let's get it moving.

So maybe you're not all that "outdoorsy." You don't know how to build a campfire and you're afraid to sleep in the woods. Or perhaps you don't get around all that well anymore. There are many others like you. But at least a few of them would probably enjoy a chance to go for a short nature walk to see a

(continued on page 21)

## Information for Outings Participants

Sierra Club outings are open to everyone, members and non-members alike. Each outing is intended to be a wholesome, safe, and enjoyable experience in the outdoors. Participants must have proper clothing, equipment, and stamina suitable to the event, and are encouraged to select activities that match their individual abilities for outdoor adventures. The Club offers a variety of outings to suit all activity levels, from "easy" to "strenuous." The difficulty of each outing is clearly designated in the announcement. Reservations



are generally not required for local outings unless noted; however, outings leaders should be contacted in advance for questions about the terrain, the difficulty or duration of the trip, recommended clothing, and equipment. Activities are normally held "rain or shine," but may be postponed at the leader's discretion for safety reasons in the event of inclement weather. Potential participants are reminded that all outdoor activities carry a degree of risk, and some take place in locations where professional emergency medical aid may be two or more hours away. People with health concerns should consult a physician to determine the advisability of participating in these or similar activities. The Club outing leader is responsible for the safety of all participants, and has the final authority to decide whether or not an individual may participate on a specific outing. Sierra Club policy requires that helmets be worn on bicycling outings, and that personal flotation devices (PFDs) be worn on outings using watercraft.

Unless noted in the announcement, Club outings are intended for adults. Before bringing minors or pets on an outing that is not specifically designated as being child/dog friendly, please consult the leader to determine if it is appro-

priate. Minors (under 18 years of age) must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian, or they must have both a signed permission slip, and the leader's prior consent, to participate in the Club outing. Dogs are not normally permitted

on outings, unless an outing is so designated. Sierra Club outings officially begin and end at the trailhead, canoe put-in/take-out point, or some other similar staging locality. Travel to and from the official starting point, even from an advertised meeting place, is the sole

responsibility of each participant. While the Club encourages car-pooling, such arrangements are strictly between the riders and the drivers, and are not a part of the outing. Participants assume full responsibility and liability for all risks associated with such travel.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver, which can be viewed on the web at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/index.asp>. Sierra Club local outings are free of charge, although payment of park entrance fees, a share of campsite rental costs, permit fees, equipment rental charges, etc. may be required from the participants. Such costs are specified in the announcement whenever possible. The Sierra Club practices "leave-no-trace" trail techniques, including hiking and camping on durable surfaces, minimizing campfire impacts, packing out all trash, respecting wildlife, being considerate of other visitors, and leaving the environment as it was found. Take only pictures, leave only footprints, and have fun out there. ■

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



# Outings (December 2007)

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

AA	Anne Arundel Group
AMC	Appalachian Mountain Club
AT	Appalachian Trail
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CCA	Canoe Cruisers Association (Washington, D.C.)
CG	Catoctin Group
C&O	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
FFA	Family Friendly Activity (kids/dogs ok, but check with leader)
FWS	(U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service
GB	Greater Baltimore Group
GWNF	George Washington National Forest
HC	Howard County Group
MNF	Monongahela National Forest
MW	Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP)
NPS	National Park Service
NRA	National Recreation Area
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
PFD	Personal Flotation Device (lifejacket)
SF	State Forest
SP	State Park
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](http://www.mwrop.org)) for a calendar of activities, information, and updates.

## DECEMBER 2007



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

**Saturday, Dec 1:**  
**FFA Lake Roland and Robert E. Lee Park** (*rated moderate*) Conservation outing. Dogs and older children are welcome on this 5-mile hike beginning at the Lake Roland dam and walking on relatively flat trails around the lake, along the Jones Falls stream, through woodlands, and up to a cliff in the Bare Hills serpentine area. Learn about this beautifully diverse habitat in the Jones Falls Watershed. Meet at 11 AM in the street parking beside the Lake Roland dam. Follow the sign for Robert E. Lee Park on Lakeside Dr. off Falls Rd. and drive past the light rail parking lot. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-248-0423, XxDiTz4LyFxFX@aol.com

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

**Sunday, Dec 2:**  
**Patapsco - McKeldin** (*rated moderate*) 7 mile hike along the Patapsco River, past McKeldin Falls and Liberty Dam. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for a 9:30 AM departure. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

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

**Friday, Dec 7:**  
**Greater Baltimore Happy Hour and Social** (*not rated*) Members and non-members are invited to meet from 6 to 8 PM for socialization, happy hour, and dinner at the Charred Rib in the Ridgely Shopping Center off York Road north of the Baltimore Beltway in Lutherville. It is within walking distance to the Lutherville light rail station. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 443-386-0862, XxDiTz4LyFxFX@aol.com

**Saturday, Dec 8:**  
**Bull Run Mountains Conservancy, VA** (*rated moderate*) Conservation outing. 6.5 mile circuit hike featuring old mill ruins, homesteads, graveyards, quarries and a grand view of Fauquier County from High Point. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Route 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

**Hike the AT to Washington Monument** (*rated moderate*) 6 mile hike. Meet at the parking lot on the left side of Route 40 just before it crosses Route 70. Bring water, a snack

or lunch, and wear appropriate hiking shoes. Dress in layers. Hike begins at 10 AM. Contact leader for details.

**Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

**Tuesday, Dec 11:**  
**Catoctin Group Social and Informal Meeting at Isabella's Restaurant and Tapas Bar, Frederick** (*not rated*) Come for drinks and/or dinner. This is a good chance to meet fellow outdoor lovers and environmentalists, as well as make suggestions for Sierra Club activities you'd like to see. Isabella's is all non-smoking and is in downtown Frederick on the East side of Market Street between Patrick and Church. For garage parking, go right on Church then take an immediate left into the garage. We'll be at a table in the back. RSVP appreciated but not required.

**Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

**Saturday, Dec 15:**  
**Gambrill State Park, MD** (*rated moderate*) 8 mile hike on wooded trails, with several scenic overlooks. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for a 9:00 AM departure. **Leader:** Tim Ryan (HC) 410-248-2974 before 9:30 PM, timothy\_ryan@urscorp.com.

**Sunday, Dec 16:**  
**Great Falls, VA** (*rated moderate*) Six mile hike on dramatic cliffs overlooking the Potomac River, along the historic Patowmack Canal, and past the scenic Difficult Run rapids. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:30 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

# Outings (December cont., January 2008)

## Friday, Dec 21:

**FFA Hampden Holiday Hike** (*rated easy*) A 3-mile evening tour of Hampden's famous holiday decorations on 34th Street. Hike will continue through other interesting areas including an art district and the "Avenue." Time will be allowed for browsing through shops. Wear comfortable but sturdy footwear as sidewalks are uneven in places. Hike will leave from the Rotunda, on 40th Street and Keswick. Meet at 6 PM by the tables near the indoor movie theater. (Older children welcome but may not be suitable for dogs) **Leader:** Alan Penczek (GB) 443-212-5082, f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu.

## Saturday, Dec 22:

**Sky Meadows State Park, VA** (*rated easy*) 5 mile hike featuring views of the Piedmont Plateau and surrounding pastures. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

## FFA First Annual Winter Solstice Celebration and Yule Log Hunt

(*rated easy*) We will meet at the Eagles Nest estate at 2:00 PM, and form several teams. Each team will receive a clue to a location on the grounds, where another clue will be located, and the final clue in each series will be the location of the Yule Log, which will be hidden, but marked with a red ribbon and a bell. The first team that finds the log will ring the bell and summon all others, who will drag the log back to the house. We will take turns cutting the log in half, while the others may dance and sing. When the log has been cut, one half will be put into the fireplace, and we will conclude our celebration with Wassail Punch, hot cider, cocoa, and a pot luck

dinner, readings about the Winter Solstice and Yule traditions, and a sing-along with Christmas Carols. Please bring a dish of food to share and \$5 to cover expenses. Children OK with prior approval. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net

## Tuesday, Dec 25:

**Holiday Escape** (*rated moderate*) Conservation outing. 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.

## JANUARY 2008



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

## Tuesday, Jan 1:

**Cat Rock, Bob's Hill, Cunningham Falls, MD** (*rated strenuous*) What better way to start the New Year than with a challenging, 11-mile hike with 3

vistas and a waterfall? One major stream crossing. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 AM from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

## Thursday, Jan 3:

**Greater Baltimore Group Outings Planning Meeting** (*not rated*) New and prospective outings leaders are welcome to attend the next quarterly meeting of the Greater Baltimore Group's Outings Committee on Thursday, January 3. Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. If you're interested in leading outings and are curious about what is involved, come and talk with the outings leaders. The meeting will be held at the Panera Bread restaurant in Timonium, beginning with dinner and socialization at 6:30 in a quiet corner and meeting to follow at 7:00. From I-83 north, take exit 16 Timonium Rd. east, turn left on York Rd., then turn right at the next light for the Timonium Center. **Leader:** Bette Thompson (GB) 410-666-2696.

## Saturday, Jan 5:

**Carderock - Billy Goat B & C Trails** (*rated moderate*) 8.5 mile hike along the historic C&O canal towpath, and over rocky terrain by the Potomac River. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

**FFA Cromwell Valley Park Hike** (*rated easy*) Conservation outing. Children and dogs are welcome on this 3 mile hike through a Baltimore County park that is a working farm with draft horses, woodlands, hilly meadows, streams, old limestone kilns, and a brook bubbling out of the ground. Check out the success of invasive

plant removals and native plantings. Meet at 10:30 AM 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 brunch at Sander's Corner Restaurant nearby. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 443-386-0862, XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com

## Tuesday, Jan 8:

Catoctin Group Social and Informal Meeting at Isabella's Restaurant and Tapas Bar, Frederick (*not rated*) See December 11 notice for details.

## Saturday, Jan 12:

**Great Falls Hike and Dinner** (*rated moderate*) History meets nature at Great Falls section of the C&O Canal in Potomac, MD. We will examine how the canal and locks were constructed and operated. We will take the boardwalk to the Great Falls overlook on Olmsted Island. Length of hike will be 4 miles or less depending on weather and condition of trails. Entrance fee required. There will be a dinner stop in Rockville after the hike. Meet at 1:00 PM at the South West Park & Ride. **Leader:** Bill Diggs (GB) 410-574-1453.

**Little Devil Stairs and Thornton River in SNP** (*rated strenuous*) Ascend Little Devil Stairs, a narrow canyon of steep rock walls to "Four-Way" and continue to the AT. Return via Thornton River and Hull School Trails. 15 miles with 3,000 feet of elevation gain. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center off Route 66 on Route 123 just outside Vienna, Virginia at 7:30 AM. Alternative meeting place in Howard County possible (contact leader). Moderate pace with stops for flora and fungi of interest. Inexperienced hikers

# Outings (January cont., February)

call for hiker requirements. **Leader:** William Needham (MW) 410-884-9127, Needham82@aol.com

**Circuit hike to Cunningham Falls, Thurmont Vista, Wolf Rock and Chimney Rock in Catoctin National Park** (*rated moderate to difficult*). Meet at the Catoctin National Park Visitors Center at 10 AM. Bring water, a snack or lunch, and wear appropriate hiking shoes. Dress in layers. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

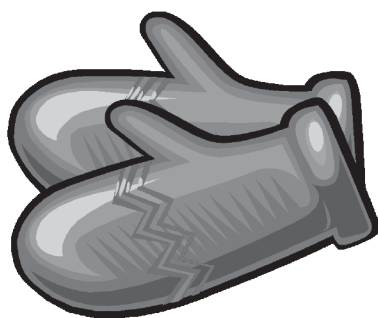
**Saturday, Jan 19:**  
**Susquehanna State Park, MD** (*rated moderate*) 9-mile circuit hike featuring an old mill, RR grade and canal with views of the Susquehanna River and rolling pastures. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

**Saturday, Jan 26:**  
**White Oak Canyon, SNP** (*rated strenuous*) 10 mile hike in Shenandoah National Park, featuring several ice-covered waterfalls. Bring lunch, water, and good hiking shoes. Depart at 7:30 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Sign up in advance. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

**Sunday, Jan 27:**  
**Hidden Harpers Ferry** (*rated moderate to strenuous*) Conservation outing. Is there anything beyond the AT, C&O Canal, Loudoun and Maryland Heights to see around Harpers Ferry? There is if you know where to look. This partly unscouted hike will explore for the remains of Ft. Duncan, the Barnard Line, and related sites and trails 2 miles upriver from the town. A park interpreter will review the area's history, plans, and related volunteer

opportunities with us. Then we'll pass through town to the Murphy Farm Loop Trail, visit one of the former sites of the much-traveled "John Brown's Fort," see 1862 Confederate battle lines, and descend a stream to the Shenandoah River. Bushwhacking required. In event of bad weather, rain date is Feb. 24. **Leader:** Larry Broadwell (MW) 301-215-7135

## FEBRUARY 2008



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

**Saturday, Feb 2:**  
**Sunset Rocks, Michaux Forest, PA** (*rated moderate*) 8-mile lollipop circuit with a significant rock scramble up to the Sunset Rocks vista. Pass ruins of Camp Michaux, a World War II POW camp. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 AM from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

**Sunday, Feb 3:**  
**Weverton Cliffs and the AT** (*rated moderate*) Step off at 10 AM. Bring water, a snack or lunch, and wear

appropriate hiking shoes. Dress in layers. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

**Saturday, Feb 9:**  
**Nicholson Hollow and Robertson Mountain in SNP** (*rated strenuous*) A 16-mile circuit hike that will start by ascending the Pine Hill Gap Trail and descending Hot Short Mountain Trail to Nicholson Hollow, with a lunch stop at the historic Corbin Cabin. Return will be via Robertson Mountain and Weakly Hollow Fire Road. Elevation gain 3500 feet. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center off Route 66 on Route 123 just outside Vienna, Virginia at 7:30 AM. Contact leader for possible alternative meeting place in Howard County. Moderate pace with stops for flora and fungi of interest. Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. **Leader:** William Needham (MW) 410-884-9127, Needham82@aol.com

**Sunday, Feb 10:**  
**Patuxent River State Park** (*rated moderate*) 6-8 mile hike, west of Howard Chapel Rd., through woods and across rolling farm fields that used to belong to the Howard Family. Bring lunch and water, and boots for muddy trails and challenging stream crossings. Depart at 10:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

**Tuesday, Feb 12:**  
**Catoctin Group Social and Informal Meeting** at Isabella's Restaurant and Tapas Bar, Frederick (*not rated*) See December 11 notice for details.

**Monday, Feb 18:**  
**Gunpowder Falls State Park - West Circuit** (*rated moderate*) 7 mile circuit hike along this beautiful river valley

and ridge. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

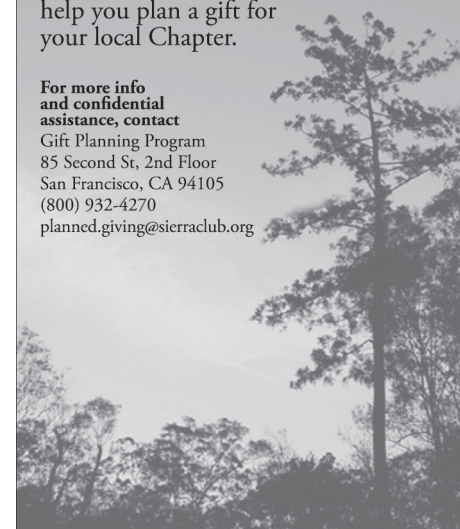
**Saturday, Feb 23:**  
**FFA Gunpowder at Belair Road** (*rated moderate*) Older children and dogs are welcome on this 4 mile hike along the Gunpowder River. See how river habitat changes in the winter. Dress for the weather. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Meet at 11 A.M. in the parking lot for the trails on Belair Road, on the north side of bridge over the river. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 443-386-0862, 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com

## Create an Environmental Legacy.

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

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

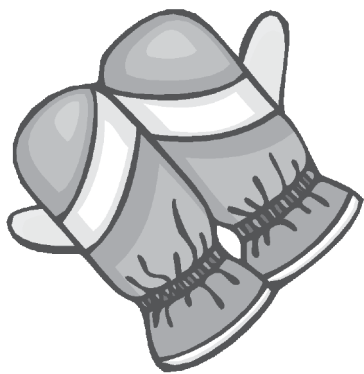
For more info and confidential assistance, contact  
Gift Planning Program  
85 Second St, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(800) 932-4270  
planned.giving@sierraclub.org





# Outings (March and beyond)

## MARCH



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

**Saturday, Mar 1:**  
**SEMINAR: Introduction to 3-Season Backpacking** (*not rated*) Learn the basics about this wonderful pastime including tips on gear, food, preparation, safety and leave-no-trace. Pre-registration is recommended but not required. Oregon Ridge Nature Center, 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

**Saturday, Mar 8:**  
**Compton Peak in SNP** (*rated strenuous*) A 16-mile circuit hike starting at the 4H Center in Front Royal and proceeding to Compton Peak on the AT for a side trail stop at the columnar jointing geologic formation. Return via Land's Run Gap and Hickerson Hollow Trail. Elevation gain 4,000 feet. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center off route 66 on route 123 just outside Vienna, Virginia at 7:30 AM. Alternative meeting place in Howard County possible (contact leader). Moderate pace with stops for flora and fungi of interest.

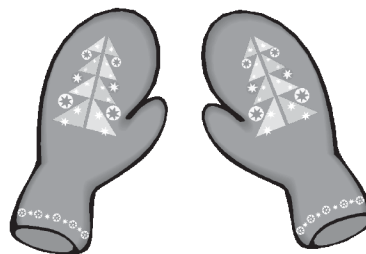
Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. **Leader:** William Needham (MW) 410-884-9127, Needham82@aol.com

**Tuesday, Mar 11:**  
**Catoctin Group Social and Informal Meeting** at Isabella's Restaurant and Tapas Bar, Frederick (*not rated*) See December 11 notice for details.

**Saturday, Mar 22:**  
**Invasive Plant Removal along Glen Ellen/Seminary Trail** (*not rated*) Conservation/service outing. Help cut invasive vines and pull other non-native plants along the Glen Ellen/Seminary Trail in the Loch Raven Watershed. Meet at 9:00 AM on Seminary Ave. just past the light to the left off Dulaney Valley Rd., just north of the Baltimore Beltway. Tools, gloves, and refreshments will be provided. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 443-386-0862, 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFXX@aol.com

**FFA Prettyboy Reservoir Hike** (*rated moderate*) Conservation outing. Older children and dogs are welcome on this 4-6 mile hike along the shoreline and through forests around Prettyboy Reservoir along the old Prettyboy Trail, newly re-discovered and maintained by the GB Sierra Club in collaboration with the Prettyboy Watershed Alliance and the Mountain Club of Maryland. Enjoy the pristine water and wildlife along this isolated trail. Look for the beginning signs of spring. Meet at 1:00 PM at the Mt Carmel Rd. park and ride just west off Rt. 83 north of the Baltimore Beltway. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 443-386-0862, 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFXX@aol.com

## BEYOND MARCH



**Sunday, May 4:**  
**Bike New York – The Five Boro Bike Tour** (*rated moderate*) The all time best way to see New York City. Ride 42 traffic-free miles with 30,000 other cyclists through dozens of neighborhoods in all five boros of New York City, and finish up with a festival on Staten Island. Funds raised are used to support brain injury research. If interested, contact Dan Soeder, and perhaps we can put together a Maryland Sierra Club team. For more details and registration information, visit <http://www.bikenewyork.org/rides/fbbt/index.html> **Leader:** Dan Soeder (AA) 410-969-9465, Dan.Soeder@yahoo.com

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

for logistics and details. **Leader:** Dan Soeder (AA) 410-969-9465, Dan.Soeder@yahoo.com

**Mark your calendars:**  
The Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program, in cooperation with the Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia Chapters of the Sierra Club, is in the process of making arrangements to host Sierra Club professional training staff from San Francisco for the advanced Outings Leader Training class (OLT201) in the Washington, D.C. area sometime in 2008. It will most likely be in the autumn. More details will be coming as a date and location are selected.

## Conservation and Outings

(continued from page 16)  
threatened wetland, or maybe stroll along a pond and discuss how to save it. Outings don't always have to be 16 mile day-hikes with 4,000 feet of elevation change (although some people find these appealing – see the entry for March 8). The point is that you don't need to be Grizzly Adams to lead outings. Pick something that's within your stamina range, and within your outdoor skills level. Get the Red Cross basic first aid and take the OLT101 class, either on-line or one of the live sessions I offer now and then. And then lead an outing. You can do it.

See you outside. ■

*Dan Soeder, MD Outings Chair, can be reached at [Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org](mailto:Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org)*

**Chapter Excom Ballot  
Page 23**

*Ballots due by January 12*

## 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 290 outings, serving over 2,900 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, or visit our web site at <http://ico.sierraclub.org/baltimore/>

### December

15 Holiday party CGCC  
8 or 15 Orienteering, Patterson Park and ice skating DHILL

### January 2008

12 or 19 Washington, DC Zoo and museums DHH  
12 or 26 Indian Echo Caverns FYC  
19 National Aquarium DHILL

### February 2008

16 Hiking, Gwynns Falls or Cylburn Arboretum; Swimming, UMBC DHILL  
16 Maple sugaring, Oregon Ridge FYC  
23 Hiking, Harper's Ferry, WV DHH

### March 2008

1 Snowtubing, Boulder Ridge at Liberty Mountain, PA FYC  
24-26 Camping, Blackburn Cabin DHH  
15 Overnight DHILL

### April 2008

19 or 26 Earth Day clean-up DHH  
TBD Garden Harvest organic farm and activity FYC  
TBA Chesapeake Bay Foundation Cruise, maybe DHILL

#### Abbreviations:

CGCC: College Gardens Community Center

DHH: Digital Harbor High

FYC: Franciscan Youth Center

DHILL: Dickey Hill Elementary School

### Reusable Shopping Bags

Discouraged by people using plastic bags and the stores not encouraging alternatives? Me too, but here are solutions. My sister and I went to the Green Festival in Washington, D.C. in early October and came across reusable long lasting shopping bags for \$5. They are contained in a very small bag which has a clip-on-latch that easily attaches to my purse or sits in my car. Anytime I am at a store, I say I don't need paper or plastic but have my own bags. They come in great colors too. Visit [www.chicobag.com](http://www.chicobag.com).

I also will be taking a foldable cart that can help when it is more than I can carry in bags. I saw most folks in Europe last spring with their own carts and hope this catches on here.

Kathleen Bartolomeo

*Editor's note: Trying to break the paper or plastic habit? On page 9, one of our members offers \$5 to the first 50 members who buy reusable shopping bags and pledge to use them.*

### Reducing Your Computer's Energy Appetite

(continued from page 7)  
power consumption reduces to 8 Watts, which is less than 10% of its operating power consumption.

Make sure you have the power-down feature set up on your PC through your operating system software. This has to be done by you, otherwise the PC will not power down. If your PC and monitor do not have power-down features, and even if they do, follow the guidelines below about when to turn the CPU and monitor off.

*Note:* Screen savers are not energy savers. Using a screen saver may in fact use more energy than not using one, and the power-down feature may not work if you have a screen saver activated. In fact, modern LCD color monitors do not need screen savers at all. ■



### 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



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

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

VOTE FOR UP TO 4 (FOUR) CANDIDATES.

- ☐ Joint Member Only  
☐ **Chris Hodge:** See Chris's statement on page 8 in the Group News Roundup for the Catoctin Group.
- ☐ ☐ **Dan Andrews:** See Dan's statement on page 8 in the Group News Roundup for the Catoctin Group.
- ☐ ☐ **Ken Eidel:** See Ken's statement on page 8 in the Group News Roundup for the Catoctin Group.
- ☐ ☐ **Other:** You may write in another member, even yourself!  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

*Note: Terms for Gregor Becker and Kim Stenley will expire at the end of 2008. Terms are for two years.*

Maryland Chapter Excom Ballot  
*All Chapter Members*

**Vote for no more than three (3) candidates.**  
**(Candidates' statements appear on pages 2-4)**

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

**Ballots must be received by January 12, 2008.**

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

- Joint Member Only
- ☐ ☐ David O'Leary
- ☐ ☐ Mike Martin
- ☐ ☐ Betsy Johnson
- ☐ ☐ Charles "Chris" Yoder
- ☐ ☐ Ron Henry
- ☐ ☐ Richard Reis



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



## 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*.

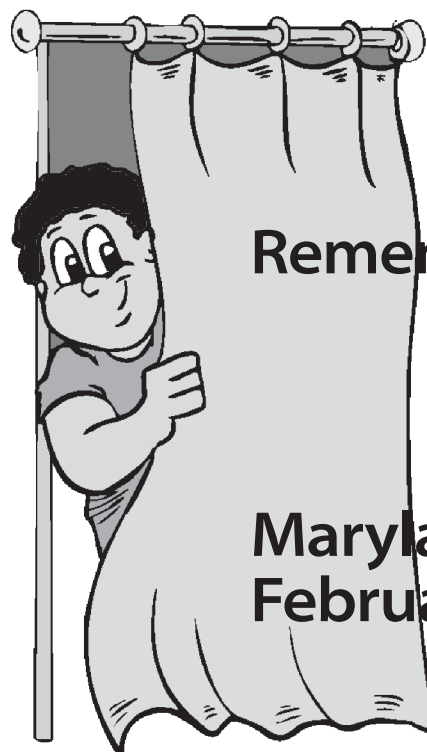
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**Layout and Typography:** Darla Tewell

## Elections 2008



**Remember to Vote!**

**VOTE  
HERE  
TO-DAY**

**Maryland Primary  
February 12**



**Look what's inside!**



- Donna Edwards: Conservationist of the Year!
- A Challenge to Congressman Gilchrest
- Are Christmas Trees Invasive?
- Jamboree Highlights
- Fighting Waste Incineration in Central Maryland
- **2008 Excom Election Ballot**

*(And there's more, too.)*

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