

Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Summer 2008

Wave Bye-Bye to Wavyleaf Basketgrass

Early detection and rapid response provide hope for eradicating Asian plant in Maryland—a rare victory over an invasive species

By Karl Blankenship—Three summers ago, when Marc Imlay and a small band of volunteers were yanking unwanted plants in a local park, they stumbled across something they had never seen before: a deep green grass with rippling waves across its blades.

In later visits to Little Paint Branch Park in Maryland's Prince George's County, they noticed the grass was quickly blanketing the area. "We knew there was something wrong," said Imlay, conservation biologist with the Anacostia Watershed Society, who gathered samples for botanists to identify.

In late 2006, he got his answer: It was wavyleaf basketgrass, a species native to southeast Asia.

It was first seen in the United States only a decade before. An amateur botanist, Ed Uebel, spotted a few small patches in 1996 in Patapsco Valley State Park, about 20 miles from where Imlay had found it.

Imlay's worries that the plant was not only exotic, but highly invasive, were confirmed last summer when Kerrie Kyde, the invasive plant specialist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, revisited Patapsco.

The small patches observed by Uebel now blanketed more than 150 acres. "It is kind of mind-boggling," Kyde said. "It looks like somebody rolled out the Astroturf."

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Referendum on Slots A Row of Lemons for the Environment



By Bonnie Bick—A referendum that would modify the Maryland State Constitution to legalize 15,000 slot machines at five locations around the state will appear on Maryland ballots this coming November. One of these locations would be on the grounds of a rural state park. The Sierra Club strongly opposes this referendum for several reasons.

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Transporting Ourselves Over the Brink?

Highway Proposals Pose Threats to Smart Growth and Bay Restoration

Important transportation decisions imminent in Charles and Prince George's Counties could lock Maryland into an unsustainable future. By promoting business as usual—and the attendant sprawl development—these highway decisions could push our state into effectively hosting the Eastern Washington Bypass, part of the "Outer Beltway." The Outer Beltway seemed to be buried in the early 1990's under its own financial and environmental costs but is making a stealthy comeback via piecemealed segments and growth-promoting policies.

Fig. 1 (page 4) shows a detail of a map from the 1990 Washington Bypass Study, on which are superimposed the Intercounty Connector (ICC)*, the Western Waldorf Bypass (WWB), and Charles County's Cross County Connector extension (CCC-ex). While the CCC-ex is ostensibly not part of the Outer Beltway, it would promote massive growth in western Charles County, a necessary stepping stone for those who want to justify another Potomac River bridge at Chicamuxen, near the mouth of Mattawoman Creek.

Among the casualties of the WWB and CCC-ex would be the Chesapeake Bay jewels of Mattawoman (www.mattawomanwatershed.org), the most productive fish nursery in the Bay; and Nanjemoy, an area renowned for its forests, Potomac shoreline, heron rookery, and a

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Letter From the Chair

Don't Buy into Business as Usual



Ron Henry, Chapter Chair

Hello, All!

Here we are nearing the end of the spring quarter and summer is coming upon us. Thanks to all who put in so much time and effort during the General Assembly session. Alas, we did not achieve our goal of getting the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) passed this session. But we are already planning for next year's session. Soon we'll be announcing meetings with other environmental groups to partner in a kickoff of a summer/fall climate-change action campaign. Let us do our part in getting a GWSA passed this next session! It is the base that needs to be in place to build upon for future legislation.

Thanks to Greg Smith and Suchitra Balachandran for ably leading the efforts for anti-ICC legislation, and to all of those Sierrans who joined them in lobbying against the ICC. Important progress was made in educating various legislators on the ways in which the ICC will have an unacceptable impact on the environment, public health, and the state budget, while providing no transportation benefits.

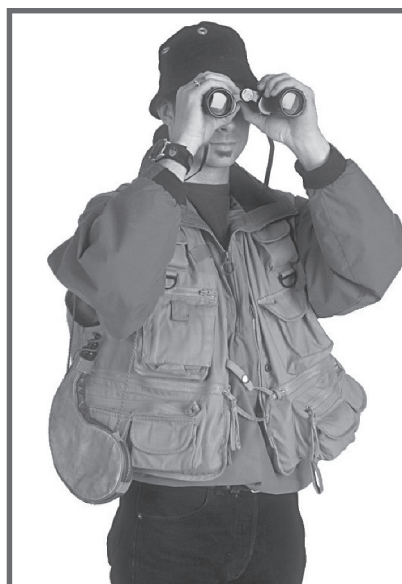
The ICC legislation will be aggressively pursued! Greg and Suchitra are actively working in all communities affected by the ICC, and are conducting outings for legislators and others to demonstrate the environmental impact of the highway. Please support their efforts!

And even if it is not your community – support us anyway!

We must stop extensive highway expansions such as the ICC, CCC, Waldorf Bypass and the gargantuan expansions of I-95 in Harford County. [See related story on page 1.] All are environmentally unacceptable. No meaningful long-range plans are being made for mass transit in our state transportation strategy. None of the plans are anywhere near adequate to offset the additional air, water, and land pollution that will occur from our projected increases in state population growth. This is particularly true for those sections of the state north and south of Baltimore City affected by the Base Realignment and Closure legislation (BRAC) and the resultant expansions at Aberdeen Proving Ground and Ft. Meade. And, of course, the business interests are exploiting to the fullest this opportunity for expansive development. Business as usual!

But let's not be bulldozed into the mindset that it **must** be business as usual! Let's seize the opportunity to do all we possibly can to achieve the commitment to mass transportation that is needed. This we must do, lest we leave to future generations a legacy of pollution, public health problems, and inappropriate land use that are the natural byproducts of unwarranted highway expansion and an abandonment of the principles of Smart Growth.

Until next time! ■



Looking for a Sierra Club meeting?

Call your local group or check the meetings calendar page at

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

Referendum on Slots: An Environmental Issue

Why Slots Are a Bad Bet for Maryland

(continued from page 1)

Locations

The locations in the Amendment were determined by politics, not planning. Of the five locations, three are in rural areas. Slots facilities would disrupt the rural character of Cecil County as well as Worcester County on the Eastern Shore. Most outrageous, however, is the location of a slots casino within the boundaries of the State Park at Rocky Gap in Allegany County. These locations are not centrally located and have been chosen simply because they lack the population and political clout to oppose the referendum effectively, either in Annapolis or at the ballot box. The other two locations are Laurel and Baltimore City, both aimed at minority markets. Both locations would re-

quire extensive road-building, traffic management, and parking construction. The Baltimore location is right on the water in the southern section of the city.

From the perspective of the Sierra Club, these locations represent the worst in public policy. By building major structures intended to attract large volumes of vehicular traffic in far-flung locations, they embody the exact opposite of Maryland's Smart Growth strategy. As we know, increased road-building puts the state into a vicious construction-congestion cycle that destroys rural landscapes and ecosystems and adds to automotive traffic—our fastest-growing contributor to global warming. In addition, the process of putting an unwanted facility in a sparsely populated area out of political expediency represents the worst kind of political maneuvering.


Construction

Gambling facilities are large structures surrounded by impervious parking surfaces. There are no "green building" requirements specified in the laws governing these casino structures. The primary feature of these facilities are surface parking lots. This is not something that we wish to see at five locations in Maryland.


This style of construction will not only lead to massive increases in rainwater run-off, but will also be disruptive to wildlife habitats in some very sensitive locations from Eastern Shore to Rocky Gap State Park.

State Park Site

The single most outrageous component of the entire plan is the impact on Rocky Gap State Park. The park, which covers 3,000 rural acres, includes Lake Habeeb, which is fed by Rocky Gap Run. The park is densely wooded with species including rhododendron and hemlock. The park also contains cliffs and gorges and is home to Evitts Mountain. The park has an ac-



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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

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

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

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

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

Thanks so much!

tive Nature Center and interpretive program including nature hikes, demonstrations, and children's programs. This park is a wonderful natural resource for all Marylanders and should not be developed into a casino location under any circumstances.

Gambling Expansion

No state has ever passed a gambling measure that did not subsequently look to an expansion of gambling. We have seen this in neighboring states as well as around the country. Because the national gambling lobby is so well-funded and powerful, there is legitimate concern over where and when additional locations would be initiated.

Social Issues

While not a core mission of the Sierra Club, it should be recognized that slot machines are highly correlated with addiction, bankruptcy, crime, political corruption, child neglect, domestic violence, embezzlement, and other social problems.

Impact on the State Budget

While proponents argue that slot machines would bring badly needed revenues to Annapolis, there are significant reasons to question these assertions. Dollars spent on gambling are redirected, sometimes from lotteries, but most often from other

legitimate businesses. This could lead to a large decline in General Fund revenues and a reduction in legitimate business activity within the state. Because slots money is fully earmarked, it cannot be used to offset these unforeseen costs. This has the obvious potential of leading to further cuts in environmental programs as social costs related to gambling take a larger percentage of the available General Fund spending.

For these reasons, the Sierra Club sees slot machine gambling as an environmental issue that could have far ranging impact. We urge our members, and all Maryland voters, to vote "No" on the gambling referendum question in November. ■



Create an Environmental Legacy

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

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



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Proposed Highways Could Be a Stealth “Outer Beltway”

(continued from page 1)

federally endangered freshwater mussel. The Port Tobacco River, presently the focus of significant restoration efforts (<http://porttobaccoriver.org>), would backslide. The growth induced by these highways, if built, would make a mockery of Chesapeake Bay restoration and preservation efforts.

Because segmenting highways dilutes public outcry, it is important that Sierrans spread the word statewide and stand up to counter the big money that lubricates these untenable sprawl-inducing highway proposals.

Cross County Connector Extension

Since the proposed CCC-ex would be fully funded by Charles County, its advocates hope to fly under the radar and avoid the full study of a properly scoped Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Ordinarily, an EIS would seem an automatic requirement for a new 6.5 mile, four-lane divided highway that would cut across the watershed of one of the Bay’s most important tributaries. The CCC-ex would destroy over seven acres of wetlands (nearly 20% Maryland’s annual loss) and promote massive growth. Yet the Army Corps of Engineers is presently considering issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact, or FONSI.

In these times, when the consequences of sprawl on aquatic resources are well documented, it is remarkable that a permit would be considered without knowing the facts that an EIS could provide. A fully scoped EIS will give serious attention to alternatives. In the case of the CCC-ex, the same cross-county traffic could be accommodated by recently dualized Middletown Road and the dualized Route 228, which parallels the CCC-ex proposal and which the CCC-ex mimics.

A critical public hearing on the CCC-ex is anticipated *this summer*. The hearing will be convened by the Army Corps and Maryland Department of Environment. Note that the state shares jurisdiction over wetlands with the Army Corps. It is crucial that an overwhelming number of people *attend* the hearing, *comment orally*, and provide written comments. After the hearing, the Corps will decide whether to require an EIS, or instead issue a FONSI, in which case they and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) would be free to issue the wetland destruction permit. A large turnout at the hearing, all asking for an EIS, is evidence of public controversy, which can be helpful in

requiring an EIS, according to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). *Please see sidebar on page 4 for what you can do.*

Western Waldorf Bypass

The WWB is a second major highway proposal with devastating consequences. As Fig. 1 shows, it traces part of the path of the 1990 proposal for an Eastern Washington Bypass. However, its stated purpose is to relieve traffic congestion produced by poor planning along Route 301 in Waldorf. It is one of three main alternatives being considered. The others are an Eastern Waldorf Bypass and an upgrade of 301 through Waldorf, the environmentally least damaging solution. Because this highway project would use federal funding, a draft EIS is automatically required, and one is presently in prepa-

ration thanks to \$5 million in state funds. Now is the time to comment, as the State Highway Administration just held public workshops inviting comment. The sidebar on page 4 gives suggestions.

Opposition to Waldorf Bypasses

The severely damaging Waldorf bypass alternatives were dismissed in the past by *two* Citizens Advisory Committees, one appointed in Charles County and one in Prince George’s County. The committees favored an upgrade. Both bypasses are opposed, in favor of a 301 upgrade, by Prince George’s County government. Only the Charles County government wants a Western Waldorf Bypass, but they hold considerable power. Their stubbornness has for years prevented federal funds from helping to alleviate traffic by upgrading 301.

From a political perspective, the Eastern Waldorf Bypass is an unlikely option because it is opposed by both counties. The WWB, proposed to cross Mattawoman and slice through miles of its forest, would be environmentally devastating in its own right. But as with the ICC, the impact on streams, floodplains, wetlands, and forest would be magnified many fold by the growth induced in a deeply forested rural area. In fact, in 2000, the Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency found that the Western Waldorf Bypass was too damaging to Mattawoman Creek to be considered. The WWB would also harm Piscataway Creek and the Port Tobacco River, including valued Page’s Swamp.

From an environmental standpoint, an upgrade to 301 through Waldorf is the only choice. An option that least disturbs businesses is desirable. There is concern that upgrade options being considered impact businesses unnecessarily. Citizen comments can support a requirement that the State Highway Administration take all necessary steps to upgrade 301 properly.

The full upgrade option of U.S. 301 would also provide an opportunity to launch a better vision for the future. It should be integrally designed to interact with a light rail line between Waldorf and the Branch Ave. Metro station, and to promote transit-oriented development around rail stations.

“Same old” or a better vision?

Through the Chesapeake Bay Agreement and programs

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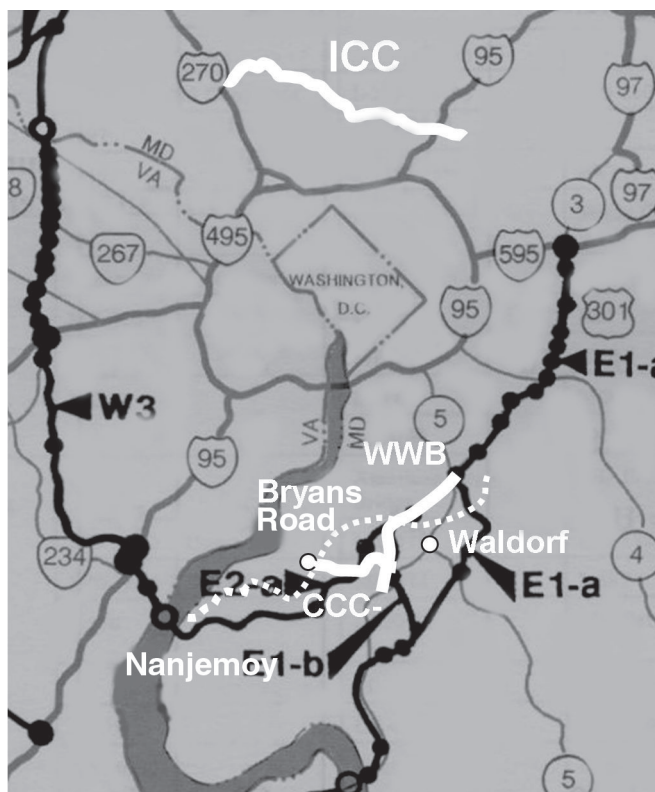


Fig. 1 Map from a 1990 brochure describing the alternatives for a Washington Bypass. Superposed in white is the Intercounty Connector (ICC), the Western Waldorf Bypass (WWB), and Charles County’s Cross County Connector extension (CCC-ex). Mattawoman Creek is shown as a dotted line (heavy for the seven-mile freshwater tidal estuary and light for the 20-mile fluvial stream). The WWB follows the Washington Bypass proposal. While the CCC-ex is not part of the bypass scheme, it would push growth and congestion into lightly populated western Charles County, which could be exploited to agitate for a new Potomac River bridge—with devastating environmental consequences for Maryland.

Highways and Sprawl

Proposed Highways Threaten Watershed and Promote Sprawl

(continued from page 4)

like the state-federal Chesapeake Bay Program, Maryland and the federal government expend millions to restore the Chesapeake Bay. Working at cross-purposes are the regulatory arms that seldom exercise permitting tools, such as wetland and water quality permits, to curtail the most degrading of local-land use policies. Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts are doomed if Maryland continues to pursue and to issue permits for new highways for which more enlightened alternatives exist. According to the Chesapeake Bay Program's Inspector General, population in the Bay watershed grew by about 5% in the 1990's, while impervious cover grew by 41%. Such a large mismatch defines sprawl, which in large part is subsidized by highways.

Sprawl development, which is highway dependent and characterized by long commutes and oversize houses, is a highly disproportionate contributor to carbon dioxide, a primary global-warming gas. So reining in unneeded highways would bring additional benefits by reducing our carbon footprint. However, without leadership at the highest levels, business as usual will continue. There will be no economic incentive for a more sustainable future—forest, after all, is the cheapest land for manufacturing subdivisions. Never mind that it is also the best land-use to preserve aquatic quality.

For now, the watershed of Mattawoman Creek remains mostly forested. But it is rapidly being converted to impervious cover, approaching the 10% threshold known to cause significant loss in water quality. This

would bring the creek, unequaled in the Bay system for its fish productivity, to the brink of severe degradation. A decision to sacrifice Mattawoman by permitting these proposed highways raises serious questions about any meaningful commitment to save the Bay. Mattawoman's loss would be a telling indictment and reveal restoration efforts to be little more than rhetoric.

With highway proposals concentrated in a still-rural area that supports important aquatic resources, and with Waldorf approaching a density that could support transit-oriented development, the state has an opportunity to compel a new vision for the future of Maryland, one based on preserving our natural resources while adopting a sustainable economic development plan. Because highly valued Mattawoman stands in the crosshairs of a piecemealed Eastern Washington Bypass, a decision to sacrifice it represents a pivot that could swing much of Maryland into unsustainable sprawl, with enormous costs born by our children and grandchildren. ■

***Abbreviations.** CCC-ex, Cross County Connector extension; EIS: Environmental Impact Statement; FONSI: Finding of no significant impact; ICC: Intercounty connector; MDE: Maryland Dept. of the Environment; NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act; SHA: State Highway Admin.; WWB: Western Waldorf Bypass.

This article was submitted by the Mattawoman Watershed Society.



Bass Boats on Mattawoman Creek. Photo: Jim Long

Two new highway proposals move Maryland toward becoming a floor mat for the Outer Beltway. Please work for a better vision.

1. Sign up for notifications: www.mattawomanwatershed.org.
2. Attend an imminent hearing concerning the Cross-County Connector extension and speak in favor of a properly scoped Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The hearing is presently unscheduled, but may occur in late July. It will be held in the evening in the Waldorf area.

The Army Corps and MDE are considering issuing a wetland-destruction permit for this 6.5 mile, four-lane highway *without an Environmental Impact Statement*. As part of the NEPA process, they must gauge public opinion. An outcry will help oblige the Corps to require an EIS before permitting decisions are made. An EIS doesn't stop a highway, but would reveal the environmental costs.

3. Comment in favor of a Route 301 upgrade to the State Highway Administration.

SHA just held public open houses on the U.S. 301 Waldorf project to show a culled list of alternatives and asked for comments. Only 230 people attended the open houses on an issue of great importance for southern Maryland to Baltimore and beyond.

Points you could make:

-No bypasses, as they are environmentally damaging to the Chesapeake Bay. The Western Waldorf Bypass would lock in an outmoded Charles County development scheme that the Army Corps' Watershed Management Plan finds

would have severe repercussions for Mattawoman Creek.

-Instead, upgrade U.S. 301 with the alternative that minimizes impacts to businesses. This is the alternative least damaging to forest, stream, the Bay, and global climate.

-Foster light rail between Waldorf and the Branch Avenue Metro. Design the upgrade to accommodate transit-oriented development around future rail stations.

Comment at: www.US301Waldorf.org. On the left margin of the home page, find Public Involvement, and click Submit Comments.

Please e-mail your comments to the following important agencies, which otherwise could receive only summaries provided by SHA.

Environmental Protection Agency
magerr.kevin@epa.gov
Attn: Mr. Kevin Magerr, 3E530
1630 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
steve.harman@nab02.usace.army.mil
Attn: Mr. Steve Harman
PO Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

Federal Highway Administration
danw.johnson@fhwa.dot.gov

Daniel.Montag@fhwa.dot.gov
Maryland Dept of Environment
eghigiarelli@mde.state.md.us

Mr. Neil J. Pedersen, Administrator
Npedersen@sha.state.md.us
State Highway Administration
707 North Calvert Street

Citizens and Officials Unite to Cool Their Communities

By Laura Sargent—Cool Cities and Cool Counties, a national Sierra Club campaign to reduce global warming pollution, hosted its third annual workshop on May 31. The Annapolis day-long meeting brought together citizens and local government officials to meet the challenge.

More than 50 citizens participated in panels, discussions, and breakout groups. Activists traveled from across Maryland as well as Delaware, the District of Columbia, and Virginia. Colleen Sarna, a National Cool Cities coordinator, noted, “Global warming is really bringing unlikely activists out of the woodwork.” Several government officials also attended (listed below).

The idea behind Cool Cities is to coordinate with government to create energy efficiency, transportation, smart growth, and renewable energy solutions to create healthier cities and counties, while at the same time saving tax dollars. Public officials commit to reducing their community’s carbon footprint and work with residents to make this happen. Maryland has more than ten Cool Cities and five Cool Counties. The program is spreading internationally: both Sama and Stephanie Cutts, a National Cool Cities analyst, pointed to an effort in Pakistan.

Breakout sessions covered how to start a campaign, inventory greenhouse gas emissions in your area, build coalitions, create a climate action plan, and use the Cool Cities website (<http://coolcities.us/>).

Sama and Cutts both addressed attendees, as did many others: Rob Savidge, sustainability coordinator for the City of Annapolis; David Hauck, Sierra’s Montgomery County chairman; Alana Wase, Maryland Chapter conservation program coordinator; Ann Elsen, energy consultant; Christina Yagijian, of Faith Partnerships with DC’s Sierra Club chapter; Dave O’Leary, Chapter conservation

chair; Steve Welty, energy consultant; and Eric Coffman, Montgomery County energy manager.

Said Hauck, “The Cool Cities and Counties campaign is essential for any local government. Not only does it reduce pollution, but it also reduces tax dollars spent on fuel and energy. With the rise in fuel costs, this can mean significant savings.”

Under the U.S. Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement, cities strive to meet or exceed the Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gas emissions reduction target (7 percent under 1990 levels) by 2012. Currently, 850 cities throughout the nation and Puerto Rico have signed on to the agreement.

The Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration moves beyond 2012. Following recommendations in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Fourth Assessment Report, the target is an 80 percent reduction of current greenhouse gas emissions levels by 2050. Chris Yoder of Baltimore said, “It is going to take big changes.”

The campaign does have benchmarks, but don’t get discouraged if your group gets hung up on one of them! Sama encouraged people: “Change happens on the local level first and fastest.” The most important thing is to get local governments to make real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Here are the steps to try to make this happen:

- Get a commitment from your officials that yours will become a Cool City.
- Conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory.
- Create a climate action plan.
- Implement it.

Annapolis Mayor Ellen Moyer of Annapolis was one of the first in the nation to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protec-

tion Agreement. Shortly after being elected, Anne Arundel’s John Leopold was the first county executive in Maryland to sign the Mayors Agreement. Hauck said, “We need to start with the low hanging fruit. Once we get credibility, we can move up to the national government.”

He stressed, “You need to focus on energy efficiency and savings first.” According to the Maryland Public Service Commission, every dollar spent on energy efficiency yields three in savings on utility bills. Successes with local Cool County groups include Montgomery County’s passage of a new law, the first in the nation, requiring that all homes built starting in 2010 meet Energy Star standards (which will reduce their energy use by 15–30 percent).

Steve Welty urged Cool groups to suggest that government buildings publicly display their Energy Star ratings. These are determined by the EPA, which is a partner with the Department of Energy in the Energy Star program. The EPA rates buildings based on the goals and improvements they reach.

Another idea was energy film festivals to help educate the public and garner support for the Cool initiatives. At

the end of the day, attendees left inspired—and eager to check out the Web site and register (for free). Registered members can connect with others in their area.

Finally, a Cool Cities Road Show is being offered in Maryland for those seeking help with launching a campaign or boosting efforts to green their community. This involves a visit to your Sierra group at which presenters provide materials tailored to your campaign needs. Sessions can be held evenings or weekends during the day. Your group is responsible for all logistics: picking the place, getting food, and promoting the presentation. The Road Show provides the information, presenters, help with outreach, and some funding.

If you want to learn more about Cool Cities and Counties or recent workshop, visit the Maryland Sierra Club Web site, and click on Cool Cities: <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/action/p0048.asp>. ■

Laura Sargent is a student at the University of Indiana at Bloomington, and is a summer intern working in the Chapter Office.

Want to have a road show come to your area?

Please complete the form below and mail to the Sierra Club, MD Chapter, 7338 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 101A, College Park, MD 20740-3211.

You can also call the office at 301-277-7111, or e-mail the information to coolcities@mdsierra.org.

Sierra Club Group _____

Cool Cities Campaign (city, county) _____

Campaign Contact Name _____

Phone number and e-mail _____

Effective Advocacy

Winning More Environmental Battles—and the Growth-Management War

By Richard Klein—I thought I was a pretty effective environmental advocate. After all, I've helped win some of the biggest battles in Maryland and elsewhere, though I've also lost a few.

But I now know that the conventional approach I and most others use to fight these battles is flawed. Fortunately, an alternative approach is available which is three times as successful in protecting the environment from poorly-planned projects.

Each battle also offers an extremely important opportunity to increase the commitment of elected officials to responsible growth management. This opportunity is mostly squandered through the conventional approach, which is also unduly expensive and leaves potential citizen leaders feeling jaded about grassroots advocacy. The alternative approach provides elected officials with the political cover needed to stand strong.

So what is this alternative to the conventional approach?

Conventional Approach

The best way to describe the conventional approach is with an example. Let's say you learn that a housing or commercial project is planned next to your neighborhood, your favorite hiking trail, or threatens something else you cherish. What's the first action that comes to mind? For most, the answer would be: *Let's hire a lawyer to stop the project.* That's the conventional approach.

The attorney looks for the first opportunity to initiate legal action in hopes of stopping the project. The legal action is successful about 1% of the time. For the other 99% of cases the best outcome is usually a settlement negotiated with the applicant, but this comes after citizens have spent thousands of dollars.

Alternative Approach

With the alternative approach citizens first look for an *equitable solution* to each

concern. An equitable solution is one which fully resolves project impacts while allowing the applicant to get *most* of what they want. For example, runoff pollution might be resolved through the use of more effective control measures. Project plans can usually be modified to include these measures without forcing the applicant to eliminate houses or commercial floor-space. In most instances an applicant will agree to an equitable solution to avoid two things: costly litigation and a reputation as being unresponsive to citizen concerns. It has been my experience that most project impacts, though not all, can be resolved through an equitable solution.

Unfortunately most attorneys lack the technical expertise to identify equitable solutions. And even if they were aware of such a solution, the expectation would be that the applicant would only agree after protracted litigation.

Frequently we can negotiate a good agreement with an applicant or a regulatory agency early in most development battles. Thus the equitable solution approach saves citizens a lot of money, time and frustration. This is why it is so vitally important that citizens resist the temptation to immediately hire an attorney. Also, it usually takes a fair bit of research to determine: a) if an attorney is needed, and b) what type of attorney (zoning, environmental, etc.) is required.

Stopping Bad Projects

Some projects are so poorly conceived that equitable solutions simply do not exist. This leaves no option but to stop the project.

In this scenario, the alternative ap-

proach emphasizes political action over litigation to nix the project. This is because public sentiment usually favors the citizen position, which gives us the advantage in a political arena. Rest assured that there is almost always a way that decision-makers can resolve citizen concerns if they just have adequate political cover. The applicant is better equipped to fight

and win a long, expensive legal battle.

Fighting bad projects in a political arena has another tremendous advantage over the conventional "litigation-only" approach: *It educates lots of voters about what's wrong with existing growth management programs and shows which of their elected officials are pro-development vs. pro-growth management.*

A well managed battle over a bad project can set the stage for:

- ♦ forcing incumbent officials to do a better job of enforcing existing laws;
- ♦ compelling the adoption of better laws; and
- ♦ replacing pro-development incumbents with responsible growth management candidates come the next election.

But I don't want to give the impression that legal action plays no role in the alternative approach. It's just that other options are exhausted before litigating.

The alternative approach involves a smarter way of pursuing legal action. Most projects require many permits and other approvals. Each permit-approval varies with respect to the probability of success. We first research the decision-making history regarding each permit-

approval, then focus legal action on that which offers the highest probability of success at the least cost. At that point we select an attorney who has expertise in that particular area of law plus a good record of success in representing citizens. This alternative approach to litigation greatly increases the likelihood of victory while minimizing cost.

Does the Alternative Approach Really Work?

Everyone has heard the phrase *Smart Growth*. But you may not know that Smart Growth was a result one of the best examples of the alternative approach in action. This example was the Sierra Club's fight to save Chapman's Forest in the mid-1990s. This campaign preserved 2,000 acres of highly-sensitive forest and wetlands while providing former Governor Glendening with the political cover needed to institute *Smart Growth* as state-wide policy.

For two decades I've been researching what approaches are most successful in protecting neighborhoods and the environment from growth impacts. About three years ago I intensified this research and learned that about 40% of citizens use the conventional "Hire A Lawyer-Stop The Project" approach. These citizens succeed in stopping about one out of every hundred projects and spend an average of \$11,000. Most of these citizens get very little for their money and time except a lot of frustration and a pretty poor opinion of grassroots advocacy.

Another 40% of citizens set the goal of resolving specific impacts through (what I call) equitable solutions. These citizens win 25% of the time, spend very little money, and come away feeling good about advocacy. I am convinced that the success rate for designing impacts out of projects could be tripled. I also believe that full application of the alternative ap-

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Effective Advocacy

Winning More Battles Against Growth

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proach could increase the number of bad projects stopped by ten fold.

Why do I believe this?

Because this is the rate of success we help citizens achieve through the hundred or so campaigns we support around the nation every year. And we *always* apply the alternative approach.

Taking Control of the Growth Management Agenda

Successful application of the alternative approach to just a few projects can set the stage for changing how growth is managed throughout a town, city or county. With each battle more voters learn of shortcomings in local growth management laws and programs. They also learn how both could be improved to reap the benefits of growth without sacrificing their quality of life. Savvy citizen leaders can build on this base by expanding the education effort beyond the impact zone of specific projects. The expanded effort should always begin with *frequent* voters.

As the phrase implies, frequent voters come to the polls just about every election. They make up just 10% of the population but frequently determine who gets elected. Frequent voters are also the people who tend to be most active in a community. They are the folks who attend hearings, write letters, and contribute funds. In other words, frequent voters are *the* best source of the volunteers and dollars needed to take control of the growth management agenda in your area.

Where to Begin: You're Not Alone

The preceding was a very simplified description of the alternative approach. The detail needed to implement the approach is provided in *How To Win Land Development Issues*, a 300-page book available free for download on the CEDS website: ceds.org.

Chapter 1: The Easy Solution, presents the five-step alternative approach. Chapters 3 through 26 cover the 24 categories of impact caused by development: air quality, aquatic resources, schools, traffic, etc. Methods for identifying and resolving most impacts can be found by consulting the chapter relevant to your concerns.

Further advice is available free to those seeking to preserve neighborhoods or the environment. Just contact me at 1-800-773-4571 or Help@ceds.org.

A Few Good Sierrans Wanted

The Sierra Club used to be the *go-to* organization for citizens concerned about bad development and other environmental threats. But during the five years I served as the Greater Baltimore group chair (2002-2005) we got maybe two or three calls from citizens looking for help despite numerous battles being waged throughout our service area. From serving on the Sierra Club's national sprawl committee for two years I know that the same is true for many groups elsewhere in the USA.

I think the Club can recapture this critical role. To do this we need, say, a half-dozen Sierrans spread throughout Maryland who understand how to use the alternative approach. I believe that after a few successful demonstrations of this highly superior approach these Sierrans will become the go-to folks for all other citizens seeking help with bad development projects and other environmental threats.

If you think you might like to become one of the few, the proud, the highly-effective advocates, contact me at Rklein@ceds.org or 410-654-3021. After several two-hour workshops, you'll be ready to go after your first win. Thereafter I'll be there to offer advice, help you get other support, and to join you for a beer while swapping war stories. ■

Wetlands Restoration

Rescuing Wetlands and Saving Endangered Species

We Have the Money; Do You Have the Time?

By Richard Klein—Throughout the greater Baltimore area there are at least 37 wetlands supporting rare, threatened, or endangered species. All 37 wetlands are in jeopardy to varying degrees. Fortunately, mechanisms are available for enhancing the protection afforded each wetland. The Greater Baltimore Group just received a grant from the national Sierra Club to launch a project to protect these wetlands. All we are missing are a few good volunteers to help us win this battle. Former Group chair Richard Klein is managing the project. If you are interested in lending a hand, we offer two options.

First, join us on Saturday, September 13, 10 a.m. at the park-and-ride lot at I-83 exit 36 (MD 439) for the endangered species hike. Second, attend the endangered species preservation gathering at Cockeysville library on Tuesday, September 16, 7 p.m. For further information, contact Richard at 410-654-3021 or Rklein@ceds.org.

The Maryland Department of the Environment has designated the 37 areas Wetlands of Special State Concern (WSSC)—a designation that affords some additional protection beyond that applied to other wetlands. For example, a minimum 25-foot buffer must be maintained around most wetlands while a 100-foot buffer is required for WSSCs. But a 100-foot buffer is not sufficient to protect the highly-sensitive species inhabiting a WSSC. Most of the WSSC wetlands derive their water from a land area—the *watershed*—that extends far beyond the nearest 100 feet. Poorly planned commercial development and other land-use changes within the watershed could devastate the species inhabiting a WSSC even though the 100-foot buffer remained intact.

In addition to supporting rare,

threatened, or endangered species, the 37 wetlands also provide other important ecological benefits. Of course, a number of other species thrive in each wetland ecosystem. The wetlands also maintain flows to downstream waters and retain a portion of the pollutants washed from surrounding lands. Finally, nearby residents derive considerable solace from knowing that they live in an area so clean that local wetlands can support highly-sensitive species.

Should you choose to volunteer a few hours of your time we would ask for your help with the following tasks.

- ♦Help us determine the vulnerability of each 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 has been designed so there's a place for everyone with a few hours to contribute, regardless of skills or expertise. In exchange for your contribution of time you may well succeed in saving one of these unique ecosystems from an imminent threat while keeping hundreds of pounds of pollution out of the Chesapeake Bay. ■

Richard Klein (Rklein@ceds.org) is a member of the Greater Baltimore chapter and the founder and president of Community & Environmental Defense Services, Owings Mills, MD.

Challenges to Our Fisheries

By Representative Wayne T. Gilchrest—Believe it or not, we understand more about the planet Mars than we do about our oceans. Yet, we derive so much from them that is necessary for our survival and crucial to our economy—particularly ocean fish and shellfish, which are important sources of protein for consumers in the U.S and around the world.

Increased Consumption of Seafood Affects Global Fisheries

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports that U.S. consumption of seafood is trending upward, and in 2005 we consumed an amount of seafood second only to Japan and China. If all Americans were to follow the American Heart Association's recommendations to eat at least two servings of fish per week, the United States would need an additional 1.5 billion pounds of seafood each year. Since 80% of our seafood is imported, we have a significant impact on ocean fisheries worldwide. As pressure on this resource grows, many of our ocean fisheries are in trouble—overfishing and habitat degradation have taken a toll on fish populations and impacted ocean and coastal ecosystems. Effective, balanced federal policy and adequate funding is needed to support sustainable fishery management and healthy oceans.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), originally enacted in 1976, gives the U.S. sovereign rights over fishery resources in U.S. waters, which generally extend from 3 miles from shore to 200 miles. The MSA originally focused on eliminating foreign fishing in U.S. waters and building robust domestic fisheries. It effectively

eliminated most foreign fishing in these waters, but its success in developing domestic fisheries led to the need for refinement in our laws to protect declining stocks. Fish were being harvested at a higher rate than was sustainable, which is called 'overfishing'. During Congressional consideration of the 1996 reauthorization of the MSA, in a bill called the Sustainable Fisheries Act, I successfully included a provision to curtail overfishing. Through this and other important changes, Congress strengthened the MSA with provisions that reduced bycatch of non-targeted fish, required identification and protection of habitats essential to fish, and addressed overfishing.

By the early years of the 21st Century, evidence of continued stress in U.S. fish stocks indicated a need for retooling of U.S. fishing laws to protect domestic and international stocks. In 2001, when I became chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, I held several hearings to assess problems in U.S. fishery management and identify measures to resolve them. I learned that scientists were concerned about the impact of intense fish harvest—including bycatch—on the ecosystems upon which stocks depended and on population dynamics of certain stocks. Around the nation, fishery managers were concerned about the build up of capacity—or fishing boats—and were debating ways to manage this through the development of quota and other allocation programs.

Sustainable Harvesting

I have always believed that fisheries should be harvested conservatively until science can support a greater harvest, and that managing living resources sustainably means considering their use in the context of all the living and habitat-related factors influencing the health of their populations. From this ecosystem-based fishery management perspective, I began to craft legislation to accomplish this nationwide in 2002, when I also worked with the NOAA Chesapeake Bay office in the development of a multi-species

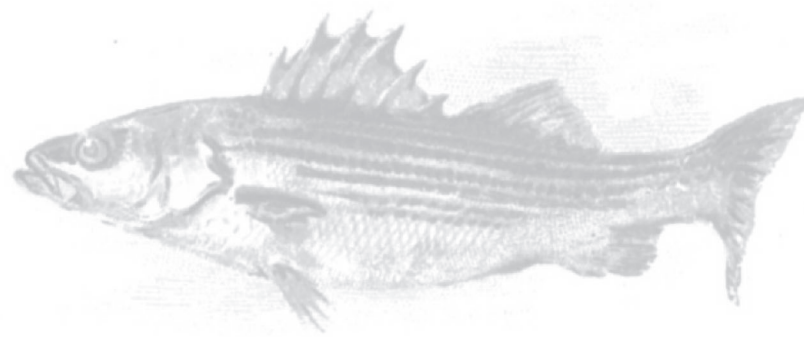
sustainable harvest of fisheries that can support healthy coastal economies.

The 8 Regional Fishery Management Councils, which manage U.S. ocean fisheries in partnership with NOAA, are developing approaches to ecosystem-based fishery management. I took a leadership role in 2006 in reauthorizing the MSA to strengthen this approach in a proposal that would require NOAA to develop guidelines for ecosystem-based fishery management plans. Although this did not make it into the final 2006 bill, I was able to help end overfishing by requiring all fisheries to be managed on the basis of annual harvest caps by no later than 2011 and to lead an effort to ensure the rebuilding of depleted stocks within the 10-year time frame specified in MSA.

Challenges Facing the New Fisheries Law

The newly reauthorized MSA faces several challenges. As NOAA finalizes the rules to implement the new law, securing necessary federal funds could become increasingly difficult as the nation faces more and more needs for these same funds. Also, pressure to relax the new law requiring the rebuilding of depleted stocks within a specified time period will likely increase. Legislation to relax the new rebuilding requirements has already been proposed in Congress, so I am encouraging my colleagues and fishery managers to find ways to minimize the economic impact of reducing harvest of these stocks while making sure they are rebuilt and managed sustainably in the future. As more people move to and use our coasts, coastal habitats are degraded. It is critical that we develop market-based and regulatory laws to protect coastal lands at the federal, state, and local level. Deep sea coral habitats, also very important to many commercial fish stocks, need protection. While the new MSA provides for identification of and research on these

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Savoring a Rare Victory over an Invasive Plant

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Based on its rapid spread, botanists fear that it could rapidly replace native plants, turning forest floors into monocultures with little habitat value for other species throughout the region.

But instead of wavyleaf basketgrass being the latest invasive species to roll across the landscape—as has been the case with everything from kudzu and mile-a-minute to gypsy moths and snakeheads—Imlay and Kyde think they have a shot at driving the plant from its beachhead in North America.

“So far, it is only found in Maryland,” Imlay said. “We have a realistic chance of saving what will otherwise destroy 10 percent of the herbaceous layer of one fourth of the United States.”

If that happens, it would be a remarkable accomplishment. Although efforts have succeeded in removing problematic species from local areas, such as parks, examples of removing an invasive species from the continent are rare.

“I’d be hard-pressed to pick one out and point at it,” said Alan Tasker, the federal noxious weed coordinator at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which is charged with keeping harmful pests out of the country. “This would be one of the few citable examples.”

Right now, the plant has only been spotted in a handful of locations, which also include the Liberty Reservoir and Hernwood Landfill in Baltimore County.

And in one location, wavyleaf basketgrass has nearly been eradicated. Imlay called on volunteers through last summer to help fight back against the plant in Little Paint Branch Park, including at one point assembling an international crew from the World Bank. “I wanted to teach people so they would realize that when something first hits on their own continent, that is the time to get it,” he said.

Altogether, Imlay led more than a

dozen trips to the park in 2007, with scores of volunteers racking up more than 400 hours spraying and pulling wavyleaf basketgrass, which had spread over roughly three acres. By year’s end, they had knocked it back by about 80 percent.

Volunteers Work on Eradication

Imlay is seeking volunteers to finish off the plant in the park this spring, and more volunteers are queuing up for the fight. He said the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club is pledging 325 volunteer hours toward eradicating the plant.

Meanwhile, members of the Montgomery County “Weed Warriors” are being trained to identify the plant. “This year,” he said, “the idea is to scout farther in all directions and remove it where we see it.”

Nonetheless, ridding the plant will be no easy task, especially in Patapsco Valley State Park where it already blankets more than a quarter-square-mile of territory.

Kyde said the plant is too widespread to be eradicated in a single year. So, while volunteers will be working to control the plant, other efforts will go into precisely mapping known locations, understanding the plant’s biology and determining the most effective herbicides to use against it.

“I suspect this is easily a three-year effort and maybe five,” Kyde said. “And I would want to monitor for five or 10 years

thereafter.”

The maps will help botanists identify—and get rid of—any pockets that spread beyond the boundaries of current patches, thereby containing the invasion.

How It Spreads

The plant has two ways to spread. Its stems can grow horizontally along the ground and root at the lower stem nodes. And, when it blooms from mid-September through November, it grows seed-

bearing spikelets. The spikelets have long pointed bristle-like awns that produce a sticky substance that readily attaches the seeds to anything which may brush past. “It’s about

the stickiest thing I’ve ever come across,” Imlay said.

To limit the spread, removal priority is likely to be given to areas along paths, Kyde said. But people may not be the only way to move seeds around. “I believe the deer are a major vector,” she added, noting that people have reported seeing deer legs covered with awns and seeds. “That’s bad news.”

The plant is native to India and Southeast Asia. It is also found in Italy, although it’s not clear whether it is native to Italy or was imported, Kyde said.

It’s not clear how the plant got to Maryland, but because one of its known locations was near a landfill, Kyde said it’s possible the plant was being disposed of, although this particular subspecies is

not typically sold in the United States.

Tasker said the USDA is reviewing whether the subspecies should be listed as a noxious weed, which would prevent its importation into the United States and transport across state lines.

While the wavyleaf basketgrass has been in Maryland for nearly a decade, it’s still considered an early discovery relative to other species, which are often more widespread before they are noticed. “You often don’t find out about it until it is too late to be able to take it out,” Tasker said.

He said one of the lessons from the wavyleaf basketgrass experience is the value of citizen efforts, like those by Imlay, who work to control other invasive species in their local area. “Most people don’t know their surroundings like they used to,” he said. “They don’t know what belongs or doesn’t belong in an area. They just think, ‘Oh it’s green, so it’s good.’”

As Kyde and Imlay work to assemble volunteers, funding—and a plan—to control the plant, it could serve as a model for others of how early detection of an invasive plant, followed by a coordinated rapid response effort, can remove a species before it becomes problematic.

Although such efforts are generally considered critical to controlling invasive species, discoveries are often too late, or funding is lacking to fight the invaders—the USDA has only about \$1.5 million nationwide to support such efforts.

“We are going to learn an awful lot through this infestation,” Kyde said. “This is going to be extremely valuable in formulating how people might handle the same kind of incident with other species.”

It would also show that such efforts are worth the investment, Tasker said. “One of the difficulties is coming up with success stories that we can point to,” he said.

For information about the wavyleaf

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Wavyleaf basketgrass taking root in a woodland. Note the characteristic wavy leaves. Photo: Alex Binck

Invasive Species

Be on the Lookout for Wavyleaf Basketgrass



Wavyleaf basketgrass is a low-lying, trailing perennial grass. Its flat leaf blades are about 0.5 to 1 inch wide and 1.5 to 4 inches long, and have elongated pointed tips. There are rippling waves across the deep green grass blades, as though the tide were coming into shore along the leaves.

The leaf sheaths and stems are noticeably hairy, although the hairs are very short.

When the plant blooms, from mid-September through November, the grass spikelets have glumes (lower bracts) with very long awns (extended pointed tips). The awns produce a sticky substance that allows the grass seed to adhere to and be dispersed by passing animals or the pants of humans. It also spreads by branching and rooting at nodes along creeping stems called stolons.

- From www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/wl_basketgrass.asp

Fighting Back Against Wavyleaf Basketgrass

(continued from page 10)

basketgrass, including information about identification and reporting sightings, visit www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/wl_basketgrass.asp. Anyone who is interested in participating in eradication efforts can contact Marc Imlay at marc@anacostiaws.org or Kerrie Kyde at 410-260-8534, 1-877-620-8DNR

x8367 (TTY users dial 711) or KKyde@dnr.state.md.us. ■

Karl Blankenship is the editor of The Bay Journal, published by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay for the Chesapeake Bay Program. This article first appeared in The Bay Journal, and is reprinted with Mr. Blankenship's permission.

Help Stop the Spread of Wavyleaf Basketgrass in Your Local Park!

Citizens throughout Maryland can help by identifying new wavyleaf basketgrass outbreaks.

A crucial aspect of the effort to eradicate wavyleaf basketgrass is locating the plant wherever it is present in Maryland so it may be removed before it can spread. This isn't just a job of botanists and DNR officials—you too can help!

Learn to identify the plant at www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/wl_basketgrass.asp.

Report its presence or absence in parks and woodlands near you to Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist, at 410-260-8534 or kkyde@dnr.state.md.us. You can reach her toll free in Maryland at 1-877-620-8DNR (8367).

Perhaps even more important are the volunteers needed to remove the plant. If you're interested in joining what could be a monumental victory for biodiversity in Maryland and the United States, contact Marc Imlay, Chair of the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter's Biodiversity and Habitat Stewardship Committee at marc@anacostiaws.org or 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808.

ISO

The Maryland Chapter's Population Committee is looking for 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.

Advocate for the Wilderness!

Ask our Senators to support S. 1774, S. 2109, and when it arrives from the House, HR 2632.

Ask your Representative to support HR 2632, 3022, and 3682.

Please don't forget to thank them for their support of the Big Sky Wilderness.

Wilderness

New Legislative Measures to Protect the Wilderness

By Chris Yoder—The Wilderness Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1131-1136, protects wild areas, even those already in National Parks and Wildlife Refuges, from most development, such as commercial enterprises and permanent roads. In a victory for wilderness protection, the House and Senate passed S. 2739, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, and President Bush signed it into law on May 8, 2008. This law will protect 106,000 acres of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualim National Forest in Washington State as the Wild Sky Wilderness.

On May 14, the House Natural Resources Committee approved the following three wilderness bills, sending them to the full House:

1) The Sabinoso Wilderness Act of 2007 (H.R. 2632) would designate as wilderness 19,880 acres in northeastern New Mexico, 40 miles east of Las Vegas, New Mexico. The Sabinoso Wilderness Study Area is one of the best examples of a great-plains ecosystem left in the state.

2) The Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park Wilderness Act, (H.R.3022) would protect as wilderness nearly 115,000 acres within Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park. The proposed wilderness area includes the Redwood Mountain Grove, the largest Giant Sequoia grove in the Park. The Senate companion bill is S.1774.

3) The California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act (H.R. 3682) would designate over 190,000 acres of wilderness, add new areas to the Santa Rosa National Monument, and designate 31 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers in Riverside County, California. The Senate companion bill is S. 2109. ■

Chris Yoder is the Chair of the Wilderness Committee.

Group News Roundup

Chapter Activities Span the State

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

Beginning a spring tradition, the Anne Arundel Group had a spring picnic on May 31 at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis, with about 50 people in attendance. Prizes were awarded for the best locally grown/raised (within 100 miles) contri-

bution to the picnic, encouraging members to shop for and consume locally grown foods. Planned activities included Tai Chi stretches, a nature walk, and an invasive plant removal session, but the last two events were rained out.

Nearly 200 runners participated in the Group's 14th annual Earth Day 5K Race and Walk at Quiet Waters Park on April 19. There were plenty of prizes and treats, including drawings for several hundred dollars of giveaways from local businesses. Among the runners and walkers were a wide array of strollers and family dogs. The Group had an information table following the race at the Earth Day event in Quiet Waters Park. This is the Group's big annual fundraiser. Runner entry fees and T-shirt sponsors help pay for the race's expenses and the shirts that go to each participant, with the remaining funds helping pay for the Group's work over the year.

Various outings are sponsored by the Group, including hikes and paddle tours, even caving in West Virginia. An outing to Kinder Farm Park, to which children and dogs were welcome, was scheduled. There was a tour of the Waste Management Inc. Recovery Facility in Elkridge, the nation's largest recycling facility. The Group participates in the annual Patuxent Sojourn, scheduled for June 19 – 24. Paddlers will travel from Kings Landing Park in Calvert County to the Chesapeake Bay. Call Liz at 410-267-9009 or check out www.patuxentsojourn.org for detailed information.

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

Catoctin Group (Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties)

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

By Gregor Becker—The Maryland Heartland Sustainable Living Fair was held May 24 at the Carroll County Farm Museum. This community event was planned and organized by local residents who are interested in promoting environmental awareness and the development of a sustainable economy in Carroll County. The fair included green building materials and methodologies, renewable energy technologies like wind and solar, sustainable agriculture and local agriculture products, and sustainable living practices that aim to forge a healthier relationship with the natural world and its resources. Speakers conducted educational sessions for various topics. This fair was sponsored by the Maryland Sierra Club Catoctin Chapter and endorsed by the Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council.

Over 900 people attended. Approximately 35 paying vendors and 14 nonprofit groups had displays. Related activities for children throughout the day were popular. There were segments on green investing, LEED certification for homes, heirloom gardens, day lighting, shopping for electricity in Maryland, and putting up produce for the winter. People came from all over Central Maryland into southern Pennsylvania. Sorry you missed this event? Come next year! <http://www.sustainablelivingmd.org/>

INCINERATOR: In April, the Carroll County Board of Commissioners voted 2-1 to join Frederick County in seeking final best proposals for an incinerator, despite overwhelming public opposition and strong recommendations from Carroll County's Environmental Advisory Committee to pursue aggressive waste reduction and resource recovery policies first. This vote essentially authorized the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority to proceed with next steps and elicit final proposals from Covanta and

Wheelabrator. These two companies responded to a request for proposals to build a 1,700-ton-per-day facility to burn trash and generate electricity.

Residents in Frederick, where the facility would be built, continue to question aggressively the need for such a facility and to research other options, so as to bring democracy and balance to the issue. One resident went so far as to organize a Zero Waste field trip to Boulder, Colorado, for county officials and interested residents. Commissioners and staff from both counties are to attend the June event. Residents are planning to give presentations to the public upon their return. "Shutting down incinerators and phasing out landfills through recycling would have the same impact as closing one-fifth of the nation's 417 coal-burning power plants, according to a study by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, the Institute for Local Self-Reliance and Eco-Recycle." www.news-press.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080605/GREEN/80605032/1075.

BRUNSWICK: We will be presenting "Cool Cities" to the Brunswick Town Council in July. This is the U.S. Mayors' Agreement on Climate Protection. We need support from local residents. Please e-mail Gregor Becker at lorax4@carr.org for information on how to help. Just a letter or phone call could make a big difference!

The Catoctin Group communicates with our members electronically for the most part. Our website is <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/catoctin/> OR just go to sierraclub.org, and then select Maryland Chapter and Catoctin Group OR e-mail us at mdhiker2@yahoo.com to receive alerts on actions, hikes, or meetings.

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Group News Roundup

The Maryland Chapter Groups Working Locally

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Eastern Shore (Cecil County and Eastern Shore counties)

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

The Eastern Shore Group has formed a temporary Executive Committee to serve until elections are held this fall. We encourage members of the nine-county Eastern Shore group to submit nominations for the permanent committee.

The Lower Shore district (Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset counties) has been meeting regularly for the past six months. Meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Wicomico County Library in Salisbury. Sierra Club members living in the three Lower Shore counties are encouraged to attend meetings and to become involved as participants and/or leaders in group activities and environmental issues of particular personal interest. For more information, please contact Barry Spinak (punim@jhu.edu, tel. 410-742-0348) or Jan Nichols (jannichols44@yahoo.com).

The Upper Shore district (Cecil, Kent, & Queen Anne's counties) sponsored a picnic in May for current and prospective members, and further organizing efforts are currently underway. Please contact Mike Burns at 410-392-4483 or mburns@atlanticbb.net.

Efforts are also underway to organize in the Mid-Shore district (Talbot, Caroline, & Dorchester). Please contact Alana Wase at the Chapter office, alanawase@sierraclub.org.

See <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/es/> for more information.

Greater Baltimore (Baltimore City and County, Harford County)

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

By Mary Corddry—In preparation for

the upcoming primary and general elections, the Group analyzed the 2008 legislative session's voting records of the region's State Senators and Delegates. This information is available on the Group's website.

Group members are collaborating with other local environmentally minded organizations to promote "Cool Cities" initiatives in Baltimore City and County. Patrick McMahon was appointed to Baltimore City's new Commission on Sustainability, which is developing a Sustainability Master Plan. Chris Yoder is participating on the Baltimore Climate Action Network to fight global warming.

The Group has been involved with the Greater Dundalk Alliance and with State and local government officials to oppose the proposed liquid natural gas terminal, storage tanks, and pipeline at Sparrows Point.

The Group has hikes of varied length and difficulty, 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

The Howard County Group has a very active outings program, including fre-

quent backpacking trips. Check the Group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events. You may contact Ken Clark about getting on an email listing of outings and events.

Montgomery County

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

By David Hauck—On April 22, 2008, the Montgomery County Council passed seven bills that have put the county on the path of aggressively addressing global warming. The legislation contains a mix of new actions and the establishment of a Sustainability Working Group, charged with finding ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the county by 80 percent by 2050. The bills are the next step in Montgomery County's participation in the Sierra Club's "Cool Counties" initiative, launched in July 2007.

The Montgomery County Group worked hard to push back against some home builders, who sought to strip out important sections of the bills. At one point, the requirement that new homes built in the county would have to meet the U.S. EPA's Energy Star standards for greater energy efficiency was removed from the draft legislation. Prospects looked bleak for getting this requirement put back in when the bill came before the full County Council.

This is when the strength of the local Sierra Club with members throughout Montgomery County proved its worth. An active Sierra Club volunteer let us know that the city of Gaithersburg had already passed a law in October 2007 requiring new homes to meet the Energy Star standards. We brought this to the attention of Council members, who were not aware of what Gaithersburg had done six months earlier, and argued that if Gaithersburg could require higher levels

of energy efficiency in new homes, so could the county. Several Sierra Club members also emailed the Council voicing their strong support for putting this new home energy efficiency requirement back into the bill. On April 22, the Council voted unanimously to do so.

Our feelings of accomplishment were confirmed when the *Washington Post* in a May 3rd editorial wrote that "the crown jewel of the (Montgomery County) legislation is the Energy Star provision for new homes."

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, 301-218-3920, chipreilly@mac.com or chip.reilly@maryland.sierraclub.org
Group's office: 301-277-0600 or 301-277-7111

By Chip Reilly—We will hold our annual social on Saturday, June 21 from 3-6 pm. The location is Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road, in Greenbelt. We will come together, eat, have fun, celebrate our victories, discuss our challenges, and informally strategize our objectives and future goals. RSVP today to Alex Hirtle at alexhirtle@hotmail.com.

During the event, the group will present the 2008 Maloney Environmental Public Service Award to Carmen Anderson. For 40 years, Carmen labored ceaselessly to ensure that ordinary people's views and the public good were considered in decisions about land use in Prince George's County. "In our choice, we acknowledge that Carmen has played a singular and unsung role in defending our quality of life over decades. She has been a mentor and an inspiration to many

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Group News Roundup

Politics, Sustainable Living, Global Warming, and Other Local Issues Keep Groups Active

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of us,” noted Chip Reilly, Group Chair.

The Cool Cities/Cool County team remains active, working with the County Council and municipal leaders. Contact Alana at the Chapter office for more details.

The Prince George’s Environmental Knowledge Web team continues its development of a central online resource for county environmental activists. We need volunteers to write brief summaries of key environmental and land use issues and solutions. We also need someone with an eye for web design (using easy site-tweaking software). Please contact Chip Reilly at (301) 218-3920.

Join Us for a Fun-Filled Weekend on the Potomac!

Looking for a weekend summer adventure relatively close to home but far enough out to escape the suburban jungle? Want to cool off in July and enjoy the company of fellow Sierrans and other like-minded folks? Then join us as the Prince George’s Group of the Sierra Club partners with the Patuxent Riverkeepers on a two-day tubing trip down an unspoiled section of the Potomac River on July 26th and 27th. On Saturday morning we’ll meet at the Route 95 Park & Ride lot near College Park. The Riverkeepers’ River Bus will make the 90-minute drive to base camp near Little Orleans, Maryland, a tiny town next to the C&O Canal Towpath and near Green Ridge State Forest. The area is bounded by mountains and rolling hills, and is a relaxing year-round destination for hikers, bikers, birdwatchers, naturalists, hunters, and fishermen.

We’ll inflate and launch our inner tubes a few miles up-river and make a gentle float over mild ripples and through placid pools. The mountain water of the 10 Mile Run section of the Potomac River is startlingly clear. Kayaks will be avail-

able for those who want to go on paddle excursions near the camp, and others can walk or bike into Little Orleans for ice cream or libations. The evening will feature a hearty meal, and a campfire next to the crystalline river.

All equipment, including tents, chairs, firewood, inner tubes and kayaks will be provided, as well as all meals and snacks. Transportation is included from the I-95 Park & Ride; just bring your sleeping bag, mattress pad, and personal gear. Cost for the entire weekend is \$125, which covers the trip expenses and also supports the non-profit work of the Patuxent Riverkeeper.

Interested? Don’t delay! RSVP by July 18th to Alex Hirtle at 301-952-5349 or email at ajhirtle@co.pg.md.us. Please place “Sierra Club trip” in the subject line for identification purposes. See you on the River!

Southern Maryland (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s Counties)
Chair: Frank Fox, 301-884-8027, ff725@yahoo.com

Charles County is one of the fastest growing counties in the State, and Southern Maryland is Maryland’s fastest growing region. According to the recently published 2006 Planning Commission Annual Report, the county approved more lots than the target rate necessary to meet housing demands for the next 20 years. The county’s elected officials should re-evaluate the county’s attraction to sprawl development and the decisions that they make which facilitate sprawl. While we certainly agree with the Charles County Commissioners’ support of the principle of protecting Mattawoman Creek, they also support the proposed Cross County Connector Extension and have not authorized a full study of the possible impacts. This fully county-financed highway would be a huge trigger for sprawl,

increase vehicle miles traveled, and result in loss of forests and wetlands.

The Group is embarking on a campaign either to change the mindset of our local elected officials or to change our officials. We are looking for candidates who are endorsable by the Sierra Club. If you want to help in this endeavor, contact Donna Cave at DonnaCave@aol.com or 301-932-7249.

The “Preserve” at Green Spring, a proposal for a subdivision in Pomfret, Charles County, would blanket almost 1,000 acres of very sensitive Mattawoman Creek watershed with 600 houses, six stream crossings, tennis courts, athletic fields, roads, and parking lots. A 2006 zoning text amendment “restores” zoning in this (RC-D) Zone from one unit per 10 acres to one unit per one acre, if stream valleys are maintained in a natural state and the site falls within certain sewer and water categories. The developers want to benefit from the ordinance and are proposing to upzone seven percent of the RC-D Zone. There will be public hearings at which the County Commissioners consider the Green Spring proposal and another proposal, Millard’s Mill. To receive updates and find out what you can do, sign up for alerts at www.mattawomanwatershed.org and identify yourself as a Sierra Club member.

The Calvert County Commissioners endorsed the proposed third (Unistart Inc.) reactor at Calvert Cliffs, with little public discussion. In March, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission received public input on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement that it will prepare. Residents expressed concerns about increased traffic generated by the estimated 2,000 temporary and 300 permanent workers moving or commuting into the county; about the subsidies of an additional 50% tax credit, worth about \$300 million over 15 years, to a mature indus-

try; about the public services such as health care and schools that the new installation and new workers will require; and that alternative clean energy sources and better conservation should be promoted rather than more nuclear power.

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 from 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 cedarrocks@yahoo.com

The Group publishes a newsletter, “Nature’s Advocate of Western MD.” The Group has an email discussion group/Listserv at 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. ■

Fisheries

Fisheries Law Strengthened

(continued from page 9)

areas, future protections will be needed. The new MSA strengthens the role of the U.S. in enforcing international agreements to protect migratory stocks and stocks harvested beyond U.S. waters, but it will be important to remain vigilant to ensure that these new authorities are effective in stopping illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in international waters.

Finally, coastal waters are already warming as a result of climate change, and this warming is causing highly evolved ecosystems—like coral reefs—to suffer injuries that could become catastrophic. For coral reefs, the damage includes bleaching and increased acidification of surface waters from carbon dioxide absorbed by ocean waters. Ocean birds and marine mammals, suffer loss of habitat and the fish and shellfish upon which they depend for food. Significant shifts are already underway in fisheries that are important to our coastal communities. We must not only do all we can to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases significantly, but we must also support the resilience of coral reefs and other ocean habitats through adequate federal, state, and local protection, and funding. As I continue my advocacy outside the U.S. Congress as a citizen, I hope you will join me in working toward a sustainable future for our oceans and ocean fisheries. ■

Congressman Wayne T. Gilchrest represents Maryland's 1st Congressional District.



Your Health

Avoiding Lyme Disease

By Richard Reis—Lyme disease, as many Sierra Club members know, is an infection transmitted by ticks, which are plentiful in the woods – exactly where we love to hike and hang out. My own personal bout with this nasty bug motivates me to share my experience and help others avoid or at least deal with it.

For the past few years, I experienced serious swelling of one knee or the other. My primary care doctors and even a specialist treated the symptoms as typical arthritis. In the last month, one of those doctors referred me to Dr. Hinkes, an orthopedist, who immediately suspected Lyme disease. After this was confirmed through a lab test, I began taking an antibiotic and my knee is healing.

The life cycle of Lyme begins when a tiny deer tick attaches to your body for more than a few hours. Most but not all infections begin with a circular rash. (I don't recall that stage.) This is usually followed by a general infection with headache, fever, and joint aches. It can then progress to a more serious illness affecting joints, nervous system, or heart.

Ticks wait on low vegetation to attach themselves to animals (including us). A Montgomery County pamphlet includes these suggestions:

- Walk in the center of trails to avoid brushing up against vegetation
- Wear light-colored clothes so that ticks are easier to see and remove
- Tuck pant legs into socks and boots and wear long-sleeved shirts – admittedly difficult on warm summer days
- Check for ticks on yourself and children
- Apply insect repellent

If a tick becomes attached, grasp it with a tweezers near its head and pull it straight out. If you experience symptoms, see a doctor to begin treatment before more serious symptoms begin.

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Sustainability

Farmer Bags Plastic

By Michael Tabor—For several years now, I've been feeling guilty about using plastic bags at my farm markets. I'm a farmer who grows sustainable food and markets it at affordable prices in mostly mixed-income neighborhoods: Brookland (near Catholic University), and Adams Morgan (18th Street and Columbia Rd, NW) are my primary outlets.

I looked into buying polypropylene bags that are made in China and are marketed as 'green' in supermarkets, but found out the dye pollutes and the bags themselves are made from petroleum. Because the bags are cheap, costing stores approximately 40 cents and sold for \$1.00 or more, people tend to buy them and then forget to bring them back the next time they shop; like plastic water bottles, they end up being another form of pollution and waste.

Regular plastic shopping bags are cheaper, at only one and a half cents each, than the best 100 percent recycled paper shopping bag, which costs about 15 cents. Therefore a case of 1,000 plastic bags cost \$15.00 while 1,000 paper bags cost \$150! But as with many cheap products, there are societal and environmental costs.

Last year, I offered customers a 25 cent refund if they brought their own bags to my market. That seemed to accomplish little. So, this year, I just went "cold turkey." I put signs up in English and Spanish explaining the problem and asked folks to bring their own bags. I also stated I would not be offering new plastic ones. A few folks complained and refused to buy from me, but most seemed to understand. Some went home and brought me used bags. I now either give my customers the used plastic bags or ask for a 15 cent donation for a paper shopping bag. I'll see if more folks bring bags the next few weeks.

Some things you can do

1. Remember to bring your own bags when you shop.
2. Ask the manager of a supermarket for the name of the company's vice president. Call and explain that nationwide chains, such as Whole Foods, have stopped using plastic bags and you'll stop shopping there unless they do likewise. Tell that to the store manager, too!
3. If you shop at a farmers market, ask the farmers to explore alternatives to the use of plastic. Talk to the market manager about an overall market policy banning plastic bags. Most markets are sponsored by a community group so, if possible, contact the sponsor with the same request.
4. Buy a reusable bag like the ones Whole Foods offers, which are made from 80 percent recycled products. You can then reuse it anywhere you shop.
5. Buy your own paper bags to bring when you shop. What I bought for my market cost about 15 cents each, are made from 100 percent recycled paper, and are sold in pallets of 18 "bundles"; a bundle is 400 bags. You can buy them from ACME Bags in Jessup, MD (301-953-3131) or if you just want one or two bundles, you can call me and I will share them (240-505-6282). ■

Michael Tabor is a Sierra Club member whose farm is located above Hancock, MD. He markets in the Washington DC area and also supplies Goucher College in Towson, MD with his produce. Michael also worked on initiating and helping to pass a Maryland Farm-to-Cafeteria Act that encourages public schools to buy locally-grown fruits and vegetables.

Life Choices for a Sustainable World

By Ron McLinden —*First, a warning: This essay contains ideas that could be interpreted as threats to the “American Way of Life.” It also gently appeals to your sense of responsibility to future generations. Read with caution!*

You’ve heard about sustainability. By one commonly accepted definition, it means meeting our needs today in such a way that we don’t compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

No doubt you’ve seen pitches for products that are “sustainable.” Unfortunately, some such products are simply “less un-sustainable” than conventional products.

Let’s face it: We can’t consume our way to sustainability.

World population is approaching 6.7 billion, and headed toward 9 billion by mid-century. Meanwhile, aspirations for the material elements of a “good life” are rising throughout the developing world. World oil consumption is over 85 million barrels per day and demand is growing, even as industry experts caution that oil production is at or near the peak of what’s possible.

Oh, yes, and the climate is changing, as rising CO₂ levels contribute to the warming of the atmosphere and the oceans.

You’ve read all of that and more. Yet, you feel powerless to do anything about it, except to maybe write to elected officials asking them to please do something. And maybe you’ve checked your own environmental footprint using any of several on-line tools.

Taking personal action is hard, however, because it seems everybody else is doing nothing. And there’s no leadership from the one place that we Americans traditionally look to for leadership. The message from the White House is “keep the economy strong and go shopping.”

Unfortunately, conspicuous con-

sumption is always going to get more attention than personal responsibility and restraint, but we shouldn’t let the seemingly endless and mindless self-indulgence of others keep us from acting.

It’s time to get responsibly radical, especially if you have kids or grandkids who will live into the second half of this century.

So much consumption is linked to major life choices. You make one seemingly simple life choice, and instantly find yourself sucked into a whole pattern of consumption based on the expectations of the peers you’ve decided to join. Consider just a few life choices, along with some of their associated and unintended peer-pressured consequences.

Living arrangements. Two can usually live more efficiently than one since so much of the home and its “machinery” can be shared. This, of course, is a highly personal decision.

Having kids, either natural or adopted, leads immediately to consumption patterns you may not have planned on. An extra room and bathroom, television and media-hyped toys, school activities and soccer-mom driving syndrome and . . . you get the picture.

This is not to say you shouldn’t have kids. In fact, if you are reading this, you might be especially well suited to launch responsible offspring.

When to have kids also matters. Deferred childbearing is almost always a good thing. Imagine how many fewer people there’d be in the world, and how much better off the kids would be, if teen mothers had waited until they were 25 or 30.

Shelter. A new house in a new suburb is nice, but chances are it’s bigger than

you really need and carries with it a lot of social pressures about what kind of car you drive, how aggressive you have to be at eliminating all but certain species from your lawn, and whether you can line-dry your laundry. What’s more, in a new suburb the chances are lower that you can walk to a store, a library, a park, or even around the block for exercise.

What kind of shelter. As household demographics change and the housing supply adjusts to offer a broader range of choices, the most common reason to purchase a single-family home—easy marketability—is now declining. That makes alternatives to the single-family house

worth a second look. A condo, loft

or apartment in a multi-unit building may meet your

needs at least as well as a house in the suburbs, while also relieving you of the obligation to own a riding mower, fertilizer spreader and snow blower. What’s more,

your heating and cooling costs will be lower since your neighbors help shelter you from temperatures extremes.

Location of shelter matters. Deciding where to live is complicated. While some people live in the same place for decades, a lot of households relocate every few years. It’s these households that have the best opportunity to lower the impact of their housing location decision. The farther away you choose to live from work or play or where you socialize or worship, the longer your daily commute is likely to be. What’s more, it’s more likely you’ll have to drive alone, because transit service isn’t available, and there are no co-workers with whom you can carpool. If there are two wage-earners in the household, you can look for a location where at least one of you can use transit, or drive

a short distance to a park-and-ride lot.

Achieving life satisfaction. For some people, it seems, conspicuous consumption is the road to happiness. It might be a big house, expensive car and big-screen TV. It might be a second home on the lake with a boat. On the other hand, finding satisfaction by socializing with friends, reading, taking in cultural activities, and pursuing other relatively non-consumptive interests can be far more satisfying and infinitely less resource consumptive.

These are just some of the life decisions each of us makes. Driving a Prius, screwing in compact fluorescent bulbs and buying toilet tissue made from 100 percent recycled paper isn’t going to save the planet from climate change. We literally have to re-evaluate our lives and our priorities, and resolve to make better life decisions. Then we need to let our friends and relatives know—gently, without being sanctimonious—that we’ve made conscious decisions to make our earthly existence less hostile to that of individuals not yet born.

There are many ways to make life choices for sustainability. We can’t present all of them here. Remember: We might not get out of this life without seeing some really ugly consequences of the over-consumption that has characterized the last several decades of American life. ■

Reprinted from the January–March 2008 edition of the Missouri Sierran with the author’s permission. Ron McLinden, ronmclinden@yahoo.com, is co-chair of the Missouri Transportation Committee of the Missouri Sierra Club and lives in Kansas City, Missouri.



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.

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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.

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Habitat Restoration and Invasive Plant Removal Outings

Opportunities Abound for Improving Habitat by Removing Invasive Plants

Why remove invasive plants? Native ecosystems are in a state of balance. When non-native 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, non-native plants occupy the habitats of native plants, replacing native plants that animals depend on and 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: Patuxent Research Refuge
Event: Non-native invasive plants are threatening our wildlife habitat. We need YOU to help stop them! Prepare to get dirty and tackle the invasive plants. Bring gloves and water (and hand tools, if available).

Saturday, June 07, 2008

North Tract Visitor Contact Station
9 a.m.-12 P.M.

Saturday, July 12, 2008

National Wildlife Visitor Center
9 A.M.-12 P.M.

Saturday, July 26, 2008

North Tract Visitor Contact Station
9 A.M.-12 P.M.

Saturday, August 09, 2008

North Tract Visitor Contact Station
9 A.M.-12 P.M.

Contact: Christopher Wicker,
Christopher_Wicker@fws.gov, <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/>

Baltimore City

Location: Chinquapin Park

Sponsor: Friends of Chinquapin Park

Event: Join the Friends for weed pulling along Chinquapin Run. This area is in desperate need of weed control. Tools and gloves are provided. Wear durable work clothes.

Date: September 22

Time: 9 A.M.-12 P.M.

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

Location: Cromwell Valley Park

Event: Join us to help clean up the park.. Tools and refreshments are provided.

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

Time: 9 A.M.-12 P.M. (In July and August: 8 A.M. - 11 A.M. to beat the heat)

Contact: www.cromwellvalleypark.org
410-887-2503

Location: Herring Run Park

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

Event: Summer Weed Camp is here! Take part in this terrific effort to help restore one of Baltimore City's largest urban parks into a weed-free, native habitat that will serve as a model for other parks. In return for your efforts, we'll provide training on identifying common invasive species, effective control methods, and native alternatives. Gloves, tools and refreshments provided. We recommend wearing pants and long-sleeve shirts. Please contact Melissa to confirm dates and project locations.

Dates: 6/11, 6/14, 6/17, 6/25, 6/29, 7/2, 7/8, 7/12, 7/16, 7/22, 7/26, 7/31, 8/5, 8/9, 8/14, 8/21

Times: Weekday events 5:30-8:00 PM;
Saturday events 9:00-1:00

Contact: Melissa Scherr,
410-254-1577, mscherr@umd.edu,
www.herringrun.org

Sponsor: Jones Falls Watershed Association

Event: Join the JFWA for a family friend restoration project in a city or county park. Locations vary so please contact us.

Dates: 2nd Saturday of each month.

Time: 9:30 A.M.-12 P.M.

Contact: www.jonesfalls.org, 410-366-3036

See page 27 for more Baltimore events received after this schedule was printed.

Calvert County

Location: American Chestnut Land Trust, Port Republic

Sponsor: Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust

Event: Join the Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust for invasive removals in one of the last pristine watersheds on the Western Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Training, tools, water, and gloves provided.

Dates: June 28, July 26, September 13, October 18

Time: 9:00 A.M.-12 P.M.

Contact: American Chestnut Land Trust, Liz Stoffel, Land Manager, 410-414-3400, land@acltweb.org

Location: American Chestnut Land Trust Barn across from Gate A on Scientists Cliffs Road in Port Republic. Directions from Prince Frederick, MD: Follow Rte. 4 South to left on Rte. 765 intersection for Parkers Creek Road (just after Broomes Island traffic light).

Go across Rt. 765 and continue straight onto Parkers Creek Road. Turn right on Scientists' Cliffs Road, drive .8 miles to the ACLT parking lot on the left.

Sponsor: American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT)

Event: Weed Whacking Wednesday

Date(s): Every Wednesday

Time(s): October-April 10 A.M. to 12 noon

May-September 9 A.M. to 11 A.M.

(cancelled if temperature is below 40 OR

storming OR over 90 degrees)

Contact: Liz Stoffel, American Chestnut Land Trust Land Manager

Please notify Liz Stoffel at 410-414-3400 or land@acltweb.org if you are planning to participate. This will help us keep you posted of last minute changes. Visit and learn more about us at www.acltweb.org.

Note: Please wear or bring boots (hiking or waterproof), durable clothes, long sleeves. Please bring work gloves and loppers or clippers if you have them. Water and tools will be available if you need them.

Location: American Chestnut Land Trust Barn across from Gate A on Scientists Cliffs Road in Port Republic. Directions from Prince Frederick, MD: Follow Rte. 4 South to left on Rte. 765 intersection for Parkers Creek Road (just after Broomes Island traffic light).

Go across Rt. 765 and continue straight onto Parkers Creek Road. Turn right on Scientists' Cliffs Road, drive .8 miles to the ACLT parking lot on the left.

Sponsor: American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT)

Event: Vine Vindicator Work Days

Date(s): 6/28/08, 7/26/08, 8/16/08 Training Day, 9/13/08 and 10/18/08, usually the fourth Saturday of the month.

Time(s): 9 A.M. to 12 P.M.

(cancelled if temperature is below 40 OR storming OR over 90 degrees)

Contact: Liz Stoffel, American Chestnut Land Trust Land Manager

Please notify Liz Stoffel at 410-414-3400 or land@acltweb.org if you are planning to participate. This will help us keep you posted of last minute changes. Visit and learn more about us at www.acltweb.org.

Note: Please wear or bring boots (hiking or waterproof), durable clothes, long sleeves. Please bring work gloves and loppers or clippers if you have them. Water and tools will be available if you need them.

continued ➞

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Plant Removal Outings

← continued

Charles County

Location: Chapman Forest

Event: Remove invasive non-natives from the 800-acre portion of Chapman Forest designated as Chapman State Park. Wear long sleeves and long pants, walking boots/shoes, and gloves if you have them.

Dates: 1st Sundays and 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, and meet at MD Sierra Club at 9 A.M. and return at 5 P.M.

Location: Ruth Swann Park

Event: Remove invasive non-natives from the 200-acre portion of Ruth Swann Park. Wear long sleeves and long pants, walking boots/shoes, and gloves if you have them.

Dates: 1st Sundays and 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, and meet at MD Sierra Club at 9 A.M. and return at 5 P.M.

Garrett County

Location: Savage River State Park

Event: “Battle Botanical Bullies in Bear Pen Wildland.” Volunteers are needed to continue control efforts of Japanese spiraea in the Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Forest. Snacks & drinks provided, along with free camping the night before for out-of-towners

Date: Friday, June 20

Time: 9 A.M.-12 P.M.

Contact: Ron Boyer of Elk Ridge NatureWorks, 301-895-3686, or e-mail info@elkridgenatureworks.com

Howard County

Location: Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

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

Events: Ongoing program of invasive plant removal and habitat restoration. Bring water and dress for the weather.

Dates: 4th Tuesday of the month: June 24, September 23, October 28, November 25 - we skip the hot months.

Time: 9:00–11:30 A.M.

Contact: Aylene 410-992-9889, or cfilipczak@comcast.net for directions to site.

Howard/Anne Arundel/Prince George's Counties

Location: Fort Meade Army Installation

Events: Ongoing program of invasive plant removal and habitat restoration. Bring water and dress for the weather. Bring hand tools, gloves, lunch, and water. Wear long sleeves and pants.

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, 301-677-9185

Location: Riverfront Park

Dates: 2nd Sunday of each month

Time: 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

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

Howard/Baltimore Counties

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

Sponsor: Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park

Event: Invasive vine cutting. If you have them, please bring hand pruners or loppers. Tools available to borrow.

Dates: Second Wednesday of each month

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Contact: Jim Palmer, 410-948-4796, j.g.palmer@jhuapl.edu, www.FPVSP.org

Montgomery County

Location: Northwest Branch of the Anacostia

Event: A vegetarian lunch is provided. Bring water and gloves.

Dates: 3rd Saturdays each month

Time: 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

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

Location: Sligo Creek Park

Event: Ongoing program to remove invasive plants from Sligo. Events posted at www.fosc.org/RIPEventSched.org

Contact: Sally Gagne, 301-588-2071 RIP@fosc.org

Prince George's County

Location: Lower Beaverdam Creek (Woodworth Park on Wayne Place, Cheverly, MD.)

Event: Tools provided. Wear sturdy shoes and bring work gloves.

Dates: June 28, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 29

Time: 9 A.M. – 12 P.M.

Location: Little Paint Branch Park and Cherry Hill Road Community Park

Event: Native plants will be identified as we work to rescue them. Gloves and tools are provided.

Dates: September 29

Time: 10 A.M.-3 P.M.

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

Location: Lake Artemesia

Sponsor: Weed Warriors

Event: Removing non-native invasive plants

Dates: June 22, 2008, July 20, 2008

Time: 8:30-10:30 A.M.

Contact: For questions and to RSVP,

please contact the Park Ranger Office at 301-627-7755, TTY 301-699-2544.

Location: Greenbelt National Park

Event: Everyone invited. Bring lunch, drink, and appropriate clothing for weather. Meet at the Sweetgum Picnic Area.

Dates: 1st Saturday of each month

Time: 11 A.M.-3 P.M.

Location: Magruder Park (Hyattsville)

Dates: September 29

Time: 10 A.M.-3 P.M.

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

Location: Suitland Bog

Sponsor: Weed Warrior

Event: Help in removing non-native invasive plants at one of the last remaining bogs in the area.

Dates: June 19, July 17, Sept 18

Time: 8:30-10:30 A.M.

Contact: For questions and to RSVP, please contact the Park Ranger Office at 301-627-7755, TTY 301-699-2544.

Location: Woodworth Park (Cheverly)

Sponsor: Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek

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

Dates: Resuming in the fall: Last Saturday of each month

Contact: Cathy and Dan Smith at 301-386-0889. ■

Outings Leader Makes Good

By Dan Soeder—The new president of the Sierra Club is Allison Chin. She is a friend of mine from the national outings committees, and I've happily watched her move through the Club volunteer organization over the past few years to get elected to the board and then become president.

I first met Allison when I was appointed to the Group and Chapter Outings Committee (GCOC) in 2003. She was the chair of the Outdoor Activities Governance Committee, which was the parent committee of the GCOC. While I was chair of the GCOC in 2006-2007, I worked closely with her on several issues. One of these had to do with international outings being run by chapter-level outings programs, and Sierra Club staff were concerned that some of these trips were not following proper international protocols. Allison led an effort to deal with the problem after a trip leader became seriously ill in South America, and the Sierra Club could not be contacted because the co-leader had only the toll-free emergency number, which does not work from foreign telephones. Allison pulled together a workgroup of people from the national-level outings committees, and also folks from the local outings programs who were leading the international trips. She explained the issues and concerns to everyone involved, and once the international trip leaders agreed that there were some problems, she invited them to help craft solutions. On a series of conference calls over about six months, this workgroup tightened up the requirements for screening international outings participants, developed better protocols for international trips, and put into place more stringent leader training and experience requirements for these outings.

Allison lives in Palo Alto, California, where her husband teaches at Stanford. She has a Ph.D. in biology, and works for a genetics research firm devel-

oping therapies for cancer treatment. She is brilliant, and also incredibly well-grounded. She came into Sierra Club outings by way of the Inner City Outings program, and she still leads ICO trips. On the governance committee, Allison quickly became familiar with all the different outing programs in the Club, including mountaineering, international, national, local and the lodges. Her concern about getting buy-in from people affected by higher level decisions, as described in the international outings example above, bodes well for her tenure as Sierra Club president. I'd like to congratulate Allison Chin on her election, and I wish her all the best. ■

Dan Soeder is the Maryland Chapter Outings Chair.

A Word to 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.

Levels of Adventure

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 desig-

nated 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.

Safety

Potential participants are reminded that all outdoor activities carry a degree of risk, and some take place in locations where professional emergency medical aid may be two or more hours away. People with health concerns should consult a physician to determine the advisability of participating in these or similar activities. The Club outing leader is responsible for the safety of all participants, and has the final authority to decide whether or not an individual may participate on a specific outing. Sierra Club policy requires that helmets be worn on bicycling outings, and that personal flotation devices (PFDs) be worn on outings using watercraft.

Dogs and Kids

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.

Getting There

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.

Requirements and Cost

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.

Leave No Trace

The Sierra Club practices "leave-no-trace" trail techniques, including hiking and camping on durable surfaces, minimizing campfire impacts, packing out all trash, respecting wildlife, being considerate of other visitors, and leaving the environment as it was found. Take only pictures, leave only footprints, and have fun out there.

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

Outings (June, July)

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



Saturdays and Sundays, Jun 8 through Aug 31: FFA Free Concerts

(not rated) Enjoy a variety of FREE musical concerts in a beautiful outdoor setting. Bring folding chairs or blankets and have a picnic under the trees or on the grass. Children OK with prior approval. Donations are appreciated. All concerts start at 6:00 PM and last about 2 hours. Contact leader for possible carpool information. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net

Thursday, Jun 26: Greater Baltimore Outings Planning Meeting

(not rated) New and prospective outings leaders are welcome to attend the next quarterly meeting of the Greater Baltimore Group's Outings Committee on Thursday, June 26. Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. If you're interested in leading outings and are curious about what is involved, come and talk with the outings leaders. The meeting will be held at the Panera Bread restaurant in Timonium, beginning with dinner and socialization at 6:30 PM in a quiet corner with the meeting to follow at 7:00. From I-83 north, take exit 16 Timonium Rd. east, turn left on York Rd., and turn right at the next light for the Timonium Center across from the

State Fairgrounds. **Leader:** Bette Thompson (GB) 410-666-2696.

Saturday, Jun 28: Catoctin Trail, Manor Area to Fishing Creek Ro

(rated moderate to strenuous) Hike miles out-and-back in the southern section of Cunningham Falls State Park. The third in a series of Catoctin Trail hikes. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 AM from the park & just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. **Leader:** John Coughton (HC) 443-756-6741, jc5342@msn.com.

Saturday, Jun 28: Potomac Conservancy Picnic and Canoe Cleanup

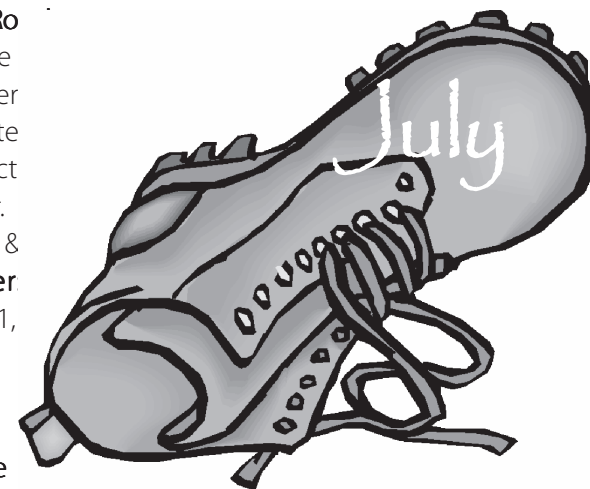
(not rated) Help protect our waterway by taking a short canoe trip to Minnie's Island. After an island/river cleanup we'll enjoy a relaxing picnic lunch on the island, dessert will be provided. After the cleanup Potomac Conservancy docents will be on hand to lead groups through the restored lockhouse and interactive exhibits that show the connection between the Canal, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay. 9 AM to NOON at River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Cabin John, MD. **Contact:** Bridget Chapin, River Center Coordinator, Potomac Conservancy, (301) 608-1188 x213, chapin@potomac.org. Visit www.potomac.org for more information.

Sunday, Jun 29: First Aid Training and Potluck

(not rated) Obtain the first aid training required for outings leaders, and important for all to know. It will be taught by a nurse with over 40 years experience in health care, in her home in Lutherville. Limited to about 8 people; cost is \$35 (reimbursed by Sierra Club for Outings Leaders). Instruction will be given from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM, followed by an

optional potluck dinner. Call in advance for reservations and details.

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



Friday, Jul 4: FFA Celebrate Independence Day at Baker Park in Frederick, MD

(not rated) Enjoy the sounds of a variety of bands, including well known classic rock and country entertainers, as well as local musical talent, big band, and patriotic music. Have a picnic in the park, play volleyball, hike along Carroll Creek, and explore historic downtown Frederick. Finally, experience one of the biggest and best fireworks displays on the East Coast. Plus, as appropriate for this day, it's FREE! We will meet at 1:00 PM at the Lutherville light rail station on Ridgely Road. Children OK with prior approval. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net. Website: www.cityoffrederick.com/departments/SpecialEvents/july.htm

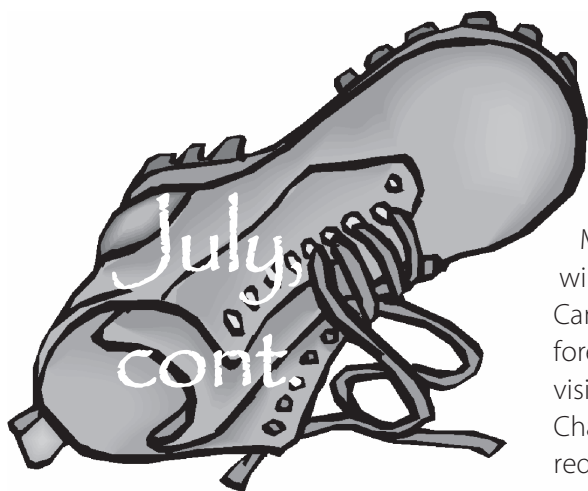
Saturday, Jul 5: Appalachian Trail in Maryland

(not rated) Step off at 10:00 AM. No other information available. Check Catoctin Group website for more details. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Jul 5: Patapsco Valley State Park, Hilton area

(rated moderate) Hike 7 miles. Bring lunch

Outings (July)



and water. Meet at 9:30 AM inside the park, off Hilton Avenue, at the parking lot just inside the park entrance on the right. **Leader:** James Perschy (HC) 410-964-1902, jameshike@verizon.net.

Sunday, Jul 6: Gunpowder River Tube Trip (*rated moderate*) Bring a tube or rent one at the Monkton Station. Meet at the Monkton Station at 1:00 PM **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

Wednesday, Jul 9: FFA Cromwell Valley Park Sunset Hike (*rated easy*) Well-behaved children and dogs are welcome on this 2-mile hike through a Baltimore County park that is a working farm with draft horses, woodlands, hilly meadows, streams, limestone kilns, and a brook bubbling out of the ground. Look for wildlife that comes out at dusk. Meet at 6:30 PM in the parking lot beside the house in the park's Sherwood Farm section on Cromwell Bridge Rd. off the Baltimore Beltway near Towson and Loch Raven Boulevard. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Stay for dinner at Sander's Corner Restaurant nearby. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Saturday – Monday, Jul 12-14: Dolly Sods Backpack, WV (*rated moderate*) Challenging 26+ mile backpack through Dolly Sods North and Wilderness Area in Monongahela National Forest. This wild area looks more like the Canadian Shield than a typical area forest. We will explore some seldom visited trails on the first day. Challenging stream crossings might require a change of footwear. Register with leader in advance. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Jul 12 Kaya king on Susquehanna River (*rated moderate*) Kayak from a new boat launch at Perryville Community Park in Cecil County, near where Mill Creek empties into the Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of the Susquehanna River. Explore Mill Creek and Furnace Bay, then go out into the Chesapeake Bay and head up the Susquehanna River to check out Garrett Island below Conowingo Dam. Look for eagles and other wildlife in the air, in the water, and along the shores. Meet at 11 AM at the boat launch. Participants must supply kayak or canoe, and Sierra Club requires all participants on water outings to wear a PFD. Rain or high winds cancel. Possible dinner stop on the trip home. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Saturday, Jul 12: Splash in the Middle Patuxent, in Columbia (*rated easy*) Cool down with a leisurely 2 hour walk in the middle of the river, through the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Learn how this area was protected from development when Columbia was formed. Wear old sneakers, and be prepared to get wet. Optional restaurant lunch afterwards,

so bring a change of clothes. Meet at 10:00 AM, 0.8 mile south of Rt. 108 on Trotter Road, at the gravel parking lot on the left (east). **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Thursday to Sunday, Jul 17-20: Camping at Spruce Knob Lake, WV (*rated easy*) Tent camping in Monongahela NF by a remote mountain lake near the highest point in West Virginia. Bring your own gear and enjoy hiking, paddling, fishing, mountain biking, or just relax in a lawn chair. Register with leaders by July 1 so we have enough sites. See campground information at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf/rec/rog_campgrounds/spruce_knob_lake_campground.htm. **Leaders:** Dan and Susan Soeder (AA) 410-969-9465, Djsoder@yahoo.com

Saturday, Jul 19: Patapsco State Park - Orange Grove area (*rated moderate*) Hike about 7 miles through the Orange Grove area, to include parts of the Cascade Falls, Morning Choice, and Ridge Trails. We will also take a walk over the swinging bridge. Patapsco Valley State Park offers a variety of trees and plants, including many types of wildflowers. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the park at 9:30 AM. **Leader:** Nicki (AA), send email to cybertrax1@netzero.net with "Sierra Club-Patapsco Orange Grove" in the subject line to sign up and receive directions.

Saturday, Jul 19: Howard County Butterfly Count (*not rated*) Find and identify butterflies at various locations around county, 9 AM to 3 PM. No experience necessary. **Leader:** Sue Muller (HC) 301-498-8462, sonicsue@verizon.net.

Saturday, Jul 19: Patapsco State Park - McKeldin area (*rated moderate*) Hike 4 miles along the Patapsco River, past McKeldin Falls. Optional restaurant lunch after the hike. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for a 9:00 AM departure. **Leader:** James Perschy (HC) 410-964-1902, jameshike@verizon.net.

Saturday, Jul 19: Trail Run on C&O Canal (*rated moderate*) Enjoy running along the C&O Canal tow path and surrounding trails with the Potomac Conservancy. There will be two routes, a short and long one to match everyone's speed. Start time is 8 AM at River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Cabin John, MD. **Contact:** Bridget Chapin, River Center Coordinator, Potomac Conservancy, (301) 608-1188 x213, chapin@potomac.org. Visit www.potomac.org for more information.

Sunday, Jul 20: Hike and Free Concert with Picnic in Catonsville (*rated easy*) Meet at 4:30 PM at Lurman Park parking lot, on Hilltop Road off Bloomsbury Ave near Catonsville HS. We will take a short 1-2 mile hike around the school, maybe take a couple of laps around the track, and then settle down to enjoy a free Boogie Woogie Blues concert by the renowned Deanna Bogart Band. Bring a picnic potluck dinner to share. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net. Check theater website at www.Lurman.com

Thursday – Sunday, Jul 24-27: Loyalsock Trail Backpack, World's End State Park, PA (*rated moderate to strenuous*) This is a 4 day, 2 part trip; do one or both parts. Part 1 is a 17 to 20 mile backpack on the Loyalsock Trail

Outings (More July, August)

and Link Trail. We will either camp on the shores of a highland pond or along Loyalsock Creek. Second night, car camp at World's End. Part 2 will be an overnight backpack using the Loyalsock Trail and World's End Trail, of similar distance to the first part. Camp above a waterfall on Ketchum Creek. The next day, hike back and return home. Register with leader in advance. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday, Jul 27: Splash in the Middle Patuxent, in Savage Park (*rated moderate*) Cool down with a leisurely 3 hour walk in the middle of the river, from Murray Hill Road to Savage Park. Discover clams and other wildlife. Wear old sneakers, and be prepared to get wet. Due to hidden slippery rocks in the river, this hike is not appropriate for people with bad ankles/knees/back. Bring a snack and water, and a change of clothes for an optional restaurant lunch after the hike. Meet at 9:30 AM at the Savage Park Wincopin Trail parking lot, off Vollmerhausen Road, a quarter mile east of the bridge over I-95. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Late July and/or early September (TBD) Conservation outing: Canoe or Kayak Beautiful Mattawoman Creek (*rated easy to moderate*) The Mattawoman is threatened by a new, proposed Cross-County connector highway and the Waldorf Bypass. The exact dates selected for this outing will be contingent upon the situation with the Army Corps of Engineers hearings, and may change if the hearings are rescheduled or moved. We will meet at the Mattingly Ave boat launch (last left turn off Route 210, before Indian Head Naval Base, about 20 miles south of Beltway.) Expect to see bald eagles, herons,

beaver, bass and herring fish, American lotus flowers, and other wonderful plants and creatures. Learn about what you can do to help preserve this jewel of the Potomac and critical Chesapeake Bay fish hatchery! There is also an option to paddle over to Mattawoman Wildlands for a short hike and/or visit Mattawoman Creek Art Center. Participants must supply kayak or canoe. If you need to borrow a boat, contact the trip leaders to see if any are available. Likewise, anyone with extra boats that people can use should please contact the trip leaders with the details of what you can supply. Sierra Club requires all participants on water outings to wear a PFD. Rain or high winds cancel. Contact leaders for details and dates. **Leaders:** Rebecca Turner (SM), e-mail rmb19522002@yahoo.com, and Alice Imlay (SM), phone 301-283-0808, e-mail AliceLeelImlay@gmail.com



Saturday, Aug 2: Splash in the Middle Patuxent, Gorman Area Park (*rated moderate*) Cool down with a leisurely 4 hour walk in the middle of the river, from Rt. 29 to Murray Hill Road. Due to hidden slippery rocks in the river, this hike is not appropriate for people with bad ankles/knees/back. Bring lunch and water, and a towel or change of clothes for the car.

Depart at 9:30 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Sunday, Aug. 3: Loch Raven (*rated easy to moderate*) Hike 3 to 4 miles to learn about the lost town of Warren and explore some of the remaining ruins of this historic town that was flooded in 1922 with the filling of Loch Raven Reservoir. We may be joined by a local resident and amateur historian who has made a video of Warren's history. Meet at the southeast corner of the Cranbrook Shopping Center on Cranbrook Road near Ridgland, at 3:00 PM. We may have a cookout or share pizza after the hike. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net.

Friday to Sunday, Aug 8-10: Otter Creek Backpack, WV. (*rated moderate to strenuous*) Day 1: backpack 9 miles along Otter Creek and up and over McGowan Mountain visiting the highland bogs of Yellow Creek and Moore Run. Day 2: 10 mile day hike visiting several swimming holes on the return leg. Day 3 is a nearly flat 5 mile backpack out along Otter Creek. Challenging stream crossings may require a change of footwear. Register in advance with leader. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Aug 9: Brown Mountain and Rockytop Trails in Southern SNP (*rated strenuous*) Hike a distance of 17 miles with a total elevation gain of 3500 feet over Brown Mountain down to Big Run and then up Rockytop to Skyline Drive. Return via the AT to complete the circuit. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center off route 66 on route 123 just outside Vienna,

Virginia at 7:30 AM. Alternative meeting place in Howard County possible (contact leader). Moderate pace with stops for flora and fungi of interest. Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. **Leader:** William Needham (MC) 410-884-9127, Needham82@aol.com

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

Saturday, Aug 9: C&O Canal Dragon and Damselfly Walk (*rated easy*) Join Kevin Munroe from NOON to 2 PM as he takes us on a journey along the C&O Canal tow path to explore the life of dragon and damselflies. Meet at River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Cabin John, MD. **Contact:** Bridget Chapin, River Center Coordinator, Potomac Conservancy, (301) 608-1188 x213, chapin@potomac.org. Visit www.potomac.org for more information.

Saturday and Sunday, Aug 16-17: Canoe and Camping on Minnie's Island (*rated easy*) Come enjoy the great outdoors with a canoe trip lead by Byron Bradley on Saturday afternoon that will end on Minnie's Island for a night of camping under the stars with a canoe ride back to the origin on Sunday morning. Bring your own camping gear. Depart from River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Cabin John, MD on Saturday 8/16 at 4 PM; return Sunday 8/17 at 10 AM. **Contact:** Bridget Chapin, River Center

Outings (More August, September)



Coordinator, Potomac Conservancy, (301) 608-1188 x213, chapin@potomac.org. Visit www.potomac.org for more information.

Saturday, Aug 16: FFA Full Moon Hayride and Farm Tour (*not rated*) Tractor-pulled hayride starts at 7:30 PM at Yoder's Land of Promise Farm in Long Green. We will hopefully see the full moon. After the hayride we will have refreshments of soda, cider, hot dogs, and marshmallows around a bonfire, with guitar music and singalong. Extra instruments invited! Activity will end about 10:00 PM. Children OK with prior approval. Cost will be \$10.00 per person. Meet at 7:00 PM at the church parking lot on Seminary Ave at Dulaney Valley Road 1/2 mile north of I-695. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net.

Saturday to Monday, Aug 23-25: Hammersley Wild Area Backpack, PA (*rated moderate*) Backpack 23 miles over 3 days on the Susquehannock Trail System, focusing on the Hammersley Wild Area. 3 miles of road walking will be required to close the loop. Register in advance with leader. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Aug 23: Kayaking at Rocky Point Park (*rated moderate*) Kayak from this waterfront park to Hart Miller Island, a short paddle across the Chesapeake Bay. Hart Miller (built from dredge spoil) is a favorite hangout for boaters and has a campground, observation tower, sandy swimming beaches, waterfowl, and floating vendors. Meet at 10 AM at the boat launch in the far end of Rocky Point Park past the beach area. There is an admission fee to the park, which is reached from Rt. 702 and Back River Neck Rd. from the Baltimore Beltway 695 east. Participants must supply kayak or canoe, and Sierra Club requires all participants on water outings to wear a PFD. Rain or high winds cancel. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

Saturday, Aug 23: Great Falls, VA (*rated moderate*) Hike six miles on dramatic cliffs overlooking the Potomac River, along the historic Patowmack Canal, and past the scenic Difficult Run rapids. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** James Perschy (HC) 410-964-1902, jameshike@verizon.net.

Saturday, Aug 23: Geology of the C&O Canal (*not rated*) We may not have the Rockies in our backyard, but we have the roots of mountains that were as high as the Alps. Although local earthquakes are rare now, this area broke in two twice and an ocean flowed in. The C&O Canal's geology tells a story as fascinating as any place on the planet. Callan Bentley will use rock evidence to deduce the geologic history of our region. 10 to 11 AM at the River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Cabin

John, MD. **Contact:** Bridget Chapin, River Center Coordinator, Potomac Conservancy, (301) 608-1188 x213, chapin@potomac.org. Visit www.potomac.org for more information.

Saturday, Aug 23: Annual Dragonfly Count (*not rated*) Find and identify dragonflies at various locations, 9 AM to 3 PM. No experience necessary. **Leader:** Sue Muller (HC) 301-498-8462, sonicsue@verizon.net.

Saturday to Monday, Aug 30 - Sep 1: Seneca Creek Backcountry Backpack, WV (*rated moderate*) Day one features a moderate 10 mile backpack exploring trails on the western slope of Allegheny Mt. before descending to our base camp below beautiful Seneca Falls. On day 2 we'll explore the High Meadows above the creek without packs. On day 3 return to cars on the Seneca Creek Trail, Tom Lick Trail and Allegheny Trail (approximately 7 miles). Challenging stream crossings may require a change of footwear. Register in advance with leader. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.



Saturday, Sep 6: FFA Stony Run Trail Hike (*rated moderate*) Older children and dogs are welcome on this 5½ mile hike along the Stony Run stream through Baltimore neighborhoods including Hampton and Roland Park and through Wyman Park. The trail is well-maintained, mostly flat and

shaded, with scenery ranging from jungle to manicured parks. Go underneath several bridges decorated with graffiti. See the results of extensive stream restoration by Baltimore City and the planting of native trees by the Jones Falls Watershed Association and other volunteers. Children under 18 must be able to hike this distance and be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Dogs must be friendly. Optional burgers afterwards at Dizzy Izzie's in Remington. Meet at 10 AM and park on either side of Sisson St. beside the ex-Stieff Silver and the Boy Scouts headquarters, or in the parking lot on the left with the Jones Falls Trail sign. From 29th Street just east of the Jones Falls Expressway, turn north onto Keswick Rd. and then take the first left onto Sisson St. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

Saturday to Tuesday, Sep 13-16: Loft Mountain Camping, SNP, VA: (*hikes rated strenuous*) Car camp at Loft Mountain Campground. Featured hikes are the Rip-Rap Hollow Loop (9.5 miles) and the Turk Branch/Moorman's River Circuit (9.7 miles). Join us for one or both. Register in advance with leader. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Sep 13: Massanutten Mountain Southern Terminus in Shenandoah Valley (*rated strenuous*) Starting at Runkles Gap, the hike will proceed over Kaylor Knob to the Massanutten Resort. The return will be along the ridge, down the ski slopes and return via side trails. Distance 17 miles, with an elevation gain of 3,000 feet. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center off route 66 on route 123 just outside Vienna, Virginia at 7:30 AM. Alternative

Outings (More September, October and beyond)

meeting place in Howard County possible (contact leader). Moderate pace with stops for flora and fungi of interest. Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. **Leader:** William Needham (MC) 410-884-9127, Needham82@aol.com

Sunday, Sep 14: Blockhouse Point (*rated moderate*) Hike 8 miles, starting flat at Pennyfield Lock on the historic C&O canal, then over hilly terrain leading to a great view of the Potomac River from the cliffs over the canal. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Saturday to Monday, Sep 20-22: Roaring Plains Backpack, WV (*rated moderate*) Day 1 backpack in 2.5 miles and set up camp at the entrance to the Hidden Passage. Day 2 features a 12 mile day hike along the Canyon Rim with possible side trips. Day 3 backpack out the way we came in. Register in advance with leader. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Sep 20: C&O Canal - Sharpsburg to Shepardstown (*rated moderate*) 7 mile hike along the C&O Canal from Sharpsburg to Shepardstown and back. We will examine how the canal and locks were constructed and operated. Possible dinner stop after hike. Meet at 9:30 PM at Southwest Park & Ride. **Leader:** Bill Diggs (GB) 410-574-1453.



Friday to Sunday, Oct 10-12: Sierra Club Outdoor Leaders Training Workshop (*not rated*) This workshop fulfills Sierra Club training requirements for Class 1 and Class 2 outings leaders. It will be held at Camp Barrett in Crownsville, Maryland (near Annapolis). The \$45 registration fee covers food, lodging, and materials. Trainers will be professional Sierra Club outings staff from San Francisco. Visit the training website to learn more about the workshop and to register at http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/brochures/2008_Maryland.asp. There are approximately 50 spots for this training, and it is being announced regionally. A full class is expected, so don't delay. **Contact:** Marcia Wolf (PRO) wolfmk@comcast.net

Saturday to Monday, Oct 11-13: Quehanna Wild Area Backpack, PA (*rated moderate*) Backpack 28 miles over beautiful plateaus and along tranquil streams. The area is teeming with industrial and local history. Register in advance with leader. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

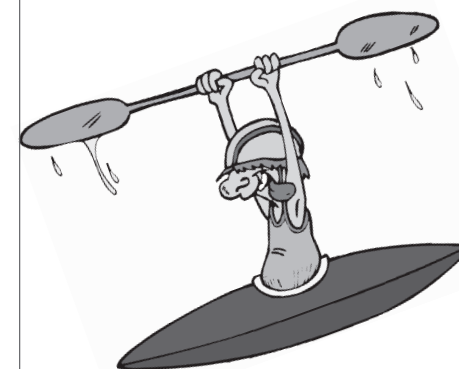
Saturday to Monday, Oct 25-27: Cold Mountain/Mount Pleasant Backpack, VA (*rated easy*) Backpack 3

miles into and out of base camp, then go on a moderate 12 mile day hike with some of the most breathtaking views in central VA. Suitable for experienced hikers who wish to move up to backpacking. Register in advance with leader. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday to Monday, Nov 1-3: Hog Camp Gap to Spy Rock Backpack, VA (*rated strenuous*) Backpack 7 miles over scenic Tar Jacket Ridge and set up a base camp at the Seeley-Woodworth shelter. The next day, a 6-mile round trip to Spy Rock, where we will linger and enjoy its 360 degree view for as long as we can. On the third day, backpack out on the Lovington Spring Trail. Register in advance with leader. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

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/).



SIERRA Magazine's Second Annual Paddlesport Contest is underway!

Enter to win great prizes! There are only a few weeks left to win a Bell canoe, a Necky kayak, or a paddling trip to beautiful Southwest Florida.

Deadline for entries is June 30, 2008. Visit the official website to enter: action.sierraclub.org/paddlecontest

FIRST TIME IN THE MID-ATLANTIC! Sierra Club Outdoor Leaders Training Workshop October 10-12 at Camp Barrett 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 (BICO)

BICO Outings

Sierra Club Inner City Outings is a community outreach program providing opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world.

Baltimore Inner City Outings (BICO) was founded in 1999 with the goal of providing under-served Baltimore City youth with educational, enjoyable and safe outdoor experiences at no cost to them. Since start-up, BICO has conducted more than 290 outings, serving over 2,900 youngsters.

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

For more information, or to volunteer with the BICO program, contact BICO Chair Bob Iacovazzi at bicobob3@copper.net, or visit our web site at <http://ico.sierraclub.org/baltimore/>

July 2008

26 Hiking and whitewater rafting, Harpers Ferry FYC

August 2008

September 2008

27 Overnight camping, Assateague Island FYC

Abbreviations:

CGCC: College Gardens Community Center

DHH: Digital Harbor High

FYC: Franciscan Youth Center

DHILL: Dickey Hill Elementary School



We are searching for individuals with experience in fundraising and grant writing. If you are interested, please contact Ron Henry at 443-474-7449 or RonLHenry@msn.com.

No Child Left Inside

Legislation Introduced to Increase Outdoor Environmental Education: 'No Child Left Inside'

By Alana Wase—When the No Child Left Behind bill was enacted in 2001, the legislation set out to improve performance in U.S. primary and secondary schools. Legislators hoped to give teachers greater authority and flexibility in teaching, while increasing accountability through the use of standardized tests. Seven years later, it is clear that the legislation and the standardized tests that have come with it are having unintended repercussions.

One of which is the change in curricula, as teachers are “teaching to the test.” As the pressure to succeed is so great, schools are forced to spend almost all their time and funding on subjects covered on the standardized test. Since the tests only evaluate reading and math, other valuable programs such as art, foreign languages, and environmental education, have often fallen by the wayside.

Our own Maryland Congressman John Sarbanes and Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island have introduced bipartisan legislation to remedy the decrease in environmental education. The Senators argue that the benefits of environmental education are far too important to be jeopardized. Environmental education improves student achievement in core subjects, increases student engagement in science, math, and other subjects, and decreases “nature deficit disorder.” “Nature deficit disorder” was coined by Richard Louv in his book, *Last Child in the Woods*, which analyzes the decreased amount of time children spend outdoors.

The legislation entitled “No Child Left Inside” (NCLI) intends to encourage schools to develop and deliver environmental education programs in science, math, language arts, and other curricular areas. In order to do so, the legislation creates grant programs targeted to teacher training, classroom and field education

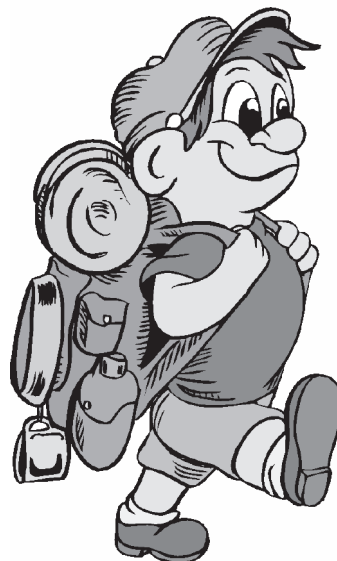
programs, research and assessment, and strategic initiatives to advance environmental education.

“The No Child Left Inside Act aims to give children opportunities outside the classroom to learn how to become environmental leaders,” said Congressman Sarbanes. “Together we have made real progress in ensuring that environmental education becomes a priority in our schools. I am so grateful to the coalition for all of its hard work, but we can’t stop now. It’s going to take our continued joint efforts to ensure that our schools and our communities provide children with the tools and skills they need to become our next generation of environmental stewards.”

Currently, NCLI has a coalition of over 350 organizations supporting the legislation, including educators who see this as a way to get students interested when text books and conventional methods fail. A study published by the

American Journal of Public Health reports that getting children outdoors helps ease attention disorders. Furthermore, the bill would also help address the growing epidemic of childhood obesity. According to a study by the DNR, children now spend on average 6.5 hours a day in front of electronic devices. Conservation groups, including the Sierra Club, see this as an opportunity to connect children to nature again, which is vital to future conservation efforts and the global warming challenge that looms ahead. The principal of Green Woods School, a supporter of the bill, remarks that it’s important to get kids outdoors because “it’s difficult to preserve and protect what you don’t understand.”

The bill was heard April 22nd in the House Education and Labor Committee and discussion is taking place with the chair of the subcommittee, George Miller of CA, to move the bill forward. Currently the bill has 49 co-sponsors in the House and 19 in the Senate. ■



For more information about the bill or the studies mentioned above go to www.cbf.org/site/PageServer?pagename=act_sub_actioncenter_federal_NCLB

Your Health

Avoiding Lyme Disease

(continued from page 15)

I highly recommend the National Library of Medicine tutorial on Lyme at this web site:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/tutorials/lymedisease/htm/index.htm>

Other references include:

www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/Lyme/

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lymedisease ■

Invasives Removal Outings

The following events were received too late for inclusion in schedule on pages 18-19.

Baltimore City

Location: Herring Run Watershed Association Headquarters

Sponsor: Herring Run Watershed Association

Event: Urban Weed Warriors Training

Date(s): July 19, 2008

Time(s): 9AM-12PM

Contact: Elizabeth Concra,
elizabeth.concra@baltimorecity.gov or
410-396-0359.

Location: Chinquapin Run Park

Sponsor: Herring Run Watershed Association, Parks & People Foundation

Event: Weed Warrior & Tree Steward Outdoor Workday/Continued Training

Date(s): August 2, 2008

Time(s): 7:30AM-11:30AM

Contact: Elizabeth Concra,
elizabeth.concra@baltimorecity.gov or
410-396-0729, 410-396-0359.

Location: Chinquapin Run Park (corner of Hillen and Stonewood Roads)

Sponsor: Parks & People Foundation

Event: Invasive Removal

Date(s): July 7, 8, 9 & July 14, 15, 16

Time(s): 8:30AM-12PM

Contact: George Saliba, 410-396-0339,
george.saliba@baltimorecity.gov

Making It Happen

Mary Corddry: A Sierran Life from Keyboard to Kayak

By Laura Sargent—Mary Corddry is a member of the Baltimore excom, an outings leader, the editor of the Baltimore newsletter, *The Baltimore Sierran*, and a key editorial member of the *Chesapeake* team. Her motto is: "If you want it to happen, you got to get out there and make it happen."

Corddry has been a Club member since 1977, but has only become active during the past three years. "I used to just send in a check and do nothing," she says.

Her stepped-up involvement was not the result of a phone call or email; rather, things just fell into place. After Richard Klein stepped down from his position as editor of the Baltimore newsletter, Corddry realized that her love of writing could help the group. She quickly took on the job of editor. Then she attended an excom meeting and learned of a vacancy. Soon she became a member of that. To top it off, her enjoyment of the outdoors made her a prime candidate to become an outings leader.

Yes even with all Corddry does, the chapter still needs help. "People have

something in mind when they join," she notes. Corddry believes that if members focus on why they joined along with what they are good at and what they enjoy, the Club will become stronger.

Corddry joined in part because she enjoys the outdoors. Now, as an outings leader she plans trips like biking, hiking, and removing invasive plants. While she was raising her daughter (now 20) not many outings were offered. As a leader, Corddry makes sure she offers outings that the entire family can enjoy. "Each is a different adventure," she says, "because different people show up. There is always a large age range." Even though her leadership position takes time, it's time doing something she loves. Corddry says she would be doing these things anyway.

While biking and hiking are fun, for Corddry invasive plants are an "urgent issue that is overlooked." She first learned about the plant removals through notices from Cromwell Valley Park and the Baltimore City Weed Warriors. She admits, "I don't know plants. I am certainly not a naturalist."

But that doesn't stop her from wanting to help. Through her invasive removals, Corddry sees forests in a new light—including the awareness of how quickly invasives are spreading and hurting the ecosystem. She's been using her love of outings and new knowledge of invasive plants to help clear the old Prettyboy Trail around the Prettyboy Reservoir.

About 12 miles long, this trail had not been maintained for about 15 years—ever since its founder, Martin Laribe, was no longer able to hike. Today, after six months of volunteer work, most of the trail is cleared. Corddry looks forward to leading hikes here in honor of Laribe.

Corddry does not spend all her time volunteering for the Sierra Club. She is also a health insurance specialist. Busy as she is, she makes sure to focus on the main things she wants to accomplish in life. Leading outings, editing newsletters, and being on the excom does not seem like more work to her. When asked how she does it all, Corddry says simply, "It's all about choice." ■

Calling All Editors: Take This Job, and LOVE It!

If you have experience as an editor and an interest in environmental advocacy, here's an opportunity that may grab your attention: my job.

Hi. My name is Darla and I have been the managing editor of *Chesapeake* for seven years. I have decided to move on to some of the other activities that the chapter offers, so the managing editorship is open.

For a diplomatic wordsmith with good organizational skills and a commitment to advocacy on behalf of our habitat, this is a great position.

About four times a year, you'll lead a team of editors that rises to every challenge. And you'll enjoy working with our chapter leaders and other members whose articles, essays, and notices fill our pages each quarter. You'll review and circulate the articles that are submitted for publication, develop story ideas, and assign the articles to our wonderful volunteer editors, who work with the authors to get the articles ready for publication. Then you'll determine the content of each issue of the

newsletter, and work with the page designer who'll put the newsletter together for printing. And yes, you can do this work from home. All of it.

I'll give you my files, the best advice my experience can provide, and my commitment to help you make a smooth transition into the job.

Interested? Have questions that might help you get interested? Contact me at editorch@maryland.sierraclub.org.

I know the right person is out there. Let's talk soon.

Credits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Your Two Cents



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

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

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



Summer Reading

- Slots Are an Environmental Issue
- Transporting Ourselves to the Brink
- Victory Over an Invasive Plant?
- A New Way to Win Battles Over Growth
- Sustainability as a Way of Life
- No Child Left Inside
- Outings, Events, and Volunteer Opportunities Aplenty

Enjoy!

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