

Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Summer/Autumn 2011

The EPA Cracks Down on Coal

By Janice Meier—Sierra Club's campaign to support the "air toxics" rule to limit air toxins like mercury under the Clean Air Act (CAA) is buzzing. Our support of the rule's hearings last month with testimony and "baby stroller parades" gave needed visibility to the effects of mercury and other air toxins on human health. But this rule is actually a follow-on that reinforces several other recent EPA rules to reduce the impact of coal-fired electric generation on our air and water.

Not only do these new rules improve public health and our air quality, but they also push coal ever-closer to paying its real societal, health, and environmental costs. Improving public health would lower health-care costs. As these regulations roll out, some of the nation's dirtiest and oldest power plants will need to make significant financial investments to modernize a very old and inefficient fleet or begin the phase-out of these plants and instead invest in newer, cleaner generation like wind, solar, and efficiency. It should come as no surprise that we believe investment in clean energy is the right way to go from an economic, public health and environmental standpoint.

If you haven't been following all of EPA's great work, here is a run-down of the new rules and their projected impacts.

Sulfur Dioxide Rule

Emissions of SO₂ (sulfur dioxide) lead to the formation of small particulates—very tough on the lungs. The EPA has regulated SO₂, the proxy for a group of sulfur and nitrogen oxides, since 1971. The largest sources of SO₂ emissions are fossil-fuel combustion at power plants (73

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Moving Maryland Beyond Coal



H. A. Wagner Power Plant, Pasadena, MD. Photo by F. Sypher

By Alana Wase—Pollution from coal-fired power plants contributes to four of the five leading causes of death in the United States and adds nearly \$62 billion per year to health-care costs. But the dangers of coal-fired power plants don't end there: They are the single largest contributor to global warming, responsible for 39 percent of our total greenhouse gas emissions.

In response to the threats that dirty energy poses to our health and our environment, the national Sierra Club launched an extensive Beyond Coal campaign in 2009 to stop the building of any new coal plants—a campaign that was a tremendous success. In that year, not a single new coal plant broke ground. The success continues into 2011 as Sierra Club chapters across the country have helped to halt the construction of 154 coal plants.

In Maryland, no new coal plants were on the draw-

ing boards, but in the past year we did battle with the PATH "coal-by-wire" transmission line. After an intense fight, I'm happy to report that we did our part and defeated this multibillion-dollar-investment in coal dependence. You can read more about it at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/action/p0204.asp>.

The Next Challenge

With these incredible successes under our belts, we are now turning to the next phase. Our goal is to **retire existing coal plants**, which are well past their prime. To put their ages into perspective, 40 percent of our state's power plants were built before Ronald Reagan took office (in 1981) and 22 percent were built before John F. Kennedy took office (in 1961).

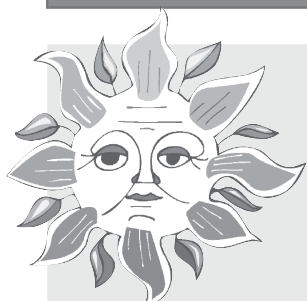
Following is a chart from *Maryland Power Plants*

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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summer/autumn

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

Letter from the Chair



Ron Henry, Chapter Chair

Hello All,

The word “summer” never loses its magic, conjuring up images of retreating to the mountains in Western Maryland, paddling our many creeks and rivers, or lazing on our beaches by the ocean or the Bay. But summer is also the season of record heat, air-quality alerts, and peak demand for electricity. In this issue of *Chesapeake*, we’re going to try to help you enjoy that summer magic with outings and events that will take you deep into the woods, high in the mountains, or out on—or into—the water. But we’re also going to try to engage you in helping to tame some of summer’s ills.

Longtime members know that we are committed to fighting sprawl and protecting our treasured Bay and its watersheds. In introducing our “Beyond Coal” campaign, we are bringing attention to another issue here in Maryland—the way our electricity is generated—and we are advocating for making that power-generation cleaner. Specifically, we are pushing to have the three dirtiest coal-fired plants in Maryland retired from production.

Coal, a 19th century marvel, is the dirtiest of the fossil fuels, and a prime contributor to the blanket of greenhouse gases that are steadily warming the earth. The particulate matter released from coal-fired plants drives air quality down and health-care costs up. From the time it’s ripped from the earth till the time its toxic residues are collected from power plants, coal harms our health and makes our planet increasingly inhospitable to human and other life.

In a rational world, American citizens and their leaders would be pressing to slow down and then halt the burning of coal. We’d be providing incentives for conservation, reimagining and reinventing the way we use power, and embracing clean alternatives to fossil fuels. It’s not that we don’t know how dirty the air is. We keep our kids inside on code red days, buy record amounts of asthma medicine, and remind our elders to skip their daily walk when the air is bad. It’s not that we don’t know that 100° days aren’t supposed to happen here in June. It’s not like we citizens are asking for quaint antique power stations.

But we’re up against the power of industry, exerted through lobbying and contributions to political campaigns. We have seen its power turn leaders who understand global warming into global-warming deniers.

We’ve seen its power to silence scientists and de-fund federal climate science. The money is huge: According to the Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks election and lobbying spending at the federal level, in 2010—one year!—the electric utilities spent \$191.34 million for lobbying and \$73.25 million for campaign contributions. Coal-mining interests spent \$18.32 million for lobbying, and \$7.79 million for campaign contributions. Railroads, which move 70% of America’s coal, and for which coal is their largest single cargo, spent \$44.11 million for lobbying, and \$7.31 million for campaign contributions.

My dream is that we will be able to communicate effectively to persuade a critical mass of concerned citizens to be activists and advocates for the environment. To do this, we must develop our arguments for the economic value of the natural resources that we treasure. Yes, forests and wetlands nourish our souls, but, more to the economic point, forests are pollution-control centers, and wetlands are water-purification factories. Conservation of nature is not a luxury for economic boom times, but an investment in environmental services that will pay rich dividends now and to future generations.

We are not going to get the world we want for ourselves and our children and grandchildren by waiting for industrial interests to decide we can have it. We’re only going to get it by understanding what we need, being determined to get it, and joining together as committed grassroots participants in the political and regulatory processes at both state and federal levels.

In the Sierra Club’s national Beyond Coal campaign, and in our own Maryland campaign, we are engaged in difficult work, and its difficulty is increased by its importance. Our world faces no greater challenge than global warming, and its effects—ecological, biological, social, economic, and political—are already being felt.

We must be mindful of our message. At a time of economic constriction, global warming is still an inconvenient truth. We may find that we can make a more compelling argument based on the issue that most engages the public: jobs. We have an opportunity to advocate for creating the jobs of the future that our country wants and needs, and, at the same time, reducing our dependence on foreign oil and domestic fossil fuels extracted at great environmental expense here at home. Taking advantage of this opportunity will require delivering a powerful and inspirational message: We can put people to work developing and delivering the technologies that will replace 19th century combustion with 21st

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Chapter Elections

Seeking Candidates for Chapter Excom

Each year, the Maryland Chapter holds elections for “at large” delegates to the chapter executive committee. This winter, the members of the chapter will elect three people to serve two-year terms. The chapter’s nominating committee invites all interested members of the Maryland Chapter to enter the race for these positions. We are looking for at least six people who can bring management skills, a firm commitment to protecting the environment, and a willingness to invest their time and energy for the next two years to help manage the chapter.

While experience on a group’s executive committee would be helpful, it is not necessary. Your work and life experience, and your common sense, are equally important ingredients. If you would be willing to serve for a two-year term, please submit a brief biography, no longer than 400 words, which describes your qualifications, your experience, and what you believe you can contribute. Send it to the nominating committee c/o Laurel Imlay, 7338 Baltimore Ave, College Park, MD 20740, by e-mail to laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org, or by fax at 301-277-6699. You may also send a letter to nominate another member in good standing.

Please respond by October 30, 2011. The nominating committee will review the qualifications described in the biographies, attempt to bring forward a slate of six candidates, and report the slate of candidates to the executive committee. The candidates’ statements and a ballot will be published in the winter issue of *Chesapeake*.

For additional information and a sample biography, please contact Laurel Imlay at the above address, or call 301-277-7111.

We are soliciting candidates for group executive committees as well. The Maryland Chapter is made up of nine groups that work at the local (county or regional) level. The requirements for a

group executive committee member are the same as those described above for the chapter executive committee members. Serving on the executive committee of your local group is a rewarding and exciting experience. We need committed, responsible, environmentally aware people to represent us at all levels of government and to make good decisions for our state and local entities. If you would like to explore this option contact your group’s chair before October 30, 2011. Following are the contact numbers and areas of jurisdiction for our nine groups:

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

Catoctin (Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties): Chair: Dan Andrews, 410-857-4129, dooze@qis.net

Eastern Shore (all counties east of the Chesapeake Bay and Cecil County): Chair: Don Grace, 410-352-3722, Don.Grace@mdsierra.org

Greater Baltimore (Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Harford County): Chair: Chris Yoder, 410-466-2462, cncyoder@comcast.net

Howard: Chair: Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@live.com

Montgomery: Chair: Alvin Carlos, Alvin.Carlos@maryland.sierraclub.org

Prince George’s: Interim Chair: Alex Hirtle, 301-927-2105, alexhirtle@hotmail.com

Southern Maryland (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s Counties): Chair: Meredith Sweet, meredith.sweet@verizon.net

Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties): Chair: Sam White, sam@cedarrockfarm.org, 301-264-4162

You may also contact Laurel Imlay at laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org or call 301-277-7111 if you are unable to reach your group chair. ■

2011 Legislative Session

Some Success—and Many Disappointments—from the 2011 Maryland General Assembly Session

By David O’Leary and Alana Wase—At the start the outlook for the 2011 Maryland General Assembly session was good. Maryland had re-elected Governor Martin O’Malley, and the make-up of the state Senate changed such that we anticipated progress on environmental issues. The governor accepted one of the environmental community priorities as his own, and announced plans to introduce a bill to drive the construction of an offshore wind farm near Ocean City. Led by a new legislative committee chair, Chris Bryan and joined by new committee members, Sierra Club activists worked closely with other environmental, community, and labor organizations and with state government agencies on offshore wind and on our other priorities. (Meet Chris and the legislative committee in Marta Vogel’s wonderful profile on page 15.) By the end of the session in mid-April, however, disappointment and frustration were strong for the environmental community, especially those in the Sierra Club who spent significant time and energy on environmental, public health, and good government initiatives.

Sierra Club priorities for the General Assembly session included creation of a fee for disposable shopping bags, and creating a framework for strong regulations on natural gas drilling in the state, in addition to the offshore wind bill. The legislative committee and various conservation activists also reviewed and offered testimony on a variety of bills: restrictions on invasive plants, reduction in use of various toxic chemicals, energy efficiency, campaign finance reform, and other good government bills. As frequently happens, bills were introduced that the Sierra Club opposed, including one that increased incentives for electricity generation from incinerating trash.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

One of the top priorities for Sierra Club is the transition to a clean-energy economy through use of renewable energy and by increasing our energy efficiency. In Maryland, offshore wind is the largest renewable energy resource. The wind in the ocean is stronger and steadier than on-shore wind, and there is more space for larger turbines. Throughout the summer and fall of 2010, members of the chapter’s energy team worked in coordination with chapter staff member Alana Wase and other organizations to plan our campaign and raise awareness of the potential for offshore wind through town hall meetings and other events. Governor O’Malley agreed to sponsor a bill to require Maryland utilities to enter into long-term contracts that would be used for financing of a large offshore wind project to produce between 400 and 600 megawatts of power (about the same as a large coal plant).

Starting in December and carrying through the session, meetings were held with key committee members, and a rally on the opening day of session received significant media attention. We worked with labor unions (especially the United Steelworkers), and executives from a manufacturing company with plans to open a new facility in Salisbury, to em-

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Don’t Miss It!

Maryland Chapter

Jamboree

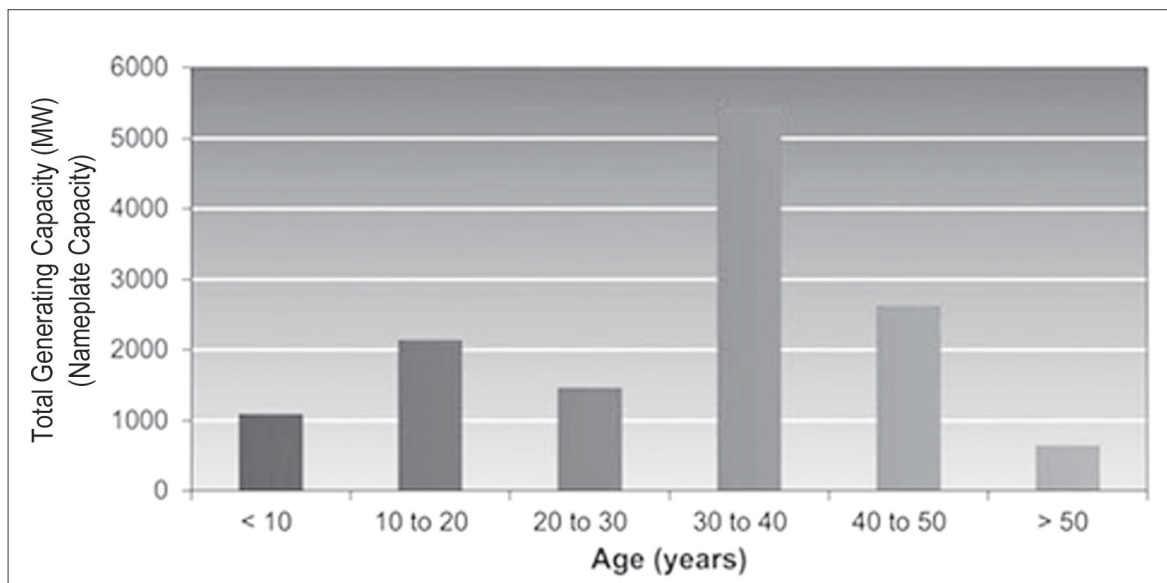
Sept. 30 - Oct. 2

Registration form inside back cover

Moving Maryland Beyond Coal

(continued from page 1)

and the Environment: A Review of the Impacts of Power Plants and Transmission Lines on Maryland's Natural Resources (CEIR-15). In this chart, entitled "Aging of Maryland's Generating Capacity," produced by the Maryland Power Plant and Research Program, generation capacity or nameplate capacity refers to the maximum amount of electricity that can be produced from a power plant when operating at full capacity. From the graph we see that roughly 65 percent of Maryland's generating capacity, or potential to create electricity, comes from power plants that are 30 years old or more.



Source: CEIR-15 2.7.2 (http://esm.versar.com/pprp/ceir15/Report_2_7_2.htm)

The rapid evolution, and seemingly effortless improvement, of our computers, phones, and internet technology makes us wonder why our energy sectors haven't kept pace. The short answer is simple. Those who have become wealthy from our current energy structure would like to continue dominating the market, even if it means holding our nation back from achieving energy independence and renewable, non-polluting electricity.

Indeed, according to the Maryland State Ethics Commission, of the top 10 companies that spent the most funds lobbying in Maryland in 2010, three of them were electric utilities. This also mirrors lobbying at the federal level, as the elec-

tric utilities outspend every other special-interest industry, except the health-care industry.¹

Needless to say, we're taking on some very large special-interest groups, and we need your help.

Turning the Corner

This is a turning point in our energy work in Maryland. For the first time we are not only working to advance offshore wind, solar energy, and energy efficiency, but we are equally working to remove some of the state's oldest and dirtiest coal plants from the electric grid. Strategically, during the next phase of our Beyond Coal

work in Maryland, we will target three plants for retirement—the H.P. Crane, Herbert Wagner, and R. Paul Smith plants. (See Laura Buzek's article on the three plants on page 6).

Our vision is clear. We want a healthier, fairer, and cleaner energy structure, one which is not clouded by smog, soot, mercury, and asthma. We can do better, and we've proven it in recent years.

Because of a state-mandated law to improve energy efficiency, we now have reduced our peak demand by 600MW, and this is only in the first two years of implementing programs that will continue through 2015.² Additionally, renewable energy has grown to now make up

5.5 percent of the state's electricity—just a few years ago this number was hovering around one percent.³

Our opponents will suggest we want the lights to go out, but this is false. We're simply requesting that deadlines be set to phase-out our oldest and dirtiest coal plants responsibly, just as we've set deadlines to continue increases in energy efficiency, conservation and deployment of renewable energy.

We've dedicated most of this issue of *Chesapeake* to this campaign. We hope you'll be inspired with our success to date. Keeping 150 new coal plants from being built is just the beginning. With over 500 coal plants in the nation and coal being responsible for nearly 50 percent of the electricity we produce it is a tall order, but we must start somewhere.

Join us in moving Maryland Beyond Coal. Sign our petition asking Governor O'Malley to phase out these three coal plants by going to our website at www.maryland.sierraclub.org. For more details or to get involved with the energy team that's making this happen, email Laura Buzek at energy.intern@mdsierra.org.

Alana Wase is a law student at the University of Maryland. At the time of this writing, she was the Conservation Coordinator for the Maryland Chapter.

Sources

- 1 Center for Responsive Politics: Washington Lobbying Grew to \$3.2 Billion Last Year, Despite Economy, (<http://www.projectcensored.org/top-stories/articles/6-lobbyists-buy-congress/>)
- 2 <http://cdn.publicinterestnetwork.org/assets/c5fb42fa97fbfe1aab8085f68fc6fd6d/MDP—Falling-Behind-on-Energy-Efficiency.pdf>

Letter from the Chair

(continued from page 2)

century renewable energy from the sun, the winds, and the earth itself.

To change the way we use energy, even just here in Maryland, we must intensify our efforts and present a message that will resonate with our fellow citizens. In retiring the oldest, most polluting of our power plants, we can move beyond coal by embracing conservation and clean, renewable energy. Please invest some time learning about what we can do to get Maryland's power generation out of the 19th century. In addition to the suite of articles in this issue of *Chesapeake*, you can find more about coal at www.sierraclub.org/coal. Then join the campaign. All of your efforts will be appreciated; all of your efforts are absolutely needed to move Maryland beyond coal. ■



R.P. Smith Power Station, Williamsport, Md.
Photo by Mike Hennessey.

3 Governor Martin O'Malley at the Energy Summit: A Roundtable on Maryland's Energy Future, *Timonium* May 13, 2011



It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on fossil fuels like coal. We need to increase use of clean, renewable energy sources like solar and wind.

Add your voice to protect the planet.
Join Sierra Club

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Join today and receive
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Card Number _____
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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<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

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Why the Crusade on Coal?

Coal-fired power plants generate roughly half of the nation's electricity. Burning coal produces smog, soot, mercury and other toxic air pollutants, and greenhouse gases. This pollution harms public health, contaminates our waters and soils, and destroys forests and crops.

Soot

Public Health Dangers

- ♦ Triggers heart attacks and strokes
- ♦ Increases risk of asthma
- ♦ Causes irregular heartbeat
- ♦ Causes premature death

Environment

- ♦ Depletes soil nutrients
- ♦ Destroys forests and crops
- ♦ Acidifies waters

Smog

Public Health Dangers

- ♦ Acts like a sunburn in the lungs
- ♦ Increases risk of asthma
- ♦ Causes shortness of breath and permanent lung damage
- ♦ Causes premature death

Environment

- ♦ Destroys entire ecosystems
- ♦ Weakens plant and tree growth, making them vulnerable to disease, insects, and extreme weather
- ♦ Reduces crop productivity

Mercury

Public Health Dangers

- ♦ Increases risks of developmental problems in fetuses and infants
- ♦ Causes brain damage
- ♦ Causes coronary heart disease

Environment

- ♦ Poisons fish and seafood, accumulating in their tissues, with accumulation increasing up the food chain
- ♦ Causes diseases for animals which eat fish and other marine life



Coal-fired power plants also emit large quantities of toxic air pollutants such as lead and arsenic, and are one of the largest sources of man-made mercury pollution in the United States. The mercury problem in the U.S. is so widespread that every year one in six women of childbearing age has mercury levels in her blood high enough to put her baby at risk.

Coal-fired power plants also have the highest carbon intensity among all fossil fuels. Coal fired power plants account for 39% of our nation's greenhouse gas emissions.

Kicking coal and retiring coal plants that lack scrubbers to reduce pollution will have real benefits to our health and our communities.

Extracted from the "Dirty Truth About Coal" Report by the Sierra Club. The full report is available at www.sierraclub.org/coal/downloads/coalreport.pdf.

Beyond Coal

Out with the Old

Moving Beyond Coal Begins with Three Old Polluting Plants

By Laura Buzek—The Maryland Sierra Club's Moving Maryland Beyond Coal (MMBC) campaign is aiming to get several coal-fired power plants in the state phased out. We are targeting three plants in particular, because of their age, the high amount of pollution they release, the small amount of energy they produce, and their not having "scrubbers."

Scrubbers are devices installed in coal plant smoke stacks to remove pollutants from the exhaust released by the plant. They catch ash and heavy metals, as well as dangerous gases, such as sulfur dioxide. Scrubbers are, for the most part, the only devices available able to remove both particulate matter and gases, and, thus, they are very important for pollution control. Scrubbers are now mandated for new plants built in the United States. However, the three plants MMBC is targeting are between 50 and 70 years old, and they are not required to have scrubbers. These plants pollute "big time."

R. Paul Smith

The R. Paul Smith coal-fired power plant is a small plant located in the beautiful town of Williamsport, Maryland. It is owned by Allegheny Energy, Inc. and can produce up to 110 megawatts of electricity. According to the E.P.A., it is a high priority violator.¹ It releases excessive amounts of nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide. Positioned right on the C&O Canal, the discharge from this plant goes into the Potomac River, and coal ash from the plant is transported to landfills in West Virginia. This plant was responsible for emitting 5000 tons of sulfur dioxide in 2008.² In stark contrast, the Criterion Wind Project, located in western Maryland, emits no pollution and has a capacity of 70 megawatts.³ [Join us on a hike on the beautiful C&O Canal, and see the R. Paul Smith plant for yourself. See page 16 or the outings schedule for July 23.]

C. P. Crane

MMBC is also focusing on the C.P. Crane coal-fired plant in Baltimore County on the Chesapeake Bay, near Hawthorn Cove. Constellation Energy runs the plant, which produces about 416 megawatts of electricity.¹ Discharge from the plant goes into Salt Peter Creek via Seneca Creek, and coal ash from the plant is transported to off-site landfills in Maryland and Virginia. The plant recently applied for permission to open a coal ash landfill in Baltimore County. Fifty-nine deaths in the region annually have been attributed to "fine particulate matter" released from the C.P. Crane plant.⁴

Herbert A. Wagner

The third targeted coal-fired plant is the Herbert A. Wagner plant. It is located in Pasadena, Maryland, where it discharges into the Patapsco River. Constellation Energy also operates this plant, and its coal ash goes to off-site landfills in Maryland and Virginia.

Coal processing at this plant creates 495 megawatts of electricity and releases 19,646 tons of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere every year, making it #48 on the list of the Environmental Integrity Project (a watchdog organization) of the dirtiest coal plants in America.⁵ With over 600 coal plants⁶ in total in the U.S., the Wagner plant clocks in as one of the dirtiest. On top of that, 22 deaths in the region annually have been attributed to "fine particulate matter" emitted by the Herbert A. Wagner plant.⁴

Together, these three targeted plants produced 3.69 million megawatt hours of electricity a year (and release 45,000 tons of sulfur dioxide a year into the atmosphere), compared to the total 52.66 million megawatt hours used in the state of Maryland.^{1, 2} This amount of emissions is unnecessary in light of available renewable energy technologies. We hope

you will join us as we work to move Maryland and our nation beyond coal. To get involved with our Maryland campaign, visit www.maryland.sierraclub.org. ■

Laura Buzek is a summer intern working with the Maryland Chapter on energy issues. She is a student at the University of Maryland, pursuing degrees in environmental science and sociology, and she is a member of the Student Sierra Coalition.

Sources:

1. 3 Plant Fact Sheet. Source: Clean Air Markets, MDE Emissions Inventory, Sierra Club Database.
2. Maryland Power Plant Research program. Pg 2.1, 3.1.1 <http://esm.versar.com/pprp/ceir15/toc.htm>
3. Constellation Energy www.constellation.com/EnergyMatters/RenewableEnergy/CriterionWindProject/Pages/CriterionWindProject.aspx
4. Clean Air Task Force – Death and Disease from Power Plants http://www.catf.us/coal/problems/power_plants/existing/map.php?state=Maryland
5. Environmental Integrity Project. "Dirty Kilowatts 2007 Report Database" www.dirtykilowatts.org/Excel/DirtiestSO22007.xls
6. Source Watch Article "Existing U.S. Coal Plants". http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Existing_U.S._Coal_Plants

Maryland Chapter Jamboree

in the mountains

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2

Mark your calendar!

You are invited to join us for the Maryland Chapter's **Jamboree** in the Catoctin Mountains

Friday evening to Sunday afternoon
September 30th - October 2nd 2011
Catoctin Mountain Park,
Thurmont MD
Camp Roundmeadow

This year's Friday night featured guest speaker will be:

Michael Brune,
National Executive Director
Sierra Club

Don't miss this fun filled weekend with Live Music, Environmental Workshops, and Great People!

See pages 32-35 for additional information and registration form.



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!

How Many Years Can a Mountain Exist Before It Is Washed to the Sea?

By D. Tewell—Coal's dirty life begins with mining. Well before long trains of coal cars chug their way to power-generation stations, the coal they're hauling has already begun to make its mark as the nation's number one polluter.

When coal mining makes the news, it is usually because of a life-threatening disaster in a deep mine, such as the 2010 explosion that killed 29 miners in Massey's mine in Montcoal, WV. But surface mining, though generally ignored, produces most of America's coal¹, and imperils life every day. The most rapacious type of surface mining, mountain top removal, is destroying southern Appalachia, our own backyard.

Picture a mountain, or a mountain range, as a layer cake. The icing is what we see: forests, laced with streams and springs. In the Appalachians, the forests are more than just icing on the cake. They are among the most ecologically valuable forests in the world, with more species diversity than almost any place outside the tropics.² Beneath the forest lie the mountain's layers: topsoil, subsoil, rock, coal, rock, coal . . .

Mining, Minus Miners

Mountaintop removal is mining on the cheap, using few workers, enormous machinery, and explosives to blast away the mountaintops to expose the coal layers. The process begins with clear-cutting the forest and stripping away the topsoil. As the forest is converted from healthy ecosystem to debris, it is sold off as timber, burned, or pushed into the valleys below. The environmental damage even at this early stage of mining is incalculable as forests are converted to smoke, valley fill, trash, and logs hauled out by diesel trucks.

With the forest gone, attention turns to the rocky layer and blasting begins. Using millions of pounds of explosives, the mining company shatters the rock layer. Flyrock and dust shoot skyward, landing wherever gravity or the wind takes them. Monster machines called draglines, with

footprints as big as a gymnasium and weighing millions of pounds, push the rubble down the slope. Blasting and pushing continue until a coal layer is exposed. The coal is scraped, scooped, and transported via truck or conveyor belt to a coal preparation plant for washing. When a coal layer is exhausted, the blasting is resumed to get to the next coal seam.

"Cleaning" Coal

Before the coal is loaded into rail cars bound for utilities or other industries, it is washed to remove impurities that impede burning. The slurry left behind is a toxic stew of industrial chemicals, water, coal dust, clay, and, of course, all of the heavy metals found in coal: beryllium, chromium, manganese, cobalt, nickel, arsenic, selenium, cadmium, antimony, mercury, lead, thorium, and uranium.³ When coal has been mined from underground, the slurry is often injected back into the exhausted mine. But when there is no honeycombed mountain in which to store the sludge, the mining companies simply impound it in unlined basins constructed with solid mining waste. Whether the slurry is injected or impounded, its contaminants leach into ground and surface water. Water supplies to communities become unusable; streams cannot support aquatic life.

The impoundments have proven to be fragile containers for the slurry, and thus present a threat beyond that of water contamination through leakage. Breaches and breaks in the impoundments have allowed hundreds of millions of gallons of toxic waste to flow downstream.⁴ Some individual spills dwarf that of the Exxon Valdez's 53.1 million gallons.

Peaks to Plateaus

Mining companies are legally required to restore a mining site to its original contours⁵, but their reclamation makes a mockery of the law. In place of the ancient, gentle ridges blanketed with lush

forests, they leave a lumpy landscape of compacted and terraced waste, treated with chemicals and seeded with a non-native grass that struggles to cover the highly acidic and infertile ground.

Mining interests often claim that mining regions' economies lag because they lack flat land for development, and they tout the arid plateaus of decapitated mountains as potential sites of economic growth.⁶ But the flattened mountains in beleaguered communities do not attract investment.⁷

Death Valleys

Though the most visible sign of destruction in the Appalachians is the moonscape left behind when the forested mountaintops are gone, it is in the valleys that the effects of the loss of the mountains are most keenly felt. The EPA estimates that over 2,000 miles of streams have been buried by mountaintop removal waste, disastrously altering the hydrology. Rainwater collected by a natural stream is filtered through forests and their tiny rivulets. But rain collected in valley fill percolates through the waste, absorbing contaminants released by blasting. Alteration of the terrain and removal of the forests also increases the likelihood of floods⁸, and pollutes wells and groundwater.

Communities in the Appalachian hollows, deeply rooted by generations of coal mining, are suffering. Scientists examining the health of those in the Appalachian communities find abnormally high rates of cancer, heart disease, kidney disease, and birth defects.⁹ Homes rocked by blasting and showered with debris sustain extensive damage. Roads and gardens wash away in mudslides and floods.¹⁰ To no surprise, the two Congressional districts in which mountaintop removal mining is most pervasive have been ranked at the bottom of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index; West Virginia's 3rd District is at 432 out of 435, while Kentucky's 5th stands sadly at 435.

Coal companies and the politicians they shower with cash proclaim Kentucky and West Virginia as "friends of coal," but the friendship is hardly reciprocal. In a ranking of the states' well-being, Kentucky is 49th, West Virginia, 50th.¹¹

With imaginations in overdrive, we might envision something as oxymoronic as "clean coal" in our power plants. But imagination cannot absolve coal of its original sin: destruction wreaked by blowing up the mountains and burying the valleys in toxic waste. To save the mountain communities, the valleys, the streams and the Appalachians themselves, we have to move beyond coal. ■

D. Tewell is the managing editor of Chesapeake.

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¹⁰ <http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/166/>

¹¹ www.well-beingindex.com/stateCongressDistrictRank.asp

The EPA Cracks Down on Coal

(continued from page 1)

percent) and other industrial facilities (20 percent). What's updated in this rule is the way that the health impact of SO₂ is measured. EPA has found a way to take more targeted measurements that, when combined with dispersion (air current) modeling, yields more accurate information on how the emissions actually affect public health.

The rule is expected to prevent 2,300 to 5,900 premature deaths and 54,000 asthma attacks a year. The agency estimates the cost to industry of adopting the new rule at \$1.5 billion over the next 10 years, and the value of the health benefits at \$13 billion to \$33 billion a year. The rule change came into effect on June 2, 2010, but some of its requirements will be rolled out through 2017.

Transport Rule

This rule, which affects only 31 eastern states plus the District of Columbia, goes hand-in-hand with the SO₂ rule by requiring power plants to reduce emissions that force another state into "non-attainment" of the SO₂ rule. In other words, if a coal plant in one state is passing off its pollution to another, this rule would trigger, ensuring the protection of residents who are downwind of an out-of-state plant. How do you identify an offending plant? By dispersion modeling, of course.

In April 2011, New Jersey sued over emissions from a Pennsylvania plant and the EPA ruled in New Jersey's favor. Using their dispersion model, the EPA showed that high SO₂ levels in parts of northern NJ pointed directly to the Pennsylvania plant's emissions. The plant was ordered to lower its SO₂ emissions by 81% over a three-year period. [<http://www.matternetwork.com/2011/4/epa-rules-pennsylvania-plant-must.cfm>]

EPA estimates that benefits of the Transport Rule are 25 to 130 times greater than the corresponding estimated costs. The benefits come in many forms, with the largest coming from reduced prema-

ture mortality. This rule, like many of the EPA's new safeguards, will save thousands of lives. Reduced morbidity, especially lower incidence of respiratory and heart disease, and other environmental benefits would also be achieved. The billions of dollars in savings expected from reduced health care expenditures and improved worker productivity alone would more than offset the Transport Rule's compliance costs.

Better yet, the public health and



Mountaintop removal mining in WV. Photo by D. Tewell

safety benefits of the Transport Rule come with little to no impact on consumers' electricity rates. The EPA estimates that the rate impacts will vary from 0% to 5%, and a study funded by the Exelon Corporation, a provider of energy services including electric and natural gas distribution and the largest nuclear operator in the United States, says, "While rate increases are likely to be greatest in the states most reliant upon coal-fired generation, these states now typically enjoy among the lowest electricity prices in the country." With respect to employment it notes, "Employment will likely rise in the short run as a consequence of the Transport Rule, due largely to investment in new pollution controls." The study concludes, "the Transport Rule would pro-

duce significant benefits in terms of improved health outcomes, and better environmental amenities and services, which studies estimate significantly outweigh the costs." [http://206.169.254.86/uploadedFiles/News_and_Events/News/2011_StavinsSchmalensee_TransportRuleReport.pdf]

EPA has proposed a phase-in approach with Phase 1 in 2012 requiring limited incremental investment in pollu-

tion control while phase 2 in 2014 would require more substantial investment. The rule will likely be finalized by the end of 2011.

Air Toxics rule

The Air Toxics (boiler MACT) rule under the Clean Air Act complements and extends the SO₂ rule by setting new standards governing a wider array of power plant pollutants, including mercury. "Mercury can harm children's developing brains, including effects on memory, attention, language, and fine motor and visual spatial skills." It's a "maximum achievable control technology" (MACT) rule, meaning that it enforces the use of the technology and practices used by the cleanest 12% of power plants. EPA ex-

pects the rule to prevent thousands of premature deaths and tens of thousands of heart attacks, bronchitis cases and asthma attacks and save \$59-140 billion in healthcare costs in 2016. [<http://www.epa.gov/airquality/powerplanttoxics/>]

This rule was prompted by a 2008 lawsuit after the Bush administration refused to address air toxics. Now EPA must finish its work very quickly because, while the current rule was only proposed on March 16, 2011, it has a court-mandated final rule deadline of November 16, 2011.

Mountaintop Removal

Section 404b(J) of the Clean Water Act addresses compensatory mitigation for losses of aquatic life during the disposal of dredged or fill materials. EPA's action was to further clarify and strengthen environmental permitting requirements for Appalachian mountaintop removal and other surface coal mining projects, in coordination with federal and state regulatory agencies. Using the best available science and following the law, the comprehensive guidance set clear benchmarks for preventing significant and irreversible damage to Appalachian watersheds at risk from mining activity. The agency issued its guidance on April 1, 2010.

Section 316b

This section of the Clean Water Act requires that the location, design, construction and capacity of cooling water intake structures reflect the best technology available for minimizing adverse environmental impact. The EPA will issue regulations to reduce injury and death of fish and other aquatic life caused by cooling water intake structures existing at power plants and factories. This includes coal-fired boiler-type power plants that intake or expel water. EPA estimates that the rule applies to an estimated 1,260 existing industrial facilities and will cost those facilities about \$384 million annually. The

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Without Those Polluting Coal Plants How Are We Going to Keep the Lights On?

By Amanda Ruthven—In considering the closure of the R. Paul Smith, C. P. Crane, and Herbert A. Wagner coal plants in Maryland, it is important to understand how these coal plants currently figure in Maryland's energy portfolio and viable alternatives to these sources.

The key to understanding if we can eliminate these sources is in understanding the state's peak power demand in megawatts (MW) as well as its overall energy needs in megawatt hours (MWh). In other words, what percent of the power do these plants provide on the hottest summer day, and can energy conservation and new sources fill that gap?

Maryland's Peak Power

The Department of Energy, Energy Information Agency, states that Maryland's peak power capability is 12,482 MW (industry Net Summer Capacity). The capacity for the three plants are summarized in the table at top right:

Plant Capacity	R Paul Smith	C. P. Crane	H. Wagner
	110 MW	399 MW	495 MW

This means that the plants have a combined capacity of 1,004 MW, or 8% of the state's peak power needs. At the same time, the total electrical energy generation from these plants has been decreasing over the past three years. Some of this is due to falling demand; however, this should also be accredited to gains in energy efficiency.

Gains in Power Efficiency

In 2008, Maryland enacted its energy and environment saving law, EmPower. EmPower requires all Maryland electric utilities to offer programs to reduce per-capita electrical peak power demand (in MW) by 5% by 2011 and by 15% by 2015, as compared to 2007 levels. To date, the utility companies in aggregate are meeting their 2011 requirements in reducing peak demands. If utilities meet

2015 targets, these reductions will exceed the power capacity of the three dirty coal-fired plants.

Maryland's Annual Energy Demand

The table below shows energy production in MWh for 2007 through 2009 (the most recent year for which we have data) and as percent of recent state load, 62,589,143 MWh.

Note that the energy produced by these plants decreased by 36% between 2007 and 2009.

	R. Paul Smith		C. P. Crane		Herbert A. Wagner		All	
2007	697,565	1.1%	2,156,148	3.4%	2,930,279	4.7%	5,783,992	9.2%
2008	495,105	0.8%	1,893,624	3.0%	2,124,915	3.4%	4,513,644	7.2%
2009	139,685	0.2%	1,169,758	1.9%	2,384,403	3.8%	3,693,846	5.9%

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EPA Cracks Down on Coal

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comment period for changes to this rule expires July 19, 2011.

Coal Combustion Residual Rule

The Coal Combustion Residual (coal ash) rule addresses residues from the combustion of coal in power plants and materials captured by pollution control technologies such as scrubbers. Environmental concerns from coal ash include pollution from impoundment and landfills leaching into ground water and structural failures of impoundments. The rule appears to have been motivated by a massive toxic ash spill in Tennessee in 2008. It would regulate the disposal of coal ash by removing its exemption from the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

The rule was proposed June 21, 2010 and public comments closed on November 19, 2010.

Together the EPA estimates that these rules and other state action could reduce the "coal fleet" (coal-fired power plants) by 10 GW by 2015. However, industry estimates that the reduction could be as much as 40-80 GW (of 325 GW nationally), and these disputed numbers are symptomatic of disparate cost perspectives.

Of course, we are seeing pushback on these regulations from coal plant owners, often with the same exaggerated arguments which were used to defeat Maryland's offshore wind bill, claiming negative impacts to jobs and electricity costs. [http://www.americaspower.org/

NERA_CATR_MACT_29.pdf]

On the other hand, a study update by Clean Energy Group's Clean Air Policy Initiative, a coalition of electric companies dedicated to responsible energy, concludes, "The flexible nature of EPA's regulations, the readiness reported by leaders of many of the companies owning affected coal plants ... indicate we can modernize and clean the nation's electric fleet to enhance public health while maintaining electric system reliability." [http://www.mjbradley.com/documents/MJBAandAnalysisGroupReliabilityReportAugust2010.pdf]

With each new/revised rule, EPA is gradually forcing the coal industry to internalize the health and environmental costs that have traditionally fallen to the public. As these costs add up, alternative

Gains in Energy Efficiency

As well as reducing peak demand, EmPower programs are to also reduce electrical energy load (in MWh) by 5% by 2011 and 10% by 2015. Thus these programs should reduce peak power demands. To date, the utility companies in aggregate are not quite meeting their 2011 requirements in reducing total load. (Maryland PIRG, "Utility Work Ahead", 2010) If utilities meet 2015 targets, these reductions will exceed the energy generation history of the three dirty coal-fired plants.

A recent study showed that the US economy could reduce its non-transportation

energy sources will become ever more attractive and eventually coal will price itself out of the market. EPA's current flurry of activity gets us going down that path, but it will clearly need public support to prevail. To submit supportive comments on the EPA's regulations or to learn more visit: www.sierraclub.org/beyondcoal. ■

Janice Meier is an active member of the Sierra Club, helping with the Maryland Chapter's energy team and working with the Sierra Club's Federal and International Climate Campaign. Janice travelled as part of the Sierra Club's delegation to the 2010 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico.

How Are We Going to Keep the Lights On?

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tation energy demand by 23% by 2020 through business-wise investments even without incentives (such as those provided by EmPower MD). (McKinsey and Company, “Unlocking Energy Efficiency in the US Economy”, June 2009) [See Rich Reis’s article, below, to learn how the Maryland Chapter reduced its lighting energy use by 74%.]

New Sources: Renewables

Maryland is making strides in increasing its in-state renewable power generation. According to Director Malcolm Woolf of the Maryland Energy Administration, the following are notable successes. The Criterion and Synergics wind projects in

Garrett County are on line and cumulatively will generate 120MW or enough to retire the R Paul Smith plant.
In addition, through Project Sunburst, Maryland currently has about 20 MW of solar energy. Partnering with the University of Maryland under the Clean Horizons initiative to negotiate power purchase agreements has resulted in a 17 MW thin film solar array in Frederick and a 55 MW wind farm just across the border in West Virginia.
Furthermore, shallow (0 to 35 meters) offshore wind power has the potential to exceed Maryland’s current electricity peak load and meet about two thirds of its energy demands (Abell Foundation, “Maryland’s Offshore Wind

Power Potential”, 2010). If passed, the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act would enable the development of 400 to 600 MW of offshore wind capacity. This would be equivalent to replacing the Crane power plant, whose capacity is 400 MW, or replacing the Wagner plant whose capacity is 495 MW. Development of such a project would generate enough renewable energy to account for 10-15% of Maryland’s 2022 renewable energy goals.
Goal
With the mandated efficiency and energy conservation of EmPower Maryland and alternative energy sources, the utilities and the state will be able to close its oldest,

dirtiest, and least efficient coal plants, while maintaining adequate peak power reserves for hot summer days and energy supplies throughout the year.
It is not enough to simply enable efficiency and add wind and solar projects; we must also plan to phase out each of these coal plants over the next several years. ■
Amanda Ruthven serves on the Chapter excom and on the Energy Committee.

Maryland Chapter Office Gets an Energy Upgrade

By Richard Reis, PE—The Maryland Sierra Club reduced its energy footprint by upgrading its office’s 12 light fixtures, using vacancy-sensing switches, and replacing the window blinds to moderate daylight. In the past, the fixtures used four 40-watt, T-12 lamps. By rebuilding each fixture to hold fewer but more efficient lamps, by cleaning the lenses, and by installing new reflectors behind the lamps, the Maryland Sierra Club chapter office has more light and more reliable fixtures while lowering energy use. Here are the data:

		Ballast										Relative Energy Use
Watts	Lamps	Watts	Total	Number	Hours	Hours	Annual					
		/Fixture	Watts	Fixtures	/Day	Days	/Year	kWh	Cost	#CO2		
Past	42	4	10	170	12	9	255	2295	4682	702	6414	100%
Renewed	32	2	2	66	12	6	255	1530	1212	182	1660	26%
Savings								3470	520	4754		74%

Material Costs

	Quantity	Cost	Extended
Ballasts	12	\$26	\$312
Lamps	24	\$3	\$72
Reflectors	12	\$10	\$120
Switches	4	\$50	\$200
Material Costs			\$704

- Notes:
- 1. The new switches turn off lights when they sense vacancy, reducing daily hours of operation.
 - 2. Costs are based upon energy costs of 15¢ per kWh.
 - 3. 1.37 pounds of CO2 / kWh, per Department of Energy, Energy Information Agency, April 2002.

On April 23, volunteers Steve Skolnik (a licensed electrician), Olayinka (Yinka) Kolawole, and I completed the work in about a half a day.
I disposed of the old lamps (containing mercury) and the old ballasts (many containing PCBs) responsibly at the county transfer station.

We received an incentive from Pepco under the 2008 EmPower Maryland Act:

	Quantity	Incentive	Extended
Convert 4 T12 tubes to 2 T8 tubes	12	\$40	\$480
Install occupancy sensor wall switches	4	\$25	\$100
Total			\$580

Our net cost with skilled volunteer labor was just \$124 (\$704-\$580). Importantly, this Maryland Sierra Club project shows that there are cost-effective ways to save energy and reduce one’s environmental footprint. Imagine if this were done to all offices around the state.

What can be done at your place of work? ■

Rich Reis is a member of the Maryland Chapter excom and the Energy Committee.



Join the Maryland Chapter’s

e-mail action alert list

<http://maryland.sierraclub.org/action/>

The Billionaire Brothers Who Make Us Sick

By Michael Brune— When two billionaire brothers hold private, closed-door meetings of elite and powerful donors and supporters of the oil industry, you can bet that the agenda at Charles and David Koch's cozy confabs will include doing everything possible to ensure that *nothing* gets done that might result in clean energy, green jobs, or a healthy environment.

If you've heard of the Koch brothers, it's probably because of the article that Jane Mayer wrote about them for *The New Yorker* last year. As a rule, the Kochs prefer to keep a low profile and let their money do the talking — and their combined wealth of an estimated \$30 billion from their Koch Industries has a very loud voice. When you spend more each year than ExxonMobil to fund climate-opposition groups and obstruct environmental policy, your money is shouting like a street-corner evangelist. In the case of the Koch brothers, the false gospel is spread by think tanks, foundations, and (unfortunately) many of the new faces in Congress — elected with a lot of help from the Kochs.

I don't know a word that means the exact opposite of environmentalist — but then we didn't really need one until the Kochs came along. Greenpeace put out a shocking report focused on how Koch Industries and its owners fund the climate-denial machine, but it also gives some insight into why the Kochs are also going after *all* environmental safeguards as well as the Environmental Protection Agency.

Koch Industries has a long history of multi-million dollar fines from the EPA and Justice Department for everything from oil spills to dumping toxic chemicals. Even the Bush administration fined them for covering up the illegal dumping of 91 tons of carcinogenic benzene—though John Ashcroft got potential fines of \$350 million knocked down to a \$20 million slap on the wrist for falsifying documents.

What makes the Koch Brothers particularly scary, though, is not that they reflexively oppose any change that might hurt their own bottom line. That doesn't make them all that different from Massey Energy or Chevron or lots of other big polluters (Koch Industries was ranked in the top ten of air polluters in the U.S. by a University of Massachusetts study). What's different about the Kochs is that they subscribe to a radical libertarian philosophy that opposes any governmental safeguards to protect people or the environment. It's a grim vision of our country that few Americans would ever subscribe to if they could see it plainly, and yet — thanks to the brothers' enormous wealth — it's had an out-

sized effect on both our government and our public discourse. It's like a hidden riptide that keeps pulling you out to sea no matter how hard you strike toward the shore.

But what makes riptides most dangerous is that people don't even know what they're fighting against. So the Sierra Club has put a spotlight on the Koch brothers' agenda. I encourage you to join our Facebook campaign to help get the word out. Because when people can see their democracy being hijacked, they refuse to tolerate it. (http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageNavigator/Dislike_the_Koch_Bros012611)

Let me end on a positive note. We've trounced the Koch brothers before. Remember Prop 23 — the California initiative to roll back efforts to fight climate change? The Koch brothers were one of the proposition's largest bankrollers, but California voters overwhelmingly rejected their vision. Now it's time for all Americans to stand up to the Koch brothers' dangerous efforts to keep us tied to the dirty energy sources which are making people sick and destroying our nation's economic health. It's time this billionaire's good old boy's club got out of the way of the innovative new energy sources that are producing jobs and prosperity for the rest of us. ■

Michael Brune is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club. He will be speaking at the Maryland Chapter Jamboree on Friday, September 30. See inside back cover of this issue for Jamboree information and registration.

Read Jane Meyer's New Yorker piece on the Koch Brothers at www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/08/30/100830fa_fact_mayer

Read the Greenpeace report on Koch Industries at www.greenpeace.org/usa/en/campaigns/global-warming-and-energy/polluterwatch/koch-industries/

See the University of Massachusetts's list of top polluting companies at www.peri.umass.edu/toxic_index/

Maryland Chapter
Jamboree
in the mountains
Sept. 30 - Oct. 2

See inside back cover for information and registration



BEYOND COAL: JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

- ♦ "Clean tech is where [information technology] was 30 years ago and biotech was 20 years ago; we're way early in the innovation cycle," according to David Prend, managing partner of RockPort Capital and director of the National Venture Capital Association.
- ♦ A clean energy economy generates jobs, businesses and investments while expanding clean energy production, increasing energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, waste and pollution, and conserving water and other natural resources.
- ♦ From 1998 to 2007, jobs in the clean energy sector grew 2.5 times faster than jobs overall. By 2007, the last year for which data are available, more than 68,000 businesses across 50 states and the District of Columbia had created 770,000 jobs in the clean energy economy.
- ♦ These jobs are poised for even greater growth, driven by increasing consumer demand, venture capital infusions by investors eager to exploit new market opportunities, and state and federal policy initiatives.

Source: Pew Charitable Trusts, *The Clean Energy Economy: Repowering Jobs, Businesses and Investments Across America*.

Beyond Coal

In King Coal's Kingdom, Truth Is Stranger Than Satire

By Carl Pope—Back in December 2008, the coal industry looked to be the victim of a vicious satire. An online campaign purporting to be from an organization called the American Coalition for Clean Coal posted a series of cartoons of lumps of coal dressed in Christmas garb and singing absurd lyrics to Christmas carols. For example, to the tune of “Frosty the Snowman,” we heard that “When they looked for pollution there was almost none to see” and that “Frosty the Coalman” is “affordable and adorable.” Like most spoofs, the campaign vanished like a snowman melting in Dubai when folks like MSNBC journalist Rachel Maddow mercilessly tweaked it.

[In May] Peabody coal issued a press release in the way that corporations that have been caught screwing up often do—they agreed to pay (grossly inadequate) compensation for the documented impact that burning their product has on the lungs of children. Peabody agreed to a typical class action suit remedy: provide a free inhaler to any child afflicted with asthma who lives close to a coal-fired power plant, along with a \$10 coupon for the purchase of the medicine that goes in the inhaler. The details are provided on what looks like a typical coal industry-funded website. (There are many such sites.) This one is called Coal Cares. Coal Cares appears to reflect the industry's knowledge that its product is making kids sick, and perpetuates the industry's fundamental response: “Let them breathe inhalers.”

There's only one problem. The Clean Coal Carolers video, full of lies, is the coal industry's Real McCoy, and the truthful if painful Coal Cares site is a prank by the culture-jamming satirists The Yes Men. In denouncing the prank, Peabody promptly slipped back into falsehood, claiming that “a growing collection of studies demonstrate the correlation between electricity fueled by low-cost coal and improvement in health, longevity and

quality of life,” according to a company press release. “The United Nations has linked life expectancy, educational attainment and income with per-capita electricity use, and the World Resources Institute found that for every tenfold increase in per-capita energy use, individuals live 10 years longer.” WRI promptly pointed out that it had never made any such finding.

So we have a deceitful coal industry internet roll-out, followed by a truthful satire of the industry's stance, and capped off with a deceitful denunciation of the satire by Peabody! The black comedy might end there. . . except the parodies of the truth that Peabody puts out are not only showing up online, where the likes of Rachel Maddow and The Yes Men can track them. They are also headed for a 4th grade near you.

Scholastic Inc., whose name is at risk of becoming a self-parody, has entered into another one of its “curriculum for pay” deals. For a sum it won't disclose but doesn't deny, Scholastic Inc. has agreed to distribute curriculum materials to 66,000 fourth grade teachers commissioned by the American Coal Foundation. The curriculum pretends to be a comprehensive energy learning tool, but in fact, it's straight-out coal propaganda. None of coal's pollutants is mentioned, nor is mountaintop removal mining.

The Campaign for a Commercial Free America, which calls these kinds of curriculum-for-pay deals “predatory marketing,” is asking Scholastic to pull “The United States of Energy Materials.” You can join their campaign and send your own letter.

Let's keep deceit and pollution prof-its where they belong: out of schools. ■

Carl Pope is Chairman of the Sierra Club. See Update at right for the rest of the story.

UPDATE

Since Pope's blog appeared in May, Scholastic has agreed to discontinue the coal-friendly curriculum, and has removed it from its website. Assailed in newspapers and online for pushing coal propaganda into the schools, Scholastic retreated. (Its other corporate alliances are being similarly challenged.)

But the coal industry has no intention of leaving the school building.

Coal Education Development and Resource (CEDAR), partnerships between the coal industry, business community and academia in the coal mining states, is committed to “the increase of knowledge and understanding of the many benefits the Coal Industry provides in our daily lives by providing financial resources and coal education materials to implement its study in the school curriculum.” (www.cedarinc.org, Kentucky)

Focusing its efforts on students in mining areas, the organizations offer scholarships to students and grants to teachers in cash-strapped communities to develop coal-friendly lessons and projects for their students. Teachers apply for the grants in increasing numbers. CEDAR is generous with instructional materials, too, providing such tools as “The Greening of Planet Earth,” a video which informs students that “our world is deficient in carbon dioxide, and a doubling of atmospheric CO₂ is very beneficial.” Scientists generally—and vigorously—dispute that assertion.

Though Carl Pope's story of one company seeking to propagandize students came to a satisfactory conclusion, the coal industry's quest to win young hearts and minds goes on, and should not be overlooked as we seek to move beyond coal.

Sources:

www.cedarinc.org (KY)

www.cedarswv.com (WV)

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Smart Growth

Growing Wiser About Our Waters

To clean up the Chesapeake Bay requires turning a tide that is permanently scouring our landscape.

The Bay watershed loses to development 100 acres of forest, the best land-use for protecting water quality, *every day*.

The rate at which urbanization converts land to surfaces impervious to rainwater, the worst land-use for water quality, exceeds the rate of population growth by a factor of *five*.

Lawns are now the largest single “crop” consuming the Bay watershed, comparable to all other crops *combined*, and are catching up with agriculture's declining contribution to excess nutrient pollution.

Urbanization accounts for nearly a third of phosphorus and sediment pollution to the Bay, and is on par with wastewater contributions of nitrogen. And of the major pollution sectors (air deposition, wastewater, agriculture, and urban), it is the *only* one that is *growing*.

The Effect of Impervious Cover

Using the lens of a local watershed to sharpen focus, consider Maryland's most productive fish nursery to the Chesapeake Bay, Mattawoman Creek, now showing signs of a serious decline linked to urbanization. It is testament to recent research demonstrating that a stream degrades seriously when impervious surfaces cover 8% of its watershed. Yet Mattawoman is slated for impervious cover (~23%) comparable to that of the Anacostia River watershed, sadly recognized by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as the Washington, D.C. area's greatest source of toxic pollution to the Chesapeake Bay. Amplifying the problem, Mattawoman is also slated for loss of half its present rapidly diminishing forest cover.

As the maps show, southern Maryland, the state's fastest growing region, will be overwhelmed if business as usual

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Smart Growth and Watersheds

Growing Wiser About Our Waters

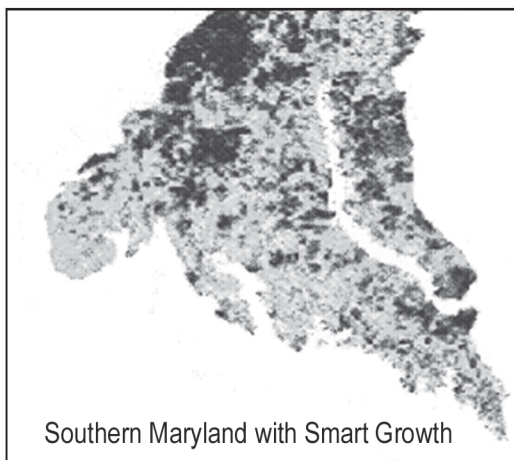
continues. (continued from page 12)

That business is sprawl development. Although long recognized as an unsustainable economic model and a blight—Governor O'Malley confessed to nausea when flying over it—sprawl is promoted by powerful industries with the finances to subvert political will and to effectively market their perspective. Listen to *any* broadcast reporting housing starts, and note the reporter's supposition that housing starts, and hence sprawl development, is necessary to our economic well being.

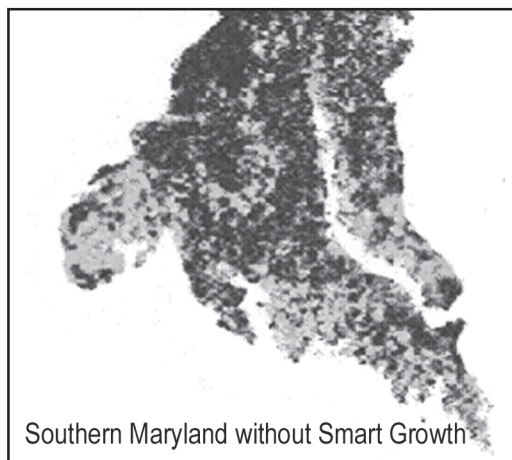
Protecting Forests and Farms with Smart Growth

Is there an alternative? Given scant progress in slowing the population growth now saturating our environmental support system, we must surely implement "Smarter Growth" to maintain our natural heritage, quality of life, and the ecosystem services upon which our economy ultimately relies. True Smart Growth uses zoning and other ordinances to direct growth to areas with existing infrastructure where mass transit is viable, and to ensure these areas are walkable and attractive with sufficient open space. Equally important, smart growth zoning protects the forests and farms of rural areas. Other tools help, such as transfer development rights (TDRs), by which a developer purchases the development rights from rural landowners in return for increased densities in a carefully chosen urban core. For a TDR program to succeed, zoning in the urban core should be low enough to provide an incentive to purchase TDRs, and rural zoning should start at one housing unit per twenty acres.

Maryland became the birthplace of Smart Growth in 1997, in part through Governor Parris Glendening's awareness of the near-debacle of the Chapman's Landing development proposal in Charles County, which would have planted a new city of 4,600 homes, 12,000 people, a golf



Southern Maryland with Smart Growth



Southern Maryland without Smart Growth

Maryland Department of Planning projections for 2030 (from a 2002 baseline) for urbanization (dark areas) in southern Maryland with and without Smart Growth.

course and 2.25 million square feet of commercial space stretching from the Potomac River to the Mattawoman. The state eventually purchased the site in 1998 under the banner of Chapman Forest (now named Chapman State Park). It is not coincidental that two thirds of the site drains to sensitive Mattawoman Creek.

However, without zoning authority, and prone to weak oversight, the state has limited means to implement Smart Growth. It relies on incentives in the form of financial assistance for infrastructure in places designated as Priority Funding Areas (PFAs). But a recent study by the University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education found PFAs, which were created with no public participation, to be ineffective. In fact, in Charles County, more growth has occurred outside PFAs than within. In addition, many PFAs, such as the town of Bryans Road, which drains to Mattawoman's vulnerable spawning grounds, are inappropriately located,

Plan Maryland and County Comprehensive Plans

Currently, Maryland is refining Smart Growth precepts through a program called Plan Maryland that involves public participation through regional workshops and a web-based survey

(www.plan.maryland.gov). It remains to be seen if Annapolis can effectively protect watersheds, because land-use decisions and zoning are the purview of local governments. Unfortunately, these governments too often are influenced by the development industry, that makes a point of occupying the ground floor when counties devise the Comprehensive Plans that outline their future distribution of growth. Furthermore, the state seldom reins in local governments, as recently demonstrated by Maryland's approval of Charles County's Water Resources Element (a component of the Comprehensive Plan) though it failed to meet federal "pollution diets" for Mattawoman Creek and the Port Tobacco River.

Perhaps the Environmental Protection Agency's new attention to these diets for excess nutrients and sediments will help if effective local "Watershed Implementation Plans" are successful. The new pollution diets and other strategies, like recent state legislation beefing up stormwater treatment and curtailing the nutrient content of lawn fertilizers, acknowledge that past policies have fallen short, and could help curtail development in sensitive areas. But these measures will fail, yet again, without a fundamental change in land-use policies that direct the *distribution* of growth. Otherwise these measures will not only have to reduce

present pollution loads, but also make up for *new* development replacing forest, which nurtures our waters by controlling nutrients and stormwater loads, slowing and cooling runoff, and fostering stormwater infiltration for later release to streams during dry spells.

Throughout the state, a key to implementing smarter growth policies is the county Comprehensive Plan. Because land-use is a local decision, it is incumbent on all

who care about our quality of life to get involved in the process that determines the outcome of these crucial "comp plans," which by state law must be revised every six years. Otherwise, the wave of urbanization now stripping the watershed of the cherished Bay will continue, one watershed at a time. ■

This article was provided by the Mattawoman Watershed Society.

Maryland Chapter Jamboree

in the mountains

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2

You are invited to join us for the
Maryland Chapter's
Jamboree
in the Catoctin Mountains

Friday evening to Sunday afternoon
September 30th - October 2nd 2011
Catoctin Mountain Park,
Thurmont MD

**This year's Friday night featured
guest speaker will be:
Michael Brune,
National Executive Director
Sierra Club**

Live Music, Environmental Workshops, and Great People!
See inside back cover for more info.

State Legislative Session

Some Success—and Many Disappointments—from the 2011 Maryland General Assembly Session

(continued from page 3)

phasize the job creation and economic potential of building an offshore wind farm. Despite the many benefits, the utility companies, particularly Constellation, lobbied and testified against the bill to its eventual demise. The Maryland Manufacturing Industry and the Maryland Retailers Association raised concerns that cost impacts would be too large. An amendment was then added to cap rate impacts at \$2/month or 2% of large industry's electricity bills. Nonetheless, we were not successful in overcoming concerns about the electricity rate impacts and the bill did not come to committee vote in either chamber.

The chapter also lobbied in favor of a bill to require disclosure of energy use in commercial buildings and a bill to clean up some problems with how solar system owners are reimbursed for generating electricity (net metering). The net metering bill passed; the energy disclosure bill did not.

As noted above, a bill was introduced to increase and extend incentives for electricity generation from trash incineration. Sierra Club along with several other environmental organizations, vigorously opposed this bill but it passed through the Senate Finance committee and full Senate very quickly with no votes in opposition. We ramped up our opposition campaign before the bill was voted in the House of Delegates to explain our concerns about air and water pollution from incinerators. We also explained how trash incineration reduces the motivation for effective recycling programs, since the incinerator is paid for based on the amount of trash being burned. The bill was amended in the House to reduce the number of out-of-state incinerators that would qualify for the incentives, but the bill still passed by a close vote. The amended bill returned to the Senate for a final vote, where it again passed by only a few votes on the very last day of the session. Our next step was an uncom-

mon one for the chapter—calling for the governor to veto the bill. In conjunction with other environmental, community, and public health organizations, we generated thousands of calls and email messages in support of a veto. A letter signed by dozens of organizations was sent, and many General Assembly members also requested a veto based on our encouragement. But despite the opposition, the governor signed the bill.

Disposable Bag Fee and Other Waste Reduction Bills

For the third year, we worked with other groups promoting a bill to require that retail and grocery stores charge 5 cents for each disposable bags used by customers (see the article on this issue in the Spring 2011 issue of *Chesapeake*). This year, the campaign was much broader and more visible. Thousands of “Trash Free Maryland” postcards were collected from around the state throughout the fall and winter, then delivered to the offices of senators and delegates. Sierra Club member Barb Krupiarz conducted research on the issue and visited dozens of delegates throughout February and March. The bill had a very successful hearing in the Senate Education Health and the Environment Committee, and yet, despite pressure from colleagues and environmental groups, committee chair Joan Carter Conway held the bill, killing it. The plastic bag industry hired multiple lobbyists at critical moments and made robo-calls into key legislative districts. By early April, despite our efforts, the bill did not receive a vote in either the Senate or House committee, and hence did not pass.

Once again, several bills were introduced to address waste reduction and recycling, but only small steps forward were taken, such as passage of a bill to require a pilot study of recycling in transit stations. The chapter is represented on the Solid Waste Study Group created as a result of legislation that passed in 2010, so we should be better positioned to make

progress on this front in the 2012 session, after the final report of that Study Group is completed.

Regulations for Natural Gas Drilling (“Fracking”)

Problems with a new technology for natural gas drilling called hydraulic fracturing (fracking) were increasing throughout the fall of 2010 in many states, including neighboring Pennsylvania. The chapter expressed many concerns about drilling and encouraged the Department of the Environment (MDE) to place tight regulations on the practice in Maryland. As the 2011 session approached, residents of western Maryland contacted the chapter with concerns, as the natural gas companies had applied for permits to drill in the area.

Given the new national focus on fracking, many environmental groups joined with the chapter and western Maryland activists to work with Delegate Heather Mizeur, who took a special interest in this issue, Delegate Marvin Holmes, and Senator Brian Frosh, to craft a bill requiring careful study of the impacts of various gas drilling practices, and to require MDE to develop more comprehensive regulations. The study would be funded by fees imposed on the gas companies, and no permits would be issued until well into the process. Leaders from the Department of Natural Resources, the governor's office, and local governments were also involved in these discussions. The bill, which addressed a broad range of impacts, such as air and water quality protection, and community impacts such as truck traffic congestion and noise, passed overwhelmingly in the House of Delegates. A bill offering a rapid path to drilling was voted down as new information about threats to water quality and accidents with drilling continued in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

Despite the success with the strong bill in the House, its companion bill stalled in the Senate Education Health

and the Environment Committee where, as with the bag bill, the chair, Senator Joan Carter Conway, held the bill. Lobbyists from the natural gas drilling companies were allowed an opportunity to negotiate changes to the bill, but advocates for strong protections, including MDE, refused to compromise on key points that would allow a rush to permits for production drilling. Negotiations continued until the final few days before the end of session. But Senator Conway never brought the bill to a vote, thus killing it.

However, in early June, Governor O'Malley issued an executive order requiring a study that will continue into the summer of 2014, closely matching the requirements outlined in the bill.

Other Legislation

There were a couple of bright spots during the session, and other disappointments. A bill was introduced to ban and restrict the sales of various invasive plants. Many Sierra Club members have participated in invasive plant removal projects around the state for the past several years, so Marc Imlay organized an effort asking everyone to contact their elected officials in support of the bill. Fortunately, this bill passed!

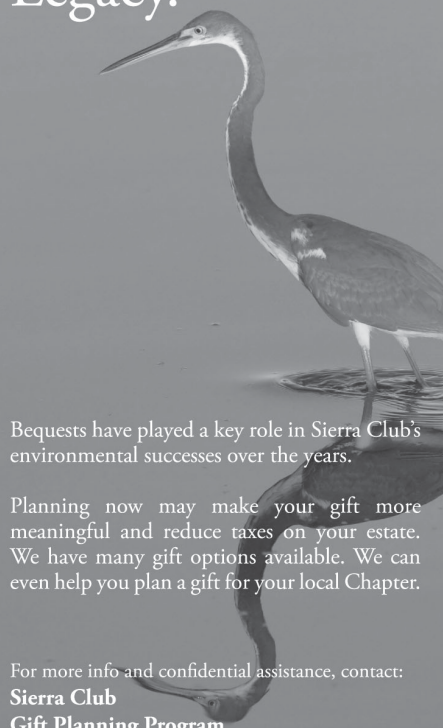
Another bill was passed to reduce nutrients in lawn fertilizer, to reduce lawn fertilizer applications, and to educate residents about appropriate levels of fertilizer application. This new law should help to reduce this significant source of nutrient pollution in our water. In addition, bills were passed to increase penalties for poaching of oysters and rockfish.

Some bills addressing toxic substances were introduced. Restrictions on the sale of products containing the chemical Bisphenol-A (BPA) were extended. However, bills to ban the use of the chemical herbicide atrazine and to ban use of chicken feed containing arsenic did not pass. In addition, a bill that would create a new framework for identifying

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Meet the Chapter's Legislative Committee

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Rookie Legislative Committee Attracts Top Tier Talent

By **Marta Vogel**—At the Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD) in October, 2010, **Chris Bryan** was looking for something to sink his environmental teeth into. Not that he didn't have enough to keep himself busy, working full time for the feds, a wife and a four year-old daughter, and having just completed a master of arts in great books at St. John's College. But having aced effective time management in the Navy, he was ripe for a leadership position when he passed the Sierra Club table at the festival on Columbus Day. He picked up a copy of Chesapeake, talked to John and Meredith Sweet and jumped straight into the legislative waters as chair of the committee.

With eight to ten SC volunteers in Annapolis, Bryan focused the troops. "There is a tendency to try to respond to everything," notes Bryan. "We picked a few priorities."

Those included wind power, the bag tax bill, and hydrofracking, all of which connected to chapter and national pri-

orities of clean water and clean energy. Bryan and his team were fairly sure that they could build popular support around these issues.

"It's great to see committed people giving their time," notes Bryan.

Bryan had no previous experience with either legislative work or with the Sierra Club, but he and his wife had done riparian plantings with the Nature Conservancy in Pensacola, FL, herpetological surveys of wild amphibians and reptiles and trail mappings with the Timicuan Ecological Preserve in Jacksonville, submerged aquatic vegetation monitoring with Riverkeepers in the St. John's River in Jacksonville, and water quality monitoring of streams in Skagit Conservation District in Washington state.

To get him up to speed, the Sierra Club sent him to the State Colloquium in Santa Fe, NM. "The colloquium was great because I got insight into the Sierra Club's national priorities from the leaders and I discovered how other state leaders attain their goals. It was all quite motivating, especially being exposed to people from other chapters who are so passionate about their campaigns," he says.

He continued, "Once you're in the [legislative] session it's hard to actively recruit. There is plenty of work to do. Right now we've reached our band-width. If we had more people, we could do more. The big thing we need is for people to do things locally—organizing at the grassroots."

Bryan says that there is plenty of room for more volunteers, especially since so much of the work is done virtually, including researching and writing testimony, and conference calls.

That's one thing that appealed to **Barb Krupiarz**, lead lobbyist for the Bag Bill this year. "I thought, I can sit at home and do research for the legislative group," says Krupiarz, who had quit her job with

the National Security Agency (NSA) and was home with her children. She liked the Sierra Club's reputation. At the same time, Krupiarz's relative closeness to Annapolis—Ellicott City, a half hour away—didn't hurt, either.

Krupiarz has a masters in Environmental Science from Johns Hopkins. At NSA, which is a large generator of hazardous waste, she was, "making sure we were in compliance with the environmental laws" such as hazardous waste compliance. She also did a lot of recycling there.

With zero legislative experience, Krupiarz began with the bag bill, a bill to impose a five-cent fee on single-use plastic and paper bags.

"I didn't want to be inexperienced with both the legislative process AND have something too technical." A big plus, she said, is that the Sierra Club works with a vast number of other environmental groups, including the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Alice Ferguson, and Anacostia Watershed.

"I started out shadowing the head of the Anacostia Watershed Foundation," says Krupiarz, "I testified for both house and Senate."

The bag bill didn't pass this time.

"It never came up for a vote," says Krupiarz, "We were really close if it had come to the floor. The most frustrating thing is that you're doing all the work on the ground—talking to legislative people—and one person can hold it up. The chair of Senate [Education, Health and the Environment Committee] sat on it."

Despite the frustrations, Krupiarz enjoyed the experience. "Everyone I worked with was really good. You know, sometimes at a job, you work with people who you may not like. This was a good, intelligent group with a well thought-out plan. The thing I learned the most is that one person's voice does really matter. You're in the legislator's office and you

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2011 Maryland General Assembly Session

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and regulating toxic chemicals in the state did not pass.

Sierra Club member Cliff Terry wrote and delivered testimony on several bills that would reform some of the problems with how campaigns are financed in Maryland. These bills and others to increase transparency in state and local government also did not pass.

The 2011 General Assembly session was disappointing in many ways, but we were able to lay the groundwork for progress on these important issues moving forward. The General Assembly members were educated about important environmental issues and we developed relationships with many of the new members. The chapter legislative committee was strengthened with a new chair and new members. The level of activity and

involvement by chapter members increased and we worked with new partners from the labor community. Our challenge for 2012 is to build on this progress and to pass more good legislation to protect and improve our environment. Discussions are already underway regarding our priority campaigns. We need your help for 2012, so please call the chapter office at 301-277-7111 and let us know which issue you would like to support. ■

David O'Leary is the Maryland Chapter's conservation chair, and serves on the chapter excom. Alana Wase is a law student at the University of Maryland. At the time of this writing, she was the conservation coordinator for the Maryland Chapter.

Meet the Chapter's Legislative Committee

Rookie Legislative Committee Attracts Top Tier Talent

(continued from page 15)

see that calls and e-mails are holding up the staff. It makes a big difference," she says.

Next year she'll be working on the wind bill.

Laurie Wilmot didn't have any legislative experience either when he joined the committee at Alana Wase's suggestion at the 2009 Cool Cities Workshop. This year he helped with lobby nights—Sierra Club members were invited to Annapolis to lobby on priority environmental bills.

Wilmot has a BA in environmental science and policy with a concentration in environmental policy and is working on a MS in environmental management.

"The most frustrating thing is when industry lobbyists defeat legislation. The most rewarding thing is when our priority bills or a bill I have written testimony on gets signed into law. It is nice to think that I have played a part in it. I have learned more about the legislative process, how to conduct lobby meetings, and working and interacting with other colleagues, lawmakers, aides, and other environmental organizations," he says.

Yi-Hsuan was an legislative intern two years ago for the Maryland Chapter and has stayed a member of the committee since. She has taken care of the Sierra Club's Facebook page and has grown the number of fans this session from 10 to 150.

Think long term. That's what **Chris Stoughton** learned once again through the last legislative session. "We want everything right now," says Stoughton, "But these things take time and it takes a lot of hard work to get to where we want to go."

Stoughton worked with the Student Conservation Association at Yosemite National Park in 1998 issuing backpacking permits and sometimes spending five days at a time in the wilderness. He gradu-

ated from John Muir College at the University of California San Diego and participated in an ecological preservation program on the border of Pakistan and India, living with a family in the mountains for a couple of months.

But he had never volunteered with the Sierra Club.

When he was a candidate for the 2010 Democratic House of Delegates primary, he was interviewed by the Maryland Chapter for the endorsement process. He didn't get the endorsement and he didn't win the election, but he did start thinking seriously about the Sierra Club. When he attended a town hall meeting in Annapolis last year on wind energy, and talked to Chris and Alana, "It sort of hit me. I went to John Muir College. I'm a huge John Muir fan. Why haven't I been involved with the Sierra Club?"

In his day job as a policy analyst, Stoughton sets up meetings with members of Congress to raise awareness about public health issues such as substance abuse, traffic safety, and HIV/AIDS. So he was familiar with the legislative process on the national level and worked this past session to familiarize himself with the state level.

Among other things, he testified on an electric vehicle bill that passed. He is interested in enacting a renewable energy plan, as he told the *Takoma Voice*, "that will set Maryland on a path to become the first state in the nation to generate ALL of its electricity from renewable energy by the year 2050."

"The most frustrating part was not accomplishing all of our goals," says Stoughton, "But being in public policy I understand that these things take time and I am confident that eventually we will get there. It is rewarding to be a part of a group of committed environmentalists who are passionate about protecting the environment." ■

Marta Vogel is an active member of the Montgomery County Group.

Enjoy a Hike on the Shady C&O Canal (and Learn about Maryland's Coal Plants, too.)



Top: R. Paul Smith Power Station. Bottom: Basking turtle. Photos by Mike Hennesy

Come join the Sierra Club Sunday July 24th for a leisurely 2 mile hike along the gorgeous C&O Canal in Williamsport, MD! This short stretch of trail has several historic canal structures including Lock 44, the Conococheague Aqueduct, the Williamsport lock house, and the Cushwa turning basin. In addition to the celebrated canal, our hike will also take us past the coal-fueled R. Paul Smith Power Station, situated a few hundred feet away from the canal and the Potomac river.

Conservation Topic: This outing will incorporate the Sierra Club's conservation campaign *Beyond Coal*, contrasting the beauty of the Potomac river and C&O canal with the dirty backdrop of the

coal-fired utility. During the walk leaders will discuss a little history of the plant, some brief facts and figures about Maryland's energy sources, and why this plant is being targeted for closure and what we can do to help.

Logistics: We will meet at 11am in parking lot of the Williamsport visitors center at 205 W. Potomac St., Williamsport, MD to begin the hike, and should return by 1:30pm for departure. All skill levels are welcome, including families with children and members and non-members of the Sierra Club. For additional information, or if you have any questions please contact Mike Hennesy, 571-334-6894 or mhennesy@umd.edu.

Group News Roundup (Anne Arundel, Catoctin, Eastern Shore)

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

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

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

There is something for everyone. Contact your group to get linked with your favorite issue or activity. The Maryland Chapter's home page has a link to each group's website at www.maryland.sierraclub.org.

Anne Arundel Group

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

By David Prosten—More than 100 runners and walkers participated in the Anne Arundel Group's 17th Annual 5K Run and Walk on April 23. Plaques, medallions, and dog biscuits went to the fastest over-all runners, the winners in several age categories, and participating dogs – in that order. A great time was had by all in this annual group fundraiser.

The group has been closely following zoning and development issues in the county, working with other environmental groups to keep a lid on over-development and environmentally harmful zoning exceptions.

An invasive plant removal workshop and exercise co-sponsored by the group, the county, and Quiet Waters Park on June 18 drew a good crowd. "Weed warriors" learned how to spot and remove a variety of invasives that choke off native plants.

Catoctin Group (Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties)

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

By Dan Andrews—Here's what we've accomplished in May:

- ♦ May 21st. Several group members staffed a table at the Go Local Fair in Westminster.
- ♦ In late May, Alana Wase spoke to the group and helped us arrange the showing of "Gasland" in Middletown. 20 - 30 people attended.

♦ In June Karen Moody organized and led a hike on Appalachian Trail near Washington Monument State Park.

♦ We are still opposing the waste-to-energy (WTE) incinerator; a meeting is scheduled for June 29th. Latest news: The Carroll County commissioners are looking into chopping our municipal solid waste (MSW) into "fluff" and burning it in the Lehigh Cement kiln in Union Bridge. Lehigh will test burn "fluff" this summer.

By Carolyn Puckett—Carroll County is making progress in setting up a "weed warriors" group to combat invasive exotic weeds at our nature centers. The Carroll County Forest Conservancy

Board sponsors the program, with assistance from the Carroll County Master Gardeners and the Catoctin Group of the Sierra Club. The program is modeled after the weed warriors program in Montgomery County. We piloted the program in 2010 at the Bear Branch Nature Center/Hashawha Environmental Center. We have also had a couple of weed removal sessions at Bear Branch/Hashawha this year.

For 2011, the Carroll County Parks and Recreations staff approved expanding the program to Piney Run Nature Center. We held our first 2011 weed warrior training at Bear Branch Nature Center on April 30. The second training session was June 5 at Piney Run Nature Center. We trained over 50 volunteers, many of them students and their parents, during these two sessions. On June 11, a multi-site weed removal event was held at Piney Run Nature Center, Hashawha Environmental Center, and the Audubon Society's Audrey Carroll Bird Sanctuary in Mt. Airy. Additional weed removal sessions will follow during the year at these sites. Talks have begun about ex-

panding the program to Charlotte's Quest Nature Center, owned by the town of Manchester.

For information about how you can participate in the events to restore the woodlands in Carroll County's parks, contact Carolyn Puckett, cpuck@comcast.net or 410-876-1995.

Eastern Shore (Cecil County and Eastern Shore Counties)

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

By Don Grace—The temperature was 95 degrees in the shade when Sierra Club intern and Salisbury University student, Kelly Shanahan, joined Mayor Jim Ireton to announce the results of efforts to make Salisbury a "Cool City." Kelly has worked since January as an unpaid intern to document the city's greenhouse gas footprint. The results are in. Salisbury's inventory covers seven areas of the city's energy use: buildings, streetlights and traffic signals, port facilities, water delivery, waste water plants, vehicle fleet, and employee commuting.

continued ➞



Sierra Club intern and Salisbury University student Kelly Shanahan presents her analysis of Salisbury's greenhouse gas "footprint" as Salisbury's Mayor, Jim Ireton, looks on.

Group News Roundup (Eastern Shore, Gr. Balto., Howard, Montgomery)

Chapter Groups Working and Playing Across the State

←continued

This work was accomplished under the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" program and funded by a grant from the Town Creek Foundation. The Cool Cities and Cool Counties programs were initiated in 2007 under the leadership of the Mayor of Seattle; King County, Washington; Fairfax County, Virginia; and the Sierra Club. The program now covers more than 1,000 cities and counties across the county, including 20 governments in Maryland, which pledge to fight global warming "one city at a time."

To establish a baseline for progress in reducing emissions, Kelly compiled data for fiscal year 2009. Using software provided by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, under a membership for Salisbury funded by the Sierra Club, data was collected from utility bills and other documents and converted to carbon dioxide equivalents. The baseline data is now available for comparison to 2012 and subsequent years. The Cool Cities' goal is to demonstrate a 9 percent reduction between the base year and fiscal year 2012.

Kelly documented the production of 10,668 metric tons of carbon dioxide in Salisbury in 2009. The city has already switched to more fuel-efficient vehicles in its fleet, converted all of its traffic lights to light-emitting diodes (LEDs), increased its purchase of energy from renewable sources, and implemented other recommendations made by the city's Environmental Task Force. The city is making efforts to increase public open space, construct more walking trails, and expand the city's tree canopy.

Salisbury also received an American Reinvestment and Recovery Act grant for retrofitting Fire Station #2 with clean energy technology. The city of Salisbury and the Center for Watershed Protection have jointly applied to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for a Watershed Assistance Grant to develop a watershed plan for the Wicomico River.

In the Upper Shore area, Sierra Club members are meeting with Cecil County government officials to encourage Cecil to join the Cool Counties program. Participating counties commit to reduce greenhouse gas contributions to climate change through internal operations; to demonstrate regional leadership to achieve climate stabilization and protect communities; to help communities become climate resilient; and to urge the federal government to support these efforts. In Maryland, Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, Howard, Prince George's, and Carroll Counties are participating in the Cool Counties program.

Greater Baltimore (Baltimore City and County, Harford County)

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

By Chris Yoder—It's election season already. Baltimore City's Mayor, City Council President, and all members of the City Council are up for election this fall. The primary election, the one that counts, will be September 13 and the deadline for voter registration is August 23. Sierra Club volunteers, in cooperation with representatives of sister environmental groups, are already interviewing candidates for information on which to make endorsement decisions. This election offers Baltimore area members an opportunity to make a difference in local government decisions that will shape the trajectory of local environmental action for the next four years. You can help by helping your group get out the vote for candidates who understand the importance of creating a sound environment for the city and people who live in it. Contact the group's political chair, Janet Schollenberger, 443-386-5054, and make a difference.

It's also time to think about our group's leadership. Decisions like politi-

cal endorsements, environmental priorities, and Greater Baltimore Group activities are taken by the group Executive Committee (Ex Com). The Ex Com is elected by the group's membership. An election will be held this fall. Ex Com membership offers an opportunity to take an active role in the Sierra Club. Contact Chris Yoder (410-466-2462, or chris.yoder@mdsierra.org) to nominate a candidate or put your own name forward.

Don't feel informed on local issues and activities? In the 21st century there's no substitute for electronic media. If you haven't shared your e-mail address with the Sierra Club, or "friended" the Club and the group, you are missing the information you need to transform your Sierra Club membership commitment to our planet into an opportunity for local activism. We don't spam you—in fact the Club limits our e-mail messages to two a month.

The Baltimore Outdoor Sierrans (formerly Young Sierrans) hold monthly socials on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at various locations. Their monthly outings are typically on the Saturday that follows this social. To find current locations or for more information visit their website at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore/bos/> or contact Kathy at 410-440-9896 or youngsierrans@gmail.com. Check out our Facebook page!

The Greater Baltimore Group's outings program offers hikes and strolls of varied lengths and difficulty, including outings that are child and dog friendly. There are a variety of other activities including kayaking, camping, hayrides, stream cleanups, and tubing. Check the group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events. We established a meetup group, Greater Baltimore Sierra Club, which you may join at <http://www.meetup.com/baltimoresierraclub/>.

We also have a Facebook group that you can join at www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=76458501970. Facebook will be updated with information about hikes, meetings, and public meetings rel-

evant to the Sierra Club.

Howard County

*Chair: Ken Clark, 301-725-3306,
kenclark7@live.com*

By Ken Clark—The Howard County Group is opposing a Waverly Woods service station and convenience store that have been proposed for a site abutting the Little Patuxent River, at the corner of Marriottsville Road and Barnsley Way. The Little Patuxent watershed is about to cross the 25 percent impervious surface threshold, the transition point from being impaired (9 - 25 percent) to no longer being capable of supporting human uses and aquatic life (>25 percent). This is a particularly bad location, as the proposed service station is only 90 feet from the river and would be placed on fill material. Service stations have been identified as stormwater hotspots, where runoff pollutant levels are unusually high.

The Robinson Nature Center, off Cedar Lane in Columbia, is expected to open in September. Construction is complete, but the exhibits are still being created. The building is expected to meet Platinum LEED standards.

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, kenclark7@live.com, about getting on an email listing of outings and events.

Montgomery County

*Chair: Alvin Carlos,
Alvin.Carlos@maryland.sierraclub.org*

By David Hauck—The Montgomery County Group believes that Sierra Club members in the county can provide the energy and expertise to create an environmentally sustainable future for our county. Volunteers are working to ensure that in the future, homes will be more

continued →

Group News Roundup (Montgomery, Prince Geo, So. MD, Western MD)

Chapter Groups Working and Playing Across the State

←continued

energy efficient; communities will be more walkable and vibrant; residents will have access to an expanded public transit system; and parks will be protected from threats posed by invasive plants and encroaching development.

To learn more about what we are doing in each of these areas, please visit our website, maryland.sierraclub.org/Montgomery, and explore our three program areas—Energy Efficiency, Smart Growth/Transportation, and Habitat Protection. If one or more of these issues captures your interest and you want to get more involved, the next step is to contact the volunteer who heads up our activities in that area:

- ✿ Energy Efficiency: Susan Eisendrath susan.eisendrath@maryland.sierraclub.org
- ✿ Transportation: Ethan Goffman ethan.goffman@maryland.sierraclub.org
- ✿ Smart Growth: Pam Lindstrom pamela.lindstrom@maryland.sierraclub.org
- ✿ Invasive Plant Removal: Jeremy Arling jeremy.arling@maryland.sierraclub.org

The next invasive plant removal event will be on Saturday, July 9 from 9 am to noon at the Underground Railroad Experience Park at 16501 Norwood Road in Sandy Spring, MD. Our goal this year is to remove vines from more than 200 threatened trees. Come out and help us continue the progress we have made over the last three years. For details on this and other events, please go to the Calendar on our website: <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery/calendar.html>

We are looking for a volunteer to help us put out our monthly e-Newsletter. If you can do HTML coding, know basic CSS, have experience with design and layout graphics, and have Dreamweaver, Photoshop or another graphics software package, you can play an important role in helping us inform and motivate Sierra Club members in Montgomery County. For more infor-

mation, please contact Jane Huff, jane.huff@maryland.sierraclub.org or David Hauck, david.hauck@maryland.sierraclub.org

Prince George's County

Interim Chair: Alex Hirtle, 301-927-2105, alexhirtle@hotmail.com

By Alex Hirtle—The Prince George's Group is undergoing some major changes. This spring, Chip Reilly, who has served as Chair of the group for over four years, stepped down due to increased family and professional commitments. Chip had re-organized our meetings so we were having them consistently and were focused on several goals decided by members at an all-day group "retreat" in Riverdale Park about two years ago. Chip

Service Award during a ceremony at our spring event. Bonnie is known throughout the state, not only in the Sierra Club, Belt Woods, Chapman Forest, Mattawoman Creek, and others. Bonnie, a long-time resident of Oxon Hill, has also been fighting the Peterson Company and its unsustainable growth at National Harbor.

The group has recently been focused on stormwater management, mainly due to a bill that was handed down by the new county executive, Rushern Baker. The bill, which does not address the dramatic concerns of areas in the developed tier which have nearly no stormwater design, is being debated by the county council. The Sierra Club has at least three solid advocates on the council for a stronger bill, but need two more for a majority.

Related to stormwater management

is the Watershed Implementation Plan II (WIP II) that the county has been developing by mandate from the state through President Obama's executive order to force responsible jurisdictions to clean up the Bay. The Prince George's Group has a small but growing working team that meets regularly and will provide

public input on the WIP II plan to ensure strong regulations that meet each two-year total maximum daily load (TMDL) limits.

Finally, a new executive committee will be voted in shortly. Interim Chair Alex Hirtle, who served years ago as chair of the Anne Arundel Group and has been

the Prince George's Social and Program Chair for the past several years, has been coordinating meetings every other month at members' houses in a potluck fashion. Please join us for our next meeting towards the end of July. Contact Alex at Chair.PG@mdsierra.org or leave him a message at 301-927-2105.

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

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

The Group publishes a quarterly newsletter, "News from Southern Maryland." Check the Group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events. Monthly invasive plant removals are planned.

Western Maryland (Allegany and Garrett Counties)

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

By Sam White—The Western Maryland Group hosted a booth at the 4th Annual DelFest Bluegrass Festival in Cumberland on Memorial Day weekend. Volunteers displayed information about the harmful effects of Marcellus Gas drilling, and gathered signed postcards to mail to our congressional representatives.

There will be a meeting in July, TBD. If interested, contact Sam White, 301-264-4162 or sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org.

The group publishes a newsletter, "Nature's Advocate of Western MD," and has an email discussion group/Listserv at 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.■



Bonnie Bick receives the Walter "Mike" Maloney Environmental Service Award from Alex Hirtle, Interim Chair of the Prince George's Group.

was recognized and honored for his service and hard work at our spring potluck. Speaking of awards, Bonnie Bick, a long-time activist and tireless advocate of good government and environmental preservation in the county was presented with the Walter "Mike" Maloney Environmental

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Habitat Stewardship Outings

So Long, Alana, and Thanks!



Alana Wase, former Conservation Coordinator

The *Chesapeake* Editorial team has very much enjoyed putting together this extraordinary issue of our chapter newsletter. The writers and the Energy Committee have worked hard to research and develop the articles in its pages, and it has been a pleasure to work with them to get their pieces ready for publication.

This issue would never have come together without the commitment and work of Alana Wase, our indefatigable Conservation Coordinator. As always, she brought to her many tasks insight, energy, enthusiasm, and good humor.

Alas for us, Alana is leaving the Maryland Chapter staff to begin law school at the University of Maryland. We look forward to having a friend in the court when she emerges with her law degree.

All of our thanks and best wishes go with Alana as she heads to Baltimore.

Good luck, Alana. We're glad you won't be far away.

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

Native ecosystems are in a state of balance. When non-native plants enter, they upset this balance, sometimes producing such deleterious effects as creating toxins lethal to some animals and altering hydrological patterns, fire regimes and soil chemistry. (www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/garden/invas.htm) Further, non-native plants occupy the habitats of native plants, replacing the native plants that people enjoy. In the extreme, invasive plants might contribute to extinction of native species, with uncertain long-term results.

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

Going on an invasive removal outing is just like any other outdoor event: dress for dirt! Wearing older clothes and sturdy shoes will make your outing all the more enjoyable. Cover your arms and legs to ward off ticks and protect yourself from scratches and rashes from some plants. Many outings will take a break for a snack, so bring something to eat. Lastly and most importantly, stay hydrated by bringing along a filled water bottle.

Please RSVP to the listed contact if you plan to attend, especially if you plan on bringing a group. Many leaders can provide directions, have information about meeting places, and could provide some equipment if they know how many people to expect. Please let them know if you want to come.

Allegany County

Frostburg State University Arboretum

Get Involved - *Volunteer in 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. Email: sibrosi@frostburg.edu, Telephone: 301-687-4213

Dr. Daniel Fiscus, Forest ecologist, Department of Biology. Email: dafiscus@frostburg.edu, Telephone: 301-687-4170

Anne Arundel

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

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

Contact: Elaine Friebele or Lindsay Hollister at rpholl27@aacounty.org or 410-741-9330 and check out www.jugbay.org for listed events.

Fort Meade

Events: Volunteer opportunities available. Please call for more information.

Contact: Mick Butler, 301-677-9188 or mick.butler@us.army.mil or Sheila Chambers, sheila.chambers@us.army.mil or 301-677-9167.

Patuxent Research Refuge (also Princes George's County)

Non-native invasive plants are threatening our wildlife habitat. We need YOU

to help stop them. Please register for this event by calling 301-497-5887. Dates for 2011 events are as follows (dates and times subject to change if necessary):

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

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

Baltimore City and Baltimore County

Chinquapin Park

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

Contact: Roberta Cowan at ChinquapinPark@gmail.com

Cromwell Valley Park

Event: Cromwell Valley Park is a wonderful rural park just outside the Baltimore Beltway on Cromwell Bridge Road. The areas we have worked on in recent years, Beehive Woods and Dogwood Hill, are looking much better and are free of major invasives, with newly planted native trees and shrubs gaining a foothold. A new project last year was the installation of a deer-exclusion fence demonstration to show the effects of excessive deer browsing in the forest.

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

Time: 9 AM-12 PM

Contact: For more details call 410.887.2503. RSVP Carl Koprowicz: birders1@netzero.com Park office: 410-887-2503 info@cromwellvalleypark.org www.cromwellvalleypark.org Trail maintenance: cvpark@bcpl.net

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Habitat Stewardship Outings

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Herring Run Park

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

Blue Water Baltimore

Baltimore Weed Warriors
Blue Water Baltimore was formed through the recent merger of the Herring Run, Jones Falls, Gwynns Falls, and Baltimore Harbor Watershed Associations and the Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper. Includes Meadowood Park, Druid Hill Park, Stony Run Park, Western Run Park and Wyman Park.

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 at dlenik@bluewaterbaltimore.org.

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

Dates: Check our calendar on the web at www.gunpowderfalls.org
Description: Tree Maintenance Volunteers Needed! Seeking volunteers, ages 12 and up, to adopt a tree planting site or help on tree maintenance days this spring. Become a tree steward. Help maintain some of our 4,000 trees planted in the last 3 years. Invasive plants sur-

rounding the trees must be removed, stakes and shelters secured, dead trees marked, and watering done.

Contact: Peggy Perry, Program Director at pperry@gunpowderfalls.org or 410-668-0118.

Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park

When: Ongoing

Description: Please join the Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park at the Avalon area to eradicate invasive vines. This is the worst place in the park for non-native vines 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 two-handed cutters for larger vines. www.fpvsp.org

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

Contact: Jim Palmer at 410-948-4796 or J.G.Palmer@jhuapl.edu; see website at www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/patapscovolunteer.html

Baltimore and Howard Counties

Patapsco Valley State Park

(Avalon area at the contact station)
Sponsor: Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park

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

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

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

Calvert County Hellen Creek Forest and Wildlife Preserve, Lusby, MD

Invasive Removal at Hellen Creek
Saturday August 20, 2011 8 AM to 10 AM

Description: Join us for a quick tour of the preserve before we get down to the ongoing work of invasive removal. Hellen Creek Forest and Wildlife Preserve is 50 acres of stream and ravine along Hellen Creek. We have over 25 species of trees including hemlocks and are adjacent to TNC's Hemlock Preserve. Wear sturdy clothes and shoes for invasive plant removal and native wildflower plantings. We will have gloves and tools and refreshments.

Directions: 11785 Clifton Drive Lusby MD 20657 Take Coster Road less than 1 mile to Clifton Drive on the right. Follow this to the driveway on the left with the number 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

American Chestnut Land Trust Port Republic, Calvert County, MD

Dates: Weed Whacking Wednesdays October through April 10AM-12noon, May-Sept 9-11AM, Vine Vindicator Saturday Oct. 29; 9AM-12 noon.

Full day invasive training program September 17 (10:00AM – 3:00PM, 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@acltweb.org

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 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
Contact: Ginna Tiernan, 410-634-2847 X 27, or gtiernan@adkinsarboretum.org
Eleanor Altman 410-634-2847 X 22
ealtman@adkinsarboretum.org

Carroll County

Carroll County Parks

Good news for Carroll County Parks and the people who love them! Weed Warriors have come to Carroll County. For information on training and invasive species removal events at Bear Branch and Piney Run, contact Carolyn Puckett at cpuck@comcast.net.

Charles County

Chapman Forest and Ruth B. Swann Park

Sponsors: Maryland Native Plant Society, Sierra Club, and Chapman Forest Foundation

Event: Regular stewardship projects are conducted in all seasons including winter, early spring, late spring, summer, and late summer. This high-intensity program is followed by a low-intensity annual maintenance program for plants we have missed, plants emerging from the seed bank, and occasional plants migrating in from neighboring areas.
Dates: Chapman on 1st Sundays and Ruth B. Swann on second Saturday each month.

Time: 10 AM – 4 PM

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Habitat Stewardship Outings

←continued

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

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

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

Garrett County

Savage River State Forest - Bear Pen Wildlands

Savage River Watershed Association (SRWA)

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 like other natural areas around the State is threatened by a variety of exotic invasive species. Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist with the Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service, is providing technical support. Wade Dorsey, Savage River State Forest acting manager, provides work tools. Mary Ironside, Big Run & New Germany State Park manager, provides free camping the night before for any out-of-town volunteers. SRWA coordinates

the project and provides snacks for volunteers. To volunteer, pre-register by contacting Ron Boyer, SRWA invasive species removal coordinator, at 301-895-3686 or SRWAdirector@gmail.com.

Harford County

Otter Point Creek, Abingdon, MD

Volunteer to join the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center in removing invasive plants and restoring native plants.

For dates call 410-612-1688 or on the web at www.otterpointcreek.org.

Description: Enjoy pink lady's 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 2 work days.

Location: Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, 700 Otter Point Road, Abingdon, MD 21009

Registration: 410-612-1688 or www.otterpointcreek.org Kriste Garman

Howard County

See Fort Meade Army Installation under Anne Arundel County

Howard County Conservancy

Habitat Restoration Work Group

Dates: Thursday, September 8th 3:00PM-5:00PM

Thursday, September 22nd 3:00PM-5:00PM

Thursday, October 13th 3:00PM-5:00PM

Thursday, October 27th 3:00PM-5:00PM

Thursday, November 10th 3:00PM-4:30PM

Thursday, December 8th 3:00PM-4:30PM

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 the day of to see if 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 call 410-465-8877

Contact: Tabby Fique, Land Manager/Easement Coordinator, Howard County Conservancy, 410-465-8877 ext. 109, or tabby.fique@hcconservancy.org

The Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

Conservation Stewardship Project

The Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA), established in 1996, encompasses 1,021 acres and contains a diversity of habitat types. There are upland and bottomland hardwood forest, fields, wetlands, ponds, and riparian habitats. The primary components of the MPEA's mission are natural resources management, education, research, and recreation.

9–11:30 AM for all of the workdays.

September 27th: Invasive Plant removal & 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 borders 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, &

release methods.

October 25th: 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 22nd: 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.

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

Patuxent Research Refuge

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

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Habitat Stewardship Outings

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and how to identify and control these plants.

Directions: To the North Tract Visitor Contact Station:

From I-295, take the exit for MD-Route 198 towards Fort Meade. Go approximately 1.5 miles until you see Glory Days Auto Salvage on your near right corner and baseball fields on your far right. Turn right between the two onto Bald Eagle Drive. Proceed through the gate and continue about 1/2 mile to the Visitor Contact Station. The National Wildlife Visitor Center is located off of Powder Mill Road between MD Route 197 and the Baltimore/Washington Parkway, south of Laurel.

Contact: Christopher Wicker at 301-497-5763 or email to Christopher_Wicker@fws.gov. Check out www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent or <http://patuxent.fws.gov> for information on events.

Western Regional Park, Glenwood, MD

Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks

Date & Time: July date/time TBA

Description: A new stand of purple looserstrife was discovered at Western Regional Park last year and volunteers are needed to tackle the problem!

Contact: Sue Muller, 410 313-4697 or smuller@howardcountymd.gov,

Kent County

Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge

Dates: ongoing. The Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Rock Hall, MD, is looking for volunteers interested in helping with biological survey work and a BayScapes garden.

Description: Welcome to Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge at the confluence of the Chester River and the Chesapeake Bay on Maryland's Eastern Shore. This 2,285-acre island refuge is a major feeding and resting place for migrating and wintering waterfowl. More

than 100,000 ducks, geese and swans seek sanctuary here each year, as do migrating and breeding songbirds and shorebirds, and bald eagles that thrive year-round. Join interpretive programs and hikes at this wetland site known for rare plant life, a variety of carnivorous plants, rare and threatened species.

Wineberries with garlic mustard: A new type of exotic fruit salad? Not quite. These are two invasive plant species that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would like help removing. Garlic mustard is a newly arrived invasive species we handpull and is a management priority. Wineberry is a raspberry-like plant that begins to ripen with fruit between June and July removed with spading forks. Wear high boots for ticks, DEET bug repellent, hat and gloves

Where: Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge 1730 Eastern Neck Road, Rock Hall, MD

RSVP: Colby 410-639-1956

Montgomery County Blue Mash Nature Trail, Laytonsville, MD

Montgomery County Sierra Club

Date and Time: Fourth Sunday of each month, 9am-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 & pants, walking shoes or boots, hat, water, gloves. Binoculars recommended.

Directions: North on Georgia Ave through Olney & Brookeville. Left on Brookeville Rd. Right on Zion Rd. Meet at Zion Road park entrance on left 1/2 mile from Brookeville Rd at 20500 Zion Rd before Riggs. Trail map

www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/ParkTrails/trails_MAPS/blue_mash.shtm And maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery/calendar.html

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

Damascus Izaak Walton League

The Wildlife Achievement Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America in Damascus, MD, is looking for volunteers to help with several activities. Pre-registration is required for events; e-mail Meo Curtis at meosotis58@verizon.net. For details, visit www.damascusiwa.org/.

Montgomery County Parks Weed Warriors

In 1999, M-NCPPC/Montgomery Parks 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 must 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, and those with strong interest and leadership skills may be appointed as Weed Warrior Supervisors.

2. Special Project Weed Warriors This component gives community members 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.

At the present time there are regular weekend and weekday projects in Little Falls Stream Valley Park, Capital Crescent Trail Special Park, Rachel Carson Conservation Park, Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park (two locations), 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.

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.

Let us know if you are joining us; contact Weed Warriors volunteer coordinator Paul Carlson, 301-962-1343, paul.carlson@montgomeryparks.org or www.weedwarrior.org.

Northwest Branch of the Anacostia

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

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

Dates: 3rd Saturdays each month
Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

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Habitat Stewardship Outings

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

Northwood Chesapeake Bay Trail

Contact: Jennifer Chambers, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Northwood Chesapeake Bay Trail Project Coordinator. Web site: www.patc.net/PublicView/

Potomac Gorge between Great Falls and Georgetown

Sponsors: The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service

Event: Volunteers are welcome to sign up for a variety of workdays when we cut or pull some of the most problematic weeds, often in scenic areas.

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

Rock Creek Park, Chevy Chase, MD

Montgomery County Sierra Club and County Parks

Date: First Saturday of each month

Time: 10AM-12PM

Description: Montgomery County Parks and Planning Commission plan to put in a wildflower meadow and reforest a 50-foot stream side buffer. First they need volunteers to remove resprouting stumps and seedlings. Bring clippers, saws, and 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 East West Hwy. Right on Beech Dr. Meet at the parking lot by soccer field at intersection of Beech Dr & East West Hwy. Map: maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery/calendar.html

RSVP Jeremy Arling
jeremy.arling@maryland.sierraclub.org

Rock Creek National Park

Friends of Rock Creek's Environment

Dates: Ongoing. Check web site for new events

Description: You, too, can take steps to help protect Rock Creek. We are now gearing up for the Rock Creek EXTREME Cleanup, where we expect over 50 trash and invasive cleanups to span the length of Rock Creek.

Contact: Beth Mullin
friendsofrockcreek.org 202-237-8866

Underground Railroad Experience Trail, Sandy Spring, MD

Leader/Sponsors: Jeremy Arling, Montgomery County 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 & 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. www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/ParkTrails/trails_MAPS/Rural_legacy.shtm.

RSVP: Jeremy Arling
jeremy.arling@maryland.sierraclub.org

Woodend Nature Sanctuary, Chevy Chase

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

Sponsor: Audubon Naturalist Society

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

Prince George's County

See Fort Meade Army Installation under Anne Arundel County

See Patuxent Research Refuge under Anne Arundel County

Anacostia Riparian Meadow Restoration Project

Anacostia Watershed Society

Description: Same as Magruder Park. Meet near the 38th Avenue Bridge in Hyattsville, MD.

RSVP: E-mail: info@anacostiaws.org. 301-699-6204,

Belt Woods, Bowie

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

Description: Invasive species workgroup teams remove creeping euonymus, 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 301-390-0797

Greenbelt Homes Inc Housing Cooperative

Date: 3rd 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 3rd 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 mberres@ghi.coop

Greenbelt National Park

Date: 1st 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 301-864-1959, 202-746-2228 or 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

Indian Creek Trail at Lake Artemesia, Berwyn Hgts

Dates: Ongoing.

Description: By 38-acre lake, beautiful

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Habitat Stewardship Outings

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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 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. and proceed as above.

RSVP: Chris Garrett or John Dillon M-NCPPC Park Ranger Office 301-627-7755

Little Paint Branch Park and Cherry Hill Road Community Park, Beltsville
Sponsor: M-NCPPC

Dates: Last Saturday of each month
Time: 11 AM – 3 PM

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

Directions: Take U.S. 1 north from the Washington Beltway. Go about 1 mile, passing the National Agricultural Research Center, and turn left at the light on Montgomery Rd. At the stop sign, turn left on Sellman Road. Turn right into

Little Paint Branch Park at the bottom of the hill.

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

Lower Beaverdam Creek, Cheverly
Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek
Woodworth Park

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.

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

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

Magruder Park, Hyattsville

Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS)

Date: ongoing

Workday Description: AWS invasive removals usually employ hand-pulling, cutting (with hand pruners and cutting saws) and pulling using tools, e.g., 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 deer ticks.

What to Bring: We strongly recommend the use of 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 repellent designed to repel both deer ticks and mosquitoes. Don't forget to bring plenty of water and

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

A Will is a Way

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

Habitat Stewardship Outings

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potassium rich foods and beverages to avoid dehydration. AWS will provide gloves, tools and other supplies to get the job done. If you are an amateur naturalist don't hesitate to bring your bird and wildflower field guides to enjoy the biodiversity of the Anacostia watershed! Regarding winter outings, it is important to wear layered clothing made of wool, silk or synthetic fabrics. Cotton is not recommended as it holds on to moisture so it does not insulate when you get wet. 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 park. Website: www.anacostiaws.org
RSVP: E-mail: info@anacostiaws.org. 301-699-6204, Conservation Biologist Jorge Bogantes Monterol

Patuxent River Park

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

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 work boots. Gloves and tools will be provided.

Register at www.pg parks.com. Ages 13 to adult. Call Stephanie for more information at 301-627-6074

Directions: Meet at the park visitors center at 16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

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: Watkins Regional Park with 850 acres offers all kinds of outdoor adventures with nature center, carousel, old MD farm, miniature train, mini-golf, camping, picnic areas, playgrounds, and miles of hiker/biker trails through deciduous forest. Help pull up garlic mustard! Bring water, work boots, durable clothes, long sleeves and gloves. Light refreshments provided. Some poison ivy at work site.

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

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

St. Mary's County

See Hellen Creek Preserve under Calvert County

Myrtle Point Park

Sponsor: Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust

Events: We're currently finalizing a calendar of events, so call to find out any information.

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

Multiple

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)

Sponsoring Organization: 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 snippers. 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)

Check the calendar or chapter pages for events in the above areas.

More Information: Kim Knox, WSSC's Community Outreach Manager, 301-206-8233, kknox@wsscwater.com.



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

Outings (General Information)

Get Outdoors and 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
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>

Attention Outings Leaders! List Your Outings Online

The national Sierra Club is in the process of testing a new online activity publishing system. This system will permit outings leaders to enter their planned outings directly into a website database which will then be available on the club website.

To have access to this system you must be listed in the Sierra Club WILD (Web Interactive Leader Directory) database, or the subset of WILD which is called LEADERS (Leader & Event Recording System). Group and chapter chairs, etc. are listed in WILD but the Outings Leaders are listed in LEADERS.

If you’re a Maryland Outings Leader and want to take advantage of this new online activity publishing system, you must be listed in LEADERS. As of this time of this writing, the following Chapter members are listed in the Sierra Club LEADERS database as Maryland Chapter Outings Leaders: Larry Broadwell, Ken Clark, John Couqnet, Nicki Eger, Jan Hoffmaster, Laurel Imlay, Michael Juskelis, Sue Miller, David O’Leary, James Perschy, Richard Reis, Tim Ryan, Kathleen Sheedy, Betty Steil and Rebecca Turner.

If you are a chapter outings leader and your name is not listed here, contact either your group outings chair, the chapter outings intern at Outings.Intern@mdsierra.org, or the chapter outings chair at Jan.Hoffmaster@mdsierra.org, to have your name added to the LEADERS database. The info you will need is: 1) the date of your most recent Outings Leader Training, and 2) the date of your first aid certification.

The chapter has just initiated the system and it can be viewed at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/events/ActivitySearch.asp>. For instructions on how to log onto the system see <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/communications/web/support/activities/>

Outings (July)

July

Sat. July 9: Patapsco Orange

Grove. Moderate 5-6 mile circuit hike in shady 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 approximately 1.5 miles until you see Swinging Bridge on right - large parking lot is just after bridge on left. Contact Nicki to sign up: cybertrax1@netzero.net, 410-990-0008.

Sat, July 9th, 11 am – 2 pm.

Mattawoman paddle trip.

Mattawoman Creek is a small, calm tidal creek in Charles County, Maryland, and has the unique distinction of being "the best, most productive tributary to the Bay," according to Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources' fisheries biologists. Meet at the Mattingly Park and Boat Ramp, Indian Head, Maryland. After a short orientation, we will explore the upper portions of the creek, returning to the ramp at 2 pm.

Parking is available in lot adjacent to ramp area, and along Mattingly Avenue. Bring your own kayak or canoe (and life vest), or boats are

available adjacent to the boat ramp at Up the Creek Rentals, 108A Mattingly Ave, Indian Head, MD, 301-743-3733 (boat reservations are recommended). Contact Karen Moody, 443-789-1638 or e-mail karen@lunafiberarts.com.

Sat.-Sun. July 9-10: Quebec Run Wild Area Backpack, Fuller SF, PA.

Moderate 15 mile circuit backpack with pretty streams and campsites shaded by hemlocks. This trip is suitable for experienced hikers who want to try backpacking. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sun. July 10: Great Falls Billy Goat Trail, MD.

Moderate 7-9 mile hike on trails near the Potomac River, with short rock scrambles on the Billy Goat Trail. Enjoy dramatic scenery and observe wildlife. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 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. July 16: Signal Knob, VA.

Strenuous 10 mile circuit hike with a 1200-foot increase in elevation over 4 miles, featuring overlooks of the Shenandoah Valley. Some trail sections are very rocky.

Bring lunch and water.

Depart at 7:30 from the west lot of the Broken Land Parkway Park & Ride at Rt. 32. Call Ken Clark, 443-280-4050, kenclark7@live.com.

Sat. July 23: Great Falls,

VA. Moderate six mile hike on dramatic cliffs overlooking the Potomac River, along the historic Patowmack Canal, and past the

scenic Difficult Run rapids. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 from the west lot of the Broken Land Parkway Park & Ride at Rt. 32. Call James Perschy, 410-964-1902, jameshike@verizon.net.

Sat.-Mon. July 23-25: North Country Recreational Trail Backpack, Tionesta Creek to Cook Forest SP, Allegheny National Forest, PA.

25 mile moderate backpack with pretty streams, views and the state's largest stand of virgin hemlocks. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat.-Sun. July 23-24 (8 am-6 pm).

Unrated. Wilderness First Aid

(WFA). This intensive, 16-hour course teaches the assessment and treatment of an ill or injured person in a remote environment where definitive care or rapid transport is not readily available. Participants learn how to assess, treat, and when possible, prevent medical and traumatic emergencies within the scope of their training. The course will be taught by Clif Castleman and the Center for Wilderness Safety at the Turkey Run Education Center in Prince William Forest Park, and is sponsored by SCPRO. The course is open to all, but Sierra Club leaders are eligible for reimbursement. Registration deadline is July 11. For more information or to register, visit www.wildsafe.org/WFA-SCPRO1. (Note that CPR/AED certification is a prerequisite. If you do not have that, you may also register for a CPR/AED course given on Thu. July 14, 6 pm-10:30 pm, at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Herndon, VA.) Contacts: Clif Castleman, ccastleman@wildsafe.org or 703/624-2543, and Mike Darzi, michael.darzi@saic.com or 301/580-9387.

Sat.-Mon. July 23-25: North Country Recreational Trail Backpack, Tionesta Creek to Cook Forest SP, Allegheny National Forest, PA. 25 mile moderate backpack with pretty streams, views and the state's largest stand of virgin hemlocks. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sun, July 24: C&O Canal in Williamsport, MD 11 am – 1:30 pm. Come join the Sierra Club for a leisurely 2 mile hike along the gorgeous C&O Canal in Williamsport MD!



Photo by Mike Hennesy

This short stretch of trail has several historic canal structures including Lock 44, the Conococheague Aqueduct, the Williamsport Lockhouse, and the Cushwa Turning Basin. In addition to the celebrated canal however, our hike will also take us past the R.P. Smith Coal Power Station which is situated a few hundred feet away from the canal and the Potomac River. We will meet at 11am in parking lot of the Williamsport visitor's center to begin the hike, and should return by 1:30pm for departure. For additional information, or if you have any questions please contact Mike

continued ➞

Outings (July, August)

←continued

Hennesy, 571-334-6894 or
mhennesy@umd.edu

Sun. July 24 GB – Easy. Big Gunpowder Trail South.

6 miles. Out-and-back hike along the less-traveled south side of the Big Gunpowder, leaving from Belair Rd. Pretty views of the river the entire length. Level trail. 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 5.6 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.

Sat. July 30: Splash in the Middle Patuxent, in Savage Park.

Cool down with a leisurely 3 hour walk in the middle of the river, from Murray Hill Road to Savage Park. Discover clams and other wildlife. Wear old sneakers, and be prepared to get wet. Due to hidden slippery rocks in the river, this hike is not appropriate for people with bad ankles/knees/back. Bring a snack and water, and a change of clothes for an optional restaurant lunch after the hike. Meet at 9:30 at the Savage Park Wincopin Trail parking lot, off Vollmerhausen Road, a quarter mile east of the bridge over I-95. Call Ken Clark, 443-280-4050, kenclark7@live.com.

August

Sat.-Mon. Aug. 6-8: Dolly Sods Backpack, WV.

Moderate 18 mile backpack from Rohrbaugh Plains to Bear Rocks in Monongahela National Forest. Features vistas, waterfalls, streams, forest, open plains and bogs. Short first and third days. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sun. Aug. 7: Splash in the Middle Patuxent, Gorman Area Park.

Cool down with a leisurely 3-4 hour walk in the middle of the river, from Rt. 29 to Murray Hill Road. Wear appropriate footwear like old sneakers, and be prepared to get wet. Due to hidden slippery rocks in the river, this hike is not appropriate for people with bad ankles/knees/back. Bring lunch and water, and a towel or change of clothes for the car. Depart at 10:00 from the west lot of the Broken Land Parkway Park & Ride at Rt. 32. Call Ken Clark, 443-280-4050, kenclark7@live.com.

Sat. Aug. 13: Patapsco Valley State Park, Hilton Area.

Moderate 7 mile hike. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:15 at the parking lot behind the Hilton Area Nature Center, just inside the Hilton Avenue entrance on the right. Call James Perschy, 410-964-1902, jameshike@verizon.net.

Sat, Aug 13: Harpers Ferry to Weaverton Cliffs along the Appalachian Trail,

3.3 miles 10 am – 1 pm., one way hike (easy, with moderate portion by the cliffs). We will meet at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Headquarters at 10 am, and officially end at Weaverton Cliffs at approximately 1 pm. Shuttle cars can be parked at the Weaverton Road AT parking area (from MD 67 just north of US 340, turn east onto Weaverton Road, parking area halfway down the road on right). Alternately, hikers may individually choose to complete as an out-and-back hike. Please contact Karen (catoctinsierra@gmail.com) for assistance in coordinating shuttles.



Aug. 13, Paddle Mattawoman Creek. Bring a picnic meal to kick off meet & greet with fellow paddlers before we launch. This trip is planned as a full moon paddling event to give members a different perspective on the eco-system of the Mattawoman Creek. It should be a lot of fun. This trip is suitable for experienced paddlers who are comfortable enough with their paddling skills to exercise them at night. Meet at 7 PM in Indian Head at the boat launch ramp at the end of Mattingly Ave.

Bring a light, bug repellent, and the usual paddling gear—water, snacks, etc.

We will launch at approximately 8:00 to 8:15 p.m. and will paddle for 1 to 1 ½ hours. Then we'll turn around and paddle back down to the take-out. Contact Dan Donahue, (301) 884-0163 or donahuedda@earthlink.net

Sat. Aug. 13 GB – Easy to Moderate. Little Gunpowder Trail – Jerusalem Mill.

6 miles. Little Gunpowder Trail from Jerusalem Mill to Harford Rd. and back, with two side trails. Fine scenery with lush forest and rapids. Includes visits to museum and to quarry. Muddy spots possible. Meet at 1:00 PM. From I-695 take Belair Rd. (Route 1) north 7.6 miles. Bear right on Jerusalem Road at Bradshaw Road. Follow Jerusalem Road for 1.9 miles to the mill and parking lot, just beyond the river. Cancelled for steady rain or storms. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email apenczek@stevenson.edu.

Sat. Aug. 20: Splash in the Middle Patuxent. Cool down with a leisurely 3 hour walk in the middle of the river. Time and location TBD; check

our web page. Call Ken Clark, 443-280-4050, kenclark7@live.com.

Sat.-Sun. Aug. 20-21: John P. Saylor Trail Backpack, Gallitzin SF, PA. Moderate 17 mile circuit backpack visiting Wolf Rocks and the Clear Shade Wild Area. This trip is suitable for experienced hikers who wish to try backpacking. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat.-Sun. August 27-28 (8 am-6 pm). Unrated. Wilderness First Aid (WFA). This intensive, 16-hour course teaches the assessment and treatment of an ill or injured person in a remote environment where definitive care or rapid transport is not readily available. Participants learn how to assess, treat, and when possible, prevent medical and traumatic emergencies within the scope of their training. The course will be taught by Clif Castleman and the Center for Wilderness Safety at the Turkey Run Education Center in Prince William Forest Park, and is sponsored by SCPRO. The course is open to all, but Sierra Club leaders are eligible for reimbursement. Registration deadline is August 19. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.wildsafe.org/WFA-SCPRO1>. (Note that CPR/AED certification is a prerequisite. If you do not have that, you may also register for a CPR/AED course given on Thu. July 14, 6 pm-10:30 pm, at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Herndon, VA.) Contacts: Clif Castleman, ccastleman@wildsafe.org or 703/624-2543, and Mike Darzi, michael.darzi@saic.com or 301/580-9387.

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Outings (September, October)

←continued

September

Sat. Sept. 3: Sugarloaf Mountain, MD. Moderate 8 mile hike featuring rocky outcrops with sweeping views. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for a 9:00 departure. Call James Perschy, 410-964-1902, jameshike@verizon.net.

Sat.-Mon. Sept. 3-5: Reddish Knob Backpack, VA. 20 mile circuit backpack in George Washington National Forest. Features views from one of the highest peaks in VA at the halfway point. Daily mileage: 3/12/5 (subject to change). Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat. Sep 10: 11 am – 2 pm. Monocacy National Battlefield, Worthington Farm Trails. Meet at the Worthington Farm area parking lot (Tour Stop 3 on the Auto Tour). We'll hike a 3 mile circuit of both a self-guided civil war battlefield trail and a nature trail. On the way we'll have scenic views of historic lands and structures, as well as the Monocacy River and other natural areas. This area is close to the site of the waste-to-energy plant being proposed by Frederick and Carroll Counties. For more information on the battlefield, see <http://www.nps.gov/mono/index.htm>. Contact Karen Moody, 443-789-1638 or e-mail karen@lunafiberarts.com.

Sat. Sept. 17: McKeldin area, Patapsco State Park. Moderate 4 mile hike along the Patapsco River, past McKeldin Falls. Optional restaurant lunch after the hike. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping

Center, for a 9:00 departure. Call James Perschy, 410-964-1902, jameshike@verizon.net.

Sat.-Mon. Sept. 3-5: Reddish Knob Backpack, VA. 20 mile circuit backpack in George Washington National Forest. Features views from one of the highest peaks in VA at the halfway point. Daily mileage: 3/12/5 (subject to change). Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat. Sept. 10: Blockhouse Point, MD. Moderate 8 mile hike, starting flat at Pennyfield Lock on the historic C&O canal, then over hilly terrain leading to a great view of the Potomac River from the cliffs over the canal. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 from the west lot of the Broken Land Parkway Park & Ride at Rt. 32. Or meet us at 9:55 at Pennyfield Lock. Call Ken Clark, 443-280-4050, kenclark7@live.com.

Fri. Sept. 23 GB – Easy. Cylburn Arboretum Evening Hike (children and dogs welcome). 2 miles. Celebrate the first day of fall. Cylburn is a "well-kept secret" with rare trees, wildflowers, spacious lawns and gardens surrounding a Victorian Mansion. Meet at 6:00 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. Cancelled

for steady rain or storms. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email apenczek@stevenson.edu.

Fri.-Sun. Sept. 30 - Oct. 2: Maryland Chapter Jamboree. Biennial gathering in Catoclin Mountain Park. Come have fun, explore the mountains, and meet others from your local Sierra Club! Bioblitz hikes with nature experts, live music, great speakers, including Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, silent and live auctions, environmental workshops, campfire, drumming, games for the entire family, and more. Details and registration on inside back cover.

We need donations for a silent auction fundraiser, so contact betsy_johnson@comcast.net if you have any goods or services to offer (like books, pictures, tee shirts, massage, art lessons, etc.)

October

Sat.-Mon. Oct. 1-3: Quehanna Trail-West Backpack, Moshannon State Forest, PA. Moderate 20 mile circuit backpack utilizing footpaths, old roads and railroad grades. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat, Oct 8th. Cunningham Falls State Park,

Thurmont, MD. – 11 am-3 pm Meet at the picnic area by Hunting Creek Lake (from SR 77 turn south into park, pass park headquarters, then turn right and follow road to picnic area). We'll start with an easy hike along to Cunningham Falls (one mile), lunch at Hunting Creek Lake picnic area, then hike to Cat Rock (3

miles, strenuous, with switchbacks and scenic views). Contact Karen Moody, 443-789-1638 or e-mail karen@lunafiberarts.com.

Sat.-Mon. Oct. 15-17: Mid-State Trail Backpack, Tiadaghton SF, PA. Moderate 25 mile backpack from Little Pine State Park to Woolrich. Several views, streams and beautiful Pine Creek. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sun. Oct. 16 GB – Moderate. Glen Artney Area, Patapsco Valley State Park.

6 miles. Enjoy the fall colors of mature forest, historic structures, a swinging bridge, and a 12-foot waterfall. Muddy spots possible. Meet at 1:00 PM. From I-695 take Rt. 1 (Washington Blvd.) south toward Elkridge. Follow Rt. 1 about 2 1/2 miles. Pass under I-195 then just before river turn right on South St. Park entrance is on the left. \$2 entry fee per person. Continue on entrance road 1 mile to T-junction. Bear right then left and park across from Lost Lake. Cancelled for steady rain or storms. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email apenczek@stevenson.edu.

Sat. & Sun. Oct. 22 & 23 GB - Moderate. Car Camping at Caledonia State Park in PA

Camping and day hiking exploring lakes and streams in the Michaux State Forest in southern Pennsylvania. We will hike parts of the Appalachian Trail with some good views. Call Jack for details at 410-256-3963.

Sat.-Tue. Oct. 29 - Nov. 1: Coopers Rock State Forest Car Camping, WV. Two hikes: Scotts Run loop and a hike through a virgin hemlock forest,

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Outings (October, November, December)

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each about 8 miles. Campsite reservation and pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

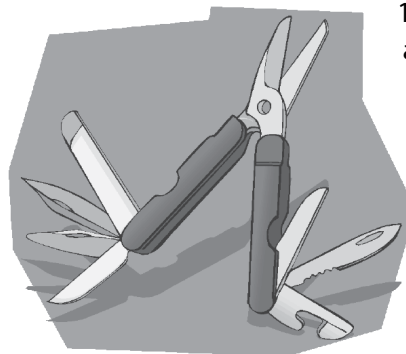
Wed. – Sun. Oct. 26 – 30. Rated E/F. Hiking the Lower Hudson Valley.

This area is hiking heaven, with thousands of possible hikes in Harriman & Bear Mountain State Parks, and spectacular views; there are many historic and natural sites, and several good restaurants. We'll have three full days of hiking, and one day of sightseeing, during peak fall color season. Hikes will range from moderate to (a little) difficult, with moderate to fast pace; people can opt out of any hike. We'll be staying in two stone cottages (<http://tinyurl.com/278hf5t>) in Bear Mountain State Park, NY, for four nights, leaving Sunday. Each cottage contains six private rooms; full cost per room is \$742, single or double occupancy, breakfast included. Each room has queen-size bed, private bath, cable TV, and daily housekeeping; each cottage has large reception/dining area, large lounge & fireplace, large porch with great view, and kitchenette (microwave, refrigerator, sink). Space is limited and deposit of \$371 is required. Contact leader about payment or for more information. (Joint event with AMC-DC.) Leader: Mike Darzi, michael.darzi@saic.com or 301/580-9387.

November

Sat. Nov. 5 GB – Moderate. Panther Branch Trail. 4 miles. Gunpowder South and Panther Branch Trails downstream from York Rd. Nice mix of river scenery, streams, and upland forest. Meet at

1:00 PM at the parking area on York Rd. just south of the river. Take I-83 to Mt. Carmel Rd. and exit east. After 1/2 mile turn left onto York Rd. Follow York Rd. downhill approx. 1 1/2 miles and park on either side of road just before the river. Cancelled for steady rain or storms. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email apenczek@stevenson.edu.



Sun. Nov. 6 GB – Easy to Moderate. Big Gunpowder Falls.

4 miles. Nice views of the river and a pretty rapid. Muddy spots possible. Meet at 11:00 AM 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. For more details, call Jack at 410-256-3963.

Sat, Nov 12 Piney Run Park, Martz Road, Sykesville, MD.

11 am – 1 pm. This is a gentle, 2.5 mile hike around Piney Run Reservoir and its feeder creeks in southern Carroll County. The majority of the trail is wooded, with lots of signs of wildlife, and we may

still have fall color. Very good hike for kids, especially with access to the Nature Center. Pets are welcome as well. No fee required in this part after October 31. We'll meet at the Nature Center Parking lot at 11 am. Contact Karen Moody, 443-789-1638 or e-mail karen@lunafiberarts.com.

December

Sun. Dec. 4 GB – Moderate. Cromwell Valley Park Hike

4 miles through this Baltimore County park that is a working farm with draft horses, woodlands, hilly meadows, streams, old limestone kilns, and a brook bubbling out of the ground. Meet at 11:00 AM in the parking lot in front of the house in the park's Willow Grove Farm section, the 2nd left into the park at 2175 Cromwell Bridge Rd. north from the Baltimore Beltway. For more information, contact Jack at 410-256-3963.

Anytime GB – Cross Country Skiing

When snow conditions allow, local skiing or trip to Western Maryland or West Virginia may be planned. Call Jack for details at 410-256-3963.

Auction Items Needed

Jamboree attendees always look forward to the silent and live auction.

The silent auction features donated items, new or lightly used, especially things that would be of interest to outdoorsy folks, like Sierra Club books, outdoor sports equipment, household items, etc.

The live auction usually features items like a vacation rental or a desirable service like landscaping consultation, original paintings and large donated items—one year we had a kayak!

We are looking for donations. All of us have things around our houses that we don't use regularly that someone else might like. Think about it and, when you find those items, send an email to Betsy Johnson at betsy_johnson@comcast.net. Thanks!



continued →

BICO

Baltimore Inner City Outings

Sierra Club Inner City Outings (ICO) is a community outreach program providing opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world. 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, Baltimore ICO (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, or visit our web site at <http://ico.sierraclub.org/baltimore>.

Schedule

Sat., Jul. 9 All day CGCC Trip - TBD

Sat., Jul. 9 8:30am SBCS Trip - Camping at Patapsco Valley State Park
Hilton Area

Sun, Jul. 10 4:00pm SBCS Trip - Camping at Patapsco Valley State Park
Hilton Area

Sat., Jul. 30 All day SBCS Trip - Cave Exploration at Eden Mills

Sat., Aug. 13 All day CGCC Trip - TBD

Sat., Aug. 13 9:00pm Camping with Mi Espacia (tentative)

Sat., Sep. 10 All day CGCC Trip - TBD

Sat., Sep. 10 All day SBCS Trip - Gunpowder Falls

Sat., Sep. 17 9:00am Paul's Place - Biking the Gwynns Falls Trails

Sat., Oct. 8, 2011 All day CGCC Trip - TBD

Fri., Oct. 28, 2011 All day DHHS Camping Assateague Island

Sat., Oct. 29, 2011 All day DHHS Camping Assateague Island

Sun, Oct. 30, 2011 All day DHHS Camping Assateague Island

Sat., Nov. 12, 2011 All day CGCC Trip - TBD

Fri., Nov. 18, 2011 4:00pm Blackburn Cabin DHHS

Sat., Nov. 19, 2011 All day Blackburn Cabin DHHS

Sun, Nov. 20, 2011 12:00pm Blackburn Cabin DHHS

Abbreviations:

CGCC: College Gardens Community Center

PP: Paul's Place

DHHS: Digital Harbor High School

SWC: Southwest Baltimore Charter School

Top 5 Reasons to Attend this Year's JAMBOREE:

1. Have fun! There's something for everyone at the Jamboree. Come out with your family, friends, or on your own and meet new friends.
2. Support a great cause! All proceeds from the weekend will benefit the MD Sierra Club's work on global warming, smart energy solutions, saving forests, and clean water.
3. Learn about environmental issues. This year's themes are Clean Water & Green Grid with more than 15 different workshops on current environmental topics from energy issues to composting to clean water and rain gardens.
4. Get active! Enjoy ongoing hikes and other opportunities to get involved based on your own interests.
5. It's going to be a blast! Register now to secure your spot. See inside back cover.

Jamboree Scrapbook

There's something for everyone at the Jamboree—fun, fellowship, and friends old and new. Come out with your family, friends, or on your own, and enjoy a weekend of environmental activities and awareness in the beautiful Catoctins.



Don't miss the fun at the Maryland Chapter's Biennial Jamboree!

Friday evening to Sunday afternoon September 30 - October 2

Maryland Chapter Jamboree

in the mountains

Camp Roundmeadow, Catoctin National Park, Thurmont, MD

Friday night featured guest speaker

Michael Brune, Sierra Club National Executive Director

Don't miss this fun-filled weekend! Meet great people and enjoy live music, "bioblitz" hikes led by naturalists, environmental workshops, guest speakers, games, campfire, drumming, live and silent auctions, and fun for the whole family. Have fun, explore the mountains, and meet others from your local Sierra Club!

All meals and dormitory lodging included in the registration price. Price: \$75 Adult, \$55 Student/Low Income, \$50 Worker, \$10 Children 5-12 years, FREE for those 5 and under. Can't make it for the whole weekend? Tickets are available just for Friday evening, one day or Saturday evening's concert. Contact Laurel Imlay for details about single event registration.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter's work. Come on out for a great weekend and support an excellent cause!

Maryland Chapter Jamboree Registration Form

Name: _____

e-mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

(H) _____ (W) _____

_____ I am willing to give someone a ride.

_____ I need a ride.

Will your party be joining us at dinner on Friday? _____

Names in your party, including ages of any children:

Are you vegetarian, vegan, or allergic to any food?

Anything else we should

know? _____

Please check appropriate registration levels for yourself and anyone you're bringing. We will reimburse you if the level is full and we cannot accommodate you.

Children ages five and under are free.

_____ x \$75 adult = _____

_____ x \$55 student/senior/low income = _____

_____ x \$50 worker (kitchen/setup/cleanup) = _____

_____ x \$10 child 5-12 years = _____

Total Payment \$ _____

Dormitory Preference: __Family __Women __Men

__Couples __Will Sleep Elsewhere

Mail checks and registration to
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter

Attn: 2005 Jamboree

7338 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 111

College Park, MD 20740

For information call the Club office at
3011277-7111.

Information and registration also available
at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org>.

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.

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See You In December!

We hope you enjoy this huge Summer-Autumn issue. The next issue of Chesapeake, Winter 2011-2012, will be published in December.

**Keep up with all that's happening in our Maryland Chapter on our website:
<http://maryland.sierraclub.org>.**

This fall brings our biennial Jamboree! Don't miss it. See page 35 for information and registration!

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The Jamboree is back and better than ever!
Registration on inside back cover.

**Beyond Coal: Lessening Maryland's dependence on this dirtiest of fuels.
Let's close the three worst of the worst!**

And see how we fared in Annapolis, meet the people who meet the legislators, check your group's news, find an event or outing, and get outside!