# **Kratovil Edges Harris**



Successful candidate Frank Kratovil, center, flanked by Sierrans Bill Crawley, Susan Youngs, David Prosten, Matt Dernoga, and Alana Wase, all volunteers on the Kratovil campaign.

By Matt Dernoga—Hey, Sierra Club members, as some of you may know, there was a very close contest in the 1st Congressional District of Maryland, which covers the Eastern Shore counties and parts of Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Cecil Counties. The Sierra Club endorsed Democrat Frank Kratovil in his face-off against longtime environmental foe State Senator Andy Harris. At the beginning of the year and into the summer, Kratovil was trailing Harris by double digits in the polls. The Harris campaign was swimming in special interest money and resources. The political pundits who rank races by competitiveness around the country labeled the seat "safe" for Harris's taking. At one point I read that Andy Harris had said that the 1st district was one (continued on page 6)

# Environmental Priorities in the 2009 Maryland Legislative Session

By David O'Leary—The new year signals the start of a that legislators will introduce relating to the environnew legislative session in Maryland. In 2009, discussions of the state budget are expected to dominate throughout the session.

Over the past several months, members of the Chapter Conservation Committee have discussed priorities for conservation campaigns and have coordinated with the leaders of other environmental groups across the state regarding priorities. Legislative work is a key part of the strategy to achieve many of our conservation goals. Sierra Club members from across the state play an important role in our efforts to convince elected officials of the importance of the environment among the many issues they consider.

### Top Priority: Defund the ICC, Pass Global **Warming Solutions Act**

For the 2009 Legislative session, which runs from January 14th through April 14th, the Chapter's legislative priorities are to pass a bill to withdraw funding from the Intercounty Connector (ICC) project and to pass the Global Warming Solutions Act. In addition, we will advocate for our budget priorities, which again include removing funding from the ICC and protecting the money for Program Open Space and the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund. We also anticipate a series of bills to implement more effective "smart growth" programs in the state, along with many other good and bad bills

ment.

The Global Warming Solutions Act is a bill that provides a framework for the state to reduce global warming pollution by 20% by the year 2020. This target is based on key recommendations from the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, which studied this issue extensively to determine the feasibility and cost associated with reducing global warming pollution from various sources. The 2009 bill looks quite similar to the 2008 proposal that was defeated; however, it is expected that a reduction target for 2050 will be dropped for this year's bill. State environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, are participating in facilitated conversations with representatives of labor and industry to determine if there are additional opportunities to shape the bill. This early collaboration increases the likelihood of the bill's passage while maintaining its integrity. Contact Alana Wase in the chapter office (301-277-7111 or alana.wase@mdsierra.org) for more information, and check these web sites: www.alliancemd.org/ and www.mdclimatechange.us/.

Stopping the building of the Intercounty Connector is another priority. This road will cause immense direct and indirect damage to air and water quality in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, and heavily impact some of the area's few remaining stretches of for-

(continued on page 6)



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

# **Letter From the Chair**

### Celebrating Success While Preparing for New Challenges



Ron Henry, Chapter Chair

Hello All,

Wow, it happened! Let's celebrate the election results at the state and national levels. We now have the opportunity to set in place, put into motion, ensure execution, and achieve the environmental objectives that are so sorely needed and long fought for. Congratulations and thanks for the efforts made by

The real damage from the ICC will

come from increased sprawl

and greenhouse gases.

development, and the resulting

increase in vehicle miles traveled

will produce increases in pollution

every MD Chapter Sierran, volunteers and staff, in

achieving the election results that provided this opportunity. You have done yourselves proud.

Special thanks are due Jan Graham, our recent past Legislative Chair and longtime Eastern Shore Group activist. Jan's

insight into the potential viability of a local Eastern Shoreman as the candidate for 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, all her ensuing efforts in getting that campaign off to a fine running start, and her proactivity throughout are especially noteworthy. Thank you, Jan.

Special thanks are also due the "Anonymous Donor" for providing matching funds for that campaign, enabling the use of intensely focused staff time to increase our membership's involvement. Special thanks are also due Betsy Johnson, our Chapter Political Chair, for shepherding the whole effort. And very special thanks to all our Groups' Political Committees and Chairs, who were so wonderfully integral in making this very positive election outcome a reality.

We now must move forward with our issue campaigns in this time of scarce resources, and achieve our objectives by using our resources as wisely as possible. To do so will entail having all Sierrans bring to the 2009 issue campaigns all of the passion that you so admirably displayed during the election process. We need to maintain that level of proactivity to ensure passage of the necessary legislation to achieve the goals of our campaigns. We can do it.

The Chapter Ex Com and planning staff have determined our 2009 issue campaigns and priorities. We also have been working diligently with the Citizens Cam-

paign for the Environment (CCE), a coalition of State environmental groups, to determine our mutual legislative priorities for the 2009 state legislative session. One of those CCE legislative efforts is also a high priority for our Chapter – transportation issues and, specifically, de-funding the Intercounty Connector (ICC). Our sense is that 2009 is the year to accomplish this goal. With a predicted continued downturn in the economy and a myriad of funding cuts at the federal and state levels, it should be obvious that the ICC is the very first item that should be de-funded. Scarce resources must be used wisely for the benefit of all.

Since de-funding the ICC is our high priority and it is, has been, and will be controversial, it is most appropriate for Sierrans to completely understand the rationale for our opposition to this project. We will be asked, so let's be pre-

pared. Most, if not all, Sierrans know why we have worked long and hard to defeat the ill-considered ICC. Even at first blush, it is apparent that the damage to our environment from its construction alone is sufficiently severe to merit our opposition. But the real damage will come from increased sprawl development that the ICC will encourage, and the resulting increase in vehicle miles traveled will produce commensurate increases in pollution and greenhouse gases. Those factors alone are ample cause for Sierrans to continue a campaign to de-fund the ICC. Maryland's fiscal crisis this year amplifies this cause. It is totally incongruous for the governor and many General Assembly members to tout their "greenness," when the state proposes to cut funds for many needed public transit projects, yet protects funding for the ICC, a bloated project that is expected to explode well beyond budget. The campaign to de-fund the ICC must continue for the sake of our state and future.

Many will react by saying "the ICC is only a project," but hidden behind that statement is a question that needs to be truthfully answered: Is this one project only an exception to the State's otherwise admirable transportation policies, based on the principles of "smart growth" and full consideration of the challenges of climate change? Or, is the ICC the proverbial canary (continued on page 3)

# **Letter From the Chair**

### **Preparing for New Challenges**

(continued from page 2)

in the coal mine warning us that, contrary to all the rhetoric, our government intends to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century using the misguided and discredited transportation and development policies of the past century?

Decisions loom on the horizon concerning the Cross County Connector (CCC) in southern Prince George's and Charles counties. In return for massive damage to the most important and vital wetland habitat remaining on the Chesapeake Bay's western shore, this "son of the ICC" offers only more sprawl, more pollution, more dependence on automobiles, and another step backwards in meeting the challenge of climate change. Another

### Create an Environmental Legacy

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

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

transportation proposal of concern is the proposed expansion of I-95 to 8 lanes wide north into Harford County and south into Howard County. One only needs to look at the Los Angeles basin to observe the terrible negative outcome of the highway and developer lobby's "pave, baby, pave" strategy— gridlock and pollution

So, the ICC could be just one project; it could be just one exception. However, the ICC plus the CCC plus the I-95 major expansions could become a "policy" of "pavement first." Combined with cuts to public transit, this would mean that Maryland's real response to the challenges of climate change and a dying Bay would be realized as more sprawl, more pollution, more of the same.

We Sierrans are defined by our active and informed membership. We rose to the challenges of the 2008 election year and played a vital role in ensuring that our 1st District will be represented by a person who supports, rather than opposes, environmental protection. We also made a real difference by canvassing in other states to ensure a presidency that will allow us the opportunity to achieve our environmental goals. We have much of which to be proud. In 2009 this planet called Earth and our future generations need us to continue to rise to the challenges by being proactive through citizen action to ensure our state legislature enacts a Global Warming Solutions Act, greatly strengthens our "smart growth" legislation, protects our environmental budgets, and de-funds the ICC.

Let's get going. We can do it!



# **Excom Elections**

# In Our Chapter Election, All of the Candidates Are Environmentalists

This issue of *Chesapeake* includes the ballot for electing at-large members of the executive committee of the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club.

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

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

This is your chance to choose the people who will lead the chapter through the next year. Please read the candidates' statements, complete the ballot, and mail it to the chapter office at this address:

**Elections Committee** 

Maryland Chapter/Sierra Club

Suite 101A

7338 Baltimore Ave.

College Park, Maryland 20740

The excom meets six times a year on the third Saturday of every odd month. Those elected will take their position at the January 17, 2009 meeting. Ballots are due in the office by January 9, 2009.

Please read the candidates' statements carefully and vote in this election for members-at-large for the executive committee of your Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The statements from the candidates for at-large seats on the executive committee have been sequenced in random order below.

Ballot appears on page 23. ■

### **Excom Candidates' Statements**

### **Erin Barnes**

Although ensuring a clean and healthy environment has long been a focus of my personal activism and professional aspirations, I am fairly new to active involvement with the Sierra Club at the group level. It was just about a year ago that I met Laurel Imlay, on a mission to find someone to start a legal committee. As a newly minted lawyer and dedicated environmentalist, this sounded like the perfect challenge—plus, who could resist Laurel's energy and enthusiasm? I certainly couldn't. One year later, we have a

small but strengthening legal committee ready to assist our Maryland chapter.

While continuing to expand the size, scope, and effectiveness of the legal committee will remain a priority, I would appreciate the opportunity to expand my focus and serve the Sierra Club as a member of the executive committee. I am interested in a wide variety of policy matters—such as protecting our watersheds and wilderness areas, transit, smart growth and green building, and global warming—and would be willing and eager to work on any or all of them.

One particular project I would like (continued on page 4)

# **Chapter Excom Election**

# Cast Your Vote! Every Candidate Is an Environmentalist

(continued from page 3)

### Erin Barnes (cont.)

to take on is increasing the number of active members, tapping into the tremendous increase in activist energy we've seen during this election season. Now that the election season has ended, we can harness that energy and redirect it so that more are involved in solving the serious problems we face. And, of course, my foremost goal for this legislative session is passing the Global Warming Solutions Act!

### **Baird Straughan**

I've been a Sierra Club member since 1990, active first overseas with grassroots campaigns in Bolivia and Honduras while connected with the Sierra Club International Committee. Since 1996 I was active with the Montgomery County Group, and served as newsletter editor and later as chair. We did much good work in those years, in the battle against the ICC, for smart growth, sound watershed policy, and political campaigning at the county level. My biggest accomplishment was recruiting a new set of leaders (among them Betsy Johnson and Ed Merrifield), who went on to lead the group and the chapter. At bottom, the Sierra Club is made up of its leaders, and Maryland has provided some of the best.

Leadership development (and child development!) drew me away from club activities for eight years, while I was an active father and also Associate Director of the Institute for Conservation Leadership. During that time I created and managed programs in volunteer management, fundraising, nonprofit management, board development, and ... my special passion ... advocacy campaigns. The skills I learned with the Club were put to good

I'm now eager to reengage with the other executive committee members. In particular, I'd like to focus on making sure that we work well as a board, with vigorous debate but without vitriol. I'd like to help ensure that we manage the chapter's limited resources well, and I'd like to offer Maryland groups workshops and opportunities to develop their own leaders, so that our chapter grows in its effectiveness, and the club's mission of citizen-based environmentalism continues.

### **Bonnie Bick**

Bonnie Bick is a citizen activist working to protect and preserve forests which in turn protect the water quality that humans, and in fact all life, depend. She believes that all citizens have a responsibility to help save their local watersheds, and that this responsibility is an essential part of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement. She is an advocate of the use of ecological economics, conservation biology and water quality monitoring as guides for environmental activists. She is an activist for land preservation in sensitive watersheds and has spent many years working to preserve Chapman Forest, which she continues to work to protect. She is deeply involved in Sierra Club's effort to protect Mattawoman Creek, which has been deemed by state fisheries scientists to have "close to ideal conditions...in the northern Bay, perhaps unattainable in other systems." Mattawoman Creek is threatened by the proposal of Charles County's extension of its Cross County Connector highway that would urbanize the watershed, and so much of her efforts have been focused on stopping that highway construction. She advocates Smarter Growth - especially looking to a wiser public transportation approach as the key to protecting the watershed.

### **Ron Henry**

Candidate for excom (at large), accomplishments and goals:

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

I have served in Sierra Club as the Harford County representative on the Greater Baltimore Group Executive Committee. Commensurately, I continue to be active in a local Harford County conservation group known as Friends of Harford (FOH) as a board member and liaison with Sierra Club.

In July of 2004 I accepted the Chair of GBSC and have been active with many issues in the GBSC purview. Those include supporting the Greater Dundalk Alliance (a coalition of community groups) in their opposition to a proposed LNG terminal on the Sparrows Point Peninsula that engendered an anti-dredging lawsuit and an environmental justice class action lawsuit to redress extreme long-term health issues to the economically disadvantaged populace of the Greater Sparrows Point Peninsula.

I have also worked actively with environmental groups such as CCAN, CBF, LCV, Environment Maryland and others. I fully believe that all environmental groups must work together where we have common issues in order to better achieve those common objectives. Together we will win – separately we will fail! We don't have the numbers, resources or available time otherwise! But, I also believe that we must pursue our own Sierra Club issues separately, regardless, if a common agreement cannot be met.

I am a practicing Native American that believes in conservation because this environment that we call Mother Earth has been too long abused. There are many factors that have contributed to our environmental dilemmas. They all must be addressed if we are going to pass this planet over to our future generations in a corrected condition that will sustain them. It is an onerous but not impossible task. One of our main purposes is to be

good stewards of this Mother Earth and it is we adults who must show the way so that our children will have the example to follow.

As a practicing Native American I believe in the principle of "Walking In Balance" which means keeping a balance among the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of our lives. In particular, I believe that the spiritual aspect is the one that has been missing in our environmental endeavors; it must be brought back into balance so that we can achieve the environmental corrections needed.

In summary, I have served as Harford County representative on the Greater Baltimore Excom for seven years, GB Group Excom Chair for four years, Chapter Conscom member four years, Chapter Vice-Chair one year and Chapter Chair for one year. I look forward to serving the chapter as an at-large delegate.

### **Brigitte Fortin**

I am running for the position of at-large member of the executive committee of the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club.

I have been an active member for the last three years, and my sense of commitment has only increased over that time. I am an organizer at heart, and believe that bottom-up, grassroots change, while sometimes slow, is the surest way to effect lasting change.

I have been a membership and program chair with the Howard County Group over the last two years, and this has given me a better sense of how the Club operates and its preferred approach to working on environmental issues. I would like to expand this approach a bit by re-introducing the concept of nature as sacred into our work.

I am currently enrolled in a graduate program in Environmental Studies, with an emphasis in Writing and Com-(continued on page 5)

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# **Green Jobs Expo**



February 5, 2009
from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
Washington, D.C.
Learn more at
www.greenjobsconference.org

The emerging green economy holds enormous career opportunities now and in the future.

Join more than 100 companies, schools and organizations for the **2009 Green Jobs Expo**, on February 5, 2009, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Part of the **Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference**, the Green Jobs Expo will showcase a multitude of career options in the emerging green economy.

Learn about green careers in fields such as green investment, renewable energy, green building architecture, environmental research, waste management, and transportation. Register to win prizes and sign up for newsletters and information to help in your career choice.

Join us at the **2009 Green Jobs Expo** to see what the future holds for you in the emerging green economy.

If you are interested in working on the Chapter Green Jobs campaign and participating in the full conference, please contact Alana Wase at alana.wase@mdsierra.org, or 301-277-7111.

# Excom Election

## **Cast Your Vote!**

(continued from page 4)

### **Brigitte Fortin** (cont.)

munications through Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont. I think that some of our best work as environmentalists remains either unknown or illperceived by the general public, so there is much that good writing and communications can do to advance our cause. My thesis will focus on spirit and nature since I believe the time has come for all strands of the green movement to acknowledge that we love the land for more than the resources extracted from it whether they be food, water, air or coal. Work that upholds the sacred aspects of nature magnifies and honors the worthy legacy of John Muir, our founder.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to learning, growth and change!

### Chapter Helps Propel Obama and Kratovil to Victory

By Betsy Johnson—The euphoria lingers! On election night, standing in a crowd of Obama volunteers, I felt a sense of elation that I haven't felt since high school, long ago and far away. This time, I'd been involved for five months in trying to help an intelligent and talented man be elected to the presidency. Our long nightmare with the Bush administration was almost over.

The Maryland Chapter had two priorities for the 2008 election: Barack Obama and Frank Kratovil, Democratic congressional candidate in Maryland District 1. We had hundreds of volunteers activated to participate in these campaigns.

Political chairs Jan Graham (Eastern Shore), Janet Schollenberger (Baltimore), David Prosten (Anne Arundel); summer intern student Matt Dernoga; and Chapter conservation coordinator Alana Wase joined efforts to activate Sierrans to volunteer for Kratovil. Even though no one gave him a chance when

# Nat'l Election

he started his campaign, Kratovil squeaked out a narrow victory. The Sierra Club, active from the start when few thought he had a chance, made a huge difference in that race. Matt Dernoga's vivid reminiscences about the campaign appear on page 1.

Because the Maryland Chapter abuts two important swing states—Virginia and Pennsylvania—we signed up with the Sierra Club "Road to Victory" campaign and "adopted" both, working to activate Sierra Club volunteers in those states. Bob Burchard headed up the Pennsylvania outreach, while I concentrated on Virginia. Maryland volunteers made numerous phone calls to Sierra Club members in both states. We found lots of Sierrans who were already involved, and we got lots more to volunteer. The enthusiasm for Obama was palpable.

Then there were the canvassers we launched from the Obama office in Bethesda, Maryland. Starting in July, a team of volunteers with whom I worked organized people to go on the weekends to Virginia. There we registered voters, performed voter identification, and ultimately helped get out the vote for Obama. So many people volunteered (many for the first time ever, and many who were Sierra Club members) that we started launching the canvasses from an outdoor location at Bethesda Chevy Chase High School. We were sending 500 to 600 volunteers per weekend; many traveled as far as Richmond to do this important work! With this kind of passionate interest all across the country, it's no wonder that Obama won so handily.

So, to all the members of the Maryland Chapter who stepped up to help these candidates win their races, *thank you*. Thank you for your dedication, your time, and your enthusiastic efforts. And I hope you feel the euphoria that I feel at having been involved in making this historic election happen.

# **National Election**

### Kratovil Edges Harris

(continued from page 1) that a conservative could win every day of the week and twice on Sunday.

Kratovil has just been declared by the AP to be the winner on Nov. 7 after an absentee ballot count added significantly to his narrow vote lead. As Kratovil said when addressing supporters the night of the election, "this might not be a Sunday."

What's fantastic about this close race is that I watched the Sierra Club make a difference. I oversaw and coordinated many of our efforts over the summer, working as an intern from our College Park office. Without getting too deep into the tax code and how my number one priority was not to violate it and earn us a day in court with IRS, let's just say doing outreach was interesting. Our rules cut it to where I couldn't talk to anyone about voting for Frank besides our members and my mother. Okay, I couldn't talk to my mother about it either. Every action and breath I took had to be run through our national compliance office to make sure the rules were followed. I don't like rules, but I liked the Sierra Club so I played along. I gained from this an infinite amount of respect for our Sierra Club organizers and leaders who have to do so much with so many rules, and so little money. They could teach Wall Street a thing or two.

We did a pretty good job of contacting our members and getting them involved. Throughout the summer volunteers and I made thousands of phone calls to our members in the 1st District. We asked people a few simple things. One was whether or not they knew about the race, and who we had endorsed. The other was whether or not they would vote for Kratovil, wanted a sign in their yard, or wanted to write a letter to the editor supporting him. My reasoning was that if we could get people aware of the race, thinking about the race, talking about the race, following the race in the news...we

could get them more involved later on when they were really needed. In the later months when the race was tight and canvassing and phone banking opportunities were everywhere, we'd know who to call. Of course, when we found very enthusiastic people, we'd try and plug them into Kratovil campaign activities(and there were a lot of them) right away.

I was inexperienced at outreach for an election. I made up a lot of the strategy as I went along, and probably made some mistakes. But the key part of our strategy I was counting on came to fruition in the end. The race tightened, people got enthusiastic and pumped up, and the Sierra Club had a nice list of people to call and tap into. I don't have the numbers in front of me, but I'd estimate we collectively made over 1,000 phone calls and canvassed over 1,000 doors just in the last two months. It paid off

But the real heroine in the last couple months has been the Sierra Club's Conservation Coordinator Alana Wase. Thanks to an anonymous donor (I know who you are, thanks!), we could afford to set Alana loose right at the same time I had to go back to school, so I got to become just another volunteer assisting her. She's really responsible for our most productive moments. I'd also like to give special thanks to Janet Schollenberger for all the work she did with outreach to Baltimore County group, David Prosten for helping with Anne Arundel, and tolerating the phone scripts I gave him and his group, Betsy Johnson for making phone calls, and telling me I was doing a good job even when that may not have been entirely true, Laurel Imlay for showing me how to do things competently, and for lending me her mother for a phone banking session(best phone banker ever).

And of course, thanks to everyone else I don't have the space or memory to name. Those who agreed to canvass, make calls, give your time, your money,

# Legislative Agenda

### Legislative Priorities for the General Assembly

ROAD

CONSTRUCTION

AHEAD?

(continued from page 1)

ested land. The project is already affecting the state financially. It is time to stop building mega-road projects that induce more sprawl, and invest in better com-

munities and transportation options. We cannot pave our way out of the traffic congestion problems that we face. A bill is being introduced to stop the transfer of money from the state's General Fund to continue building the ICC, and to stop further issuance of debt to fund the road

Support is needed from across the state to protect important safety and maintenance projects in the transpor-

tation budget, restore cuts to MARC and bus service, and improve transit. Contact Greg Smith at "stoptheicc@igc.org" and Suchitra Balachandran at "cp\_woods@yahoo.com" to learn more and find out how you can help.

As noted above, the state budget, while always important, will be especially critical this year given the shortfall in tax revenue. Important programs to protect open space and the Chesapeake Bay have already experienced significant budget cuts, and we need to work to assure that

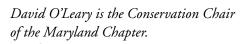
and your vote, thanks a million. We helped Frank Kratovil pull off one of the biggest upsets in this election cycle in the country. We taught Andy Harris that if you vote against the environment, there will be consequences. It goes to show that nothing is set in stone. Nothing is a done deal. All it takes is for a group of people to believe, roll up their sleeves, and go to work. That's what the Sierra Club is all about.

these programs are not impacted further. If the state does not transfer money to continue building the ICC, tens of millions of dollars from the General Fund should be available for other programs.

There will almost certainly be dozens of other bills that relate to environmental issues discussed in the General Assembly this session. So far, we are aware of bills that work to improve our smart growth regulations and policies, seek to broaden access to the courts (standing), provide funding incentives to increase organic farming, promote green jobs, and protect neighing projects.

jobs, and protect neighborhoods against polluting projects.

If you are interested in helping with any or all of these bills, please contact David O'Leary on 301-277-7111 or at dave.oleary@mdsierra.org. While specific policy knowledge is helpful, it is certainly not required. Anyone willing to make phone calls, write letters, or help with organizing friends, neighbors, and



Sierra Club members is welcome.

The Legislative Committee welcomes new prospective members to influence the state legislature to pass laws to benefit the environment in Maryland.

Committee members create, analyze or track prospective legislation, meet with legislators, plan or attend rallies, meet with allies, educate and mobilize other Sierrans and the public to contact their legislators, prepare and present testimony and press releases.

If you're interested, please call Dave O'Leary at 301–588–2990.

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# **Legislative Agenda**

# Get Involved with Our Efforts in Annapolis in 2009

By David O'Leary—The Maryland General Assembly will be in session from mid-January through mid-April of 2009.

Some members of our chapter have worked with legislators and other state environmental groups to develop legislation and review budget priorities of the past few months to make sure that we do as much as possible to protect the environment.

The chapter needs your help, now and throughout the session, to pass strong environmental bills and protect our funding priorities, especially now that the state budget is so strained. There are many ways to get involved, including some that don't take much time. Here is a list of actions and opportunities:

Check the Sierra Club chapter web site—maryland.sierraclub.org—to decide which issue(s) you would like to focus on.

Find out who are your elected officials and review their official government web pages using the web site www.mdelect.net

Everyone in Maryland has one State Senator and one or more Delegates in the General Assembly. In preparation for lobbying, it is helpful to learn about which committees your representatives serve on, which legislation they have sponsored, and what other issues they care about. In addition to their official state web sites, most elected officials maintain personal web sites with information about their backgrounds, interests, legislative work, and efforts in the community. To find a senator's or delegate's web site, simply do an Internet search for their name along with "Maryland Senate" or "Maryland Delegate."

Learn where your elected officials stand on high priority environmental bills and the issues you care about by checking the appropriate web sites and the site of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters (www.mdlcv.org), and by talking with your group leaders and people working on the campaign you are interested in. Don't assume that a high score from the Maryland LCV insures a favorable vote on a particular environmental bill, but it is an indicator of how elected officials will vote on related bills.

Participate in a meeting with one or all of your Senators and Delegates before or during the session. If you would like to help arrange for or participate in one of these meetings, please contact Alana Wase in the chapter office, alana.wase@mdsierra.org, 301-277-7111.

Plan to attend the Environmental Legislative Kick-off from 5:00 – 8:30 p.m. on January 26, 2009, in the Senate Office Building in Annapolis. Watch the Maryland chapter web site for updates, and contact the chapter office if you are interested in attending. We can help coordinate carpooling and, if you can arrive early, help you set up a meeting with your elected officials before the kickoff.

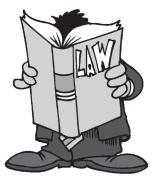
Take the lead in coordinating our activities for particular bills. This entails at least some of the following:

- reviewing the legislation and related materials
- meeting with one or more elected officials, including the bill's sponsors
- working to inform chapter leaders and membership on the status of the bill and how to get involved
- traveling to Annapolis on one or more occasions
- preparing and possibly presenting testimony on the bill at committee hearings

Contact David O'Leary at 301-588-2990 or at dave.oleary@mdsierra.org if you are interested in supporting or coordinating the chapter's advocacy of a particular bill.

Check the accompanying article on legislative priorities on page 1 of this newsletter for more information about some of the issues and bills that are expected for the 2009 legislative session. Please consider getting involved in 2009!

David O'Leary is the Conservation Chair of the Maryland Chapter.



### Calling All Lawyers!

Interested in putting your legal knowledge to work for the Sierra Club?

The Legal Committee needs you.

There are a number of ways you can help, including

performing legal research, vetting potential cases, and developing pro-active legal plans. If you're interested, please contact Erin Barnes at legal.chair@mdsierra.org.

# **Open Space**

# Partners for Open Space

By Kelly Carneal—Nothing is more beautiful than a crisp fall day in Maryland: the sun shimmering on our beautiful Chesapeake Bay; the red and yellow leaves of our rich forests; the long views of crop and pastureland; and the gentle murmur of rivers and streams running through our landscape. No wonder Maryland is known as "the land of pleasant living."

Maryland's nationally acclaimed land conservation programs are big reasons why the state has retained its natural beauty and provides so many recreational opportunities for residents. Partners for Open Space is a statewide coalition of over 155 groups seeking to secure and protect Maryland's land conservation programs. Its vision is that today, tomorrow, a decade from now and beyond, Maryland will be a stunningly beautiful and healthy place.

Since 1969, the Maryland real estate transfer tax has been the foundation of Maryland's land conservation programs. A small fraction (0.5%) of the tax on each real estate transfer is supposed to go toward land conservation. The statutory scheme anticipated that, as real estate values increased, the amount of tax collected and the amount available for land conservation would increase, allowing the state and counties to keep up with the rising costs of preserving land. Because of this statutory scheme, Maryland has been able steadily to preserve working farms and forests, protect critical wildlife habitat, conserve lands that protect the Chesapeake Bay, and ensure that local governments can protect open space and provide recreational opportunities for their residents. And the reverse is true: as real estate values decrease, the number of dollars available for conservation follows suit.

Each year, after the real estate transfer taxes have been collected, the legislature passes a Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA), which overwrites all existing laws and can allow any dedicated funds in the state budget to be redistributed as needed. Unfortunately, for several years before 2006, the BRFA redirected funds that should have gone to Program Open Space, the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, and the Rural Legacy Program. The almost total diversion of dedicated land conservation funding sent a wake-up call to the conservation, parks and recreation, agricultural preservation, and land trust communities

Last year, Governor O'Malley and the state legislature fully funded land conservation. Marylanders

(continued on page 9)

# **Highways and Sprawl**

### Could a Perfect Storm Save Mattawoman Creek?



Mattawoman Creek respects a giant Overcup Oak and turns aside. Will the tree survive the CCC-ex? Or will the currents of change respect forest and creek alike? Photo courtesy of Jim Long.

Could the currents of change sweep away officialdom's facade of happy talk about the prospects for our aquatic resources?

A new administration in Washington acknowledges our dependence on nature, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is joined by others in filing an intent to sue the Environmental Protection Agency to force long-promised reductions in Chesapeake Bay pollution. At the same time, thanks to the Sierra Club and many others, hundreds of comments on Charles County's Cross County Connector extension (CCC-ex) have delayed state permitting decisions: at the time of this writing, Maryland is requesting the county to allow a six month delay in a permitting decision. This proposed highway and the sprawl it would engender threaten the forests and wetlands of Mattawoman Creek—a hotspot of biodiversity and, from a finfish perspective, the most productive tributary to the largest estuary in the world.

These developments ride on a rising tide of awareness that forest moderates climate change while highway-fueled sprawl does just the opposite. And increased energy costs and a troubled economy reveal that the conversion of forest and farmland to new edge cities and endless subdivisions is an outmoded and unsustainable model of economic development.

So, do the Governor's Smart Growth Task Force, Smart Growth Office, and Commission on Climate Change represent a flood rushing in the right direction?

Or will it all dissipate in a backwater eddy, as so often in the past? After all, local land use decisions are in the hands of local officials like those who, in the case of the Cross County Connector extension, claim they will *protect* Mattawoman Creek, and also claim that this new fourlane highway will actually *improve* Mattawoman's water quality.

The permitting process is one of the few means for state and federal oversight to steer local land-use decisions toward a restored Bay. Recognizing this, the newly formed Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles County, a consortium of over seventeen environmental, civic, and fishing groups led by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, wants Governor O'Malley to deny permits for the CCC-ex or, lacking that, to require a fully scoped Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) before permitting decisions are made. An EIS is supposed to explicate direct, indirect, and secondary impacts of the highway and its

alternatives in order to provide decision makers and the public with knowledge of the costs and benefits of various approaches.

The Alliance promotes a better, alternative vision. Rather than treating one of the Bay's finest watersheds simply as a sewer district, it envisions development right-sized around the existing urban core of Waldorf, with transit-oriented development around light rail stations that connect to the Branch Avenue Metro. Such walkable residential opportunities are rare. But what they represent are increasingly recognized as a more sustainable approach to accommodating population growth. In fact, the Governor has said that growth in Maryland for the next twenty years could be absorbed by land within a half mile of the state's 112 transit stations.

Just as the state of the Bay exemplifies a lack of political will to protect our waterways on a national level, Mattawoman Creek illustrates how a lack of will at the state and local level will doom the Bay if we are unable to preserve even its *recognized* crown jewels in the face of *predicted* loss. In discussing growth of the sort promoted by the CCC-ex, Charles County's own Mattawoman Creek Watershed Plan states "These intense development practices would have severe repercussions on the biological community and would decrease the habitat quality within the estuary."

You can join the wave by contacting Governor O'Malley and asking that he deny the permit for extending the Cross County Connector across the Mattawoman watershed because it is not Smart Growth. His office will hear two things: it is time to get serious about reining in sprawl, and it is time to save a deserving waterway that Maryland Department of Natural Resources concludes "represents as near to ideal conditions as can be found in the northern Chesapeake Bay...and should be protected from over-

development." 

Article provided by the Mattawoman Watershed Society.

### What You Can Do

Call or write the Governor: Phone number: 1-800-811-8336; Governor's web-based comment page: www.gov.state.md.us/mail/

Become informed:
Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles
County: http://www.cbf.org/site/
PageServer?pagename=cccc\_theproblem

Mattawoman Watershed Society: www.mattawomanwatershed.org

Enjoy:

Attend a Forum held by the Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles County on an alternative vision for Charles County and Mattawoman Creek. February, 2009, date and place TBD

Attend a walk in Mattawoman Wildlands
Sunday, January 18, 1:00 PM
An easy walk through bottomland woods to the shores of the tidal-freshwater Mattawoman estuary.
Contact: Bonnie Bick 301-752-9612, or bonniebick@sierraclub.org

Directions: From Route 210 south (Indian Head Highway) go through the light in Bryans Road and turn left at the next light onto Route 225. Cross Mattawoman Creek, turn right at the next light, Route 224 (Chicamuxen Road).

Park on right (north) shoulder of Route 224 just past Lackey High School, which will be on your left.

Vote for Chapter Excom! Ballot on inside back cover.

# **Open Space**

### Partners for Open Space

(continued from page 7) should make a trend of this full funding so that conservation programs will have a stable source of financial support. Full funding is even more critical now that the state's real estate market, real estate transfer tax, and the 0.5% for land conservation are all bottoming. While Maryland faces serious economic challenges, preserving and expanding our parks, forests and farmland are critical investments that will pay dividends for current and future residents.

Marylanders need to ensure that all these funds will be used for their intended purpose of land conservation. Previous diversions of funds have seriously set back the progress of conservation programs.

Partners for Open Space exists to educate citizens and the state legislature about the importance of protecting land and water resources. It envisions a healthy and scenic landscape, a patchwork quilt of large natural areas connected by wildlife and river corridors—a beautiful region interspersed with well-planned agricultural, residential, and commercial development that supports the people of our region now and forever.

Two-thirds of Maryland is neither developed nor preserved. What will the state look like in the future if we no longer have funds to preserve our open spaces? Hopefully, we can preserve one acre of land for every acre developed, and, to accomplish this goal, Program Open Space needs to be fully funded this year and every year.

Kelly Carneal is the Director of Partners for Open Space.

# **Public Lands**

# **Green Drinks**

# Hoyer and Cardin and the Red Rock Wilderness

By Chris Yoder—The unique fragile and irreplaceable asset found in the Public Land wildlands of Utah belongs to every American, including every citizen of Maryland. That is why Maryland Sierrans, and all of Maryland's citizens, are indebted to Senator Ben Cardin and Congressman Steny Hoyer for standing tall in the face of Senator Bill Bennett's (R-Utah) efforts to pass his so-called "Washington County Growth and Conservation Act" through the back door, either by adding it to the omnibus public lands bill reported out by the Senate Energy Committee, or by attaching it to "must pass" legislation headed to the House.

The Sierra Club opposes Bennett's bill because it would designate far too

little wild acreage as wilderness and leave unprotected many of the special places defining the grandeur of the red rock country. In addition, Bennett's bill would mandate the sale of public lands belonging to all Americans and transfer some of the proceeds to Utah's Washington County government for local infrastructure projects. Bennett's bill would also fail to provide proper protection from offroad vehicle traffic, as had been promised as part of compromises made when Wilderness designation was foregone in the development of management language for the National Conservation Areas that would have been created in the area.

Efforts by the Sierra Club and other organizations to negotiate improvements

in the bill were fruitless, so it became imperative to ensure that the bill, as written, did not become law. Senator Cardin, and other senators, including Senator Obama of Illinois, played a critical role in ensuring that end-of-session tactics failed to push the unacceptable language through the Senate. Majority Leader Hoyer made it clear that a "must pass" bill, targeted by Senator Bennett as a vehicle for his proposal, would not be accepted by the House if it contained extraneous language. For their principled stands, every American who values our nation's vulnerable and rapidly disappearing wildlands is in their debt. Now all we need to do is watch for similar tactics during the lame duck session.

# Thinking and Drinking Green at "Green Drinks"

By Jessie Lane—Environmentalists around the country and internationally are meeting up once a month for fun gettogethers known as "green drinks." This phenomenon has become a way to catch up with fellow "green" people and make new contacts

These informal networking events give environmentally minded people a chance to bond over a few drinks. Started in London in 1989 by Edwin Datschefski, it has spread to 51 cities in the United Kingdom, 223 cities in the United States, and as of March 2008 there are 350 Green Drink Chapters worldwide.

Its largest chapter, the New York City chapter, started by Margaret Lydecker in July, 2002 has about 10,000 members and hosted the largest Green Drinks event in history in 2007 with its holiday party for over 900 people.

Not only are people starting to think green, they are starting to drink green. So, head out and look for your local Green Drinks. You'll be supporting local community initiatives, or just sharing cool new ideas about green living.

### **Green Drinks Homepage**

www.biothinking.com/greendrinks/index.php

There are currently Green Drinks in these local areas:

### Annapolis

www.annapolisgreen.com/

### Chestertown

Third Thursday of the month at Andy's, 337 High St.
Contact: Shannon Holste, tholste2@washcoll.edu

### Easton

Second Tuesday of the month at General Tanuki's, 25 Goldsborough St (beginning in January) contact: Sarah Brophy, sarah@bmuse.net

### Gaithersburg

Third Tuesday of the month at Redwood, 7121 Bethesda Lane. Contact: Bala, bala@SustainabilitybyDesign.com

Or, create your own: contact Edwin Datschefski at edwin@greendrinks.org



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# Maryland Sierrans Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

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

Sierra Club groups are planning for the upcoming State legislative session, identifying local priorities. They have been involved with recent elections, making endorsements in collaboration with the state chapter and campaigning for endorsed candidates. Groups are active in the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" initiative, encouraging local governments and citizens to take action for addressing global warming. They are involved with local land use and environmental issues, following local government activities, serving on advisory committees and participating at hearings. They volunteer 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. Links to all the groups appear on the chapter's website at www.maryland.sierraclub.org.

### **Anne Arundel Group**

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

By David Prosten—The Anne Arundel Group endorsed and lobbied for

an impact fee measure before the County Council that will more than double the fees paid by developers for road, school and public safety construction. The meaure was ultimately approved 4-3. The chapter supported even higher fees, but went with the compromise when it was clear the status quo would be maintained unless the compromise was enacted.

A number of members volunteered to help the election campaign of Frank Kratovil (D), candidate for the First Congressional District seat long held by Wayne Gilchrist (R). Gilchrist, a friend of the environment, lost his primary race to Andy Harris, a State Senator with a 9 percent League of Conservation Voters rating. Kratovil was declared the winner several days after the Nov. 4 balloting, beating Harris by about 2,000 votes in a race that came down to the counting of absentee ballots — a result that made it clear how important our work was. We phoned our members and canvassed for Kratovil, who had been endorsed by the chapter in part because of his strong support for the Chesapeake Bay.

The group had its own election, electing (or re-electing) five of ten members of our Executive Committee: Liz Vanden Heuvel, Sue Youngs, Joan Willey, Steve Satzberg, and newcomer Jan Hoffmaster.

Our group is working with the county to help develop Homeport Farm Park, an open piece of land near the South River that will include hiking trails, a community garden, a canoe and kayak launching area, and other features.

We are examining the possibility of offering our bimonthly newsletter, *The Sierra Log*, online as well as in print. Every member opting to receive the newsletter online would be helping the group save postage and printing costs.

Our outings program continues to meet with success, with leaders taking folks on hikes, kayaking trips, and tours of the huge recycling plant in Elkridge.

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

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

### By Gregor Becker No Incinerator

The Catoctin Group continues to work on the "no incinerator" option in Frederick County. This is a zero waste solution that some companies now pursue, notably Volkswagen and Toyota. Volkswagen has sought to make automobiles with recyclable components, and Toyota proclaims a zero waste goal for all their operations. Even GM has saved millions turning lights off and thermostats down to 66 degrees at night.

Zero waste is the goal, not the practice at present. The waste-to-energy industry tries to characterize zero waste as a pipe dream and no incinerators as a prolandfill movement. This overlooks waste recovery, an extensive recycling program that yields substantial profits, but more importantly prevents mining of virgin materials.

Unfortunately, landfills are still needed at present. One tenth of incinerator waste concentrates into bottom ash that should be land-filled. Some cities now recycle over 70%. Zero waste looks at what isn't recycled and asks why not? Or where and how can we reclaim this?

Locally, there's one bright spot. Sykesville in Carroll County has just initiated a pay-as-you-throw program. This makes residents who don't recycle pay more, while rewarding those who do with lower bills.

Locally, waste to energy faces significant obstacles in these tight times. The project's \$350 million price tag gives some politicians pause. Unfortunately, health effects don't. Increased cancers around the

Dickerson plant in Montgomery County are easily dismissed as they are added into county statistics. The finer nanoparticles that modern incinerators emit just contribute to the toxic soup we all ingest, raising the levels of toxins in our bodies.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, the group has a social at Café Nola on East Patrick Street in downtown Frederick, 6:30 – 9 p.m. Come meet and have good conversation with fellow outdoor lovers and environmentalists.

The group runs a number of hikes in and around the three-county area yearly. We are looking for new outings leaders who are interested in leading hikes, boat trips, or other activities.

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

# Eastern Shore (Cecil County and Eastern Shore counties)

The Eastern Shore Group is urging members from all parts of this nine-county region to help build an active group. A temporary executive committee has been formed until formal elections are held this fall. We are currently accepting nominations for board positions. Also, the group particularly needs a membership chair, an outings chair andoutings leaders. The temporary excom meets in person every other month at places throughout the region, and by conference call in other months. If you are interested in assisting to reactivate and reenergize this group, contact Alana Wase, Chapter Conservation Coordinator, at301-277-7111or Alana.Wase@Mdsierra.org.

Planning and coordination is more difficult in such a long, less populated

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### The Maryland Chapter Groups Working Locally

(continued from page 10) stretch of Maryland east of the Chesapeake Bay from Cecil County down to

Worcester and Somerset Counties. We have a vast and precious portion of our land and waterways to protect and preserve. The group has a special need for a membership chair to coordinate membership, and for an outings chair and outings leaders. Whatever your specialty, concern, or interest, we have room for you and various resources (financial, personnel, and technical assistance) at our disposal.

### News from the Lower Shore

By Sharon Spinak—Members from the "Lower Shore" campaigned for Frank Kratovil in Congressional District 1, and we are delighted that he was successful. We had a sign wave on Rt. 50, made calls and canvassed the local neighborhoods. We hope these efforts made an impact.

We contacted the Salisbury mayor to encourage her to sign on to Cool Cities. She was enthusiastic and assigned the newly formed Environmental Task Force to examine the initiative and make a recommendation. We are currently waiting to hear results. A letter to the local newspaper was printed urging the mayor to make Salisbury a Cool City.

A Cool Cities Symposium is in the planning stage to educate the community about the many benefits of Cool Cities. If the mayor signs the document, we can begin with green projects and get the community involved. If the mayor does not sign the document, we will try to get the community to encourage her to do

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 16th, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 4 at the Wicomico County Main Library, 122 S Division St, Salisbury, MD 21801. Contact Sharon Spinak, sharonks@comcast.net.

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

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

By Mary Corddry—Nominations are sought for upcoming elections of the group's executive committee.

On December 2, the Greater Baltimore Group and Baltimore County's Office of Sustainability will co-sponsor a public forum as the debut of Baltimore County's sustainability program—the path to a greener county. The purpose is to increase the visibility of both the climate change challenge and the role of the county and its Sustainability Network in meeting that challenge. After refreshments at 6:30 p.m, the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Towson Unitarian Universalists Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Towson.

The group is sponsoring a nature photography contest and exhibit. Entries may be submitted from February 1 through April 30 for an exhibit at the World Trade Center in Baltimore City's Inner Harbor during the month of July. Entries will be judged in five categories: landscape, flora, fauna, environmental issues, and people in nature.

Baltimore City's Office of Sustainability and its Commission on Sustainability are developing the City's Sustainability Plan. After meetings during the summer by six working groups and a large forum for public input in October, the draft plan will be unveiled at a public meeting on December 3 at 6:30. The plan may be viewed at www.baltimorecity.gov/sustainability/.

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

The group publishes a quarterly newsletter, The Baltimore Sierran, which is mailed to members and is available on our web site. Also 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

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

Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness—On January 22 at 7:15 p.m. at the Howard County Recreation and Parks Headquarters, there will be a presentation about Utah's Redrock Wilderness. The campaign to protect these canyonlands is the only truly national wilderness campaign except for that to protect the Arctic Refuge. The Utah Wilderness Coalition (led by SUWA and the Sierra Club) is working to pass America's Redrock Wilderness Act, introduced into Congress by Sen. Durbin (IL) and Rep. Hinchey (NY). Maryland is important to the effort, as many of its Representatives and Senator Mikulski are not currently cosponsors of the bill. The legislation would designate 9.5 million acres of public lands as wilderness, the largest remaining undesignated network of wild lands in the lower 48 states. For information, contact Brigitte, 240-506-8976, or bfzaidan@safe-mail.net.

Our rain barrel sale in April was such a huge success that we have a waiting list of about 100 people for our next event. We can get the parts and build our own, but we need a volunteer to coordinate the activity and more volunteers to help with the assembly. If you can help, contact Brigitte at 240-506-8976 bjzaidan@safe-mail.net.

Box turtles and other critters were recently rescued and relocated in North Laurel Park, where bulldozing is about to begin for new ball fields and a community center. Thanks to the many club members turned out on short notice for several search-and-rescue sessions.

Recycling in Howard County recently got a big boost with a significant expansion to the list of items accepted for recycling. Now most types of plastics are accepted, although still not Styrofoam or polystyrene foam or plastic clamshell packaging. Bags of plastic grocery bags are also accepted. Also newly accepted is aluminum foil, including disposable bakpans. For details, www.co.ho.md.us/DPW/recycling.htm. The county is also providing large wheeled carts to all residents who have curbside recycling.

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

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Vote for Chapter Excom! Ballot on inside back cover.

### The Maryland Chapter Groups Working Locally

(continued from page 11)

### **Montgomery County**

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

By David Hauck—Since our last update, the Montgomery County Group has successfully held several events that brought out local Sierra Club members who have not previously been active. The events are linked to our three high-priority goals—increasing home energy efficiency; restoring natural habitats; and, encouraging Smart Growth in Montgomery County.

On global warming, we continue to hold monthly "Putting Your Home on a Low Carbon Diet" house meetings, which focus on cost-effective actions residents can take to reduce home energy consumption by 20-40 percent. We also proposed and successfully lobbied for a county property tax credit of up to \$250 a year to reimburse residents for energy-efficient retrofits (insulation, programmable thermostats, air sealing, etc.) they make in their homes.

Sierra Club volunteers also serve on all six committees of the Sustainability Working Group, which is responsible for delivering a climate action plan to the County Council by January 15, 2009. The climate action plan, mandated by legislation passed in 2008, will provide detailed programs and policies necessary to achieve county-wide greenhouse gas reductions of 20 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050. Progress in meeting these reduction targets will be tracked by annual carbon inventories conducted by Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection. (Montgomery County was one of the first "Cool Counties" to endorse the Sierra Club's global warming goal of substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Legislation passed in 2008 codified the county's commitment to these goals.)

In September and October, several

new volunteers, who have completed Montgomery County's "Weed Warrior" training, led two invasive plant removal outings. They also organized two outings that pointed out ongoing threats to natural habitats in the county as well as proven programs that restore damaged habitats. These events have attracted anywhere from 10 to 30 participants. Similar events are planned for the coming months.

Our "Smart Growth" team in October organized a community meeting in an area affected by Johns Hopkins University's proposal to build a massive development on the 100-acre Belward Farm property that would contribute to sprawl in Montgomery County. It was the first public meeting held on this project and is the first step in raising awareness of the shortcomings of this proposal.

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, chip.reilly@mdsierra.org
Group's office: 301-277-0600, 301-277-7111

By Chip Reilly—"Sprawl hurts us all" has been the cry heard around Prince George's during a mobilization to pass a bill that will provide an income stream to preserve hundreds of acres annually in the county. The group has sponsored conference calls, sent out alerts, and lobbied county and municipal leaders in advance of the County Council's vote in November.

Through bill CB-80-2008, Prince George's hopes to join other counties in the area in establishing a "transfer of development rights" program. Landowners, both in rural and developed areas, may volunteer to sell their rights to subdivide their property. They continue to own

their land as before, but receive a decent per acreage cash payment. The monies come from fees paid by developers who seek to raise density on projects in urban areas (which they have always gotten for free). The bill will minimize the unfair diversion of public dollars for services and infrastructure in established areas of the county to new, far-flung subdivisions in our rural tier. Preserved green space will be created throughout the county, and the rapid build-out of our rural tier will be slowed. The TDR program, the first antisprawl measure here, is in line with our general plan.

The Knowledge Web is seeking betatesters. This online clearinghouse aims to strengthen coordination among people who strive to protect the environment and the "public good" in Prince George's County and to ensure that the knowledge of civic leaders and environmentalists guides public decisions about the land, air, and water. We need people who are familiar with ecological, organizational, and legal issues involving land development and preservation. Contact Chip Reilly at 301-218-3920.

The Cool County group has been meeting with County Council members and the county's newly hired energy manager. Anyone interested can contact Alana Wase at the Chapter office.

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

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

The Southern Maryland Group joined with 14 other organizations to form the Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles County (see www.cbf.org/smartergrowth). One of the first priorities is to urge our members to contact the governor to intervene in the upcoming decisions concerning Charles County's efforts to build its proposed "cross-county"

connector" across Mattawoman Creek watershed. Applications for state and federal permits are pending before the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In response to citizen activity (thank you all!) and the regulators' need for additional information on the alternatives and cumulative impacts, MDE has been granted an additional six months to investigate the county's wetland destruction permit application. This sixmonth period is an opportunity for us to continue our public education campaign and promote a 21st century transportation solution. We are asking our friends to stay in touch and remain active on this important issue. Help us promote the smarter growth alternative, light rail connection to Waldorf, supported by transit-oriented development, instead of this outdated, sprawl-inducing, environmentally destructive highway. Smarter Growth Alliance of Charles County will hold an educational event and rally in February, date and place to be determined.

On November 1, the Southern Maryland Group joined with the Friends of Myrtle Point for a child-friendly nature walk at Myrtle Point Park. Seeds were gathered for the Growing Native project, to help replenish the State nursery with native Maryland seed stock. Also, the trails were examined to make recommendations for repairs and improvements in the trail system. The park, purchased with Maryland Open Space Program funds in 1997, is bounded by the Patuxent River, Mill Creek, and Sam Abel Cove. A portion of the property is a designated Forest Interior Dwelling area, making it a wonderful habitat for birds. The park has almost two miles of unspoiled shoreline, tidal wetlands, salt ponds, mature forests, nature trails, and archeological sites.

Residents of Southern Maryland (continued on page 13)

### The Maryland Chapter Groups Working Locally

(continued from page 12) met with the Chesapeake Safe Energy Coalition to discuss recent events concerning the proposed third nuclear reactor at Calvert Cliffs, proposed by the plant's owner Constellation Energy.

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

# Western Maryland (Allegany and Garrett Counties)

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

The Western Maryland Group is working on signage for the Maryland Wildlands. Anyone wishing to obtain a stencil to create your own sign for a Wildland near you, contact Mark Diehl at mad55@mindspring.com.

Stay tuned for a Wind Energy Program on December 4. It will provide indepth information on why industrial wind here is bad for Appalachia, bad for climate change, and bad for Maryland. Industrial wind belongs in the Great Plains and off-shore. What happens when an industrial wind energy plant is built on agricultural land in the Great Plains? Clean, renewable energy – enough to power the United States. What happens when an industrial wind energy plant is built on the ridges of Appalachia, where ideal wind blows only 25 percent of the



time? A taxpayer subsidized corporate give-away, with no noticeable dent in greenhouse gas emissions. If Maryland is serious about climate change, it will focus on geothermal energy, tax rebates for homeowners who install solar panels, offshore wind, and most importantly, CON-SERVATION!

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

The group publishes a newsletter, "Nature's Advocate of Western MD."
The group has an e-mail 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.



# Paddlers Show Their Appreciation of the Tred Avon River

By Doc Kuntz—The first River Appreciation Day Paddle (RAD PAD) on May 10 was the start of a concentrated effort to rid the North and South Forks of the Tred Avon River of accumulated trash. Led by the Rivers Appreciation Group and the Maryland Chapter's Doc Kuntz, the event was supported by environmental organizations including the Talbot River Protection Association (TRPA) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and featured canoeing, kayaking, environmental educational exhibits, as well as the cleanup.

At the head of the river, near St. Michael's Road, paddlers picked up most of the trash readily accessible along the North Fork. The tide was high that day, and collection of trash was impressive.

In the weeks and months following RAD PAD, higher tides allowed greater access to previously irretrievable litter. One area marsh that was particularly appalling was accessible to kayakers only when the tide was extremely (favorably) high. By moving on favorable tides and using large kayaks, TRPA kayakers and friends were able to make many sorties, removing about 1,300 bottles, plus cans, styrofoam, assorted plastics, balls of various sizes, and other assorted discards, including a pair of blade skates. During the same period, about 200 bottles, cans, and plastic items were removed from other areas on the North and South Forks.

Contributing to the success of the cleanup were Easton Point Marina and Lee Denny, who provided the large kayak, Talbot County Parks and Recreation, which removed the collected trash, and Environmental Concern, which killed the phragmites, making it easier to work in the marsh.

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

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

Hi. My name is Darla and I have been volunteering as 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. 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 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.



### 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.

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

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

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### Opportunities Abound for Improving Habitat by Removing Invasive Plants

Invasive species are a major threat to our environment because they can change an entire habitat, place ecosystems at risk, crowd out or replace native species, and damage human enterprise costing the economy millions of dollars.

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 the native plants that people enjoy. In the extreme, invasive plants might contribute to extinction of native species, with uncertain long-term results.

The Sierra Club is constantly targeting newly discovered and stubbornly surviving invasive plant species to remove, and we need your help!

Going on an invasive removal is just like any other outdoor event: dress for dirt! Wearing older clothes and sturdy shoes will make your outing all the more enjoyable. Cover your arms and legs to ward off ticks and protect yourself from scratches and rashes from some plants. Many outings will take a break for a snack, so bring something to eat. Lastly and most importantly, stay hydrated by bringing along a filled water bottle. Please RSVP to the listed contact if you plan to attend, especially if you plan on bringing a group. Many leaders can provide directions, have information about meeting places, and could provide some equipment if they know how many people to expect. Please let them know if you want to come.

### **Anne Arundel**

Location: Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary Event: Outings to nip those non-native invasive plants in the bud before they spread and threaten the special habitats and rare plants found in the Sanctuary. Those interested in continuing this effort throughout the year can adopt their very own plot to monitor, map, and manage the invasives. Children should be at least 8 years old.

Contact: Elaine Friebele at 410-741-9330 and check out www.jugbay.org for listed events.

Location: Fort Meade Events: Volunteer opportunities available. Please call for more information.

**Contact:** Tom Ivy at 301-677-9185

# Baltimore City and Baltimore County

Location: Baltimore City Parks Sponsor: Urban Weed Warriors program of Baltimore City Recreation & Parks, 2600 Madison Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21217

Events: Weed Warrior training sessions and invasive plant removals. Once trained, you may work on your own in City parks. Also doing tree plantings and other maintenance.

**Contact:** Elizabeth Concra at 443-602-5264 or

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

Location: Chinquapin Park
Sponsor: Friends of Chinquapin Park
Event: Weed pulling along Chinquapin
Run

Contact: Roberta Cowan at ChinquapinPark@gmail.com

Location: Cromwell Valley Park
Event: Cromwell Valley Park is a
wonderful rural park just outside the
Baltimore Beltway on Cromwell Bridge
Road. The areas we have worked on in
recent years, Beehive Woods and
Dogwood Hill, are looking much better
and are free of major invasives, with

newly planted native trees and shrubs gaining a foothold. A new project last year was the installation of a deer-exclusion fence demonstration to show the effects of excessive deer browsing in the forest.

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

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

Contact: Bill Breakey at 410-887-2503 or info@cromwellvalleypark.org.

Check out website at www.cromwellvalleypark.org.

Location: Herring Run Park Sponsor: Herring Run Watershed Association and Friends of Herring Run Park

Event: Volunteers are sought to adopt sections of Herring Run to monitor, report, and prevent pollution. Meet at Chesterfield Ave. and Cardenas Ave. for weed pulling along the Chesterfield Ave. bike path in Herring Run Park. You should be able to park along the street. Please wear sturdy work attire. Contact: Ashley Traut at 410-254-1577 or atraut@herringrun.org

Location: Parks in the Baltimore area Sponsor: Jones Falls Watershed Association, 4901 Spring Garden Drive Suite 3A, Baltimore, MD 21209

Dates: 2nd Saturday of each month Time: 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

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

Location: Prettyboy Reservoir
Sponsors: Greater Baltimore Sierra
Club, Mountain Club of Maryland,
and Prettyboy Watershed Alliance
Event: Invasive vine cutting.
Contact: Mary Corddry at 410-2394590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or
XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com

### **Baltimore and Howard Counties**

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

Event: Wear long clothes and bring gloves as there is some poison ivy. If you have them, bring hand pruners and lopers (two-handed cutters for larger vines). We will have a few extra tools if you need to borrow some.

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

Contact: Jim Palmer at 410-531-2065

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

### **Calvert County**

Location: Hellen Creek Preserve Sponsor: Cove Point National Heritage Trust

Event: Myrtle Point Park is in dire need of assistance. Please help in any way that you can.

Directions: From Washington, take Rt. 4 south to Calvert County. Turn right at the 2nd light in Lusby (which is Coster/Mill Bridge Road) and take an immediate left onto Coster. After passing two rights (Bassford), look for the MACHINE SHOP sign on the left then ahead and on the right for Clifton Drive. Turn here and follow to the first left. You'll see a hand made sign with the number 11785. Turn here and follow to the sign and gate.

Contact: Bob Boxwell, Executive Director, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, 11785 Clifton Drive, P.O. Box

336, Lusby, MD 20657, 410-394-

1300, or bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

Event: Invasive plant control (including bamboo, bittersweet, ailanthus, wineberry, stilt grass and others). Identification and techniques training plus hands-on removal. Gloves, tools, and water are available. Workdays are cancelled for inclement weather and temperatures below 40 degrees and above 90 degrees.

Date and Times: "Weed Whacking Wednesdays" – every Wednesday 10:00-12:00 noon October thru April and 9:00-11:00 May thru September. "Vine Vindicator Saturdays" - one Saturday per month January thru October (please call for exact dates and times in 2009).

Directions: From DC or Annapolis take Routes 2/4 south past Prince Frederick, MD to a left onto Parkers Creek Road in Port Republic, turn right on Scientists Cliffs Road, go about a mile, and on the left hand side is a parking area with a small barn. Please meet there; it is across from GATE A of Scientists Cliffs Community.

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

### **Caroline County**

Location: Adkins Arboretum

Events: We are currently in the process of planning, but don't hesitate to call to get more information. Adkins Arboretum trains volunteers to assist the staff in the removal of invasive non-natives on the Arboretum's 400-acre site.

Workdays are flexible. Contact: Sue Wyndham at 410-634-2847 ext. 24. Check out www.adkinsarboretum.org

### **Charles County**

**Location:** Chapman Forest and Ruth B. Swann Park

**Sponsors:** Maryland Native Plant Society, Sierra Club, and Chapman Forest Foundation Event: Regular stewardship projects are conducted in all seasons including winter, early spring, late spring, summer, and late summer. This high-intensity program is followed by a low-intensity annual maintenance program for plants we have missed, plants emerging from the seed bank, and occasional plants migrating in from neighboring areas.

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

Time: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Directions:** 1st Sundays, meet at main gate of Chapman Forest.

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

For the following Saturday, meet at Ruth B. Swann Park - Potomac Branch Library parking lot, 20 miles south of Washington Beltway (I-495) on Rt. 210 (Indian Head Hwy), about a mile and a half south from the traffic light on Rt. 210 in Bryans Road. Give yourself 30 to 40 minutes from the Beltway.

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

### **Garrett County**

**Location:** Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Park

**Sponsor:** Savage River Watershed Association

Contact: Ron Boyer at 301-895-3686 or boyerandmcdowell@earthlink.net

### Lyme Disease Is Another Good Reason to Root Out Invasive Plants

Researchers at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station reported that the management of Japanese barberry (Berberis thumbergii), an invasive plant, reduces blacklegged tick (Ixodes scapularis) abundance and could have human health ramifications. The researchers found that ticks were most abundant in barberry thickets.



The barberry plant forms dense stands that provide protection from predators for the small rodents such as the white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*) that host the larval and nymphal ticks.

These ticks are a major vector for agents that cause Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections. Ticks in areas not infested with the invasive barberry were fewer in number and less likely to host *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the spirochete that causes Lyme disease in humans.

For more information, see www.neafwa.org/html/abstracts/williams.shtml.

### **Howard County**

**Location:** Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

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

**Dates:** 4th Tuesday of the month:

November 25.

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

Contact: Aylene Gard at 410-992-9889

or Carol Filipczak at cfilipczak@comcast.net.

Location: Patuxent Research Refuge Event: All ages and abilities are welcome. Do your part to protect Patuxent from alien invaders, and become a Weed Warrior! You will receive a short educational briefing explaining the effects of invasive plants on wildlife and wildlife habitats and how to identify and control these plants.

**Directions:** To the North Tract Visitor Contact Station:

From I-295, take the exit for MD-Route 198 towards Fort Meade. Go approximately 1.5 miles until you see Glory Days Auto Salvage on your near

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right corner and baseball fields on your far right. Turn right between the two onto Bald Eagle Drive. Proceed through the gate and continue about 1/2 mile to the Visitor Contact Station. The National Wildlife Visitor Center is located off of Powder Mill Road between MD Route 197 and the Baltimore/Washington Parkway, south of Laurel.

Contact: Christopher Wicker at 301-497-5763 or Christopher\_Wicker@fws.gov. Check out www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent or http://patuxent.fws.gov for information on events.

### **Kent County**

Location: Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge Sponsor: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Events: Please call for more information on helping out Eastern Neck. Contact: Jonathan Priday at 410-639-7056

### **Montgomery County**

Location: Brookside Gardens
Event: Weed Warriors are needed for
the forested areas surrounding the
gardens. You will be given directions so
you can work independently, weekends
or weekdays, on your own schedule.
Contact: Stacy Parsons at 301-9621417 or stacy.parsons@mncppc-mc.org.
Check out www.BrooksideGardens.org
or www.MC-MNCPPC.org/environment/weed warriors/intro.shtm

**Location:** Montgomery County Parks **Sponsor:** Montgomery County Parks & Planning

Event: Become a Certified Weed Warrior by completing a one-hour online course and a two-hour field training session. Then, you can work at your own pace and choose a schedule that best suits you. Opportunities to work with a group are also offered several times a year. A newer program,

Special Project Weed Warriors, enables community groups to learn weed ID and removal on the spot and then spend a couple of hours tackling invasives on county parkland.

Contact: Paul Carlson (Certification) at 301-942-4709 or Lynette Scaffidi (Special Projects) at 301-949-0223, or www.weedwarrior.org.

**Location:** Northwest Branch of the Anacostia

Event: Please join us for a walk in the forest and to remove invasive plants including garlic mustard and multiflora rose. All are welcome.

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

Dates: 3rd Saturdays each month Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Contact: Jane Osburn at 301-754-1564

or jgosburn@earthlink.net

Location: Potomac Gorge between Great Falls and Georgetown Sponsors: The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service Event: Volunteers are welcome to sign up for a variety of workdays when we cut or pull some of the most problematic weeds, often in scenic areas.

Contact: Mary Travaglini at 301-897-8570 x235. Get on the email list by contacting PotomacGorgeVol@tnc.org. Check out www.nature.org/maryland.

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

Contact: Liz Jones, 301-652-9188 x30 or volunteer@audubonnaturalist.org

### **Prince George's County**

Location: Belt Woods, Bowie Events: Times and dates vary based on available team leader. Please call or email for schedule. We will be removing creeping euonymous, Japanese honeysuckle, winged burning bush, multiflora rose, oriental bittersweet, Japanese Stiltgrass, Garlic Mustard, etc. from various parts of the property. Tools and gloves provided, but feel free to bring your own favorite tool or pair of gloves. Dress for the weather. Dates: Ongoing Saturday, Sunday, and occasional mid-week work groups. Contact: Pamela Cooper at 301-390-0797 or pamelakcooper@verizon.net

Location: Greenbelt Homes Inc.
Housing Cooperative, Greenbelt
Sponsor: GHI Woodlands Committee
Events: The Greenbelt Homes Inc.
(GHI) housing cooperative in Old
Greenbelt has 85.6 acres of stewardship
forest as well as other wooded parcels.
The Woodlands Committee is actively
involved with urban forestry management. Regular work sessions for the
removal/eradication of non-native
invasive plant species and tree plantings
are scheduled throughout the year.
Drop us a line to learn more.
Contact: Matt Berres at 301-474-4161

or mberres@ghi.coop

Location: Greenbelt National Park,

Greenbelt
Events: Target plants include barberry
and wineberry in the winter and
Japanese stilt grass in the summer.

Bring heavy gloves and be prepared to do some scouting if need be.

Dates: 1st Saturday of each month

Time: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Contact: Tom Crone at 301-864-1959. Check out www.nps.gov/gree.

Location: Lake Artemesia, Indian Creek Trail, Berwyn Heights
Directions: The lake is located on
Berwyn Road in College Park.
From the south, the Capital Beltway (I-495), take Exit 23 (Kenilworth Avenue) toward Bladensburg. Make a right onto Route 193 (Greenbelt Road), then a right onto Branchville Road (this road turns into 55th Avenue). The parking lot is on the left at the Berwyn Road intersection.

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

Contact: M-NCPPC Park Rangers
Chris Garrett or John Dillon at 301-627-7755, TTY 301-699-2544. Check out www.rundc.com/Doc/MD/PG/Artemesia.htm for directions and additional information.

**Location:** Little Paint Branch Park and Cherry Hill Road Community Park, Beltsville

**Sponsor:** Anacostia Watershed Society **Dates:** Last Saturday of each month

Time: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Events: Meet at the Beltsville Community Center parking lot. There are full indoor toilet facilities and a large seating area for lunch. Our day will include methods and reasons for the project to control invasives. Native flowers and other plants will be identified as we work to rescue them. There will be a sign-in and safety orientation with handouts. Gloves and tools are provided.

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



### **VOLUNTEER with US!**

Sierra Club offers many different types of volunteer opportunities for anyone looking to become more involved in helping to protect the planet. By volunteering, you will be given the exciting opportunity to contribute to the betterment of our world and our future. So get active, meet new people, and have some fun!

Name		
Address		
CityState		
ZipCountry		
Home Phone ()		
Work Phone ()		
Fax ()		
Email		
Please select the activities that interest you.  Attend and/or Testify at a Hearing Door Hanger/Literature Delivery Fundraising Ground Truthing/Forest or Timber Sale Monitoring Host Club Leaders Visiting My Area Lead an Outdoor Activity or Inner City Outing Perform Legal Services Phone Calling Media Relations Signature Gathering Work at Club Booths at Fairs and Events Use My Vehicle to Transport People and Supplies Work in the Club office Work at Mailing Party Trail Maintenance, Tree Planting or Other Outdoor Activity Volunteer Coordination Work on the Web Site Write Letters		
Please list your top three conservation issues:		
1)		
2)		

### Please send form to:

Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter 7338 Baltimore Avenue, #101A College Park, MD 20740 Directions: Take U.S. 1 north from the Washington Beltway. Go about 1 mile, passing the National Agricultural Research Center, and turn left at the light on Montgomery Rd. At the stop sign, turn left on Sellman Road. Turn right into Little Paint Branch Park at the bottom of the hill.

Contact: Kyle Watts at 301-476-0627 or kyle@mannaheim.org, or Marc Imlay at 301-699-6204 or 301-442-5657 or marc@anacostiaws.org.

**Location:** Magruder Park, Hyattsville **Sponsor:** Friends of Magruder Woods **Dates:** 3rd Saturday of each month **Time:** 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Directions:** Meet at the Magruder Park parking lot. Take Eastwest Highway (410) east and turn right on Queens Chapel Road (about a mile before Route 1). Go south about a mile and turn left on Hamilton. Pass the Safeway on the right, then pass 38th street, go about one block and turn right into the park. Magruder Park is easily accessible from the West Hyattsville Metro stop on the Green Line, approximately a 10-block walk on Hamilton to Magruder Park. Contact: Mary Parker at 301-927-6216, Colleen Aistis at 301-779-0245, or Marc Imlay at 301-442-5657 or

Location: Suitland Bog

marc@anacostiaws.org.

Event: Manual removal of honeysuckle and multi-flora rose using shovels, pruners and perseverance. Come and help preserve this unique habitat. Meet in the parking lot.

Directions: From the Capital Beltway (I-495), take Exit 7A (Branch Avenue) toward Waldorf. Take Route 5 south. Take the Allentown Road exit. Make a left onto Allentown Road. Stay on Allentown Road through 5 lights. Turn left onto Suitland Road at the 6th light.

Follow Suitland Road until it passes under Suitland Parkway. The entrance to the Suitland Bog is to the right. **Bring:** Water, work boots, durable clothes, long sleeves, heavy gloves, pruners, and shovels.

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

Location: Watkins Regional Park, Upper Marlboro

Event: Meet at Watkins Nature Center parking lot.

Directions: Located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, in Watkins Regional Park, one mile west of the Six Flags America amusement park. From the Capital Beltway (I-495), take Exit 15A (Central Avenue) east. Continue for approximately three miles. Turn right onto Watkins Park Drive (Route 193) and follow the park signs to the facility.

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

Contact: M-NCPPC Park Rangers Chris Garrett or John Dillon at 301-627-7755, TTY 301-699-2544. Check out www.pgparks.com/places/parks/ watkins.html for additional information.

**Location:** Woodworth Park, Cheverly **Sponsor:** Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek

Event: Meet at small playground. Tools are provided, but wear work gloves and sturdy shoes.

**Dates:** Last Saturday of the month. There is no monthly work session in January; work sessions will resume February 28.

Time: 9 a.m. – noon

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

Contact: Joani Horchler at Horcpool97@aol.com or 301-773-9671. Check out www.friendsoflowerbeaverdam.org.

Location: Riverfront Park, Laurel Dates: 2nd Sunday of each month

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

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

Directions: From I-95 north or south: take MD Route 216-Laurel exit. At the

take MD Route 216-Laurel exit. At the 2nd traffic light (Main Street) turn right. Go to the end of the next block, turn right at 9th Street, and park at the swimming pool.

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

### St. Mary's County

Location: Myrtle Point Park Sponsor: Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust

Events: We're currently finalizing a calendar of events, so call for current information.

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

# **Outings**

### **Leading by Doing**

By Dan Soeder—My brother Jim died in mid-October from a brain tumor. It progressed frighteningly fast; slightly more than 6 months from the onset of symptoms until he was gone. We barely had time to say good-bye. He was just 52.

Jim was more active in the Sierra Club than I am, and on a more grassroots level. He was a leader in the Cleveland ICO (Inner City Outings) program, and he and I scouted many trails and parks during my visits home to Ohio that he later used for ICO excursions. The kids loved him (I went along on one ICO hike, and that was enough for me...I don't know where he got the patience, but he was terrific with kids). He also participated on a number of national-level service trips for Sierra Club, working on projects like trail repair in Idaho, exotic plant removal in Hawaii, and the dismantling of an old hunting lodge in an Alaska wilderness area.

Jim was one of my favorite hiking companions. He was a minimalist, bringing along the least amount of gear needed for survival. There were never any frills or luxuries in his pack – he didn't see any need to carry stuff he wasn't going to use. Jim was proud of his thriftiness, and got most of his gear at secondhand stores, yard sales, and discount shops. This didn't make him a poor outdoorsman; in fact, just the opposite. He relied on instinct, intelligence, and reason to avoid trouble, not his gear. He often expressed the opinion that buying fancy, expensive outdoor gear does not necessarily impart any wilderness wisdom to the buyer. People have been known to get overly-reliant on their GPS, satellite phones, waterproof boots and quick-dry technical clothing, and walk into blizzards, forgetting common sense.

Jim worked for the school board in one of the districts in the Cleveland suburbs. He got the whole summer off, and spent it traveling and hiking, a lot of the time solo. He made it to all 50 states, including four separate driving trips to Alaska. He had a few misadventures, but nothing serious. He was careful to map trails in advance, and carry a compass, a light, emergency rations, a water purifier, and other necessities. I work for the U.S. Geological Survey, and he would often tap me for topographic quadrangle maps to plot his next adventure.

The last big hike he and I did together was Mount Washington in New Hampshire a few years ago. We stayed at the AMC lodge in Pinkham Notch, and went to the peak and back on a dayhike. It was fun, even though it took a little longer than expected to get down, and we nearly missed dinner. Several people on the summit reacted with amazement that we had actually hiked up. One wellmeaning lady gave us brochures for both the auto road and the cog railroad, and told us there wasn't really any need to walk up. Jim and I just looked at each other, and tried not to laugh out loud. We put on our backpacks the next day and hiked into the Great Gulf wilderness below the mountain for a few additional days.

My brother was a good guy. He laughed easily, and loved the Three Stooges, Benny Hill, and Mel Brooks movies. He was late for the family Thanksgiving dinner every year because he volunteered down at the Salvation Army, serving up turkey dinners to those who had nothing. One of his passions was the Adopt-A-Family program, where he would take a needy family's Christmas list and try to fill it. These lists were heartrending. Instead of toys or video games, the kids would often ask for necessities like gloves, boots, or warm coats. I guess when you are that poor, your priorities are different. If anyone wants to remember my brother, the family asks that you contribute to the Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family program in his name.

Jim was a member of the Sierra Club for many years before I joined, and he convinced me that the environment and the outdoors that we both loved needed protecting. I joined up eight years ago and got active in the national outings program, as well as chapter outings in both DE and MD, and I think he was proud of that. I suppose if one of Jim Soeder's many legacies to the Sierra Club includes leaving his older brother Dan behind as an active member, he had a modicum of success.

See you outside.

Daniel J. Soeder is the MD Chapter outings chair. He can be reached at Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

# 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. Participants must have proper clothing, equipment, and stamina suitable to the event, and are encouraged to select activities that match their individual abilities for outdoor adventures. The Club offers a variety of outings from "easy" to "strenuous" that suit all activity levels. The difficulty of each outing is clearly designated in the announcement. Reservations are generally not required for a local outing unless noted, but the out-

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

Unless noted in the announcement, Club outings are intended for adults. Children and dogs are not normally permitted, unless an outing is so designated. Even on outings that are designated as child/dog friendly, please contact the leader in advance before bringing minors or pets. Minors (under 18 years of age) must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian, or they must have both 1) a signed permission slip, and 2) the leader's prior consent to participate in the Club outing. Dogs must be non-aggressive, well-behaved, and on a leash. Sierra Club outings officially begin and end at the trailhead, paddlecraft put-in/takeout 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 (continued on page 20)

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# **Outings (December)**

### **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 Appalachian Trail AT: 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

### A Note to Outings Participants

(continued from page 19) part of the outing. Participants assume full responsibility and liability for all risks associated with such travel.

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

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



Cross Country Sking: (not rated)
Anytime snow conditions allow in
Western Maryland and West Virginia.
Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963.
Call for details.

Friday, Dec 5 to Sunday Dec 7: FFA

Camping and Historical Outing in Harpers Ferry, WV (rated easy) Children and pets OK with prior approval. Leave the Baltimore area about 4:00 PM Friday evening and stay at a KOA in Harpers Ferry on Friday and Saturday. Carpooling is encouraged, and alternate

arrangements may be made among participants. We will discuss the history of Harpers Ferry and the Civil War Battle of Antietam. Saturday morning is a good opportunity to visit the nearby Hagerstown factory outlets. Saturday evening will include a short drive to Antietam to experience the annual illumination. Sunday we will take a 3-5 mile easy hike on part of the Appalachian Trail and the C&O canal, and visit historical sites in Harpers Ferry. Make reservations with leader, preferably two weeks ahead. Leader: Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net.

Saturday, Dec 6: Hemlock Gorge Hike (rated moderate) Hike 8 miles to see some of the largest and oldest hemlocks in Maryland. Meet at Shawan Road Park and Ride at 10 AM. Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963.

# Saturday, Dec 6: Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, VA.

(rated easy) Hike 7 miles past pretty streams, old houses, ponds and open fields. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday, Dec 7: Patuxent Branch
Trail, MD (rated easy) "Sneaker hike" 6
miles on paved trails in Columbia,
along the Little Patuxent River, around
Lake Elkhorn, and return before lunch.
Look for wintering waterfowl on the
lake. Meet at 9:00 AM at the trailhead
parking lot, across from 9175 Guilford
Rd, Columbia. Leader: Sue Muller
(HC) 301-498-8462,
sonicsue@verizon.net.

Saturday, Dec 13: FFA Holiday Hike through Hampden and on Jones Falls Trail through Druid Hill Park (rated easy to moderate) Older children welcome, but check with leader first. 4 miles on mostly flat paved trail and sidewalks beginning with a stroll around Druid Lake on a ridge overlooking the City. Visit the glass house of the Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, decorated with poinsettias for the holidays. Continue through the Druid Hill Park on the new Jones Falls Trail into renovated Woodberry and Clipper Mill. Walk through Hampden past fascinating shops decorated for the holidays. Lunch stop at Café Hon, Holy Frijoles, or another eccentric area restaurant. Finish by walking down the famous Miracle on 34th Street, with its to-beseen decorations, then past the old mill houses in Stone Hill back to our cars. Children under 18 must be able to hike this distance and be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Meet at 11 AM and park on either side of Wyman Park Drive 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 28nd or 29th Street just east of the Jones Falls Expressway, turn north onto Keswick Rd./Sisson St. and then take the first left onto Wyman Park Drive. Leader: Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), e-mail: XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

### Saturday, Dec 13: FFA Hike at Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel

(rated easy) Leisurely hike is only about 2 miles since a section of the trails are closed to avoid disturbing nesting waterfowl. Maximum vertical rise of 90 feet and some of the trail is paved. Appropriate for children accompanied by an adult. Dogs on leash permitted. Meet in the parking lot of the National Wildlife Visitors' Center (which is closed for renovation) at 9:30 AM. The Visitor's Center is

# **Outings (More December, January)**

### 

located along Powder Mill Road off of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway in Laurel. **Leader:** Jan Hoffmaster (AA), jHoff2370@verizon.net.

Saturday, Dec 13: Great Falls Billy Goat Trail, MD (rated moderate) Hike 8-9 miles on trails near the Potomac River, with short rock scrambles on the Billy Goat Trail. Enjoy dramatic scenery and observe wildlife. 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, kenclark @comcast.net.

Sunday, Dec 14: FFA Holiday Sing-Along at Perry Point Veterans Hospital (not rated) Children OK with prior approval from leader. Brighten the lives of patients at the Perry Point Veterans Hospital with a visit and singalong accompanied by guitar and other instruments you may bring. Many of the people here do not have family and friends to visit them, and they appreciate interaction with other people, which is how we can show our appreciation for their sacrifices for our country. We will follow our visit with a short walk around Havre de Grace, and an early dinner at an inexpensive diner with great food. Meet at 1:00 PM at the church parking lot on Seminary Ave. west off Dulaney Valley Rd. just north of the Baltimore Beltway. Leader: Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net.

Friday, Dec 19: Greater Baltimore
Outings Happy Hour and Social (not rated) Members and non-members are invited to meet from 6 to 8 PM for socialization, happy hour, and dinner at the Charred Rib in the Ridgely Shopping Center in Lutherville near York Road. Walking distance to the

Lutherville light rail station. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net.

Saturday, Dec 20: Gambrill State
Park, MD (rated moderate) Hike 7
miles on wooded trails, with several
scenic overlooks. Bring lunch and
water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40
in the Enchanted Forest Shopping
Center, for a 9:00 AM departure.
Leader: Tim Ryan (HC) 410-248-2974
(call before 9:30 PM),
timothy\_ryan@urscorp.com.

Thursday, Dec 25: Christmas
Morning Hike at Big Gunpowder
River (rated easy) 4 miles. Meet at 10
AM at the parking lot for the
Gunpowder trails past the Big
Gunpowder River bridge on Bel Air
Road. The hike will be over around
noon. Leader: Jack Wise (GB) 410256-3963.

Friday, Dec 26:Wildcat Mountain Circuit, VA. (rated moderate) 5.3 mile circuit hike with a 1500 foot elevation gain passing an old farmhouse and spring house. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat. Dec. 27: Great Falls, VA. Moderate six mile hike on dramatic cliffs overlooking the Potomac River, along the historic Patowmack Canal, and past the scenic Difficult Run rapids. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Call James Perschy, 410-964-1902, jameshike@verizon.net.



Thursday, Jan 1, 2009: Hogback Mt./El kwallow, SNP, VA. (rated moderate) Start the new year with this 10-mile hike with 1600 feet of elevation gain. Some nice views and a pleasant stream. Lunch at Range Cabin. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 7:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Jan 3: FFA Cromwell Valley Park Hike (rated easy) Children and dogs are welcome on this 3 mile hike through a Baltimore County park that is a working farm with draft horses, woodlands, hilly meadows, streams, old limestone kilns, and a brook bubbling out of the ground. Check out the success of invasive plant removals and native plantings. Meet at 10:30 AM in the parking lot beside the house in the park's Sherwood Farm section on Cromwell Bridge Rd. north from the Baltimore Beltway. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Stay for brunch at Sander's Corner Restaurant nearby. Leader: Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

Saturday, Jan 3: Meadowbrook Park (rated easy) 2.5 mile "sneaker hike" on a paved loop around the park, checking out the ponds for winter wildlife. Meet at 10:00 AM at Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. Leader: Sue Muller (HC) 301-498-8462, sonicsue@verizon.net.

Thursday, Jan 8: 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. 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 guiet corner and 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.

Sun. Jan. 11: Savage Park, Wincopin Trail. Moderate 4 or 7 mile hike along the Middle and Little Patuxent Rivers, easy except for a few hills and rocky parts. Stop after 4 miles, or continue an extra 3, including a 1:00 restaurant lunch break at Savage Mill. Meet at 10:00 at Patuxent Valley Middle School, off Vollmerhausen Road just west of Savage Guilford Rd. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark 7@comcast.net.

Saturday, Jan 17: Rock Creek Park in D.C. (rated moderate) 8 mile circuit hike through woods by the creek, with a quick visit to the zoo. Bring lunch and water; dress for the weather. Depart at 9:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Leader: Tim Ryan (HC) 410-248-2974 (call before 9:30 PM), timothy ryan@urscorp.com.

Saturday, Jan 24:White Oak Canyon, VA (rated strenuous) This 10 mile hike in Shenandoah National Park features several ice-covered waterfalls. Bring lunch, water, and good hiking shoes. Dress for the weather. Depart at 7:30

continued  $\Longrightarrow$ 

# Outings (More January, February, March, April)

### ← continued

AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Sign up with leader in advance. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Sunday, Jan 25: FFA Holiday Sing-Along at Perry Point Veterans Hospital (not rated) Possible alternate date to Dec 14 outing. See Dec 14 listing for details.



Sunday, Feb 1: Superbowl Party **Social Outing** (not rated) The Charred Rib has a Superbowl buffet for about \$5 that may include carved ham and beef, Buffalo wings, sausage, oysters, and many other items. It starts about 3:00 PM, but I plan to arrive about 5:00. Kickoff is about 6:15, and the buffet ends at halftime, which is about 8:00. The Charred Rib is located at the west end of the Ridgely Shopping Center between York Road and the Lutherville Light Rail Stop. The phone number for the restaurant is 410-561-0060. Leader: Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net.

Saturday, Feb 7: FFA Loch Raven Reservoir Hike (rated moderate) Older children and dogs are welcome on this 4-mile hike through woods out to a ridge and peninsula overlooking Loch Raven Reservoir, then walk back along the waterfront. Some hills. Enjoy views unobstructed by leaves on the trees, and enjoy this beautiful reservoir in winter with its waterfowl. Possible snow and ice on the trail. Dress for the weather. Children under 18 must be able to hike at this level of difficulty, and must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult.

Meet at 11 A.M. at the parking lot on Morgan Mill Rd. just off Loch Raven Drive (reached by taking Dulaney Valley Rd. north from the Baltimore Beltway). **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

Saturday, Feb 21: Little Gunpowder Falls (rated moderate) Hike 6-7 miles

along the Little Gunpowder, including a covered bridge and Jerusalem Mill. Bring lunch and water. Depart Columbia at 9:00 AM from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. Or call leader to meet at the trailhead. **Leader:** Tim Ryan (HC) 410-248-2974 (call before 9:30 PM), timothy\_ryan@urscorp.com.



Saturday, Mar 14: Weverton Cliffs

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

Saturday, Mar 21: FFA Hike at Irvine Nature Center (rated easy) Children and dogs are welcome on this 2-mile hike in woods and through meadows at the new property and facility of Irvine Nature Center. The trails include blinds for bird watching. Afterwards, tour the interactive, child-friendly exhibits in the nature center and visit the gift shop with items for all ages. Meet at 11 A.M. in front of the Nature Center at 11201 Garrison Forest Road off Reisterstown Rd. in Owings Mills. Children under 18 must be

accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. For information about Irvine Nature Center, call 410-484-2413 or check out www.ExploreNature.org. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

Sunday, Mar 22: Historical Stroll **Around Warren** (rated easy to moderate) Welcome springtime, learn about the lost town of Warren, and explore 3-4 miles of the ruins of this historic town that was flooded in 1922 with damming of Loch Raven Reservoir. We may be joined by a local resident and amateur historian who made a video of Warren's history. Meet at the southeast corner of the Cranbrook Shopping Center on Cranbrook Road near Ridgeland, 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.



Sunday, Apr 12: Easter Sunrise Service and Hike at Rocks State

**Park** (rated easy to moderate) Celebrate the true meaning of Easter at a non-denominational Sunrise Service at Rocks State Park in Harford County. It will be followed by fellowship with coffee, cocoa, and donuts, and an easy to moderate hike of about 3-4 miles. We can also have a really good buffet breakfast at the Geneva Farm Golf Course clubhouse nearby (check out http:// www.infosports.com/golf/ 1697902.htm, 410-452-8800.217 Davis Rd., Street, MD 21154). Children OK with prior approval. Meet at the church parking lot on Seminary Ave. west of Dulaney Valley Rd. just north of the Baltimore Beltway at 5:30 AM. Leader: Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net.

### 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 (http://www.sierrapotomac.org/).



### Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

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

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

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

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

Thanks so much!

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# **Chapter Excom Ballot**

# **Maryland Chapter Excom Ballot**

Leaders of the Sierra Club are chosen democratically from candidates who volunteer their time and talent to protect our Earth.

Please honor this democratic tradition by voting.

All Maryland Chapter members are eligible to vote.

Vote for no more than three (3) candidates. (Read candidates' statements on pages 3-5)

### Clip this ballot and return to:

Election Committee Maryland Chapter/Sierra Club Suite 101A 7338 Baltimore Avenue College Park, MD 20740

Ballots must be received by January 9, 2009.

Joint Memb	per
Only	
	Erin Barnes
	Baird Straughan
	Bonnie Bick
	Ron Henry
	Brigitte Fortin



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

# **Outings (BICO)**

### **BICO Outings**

Sierra Club Inner City Outings (ICO) 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. As of June 30, 2008, BICO has organized 304 outings, serving over 3,300 youngsters.

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

BICO's outings in and around Baltimore include:

- \* Nature hikes & orienteering
- Camping, canoeing, cycling & caving
- \* Initiative and Confidence coursework
- ⋆\*Community service for Baltimore's Recreation & Parks Department

For information about scheduled outings, visit our website at http://ico.sierraclub.org/baltimore.

For more information or to volunteer, contact BICO chairs Bob Burchard or Nicole Veltre at baltimoreinnercityoutings@gmail.com.



Fellowship. Stewardship. Friendship.

Join our Jamboree committee to help plan for another successful Jamboree.

Contact Laurel Imlay, 301-277-7111 or laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org.

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# **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

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

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

Advertising: For display and classified advertising rates and information, contact: Editor, The Chesapeake Sierra Club Maryland Chapter 7338 Baltimore Ave, Suite 101 College Park, MD 20740 The Maryland Chapter wishes to thank those who contributed to this issue of *Chesapeake*.

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# **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.

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# Curl up with a good newsletter

- It's chapter election time; meet the candidates inside!
- Savoring the election victories
- Our top priorities for the General Assembly
- Resolve to volunteer in 2009! Opportunities abound!
- Outings, events, and news from around the state

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