

Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Maryland Primary Election Guide 2010

Welcome to our Primary Election Voters Guide! The political committees for the Chapter and the groups have been busy surveying and interviewing candidates to determine who will best protect the environment if they are elected to serve.

The center pages present a list of our endorsements through late July, and more details about many of the candidates can be found in our Political News Roundup. So check out your group and find out whom we're helping to nominate during this primary season.

And don't forget to go to the Chapter website at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org> and click on the link to Politics and Elections for the latest endorsements and information about how you can participate in the campaign to elect candidates who will be Maryland's environmental champions.

In a Funk? Get Out and Get Involved!

By **Betsy Johnson**—There is a malaise in the progressive movement that I think has four main sources:

- ♦ Unreasonably high expectations for Obama, which he has been unable to meet
- ♦ A bad economic environment that colors our perceptions
- ♦ Relentless criticism (and, yes, even lying) by the right wing media
- ♦ The Gulf oil spill

It's hard not to be affected by these matters. The administration we welcomed with eagerness and enthusiasm hasn't always delivered; we're buffeted by the economy; we listen to news inflected by right wing ideologies; and, as environmentalists, we've been distressed and enraged by the damage inflicted by the oil spill. And, when we hear about them over and over again, we cannot help but feel overwhelmed, and the result is often to want to pull back, curl up in a fetal position, and go to sleep.

But we can't do that! There is too much at stake in this election:

(continued on page 4)

Chapter Endorsements Inside!

September 14 Is a Great Day to Vote!

By **Betsy Johnson**—Did you know that many critical races in the state are decided in the primary? I'm sorry to say that only about half of our Maryland members vote in the primary. So here is a list of reasons why primaries are so important:

- ♦ Because many of our districts are overwhelmingly Democratic or Republican, the primary winner goes on to win the general election.
- ♦ If a district is more heterogeneous, voting in the primary gives you an opportunity to choose the candidates you want to run in the general election.
- ♦ Your Sierra Club political committee has spent weeks interviewing candidates and making endorsements. We need you to vote for the people we recommend. Our power is derived from our ability to influence a large number of voters. But if the voters don't turn out, then our power is diminished.

- ♦ We are privileged to be able to vote in democratic elections. We should take every opportunity to exercise that privilege.
- ♦ We need to vote to diminish the power of the corporate influence over our political process.

I hope that's enough to convince every single one of you to come out and vote on September 14. If you think you won't be able to vote on that day, you can either request an absentee ballot or vote early at one of the designated early voting locations. See page 10 for more information on early voting. The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is September 7.

You can find more information about absentee ballots and early voting by calling your local election office. You can find the phone number at http://elections.state.md.us/about/county_boards.html.



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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



Ron Henry, Chapter Chair

Hello All,
Wow, we're already almost through a hectic primary election season and some vigorous conservation campaigns as well.

The Maryland Chapter has been working very hard with the "Save the Mattawoman Creek" campaign. We've conducted many outings on and around this beautiful creek to demonstrate the utter necessity of saving this waterway. If you've not yet had a chance to join us on a hike, a paddle trip, or a bike ride, we hope you'll do so soon. This campaign to save one of the Bay's finest watersheds deserves the efforts of everyone who cares about cleaning up the Bay. So along with our thanks to those who've already become engaged in this effort, we issue an invitation to our other members to participate as well. We need your help to turn this campaign into a win for Mattawoman Creek and for the Bay.

The other 2010 high priority chapter campaign, the proposed PATH electrical grid line, is becoming intense again, and is being pursued diligently by chapter staff and the conservation committee. Remember, this transmission line, which will cut into Maryland from West Virginia, is proposed as a way to bring more dirty coal-fueled electricity into our state. Again, we welcome your help in this campaign to defeat the transmission line, and take a stand against Dirty Coal. Clean Coal? It's an oxymoron! Dave O'Leary's article on page 3 has more information on how you can help.

Though winter is months away, the chapter leaders are already at work on our New Year's resolutions. During August and September we will begin planning the campaigns and budget for next year, and considering our role and partnerships in the environmental community. Again, we welcome your comments and suggestions as we seek to make our chapter more vibrant and relevant to the environmental concerns of our members and our communities.

Finally, I want to mention once again that 2010 is an election year. As we saw with the outcome of the Stormwater Regulations during the 2010 legislative session, when last minute changes gave developers more opportunities to gain exemptions for their projects, it is imperative that we be strongly involved in this 2010 election. Opponents to the advances in environmental protection that we have won during the past few years

are well-financed and fully engaged in the political process. We must do better than they, in order to maintain and preserve environmental gains, and to continue to pass other vital initiatives to help combat global warming, reduce water and air pollution, and positively influence other areas of environmental quality.

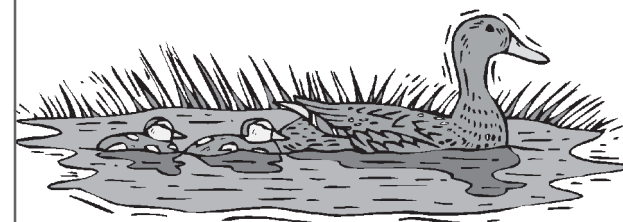
In a down economy it is very tempting to buy into the false doctrine that we simply cannot afford to what is right for the environment. But, as the oil spill in the Gulf so clearly shows, we cannot afford *not* to! Herman Daly, one of the founders of ecological economics, astutely observed that the economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment, not the reverse. So for the sake of our environment AND our economy, we must remain active on the ground, and persuade others to join us.

Members, readers, you have opportunities to go out and do great things. Campaign for candidates who understand that we cannot develop a healthful and sustainable future by trashing the environment that supports us. And campaign to save or restore the great places of Maryland, like Mattawoman Creek, to ensure that our legacy is one of responsible stewardship, not opportunistic profligacy.

Until next time...

Vote as if the
planet depends
on it.

It does.



Campaigns: Conservation and Political



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 _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Country _____

Home Phone (____) _____

Work Phone (____) _____

Fax (____) _____

Email _____

Please select the activities that interest you.

- ☐ Attend and/or Testify at a Hearing
- ☐ Door Hanger/Literature Delivery
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Ground Truthing/Forest or Timber Sale Monitoring
- ☐ Host Club Leaders Visiting My Area
- ☐ Lead an Outdoor Activity or Inner City Outing
- ☐ Perform Legal Services
- ☐ Phone Calling
- ☐ Media Relations
- ☐ Signature Gathering
- ☐ Work at Club Booths at Fairs and Events
- ☐ Use My Vehicle to Transport People and Supplies
- ☐ Work in the Club office
- ☐ Work at a Mailing Party
- ☐ Trail Maintenance, Tree Planting or Other Outdoor Activity
- ☐ Volunteer Coordination
- ☐ Work on the Web Site
- ☐ Write Letters

Please list your top three conservation issues:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Please send form to:

Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter
7338 Baltimore Avenue, #111
College Park, MD 20740

No Summer Vacation for Our Chapter Conservation Campaigns

By David O'Leary—The weather is hot; political races are heating up; and there is also a lot happening with our Chapter conservation campaigns. I hope that all of you are taking some time to enjoy and explore the natural places we are working to protect! As I write this, the oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico is slowly being brought under control, but the clean-up effort remains a powerful example of the many environmental challenges that we face, across Maryland and around the globe. We need to address the immediate issues, like the globs of oil in the marshes and on the beaches, but even more work is needed to fix the systems that allow these devastating incidents to occur.

Green Grid Campaign

Our Green Grid campaign to shift Maryland to more efficient energy use and cleaner energy sources has turned attention back to the Potomac Appalachian Transmission Highline (PATH) transmission line proposal. In mid-July, the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) accepted a new proposal for construction of the line to interconnect with the existing power grid in southern Frederick County, by constructing a huge new substation in Kempton. The proposed connecting line would run west across the Potomac River into northern Virginia and West Virginia for more than 270 miles, bringing coal-fired electricity to Maryland from the John Amos power plant. The PSC review process was halted when the previous application was rejected, but is now underway again. In addition, the National Park Service has begun the multi-year effort to develop the environmental impact statement for the line. Unfortunately, their initial approach is to limit the scope of the study only to direct impacts on the few miles of federal land that the line is proposed to cross. The Sierra Club and many others contend that the review must consider the broad range

of impacts, including increased global warming, water and air pollution, and habitat impacts from the line right-of-way, and service road and construction impacts, including increased spread of invasive plants.

The proposal for the MAPP transmission line across southern Maryland, under the Chesapeake Bay and across the Eastern Shore, remains on hold while additional analysis is being conducted. An alternative underwater route below the Choptank River is under discussion. We expect to know more sometime in August.

Our efforts to bring cleaner energy solutions to Maryland include Cool Cities campaigns, especially active on the Eastern Shore, and the investigation of offshore wind projects. At the federal level, the latest news that a comprehensive energy and climate bill will not be considered in the Senate this year is a huge disappointment, but we will continue work on this front.

Mattawoman Creek Campaign

The campaign to Save Mattawoman Creek and protect the Chesapeake Bay is encouraging more people to visit the area, by kayak or canoe, on foot, or by cycling on the new bike path that parallels the creek between Indian Head and Waldorf. Please check the Chapter web site for information about opportunities to visit this beautiful and environmentally critical area. In particular, we hope you can visit on Saturday, August 21st, for the Lotus Blossom Festival, to see the rare American Lotus in bloom. The Mattawoman is threatened by multiple ill-conceived developments, and we need help with legal and regulatory work, in addition to the wildlife studies and community outreach efforts. There are plenty of ways to get involved, whether you live in the area or not. (Read more about Mattawoman Creek on page 13. If you

live in Charles County, you'll want to take note of the endorsements which also appear on that page.)

Our broader efforts to protect the Chesapeake Bay are particularly timely as federal legislation is considered, and the EPA and Maryland Department of the Environment continue the regulatory work to establish new rules for the Bay and its many sub-watersheds. A "watersheds team" is being formed so we can do a more complete review and participate in this effort more fully.

There is a lot going on, and we can use your help! Please consider joining our energy team or watersheds team; attending a Mattawoman trip and letting others know about this beautiful place; supporting our local Cool Cities effort; or getting involved in one of our other campaigns.

For more information, please contact us:

Watersheds Team:

Carol Nau nau.carol@gmail.com

Energy Team:

Alana Wase alana.wase@mdsierra.org

Save the Mattawoman Team:

Baird Straughan 301-657-8121

Legislative Committee:

D. O'Leary dave.oleary@mdsierra.org ■

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

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.
—Margaret Mead

September 14 Is For Voting

In a Funk? Get Involved!

(continued from page 1)

- ♦ Next year there will be redistricting in all 50 states based on the 2010 census. This will determine the makeup of Congress and state and local governments as well. If conservatives are allowed to prevail in this election, we will be affected by their redistricting decisions for at least the next 10 years.
- ♦ There are many critical races that could go either way. We need them to go our way, or we will have gridlock at all levels on our most important initiatives
- ♦ The only way we will be able to change things is to be involved.

The Sierra Club has endorsed two candidates who do not have primary races—Frank Kratovil, who is running for reelection to the House of Representatives in MD Congressional District 1, and Martin O'Malley, who is running for reelection as governor.

They need our help.

I know—many people have issues with these two candidates.

Kratovil is too conservative, I hear—he voted against health care. But he also voted for a climate change bill when it came up in the House, and he has an excellent voting record on other environmental issues. Contrast that with his opponent, Andy Harris, a “Tea Party” favorite who has a lifetime environmental voting score in the State Senate of 13%, and votes against environmental bills in committee almost all the time.

As for O'Malley—he made the ICC happen—and that really burns the activists (myself included) who have spent years fighting that monstrosity. But he has also appointed very good people to important departments, has instituted a serious statistical assessment of the health of the Chesapeake Bay, and has saved Program Open Space money in a tough economic climate. We all experienced life under Governor Ehrlich, O'Malley's op-

ponent—and it wasn't pretty for the environment. There is a stark difference between these two candidates.

All of the candidates noted in this issue of the *Chesapeake* need your support. So, I beg you to stand up for them. But the District 1 race and the governor's race especially need your support. Please volunteer. There are lots of jobs to do in a campaign—both inside and outside. There are the typical door-to-door and phone banking jobs. But candidates also need people with organizational skills, technical and data management skills, and a willingness to stuff envelopes. There's something for everyone to do. Let's get involved. ■

Betsy Johnson is the political chair of the Maryland Chapter.



*Decisions are made
by those who show up.
~Aaron Sorkin*



West/Rhode Riverkeeper Chris Trumbauer, left, accepting an award for service to the environment at the Anne Arundel group's annual dinner earlier this year. At right is Group Chair David Prosten. Trumbauer is a Democratic candidate for the County Council.

AA Political News Roundup

Tight Elections Foreseen in Anne Arundel

By David Prosten—Members in the Anne Arundel group are doing everything they can to support several friends of the environment in this year's primary and general elections, with the current Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates and a professional Riverkeeper who's seeking a County Council seat at the top of the agenda.

The Speaker of the House, **Michael Busch** (D-30), is being targeted by conservative challengers hoping to ride the anti-incumbent wave being churned by radio talk show hosts and “Tea Party” types. **Busch**, a Democrat, has been a reliable supporter of green initiatives, especially for the Bay and open space, and is strongly backed by environmentalists throughout the state.

County Council

The Riverkeeper (West/Rhode Rivers), **Chris Trumbauer**, has a hard fight ahead of him because his opponent in the Democratic primary already sits on the County Council—he was not elected to



Speaker of the House **Michael Busch**

the post, but appointed earlier this year to fill a vacancy. **Trumbauer**, who has been cited by the Anne Arundel group for his outstanding environmental works, plans to overcome his opponent's “incumbency” and deep pockets by fielding an army of committed volunteers.

Of **Trumbauer**, the group said: “Combined with his exemplary environmental credentials, his experience, passion, and understanding of community issues in both the county and city make him the ideal advocate for the people of the 6th District.”

Also at the County Council level, the group endorsed **Jamie Benoit** for reelection to his District 4 seat, pointing out that he is “a thoughtful, reliable environmental vote” on the council and that “residents concerned about the health of our waterways, protection of our greenways and meaningful enforcement of zoning and development laws are lucky to have him.”

State Legislature

At the state legislative level, for District 30 the group endorsed the reelection of **Mike Busch**, incumbent **Virginia**

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Baltimore Political News Roundup

Anne Arundel

(continued from page 4)

Clagett, and the election of newcomer **Judd Legum**, who, if he wins in the primary, would likely go up against Del. Ron George in the general. The group noted that **Legum** is running on a solid “green” platform, while George has a spotty record on environmental issues. He co-sponsored a resolution in the last session declaring that climate change is a “conspiracy” and urging the Environmental Protection Agency to “immediately halt” all efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. **Busch** and **Clagett** have long won the Sierra Club’s endorsement.



District 30's **Virginia Clagett**

In District 32 the group endorsed solid green legislators **Pam Beidle** and **Ted Sophocleus**, both of whom have excellent records on environmental issues. In District 21, a part of which (Laurel area) rests in the county, we endorsed all incumbents for re-election: Sen. **Jim Rosapepe** and Delegates **Joseline Pena-Melnyk**, **Barbara Frush**, and **Ben Barnes**.

More endorsements are expected once the primary elections are held. ■

David Prosten (dprosten@yahoo.com) is the political chair for the Anne Arundel Group.

Greater Baltimore's State Picks

By Will Bedford-Sutro—The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club endorses the following state legislative candidates from the Greater Baltimore Group's area:

Bill Ferguson

State Senator George Della has never been with us on all the issues. In fact, he fell on the wrong side of environmental protection 50 percent of the time in 2010, according to the League of Conservation Voters' (LCV) Environmental Scorecard. This is a pitiful percentage for a Democratic incumbent in the progressive Greater Baltimore area. With challenger **Bill Ferguson** for District 46, we have a chance to elect a pro-environment candidate who is dedicated to our legislative agenda. He is strongly committed to job creation in the “green” sector, will fight for an expansion of renewable energy, opposes the construction of new power lines, and will be an advocate for smart growth in the suburbs.

Bill is not a long shot for the seat, either. He has been running an extremely energized campaign, even though he is a challenger in a primary election trying to unseat an incumbent. Senator George Della has controlled the local politics for too long, with little to show for it. Bill Ferguson is a progressive, former school teacher who will be a bold voice for change within the state senate. Let's show opponents of environmental protection that we mean business.

Steve Lafferty

Delegate **Steve Lafferty**, House Delegate for District 42, not only deserves endorsement, but deserves a special honorable mention for his unswerving leadership in environmental issues. His lifetime LCV Environmental voting score of 96 percent is just the tip of the iceberg. Delegate Lafferty not only votes green, but is the primary sponsor of green initiatives in the House, such as the 2010 Transportation

Funding Criteria Bill which ensures that state transportation funding is consistent with smart growth goals, greenhouse gas emissions limits, and the 2009 septic bill that required nitrogen-removing technology on new septic systems in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas. It was also evident from the Sierra Club's endorsement that Delegate Lafferty understands environmental issues and that he views protection of the environment as a legislative priority. His top environmental priorities include protecting oyster habitats and oyster fisheries; smart growth; and land preservation.

This is a tough election year for incumbents. On top of that, Delegate Lafferty is running in a crowded primary race, facing two incumbents and 13 challengers. The general election race will be even more difficult, as he will have to convince independent voters to support him. If you are in District 42 or from another district looking for a good candidate to support, we encourage you to check out his website at

www.delegatelafferty.com, attend his events, and volunteer for his electoral campaign.

Mary Washington

Mary Washington's campaign for delegate in Maryland's 46th District has just begun, and it has been energized from the start. Her campaign website is updated frequently. A page touts her numerous endorsements from organizations such as the AFL-CIO, Progressive Maryland, and NARAL. She has shown dedication through her agenda which features environmental protection as one of her core priorities. On the issues, Mary is on the right side. She supports a renewable energy portfolio, smart growth, mass transit expansion, and the protection of wild lands. Let's help get Mary over the finish line and to work protecting the Bay. ■

Will Bedford-Sutro is a political intern for the Maryland Chapter. Janet Schollenberger (jscholle4@yahoo.com) is the political chair for the Greater Baltimore Group.



You Can't
VOTE
Unless You've
Registered!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2010
Last day to register before the Primary Election

Information on voter registration, districts, polling places, etc.
<http://www.elections.state.md.us>

Catoctin Political News Roundup

Burning Issue in Catoctin Group: Our Waste Legacy

By **Gregor Becker**—Sierrans know that one of the important actions they can take is to vote for candidates who share their commitment to protecting the environment.

In Carroll and Frederick Counties, the most consequential issue now before the two counties is how to deal with the counties' waste. Do we advocate for "zero waste," which means designing and managing products and processes to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserving and recovering all resources, not burning or burying them?

Unfortunately, some current commissioners in both counties have opted for incineration, euphemistically called "waste-to-energy." Their advocacy ignores the detrimental effects that incineration will bring to our environment and our county budgets:

- ♦ The proposed incinerator may cost nearly \$2 billion over 30 years
- ♦ The 1,500 ton-per-day incinerator is more than Carroll-Frederick needs
- ♦ We'll be a regional trash importer
- ♦ We'll still need landfill space for toxic bottom ash
- ♦ Incinerator emissions rain on everything, introducing mercury and dioxins into air, water, and soil
- ♦ Incineration encourages consumption and discourages recycling or reducing waste

We have an opportunity to turn this back.

The Catoctin Group made one early endorsement in Frederick County: **Kai Hagen** for Frederick County Commissioner. Kai has been a leader on the incinerator, land use issues and Cool Cities!

We have also endorsed **Julia Gouge** for Carroll County Commissioner in District 2.

In Carroll County, five commissioners will be elected for the first time. Also a first, they will be elected by district, not



Kai Hagen, endorsed for Frederick County Commissioner

countywide. Less than 1,000 votes will win a district. Here are some candidate views from *The Carroll County Times*, 7/18/2010, in which candidates for the Board of Commissioners discuss whether they support the waste-to-energy incinerator proposal.

District 1

I don't support the waste to energy facility out in Frederick. One, because I think the technology is rather old at this point ... I don't think any of the citizens really support it either, and quite frankly, if we're going to be a representative government then we have to abide by what the citizens want. — Michael Blair, Republican

District 2

I'm not in favor of an incineration plant in Frederick County or Carroll County. I have never felt that was the way we needed to go. When it was talked about many years ago I had the same feeling. — **Julia Walsh Gouge**, Republican (incumbent)

District 3

In some ways I'm for it because we can't keep filling up the landfills. Years ago my dad lived on a farm that was purchased



Julia Gouge, endorsed for Carroll County Commissioner

by the bureau of Hanover to be a landfill and filled in and 20-30 years later its able to be farmed over again, but I often wonder about the quality of water around that neighborhood. — Kevin Baer, Republican

I do not support building the incinerator whether it would be a joint effort or not. There are plenty of other options that we can do and try that aren't going to cost us anything or hardly anything at all. — Michelle Jefferson, Republican

District 4

I strongly oppose the incinerator. The biggest part of my opposition is the outrageous cost. I feel this cost will lead our county to financial disaster. I also have concerns for the potential of environmental and health risks. — Michele Johnson, Democrat

At this time I do not support [the incinerator]. I just think that the numbers keep changing a lot on us right now, you know, as far as what the cost is going to be in the long term... — Perry Leroy Jones Jr., Republican

District 5

I oppose the building of the incinerator for a couple of reasons. First of all I think that it's a project that there are still way too many questions for, unanswered questions for how committed we already are. Secondly I think its way too expensive... — Doug Howard, Republican

I'm opposed to it ... basically I'm opposing the incinerator on a cost basis. There's an awful lot of uncertainty in the cost estimates right now. — Hugh McLaurin, Democrat

I do not [support the incinerator] for a number of reasons. First of all it discourages any conservation efforts that the county may want to instill. — Marcel van Rossum, Republican

I support the process moving forward, and I voted to move the process forward. — Michael Zimmer, Republican (incumbent)

Other endorsements for commissioners in Carroll and Frederick will be coming soon! You'll find them posted to the Maryland Chapter website: <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/>. Click on link to Politics and elections. ■

Gregor Becker (lorax4@carr.org) is the political chair for the Catoctin Group.



ote
9-14-10

HoCo Political News Roundup

Howard Voters Can Support Green Candidate for County and State Offices

By Kim Birnbaum and Lee Walker Oxenham—Sierra Club members have significant opportunities to support green candidates in Howard County this election season.

County Executive **Ken Ulman's** early endorsement recognition is a testament to his leadership on green legislation, energy, transportation and recycling. County Council incumbents **Courtney Watson** (District 1), **Calvin Ball** (District 2) and **Jen Terrasa** (District 3) each earned Club endorsement on the basis of their support for green legislation, questionnaire responses, and follow-up interviews.

In District 4 we are endorsing a strong, pro-environment newcomer—**Alan Klein**—who is running on a platform of sustainability and protecting the environment (the forests and the Patuxent River), as downtown Columbia is redeveloped and as BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) impacts are anticipated.

At the local level, **Courtney Watson**, pictured below, is being singled out for special recognition—and extra Club ef-



Courtney Watson, endorsed for County Council

fort during what is anticipated to be a close race—on the basis of her efforts to keep development in check and query the rationale behind DPZ (Department of Planning and Zoning) grants of waivers. In sharp contrast to other candidates, **Watson** staked out a pro-active position calling for County staff to investigate the number, type and rationale behind County environmental protection waivers.

Liz Bobo (state legislative district 12B) has been a leader on the environment since she was elected in 1994, earning a lifetime score of 100% on the Maryland League of Conservation scorecard. Delegate **Bobo**, pictured below, serves on the important Environmental Matters Committee from which she champions legislation like keeping our waterways and air clean, improving our stormwater management and preserving our open space.



Liz Bobo, endorsed for Delegate to General Assembly

She also is a strong spokesperson for campaign finance reform, an issue important to everyone who would like to reduce the corporate influence in Annapolis. This year she is being challenged in the primary by John Bailey, a former Republican who switched parties this year. It would be a real blow to the environmental community to lose Delegate **Bobo** in the legislature.

Interested in helping elect a strong

MoCo Political News Roundup

Montgomery County Group Endorses Environmental Leaders

By David Hauck—The Sierra Club has endorsed six candidates for county council; their positions and actions on transportation, smart growth and global climate change have shown that they will be leaders in preserving and protecting Montgomery County's natural environment.

Transportation

A critical challenge the new county council will face will be finding ways to move people around Montgomery County. The Sierra Club thinks that the environmental benefits of greatly expanded public transit—less air pollution, fewer greenhouse gas emissions—make expanded public transit the preferred choice over building more roads and adding more highway lanes.

We recognize the leadership **Marc Elrich** (At-Large, incumbent), pictured top right, has shown by developing plans for a bus rapid transit system (BRT), where buses have their own rights-of-way and go greater distances between stops, that would cover much of the county. We think **Hans Riemer's** (At-Large, challenger) commitment to public transit, as shown by his leadership of the Action Committee on Transit, would bring a strong voice to the county council on this issue.

pro-environment team in Howard County? Contact Lee Walker Oxenham at lwoxenham@verizon.net and sign up.■

Kim Birnbaum (ksmiles@myfastmail.com) is the political chair of the Howard County Group, of which Lee Walker Oxenham is a member.



Marc Elrich, endorsed for Montgomery County Council

Roger Berliner (District 1-incumbent), pictured below, recognized that the Red Line cannot meet all of the future demand for public transit, and has pushed for additional rapid light rail or bus rapid transit on Rockville Pike as part of the plans to add more commercial buildings and residences at the White Flint and Twinbrook areas of the master plan, around those Metro stops.



Roger Berliner, endorsed for Montgomery County Council

(continued on page 8)

Montgomery County Political News Roundup

Montgomery County Group Endorses Environmental Leaders

(continued from page 7)

Phil Andrews (District 3-incumbent) and **Nancy Navarro** (District 4-incumbent) took the lead in the summer of 2009 in asking whether the \$3 billion widening of I-270 up to Frederick, proposed by the Maryland Dept. of Transportation to relieve traffic congestion, might not be more effectively spent on expanding public transit.

Smart Growth

The Sierra Club thinks that building mixed-use communities, where residential, commercial and retail areas are located close to each other and where these areas are connected by a grid of local streets that encourage walking and bicycling, is the most sustainable way to handle future growth. And, to be truly “smart,” these new communities should be built close to existing Metro stations or new public transit nodes. Such communities would help correct the jobs/housing imbalance: there is now more housing than jobs in the eastern part of the county and just the opposite in the west. Achieving these objectives would help prevent future growth in Montgomery County from making road congestion even worse.

These smart growth principles were ignored when the Planning Board proposed a huge development for the land just north of the Universities at Shady Grove. Gaithersburg West (now called the Great Seneca Science Corridor) as originally proposed would have allowed up to 20 million square feet of commercial development and 40,000 new jobs in an area with little public transit.

The incumbent candidates we have endorsed—**Phil Andrews**, **Marc Elrich**, **Nancy Navarro**, **Roger Berliner** and **Duchy Trachtenberg**—worked to reduce the scale of Gaithersburg West and to make sure that the final stages of the development could not be undertaken un-

til the Corridor Cities Transitway was fully financed and construction of it was well underway. **Hans Riemer**, although not a member of the Council, publicly supported this approach, and the final plan reflected the support of Riemer and the five incumbents listed above. The final plan was 2.5 million square feet smaller than originally proposed and the final stage of development can only be carried out if the Corridor Cities Transitway is funded and actually under construction.

Climate Change/Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In 2008, Montgomery County passed some of the most comprehensive greenhouse gas legislation in the country; the legislation aims at reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of residents, businesses and the government by 80 percent by 2050. **Roger Berliner** was the driving force behind the bills resulting in this legislation; the bills built on previous county legislation requiring new commercial and multi-family buildings to be more energy efficient, by extending higher energy efficiency mandates to include new single-family homes. The legislation also creates new incentives to make existing homes more energy efficient. Making existing buildings more energy efficient is essential to meeting the carbon reduction goals the county has set.

Although much of the residential energy efficiency portions of the bills was cut in committee, **Roger Berliner**, with the support of **Phil Andrews**, **Marc Elrich**, **Duchy Trachtenberg**, (Nancy Navarro was not yet on the Council) and the Sierra Club, succeeded in getting these sections reinserted.

Endorsements

Because of their commitment to finding sustainable solutions to the transportation, growth and climate change chal-

lenges Montgomery County faces, the Sierra Club endorses **Marc Elrich** (At-Large), **Duchy Trachtenberg** (At-Large), **Hans Riemer** (At-Large), **Roger Berliner** (District 1), **Phil Andrews** (District 3) and **Nancy Navarro** (District 4).

You can vote for up to four at-large council members (the Sierra Club has endorsed three) and then for one council member for your district.

Endorsements for Montgomery County's Maryland Delegates and Senators

Every candidate the Sierra Club has endorsed to represent Montgomery County in Annapolis can use the help of local Sierra Club members. This is especially true of first-time candidates running for open delegate seats, or challengers seeking to upset incumbent state senators. These are tough races and the difference between winning and losing in the primary could be just a few hundred votes. We highlight several of these races here and urge you to volunteer for their campaigns.

Eric Luedtke (District 14 – Delegate)



Eric Luedtke endorsed for Delegate to Maryland's General Assembly

Luedtke's passion to preserve wild places led him to become a leader of the Sierra Student Coalition and a long-time member of the Montgomery County Group's executive committee. His environmental interests have grown to include promoting sustainable local agriculture, building more mass transit, stopping ex-urban sprawl, and increasing efforts to conserve energy and generate more renewable power. As a newly-elected delegate, Luedtke would work to reduce runoff into the Chesapeake Bay from farms, support a carbon tax to encourage energy conservation and renewable energy, and push for an increase in the gas tax to be used to fund new transit projects.

(The Sierra Club has also endorsed **Anne Kaiser** and **Craig Zucker** for District 14 delegate seats. Voters in each district elect three Delegates.)

Karen Montgomery (District 14 – Senator)

Del. Montgomery is challenging the incumbent, Sen. Rona Kramer, for this seat. The Sierra Club endorsed Del. Montgomery in 2006 for the House of Delegates and she has a lifetime score of 96% on the Maryland League of Conservation Voters' scorecard. Her priorities in the Senate would be to increase the state gas tax and use the proceeds for transit. She also would encourage new sources of renewable energy by seeking to increase the state's renewable portfolio standard (the amount of electricity required to come from renewable sources) to 25 percent.

Aruna Miller (District 15 – Delegate)

Miller is a strong, knowledgeable and articulate advocate for expanding walking and bicycling options in the transportation mix and would bring to Annapolis the expertise she has developed as head

(continued on page 9)

Montgomery County Political News Roundup

Montgomery County Group Endorses Environmental Leaders

(continued from page 8)
of the section of Montgomery County's Dept. of Transportation responsible for non-auto transportation modes. She supports increasing the gas tax to replenish the state's transportation trust fund and would push to spend more of the fund on public transportation.



Aruna Miller endorsed for Delegate to Maryland's General Assembly

(The Sierra Club has also endorsed **Kathleen Dumais** and **Brian Feldman** for District 15 delegate seats. Voters in each district elect three Delegates.)

Al Carr (District 18 – Delegate)



Al Carr endorsed for Delegate to Maryland's General Assembly

Del. Carr, who was appointed to fill the seat vacated by the death of Jane Lawton, has shown himself to be a strong advocate for the environment. He sits on the House Environmental Matters Committee and is the co-chair of the legislative green caucus. Del. Carr has a lifetime score of 94% on the Maryland League of Conservation Voters' scorecard. He supports greater energy efficiency and has introduced legislation that would set higher efficiency standards for televisions. Del. Carr also was the lead sponsor of a bill, which did not pass, that would levy a 5-cent fee on disposable bags provided by stores in Maryland. He plans to reintroduce it if elected. The revenue raised by this fee would go to the Chesapeake Bay trust fund.

(The Sierra Club has also endorsed **Ana Sol Gutierrez** for District 18 delegate. Voters in each district elect three Delegates.)

Jay Hutchins (District 19 – Delegate)

Hutchins has a longstanding concern for



Jay Hutchins endorsed for Delegate to Maryland's General Assembly

environmental justice and has worked to end child lead poisoning and to ensure that electronic waste is recycled in a way that does not harm the environment or create health risks for workers engaged in the work. As federal affairs manager at Goodwill Industries International, he helped establish the Congressional Electronic Waste Working Group. He also knows how to get legislation passed in Annapolis from his work as legislative director for Maryland's Dept. of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

Saqib Ali (District 39 – Senator)

Del. Ali is challenging Sen. Nancy King



Saqib Ali endorsed for Delegate to Maryland's Senate

for the District 39 Senate seat. The Sierra Club endorsed him when he ran for delegate in 2006 and he has been a consistent ally for the environment with a lifetime score of 92% on the League of Conservation Voter's scorecard. His four years on the House Environmental Matters Committee has made Del. Ali even more committed to taking comprehensive steps to save the Chesapeake Bay by reducing runoff that creates oxygen-depleted "dead zones." He also is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and believes we must promote mass transit over roads.

David Hauck chairs the Mont. Co. Group. Dave Sears (Davidsears@aol.com) is the political chair.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"

- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

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Email _____

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____
Exp. Date ____/____/____
Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Maryland Chapter Endorsed Candidates

Federal Endorsements

Senate and House

US Senate	Barbara Mikulski
Congressional District 1	Frank Kratovil
Congressional District 2	Dutch Ruppersberger
Congressional District 3	John Sarbanes
Congressional District 4	Donna Edwards
Congressional District 5	Steny Hoyer
Congressional District 6	No Endorsement
Congressional District 7	Elijah Cummings
Congressional District 8	Chris Van Hollen

Away on Election Day?

Vote Early, or Cast an Absentee Ballot!

Maryland voters can vote early for both primary and general elections. For the primary election, early voting centers will be open from Friday, September 3, through Thursday, September 9, though the centers will be closed on Sunday, September 5. The early voting sites are listed on the web at: http://elections.state.md.us/voting/early_voting.html

If you wish to vote via absentee ballot, the deadline for a request for an absentee ballot for the primary election is Tuesday, September 7, 2010. Your request must be received by 8:00 p.m. if you mail or deliver it, or by 11:59 p.m. if you fax or e-mail it. After the deadline, a Late Application for Absentee Ballot must be completed in person at the board of elections. For more information, check the state's website: <http://elections.state.md.us/voting/absentee.html>

State and Local Endorsements

State of Maryland

GOVERNOR	Martin O'Malley
ATTORNEY GENERAL	Doug Gansler
COMPTROLLER	Peter Franchot

Anne Arundel County

Office	Dist	Candidate
DELEGATE	30	Mike Busch
DELEGATE	30	Virginia Clagett
DELEGATE	30	Judd Legum
DELEGATE	31	Steve Schuh
DELEGATE	32	Pam Beidle
DELEGATE	32	Ted Sophocleus

COUNTY COUNCIL	4	Jamie Benoit
COUNTY COUNCIL	6	Chris Trumbauer

Baltimore Area

Office	Dist	Candidate
DELEGATE	6	John Olszewski
DELEGATE	8	Eric Bromwell
DELEGATE	10	Emmett Burns
DELEGATE	10	Adrienne Jones
DELEGATE	10	Shirley Nathan-Pulliam
SENATOR	11	Bobby Zirkin
DELEGATE	11	Jon Cardin
DELEGATE	11	Dan Morhaim
DELEGATE	11	Dana Stein
DELEGATE	12A	Steven DeBoy
DELEGATE	12A	James Malone
DELEGATE	34A	Mary Dulaney James
SENATOR	40	Catherine Pugh
DELEGATE	40	Frank Conaway
DELEGATE	40	Barbara Robinson
DELEGATE	40	Shawn Tarrant
SENATOR	41	Lisa Gladden
DELEGATE	41	Jill Carter
DELEGATE	41	Sandy Rosenberg
SENATOR	42	Jim Brochin
DELEGATE	42	Lori Albin
DELEGATE	42	Steve Lafferty
SENATOR	43	Joan Carter Conway
DELEGATE	43	Curt Anderson
DELEGATE	43	Maggie McIntosh
DELEGATE	43	Mary Washington

SENATOR	44	Verna Jones
DELEGATE	44	Keith Haynes
DELEGATE	44	Melvin Stukes
DELEGATE	45	Cheryl Glenn
SENATOR	46	Bill Ferguson
DELEGATE	46	Peter Hammen
DELEGATE	46	Brian McHale

Baltimore County

Office	Dist	Candidate
COUNTY COUNCIL	3	Bryan McIntire

Check Chapter website for more endorsements

Carroll County

Office	Dist	Candidate
DELEGATE	5A	Ann Darrin
DELEGATE	5A	Frank Rammes

COUNTY COMM	1	Michael Blair
COUNTY COMM	2	Julia Gouge
COUNTY COMM	4	Michele Johnson
COUNTY COMM	5	Hugh McLaurin

Charles County

Office	Dist	Candidate
DELEGATE	28	Peter Murphy
DELEGATE	28	C.T. Wilson

COMMISSIONER		
PRESIDENT		Candice Quinn Kelly
COUNTY COMM	1	Ken Robinson
COUNTY COMM	2	Johnnie DeGiorgi

Frederick County

Office	Dist	Candidate
DELEGATE	3A	Galen Clagett

COUNTY COMM	At-large	Ellis Burruss
COUNTY COMM	At-large	Kai Hagen
COUNTY COMM	At-large	Elaine Kessinger
COUNTY COMM	At-large	Janice Wiles
COUNTY COMM	At-large	Bob White

Maryland Chapter Endorsed Candidates

Harford County

Office	Dist	Candidate
COUNTY EXEC		No Endorsement
CNTY CNCL PRES		No Endorsement
COUNTY COUNCIL	A	Dion Guthrie
COUNTY COUNCIL	F	Mary Ann Lisanti

Howard County

Office	Dist	Candidate
DELEGATE	9A	Maryann Maher
DELEGATE	9A	Jonathan Weinstein
DELEGATE	12B	Liz Bobo
SENATOR	13	James Robey
DELEGATE	13	Frank Turner
DELEGATE	13	Guy Guzzone
DELEGATE	13	Shane Pendergrass

COUNTY EXEC		Ken Ulman
COUNTY COUNCIL	1	Courtney Watson
COUNTY COUNCIL	2	Calvin Ball
COUNTY COUNCIL	3	Jennifer Terrasa
COUNTY COUNCIL	4	Alan Klein
COUNTY COUNCIL	5	No Endorsement

COUNTY EXEC		No Endorsement
COUNTY COUNCIL		At-large Marc Elrich
COUNTY COUNCIL		At-large Duchy Trachtenberg
COUNTY COUNCIL		At-large Hans Reimer
COUNTY COUNCIL	1	Roger Berliner
COUNTY COUNCIL	2	No Endorsement
COUNTY COUNCIL	3	Phil Andrews
COUNTY COUNCIL	4	Nancy Navarro
COUNTY COUNCIL	5	No Endorsement

Prince George's County

Office	Dist	Candidate
SENATOR	21	Jim Rosapepe
DELEGATE	21	Barbara Frush
DELEGATE	21	Ben Barnes
DELEGATE	21	Joseline Pena-Melnyk
SENATOR	22	Paul Pinsky
DELEGATE	22	Anne Healey
DELEGATE	23A	Jim Hubbard
SENATOR	47	David Harrington
DELEGATE	47	Doyle Neimann

COUNTY COUNCIL	DIST 1	Mary Lehman
COUNTY COUNCIL	DIST 3	Eric Olson

Check Chapter website for more endorsements.

There's More!

As this issue of *Chesapeake* goes to press in early August, the political committees for the Chapter and the groups are still working to get to know candidates and identify those who merit endorsement.

So you'll find more political information and endorsements for state and local offices on the Maryland Chapter website: <http://maryland.sierraclub.org>
Click on the link for politics and elections

For endorsements for federal offices, see www.sierraclub.org/politics/endorsements



Montgomery County

Office	Dist	Candidate
SENATOR	14	Karen Montgomery
DELEGATE	14	Anne Kaiser
DELEGATE	14	Eric Luedtke
DELEGATE	14	Craig Zucker
SENATOR	15	Rob Garagiola
DELEGATE	15	Brian Feldman
DELEGATE	15	Kathleen Dumais
DELEGATE	15	Aruna Miller
SENATOR	16	Brian Frosh
DELEGATE	16	Bill Frick
DELEGATE	16	Susan Lee
DELEGATE	16	Ariana Kelly
SENATOR	17	Cheryl Kagan
DELEGATE	17	Luiz Simmons
SENATOR	18	No Endorsement
DELEGATE	18	Al Carr
DELEGATE	18	Ana Sol Gutierrez
SENATOR	19	No Endorsement
DELEGATE	19	Jay Hutchins
SENATOR	20	Jamie Raskin
DELEGATE	20	Sheila Hixson
DELEGATE	20	Tom Hucker
DELEGATE	20	Heather Mizeur
SENATOR	39	Saqib Ali
DELEGATE	39	Kirill Resnik



Check Chapter website for more endorsements:
<http://maryland.sierraclub.org>
click on "Politics and Elections"

**If YOU don't vote for candidates
who care about the environment,
who do you think will?**

**Vote in the Maryland primary,
Tuesday, September 14.**



Prince George's County Political News Roundup Roundup

A Chance to Put Our Allies in Office In Prince George's County

By **Matt Dernoga**—I've had a crash course in environmental activism in my four years as a student at the University of Maryland. I know what it's like to walk into a meeting with a decision-maker about an issue that I've spent late nights and early mornings on. There's nothing more frustrating than when these top dogs don't take your concerns seriously because you—and your concerns—don't concern them. Let's face it; this is the situation Sierra Club members encounter far too often in Prince George's County. We fought the InterCounty Connector this decade and watched some of our legislators in Annapolis approve and subsequently defend funding for it despite the wide array of harmful environmental and economic effects of the road. We saw the Prince George's County Council come close to establishing a transfer-of-development-rights (TDR) program that would have preserved thousands of acres of farmland, only to see developers stop the legislation from passing. Despite the fact that all politicians tell us they want to develop near our Metro stations, just about every Metro station is underutilized while sprawling development continues.

I'm not a "glass-half-empty" kind of guy. We've had our moments when the Sierra Club's Cool Counties' working group pushed the Prince George's County Council to commit to some important clean-energy initiatives, a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold elementary school, and the Maryland Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act. I think it's safe to say, though, that if I asked everyone reading this article to raise their hands if they are satisfied with the environmental prowess of our elected officials, no one would drop this newsletter!

I also know the opposite feeling of frustration—the empowerment of being part of 20 hyped-up activists walking into

the office of a politician that we worked hard to elect. Let me tell you that it's a world of difference. This year, that world is Prince George's County. The difference is a new county executive, five open county council seats, and a new state's attorney. All of our state representatives and county positions are up for re-election as well? This is our chance to help put our allies in office, as well as put swing-vote and adversarial elected officials on notice that we mean business.

Our Endorsements

The Prince George's Sierra Club doesn't take its endorsements lightly. We sincerely believe that if the county candidates we've endorsed win, you'll see a markedly healthier county—one that leads on clean energy, protects the rural tier, concentrates development near Metro stations, and preserves our most precious ecosystems.

Although more endorsements will be coming soon, the following candidates deserve your vote on September 14:

- ♦ **Mary Lehman** for Prince George's County Council, District 1;
- ♦ **Eric Olson** for Prince George's County Council, District 3;
- ♦ **Tom Dernoga** for Prince George's County State's Attorney;
- ♦ **Jim Rosapepe** for District 21 senator;
- ♦ Delegates **Joselyne Pena-Melnyk**, **Barbara Frush**, and **Ben Barnes** for District 21 delegates;
- ♦ **Paul Pinsky** for District 22 senator;
- ♦ **Anne Healey** for District 22 delegate;
- ♦ **Jim Hubbard** for delegate of District 23A;
- ♦ **David Harrington** for senator of District 47; and
- ♦ **Doyle Nieman** for delegate of District 47

A Word About Two Stars

There are a couple of exceptional candidates in Prince George's County that the

Sierra Club considers its priorities for election. One is state **Senator David Harrington**, who since day one has been a knowledgeable leader on environmental issues. Harrington has firmly held the positions of the Sierra Club on key environmental legislation from greenhouse gas reductions, higher storm-water standards for development, opposition to the destructive coal-powered MAPP and PATH power lines, support for a com-



David Harrington endorsed for Maryland State Senate

prehensive clean energy plan with teeth, and an acceleration of renewable energy standards for utilities.

The word "leader" is thrown around a lot, so let me home in on why Harrington is in a class of his own in Annapolis. This man gets out in front of issues in the state senate, and stands in front of community leaders, business groups, environmentalists, and residents of the county to connect the dots between environmental pollution, poverty, social justice, and the economic opportunities that come with cleaning up the planet. He is a valuable member of the Green Caucus in the legislature and a strong partner for the Sierra Club. He is facing a tough race, and if we want more politicians to lead on our issues, the Sierra Club needs to show that we are serious about protecting our champions.

The other candidate is Prince George's County Councilman **Tom Dernoga**, who is running for State's Attorney. If you've been reading closely from

the start, you probably just said "state's attorney?" and "Isn't that your Dad?" The answer is "yes" to both questions.

This position can make a significant difference on code enforcement, along with illegal dumping and polluting. We have a lot of environmentally related laws on the books in county and state government, but are they actually being enforced? A willingness to investigate and pursue polluters, as well as work with the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Office of the Attorney General of Maryland to prosecute environmental crimes will go a long way.

As for Tom Dernoga's qualifications, for the first year or so that I got into environmental activism, leaders in the Sierra Club and other local environmental groups would remind me every two seconds or so that my dad was their hero. Before he was on the council, he represented civic and environmental groups including the Sierra Club in litigation on saving the last of the old-growth forests on the East Coast, fighting the InterCounty Connector, and stopping the building of the Redskins' stadium in Laurel.

As a councilman, he's been the go-to guy for nearly every green action the county tries to take. That includes tax credits for solar and geothermal power, advocating for the strongest storm-water standards possible, legislation to preserve the rural tier, and building the first LEED school in the county. Greenfest and the Prince George's County Green Picnic are chiefly organized by his office. And, he just put solar panels on our house this year.

As with Harrington, the best way to thank Dernoga for his leadership and ensure that someone tries to fill his shoes on the county council is by fighting hard for his election.

We can stay inside and spend four more years with politicians we didn't elect,

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Put Allies in Office

(continued from page 12)

didn't want to elect, and don't scare. Or we can get out there and start knocking on doors, phone banking, and getting out the green vote that we know is in this county. We can make sure "endorsed by the Sierra Club" means something more than a logo and a press release.

No one is going to do it for us. I'll see you at your door and at the polls on election day. ■

Matt Dernoga worked as the Sierra Club's political intern on the election of Congressman Frank Kratovil in 2008 and currently serves as the campaign manager for Mary Lehman, a candidate for Prince George's County Council in District 1. Mike Martin (michaelbmartin@mdsierra.org) is the political chair for the Prince George's County Group.

In Charles County, A Chance to Support Smart Growth

By Donna Cave—This election year is particularly significant for Charles County, as it is an opportunity for the citizens to make a true impact on upcoming decisions that will decide the fate of many of the county's environmental and growth issues. After completing its endorsement process, the Sierra Club, Southern Maryland Group is endorsing two candidates for the Charles County Commissioner race.

In the contest for Commissioner President, the Group has endorsed **Candice Quinn Kelly**. She has been a strong proponent for smart growth across the county and supports protecting our environment and the prioritization of the revitalization of central Waldorf. She is on record supporting a full EIS for the controversial Cross County Connector-Extension.

tor-Extension.

In District 1 race, the group has endorsed **Ken Robinson**, who has taken a strong position on securing a sustainable water plan for the county. He does not support the proposed controversial Cross County Connector-Extension. **Robinson** also favors smart growth and has introduced creative new ideas for mass transit options.

When elected, both candidates will be a welcome relief to the current Charles County Board. The old Board has turned a blind eye to protecting the magnificent natural resources in our county. These resources are being wasted at an alarming rate. Both **Candice** and **Ken** will help to reverse that trend and govern in a sensible and reasonable manner with a special respect for our environment.

Peter Murphy is our incumbent hero in Annapolis. As a delegate he has continually supported protection and open government. He is an ambassador for Charles County and is well known for listening to the voice of the citizens and doing all in his power to ensure their quality of life. **Peter** does not support the Cross County Connector-Extension. He is a firm believer in Smart Growth principles. All of this has earned him an early endorsement from the Sierra Club.

Charles County Conservation Committee is still working on some additional endorsements that are not ready for this press deadline. ■

Bonnie Bick (bonniebick@gmail.com) is the political chair for the Southern Maryland Group.

Fate of Mattawoman Creek Could Be Determined by Charles County Election



Bass Boats on Mattawoman Creek. Photo: Jim Long

Mattawoman Creek has long been heralded. Its scenic beauty is reflected in its Algonquian name, meaning "where one goes pleasantly." It offers recreational opportunities, from the best bass fishing on the east coast to a quiet paddle among spectacular marshes, cradled by wooded Maryland Wildlands and beloved by egrets, ospreys, herons, and eagles. Its protective forests are designated as Important Bird Areas by the Audubon Society and harbor hotspots of herpetological and avian biodiversity that stand out in a regional study by the Fish and Wild-

life Service. And the fish! A combination of forested watershed, coastal plain river, and Potomac River freshwater-tidal estuary combine to produce the richest possibilities in Maryland's Chesapeake Bay, not only for largemouth bass and other resident fish communities, but also for migratory yellow perch and ocean-dwelling shad and river herring which come to Mattawoman Creek to spawn.

If there is any place to draw the line against sprawl development, it is here. Yet most local politicians seem yoked to the real estate industry, and have saddled the portion of the watershed in Charles County with a development district larger than Washington, DC. They enthusiastically push proposals to accelerate development in inappropriate places most damaging to Mattawoman. All as state and federal authorities so far lack the political will to exercise their regulatory responsibility to protect one of the Bay's

finest gems.

For two decades, state biologists have warned of the threats of overdevelopment. Like Cassandra's prophecies, but based on data and statistics, their warnings have fallen on deaf ears. And like those of the tragic Greek figure, the predictions are now coming to pass. As reported in the June issue of the *Chesapeake Bay Journal*, surveys by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) now document a downward trend in fish abundance, with migratory species hardest hit. And DNR identifies watershed urbanization as a significant factor in the decline.

Mattawoman is thus Exhibit A in the case of the threat of urbanization to the Bay. A highly charismatic waterway, and among the most productive in Maryland's Bay, Mattawoman is protected by a largely forested watershed, but is experiencing rapid conversion of its forest (the best land use for aquatic quality) to urbanization (the worst). The Bay

is protected by a similar fraction of forest, but is losing it at the rate of 100 acres per day to development.

But Mattawoman could also be a compass leading by example to a Smart Growth solution. Waldorf, Charles County's urban core, is in need of revitalization to make it a walkable community tied to rapid transit. True Smart Growth considers natural resources, and would eschew county-fomented proposals for an airport expansion, industrial park, and new four-lane Cross County Connector in western Charles, far from Waldorf but in Mattawoman's forests near the Potomac.

Please contact Governor O'Malley and ask that he direct the Maryland Department of Environment to fully consider direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the Cross County Connector. If done honestly, such an analysis would lead to the denial of wetland permits for the highway in favor of a existing alter-

(continued on page 14)

Charles County Election Could Be Critical to Mattawoman Creek

(continued from page 13)
native (Middletown Road and Route 228), that already carries traffic across county.

And come see the Creek! The Sierra Club is regularly scheduling kayak and canoe outings to the upper tidal section of Mattawoman, where some of the finest freshwater-tidal marshes are to be seen, arresting in all seasons. In late-summer and early fall, look for high-marsh shores ablaze with yellow bur marigolds and sneezeweeds. Check our outings on the Chapter website (<http://maryland.sierraclub.org>) for information about the outings. ■

This article was provided by the Mattawoman Watershed Society, in which a number of our members are active participants.

To contact Governor O'Malley by mail, address to 100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925. By telephone, call 410-1974-3901 or 800.811.8336. E-mail through the mail form at <http://www.governor.maryland.gov/mail/>

What You Can Do NOW to Elect Candidates Who Share Your Concern for Maryland's Environment

The quick answer to "What can I do?" is simple. You, as a citizen, are free to support your candidate as you see fit. To comply with election law, be sure to use your own resources, such as telephone, desk, e-mail, or computer, not those of your employer or the Sierra Club.

1. Make sure you are registered to vote.
Is your registration up-to-date and accurate, reflecting your current address? Make sure it is correct. Contact your county voter registration office if you have any questions about your registration. (For contact information for county voter registration offices, see page 10.)
2. Help others register to vote.
Encourage and urge your friends, family members, neighbors and co-workers to register to vote. Call your local elections office and find out exactly who can register voters or what the process is, and share that information. The easier you make the process, the more likely it is that others will register.

3. Urge others to vote for the candidates endorsed by the Maryland Chapter.
Encourage friends, family members, neighbors and co-workers to vote for candidates who care about the environment in Maryland. Tell them about the candidates the Sierra Club has endorsed, and explain why. Keep it legal by using your own personal e-mail lists, computer, telephone, stamps, paper, envelopes, etc., not those belonging to your employer or the Sierra Club.

4. Speak out publicly.
You can support candidates with good environmental records, and/or criticize those who don't by writing a letter to the editor of your local paper or calling a talk show.

5. Make a contribution to candidates' campaigns.

6. Volunteer to work with a campaign.
Volunteers have the opportunity to do valuable work, such as working at the local campaign headquarters, organizing or participating in campaign events, contacting voters door-to-door, or helping with campaign phone banking.

7. Organize a group to work for the campaign.
Get a group of friends, neighbors and fellow activists together to work for the campaign. Again, use your own resources!

8. Post a campaign sign.
Post a sign in your yard or window. Encourage your friends to do the same.

9. Publicize campaign events
Talk about and spread the word on any campaign event. Remember to use personal resources to do so.

10. Speak in favor of your candidate at a campaign event.
Let listeners know why you are supporting the candidate's campaign.

11. Walk and talk.
Call on your neighbors door-to-door to tell them why you are supporting your candidate. Again, you must use your personal resources, not those of your employer or the Sierra Club. Check with the campaign headquarters of your candidate for information.

12. Get out the vote.
Volunteer to assist with get-out-the-vote, absentee, or early ballot efforts.

13. Vote! Vote! Vote!
This is what all the other steps are about. Vote absentee or use an early ballot if you aren't sure you will be able to make it to the polls on election day. Every vote is important! Remind your family, friends, and neighbors to vote, too. ■



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., Suite 111
College Park, MD 20740

Thanks so much!

**Bad officials are
elected by
good citizens
who do not vote.**

~George Jean Nathan

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Voting is the
first duty
of
democracy.

—Lyndon B. Johnson

Outings

Exploring, Enjoying, and Protecting the Planet

It may have been the hottest June on record, but there are plenty of opportunities to cool off, relax, get some exercise and help protect the planet. Below are the presently scheduled outings from mid-August thru October. Many may be added across the state and we will continue to have our conservation outings scheduled for the Mattawoman Creek. Outings which didn't make it in time for this edition of the Chesapeake will be posted on the Chapter's website at www.maryland.sierraclub.org

We recently completed Outings Leader Training (OLT) for some of the college interns working in the Chapter office. If you are interested in becoming an outings leader, please contact me.

See you on the trail...

Jan

Jan C. Hoffmaster is MD Chapter Outings Chair.

Contact: Jan.Hoffmaster@mdsierra.org

Join Us Outside!

Sierra Club outings are open to everyone, members and non-members alike. Each outing is intended to be a wholesome, safe, and enjoyable experience in the outdoors.

Participants must have proper clothing, equipment, and stamina suitable to the event, and are encouraged to select activities that match their individual abilities for outdoor adventures. The Club offers a variety of outings from "easy" to "strenuous" that suit all activity levels. The difficulty of each outing is clearly designated in the announcement.

Reservations are generally not required for a local outing unless noted, but the outing leader should be contacted in advance for questions about the terrain, the difficulty or duration of the trip, recommended clothing, footwear 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. Also, any participant must wear a personal flotation device (PFD) 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/take-out point, or some other similar designated locality near the activity. Travel to the official starting point and back, even from an advertised meeting place, is the sole responsibility of each participant. While the Club encourages car-pooling, such arrangements are strictly between the riders and the drivers, and are not a part of the outing. Participants assume full responsibility and liability for all risks associated with such travel.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver, which can be viewed on the

web at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/index.asp>. Sierra Club local outings are free of charge, although payment of park entrance fees, a share of campsite rental costs, permit fees, equipment rental charges, etc. may be required from the participants. Such costs are specified in the announcement whenever possible.

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

Abbreviations Used

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

AA: Anne Arundel Group
AMC: Appalachian Mountain Club
AT: Appalachian Trail
BLM: Bureau of Land Management
CCA: Canoe Cruisers Association (Washington, D.C.)
CG: Catoctin Group
C&O: Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
FFA: Family Friendly Activity (kids/dogs ok, but check with leader)
FWS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GB: Greater Baltimore Group
GWNF: George Washington National Forest
HC: Howard County Group
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 (SCPRO)*

SF: State Forest

SM: Southern Maryland Group

SP: State Park

SNP: Shenandoah National Park

* For hike ratings of SPCRO, refer to their website at <http://www.sierrapotomac.org/rating.htm>



GIFT PLANNING

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

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

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:
Sierra Club
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San Francisco, CA 94105
gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270

Outings (August)

August

Wed. through Sept. 29 GB – Easy/Moderate. Evening Hikes at the Baltimore SPCA

Bring your own dog or borrow one from the many available for adoption at this shelter near Reisterstown. Dogs are more adoptable when exercised and socialized, and you can help while you also enjoy the trails and open fields of this facility. Hikes start at 6:30 PM and last about an hour. See website at: <http://www.bmorehumane.org/upcoming-events>. Donations and adoptions welcomed. For details, contact **Paul** at **410-667-4889** or email paul@peschoen.com

Sat. and Sun. through Aug. 29 GB – Easy. Evening Musical Concerts

Enjoy a variety of FREE musical concerts in a beautiful outdoor setting. Bring folding chairs or blankets and have a picnic under the trees or on the grass. Donations are appreciated at the gate. All concerts start at 6:00 PM and last about 2 hours. We can carpool from the Lutherville light rail station on Ridgely Road at 5:30 PM. Optional pub crawl in Ellicott City after concerts. Contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or email paul@peschoen.com. Children OK with prior approval. Website: www.Lurman.com

Thurs. Aug. 12 GB - Easy. Loch Raven Evening Hike (Children and dogs welcome)

Hike 3 miles round-trip to a scenic overlook above the reservoir. Meet at 6:30 PM at Loch Raven Drive and Morgan Mill Rd. The hike will still take place if cloudy, but will be cancelled for steady rain. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email apenczek@stevenson.edu.

Saturday Aug. 21: Rated B. Rock Creek Park (NW DC near Cleveland Park, Get to Know DC).

A moderate paced loop hike almost entirely along the Rock Creek and the Melvin-Hazen tributary. Leashed dogs okay. The seven-mile hike will pass by Pierce Mill and Mansion, Pulpit Rock, Boulder Bridge, Miller's Cabin and Milkhouse Ford. 1200 ft. elev. change. Optional lunch at nearby restaurant. Meet at 9:30 am near the escalators on the east side (in front of parking lot) of the Cleveland Park Metro. Joint with DC Chapter of Sierra Club. Leader: Sankar Sitaraman, 202/332-7135 (land-line).

Saturday Aug. 21: Rated E/F. Hawksbill Mountain, SNP-Setting Sun/Rising Moon Hike.

By-reservation-only, 9 mi. afternoon/evening excursion (with a shorter option) at a moderate pace to Hawksbill Mountain, the park's highest peak. Gastronomic highlights include a pre-hike stop at a Sperryville fruit and vegetable stand, appetizers at Betty's Rock and Spitler Knoll, and candlelight potluck dinner atop the 4051 ft. summit. Bring food that reflects your family's heritage. Dinner offers a mountain panorama with celestial show of setting sun and rising moon, a clear opportunity to discuss the park's air quality, and a chance to watch peregrine falcons doing aerial wheelies. Optional hike visit to Skyland's lively late-evening cafe. Contact leader for details, reservations, and carpooling arrangements. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott, 202/550-2841, and Mike Darzi, michail.darzi@saic.com.

Sunday Aug. 22: Sea Kayak the Patuxent River. Enjoy a hot summer afternoon sea kayaking along the Patuxent River in nearby Prince George County. The outing will span

the Jug Bay wetlands, which is a truly special section of the Patuxent. Highlights include open marsh, wildlife, and a good opportunity to view bald eagles. Along the route we will land at the colonial mansion of Mount Calvert, and the Patuxent River nature center on the Anne Arundel County side of the river. Participants must provide their own kayaks, although limited rentals are available at the put-in point. For reservations and additional information contact Glenn Gillis at 703/430-0568, glennpotomacfalls@yahoo.com.

Sunday Aug. 22 GB: Easy. Kayaking and Day at the Beach at Hammerman State Park

Kayak where the Gunpowder River and Dundee Creek empty into the Chesapeake Bay. Explore the marshes and shoreline and look for wildlife in the air, in the water, and along the shores. Meet at 10 AM on the beach next to the Ultimate Watersports concession at the Hammerman Area of Gunpowder State Park. The park is on Ebenezer Rd. reached from the Whitemarsh Blvd. east exit off I-95. Bring your own or rent a kayak from Ultimate Watersports. It is required to wear a life jacket. There is an admission fee to the park. Stay afterwards or join us later for a picnic lunch and day at this sandy beach, which has picnic tables, a bathhouse, playground, etc. Kayaking is weather-dependent—no threat of thunderstorms and no high waves in the Bay. For details, call Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

Friday Aug 27: Sun. Aug. 29 GB – Easy. Camping and Williamsport C&O Canal Days (Children and pets OK with prior approval) Outing near Hagerstown, MD. <http://www.williamsportmd.gov/>

calendar.asp. We will leave the Baltimore area about 4:00 PM Friday evening and stay in a Kabin at the Williamsport Snug Harbor KOA Friday and Saturday (approx \$20/night). Carpooling is encouraged, and alternate arrangements may be made among participants. We will discuss the history of Williamsport and the C&O Canal. Saturday morning is a good opportunity to visit the nearby outlet stores: <http://www.primeoutlets.com/locations/hagerstown.aspx>, including LL Bean and Timberland. There will be yard sales and booths at the park, and live entertainment Saturday night. Sunday we may take a 2-3 mile easy hike on the C&O canal, and possibly also visit historical sites in Harpers Ferry and go to their famous Flea Market <http://www.harpersferryfleaamkt.com/>. For more information and reservations, contact Paul (preferably two weeks ahead) at 410-667-4889 or email paul@peschoen.com.

Saturday - Monday Aug. 28-30: Mid-State Trail Backpack, PA (Raymond B. Winter SP/Hook Natural Area Loop). Strenuous 21 mile backpack. Daily mileage approximately 5/11/5. The Hook is the only complete watershed preserved as such in the Natural Areas program. Hike along Buffalo Run under a canopy of 100-year-old black, red, white, scarlet and chestnut oaks; yellow, white and black birch; white pine; and red maple. Some very steep climbs on the first and third days. Pre-register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

Saturday Aug 28: Rated A. Greenbelt Park Loop Hike. A 6 mile easy and shaded loop hike through the second largest nature preserve

continued ➞

Outings (August, September)

←continued

inside the Beltway. We will meet at 10 AM at the Ranger Station toward the southeast end of the park. To reach it after turning into the Park, follow the winding entrance road for about 200 yards and turn right onto Park Central Road. Follow it 1.6 miles around the Sweetgum picnic area and south through the park. Just before the end of the road, turn right onto paved side road (to campground) and park 100 yards ahead on the right at Ranger Station. The park address is 6565 Greenbelt Road Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Plug it into your GPS, go to www.nps.gov/gree for directions and information about the park or go to Hike #19 in the 2nd Edition of Paul Elliott's 60 Hikes Within 60 Miles book. Bring fluids, bug spray, sun screen and at least a snack. Leader: Helen Epps, hcepps@juno.com, 202/363-1278.

Sunday Aug 29: 4-6:30 pm. Not Rated. What to Eat on a Backpacking Trip & Pre-trip Meeting for September Beginner Backpacking Trip. The third in a 3-part, beginner-backpacking classroom series, plus optional 2-night backpack trip planned for Sept. Learn the basics of meal planning and how to cook in the wilderness. Come hungry; we'll be eating! We'll take you through the basic meals for a multi-day trip and provide tips for making your meals delicious and fun! Bring your stoves to class, we will talk about different stove types and practice lighting them and cooking on them. Directly following the class, we will hold our pre-trip meeting for the Sept. 17 Backpacking Trip. We will go over trip logistics, ride-sharing, gear-sharing, route plan, and itinerary. This is a mandatory meeting for trip participants. Class and meeting will take place outdoors rain or shine. Class and trip size are limited. Must be 16 or older. Class cost is \$20 for

expenses; payment (check or PayPal) in advance will confirm your spot. For location contact Liz. Leaders: Liz Guertin, 202/415-4639 or eguertin@yahoo.com and Mike Darzi, 301/881-7068 or michael.darzi@saic.com.

Sunday Aug 29: Rated A /B. Rock Creek Park (Get to Know DC). Beat the heat by hiking at a leisurely pace and mostly in the shade, by covering only 4.5 miles, by staying close to a soothingly burbling stream (in this case, Rock Creek), and by starting very early. Meet at 7 a.m. in front of the park's nature center, just south of Military Road. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott, 202/550-2641.

September

Saturday - Monday Sept: 4-6: Roaring Plains Backpack, MNF, WV. Backpack in 2.5 miles and set up a base camp at the Hidden Passage. Day 2, strenuous 12-14 mile day hike along the canyon rim. Lots of boulder fields and fantastic views. Day 3, Backpack out the way we came in. Pre-register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat. Sept. 11 GB – Easy to Moderate. McKeldin Area Yoga Session and Hike

"Make it an Anniversary of Peace." Full body stretching and deep breathing prior to a hike can heighten enjoyment and aliveness. Join in a 20-minute gentle Yoga session: promise—no twisting like a pretzel, before hiking 4 miles in the McKeldin Area of Patapsco Valley State Park. Wear light shoes, then change before hike, if you like. Mats provided. Joyce Wolpert is the Yoga facilitator. Meet in the parking lot just past the entrance station at 1:00 PM. Note: \$2 entrance fee per person. From I-70 westbound

take Exit 83, Marriottsville Rd. north 4 miles to park entrance on right. From I-70 eastbound take Exit 82, Route 40 to Marriottsville Rd. and turn left. Cancelled for steady rain. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email apenczek@stevenson.edu.

Sunday Sept. 12: GB – Moderate. Cromwell Valley Park Hike (Older children and dogs are welcome). 4 miles through this 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. Learn about the invasive plant removals and native plantings. Meet at 10:00 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. For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

Tuesday, Sept 14-Statewide-Important

Remember to vote in the Maryland Primary!

Friday to Sunday Sept. 17-19: Beginner Backpacking Trip — Shenandoah National Park. Part of the Beginner Backpacking Class series, this trip will include shorter mileage and a reasonable elevation profile. Trip is designed so that the beginner can practice carrying a full pack and gain experience with other backpacking skills. We will spend one night in Big Meadows Campground and one night in the backcountry, near Rose River. Pre-trip meeting scheduled for Aug. 29,

directly following the "What to Eat on a Backpacking Trip" class. Location TBD. Beginner Backpacking class participants get first dibs on participating in Beginner Backpacking Trip. Leaders: Liz Guertin, 202/415-4639 or eguertin@yahoo.com and Mike Darzi, 301/881-7068 or michael.darzi@saic.com.

Saturday - Tuesday Sept. 18-21: Lake Sherwood Car Camping, MNF, WV. The first hike (11 miles/moderate) will start at the campground and will follow the eastern shore of the lake and the western ridge of the valley. A short drive will be required to set up an 11 mile, moderate shuttle hike through the newly proclaimed Big Draft Wilderness Area featuring the beautiful Anthony Creek. Campsites are first come, first serve. Pre-register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday Sept. 19: GB – Easy. CCAA Woofstock Festival in Harrisburg. Bring your pooch or just enjoy the last Dog Days of Summer at the beautiful Riverfront Park in Harrisburg, PA, and support efforts to close down inhumane puppy mills. For more details, see website at <http://www.cpaawoofstock.com/>. Meet the burly guys from the TV show Rescuers who love dogs and cats, and scare the **** out of those who abuse them. Carpool from Hunt Valley Light Rail at 10 AM. Contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or email paul@peschoen.com.

Sunday Sept. 26: GB - Easy. "Last Sunday Easy Hike" Meet at 2:00 PM at the Paper Mill Road parking lot for the NCRR trail. Hike at an easy pace on flat paved surface to the Phoenix Rd parking lot and back,

continued →

Outings (September, October)

←continued

which is about 3 miles roundtrip. Scenic rest stops and historical sites along the route. Dogs, children, and wheelchairs are welcome. Optional dinner afterwards. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or paul@peschoen.com

October

Saturday – Monday Oct. 2-4: Blackwell to Little Piney SP Mid-State Trail Backpack. A classic backpack along this trail. Strenuous 25 mile shuttle with 5000 feet of elevation gain. Approximate daily mileage: 8/9/8. Pre-register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

Sat. Oct. 16 GB – Moderate. Mingo Forks/Bunker Hill Circuit Hike 4 miles. This beautiful hike in Gunpowder Falls State Park should highlight the fall colors as it traverses the stream valleys and upland forests on the south side of the Big Gunpowder. Will discuss efforts to protect river quality. Meet at the Mt. Carmel Park & Ride just off of I-83 north of the Baltimore beltway at 1:00 PM. Cancelled for steady rain. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email apenczek@stevenson.edu.

Sun. Oct. 17 GB – Moderate. Prettyboy Trail Hike (Dogs and older children are welcome) 6 miles along the shoreline and hillsides and through forests around Prettyboy Reservoir on the old Prettyboy Trail, walking a loop between George's Creek and the trail's start at Beckleysville Rd. The trail is maintained neighbors, Boy Scouts, and the GB Sierra Club in collaboration with the Prettyboy Watershed Alliance and Mountain Club. Learn about this isolated trail and its wildlife and



To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers. One who does not vote has no right to complain.

—Louis L'Amour

pristine drinking water for Baltimore. The trail is cleared to varying degrees and has some hills and minor stream crossings. Children under 18 must be able to hike this distance and be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Dogs must be friendly. Meet at 10:00 PM at the Mt. Carmel Rd. Park and Ride just west off I-83 north of the Baltimore Beltway and past the Shawan Rd. exit. For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

Sat. & Sun. Oct. 23 & 24 GB - Moderate. Car Camping at Caledonia State Park in PA Camping and day hiking exploring lakes and streams in the Michaux State Forest in southern Pennsylvania. We will hike parts of the Appalachian Trail with some good views. Call Jack for details at 410-256-3963

Saturday - Monday Oct. 23 to 25: Mid-State Trail Backpack, Iron Stone Loop, PA. 20 mile strenuous backpack. Daily mileage: 5/10/5. Rugged hike beginning at the Stone Valley Recreation Area with lots of views from Tussey Mountain on the second day. Pre-register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

BICO Outings

BICO Outings

Sierra Club Inner City Outings is a community outreach program providing opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world. It was founded in 1999 with the goal of providing underserved Baltimore City youth with educational, enjoyable and safe outdoor experiences at no cost to them. Since start-up, BICO has conducted more than 350 outings serving over 3,000 youngsters.

BICO provides environmental education and promotes:

- * Respect for the outdoors
- * Teamwork and leadership skills
- * 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 more information, please send inquiries to baltimoreinnercityoutings@gmail.com, or visit our web site at <http://ico.sierraclub.org/baltimore>

September 2010

25	10,000 Step Hike and MDE Tour	DHH
TBD	Tree Planting	CGCC
18-19	Camping @ Meadowwood with Cesar Chavez School Isabel Long	

October 2010

TBD	Camping @ Assateague Island	CGCC
22-24	Camping @ Pocomoke	DHH
TBD	General BICO Meeting @ DHH	

Abbreviations:

DHH:

CGCC:

Digital Harbor High

College Gardens Community Center

Credits

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

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

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

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

Advertising: For display and classified advertising rates and information, contact:
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The Maryland Chapter wishes to thank those who contributed to this issue of *Chesapeake*, with special thanks to Betsy Johnson, political chair.

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VOTE ON SEPTEMBER 14

PRIMARY ELECTION VOTERS GUIDE!

Voting is one of the most important actions you can take to protect and preserve the environment.

Inside, find out which candidates will represent your environmental interests, and how you can support them.

Then vote! Vote early, vote via absentee ballot, or vote at the local polling place. The polluters will be voting; make sure you will, too.

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Opportunities to enjoy the outdoors

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Vote on September 14