

Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Spring 2010

A Treasured Landscape

By Bonnie Bick—On May 12, 2009, the White House issued an executive order on Chesapeake Bay protection and restoration. The order instructed federal agencies to draft reports for meeting the goals of protecting and restoring the Bay. The federal agencies recruited the participation of state agencies and conservation organizations in the Bay watershed.

The Friends of the (Captain) John Smith Chesapeake Trail, the Environmental Law Institute, and the National Geographic Society responded and issued a special report entitled *Conserving Treasured Landscapes in the Chesapeake*. The report, which includes a map of the Chesapeake's treasured landscapes, recommends that "a bold and coordinated strategy" for conservation be developed. The organizations also call for more federal investment in land conservation. (Go to www.friendsofthejohnsmithtrail.org/join_our_work/treasured_landscapes.html for the report and the map.)

As the report team's leader said, the greatest conservation opportunities "may be offered in places that are significant both for their ecological as well as their cultural values."

Landscapes of *ecological importance*, the report said, could include the following: large contiguous forest tracts, riparian buffers, and other corridors with natural land cover that link important habitats. This includes streams and rivers that rare species or migrating fish depend upon as well as bottom areas of the Bay that provide important habitats for underwater creatures.

Landscapes of *cultural importance* help tell the

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Will 2010 seal Mattawoman's Fate?

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommends denial of permit for proposed highway at a critical time for the waterway

In 2003, the Army Corps of Engineers predicted that 2010 would be an inauspicious year for Mattawoman Creek, Maryland's most productive fish nursery for the Chesapeake Bay. This is about the time when the in-



Mattawoman Creek, Mattingly Pier. Photo by Jim Long.

creasing amounts of roofs, roads, and parking lots were projected to surpass a 10% coverage of the watershed if business-as-usual continued. And it has. By all accounts, the replacement of Mattawoman's forests—nature's water filter—with surfaces impervious to rainwater—the roofs, roads, and parking lots—continues unabated. When 10% of a watershed is sealed by these surfaces, which funnel stormwater in erosive and pollutant-laden surges, most waterways begin experiencing accelerated degradation.

Mattawoman serves as a poster child for the ravages of inappropriate development everywhere. The Chesapeake Bay watershed is losing forest at 100 acres per day, and impervious cover is outstripping population growth by a factor of five. As a result, urbanization is the only sector for which Bay pollution is increasing, according to the intergovernmental Chesapeake Bay Program. Like a poster child, Mattawoman is charismatic—beautiful to see, among the Bay's most productive waters, and with forests brimming with biodiversity. Its forested proportion is similar to the Bay and, like the Bay, it is experiencing increased pollution from sprawl development. In fact, Charles County's inappropriately sized development district—larger than Washington, DC—smothers most of the Mattawoman watershed.

Symptomatic of business-as-usual is Charles County's proposal to extend its Cross County Connector (CCC-ex) across the full width of the Mattawoman watershed through a mostly forested area. Aimed at opening vast areas to sprawl development, and at creating a new city in the one-stoplight town of Bryans Road, this proposed divided highway would have severe consequences for Mattawoman if permitted. And 2010 is the year we expect permit decisions.

Late last year, the Maryland Department of Environment postponed a December, 2009, decision, and in January released a timeline that points to a permit deci-

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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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,
Who was it that prayed for all this snow? I must admit that I have enjoyed having snow fun with the grandkids, but the snow shovel and the snow blower and I have become much too well acquainted! We need a lonnnnggg break from each other – a couple of years will do!

Many thanks to the Chapter and the Chapter staff, the Southern Maryland Group and Sierrans from other groups, the Mattawoman Watershed Society, and community associations from Charles and Southern Prince George's County for excellent "Save the Mattawoman" campaign events starting in November and continuing through January and February. We continue to ramp up this important campaign for a truly worthy cause.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has rescheduled the permitting decision until after elections are over—probably to end-of-year 2010. The opposition remains committed to securing the construction permit, but rest assured that we will persist in our campaign to stop the Cross County Connector (CCC) and other projects that would wreak environmental havoc with the Mattawoman.

We know that further destruction of forested lands in the greater Waldorf and contiguous surrounding areas of both Prince George's and Charles County invites the death knell of the area's ecological system! It has already been pushed to its limit, and is currently poised at a point of no return for maintaining the water quality necessary to sustain Mattawoman Creek's prized fish-spawning capabilities—the best left in the Chesapeake watershed. We MUST save this one if we are serious about cleaning up the Chesapeake!

Thanks to all who responded to our fundraising efforts and contributed to advance this campaign; it could not be more appreciated. Please stay engaged with our Mattawoman work, and enlist others to be activists as well. Your activism not only builds this worthy campaign, but the club as well. Please refer to the articles on the Mattawoman in this issue for further information and opportunities for involvement.

The 2010 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session is underway and will continue until mid-April. Connected with our efforts to save Mattawoman Creek and other important natural places, we are focusing on legislation to protect storm water runoff regulations, and

on using more appropriate criteria for spending Maryland's scarce transportation dollars. As part of our Green Grid campaign, we are working on a number of bills that will improve energy efficiency and increase use of renewable energy. The third major effort is to pass a series of bills to increase recycling and reduce waste and litter. For each of these initiatives, we need to not only pass some bills, but also focus on the economic aspects, making sure that the work is funded in the budget, and that we pay attention to the job creation potential of each of these efforts. Check the Chapter website (<http://maryland.sierraclub.org>), click on "Legislative" and "Legislative Tracker 2010" to read about the current status of our priority bills and many others, and find out how you can make a difference

As Chair, I feel that all we environmentalists must put forth Herculean efforts in support of the significant environmental legislation. The storm water regulations, for example, are a result of a hard fought and won Storm Water Bill in 2007. But intense pressure and lobbying by the development industry has generated a bill (HB 1125) that would effectively gut their stringent provisions. In the best scenario, this bill (as of this writing there is no similar bill in the Senate) would die in committee. HOWEVER, we must be prepared to muster a very strong opposition in case the bill, and a Senate counterpart, survive the committee hearings.

This particular matter has remained strong and predominant in my thoughts., A fellow Harford County Sierran addressed the crux of the problem with HB1125 eloquently:

To date, protecting rivers, streams and the Chesapeake Bay from degradation by storm-water runoff has relied mainly on good faith efforts by developers. But when profits are involved, faith falters. The development industry had their chance to voluntarily build storm-water systems that wouldn't dump storm-water problems onto others. They didn't. Now it's time for enforcement.

After years of dedicated effort by environmental groups, Maryland finally has rules limiting storm-water runoff and its pollution. Enforcement was delayed until May 4, 2010, and even after that date projects that had not yet started were "grandfathered" (meaning they didn't have to comply with the new rules if their preliminary design had already been approved). The industry's current whining for even

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Ron's Letter

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more “grandfathering” rings disgustingly hollow because they have been fighting these rules even during the “boom” times.

The industry should stop fighting for their “right” to destroy the Bay, other people’s livelihoods and other people’s property. No more grandfathering, no weakening of the rules. It’s not that expensive to do the right thing, but it’s very expensive for everyone else if you don’t. Stop whining and follow the rules—exactly as they are.

Finally, please keep in mind that 2010 is a political year, and that it is imperative that we be actively involved in the political process. Lobbyists in opposition to our long-fought and hard-won environmental gains are offering financial and political support to candidates who’ll look away while they pave and pollute. We must do better than they do, to maintain and preserve our environmental gains, and to take initiatives to combat global warming, reduce water and air pollution, and conserve our state’s natural bounty. We can succeed by carefully selecting political candidates for endorsement at the federal, state, county and municipal levels, and then giving them our full and active support to ensure their election.

The Chapter political committees are geared up for this election year. Each Group is in the process of developing candidate questionnaires, and will be interviewing and endorsing candidates. Please, be proactive in this process. We are only as effective as the leaders we elect. We can do it! We can be the difference! Let’s get to it! ■

Energy

MAPP and PATH Delayed— Energy Efficiency is Key to Success

By Alana Wase—Any seasoned environmental activist knows that, when trying to stop assaults on the environment: DELAY IS GOOD. Delay isn’t victory—but it *is* a battle won along the way to victory.

Last summer, the Maryland Sierra Club launched a new campaign, “Pull the Plug on Coal by Wire,” opposing proposals to construct new transmission lines that would import additional coal-fired power into our state. The proposals, MAPP (Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway) and PATH (Potomac Appalachian Transmission Highline) would bring electric-

Maryland was deregulated in 1999, utility companies were required to offer these programs. After the industry was deregulated utilities stopped offering them. Fortunately, in 2007, the EmPower Maryland law was passed mandating that the utilities reestablish energy efficiency programs. Finally, by 2009, the programs were being implemented, and, on prod-ding, they were recognized in PJM’s January, 2010, load flow analysis.

In non-wonky words, energy efficiency programs are working. Individuals are reducing the amount of energy they use, thereby reducing the amount of elec-

In non-wonky words, energy efficiency programs are working. Individuals are taking action to reduce the amount of energy they use.

tricity made from dirty coal in West Virginia and Virginia into Maryland, where the electricity would be sold at a higher price.

Maryland already derives 60% of its electricity from coal. It’s a “no brainer” that we should not build this huge energy infrastructure that would increase our use of electricity derived from coal, consequently increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

After presentations, petitions, press coverage, a rally, and legal action in three different states, our case against these transmission lines is resonating. The Virginia Public Service Commission ordered PJM, the interregional transmission line planner, to run a new analysis on the need for the lines. PJM’s new load flow analysis, completed in January, 2010, concluded that the new lines will not be needed until 2021—if ever.

So what made the difference? In the last load flow analysis, PJM considered demand side management (DSM). DSM takes into account the programs that utility companies offer to encourage energy efficiency. Before the electric industry in

tricity our state needs. This reduction, with the reduction caused by the current economic recession, shot holes in the utility companies’ credibility concerning the need for MAPP and PATH.

Although the January, 2010, load flow analysis delivered a serious blow to the utility companies’ routing the need for new transmission lines, they promised in their press releases to come back in June, 2010, to reapply to build the lines after the next load flow analysis is done.

The impact of our curtailing energy use on stopping MAPP and PATH, and the utilities’ threat to return to ask for these lines should encourage us all to become energy efficient. And, on a personal level, we each save money by becoming energy efficient. Check out the article on page 4 to see some of the best free and not-so-free ways you can make your home energy efficient and help us keep MAPP and PATH at bay—forever. ■

Alana Wase is the Conservation Coordinator for the Maryland Chapter.

Smart Grid, Dumb Grid

By Richard Reis, P.E.—Smart Grid technology addresses many of the key challenges with electrical power generation, distribution, and consumption including:

- ♦ Mitigating environmental damage
- ♦ Controlling costs
- ♦ Improving reliability

Key attributes of smart grid technology are:

- ♦ Time of day and day of week pricing
- ♦ Smart meters to record and transmit detailed usage information including when power is used.
- ♦ Real time consumer feedback showing rate of usage
- ♦ Detailed information on incipient problems that could lead to outages
- ♦ Flexibility to deal with shifting loads
- ♦ The ability to reduce loads when the grid is straining under high loads
- ♦ Some electrical energy storage, such as advanced batteries or compressed air
- ♦ Capability to absorb power from on-site energy generation (such as solar power)
- ♦ Support for electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles by methods such as scheduling charging for off-peak hours

Peak power usage occurs during the hottest part of summer days just when there is the most sunlight. Power companies strain to provide adequate electricity during those times. As power lines become overstressed and overheated, electrical resistance increases leading to more heating and energy loss. Sometimes these heated lines stretch and sag touching trees and causing massive outages.

Smart Grid technology addresses this issue by lowering peak demand. Homeowners can receive a monthly rebate by volunteering to let power companies shut off their air conditioners during peak hours. Industrial power control

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Smart Grid, Dumb Grid

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devices provide similar features on a larger scale. For example, I am employing an electrical lighting controller at an auto repair facility that reduces electric lighting loads when daylight is strongest, times that coincide with peak usage hours.

People and businesses that employ solar photovoltaic power reduce their power needs when sunlight is strongest—again times of peak usage. As utilities charge for usage by time of day, they encourage users to employ energy storage that shift usage from peak hours to times of lowest usage, such as midnight to 5 AM. They may use thermal storage systems that employ less expensive off-peak electricity to freeze ice at night; as the ice thaws the following afternoon, it cools the building cold with minimal electrical power.

In addition, the Smart Grid holds the promise of substantial carbon reduction.¹ The Pacific Northwest Laboratory recently reported that Smart Grid technology could lead to carbon savings of 12 percent if the grid is fully implemented by 2030.

In contrast, let's call the older and antiquated way "Stupid Grid" technology. It seeks to build expensive and massive power lines to provide ample power, regardless of the energy source, costs, or environmental effects. The proposed PATH² and MAPP³ power lines in our region are excellent examples of this approach. These power lines would bring coal-fired power from dirty power plants close to the coal fields of West Virginia and Kentucky to east coast areas. This is sometimes referred to as coal by wire. This approach exacerbates air, water, and land pollution as well as global climate change.

To ensure that Maryland follows the Smart Grid path (not PATH), Delegates Roger Manno (District 19) and Sue Hecht (District 3A) introduced House Bill 522, which would require the Public

Service Commission (PSC) to analyze and report on the state's long-term energy needs. In preparing the report—a blueprint for action, the Commission would have to solicit input from other state agencies, such as the Maryland Energy Administration and the Department of the Environment, as well consumers and environmental organizations. The plan would have to consider cost, reliability, and environmental laws and goals. Particularly because the PSC and utilities oppose this bill, you may wish to contact your delegates in support of this bill and your senator to support companion senate legislation. ■

(Endnotes)

1 Sweet, B, "Smart Grid Promises Substantial Carbon Abatement", 2/14/10, <http://spectrum.ieee.org/energywise/energy/the-smarter-grid/smart-grid-promises-substantial-carbon-abatement>

2 The Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline (PATH) is a joint venture of American Electric Power (AEP) and Allegheny Energy to build a new high-voltage interstate transmission line.

3 The Maryland, the Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP) is a joint venture Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO), Delmarva Power and Light Company, and Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) to build a new high-voltage interstate transmission line.

Join the
Maryland Chapter's
e-mail action alert list

www.marylandsierraclub.org/action

Energy Efficiency Opportunities Galore

Tips on FREE energy efficiency programs

By Alana Wase—The EmPower Maryland law of 2007 mandated that the state of Maryland reduce its electricity consumption 15% by 2015. Toward this goal, Maryland utility companies are now offering a number of energy efficiency programs, some FREE. Check out these excellent opportunities!

Energy Audits

Quick Home Energy Check Up

Offered by BGE (Baltimore Gas and Electric)

Nothing diagnoses your home better than a thorough energy audit, but if you don't have the time or money for a full audit, opt for BGE's Home Energy Check Up. An energy expert will come to your home and, in about an hour, review your insulation, air leaks, heating/cooling system, windows, doors, lighting, and appliances; then the expert will give you a report on your home's energy efficiency. The cost is \$40, but that fee will be completely waived if you install at least three of the energy saving products BGE will install (at no cost): 6 CFL light bulbs, 2 faucet aerators, an efficient flow showerhead, pipe insulation, or a water heater tank wrap. Who could say "no"?

Complete Energy Audits, and other energy-savers free for some with limited incomes

Offered by BGE

You might qualify for a full energy audit, worth \$400-\$600, for free. In addition, there are a number of free home improvements you might qualify for, such as insulation, air sealing, and new major appliances.

Heating and Cooling

Did you know that as much as half of the energy used in your home goes for heating and cooling?

BGE is offering the follow rebates:

- ♦ \$75 for diagnostic tune-ups of heating and cooling equipment
- ♦ \$200 for duct sealing
- ♦ \$175-\$400 for the purchase of high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment
- ♦ \$200 for installations of new, high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment

Rebates for Energy Star Appliances

(In 1992, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency introduced Energy Star, a voluntary labeling program designed to identify energy-efficient products)

- ♦ \$50 Rebate on Energy Star Refrigerators (BGE and Pepco, though BGE will give you an extra \$50 if you recycle your old fridge)
- ♦ \$50 Rebate on Energy Star Qualified Clothes Washers (BGE only)
- ♦ \$25 Rebate on Energy Star Qualified Room AC (BGE and Pepco)
- ♦ \$20 Rebate on efficient water heaters (Pepco only)

BGE's "Peak Rewards Program" and Pepco's "Energy Wise Rewards"

These programs are for those with central air conditioning or an electric heat pump. A BGE or Pepco employee will install a new thermostat in your home. On summer days, when electricity consumption is at its highest, the utility company will cycle your air conditioner, turning it on and off for periods without your even noticing. (I know a few people who installed the thermostat, and they felt no inconvenience; it saved them more than \$150 over the summer).

Be smart; take advantage of all of these opportunities! These programs not only help reduce your utility bills and reduce your carbon footprint, they reduce the

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Energy

Energy Efficiency Opportunities

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need for new electricity transmission and generation. In other words, they will help defeat the proposed “coal by wire” energy transmission corridors, MAPP and PATH. (See page 3 for more on MAPP and PATH.)

BGE's energy efficiency programs

<http://www.bgesmartenergy.com/> or call 1-877-685-7377.

Pepco's programs

<http://www.pepco.com/energy/conservation/appliance/> or call 202-872-2000.

Similar programs are also offered by Delmarva Power and SMECO, and by the utilities for businesses as well as homes.

Tax Credits

Home Energy Efficiency Improvement Tax Credits from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDE)

People who purchase certain products, such as energy-efficient windows, insulation, doors, roofs, and heating and cooling equipment, and place these products “in service” in existing homes from 1/1/09 through 12/31/10, can get a tax credit for 30% of the cost of the products, up to \$1,500. For a summary of energy efficiency tax credits: www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax.credits.tx.index

Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credits from the USDE

People who install solar energy systems (including solar water heating and solar electric systems), small wind systems, geothermal heat pumps, and residential fuel cell and microturbine systems before 12/31/16 can get a 30% tax credit. There is no cap on this credit.

State and Local Tax Incentives for Renewable Energy Expenses and Energy Efficiency Expenses

<http://www.dsireusa.org>

Watershed Conservation

“It’s Not My Fault”

By Timothy D. Junkin—This past October, I participated in a river cleanup with Emily Cranwell’s second grade class from the Country School. We met at the Choptank River Fishing Pier Park adjacent to the bridge to Cambridge. The wind was blustery that day, out of the South, and the river teemed with whitecaps wildly rushing over themselves and hurtling towards us like, as James Joyce might have written, the flying manes of so many frothing horses. I was worried that these eight-year-olds might be deterred by such a gusty breeze. I was wrong. Skipping among the bulkhead stones they seemed to delight in the smacking waves and over the course of a morning managed to remove enough trash from the shoreline to fill nine 50 pound bags.

Drew Koslow, our Choptank Riverkeeper, accompanied this expedition, but it was arranged and led by the Sierra Club’s own Clarence “Doc” Kuntz, who also serves as the Choptank River Eastern Bay Conservancy’s volunteer Director of River Cleanup. This past summer Doc was recognized by the town of Easton for his efforts in cleaning trash from the headwaters of the Tred Avon. As part of “Doc Kuntz Day” he was also inducted into Boy Scout Troop 532, as he had worked with the scouts on several occasions. Later Doc confided to me proudly that not only is he now the oldest member of Troop 532, but that he found in his closet an old scout shirt with a patch on it reflecting his attendance at the 1937 Boy Scout National Jamboree held in Washington. Doc is a sprightly eighty-six.

On October 26 Doc led another cleanup effort, this time with eighth grade students from the Country School, removing debris from the North Fork of the Tred Avon near the junction of St. Michaels Road and the By Pass. At one point the students discovered a large tractor tire embedded in the stream ditch.

Doc and Drew both shook their heads and told them to leave it, that they’d never get it out. A half hour later Doc looked up and three kids were rolling the 150 pound tire to the trash heap. When ten days later Doc and I addressed Easton High School’s Ecology Club, Doc had prepared a PowerPoint presentation including a photograph of these kids rolling this tire up the bank with the caption: *Never Underestimate the Power of Young People*. He also showed an overhead photo of the town of Easton and pointed out to the students how the headwaters of the Tred Avon, the North Fork and the South Fork, seemed to encircle and hold the town in an embrace. Doc asked the ecology class to help find ways to return the river’s embrace by helping to keep it clean and free of pollution.

Lately, as I have been talking with various constituents around our river community, trying to understand better the issues that threaten our waterways and how we can best approach them, I have been taken aback a bit by the tendency to blame others for the decline of the rivers. The scientific evidence seems overwhelming, for example, that agricultural practices throughout the Delmarva Peninsula over the past fifty years have led to devastating nutrient-loading in our streams. Yet several farmers I have spoken with seemed only interested in blaming others. “It’s the goose waste,” one farmer vehemently argued at the town hall meeting with Attorney General Doug Ganzler. Other farmers have argued to me that waste water treatment plants or lawn fertilizers are the real problem. Developers I have talked with, who are seeking to obtain approvals for new projects, are similarly quick to point out that agriculture is the problem, not development. And riparian landowners who want the right to cut down trees in the critical area, or fill in wetlands to improve their property, or heavily fertilize their lawns right down to the water’s edge, blame airborne

deposition for the problem.

If our rivers could speak, how would they answer all of these claims—claims that somebody else is always the culprit? There is, in fact, little to gain by pointing fingers at others. We are all part of the problem. Each of us needs to recognize this fact and find ways to change our own behavior in order to give our waterways the opportunity to heal themselves. When those kids, with Doc Kuntz cheering them on, rolled that tractor tire out of the wetland, they weren’t thinking about who to blame for putting it there; they were simply finding joy in rising to the challenge of helping to clean the river. And if an octogenarian and a bunch of second graders can take up the gauntlet and clean a riverbank on a blustery morning, the rest of us ought to find the will to do our part as well.

Those of us fortunate enough to live here have the opportunity to become familiar, even intimate, with this natural landscape of rivers, forests, and farms, to know it in spring and winter, in storms and sunshine, in the light of the pre-dawn over a waving field of wheat, and in the red flush of a falling moon. Partaking in such a place, studying the creatures that abide here, watching the osprey in a dive over Harris Creek, the rockfish spawning up at Gainey’s Wharf, the wild geese catching the wind, infuses our lives with beauty and a form of spiritual nourishment beyond measure. As a community, we must protect this gift that we all share. This requires us to act, to each make changes, to each make sacrifices. So be it. We must all become stewards of this legacy. ■

Timothy D. Junkin, Esq., is the Executive Director of the Choptank River Eastern Bay Conservancy.

Watershed Conservation

A Treasured Landscape

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Maryland Chapter Sierrans explore beautiful Mattawoman Creek. Photos, above and right, by Fabien Sarran.

story of long-term relationships between humans and the special places unique to the Chesapeake region. These include places that characterize a way of life in the Bay region, including historically significant events or people, archaeological sites, and Native American homelands. Also included are large tracts of economically valuable forests, historically productive farmlands with prime soils, and traditional fishing communities.

As you may have guessed, the above describes the surrounding natural and cultural landscapes in the Mattawoman-Potomac area, south of the Nation's capital. Therefore, it won't come as a complete surprise to you that this is, indeed, one of the six sites noted on the above-referenced map. When you go to the map, look for the site numbered "1," and you'll see the Mattawoman Natural Environment Area.

Our Goal: To Save a Special Treasure

Our efforts to stop the proposed Charles County Cross County Connector and other urbanization projects, which would destroy the Mattawoman's capacity to sustain the valuable living resources, is an effort that, with success, will bring extremely positive rewards on many fronts.

Having the big picture in mind is very helpful. Before the concept of the "treasured landscape" came onto the scene, we had the concept of identifying this area as a biopreserve to spotlight the significant preservation effort that has already taken place. We realize the value of tying the patchwork of preserved land together because, clearly, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Fortunately, there are tools in place now that can protect the area *if only* elected officials and others in power would use them. We must take every opportunity to urge them to take concrete steps to implement this preservation-themed vision. Merging this vision with specific and timely steps toward Smart Growth land-use and transportation solutions can achieve *ecological sustainability*—the ultimate goal, *and*, of course *economic prosperity* through a route more sustainable than is presently being pursued in Charles County. What's more, it can be achieved by *using Smart Growth principles* and at much less cost to our resources of national significance.■

Bonnie Bick is a member of the Mattawoman Campaign and the Southern Maryland Group.

Will 2010 seal Mattawoman's Fate?

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sion this coming December. The decision must consider both direct and cumulative impacts. Direct impacts alone are stunning: the CCC-ex would fill wetlands amounting to one fifth of the average annual loss for the entire state. Counting state-regulated wetland buffers, fourteen football fields of wetland function would be lost.

The cumulative impacts, once facilitated development is factored in, would dwarf the direct impacts. For example, 8,000+ housing units are proposed for the Bryans Road Town Center, for which the CCC-ex is "required" according to the County. And an analysis by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation identified an additional 6,000 potential housing units within a mile of the highway. The analysis found that sprawl like this would devour thousands of acres of Mattawoman forest. Eleven thousand pounds of excess nitrogen pollution from lawns and development would annually flush into the creek, already recognized as 40% over its allowed "Total Maximum Daily Load," or TMDL, for nitrogen and phosphorus.

While Mattawoman has an approved TMDL, the Environmental Protection Agency is presently developing TMDLs for the Bay itself. States "must" reduce the nutrient loads to levels that will end algal blooms and

associated oxygen dead-zones in the Bay. The question arises: if the CCC-ex were permitted when one of the Bay's most productive tributaries already has an EPA-approved TMDL requiring a 40% reduction in nutrient loads, will the much ballyhooed Bay-wide TMDLs serve as a tool, or be exposed as another hollow attempt at Bay restoration?

If the CCC-ex were permitted, environmental impacts to one of the Bay's best would be joined by the social impacts of increased congestion on Maryland Route 210 and on rural roads in Charles County, and additional tax burdens to service far-flung development. And if sprawl development were pushed from Waldorf to the Potomac River, as the present Charles County decision-makers intend, we can anticipate renewed efforts to build a once-defeated lower-

Potomac Bridge "to relieve congestion," just as is being done by pro-growth factions in Virginia and Montgomery County in the upper Potomac. Such a bridge would have regional implications as a segment of the long-planned but very unpopular Outer Beltway.

The permits should be denied. In fact, the pressure to deny was greatly amplified on December 23,

when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wrote the Army Corps recommending "denial of the Section 404 wetland permit until a more complete assessment of

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Will 2010 seal Mattawoman's Fate?

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direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed highway is completed in addition to a more comprehensive evaluation of alternatives, and a detailed mitigation and compensation plan." This position is significant, as FWS has strong oversight authority on wetland permits as well as an encompassing and scientifically grounded view of impacts to resources of national significance.

We can hope that FWS is strengthened by President Obama's Executive Order obliging federal agencies to beef up Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts after decades of failed goals. The executive order is cited in the FWS letter. So far, the machinations precipitated by the Executive Order have examined future strategies, that may include denial of permits for development if states fail to compel local government to clean up their act. What is needed is a sign of positive action *now*, to distance us from the failed hypotheticals of the past and to demonstrate that Smart Growth is not dead. Mattawoman's predicament provides the perfect test:

- ♦ A resource of national significance.
- ♦ A crucial year that could mark its slide to join so many other Bay tributaries unable to support vibrant living resources.
- ♦ A highway proposal that is antitheti-

cal to Bay restoration because it would open an entire sector of a forested county to intense development.

♦ The existence of viable alternatives that could replace the Bay-killing transportation policies of the past with Smart Growth choices, like investing in existing infrastructure and prioritizing rail-based transit-oriented development over highways.

Charles County's urban core, Waldorf, is expediently located on a rail line that could connect to Washington's Metro system. This approach avoids new congestion that always follows auto-dependent sprawl; helps relieve current congestion; and revitalizes Waldorf by investing in existing infrastructure, rather than diverting investment to destroy sensitive areas.

Will 2010 be remembered as the year Mattawoman's forests and fate were sealed? Or will it be the year when decision makers demonstrate resolve and choose a new direction that implements Smart Growth and points to Bay restoration? For Mattawoman, and for sustainable prosperity, permit denial for the outmoded CCC-ex in favor of 21st century alternatives is the only choice. ■

This article was provided by the Mattawoman Watershed Society.



Maryland Chapter Sierrans at Mattawoman Creek. Photo by Tom Wachs.

Save the Mattawoman, Save the Bay *Please—Read This and Take Action to Help!*

By Baird Straughan—After years of promising to save the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland's government now has a chance to actually deliver on its pledges and save the last, best tributary—the Mattawoman Creek in Charles County, just 20 miles south of Washington, D.C. The Sierra Club and other activists have recently won several important victories in our battle to get the state government to protect this gem. But we still face major challenges. (See the article submitted by the Mattawoman Watershed Society on page 1).

If we imagine the Bay as a heart, then the rivers and streams that feed it are its arteries. By paving over most of them we've given the Bay a massive case of arteriosclerosis. The Mattawoman is a final chance to improve the odds of the Bay's survival.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources states the following:

Mattawoman [Creek] represents as near to ideal conditions as can be found in the northern Chesapeake Bay, perhaps unattainable in the other systems, and should be protected from overdevelopment.¹

The Mattawoman supports an abundance and diversity of life such as herons, beavers, and rare American lotus. Its forests are Important Bird Areas, as designated by the Audubon Society, and it's the state's best coastal plain habitat for reptiles and amphibians. Migrating fish swim upstream from the ocean through the Bay and the Potomac River to the upper reaches of the Creek's watershed to lay their eggs. The creek is so productive that bass fishermen from other states like New Jersey and North Carolina come to the mouth of the Mattawoman (where it opens into the Potomac River) to hold their bass-fishing tournaments, thus sup-

porting a multimillion dollar industry for Maryland.

The Mattawoman is in such good condition because most of the land that drains into it is still covered in forest, which filters and cools the water. But, of course, that's threatened with sprawl development—one highway, an airport expansion, and a publicly financed "tech-center" located in the heart of the very cleanest of its streams.

What You Can Do

Luckily, there's a lot we can do, much of it out of doors! Join us for the following:

Paddle the Mattawoman in a canoe or kayak!

Our recently trained outings leaders are ready to show you the creek's beauty and explain the web of life under the water's surface, as well as how proposed developments would affect it.

The first scheduled outings include the following:

- ♦ Sunday April 11, with Ken Clark from the Sierra Club Howard County group; and
- ♦ Saturday, April 24, with Jack Mawhinney from the Anne Arundel County group.

Come join us for a hike or bicycle trip through the Mattawoman's forest and fields!

- ♦ Saturday, March 27, a hike with Rebecca Turner, of the Southern Maryland Group
- ♦ Saturday, April 3, a bicycle tour with Rebecca Turner
- ♦ Sunday, April 4, an invasive plant removal at Chapman Forest with Marc Imlay
- ♦ Saturday, May 1st, a Mayday wildflower hike with Rebecca Turner

(continued on page 8)

Watershed Conservation

Save the Mattawoman, Save the Bay

(continued from page 7)

We're arranging many other outings. Let us know if you're interested, and we'll send you alerts as they're scheduled, or sign up for them on our website at www.maryland.sierraclub.org.

In addition to enjoying the great outdoors, you may want to do the following:

- ♦ Attend a presentation on the Mattawoman, or arrange your own! Our leaders are ready with an informative (and beautiful) slide presentation to come to your home or group and explain the Mattawoman's importance.
- ♦ Attend a public forum on Wednesday, May 19. The Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles County will host Stuart Schwartz, head of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, to discuss growth alternatives that would leave the Mattawoman intact and spend development dollars in a way that would benefit citizens more. For more information about the forum's

time and location, check <http://maryland.sierraclub.org>.

- ♦ Write a letter to the governor. Ultimately, the decision on the Mattawoman's fate is made by the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE), which until now has permitted many destructive developments in the watershed. Let Governor O'Malley know that you want him to make good on his environmental credentials by actually *enforcing* the laws that are supposed to protect our most valuable natural heritage areas, like the Mattawoman. You'll find a sample letter on our website at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/> under "Take Action."

- ♦ Join us and get involved! We need more spokespersons and outings leaders. If you're interested, please call Laurel Imlay at the Sierra Club office, 301-277-7111. In particular, we need:

- ♦ Attorneys with experience in water-resource issues;
- ♦ Grant writers

- ♦ Volunteers willing to attend public events and represent us at a Sierra Club table.

- ♦ If you haven't donated already, do it now! The Mattawoman campaign needs funds for materials, flyers, communications, gas, food, office rental, staff time, and phone costs. It all adds up! The Maryland chapter is planning on dedicating \$30,000 to the Mattawoman effort this year.

- ♦ Complete the form below and return

to Laurel in the chapter office, Sierra Club Maryland Chapter, 7338 Baltimore Avenue #101A, College Park, MD 20740. Or call Laurel at (301) 277-7111. ■

Baird Straughan is an at-large member of the Maryland Chapter Excom.

(Endnotes)

1. J. Carmichael et al., Fish Sampling in Eight Chesapeake Bay Tributaries., DNR CBRM-HI-92-2



Maryland Chapter Sierrans at Mattawoman Creek. Photo by Fabien Sarran.

I'm in! I want to support the Maryland Chapter's efforts to save the Mattawoman by doing the following:



Maryland Chapter Paddler on Mattawoman Creek. Photo by Fabien Sarren.

I would like to:

- ☐ Attend a Mattawoman hike, bike, or paddle trip.
- ☐ Attend a Mattawoman presentation.
- ☐ Give a presentation myself.
- ☐ Bring a group to see the Mattawoman.
- ☐ Have someone come to present to my _____.
- ☐ Become a Sierra Club outings and hike leader.
- ☐ Join the legal team because I am an attorney.
- ☐ Receive an information packet to use to present to my _____.
- ☐ Volunteer, but I'm not sure what I can do.

I would like to help:

- ☐ Create a video;
- ☐ Take photographs;
- ☐ Research;
- ☐ Design and/or layout;
- ☐ Office work;
- ☐ Data entry;
- ☐ Web work;
- ☐ Phone calls; and/or
- ☐ Inform the public at a table at an Earth day or other event.

I would like to use the following skills for the club:

Name _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Send this to:
Laurel Imlay
Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter
No. 101A
7338 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Or call Laurel at 301-277-7111.



Hazardous Materials

Prince George's Neighborhood Continues to Resist LNG Plant

By Imani Kazana and Albert VanThournout—Five years ago Washington Gas Company (WGC) sent shock waves throughout the Hyattsville, Maryland area when it announced plans to build a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) processing and storage plant at its property on Chillum Road. The site is about one mile from the Washington, D.C. border, and less than five miles from the United States Capitol.

WGC's announcement followed several years of complaints from neighbors regarding frequent gas leaks from the 70-year-old underground system of transmission and distribution pipelines. Shortly after this announcement, a gas explosion at a home in District Heights further highlighted a troubling pattern of poor system maintenance throughout the county by the utility company.

A campaign was quickly launched to get a handle on two critical issues: to prevent the construction of a highly dangerous LNG plant in a densely populated area, and to cause improvements in the condition and maintenance of the aging underground gas delivery system. A loosely associated group of local towns, labor unions and advocacy groups (including the Sierra Club) has attempted to maintain a focus on both concerns.

The status of both main issues is complex and difficult to describe briefly, due to the long list of agencies, court and other entities involved. Since the beginning of the initial zoning proposal, WGC attempted to create confusion by questioning the jurisdictional control (county, state or federal) over both above ground and below ground matters. Local advocates have been engaged in numerous hearings, lawsuits and state legislative efforts along the way, attempting to answer the many questions involved.

Unresolved questions remain

The list of unresolved queries is long. Following are just a few. 1) Does WGC op-

erate an "interstate" or "intrastate" system? 2) Does the state's Public Service Commission (PSC) have an adequate set of standards and staffing to fulfill its role as an oversight "agent" of the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding pipeline matters? 3) Does county zoning control LNG siting decisions? 4) Should a company with a poor maintenance record be allowed to undertake an even more risky LNG project? 5) Why are safety and siting standards related to hazardous materials inconsistent, even between various federal agencies?

All parties have been waiting for more than six months for a U.S. District Court judge to submit a ruling to answer some of these questions. There are additional open cases at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding WGC's pipeline maintenance practices. In the meantime, the utility has taken some steps to replace at least some of its failing parts within the Prince George's County segment, and it recently entered into a settlement with the District of Columbia to replace questionable couplings over the next five years.

Opposition has stalled construction

As for the plan to construct an LNG processing and storage plant at the inappropriate Chillum Road site, it is obvious that a full approval and significant start to the construction of the plant has not yet begun due to opposition. WGC had hoped to have the plant operational in 2009. Nevertheless, the company has been quietly making small physical upgrades on this property designed to eventually facilitate the proposed operation there. WGC has also continued its quest to gain

full approval at the State's PSC by pushing to have this facility officially adopted as a critical element in its latest proposed five year gas supply plan.

What was the general status of issues as of the end of 2009? Last year was spent largely trying to address WGC's latest effort to gain approval of its proposed five year gas supply plan by the PSC. This so-called "planning" process, which is reviewed by a Hearing Examiner (HE), is unlike most other planning processes in this society. Our efforts before Dennis Sober, the assigned Hearing Examiner, have not been going particularly well.

Mr. Sober has ruled that various important topics will *not* be allowed as part of the review. These prohib-

ited topics include: safety and security against deliberate destruction; proximity to the Metro line and above-ground West Hyattsville station, a river tributary, a nursing home, and thousands of residents; local economic impacts; validity of the cost projections; and consideration of other siting options. Background reports and materials have been placed off-limits by WGC (with the blessing of the HE) without a signed "confidentiality agreement." Such documents preclude the reader from discussing any contents or troubling information with constituents or colleagues. There will also be no public hearing. The entire process is as transparent as thick mud.

It also became apparent that further efforts to pass state legislation aimed at modernizing LNG siting standards will be fruitless. Three years of efforts by state legislators from the local area were unsuccessful because more powerful politicians were influenced by the large corpo-

rate community. The decisions were driven by the false claims of WGC that more responsible siting standards will lead to huge gas rate increases for businesses. WGC, however, has also publicly admitted that pursuing other pipeline options would potentially cost each residence approximately \$20.00 per year.

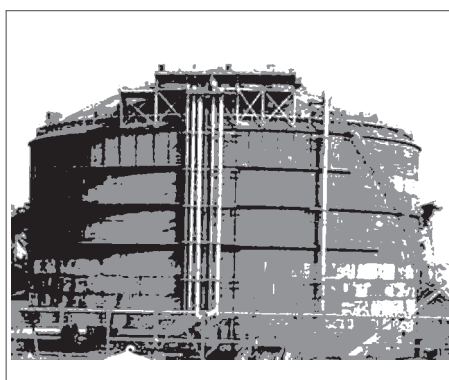
It has also become clear that the PSC's staff is not capable of monitoring the maintenance practices of WGC, nor are they willing to share their findings. PSC's Engineering Division is admittedly understaffed. A great deal of work will be necessary to fully determine the physical condition of the aging underground infrastructure at Chillum Road and other sites around the county. Efforts to involve federal authorities with a local infrastructure assessment will need to be expanded.

Citizens need to engage

So, what can be done to get a handle on this continuing battle? Citizens can try to convince the Public Service Commission Board that it needs to update its standards voluntarily. Citizens can attempt to identify and influence all of the other various agencies (beyond the PSC), which will have the ability to provide, modify or withhold a license, or permit the Gas Company to proceed with the LNG project. With the help of interested citizens, county, state, and federal governments may be able to identify a more suitable location for WGC to consider for the LNG plant.

Citizens might also try to get the U.S. Department of Transportation to directly investigate the real condition of the underground pipes and equipment in the Chillum area. Advocates can continue to inform the general public that the public currently has very little input into critical decisions about major and life-threatening systems like natural gas pipelines, in general, and that a growing number of LNG plants will be proposed and built

(continued on page 11)



Recycling

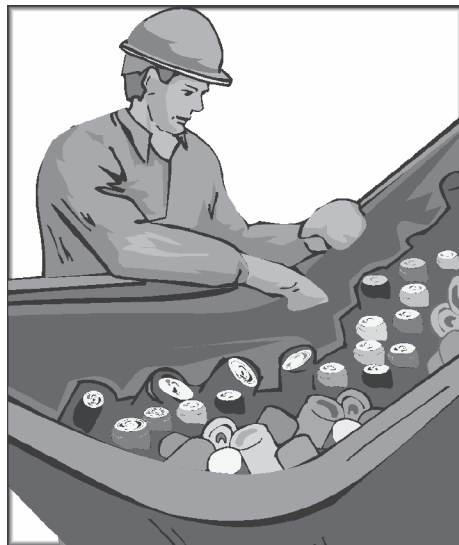
Sierrans See Trash Become Treasure

By Lew Sherman—Dan Andrews and Lew Sherman from the Catoctin Group recently joined members of Waste Not! Frederick on a tour of the Elkridge Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Elkridge, MD. Owned by Waste Management Recycle America, the MRF provides recycling services to municipal, residential, and business customers in the Greater Baltimore-Washington area, including Anne Arundel, Carroll, Howard, and Frederick counties, and the District of Columbia. The facility, in operation since August 2006, employs about 75 people in two shifts. Resources recovered at the MRF are sold to customers throughout the world. China is one of its largest markets.

The MRF accepts household/school/business daily-type waste. It does not process furniture, fabrics, bulky junkyard waste, hazardous materials, food waste, construction debris, bowling balls or aircraft carriers.

The MRF is a single-stream processing facility, meaning customers can place recyclable paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, and metal materials in one container for collection. State-of-the-art mechanical technologies, screening and optical sorting, along with manual labor, are employed to separate materials. Speeding conveyor belts carry materials throughout the 50,000 square foot plant, dropping heavier materials to lower conveyors while lighter paper and plastics are carried to other collection points. Magnets help separate aluminum from other metals. All along the conveyor lines, workers remove unwanted materials, placing them in containers for further sorting or disposal. Food-soiled paper is a major contaminant at the MRF. At the end of the lines, products are baled by compaction machines for shipment to customers. The plant has the capacity to sort, process, and bale up to 65 tons per hour, which, according to plant officials, was the highest recycling capacity in the

world, as of February, 2007. On average, the facility receives and processes approximately 20,000 tons of recyclables per month. About 70% of this material is paper and about 30% consists of glass, plastics, and metal. Less than 4% is residue, which is hauled to the BRESKO incinerator in Baltimore.



The cost and environmental benefits of the MRF are impressive. In one year, Elkridge recycling:

- ♦ Precludes the cutting of nearly 2.5 million fir trees
- ♦ Saves 3.5 billion gallons of water
- ♦ Saves 15.8 million gallons of gasoline and diesel fuels
- ♦ Eliminates 12 million pounds of air pollutants
- ♦ Saves 590 kilowatts of electricity
- ♦ Saves 460,000 cubic yards of landfill space

For some Maryland counties, savings of landfill space is critical. Frederick ships most of its refuse to Virginia landfills. Due to some unfortunate planning and decision making, their landfill, which was to have lasted many years into the future, is nearly full and no efforts are being made to site another. Instead, the county plans to build an incinerator. Currently, Frederick County sends some recyclable

Waste Not! Frederick
Second Annual Waste Not! Expo
Saturday, May 1
1 – 5 pm
Evangelical Reformed Church United Church of Christ
15 W. Church St. in downtown Frederick, MD

The event's theme will be: "Zero Waste: What It Is and How It Works" with an emphasis on how people can save money, energy, and the environment through zero waste practices, at home and in their businesses.

The event will feature four speakers and many environment-related vendors and sponsors including the Catoctin Group of the Sierra Club. More information can be found at www.wastenotfrederick.org

material to the MRF, but could send much more if it were collected. The MRF has the capacity to process substantially more material.

The MRF accepts the following recyclables:

- ♦ Newspaper, magazines, catalogues, junk mail, and brown paper bags
- ♦ Computer printouts, office paper and envelopes.
- ♦ Boxboard and corrugated boxes
- ♦ Glass containers such as food and beverage jars and bottles
- ♦ Steel and aluminum food and beverage containers
- ♦ Narrow-neck plastic containers

Discussions with an MRF official clarified a lot of uncertainty regarding what could and could not be recycled at the facility. With various sample containers, paper, and plastics from home, tour members asked the official for a yes or no on what could be recycled.

Surprisingly, many items thought to be unwanted according to Frederick County recycle rules are acceptable at the MRF. These include:

- ♦ Plastic and metal container lids (even canning jar lids with rubber gasket)
- ♦ All film plastic except for black plas-

tic bags and the type used for junk food wrapping.

- ♦ Aerosol cans
- ♦ CD containers
- ♦ Cardboard cartons that contained broth, milk, etc (including those with metallic inside coating)
- ♦ Beater-dyed paper (like vividly colored craft paper)
- ♦ All narrow necked plastic containers carrying plastic resin codes 1 – 7 (including lids)
- ♦ Tough plastic merchandise wrapping
- ♦ Clean paper towels, napkins, table clothes, and tissue

The MRF's "do not recycle" list is very short including:

- ♦ Styrofoam
- ♦ Deli plastic clam shells
- ♦ Small prescription bottles
- ♦ Junk food wrapping; e.g., potato chip bags
- ♦ Plastic/foil impregnated yogurt caps
- ♦ Nylon vegetable & fruit bags
- ♦ Release paper and wax paper, cups, and cardboard
- ♦ Motor oil bottles and chemically contaminated plastic bottles
- ♦ Toothpaste tubes and brushes
- ♦ Food-soiled paper products

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Recycling

Haz-Mat

Sierrans See How Trash Becomes Treasure

(continued from page 10)

Marketing products from the MRF is not a big problem, although the economic downturn has pushed prices downward. Paper prices were very low in October-November, 2009, but they recovered by January to \$90/ton. Aluminum can scrap is selling for \$1,000/ton with high foreign demand. Paper demand is very strong in the U.S., and recycled paper products are becoming common in the retail market; e.g. 100% recycled computer print paper is available at Staples.

The MRF's capabilities are very encouraging at a time when the need for alternatives to landfills and incinerators

is becoming critical throughout the country. With recyclable products more common, future waste streams increasingly reusable, and processing capabilities more efficient, we can visualize a future without landfills and incinerators. But achieving this vision will require substantial cultural, economic and philosophical change. ■

Lew Sherman is a member of the Catoctin Group Executive Committee.

Prince George's Neighborhood Continues to Fight LNG Plant

(continued from page 9)

across this country.

There is quite a bit of work to be done. More citizens must get involved with utility matters which may lead to explosions with injuries and deaths, thanks to the ill-considered, ill-reviewed, and inadequate oversight of utilities such as Washington Gas Company. ■

Imani Kazana is President of the Avondale

Community Development Corp. and a Founding Member of the Washington Gas Watch Alliance. Albert VanThournout is Recording Secretary of the Avondale/North Woodridge Citizens' Association.

Politics

2010 Elections Are Key for Environmental Concerns

By Betsy Johnson—Fed up with gridlock in Congress? Then join the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter's political team and help us at the state and local levels. This is where, for the most part, government actually works. However, the problem is that often, local government thwarts our environmental goals, however unwittingly. We need to change that, election by election, as we continue to educate our elected officials about the environment.

Almost all state and county and city elections will be held in this big political year of 2010. This is where the rubber meets the road (literally), because our state and local officials are the ones who make transportation and development projects happen. Don't like that road gridlock? Want to find an alternative means of transportation? Want to help save the Mattawoman (see articles on pages 1 and 7) and tell those coal companies we don't want their dirty coal energy coming through our state on their transmission lines? All those decisions mostly happen at the state and local levels. Nothing is more important in our efforts to affect such projects than electing to office good people who share our environmental values.

Right now we're planning for endorsements at the county council level. Some of our groups are preparing scorecards for county council members and will be publishing that information to educate the public about environmental records. In April, after the Maryland legislative session ends, our local political committees will interview candidates

for the Maryland House of Delegates and the Senate, and will then make endorsements in those races. And then, during the summer, we will work for those candidates whose elections have been selected as our highest priority.

We need your help! You can donate as much time as you wish—we have jobs that require a lot of time and others that don't. But we need you on our list so we can engage you when the right time comes. This is an opportunity to meet your local officials, find out what they think

about the environment, and help the good ones get elected. If you'd like to help please call me, Betsy Johnson, at 301-656-4948. Depending on your interest, we might ask you to work with your local group's political committee to help review questionnaires and interview candidates. If you don't have that much time, perhaps you could write an article about a candidate for our newsletter, or help with a Sierra-endorsed candidate's campaign by stuffing envelopes or going door to door. It all depends on your interest and available time. Let's talk. ■

Betsy Johnson is an at-large delegate to the Maryland Chapter Executive Committee and chairs the political committee.

Important Dates:

Primary Election:
14 September 2010
General Election:
2 November 2010



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

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

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

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

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

Thanks so much!

Habitat Preservation

Creating Bird Habitat Beneath the Power Lines

By Bob Boxwell and Marc Imlay—The Southern Maryland Group of the Sierra Club advocates that the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) and Pepco, the electric utility that serves Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, convert habitat under power lines and utility corridors to shrub/scrub habitat for the birds, plants and butterflies. Instead of mowing or broadcasting herbicide, the herbicide troclopvr is applied to newly cut stumps. This cut-stump method involves cutting the stump near the ground with loppers or a saw, and then applying the herbicide within five minutes. Troclopvr does not migrate beyond the target plant and biodegrades in a short time. Delmarva Power, the main power service for the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia corridor, has done this for years. There is an initial cost but considerable cost savings in the long haul.

Bird watchers and researchers know the value of shrub habitat to our resident nesting species, as well as to many migrants. Lawns, parking lots, and other urban development have reduced the availability of this valuable habitat. Through proper management of their power lines, energy companies like SMECO and Pepco can have a positive impact on bird populations. Listed below are some of the species dependent on shrub habitat:

Common shrub bird species include prairie warbler, yellow-breasted chat, white-eyed vireo, brown thrasher, gray catbird, common yellowthroat, northern bobwhite, American woodcock, eastern towhee, and field sparrow, as well as some migrants that may breed elsewhere in Maryland, like willow flycatcher, blue-winged warbler, golden-winged warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, mourning warbler, and Bewick's wren.

For years we have been asking Pepco and

SMECO to manage the vegetation under power lines for scrub/shrub habitat, which ornithologists tell us is the most needed habitat in Maryland. After cutting most of the seedlings, it would be desirable to leave a few species of trees, such as Virginia magnolia, serviceberry, holly and fringe tree, none of which grow tall enough to reach the power lines. Another tree that is important to leave is the native myrtle, which the myrtle warbler needs during fall migration.

Using this approach, we can mitigate or prevent the introduction or spread of non-native invasive plant species during the construction of utility corridors. At Swann Park in Charles County, for example, 100 feet of scrub/shrub habitat under a power line hosts many varieties of vegetation, mostly natives.

As natural resources manager for the Army National Guard, Marc Imlay helped the Kentucky National Guard adopt this approach for an installation. They consulted with Delmarva Power. This approach works after staff gets technical training. ■

Bob Boxwell and Marc Imlay are members of the Southern Maryland Group.



Wavyleaf basketgrass, an invasive plant from Asia, forms a dense mat which smothers native vegetation.

Please Ask Congress to Fight Wavyleaf Basketgrass

By Marc Imlay—Asiatic wavyleaf basketgrass is currently the worst invasive plant threat in the United States from the Carolinas to Maine and west to the midwestern states. It is far worse than Japanese stiltgrass, and, if not controlled, forms a dense carpet of hundreds of acres after 5-10 years. So far it is only found in Maryland and Virginia so we still have a chance to halt its spread. Wavyleaf basketgrass can be eradicated, and doing so at this time may be the biggest "bang for the buck" for environmental funding. A diverse group of more than 25 local, state, and national environmental groups supports this effort.

Although Japanese stiltgrass has been controlled in the immediate vicinity of many federal and state-listed endangered and threatened species, the introduction of an even worse invasive plant species in their habitats and ecosystems would be a major burden. So it makes more sense to spend federal dollars under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act at the source of the problem, rather than later in the immediate vicinity of these species. Another practical option would be to add wavyleaf basketgrass to the list of invasive plants that "green jobs" workers, such as the Student Conservation Association, are detecting and controlling.

Ask Your Senators and Representatives for Help

To encourage effective action soon, please ask your Senators and Representatives to appropriate \$1,000,000 a year for five years to Maryland and \$1,000,000 a year to Virginia as emergency Federal funding to detect and treat Asiatic wavyleaf basketgrass. The aggressive wavyleaf basketgrass is spreading very rapidly to our woodland habitats, replacing almost all other plants with an Astroturf-like cover. Public awareness and encouraging funding to stop the wavyleaf

basketgrass is the best way to save an estimated 20% of the natural environment in 1/4 of the United States.

Potential sources of funding to suggest to your Congresspeople include stimulus money; "green jobs" money; authorization for 2010-2014 for invasive prevention and treatment related to the Endangered Species Act; and co-sponsoring and modifying the 4/1 matching funds 100th Meridian Invasive Species bill to include the eastern states, with additional appropriations for urgent issues such as wavyleaf basketgrass.

Your Senators and Representatives are:

Senator Benjamin Cardin
Tel: 202-224-4524 (DC office)
Fax: 202-224-1651 (DC office)
Senator Barbara Mikulski
Tel: 202-224-4654 (DC office)
Fax: 202-224-8858 (DC office)

Bartlett, Roscoe, 6th District
Tel: 202-225-2721 Fax: 202-225-2193
Cummings, Elijah, 7th District
Tel: 202-225-4741 Fax: 202-225-3178
Edwards, Donna F., 4th District
Tel: 202-225-8699 Fax: 202-225-8714
Hoyer, Steny H., 5th District
Tel: 202-225-4131 Fax: 202-225-4300
Kratovil, Jr., Frank M., 1st District
Tel: 202-225-2721 Fax: 202-225-2194
Ruppersberger, Dutch, 2nd District
Tel: 202-225-3061 Fax: 202-225-3094
Sarbanes, John P., 3rd District
Tel: 202-225-4016 Fax: 202-225-9219
Van Hollen, Chris, 8th District
Tel: 202-225-5341 Fax: 202-225-0375 ■

Marc Imlay, PhD, is a conservation biologist and the Chair of the Biodiversity and Habitat Stewardship Committee for the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Group News Roundup

Maryland Sierrans Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

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

Anne Arundel Group

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

By David Prosten—The Anne Arundel Group has completed its annual election process. Two new faces joined the Group's Executive Committee: longtime member Carmen Paral and Cool Cities activist Cherie Yelton. Welcome!

The Group's January 30 potluck dinner, featuring Sierra Club President Allison Chin, was postponed because the record-setting blizzard started that day. Having been snowed out, we've rescheduled the potluck dinner for the spring, May 22. Please keep an eye on the Group's website for information about this event.

Our big annual fundraiser, the Earth Day 5K Run and Walk, has been scheduled for Saturday April 4 at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. This fun event is open to all. Check our website for more information.

The Group's Earl Bradley has been in communication with the County on proposed changes in regulations to address requirements of the recently passed State Stormwater Management Act. Bradley says that while the changes are welcome and have the full support of the Maryland Sierra Club, we are urging lawmakers to address a couple of omissions from the requirements.

Catocin Group (Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties)

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

By Dan Andrews—Some Group members are participating in "Waste Not" grassroots monthly meetings in both Frederick and Carroll Counties to oppose the planned Frederick/Carroll WTE (waste-to-energy) incinerator project. In Carroll County, Don West invites speakers to weigh in on alternatives, pros/cons, and to propose strategies. "Frederick Waste Not" is presenting to local groups and actively working to spread the word. A "Waste Not" Expo is planned for May 1 in downtown Frederick. Catocin Group members will be staffing an information table.

Catocin Group Excom member Lew Sherman arranged and helped with a presentation to his Ruritan Club of Mt. Pleasant in Frederick County. Dan Andrews conducted a 1/2 hour presentation on what *not* to recycle and why residents should oppose the proposed WTE incinerator. Lew is working to set up another presentation with the Jefferson Ruritans.

Saw a fat Robin Red Breast in yard today—spring! And with spring come many opportunities for Catocin Group Sierrans to get outdoors and get active.

An early April outing is being planned by Lew Sherman, Brigitte Fortin, and Karen Moody-Springer. They are trying to get the word out to other Catocin Group members via a phone bank. Members are assisting with and plan to staff an information table at the Sustainable Living Fair on May 22 at the Carroll County Farm Museum. Members will also be at information tables at the Boonsboro Greenfest on May 8.

Still in the works is our plan to screen *Coal Country*, a powerful documentary about modern coal mining, at a

local college.

Our Group heard a presentation from a concerned citizen about his concerns regarding a proposed biotech facility near Walkersville, Frederick County. He also presented concerns regarding stream pollution by dairy cows northeast of Walkersville. He claims this is contaminating groundwater as well as the Monocacy River. We are currently reviewing his material.

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

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

Eastern Shore Group (Cecil County and Eastern Shore Counties)

Chair: Don Grace, 410-352-3722, Don.Grace@mdsierra.org

By Don Grace—The most active leaders of the Lower Shore Group in Salisbury, Barb and Lou Rimbach, have been out of action for medical reasons for the past several weeks. This has resulted in confusion on meeting room reservations and rescheduled meetings. The January meeting was cancelled and the February meeting was scheduled for a week later than normal, so we have lost some momentum.

A section of Assateague Island is being recommended by the National Park Service for Wilderness status. The Sierra Club's Wildlands Team and National Parks Team would like to pursue wilderness designation in national parks if the

proper studies have been done and the National Park Service has passed its recommendations on to Congress for legislative action. If there are parks where the Sierra Club supports the recommendations and there are no problems with them, it might be possible to include them in legislation this year. If not, perhaps the required legislation could be introduced in the next Congress. The two National Sierra Club teams want to start this review effort by finding out if the states' Chapters support the National Park Service's recommendations for Wilderness designation.

"Dorchester Citizens for Safe Energy" scheduled a meeting in Dorchester County to discuss six possible routes that the MAPP (Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway) project would take through Dorchester County if that project goes forward.

The Eastern Shore Group of the Sierra Club meets on the third Tuesday of every month at the Wicomico Library, 122 South Division Street in downtown Salisbury. The meetings start at 6:30 p.m. The Group is working on the Sierra Club Cool Cities campaign to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions on the Eastern Shore. For further information, contact Don Grace at Don.Grace@mdsierra.org.

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

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

By Mary Corddry—Celebrate Earth Day April 22 at the Group's potluck social and slide show. Come early and bring a dish to the potluck, then stay and learn how to plant a low maintenance garden to enjoy all year. Kim Barnes, a Master Gardener and member of the Native Plant Society and Wiltondale Garden Club, will give a talk on how to design gardens us-

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Group News Roundup

The Maryland Chapter Groups Working Locally

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ing plants native to Maryland. She will teach how native plants benefit wildlife and habitats, how to work natives into an existing garden, and where to find and buy plants. We will meet from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center in Hunt Valley, west off Shawan Road from the I-83 exit north of Baltimore. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240 if you need further details.

During the early part of December 2009, Deborah Bowers, a Harford County resident, became aware of State Highway Administration (SHA) plans for widening MD Route 24 through Rocks State Park. She set up an ad hoc committee meeting and invited various community and environmental groups, who are unanimously in opposition to the project. The SHA plans do not address the core issue of stream bank erosion needing correction. A publicity committee was formed; a Facebook site was developed; and contacts were made to all Harford County State Delegates, State Senator Glassman, County Executive Craig, and County Council members to request their investigation and position. Within less than two weeks, the Facebook site received in excess of 5,700 comments. Two letters to the editor were printed in the *Harford County Aegis*, and one in the *Baltimore Sun* (January 19, 2009). As a result of these efforts, the SHA is re-evaluating the project, has committed to considering a new range of alternatives based on public comments, and will present its new range of alternatives at a public meeting later (around September) this year.

The Sierra Club will continue working on this issue, as members of the "Save The Rocks" Committee. This will be a continuous, proactive effort until the next SHA presentation, to ensure compliance with all environmental issues and citizen concerns. For further information, visit the Facebook website called "Save The Rocks", contact Deborah Bowers of the

Save The Rocks Committee, or contact our local Sierra Club members serving on the committee, as follows:

- ♦Deborah Bowers – E-Mail: farmlandpres@gmail.com
- ♦Carol Nau – H: 410-692-0610; E-Mail: nau.carol@gmail.com
- ♦Jack Dettner – H: 410-638-1433; E-Mail: jdettner@comcast.net
- ♦Ron Henry – C: 443-474-7449; E-Mail: RonLHenry@msn.com

Baltimore County established the Office of Sustainability in 2008, to oversee the development and implementation of sustainability strategies for County operations and the community at-large. A Sustainability Network (SN)—an advisory committee of citizens, private sector, and County representatives—was tasked to work with the new Office's Director.

A major SN goal is to achieve a 10% greenhouse gas reduction from 2006 levels by 2012, consistent with the State's goal. In June 2009 the work groups reported 121 recommendations, based on which the County recently received a \$7.4 million U.S. Department of Energy (DoE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. This will support development during 2010 of the community-wide sustainability strategy by the SN, County staff, and outside consultants. Input from community groups, conservation organizations, and the business sector will be actively sought.

The Greater Baltimore Group's outings program offers a variety of activities including hikes, kayaking, camping, hayrides, stream cleanups, and tubing. Check the Group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events.

The Group publishes a quarterly newsletter, *The Baltimore Sierran*, which is mailed to members and is available on its web site. Also, the Group now has a Facebook group that you can join at <http://www.facebook.com/>

group.php?gid=76458501970. Facebook will be updated with information about hikes, meetings, and public meetings relevant to the Sierra Club.

Howard County

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

By Ken Clark

Upcoming Events:

Mattawoman Creek Presentation
Friday Apr. 9, 7:15 pm, at HCRP, Howard County Recreation and Parks Headquarters, 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia. Mattawoman Creek is one of the healthiest creeks in the region, but is in danger due to developmental pressures. Come learn why saving this "poster child of the Chesapeake Bay" is one of the Maryland Sierra Club's highest priorities. We cannot save the Chesapeake Bay while paving over the remaining healthy tributaries that nourish the Bay. After seeing this presentation, you can visit the Mattawoman Creek with us on either of two paddle trips, scheduled for Sunday April 11 and Saturday April 24. See our outings schedule. Contact: Ken Clark, kenclark7@comcast.net, or 301-725-3306.

GreenFest 2010

Saturday Apr. 17, 10 am to 4 pm, Howard Community College, Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia. Learn about all things green at the Howard County Government's third annual GreenFest. Meet local vendors and organizations, and attend various presentations. Stay tuned for more information or visit the Howard County GreenFest site at www.howardcountymd.gov/OES/GreenFest.htm. Contact: Lindsay DeMarzo, 410-313-2350.

We are putting together a series of programs on various energy topics for early 2010. Check our web page for details. If you have questions or suggestions,

contact Sue Muller at 301-498-8462 or sonicsue@verizon.net.

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

Montgomery County

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

By David Hauck—Please go to our website at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery> for a calendar of our upcoming events and copies of our recent testimony before and letters to the County Council and Planning Board.

Also, we will be sending out our first e-newsletter soon to all Montgomery County Sierra Club members for whom we have e-mail addresses. If you want to hear about activities and actions of your local Sierra Club, we need to have your email address. You can send it to Hauck_D@msn.com with "e-newsletter" in the subject line.

Sierra Club volunteers in Montgomery County have continued their work on our three priority goals: 1) making future growth in the County "smart" by directing it toward areas well-served by transit and by shifting more of future job growth to the eastern part of the County, in order to help correct the current jobs-housing imbalance, which practically mandates long commutes by car; 2) preserving our natural habitat from threats posed by invasive plants and sprawl development; and, 3) encouraging energy efficiency by County businesses and residents as the most cost-effective way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions responsible for global climate change.

Smart Growth: Because the Montgom-

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Group News Roundup

The Maryland Chapter Groups Working Locally

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ery County Council is now considering whether to adopt major master plan revisions for White Flint and Gaithersburg West (Life Sciences Center)—decisions that will shape the direction of the County's growth for the next 30 years—we have spent a great deal of time in recent months on smart growth issues. We support the plan to create a walkable community of higher density housing, commercial, and office space around the White Flint metro station, provided that new local transit is built that will complement the longer-distance transit provided by the metro. We have made clear that our support is contingent on a carefully planned and enforced staging plan—in other words, if the transit doesn't get built, neither do the new housing and office and commercial buildings. Without more transit, a future White Flint runs the risk of having many more residents, employees, and shoppers competing for space on a road network that will not be able to handle the volume.

The West Gaithersburg plan is in essence a sprawl development masquerading as smart growth. It is located several miles from the closest Metro station and depends on the proposed Corridor Cities Transitway (an unfunded light rail—trolley—system) that would run from the Shady Grove Metro station through the proposed development. Even if it is built, the transitway will at best account for only 10-12 percent of the trips generated by the proposed development. The remaining 90 percent of the trips would be by car and would bring more congestion to I-270 and more pressure to widen that highway. Just as worrisome is the fact that the Montgomery County Planning Department's own projections show that developing Gaithersburg West will reduce future job growth around many metro stations and in the eastern part of the county where jobs are in relatively short supply. (See our testimony at [\[maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery/support_gaithersburg_west.html\]\(http://maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery/support_gaithersburg_west.html\)\)](http://</p></div><div data-bbox=)

An important component of smart growth is expanding the transit system. Since October, the Montgomery County Group has been participating in *Sustainable Metro DC*, a regional Sierra Club committee fighting for environmentally sound development and clean, convenient transportation. The Sierra Club advocates shifting to a more balanced transportation system—connecting vibrant, compact, mixed-use neighborhoods—that respects pedestrians and bicycle users and prioritizes investment in transit.

Coordinated by Phillip Ellis, *Sustainable Metro DC* is working on an array of issues: Metro funding and service, the Region Divided problem, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), an expanded Purple Line, rail on the Woodrow Wilson bridge, and coordination with the Transportation Planning Board. The group—which brings together the Maryland, D.C., and Northern Virginia Chapters of the Sierra Club, as well as the Montgomery County Group—has already been instrumental in convincing the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to add regional balance to its Greater Washington 2050 vision statement, promoting greater environmental justice.

The Region Divided initiative is looking for ways to balance development and job growth throughout the region. Job shortages in Prince George's County and east of the Anacostia result in longer commutes, primarily in one direction. The initiative hopes to revitalize underutilized areas near the urban core.

The BRT initiative is working to develop Bus Rapid Transit policy. Originated in Brazil, BRT brings new users to a high speed, luxury bus network with priority corridors, prepaid fares, and other amenities. Montgomery County is in the initial stages of exploring county-wide BRT, while a wider, regional system is also being studied.

Habitat protection and restoration: We continue our schedule of monthly invasive plant removal events in three County parks. On January 18, our invasive removal event at the Underground Railroad Experience Park was part of the National Day of Service program and attracted 40 hardy volunteers. Be sure to check out the calendar on our website for future events.

Energy efficiency: Our volunteers continue to work with the County's Sustainability Working Group to ensure that the energy efficiency recommendations of the County's Climate Protection Plan actually get implemented. Because these recommendations account for nearly all of the greenhouse gas reductions of the Climate Protection Plan, it is critical that the County create a detailed action plan that spells out the resources and enabling legislation required to make them a reality.

Prince George's County

Chair: Chip Reilly, 301-218-3920, chip.reilly@mdsierra.org

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

By Chip Reilly

Spring Assateague Outing Planned

The Prince George's Group of the Sierra Club is planning to host a weekend outing at Assateague Island in April. The trip will consist of sand-dune camping, an overnight bonfire party, and some paddling in coastal bays guided by the local Coastkeeper. The reasonable trip cost will include transportation, equipment, and rentals. A confirmed date will be announced soon. If you have an interest in the event, please email the Group's Social/Events Chair, Alex Hirtle, at alexhirtle@hotmail.com (please put "Assateague Trip" in the subject line), or leave a message at 301-927-2105.

Group meetings are held on the first Thursday of every other month.

♦6:30-7:30 p.m.—Business meeting of the Executive Committee Sierra Prince George's Group.

♦6:30-7:30 p.m.—Meeting of people interested in the "Cool Cities" initiative, to push the County government and municipalities to take measures to tackle global warming, especially smart and clean energy solutions.

♦7:45 p.m.—Presentation on issues. All welcome.

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Group News Roundup



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P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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The Maryland Chapter Groups Working Locally

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Upcoming meeting:

Thursday, May 6

Location: Kettering Middle School, 65 Herrington Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774-1599 (301) 808-4060

Look for signs directing you to the room. Always check our website for updates at maryland.sierraclub.org/pg/

Note: The Prince George's County Civic Federation meets at 7:30 p.m. on the same day and at the same location, so you may wish to join all or part of their program.

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

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

The Southern Maryland Group remains deeply involved with protecting Mattawoman Creek in Charles County, which the Maryland Chapter selected as a conservation priority for 2010. Despite being declared the nation's fourth most endangered river last April, Mattawoman continues to suffer from Charles County's land use policies. The County is planning the Western Connector, a new divided highway which would plow across the full width of the Mattawoman watershed, as an extension of the County's Cross County Connector.

Outings and Events:

The 10th Annual Earth Day on the Square in Leonardtown: April 18, 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm. Come out of the annual celebration of Earth Day in Leonardtown. This is a really fun family event that should be on everybody's calendar.

Potomac River Swim: June 5, Point Lookout State Park. This is the quintessential fund-raiser for Southern Maryland Group. This annual event raises money for several organizations through pledges taken by the swimmers. We provide the celebratory picnic at the Point Lookout

picnic grounds. It's a day of grilling and chilling with one hundred of your friends. We can always use help with this event. You meet a lot of great people—kayakers, Boston whalers, swimmers, and their families. It's an 8 a.m. scheduled start, so the earliest we will see swimmers will be 10:30 or 11:00 a.m. Please contact Bob at 443 404-5549 if you are interested in details.

The Group publishes a quarterly newsletter, *News from Southern Maryland*. Check the Group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events. Monthly invasive plant removals are scheduled for the 800-acre Chapman Forest and 200-acre Ruth Swann Park in Charles County.

Western Maryland (Allegany and Garrett Counties)

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

By Sam White—The Western Maryland Group is assisting in a local food initiative. A group of consumers and produc-

ers is actively pursuing a venue to sell local food year round. Educating the public on the economic and environmental benefits of local food will be focused upon. The Group is also seeking volunteers to lead outings or to serve on the Group Ex-Com. For more information, please contact Sam White at 301-264-4162 or cedarrockcsa@yahoo.com.

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

Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.

—Rachel Carson

We're looking for an EDITOR



If you are an experienced editor and a diplomatic wordsmith, with good organizational skills and a commitment to environmental advocacy, here's a volunteer opportunity that may be just what you're looking for: managing editor of this newsletter.

As the leader of our editorial team, you'll work with our chapter leaders and other members whose articles, essays, and notices fill our

pages. You'll solicit, review and circulate articles, develop story ideas, and assign the articles to our editors, who will work with the authors to get the articles ready for publication. Then you'll coordinate with the publication designer, who'll put the newsletter together for printing. You can do this work from home.

Interested? Have questions that might help you get interested? Email Darla at Darla2L@mdsierra.org. Thanks!

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Thanks for reading

Chesapeake!

Habitat Preservation and Invasive Plant Removal Outings

Please contact each event leader to confirm details and RSVP.

Anne Arundel County

Fort Meade Army Installation

Anyone welcome!

When: 2nd Sat monthly starting in spring

Time: 10 a.m. (flexible for groups)

Details: People of all ages, backgrounds and interests are invited to spend a few hours outdoors, hand-pulling some non-native plants while learning about the differences between native and non-native invasive plants and how these invasives adversely impact our natural ecosystem. Short training session on identification, and control techniques of non-native invasive plants then help remove Japanese stilt grass, English ivy, garlic mustard, tree of heaven, multi-flora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, common privet, phragmites, Asiatic tearthumb. Bring hand tools, gloves, lunch & water, long sleeves & pants. Directions: 295 BW Prkwy to Rt 175 East, right on Reece Rd to entrance, immediate left on Ernie Pyle St, ~1 mile to left on Llewellyn Ave, right on Chisholm Ave, left on 3rd St, right on Ross Rd, Environmental Division Office is 2nd building on right. RSVP: Mick Butler Installation Forester 301-677-9188 contact 3 days ahead. List of names to be provided to guard at entrance prior to ensure access on to post.

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Lothian

When: Sat Mar 27 and ongoing 10a.m. – 3 p.m.

Description: Spring Stewardship Day! Jug Bay has over 1500 acres of wetlands, upland forests, meadows, and streams. Stewardship means taking care of the land we all share. Join our team to remove the non-native invasive plants from our forests before they

spread and threaten the special habitats and rare plants found on the Sanctuary. Pick up trash that has floated into the marsh, pull invasive weeds, and maintain native plant gardens. Please wear work clothes (long sleeves, boots.) Bring work gloves, bag lunch, clothing change and towel. Ages 6 yrs min. Scout and community groups welcome. Sign up for a.m., p.m., or both. Directions: 1361 Wrighton Rd. Lothian, MD 20711. Call 410-741-9330 www.jugbay.org RSVP: Lindsay Hollister & Elaine Friebele 410-741-9330 lindsay@jugbay.org. Ongoing: To adopt your very own plot to monitor, map and manage invasives during the year contact: Lindsey 410-741-9330, rpholl27@aacounty.org

Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract Visitor Contact Station

When: Weds Apr 24, 1–3 p.m. Earth Day Weed Warriors kick-off May 19, 1–3 p.m., June 9, June 16, July 21, Aug 4 9–12 noon National Wildlife Visitor Center July 7, 9–12 noon Description: Patuxent Research Refuge, established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936, was America's first and only refuge devoted "to help protect and conserve the nation's wildlife and habitat through research on critical environmental problems and issues." Its 12,750 acres of forest, meadow, and wetland habitats are managed to promote biological diversity and protection of native and migratory bird species.

Non-native invasive plants are threatening our wildlife habitat. We need YOU to help stop them. Come out for one of our "Weed Warriors Days" for a short educational briefing about effects of invasive plants on wildlife and habitats and how to

identify and control them then help us treat garlic mustard, mile-a-minute, Japanese stiltgrass and other non-native plant infestations on the refuge. All ages and abilities welcome. Wear long sleeves and pants and bring gloves. Directions—North Tract Visitor Contact Station: I-295, exit MD-Route 198 towards Fort Meade. Approx 1.5 miles turn right on Bald Eagle Dr between Glory Days Auto Salvage & baseball fields. Proceed through gate and continue about 1/2 mile. Directions—National Wildlife Visitor Center: off Powder Mill Rd between MD Rt 197 and the BaltWash Pkwy, south of Laurel RSVP: 301-497-5887 / INFO: Christopher Wicker, Wildlife Biologist 301-497-5763 www.patuxent.fws.gov

Baltimore County Cromwell Valley Park

Park Habitat Restoration Team

When: 2nd Sat monthly 9–12 noon.

Rain date following day.

8–11 a.m. in July, Aug & Sept to avoid the heat.

Description: Cromwell Valley Park is a wonderful rural park just outside the Beltway on Cromwell Bridge Road.

Our Habitat Restoration Team has a tough ongoing assignment to eliminate non-native invasives from this scenic park, and we need all the help we can get. We have tackled multiflora rose, Japanese barberry, kudzu, garlic mustard, mile a minute, porcelain berry, oriental bittersweet and many others.

The areas we have worked on in recent years, Beehive Woods and Dogwood Hill are looking much better, free of major invasives, with new trees and shrubs gaining a foothold. A new installation of a deer exclusion fence last year demonstrates effects of excessive deer browsing in forests. There is still lots to do. Tools and refreshments are provided. Wear suitable protective

clothing.

RSVP Carl Koprowicz:

birders1@netzero.com Park office: 410-887-2503

info@cromwellvalleypark.org www.cromwellvalleypark.org Trail maintenance: cvpark@bcpl.net

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

When: check www.gunpowderfalls.org Description: Tree Maintenance Volunteers Needed! Seeking volunteers, ages 12 and up, to adopt a tree planting site or help on tree maintenance days this spring. Become a tree steward. Help maintain some of our 4,000 trees planted in the last 2 years. Invasive plants surrounding the trees must be removed, stakes and shelters secured, dead trees marked, and watering done. RSVP: Peggy Perry, Program Director 410-668-0118 pperry@gunpowderfalls.org

Patapsco Valley State Park, Halethorpe, MD

Friends of Patapsco Valley & Heritage Greenway, Inc.

When: Sun May 2 2010 RAIN OR SHINE 12:30–4:30p.m.

Description: 11th Annual Garlic Mustard Challenge!! A popular annual family-oriented event. After two hours of pulling Garlic Mustard enjoy live music, games, environmental displays, and a cooking contest! Prizes for a taste testing of garlic mustard side dishes and a poster contest for local school-age children!

Located in the park's Avalon Area, Pavilion 104.

RSVP: Betsy McMillon patapscofriend@gmail.com 410.480.0824

Additional PHG-sponsored volunteer event dates and locations may be scheduled depending on group re-

continued ➞

Stewardship

Habitat Preservation and Invasive Plant Removal Outings

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quests, number of available volunteers and compatible dates and times.

Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park

When: Ongoing

Description: Please join the Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park at the Avalon area to eradicate invasive vines. This is the worst place in the park for non-native vines. They have killed or broken many trees in that area, so we need lots of help. Wear long clothes and bring gloves as there is some poison ivy. Bring hand pruners and loppers and two-handed cutters for larger vines.

www.fpvsp.org

Directions: Meet at Avalon contact station. I-95 to I-195 east to Rt. 1 toward Elkridge. Immediate Right on South St. Entrance on left. 1/2 mile to contact station.

Contact: Jim Palmer

J.G.Palmer@jhuapl.edu 410-948-4796

www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/patapscovolunteer.html

Prettyboy Reservoir

Sierra Club Greater Baltimore Group

When: Ongoing

Description: For those who love hiking and animal-watching, Prettyboy Reservoir provides habitat for a variety of forest wildlife species, including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, rabbit, squirrel, and songbirds. Meet for a couple hours of cutting invasive vines along the CCC fireroads at Prettyboy Reservoir. Clippers, loppers, hand saws, and gloves will be available, or you may bring your own.

Directions: Meet at the parking lot on Tracey Store Rd. Reach Tracey Store Rd. by getting off I-83 north at the Mt. Carmel Rd. exit and heading west. Turn right on Pretty Boy Dam Rd. Turn left on Tracey Store Rd. After passing a Prettyboy Reservoir sign and a couple fireroads on the right and

crossing a creek, park in the dirt parking lot on the right side of the road.

Contact: Mary 443-386-0862c 410-239-4590h XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com

Baltimore City

Herring Run Watershed Association

When: Ongoing. Calendar at

www.herringrun.org

Description: Work in city parks removing multi-flora rose, honeysuckle, English ivy, Japanese knotweed, Oriental bittersweet & more! Join regular weed pull parties using shears, loppers, pick mattocks, and good 'ole muscles. Bring: water, durable clothes w/long sleeves, boots, & sunscreen.

Where: Parks throughout Herring Run watershed. www.herringrun.org

RSVP: Ashley Traut, Community Outreach Manager, 410-254-1577 ext 103, atraut@herringrun.org

Meadowood Park, Druid Hill Park, Stony Run Park, Western Run Park and Wyman Park

Jones Falls Watershed Association

When: 2nd Sat monthly: 9:00a.m., Mar 6 Stream Waders Training w/MD DNR, Apr 3, Apr 10, Apr 17, Apr 22, Apr 24, May 1, May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug 14, Sept 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11, 9:00a.m.

Description: Join the JFWA for a family friendly restoration project tree planting, site preparation, clean stream, or stream waders in a city or county park. Where: county and city parks. Invasive plant removals at Meadowood Park just outside the Baltimore Beltway on Falls Road at Stony Run Park.

RSVP: Nicole Angeli

nangeli@jonesfalls.org

sgreene@jonesfalls.org

410-366-3036 www.jonesfalls.org

Calvert County

American Chestnut Land Trust, Port Republic

When: Wed Oct-April 10-12noon, May-Sept 9-11a.m., Sat Mar 27, Apr 17, May 22, June 19, July 24, Sept. 18, Oct. 30; 9a.m.- 12 noon. Full invasive training program August 14.

Description: Join us for our extensive Non-Native Invasive Plant Removal program in one of the last pristine watersheds on the Western Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Work as a team or individually; includes training, tools, water, and gloves.

RSVP: Liz Stoffel, Land Manager 410-414-3400 land@acltweb.org

Hellen Creek Forest and Wildlife Preserve, Lusby

Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust

When: Sun Apr 11th, 1 - 3 p.m. and ongoing

Description: Spring Cleanup Workday at Hellen Creek. Join us for a quick tour of the preserve before we get busy on invasive removal and habitat restoration. Learn how you can improve your own backyard to make it friendlier to the environment and take a native plant home for your garden.

Hellen Creek Forest and Wildlife Preserve is 50 acres of stream and ravine along Hellen Creek. We have over 25 species of trees including hemlocks and are adjacent to TNC's Hemlock Preserve. Wear sturdy clothes and shoes for invasive plant removal and native wildflower plantings. We will have gloves and tools and refreshments. Directions: 11785 Clifton Drive Lusby MD 20657 Take Coster Road less than 1 mile to Clifton Drive on the right. Follow this to the driveway on the left with the number 11875 posted. Follow to the end where you will see our sign. RSVP: Bob Boxwell, Executive Director, 410-610-5124

bobboxwell@hotmail.com

Caroline County

Adkins Arboretum, Ridgely

When: Ongoing starting May.

Description: Gardeners often unknowingly harbor serious invasive plants in their backyards, or aren't sure what to replace them with. Adkins Arboretum trains volunteers to assist staff in removing invasive non-natives on the Arboretum's 400-acre site. Workdays are flexible. Participants learn how using native plants to replace invasive plants can offer benefits from attracting more butterflies and birds to reducing the spread of invaders in their neighborhood and how gardens can reflect their native landscapes instead as well as being ornamental..

Directions: www.adkinsarboretum.org

RSVP: Sue Wyndham

swyndham@adkinsarboretum.org 410-

634-2847(x24) Eleanor Altman

ealtman@adkinsarboretum.org

Charles County

Chapman Forest and Ruth Swann Park

Maryland Native Plant Society and Sierra Club

When: 1st Sun and 2nd Sat, monthly, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

There are about 3,000 native plant species in Maryland, with 800 at Chapman Forest and contiguous Swann Park, 49 of which are endangered. Remove invasive non-natives from the 200-acre Swann Park and 800-acre portion of Chapman Forest designated Chapman State Park. There will be time for plant identification and a beautiful beach lunch. Learn about best season for species, wet soil condition for pulling, extent of area of natives seen rescued, delayed gratification, targeted use of herbicides, and matching funds for staff to do what volunteers find hard to do.

Non-native invasive plant removal will

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reach the maintenance phase following a major work effort at each site in the Mid-Atlantic region and around the world. It will take about 5-7 years to remove the massive populations of species. Regular stewardship projects are conducted in all seasons including winter, early spring, late spring, summer, and late summer. This high-intensity program will be followed by a low-intensity annual maintenance program for plants we have missed, plants emerging from the seed bank, and occasional plants migrating in from neighboring areas. Casual clothing, long sleeves and pants, sturdy comfortable walking boots/shoes, gloves are encouraged for these events.

Info & map <http://www.chapmanforest.org> & www.mattawomanwatershedsociety.org
Directions: First Sun., meet main gate Chapman Forest State Park/ Mt Aventine / Glendening Natural Enviro Area. DC I495 beltway to Indian Head Hwy (MD 210) south toward Indian Head (VA Exit 2 or MD Exit 3A). 14 miles cross MD 227 light (town Bryans Road). Approx. 1.1 mi veer right on Chapmans Landing Rd. 1.6 miles white gate on right Mount Aventine/ Chapman Forest State Park.
CARPOOL: Sierra Club College Park office 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. RSVP Laurel Imlay 301-277-7111.

Directions: Ruth B. Swann Park Sat after 1st Sun. 10a.m. -4p.m. Meet: Ruth B Swann Park—Potomac Branch Library parking lot, 20 miles south of DC Beltway (I-495) on Rt. 210 (Indian Head Hwy), approx 1.5 mi south of traffic light on Rt. 210 in Bryans Road. RSVP: Marc Imlay 301-283-0808h 301-442-5657c

Garrett County

Savage River State Forest—Bear Pen Wildlands, Grantsville

Savage River Watershed Association
When: Thurs Apr 29 & Fri May 7, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Description: Battling Botanical Bullies Adult volunteers are needed to continue control efforts of Japanese spiraea in the Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Forest. Bear Pen is designated as a Type 1 Wildland, and like other natural areas around the state, is threatened by a variety of exotic invasive species. Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist with the Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service, provides technical support. Wade Dorsey, Savage River State Forest acting manager, provides work tools. Mary Ironside, Big Run & New Germany State Park manager, provides free camping the night before for any out-of-town volunteers. The Savage River Watershed Association coordinates the project and provides snacks and drinks for volunteers. Join us!
Directions: Elk Ridge Native Plant Preserve, 283 Elk Ridge Lane, Grantsville, MD 21536
RSVP: Liz McDowell or Ron Boyer at SRWAcordinator@gmail.com, or 301-895-3686.

Harford County Otter Point Creek

Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, Abingdon
Become an "INVASINATOR!" Volunteer to join the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center in removing invasive plants and restoring native plants.
When: Sat. Apr 25, 10:30a.m.-12:30p.m.; Sat. May 23, 1p.m.-3p.m. and ongoing
Description: Enjoy pink lady slippers and native orchids in upland and wooded swamp. Learn why non-native invasive plants are a threat to our ecosystem, how to identify problem plants, and removal and restoration

strategies. Wear sturdy shoes, long sleeves, and work gloves for fieldwork in the Reserve each meeting date. Participants receive an "Invasinators" T-shirt after attending two work days.
Location: 700 Otter Point Road, Abingdon, MD 21009
Registration: 410-612-1688 or www.otterpointcreek.org

Howard County

(See also Fort Meade Army Installation listed Anne Arundel Co)

The Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA)

1,021 acres established in 1996 contains upland and bottomland hardwood forest, fields, wetlands, ponds, and riparian habitats. Mission includes natural resource management, education, research and recreation. The Conservation Stewardship Project, a joint program of Howard County Recr & Parks and the Howard Co Master Gardeners, targets invasive, exotic species in the Middle Patuxent Enviro Area. Volunteer work dates occur monthly Mar - Nov, skipping July and Aug.

Descriptions:

Apr 27: Spring ephemeral spree & Garlic mustard removal
Meet South Wind Cir. Virginia bluebells may be blooming and many other spring ephemeral plants will be identified and discussed during wooded walk to uproot garlic mustard. Conclude at verdant spot where Cricket Creek flows into the Middle Patuxent. Prepare for vigorous removal though we see less mustard each year.

May 25: Alder Addition & Invasive Subtraction
Meet Trotter Rd. If we've got 'em, we'll plant 'em: Native alders survive well in the seep area, where volunteers have

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



VOLUNTEER with US!

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

Name _____
Address _____
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, #101A
College Park, MD 20740

Stewardship

Habitat Preservation and Invasive Plant Removal Outings

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contributed so much work already. We may plant alder shrubs all morning or dig up recurring nemesis, *Berberis thunbergii*, a.k.a. Japanese barberry.

June 22: Menacing the Mile-a-minute Meet on Trotter Rd. Non-native, invasive plants are a real threat to our habitat restoration efforts. Mile-a-minute vine is the worst offender on trails and in meadows in the Woodcock Habitat Management Area. Assist in removing vines from meadows. Learn about meadow flowers or visit test sites for biological control of Mile-a-minute vine.

Sept 28: Vine Trimming & Monarch Activities

Meet on Trotter Rd: Invasive plants impinge on native woody plants in wildlife meadows and on early successional habitat maintenance goals. Remove invasive vines from mature native plants and deer shelters. Learn about monarch butterflies. See butterfly capture, tagging, and release.

Directions: Meet Trotter Rd parking Area. Entrance to MPEA –US 29 to 32 west to the Great Star Dr. exit. Right on Great Star Dr., Right on Summer Sunrise. Left at Trotter Rd. 1 mile to parking area on right just past small traffic circle. OR US 29 to 108 west past Centennial Lane. Pass Harpers Farm Rd. Left on Trotter Rd. Parking area on left just before small traffic circle.

South Wind Circle Entrance to MPEA -Rt 29 to Rt 108W towards Clarksville OR Rt 32 to Rt 108E. Turn on Trotter Rd to South Wind Cir ~1 mile. Enter circle and go to trailhead on left (opposite Misty Top Path).

RSVP Master Gardeners: Aylene Gard at 410- 992-9889, Carol Filipczak at

cfilipczak@comcast.net, Jeff Claffy, Assist Natural Resources Manager, MPEA 410-313-6209
jclaffy@howardcountymd.gov

Kent County

Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, Rock Hall

When: ongoing

Details: Welcome to Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge at the confluence of the Chester River and the Chesapeake Bay on Maryland's Eastern Shore. This 2,285-acre island refuge is a major feeding and resting place for migrating and wintering waterfowl. More than 100,000 ducks, geese and swans seek sanctuary here each year, as do migrating and breeding songbirds and shorebirds, and bald eagles thrive here year-round. Join interpretive programs and hikes at this wetland site known for rare plant life, a variety of carnivorous plants, rare and threatened species.

Wineberries with garlic mustard: a new type of exotic fruit salad? Not quite. These are two invasive plant species that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would like help removing. Garlic mustard is a recently arrived invasive species; its removal is a management priority, and we pull it by hand.

Wineberry is a raspberry-like plant whose fruit begins to ripen between June and July, and it is removed with spading forks. Wear high boots for ticks, DEET bug repellent, hat and gloves

Where: 1730 Eastern Neck Road, Rock Hall, MD

RSVP: Rachel 410-639-2108

Montgomery County

Blue Mash Nature Trail, Laytonsville, MD

Montgomery County Sierra Club

When: 4th Sun monthly, 7:30a.m.-

9:00a.m. (bird walk, Mar-May), 9a.m.-11 a.m. (invasive removal, Mar-Nov)
Description: Bird Walk and Invasive Plant Removal. Join us for a beginners bird walk (March-May) and invasive plant removal. Diverse habitats surrounding the closed Oaks Landfill attract birds and wildlife. Bird diversity has dropped off recently due to invasive non-native plants. We are partnering with the Department of Environmental Protection and Montgomery Co. Bird Club to observe the relationship between bird diversity and habitat, remove invasive plants and return the area to a birding hot spot. Bring clippers, saws, loppers, long sleeves & pants, walking shoes or boots, hat, water, gloves. Binoculars recommended. Directions: north on Georgia Ave. through Olney & Brookeville. Left on Brookeville Rd. Right on Zion Rd. Meet at Zion Road park entrance on left 1/2 mile from Brookeville Rd at 20500 Zion Rd before Riggs. Trail map www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/ParkTrails/trails_MAPS/blue_mash.shtm
www.maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery/calendar.html
RSVP Mimi Abdu
mimi.abdu@maryland.sierraclub.org
301-919-6060.

Brookside Gardens

Weed Warriors are needed for the forested areas surrounding the gardens. You will be given directions so that you may work independently, weekends or weekdays, on your own schedule. Contact: Stacy Parsons 301-962-1417 or stacy.parsons@mncppc-mc.org. Websites: www.BrooksideGardens.org and/or www.MC-MNCPPEC.org/environment/weed_warriors/intro.shtm

Montgomery County Parks

Help us by becoming a Weed Warrior! Volunteers are needed to help remove

non-native invasive plant species from M-NCPPC parks in Montgomery County. Become a Certified Weed Warrior by completing a one-hour online course and a two-hour field training session with forest ecologist, Carole Bergmann. Learn identification, removal techniques, and control strategies for the most harmful invasive plants species. Certified Weed Warriors can then work at their own pace and choose a schedule that best suits them, or join group projects. Special Project Weed Warriors enables community groups (e.g., schools, workplaces, church or synagogues, or community associations) to learn weed ID and removal on the spot, and then spend a couple of hours tackling invasive vines, shrubs, and herbaceous plants on county parkland.

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

The Potomac Gorge

Invasive Plant Control Workdays in The Potomac Gorge, ongoing
The Nature Conservancy

When: ongoing www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/maryland/events/

Details: Help protect native plant biodiversity near DC in partnership with the National Park Service, removing invasive plants in the Potomac Gorge. This 15-mile stretch of river valley, between Great Falls and Georgetown, is home to over 200 rare plants and five globally rare plant communities. Sign up for a variety of workdays, where we cut or pull some of the most problematic weeds, often in scenic areas. Attend Weed Warrior training sessions to learn 13 non-native plant species. You may opt to adopt an

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Stewardship

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area and work independently in the National Parks in the Potomac Gorge. Contact: Mary Travaglini, Habitat Restoration Manager. To sign up a school or group for a workday, call 301-897-8570 x210
PotomacGorgeVol@tnc.org

Rock Creek Park, Chevy Chase

Montgomery County Group of the Sierra Club and County Parks

When: 1st Sat monthly (Apr-Oct), 10a.m.-12p.m.

Description: Montgomery County Parks and Planning Commission plan to put in a wildflower meadow and reforest a 50-foot stream-side buffer. First they need volunteers to remove resprouting stumps and seedlings. Bring clippers, saws and/or loppers, long sleeves & pants, gloves, hat, walking shoes or boots, insect repellent, sunscreen, and water.

Directions: I-495 to Connecticut Ave exit South towards D.C. ~1 mile left on East West Hwy. Right on Beech Dr. Meet at the parking lot by soccer field at intersection of Beech Dr & East West Hwy. Map:

www.maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery/calendar.html

RSVP Jeremy Arling
jeremy.arling@maryland.sierraclub.org
240-398-3635.

Rock Creek National Park

Friends of Rock Creek's Environment
When: Apr 10th and Ongoing. Check web site for new events.

Description: Friends of Rock Creek's Environment is off to a great new year! Volunteers came out in force on warm, sunny Martin Luther King Day. 100 people cut and sawed invasive English ivy from trees along Normanstone Creek, a tributary of Rock Creek flowing near Mass Ave in DC. Thirty more people hauled trash

from Turkey Branch, a tributary of Rock Creek in the Aspen Hill neighborhood of Montgomery County. You, too, can take steps to help protect Rock Creek. We are now gearing up for the Rock Creek EXTREME Cleanup, where we expect over 50 trash and invasive cleanups to span the length of Rock Creek.

Contact: Beth Mullin
friendsofrockcreek.org

Underground Railroad Experience Trail, Sandy Spring

Montgomery County Group of the Sierra Club and Montgomery County Parks

When: 2nd Sat monthly, 10a.m.-12p.m.

Description: We are partnering with Montgomery County Parks to remove non-native invasive plant species, restore native plant communities, and create a living history museum where people can learn fascinating stories of those who escaped slavery and the people who helped. Bring clippers, saws and/or loppers, long sleeves & pants, gloves, hat, walking shoes or boots, insect repellent, sunscreen, and water.

Directions: Rt. 28E (Norbeck Rd) across Georgia Ave. Left on Layhill Rd. At intersection of Norwood and Ednor Rds. Left on Norwood. First driveway on right to Woodlawn at 16501 Norwood Rd. Meet at parking lot near picnic tables. Trail map
www.maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery/calendar.html
www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/ParkTrails/trails_MAPS/Rural_legacy.shtm.
RSVP Jeremy Arling
jeremy.arling@maryland.sierraclub.org
240-398-3635.

Woodend Nature Sanctuary, Audubon Naturalist Society, Chevy Chase

When: Sat 9:30 - 12:00 variably

Description: Woodend Sanctuary is a 40-acre oasis in the middle of Chevy Chase bordering Rock Creek Park, with mature woods and meadows, a pond, and an intermittent stream with habitat for birds, insects, deer, rabbits, and foxes. We need your help to remove invasive non-native plants! Join us for group work sessions where training will be provided and trained volunteers may also be authorized to work independently.

Where: 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

RSVP: Liz Jones, Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@audubonnaturalist.org,
301-652-9188 x 30

Prince George's County

(See also Fort Meade Army Installation & Patuxent Research Refuge under Anne Arundel Co)

Belt Woods, Bowie

When: Ongoing Sat, Sun, and occasional mid-week

Description: Invasive species workgroup teams remove creeping euonymus, Japanese honeysuckle, winged burning bush, multiflora rose, oriental bittersweet, Japanese Stiltgrass, and garlic mustard from mature forest with giant trees. Tools and gloves provided, but bring your own favorite tool or pair of gloves. Groups invited. RSVP pamelakcooper@verizon.net
301-390-0797

Lower Beaverdam Creek, Woodworth Park, Cheverly

Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek
When: last Sat monthly Mar-June, 9a.m. to 12 noon

Description: Fifteen-acre wooded buffer wedged between a residential neighbor-

hood and Rt. 50 is slowly returning to its natural state, thanks to the Friends of Lower Beaver Dam Creek. The group landscaped steps into a small hill that leads to an inviting trail that volunteers have blazed along a shallow winding creek. The creek divides the park in two and eventually feeds a tributary of the Anacostia River. The reclaimed land has a peaceful resonance. Trees stand out. Space, depth and light are abundant. Smaller trees such as sassafras, hickory, hornbeam and a dogwood—discovered on a hillside after the thickets were cleared—are labeled. The forest returned to its rightful winter hues—brown, black and gray. Help remove invasives and plant natives to rescue the most polluted stream in the Anacostia Watershed. Tools provided. Wear work gloves and sturdy shoes.

Directions: Meet at Woodworth Park on Wayne Place in Cheverly. (Occasional change in location to Euclid Park and Magruder Springs.) 202 East under the BW pkwy. Go one block, turn right on Cheverly. Go one mile, turn left on Forest Rd. Go two blocks pass church on left. Turn right on Parkway. Go 2 blocks. Turn left on Wayne for one block. Meet by small playground. RSVP: Dan or Cathy Smith 301-386-4394, Gabe Horchler ghor@loc.gov, or Elaine Friebele 301-341-5722

Greenbelt

Greenbelt Homes Inc Housing Cooperative, Greenbelt

When: 3rd Wed monthly

Description: With ~100 acres of stewardship forest and wooded parcels in Old Greenbelt, the Woodlands Committee is actively involved with urban forestry management. Regular outings on 3rd Wednesdays include removal/eradication of non-native invasive plant species, tree plantings,

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Stewardship

Habitat Preservation and Invasive Plant Removal Outings

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bird counts, native landscaping seminars and guided hikes.
RSVP: Matt Berres Manager, Maintenance Operations 301-474-4161x132
www.ghi.coop/Woodlands/index.htm
mberres@ghi.coop

Greenbelt National Park, Greenbelt
When: 1st Sat monthly, 11a.m.-3p.m.
Description: Greenbelt Park, just 12 miles from Washington DC, is a beloved retreat from the city and important refuge for native plants and animals. Come join us to defend Greenbelt Park from alien invasive weeds. Volunteers hand-pull harmful non-native plants such as Japanese honeysuckle, beefsteak mint, mile-a-minute weed and garlic mustard. People of all ages, backgrounds and interests are invited to spend a fun day outdoors learning about native and non-native plants and helping preserve the health of native wildlife. Bring: lunch, drink, work gloves, and dress for weather.
Directions: From I-495 to Kenilworth Ave south, ~1/4 mile exit on Greenbelt Rd (MD Rt 193) east (a left to go over Kenilworth) to park entrance on right 6565 Greenbelt Road. From US Rt 1, Greenbelt Rd east past Beltway Plaza shopping center cross Kenilworth Ave. a few hundred yards right at entrance. Meet at Sweetgum picnic area.
RSVP: Tom Crone tomnjan@erols.com 301-864-1959, 202-7462228c or www.nps.gov/gree 301-344-3944.

Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center, Accokeek

When: Apr 17
Description: The Earth Day Network Invasive Plant Removal hike on trails through the diverse ecosystems of the Accokeek Creek and Potomac River watersheds focuses on plants and animals that live there, the interdependence of organisms in food webs,

natural cycles, and each person's connection to the environment.
RSVP: Karen Jensen Miles, 301-292-5665 kmiles@fergusonfoundation.org

Suitland Bog

M-NCPPC Park Rangers

When: Ongoing

Description: Come learn about and help preserve unique rare magnolia bog habitat. Manual removal of honeysuckle and multiflora rose using shovels, pruners and perseverance. Bring: water, work boots, durable clothes, long sleeves, gloves, pruners, and shovels. Light refreshments provided. There is some poison ivy at work site.

Directions: From I-495, Exit 7A Branch Ave Rt 5 south toward Waldorf. Allentown Rd Exit. Left on Allentown Rd. At 6th light left on Suitland Rd. Pass under Suitland Pkwy. Entrance to Suitland Bog on right. Meet in parking lot.
RSVP: Chris Garrett or John Dillon M-NCPPC Park Ranger Office 301-627-7755

Indian Creek Trail @ Lake Artemesia, Berwyn Hgts

Dates: Ongoing.

Description: Garlic Mustard Pull-off at Lake Artemesia/National Area Park, by 38-acre lake. Beautiful park includes aquatic garden, handicapped-accessible fishing pier, and over two miles of hiking-biking trails. Teams compete to remove garlic mustard, a non-native invasive weed. Prizes to winning team for largest amount pulled in a given area and time. Bring: water, work boots, durable clothes, long sleeves, gloves, pruners, and shovels. Light refreshments provided. There is some poison ivy at work site.

Directions: Meet in Lake Artemesia parking lot along Berwyn Rd in College Park. Park in lot at Osage St and

Swathmore Ct in Berwyn Hgts (easy walk) or access via trails at 5200 block of Calvert Rd. in College Pk.
RSVP: Chris Garrett or John Dillon M-NCPPC Park Ranger Office 301-627-7755.

Little Paint Branch & Cherry Hill Road Community Parks, Beltsville

When: Last Sat monthly, 11a.m. – 3p.m..

Description: Maryland Native Plant Society, Sierra Club, and Anacostia Watershed Society co-sponsor monthly projects at Little Paint Branch Park (150 acres), Cherry Hill Rd Community Park (15 acres) in Beltsville and Magruder Park in Hyattsville MD (15 acres) with MNCPPC and City of Hyattsville.

Native plants to enjoy and protect at Little Paint Branch Park identified by Joe Metzger, April 10, 2006 include: jack in the pulpit, white wood aster, spring beauty, trout lily, strawberry bush, American holly, spotted touch-me-not (jewel weed), eastern grasswort, woodrush, flat tree club moss, partridge-berry, cinnamon fern, dwarf ginseng, Virginia knotweed, cinquefoil, cursed crowfoot, buttercup, dewberry, black raspberry, elderberry, Solomon's seal, goldenrod, skunk cabbage, meadow-rue, New York fern, crane fly orchid, low blueberry, possumhaw, common blue violet, and netted chain fern.

Our objective is to remove the invasives to allow natives to grow back. We continue the wonderful progress accomplished the last three years by volunteers at Little Paint Branch Community Park. Learn natural history and special features of the park, methods and reasons for the project to control the spread of invasives. Native flowers and plants will be identified as we work to rescue them. There are full indoor toilet facilities and a large

seating area for lunch. There will be a sign-in and safety orientation with handouts. Gloves and tools are provided.

Directions: DC Beltway to US Rt. 1 north, pass BARC, ~ 1 mile left at light on Montgomery Rd, 3 blocks left on Sellman Rd, ~5 blocks, at the bottom of the hill right into Little Paint Branch Park. Meet at Beltsville Community Center parking lot.

RSVP: Marc Imlay

marc@anacostiaaws.org 301-699-6204w 301-283-0808h 301-442-5657c on day of event.

Magruder Park, Hyattsville

Friends of Magruder Woods

When: 3rd Sat monthly, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Description: Volunteer in a popular urban park to save native plants including aster, blackberry, pokeberry, tulip popular, sweetgum, sycamore, skunk cabbage, American grape, American beech, and silver maple in the woodlands and forested swamp.
Directions: From UMCP take Adelphi Rd to intersection with East West Highway (Rt. 410) turn soft right on Queens Chapel Rd. Left on Hamilton. Pass Safeway on right, pass 38th street, turn right into park. Meet at furthest end of parking lot. Approx 10 block walk West Hyattsville Metro Green Line.

RSVP: Colleen Aistis 301-779-0245

Watkins Regional Park, Upper Marlboro

Weed Warrior Work Day MNCPPC
When: Ongoing.

Description: Watkins Regional Park with 850 acres offers all kinds of outdoor adventures with Nature Center, Carousel, Old MD Farm, miniature train, mini-golf, camping, picnic areas, playgrounds, and miles of

continued ➞

Stewardship

Habitat Preservation and Invasive Plant Removal Outings

← continued

hiker/biker trails through deciduous forest. Help pull up garlic mustard! Bring water, work boots, durable clothes, long sleeves and gloves. Light refreshments provided. Some poison ivy at work site.

Directions: Meet at Watkins Nature Center parking lot. 1 mile west of Six Flags park. I-495 Exit 15A Central Ave east, ~3 miles right on Watkins Park Dr (Rt 193), park entrance on right. Or Rt 301 to Central Ave (Rt 214) west, ~3 miles (past Six Flags) left on Watkins Park Dr.

Contact: John Dillon or Chris Garrett
M-NCPPC Park Rangers 301-627-7755

St. Mary's County

(See Hellen Creek Preserve under Calvert County)

Warren County, VA

Appalachian Trail trailhead at VA-638 (Fiery Run Rd) near Linden, VA

When: Apr 17 and Apr 24 ongoing summer and fall

Description: Join other volunteers to remove non-native invasive plants from along the Appalachian Trail and protect bird habitat. This spring event focuses on early non-natives to improve bird habitat of the Upper Blue Ridge Important Bird Area, designation of National Audubon Society of Virginia. Targeted plants include garlic mustard which is lethal to West Virginia white butterfly. Wear long sleeves, long pants, shoes and socks. Bring water and lunch. Work gloves provided. Min. age 8 years and in the close oversight of parents or leaders. May adopt your very own area along the Trail to monitor, map and manage!

Contact: James Åkerson, 540-999-3500 x 3496; james_akerson@nps.gov ■

Hiking Through History

Experiencing History First Hand



By Michael Darzi—The C&O Canal is an historic and natural treasure that winds 184 miles along one of the most beautiful urban rivers in the world. It was constructed in the first half of the nineteenth century, intended as a way to move merchandise cheaply to and from the major ports of Alexandria and Georgetown, through the Potomac River Valley, all the way to the Ohio River—over 300 miles. Although construction ended in Cumberland, Maryland because of the expense of construction and competition from railroads, the canal continued to operate until 1924. In 1954, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas led a famous hike along the canal's towpath that marshaled public support against

turning it into a parkway, but planted the seed for its designation as a National Historical Park in 1971.

Millions of people visit the park each year seeking its many recreational opportunities. Now, thanks to the C&O Canal Trust's Canal Quarters program (www.canalquarters.org), there's a new way to enjoy the canal's history and beauty. Canal Quarters allows people to stay overnight in recently refurbished lockhouses, and can provide visitors with a unique experience.

Although you'll get a taste of what life was like on the canal, you will still have it easy: In order for boats to pass, lock keepers had to be on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week! ■

1st Maryland Solar & Wind Expo State Fairgrounds, Timonium May 7-9

This will be the first large-scale, consumer-oriented show in Maryland concentrating on renewable energy. Now is the time to go renewable and get low-cost, minimally-polluting power for your home, business and the environment.

- ☼ Solar, wind and geothermal energy devices from top manufacturers and suppliers
- ☼ Electric vehicles, on display and in action around an "Electric Vehicle Loop"
- ☼ Informative seminars on renewable energy and related issues, including installation and financing.
- ☼ Keynote speaker Bob Dixon, mayor of Greensburg, Kansas, which is rebuilding as an all-green city after having been devastated by a tornado in 2007
- ☼ Extreme Bug-E, a three-wheel, solar/electric motorcycle, about to start 6,000-mile cross-country trek



- ☼ Interactive area for kids to touch and learn about renewables

For lots more information and to order discounted tickets online, go to www.TheSolarandWindExpo.com.

Outings

To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

As you can see from the many outings listed below, there are plenty of opportunities to explore, enjoy and help protect the planet. However, to accomplish the Sierra Club's ambitious conservation goals over the next decade and beyond, and to remain a leader in the outdoor experience, we must increase the number of people participating in outdoor activities and becoming involved with the Sierra Club and its mission. We recently trained a number of new Outings Leaders and we plan to have another training session (time and place yet to be determined.) If you can help the Club with its conservation goals and would like to become an outings leaders, please feel free to contact me.

See you on the trail...
Jan

Jan C. Hoffmaster is the MD Chapter Outings Chair. He can be reached at Jan.Hoffmaster@mdsierra.org.

Don't Forget!

In March we send out an appeal 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 our environment in Maryland.

Contributions, gifts, and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible.

Mail your contribution to

The Sierra Club/Maryland Chapter
7338 Baltimore Ave., Suite 101
College Park, MD 20740

Some Helpful Information for Outings Participants

Sierra Club outings are open to everyone, members and non-members alike. Each outing is intended to be a wholesome, safe, and enjoyable experience in the outdoors. Participants must have proper clothing, equipment, and stamina suitable to the event, and are encouraged to select activities that match their individual abilities for outdoor adventures. The Club offers a variety of outings 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 per-

mitted, 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 Mgmt.
CCA:	Canoe Cruisers Association (Washington, D.C.)
CG:	Catoctin Group
C&O:	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
FFA:	Family Friendly Activity (kids/dogs ok, but check with leader)
FWS:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Svc.
GB:	Greater Baltimore Group
GWNF:	George Washington National Forest
HC:	Howard County Group
JNF:	Jefferson National Forest
MNF:	Monongahela National Forest
MC:	Montgomery County Group
NPS:	National Park Service
NRA:	National Recreation Area
NWR:	National Wildlife Refuge
PFD:	Personal Flotation Device (lifejacket)
PRO*:	Sierra Club Potomac Region Outings (formerly MWROP)
SF:	State Forest
SM:	Southern Maryland Group
SP:	State Park
SNP:	Shenandoah National Park

* For hike ratings of PRO, refer to their website, www.sierrapotomac.org/rating.htm.

Outings (March)

MARCH



Saturday Mar. 20: Jones Mountain-Staunton River Loop, SNP, VA.

Strenuous 13 mile circuit with 2400 feet elevation gain and some stream crossings. Some nice views, rock gardens and cascades. Bring lunch, water and good boots. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the Broken Land Parkway Park & Ride at Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday Mar. 20: PRO Rated D or G. Northwest Branch & Sligo Creek Trails (Get Fit for Spring/ ODH).

Circuit hike of 15 mi. or 21 mi. following beautiful stream valleys, over natural-surface and paved trails, with some rock scrambling and a few stretches of sidewalk. Meet at 8:30 am at athletic field's parking lot, Wheaton Regional Park, near restrooms and soda machines (location: <http://tinyurl.com/dnf5lb>). Call leaders for driving directions or Wheaton Metro station pickup. Leaders: Mike Darzi, 301/580-9387 or michael.darzi@saic.com and Russ Norfleet, 703/294-6068 or russnorfleet@verizon.net.

Sunday Mar. 21: 6-9 pm. Not Rated. Basic Backpacking Gear: The first in a

3-part, beginner-backpacking classroom series, plus optional 2-night backpack trip in May. Basic gear will include: backpack & fitting, tent, sleeping gear, footwear, tips on clothing, and tips on packing light. We will provide information on different types of gear and your options when purchasing gear. We will have gear on-hand and demonstrate hands-on techniques. We will touch on stoves, first-aid kits, and water filters, but will cover them in depth in later classes pertaining to food & water planning. We will send you home with a gear-list to plan your next trip! Class size limited to 20 people. Must be 16 or older. Class cost is \$20 for expenses; payment (check or PayPal) in advance will confirm your spot. For location information, please contact Liz. Leaders: Liz Guertin, 202-415-4639 or eguertin@yahoo.com and Mike Darzi, 301-580-9387 or michael.darzi@saic.com.

Sunday Mar. 21: PRO Rated B. Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management Area.

Savor an 8 mi. hike through this 1,723-acre, wildlife-rich, and little-visited-by-hikers expanse of protected fields, wetlands, and woodlands in west-central Charles County—and also learn how and why such areas are managed. This WMA includes a 23-acre lake, a 10-acre pond, and two “green-tree reservoirs” (deliberately flooded woodlands that provide food and habitat for wood ducks and other wildlife). To carpool, meet at 9:30 am in the Van Dorn Metro station's Park & Ride lot (emerging from the station, cross the Kiss & Ride lot to get there). Or ask the leader for driving directions to the trailhead. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott, 202-423-7913.

Sunday Mar. 21: PRO Rated B. Key-Chain Classic. This urban 9-mile hike is a favorite for hikers wishing to stay

close to town. We will meet at the Theodore Roosevelt Island parking lot at 8:45 am and leave sharply at 9. We'll hike up the Potomac Heritage Trail in VA, cross Chain Bridge, hike down the C&O towpath to Georgetown then have lunch at Clyde's. Afterward, we will hike back across Key Bridge to TRI. Bring a snack and water and wear clothing appropriate for the weather. A few stream crossings and one somewhat steep hill on the VA side, otherwise fairly flat. Leader: Ray Evert, hikerdude22@msn.com or 703-408-7117.

Sunday Mar. 21: PRO Rated C. Prince William Forest Park, VA. Moderate 9-mile hike to view early spring wildflowers. Meet at Springfield Metro station lot behind the parking garage at 9 am or at the Turkey Run Ed Center inside the Park at 9:45 am. Leader: Ray Abercrombie, 703-854-1792 (before 9 pm).

Tuesday Mar. 23: Not Rated. Movie Night: Mon Oncle. As part of this year's Environmental Film Festival, the AFI Silver Theater will screen Jacques Tati's Mon Oncle (My Uncle). This charming, witty, and often LOL film is also a brilliant commentary on the modern house and home. Mon Oncle, winner of the 1959 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, is directed by and stars Tati, and would have a rating equivalent to G. (That's for content, not difficulty!) It starts at 7 pm and is 116 min. long. A limited number of free passes are available; contact Mike Darzi (michael.darzi@saic.com) soon. We'll meet around 6:30 pm in the front lobby behind the outdoor ticket booth. The theater is near the Silver Spring Metro station. For more information, including ticket cost and location/directions, See www.afi.com/silver.

Saturday Mar. 27: Bucktail Trail-Halfmoon Lookout, Great North Mountain, GWNF, VA. 10 mile moderate loop with some steep rocky sections and stream crossings. 2000 feet elevation gain. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the Broken Land Parkway Park & Ride at Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday Mar. 27: PRO Rated E. Signal Knob on Massanutten Mountain, VA.

10-mile circuit hike with about 3,200 ft elev. change. Exceptional views to west, north, and east. Meet at 8:30 am at Vienna Metro station north entrance. Leader: Marcia Wolf, 301-565-3165 (before 9 pm) or wolfmk@comcast.net.

Saturday Mar. 27: PRO Rated G or D. "Parade of Parks" (Get Fit for Spring/ ODH).

Circuit of 23 mi. (or 14-mi. option) on paved and dirt trails in DC and Maryland parklands, with some gentle elevation change, and plenty of flowering plants and trees. Meet at 8 am at Fletcher's Boathouse lower parking lot, off Canal Rd. Leaders: Russ Norfleet, 703-294-6068 or russnorfleet@verizon.net, Frank Wodarczyk, 703-569-6737 and Gary Kosciusko, 703-765-0306.

Sunday Mar. 28: PRO Rated H. Stony Man/ Nicholson Hollow Circuit SNP.

12 mi., 6000 ft of elev. change. Be ready for elevation gain! Good views and streams. Meet at 8:30 am at Vienna NORTH parking lot for carpooling. Leader: Liz Guertin, eguertin@yahoo.com or 202-415-4639 (before 9 pm).

Sunday Mar. 28: Moderate. Gunpowder River 6 to 7 miles along the Gunpowder River. Meet at 12:00

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Outings (March, April)

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noon at the Shawan Road Park'n Ride. Call Jack 410-256-3963 for details.

Sunday Mar. 28: 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, which is about 3 miles R/T. Scenic rest stops and historical sites along the route. Dogs, children, and wheelchairs are welcome. We will finish the hike in time to attend the Baltimore Green Forum at MD Presbyterian Church 4:30-6:30. Optional dinner afterward. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or paul@peschoen.com

Tuesday Mar. 30: PRO Rated H. Fairfax County's Cross County Trail (CCT) Hike or Bike. About 36 mi. with 1200 ft. elev. Hikers and bikers will meet at the Rt. 193, Georgetown Pike, parking lot next to Difficult Run at 6:00 am. The hikers will drive the bikers' cars to Silverbrook near Lorton. The bikers will bike south and hikers will hike north and return car keys to the bikers when they meet. The one-way bike ride will take us along the stream banks and through the woods of Fairfax County. We will follow Pohick Creek, Accotink, and Difficult Run to the Potomac. The hike will take us in the opposite directions. The trail includes numerous stream crossings, fair-weather crossings, dirt and asphalt trails and paved roads. Along the way are interpretive signs. More information on this event will be at <http://groups.google.com/group/Vigorous-Hikers> a couple weeks prior to March 30. Leader: Gene Whitaker, genewhit@gmail.com.

APRIL



Saturday Apr. 3: PRO Rated A + A. Piscataway Park and Chapman State Park. Treat yourself to a two-part hike totaling 8-9 mi. at a moderate pace through fields and woodlands at two close-together locations on the eastern (MD) shore of the Potomac River across from Mount Vernon. Highlights will include superb river views, National Colonial Farm with its heirloom cattle and other animals, a Native American ceremonial site, an old Chapman family cemetery, and eagles and other birds of various feathers. To carpool, meet at 9:30 am in the Van Dorn Metro station's Park & Ride lot (emerging from the station, cross the Kiss & Ride lot to get there). Or ask the leader for driving directions to the trailhead. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott, 202-423-7913.

Saturday Apr. 3: PRO Rated H or E. Alexandria-Arlington Slow Marathon (ODH Series). Circuit hike of 27 paved miles on Mount Vernon Trail and other Alexandria and Arlington trails, with a few minor undulations. Shorter, Metro-assisted version also available for those training for the 50K on May 1. (Don't forget

your Metro card if you choose to bail out on Metro). Meet at 8 am at north parking lot at Belle Haven, on George Washington Pkwy. south of Alexandria. Leaders: Mike Darzi, michael.darzi@saic.com or 301-580-9387, Rob Anderson, robertanderson@hotmail.com or 301-312-8990 (before 9 pm) and Mike Gingerich, mike@dcrocks.org.

Sunday Apr. 4: 6-9 pm. Not Rated. Planning a Backpacking Trip. The second in a 3-part, beginner-backpacking classroom series, plus optional 2-night backpack trip in May. Learn about trip selection, route planning, mapping/GPS overview, Leave No Trace basics, and water planning including water purification options. We will cover the first-aid kit and emergency planning. We will have you do some interactive map reading. We will send you home with trip-planning checklists that you can use to plan your next trip. Class size limited to 20 people. 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, 301-580-9387 or michael.darzi@saic.com.

Sunday Apr. 4: PRO Rated B. Rock Creek Park. Explore the beauty of Rock Creek Park in early spring. Meet at 1 pm next to the ground level of the elevator at the Cleveland Park Metro. Bring water and a snack. Kids who can walk 7+ miles on 'relatively' level terrain are welcome. Leader: Jim Finucane, 301-365-3485 (before 9 pm) and Bob Mathis 301-589-7539.

Sunday Apr. 4: PRO Rated C. Sky Meadows State Park, VA. Moderate hike of 6-7 miles. Climb to the Blue Ridge and walk briefly on the

Appalachian Trail. Meet at 9 am at the north parking lot of the Vienna Metro station. Leader: Ray Abercrombie, 703-854-1792 (before 9 pm).

Saturday Apr. 3: Harpers Ferry. Strenuous 9 or 11 mile hike through 3 states, with spectacular overlooks of historic Harpers Ferry at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. Follow the C&O canal, walk through town, and ascend to Maryland Heights, Loudoun Heights, Split Rocks, and Jefferson Rocks. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for an 8:30 departure. Call Tim Ryan before 9:30 PM, 410-248-2974, timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.

Sunday Apr. 4: Easy/Moderate. Easter Sunrise Service and Hike at Rocks State Park Celebrate the true meaning of Easter at a non-denominational Sunrise Service at Rocks State Park in Harford County. It will be followed by fellowship with coffee, cocoa, and donuts, and an easy to moderate hike of about 3-4 miles. We can also have a really good buffet breakfast at the Geneva Farm Golf Course clubhouse nearby (check out www.infosports.com/golf/1697902.htm, 410-452-8800. 217 Davis Rd., Street, MD 21154). Children OK with prior approval. Meet at the church parking lot on Seminary Ave. west of Dulaney Valley Rd. just north of the Baltimore Beltway at 5:30 AM. Call Paul at 410-667-4889 or email pstech@smart.net for details.

Saturday Apr. 10: PRO Rated H or F. C&O Canal Towpath N & S of Pennyfield Lock (Get Fit for Spring/ODH). A go-at-your-own-pace, 33-mile hike with a 20-mile option. From Pennyfield Lock, we'll hike upstream to

continued →

Outings (April)

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the turn-around point and return to Pennyfield for 20 mi. and then, for those choosing the longer option, proceed downstream and return to Pennyfield for a total of 33 mi. This hike traverses a particularly pretty section of the towpath. Meet at 8 am in the parking lot at the end of Pennyfield Lock Rd. off River Rd. Leaders: Carol Ivory, carolivory@verizon.net, Gary Kosciusko, 703-765-0306 and Mike Gingerich, mike@dcrocks.org.

Saturday Apr. 10: Project Clean Stream. Volunteer for this regional stream cleanup, 9 am to noon. Contact Sue Muller, 301-498-8462, sonicsue@verizon.net, for directions to the site in Howard County.

Saturday Apr. 10-12: Tracy Ridge Backpack, ANF, PA. Moderate 24 mile backpack with views of the Allegheny Reservoir and 4500 feet of elevation gain. Approximate daily mileage: 7/13/4. Pre-register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday Apr. 17: Howard County GreenFest. 10 am to 4 pm. See www.howardcountymd.gov/OES/GreenFest.htm.

Saturday Apr. 10: PRO Rated G. Heights above Harpers Ferry. Moderate to fast paced 11-mile hike with over 5000 feet of elevation change. We will visit Maryland Heights and Loudoun Heights, walk along the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers on the old military road, and visit scenic overlooks. Meet at 8 am at Grosvenor Metro Kiss and Ride. Leaders: Vicky Hsu, 301-275-6646 or hhueichi@gmail.com, and Mike Darzi.

Saturday Apr. 10: PRO Rated H. Massanutten Mountain. The hike will begin at New Market Gap and

proceed up Massanutten Trail to Strickler and past Duncan Knob (ascending if time permits). The return will be via Scothorn Gap Trail and Massanutten Trail. Total distance 16 mi. with 3,500 ft. elev. gain. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center at 7:30 am. Moderate pace with stops for flora and fungi of interest. Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. Joint event with PATC. Leader: William Needham, 410-884-9127 or Needham82@aol.com.

Sunday Apr. 11: PRO Rated A. Accotink Creek: Impact of the I-495 Expansion (Conservation Hike). This hike of about 4 very-moderately paced miles, over possibly muddy trails, will focus on the impacts of road projects, such as the HOT-lanes expansion of the Beltway, and other construction on local stream valleys and watersheds. We'll also discuss environmental restoration projects in the area. Meet at 10 am, at Americana Park, Annandale, VA. (From Little River Tnpk. just west of Beltway, turn left on Pineridge Dr, then left at Accotink Pkwy, and follow to park entrance: <http://tinyurl.com/6tzswm>). Contact Kris for pick-up at West Falls Church Metro, or if you're willing to do the pick-up (I have a 2-seater). Leaders: Kris Unger, krisunger@gmail.com or 301-980-5621 and Frank Wodarczyk, fwhiker44@cox.net or 703-569-6737 (before 10 pm).

Sunday Apr. 11: PRO Rated A. Two Views of the Potomac: Red Rock Wilderness Overlook and Balls Bluff Battlefield Regional Parks (Conservation Hike). Two little gems on the outskirts of Leesburg, with Potomac River vistas, a Civil War battlefield, and bountiful wildflowers at their peak. Meet at 1 pm at Red Rock Park (43098 Edwards Ferry Rd., Leesburg, VA 20176). Leaders: Carol Ivory, carolivory@verizon.net or 703-

476-8730, and Lynn McNulty, lynn.mculty@verizon.net.

Sunday Apr 11: Paddling the Mattawoman Creek: 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM. This outing will be of moderate challenge and will involve some paddling against the tide (in both directions). However, the trip is not long and the waters are sheltered, so it should be enjoyable for anyone with basic canoeing or kayaking experience. Please arrive around 10:00 a.m for a 10:30 a.m departure. The trip will leave the dock at the foot of Mattingly in Indian Head at 10:30 a.m. and paddle as far as possible upstream towards the head of the estuary. The trip is intended for canoes and kayaks, which may be rented at the launch area if you do not have your own. No paddle-boats, please – there is too much of a difference in the speed of travel between kayaks and paddle boats. It will be hard enough to keep kayaks and canoes in one group. All participants must have a personal floatation vest, hat and sunglasses. The canoe/kayak rental includes a personal floatation device.

Bring binoculars, drinking water and a lunch. We will stop at the "spoils beach" area for lunch, and further explore the estuary before returning to the Mattingly park docks around 2:30 P.M. The second weekend in April is expected to offer a fine display of spring growth of marsh plants, grasses, American lotus and spadder dock. Signs of spawning yellow perch, shad and river herring may be expected, along with a variety of marshland birds and forest birds of prey. An interpretive guide will be in the group to help identify plants, reptiles, fish and fowl sustained by this globally-rare fresh water tidal estuary. We will also have experienced persons

in the group to provide information about the importance of protecting the Mattawoman watershed and the issues involved.

If you wish to participate in this outing please contact Jack Mawhinney, at 410 299 6651, or email me at jackmawhinney@comcast.net no later than Thursday April 8, 2010, or Monday April 5th if you need to rent a canoe or kayak. If you need to rent please provide me with your name and telephone number at which the owners of UpTheCreek canoe rentals can contact you. Up The Creek rentals, located at the Mattingly Avenue departure dock, require a credit card deposit of \$15.00 to reserve a boat. They are not normally open at this time of year so the owners want me to provide them with the names and telephone numbers of persons who need to rent by no later than Monday April 5. Starting on Tuesday April 6th, Sue Tice of UpTheCreek will call you personally to get the credit card information for the \$15.00 deposit. RSVP - by no later than Monday April 5th, 2010 if you need a rental, or by Thursday April 8th if you have your own canoe or kayak.

Saturday Apr. 17: Sugarloaf Mountain PRO Rated C. Celebrate Earth Day: Hike & See Chestnut Tree Reintroduction Effort at Sugarloaf Mountain. Moderately paced, 8-9-mile circuit hike, with about 1,300 ft. of elev. change. We learn about Sugarloaf Mountain's in-the-ground effort to bring back the once dominant Chestnut tree, before rambling off on the Yellow, White, and Blue Trails. Best views at White Rocks. Limited to 15 people. Leader: Ted Conwell, 301-589-1513 (home; before 9 pm) or tconwell@erols.com.

continued →

Outings (April)

←continued

Saturday Apr. 17: PRO Rated H+, F, or D. C&O Canal Towpath between Point of Rocks or Brunswick, MD and Harpers Ferry (ODH Series).

Long hikers will start at Point of Rocks and hike to Harpers Ferry and back (28 mi.), with the option of going up to 4 mi. past the start before returning (for up to 36 mi.). Short hikers will start at Brunswick and hike to Harpers Ferry and back (14 mi.), with the option of going to Point of Rocks (21 mi.). To carpool, meet at Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station's Park & Ride open-air lot (in back of garage). Long hikers meet in that Metro lot at 7 am or in parking lot along the towpath at Point of Rocks by 8:15 am; short hikers meet in Metro lot at 8:45 am or in parking lot near the towpath under the MD 17 bridge in Brunswick by 10 am. Leaders: Mike Darzi, michael.darzi@saic.com or 301-580-9387, Frank Wodarczyk, fwhiker44@cox.net or 703-569-6737 (before 10 pm), and Russ Norfleet, 703-294-6068 or russnorfleet@verizon.net.

Sunday Apr. 18: Not Rated. Spring General Meeting of Sierra Club Potomac Region Outings. This general business meeting of SCPRO will be held at the Walker Nature Education Center (aka, The Nature House, <http://tinyurl.com/yfe8g4f>), 11450 Glade Dr., Reston, VA from 3 - 7:30 pm. The meeting will feature discussions of issues and upcoming events, biennial elections of officers, special presentations, and a pot-luck dinner. All SCPRO outings leaders, prospective leaders, participants of SCPRO outings, and other members of the public are invited. Beginning at 1:45 Carol Ivory will lead a walk from the Nature House to Glade Stream to discuss the stream restoration project. For Metro pick-up, or for other questions or details, contact Mike

Darzi, michael.darzi@saic.com or 301-580-9387.

Sunday Apr. 18: Carderock

Wildflowers. Moderate 8-9 mile hike on the C&O Canal Towpath, and over rocky terrain by the Potomac River on the Billy Goat B and C trails. We will take a slow pace in some areas to identify and enjoy the profusion of wildflowers. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 am from the west lot of the Broken Land Parkway Park & Ride at Rt. 32. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Sunday Apr. 18: Moderate. Muddy Run 7 to 8 miles along the Muddy Run and the Susquehanna River. This hike does through a very senic gorge with large hemlock trees. Good chance of seeing bald eagles. Meet at K-Mart on Rt. 1 at Beltway Exit 32 at 11:00 am. Call Jack 410-256-3963 for details.

Thursday Apr. 22: Easy. Outings Planning Meeting New and prospective outings leaders are welcome to attend the next quarterly meeting of the Greater Baltimore Group's Outings Committee at Oregon Ridge Nature Center. Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. If you're interested in leading outings and are curious about what is involved, come and talk with the outings leaders. The meeting will be held at 6:15 PM before a potluck social and a slide show beginning at 6:30. For details on the social, see the next outing!

Thursday Apr. 22: Easy. Potluck Social and Talk (All are welcome) Celebrate spring, gardening, and Earth Day with potluck grub and a presentation on native plants of Maryland by Master Gardener Kim Barnes. Potluck social begins around

6:30 at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center. Bring a dish you enjoy and would like to share—sweet or savory, homemade or store-bought—along with a friend or two. We will have plates, napkins, utensils, cold drinks, and hot tea. The talk will follow starting about 7:15 and ending no later than 9 p.m. Open to non-members. The Nature Center is at 13555 Beaver Dam Road and can be reached from the Shawan Road West exit (#20B) from I-83. Take Shawan Road to the traffic light at Beaver Dam Road, make a left and stay to the right, following the road past the swimming area to the nature center's parking lot. The nature center is a short walk uphill. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240 if you need further details.

Saturday Apr. 24: Moderate. Earth Day Stream Cleanup at Double Rock Park (Child-Friendly Outing) Celebrate Earth Day a few days late by cleaning up trash (bottles, cans, plastic bags, etc.) in and around the stream at this neighborhood park that includes a waterfall and trails through woodlands. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Wear footwear for wading in shallow water. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Meet at 10 AM in the parking lot at the park's entrance at the end of Texas Ave. east off Harford Rd. between Taylor Ave. and Putty Hill Ave. in Parkville, Baltimore Co. For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com

Saturday Apr. 24: Paddling the Mattwoman. An easy paddle on flat, tidal, and beautiful Mattwoman Creek, followed by a short hike at nearby Chapman State Park. See birds, fish, plants and learn about threats to the watershed. Bring lunch, water, and sun

protection. Sign up in advance to reserve a canoe or kayak, or bring your own. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Saturday – Monday Apr. 24-26: Triple Crown of VA Backpack.

Strenuous 24 mile shuttle backpack on the AT with great views from McAfee Knob, Tinker Cliffs and Hay Rock Overlook. Average daily mileage approximately 8.0 miles. Pre-register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday Apr. 24: PRO Rated C. Ravens Rock. Rock to a spring beat on the AT north from Rt. 7. Not long in distance—it's a total of 6 miles but feels like 10+ —this section of the Appalachian Trail is a workout, rough and wonderful with magic quartz boulders, and a singular view at lunchtime of a hidden valley in spring's tree pastels. Meet at 9 am to carpool from Oakton Shopping Center, on VA Rt. 123 (2930 Chain Bridge Rd.), in front of Starbucks. Leader: David Burd, dburd26@hotmail.com or 703-998-9390.

Saturday Apr. 24: PRO Rated G or C. C&O Canal Towpath near Whites Ferry (ODH Series). Out-and-back trek of about 25 mi. (or 13-mile option) is a final "tune-up" for the 100K or 50K versions of the May 1 One Day Hike, and will familiarize those planning to do the 50K version with their starting point. Meet at 8 am at Whites Ferry parking lot (MD side). Leaders: Mike Darzi, michael.darzi@saic.com or 301-580-9387, and Carol Ivory, carolivory@verizon.net.

Saturday_Sunday Apr. 24-25: Backpack Shenandoah N.P. Enjoy a weekend backpacking trip through Shenandoah N.P. Our route begins at

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Outings (April, May)

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the Big Meadows visitor center and follows the Appalachian Trail south to terrific views from Bearfence Mountain. From Bearfence, we descend to Hoover Camp (once the summer retreat of President Herbert Hoover) before returning back through Big Meadows. Total two day distance: 14 miles. For reservations contact leader Glenn Gillis at 703-430-0568 or glennpotomacfalls@yahoo.com.

Sunday Apr. 25: PRO Rated A/B. Hains Point and Other Points (Get to Know DC). Flat and paved 7-8 miles on the Mall and monument area and around East Potomac Park. "The Awakening" will be gone; what will be there? Bring a plastic garbage bag or two to help clean up debris that the river deposits. Also bring liquids and lunch/snack. Dress for the weather. Meet at 10:15 am at the Mall entrance to Smithsonian Metro station. Leader: Helen Epps, 202-363-1278 (leave message).

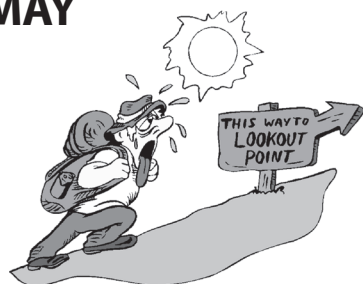
Sunday Apr. 25: PRO Rated B. Greenwell State Park and Sotterley Plantation. Venture forth to southern MD's St. Mary's Co. for a moderately paced 9 mile hike on the banks of the lower Patuxent River. In the park (admission fee: \$3/vehicle), we'll experience mostly level terrain, a mix of woods and cultivated fields, good trails, fine river views from both the bluffs and waterline, and beaches with fossils. At soaked-in-history Sotterley (<http://www.sotterley.com>), we'll tour the grounds and walk to the riverfront (admission fee: \$3/person); alternatively, you can skip the walk and do the \$10, 40-minute mansion tour instead. On the return drive, there will be an optional early-dinner stop (Sotterley closes at 4 p.m.) at a seafood eatery. To carpool, meet at 8 am in the

Van Dorn Metro station's Park & Ride lot (emerging from the station, cross the Kiss & Ride lot to get there). Or ask the leader for driving directions to the trailhead. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott, 202-423-7913.

Sunday April 25: PRO Rated D. Thompson Wildlife Mgmt. Area (Conservation Hike). A slow-paced educational hike through one of the most wildflower rich forests in the country. Leaders will casually stroll a six-mile course and provide knowledge on the subjects of conservation, botany, wildlife, and birding. There will be frequent stops to observe nature. 1000 ft. elevation gain. Bring lunch and/or snacks. Meet at 8 am at the north parking lot of the Vienna Metro. Leaders, Bruce Baraniak 540-514-5557 (call for more info) and Marcia Wolf 301-565-3165 or wolfmk@comcast.net

Sunday Apr. 25: 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, which is about 3 miles R/T. Scenic rest stops and historical sites along the route. Dogs, children, and wheelchairs are welcome. We will finish the hike in time to attend the Baltimore Green Forum at MD Presbyterian Church 4:30-6:30. Optional dinner afterward. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or paul@peschoen.com

MAY



Saturday May 1: White Oak Canyon / Cedar Run, VA. Strenuous 10 mile circuit hike featuring numerous waterfalls and cascades. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the Broken Land Parkway Park & Ride at Rt. 32. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Saturday May 8: Annapolis Rock, MD. Moderate 11 mile hike along the Appalachian Trail, from Washington Monument State Park to Annapolis Rock and return. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for an 8:30 departure. Call Tim Ryan before 9:30 PM, 410-248-2974, timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.

Saturday - Sunday May 8-9: Ramsey's Draft Backpack, GWNF, VA. Strenuous 17 mile circuit backpack with several stream crossings and 3100 feet of elevation gain. Beautiful stream and still some magnificent old hemlocks left to see. Suitable for experienced hikers who want to try backpacking. Pre-register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday May 15: Sugarloaf Mountain, MD. Moderate 8 miles with hills. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 8:30 at Long Gate Parkway Park & Ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. Email Nicki, cybertrax1@netzero.net.

Saturday May 15: Moderate. Eden Mill Hike (Child and Dog Friendly Outing) 4-5 mile hike looking for wildlife and wildflowers in woodlands and meadows with some hills along Deer Creek at Eden Mill Nature Center in Pylesville. Afterwards, visit the Nature Center and the Historic Grist Mill Museum to learn about the local history, floral, and fauna. Bring a picnic

lunch to eat in the gardens beside the Deer Creek. Meet at 10 AM in the parking lot at the park entrance at 1617 Eden Mill Rd., near the Nature Center. Find out more about this Harford County park at www.edenmill.org. For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com

Saturday - Sunday May 15 & 16: Moderate. Shenandoah National Park Car Camping at Big Meadows Day hikes along the AT and other side trips to waterfalls. Call Jack 410-256-3963 for details.

Saturday - Tuesday May 15-18: Rickett's Glenn Car Camping, PA. First hike will be an 8 mile circuit through State Game Lands 13 to explore seldom seen waterfalls. Some "waterwhacking" involved. The second hike will be a 9 mile loop inside the park visiting many of the falls in the glen. Campsite reservation required. Pre-register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday May 16: Jug Bay, Patuxent River Park. Explore this tidal marsh by canoe or kayak, then hike a mile for a different perspective. Observe a variety of birds and other animals. Bring lunch and water. Sign up early to reserve a \$15 canoe or kayak, or bring your own. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Saturday - Monday May 29-31: Cranberry Backcountry Backpack, MNF, WV. Moderate 26 mile circuit in this under-utilized hiking venue featuring a circumnavigation of Cranberry Glades. Daily mileage: 8/12/6. Pre-register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

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Outings (June, July)

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JUNE and JULY



Saturday June 12: AM Hike and PM Kayak at Piney Run Park (Child and Dog Friendly Outing) 4-5 mile hike through woodlands and along the 300-acre lake at Piney Run Park in Sykesville. For the hike, meet at 10 AM in the parking area beside the Nature Center. Afterwards, visit the extensive Nature Center with natural history exhibits and live animals. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in this 825-acre Carroll County park. Bring your own kayak or canoe or rent one to explore Piney Run Reservoir, with a couple stops along the shores. For the boating, meet at the boat launch at 2:00 PM. There is a launch fee of \$8/boat (paid at the park's entrance booth). The rental fee is \$8/hour or \$30 per day. The park is at 30 Martz Rd., just off Rt. 26 or 97 north of I-70. There is an entrance fee of \$5/car for Carroll County residents and \$10 for others. For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com

Saturday Wednesday June 26-30: Mount Rogers N.R.A. Car Camping, VA. Camp at Grindstone Campground. Hike the Iron Mountains. The first hike will be The Iron Mountain Loop. It is a strenuous 14 mile circuit with 3400 feet of elevation gain starting at Beartree Lake and features vistas,

streams and Rhododendron tunnels. The second hike will be the 12 mile Rowlands Creek Loop with 2430 feet elevation gain featuring several waterfalls, a couple over 100 feet in height, and some views. The third hike is another waterfall hike, 9.0 mile Comers Creek Loop, with 1850 feet of elevation gain. (The leader reserves the right to substitute any of the above with a shorter, easier hike starting from camp.) Sign up for all or part of the trip. Campsite reservation required. Pre-register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday Jun. 27: Gunpowder Tube Trip Meet at the Monkton Station at 1:00 P.M. Bring a tube or rent one. Wear old shoes or water shoes. Call Jack at 410-256-3963 for more details.

Saturday - Monday July 10-12: Cranberry Wilderness Backpack, MNF, WV. 18 miles total. Hike in 5 miles and set up camp at Big Beechy Falls. On the second day we'll climb steeply up to the plateau, hiking about 10 miles. Extra water will be required for that day. The final day will be an easy 3 miles back to the cars. Pre-register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday - Tuesday July 24-27: Blue Knob State Park, PA Car Camping. The first hike will be a moderate 10 mile circuit inside the park. The second hike will be a 12 mile easy to moderate loop on the John B. Saylor Trail. Campsite reservation required. 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 under-served Baltimore City youth with educational, enjoyable and safe outdoor experiences at no cost to them. Since start-up, BICO has conducted more than 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>

April 2010

4	Tour of CBF's Claggett Farm	CGCC
TBD	Challenge course	BTDHS
TBD	First Aid CPR @ UMBC (email Bob Burchard for more info: bobburchard@yahoo.com)	
23-25	Camping at Assateague	DHH
TBD	Steering Committee Meeting (Team Leaders only; email Bob Burchard for more info: bobburchard@yahoo.com)	

May 2010

7-8	Camping at Gettysburg	BTDHS
TBA	Bike NCR Trail	CGCC
TBD	General BICO Chapter Meeting @ DHH	
22	Sailing @ Downtown Sailing Center	DHH

June 2010

4	Kayaking/Fishing/Canoeing	BTDHS
16	BICO meet-n-greet: 7pm @ Red Robin, Columbia MD Directions / contact Ravi Saxena	
17-21	Patuxent Sojourn	DHH

Abbreviations:

DHH:	Digital Harbor High
CGCC:	College Gardens Community Center
BTDHS:	Baltimore Talent Development High School

Credits

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

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Volunteer Opportunities

Office Assistant: One or two hours per week - to help our office staff with miscellaneous administrative tasks like mail and data entry.

Membership Chair: To help orient new members to the Club, set up listserves, retrieve membership data from a national data base, distribute membership materials.

Volunteering is a rewarding experience—you will meet other interesting Sierra Club volunteers, learn new skills, and help to make the Sierra Club a more effective organization. Come join us!

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

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

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

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

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Check it out!

- By boat, bike, or boots—join us to explore, enjoy, and protect Mattawoman Creek
- Energy: How to use less
- What's new at the recycling center
- Getting ready for the 2010 election; you can help!
- From the coast to the mountains, our groups are busy; check out what's happening near you
- Volunteer opportunities outdoors and in

and much more!