

2008 General Election Voter's Guide

Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Autumn 2008

Planet Earth Can't Vote, But You Can

Frank Kratovil Deserves Your Vote in the 1st District

By Matt Dernoga—The Congressional race in the 1st District of Maryland, which covers the Eastern Shore and parts of Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Harford Counties, has become one of the most heated in the country. It's also a race where the line between the candidates on environmental issues is sharp as a razor. Frank Kratovil, a Queen Anne's County prosecutor who has stated he wants to be the most aggressive environmental advocate that the district has ever seen, faces Andy Harris, a State Senator who has one of the worst environmental records in the General Assembly. His lifetime score is 9%! Want to hazard a guess who the Sierra Club is endorsing?

That's right, we're endorsing Frank Kratovil. The Democratic candidate wants to protect the Bay, repeal the billions in subsidies we're giving to the oil companies, make strong investments in alternative energy and energy efficiency, and drive the next generation of plug-in hybrid vehicles to the market. Did I mention he's against drilling in ANWR and offshore? He knows it won't have an effect on gas prices. Yeah, Frank Kratovil gets it. He's energy smart.

Andy Harris is energy dumb. He's voted against solar grants, energy efficiency investments, raising the fuel-economy standards of Maryland cars, and against every bill that would ensure that the holdings of the Chesapeake Bay are sustained and allowed to thrive. His energy plan calls for more drilling, more refineries, and

a gas tax holiday. A gas tax holiday is ingenious: take away the money used for upkeep of our roads so they're impossible to drive on.

What does a 9% effort on the environment get you?

A vote *against* energy efficiency investments

A vote *against* improved fuel economy standards

A vote *against* a renewable electricity standard

So what can you do? Get involved so we get the right guy into office. I encourage everyone to check out Frank Kratovil's website at www.kratovil.com and find out more about him. If you're sold like we are, then contact me about opportunities to help out. Getting involved could be as simple as making a contribution to Frank, having a sign in your yard, or writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. If you really want to leave your mark on this race, then we can get you connected with canvassing, phone banking, and other events taking place nearly every weekend through the 1st District. The larger the role Sierra Club members play in this race, the more we'll be able to hold Frank accountable to his strong environmental platform for the 1st District, Maryland, and the U.S.

Let's make it happen. ■

Matt Dernoga is a Sierra Club intern working on the Kratovil campaign. He can be reached at mdernoga@umd.edu or at 240-593-1268.

Andy Harris's commercials have him talking about alternative fuels as if he's a born again environmentalist. I'll buy stock from Enron before I buy that piece of fiction.

Sierra Club Endorses Obama

This is not time for half-steps. Americans are hurting. We need bold, immediate, and foundation-shaking solutions that break the chokehold Big Oil has on our economy and our government; provide short-term relief for American families; and create long-term solutions for our energy and economic problems. We need the change and leadership Barack Obama is offering:

"Americans need real relief that will help them fill up their tanks and put food on their table. They need a long-term energy strategy that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil by investing in the renewable sources of energy that represent the future." — Barack Obama, June 24, 2008

With our country facing numerous challenges (and not just from global warming), we need the inspirational leadership that Barack Obama has proved he can provide to move our citizens to demand change from their government. Only when Congress hears from huge numbers of their voting constituents will the laws we need get passed. And only when we have a Congress and President who share their commitment to that change will those laws get signed, not vetoed.

We have run out of time. We need new and progressive leadership now. We need to elect Barack Obama President on November 4, and then we need to demand that he and his Congressional colleagues keep their promises to the nation.

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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.

Letter From the Chair

Chapter Engaged in Electoral Environmentalism



Ron Henry, Chapter Chair

Hello All!

I hope that the summer season was enjoyable for everyone. It's hard to believe that autumn is upon us, but it is! And as usual in autumn, the chapter leadership has been very busy planning for the coming year.

First, the most important objective that we Maryland Sierrans have for the autumn quarter, or until November 4, 2008, involves

the election. During the summer we set the stage to involve all our affected members in the 1st Congressional District in Frank Kratovil's race for the Congressional seat against an anti-environmental opponent. A Kratovil win, quite simply, is a MUST if we want environmental matters to be in the forefront for this district. Be assured that environmental protection will not be of import to Frank Kratovil's opponent, who boasts of his anti-environmentalism, and has the legislative record in the Assembly to prove it.

In the coming weeks our chapter staff and volunteers will be busy phone-banking and educating our members on the 1st Congressional District issues and candidate Kratovil's campaign platform. When contacted, please give your most serious consideration to the thrust of this campaign, and become proactive by volunteering to help whenever and however you can. Those who contact you can let you know how and where you can help in this important campaign. Thanks in advance for your consideration and decision to participate. When we win, we win not just for ourselves, but for our children and grandchildren, too.

And we cannot forget the presidential election and our Sierra Club support for the Obama-Biden campaign. Campaigns matter. Elections matter. **Whoever gets elected can change reality.** Yes, both candidates will be focusing on "change," but "change" doesn't mean the same thing in both campaigns. Obama's opponents are not dealing with the external realities and issues that affect our country and our planet, but remain committed to the conservative view that has taken such a toll

on the environment since Bush claimed the White House. Do not get pulled into their metaphors, cultural narratives, symbols, worldviews and stereotypes. Their intent is to maintain conservatism's grip on power at the expense of everything else—like the environment and our economy. They have a firm grasp of a certain cultural narrative, but Obama and Biden have a firm grasp of reality, and the programs to make reality better.

I will state again: Let's not be lulled into the mindset that it will be business as usual. We have both an opportunity for ourselves and an obligation to future generations to make our voices heard on behalf of

the environment that sustains us. Our efforts, and the results of those efforts, will be our legacy. Get engaged in the campaigns of our endorsed candidates. It can be as much as volunteering or writing a check, or as simple as writing a letter

to the editor. And on November 4, vote!

On November 5, the chapter will resume its normal pace of activity. The executive committee and the conservation committee met in September to refine our plans for establishing priorities, exchanging information, selecting campaigns, and fundraising. We also discussed the financial and human resources, both staff and volunteer, that we can bring to bear to achieve success in the campaigns that we'll be undertaking in 2009.

We Sierrans do not work in a vacuum; we have partnerships with other environmental groups with which we've been planning a fall climate-change campaign which kicks off this month. Let us do our part in getting climate change legislation passed. Stringent but realistic, sustainable growth and transportation choices must be part of the picture. We will continue to work with other environmental groups where we have a common agenda because it greatly strengthens the total environmental thrust, particularly during the legislative session!

Until next time,
Ron

The most important objective that we Maryland Sierrans have until November 4 involves the election.

Cast Your Vote for Maryland's Environmental Champions

By Betsy Johnson—Maryland is fortunate to have members of Congress who, for the most part, support a strong national environmental ethic. The Sierra Club has endorsed in seven of our eight Congressional Districts. The six endorsed incumbents in Congress compiled an average score of 89% on the League of Conservation Voters 2007 scorecard. All of them care deeply about the Chesapeake Bay and have voted for funding for efforts to reduce harmful runoff from its surrounding farms. All of these representatives need to hear from their constituents that environmental protection is important so that they will strengthen their commitment to our issues. And they deserve thanks for their efforts on our behalf. Here are some facts about our Congressional endorsees:

District 1 Frank Kratovil

District 1 has no incumbent since Congressman Wayne Gilchrest was defeated in the primary. Our endorsed candidate, Frank Kratovil, is profiled on page 1.

District 2 "Dutch" Ruppersberger

Lifetime LCV (League of Conservation Voters) score 84%. While in the past Congressman Ruppersberger has voted against higher fuel economy in cars, last year he changed his vote and voted to increase the standard. He also has worked to extend the tax credits for consumers to buy hybrid vehicles. **He has vigorously opposed the liquid natural gas terminal proposed for Baltimore's harbor.**

District 3 John Sarbanes

Lifetime LCV score 85%. Congressman Sarbanes recognizes the threat of climate change to our way of life and supports financial incentives for people to conserve energy through retrofitting their homes with energy efficient equipment and the

purchase of fuel efficient vehicles. He and Congressman Van Hollen are original co-sponsors of HR5560 which would reverse EPA's denial of California's request for a Clean Air Act waiver necessary to allow California and other states (incl. MD) to regulate motor vehicle greenhouse gas emissions. And the bill of which Sarbanes is most proud is the "No Child Left Inside" bill that would ensure that all children graduate with a basic understanding of the environment and their impact on it.

District 4 Donna Edwards

While too new in Congress to have a public record on environmental issues, (She was sworn in on June 19, 2008) we know that Congresswoman Edwards is committed to a strong federal approach to addressing global warming by establishing mandatory limits on carbon emissions and real incentives for clean energy technology development. She promotes increased funding for mass transit and has actively worked with the Sierra Club to obtain rail on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. We fully expect Congresswoman Edwards to be a champion on our issues in Congress.

District 5 Steny Hoyer

Lifetime LCV score 76%. Congressman Hoyer is the Majority Leader in the House which makes him the highest ranking Member of Congress in Maryland's history. As such he is in a unique position to provide support for Maryland's environment, and we look to him for leadership on this issue. He has supported major funding to clean up the Bay and its tributaries, secured funding for a light rail study in southern MD, and secured funding for valuable environmental projects in his district.

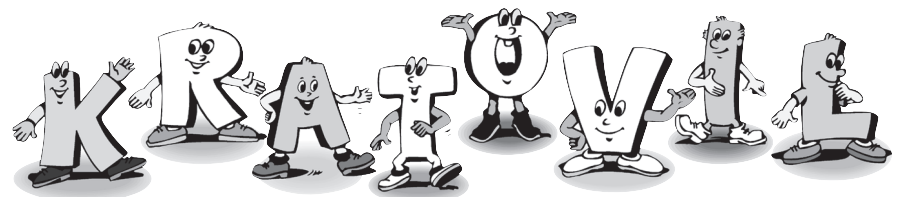
District 7 Elijah Cummings

Lifetime LCV score 93%. Congressman Cummings is a strong supporter of funding to help clean up the Bay. And his commitment to mass transit is excellent. He has secured much needed funding for transit in Baltimore. And he serves on a special working group to examine the management of Amtrak and they recommend a steady and reliable funding stream to support this much needed, energy efficient Northeast corridor transportation link. **He added language to a rail bill to fund rebuilding of tunnels in Baltimore to permit more efficient freight service. He urged colleagues to limit emissions from ships, saying they are a major source. He has vigorously opposed the liquid natural gas terminal proposed for Baltimore's harbor.**

District 8 Chris Van Hollen

Lifetime LCV score 99%. A strong supporter of federal commitment to reducing the U.S. carbon footprint, Congressman Van Hollen was a primary sponsor of legislation to require a national renewable electricity standard and a primary sponsor of the bill to establish a cap and trade system for greenhouse gas emissions. He strongly supported higher fuel efficiency standards for cars. He is the Co-Chair of the Chesapeake Bay task force and successfully incorporated into House passed legislation more than \$500 million in federal funding for programs that benefit the Chesapeake Bay cleanup effort and cleanup of the Anacostia and Potomac rivers. ■

Betsy Johnson is the Political Chair of the Maryland Chapter.



Environmentalists of Maryland, are you READY?

Join us!

Let's elect Frank Kratovil and have some fun!

Elections are around the corner. Share in the excitement! If we want to pass strong environmental legislation, we have to elect environmental leaders. Join us to help rally support.

Sign Waves * Phone Banks * Door Knocking * Voter Registration * Outreach at fairs and other events

Ready to help? Call 301-277-7111 to speak with Alana or email at Alana.wase@mdsierra.org for more information or to let us know what you'd like to do to support Frank.

If you've never campaigned before, this election is a great time to start!

Sierra Club Endorses Barack Obama

(continued from page 1)

The Sierra Club's top priority is addressing global warming. And Obama has outlined a robust approach to the problem:

- ♦ Provide relief for families struggling to pay their energy bills. Obama understands that in the global energy market there is no "magic wand" that will make energy prices go down immediately. His plan is to provide families with a \$1,000 tax credit and stimulus checks paid for by taxing the oil companies' record profits. He will also close the loophole that allows speculators to game the system and run up energy prices.



OTE
TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 4

Barack Obama/Joseph Biden
PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

Frank Kratovil

1ST CONGRESSIONAL DIST.

"Dutch" Ruppersburger

2ND CONGRESSIONAL DIST.

John Sarbanes

3RD CONGRESSIONAL DIST.

Donna Edwards

4TH CONGRESSIONAL DIST.

Steny Hoyer

5TH CONGRESSIONAL DIST.

Elijah Cummings

7TH CONGRESSIONAL DIST.

Chris Van Hollen

8TH CONGRESSIONAL DIST.

- ♦ Increase the efficiency of our cars. Obama fought hard in Congress to raise fuel economy standards for the first time in 30 years. Now he wants to give American automakers the tools they need to raise fuel economy standards even higher—to 50 miles per gallon. His plan will provide retooling tax credits and loan guarantees for domestic auto plants and parts manufacturers, so that they can build new fuel-efficient cars here at home. Obama will also invest in advanced vehicle technology such as advanced lightweight materials and new engines.

- ♦ Invest \$150 billion over the next ten years in alternative sources of energy—wind and solar power, advanced biofuels, the commercialization of plug-in hybrid cars, and the development of a new digital electricity grid. This investment will create up to 5,000,000 good-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced, and will generate billions in new economic activity that will upgrade our infrastructure and increase our prosperity. The plan will also invest in America's highly-skilled manufacturing workforce and manufacturing centers to ensure that American workers have the skills and tools they need to pioneer the first wave of green technologies that will be in high demand throughout the world.

- ♦ Require that 25% of U.S. electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025 and increase energy efficiency in the U.S. 50% by 2030. This would create hundreds of thousands of jobs in growing industries, make America more energy independent, and dramatically cut the amount Americans spend on their energy bills.

- ♦ Set national building efficiency goals. Barack Obama will establish a goal of making all new buildings carbon neutral, or produce zero emissions, by 2030. He'll also establish a national goal of improving new building efficiency by 50 percent, and existing building efficiency by 25

percent over the next decade to help us meet the 2030 goal.

- ♦ Attack global warming. Obama has presented a bold and comprehensive plan for addressing global warming which includes a "cap and auction" system that would cut our carbon dioxide emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. This approach will fight global warming, while making sure polluters pay for the pollution they emit. The pollution payments will be invested in clean energy, green jobs and aid to consumers to bring energy costs back under control.

- ♦ Reject drilling as the answer to our energy woes. Obama knows that drilling off of our beaches and destroying our last special places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will pad Big Oil's bottom line but will do nothing to lower gas prices today, tomorrow, or even a decade from now—something even the Bush administration admits. He knows that simply seeking a bigger fix isn't the way to end our addiction to oil.

Senator Obama has the experience, vision and strategy to transform our economic and energy future. He is committed to ending Big Oil's powerful influence over our economy and leaders in Washington. Senator Obama is ready to make the big changes and clean energy investments our nation needs to fix our economy, create jobs, make us more energy independent, and to move us toward serious, bold and urgently needed action on global warming. Vote for Barack Obama for President this November. For more information, please visit: www.barackobama.com. ■

This article was compiled from the Sierra Club website by Betsy Johnson, Political Chair for the Maryland Chapter. For more information on the Sierra Club's endorsements, see www.sierraclub.org/politics.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Sky's the limit?

Even today in 2008 over *half* of America's electricity is generated from coal-fired power plants. Consequentially, we are being exposed to soot, smog, acid rain, and dangerous toxins such as mercury, which threaten people and wildlife alike. Bush's "Clear Skies" plan will allow 520% *more* mercury pollution by 2010, not to mention delaying the enforcement of public health standards for smog and soot until the *end* of 2015. The sky isn't getting any higher, and the air we breathe isn't getting any cleaner. The sky IS the limit.

JOIN Sierra Club to keep breathing easy.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!



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Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____

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

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

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

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In 2008 the Election Stakes Are Higher Than Ever

By Betsy Johnson and D. A. Tewell—It was the chants of “Drill, baby, drill” at the Republican national convention that pushed us over the edge. Of course, we know that John McCain is no environmentalist. But the pundits would have us believe that McCain’s acknowledgment of global warming makes him one of two green candidates in this race.

Don’t believe it. John McCain’s energy policies are Dick Cheney’s energy policies, written by industry executives. They promote the same extractions of the same fuels that have blanketed our planet with greenhouse gases and polluted our air, water, and land, often beyond reclamation. The companies that bankrolled Bush/Cheney are lined up solidly behind McCain. The oil and gas people and the mountaintop removal mine people have opened their wallets in support of his campaigns. And McCain has delivered, opposing fuel efficiency standards and renewable energy programs. Global warming? He’ll give it a nod, but don’t count on him to do anything to reduce those gases.

Even water protection, which one would think would be of prime importance to desert-dwelling Arizonans, hasn’t mattered to their Senator, John McCain. After all, who is polluting the water but the very industries that are such an essential element of his base?

For eight years, the Bush administration, cheered on by John McCain, has trashed our sweet land and our liberty. Now McCain is asking for his own billet in the White House, towing with him the very advisors who have served Bush and his corporate sponsors so loyally. Does anyone expect John McCain to differ from George W. Bush in any arena other than wartime heroism?

John McCain is not an environmentalist. John McCain isn’t even a maverick. John McCain is a Republican who, since he began his current run for the

presidency, has voted in support of George Bush 90% of the time. His votes during that same time for the environment? Zero. Can John McCain be trusted to craft policies, appoint cabinet officers and their deputies, promote regulations, or name judges that will address global warming and protect our environment? Two words prove that he cannot. Those words are “Sarah Palin.”

We can end the Bush years, and get our country back. We can have a president who believes in science, understands that human activity is warming our

turns even more to the right, or toward corporate interests, who will stand up for environmental concerns in the years to come?

Environmental Action

Addressing global warming is the top priority of the Sierra Club, and both candidates have acknowledged the importance of the issue. McCain, however, votes with the fossil fuels lobby. Other environmental issues, like air and water pollution and endangered species, need to be addressed as well. The League of Conservation Voters

risky, and wouldn’t relieve our pain at the gas pump, now or in the future. Even George W. Bush has acknowledged our “addiction to oil.” One doesn’t cure an addiction by finding a new fix. Further, if we are to have any hope of reducing greenhouse gases, we need to be intensely focused on alternative energy solutions and not distracted by faux “solutions” like more drilling.

Decision making

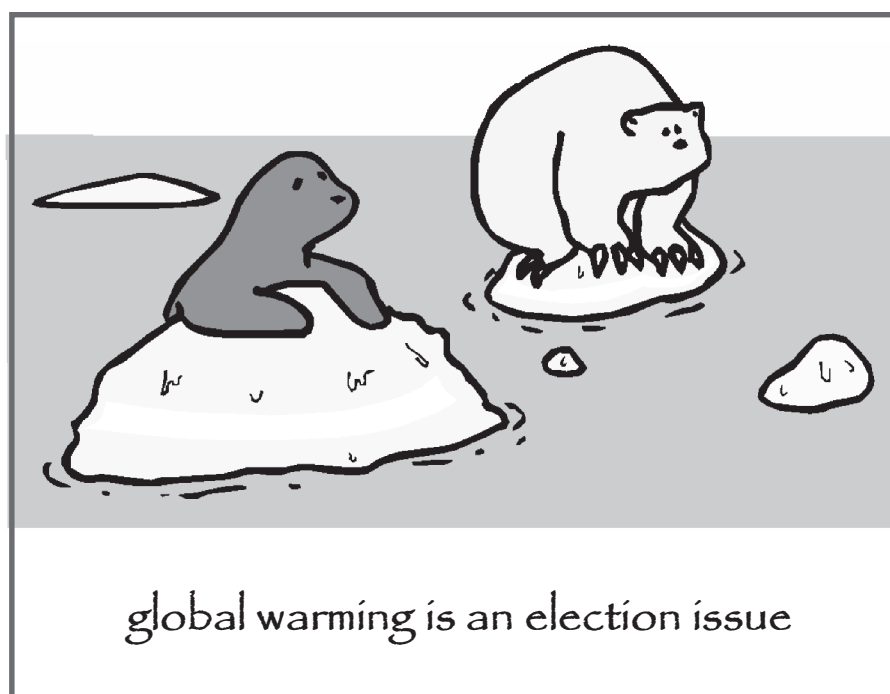
John McCain, by his own admission, makes decisions quickly and says that “Often my haste is a mistake, but I live with the consequences without complaint.” But if he is elected, the country will be living forever with the mistakes he makes in haste. Obama takes a thoughtful and consultative approach to decision making, considering the views of knowledgeable people on all sides of an issue before making a decision.

The war in Iraq

We are used to talking about the costs of war. We tally its toll of lives lost, disabilities suffered, families bereaved, homes and infrastructure destroyed, and dreams denied. We speak of war’s environmental consequences in terms of opportunity lost, of how we could better spend the \$10 billion a month that we are spending on the war. But it’s not just the loss of billions of dollars that might have funded alternative energy solutions, or cleaned up waterways, or restored wetlands. War itself is an environmental catastrophe. Ending the war is an environmental issue.

Support Barack Obama. Urge your family and friends to join you. And on November 4, end Bush’s reign of error. Vote—for Barack Obama. ■

Betsy Johnson is the Political Chair of the Maryland Chapter. D.A. Tewell is the Editor of Chesapeake.



planet, knows that it is time to replace energy from fossil fuels with renewable energy—but only if we vote for Barack Obama.

What’s at Stake in This Election

The Supreme Court

The next president will choose two, or possibly three, Supreme Court justices. McCain has said that he will choose justices in the mold of Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito, both of whom have demonstrated a tendency to side with corporations. If the court

ers, which scores elected representatives on their pro-environment votes, gives Barack Obama an 86% lifetime average. John McCain’s lifetime score is an anemic 24%.

Drilling for Oil

American families are seeing their purchasing power eroded by the high cost of gasoline and heating oil. John McCain supports offshore drilling, seeming to imply that a rise in supply would cause a reduction in price. But drilling in sensitive areas offshore is environmentally

Donor Offers A Challenge to Our Members

By Betsy Johnson—Between now and November, few Maryland Chapter activities will have more impact in protecting our environment than organizing our Groups and mobilizing our members to elect environmentally sound candidates; defeating the opponents of strong action that would address the challenges of climate change and environmental protection; and using our collective voice to help pass strong clean-energy legislation in Congress.

At stake are more than just votes in Congress.

We are in a position to help determine whose voice will be on the other

be funded by non-deductible 501 (c) (4) funds. Our staff can't perform the chapter and group organizational support activities needed to increase our groups' effectiveness; or help organize the phone banks and membership get-out-the-vote activities needed to ensure our members' voices are heard, unless we raise non-deductible funds to pay salary, travel and communications expenses.

An anonymous donor has stepped up to the plate and will match, up to \$5,000, the (c) (4) money we raise to fund Group and member organization and mobilization and move us forward on legislation. This effort will provide an

Slots Are a Bad Deal for Maryland

By Bonnie Bick—If a majority of voters approve Referendum Question 2 on this November's ballot in Maryland, our state constitution will be amended to allow slot machine gambling. The amendment would authorize fifteen thousand slot machines around the state. Thousands of them would be installed in one of our most beautiful state parks, Rocky Gap State Park, in Allegany County. The park covers 3,000 rural acres, and includes Lake Habeeb, fed by Rocky Gap Run. It is densely wooded with such species as rhododendron and hemlock, and features cliffs, gorges and Evitts Mountain. If you haven't visited this park, go to www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/rockygap.html to learn about it. Then imagine how it would be transformed by the installation of thousands of slot machines.

This is a fundamental conflict. Rocky Gap exists for all of us to have a wholesome experience with nature. Adding thousands of slot machines in a large building with the necessary parking and road building and other infrastructure would reduce and degrade the opportunities that Marylanders have for the ever harder-to-find natural experiences.

The Referendum Question 2 (see www.elections.state.md.us/elections/2008/questions/statewide.html) is deceptively worded. It was written by Maryland Secretary of State John P. McDonough, a former lobbyist for Rosecroft Raceway. Though not mentioned in the referendum, Rosecroft and other race tracks would get a cut of money from the gambling profits, and hundreds of millions of dollars in various subsidies for race track development. Also not men-

tioned in the referendum is the 33% of the "take" that would be directed to the slots operators. And, the referendum fails to mention that a "slot parlor" would be established in a state park.

How were the locations chosen? The slots promoters target three rural areas, and low-income communities in Baltimore and Laurel, places where lobbying money could more effectively beat down resistance. The justification is the revenues that educational institutions would receive. The slots promoters think they have

a 'ticket of admission' for gambling: that educational institutions would receive much needed funds from gambling proceeds. In fact, Maryland's Secretary of State, who was once paid by the gambling interests, uses this justification to promote gambling better now than before he held office. But it is important to know that the slots deal doesn't guarantee a single new dollar for our schools.

If you are going to justify environmental destruction and the degradation of our public recreational resources for the social value of aid to education, then you have to analyze the other social impacts as well. Plenty of research shows that the costs of gambling—predictable increase in gambling addiction, destroyed families, increased crime including violent crime—far outweigh the benefits. See, for example, "The House Never Loses and Maryland Cannot Win," by J. Joseph Curran, Jr., former attorney general of Maryland, and father-in-law of Governor Martin O'Malley. ■

Bonnie Bick is the Environmental Justice Chair for the Maryland Chapter.

We are in a position to help determine what Maryland's members of Congress will advocate, or oppose, in decisions that will affect the Bay, its watersheds and Maryland's environment.

end of line when Federal facilities or activities take a call from a Congressman about facility management in their district. We are in a position to help determine what Maryland's members of Congress will advocate, or oppose, when Federal agencies allocate resources or make decisions that will affect the Bay, its watersheds, and Maryland's environment.

The Club's membership can be a decisive resource during this fall's campaigns.

However, our ability to mobilize that resource is limited by the fact that staff organizational and political activity must

added long-term benefit to our Chapter by strengthening the volunteer base for our local Groups.

The ball is now in our court.

We have an opportunity, let's seize it.

Make your non-tax-deductible check payable to the Maryland Chapter/Sierra Club and mail it to the chapter office at 7338 Baltimore Avenue #1A, College Park MD 20740.

Mark it for "The c-4 challenge." ■

Betsy Johnson is the Political Chair of the Maryland Chapter.

Chapter Business

Volunteer Opportunities

Website Content Managers

Help supply important information to members of the Maryland Chapter and the public.

Become a "content manager" for one committee's section of <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/>.

Contact Laurel.Imlay@Sierraclub.org or call 301-277-7111 for more information.

Political Action Committee (PAC) Treasurer

The Maryland Chapter Political Action Committee is in dire need of a treasurer. Duties include

- ♦ Accepting all PAC contributions
- ♦ Sending receipts for contributions
- ♦ Maintaining a bank account
- ♦ Filing reports with the state (done through an electronic link – very easy)

The only requirement for this position is that you be reliable and good at keeping track of money.

If you are interested in this position, please call Betsy Johnson at 301-656-4948.

Call for Nominations to the Chapter Executive Committee

The Maryland Chapter Nominations Committee is soliciting nominations for three at-large positions on the Chapter Executive Committee. Nomination statements and the election ballot will appear in the next issue of *Chesapeake*.

The Executive Committee, which leads the chapter, consists of one delegate appointed from each of the nine groups, and six at-large members elected by the full membership. The terms for the at-large members are for two years, and three positions are up for election each year. The newly elected members take their positions at the January Executive Committee meeting.

At-large members of the Executive Committee are expected to attend six in-person meetings and six teleconference meetings each year. In addition, they are expected to take on additional work of the chapter as needed by the chapter and as suits their interests.

Experience on a Group's Executive Committee would be helpful to a nominee, but is not necessary. Management skills, work or life experience, a firm commitment to protecting the environment, and a willingness to invest time and energy on behalf of the Chapter are equally important qualifications.

If you are interested in participating in the leadership of the chapter, or if you know someone that you think would be interested in running for an at-large seat, please forward contact information to joanwilley@verizon.net and to betsy_johnson@comcast.net. ■

Current list of chapter leaders appears on page 22.

In Memory of Bea Chester

Recently, the Old Georgetown Village Homeowner Association Of North Bethesda, Maryland, made a donation of \$300 to the Maryland Chapter in memory its former president, attorney and land-use activist Bea Chester. Others have donated many hundreds to the Montgomery County group after she passed away suddenly from bone cancer.

One of the first women to graduate from Ivy League Columbia Law School in 1947, Bea was nationally recognized as a premier labor litigator and appellate counsel in the federal courts. But locally, she fought hard in a number of land use cases in favor of preserving forested areas, particularly in the North Bethesda area, where the Sierra Club recently noted that only 10% remains forested, despite a goal of 28%.

Bea hoped her legacy would be the preservation of a local tract of land off Edson Lane, through the Legacy Open Space Program or the Forest Conservation Bank. Her effort was supported by scores of adjacent home and property owners, who wrote letters and signed petitions in opposition to the proposed destruction of open space by the placement of a few townhouses in an area of dense old magnolia trees. In the face of global warming, Bea wanted to do her part to preserve green space and a certain quality and balance of life. Her cause was covered by DC area TV Channel 9.

The tract of land is adjacent to Tilden Middle School, whose students can see the example set by Bea's leadership in environmental preservation.

Thanks to Bea's son, Charles Chester, also an attorney and activist, for his remembrance of his mother.

The Population Committee is welcoming new members.

If you are interested in the problem of overpopulation—local, state or world—contact Sam Hopkins at 410-554-0006 or at sbh@hopkinsandassociates.com.

We offer fellowship and opportunities for you to take meaningful action.

Sprawl and Development

The Other Connector—Can the “Roar of the Future” Replace this Poster Child for What Ails Us?

In late July hundreds of people overflowed the Charles County government auditorium to turn up the heat on government agencies that are considering issuing wetland permits for the proposed Cross County Connector extension (CCC-ex). The Army Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) are considering a Finding of No Significant Impact for this 6.4 mile, four-lane highway. But the agencies heard, in the words of one participant, the “roar of the future” when an overwhelming majority of people demanded an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

This major highway through a forested and lightly populated area of one of the Chesapeake Bay’s most valuable and vulnerable watersheds would spawn additional highways, massive growth, and fragmentation of the forests that drain to Mattawoman Creek. At risk is “the best, most productive tributary to the Bay,” according to state fisheries biologists who monitor fish spawning and nursery activity and overall fish productivity.

Demanding an Environmental Impact Statement

The turnout at the hearing was large and “on-message” thanks to the extensive cooperative efforts of the Sierra Club with the Mattawoman Watershed Society and Maryland Bass Federation Nation. But it is very telling that resources must be spent to achieve what should be automatic: an Environmental Impact Statement for a major new growth-inducing highway that clearly would have significant impacts. At the annual meeting of Maryland’s Tributary Teams, the state-sponsored groups that oversee watershed-based Bay resto-

ration efforts, Dr. Summers, Deputy Secretary of MDE, said that we must make sure that environmental impacts are properly mitigated. Setting aside questions of ineffective mitigation, what if we don’t even know what the impacts are?

The sprawl-inducing impacts of the CCC-ex are so severe, and Mattawoman so exceptional, that the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is recommending that the wetland permits be denied outright.

Road to Nowhere

At a time when energy costs are making far flung urban centers obsolete, the CCC-ex is aimed in part at promoting an expansive new edge city in the one-stoplight town of Bryans Road. Yet this highway proposal is truly a Road to Nowhere. In 2001, the subarea plan for Bryans Road reported a population within the “Town Center” of 5,400. Ketchikan, Alaska, terminus of the famous Bridge to Nowhere, had a population in 2007 of 7,368, 36% larger. According to the subarea plan, the highway is “required” to enable plans for more than 8,000 additional housing units and densities exceeding those presently allowed in Waldorf, Charles County’s present “urban core.”

This highway proposal is a poster child for the sprawl that continues to thwart Bay restoration efforts and that contributes disproportionately to the emission greenhouse gases. The CCC-ex would sprout a web of highways that would open up areas for sprawl development. These include the Mill Hill Road Extended, the Pomonkey Connector and, yes, the CCC-extension Extended. These in turn would promote widening of Bumpy Oak Road, which bisects a Rural

Conservation (deferred) district, Smallwood Drive Extended, and Camp Hedges Place Extended.

We need a better vision if we are to bequeath the green infrastructure and sustainable environment that our children deserve—one based on transit-oriented development that concentrates growth in environmentally sound locations. Governor O’Malley noted in a March 2008 Smart Growth press release that the 1.1 million new residents expected in the state over the next 20 years could be accommodated by underdeveloped and undeveloped land within a half-mile of Maryland’s 112 transit stations. The flip side is sprawl, which according to the EPA Inspector General, added impervious surface to the Bay watershed at a rate 5 times the population growth in the 1990s.

Transit-oriented Activity Centers

Ironically, Charles County is working toward transit-oriented development called Activity Centers in the right place, the northern section of Waldorf, which could be linked with a proposed light rail connection to the Branch Avenue Metro. Yet at the same time they are holding to an outdated “development district” of highways and subdivisions that is over 30% larger than the District of Columbia. Working from a twenty-year-old plan to pave sensitive Mattawoman forests and wetlands epitomizes why the Bay remains ill.

Compounding the problems of congestion, air pollution, carbon dioxide production, and costs, the intense growth over such a large development district would fragment and degrade Mattawoman’s forests. According to the Army Corps of Engineers’ Mattawoman

Creek Watershed Management Plan, Charles County’s present development plans would “dramatically increase the nutrient levels in the stream system, decreasing the overall water quality,” which “would have severe repercussions on the biological community and would decrease the habitat quality within the estuary.”

It is clear that we must re-evaluate outmoded development plans, combining state efforts at “Smarter Growth” and sustainability with Charles County’s stated goals to protect Mattawoman. There is still time to turn toward a positive model of sustainability. An EIS for the proposed CCC-ex will weigh the value of Mattawoman as a resource, investigate impacts, and evaluate viable alternatives to the proposed highway. In the meantime, citizens must urge elected officials to wake up and properly prioritize: rather than subsidizing the outmoded sprawl model with a \$60 million highway, we should direct resources to transit-oriented development and light rail for Smarter Growth.

Citizens were empowered at the July wetland destruction hearing where an overwhelming majority objected to the CCC-ex and the inevitable sprawl it would spawn. If people continue to unite, we can become, “the roar of the future.” ■

This article was provided by the Mattawoman Watershed Society.

We need a better vision if we are to bequeath the green infrastructure and sustainable environment that our children deserve—one based on transit-oriented development that concentrates growth in environmentally sound locations.

Population

How Smart Can Growth Be?

By Cliff Terry—A fascinating new paper by Tom Horton, *The Baltimore Sun's* long-time environmental reporter and author of several books about the Chesapeake Bay, raises important questions about whether Smart Growth, whatever its potential, can enable restoring the Bay to health while Bay area population continues to grow.

Mr. Horton demonstrates that the investment of 25 years and billions of dollars in Bay cleanup has, in fact, been “a failure,” neither reducing the most important pollutant nor increasing the numbers of the most valued marine life. He provides much evidence linking that failure to continued massive growth of the Bay area population.

If population growth is to blame for the Bay's continuing decline, is anyone to blame for that growth? Yes, he says: “most elected, environmental and science leaders” have either touted growth or turned a blind eye. The media get a share of blame, too.

Mr. Horton says “the greatest, most uncritically accepted and fatally flawed assumptions made by those charged with protecting the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay” are these: “Growth is good. Growth is necessary. Growth will come. Growth can be accommodated.”

The belief that growth spurs prosperity, Mr. Horton points out, rests heavily on our neglecting to subtract environmental degradation from economic output.

Further, citing growth expert Eben Fodor, a community planning consultant and author of *Better, Not Bigger—How to Take Control of Urban Growth and Improve Your Community*, he says “studies ... find no evidence that more growth leads to lower unemployment.”

Does growth enlarge a jurisdiction's tax base? Of course, but quoting Fodor: “it also usually raises people's taxes.”

Finally, can we intentionally slow or stop growth if we wanted to? Mr. Horton spells out many ways.

Though the Bay and its watershed form the case study for his argument, Mr. Horton makes clear that the argument applies equally to the United States as a whole. He accepts the consequent necessity to discuss the issue of immigration, concluding that discussion with the suggestion that we could “make more ‘room’” for immigration “by sharply reducing our current per capita consumption and pollution and also by reducing birth rates to well-below replacement levels.”

While Mr. Horton criticizes “most ... environmental ... leaders,” among others, for not taking on population growth, I can think of a few Maryland environmental groups that have done it. The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club officially advocates that the state and its local jurisdictions adopt “the policies necessary to minimize the further growth of Maryland's population.” So do the Maryland Conservation Council (MCC) and the Maryland Interfaith Coalition for the Environment. There may be others.

MCC recently suggested to a number of other environmental groups that they should mention the effects of population when communicating with their members and the public whenever the issue being addressed is affected by population size.

Mr. Horton's paper, entitled *Growing! Growing! Gone! The Chesapeake Bay and the Myth of Endless Growth*, carries the imprimatur of the Abell Foundation and is easily available to anyone who's concerned about the Bay. I believe that this paper deserves a wide audience, especially among environmentalists. Check it out for yourself, and if you agree, call it to the attention of others.

The full version is at <http://www.abell.org/publications/detail.asp?ID=139>. You can sample a condensed version at <http://www.abell.org/publications/detail.asp?ID=140>. ■

Land Use

Wades Savanna Survives Threat of Mining

By Richard Klein—A one-of-its-kind ecosystem for Maryland has just been saved.

Credit goes to *Politically Oriented Advocacy*, a new approach developed by Community and Environmental Defense Services (CEDS) for winning land-use battles, and the leadership of:

- ♦ the Nature Conservancy
- ♦ the Maryland Department of Natural resources
- ♦ the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
- ♦ the Delmarva Council of the Boy Scouts
- ♦ the Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- ♦ the NOAA Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program.

Wades Savanna is located along the banks of Marshyhope Creek in Dorchester County. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources classifies it as a *Central Coastal Plain Basin Swamp*. There is only one such ecosystem in Maryland and only seven in the world. Wades Savanna supports six threatened or endangered species and a number of other rare organisms.

Wades Savanna itself became endangered when a Delaware company proposed mining sand and gravel within 50 feet of the swamp. The Nature Conservancy had long been interested in this rare ecosystem and attempted to purchase this site near the swamp. The Nature Conservancy already owned a number of properties in the immediate area. But the company refused to sell, and last February it asked the Dorchester County Board of Appeals for a special exception to mine the property.

The Nature Conservancy retained CEDS to manage an effort to prevent issuance of the special exception. The Nature Conservancy also hired attorney King Burnett and geologic consultant Earth Data, Inc.

The conventional strategy for blocking special exceptions focuses all resources on identifying technical-legal issues, lining up expert witnesses to testify about each issue, and preparing the legal arguments to support denial. Over the past five years, CEDS intensively researched what does and doesn't work when trying to stop environmentally unfriendly development proposals like mining near Wades Savanna. This research showed a low-probability of blocking special exceptions just through conventional legal strategy. So CEDS looked for an opportunity to mobilize large numbers of Dorchester County residents to support preserving Wades Savanna. The rallying point quickly became obvious—the Henson Scout Camp which abuts Wades Savanna.

More than 10,000 Scouts from Dorchester County and other parts of the Delmarva peninsula visit Henson Camp every summer. The Delmarva Scout Council views Wades Savanna as a critical component of the camp. In fact, should mining destroy Wades Savanna, 10,000 Scouts a year would have a substantially less rewarding experience at the Henson Camp.

CEDS' research showed that the five Dorchester County citizens who comprised the Board of Appeals were not necessarily inclined to rubber-stamp the application. CEDS' research also showed the Board had denied approval for a similar special exception causing similar impacts. Since the board did not seem to be predisposed to favor the applicant, it was more likely that a demonstration of widespread public support would sway the board in CED's favor.

The information found by CED's research, though helpful, certainly did not guarantee success. It was unlikely that ecosystem arguments alone would sway the Board in CEDS' favor. CEDS needed

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Group News Roundup

Maryland Chapter Groups Think Globally, Work Locally

Edited by Mary C. Corrdry—Following is a roundup of what's happening with the nine Sierra Club Groups in Maryland: Anne Arundel County, Catocin, Eastern Shore, Greater Baltimore, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Southern Maryland, and Western Maryland. If you have information to contribute to future "Roundups" for the *Chesapeake* newsletter, please contact Mary Corrdry 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, paddling, 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. The Maryland Chapter's home page has a link to each Group's website at www.maryland.sierraclub.org.

Anne Arundel Group

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

By David Prosten —The Anne Arundel Group is monitoring work on a General Development Plan for the county, which will establish policies and recommendations to guide land use decisions over the 10 to 20 year planning horizon. We're also active in efforts within the county to

tighten up and better enforce critical area laws.

The Group has an active Cool Cities program and is working on a no-idling campaign within the City of Annapolis. We are planning another New Member social, to get new Sierrans more involved with the Group, and to generate support for environmental action in next year's State legislative session. Also looming on the horizon: our annual dinner, which normally draws about 100 members, offers a leading environmental and/or political figure as speaker, and is a venue to recognize local environmental heroes, both from within the Club and not.

Various outings are sponsored by the Group, including hikes and paddle tours, even caving. Recent outings included canoeing in the upper Patuxent River; monthly visits to the nation's largest recycling center in Elkridge; a hike in Kinder Farm Park; our second caving expedition in Trout Cave, West Virginia; a bike ride on the BWI Airport Loop Trail; and canoeing at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center. In addition, the group participated in the annual Patuxent Sojourn in June. Paddlers traveled from Kings Landing Park in Calvert County to the Chesapeake Bay.

The Group publishes a newsletter every two months, *The Sierra Log*, and uses an e-mail list for members who want to participate in the e-mail alert program.

Catocin Group (Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties)

Chair: Dan Andrews, 410-857-4129, dooze@gis.net

By Gregor Becker and Matthew Lindberg—Work—Farewell, Leader! Chris Hodge, our Group Chair, has resigned as his two-year term was drawing to a close. Now he's off to China on business. Chris led many hikes as well as informal restaurant discussions. He also

kept us on task with regular meetings, while also attending MD Chapter meetings as Chapter Vice-Chair. That's quite a lot of time you gave us, Chris. Many thanks and happy trails!

One door closes and another opens. Welcome Dan Andrews, our Energy Chair who is now our Group Chair. Dan has been active with Cool Cities and the Maryland Heartland Sustainable Living Fair. If Dan sounds like a busy man, well he is! It would be a shame for him to burn out! If you can give a little time, we'd appreciate it. We'll be looking for others to step up, especially someone to lead outings—hikes and such. The Executive Committee voted to add Matthew Lindberg to our decision-making team. Matthew has been attending our meetings and following the proposed super large utility line coming from West Virginia to Kemptown.

Cool Cities efforts are budding. We hope for efforts to bloom in Brunswick, where Eleanor Milligan and other locals have worked hard to win City Council approval. The Council has been very receptive to Sierra Club assistance and information, such as hooking them up with other Cool Cities. If you are in Brunswick, please write the Council with your support for Cool Cities, or call or email. We had one meeting in the Hampstead area, but only two energized members turned out. With the Hampstead Mayor's outspoken opposition to global warming efforts, we need more citizen support to approach that City Council. If local folks, including Sierra Club members, don't ask for action, inaction is what they'll get.

Following are other developing issues we are tracking:

Overview: The Catocin Chapter serves the part of Maryland which is between the threatened mountain areas in the west and the metropolitan commu-

nities in the middle of our state. In our place in the middle of Maryland, we are concerned about how natural resources in the rural areas are transformed into commodities, then transported and sold to the communities and businesses in the urban areas. Several large projects have been proposed.

One of these projects, called PATH (Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline), is a plan for increasing the electric utility connections between western Pennsylvania and central Maryland. This would involve building and expanding high-voltage electrical transmission lines on a route between the greater Pittsburgh area and Kemptown in the eastern section of Frederick County. All of the proposed routes would cross the Appalachian Trail. The electric companies proposing to build PATH, Allegheny Energy and American Electric Power, have been holding open house meetings as part of the beginning public planning stages. In order to see an Online Open House, go to www.pathtransmission.com.

Another project, very much underway, is a proposed expansion of service for an existing natural gas pipeline owned by Dominion Transmission. This pipeline runs through a small part of Washington County and most of the western part of Frederick County, and sends natural gas from Pennsylvania to customers in Virginia. The natural gas pipeline expansion project would involve building a compressor station somewhere in Frederick County in order to send a greater volume of gas through the existing pipeline.

Both of these particular projects have not yet received final approval, and are still the subject of open public hearings and closed procedural hearings, at the county, state, and national levels. In the case of the Dominion Transmission pipeline project, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has the authority to

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grant final approval for building new facilities, including a compressor station. Many of the details of both of these plans are being contested by local residents with the support, in some cases, of the local government. In Frederick County, the County Commissioners have sent a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requesting that the concerns of nearby residents be considered when deciding a final location for the proposed compressor station that would be built as part of the Dominion Transmission pipeline expansion. For more background, see this website of a local citizens group: www.cpmv.org (Citizens for the Preservation of the Middletown Valley).

In addition to these two major state-to-state energy distribution projects being proposed for our region, there are at least two projects proposed by our local governments which quite likely would have significant impacts on the environment and quality of life.

In Frederick County, the County Commissioners are currently studying the option of building a waste-to-energy (WTE) incinerator, which would cost approximately \$320 million. The Frederick County Incinerator, if built, would burn trash from Frederick County and other nearby communities, possibly including Carroll County. As noted in the September, 2008 issue of "The Order of the Earth," the incinerator design being considered would produce at the most 35 megawatts of power. In comparison, the proposed Semptra (Catocin Power) Generating Facility, using natural gas, would have a capacity of 600 megawatts of power "with similar infrastructure expenses." In other words, we can save a lot of money by saying "no" to an incinerator. Many people in our area are concluding that building an incinerator would be a huge waste of resources, and would be a major health concern because

of the smoke from burning plastics and other unknown items in the trash. To learn more about the cost-saving alternatives to an incinerator, or for a "No Incinerator" sign, go to www.wastestudygroup.com. Contact Karin Thome at kestrel3@comcast.net for more information.

In Washington County, the County Commissioners made a contract with Motorola to build a new emergency services communications network, as part of a larger communications upgrade going on in the whole state. The Washington County contract, with Motorola, is worth about \$30 million. As part of this communications development contract with the county, Motorola is proposing to build a new communications tower on a hill above the Potomac River near Sandy Hook. This tower would rise about 190 feet, and would be visible from the scenic overlooks in Harpers Ferry and along the Appalachian Trail and the Potomac River. Local residents have raised significant objections to the proposed site, and the National Park Service is very concerned about the damage that building a tower would do to the scenic and historic landscape of the Appalachian Trail and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. For more information, please see this community website put up by Sierra Club member and Sandy Hook resident Eric Whitenton: www.upshotmd.org.

A second power line project on the horizon could potentially involve crossing land in Maryland. This project is called TrAIL. An electric transmission line would go from Pennsylvania through West Virginia to Northern Virginia, avoiding Maryland. There is strong opposition in northern Virginia, which might mean that a route through Maryland would be "plan B." Matthew Lindberg-Work of the Catocin Group will be keeping up to date, so that our members can know what might be hap-

pening. For more info on TrAIL, see www.aptrailinfo.com.

The Catocin Group communicates with our members electronically for the most part. Our website is <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/catocin/>, or go to www.sierraclub.org, and select Maryland Chapter and Catocin Group, Or email us at mdhiker2@yahoo.com to receive alerts on actions, hikes, or meetings.

Eastern Shore (Cecil County and Eastern Shore counties)

The Eastern Shore Group is urging members from all parts of this nine-county region to help build an active Group. A temporary Executive Committee has been formed until formal elections are held this fall. We are currently accepting nominations for board positions. The temporary Ex Com meets in person every other month throughout the region and by conference call in other months. If you are interested in assisting to reactivate and reenergize this Group, contact Alana Wase, Chapter Conservation Coordinator, at Alana.Wase@Mdsierra.org or at 301-277-7111.

Planning and coordination is more difficult in the long, less populated stretch of Maryland east of the Chesapeake Bay from Cecil County to Worcester and Somerset Counties. We have a vast and precious portion of our land and waterways to protect and preserve. The Group has a special need for a Membership Chair to coordinate membership, and for an Outings Chair and outings leaders. Whatever your specialty, concern, or interest, we have room for you and various resources (financial, personnel, and technical assistance) at our disposal.

Greater Baltimore (Baltimore City and County, Harford County)

Chair: Chris Yoder, 410-466-2462, cncyoder@comcast.net

By Mary Corddry—There is new leadership for the Greater Baltimore Group! After serving as Chair of the Greater Baltimore Group since July 2004, Ron Henry has moved up to serve as Chair of the Maryland Chapter. Chris Yoder, a newcomer to a leadership role in the Group, as Membership Chair, was elected by the Group's Executive Committee this July to serve as the Group's new Chair. Chris is also an at-large member of the Maryland Chapter's Executive Committee.

The Greater Baltimore Group received a grant from *America's Wild Legacy*, a project of the national Sierra Club, to launch a project to protect at least 37 wetlands in the area that are in jeopardy and support rare, threatened, or endangered species. We ask for your help with the following tasks:

- ♦ Help us determine the vulnerability of each Wetland of Special State Concern (WSSC) to watershed development or other threats.
- ♦ Research options to preserve each WSSC watershed in a way that allows property owners to make reasonable use of their land.
- ♦ Survey the watershed for activities that might pose a threat to rare, threatened, or endangered species, then initiate action to resolve the threat.

This project is designed so there's a place for everyone with a few hours to contribute, regardless of skills or expertise. All we are missing is a few good volunteers to help us win this battle. For further information, contact Richard Klein at 410-654-3021 or Rklein@ceds.org.

In early December, the Greater Baltimore Group and Baltimore County's Office of Sustainability will co-sponsor a public forum on Baltimore County's sustainability program. The purpose is to increase the visibility of both the climate change challenge and the role of the

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County and its Sustainability Network in meeting that challenge. Details are still being worked out. If the forum is successful, additional public meetings may be held to provide updates on Sustainability progress and engage County citizens.

The Group co-sponsored and participated in a Baltimore City Job Training Fair and Green Jobs Rally on September 27, planned by a coalition involved with the environment, poverty, and organized labor. This event was part of a nationwide series of events focused on "green" jobs. The national drivers of the event were the "We" campaign (Al Gore's climate change campaign), "1Sky" (a national campaign of major groups addressing climate change), and "Green for All" (Van Jones' green jobs organization).

Also, the Education Fund of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters invited the Greater Baltimore Group to participate in a networking reception and legislative preview event at Goucher College on September 24.

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, stargazing, camping, hayrides, stream cleanups, trail maintenance,

and invasive plant removals. The Group obtained a right-of-way permit from Baltimore City to maintain the old Prettyboy Trail around Prettyboy Reservoir in Baltimore County, in collaboration with the Prettyboy Watershed Alliance and the Mountain Club of Maryland.

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.

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

In September, the Group had a movie night at the Howard County Recreation and Parks Headquarters. Catherine Pancake, producer/director of the movie *Black Diamonds*, hosted the film. This searing 90-minute documentary details the destruction wrought by mountaintop removal coal mines in West Virginia. Also speaking was Ginny Robertson, a former resident of a town now removed by a mountaintop coal operation.

On October 6 at 7:30 at the Howard County Recreation and Parks Headquarters, an Herbal Remedies program is

scheduled. The presenter will be Helen Lowe Metzman, who directs an educational herb garden, The Green Farmacy Garden, in Fulton and coordinates the Tai Sophia herb garden in West Laurel. She will discuss plants in our backyards and local woodlands that offer traditional folk remedies and how they have been and/or currently used. For information, contact Brigitte at 240-506-8976 or bjzaidan@safe-mail.net.

Learn to be more "green" by attending the D.C. Green Festival on November 9. Attend workshops, hear speakers, and browse green business displays. Great food and music, too! Carpools from Columbia to the D.C. Convention Center will leave at 10 a.m. from the west lot of the park-and-ride on Broken Lane Parkway at Rt. 32, and will return about 4:00 p.m. Contact Sue Muller at 301-498-8462 or sonicsue@verizon.net. Visit <http://greenfestivals.org/> for more information.

On December 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Howard County Recreation and Parks Headquarters, club member Sue Muller, back by popular demand, will give an encore presentation on her November 2006 adventure to Churchill, Manitoba in search of polar bears. Learn how global warming is affecting these magnificent creatures. The presentation will be followed by a discussion of global warming and how every person can make a difference every day. Feel free to bring ideas to share! Homemade brownies will be provided, and you can bring your own drink (no alcohol) or snack. For information, contact Sue Muller at 301-498-8462 or sonicsue@verizon.net.

Our rain barrel sale in April was such a huge success that we have a waiting list of about 100 people for our next event. We can get the parts and build our own, but we need a volunteer to coordinate

the activity and more volunteers to help with the assembly. If you can help, contact Brigitte at 240-506-8976 or bjzaidan@safe-mail.net.

Parts of North Laurel Park are going to be developed into a Community Center and ball fields. Groundbreaking is scheduled before the end of this year. In the fall, a volunteer day will be scheduled to search for box turtles and to conduct some plant rescues. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Sue Muller at smuller@howardcountymd.gov or at 301-498-8462.

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—In order to increase the number of members willing to volunteer some of their time to our local campaigns, we are expanding the number of events that bring members together to learn about a particular issue. Our assumption is that as people become better informed about an issue, they will be more willing to take action.

On global warming, we hold a "Putting Your Home on a Low Carbon Diet" house meeting approximately once a month. This focuses on cost-effective actions you can take to reduce home energy consumption by 20-40 percent. In the last year, more than 200 people have come to these house meetings. For most of them, it was the first Sierra Club event they have ever attended. Six months ago we started inviting people to come and observe a home energy audit in the hope they would do an audit of their own home

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Looking for a Sierra Club meeting?

Call your local group or check the meetings calendar page at

<http://maryland.sierraclub.org/events/index.asp>



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and take steps to make them more energy efficient. People attending these events are sent alerts when we need to generate emails to County Council members in support of global warming legislation.

At the end of September, we will sponsor our first invasive plant removal outing as part of our campaign to create and restore wildlife habitats. We also will increase public awareness of the value of preserving habitats by arranging outings to restored habitats and wetlands, tree plantings, and rain gardens. A key part of this campaign is to recruit several property owners—corporate office parks, hospitals, and shopping centers—to build and maintain wildlife habitats on their property.

Also this fall, we will begin holding Smart Growth workshops in neighborhoods where the County's master plans are being revised. The goal of these meetings is to demystify the planning process and contrast "business as usual" development to "smart growth"—building walkable, mixed use communities with reliable public transit. The ultimate goal is to increase citizen participation in the planning process and make the Sierra Club a strong force at Planning Board hearings.

Our Group newsletter is available on the web. Go to maryland.sierraclub.org/ Montgomery and click on "Newsletter" in the left hand column when our web page opens.

Prince George's County

Chair: Chip Reilly, chipreilly@mac.com or chip.reilly@mdsierra.org or 301-218-3920; Group's office: 301-277-0600 or 301-277-7111

An active group of Sierrans is working to green Prince George's County. Early in the summer the group celebrated their first accomplishment, the county offi-

cially became a "Cool" county in its passage of the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration. In it the county pledges to conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory with the help of the county's recently hired energy manager, and to work closely with local, state and federal government to reduce emissions 80% by 2050; to stop increasing emissions by 2010; and to achieve a 10% reduction every five years thereafter.

Since then, the group has compiled about a dozen recommendations that the county can follow immediately to save the county money while reducing emissions. The group is now meeting with county council members to review the recommendations and will soon meet with the county's energy manager. We are always looking for anyone from the county interested in getting involved. For more information or to attend a future meeting contact Alana Wase at alana.wase@mdsierra.org.

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

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

By Frank Fox—The Chesapeake Safe Energy Coalition will be meeting to discuss the application for nuclear energy expansion and its impacts on Calvert County and the Bay. Come hear about what effects the proposed reactor at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant will have upon the Bay and our community. All those with concerns about nuclear expansion are welcome to attend on Wednesday, September 24 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Calvert Library, 850 Costley Way, Prince Frederick. Contact Allison at (202) 454-5176 with questions.

Invasive plant removals are being conducted two Saturdays per month at Swann Park and two Sundays per month at Chapman Forest. Trash is being picked up, and water quality is being sampled at

a wetlands meadow tributary to Mattawoman Creek in Swann Park. These removals have been conducted since 1999 with volunteers including the Sierra Club, Maryland Native Plant Society, and Chesapeake Climate Action Network. For more information, contact Marc Imlay at 301-283-0808.

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

Western Maryland (Allegany and Garrett Counties)

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

Stay tuned for a wind energy program on December 4. It will provide in-depth information on why industrial wind here is bad for Appalachia, bad for climate change, and bad for Maryland. Industrial wind belongs in the Great Plains and offshore. What happens when an industrial wind energy plant is built on agricultural land in the Great Plains? Clean, renewable energy—enough to power the United States. What happens when an industrial wind energy plant is built on the ridges of Appalachia, where ideal wind blows only 25 percent of the time? A taxpayer subsidized corporate give-away, with no noticeable dent in greenhouse gas emissions. If Maryland is serious about climate change, it will focus on geothermal energy, tax rebates for homeowners who install solar panels, offshore wind, and most importantly, CONSERVATION!

We in the Western Maryland Group are looking for volunteers who are willing to help our neighbors in a variety of ways. We are available to lead discussions in schools and groups on environmental issues, lead outings, and provide expert advice to concerned citizens and the media. Please don't hesitate to ask! The

Group publishes a newsletter, "Nature's Advocate of Western MD." We also host an email discussion group/Listserv, MD-WMD FORUM@lists.sierraclub.org, for members to discuss conservation issues pertaining to Western Maryland. The Listserv is also used to announce group meetings, outings, and other events. To join, go to the website and click the "Join the list" link. ■

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Plant Removal Outings

Practice Stewardship by Restoring Native Habitat

Why remove invasive plants? Native ecosystems are in a state of balance. When nonnative plants enter, they upset this balance, sometimes producing such deleterious effects as creating toxins lethal to some animals, and altering hydrological patterns, fire regimes and soil chemistry. (www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/garden/invas.htm) Further, nonnative plants occupy the habitats of native plants, replacing native plants that people enjoy. In the extreme, invasive plants might contribute to extinction of native species, with uncertain long-term results.

Stop the spread of invasives by helping the organizations below. It's easy! The sponsors of the listed outings will show you how to identify the targeted invasives and how to remove them. High-intensity removal efforts followed by low intensity maintenance efforts are proving very effective.

Anne Arundel

Location: Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary
Event: Outings to nip those non-native invasive plants in the bud before they spread and threaten the special habitats and rare plants found in the Sanctuary. Those interested in continuing this effort throughout the year can adopt their very own plot to monitor, map, and manage the invasives.

Contact: Karyn Molines at 410-286-2928 or kmolines@chesapeake.net

Baltimore City and Baltimore County

Location: Baltimore City Parks
Sponsor: Urban Weed Warriors program of Baltimore City Recreation & Parks
Events: Weed Warrior training sessions and invasive plants removals. Once trained, you may work on your own in City parks.

Contact: Elizabeth Condra at 410-396-0339 or 443-602-5264 or Elizabeth.Condra@baltimorecity.gov.

Also, weeds@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-0359.

Location: Chinquapin Park

Sponsor: Friends of Chinquapin Park

Event: Weed pulling along Chinquapin Run.

Contact: Roberta Cowan at 410-365-1351, robcow@gmail.com

Location: Cromwell Valley Park

Dates: 2nd Saturday of each month. Rain date is the following day at the same time.

Time: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Contact: info@cromwellvalleypark.org or 410-887-2503. Check out our website at www.cromwellvalleypark.org.

Location: Herring Run Park

Sponsor: Herring Run Watershed Association & Friends of Herring Run Park

Contact: Darin Crew at 410-254-1577 or volunteer@herringrun.org. Check out www.herringrun.org.

Location: Parks in the Baltimore area

Sponsor: Jones Falls Watershed Association

Dates: 2nd Saturday of each month.

Time: 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Contact: 410-366-3036. Check out www.jonesfalls.org.

Location: Prettyboy Reservoir

Sponsors: Greater Baltimore Sierra Club, Mountain Club of Maryland, and Prettyboy Watershed Alliance

Date: November 16

Time: 10 a.m.

Contact: Mary Corrdry at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com

Baltimore and Howard Counties

Location: Patapsco Valley State Park, Avalon area at the contact station

Sponsor: Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park

Contact: Jim Palmer at 410-531-2065 or j.g.palmer@jhuapl.edu. Check out www.FPVSP.org.

Calvert County

Location: Hellen Creek Preserve

Sponsor: Cove Point National Heritage Trust

Contact: Bob Boxwell at 410-394-1300 or bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

Location: Port Republic

Sponsor: American Chestnut Land Trust

Date and Times: every Wednesday 10:00 a.m.- noon. Also, October 18 and often the 4th Saturday of each month 9 a.m. - noon

Contact: Liz Stoffel at 410-414-3400 or land@acltweb.org. Check out our website at www.acltweb.org.

Caroline County

Location: Adkins Arboretum

Contact: Sylvan Kaufman at 410-634-2847 ext. 24. Check out our website at www.adkinsarboretum.org.

Charles County

Location: Chapman Forest and Ruth Swann Park

Sponsors: Maryland Native Plant Society, Sierra Club, and Chapman Forest Foundation

Dates: Chapman on 1st Sundays and Ruth Swann on following Saturday each month.

Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Contact: Marc Imlay at 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808. On outings days, on cell phone at 301-442-5657. For carpools, call Laurel Imlay, 301-277-7111.

Garrett County

Location: Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Park

Sponsor: Savage River Watershed Association

Contact: Ron Boyer at 301-895-3686 or info@elkridgenatureworks.com

Howard County

Location: Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

Sponsor: Howard County Dept. of Recreation & Parks and the Howard County Master Gardeners

Dates: 4th Tuesday of the month: October 28 and November 25.

Time: 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Contact: Aylene Gard at 410-992-9889 or Carol Filipczak at cfilipczak@comcast.net.

Howard/Anne Arundel/Prince George's Counties

Location: Fort Meade Army Installation

Dates: 2nd Saturday of each month

Time: 10 a.m. - Time is flexible if enough volunteers are available.

Contact: At least 3 days before the event, contact Don Marquardt, Installation Forester, donald.marquardt@us.army.mil. or 301-677-9185

Location: Patuxent Research Refuge

Contact: Christopher Wicker, 301-497-5763 or Christopher_Wicker@fws.gov, <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/> or <http://patuxent.fws.gov>

Location: Riverfront Park, Laurel

Dates: 2nd Sunday of each month

Time: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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

Kent County

Location: Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge

Sponsor: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Contact: Rachael Cliche at 410-639-2108 or Rachel_Cliche@fws.gov.

Montgomery County

Location: Brookside Gardens

Event: Weed Warriors are needed for the

continued ➞

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Plant Removal Outings

Practice Stewardship by Restoring Native Habitat

← continued

forested areas surrounding the gardens. You will be given directions so you can work independently, weekends or weekdays, on your own schedule.

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

Location: Montgomery County Parks
Event: Become a Certified Weed Warrior by completing a one-hour online course and a two-hour field training session. Then, you can work at your own pace and choose a schedule that best suits you. Opportunities to work with a group are also offered several times a year. A newer program, Special Project Weed Warriors, enables community groups to learn weed ID and removal on the spot and then spend a couple of hours tackling invasives on county parkland.
Sponsor: Montgomery County Parks & Planning
Contact: Paul Carlson (Certification) at 301-942-4709 or Lynette Scaffidi at 301-949-0223 (Special Projects), or www.weedwarrior.org.

Location: Northwest Branch of the Anacostia
Dates: 3rd Saturdays each month
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Contact: Jane Osburn at 301-754-1564 or jgosburn@earthlink.net

Location: Potomac Gorge between Great Falls and Georgetown
Sponsors: The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service
Event: At Weed Warrior training sessions, volunteers learn non-native plant species and adopt an area, and then work independently.
Contact: Mary Travaglini at 301-897-8570 x235. Get on the email list by con-

tacting PotomacGorgeVol@tnc.org. Check out www.nature.org/maryland.

Contact: Matt Berres at 301-474-4161 or mberres@ghi.coop



Removal of invasive plants allows native plants, such as these black-eyed susans, a chance to thrive and contribute to a healthy ecosystem.

Location: Sligo Creek Park
Sponsor: Friends of Sligo Creek
Contact: Sally Gagne at 301-588-2071 or RIP@fosc.org. Events posted at www.fosc.org/RIPEventSched.htm.

Location: Woodend Nature Sanctuary, Chevy Chase
Event: Join us for group work sessions where training is provided. Trained volunteers may also be authorized to work independently.
Sponsor: Audubon Naturalist Society
Contact: Liz Jones at 301-652-9188 x30 or volunteer@audubonnaturalist.org

Prince George's County

Location: Belt Woods, Bowie
Dates: Ongoing Saturday, Sunday, and occasional mid-week workgroups.
Contact: Pamela Cooper at 301-390-0797 or pamelacooper@verizon.net

Location: Greenbelt Homes Inc. Housing Cooperative, Greenbelt
Sponsor: GHI Woodlands Committee

Location: Greenbelt National Park, Greenbelt
Dates: 1st Saturday of each month
Time: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Contact: Tom Crone at 301-864-1959 or tomnjan@erols.com. Check out www.nps.gov/gree.

Location: Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center, Accokeek
Sponsor: Ferguson Foundation
Contact: Karen Jensen Miles at 301-292-5665 or kmiles@fergusonfoundation.org
Location: Lake Artemesia, Indian Creek Trail, Berwyn Heights
Contact: M-NCPPC Park Rangers Chris Garrett or John Dillon at 301-627-7755, TTY 301-699-2544. Check out www.rundc.com/Doc/MD/PG/Artemesia.htm

Location: Little Paint Branch Park and Cherry Hill Road Community Park, Beltsville
Sponsor: Anacostia Watershed Society
Dates: Last Saturday of each month

Time: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Kyle Watts at 301-476-0627 or kyle@mannenheim.org or Marc Imlay at 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808 or marc@anacostiaws.org.

Location: Magruder Park, Hyattsville

Sponsor: Friends of Magruder Woods

Dates: 3rd Saturday of each month

Time: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Contact: Mary Parker at 301-927-6216, Colleen Aistis 301-779-0245, Mike Breen at 301-807-2519, or Marc Imlay at 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808 or marc@anacostiaws.org.

Location: Suitland Bog

Contact: M-NCPPC Park Ranger Chris Garrett at 301-627-7755, TTY 301-699-2544. Check out www.pg parks.com/places/nature/suitland.html.

Location: Watkins Regional Park, Upper Marlboro
Contact: M-NCPPC Park Rangers Chris Garrett or John Dillon at 301-627-7755, TTY 301-699-2544. Check out www.pg parks.com/places/parks/watkins.html.

Location: Woodworth Park, Cheverly
Sponsor: Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek
Event: Meet at small playground.
Dates: October 25 and November 29
Time: 9 a.m. – noon
Contact: Dan or Cathy Smith at 301-386-4394 or Elaine Friebele at 301-341-5722.

St. Mary's County

Location: Myrtle Point Park
Sponsor: Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust
Contact: Bob Boxwell at 410-394-1300 or bobboxwell@hotmail.com. ■

Outings

The Short Version

By Dan Soeder—Because this edition of the Chesapeake is a guide to the upcoming, important elections, the outings calendar is abbreviated. The listings are barebones, with only the dates, level of difficulty and leader contacts. Please visit the website of the group hosting the outing to learn more details, or contact the leader(s) for information.

At the national level, the Sierra Club has been suggesting that an outreach effort should be made to help get military families into the outdoors. These families, which have sacrificed so much for our country, deserve an opportunity to have fun, bond, and enjoy each other's company in a safe, relaxed, outdoors setting. Given the large military presence in Maryland, perhaps we could get such a program up and running here, with some easy day hikes, bicycling, paddle trips or family-oriented camping. I have had a few calls from people who think it's a good idea. If you are interested in helping us organize such a program, or you can help us make contact with military personnel at Fort Meade, Aberdeen or elsewhere, please let me know.

We'll have a more detailed outings listing in the next issue. Enjoy getting outdoors in the beautiful fall weather, and don't forget to vote! See you outside. ■

Dan Soeder is the Maryland Chapter Outings Chair. He can be reached at Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org.



Information for All 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 from "easy" to "strenuous" that suit all activity levels. The difficulty of each outing is clearly designated in the announcement. Reservations are generally not required for a local outing unless noted, but the outing leader 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 personal watercraft such as kayaks or canoes.

Unless noted in the announcement, Club outings are intended for adults. Dogs are not normally permitted on outings, unless an outing is so designated. Even on outings that are designated as child/dog friendly, please contact the leader in advance before bringing minors or pets. Minors (under 18 years of age)

must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian, or they must have both 1) a signed permission slip, and 2) the leader's prior consent to participate in the Club outing. Dogs must be non-aggressive, well-behaved, and on a leash. Sierra Club outings officially begin and end at the trailhead, paddlecraft put-in/take-out point, or some other similar designated locality near the activity. Travel to the official starting point and back, even from an advertised meeting place, is the sole responsibility of each participant. While the Club encourages car-pooling, such arrangements are strictly between the riders and the drivers, and are not a part of the outing. Participants 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. ■

Sierra Club Potomac Region Outings (PRO)

Formerly known as the Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP), this 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. A calendar of activities, information and updates can be found on their website (www.sierrapotomac.org).



First Time in the Mid-Atlantic! Sierra Club Outdoor Leaders Training Workshop October 10-12

Camp Barett in Crownsville, MD

Basic Outings Leader Training (OLT101) is required for anyone leading Sierra Club Class 1 outings (dayhikes), and Advanced Outings Leader Training (OLT201) is required for Class 2 outings (overnights).

This weekend-long, Sierra Club workshop hosted by the Virginia Chapter Potomac Region Outings section will qualify participants to lead both. The \$45 registration fee covers food, lodging, and materials. Trainers will be Sierra Club outings staff from San Francisco.

Visit www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/brochures/2008_Maryland.asp to learn more about the workshop and to register.

Outings (October, November)

Abbreviations Used

Most outings in the Maryland Chapter are run at the group level, with a few chapter and inter-chapter events.

The group originating the outing is identified in parentheses by the leader's name. These and other abbreviations used are listed below:

AA: Anne Arundel Group
 AMC: Appalachian Mountain Club
 AT: Appalachian Trail
 BLM: Bureau of Land Mgmt.
 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 Svc.
 GB: Greater Baltimore Group
 GWNF: George Washington National Forest
 HC: Howard County Group
 JNF: Jefferson National Forest
 MNF: Monongahela National Forest
 MC: Montgomery County Group
 NPS: National Park Service
 NRA: National Recreation Area
 NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
 PFD: Personal Flotation Device (lifejacket)
 PRO: Sierra Club Potomac Region Outings (formerly MWROP)
 SF: State Forest
 SM: Southern Maryland Group
 SP: State Park
 SNP: Shenandoah National Park



Thursday, Oct 2: Outings Planning Meeting (*not rated*) Panera Bread restaurant in Timonium, dinner at 6:30 PM; meeting follows at 7:00. **Leader:** Bette Thompson (GB) 410-666-2696.

Saturday, Oct 4: FFA Glen Ellen – Seminary Trail Hike (*rated moderate*) Kids/dogs okay, but check with leader first. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

Saturday, Oct 4: Gettysburg National Military Park, PA (*rated moderate*) Sign up in advance with leader. **Leader:** Betty Steil (HC) 443-745-3041 (cell), blsteil@verizon.net.

Friday to Sunday, Oct 10-12: Sierra Club Outdoor Leaders Training Workshop (*not rated*) Trainers will be professional Sierra Club outings staff from San Francisco. Register online at http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/brochures/2008_Maryland.asp. **Contact:** Marcia Wolf (PRO) wolfmk@comcast.net

Saturday, Oct. 11: Harpers Ferry (*rated strenuous*) **Leader:** Tim Ryan (HC) 410-248-2974 before 9:30 PM, timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.

Saturday to Monday, Oct 11-13: Quehanna Wild Area Backpack, PA (*rated moderate*) Register in advance with leader. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Oct. 18: Catoctin Trail, Cunningham Falls State Park (*rated strenuous*) **Leader:** John Coughtnet (HC) 443-756-6741, jc5342@msn.com.

Saturday, Oct 18: Oregon Ridge Park (*rated moderate*) 1:00 PM at nature center. **Leader:** Alan Penczek (GB) 443-212-5082, f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu.

Saturday to Monday, Oct 25-27: Cold Mountain/Mount Pleasant Backpack, VA (*rated easy*) Suitable for experienced hikers. Register in advance with leader. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday/Sunday, Oct 25 & 26: Car Camping at Caldedonia State Park in PA (*rated moderate*) **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963.

Saturday, Oct 25: Patapsco, Daniels Area (*rated moderate*) **Leader:** James Perschy (HC) 410-964-1902, jameshike@verizon.net.

Sunday, Oct 26: Patuxent River Park - Jug Bay (*rated moderate*) **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.



Saturday to Monday, Nov 1-3: Hog Camp Gap to Spy Rock Backpack, VA (*rated strenuous*) Register in advance with leader. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Nov 1: Little Devils Stairs (*rated strenuous*) Shenandoah NP, VA. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Saturday, Nov 1: Kelly Run & Pinnacle Overlook Hike (*rated*

moderate) Good chance of seeing bald eagles. **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963.

Saturday, Nov 8: Catoctin Trail (*rated moderate to strenuous*) Mt. Zion Road to Cunningham Falls. **Leader:** John Coughtnet (HC) 443-756-6741, jc5342@msn.com.

Sunday, Nov 9: DC Green Festival (*not rated*) Tickets are \$15 at the door. Depart Columbia at 10:00 AM. **Leader:** Sue Muller (HC) 301-498-8462, sonicsue@verizon.net.

Sunday, Nov 9: FFA Prettyboy Trail Hike (*rated moderate*) Kids/dogs okay, but check with leader first. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

Saturday, Nov 15: Signal Knob, VA (*rated strenuous*) **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Saturday, Nov 22: Gunpowder Falls, Hereford (*rated moderate*) **Leader:** James Perschy (HC) 410-964-1902, jameshike@verizon.net.

Friday, Nov 28: Annapolis Rock, MD (*rated moderate*) Washington Monument State Park to Annapolis Rock and return. **Leader:** Tim Ryan (HC) 410-248-2974 (call before 9:30 PM), timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.

Sunday, Nov 30: Loch Raven Late Afternoon Hike and Star Party (*rated easy*) Hike will still take place if cloudy. **Leader:** Alan Penczek (GB) 443-212-5082, f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu.

Outings (Dec)



Cross Country Skiing: *(not rated)*

Anytime snow conditions allow in Western Maryland and West Virginia.

Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963. Call for details.

Sunday, Dec 7: Patuxent Branch

Trail, MD *(rated easy)* Paved trails in Columbia. **Leader:** Sue Muller (HC) 301-498-8462, sonicsue@verizon.net.

Saturday, Dec 13: FFA Holiday Hike through Hampden and on Jones Falls Trail through Druid Hill Park

(rated easy to moderate) Older children welcome, but check with leader first.

Leader: Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

Saturday, Dec 20: Gambrill State Park, MD

(rated moderate) Wooded trails with scenic overlooks. **Leader:** Tim Ryan (HC) 410-248-2974 (call before 9:30 PM), timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.

BICO Outings

A complete listing of the **Baltimore Inner City Outings** will appear in the Winter 2008/2009 issue of Chesapeake.

For current schedule, information about BICO, 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>

Chapter Leaders

Executive Committee

Ron Henry, Chapter Chair, Greater Baltimore Rep
443-474-7449

RonLHenry@msn.com

Vice Chair

Vacant

Chris Yoder, At Large Del., Secretary, Co-Conservation Chair,
410-466-2462

cncyoder@comcast.net

Bonnie Bick, At-Large Del.

301-839-7403

bonnie.bick@maryland.sierraclub.org

Betsy Johnson, At-Large Del., Council of Club Leaders Delegate

301-656-4948

betsy.johnson@maryland.sierraclub.org

David O'Leary, At-Large Del.

Conservation Chair

dave.oleary@mdsierra.org

Jon Robinson, At-Large Del.

301-422-0064

Jon.Robinson@sierraclub.org

David Prosten, Anne Arundel Del.,

dprosten@yahoo.com

Dan Andrews, Catocin Group Del,

410-857-4129

dooze@qis.net

Barry Spinak, Eastern Shore Del.

410-742-0348

punim@jhu.edu

Kathleen Sheedy, Howard Del.

443-538-4084

Kathleen.Sheedy@maryland.sierraclub.org

Kate Konschnik, Montg. Del.

301-891-8578

kkonschnik@hotmail.com

Charles Reilly, Prince George's Del.

301-218-3939

chip.reilly@mdsierraclub.org

Marc Imlay, Southern MD Del.

301-283-0808

marc.imlay@maryland.sierraclub.org

Sam White, Western MD Del.

301-264-4162

sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org

Issues Contacts

David O'Leary, Conservation Chair
dave.oleary@mdsierra.org

Chris Yoder, Co-Conservation Chair,
410-466-2462

cncyoder@comcast.net

Earl Bradley, ACE, Right Whale Chair

410-975-5317

Earl.Bradley@maryland.sierraclub.org

Sam White, Agriculture, CAFO,

TCOF Chair

301-264-4162,

sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org

Charlie Garlow, Air Quality Chair

301-593-9823

charlie.garlow@juno.com

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

301-283-0808

marc.imlay@maryland.sierraclub.org

Cliff Terry, Campaign Finance Reform Chair

410-944-9477

cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

David O'Leary, Energy, Global

Warming, Cool Cities Chair

dave.oleary@mdsierra.org

Bonnie Bick, Environmental Justice Chair

301-839-7403

bonnie.bick@maryland.sierraclub.org

Chris Yoder, National Wilderness/ National Forest Management/Grazing/ Refuges/Mining Chair

410-466-2462

cncyoder@comcast.net

Kim Birnbaum, Pesticides Chair

410-379-1075

Kim.Birnbaum@maryland.sierraclub.org

Sam B. Hopkins, Population Chair

410-554-0006

sbh@hopkinsandassociates.com

Mark Diehl, State Forests Chair

mad55@mindspring.com

301-724-6238

Fred Tutman, Stormwater Mgmt. Chair

301-249-8200 ext 7

Fred@paxriverkeeper.org

Steve Caflisch, Transportation Chair
301-654-3288

steve.caflisch@maryland.sierraclub.org

Ed Merrifield, Water Quality Chair

202-222-0707

ed@potomacriverkeeper.org

Other Contacts

Kathy Harget, Baltimore Young Sierrans

410-440-9896

youngsierrans@gmail.com

Bob Iacovazzi, BICO Chair

bicobob3@copper.net

Betsy Johnson, Fundraising Chair

301-656-4948

betsy.johnson@maryland.sierraclub.org

Daniel Soeder, Outings Chair

410-969-9465

Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

PAC Treasurer vacant

Betsy Johnson, Political Chair

301-656-4948

betsy.johnson@maryland.sierraclub.org

Clay Birkett, Postmaster

postmaster@maryland.sierraclub.org

Jan Graham, State Legislative Chair

410-648-5476

jangrahan@verizon.net

Sherry Dixon, Treasurer

sdixon@maryland.sierraclub.org

Rick Andrews, Webmaster

Andrews4art@yahoo.com

Darla Tewell, Newsletter Editor

editorch@maryland.sierraclub.org

Charlie Garlow, Political Compliance

301-593-9823

charlie.garlow@juno.com

Chapter Staff

Laurel Imlay, Chapter Coordinator

laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org

301-277-7111

Alana Wase, Conservation Coordinator

Alana.Wase@sierraclub.org

301-277-7111

Office: 7338 Baltimore Avenue #1A

College Park, MD 20740

Tel: 301-277-7111, Fax: 301-277-6699

<http://maryland.sierraclub.org>

Land Use

Saving Wades Savanna

(continued from page 9)

to focus on something the Board was likely to view as a “sacred cow.” The best point of focus became obvious—the Henson Scout Camp.

But how could CEDS impress on the Board the impact nearby mining would have on the camp and the Scouts? And how could CEDS do this with only a few weeks before the Board was to hear the case?

The answer was postcards. For \$125, we mailed postcards to 1,000 Scout families living in Dorchester County. The postcards and follow-up by the Scout Council got several hundred uniformed Scouts to attend the first night of the special exception hearing. The hearing room was filled with Scouts. The hall outside was filled with Scouts. Scouts even overflowed onto the parking lot outside the building.

Nature Conservancy staffer, Steve Bunker, thinks CEDS probably had its greatest impact when the five board members took a break after the first couple hours of the hearing. The Board members walked out of the hearing room and saw many of their neighbors in scout uniform, obviously opposing the special exception. It seemed that, shortly after the hearing reconvened, the applicant also got the idea the board was not favorable toward the mining proposal, because the hearing was scheduled to continue over several nights, but after the hearing adjourned that first night, the applicant asked to postpone the next hearing date.

Over the following weeks, it must have become increasingly clear to the applicant that the mining project was in trouble. Several state agencies expressed very serious concerns about the project. During this time, the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy began discussions with the company about purchasing the property. These discussions culminated in August in an agreement to purchase the nearly 400-acre property for a bit less than fair-

market value: \$5.2 million. Most of the acquisition funds came from the NOAA Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program.

The strategy described above for blocking the special exception is part of a new alternative approach developed by CEDS known as *Politically Oriented Advocacy*. As in the Wades Savanna campaign, *Politically Oriented Advocacy* produced victory at a fraction of the cost typical of the conventional approach. This is not a fluke. In fact, when CEDS can identify a “win-win” solution for the parties, then *Politically Oriented Advocacy* triples the likelihood that citizens will win, usually without any cost. *Politically Oriented Advocacy* also increases the probability of stopping unwise projects by up to ten-fold.

To learn more about *Politically Oriented Advocacy*, visit the CEDS website at: ceds.org. When you reach the website look along the left margin and click on *Politically Oriented Advocacy* to download a four-page factsheet. For more information click the following title above the factsheet: *How To Win Land Development Issues*, and download for free this 300-page book. To discuss how *Politically Oriented Advocacy* might be applied to a specific threat to a neighborhood or to the environment, give CEDS a call at 1-800-773-4571 and ask for Richard Klein. ■

Note: Richard Klein is a committed environmental advocate and an active member of the Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club. He is self-employed in environmental advocacy. His organization, Community Environmental Defense Services (CEDS), provides advocacy upon request. The first hour of consultation with Mr.

Letters to the Editor

Say No to Slots

To the Editor:

Many, many thanks to Bonnie Bick for her excellent article, “Referendum on Slots: A Row of Lemons for the Environment”, which appeared in the Summer 2008 issue of *Chesapeake*.

For many reasons I have been strongly opposed to slots, but had not considered the environmental reasons. A large slots parlor/casino within the

boundaries of Rocky Gap State Park is truly “outrageous.”

I urge fellow Sierra Club members to vote no on the November referendum that would bring slots into Maryland.

Byron P. Brought, Sr. Pastor
Calvary United Methodist Church
Annapolis, MD 21401

Fighting Invasive Wavyleaf Basketgrass

To the Editor:

Kudos to Marc Imlay and others who detected and fought the invasive wavyleaf basketgrass infestation (p. 1 article in summer edition) while there was still time to control it. Thanks also to *Chesapeake* for excellent coverage of invasive plant issues and what Sierra Club members can do about them. Given the number of na-

tive species lost or threatened, as well as the growing threats from invasives, our chapter's focus on this topic is more than appropriate. Imlay deserves special recognition.

Larry Broadwell
Chevy Chase, MD

We welcome your letters. By e-mail, send to editorch@maryland.sierraclub.org. By USPS, send to the chapter office, 7338 Baltimore Avenue #1A, College Park, MD 20740.

Calling All Editors! Take This Job, and Love It!

Hi. My name is Darla and I am the managing editor of *Chesapeake*.

As the editor, I read *Chesapeake* cover-to-cover, and I find in every issue some opportunity for activism that grabs my attention.

And if you're an experienced editor who's been looking for just the right volunteer opportunity, here's one that might be a perfect fit: My job! After seven years, I have decided to move on to one of the other activities that the chapter offers, so the managing editorship is open.

A diplomatic wordsmith with good organizational skills and a commitment to advocacy on behalf of our environment will find that editing *Chesapeake* is a great job. About four times a year, you'll lead our team of editors who work with our writers to get the articles ready for publication.

And you'll enjoy working with our chapter leaders and members whose work fills our pages each quarter.

As managing editor, you'll review and circulate the articles that are submitted for publication, develop story ideas, and assign the articles to the individual editors. You'll determine the content of each issue of the newsletter, and collaborate with the page designer who'll put the newsletter together for printing. You can do this job from home—all of it.

I'll give you my commitment to help you make a smooth transition into the job.

If you're interested, or have questions that might help you to become interested, please contact me at editorch@maryland.sierraclub.org.

I know the right person is out there. Let me hear from you soon!

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.

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Editor, The Chesapeake
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
7338 Baltimore Ave, Suite 101
College Park, MD 20740

Credits

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

Writers and Contributors: Matt Dernoga, Betsy Johnson, Ron Henry, Alana Wase, D. A. Tewell, Bonnie Bick, Laurel Imlay, Joan Willey, Charles Chester, Cliff Terry, Richard Klein, Mary Corddry, David Prosten, Gregor Becker, Matthew Lindberg-Work, David Hauck, Frank Fox, Dan Soeder, Byron P. Brought, Larry Broadwell

Editors: Betty Brody, Mary Corddry, Donna Engle, Becky French, Laurel Imlay, Betsy Johnson, Sue Kunkel, Dave O'Leary, Cindy Paré, Darla Tewell, Alana Wase

Outings Editor: Dan Soeder
Invasives Editor: Mary Corddry
Layout and Typography: Darla Tewell

Voter Registration Info

The deadline to register to vote is October 14th at 9:00 p.m.

The Voter Registration Application must be delivered in person to the State Board of Elections, a Local Board of Elections, or must be postmarked by October 14th to be eligible to vote in the 2008 Presidential General Election.

For more information on voter registration in Maryland, go to www.elections.state.md.us/voter_registration/index.html



Voters Guide

- Sierra Club Endorses Barack Obama and a Group of Congressional Environmental Champions
- Slots Are an Environmental Issue
- What's at Stake in This Election
- A Winning Strategy for Land Use Battles
- Group News
- Outings, Events, Volunteer Opportunities

and much more!

Vote as if the health of the planet depends on it. It does!

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