

# Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Spring 2011

## Cleaning the Streams by Bagging Bags

By Meredith Sweet—Maryland's 90-day legislative session is a busy time in Annapolis. From mid-January to mid-April, the 47 senators and 141 delegates who form our General Assembly will sponsor, deliberate, debate, and vote on more than 2,300 bills, including the state's annual budget. On February 4, 2011, one such bill, the "Clean the Streams and Beautify the Bay Act of 2011," had its first reading before its respective committees to become Senate Bill 602 and House Bill 1034. Affectionately known by advocates as the "bag bill," it is a logical follow-on to DC's hugely successful 5-cent "bag law" (officially known as The Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Act).

DC's approach of charging a bag fee in lieu of an outright ban was the first of its kind in the United States. Under the banner "Skip the Bag, Save the River," it has been a strong motivator for shoppers to switch from single-use plastic to reusable bags. It is also a win-win for the Anacostia River by reducing a source of permanent pollution while providing a new source of revenue for clean-up efforts.

With every 5 cents a business charges customers for plastic, up to 2 cents goes to the business and the remainder to the Anacostia River Protection Fund. Since taking effect on January 1, 2010, the law has netted \$2 million in revenue and lowered plastic-bag usage from about 270 million bags in 2009 to around 55 million—an impressive decrease of 80 percent. Interestingly enough, DC officials see the revenue shortfall (predictions placed it at \$3.5 million) as a sign of victory—the

(continued on page 4)

## Is Maryland in Gasland?



By David O'Leary—To drill or not to drill, that is the question. Will drilling for gas in western Maryland enrich our state or cause our state to look like one of the many places portrayed in the Oscar-nominated documentary *Gasland*?

After many hours of briefings, hearings, and public forums in the Maryland General Assembly and with the Garrett County Board of Commissioners, and many trips between western Maryland and Annapolis, it looks like most of the cards are on the table. The natural gas drilling industry and their proponents claim that they can drill wells deep underground into the Marcellus shale layer safely, and that the private property rights of those who are leasing their land are more important than those of their neighbors who prefer to retain their mineral rights and avoid the risks and damage from gas drilling on their land. Many residents of western Maryland and elsewhere are skeptical of industry claims and believe strong regulation and oversight is necessary to address a wide variety of environmental, community, and social

impacts seen in neighboring states. Of course, the opportunity of selling mineral rights and gas, along with the associated drilling industry jobs and economic activity, is also attractive to many in the area.

Gas drilling in shale formations has received quite a bit of media attention in recent years due to the many and various problems. Rock formations of Marcellus shale, such as exist in many parts of Maryland, are several thousand feet underground, and only recently has drilling technology been developed to enable extraction of natural gas from this shale.

Specifically, in addition to drilling several thousand feet vertically down to the Marcellus shale layer, the drilling continues for up to several thousand feet horizontally through the shale layer. As part of the gas extraction process, the gas well is pumped full of millions of gallons of water mixed with a variety of chemicals under very high pressure combined with the use of explosives to break up the shale, a process called hydraulic fracturing, or "hydrofracking."

The process requires a large quantity of water, which may deplete local aquifers. That water is then mixed with hydrofracking chemicals, many of which are known to be toxic. Some of this toxin-laden water is removed from the well and stored onsite or trucked to wastewater treatment plants, which are not designed to remove the chemicals. There are a wide variety of concerns about the risks of gas drilling and the associated impacts from transporting water and chemicals to and from the site, and the infrastructure related to storage, pumping, and processing of the gas at or near the drilling site. Some of the issues are shown in the document-

(continued on page 3)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



## spring 2011 contents

- 2 Letter from the Chair
- 3 Hydrofracking: See Gasland! Show Gasland!
- 3 Start a Conversation—Write a Letter to the Editor
- 4 Which is Better, Paper or Plastic?
- 5 The Bag Fee Is a Win for All
- 6 Rating and Disclosing the Energy Efficiencies of Maryland's Buildings
- 7 Getting Invasive Plants out of the Marketplace
- 7 The Downside of Deer
- 8 Prince George's Cool Counties Work Group Faces a New Challenge
- 9 A MAPP to the Mattawoman's Demise?
- 10 Moving Upstream: Maryland's Counties Prepare Watershed Improvement Plans for the Bay's Pollution Diet
- 11 Group News Roundup
- 15 Chapter Leaders
- 16 Habitat Stewardship Outings
- 24 Outings

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,  
Dirty snow, gusty wind, the last gasp of winter ailments, the General Assembly in session . . . yes, it must be March! And the Maryland Chapter and its constituent groups are experiencing all of these, most seriously, the 2011 Maryland General Assembly session. We're lobbying hard to promote the legislative priorities we identified earlier in the year.

You'll find articles about these priorities in this newsletter. You can also anticipate being called upon by our volunteer members through phone banks, e-mails and website postings, asking that you urge your delegates and senator to support our environmental bills.

Being politically engaged this year is extremely important. The economy is still in a very slow recovery; budget cuts are being made in many areas; and our opposition is adamantly blaring that their business-as-usual approach is the only viable solution during a time of economic stress. But we know that the key to economic recovery does not lie in delaying or rolling back environmental laws and regulations. Pollution is not prosperity! So I implore you to get involved. Let your legislators know that you want them to protect Maryland families by protecting our natural environment. Your voice is important, so please, use it.

I have been troubled for some time, as I'm sure you are, by the false dichotomy between economic and environmental vitality. Playing with the fears of citizens who have seen the value of their assets plummet along with their job prospects, a vocal right wing is loudly insisting that only by turning away from regulation can Americans hope to restore a robust economy and the jobs that it would create. But as we know, it was lack of regulation or inadequate regulation which created our economic as well as our environmental problems. Those who brought down the housing market skirted regulation and privatized the profits from their deals as they spread the liabilities among the rest of us. Similarly, our current industrial model "externalizes" environmental degradation by failing to make industry take responsibility for it. Waste is pumped freely into streams and rivers or up smokestacks into the air, and the cost, in impaired human and environmental health, is borne by all of us.

We will continue to need the industries of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as we transition into a greener economy. But

we cannot let proponents of the status quo use our current economic woes to persuade us that we must postpone the transition. Nor can we allow them to use "jobs-jobs-jobs" as a cover for continuing to externalize the cost of the byproducts of a fossil-fuel-based economy. We need a resilient economy that meets our human needs without destroying the ecosystems that support our biological lives.

Standing in the way of a national commitment to a healthy and healthful economy is a tiny percentage of our population whose wealth and power drive many of our political decisions. Their few voices are loud and ubiquitous; their wealth buys them allies at every level of government. To counter them, we must join our many voices, and we must be as committed to change as they are to the status quo. Will you join me in this fight? It will take all of us!

I want to conclude on a happy note: our 2010 End-of-Year major donor fundraiser was very successful! Thanks to all donors who were able to contribute to this success. It is most appreciated.

Our primary fundraising effort for the year—our March campaign—is beginning as I write this letter. In the letter you receive from the Chapter we'll be highlighting the programs we're conducting to make our environment healthier for all of us. I hope you'll agree that the programs are worthy of your support, and that you'll give as generously as you can. We are fighting against the well-heeled advocates of private profits and public liabilities, but we can make our voices heard. Please contribute what you can. Thanks in advance for your consideration and support!

Until next time . . .

**Congratulations  
to our newly elected  
at-large delegates to  
the Maryland Chapter  
Executive Committee**

**Erin Barnes  
Rich Reis  
Amanda Ruthven  
Baird Straughan**

# Legislation: Hydrofracking

## Is Maryland in Gasland?

(continued from page 1)

tary films *Gasland* and *Split Estate*, and have received coverage by other media outlets including the *New York Times*. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/27/us/27gas.html>)

In January, bills were introduced in the Maryland General Assembly to plan for stronger regulation of gas drilling in Maryland. Residents of western Maryland and several of the statewide environmental groups worked with Delegates Heather Mizeur and Marvin Holmes and Senator Brian Frosh and their staffs, along with the leadership of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Secretary John

expansion of natural gas drilling in our state.

As I write this article, lobbying in Annapolis is well underway on both bills. Please call your state delegates and senator and ask for their commitment to a cautious approach and strong regulation of the new gas drilling industry as outlined in Senate Bill 634 and House Bill 852. Also, consider attending or hosting a showing of the film *Gasland*. On the Maryland Sierra Club web site ([maryland.sierraclub.org](http://maryland.sierraclub.org)), click on **Issues** and then **Hydrofracking** to learn about current legislation status and how to see or host a showing of *Gasland*.

## The risks and impacts of new approaches to natural gas drilling are not well understood. Maryland needs to proceed carefully before permitting new gas drilling.

Griffin, and Bob Summers, Acting Secretary of the Department of the Environment (MDE), to write and rewrite a bill.

The proposal creates an expert advisory commission to gather and review information about issues and best practices from around the region and nation, then write a report which informs the regulatory process. Regulations will be developed with a deadline for completion of the summer of 2013, before permits can be issued. Costs of the study and regulatory process are paid for by fees on the industry. In response to grassroots pressure, Senator Edwards and Delegate Bietzel from western Maryland introduced an alternative bill to regulate drilling, but it is not as comprehensive and does not provide sufficient time for comprehensive study and regulation of drilling and the many risks and impacts.

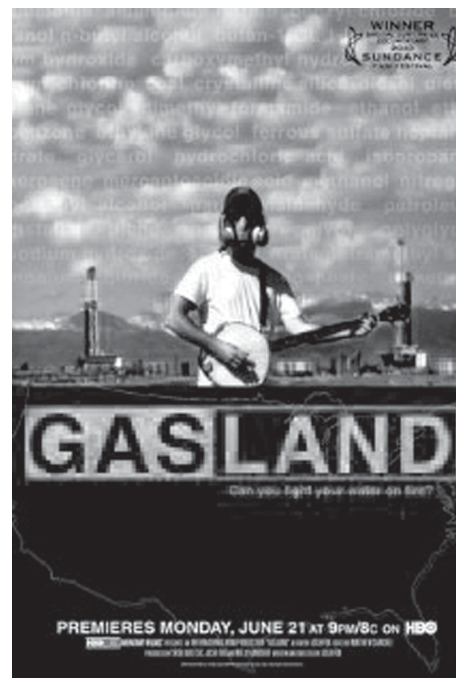
Committee hearings were held recently. Fortunately, many delegates and senators are responding well to the need for increased regulation that places the burden of proof of safety on the gas drilling industry and provides sufficient time to understand the implications of broad

All energy sources have various costs, benefits, and impacts. The risks and impacts of new approaches to natural gas drilling are not well understood. Maryland needs to proceed carefully before permitting new gas drilling and HB 852 / SB 634 are the right approach. ■

*David O'Leary is the Conservation Chair for the Maryland Chapter.*



**Hydrofracking:** Invented by Halliburton. Exempted from the Safe Drinking Water Act. Oozing through loopholes in the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and others. Want to learn more?



Consider attending or hosting a showing of *Gasland*, a documentary that explores hydraulic fracturing, the Halliburton drilling technology that uses “proprietary” chemical mixtures and millions of gallons of fresh water to extract natural gas from underground shale.

Visit [www.sierraclub.org/gasland](http://www.sierraclub.org/gasland) for more information and to learn about showings and how you can host your own showing.

## Start a Conversation—Write a Letter to the Editor

Responding to news articles about environmental issues by writing a letter to the editor of a local paper is a great way to raise awareness about a topic that you’re passionate about. Keep your letter concise, and refer to the article or column that appeared in the paper (or other media.) An easy formula is to use the first short paragraph to explain why the issue is important to you and your community; provide facts, figures, and relevant quotes in a second paragraph; finally, restate your point and make a recommendation in the concluding paragraph.

For more tips for writing a letter to the editor, visit [www.sierraclub.org/dc/spawl/action/p004.html](http://www.sierraclub.org/dc/spawl/action/p004.html)



# Legislation: Fee on Bags

## Cleaning the Streams by Bagging Bags

(continued from page 1)

program is working better than expected.

The resounding success of DC's bag law has not gone unnoticed. According to the Trash Free Maryland Alliance website ([www.trashfreemaryland.org/](http://www.trashfreemaryland.org/)), Virginia and Connecticut have joined Maryland in considering implementing a bag fee, while Oregon is looking at modifying and expanding Portland's pre-existing, city-wide ban to a state-wide initiative. Hawaii is also in the mix this year, considering a variety of bills covering ban, fee, and biodegradable bag options. California has hodge-podge, literally town-by-town, legislation reflecting the heated bag-ban debate that followed San Francisco's municipal bag ban in 2007.

Why is there this brouhaha over plastic bags? To help answer that question, let's consider the life cycle of a typical bag from its conception to its final resting place.

### **Anatomy of a Plastic Bag**

Most plastic bags we use come from a substance called polyethylene or PE. This large molecule is composed of repeated units of smaller ethylene molecules (or monomers) bonded together in long, pliable polymer chains. Ethylene itself is derived from a process called stream cracking, where large hydrocarbon molecules are broken down into monomers. It is a very energy-intensive process, requiring temperatures between 750 and 950 °C. Traditional sources or "feedstock" of hydrocarbons are petroleum or propane, and almost 80 percent of PE manufactured in our country comes from natural gas.

Polyethylene is extremely pliable, and, since its discovery in the 1930s, it has become the most widely used form of plastic. There are at least 10 categories of PE based upon the molecular properties of the plastic used in the final product. Here are the most prevalent of these:

- ♦ **High-density PE (HDPE)** (recycling symbol number 2) uses include plastic grocery bags; containers such as milk jugs and detergent bottles; plastic lumber, outdoor furniture and piping; and children's toys.
- ♦ **Low-density PE LDPE** (recycling symbol number 4) uses include food wrap; six-pack rings; computer hardware; and rigid plastics such as food trays.
- ♦ **Linear low-density PE (LLDPE)** (no recycling symbol) uses include glossy carrier bags; plastic film wrap; and sheeting.

Once made and sold in its myriad of forms, PE pervades all aspects of our lives, especially in its ubiquitous form, the single-use carrier bag. It is estimated that between 81 and 100 billion plastic bags, sacks and wraps are used each year in the United States alone. In 2007, more than 830 million pounds of plastic bags and film were recycled. But, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, that was a mere 12 percent of the total used. The Trash Free Maryland Alliance places this figure at a lower (and advocates believe more accurate) 5 percent.

The remainder ends up in our landfills; on our roadsides; tangled up in trees; floating in waterways; on our beaches; and in huge, oceanic "garbage patches." And here they rest arguably for all eternity. Sounds dramatic? Unfortunately, it is also true.

Standard plastic bags don't biodegrade, they actually photodegrade. When exposed to ultraviolet radiation from the sun, PE's polymer chains become brittle and crack. This suggests that bags outside the cover of landfills will eventually fragment into microscopic granules. However, based on present data, scientists cannot be sure how long this process will take, and there's much speculation that decomposition rates will not be measured in decades but in centuries.

### **What Can We Do?**

Actually, there's quite a lot each of us can do to *significantly* reduce the amount of plastic in our environment. It's all about revisiting those three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

### **Reduce Your Usage**

Avoiding outright the use of plastic bags has the most immediate, direct, and positive effect on the environment. Apart from being a semi-permanent form of pollution, single-use bags are not environmentally friendly for other reasons. The manufacturing of PE is a high-energy process that requires large amounts of electricity, primarily from coal-fired power plants. The raw materials, petroleum and natural gas, are also both non-renewable energy sources.

Changing daily habits when transitioning from PE-based products to reusable alternatives can be difficult at first. Many shoppers find themselves returning to their cars again and again for their grocery bags until the habit sticks. Ultimately, perseverance and patience win over, and converts often find using fewer sturdy bags better than many flimsy plastic bags.

Do the research, become aware of what types of bags are PE-based, and look for viable, reusable options that suit you. For example, if you save money by buying food in bulk and break it down for freezing, switch to tempered glass or durable plastic containers that are freezer-grade, instead of zippered freezer bags. Use small, reusable storage containers rather than sandwich bags for packed lunches. When going out to eat, take a quart-sized container with you. Yes, it sounds silly, but it saves taking leftovers home in the Styrofoam box and plastic carrier bag that restaurants provide.

### **Reuse Plastic Bags**

Though not nearly as effective as reduc-

**Question:** Which is better: paper or plastic?



**Answer:** Neither. Choose reusables, which help save energy and the environment!

### **Plastic Bags**

! Each year, an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are expended worldwide. That comes out to over 1 million per minute. Billions end up as litter each year.

! Hundreds of thousands of sea turtles, whales and other marine mammals die every year from eating discarded plastic bags that they mistake for food.

! Plastic is accumulating at an alarming rate in our oceans, wreaking havoc on wildlife, polluting our beaches, and entering our food chain.

### **Paper Bags**

! It takes more than four times as much energy to manufacture a paper bag as it takes to manufacture a plastic bag.

! In 1999 alone, 14 million trees were cut down to produce the 10 billion paper grocery bags used by Americans. Paper bag production delivers a global warming double-whammy: forests (major absorbers of greenhouse gases) have to be cut down, and then the subsequent manufacturing of bags produces greenhouse gases.

! Paper bags generate 70 percent more air pollutants and 50 times more water pollutants than plastic bags.

(continued on page 5)

# Legislation: Fee on Bags

## Cleaning the Streams by Bagging Bags

(continued from page 4)

ing or recycling, this is by far the most widely-used approach. More than 90 percent of us reuse our plastic bags at least once for things like wastebasket liners, packing material, lunch totes, and picking up pet waste. If you already have a stash of bags that cannot be recycled, have some fun and be creative. Turn them into “recycle art” or cut large, colorful ones into aprons for the July 4<sup>th</sup> barbeque.

### Recycle!

Most of us know that almost all grocery stores and many retailers have bins for recycling plastic grocery bags. However, not everyone knows they also accept the following plastic items:

- ♦ Newspaper bags
- ♦ Dry cleaning bags
- ♦ Bread bags
- ♦ Produce bags
- ♦ Wrap for toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, furniture and electronics
- ♦ Retail bags (hard plastic and string handles removed)
- ♦ Food storage bags (clean and dry), such as Ziploc® bags
- ♦ Cereal box liners (If it tears like paper, do not include.)
- ♦ Tyvek® (no glue, labels, other material)
- ♦ Diaper packaging
- ♦ Shipping envelopes (Do not include bubble wrap, and be sure to remove labels.)
- ♦ Case wrap (e.g., snacks, water bottles)
- ♦ All clean, dry bags labeled with a 2 or 4

It is important not to introduce contaminants into the recycling stream, and there are still several items that are not accepted, including cling or food wrap, packaging for frozen or prepackaged food, bio-based or compostable bags, and plastic that has paint or excessive glue on its surface.

More information on recycling is

available at two great web-based resources, [www.PlasticBagRecycling.org](http://www.PlasticBagRecycling.org) and [www.Earth911.com](http://www.Earth911.com).

In the long term, reducing your reliance on plastic is the most effective plan of action. While recycling does immediately remove plastic bags from the trash stream, it is not always a perfect solution and can have unforeseen problems of its own.

According to the American Chemistry Council's 2008 “plastic film” report, 57 percent of our collected plastic waste was sent overseas for processing. With the recent world-wide economic downturn, many of these recyclers have gone out of business, making it uncertain how much of what is being exported is actually getting recycled.

### Tell Your Elected Officials You Support the Bag Bill

Both senate and house versions of the bill are scheduled in early March for their second reading before respective committees. If approved, the Maryland bag bill will go forward for its third and final reading, the floor vote. This is an excellent time to show your support, which you can do in two ways:

- ♦ The easiest way is to sign the online petition at one of the following websites: Sierra Club Maryland Chapter (<http://maryland.sierraclub.org/>) or Trash Free Maryland Alliance (<http://www.trashfreemaryland.org/>).
- ♦ You also may send an email to your senator and delegates directly. Elected officials are always interested in hearing from constituents. For the names and contact information for your elected officials, go to <http://mdelect.net/electedofficials/>.

*Meredith Sweet is the chair of the Southern Maryland Group.*



### The Bag Fee Is a Win for All

The legislation puts a new focus on reducing the amount of trash that enters Maryland's waterways and bolsters a fund dedicated to the cleanup and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. The legislation represents a unique attempt to work with business and environmental leaders to develop a shared strategy to reduce the amount of trash in the Chesapeake Bay and coastal waterways.

### How the Initiative Works

- ♦ The legislation will place a small 5-cent fee on all single-use plastic and paper carryout bags.
- ♦ The legislation requires that these plastic and paper carryout bags be recyclable.



Photos: Rich Reis

### Community Education and Outreach

- ♦ The legislation delays implementation for 6 months to a year, requiring the state to conduct an intensive public information campaign and work with service providers to distribute multiple free reusable bags to seniors and low-income households.

### How the Fee Would Be Used

- ♦ The 5-cent fee will be divided between the state, the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the business collecting the fee.
- ♦ The bulk of the fee will be deposited into the Trust to target environmental cleanup, reclamation, and restoration efforts on the Chesapeake Bay and impaired local waterways, as well as to continue a public education campaign and provide free reusable bags to Maryland residents, in particular to elderly and low-income residents.
- ♦ Businesses will retain either 1 or 2 cents of the fee, depending whether they offer customers a carryout bag credit program for reusable bags.

### Bag Fees Are Successful for Business, the Environment, and People

- ♦ Other jurisdictions are moving in this direction, both regionally and internationally. In Washington, DC, after just one month of a similar fee, demand for plastic bags dropped as much as 80%. Volunteers in DC report a significant

(continued on page 10)



## Legislation: Energy Efficiency

### Rating and Disclosing the Energy Efficiencies of Maryland's Buildings

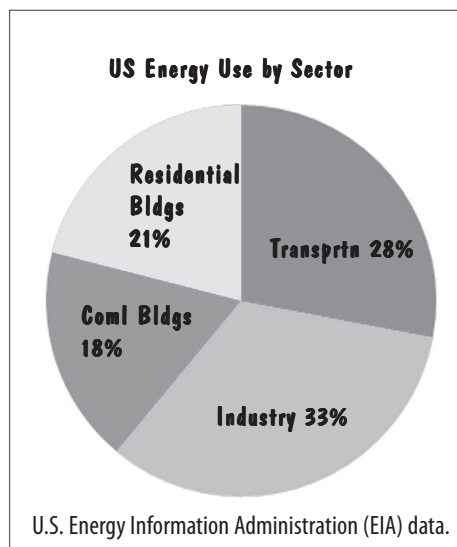
Buildings, both residential and commercial, consume a significant proportion of energy generated from fossil fuels. Conservation awareness and green building technology has had a positive effect on the energy efficiency of new buildings, but most of our existing buildings continue to use energy wastefully. We support SB 713 and HB 985, which would require evaluation and disclosure of commercial building energy use through EPA's free on-line tool, Energy Star Profile Manager. The ratings would help potential purchasers or tenants factor energy costs into their financial calculations and relocation decisions. It would likely spur efficiency upgrades, such as improved heating, air conditioning, lighting, insulation, and air sealing in the least efficient buildings, and bring down energy costs and the attendant pollution that energy consumption creates.

In the United States, the energy consumption of residential and commercial buildings comprises 39%, more than any other sector. Two-thirds of electricity consumed here each year is used in buildings. In Maryland, electricity consumption is the number one source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Non-residential buildings, including offices, retail stores, government facilities, schools and hospitals, are a major part of this equation. Maryland has more than 475 million square feet of existing, privately owned office and retail space, a number that grows even larger when accounting for other types of nonresidential space.

Building owners cannot manage what they have not measured. Rating the energy efficiency of non-residential buildings in Maryland will:

- ♦ Educate building owners on their



own energy consumption relative to other buildings

- ♦ Encourage energy efficiency measures and greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the existing buildings sector
- ♦ Help inform future actions to reduce building energy consumption, as called

for under the EmPOWER Maryland initiative and the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act of 2009

Disclosing energy efficiency ratings to the market will:

- ♦ Transform the market for existing buildings by allowing real estate investors, tenants and lenders to fully value energy-efficient properties
- ♦ Reward owners of efficient properties with higher operating incomes, rent premiums and above-market occupancy rates
- ♦ Create a virtuous cycle of competition between building owners based on energy efficiency, reducing the energy consumption and resulting energy costs of the overall building stock
- ♦ Put market-based pressure on owners of inefficient properties to increase building efficiency

#### ENERGY STAR BUILDINGS . . .

★ Rent for more money (3% to 6% per square foot) and have lower vacancy than conventional buildings

★ Have 13.5% higher market value

★ Earn owners 6% more net operating income per square foot

★ Consume an average of 35% less energy

★ Saved \$1.7 billion in utility costs for owners in 2008

Institute for Market Transformation Data  
([www.imt.org](http://www.imt.org))

#### Get \$5: Use a Cloth or Net Bag

Frequently carrying flimsy plastic grocery bags caused a painful nodule on my left middle finger. The nodule disappeared after I began using a cloth shopping bag that I bought for \$.99.

The cloth bag was vastly superior ergonomically; the annoyances of full plastic and paper bags ripping and of having bags to recycle disappeared; and some markets gave me at checkout a small rebate for using the cloth bag.

I want to encourage others to switch. If you send me a receipt for a cloth or net bag, with a promise to use it, and your name and address, I will send you \$5.

B. Brody, 10300 Strathmore Hall St., #212, N. Bethesda, MD 20852.  
Offer limited to first 50 respondents. One rebate per person.

**Act Now! Offer expires 05/15/11.**



#### Need an idea for your Earth Day event?

Check out Earth Day 2 Go!

It's a complete kit of background information, activities, and give-aways to make Earth Day planning easy.

For more information, contact  
Laurel Imlay in the Chapter Office  
at 301-277-7111 or e-mail Laurel at  
[Laurel.Imlay@SierraClub.org](mailto:Laurel.Imlay@SierraClub.org)

## A Bill Proposes to Take Invasive Plants Out of the Marketplace

By Marc Imlay—A bill has been introduced by Delegate Shane Robinson to establish an Invasive Plant Advisory Committee. It would advise the Secretary of Agriculture in adopting a science-based protocol for assessing the risk of invasive plants, *i.e.*, the threat that an invasive plant represents to the health of various ecosystems from wildlands, parks, and forests to backyards and farms, as well as the environmental, economic and health risks that such plants impose. The committee's membership would be drawn from government agencies, regulated communities, environmental groups, experts in the field, and consumers.

A substantial number of plant species now known to be invasive were introduced as landscaping plants. The IPAC would specify two tiers of invasive plants, and specify how each should be handled from sale to disposal. Those in Tier 1 could not be sold, grown, or transported, and thus would no longer be commercially available. Those in Tier 2 could still be sold, but consumers would have to be warned about the invasive nature of the plants. The new regulations would be phased in, and would ultimately give the Maryland Department of Agriculture the responsibility to destroy or stop the sale of such plants.

It is a very balanced approach to a difficult problem. Please contact your state legislators to support this bill, HB0831, and ask your state senator to introduce a matching bill in the Maryland Senate. You can read the bill at <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/billfile/HB0831.htm>. You can find contact information for your delegates at <http://mlis.state.md.us>; click on "contact or find a Legislator."

For more information contact Marc Imlay, who chairs our chapter's committee on biodiversity, at [ialm@erols.com](mailto:ialm@erols.com).

## The Downside of Deer

By Marc Imlay—Forested environments help our mental and physical health, scientific evidence shows. Spending time in the forest generates more comfortable and calmer feelings than spending time in an urban environment. People who live in urban areas and find their lives filled with daily stress can benefit psychologically by spending time in nature. Studies have shown that walking as little as three hours a week benefits the physical health of people with sedentary lifestyles.

Enjoying the outdoors and the beauty of nature implies some risks. Potential hazards are present in all the world's wilderness areas. If you are to enjoy nature safely, it's always a good idea to get informed about all the local possible dangers such as animals, plants, pathogens, rip tides, geological threats (e.g. volcanic and tectonic activity)—and Lyme Disease.

### Deer and Lyme Disease

Lyme Disease is the most commonly reported tick-borne disease in the United States. Maryland and Northern Virginia, as well as most of New England, are home to the highest rates of infection. Confirmed cases of Lyme Disease have doubled in Maryland in the past ten years, and it affects people more frequently in their backyards than in the woods. The disease is carried by deer ticks, and numerous studies have shown that abundance and distribution of deer ticks are correlated with deer densities. In other words, the more deer present in a given area, the more ticks you are likely to have. In about half the studies I read, when deer density was reduced to natural population densities, the risk of Lyme Disease was greatly reduced, even to less than 10% of previous risk and incidence. Thus, deer population management is an important tool in any long-term strategy to reduce human incidences of Lyme Disease.

With the extirpation of the cougar and wolf in Maryland and limited pre-

vention by coyotes, it is essential to have managed hunts to reduce deer to pre-settlement density of 10-20 per square mile instead of current densities, typically 60-110 deer/square mile. Scott Bates, regional National Park Service wildlife biologist who coordinates the deer surveys, estimated that Greenbelt National Park has around 101 deer per square mile or 120 deer in the area surveyed. Hunting restrictions could include number and selection of hunters, bow hunting or archery, timing and location.

### Deer and land degradation

Deer cause other significant negative impacts, including agricultural damage, and deer-vehicle collisions have doubled in the past eight years. "Deer can have devastating effects upon the few examples of undisturbed native ecosystems in the state, which remain as small pockets within Maryland's fragmented suburban and agricultural landscapes. . ." a Maryland Department of Natural Resources report pointed out. Thus DNR's goal would be that a maximum of about 20 deer per square mile be maintained, with some natural fluctuation in drought or cold years. More specific determinations can be based on actual browse levels, deer health, and effects on diversity of rare lilies and orchids and percent of deer mice harboring Lyme Disease.

At greatly reduced densities, deer naturally select for certain species and maintain biodiversity. But heavily used deer trails cause disturbance and enable exotic species, such as Japanese stilt grass, wavyleaf basketgrass, and Japanese barberry to colonize disturbed habitat deep in the woods. Integrating aggressive deer population control measures into land management programs is necessary to restore our forests. Surveys of deer density are critical to determine where deer need to be controlled and restoration activities timed for effectiveness. Deer density is often measured in various ways,

such as by noting the presence or absence of greenbrier leaves at the browse level as well as by aerial photography.

### Japanese barberry and Lyme Disease

There is a 5 to 8.8 times increased risk of Lyme Disease in Japanese barberry dominated areas. University of Connecticut researcher Jeff Ward reported in 2007 that ticks doubled in Connecticut where Japanese barberry was present. A year later, the Connecticut researchers found that questing adult ticks were most abundant in areas dominated by Japanese barberry, and that about 44% of the ticks found in barberry were infected with *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the spirochete causative agent of human Lyme Disease. However, only 10% of the less abundant ticks from non-barberry areas were infected. These findings suggest a great probability of humans becoming infected with Lyme Disease in barberry-dominated areas. Thus, there is an 8.8 times greater risk in Japanese barberry patches. Follow-up studies at other sites found 5 times greater risk in Japanese barberry patches.

University of Missouri research found that Asiatic bush honeysuckle increases the risk of tick-borne disease by a factor of ten. I am so glad we got 80% of the massive populations of bush honeysuckle so far out of Little Paint Branch Park in Beltsville, and Magruder Park in Hyattsville, and all of the massive population out of Cherry Hill Park in College Park. It had just started in Swann Park in Charles County, when we then eradicated it. I am also glad we got 99% of the massive populations of Japanese barberry out of Little Paint Branch Park, Chapman State Park and Swann Park. ■

Marc Imlay, PhD, is a conservation biologist and chairs the Maryland Chapter's Biodiversity and Habitat Stewardship Committee.

### Prince George's Cool Counties Working Group Has a Renewed Challenge

**By Woody Woodruff**—A new county executive and administration give us hope for a “new day” in Prince George’s County. We hope this electoral change in local leaders will lead to a more consistent and serious take on environmental issues. Sierra Club members and other environmental activists in Prince George’s County must keep informed and maintain pressure on new County Executive Rushern Baker and a county council sporting many rookie members who are unknown quantities in terms of their commitment to the environment.

One effective pressure point in the previous political cycle was the Cool Counties Working Group, mostly made up of SC members, which focused on how the county, a nearly \$3 billion enterprise, can reduce its own carbon-user footprint and save money at the same time. A set of proposals developed by the local group was presented to the county council on June 17, 2008, when the council voted to make Prince George’s a “Cool County.”

The past tense “was” lets you know that the working group has been little more than a letterhead for the past year or so after an active start. Early bright spots—emphatically including the hiring of an energy manager to negotiate performance contracts with suppliers and users of energy—faded as the energy manager was laid off in the post-recession budget crunch. We got little or no cooperation from the Jack Johnson administration as his regime wound down in its last days.

Looking for allies, the Cool Counties Working Group began a full-scale effort in early 2009 in concert with the newly-formed Prince George’s Green Power Coalition, which focused on an inside-outside game for environmental progress. They jointly proposed for the county, in addition to improving on its own footprint, to provide an array of laws, policies, and support activities promot-

ing green jobs, commercial and residential efficiencies, and outside sources of funding. But flagging commitment from the administration meant mixed progress. Even as he praised the (then still employed) new energy manager position and quick work on “low-hanging fruit” like LED traffic lights and motion-sensitive lighting in county office buildings, Green Power Coalition (and Cool Counties Working Group) member Gary Frank of Cheverly wrote in a *Gazette* op-ed that the county “may be squandering the chance to land millions of dollars in federal stimulus funds to significantly reduce the county’s energy consumption and increase the production of renewable energy.”

Indeed, a visionary solar power farm sited at the county landfill might have been on the table when Federal stimulus funds were still available, Frank said. But now his fear that “it appears that we are missing the opportunity to use stimulus funds” for such activities appears to be borne out by the absence of that solar project from most current wish lists.

Moving to the current agenda, the Baker transition team’s environmental element—“Green Development Subcommittee”—proposes long-term and short-term, major and small-ball changes. All of these proposed changes aim to “save the county money, create jobs, facilitate investment, and put the county ahead of other jurisdictions.”

Long-term goals of concentrating the county’s employees at a major mass transit node and fashioning a green-oriented but streamlined, user-friendly set of development and permit regulations are coupled with a short-term goal of a planning board and chair “who understand and adequately represent the county’s varied land uses and will promote green planning/development.”

A broad and immediate goal is “an integrated approach to sustainability. By creating an Office of Sustainability and/

or appointing a Chief Sustainability Officer, collaboration across agencies can occur and ensure the best coordinated planning.... a Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) who reports directly to the County Executive [should be appointed]. The CSO would oversee all efforts towards planning and implementation of a sustainable future for our County, including directing a short-term Green Economy Task Force and an ongoing Sustainability Advisory Council ... to establish goals, research best practices, create implementation plans, and coordinate implementation of policy and operational changes and assess progress towards our goals.”

Baker himself has made a promise in this vein to which he can and should be held. His November 16 blog on the county executive’s website asserted, “I understand that sustainable practices not only save our environment, but also save county tax payer’s money . . . A cornerstone of my environmental policy agenda is the creation of a Prince George’s Office of Sustainability. This office will work with every county department to make sure their policies are environmentally friendly and internal procedures and practices are ‘green’.”

The transition report, which activists should push with both the county executive and council, includes many excellent recommendations that are outside the scope of the “Cool Cities/Cool Counties” agenda of reducing the local governments’ footprint. They include stimulating a local green building industry by retrofitting county-owned buildings to LEED standards when renovation is needed, as well as incentivizing publicity of green development at high-visibility spots like Metro stations; assembling citizen and expert panels to develop green jobs programs; meshing local redevelopment plans with the 2010 state law that fast-tracks plans with strong green components; and focusing on local food pro-

duction and accessibility.

In pushing the transition report’s elements, the Sierra Club should take note that:

- ♦ environmental justice issues need to be included in any package of programs to ensure diversified access, benefits, and participation in a greener county; and
- ♦ more emphasis is needed on local alternative energy production for residential as well as commercial uses.

As the Cool Counties Working Group reassembles to tackle the new administration and council, we can look ruefully at things we should have done but haven’t:

- ♦ Reaching out to citizen and neighborhood groups;
- ♦ Building our membership in each district so we can lobby each council member;
- ♦ Presenting a new list of proposals, including our Sierra Club group’s goal of hands-on environmental education in county schools and at Prince George’s Community College; and
- ♦ Adding the Port Towns to Edmonston as Cool Cities (“the cool Port Towns”) and work to add other cities.

**A statewide sustainability conference is scheduled for Thursday, April 14 at Arlington Echo in Millersville, Md.** It will gather participants from around the state to network and discuss current sustainability trends. We can send three representatives. The deadline for registration is March 10, but a wait list or late registration may be possible at <http://shopdnr.com/sustainability.aspx>. The group’s contact person for the conference is John Wald at [jwald@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:jwald@dnr.state.md.us) or 410-260-8073. ■

*Woody Woodruff is a member of the Prince George’s Cool Counties Working Group.*



# Conservation: MAPP (Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway)

## A MAPP to the Mattawoman's Demise?

Readers of *Chesapeake* are familiar with the plight of Mattawoman Creek, a priority conservation project of the Maryland Chapter. Heralded as one of the Bay's best fish spawning and nursery grounds, this twenty-mile river and sinuous tidal-freshwater estuary opening to the Potomac River has been under assault by asphalt for some time.

State and federal agencies warned of potential trouble some twenty years ago, when Charles County concocted the concept of a "development district"—30% larger than Washington, D.C.—to institutionalize sprawl development across Mattawoman's mostly forested watershed.

Today, these warnings are coming true, according to a recent report by the Department of Natural Resources. The health of Mattawoman's fish communities began sliding several years ago when the watershed passed about 8% coverage by surfaces impervious to rainwater, as expected according to recent research. Yet, the onslaught continues. In an area important to spawning migratory fish, Charles County has proposed growth-inducing mega-projects like the Cross County Connector, an airport expansion, a tech park, and zoning to convert the one-stoplight town of Bryans Road into a new edge city.

Now the Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway, or MAPP, emerges as a new threat. MAPP, a proposed extra-high-voltage transmission circuit, lay sleeping until last October, when PEPCO Holdings, Inc. applied for permits to deforest 118 acres of wetlands along a 52 mile right-of-way (see Fig. 1). This is the largest wetland permit ever considered

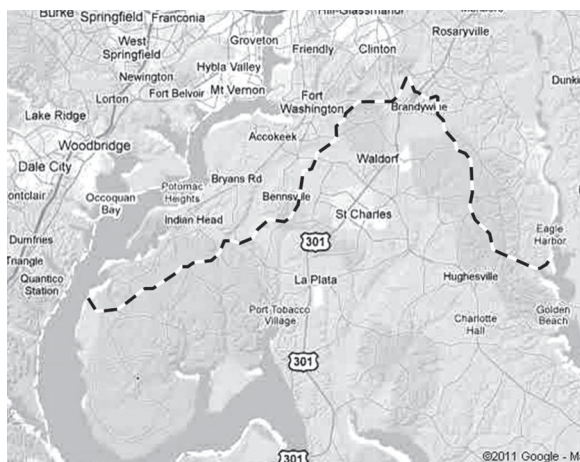


Fig. 1. The 52 mile segment of MAPP for which the MDE is considering permits to permanently impact 118 acres of wetlands.

by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Coincidentally, together with PATH (Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline), MAPP is also a Chapter priority in its campaign against "coal by wire."

The current permit application pertains to one segment of the entire MAPP proposal, which would run 230 miles from the Potomac River's Possum Point in Virginia to Salem, NJ. In Maryland, MAPP would cross the Potomac River on new towers to Moss Point below

Mattawoman's mouth, then traverse Charles, Prince Georges, and Calvert counties in a widened right-of-way. From there it would cross the Chesapeake Bay just north of Calvert Cliffs nuclear plant, dive underground for 23 miles beneath the Choptank River, and then cross the Dorchester and Wicomico Counties to the Indian River power plant in Delaware. (The remaining segment to Salem, NJ is presently on hold.)

The impacts of the 52-mile segment now before MDE and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), would affect Mattawoman, Nanjemoy, and Piscataway Creeks, Zekiah Swamp, and the Patuxent River. The impacts arise because the new 500-kilovolt circuit would be strung for most of its distance on the vacant side of existing towers, which requires forest clearing, as Fig. 2 illustrates. The results are not benign. A widened clear-cut usurps habitat from forest interior dwellers, impairs important wetland and floodplain functions, potentially desiccates vernal pools, impedes wildlife migration, and promotes dispersal of invasive plants.

Mattawoman would bear the brunt of MAPP's damage, as the widened path would cross 27 streams, deforest 76 acres of permanent wetland, and clear another 100 acres of forest. All at a time when the watershed's forest loss is approaching ~50%, beyond which the landscape loses its ability to fully protect the creek from damaging runoff, even in the absence of impervious cover. At such a time, maintaining a fully functioning wetlands should

be a priority.

The proponents of MAPP have been employing a multi-pronged public relations effort. PEPCO Holdings, Inc. targets the general public with claims that the lights will go out without the new circuit, and that the line will create jobs. The corporation soothes the environmental community with claims that MAPP is critical to distribute offshore wind-generated power. But independent professional assessments find that MAPP is not needed for reliable power, especially as other measures are taken to relieve transmission congestion. Any jobs would be temporary, but come at the cost of permanent and irreversible degradation of the water quality and natural resources that employ those servicing birders, boaters, paddlers, hikers, bikers, anglers, hunters, and all who appreciate wildlife and green spaces. And the 600 MW expected from current offshore wind projects would be absorbed on the eastern shore, Baltimore, and other east coast cities, without any need to cross the Potomac River. The distribution of this power might also be better met with alternatives, such as a proposed route near the head of the Chesapeake Bay that appears to be less environmentally damaging.

While the comment period to MDE and the Army Corps closed on March 1, Sierrans can still do their part by participating in an Army Corps hearing if one is granted in response to requests by the Sierra Club, Mattawoman Watershed Society, and others. There, requests can be offered for an Environmental Impact Statement to assure that a widely scoped analysis of alternatives is conducted. Please stay tuned! ■

*This article was contributed by the Mattawoman Watershed Society.*



Fig. 2. The existing 500 kilovolt transmission line, where it crosses Old Woman's Run, a high-quality (Tier II) tributary to Mattawoman Creek. MAPP would string a second extra-high-voltage circuit on the vacant (left) side of existing towers, requiring forest clearing over much of the 52-mile run. Immediately to the right of the photo is the Indian Head Rail Trail, which runs within sight of the transmission line for nearly two of its thirteen miles.

## Bag Fee

### The Bag Fee Is a Win for All

(continued from page 5)

drop in bags collected at recent river cleanup events. Businesses report cost savings and cleaner property.

- ♦ Many businesses are already taking steps on their own in addition to selling low-cost durable, reusable bags. Discount food stores like ALDI and Save-A-Lot charge customers a nominal fee for every bag—greatly reducing the number of plastic and paper bags used and encouraging customers to bring reusable bags. Walmart is testing a fee in California. Furniture store IKEA found that a 5-cent fee reduced disposable bag use so much that they phased them out entirely.

- ♦ Reduced litter reduces litter cleanup costs. Maryland's Department of Transportation spends \$29 per bag of litter collected along the state's highways. Counties spend millions of dollars each year on local pickup.

For more information, please visit [www.TrashFreeMaryland.org](http://www.TrashFreeMaryland.org).



*If you don't speak out now when it matters, when would it matter for you to speak out?*

—Jim Hightower

Check out our chapter's legislative priorities at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/action/p0140.asp>

Follow the legislative process at the website for the General Assembly at <http://mlis.state.md.us/>

## Conservation: The Bay

### Moving Upstream

#### MD Counties to Create Local Watershed Implementation Plans for the Bay's Pollution Diet

By Claudia Friedetzky—Guided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Maryland, the District of Columbia and the five other states that comprise the Chesapeake Bay watershed have embarked onto Phase II in the historic process to implement a pollution diet for the Chesapeake Bay. The goal of this diet is to limit the amount of nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment that pour into the Bay. Through cutting this sort of pollution by roughly about 25% overall, the Bay will become once again swimmable and fishable.

Pollution diets have been in existence for decades, but there has never been a concerted effort to enforce such a pollution limit for Chesapeake Bay. But since 2009, federal and state agencies have ramped up the process to create expectation for the clean up of the Bay, establish an accountability framework, set pollution limits, and design state plans for implementation. Public input in Phase I—the initial proposal for pollution reduction submitted to the EPA by the states and the District—has been unprecedented.

Late last year, Maryland submitted one of the strongest Phase I Watershed Improvement Plans (WIPs) among the jurisdictions in the Chesapeake watershed. In February our state took its first step in guiding the counties in their effort to draft and implement their own WIPs, which are part of Phase II. In meetings across the state that were held in February, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reviewed the EPA's basic expectations and timelines for the preparation of the Phase II WIPs.

#### **The Counties' Turn**

As of now, it appears that the counties need to submit their draft plans to the state in late fall, and have their final plans

ready by early 2012. In these plans, counties will have to address a number of issues, including: how much pollution they will reduce and in which sectors, *e.g.*, wastewater treatment, septic systems, stormwater runoff, agriculture. They will need to account for their current ability to reduce pollution. In addition, they will need to discuss in detail their strategies for achieving the additional necessary pollution reduction goals and how to fund those strategies; finally, they will have to explain how they plan to track and measure achievements in pollution reduction.

Counties will also have to figure out how to deal with future pollution created by new development. Ideally, counties will resort to smart growth strategies to minimize the kind of pollution that is created by sprawl development, including runoff from housing, roads and highways, parking lots, and shopping centers. Sprawl development is not only one of the prime causes of water pollution; it also destroys invaluable eco-systems that absorb storm water and provide a filter that reduces pollutants and toxins.

#### **Cleanup will yield economic and environmental benefits**

Considering the current economic situation, planning for and implementing stringent pollution reduction goals is a tall order for any jurisdiction, especially counties that have been hard hit by budget and staff cuts. However, in the long and the short run, this sort of clean up will only yield benefits for our region. The restoration of Chesapeake Bay will ripple throughout the entire watershed by improving the water quality in the countless tributaries that feed the Bay; engendering important and long-overdue infrastructure improvements; bringing much needed jobs to the region; protecting eco-systems that our water and air quality depends on; and preserving our magnifi-

cent landscapes for future generations to explore and enjoy.

For very good reasons, the pollution diet for the Chesapeake Bay has been called historic and a model for the rest of the country. A clean-up of such proportions, while urgently needed for years, has never been tried before in the US. It signals a new shift in commitment to and understanding of the importance of protecting and maintaining our natural resources.

Like any other environmental effort of such magnitude, the outcome of the restoration of Chesapeake Bay depends in large measure on the tireless work of environmentalists to move the process forward and prevent it from getting derailed.

In the case of the clean-up of the Bay, in many ways, the devil will lurk in the local plans and local commitments to robust implementation, since most of the pollution reductions will be achieved on that level. Activists are called upon to support their county officials in this effort, but also to make their voices heard in the pursuit of the best plan and most committed implementation possible. Activists need to see the Phase II WIPs as an opportunity to push for development that doesn't destroy, to protect and improve the places we love, and spread the word that sound environmental stewardship is both in our best economic and ecological interest.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Phase II Watershed Implementation, please contact Claudia Friedetzky at 301-277-7111 or [claudia@mdsierra.org](mailto:claudia@mdsierra.org). ■

*Claudia Friedetzky has just joined the Maryland Chapter staff.*



## Group News Roundup (Anne Arundel, Catoctin)

### From the Mountains to the Piedmont to the Ocean, Maryland Chapter Groups Are at Work and Play

Edited by Mary C. Corddry—The following reports what is happening with the nine Sierra Club groups in Maryland: Anne Arundel County, Catoctin, Eastern Shore, Greater Baltimore, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Southern Maryland, and Western Maryland. If you have information for future *Chesapeake* "Roundups," please contact Mary Corddry, XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com, 410-239-4590.

Sierra Club groups are participating in the state legislative process, identifying local priorities. Groups are active in the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" initiative, encouraging local governments and citizens to address global climate change. They are involved with local land use and other environmental issues, following local government activities and participating on advisory committees and at hearings. They eradicate invasive plants, plant native species, maintain trails, and clean up streams. They enjoy the environment by hiking, biking, paddling, stargazing, camping, and backpacking. They discuss environmental issues and socialize at dinners, picnics, slide shows, movies, and speaker series.

There is something for everyone. Contact your group to get linked with your favorite issue or activity. The Maryland Chapter's home page, [www.maryland.sierraclub.org](http://www.maryland.sierraclub.org), has a link to each group's website.

#### Anne Arundel Group

Chair: David Prosten, 410-263-6341, 410-703-0847, [dprosten@yahoo.com](mailto:dprosten@yahoo.com)

By David Prosten—More than 100 members and guests turned out January 22, 2011, at the Anne Arundel Group's annual potluck dinner. The guest speaker was former long-time U.S. Representative Wayne Gilchrist, who offered an insider's look at how national legislators deal with—or don't deal with, or in most

cases don't even understand—environmental issues. The group honored former legislator Virginia Clagett for her 36 years of public service, and also recognized the Annapolis Unitarian-Universalist Church for its successful Green Sanctuary program.

Our group is gearing up for its annual Earth Day 5K Run and Walk, which normally attracts between 100 and 200 participants. It will be Saturday, April 23, 2011, at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. The group also continues to monitor the county's comprehensive zoning process. Developers and others have asked the County Council for more than 350 zoning changes, some of which could allow massive development and/or development in inappropriate areas.

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

Chair: Dan Andrews, 410-857-4129, [dooze@qis.net](mailto:dooze@qis.net)

By Gregor Becker—"Sustainability" seems to be the newest "dirty word" in Carroll County. The word was used in the United Nation's Agenda 21, a global action plan proposed in 1992. It means

meeting the needs of present generations without depleting the ability of future generations to meet their needs. But Carroll County Commissioner Richard Rothschild has lambasted the term itself, warning of the dangers of "sustainability." [www.americanthinker.com/2009/10/un\\_agenda\\_21\\_coming\\_to\\_a\\_neigh.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/10/un_agenda_21_coming_to_a_neigh.html). Carroll County's Sustainability Plan, the product of a year's work, including efforts by two McDaniel College (Westminster) students, has been disapproved.

The problem seems not to have been with the plan itself, but that the concept of "sustainability" is abhorrent to property rights zealots. Okay, what do you call planning for the future, allowing for a clean world with adequate resources to be passed on to future generations? Perhaps stewardship. Carroll County commissioners axed funding for ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, a global association of over 1,200 local government members providing services to support local government in the implementation of sustainable development at the local level. Fortunately, our county Cool Cities agreement has not been rescinded, so far.

#### Debate Continues on Waste Disposal

Carroll and Frederick activists are still opposing trash incineration, through local Sierra groups and county WasteNot! groups. Robin Davidov, director of the Northern Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (NMWDA), spoke to WasteNot! members on February 23, 2011.


Other rumored "alternatives" are incineration at a proposed Baltimore incinerator or incineration at the Lehigh cement kiln in Union Bridge. A waste hauler who contributed to the successful commissioner campaigns has proposed a 20-year contract to haul Carroll County waste to Baltimore. Commissioner Roush, a former manager at Lehigh, took some fellow commissioners on a tour of the cement plant. In an information session on February 16, 2011, Dan Andrews learned that Lehigh emits 47 tons of lead per year, as well as mercury and other pollutants. Several groups are calling for continuous monitoring. Federal regulators have initiated tougher new air quality standards for cement plants.

#### Frederick Film Fest


Catoctin Sierran Brigitte Fortin has worked with the Friends of Frederick County, which will be sponsoring a film series at the Maryland Ensemble Theater. OURCOMMONWEALTH is proud to partner with local businesses and organizations to present the second annual IMAGINE! Frederick Film Series, a free community education program that will offer residents a chance to learn about and discuss actions to move our community towards economic, environmental and social sustainability. For details see: <http://www.friendsoffrederickcounty.org/events/ourcommonwealth/maryland-ensemble-theater-supports-imagine-frederick-movie-series/>

March 28, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

continued ➞



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



### SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

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

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

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

Make your contribution to  
Maryland Chapter, Sierra Club  
7338 Baltimore Ave., Suite 111  
College Park, MD 20740

Thanks so much!

# Group News Roundup (Catoclin, Eastern Shore, Greater Baltimore)

## Chapter Groups Working and Playing Across the State

←continued

*A Chemical Reaction* "This award-winning documentary film is a heart-warming, inspirational, human-interest story about the origin of the natural lawn care movement in Canada and the U.S."

April 11, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

*A Community of Gardeners* (tentative) "Through the voices of young people, senior citizens, immigrants, garden volunteers and educators, the film will explore the vital role of seven urban community gardens, not only as sources of fresh, nutritious food, but as outdoor classrooms, places of healing, centers of social interaction, and oases of beauty and calm in inner-city neighborhoods."

### Other events

In January, Brigitte Fortin met in Boonsboro with members of WasteNot! Frederick and citizens of Washington County in an effort to begin a grassroots movement: WasteNot! Washington. The meeting received good press coverage.

The annual Boonsboro Green Fest will be Saturday, May 7, 2011.

On February 3, 2011, Dave O'Leary from the Maryland Chapter, Lew Sherm, and Dan Andrews attended a public meeting to educate citizens and foster public involvement regarding the R. Paul Smith coal-fired power plant in Westernport. Several environmental groups want the EPA to require the installation of pollution control devices on this very old power plant which, though operating at minimal capacity, is very dirty.

The Maryland Heartland Sustainable Living Fair will return with a new name, "2011 Go Local Fair." It will be at the Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 South Center Street, Westminster, Maryland on May 21, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Check out the booths, programs, and activities; give hope to the next gen-

eration.

Members of the Catoclin Group, in association with the Carroll County Forestry Conservancy Board, are hosting two training sessions on removing invasive exotic weeds. The training consists of a one-hour on-line training session about identifying invasive exotic weeds, followed by a hands-on class lasting about two hours. One hands-on class will be at Bear Branch Nature Center/Hashawha Environmental Center on April 30, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. Another class will be at Piney Run Nature Center on May 14, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. Those who complete the training will be Carroll County Weed Warriors, certified to remove invasives from Carroll County parks. Those from other counties are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Carolyn Puckett, 410-876-1995, or cpuck@comcast.net.

### Eastern Shore (Cecil County and Eastern Shore Counties)

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

The Eastern Shore Group meets on the third Tuesday of every month at the Wicomico Library, 122 South Division Street, downtown Salisbury. 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. We have an intern from Salisbury University in the offices of the Salisbury city government documenting a full greenhouse gas inventory to serve as the baseline for the city to reduce energy consumption.

A presentation has also been developed showing residential energy users how to reduce their energy consumption. The presentation highlights rebates and

## Sustain Maryland's environment for only \$10 a month!



For less than a subscription to Netflix, you can have the satisfaction of supporting the next generation of citizen leaders working to protect Maryland's natural heritage.

Become a sustaining member of the MD Sierra Club by selecting a monthly, quarterly, or annual amount, payable via credit card on our website in the Join and Give section. Go to <http://maryland.sierraclub.org> and click on "Donate."

programs available through the power company, and a self-audit to find 50 ways to save energy in the home.

On February 1, 2011, the Lower Shore members sponsored, with four other environmental groups in the area, a showing at Salisbury University (SU) of the film, "Oceans of Plastic." We met new people and munched on delicious refreshments, while learning about the growing problem of plastic in our waters. Afterward, we heard about the Maryland Bag Bill and everyone enthusiastically signed our petition cards. There was a big turnout, and many stayed late to discuss environmental issues. Thanks to the SU caterers for going the extra mile by exchanging plastic water bottles, styrofoam cups, paper napkins, and plastic spoons with eco-friendly dinnerware and fabric napkins!

For further information, contact Don Grace, Don.Grace@mdsierra.org.

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

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

The next Greater Baltimore group meeting and event will be on April 27, 2011. Please join us for a social evening at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center for potluck and a talk by a natural resource specialist from the Baltimore County Department

of Environmental Protection and Sustainability. The topic will be watersheds and their influence on streams, rivers, and the Bay. Baltimore County has initiated a plan to improve and protect the small watersheds of the Oregon Ridge streams: Oregon Branch, Beaver Dam, and Baisman Runs. Learn all about watersheds and find out what can be done to restore them to improve water quality for drinking and recreation.

As we set up for the potluck dinner, between 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., we will have an outings meeting to discuss past and planned outings. Prospective outings leaders are welcome to attend, meet outings leaders, and discuss what is required to lead an outing. The potluck will start at 6:30 p.m., and the talk at 7:30 p.m., lasting no later than 9:00 p.m. Come with family and friends and bring a dish to share.. Reservations are not required.

The nature center is at 13555 Beaver Dam Road and can be reached from the Shawan Road west exit (#20B) from I-83 north of the Baltimore Beltway. Take Shawan Road to the traffic light at Beaver Dam, make a left and stay to the right toward the parking lot. Walk up to the nature center. Call Joyce, 410-254-7240, with any other questions.

We have many wonderful outdoor activities planned this spring. See them listed in the outings section in this newsletter or check <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore/> To

continued →



## Group News Roundup ( Greater Balto.,Howard, Montgomery)

### Chapter Groups Working and Playing Across the State

←continued

join the outings listserve, please email [apenczek@stevenson.edu](mailto:apenczek@stevenson.edu).

We welcome new outdoor hike leaders. Please contact Jack Wise, 410-256-1963 to find out more!

To join political activities, please contact Janet Schollenberger 443-386-5054, [jscholle4@yahoo.com](mailto:jscholle4@yahoo.com). We are meeting with Baltimore County public officials, and will be making endorsements in the Baltimore City mayoral and council races in the fall.

Our website redesign is in progress with a new link to a “meet up” page. Visit it at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore/> and send comments and content to Paul Schoen 410-667-4889 [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com).

Welcome to the new Baltimore Group Treasurer, Daniel Broh-Kahn. A huge thank-you to Katja Kjølgaard for her years of service in that role. Please send your positive energy and good thoughts to Carolyn Mullen, executive committee member and environmental justice chair, who is recovering from surgery.

And THE BIG NEWS from Baltimore Young Sierrans: we are changing our name to the Baltimore Outdoor Sierrans. We are doing this because, for many years, people have said, “I thought you were a high school group,” or, “I thought you were a group that provides young people with outdoors experiences,” or, “I’m 41...can I still come to a Young Sierrans event?” After much deliberation over the long list of possible new names, we officially got the “thumbs up” from our parent groups—the Greater Baltimore Group and Maryland Chapter—to change our name to BOS this month (like that acronym?). Our planning meeting occurred during the last big snow storm, but we managed to plan events through August (and more are being added to the calendar). Check out the website for a peek at what is to come—hikes, bikes, cabins, and more! For the love of the

Wild, Kathy. Phone 410-440-9896, email [youngsierrans@gmail.com](mailto:youngsierrans@gmail.com), or <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore/youngsierrans>, Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=51601732426>.

#### Howard County

*Chair: Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, [kenclark7@comcast.net](mailto:kenclark7@comcast.net)*

**By Ken Clark**—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: Alvin Carlos, [alvin.carlos@maryland.sierraclub.org](mailto:alvin.carlos@maryland.sierraclub.org)*

#### Message from our new chair, Alvin Carlos

I am excited to work with you all as the chair of the Montgomery County Executive Committee. I’m coming in fresh from helping the Sierra Club identify the candidates whom we endorsed during the 2010 county and state-level elections.

Like you, I joined the Sierra Club because I enjoy being outdoors and believe our environment is worth preserving. If we allow these to be degraded, we are robbing our children of the opportunity to experience the beauty and calmness that nature can bring. Currently, I work as the Development Director of a non-profit advocacy organization called Bank Information Center in Washington, DC. We are calling for the World Bank to change its energy sector strategy from a focus on coal and fossil fuels and instead, to help countries transition to a low-carbon economy.

I hope you will remain active and support the initiatives of the Montgomery County Group. In 2011, we are plan-

ning to ramp up efforts to educate Montgomery County residents about potential energy savings in their homes. We will continue to support adequate funding for the Purple Line and to hold our monthly invasive plant removal events.

Your ideas, time, and support are always welcome! When you get a chance, please visit our website, <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/Montgomery/>, for more information and opportunities to help out.

**By Jane Huff**—Meet the new chair of the executive committee of the Montgomery County Group, Alvin Carlos. The rest of the executive committee remains the same, with Susan Eisendrath, Ethan Goffman, Jane Huff, and David Sears having been handily re-elected to join Gerald Ehrenstein, Hrant Jamgochian, Kate Konschnik, and Pamela Lindstrom. At the January excom meeting, David Sears agreed to be the vice-chairperson, Gerry Ehrenstein will remain the treasurer, and Jane Huff will continue to edit the e-news so that Steve Lonker can produce the online version and eNEWS. David Hauck, chairperson emeritus, will continue as the group representative to the Maryland Chapter while Hrant Jamgochian will serve as alternate representative. Pictures and biographical notes for the five re-elected members of the excom can be found in the December issue of *The Montgomery SIERRAN* at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/Montgomery/>. We have diverse backgrounds, but we are all committed to working for the Sierra Club and trying to achieve its goals in 2011.

This year we will promote intelligently planned “smart growth” for such areas of our county as West Gaithersburg, Wheaton, and White Flint, where development will concentrate. We will continue to educate our members and other county residents about Montgomery County planning laws and processes. We

will emphasize the importance of building a robust public transportation network by supporting a combination of the Purple Line light rail, bus rapid transit, continued funding for Metro and improvements to MARC. Protecting Montgomery County parks and open spaces will involve encouraging volunteers to help remove invasive plants and continuing public education about the problems of habitat destruction. Check the website for events on these and other topics and join us in our programs.

#### Volunteers Successfully Battle Cold, Chilling Winds and Invasive Vines on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

This was the third year that volunteers joined the Montgomery County Sierra Club at the Underground Railroad Experience Trail to celebrate Martin Luther King Day. Two dozen hardy volunteers braved the cold and sawed, lopped, and pulled out the worst patch of oriental bittersweet vines remaining in this park. Starting at the amphitheater in the woods, where local school kids come to learn about the history and ecology of the park, the volunteers fanned out and attacked the thick clinging vines. Oriental bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus*, was the main focus of the attack, but Japanese honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica* was also cut. By the end of the morning almost two acres of forest had been cleared of smothering vines.

We always welcome new volunteers to the ranks of the vine and weed cutters. Vine and weed cutting takes place on the first and second Saturdays of each month in Rock Creek Park and on the Underground Railroad Experience Trail, respectively, and on the third Sunday from March to May and September to October at Blue Mash. We work for two hours. Watch for dates and times in the calendar listings.

The next two Montgomery County Group excom meetings will be on Mon-

continued →

## Group News Roundup ( Mont., Pr. George's, So. MD, Western MD)

### Chapter Groups Working and Playing Across the State

←continued

day March 14, 2011, 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. and on Monday, April 11, 2011, 7:30p.m. – 9:30 p.m., at 103 North Adams Street, Rockville, MD. The monthly meeting of the Montgomery County Sierra Club excom is usually held on the second Monday of each month. All Montgomery County Sierra Club members are invited to attend. Come with your ideas and join us for planning and discussion.

#### Prince George's County

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

Chip Reilly hosted a potluck dinner and meeting at his house for members interested in discussing how to strengthen our county's chapter. We held break-out sessions to discuss issues that the group sees as priorities for 2011. Some issues were: the "Cool Cities" Initiative; recycling; storm water management; transparency in government; opposing MAPP, a proposed 150-mile power transmission line, in Southern Maryland; club outings; public events; and outreach to the community.

On February 15, 2011, approximately 20 people attended the viewing of "Gaslands" at the College Park office. People are also showing this documentary in other parts of the county.

This year we will elect a new executive committee. It was agreed that chapter members will take turns hosting the executive committee potluck dinner meetings. The next meeting will be hosted by Martha Ainsworth (near Bowie) on April 2, 2011.

Group meetings will be held bi-monthly on the first Saturday of even-numbered months. The times for conference calls in odd-numbered months will be determined later.

• 5:30-6:30 p.m. – Potluck dinner social. All welcome.

• 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Business meeting of the Prince George's Group executive committee

Always check our website for updates at [maryland.sierraclub.org/pg/](http://maryland.sierraclub.org/pg/)

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

*Chair: Meredith Sweet, meredith.sweet@verizon.net*

We welcome our new chair, Meredith Sweet!

There will be a hearing before the Charles County Commissioners at 6:00 p.m. on March 30, 2011, at the County Government Building. The hearing will be about the Water Resource Element (WRE) of the Charles County Comprehensive Plan. We are asking the commissioners not to accept the WRE sent to them by the Planning Commission. Instead, we want them to send that WRE back to the Planning Commission with firm instructions to create a Smart Growth WRE that meets guidelines for protecting our water quality, and does not assume the urbanization of our forests and wetlands. (For information about how the MAPP transmission line project threatens Mattawoman Creek, see page 9)

A Message from Bob Boxwell, chair of the Lower Potomac Tributary Team: At this time we do not have Department of Natural Resources staff support so we are on hiatus. We will be concentrating on the Watershed Improvement Plan Phase II (WIP II) in response to the EPA's "Pollution Diet" for the Chesapeake Bay. I am still on two advisory bodies, the Stakeholder Advisor Committee and a steering committee where many of the tributary team members from across the state still reside. The advisory bodies keep me apprised of the responsibilities that each county will be facing. There is a

team in each county, mostly governmental people to start, which, once it gets a framework, should be able to get public input. Right now, I suggest that people list water quality problems they see in their county; places where erosion exists, and poor or failing storm water management; and that they team up with groups like the Master Gardeners, homeowners associations, and garden clubs. There is a whole lot to do and not much money to do it with, but, by working together, we can bring positive change to the Chesapeake Bay. (For more information on the Bay's "pollution diet," see page 10)

#### Western Maryland (Allegany and Garrett Counties)

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

**By Sam White**—The Western Maryland Group is working for a moratorium on proposed hydrofracking, a method of drilling for natural gas in Marcellus shale. This kind of gas drilling is a serious threat to our clean drinking water and health. Please contact us to attend or host a viewing of *Gaslands*, a documentary about hydrofracking, and to join in this extremely important effort. (For more information on hydrofracking, see page 1.)

The group publishes a newsletter, "Nature's Advocate of Western MD," and it has an email discussion group/Listserv at [MD-WMD-FORUM@lists.sierraclub.org](mailto:MD-WMD-FORUM@lists.sierraclub.org), for members to talk about conservation issues pertaining to Western Maryland. The listserv is also used to announce group meetings, outings, and other events. To join, go to the website and click the "Join the list" link. ■



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



### VOLUNTEER with US!

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please select the activities that interest you.

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

Please list your top three conservation issues:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Please send form to:

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



# Maryland Chapter Leaders

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Ron Henry, Chapter Chair, Greater Balto. Del.**  
443-474-7449  
Ron.Henry@mdsierra.org

**David O'Leary, Vice Chair, At-Large Del. (2010)**  
dave.oleary@mdsierra.org

**Erin Barnes, At-Large Del. (2011)**  
202-236-0145  
ebarnesjd@gmail.com

**Betsy Johnson, At-Large Del. (2010)**  
301-656-4948  
betsy.johnson@mdsierra.org

**Rich Reis, At-Large Del. (2011)**  
301-384-0540  
rreis@verizon.net

**Amanda Ruthven, At-Large Del. (2010)**  
240-786-6137; 443-481-7984  
amandaruthven@rushpost.com

**Baird Straughan, At-Large Del. (2011)**  
301-657-8121  
baird.straughan@mdsierra.org

**David Prosten, Anne Arundel Del.**  
dprosten@yahoo.com

**Dan Andrews, Catoctin Del.**  
410-857-4129  
dooze@qis.net

**Don Grace, Eastern Shore Del.**  
don.grace@mdsierra.org

**Kathleen Sheedy, Howard Del.**  
410-505-4528  
Kathleen.Sheedy@Maryland.Sierraclub.org

**David Hauck, Montgomery Del.**  
301-270-5826  
David.hauck@Maryland.sierraclub.org

**Martha Schmidt, Pr. Geo's Del.**  
Martha.Schmidt@mdsierra.org

**Marc Imlay, Southern MD Del.**  
301-283-0808  
marc.imlay@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Sam White, Western MD Del.**  
301-264-4162  
sam.white@Maryland.Sierraclub.org

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

**Chris Yoder, Conservation Co-Chair**  
410-466-2462  
Chris.Yoder@mdsierra.org

**Sam White, Agriculture, CAFO, True Cost of Food (TCOF) Chair**  
301-264-4162,  
sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Charlie Garlow, Air Quality Chair**  
301-593-9823  
charlie.garlow@juno.com

**Marc Imlay, Biodiversity, ESA, Invasive Species, and Habitat Stewardship Chair**  
301-283-0808  
marc.imlay@maryland.sierraclub.org

**David O'Leary, Global Warming, Cool Cities Chair**  
dave.oleary@mdsierra.org

**Amanda Ruthven, Energy Chair**  
amandaruthven@rushpost.com

**Rich Reis, Energy Conservation Chair**  
301-384-0540  
rreis@verizon.net

**Bonnie Bick, Environmental Justice Chair, Mattawoman Campaign Chair**  
301-839-7403  
bonnie.bick@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Caroli Mullen, Blue Green Alliance**  
410-366-6953  
carolimullen@verizon.net

**Chris Yoder, National Wilderness/Refuges/Mining Chair**  
410-466-2462  
Chris.Yoder@mdsierra.org

**Kim Birnbaum, Pesticides Chair**  
410-379-1075  
Kim.Birnbaum@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Cliff Terry, Population Chair**  
410-944-9477  
cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Sam B. Hopkins, Population Vice Chair**  
410-554-0006  
sbh@hopkinsandassociates.com

**Earl Bradley, Right Whale Chair**  
410-224-3236  
earlbradley@verizon.net

**Mark Diehl, State Forests Chair**  
mdiehl55@gmail.com  
301-724-6238

**Fred Tutman, Stormwater Mgmt. Chair**  
301-249-8200 ext 7  
fred@paxriverkeeper.org

**Steve Caflisch, Transportation Chair**  
301-654-3288  
steve.caflisch@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Ed Merrifield, Water Quality Chair**  
202-222-0707  
ed@potomacriverkeeper.org

**Carol Nau, Watershed Chair**  
Nau.carol@gmail.com

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACTS**  
**Cliff Terry, Campaign Finance Reform Chair**  
410-944-9477  
cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Baird Straughan, Fundraising Chair**  
301-657-8121  
baird.straughan@mdsierra.org

**Chris Bryan, Legislative Chair**  
410-326-3720, 443-404-6907  
Chris.bryan@mdsierra.org

**Brigitte Fortin, Membership Chair**  
240-506-8976  
brigitte.fortin@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Jan Hoffmaster, Outings Chair**  
Jan.Hoffmaster@mdsierra.org

**Mike Pretl, PAC Treasurer**  
mikepretl@aol.com

**Betsy Johnson, Political Chair, Council Del.**  
301-656-4948  
betsy.johnson@mdsierra.org

**Charlie Garlow, Political Compliance Officer**  
charlie.garlow@juno.com

**Clay Birkett and Steve Lonker, Postmasters**  
postmaster@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Baird Straughan, Trainings Chair**  
301-657-8121  
baird.straughan@mdsierra.org

**Nancy Hammond, Treasurer**  
240-329-7243  
hammond.nancy@gmail.com

**Rick Andrews, Webmaster**  
andrews4art@yahoo.com

**ACTIVITIES SECTIONS CONTACTS**  
**Kathy Harget, Baltimore Young Sierrans**  
410-440-9896  
youngsierrans@gmail.com

**Bob Burchard & Nicole Veltre**  
BICO Chairs  
baltimoreinnercityoutings@gmail.com

**CHAPTER STAFF**  
**Laurel Imlay, Chapter Coordinator**  
laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org  
301-277-7111

**Alana Wase, Conservation Coordinator**  
Alana.Wase@sierraclub.org  
301-277-7111

**Claudia Friedetsky, Chapter Conservation Rep.**  
Claudia.Friedetsky@sierraclub.org  
301-277-7111

**Office:** 7338 Baltimore Avenue, #111  
College Park, MD 20740  
Tel: 301-277-7111, Fax: 301-277-6699  
http://maryland.sierraclub.org

# Habitat Stewardship Outings

## Anne Arundel County Fort Meade Army Installation (also Howard/PG)

Anyone welcome!

**DATE:** 2nd Saturday of each month starting this spring. Events/Activities subject to change. **RSVP:** Installation Forester Mick Butler or Sheila Chambers three days ahead.

**TIME:** 10am (flexible for groups)

**DESCRIPTION:** Come out for an invasive species removal and learn about non-native plants' impact on our environment. Everyone is welcome! 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, gloves, lunch and water.

**DIRECTIONS:** 295 BW Pkwy to Rte 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

For more information or to volunteer, contact FGGM DPW Environmental Division Mick Butler, 301-677-9188, mick.butler@us.army.mil or Sheila Chambers, 301-677-9167 sheila.chambers@us.army.mil.

## Patuxent Research Refuge (also PG County)

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" and help us treat garlic mustard, mile-a-minute, Japanese stiltgrass and other non-native plant infestations on the refuge. All ages and abilities are welcome. Do your part to protect Patuxent from alien invaders, and become a Weed Warrior! You will receive

a short educational briefing explaining the effects of invasive plants on wildlife and wildlife habitats and how to identify and control these plants. Wear long sleeves and pants and bring gloves. Please register for this event by calling 301-497-5887.

**DATES:** (dates and times subject to change if necessary):

*Friday, 04-22-2011*, Earth Day event - Weed Warriors kick-off, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 1:00pm – 3:00pm

*Wednesday, 05-18-2011*, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 1:00pm – 3:00pm

*Saturday, 05-21-2011*, National Wildlife Visitor Center, 9:00am – 12:00pm

*Wednesday, 06-08-2011*, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9:00am – 12:00pm

*Wednesday, 06-15-2011*, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9:00am – 12:00pm

*Saturday, 06-18-2011*, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9:00am – 12:00pm

*Wednesday, 07-06-2011*, National Wildlife Visitor Center, 9:00am – 12:00pm

*Wednesday, 07-20-2011*, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9:00am – 12:00pm

*Saturday, 07-30-2011*, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9:00am – 12:00pm

*Wednesday, 08-03-2011*, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9:00am – 12:00pm

*Saturday, 08-27-2011*, National Wildlife Visitor Center, 9:00am – 12:00pm

**DIRECTIONS (VISITOR CONTACT STATION):** From I-295, take the exit for MD-Route 198 towards Fort Meade. Go approximately 1.5 miles until you see Glory Days Auto Salvage on your near right corner and baseball fields on your far right. Turn right between the two onto Bald Eagle Drive. Proceed through the gate and continue about 1/2 mile to the Visitor Contact Station.

**DIRECTIONS (NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITOR CENTER):** The National Wildlife Visitor

Center is located off of Powder Mill Road between MD Route 197 and the Baltimore/Washington Parkway, south of Laurel.

For additional information, call 301-497-5763 or visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov>.

## Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Spring Stewardship Day

**DATE:** Saturday April 2, ongoing

**DESCRIPTION:** Jug Bay has over 1,500 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. Great for families! Scout and community groups welcome. Sign up for am, pm, or both.

**DIRECTIONS:** 1361 Wrighton Rd. Lothian, MD 20711. Call 410-741-9330 [www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org)

**RSVP:** Lindsay Hollister and Elaine Friebele, [lindsay@jugbay.org](mailto:lindsay@jugbay.org). 410-741-9330

**ON-GOING:** To adopt your very own plot to monitor, map and manage invasives during the year contact: Lindsey 410-741-9330, [rpholl27@aacounty.org](mailto:rpholl27@aacounty.org)

## Baltimore, Baltimore County Patapsco Valley State Park, Halethorpe, MD

Friends of Patapsco Valley and Heritage Greenway, Inc.

**DATE:** Sunday, May 1, 2011 rain or shine  
**TIME:** 1:00 pm-3:00pm

**DESCRIPTION:** Annual Garlic Mustard Challenge!! invasive garlic mustard pulling contest, A popular annual family-oriented event. Located in the park's Avalon Area, Pavilion 104.

**RSVP:** Betsy McMillon 410.480.0824, [patapscofriend@gmail.com](mailto:patapscofriend@gmail.com)

Additional PHG-sponsored volunteer event dates and locations may be scheduled depending on group requests, 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 ([www.fpvsp.org](http://www.fpvsp.org)) at the Avalon area to eradicate invasive vines. This is the worst place in the park for non-native vines where 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 2-handed cutters for larger vines.

**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, 410-948-4796 or e-mail [J.G.Palmer@jhuapl.edu](mailto:J.G.Palmer@jhuapl.edu) [www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/patapscovolunteer.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/patapscovolunteer.html)

## Prettyboy Reservoir

**DATES:** Ongoing if enough RSVPs

The Prettyboy Watershed Alliance partners with the Sierra Club for invasive removal.

**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

continued →



# Habitat Stewardship Outings



It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on windling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

Add your voice to protect the planet.  
Join Sierra Club

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Join today and receive  
a FREE Sierra Club  
Weekender Bag!



☐ Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.  
Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX  
Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,  
P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

F94Q W

←continued

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: Nancy L Shaper [nshaper@jhmi.edu](mailto:nshaper@jhmi.edu), or Mary 443-386-0862c 410-239-4590h XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com for ongoing events.

## Cromwell Valley Park

Habitat Restoration Team

WHEN: 2nd Saturday of each month 9-12.

DESCRIPTION: Cromwell Valley Park is a wonderful rural park just outside the Beltway on Cromwell Bridge Road. Quietly and slowly, parts of CVP are being transformed with the help of enthusiastic volunteers. The Habitat Restoration Team has been working for several years to remove the unwanted invasive nuisance plants, and to replant some areas with native plants suitable for this particular place. We want the wild areas of the Park to be as healthy and friendly to wildlife as possible after three centuries of industrial and agricultural activity and more recent suburbanization.

We have been greatly helped by groups from local schools and businesses; we always welcome groups who want to help. But the consistent work force is one that meets at the Sherwood House each month on the second Saturday at 9 am and we work until 12 pm. We only cancel if there is too much rain and then the rain date is always the next day (Sunday). Please join us. We provide tools, but you should wear appropriate clothing with long sleeves for working in the woods. There remains a lot to do. You will end the morning with the satisfaction of knowing you made a positive contribution to conserving the natural environment - and we guarantee a good workout!

CONTACT: For more details call 410.887.2503. RSVP Carl Koprowicz:

[birders1@netzero.com](mailto:birders1@netzero.com) Park office: 410-887-2503 [info@cromwellvalleypark.org](mailto:info@cromwellvalleypark.org) [www.cromwellvalleypark.org](http://www.cromwellvalleypark.org). Trail maintenance: [cvpark@bcpl.net](mailto:cvpark@bcpl.net)

## Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

DATES: See [www.gunpowderfalls.org](http://www.gunpowderfalls.org) for calendar

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.

CONTACT: Peggy Perry, Program Director, [pperry@gunpowderfalls.org](mailto:pperry@gunpowderfalls.org), or 410-668-0118

## Baltimore City Blue Water Baltimore

Baltimore Weed Warriors

Blue Water Baltimore is seeking volunteers to help liberate our native forests from invasive plants. Your work will be critical both for the success of reforestation projects and for the conservation of Baltimore's mature tree canopy. Plus, you'll get a great workout! We will provide all training, tools, and work gloves, but please dress appropriately for the weather. Work boots and a pair of thin, warm gloves that you can wear under work gloves are highly recommended. For more information or to sign up, please contact Debra at 410-254-1577 x100 or [dlenik@bluewaterbaltimore.org](mailto:dlenik@bluewaterbaltimore.org) or at .

Join us Sunday, March 20th, 1pm-4pm: location TBA.

## Calvert County American Chestnut Land Trust, Port Republic

DATES: Weed Whacking Wednesdays Oct-April 10-12noon, May-Sept 9-11am,  
Vine Vindicator Saturdays March 26

(Hiking Trail Maintenance Day picnic following), April 16 (Earth Day picnic following), May 21, Oct. 29; 9am- 12 noon.

Full day invasive training program September 17 (10:00 – 3:00, lunch provided).

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@actweb.org](mailto:land@actweb.org)

## Hellen Creek Forest and Wildlife Preserve, Lusby

Invasive Removal at Hellen Creek

DATES: Saturday April 30, 2011 10 am to noon

Saturday June 11, 2011 10 am to noon  
Saturday August 20, 2011 8 am to 10 am

DESCRIPTION: Join us for a quick tour of the preserve and then get down to work saving our native plants from invasive species at Hellen Creek Forest and Wildlife 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 Take Coster Road less than 1 mile to Clifton Drive on the right. Follow this to the driveway on the left with the number 11785 posted. Follow to the end where you will see our sign.

RSVP: Bob Boxwell, Executive Director, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust 410-394-1300 (office) 410-610-5124 (cell) [cpnht@comcast.net](mailto:cpnht@comcast.net)

## Caroline County

Adkins Arboretum, Ridgely, MD

DATES: Ongoing March-November

DESCRIPTION: Adkins Arboretum is a 400-acre native garden and preserve on the Tuckahoe River adjacent to Tuckahoe State Park. The Arboretum trains volunteers to assist staff in removing invasive

continued→

# Habitat Stewardship Outings

←continued

non-natives. Workdays are flexible. Volunteers learn how to identify invasive plants and the best protocols for managing specific invasive species. In addition, the Arboretum's native meadows and wetland are managed by manually removing removal of shrubs and trees.

**DIRECTIONS:** [www.adkinsarboretum.org](http://www.adkinsarboretum.org)  
**CONTACT:** Ginna Tiernan at [gtiernan@adkinsarboretum.org](mailto:gtiernan@adkinsarboretum.org) or 410-634-2847 ext. 27; Eleanor Altman at [ealtman@adkinsarboretum.org](mailto:ealtman@adkinsarboretum.org) or 410-634-2847 ext. 22

## Cecil County Frostburg State University

Arboretum Workdays

Get involved; volunteer at the Arboretum! Help remove exotics, restore natives.

**DESCRIPTION:** The FSU Arboretum would never be able to survive if it wasn't for the help of its many dedicated volunteers. Volunteers have given their time, money, and hard work to help rid the arboretum of invasive plants, clean the trails, plant the gardens, and perform general maintenance. Programs such as the Allen HallSTARS! and Americorps have also made this possible. Many grants from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation have also funded our efforts.

**DIRECTIONS:** Meet at the gazebo in the stadium parking lot, ready to work outside. Tools and gloves provided.

**CONTACT:** Dr. Sunshine Brosi, Ethnobotanist, Department of Biology, [sibrosi@frostburg.edu](mailto:sibrosi@frostburg.edu) or 301-687-4213; Dr. Daniel Fiscus, Forest ecologist, Department of Biology, 301-687-4170 [dafiscus@frostburg.edu](mailto:dafiscus@frostburg.edu)

## Charles County Chapman Forest and Ruth Swann Park

Participating organizations include Maryland Native Plant Society and Sierra Club  
**DATES:** First Sunday and second Saturday, monthly

**TIME:** 10 am – 4 pm

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 to learn about different species as well as 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. Casual clothing, long sleeves and pants, sturdy comfortable walking boots/shoes, gloves are encouraged for these events.

Information about the area and map at [www.chapmanforest.org](http://www.chapmanforest.org) and [www.mattawomanwatershedsociety.org](http://www.mattawomanwatershedsociety.org)

**CONTACT:** Marc Imlay 301-283-0808, 301-442-5657c

**DIRECTIONS:** First Sunday, meet at main gate of Chapman Forest.

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

**CARPOOL INFO:** Meet at Sierra Club Md. Chapter office at 9 am; return 5 pm Call Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111.

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

**CARPOOL INFO:** Meet at Sierra Club Md. Chapter office at 9 am; return 5 pm Call Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111.

## Garrett County Savage River State Forest - Bear Pen Wildlands

Savage River Watershed Association (SRWA)

**DATES:** Tuesday April 26 and Thursday April 28

**TIME:** 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

**DESCRIPTION:** Battling Botanical Bullies - Adult volunteers are needed to continue control efforts of Japanese spiraea and garlic mustard in the Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Forest. Bear Pen is designated as a Type 1 Wildland and is threatened by a variety of exotic invasive species. To volunteer, pre-register by contacting Ron Boyer, SRWA invasive species removal coordinator, at 301-895-3686 or [SRWAdirector@gmail.com](mailto:SRWAdirector@gmail.com).

## Harford County Otter Point Creek, Abingdon, MD

Become an "INVASINATOR"! Volunteer to join the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center in removing invasive plants and restoring native plants. Receive T-shirt after two days.

**DATES/TIMES:** April 9- 11:00-1:00; May 21- 10:00-12:00

For more dates call 410.612.1688 or on the web at [www.otterpointcreek.org](http://www.otterpointcreek.org)  
**DESCRIPTION:** Enjoy pink ladys 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:** Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, 700 Otter Point Road, Abingdon, MD 21009

**REGISTRATION:** Kriste Garman 410-612-1688 or [www.otterpointcreek.org](http://www.otterpointcreek.org)

## Howard County

(Also see Fort Meade Army Installation under Anne Arundel County)

## Howard County Conservancy Habitat Restoration Work Group

**DESCRIPTION:** Our Habitat Restoration Group works to control invasive species here at the Howard County Conservancy, located at 10520 Old Frederick Road Woodstock, MD 21163.

The Habitat Restoration Work Group works on projects such as removing unwanted invasive nuisance plants, replanting and maintaining plantings areas with native plants, stream bank restoration, deer protection, erosion control as well as general trail maintenance. In case of inclement weather, call to make sure we are still meeting.

Please join us! We provide tools, but you should wear appropriate clothing with long sleeves for working in the woods. All levels of experience welcome. For more details contact Tabby Figue, Land Manager/Easement Coordinator, [tabby.figue@hconservancy.org](mailto:tabby.figue@hconservancy.org), or 410-465-8877 ext. 109.

**DATES:** March 22: Watershed Restoration Grant Project

Meet at Wood Elves Way

The Middle Patuxent Environmental Foundation received a grant last year to implement a restoration project. Come help us with this project! The site is an ephemeral stream channel, including a storm drain outfall, which parallels the Columbia Association pathway at the end of Wood Elves Way. Work may include invasive plant removal and brush clean up. A short tour of the site and a talk about the grant project will also take place. Only on-street parking is available. Please carpool!

*April 26:* Garlic Mustard Melee and Seeking Out Spring Ephemerals

Meet at South Wind Circle

Get ready for a morning of vigorous Gar-

continued →



# Habitat Stewardship Outings

←continued

lic mustard removal! Throughout the event we'll make time to search for, identify, and discuss the many spring ephemeral plants. Attendees can observe a variety of the early-spring bloomers while traversing the wooded work route. Usually we finish removing mustard at the location of the confluence of Cricket Creek and the Middle Patuxent, where, hopefully, we will be surrounded by large flowering patches of Virginia bluebells.

*May 24: Minimizing Mile-a-Minute*  
Meet at Trotter Road parking lot  
Non-native, invasive plants are a real threat to our habitat restoration efforts. Mile-a-minute vine, among several other invasive species, is the worst offender of the trails and meadows in the Woodcock Habitat Management Area. Come out and assist us in removing vines from various places within our meadow areas! A short discussion of Biological Control methods will take place whilst we visit a Mile-a-minute weevil bio-control test plot.

*June 28: Barberry Blitz*  
Meet at Trotter Road parking lot  
Despite the dogged efforts of volunteers, we haven't seen the last of the *Berberis thunbergii*, aka Japanese barberry. We'll need multiple events for successive years to get this recurring nemesis of the environmental area under control. On this morning, we'll dig, yank, and wrench these spiny shrubs from the ground. The goal is to kill the plants before their seeds develop. We will progress along trail corridors in heavily infested areas. Spine-proof gloves are a must!

*September 27: Invasive Plant Removal and Insect Activities*  
Meet at Trotter Road parking lot  
Invasive plants are impacting the native woody plants associated with our early successional habitat maintenance goals. We'll continue our restoration efforts by removing invasive vines from mature native trees along the trail and meadow bor-

ders and also from the deer shelters protecting younger specimens. Weather-dependent activities include a talk about monarch butterfly natural history with demonstrations of capture, tagging, and release methods.

*October 25: Sprucing-up The Seep Area (or A Potential Planting Event)*  
Meet at Trotter Road parking lot  
Hundreds of native trees and shrubs have been planted by our volunteers, many in the spring seep portion of the Woodcock Habitat Management Area. The seep area was historically rich with American woodcock activity, and volunteer efforts continue there to restore proper Timberdoodle feeding cover. On this morning, we'll assist in the upkeep of the site chiefly by removing invasive Multiflora rose and assorted vines that impact the young trees and/or anti-deer tree shelters. While on location we'll take time to point out and reflect on the wonderful strides volunteers have made to replenish this habitat.

*November 22: Barberry Revisited*  
Meet at Trotter Road parking lot  
Japanese barberry is very tolerant of shade and can form dense colonies in a variety of habitats including closed canopy forest. This pesky plant reportedly changes soil pH and nitrogen levels as it displaces native herbs and shrubs. For these reasons, we are hosting this second removal event. Using the same techniques we practiced in June, we'll keep digging and uprooting these unwelcome intruders of natural areas.

The Conservation Stewardship Project, a joint program of the Howard County Recreation and Parks and the Howard County Master Gardeners, targets the problem of controlling invasive, exotic species in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:**  
South Wind Circle Entrance to MPEA - Route 29 to Route 108W towards

Clarksville OR Route 32 to Route 108E. Turn onto Trotter Road to South Wind Circle (about 1 mile). Enter the circle and proceed to trailhead on left (opposite Misty Top Path).

Trotter Road Entrance to MPEA-From U.S. 29 at 32: Take 32 west to the Great Star Drive exit. Turn right onto Great Star Drive. Then make a right onto Summer Sunrise. Continue to Trotter Road and make a left. Proceed about 1 mile to the parking area on the right just beyond the small traffic circle.

From U.S. 29 at 108: Take 108 west and continue past Centennial Lane. Proceed past Harpers Farm Road to Trotter Road and make a left. Continue to the parking area on the left. If you reach the small traffic circle, you've gone too far.

Wood Elves Way Pathway at the MPEA - From U.S. 29 at 108: Take 108 west and continue past Centennial Lane. Proceed to Harpers Farm Road and make a left. Just after passing Hobbit's Glen Golf Course turn right (at the light) on Willow Bottom Drive. Turn left on Wood Elves Way and proceed ½ mile to pathway entrance at the cul-de-sac. Parking is on-street only. Do not block private driveways.

**CONTACT:** For more information, contact Master Gardeners: Aylene Gard at (410) 992-9889; Carol Filipczak at [cfilipczak@comcast.net](mailto:cfilipczak@comcast.net); or Jeff Claffy, Assistant Natural Resources Manager, MPEA at [jclaffy@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jclaffy@howardcountymd.gov) or 410- 313-6209.

## Howard Community College, Columbia

Howard County GreenFest

**DATE:** Saturday, April 2, 2011

**TIME:** Please check website for scheduled time at [www.hcgreenfest.org](http://www.hcgreenfest.org)

**DESCRIPTION:** First annual Garlic Mustard Pull. After finishing with the garlic mustard, check out the more than 100

exhibits or the wildlife room with live animals! Workshops and children's activities all day.

**RSVP:** Sue Muller, 410 313-4697, or [smuller@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:smuller@howardcountymd.gov)

## Patuxent River, Laurel

Tree planting

Join the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission at 9 a.m. March 12 to plant pawpaw, sassafras and other native trees along the Patuxent River. Meet at 10964 Scotts Cove, Laurel, MD. For details, call 301-206-8233.

## Pigtail Area, WSSC

The Wildlife Achievement Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America in Damascus, MD, is looking for volunteers to help with these activities:

WSSC Pigtail Area in Howard County: 9 a.m. to noon March 20. Plant trees and remove invasive plants.

Pre-registration is required; e-mail Meo Curtis at [meosotis58@verizon.net](mailto:meosotis58@verizon.net). For details, visit [www.damascusiwa.org/](http://www.damascusiwa.org/).

## Kent County Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge

**DATES:** ongoing. The Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, 1730 Eastern Neck Road, Rock Hall, MD, is looking for volunteers interested in helping with biological survey work and a BayScapes garden. A free volunteer orientation is scheduled 5-7 pm, March 31, with an optional driving tour of the refuge scheduled 3:30-4:45 pm. To register, call Colby Hawkinson at 410-708-1956 or e-mail [colby\\_hawkinson@fws.gov](mailto:colby_hawkinson@fws.gov).

**DESCRIPTION:** The Refuge, a 2,285-acre island at the confluence of the Chester River and the Chesapeake Bay on Maryland's Eastern Shore, 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 that thrive year-round. Join inter-

continued →

# Habitat Stewardship Outings

←continued

pretive 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 an invasive species we handpull and is a management priority. Wineberry is a raspberry-like plant whose fruit ripens between June and July; it must be removed with spading forks. Wear high boots for ticks, DEET bug repellent, hat and gloves. RSVP: Colby Hawkinson at colby\_hawkinson@fws.gov or 410-708-1956.

## Montgomery County

Forest ecologist Carole Bergmann created the Weed Warriors Program as a way to combat the non-native invasive plant (NNIs) problem in Montgomery County. The program's goal is to educate citizens about identification and management of NNIs. Through 2010, more than 750 people had been trained by Carole and her staff. Certified Weed Warriors have logged more than 30,000 hours, and have made a valuable contribution to non-native invasive plant control in many parts of Montgomery County's 34,000-acre park system. SIGN UP TO HELP US!

Weed Warriors has two components:

1. Certified Weed Warriors, volunteers who complete a two-part online course and participate in a two-hour field training session. Once certified, Weed Warriors are authorized to work anywhere on M-NCPPC/Montgomery County parkland, on their own schedules and at their own pace. They can also work on group projects with the staff coordinator of the Weed Warriors Program; those with strong interest and leadership skills may be appointed Weed Warrior Supervisors.
2. Special Project Weed Warriors, community members who take the opportunity to learn about and work on invasive plants in their parks without making the commitment to become full-fledged Weed Warriors. Under the supervision of Weed Warrior supervisors, special workdays take place throughout the year in small and large parks throughout Montgomery County.

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.

At the present time there are regular weekend and weekday projects in Little Falls Stream Valley Park, Capital Crescent Trail Special Park, Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park (two locations), Rachel Carson Conservation Park, Wheaton Regional Park at Brookside Nature Center, Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park (three locations), Ovid Hazen Wells Recreation Park, and Meadowbrook Local Park along Rock Creek, just north of the Maryland/DC line.

If you are interested in joining us, contact Weed Warriors volunteer coordinator Paul Carlson at 301-962-1343 or paul.carlson@montgomeryparks.org. Website: www.weedwarrior.org

## Blue Mash Nature Trail, Laytonsville

Montgomery County Group, Sierra Club  
DATE AND TIME: Fourth Sunday of each month, 9 am-11 am (invasive removal, March-November)

DESCRIPTION: 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

and pants, walking shoes or boots, hat, water, gloves. Binoculars recommended.

DIRECTIONS: North on Georgia Ave through Olney and 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](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/ParkTrails/trails_MAPS/blue_mash.shtm) And [maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery/calendar.html](http://maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery/calendar.html)

RSVP: Mimi Abdu, 301-919-6060, or mimi.abdu@maryland.sierraclub.org

## Northwood Chesapeake Bay Trail

DATES: Sunday, April 10 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

DESCRIPTION: MC DEP, Northwood HS, and Potomac Appalachian Trail Club are partnering to organize a community work day on Sunday, April 10 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm to continue work on the Northwood Chesapeake Bay Trail and begin work on the Breewood property (owned by Montgomery Parks at SE corner of University and Sligo Creek Pkwy).

We will do the following that day: On Breewood Property, we'll remove trash and dumped household items, and remove invasive species. On the SHA property, we will finish Northwood Chesapeake Bay Trail to Arcola and install trailhead sign, remove trash, and remove invasive plants. We need three Weed Warrior volunteers to each lead a group of three volunteers to identify and remove invasive species on April 10. If you are a Weed Warrior and able to volunteer, please e-mail Jennifer Chambers, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Northwood Chesapeake Bay Trail Project Coordinator at [Jennifer@hikingalong.com](mailto:Jennifer@hikingalong.com).

## The Potomac Gorge

Invasive Plant Control Workdays in The Potomac Gorge.

The Nature Conservancy

DATE: ongoing [www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/maryland/events/](http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/maryland/events/)

DESCRIPTION: Help protect native plant biodiversity near DC in partnership with the National Park Service by removing invasives in the Potomac Gorge, a 15-mile stretch of river valley between Great Falls and Georgetown. 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. Options to adopt an area and work independently in the National Parks in the Potomac Gorge.

CONTACT: Mary Travaglini, Potomac Gorge Habitat Restoration Manager, to sign up a school or group for a workday PotomacGorgeVol@tnc.org, 301-897-8570 x210

## Rock Creek National Park

Friends of Rock Creek's Environment

DATES: Ongoing. Check web site for new events

DESCRIPTION: Friends of Rock Creek's Environment is off to a great new year! 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 202-237-8866, [www.friendsofrockcreek.org](http://www.friendsofrockcreek.org)

## Rock Creek Park, Chevy Chase

Montgomery County Group, Sierra Club and County Parks

DATE: First Saturday of each month

TIME: 10am-12pm

DESCRIPTION: Montgomery County Parks and Planning Commission plans 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 loppers, long sleeves and 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

continued →



# Habitat Stewardship Outings

←continued

East West Hwy. Right on Beech Dr. Meet at the parking lot by soccer field at intersection of Beech Dr and East West Hwy.

MAP: [maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery/calendar.html](http://maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery/calendar.html)

RSVP: Jeremy Arling at [jeremy.arling@maryland.sierraclub.org](mailto:jeremy.arling@maryland.sierraclub.org).

## Underground Railroad Experience Trail, Sandy Spring

Leader/Sponsors: Jeremy Arling, Montgomery County Group, Sierra Club and Montgomery County Parks

DATE: Second Saturday monthly

TIME: 10am-12pm

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: Tools clippers, saws, and loppers, long sleeves and pants, gloves, walking shoes or boots, hat, and water.

DIRECTIONS: Take Rt. 28E (Norbeck Rd) across Georgia Ave. Left on Layhill Rd. At intersection of Norwood and Ednor Rds. Go left on Norwood. First driveway on right to Woodlawn at 16501 Norwood Rd. Meet at parking lot near picnic tables. Trail map [maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery/calendar.html](http://maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery/calendar.html). [www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/ParkTrails/trails\\_MAPS/Rural\\_legacy.shtm](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/ParkTrails/trails_MAPS/Rural_legacy.shtm).

RSVP: Jeremy Arling at [jeremy.arling@maryland.sierraclub.org](mailto:jeremy.arling@maryland.sierraclub.org).

## Woodend Nature Sanctuary, Chevy Chase

Audubon Naturalist Society

DATE: Saturdays 9:30am - 12:00pm, monthly

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. We need your help to remove invasive non-native plants!

Join us for group work sessions where training will be provided; 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](mailto:volunteer@audubonnaturalist.org) 301-652-9188 x 30

## Prince George's County

(See also Fort Meade Army Installation under Anne Arundel County)

See also Patuxent Research Refuge under Anne Arundel County)

## Anacostia Riparian Meadow Restoration Project

Anacostia Watershed Society

DATES: March 15 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

March 25 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

DESCRIPTION: Same as Magruder Park, listed on following page.

Meet near the 38th Avenue Bridge in Hyattsville, MD.

RSVP: E-mail: [info@anacostiaws.org](mailto:info@anacostiaws.org). 301-699-6204

## Belt Woods, Bowie

DATES: Ongoing Saturday, Sunday, and occasional mid-week

DESCRIPTION: Invasive species workgroup teams remove creeping euonymous, Japanese honeysuckle, winged burning bush, multiflora rose, oriental bittersweet, Japanese stiltgrass, 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](mailto:pamelakcooper@verizon.net) 301-390-0797

## Greenbelt Homes Inc Housing Cooperative, Greenbelt

DATE: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 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 3<sup>rd</sup>

Wednesdays include removal/eradication of non-native invasive plant species, tree plantings, bird counts, native landscaping seminars and guided hikes.

RSVP: Matt Berres Manager, Maintenance Operations 301-474-4161x132 [www.ghi.coop/Woodlands/index.htm](http://www.ghi.coop/Woodlands/index.htm) [mberres@ghi.coop](mailto:mberres@ghi.coop)

## Greenbelt National Park

DATE: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday monthly Time: 11am-3pm

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](mailto:tomnjan@erols.com)

301-864-1959, 202-7462228c or [www.nps.gov/gree](http://www.nps.gov/gree) 301-344-3944.

## Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center, Accokeek

DATE: Ongoing

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](mailto:kmiles@fergusonfoundation.org)

## Indian Creek Trail at 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 hiker-biker trails. Teams compete to remove non-native invasive weed garlic mustard. 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

continued →



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## A Will is a Way

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others preserve the intricate balance of nature

Sierra Club  
Gift Planning Program  
85 Second St, Second Floor • San Francisco, CA 94105  
(800) 932-4270 • [gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org)

# Habitat Stewardship Outings

←continued

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. From south I-495, Exit 23 (Kenilworth Ave) toward Bladensburg. Right on Rt 193 (Greenbelt Rd). Right on Branchville Rd turns into 55th Ave. Parking lot on the left at the Berwyn Road intersection. From north, I-495, Exit 25 (Rt 1) toward College Park. Left onto Rt 193 (Greenbelt Rd), Left on Branchville Rd. etc  
**RSVP:** Chris Garrett or John Dillon M-NCPPC Park Ranger Office 301-627-7755

  
**Did you know that many invasive plants are sold in nurseries as ornamental garden plants?**

**See story on page 7 and learn how we can prevent the sale of invasive plants here in Maryland!**

## Little Paint Branch and Cherry Hill Road Community Parks, Beltsville.

**DATE:** Last Saturday monthly  
**TIME:** 11am –3pm. Little Paint Branch Park

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

Our objective is to remove the invasives to allow natives to grow back. We will continue the wonderful progress accomplished the last three years by dedicated volunteers. 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. We can continue even with a little rain or heat. It is best to wear long sleeve shirts and pants.

**DIRECTIONS AND RSVP:** Marc Imlay, Marc.Imlay@pgparks.com 301-283-0808h, 301-442-5657c on day of event.

## Lower Beaverdam Creek, Cheverly (Woodworth Park)

Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek  
**DATES:** last Saturday monthly March-June  
**TIME:** 9am to 12 noon

**DESCRIPTION:** 15-acre wooded buffer wedged between a residential neighborhood 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 volunteers 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 save 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

## Lower Beaverdam Creek, Cheverly (Euclid Woods Park)

M-NCPPC Cheverly Conservation Corps and Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek

**DATES:** Please call 301-341-1261 to arrange a work session, when you are free to help out.

**DESCRIPTION:** Euclid Woods is a 50-acre contiguous wooded area wedged between a residential neighborhood, the hospital hill, and the Cheverly Industrial Park, bounded on the west side by a tributary feeding into the Lower Beaverdam Creek.

After restoration work began shortly after 2000 the area is slowly returning to its natural state, primarily due to removal of invasive plants and the rescue of young trees and shrubs from windfalls. The restoration has allowed the return of a rich understory of native shrubs, saplings and herbaceous plants, which form the basis of the local food chain and which in turn encourage insects that provide over 96 percent of the summer diet of our birds.

Smaller trees and shrubs, such as dogwood, hawthorn, sassafras, serviceberry, spicebush and several viburnums, such as the hobblebush and witherod are now thriving. Birds such as the pileated woodpecker, woodcock and a number of raptors that had gone missing are now returning. The forest is beginning to function as it should to keep our air and waters pure and support the web of life that in turn supports us.

Bring friends and help us remove invasive plants to maintain and further improve this largest and most productive natural area in Cheverly. Tools provided, but bring work gloves and sturdy shoes.

**DIRECTIONS:** Call ahead to arrange the time and meet at 5607 Greenleaf Rd in Cheverly. Enter Forest Rd from Cheverly Ave heading west; go three blocks and keep right when the road splits; continue straight ahead and park anywhere at the end of on Greenleaf Rd.

**CONTACT:** For further information please contact Matt Salo at 301-341-1261.

## Magruder Park, Hyattsville

Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS)

**DATE:** March 16, 31 and ongoing

**TIME:** 10:00am - 1:00pm

**WORKDAY DESCRIPTION:** AWS invasive removals usually employ hand-pulling, cutting (with hand pruners and cutting saws) and pulling using tools i.e. pitchforks. In autumn and winter we usually control species like, English ivy, Chinese wisteria, common periwinkle and bush honeysuckle. Our invasive plant removal outings have an educational approach; AWS staff will talk about our watershed, about the history and the natural history of the park and will be sure to point out interesting native plants and animals. Also, AWS staff will make sure you have a completely safe and enjoyable outdoor experience by briefing volunteers about basic safety measures regarding poison ivy, and deerticks.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Water, long pants, closed-toe shoes (hiking or waterproof) and basic gear to protect from UV rays (hat, sunglasses and sunscreen) in this open-land habitat. Also, long sleeve shirts should help protect skin during plant removal and minimize skin exposure to poison ivy and ticks, which are found in the area. We recommend bringing along a repellant designed to repel both deer ticks and mosquitoes. AWS will provide gloves, tools and other supplies to get the job done.

**MEETING PLACE:** Magruder Park in Hyattsville, MD. We will meet up at the parking lot past the Hamilton Pool (on 3901 Hamilton Street) right by the sports fields. From Queens Chapel Road take Hamilton Street, go by the Safeway on the right, pass 38th street, go about one block and turn right into the park. Magruder Park is Metro accessible; from the West Hyattsville Metro station on the Green Line walk a 10 block walk to Magruder Park or take the bus F8 to Cheverly Station and get off at the bus stop between 38th Av. and Hamilton St., walk one block and turn right into the

continued→



# Habitat Stewardship Outings

←continued

park. Website: [www.anacostiaaws.org](http://www.anacostiaaws.org)  
**RSVP:** E-mail: [info@anacostiaaws.org](mailto:info@anacostiaaws.org).  
**Note:** The March 31 event needs a minimum of 10 people for participation. Please RSVP 301-699-6204, and Conservation Biologist Jorge Bogantes Monterol, will verify by March 30th if the event is still scheduled.

Friends of Magruder Woods

**WHEN:** Third Saturdays monthly, 9 am to 1 pm

**DESCRIPTION:** Save native plants in a popular urban park including aster, blackberry, pokeberry, tulip popular, sweetgum, sycamore, poison ivy, 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 from West Hyattsville Metro on Green Line.

**RSVP:** Colleen Aistis (301) 985-5057

## Patuxent River Park

**DATES:** Saturdays, 9 am-12 noon, March 26, April 9, May 14

**DESCRIPTION:** Invasive plants present one of the greatest threats to the health and biodiversity of public lands. Join a park naturalist to help remove these invasive plants. Please dress in old clothes and closed toe shoes or working boots. Gloves and tools will be provided.

**REGISTRATION:** [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com). Ages 13 to adult. Call Stephanie for more information and directions at 301-627-6074.

## Suitland Bog

M-NCPPC Park Rangers

**DATES:** 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

## Watkins Regional Park , Upper Marlboro

Weed Warrior Work Day MNCPPC

**DATES:** Ongoing. Contact John Dillon or Chris Garrett for dates and times

**DESCRIPTION:** Help pull up garlic mustard at Watkins Regional Park, 850 acres offering all kinds of outdoor adventures with nature center, carousel, old MD farm, miniature train, mini-golf, camping, picnic areas, playgrounds, and miles of hiker/biker trails through deciduous forest! 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)

## Regional The Nature Conservancy in Maryland/ District of Columbia

Weed Busters! Two years ago, we trained our first generation of Weed Watcher vol-

unteers! Weed Watchers explore our preserves and map new occurrences of invasive plant species that threaten our native flora. The Conservancy's weed management philosophy emphasizes preventing new weed infestations to minimize the impact and expense of weed control.

The second part of this program is promptly controlling new weed infestations. That's where Weed Busters come in. Control may include pulling, cutting, digging roots, mowing, or applying herbicide to foliage or cut stumps. In some cases, we have enough advance notice to describe the projects on this website and in our volunteer newsletter, along with our other outdoor projects. In other cases, we won't have enough time.

So we've developed a list of volunteers who want to be contacted about short-notice field projects. If a given workday does not fit your schedule, we'll understand and hope to see you at the next one! We conduct 6-10 weed control workdays throughout Maryland in a given growing season (April through November), and we hope that people on the Weed Busters list will be able to participate in 2 or more workdays per season.

If you'd like to be notified about these field projects, please send an e-mail to [dbarber@tnc.org](mailto:dbarber@tnc.org) or call Deborah Barber, Volunteer Coordinator at (301) 897-8570. Thanks, and we hope to see you in the field.

## Potomac Conservancy

Potomac Conservancy's Growing Native is a year-round volunteer project that helps to restore and protect rivers and streams in the Potomac River watershed. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds participate in Growing Native by collecting native tree seeds and planting trees along streams and rivers across the region. Participants are creating forests for tomorrow as they are learning the important connection between healthy, forested lands and clean waters. Since Growing Native's inception in 2001, nearly 30,000 volunteers collected more than 94,000

pounds of acorns, walnuts, and other hardwood tree seeds. These seeds have generated seedlings that will be used to restore sensitive streamside lands.

Growing Native's efforts culminate in the fall, when we do large scale outreach to individuals, community groups, and local businesses to get involved while seeds are dropping on the ground! We invite people to volunteer by acting as Growing Native ambassador, seed collection event coordinators, and drop-off site coordinators.

**MORE INFORMATION:** Contact Kate McNamee, Outreach Coordinator, Potomac Conservancy, 8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 612, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301.608.1188 x211. Web site: [www.potomac.org](http://www.potomac.org).

## Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)

WSSC is doing invasive weed removal projects in Prince George's, Montgomery and Howard Counties at their recreation areas along the Patuxent. WSSC provides training, gloves and garden pruners. All invasive weed removal projects are from 9am to noon.

Locations include:

- ♦ Brighton Dam (Montgomery County)
- ♦ Browns Bridge Recreation Area (Montgomery County)
- ♦ Greenbridge Recreation Area (Montgomery County)
- ♦ Pigtail Recreation Area (Howard County)
- ♦ Scott's Cove (Howard County)
- ♦ Supplee Lane Recreation Area (Prince George's County)
- ♦ Triadelphia Recreation Area (Montgomery County)

**MORE INFORMATION:** Kim Knox, WSSC's Community Outreach Manager, 301-206-8233, [kknox@wsscwater.com](mailto:kknox@wsscwater.com) ■

## Outings (March)

### Spring into the Outdoors to Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet

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

The Club offers a variety of outings from “easy” to “strenuous” that suit all activity levels. The difficulty of each outing is clearly designated in the announcement. Reservations are generally not required for a local outing unless noted, but the outing leader should be contacted in advance for questions about the terrain, the difficulty or duration of the trip, recommended clothing, footwear and equipment.

Activities are normally held “rain or shine,” but may be postponed at the leader’s discretion for safety reasons in the event of inclement weather. Potential participants are reminded that all outdoor activities carry a degree of risk, and some take place in locations where professional emergency medical aid may be two or more hours away. People with health concerns should consult a physician to determine the advisability of participating in these or similar activities.

The Club outing leader is responsible for the safety of all participants, and has the final authority to decide whether or not an individual may participate on a specific outing. Sierra Club safety policy requires that helmets be worn on bicycling outings. Also, any participant must wear a personal flotation device (PFD) on outings using personal watercraft such as kayaks or canoes.

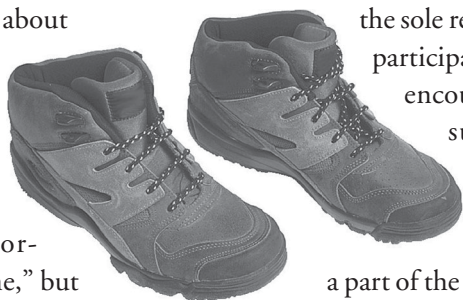
Unless noted in the announcement, Club outings are intended for adults. Children and dogs are not normally permitted, unless an outing is so designated.

Even on outings that are designated as child/dog friendly, please contact the leader in advance before bringing minors or pets. Minors (under 18 years of age) must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian, or they must have both 1) a signed permission slip, and 2) the leader’s prior consent to participate in the Club outing. Dogs must be non-aggressive, well-behaved, and on a leash. Sierra Club outings officially begin and end at the trailhead, paddlecraft put-in/take-out point, or some other similar designated locality near the activity. Travel to the official starting point and back, even from

an advertised meeting place, is the sole responsibility of each participant. While the Club encourages car-pooling, such arrangements are strictly between the riders and the drivers, and are not a part of the outing. Participants assume full responsibility and liability for all risks associated with such travel.

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

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



#### Abbreviations Used

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

AA:	Anne Arundel Group
AMC:	Appalachian Mountain Club
AT:	Appalachian Trail
BLM:	Bureau of Land Management
CCA:	Canoe Cruisers Association (Washington, D.C.)
CG:	Catoctin Group
C&O:	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
FFA:	Family Friendly Activity (kids/dogs ok, but check with leader)
FWS:	(U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service
GB:	Greater Baltimore Group
GWNF:	George Washington Natl. Forest
HC:	Howard County Group
JNF:	Jefferson Natl. Forest
MNF:	Monongahela Natl. Forest
MC:	Montgomery County Group
NPS:	Natl. Park Service
NRA:	Natl. Recreation Area
NWR:	Natl. Wildlife Refuge
ODH:	One day hike**
PFD:	Personal Flotation Device (lifejacket)
PRO:	Sierra Club Potomac Region Outings (SCPRO)*
SF:	State Forest
SM:	Southern MD Group
SP:	State Park
SNP:	Shenandoah Natl. Park

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

\*\*See [www.onedayhike.org](http://www.onedayhike.org) for more information



#### Fri. Mar 18. Rated A/B. Moonlit Hike on the Mall (Get to Know DC).

Explore the beauty of DC’s National Mall and monuments by the full moon. Meet at 7:30 pm at the mall side of Constitution where 16th street would intersect (across from the Ellipse entrance). Park on street or use Metro (Federal Triangle station). Kids who can walk 7+ mi. (or 3 mi.) on relatively level terrain are welcome. Leader: Jim Finucane 301/365-2434 (before 9 pm) or [jim.finucane@yahoo.com](mailto:jim.finucane@yahoo.com).

**Sat. Mar. 19. 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: Mike Darzi, [michael.darzi@saic.com](mailto:michael.darzi@saic.com) or 301/580-9387, and Frank Wodarczyk, [fwhiker44@cox.net](mailto:fwhiker44@cox.net) or 703/569-6737 (before 9:30 pm).

**Sat. Mar. 19: Savage Park, Wincopin Trail, MD.** Easy 3.5 mile hike along the Middle and Little Patuxent Rivers. Boots are recommended for muddy trails. Meet at 9:30 at the Savage Park Wincopin Trail parking lot, off Vollmerhausen Road, a quarter mile east of the bridge over I-95. Leader: Nicki, [cybertrax1@netzero.net](mailto:cybertrax1@netzero.net), 410-990-0008.

**Sat. Mar. 19. Not Rated. Edwards Ferry cleanup.** Pick up trash, enjoy a beautiful part of the C&O Canal

continued ➞



## Outings (March)

←continued

Towpath, and make it even more beautiful. Join “level walkers” Pat Hopson and Carol Ivory to clean up the towpath and riverbanks near Edwards Ferry. We’ll work until noon, then (optional) have lunch in nearby Poolesville, MD. Leaders will supply trash bags; please bring your own work gloves. Meet at 9 am at Edwards Ferry; driving directions at [www.sierrapotomac.org/directions](http://www.sierrapotomac.org/directions) but please contact one of us, so we know how many people to expect. Leaders: Pat Hopson, 703/379-1795 (9 am -10 pm) and Carol Ivory, [carolivory@verizon.net](mailto:carolivory@verizon.net).

### **Sat.-Sun. Mar. 19-20. Backpack South Mountain State Park.**

Backpack along the AT in South Mountain SP in scenic Frederick County, MD. From Greenbrier State Park we will head south along the AT, pass Washington Monument SP to our overnight camp near Old South Mountain Inn at Turners Gap. Enjoy a spectacular view from the top of the nation’s first monument to George Washington. On Sunday we will continue south along the AT to our finish at Gathland SP at Crampton Gap. Visit the South Mountain battlefield, and the Gathland Arch that was dedicated to the war correspondents of the Civil War. Late March will offer excellent views from the crest of South Mountain, as spring begins to climb the mountainside. The trip is a one-way backpack requiring a car shuttle. Total two-day hiking distance: 13 mi. with moderate elev. change. For reservations contact leader. Leader: Glenn Gillis, 703/430-0568 or [glennpotomacfalls@yahoo.com](mailto:glennpotomacfalls@yahoo.com).

**Sun. Mar. 20. Rated A. Great Falls Park, VA.** On this 3.4-mile loop hike, you will view the Great Falls and Mather Gorge of the Potomac River

as you walk the River Trail south. Return via the Ridge Trail and the Swamp Trail through a forest of tulip poplar and American beech with wild flowers along the trail. Leashed dog and accompanied children with stamina are welcome. Meet 9:00 am at Grosvenor Wash. Metro or 9:30 am at park visitor’s center. Take Washington Beltway to Georgetown Pike (Exit 44) west for 5.2 miles; turn right on Old Dominion and go 1 mile to Visitor’s Center on right. For carpooling, contact leaders. Leaders: Rich Reis, 301-325-8001 or [rreis@verizon.net](mailto:rreis@verizon.net), and Mike Darzi.

### **Sun. Mar. 20 GB – Easy to Moderate. Little Gunpowder, Pleasantville Circuit Hike.** 4 miles.

Celebrate the first day of spring with this “pleasant” hike along the Little Gunpowder and Ma and Pa Trails between Bottom Rd. and Pleasantville Rd. Meet at 1:00 PM at the roadside pullouts along Bottom Rd. where it meets the river. Directions from Baltimore Beltway: Take Exit 31, Harford Rd. (Route 147) north. Go 8 miles to Fork Rd. and turn left. Go 1.7 miles to Bottom Rd. and turn right. Go 2 miles and park at any of the pullouts on either side of river. Consult map if coming from other directions. Cancelled for steady rain or storms. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email [apenczek@stevenson.edu](mailto:apenczek@stevenson.edu).

**Sat. Mar. 26 GB – Moderate. Prettyboy Trail Hike** (Older children and dogs are welcome) 7 miles along the shoreline and hillsides and through forests around Prettyboy Reservoir on the old Prettyboy Trail, walking a loop between Prettyboy Dam and Tracey Store Rd. The trail is maintained neighbors, Boy Scouts, and the GB

Sierra Club in collaboration with the Prettyboy Watershed Alliance and Mountain Club. Learn about this isolated trail and its wildlife and pristine drinking water for Baltimore. The trail is cleared to varying degrees and has hills and one stream crossing. Children under 18 must be able to hike this distance and be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Dogs must be friendly. Meet at 11:00 AM at the Mt. Carmel Rd. Park & Ride just west off I-83 north of the Baltimore Beltway and past the Shawan Rd. exit. Check for cancellation in bad weather. For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at [XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com)

**Sat. Mar. 26: Martin Hill Wild Area, Buchanan SF, PA.** Moderate 12 mile loop using the MST and connector trails. Bring food, water and sturdy boots. Some trails might be overgrown and hard to follow. Depart at 8:00 from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, [mjuskelis@cablespeed.com](mailto:mjuskelis@cablespeed.com).

**Sat. Mar. 26. Rated B. Little Bennett Regional Park.** Moderately paced hike loop hike traveling over about 7 miles of the trails in the largest park in Montgomery County. Enjoy a wide variety of terrain, from wooded ridgelines, to small hills, to valleys with small streams. Nothing too difficult, but not boring either. We’ll select the specific trails based on the conditions that day. Meet at 9 am at the Hyattstown Mill Parking area, off of Frederick Rd. We’ll plan on being back to the parking area by 1 pm, with the option of going for lunch afterward. Contact leader for Metro pick-up. Leaders: Jeff Tarbox,

[jhtarbox@gwi.net](mailto:jhtarbox@gwi.net) or 207/776-2015, and Mike Darzi.

**Sat. Mar. 26. Rated H or E. Alexandria-Arlington Slow Marathon** (ODH Series). Circuit hike of 27 paved mi. 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 Apr. 30 (don’t forget your Metro card if you choose to bail out on Metro). Meet at 8 am sharp at north parking lot at Belle Haven, on George Washington Pkwy south of Alexandria. Leaders: Rob Anderson, 202/258-1010 or [robertanderson1@hotmail.com](mailto:robertanderson1@hotmail.com); Russ Norfleet, 703/501-7953 or [russnorfleet@verizon.net](mailto:russnorfleet@verizon.net); and Ray Evert, 703/893-3792.

**Sun. Mar. 27. 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, 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 1pm: there will be a leader’s choice hike. Meet in the parking lot of the Nature House. For Metro pick-up, or for other questions or details, contact Mike Darzi, [michael.darzi@saic.com](mailto:michael.darzi@saic.com) or 301/580-9387.

**Sun. Mar. 27 GB - Moderate. Gunpowder River Hike** 6 to 8 miles along the Gunpowder River. Meet at

continued →

## Outings (March, April)

←continued

12:00 noon at the Mt Carmel Road Park and Ride off I-83 north of the Baltimore Beltway. Call Jack 410-256-3963 for details.

### **Sun. Mar. 27 (unrated)**

#### **Paddle Mattawoman Creek**

9:30 am-2 pm. Join us for an early spring paddle from Mason Springs down to the Mattingly Ave. take-out in Indian Head. This will be a joint trip w/members of the Calvert Marine Museum Canoe & Kayak Club. Bonnie Bick will serve as our expert on the flora, fauna, wildlife and fishery along and in the creek. Bring a brown bag lunch. We will need to shuttle vehicles to the take out. The planned launch time is 10:00 a.m., so arrive early. Remember paddles, PFD's, water, & suitable paddling attire. Contact Dan Donahue, 301-884-0163 or donahuedda@earthlink.net.



### **Sat. April 2 GB - Moderate. Kelly**

#### **Run & Pinnacle Overlook Hike**

8 miles exploring gorges with great overlook of the Susquehanna River. This hike also has a good chance of seeing bald eagles. Meet at 11:00 AM at the K-Mart on Rt. 1 (Bel Air Rd.) just north of the Baltimore Beltway Exit 32. Call Jack at 410-256-3963 for details.

### **Sat. Apr. 2. Rated B. Sugarloaf Mountain – Northern Peaks Trail.**

A scenic 7-mile loop that will take us from the base up around the main summit and over several lower peaks, 9 am-2 pm. We'll discuss the history of the area, the concept of

Montgomery County's agricultural reserve and other conservation issues relevant to this region. Meet at East Lot at Sugarloaf at 9 am or Shady Grove Metro at 8 am to carpool. Leader: Ron LaCoss, 301/946-1106 (before 9 pm) for information, or ronenviroed@aol.com.

### **Sat. Apr. 2. Rated E/H. Upper Mt. Vernon Trail (ODH Series).**

This 18- or 30-mi. out-and-back hike along the Potomac features views of the river as well as of monuments in Washington. Meet 8 am at the north end of Gravelly Point parking lot on the George Washington Parkway, just north of National Airport. Leaders: Mike Darzi, michael.darzi@saic.com or 301/580-9387, and Frank Wodarczyk, fwhiker44@cox.net or 703/569-6737 (before 10 pm).

### **Sun. April 3. 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. Leaders: Jim Finucane 301/365-3485 before 9 pm and Bob Mathis.

### **Sun. Apr. 3. Rated B/C. Woodstock**

**Equestrian Park.** Take part in a search for signs of spring in a spacious new park with well-marked and -maintained trails amid the farmlands of western Montgomery Co. on a hike of up to 10 mi. (with shortcuts available for the needy). The scenery consists of both cultivated and fallow fields, plus woodlands, along with old stone barns and other structures—and maybe a passing horse or buggy—all set against an environmentally

interesting backdrop of hulking Sugarloaf Mountain and the prominent spire of the Dickerson smokestack. To carpool, meet at 9:30 am at the Grosvenor–Strathmore Metro station (in the parking lot behind the garage and just across from the station's entrance/exit). Or call for directions to the trailhead in the park and the meeting time. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott, 202/550-2841.

### **Sun. Apr. 3: Project Clean Stream and Herp Survey.**

Volunteer for this regional stream cleanup, and assist with an amphibian and reptile search. The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks is recording amphibian and reptile sightings as part of a state-wide survey. 9:00 to noon. For details, contact Sue Muller, 301-498-8462, smuller@howardcountymd.gov.

### **Sat. Apr. 9: Patapsco Orange**

**Grove.** Moderate 5-6 mile circuit hike in Patapsco Valley State Park, covering the Cascade Falls, Morning Choice, Rockburn Branch and Ridge trails. We'll take a brisk pace through the park, stopping at the falls at the beginning and end of the hike. Meet in the Park at the swinging bridge parking at 9:30. Park entry fee of \$2 per person. Bring snacks and water. Directions: Take I-95 to exit 47, I-195 east. Go half a mile on I-195, then take exit 3 and turn right onto US-1 South. Immediately turn right onto South Street, then immediately turn left at the park entrance. Proceed 1.3 miles to main intersection, and turn left. Cross over river, and bear right. Drive about 1.5 miles until you see Swinging Bridge on right - large parking lot is just past bridge on left. Contact Nicki to sign up: 410-990-2008 or cybertrax1@netzero.net

### **Sat. Apr. 9. Morgan Run Natural Environmental Area, Carroll**

**County.** Accessible Hike. We'll meet at the main parking lot at 10 am. We may be able to see mating woodcocks. See <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/morganrun.asp> for directions to the site. All hikes will last about 4 hours, mileage will vary by difficulty, but will be between 3-6 miles. For further information and to register, please contact Karen; karen@lunafiberarts.com. Registration is not necessary, but allows us to contact you if the hike is postponed or rescheduled due to weather.

### **Sat. Apr. 9. (Unrated) Indian Head Rail Trail Bicycle Ride**

(Conservation Outing). A 26-mile round trip on this relatively new, paved trail. See the Mattawoman Creek and surrounding wild areas that offer a very unique natural outdoor experience—seemingly far removed from (but threatened by) development and life's often chaotic pace. Accompanied children with stamina are welcome. Bring bag lunch. Meet 9:15 am at Branch Ave. Wash. Metro station or 10 am at trailhead. From DC Beltway take Route 5 south for 13 miles, then Route 301 south for 5.8 miles; turn right on Theodore Green Blvd for 1/2 mile, and just past Belair Road Supply turn right into parking area. Contact leaders for carpooling. Leader: Rich Reis, 301/325-8001 or rreis@verizon.net.

### **Sat. Apr. 9. 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

continued →



## Outings (April)

←continued

wildflowers at their peak. Enjoy a leisurely stroll with lots of stops for the flowers. Meet at 9 am at Red Rock Park (43098 Edwards Ferry Rd., Leesburg, VA 20176). Leader: Carol Ivory, carolivory@verizon.net or 703/476-8730.

### **Sat. Apr. 9. Rated D. Duncan Knob.**

A moderately paced hike in George Washington National Forest in Virginia. The highlight is scrambling to Duncan Knob to enjoy exceptional views. We'll hike 9 miles with 2000 ft. elev. change. Meet at 8:30 am at the north parking lot of the Vienna Metro. Leaders: Mike Darzi, michael.darzi@saic.com or 301/580-9387 and Marcia Wolf, 301/565-3165.

### **Sat. Apr. 9. Rated H or F. Western End of the W&OD Trail** (ODH Series).

Out-and-back trek, on paved surface, of about 34 miles (or 19-mi. option) for the 100K or 50K versions of the April 30 One Day Hike event. This hike traverses the most scenic portion of the W&OD route. Meet 8 am at the W&OD parking lot on Ashburn Rd, (VA Rt. 641), adjacent to Partlow Brothers Store (<http://wikimapia.org/878337/Partlow-Brothers-Store>), and approx. 1.9 mi. south of VA Rt. 7. Leaders: Gary Kosciusko, 703/765-0306 (before 10 pm); Russ Norfleet, 703/501-7953 or russnorfleet@verizon.net; and Ray Evert, 703/893-3792.

### **Sat. Apr 9 Potomac River clean up (western end of the Indian Head Rail Trail)**

Assist fellow Sierra Club members and other partnering groups to focus primarily on tire removal from a one-mile section of IHRT bordering Mattawoman Creek. Meet at the Rt. 224 trail access parking lot. Retrieval of tires will require going off of the

trail into the rough, so wear long pants and boots or sturdy footwear. Charles Co. Public Works will provide gloves, trash bags, and tire disposal once we stack them at the assembly point. Our goal is to remove 45-50 tires and other assorted trash. 10 am to 1 pm. Contact Dan Donahue, 301-884-0163 or donahuedda@earthlink.net.

### **Sun. Apr. 10, 3-6 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, cooking & water 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 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 \$17 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.

### **Sun. Apr. 10 GB - Moderate. Muddy**

**Run Hike** 8 miles along the Muddy Run and the Susquehanna River. This hike goes through a very scenic gorge and river valley with large Hemlock trees. Good chance of seeing bald eagles. Meet at 11:00 AM at the K-Mart on Rt. 1 (Belair Rd.) just north of the Baltimore Beltway Exit 32. Call Jack at 410-256-3963 for details.

### **Sat. Apr. 16 GB – Easy to Moderate. Soldiers Delight Circuit Hike. 4**

miles. Soldiers Delight is a unique area featuring grasslands, forest, rocky areas, rare species, historic mines, and a visitor center. We will hike the East Side Trails and a spur of the Serpentine Trail. Meet at 1:00 PM in front of the Visitor Center. From I-695 take Exit 18, Liberty Rd. (Route 26) West. Go 4.9 miles. Turn right on Deer Park Rd. Go 2.1 miles and turn left into Visitor Center driveway. Cancelled for steady rain or storms. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email apenczek@stevenson.edu.

### **Sat. Apr. 16: 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 from the west lot of the Broken Land Parkway Park & Ride at Rt. 32. Call Ken Clark, 443-280-4050, kenclark7@live.com.

### **Sat.-Mon. Apr. 16-18: Wild Oak**

**National Recreation Trail Backpack, VA.** Strenuous 25-27 mile circuit backpack in George Washington National Forest. Lots of elevation change, vistas, pretty North River and nice campsites. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

### **Sat. Apr. 16. Rated F. Strickler Knob - Duncan Knob Loop.**

Strenuous 10-mile circuit hike with over 4500 ft. elev. change. Two of the best vistas on Massanutten Mountain. Two steep climbs and plenty of rock scrambles. Boots needed. Meet at Vienna Metro (North Parking lot) at 8:00 am. Leaders:

Vicky Hsu, 301/275-6646 or hhueichi@gmail.com and Liz Guertin, 202/415-4639 (before 9pm) or eguertin@yahoo.com.

### **Sat. Apr. 16. 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; Gary Kosciusko, 703/765-0306 (before 10 pm); and Frank Wodarczyk, fw hiker44@cox.net or 703/569-6737 (before 10 pm).

### **Sat.-Sun. Apr. 16-17. Backpack Sky**

**Meadows State Park.** Enjoy an April weekend backpacking through the Blue Ridge Mountains of Northern Virginia. Beginning at the Mount Bleak Visitor Center at Sky Meadows, we will ascend to the Appalachian Trail. Heading south on the AT we will camp overnight at the Dicks Dome shelter in the Thompson WMA near Thompson Lake. On Sunday, we will backpack north along the AT through Sky Meadows SP enjoying beautiful views from Ovoka Farm

continued →

## Outings (April)

←continued

near Ashby Gap. Spring wildflowers should be in full bloom as the mountains come alive after a hard winter. Total two day distance: 14 mi. with a moderate to hard elev. change. For reservations contact leader: Glenn Gillis: 703/430-0568 or glennpotomacfalls@yahoo.com.

**Sun. Apr. 17. Rated C. Celebrate Earth Day a Little Early on Top of Sugarloaf Mountain** (Conservation Hike). Take part in a leisurely paced, 8-9 mi. circuit hike, with roughly 1,300 ft. of elev. change, in upper Montgomery Co. and on the only mountain within 30 crow mi. of the White House. It will feature great views of the surrounding farmlands, brief pauses to explore both the natural and human history of this remarkable private nature preserve, and a vista-rich lunch stop. It also will include a discussion, led by a U.S. government ecologist, of the likely effects of climate change on Maryland's forests. Either gather to carpool at 7:45 am at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro station (in the parking lot behind the garage and just across from the station's entrance/exit), or meet at 8:45 am in the parking lot at the base of Sugarloaf. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leaders: Ted Conwell, tconwell@erols.com or 301/589-1513 (home, before 9 pm), and Paul Elliott, 202/550-2841.

**Sun. Apr. 17, 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 \$17 for expenses; payment (check or PayPal) in advance will confirm your spot. For location contact Liz Guertin. Leaders: Liz Guertin, 202/415-4639 or eguertin@yahoo.com, and Mike Darzi, 301/580-9387 or michael.darzi@saic.com.

**Sat. Apr. 23 GB – Earth Day Stream Cleanup at Double Rock Park (Child-Friendly Outing)** Celebrate Earth Day 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. Trashbags and gloves will be provided. Meet at 10 AM. in the parking lot at the



park's entrance at the end of Texas Ave. off Harford Rd. in Parkville. For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

**Sat. Apr. 23. Rated A. Wakefield/Lake Accotink Parks, Annandale, VA.** Moderately paced 6-mile mostly flat circuit hike. From Capital Beltway exit 54A, go west on Braddock Rd. At traffic light, about 100 yards beyond outer beltway, turn right into Wakefield Park (also Audrey Moore RECenter) 8100 Braddock Rd., Annandale, VA 22003. Meet at 10 am at first parking lot on left near ball field. Bring water and optional lunch at end. No pets. Leader: Henri Comeau, 703/451-7965 (before 9pm) or hencom75@msn.com.

**Sat. Apr. 23. Rated G or C. C&O Canal Towpath north of Whites Ferry** (ODH Series). Out-and-back trek of about 25 miles (or 13-mi. option) is a final "tune-up" for the 100K or 50K versions of the April 30 One Day Hike event and will familiarize those planning to do the 50K version with their starting point. Meet 8 am at Whites Ferry parking lot (MD side). Leaders: Mike Gingerich, 202/370-7957 or mgingerich@gmail.com, and Ron LaCoss, 301/946-1106.

**Sat.- Sun. Apr. 23-24. Backpack Signal Knob, GWNF.** 11-mile circuit backpack along the north end of the Massanutten Ridges. Great chance to dust off the backpacking gear and get ready for another season of sleeping in the forest. Non-technical climb of 2680 ft. makes this a fairly strenuous hike, but the reward is the spectacular vistas unencumbered by leaves and an established but unoccupied campsite with a fire ring. Meet at the GMU/Fairfax Metro North Lot, 9 am Sat. for carpooling. Return Sun. evening. Must RSVP John for details and get on the roster. Trip limited to 10. Leaders: John MacDowall, 703/856-6127 (before 9pm) or

jmacdowall@gmail.com, and Liz Guertin.

**Sun. Apr. 24. Rated B. 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. elev. 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 Carol Ivory, carolivory@verizon.net.

**Sun. Apr. 24. Rated B. Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.** Visit this 600-acre park in Calvert County to do a wiggly 8 mi. circuit hike that will cut through both tangled and open woodlands, cross fields, follow the shoreline of the magnificent lower Patuxent River, take you to a reconstructed Indian village, probably include wildflowers and wildlife and other signs of spring, show you labeled archaeological sites and an assortment of buildings of note, reveal the local area's involvement in the War of 1812, and let you loose in a well-stocked visitor center—all for the price of admission, which is free. Optional dinner stop on return drive. To carpool, meet at 9 am in western Alexandria in the Van Dorn Metro station's Park & Ride lot. Call for driving directions to the station or to the trailhead in the park and the meeting time there. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott, 202/550-2841.

continued →



# Outings (April, May)

←continued

## Sun. Apr. 24 GB – 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 2-3 miles. We can also have a really good buffet breakfast at the Geneva Farm Golf Course clubhouse nearby (check out <http://www.infosports.com/golf/1697902.htm>, 410-452-8800. 217 Davis Rd., Street, MD 21154). Children OK with prior approval. Meet at the church parking lot on Seminary Ave. west of Dulaney Valley Rd. just north of the Baltimore Beltway at 5:30 AM. Call Paul at 410-667-4889 or email [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com) for details.

## Wed. Apr 27 GB – Easy. Outings Meeting, Potluck and Talk (suitable for any age)

Join us for a social evening at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center for good food and a talk by a natural resource specialist from the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability. The topic is on watersheds and their influence on streams, rivers, and the Bay. Baltimore County has initiated an action plan on improving and protecting the small watersheds of the Oregon Ridge streams: Oregon Branch, Beaver Dam, and Baisman Runs. Anyone hiking in Oregon Ridge will be familiar with these. Learn all about watersheds and find out what can be done to restore them to improve water quality for drinking and recreation from here to the Chesapeake. As we set up for the potluck dinner, we will have an

Outings Meeting between 6:00 and 6:30 PM to discuss past and planned outings. Prospective outings leaders are welcome to come and meet outings leaders and discuss what it takes. The potluck will start at 6:30 PM and the talk at 7:30, lasting no later than 9 PM. Come along and bring a dish to share and some family and friends. No reservations required. The nature center is at 13555 Beaver Dam Road and can be reached from the Shawan Road west exit (#20B) from I-83 north of the Baltimore Beltway. Take Shawan Road to the traffic light at Beaver Dam, make a left and stay to the right to the parking lot. Walk up to the nature center. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240 for any other questions.

## Sat. Apr. 30. Rated H++ or H+. Annual One Day Hike.

Join a couple hundred new and old friends to walk 100 kilometers (about 62 mi.) along the C&O Canal towpath from Washington, DC, to Harpers Ferry, WV. Or start later the same morning upriver from DC for the 50K option. Registration opens January 1. For more information, go to [www.onedayhike.org](http://www.onedayhike.org).

## Sat.-Mon. Apr. 30 - May 2: AT Backpack, Blacksburg Rd to Bluff City, VA.

Strenuous 30 mile backpack. Approximately 10 miles/day with two steep climbs. Visit Dismal Falls and 3-4 vistas. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, [mjuskelis@cablespeed.com](mailto:mjuskelis@cablespeed.com).

## Sat. Apr. 30. Rated C/D. Raven Rocks: An Appalachian Trail Gem.

Although the hike is relatively short at 6 miles, the substantial elevation changes and rocky trail will provide a vigorous workout, equivalent to

hiking 12 or more miles. The route offers fantastic views, especially from our lunch spot at Raven Rocks Overlook, and glorious spring colors. Marvelous and magical quartz boulders and fragments make this a true AT gem. Be sure to bring a good lunch and good humor. Also, good dogs bringing their owners are welcome; call Leader to verify. NOTE: This hike will be repeated 3 weeks later, Sat. May 21. Meet at Vienna Metro north parking lot at 9 am. Leader: David Burd, [dburd26@hotmail.com](mailto:dburd26@hotmail.com) or 703/998-9390.

## Sat. Apr. 30. Rated H++ or H+. One Day Hike to Harpers Ferry/ Bolivar, WV.

This 38th annual 100 kilometer (62 mi.) hike with a concurrent 50 km. option is, except for about 3.2 km (less than 2 mi.) at the end, wholly on the C&O Canal towpath. For details and volunteer opportunities, visit [www.onedayhike.org](http://www.onedayhike.org) or contact leaders. (Note: registration is closed.) Leaders: Mike Darzi, [michael.darzi@saic.com](mailto:michael.darzi@saic.com) or 301/580-9387, and Carol Ivory, [carolivory@verizon.net](mailto:carolivory@verizon.net).



**Sun. May 1. Rated B. 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. elev. 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.

## Sun. May 8 GB – Easy to Moderate. Big Gunpowder Falls/Lost Pond Circuit Hike.

4 miles. Celebrate Mother's Day on this circuit that follows the Big Gunpowder south of Belair Rd., with two modest climbs to the ridge. Nice views of the river and a pretty rapid. Muddy spots possible. Meet at 1:00 PM in parking lot on south side of road. From I-695 take Belair Rd. (Route 1) north approx. 5 miles. You will cross the Big Gunpowder River. Just past the river, turn right into parking lot. Cancelled for steady rain or storms. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email [apenczek@stevenson.edu](mailto:apenczek@stevenson.edu).

## Sun. May 8, 4-6 pm. Not Rated. What to Eat on a Backpacking Trip.

The third in a 3-part, beginner-backpacking classroom series, plus optional 2-night backpack trip planned for May. Learn the basics of meal planning and how to cook in the wilderness. Come hungry; we'll be eating! We'll take you through the basic meals for a multi-day trip and provide tips for making your meals delicious and fun! Bring your stoves to class, we will talk about different stove types and practice lighting them and cooking on them. We will also use this class as a pre-trip meeting for the beginner backpacking trip May 13-15. This class will take place outdoors rain or shine. 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

continued →

# Outings (May, June)

←continued

Guertin. Leaders: Liz Guertin, 202/415-4639 or [eguertin@yahoo.com](mailto:eguertin@yahoo.com) and Mike Darzi, 301/580-9387 or [michael.darzi@saic.com](mailto:michael.darzi@saic.com).

**Fri.-Sun. May 13 - 15. Beginner Backpacking Trip** - Location & Details TBD. Part of the Beginner Backpacking Class series, this trip will include shorter mileage and a reasonable elevation profile. Trip is designed so that the beginner can practice carrying a full pack and other backpacking skills. We will spend at least one night in the backcountry. Pre-trip meeting scheduled for May 8, directly following cooking class. Keep checking back to [www.sierrapotomac.org](http://www.sierrapotomac.org) for full trip details. Leaders: Liz Guertin, 202/415-4639 or [eguertin@yahoo.com](mailto:eguertin@yahoo.com), and Mike Darzi, 301/580-9387 or [michael.darzi@saic.com](mailto:michael.darzi@saic.com).

**Sat. May 14 Swallow Falls State Park, Oakland, MD.** Moderate hike, optional camping the night before and/or the night after (be sure to make camp reservations if you will be choosing this option). Pet friendly. Meet at 11 am at Swallow Falls State Park trail head, located at the rear of youth group campsite #2.) See [www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/swallowfalls.asp](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/swallowfalls.asp) for directions to the site. All hikes will last about 4 hours, mileage will vary by difficulty, but will be between 3-6 miles. For further information and to register, please contact Karen; [karen@lunafiberarts.com](mailto:karen@lunafiberarts.com). Registration is not necessary, but allows us to contact you if the hike is postponed or rescheduled due to weather.

**Sat.-Mon. May 14-16: Allegheny Trail-South Backpack, WV.** Moderate 28 mile backpack, WV Rt. 92 to I-64 in Monongahela National Forest. A couple of steep climbs and a lot of ridge walking, some views. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, [mjuskelis@cablespeed.com](mailto:mjuskelis@cablespeed.com).

**Sun. May 15 GB – Easy. Hike at Cylburn Arboretum (Children and Dog Friendly Outing)** 2-3 mile stroll along woodland trails and through formal gardens around a mansion house from the 1880s. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Dogs must be friendly and leashed. Meet at 10:30 AM in front of the new Vollmer Center at the end of the Greenspring Avenue entrance to the park, which has a parking lot to the left beside the Center. The park is in Baltimore City at 4915 Greenspring Ave. just west off the Jones Falls Expressway between Coldspring Ave. and Northern Parkway. Check out the park's website at [www.cylburnassociation.org](http://www.cylburnassociation.org). For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at [XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com).

**Sat. & Sun. May 21 & 22 GB - Moderate. Car Camping at Caledonia State Park in PA** Camping and hiking both days exploring lakes and streams in the Michaux State Forest in southern Pennsylvania. We will hike parts of the Appalachian Trail with some good views. Call Jack for details at 410-256-3963.

**Sat. May 28 GB – Moderate. Daniels Trail Hike.** 6 miles. Out-and-back hike along the south side of the

Patapsco River, with one climb to the top of the ridge. Good chance of seeing herons. Will examine remnants of the B&O railroad track and visit the Davis Tunnel. Muddy spots possible. Meet at 1:00 PM. From I-70 take Route 29 North to end. Turn right on Rogers Ave. After 0.7 mi. turn left on Old Frederick Rd. After 0.6 mi. turn left on Daniels Rd. Meet at the small lot near the end of Daniels Rd., additional parking is around the corner by the dam. Cancelled for steady rain or storms. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email [apenczek@stevenson.edu](mailto:apenczek@stevenson.edu).

**Sat.-Mon. May 28-30: Mid-State Trail/Brushy Ridge Backpack, Rothrock SF, PA.** 21 mile circuit backpack using the MST and connector trails. Daily mileages: 7/10/4. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, [mjuskelis@cablespeed.com](mailto:mjuskelis@cablespeed.com).



## June

**Sat.-Tue. June 11-14: Ohiopyle State Park Car Camping, PA.** Two hikes: 12 miles on the Laurel Highlands Trail and a 10 mile circuit in Bear Run Nature Reserve. If you wish to do your own thing there is a rail trail, canoeing and kayaking also available. Campsite reservation and pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, [mjuskelis@cablespeed.com](mailto:mjuskelis@cablespeed.com).

**Sat. Jun. 11 GB – Moderate. AM Kayak and PM Hike at Piney Run Park** (Child and Dog Friendly Outing) For the boating, meet at the boat launch at 10:00 AM. Bring your own

kayak or canoe or rent one to explore the 300-acre Piney Run Reservoir, with a couple stops along the shores. 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. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the shore. For the hike, meet at 1 PM in the parking area beside the Nature Center. Enjoy a 4-5 mile hike through woodlands and along the 300-acre lake. Afterwards, visit the extensive Nature Center with natural history exhibits and live animals. Piney Run, a 825-acre Carroll County park, is at 30 Martz Rd. in Sykesville, 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](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com).

**Sat. Jun. 11 Washington Monument State Park, Boonesboro, MD.** Hike along the Appalachian Trail (out and back). Meet at 10 am at the Park office. See <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/washington.asp> for directions to the site. All hikes will last about 4 hours, mileage will vary by difficulty, but will be between 3-6 miles. For further information and to register, please contact Karen; [karen@lunafiberarts.com](mailto:karen@lunafiberarts.com). Registration is not necessary, but allows us to contact you if the hike is postponed or rescheduled due to weather.

**Sun. June 19 GB – Moderate. Leakin Park/Gwynns Falls Park Hike** 5-6 miles. Celebrate Father's Day on this hike along paved and unpaved trails within the parks. Beautiful views of Gwynns Falls

continued →



## Outings (June, BICO)

←continued

valley. Includes visit to Carrie Murray Nature Center. Meet at 1:00 PM. From I-695 take Exit 16, I-70 East (not West). Exit ramp will open onto Security Boulevard. Make the first right on Forest Park Ave. After one-half mile turn right on Windsor Mill Rd. After one-third mile turn right into Eagle Dr. and parking lot. Meet by tennis courts. Cancelled for steady rain or storms. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email [apenczek@stevenson.edu](mailto:apenczek@stevenson.edu).

**Sat.-Sun. June 19-25. Sierra Club National Backpack.** Enjoy a Sierra Club national backpacking trip to the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks NRA and Dolly Sods Wilderness in wild and wonderful West Virginia. The first part the outing will explore the beautiful Seneca Creek backcountry below Spruce Knob (with a summit climb of West Virginia's peak). The second half of the trip includes the rugged Canadian type terrain of the Dolly Sods Wilderness. A combination of backpacking and

basecamping will help keep the load moderate. For information contact Glenn Gillis, 703/430-0568 or [glennpotomacfalls@yahoo.com](mailto:glennpotomacfalls@yahoo.com), or Liz Guertin, 202/415-4639.

### **Tues. June 21 GB – Easy. Cylburn Arboretum Evening Hike (children and dogs welcome).**

2 miles. Celebrate the first day of summer. Cylburn is a "well-kept secret" with rare trees, wildflowers, spacious lawns and gardens surrounding a Victorian Mansion. Meet at 6:30 PM in front of the new Vollmer Center at end of entrance driveway. Children under 18 must be accompanied by parent or other adult. Dogs must be friendly and leashed. Located at 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, on the east side of road, between Northern Parkway and Cold Spring Lane, both accessible via western exits off I-83. The entrance is marked by stone pillars and a wooden sign. Cancelled for steady rain or storms. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email [apenczek@stevenson.edu](mailto:apenczek@stevenson.edu).

**Sat.-Tue. June 25-28: Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, VA; Grindstone Car Camping.** Two hikes: Little Wilson Creek Wilderness and the Laurel Valley-Iron Mountain loop. Each about 10 miles, moderate difficulty. Campsite reservation and pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, [mjuskelis@cablespeed.com](mailto:mjuskelis@cablespeed.com).

### **Sun. June 26 GB – Easy. Gunpowder Tube Trip**

Meet at the Monkton Station on the NCR Trail at 12:00 noon. Bring a tube or rent one there. Bring water shoes, sun screen, and a way to keep your keys in your pocket like a safety pin. Call Jack at 410-256-3963 for more details.

Ten dollars ?  
\$10 !

**For only \$10 a month, less than a subscription to Netflix, you can have the satisfaction of supporting the next generation of citizen leaders working to protect Maryland's natural heritage.**

**Become a sustaining member of the MD Sierra Club by selecting a monthly, quarterly, or annual amount, payable via credit card on our website in the Join and Give section. Go to <http://maryland.sierraclub.org> and click on "Donate."**

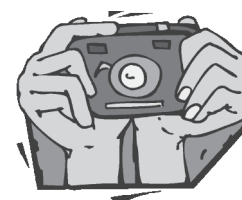
## BICO Outings

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 ; and a community service ethic

BICO's outings in and around Baltimore include nature hikes & orienteering; camping, canoeing, cycling & caving; initiative and confidence coursework; community service for Baltimore's Recreation & Parks Department

For more information, please send inquiries to [baltimoreinnercityoutings@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoreinnercityoutings@gmail.com), or visit our web site at <http://ico.sierraclub.org/baltimore>



### Schedule

<b>Sat, Mar 19</b>	PP Signs of Spring at Irvine Nature Center
<b>Sat, Apr 2</b>	SWC Patapsco Valley State Park--Camping, Astronomy at CCBC, and Medium Hiking
<b>Sat, Apr 9</b>	CGCC Trip All day
<b>Fri, May 6</b>	DHH Assateague Camping Trip
<b>Sat, May 7</b>	DHH Assateague Camping Trip
<b>Sat, May 7</b>	DHH CBF field experience aboard the Snow Goose
<b>Sat, May 7</b>	SWC Catoctin Mountain State Park - Camping, Mountain Exploration, Medium Hiking
<b>Sun, May 8</b>	DHH Assateague Camping Trip
<b>Sat, May 14</b>	CGCC CBF field experience aboard the Snow Goose
<b>Sat, Jun 4</b>	SWC Eden Mills - Camping (2 nights), experiencing nature, caving, canoeing, light hiking
<b>Sat, Jun 11</b>	CGCC Trip

#### Abbreviations:

CGCC:	College Gardens Community Center
DHH:	Digital Harbor High
PP:	Paul's Place
SWC:	Southwest Baltimore Charter School

## Credits

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

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

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

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

Advertising: For display and classified advertising rates and information, contact:  
Editor, *Chesapeake*  
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter  
7338 Baltimore Ave, Suite 111  
College Park, MD 20740

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

**Writers and Contributors:** Meredith Sweet, David O'Leary, Ron Henry, Alana Wase, Richard Reis, Marc Imlay, Woody Woodruff, Claudia Friedetsky, Mary Corddry, David Prosten, Gregor Becker, Ken Clark, Alvin Carlos, Jane Huff, Sam White

**Editors:** Betty Brody, Mary Corddry, Donna Engle, Becky French, Laurel Imlay, Betsy Johnson, Dave O'Leary, Janis Oppelt, Richard Reis, Darla Tewell

**Outings Editor:** Jan Hoffmaster

**Publication Layout:** Darla Tewell



NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ELKTON, MD  
PERMIT NO 85



### inside this issue:

There oughta be a law . . .

- ✓ Bag the bags, and keep Maryland cleaner
- ✓ Hydrofracking: Yes, it's as ugly as its name!
- ✓ Rating commercial buildings for energy efficiency
- ✓ Getting invasive plants out of the garden center

There is a law . . .

- ✓ Maryland Counties put their watersheds on a "diet"
- PLUS, group news and lots of outings for fun and for conservation