

# Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Autumn 2012 / Voters Guide

## Sierra Club Endorses John Delaney for Congress



By David Hauck—The Sierra Club has endorsed John Delaney in his campaign to become the representative from Maryland's 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District because of his support for our core issues—reducing America's dependence on fossil fuels; protecting our country's air, land and water resources; and promoting energy efficiency and conservation. "The Sierra Club is pleased and proud to endorse John Delaney in Maryland's 6th Congressional District race because of his clear commitment to protecting America's air and water resources and to the ongoing work of the Environmental Protection Agency," said David O'Leary, chair of the Mary-

(continued on page 3)

## President Obama Needs Your Help

By Betsy Johnson—On April 18, the Sierra Club, Environment America, League of Conservation Voters and Clean Water Action put out a press release endorsing President Obama. Subsequently Michael Brune, Sierra Club Executive Director, sent the following email to Sierra Club members.

Can you imagine what will happen if President Obama loses reelection . . . if polluters like big oil and coal companies buy their way into the White House and majorities in Congress?

Four years ago, we worked hard together to elect Barack Obama—we knocked on doors, made phone calls, and spoke with our neighbors—all for a cleaner, healthier future.

**We're endorsing President Obama for reelection—we've made too much progress over the past four years to give it all back to Big Polluters . . .**

. . . Make no mistake: your participation in this election is vital. We've accomplished a lot over the past four years:

- ♦ 800,000 of us called on the EPA to limit toxic mercury pollution from coal plants for the first time ever and President Obama acted.
- ♦ We mobilized to move our country Beyond Oil and the President listened, implementing the toughest fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks in history.

- ♦ We rallied to defend our wild lands and the President protected a million acres around the Grand Canyon from uranium mining.
- ♦ We demanded independence from dirty energy to create new jobs and a healthier future and our President responded, making landmark investments in clean energy.

**This election will be a knockdown, drag-out fight**, as big polluters and their political allies are spending unprecedented millions to defeat President Obama and roll back the progress we've made.

If the polluters win, we'll have a president who eviscerates the EPA, who is in denial about climate change, and whose primary concern is working hand in glove with cronies in Congress to protect coal and oil profits, no matter what the cost to our communities . . .

. . . This election is about more than one candidate's career—it's about the future for all of us. What we've achieved is only the beginning. We need you to stand with us to help reelect President Obama and lead his next administration toward a clean energy future.

Obama was elected to office accompanied by extremely high expectations from the electorate. Every interest group that felt left out by the Bush administration's pro-corporate agenda expected Obama to leap tall build-

(continued on page 3)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Contents



### General Election Voters Guide

Autumn 2012

- 2 Letter from the Chair
- 3 You Can't Vote If You're Not Registered
- 4 Congressional Endorsements: Who Gets Our Vote and Why
- 4 Money in Politics: This Time, It's Different
- 5 Our Congressional Candidates
- 7 How to Write a Letter to the Editor
- 7 Nominations Sought for State and Local Leadership Positions
- 8 Cliff-Notes for the Sierra Club
- 9 Big Energy Campaigns to Open Maryland to Fracking
- 9 Greater Baltimore Group's Environmental Challenges
- 10 Maryland Chapter Leaders
- 12 What's an Easy Step You Can Take to Move Beyond Coal?
- 13 Up on the Roof
- 13 Grassroots Opposition to Coal Is International
- 14 Scene from the River: Experiencing the Beyond Coal Outing
- 15 Magnificent Support for the Mattawoman
- 15 Letters to the Editor— More Tick Talk
- 16 Outings
- 19 BICO Outings

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

## Letter from the Chair



David O'Leary, Chapter Chair

Over the past several months, I've been watching the Ken Burns' documentary, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. In addition to interesting history and beautiful images, watching the series has provided an opportunity for proud reflection on the role of the Sierra Club in establishing and protecting our amazing parks. From John Muir's advocacy on behalf of Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks in California's Sierra Nevada mountains, to David Brower's leadership of the fights to protect Dinosaur National Monument and Grand Canyon National Park, the Club has provided a prominent voice for the parks. One of the final scenes of the documentary is President Jimmy Carter's signing the legislation that established and expanded several national parks and monuments in Alaska in December of 1980, after Carter had lost his bid for re-election but before he left office. The historical component of the documentary did not continue past 1980, when Ronald Reagan was elected.

### **Remembering James Watt**

I'll reveal my age by sharing that I was in high school in 1980. One of the first high-profile environmental issues I remember was the controversy over the actions of two of President Reagan's appointees, James Watt, as Secretary of the Interior, and Anne Gorsuch, as the EPA Administrator. Watt proposed that all undeveloped land in the country, including designated wilderness areas, be opened to drilling within twenty years, that regulations be reduced for industrial activity on public land, and that funding be cut for many programs. Gorsuch sought significantly reduced funding for the EPA, and cut staff and reduced enforcement and penalties on polluters. The blatant actions of these two public officials quickly drew the attention of the environmental community, since they were so far from mainstream views and would have resulted in significant impacts to the environment and programs to protect the environment and public health. Public response to their proposals was so strong that both Watt and Gorsuch were no longer in their positions within two years.

How do these events of thirty years ago matter to us now? As Senator Barbara Boxer said in a hearing af-

ter she became chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee in 2009, "Elections matter." As we progress through this election year, the environment is not one of the top issues discussed by most of the candidates. But we can be certain that the 2012 election will matter to the environment, as it did in 1980. We are still recovering from damage done and precedents set during the Reagan administration and, more recently, the Bush administration. Vice President Cheney's Energy Task Force resulted in policies that the Sierra Club works against every day. The calls of "Drill, Baby, Drill!" heard regularly before the 2008 election, continue to ring out.

While some actions taken by the Obama administration are unacceptable to us as environmentalists, the difference between our situation now compared to the Bush (and Reagan) years is stark. Given the environmental challenges that we face—climate change, polluted air and water, habitat destruction, species extinction, and others—we can't afford four more years of weaker regulations, reduced funding, and lax enforcement. I encourage you to read through this issue, register, vote, and get involved in the elections—because "Elections matter."

### **Pride in the Maryland Chapter**

The Maryland Chapter has had a lot to be proud of over the past several months.

Congratulations to Nicole Veltre, Baltimore Inner City Outings Chair, who was recognized with a national Sierra Club award for her work in leading efforts to help young people experience the outdoors.

The Beyond Coal campaign conducted a kayak trip, based on our experience running similar educational trips to protect the Mattawoman Creek, to raise awareness about the Wagner coal-burning plant which continues to pollute the air near Baltimore. The success of our conservation outings program was profiled at the Club's annual meeting last month. Thanks Jan Hoffmaster, chapter outings chair; Laurel Imlay, Chapter Coordinator; and the many trip leaders who contribute to these efforts.

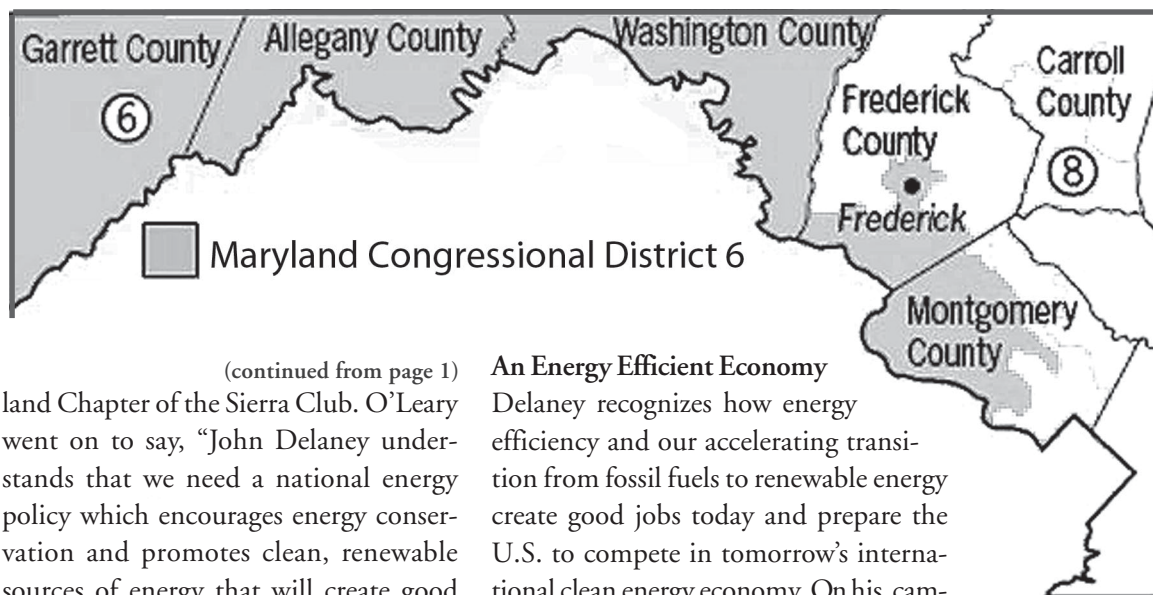
Our interns have helped out in numerous ways over the summer—planning events, making phone calls, conducting research, and updating the calendar, the web site, and the member database. Thanks to all of you for your efforts!

It is great to see so much going on—but there is so much more to do. If you would like to get involved, please

(continued on page 8)



## Sierra Club Endorses John Delaney for MD Congressional District 6



(continued from page 1)

land Chapter of the Sierra Club. O'Leary went on to say, "John Delaney understands that we need a national energy policy which encourages energy conservation and promotes clean, renewable sources of energy that will create good jobs in this country and contribute to a healthier future."

### An Energy Efficient Economy

Delaney recognizes how energy efficiency and our accelerating transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy create good jobs today and prepare the U.S. to compete in tomorrow's international clean energy economy. On his campaign website ([www.delaney2012.com](http://www.delaney2012.com)), he notes that "policies that encourage the energy-efficient economy will have an enormous payback in jobs, savings, productivity, and reduced military burdens." And Delaney's experience as the founder of CapitalSource Bank, which provides financing for small to mid-sized companies, allows him to respond with authority to those who argue that promoting renewable energy and enforcing EPA air

and water protection regulations are "job-killers."

Delaney is in a tough race against Roscoe Bartlett, a 20-year incumbent who has consistently voted against climate-change bills and for bills restricting the EPA's ability to control carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. Delaney needs our help! If you can

make a donation, now is the time to do it at his website, [www.delaney2012.com](http://www.delaney2012.com). If you have some time to work on Delaney's campaign, go to his website and volunteer. And, if you live in District 6, be sure to vote for John Delaney this November.

*David Hauck chairs the Maryland Chapter's Political Committee.*

## President Obama Needs Your Help

(continued from page 1)

ings in a single bound in support of their agenda. No president could live up to those expectations and, indeed, Obama's performance on the environment disappointed many of us. But despite these disappointments, Obama made some significant advances, as Michael Brune details in his email. And, there's no doubt that the alternative would be disastrous not just for the environment. I fear this would be a very different country if Romney were elected along with a Republican Congress for four years.

I am working every week phone banking for the Obama campaign in Bethesda. We desperately need more volunteers. I am asking you to step up and give whatever time you have available to this important election. If you would be willing to volunteer please call me at 301-656-4948. Time is running out.

*Betsy Johnson is the immediate past chair of the Maryland Chapter Political Committee and now serves as Political Vice Chair.*

## Create an Environmental Legacy.



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

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

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:  
**Sierra Club**  
**Gift Planning Program**  
85 Second Street, Second Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
[gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org) • (800) 932-4270

## You Can't Vote If You're Not Registered

**By David Hauck**—As the other articles in this newsletter keep repeating—this is an important election! We are being presented this November with two very different views about whether we as a nation need to take action to address climate change, encourage renewable energy, continue to work to reduce air and water pollution, and preserve our natural environment. But if you're not registered to vote, you don't get to have a say.

So, if you've never registered to vote, or if you've just moved to Maryland, changed your address within Maryland or changed your name, here's what you have to do.

But before we lay out the "step-by-step,"

keep in mind that the **deadline** to register is **October 16<sup>th</sup>**.

How to register to vote or report a new address or name change:

**Step 1:** Fastest way is to register online <https://voterservices.elections.state.md.us/OnlineVoterRegistration>

You will need to provide your Maryland driver's license number **or** a Maryland-issued state ID number **or** (if you do not have either of these), the last four digits of your Social Security number.

**Alternate Step 1:** You can register by mail by requesting an application from the

Maryland Board of Elections (800-222-8683, 410-269-2840), filling it out and then mailing it to:

Maryland State Board of Elections  
P.O. Box 6486  
151 West Street, Suite 200  
Annapolis, MD 21401-0486

**Step 2:** Wait for your Voter Notification Card to arrive in the mail. If it doesn't arrive within three weeks, call the Board of Elections (800-222-8683, 410-269-2840).

*David Hauck chairs the Maryland Chapter's Political Committee.*



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

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

Join today and receive  
a **FREE Sierra Club  
Weekender Bag!**



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

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

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

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,  
P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041  
or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

F94Q W

## Congressional Endorsements

### Who Gets Our Vote and Why

By **Betsy Johnson**—Environmentalists in most Maryland Congressional districts are fortunate to have representatives who take environmental protection seriously. This is reflected in their scores on the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) scorecard ([lcv.org](http://lcv.org)).

In evaluating incumbents for endorsement we take into account the dynamics of their district (liberal/conservative), their leadership on any issues, as well as their current and lifetime scores on the scorecard. For example, an incumbent who represents a more conservative district may receive our endorsement even if his or her LCV score is not as high as others in the delegation but is high for

incumbents in comparable districts. In a liberal district, our standard may be higher than average and may depend on the dynamics of the race. The Sierra Club has this policy because we've found it to be critical to our lobbying efforts. Members do not respond well when they repeatedly vote the way we ask them to and then we turn around and endorse their opponent in the election.

Endorsements at all levels must be approved by a 2/3 vote of two levels of the Club. For federal endorsements the MD Chapter Executive Committee and the National Political Committee are the approving levels.

On the opposite page you can see the current LCV score (2011) and the member's lifetime score. Note that we have not made any endorsement in District 1. Despite the fact that we have reached out to Andy Harris's opponent, Wendy Rosen, we have not heard back from her. District 6 (Western MD, Catocin and parts of Montgomery County) is now a very competitive district thanks to redistricting and we encourage all Sierra Club members to get involved in helping to elect John Delaney; see article on page 1.

*Betsy Johnson is the immediate past chair of the Maryland Chapter Political Committee and now serves as Political Vice Chair*

## Money and Politics: This Time, It's Different

By **David Hauck**—Four years ago, the Obama campaign harnessed social media and the internet to bring in unprecedented amounts of political contributions from small donors. Nothing like it had ever been seen in previous presidential elections and several commentators talked about how the ability to raise hundreds of millions of dollars from millions of small donors represented a turning point in campaign finance. In future elections, they said, candidates could avoid the corrupting influence of, and dependence on, large donors with special interests and, instead, tap into a vast network of small donors. But this optimistic scenario was snuffed out by the 2010 Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (FEC).

In the *Citizens United* decision, five of the nine Supreme Court justices found that political spending is a form of protected speech under the First Amendment to the Constitution, and that corporations and unions could spend unlimited amounts of money to support or oppose

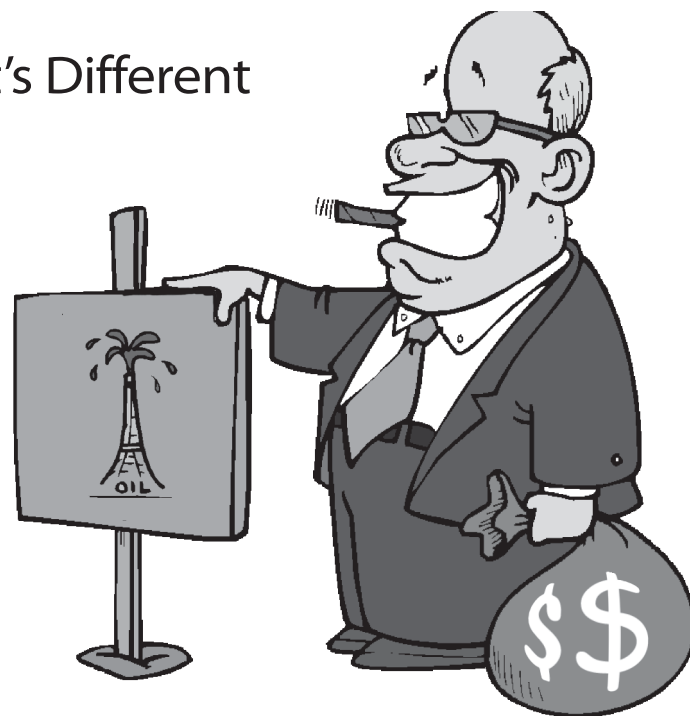
individual candidates as long as these efforts were not coordinated with the candidate's campaign. Although there have always been loopholes that corporations, wealthy individuals and unions willing to skirt the edges of campaign finance laws could use, the legal ambiguities that hung over them restricted this from happening. After *Citizens United* those legal clouds disappeared, and large donors poured money into the 2010 congressional races.

### The Avenues Contributions Take

These unlimited political contributions flow through two channels. The best known are the **super PACs** (super politi-

cal action committees), which can spend money to encourage voters to choose or oppose a candidate through ads, mailings and phone calls as long as these activities are not coordinated with the candidate's campaign. These PACs are "super" because, unlike a candidate's own PAC, which is legally limited in the amount it can receive from a single donor, they can

(continued on page 6)





# Voters Guide

Office  
**Senate**  
Endorsed Candidate  
**Ben Cardin**  
2011 LCV Score  
**100%**  
Lifetime LCV Score  
(as of 2010)  
**90%**  
Things to Note  
**Leader on many issues**



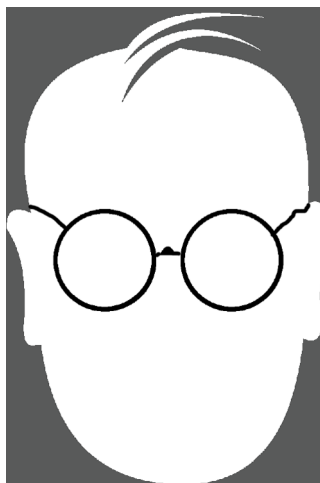
Office  
**House Dist. 3**  
Endorsed Candidate  
**John Sarbanes**  
2011 LCV Score  
**97%**  
Lifetime LCV Score  
(as of 2010)  
**95%**  
Things to Note  
**No Child Left Inside Act**



Office  
**House Dist. 6**  
Endorsed Candidate  
**John Delaney**  
2011 LCV Score  
**n/a**  
Lifetime LCV Score  
(as of 2010)  
**n/a**  
Things to Note  
**See article page 1**



Office  
**House Dist. 1**  
Endorsed Candidate  
**NONE**  
2011 LCV Score  
**n/a**  
Lifetime LCV Score  
(as of 2010)  
**n/a**  
Things to Note  
Current incumbent, Andy Harris, has LCV score of 9%



Office  
**House Dist. 4**  
Endorsed Candidate  
**Donna Edwards**  
2011 LCV Score  
**97%**  
Lifetime LCV Score  
(as of 2010)  
**96%**  
Things to Note  
**Leader on many issues**



Office  
**House Dist. 7**  
Endorsed Candidate  
**Elijah Cummings**  
2011 LCV Score  
**100%**  
Lifetime LCV Score  
(as of 2010)  
**94%**  
Things to Note  
**Leader on many issues**



Office  
**House Dist. 2**  
Endorsed Candidate  
**Dutch Ruppersberger**  
2011 LCV Score  
**89%**  
Lifetime LCV Score  
(as of 2010)  
**85%**  
Things to Note  
**Bay Restoration**



Office  
**House Dist. 5**  
Endorsed Candidate  
**Steny Hoyer**  
2011 LCV Score  
**97%**  
Lifetime LCV Score  
(as of 2010)  
**77%**  
Things to Note  
**Minority Leader**



Office  
**House Dist. 8**  
Endorsed Candidate  
**Chris Van Hollen**  
2011 LCV Score  
**100%**  
Lifetime LCV Score  
(as of 2010)  
**99%**  
Things to Note  
**Leader on energy and Bay issues**



## Voters Guide

### Money and Politics: This Time, It's Different

(continued from page 4)

accept unlimited amounts of money. Super PACs are legally required to disclose the names of their donors to the FEC, which is why, for the most part, corporations do not give them money and, therefore, avoid possible negative publicity or consumer reaction.

#### Secret Donors

In order to provide a way for publicity-shy corporations and individuals to invest large sums of money to influence elections, a second, lesser-known channel has been created. **Social welfare groups** can be established under section 501(c)(4) of the federal tax code to promote broad community interests. Because they are not technically political organizations, they do not report the names of their donors to the FEC. Under the guise of informing the community about public policy issues, the 501(c)(4) social welfare groups associated with super PACs run ads criticizing candidates that they want to see defeated.

In 2010, these 501(c)(4) social welfare groups outspent super PACs by a 3:2 margin. So far in 2012, social welfare groups and their anonymous donors have spent nearly twice as much as the super PACs in their efforts to defeat President Obama, Democratic senators from swing states, and Democratic representatives from closely contested districts.

#### Big Polluters, Big Money

The amounts of money being raised and spent by conservative super PACs and their affiliated 501(c)(4) groups are enormous. The Koch brothers, who made their billions in the oil industry, are planning to raise \$400 million, including their own \$100 million donation. Groups run by Karl Rove are aiming to spend at least \$340 million. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce plans to raise \$100 million from large corporations. Altogether, these



conservative groups intend to spend close to \$1 billion on the 2012 election. This dwarfs the amount being raised by super PACs and 501(c)(4) organizations allied with the Democratic Party and exceeds the record \$750 million spent by the Obama campaign in 2008.

So, what do the donors want in return for all this money? The ideal result would be Mitt Romney in the White House, a Republican majority in the Senate (achieved by picking up at least four seats), and a continued Republican majority in the House. With conservative control of the executive and legislative branches, the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory efforts to address greenhouse gas emissions and other toxic air and water pollutants coming from power plants, refineries and hydrofracking operations would be gutted. Federal incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency, already curtailed, would disappear. And "drill, baby, drill" would become our national energy policy.

#### What Sierra Club Members Can Do

- ♦ Make donations to candidates that support our environmental goals with particular attention to Sierra Club-endorsed senatorial candidates in tight races (e.g., Bill Nelson, Florida; Elizabeth Warren, Massachusetts; Bob Kerry, Nebraska; Sherrod Brown, Ohio; Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin). The conservative super PACs and social welfare organizations are running negative ads against many of them, and we can help ensure they have the resources to respond.

- ♦ Volunteer some time for a campaign. One of the House seats the Democrats hope to pick up is right here in Maryland. We have endorsed John Delaney in that race, and he has a good chance of winning what will be a tight election. (See the article in this issue of the *Chesapeake* about why the Sierra Club endorsed John Delaney.) You can help his campaign even if you do not live in his district.

- ♦ By all means VOTE. ■

*David Hauck chairs the Maryland Chapter's Political Committee.*

#### Armchair Activist?



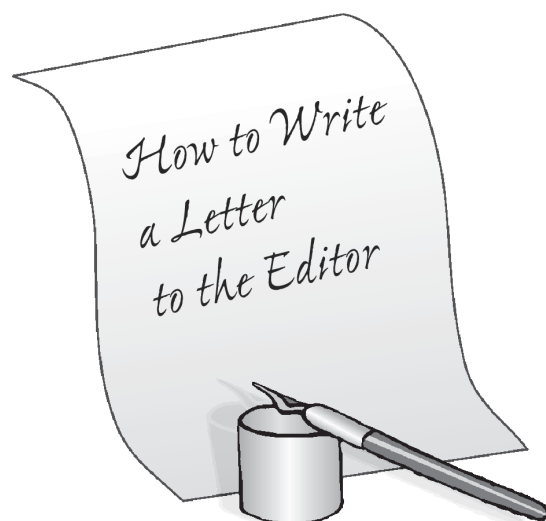
**Join the  
Maryland Chapter's  
e-mail action alert list**

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



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

—Louis L'Amour



The majority of Marylanders know little about the candidates' environmental records.

You can amplify or correct the information that is being published by writing a letter to the editor of your newspaper when you see that environmental issues are not being dealt with completely or accurately.

Many people read letters to the editor. They are a quick, effective and accessible means of communicating your message to a wide audience. They can be used to correct and clarify facts in a news story, editorial or op-ed piece; oppose or support actions of an official agency; direct attention to a problem; spur news editors to cover an issue that is being overlooked; and urge readers to support your cause or candidate.

Use these hints to improve the chances that your letter will be selected for publication.

**Select a current topic.** Newspapers rarely publish letters about topics that are not being covered in the news. Referring to a previously published article or column will increase your letter's chances of being published.

**Research the guidelines.** Most papers limit the length of letters to the editor to 250 words. Stick to your newspaper's word limit so that an editor does not cut

the important points of your letter. Some papers require that all letters be typed; others will only accept e-mail. Often newspapers want your address and phone number so they can verify that you wrote the letter. You can usually find a paper's guidelines on the "letters" page. If not, call the paper directly or visit its web site.

**Assume nothing.** Do not assume that your readers are informed on your topic. Give a

concise but informative background before plunging into the main issue. Refer to any newspaper article or editorial by date and title. Also include any relevant credentials that prove you are informed about your topic.

**Be brief.** State your position succinctly without eliminating necessary detail. Keep your paragraphs short. Long rambling sentences and digressions will cause people to lose interest quickly. Stick to one subject.

**Maintain composure.** It is okay to express outrage, but it should be kept under control. Avoid personal attacks and focus instead on criticizing specific policies or ideas.

**Find a local angle.** Readers are more interested in an issue when they see how it affects their lives and communities. Find a way to show how environmental policies will affect the paper's readers.

**Avoid form letters.** Do not send the same letter to two competing papers in the same circulation area. If you send the same letter to papers in different markets, each should look like an original and be signed individually. ■

### Nominations Sought for State and Local Leadership Positions

Each year, the Maryland Chapter and our nine local groups hold elections for delegates to their executive committees.

The Sierra Club is a grassroots environmental organization that elects its own volunteer leadership from among its members. Every member is entitled to vote and to run for leadership positions in the club. The executive committees elected at the state and local levels run the chapter and the local groups, and determine the policies and responses to the many environmental challenges we face in Maryland. These elected leaders develop and support our legislative agenda, set priorities for conservation campaigns, facilitate communication between the chapter and the groups, and manage the finances at the state and local level.

#### State Leadership

This winter, the members of the chapter will elect three "at-large" delegates to serve two-year terms on the committee. 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.

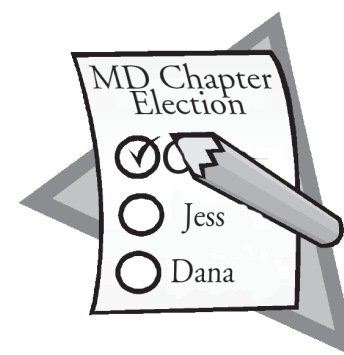
While experience on a group's executive committee would be helpful, it is not necessary. Your work and life experience, and your common sense, are equally important ingredients.

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](mailto: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 15**. 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.



#### Local Leadership

This year 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 15**. Following are the contact numbers and areas of jurisdiction for our nine groups:

(continued on page 8)



## Chapter News

### Nominations Sought for State and Local Leadership Positions

(continued from page 7)

#### 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

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)

Sam White, 301-264-4162, sam@cedarrockfarm.org

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. ■

### Cliff-Notes for the Maryland Sierra Club

By Josh Tulkin—I'm writing this column at the end of August, and it will appear as autumn approaches, almost a year since I started as Director of the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter. But it already feels like a lifetime.

Let's be honest: the Sierra Club is a complicated organization. As an outsider, I witnessed the amazing work of the Club. It seemed no matter where you went, no matter what issue, Sierra Club volunteers were there in force, and always with a title or committee that made me wonder, "Are you a volunteer or do you do this full time?"

Now, I DO this full time, and I am still confused at times. We accomplish a lot, but our process is not easy to navigate. As I approach my anniversary, I want to share a few thoughts and insights. I hope they will help others to more easily understand how our Chapter works, and to find ways to explore their passion for the environment, help protect Maryland's natural beauty, and keep our air and water clean.

#### How We're Structured

Let's start with our structure. If you are receiving this, you probably know that Sierra Club is a democratic organization run by its members. These members—you—elect a state (chapter) executive committee (excom), which determines the direction of the organization, from campaigns to staff hiring. I'd like to think they do a good job . . . they hired me. The excom makes many big-picture decisions, like those concerning budgeting and staffing. But to help set our direction, you don't need to run for office or get elected; you can just get involved. We have issue committees, local groups, and campaigns that offer many ways for volunteers to shape what the Sierra Club works on and how.

#### How the Chapter Is Staffed

Next, I want to introduce the staff. Many of you know Laurel Imlay, our Chapter

Coordinator and veteran staff member. Thanks to some excellent work by our fundraising committee and other support, we've been able to add four additional staff members, including myself, focused on conservation and outreach. Claudia Friedetzky coordinates our clean water and Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts. If you want to protect your local creek or help with statewide cleanup, she is your first point of contact. Christine Hill coordinates our climate and energy work. In partnership with the Energy Committee led by Rich Reis, we launched a campaign to retire Maryland's oldest coal-fired power plants. Vidal Hines, the newest addition to our team, is a grassroots organizer extraordinaire, focusing specifically on outreach in Prince George's County for offshore wind.

#### Our Local Groups

Last but not least, our Groups (with a capital G) lead Sierra Club's local efforts. Sometimes they advance the local aspect of a statewide campaign, such as lobbying a local representative on wind or water. But many groups pursue local issues, such as protecting local forests or cleaning up waterways.

The beauty of Sierra Club is that it's not just an organization; it's a tool. But as we grow, the system can get complex, and we want to make sure it doesn't scare folks away. Just remember we are here to help. If you want to get involved with one of our campaigns, if you have an idea or project you'd like to start, or if you want to get involved but don't know where to start, we are here. Call us, send us an email, or just drop by the office. Take the first step; we'll help with the rest.

I'm looking forward to another exciting year with the Club, and hoping we can make it just a little bit easier for everyone else to find a way to help. ■

*Josh Tulkin, josh.tulkin@sierraclub.org, is the Director of the Maryland Chapter. The Chapter office number is 301-277-7111.*

### Letter from the Chair

(continued from page 2)

contact one of the chapter leaders listed in the directory in this issue, or call the chapter office at 301-277-7111. Consider

serving on the executive committee of the chapter and or one of the local Groups—information about nominations appears on page 7. ■



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!



## Chapter News

### Big Energy Campaigns to Open Maryland to Fracking

#### *Join the Maryland Chapter in Supporting the Clean Energy of the Future*

Big Energy is stepping up its campaign to open Maryland to fracking, and the Sierra Club is working hard to slow this ill-conceived and dangerous speeding train. Your help is making our fight possible.

With your support, we engaged concerned citizens and other environmental groups across Maryland to have the state halt industry's headlong rush to begin fracking.

We led the fight that led to a moratorium, allowing time for experts to study the threats posed by this dangerous method of extracting natural gas from underground shale. Documented cases of poisoned wells and strong indications of threatened aquifers and destabilized geologic formations abound: the potential dangers to our people and environment are very, very real.

But here's some good news: Because of the foresight of Maryland Sierra Club activists decades ago, we find ourselves today able to play a vital, key role in slowing the fracking train.

In the 1970s the Sierra Club reached agreement with what has become Dominion Energy, a natural gas production and storage company, to prevent their Cove Point LNG (liquid natural gas) import facility in Calvert County from expanding into sensitive land near Calvert Cliffs State Park. That agreement ensures that the facility can't expand, or switch to exports, without our permission. That's crucial, because Dominion now wants to use Cove Point **to export** one billion cubic feet daily of fracked natural gas, blasted from Western Maryland and Pennsylvania shale.

Because of that work 40 years ago, updated in a 2005 settlement agreement, we today have the right to prevent Cove Point from exporting that flood of fracked gas, and we've done just that. We're defending our legal rights, and working to organize more support to protect the Western Shore.

It's going to be a major courtroom fight, and we'll need our members' financial support to win it. Can we count on your help? The future lies in conservation, in wind, in solar, in geothermal and other energy sources, not in further destruction of our environment.

Please help us with whatever you can as we battle the billion-dollar Dominion Energy company to protect Maryland. Mail your check to

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

Thank you so much for your support!

### Greater Baltimore Group's Environmental Challenges

By Chris Yoder—Here's what's happening in the Greater Baltimore area, from air quality to zoning.

#### *National Recognition*

Twenty-eight "Modern-Day Muirs" received national awards from the Sierra Club at an August 4th ceremony in San Francisco. **Nicole Veltre-Luton** of Shadyside, Maryland, chair of the Club's Baltimore Inner City Outings program (BICO), was presented with the **Madelyn Pyeatt Award** in recognition of her work with youth. BICO will receive \$500 in recognition of this award. BICO offers a rewarding opportunity for volunteers to make a difference in the lives of Baltimore children by expanding their horizons into our natural world. Contact BICO at [baltimoreinnercityoutings@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoreinnercityoutings@gmail.com) or 410-357-6242 to see how you can help out. Check out the website at <http://ico.sierraclub.org/baltimore/>.

#### *Waste to Energy Incinerator*

A corporation named "Energy Answers" is threatening residents of Baltimore's Curtis Bay and the integrity of Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio. The company has proposed to burn 4,000 tons a day of mixed industrial waste at a location very near to residential housing and less than a mile from an elementary school

and a middle school. People living in the area already pay a heavy environmental price from impacts of current and past industrial activities, traffic-related air pollution, and other sources.

The proposed incinerator would burn automobile scrap, tires, wood scrap, garbage, and other wastes and would be one of the largest waste incinerators in the United States. The Maryland legislature paved the way for Energy Answers when they responded to the company's lobbying and enacted SB 690, which allows the company to seek Renewable Energy Credits for electricity it generates. Those credits were, of course, originally intended to encourage clean renewable sources of energy like wind and solar.

On short notice, the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) scheduled a public hearing on August 30. The Sierra Club joined other advocates in asking the PSC to delay the hearing so as to allow the public more opportunity to understand the issues raised by the proposal. In any event, Greater Baltimore Group volunteers will go to bat for Curtis Bay residents and the environment upon which they depend.

#### *Air Quality*

BG&E's C.J. Crane coal-fired generating  
(continued on page10)



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

Vote in the  
general election  
November 6.

## Chapter News

### Greater Baltimore Group's Environmental Challenges

(continued from page 9)

station is one of Maryland's oldest and most polluting sources of electricity. Volunteers organized by Maryland Chapter summer interns, supervised by staff member Chris Hill, raised the visibility of the plant's pollution with a "canoe in" on August 11. Our goal is a simple one: close this polluting dinosaur and replace its generating capacity with clean renewable energy (and that does not mean energy from polluting waste-to-energy plants—see above). See page 14 for a story and pictures of this wonderful event.

#### *Natural Gas Pipeline*

The Columbia Gas Company proposes doubling the capacity of the natural gas pipeline running through northern Baltimore County into Harford County by constructing a parallel pipeline. The company claims the project will not increase its capacity to transport gas but is needed only to ensure reliability in the event there is a problem in the existing pipeline. Greater Baltimore Group volunteers testified at a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Hearing, asking the FERC to cast a skeptical eye on the stated justification for the \$100 million project. It is not believable that the company would spend that much money to buy what would be in essence only a "spare tire" in the event the existing pipeline develops a flat. Perhaps the real goal is to create capacity to transport fracked gas from Pennsylvania to an export terminal? Group volunteers asked the FERC to demand a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluating the project's total impact including fracking and increased gas production, not just the (real and significant) local impacts of pipeline construction.

#### *Baltimore County Zoning*

Baltimore County is in the midst of its quadrennial revision of the County Comprehensive Zoning and Mapping Plan. This is the time when developers come out of the woodwork asking for sprawl-

facilitating zoning changes. Group volunteers, led by Janet Schollenberger, are hard at work urging the County Council to stick by the existing plan and, most importantly, to protect the integrity of the County's half century old Urban-Rural Demarkation Line (URDL), the Baltimore area's most important protection against sprawl.

#### *Water Quality*

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) released weak nutrient management regulations on June 29. Greater Baltimore Group volunteers testified at a July 10 regional hearing in Bel Air and urged MDA to strengthen those regulations.

#### *Accounting for Growth*

Group volunteers testified at a July 31 MDA, Maryland Department of Planning, and Maryland Department of the Environment joint forum on "Accounting for Growth," about meeting future water quality standards in the light of projected population growth and development.

#### *Transportation*

Group volunteers continue to work for non-motorized transportation options through the citizens advisory committee of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB).

#### *Group Election*

The leadership of the Greater Baltimore Group consists of an elected executive committee. ExCom service offers you an opportunity to help set the tone for environmental leadership in the Baltimore area. We invite you to seek a place on the election ballot by sending a brief statement of your background and goals for the Group to the Group Chair, Chris Yoder at 5701 Rusk Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215. ■

*Chris Yoder chairs the Greater Baltimore Group.*

## Maryland Chapter Leaders

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**David O'Leary, Chapter Chair, At-Large Del. (2012)**  
301-580-8673  
dave.oleary@mdsierra.org

**Ron Henry, Vice Chair, At-Large Del (2012)**  
443-474-7449  
ron.henry@mdsierra.org

**Karen Moody, At-Large Del. (2011)**  
443-789-1638  
karen.moody@mdsierra.org

**Rich Reis, At-Large Del. (2011)**  
301-325-8001  
rich.reis@mdsierra.org

**Baird Straughan, At-Large Del. (2011)**  
410-757-4134  
baird.straughan@mdsierra.org

**David Hauck, At-Large Del (2012)**  
301-270-5826  
david.hauck@Maryland.sierraclub.org

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

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

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

**Sally Ann Cooper, Howard Del.**

**David Sears, Montgomery Del.**  
david.sears@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Alex Hirtle, Pr. Geo's Del.**  
chair.pg@mdsierra.org  
301-927-2105

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

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

### GROUP CHAIRS

**ANNE ARUNDEL GROUP**  
**David Prosten**  
410-263-6341 or 410-703-0847  
dprosten@yahoo.com

**CATOCTIN GROUP (CARROLL, FREDERICK, WASHINGTON COUNTIES.)**  
**Dan Andrews**  
410-857-4129  
dooze@qis.net

**EASTERN SHORE GROUP (CECIL COUNTY AND EASTERN SHORE COUNTIES)**  
**Don Grace**  
410-352-3722  
don.grace@mdsierra.org

**GREATER BALTIMORE GROUP (BALTIMORE CITY AND COUNTY, HARFORD COUNTY)**  
**Chris Yoder**  
410-466-2462  
cncyoder@comcast.net

**HOWARD COUNTY GROUP**  
**Ken Clark**  
301-725-3306  
kenclark7@live.com

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY GROUP**  
**Alvin Carlos**  
alvin.carlos@maryland.sierraclub.org

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GROUP**  
**Alex Hirtle**  
chair.pg@mdsierra.org  
301-927-2105

**SOUTHERN MARYLAND GROUP (CALVERT, CHARLES, AND ST. MARY'S COUNTIES)**  
**Frank Fox**  
301-884-8027  
ff725@yahoo.com

**WESTERN MARYLAND GROUP (ALLEGANY AND GARRETT COUNTIES)**  
**Sam White**  
301-264-4162  
sam.white@Maryland.Sierraclub.org

continued ➞



# Maryland Chapter Leaders

←continued

## ISSUES CHAIRS

### Conservation Chair

Vacant

### Chris Yoder, Conservation Co-Chair

410-466-2462

Chris.Yoder@mdsierra.org

### Sam White, Agriculture, CAFO, True Cost of Food (True Cost of Food) Chair

301-264-4162,

sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org

### Cliff Terry, Campaign Finance Reform Chair

410-944-9477

cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

### Charlie Garlow, Air Quality Chair

301-593-9823

charlie.garlow@juno.com

### Marc Imlay, Biodiversity, ESA, Invasive Species, and Habitat Stewardship Chair

301-283-0808

marc.imlay@maryland.sierraclub.org

### David O'Leary, Global Warming, Cool Cities Chair

dave.oleary@mdsierra.org

### Rich Reis, Energy Chair

301-325-8001

rich.reis@mdsierra.org

### Bonnie Bick, Environmental Justice Chair, Mattawoman Campaign Chair

240-493-4919

bonnie.bick@maryland.sierraclub.org

### Caroli Mullen, Blue Green Alliance

410-366-6953

carolimullen@verizon.net

### Chris Yoder, National Wilderness/Refuges/Mining Chair

410-466-2462

Chris.Yoder@mdsierra.org

### Kim Birnbaum, Pesticides Chair

410-379-1075

Kim.Birnbaum@maryland.sierraclub.org

### Cliff Terry, Population Chair

410-944-9477

cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

### Sam B. Hopkins, Population Vice Chair

410-554-0006

sbh@hopkinsandassociates.com

### Earl Bradley, Right Whale

410-224-3236

earlbradley@verizon.net

### Fred Tutman, Stormwater Mgmt Chair

301-249-8200 ext 7

fred@paxriverkeeper.org

## ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACTS

### Ron Henry, Council Del.

443-474-7449

ron.henry@mdsierra.org

### Baird Straughan, Fundraising Chair

410-757-4134

baird.straughan@mdsierra.org

### Legislative Chair (Vacant)

### Jan Hoffmaster, Outings Chair

jan.hoffmaster@mdsierra.org

410-507-0801

### Mike Pretl, PAC Treasurer

443-323-3060, 410-562-5292c

mikepretl@aol.com

### David Hauck, Political Chair

301-270-5826

david.hauck@Maryland.sierraclub.org

### Charlie Garlow, Political Compliance Officer

charlie.garlow@juno.com

### Steve Lonker, Postmaster

postmaster@maryland.sierraclub.org

### Nancy Hammond, Treasurer

nancy.hammond@mdsierra.org

### Laura Glass, Assistant Treasurer

laura.glass@mdsierra.org

### Rick Andrews, Webmaster

andrews4art@yahoo.com

## ACTIVITIES SECTIONS CONTACTS

### John Genakos, Baltimore Outdoor Sierrans

BaltimoreSierrans@gmail.com

### Bob Burchard & Nicole Veltre

Baltimore Inner City Outings Chairs

baltimoreinnercityoutings@gmail.com

http://ico.sierraclub.org/baltimore/

## CHAPTER STAFF

### Josh Tulkin, Chapter Director

josh.tulkin@sierraclub.org

301-277-7111o / 301-244-9405c

### Laurel Imlay, Chapter Coordinator

laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org

301-277-7111

### Claudia Friedetzky, Chapter Conservation Representative (water issues)

claudia.friedetzky@sierraclub.org

301-277-7111

### Chris Hill, Chapter Conservation Representative (energy issues)

chris.hill@sierraclub.org

301-277-7111

### Vidal Hines, Prince George's Conservation Project Coordinator

vidal.hines@sierraclub.org

301-277-7111o / 301-247-5577c

**Office:** 7338 Baltimore Avenue, #111

College Park, MD 20740

Tel: 301-277-7111, Fax: 301-277-6699

http://maryland.sierraclub.org



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
- ☐ 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) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Maryland Chapter/Sierra Club  
7338 Baltimore Ave., Ste. 111  
College Park, MD 20740

Voting  
is the first duty  
of  
Democracy.

## Conservation News: Beyond Coal

### What Is an Easy Step You Can Take to Move Beyond Coal? Surprise! Support Small-Scale Distributed Solar Water Heating

**By Craig Marlowe**—When many people think of clean or renewable energy solutions to burning fossil fuels, they think of offshore wind turbines, or solar electric projects. And yet right here in Maryland, we developed modern solar water heating—a small-scale clean-energy solution that can reduce coal-generated electricity demand by 10% for the average household with electric water heaters. It can be quickly implemented at a price competitive with fossil fuel and displaces no wildlife or wild places. And best of all, an initiative is underway to help you implement this clean energy solution in your home today.

#### The Forgotten Solution

Many people are surprised to learn that solar water heating was widely available in the United States prior to World War II. Why? Because it was a cost effective option! Even more surprising, modern solar water heating is a Maryland invention. In 1891, Maryland resident Clarence Kemp put a glass top over his water tank's insulated enclosure and became the first person to beneficially harness the trapped heat (the greenhouse effect) to directly heat water. Some other surprising facts:

- ♦ Because of our high electricity prices and cooler water temperatures, solar water heating is more cost effective in Maryland than in Florida!
- ♦ Fifteen to twenty percent of US residential energy is used to heat water.
- ♦ Solar water heating is the only solar energy technology that is or can quickly become economically competitive with fossil fuels without incentives. Valley Electric Association in Nevada provides solar water heating with no Federal or State incentives for less than \$30 per month, at or below the cost of

the electricity needed to heat the same amount of water.

- ♦ Because of its high efficiency and lower costs, solar water heating requires one-third of the rooftop space, at one-third the cost, to produce the same amount of energy as solar photovoltaic (PV) technology.
- ♦ The U.S. lags significantly behind the rest of the world in solar water heating adoption rates.

#### How It Works

Water, or another fluid such as antifreeze, is circulated in a rooftop collector panel to collect and transfer solar "heat" to the water in your tank. The heated water stored in your tank means hot water is always available, even at night. In cloudy weather, the tank's backup means of generating heat—electricity, natural gas, or propane—is utilized.

#### The Benefits

Mass-deployment of solar water heating doesn't just make economic sense—it also makes environmental, technological and social sense. Since we use water heated by fossil fuels or electricity generated from fossil fuels, solar water heating can meaningfully reduce their use. People have been using the sun to heat water since the Roman bathhouses. The technology is simple, inexpensive and relatively maintenance free. Solar water heating is ideally suited for widespread distributed generation since its energy (hot water) is not readily transported and is best produced where it is needed. Generating energy at the point of use relieves stress on our electricity grid infrastructure. Recent grid failures in India and the U.S. remind us how fragile and over-burdened our infrastructure can be. Solar water heating could help reduce the need for new power transmission lines that fragment the landscape and destroy habitat. Finally, learn-

ing how to mass-deploy solar water heating today builds a bridge for other clean energy technologies to follow tomorrow.

#### A New Solar Water Heating Approach in Prince George's County, Maryland

Initiated by the Maryland Legislature in 2010, the Task Force on Solar Hot Water Heating Systems, chaired by Senator Jim Rosapepe, found the main reasons Maryland consumers are not currently adopting solar water heating, despite generous incentives, are:

- 1) the current installed costs are too high for the benefits received,
- 2) the associated financing often has payments greater than the resultant energy savings, and
- 3) consumers have limited understanding of solar water heating's value proposition, technology and vendors.

The Task Force concluded that re-positioning solar water heating as a service from a trusted provider, similar to other energy utilities, could mitigate these impediments and lead to mass-deployment. Other than the widely distributed nature of solar water heating equipment, which unlike conventional electrical generation would be located on buildings throughout Maryland, mass-deployed solar water heating is similar to other existing capital intensive utility services. Deploying solar water heating as a utility service addresses the above impediments to adoption by significantly lowering installed costs, eliminating the need for consumer financing, simplifying adoption and expanding the number of households that can benefit from solar water heating.

To further the Task Force's effort and develop a replicable model, the Maryland Energy Administration and Prince George's County have jointly commenced an initiative to determine how such a utility service could be offered throughout the County. The three major goals of the

initiative are to demonstrate significantly lower installed costs for solar water heating, validate consumer demand for a cost effective program, and identify the necessary infrastructure and partners required to begin offering the program. Other participants include manufacturers, installers, lenders, utilities, the University of Maryland School of Business, and interested community groups. You can learn more at the Task Force's web site: [www.solarwatertaskforce.org](http://www.solarwatertaskforce.org).

#### How You Can Help

Over the next four months, this initiative will work with community groups such as the Sierra Club to develop a solar water heating program that maximizes consumer value, and eliminates the impediments to adoption.

You can become part of the discussion at [feedback@solarwatertaskforce.org](mailto:feedback@solarwatertaskforce.org). Tell us if you have considered adopting solar water heating and what has prevented you from adopting it. If you haven't considered solar water heating, what would convince you? Encourage others to join in this discussion. With your help, we can finish what Maryland started in 1891 by making solar water heating the first mass-deployed clean energy technology in the U.S. and take another step beyond coal. ■

*Craig Marlowe is a principal of MC<sup>2</sup>, the program manager for the Joint Maryland Energy Administration/Prince George's County Solar Water Initiative. He can be reached at 904.610.8728 or [cmarlowe@solarwatertaskforce.org](mailto:cmarlowe@solarwatertaskforce.org).*

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

~George Jean Nathan



## Conservation News: Beyond Coal

### Up on the Roof

#### SC Executive Director Michael Brune Is Going Solar—

#### And So Can You

By Michael Brune—Let me start with a confession: I'm the executive director of the country's largest environmental organization, and I don't have solar panels on my roof. Now wait a minute. Before you judge, I do have a few justifications. We have young children and funds have been tight . . . we had been planning to move for a while . . . we were saving up to buy a house, etc. All valid reasons, if I say so myself. But still, no solar.

Until now.

Last year, the Sierra Club ran a pilot program in California to spread the news to our members and supporters that there's never been a better time to add solar panels to their roofs. It was a big success, so now we're expanding to seven states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New York. If you're a homeowner in one of those states and decide to buy or lease a rooftop solar system through our partner, Sungevity, you can power your life with sunshine for as little as \$0 down.

That's not bad, but it's far from the only reason you should check out the program. As I wrote last year, solar is as green as it gets, and with the price of solar panels dropping dramatically, there's never been a more affordable time to install a system. You can help displace dirty coal, or fracked natural gas, or even nuclear power, one home at a time. You'll also lock in an affordable rate and protect yourself against soaring electricity rates in the years ahead.

The first step is to do what I did: Request a solar iQuote. By using a satellite view of your roof like the one in Google maps, Sungevity can make a preliminary estimate of your system's size. According to my iQuote, a solar system on our family's roof would eliminate about 89,000 lbs. of carbon pollution during my lease, which is the equivalent of planting 1,037 trees (or of not driving 101,915 miles).

After you supply Sungevity with data on your utility bills, they can also give you an idea of exactly how much you can expect to save (based on the plan you choose). On average, Sungevity customers save about 15 percent on their electric bills.

Generally, people who can afford to purchase a system outright will get the biggest overall savings, but there are advantages to leasing a system besides not having to write a big check (solar panels have gotten a lot cheaper recently, but they're still a significant investment for most homeowners). One is peace of mind: Sungevity is responsible for the maintenance of leased systems, and they continuously monitor performance to make sure everything's working right. And when your lease is finished, you can always opt to purchase the system at fair market value. For more on how solar leases work, see our website.

There are plenty of great solar installers across the country. The Sierra Club chose to partner with Sungevity because we support their vision to grow a grassroots movement of clean-energy homeowners. If you choose Sungevity, you'll receive a \$750 cash gift card—and Sungevity will contribute an additional \$750 to the Sierra Club. Not bad. The best reason to start harvesting all that free sunshine that's falling on your rooftop, though, is that each kilowatt hour of solar you generate either replaces electricity that might otherwise come from burning a fossil fuel like coal or natural gas. And if you charge an EV or plug-in hybrid vehicle at home, you're displacing yet another dirty fossil fuel—oil (and saving still more money).

Getting an iQuote doesn't cost anything and takes only a few minutes. If you're a homeowner like me who's been itching to go solar, give it a try—and let me know how it goes.

■

### Grassroots Opposition to Coal Is International

By Gordon Scott—The global grassroots movement against dirty, polluting coal-fired power has added another continent to the ranks of those finally moving away from the carbon-intensive fuel source: Australia. This July, the government of Australia announced that it is cancelling an A\$100 million grant to Australian conglomerate HRL for a 400-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Victoria. This is likely to be the death blow to what many believe is the last coal plant planned for Australia.

This news out of Australia marks another in a series of victories for grassroots anti-coal campaigners around the globe. The success of activists fighting the coal industry in the U.S. has been well-documented: coordinated grassroots campaigns against coal-fired

power plants across the country have resulted in the retirement or cancellation of hundreds of existing and proposed coal plants with more retirements projected.

Similar campaigns have been successful across the European Union, where coal consumption has decreased by nearly 50% over the past two decades. The recent SudWestStrom case out of Germany is representative of many battles throughout the EU: a hotly contested €3.2 billion, 1.8-gigawatt coal-fired power station, already beleaguered by economic concerns, was scrapped when it failed to obtain government clearance in the face of public opposition. The EU's Energy Roadmap 2050 calls for the complete elimination of coal in the coming decades, with much of that generation replaced by renewable energy.

#### **King Coal Seeking Markets in Developing World**

The decline of the coal industry in devel-

oped countries in the last decade has shifted the battle to developing economies, triggering a global Amazing Race of sorts with King Coal dashing around the world seeking ever-wider and more desperately for any last-remaining markets in which to push its polluting product. The result has been an upsurge in coal exports on the international market and proposals for massive coal-fired power development in emerging countries like India and China.



But the Australian case is a prime example of the story that is being repeated around the globe: everywhere King Coal rears its ugly head, local communities and grassroots movements are cropping up to drive back the beast—and they're winning.

From China to India

to Bangladesh, Burma, Colombia, Kosovo, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, and elsewhere, coal projects are coming up against surprisingly well-organized and vehement public opposition, facing strikes, 10,000-person protests, even kayak-blockades of coal ports.

Thanks to this strong and increasingly-coordinated network of anti-coal activists worldwide, fully half the world's continents are now on a path toward reducing coal consumption and the corresponding carbon emissions. With escalating campaigns in developing countries, it is becoming more and more difficult for the coal industry to maintain its foothold, bringing the inevitable global demise of coal ever closer.

■

*Gordon Scott is with the Sierra Club International Program.*

## Scene from the River: Experiencing the Beyond Coal Outing



By **Andrew Graham-Yooll**—On a beautiful Sunday afternoon I find myself strolling the banks of the Gunpowder River in the Gunpowder Falls State Park east of Baltimore, trying to spot different birds including ospreys and bald eagles—as I eventually do. After filling out the usual disclosure forms for renting a boat, I don a life vest and grab a paddle. Now we are ready.

The group of about 20 members, volunteers, and staff, lines up to be briefed about what kind of journey we are going to embark on. We are told that somewhere out there is a toxic coal-fired power plant, C.P. Crane, that spews sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere, with a staggering amount ending up in the lungs of kids in the inner city, causing asthma,

bronchitis, heart attacks and a few other things you do not ever want. And we are about to stand in the shadow of this beastly dinosaur.

Following a few interviews and photo opportunities with the *Baltimore Sun*, we hop into our brightly colored kayaks and start following our Sierra Club Outings Leaders, Jan Hoffmaster and Ken Clark. Since I have never been in a kayak before, it takes a bit of getting used to, but quickly I master all the skills needed to transport myself safely from the shore to the plant.

After about twenty minutes of paddling, I stop. Something catches my eye. How could I not have seen it? Even from a mile away, I can tell it is gigantic. Peering over the horizon like a man with two

arms propped up against the earth, the smoke stacks, with their bright orange and white striped columns would stand out to anyone. It does not belong here. It is the antithesis of everything else that I can see: trees, birds, a complex natural ecosystem of animals and plants. It just juts out of the earth like a tumor. This is C.P. Crane.

As we paddle up to a different vantage point where we can make out almost the entire structure of this monstrosity, we huddle together for a lecture on why this is a place that the Sierra Club is fighting to close down.

As of August 9, 2012, Riverstone Holdings LLC, purchased C.P. Crane, along with two other power plants, H.A. Wagner and Brandon Shores. Out of these three power plants, C.P. Crane and H.A. Wagner are failing to meet the compliance standards. This leads to the dangerously high levels of smog and soot pollution which cause countless lives to be negatively affected. The only way to meet the compliance standards would be to invest in pollution-control technologies, which will cost millions of dollars, that, needless to say, would be poured into a dying industry.

The Sierra Club has taken a firm stance on the need for another solution—healthier, cleaner and longer lasting energy sources, like wind, solar and individual efficiency. Not only does it transition us into a 21st century way of creating energy that does not put kids in the hospital, but it also is a way to create the framework for a strong economy in the future that does

not rely on a fading energy source.

As we start to head back to the shore, I question our energy sources. I think about how coal is a limited resource and that we should not take it for granted. I think about how dirty coal is and how we can do better for our children. I think about how the mountains are being blown up in Appalachia for coal to be used in plants like Wagner. We should start thinking about other ways to power our lifestyles. It's time to put coal behind us, and as I paddle back to shore, I know I have. ■

*Andrew Graham-Yoole is a Sierra Club volunteer.*

### **Q: What makes a great outing?**

### **A: Planning & participation!**

Our founder, John Muir, knew that getting people out to see and experience natural places was the best way to make them love and protect them.

Andrew's wonderful experience was organized by Conservation Intern Danielle Seeley, supervised by staffer Laurel Imlay, and Energy Intern Jimmy Hoover, supervised by staffer Chris Hill.

Chapter Outings Chair Jan Hoffmaster and Howard County Outings Chair Ken Clark attended and assisted, as did Chapter Director Josh Tulkin.

Volunteer Mike Bono acted as photographer. Other summer interns helped with planning and calling members to invite their participation.

Our Beyond Coal campaign has national support and funding, so our national staff invited and coordinated press coverage for the event.

Can you help plan and coordinate similar events to get people into the natural places you love? Call Laurel Imlay, 301-277-7111, or email to [laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org](mailto:laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org).





## Conservation News

### Magnificent Support for the Mattawoman



By Danielle Seeley—The Mattawoman Creek was full of kayakers eager to enjoy the lotus blossoms!

Over 40 participants turned out for the Maryland Sierra Club's conservation outing on Saturday, August 18. Pushing off from Up the Creek Rentals, kayakers leisurely paddled along the Creek to enjoy the lush flora and fauna. Even though the lotus blossoms were highlighted on the trip, kayakers also saw cattails, wild rice, wood ducks, and blue heron. They stopped along the way to learn about the importance of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and the largemouth bass, the history of the long-abandoned gravel dredging site, and how the Charles County 2006 Comprehensive Land Use Plan is currently threatening this pristine freshwater marsh.

Upon returning from the afternoon's trip, participants were more than willing to sign petitions and learn more about what they could do to protect this area that is so near and dear to our hearts. Leaders of the campaign, Claudia Friedetzky and Bonnie Bick, offered their inspirational input over a picnic lunch. They explained how the Mattawoman Creek is facing development threats due



to the continuation of failed land use policies of the past. If the 2006 Comprehensive Plan stays in place, it could irreversibly damage the water quality and fragile ecosystem that the Mattawoman currently provides to Charles County.

Saturday's outing boasted overwhelming support and proved that the Mattawoman Creek is still an essential part of the Charles County community. It was truly inspiring to experience. ■

*Danielle Seeley is a second-year graduate student at Bard College and current outings intern for the Maryland Chapter. This piece is from her blog post for the Activist Network.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Letters to the Editor

#### Just in Time for Autumn Hiking, More Tick Talk

In response to Fred Sypher's article "Tick Talk" in the Spring/Summer 2012 edition of *Chesapeake*, I strongly urge Sierrans NOT to take Fred's well-intentioned advice to use permethrin on their clothes and DEET on their skin.

It's wise to take precautions, including some of the ones recommended in Mr. Sypher's article, such as avoiding tall grasses, wearing long pants, and tucking in socks. Additionally, it is advisable to wear light-colored clothing (which makes it easier to see ticks so you may promptly remove them), wear a hat, use unscented personal care products such as deodorant and soap, and most importantly, check your body for ticks. However, I have to warn that exposing oneself to permethrin and DEET can be extremely dangerous. Permethrin is a possible carcinogen and a suspected endocrine disruptor. Endocrine disruptors interfere with normal hormone function, can contribute to testicular and breast cancer, birth defects, and other problems including aggravating asthma. Animal studies indicate that small amounts of permethrin may damage the immune system. Recent studies are finding that low exposures to endocrine disruptors are no less dangerous, and that there is no "safe" dose. DEET (Diethyltoluamide) has been shown in animal studies to have neurological effects. Several studies show detrimental synergistic effects of the two chemicals when combined, including linking them to Gulf War Syndrome and Parkinson's disease. (See research on permethrin, DEET and their combina-

tion at: [www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org))

I caution readers in their zeal to protect themselves from Lyme disease not to sicken themselves in the process. One has to weigh the risks and benefits in deciding when to resort to pesticides, but just as we as a chapter readily embrace a "pesticides should be used only as a last resort when all other means have been exhausted" philosophy when used in the environment, we should also embrace this same philosophy when it comes to our bodies.

—Kim Birnbaum

Sierra Club Maryland Chapter,  
Pesticide Issues Chair

I appreciated Fred Sypher's article on ticks in the most recent *Chesapeake*. The risk of Lyme disease in Maryland has more than doubled in the last 10 years. I know about 30 people who have had Lyme disease, more than have had heart disease, cancer or stroke. About one in four did not have it controlled in three months. Four are constantly suffering and no longer can work or go to social activities. The National Park Service team that does conservation work no longer gets Lyme disease because of their use of DEET and permethrin. They tell me that the research shows it is safe to use when used correctly.

Moreover, we should emphasize hikes for September rather than late spring and early summer to decrease the risk of deer ticks. Let us also advocate for medical research for Lyme disease prevention.

—Marc Imlay

Sierra Club Maryland Chapter,  
Biodiversity, ESA, Invasive Species, and  
Habitat Stewardship Chair

*Fred's article, "Tick Talk," can be found at [http://maryland.sierraclub.org/newsletter/archives/2012/06/a\\_012.asp](http://maryland.sierraclub.org/newsletter/archives/2012/06/a_012.asp).*



## Outings (General Information)

### Get Outdoors and Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet

All of our activities, including those listed below, can be viewed on the Sierra Club's Online Activity and Registration System (OARS). For activities in the Maryland Chapter, go to the chapter website, [www.maryland.sierraclub.org](http://www.maryland.sierraclub.org), and click on "Get Outdoors." In addition to the "outings," you will also be able to review upcoming social events, club support events, meetings and activist events. You can sort the list by location, type of activity, or date of activity. Sierra Club outings are open to everyone, members and non-members alike. Outings are intended to be wholesome, safe, and enjoyable experiences 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.

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 a signed permission slip, and 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 carpooling, 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. ■

## Outings (September)

### 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>

## September

**Tuesday, September 11, 2012 to Thursday, September 13, 2012**

**2208-Howard County Group**

**Outing**

**Howard County Massanutten Trail-Edinburg Gap to Shawl Gap**

**Backpack, VA**

Michael Juskelis 410-439-4964

[jalford@cablespeed.com](mailto:jalford@cablespeed.com)

Strenuous 23 mile backpack, 4000 feet elevation gain. Rocky ridge walk with views. Seasoned backpackers only. Pre-registration required.

Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, [mjuskelis@cablespeed.com](mailto:mjuskelis@cablespeed.com).

**Thursday, September 13, 2012 7:00 PM**



**2203-Montgomery County Group Social Event**

**Great Falls Group Film**

**Screening of *GrowthBusters: Hooked on Growth***

Norbert Pink 703-264-7445

Join the September meeting of the Sierra Club's Great Falls (VA) Group.

The film examines the cultural barriers that prevent us from reacting rationally to the evidence that current levels of population and consumption are unsustainable. Refreshments served at 6:30pm. The venue is the Patrick Henry Library. Free. More information on the Great Falls Sierra Club, visit <http://virginia.sierraclub.org/greatfalls/calendar/index.html>

**Saturday, September 15, 2012 9:00 AM**

**2208-Howard County Group**

**Outing**

**Howard County Blockhouse Point, MD Hike**

Ken Clark 301-725-3306

[kenclark7@live.com](mailto:kenclark7@live.com)

Moderate 8 mile hike, starting flat at

continued ➞



## Outings (September-October)

↩continued

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.

**Friday, September 21, 2012 to Sunday, September 23, 2012**  
**5051-Virginia: SCPRO Club Support Event**  
**Annual Gathering of Sierra Club Virginia Chapter**

Michael Darzi 301-580-9387 michael.darzi@saic.com  
 This year's Annual Gathering is themed for lovers of nature and the outdoors of Virginia. Hike to Buzzard Rock, enjoy a bird walk, take the outings leader training (OLT101), or simply stroll around Caroline Furnace's (www.carolinefurnace.org) 300 acres in beautiful George Washington National Forest, about two hours from Washington. The keynote speaker will be Martha C. Bogle, Superintendent of Shenandoah National Park, NPS, and we are also honored to welcome Joe Elton, Virginia State Parks Director. Of course on Saturday night, you will want to get down and boogie with musical entertainment by the Gabby Haze Band! As always, we will bring you an exciting array of speakers and special guests, demonstrations and workshops to learn about Virginia's current environmental campaigns and issues. Accommodations include cabin bunk beds with mattresses (bath houses are nearby) or tent camping. Meals are included for all day Saturday, with breakfast and lunch on Sunday; Friday we'll have a Happy Hour with light refreshments and snacks in the evening. For more

information about cost and registration see <http://action.sierraclub.org/site/Calendar?id=165621&view=Detail>.

**Saturday, September 22, 2012 8:30 AM**  
**2208-Howard County Group Outing**  
**Patapsco - Rockburn Branch Park Hike**

James Perschy 410-964-1902 jameshike@verizon.net  
 Join us for a moderate 7-8 mile hike with several stream crossings, following the Patapsco River on the Valley View Trail. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 8:30 in Rockburn Branch Park, the entrance off Landing Road one mile north of Montgomery Road; park in the lot at the end of the road under the power lines. Call James Perschy, 410-964-1902, jameshike@verizon.net.

**Saturday, September 22, 2012 to Monday, September 24, 2012**  
**2208-Howard County Group Outing**  
**Howard County Roaring Plains Base Camp Backpack, VA**  
 Michael Juskelis 410-439-4964 jalford@cablespeed.com  
 Hike in 2.5 miles and set up camp on Day 1. Hike 12-14 miles around the canyon rim with 1100 feet of elevation gain on Day 2. Retrace Day 1 steps on Day 3. Seasoned backpackers only. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

**Saturday, September 22, 2012 1:00 PM**  
**2202-Greater Baltimore Group Outing**  
**Greater Baltimore Group McKeldin Area Hike**  
 Alan Penczek 410-252-5720 apenczek@verizon.net

4 miles. Celebrate the fall Equinox with a hike. Explore diverse trail system in McKeldin Area of Patapsco Valley State Park. Meet in parking lot just past entrance station at 1:00 PM. Note: \$3 entrance fee per person. From I-70 westbound take Exit 83, Marriottsville Rd. north 4 mi. to park entrance on right. From I-70 eastbound take Exit 82, Route 40 to Marriottsville Rd. and turn left. Cancelled for steady rain or storms. For more details, call Alan at 410-252-5720 or email apenczek@stevenson.edu.

## October

**Saturday, October 06, 2012 8:00 AM**  
**2208-Howard County Group Outing**  
**Loyalsock State Forest Backpack, PA**  
 Michael Juskelis 410-439-4964 mjuskelis@cablespeed.com  
 Moderate 20 mile backpack, Loyalsock Trail-Brunnerdale Road to Worlds End State Park. 4000 feet of elevation gain with at least 4 waterfalls and 6 vistas. Seasoned backpackers only. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

**Saturday, October 06, 2012 7:30 AM**  
**5051-Virginia: SCPRO Outing**  
**Conestoga Trail (PA)**  
 Russ Norfleet 703-294-6068 russnorfleet@verizon.net  
 Ted Conwell 301-589-1513 tconwell@erols.com  
 Rated E. Challenging 11 mile hike with 3,000' of elevation change. Bluffs with spectacular views of the Susquehanna River, steep forested ravines, tumbling streams, and a cave. Leaders: Ted Conwell, (301) 589-1513, tconwell@erols.com, and

Russ Norfleet, (703) 501-7953, russnorfleet@verizon.net. Call either leader for details.

**Saturday, October 06, 2012 to Sunday, October 07, 2012**  
**2202-Greater Baltimore Group Outing**  
**Car Camping at Caledonia State Park in PA**

Jack Wise 410-256-3963 hikingjack@netzero.net  
 Camp overnight at Caledonia State Park and hike both days exploring lakes and streams in the Michaux State Forest in southern Pennsylvania. We will hike parts of the Appalachian Trail with some good views. Call Jack for details at 410-256-3963.

**Saturday, October 06, 2012 9:00 AM**  
**2208-Howard County Group Outing**  
**Great Falls Virginia Moderate Hike**  
 James Perschy 410-964-1902 jameshike@verizon.net  
 Moderate six mile hike on the cliffs overlooking the Potomac River, then along the 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.

**Saturday, October 06, 2012 10:00 AM**



**2210-Southern Maryland Group Social Event**  
**Solomons Patuxent River Appreciation Days**

Robert J Boxwell 410-394-1300  
 Visit our table at Patuxent River Appreciation Days the premier watershed happening in Southern Maryland. With a craft fair, model boat building, food court, displays, live music, free boat rides, and free

continued ➞

# Outings (October-November-December)

←continued

admission to the Calvert Marine Museum, what more could you ask for?

**Saturday, October 13, 2012 11:00 AM**



## **2210-Southern Maryland Group Social Event Riverfest Historic St. Mary's City**

Robert J Boxwell 410-394-1300  
Visit our table as we join the St. Mary's River Watershed Alliance in celebrating St. Mary's River and our connection to the water. Wade-in with Bernie Fowler, Tall Ships, Live Music and Dance, Exhibits & Demonstrations, Kayaking, Sailing, Seining, Oyster Tonging, Crafts, Artwork, Food & Drinks Available. FREE - Admission to the Museum  
FREE - Conservation at home booklets

**Sunday, October 14, 2012 1:00 PM**

## **2202-Greater Baltimore Group Outing**

### **Patapsco River Hike, Glen Artney Area**

Alan Penczek 410-252-5720  
apenczek@verizon.net  
6 miles. Enjoy the fall colors of mature forest along with historic structures, a swinging bridge, and a 12-foot waterfall. 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. \$3 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 storms. For more details, call Alan.

**Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:00 AM**

## **2208-Howard County Group Outing**

## **Patapsco Orange Grove Hike**

Nicki 410-990-0008  
cybertrax1@netzero.net  
Moderate 6 mile circuit hike in Patapsco Valley State Park, covering the Cascade Falls, Morning Choice, Rockburn Branch and Ridge trails.

**Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:00 AM**

## **2210-Southern Maryland Group Outing**

### **Hellen Creek Forest Nature Walk**

Robert J Boxwell 410-394-1300  
Bring your cameras and enjoy the colors. The mix of deciduous trees and conifers makes autumn a special time to visit the Preserve. We will be looking for woodpeckers and early fall migrants like the golden-crowned kinglet. Dress for the weather. The Preserve is located off Coster Road in Lusby at 11785 Clifton Drive. Call 410-394-1300 for more information.

**Saturday, October 27, 2012 to Monday, October 29, 2012**

## **2208-Howard County Group Outing**

### **Howard County North Country Recreational Trail Backpack, PA**

Michael Juskelis 410-439-4964  
jalford@cablespeed.com  
Moderate 25 mile backpack, Tionesta Creek to Cook Forest SP in Allegheny National Forest. Pretty streams, views and the state's largest stand of virgin hemlocks. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964,  
mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

## *November*

**Saturday, November 03, 2012 10:00 AM**

## **2202-Greater Baltimore Group Outing**

### **Greater Baltimore Group**

## **Jerusalem Mill Little Gunpowder Hike**

Jack Wise 410-256-3963  
hikingjack@netzero.net  
6 miles. Late fall hike along Little Gunpowder River from Jerusalem Mill headquarters. Meet at 10 AM at Jerusalem Mill parking lot. 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. For more details, call Jack at 410-256-3963.

**Saturday, November 03, 2012 10:00 AM**

## **2205-Prince George's County Group Outing**

### **Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary Hike**

Elaine Friebele 410-741-9330  
Janis Oppelt 410-741-9330  
3 or 4 mile hike to experience the Sanctuary's forests, meadows, streams and Patuxent River wetlands. Fee; \$2.00 per person. Please register at (410) 741-9330.

**Tuesday, November 6, 2012**



## **7:00 AM - 8:00 PM General Election**

Speak out for environmental protection! VOTE for Sierra Club-endorsed candidates.

**Saturday, November 10, 2012 8:00 AM**

## **5051-Virginia: SCPRO Outing Harpers Ferry**

Russ Norfleet 703-294-6068  
russnorfleet@verizon.net  
Rated F. View confluence of Potomac and Shenandoah rivers and Harpers Ferry from Loudoun Heights and Maryland Heights on this three state hike of about 13 miles with 3000 ft. of elevation change. Meet 8 am, Shady Grove Metro station, old (second) parking garage, lower level, near Garage Office sign. Leader: Russ

Norfleet, (703) 501-7953 or russnorfleet@verizon.net.

**Saturday, November 10, 2012 1:00 PM**

## **2202-Greater Baltimore Group Outing**

### **Gunpowder Falls Hike, Panther Branch Trail**

Alan Penczek 410-252-5720  
apenczek@verizon.net  
4 miles. Gunpowder South and Panther Branch Trails downstream from York Rd. Nice mix of river scenery, idyllic streams, and upland forest. Take I-83 to Mt. Carmel Rd. and exit east. After 1/2 mile turn left onto York Rd. Follow York Rd. downhill 1 1/2 miles and park on either side of road just before the river. Cancelled for storms. For more details, call Alan at 410-252-5720 or email apenczek@stevenson.edu.

**Saturday, November 17, 2012 8:30 AM**

## **2208-Howard County Group Outing**

### **Weverton Cliffs Hike**

Tim Ryan 410-248-2974  
hikertimnh48@gmail.com  
Moderate 12 mile hike along the Appalachian Trail from Gathland State Park to Weverton Cliffs and return.

## *December*

**Saturday, December 01, 2012 10:00 AM**

## **2202-Greater Baltimore Group Outing**

### **Greater Baltimore Group Big Gunpowder Falls Hike**

Jack Wise 410-256-3963  
hikingjack@netzero.net  
6 miles. Nice views of the river and a pretty rapid. Muddy spots possible. Meet at 10:00 AM in parking lot on south side of road. From I-695 take

continued →

## Outings (December-January)

←continued

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.

### **Saturday, December 01, 2012 8:00 AM**

#### **5051-Virginia: SCPRO Outing Trio of Waterfalls**

Russ Norfleet 703-294-6068  
russnorfleet@verizon.net  
Rated D. Central Shenandoah National Park-Big Meadows area. Circuit hike of 9 miles. See three waterfalls (Dark Hollow, Rose River and Lewis falls). 2,100 ft. of elevation change. Meet 8:00 am, Vienna Metro station north parking lot. Leader: Russ Norfleet, (703) 501-7953 or russnorfleet@verizon.net.

### **Friday, December 07, 2012 8:00 PM**

#### **2210-Southern Maryland Group Outing**

**Myrtle Point Park Owl Prowl**  
Robert J Boxwell 410-394-1300  
Join the Friends of Myrtle Point Park for a night time visit to the park in search of resident owls.

### **Friday, December 14, 2012 8:00 PM**

#### **2210-Southern Maryland Group Outing**

**Myrtle Point Park Owl Prowl**  
Robert J Boxwell 410-394-1300  
Join the Friends of Myrtle Point Park for a night time visit to the park in search of resident owls.

### **Saturday, December 15, 2012 9:00 AM**

#### **2208-Howard County Group Outing**

**Gambrill State Park Hike**  
Tim Ryan 410-248-2974  
hikertimnh48@gmail.com  
Moderate 7 mile hike on wooded trails, with several scenic overlooks.

### **Friday, December 21, 2012 6:00 PM**

#### **2202-Greater Baltimore Group Outing**

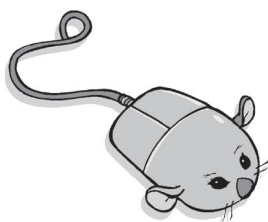
**Holiday Evening Hike**  
Alan Penczek 410-252-5720  
apenczek@stevenson.edu  
3 miles. Celebrate the first day of winter on an evening tour of Hampden's famous holiday decorations on 34th Street. Hike will continue through other interesting areas including an art district and the "Avenue."

## January

### **Tuesday, January 01, 2013 1:00 PM**

#### **2202-Greater Baltimore Group Outing**

**Oregon Ridge Park Hike**  
Alan Penczek 410-252-5720  
apenczek@stevenson.edu  
Celebrate the New Year on this figure-8 hike to Ivy Hill Pond. Some shallow stream crossings.



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

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

## BICO Outings

### 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](mailto:baltimoreinnercityoutings@gmail.com), or visit our web site at <http://ico.sierraclub.org/baltimore>.

### Schedule

#### **Saturday, September 22**

9:00am PP Terrapin Adventures

#### **Friday, September 28**

3:00pm DHHS Camping at Pocomoke State Park

#### **Saturday, September 29**

All day DHHS Camping at Pocomoke State Park

#### **Sunday, September 30**

12:00pm DHHS Camping at Pocomoke State Park

#### **Saturday, October 6**

8:00am PP aboard the Snowgoose with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

#### **Saturday, October 20**

8:30am SBCS Hiking at Catoctin State Park

8:00am ME on the Snowgoose with Chesapeake Bay Foundation

#### **Friday, November 2**

10:00am Mission Outdoors Sierra Club OLT

#### **Saturday, November 3**

All day Mission Outdoors Sierra Club OLT

#### **Sunday, November 4**

12:00pm Mission Outdoors Sierra Club OLT

#### **Saturday, November 10**

8:30am SBCS- Biking at Druid Hill Park

#### **Friday, November 16**

5:00pm B.I.C.O. OLT 101 Training at Blackburn Cabin

#### **Saturday, November 17**

All day B.I.C.O. OLT 101 Training at Blackburn Cabin

#### **Sunday, November 18**

1:00pm B.I.C.O. OLT 101 Training at Blackburn Cabin

#### **Saturday, December 8, 2012**

8:30am SBCS - Team Building at Leakin Park

Abbreviations:

DHHS: Digital Harbor High School

PP: Paul's Place

ME: Mi Espacio

SWCS: Southwest Baltimore Charter School



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Credits

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

**Writers and Contributors:** David Hauck, Betsy Johnson, David O'Leary, Josh Tulkin, Chris Yoder, Craig Marlowe, Michael Brune, Gordon Scott, Andrew Graham-Yoole, Laurel Imlay, Danielle Seeley, Kim Birnbaum, Marc Imlay, Jan Hoffmaster

**Editors:** Betty Brody, Mary Corddry, Donna Engle, Becky French, Ron Henry, Laurel Imlay, Betsy Johnson, David O'Leary, Janis Oppelt, Cindy Paré, David Prosten, Richard Reis, D. Tewell

**Outings Editor:** Jan Hoffmaster

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



**Inside, find out which candidates will represent your environmental interests. *The polluters will be voting; make sure you will, too.***



***Ready . . . Set . . . VOTE!***

Look inside for

- ~Our endorsements!
- ~Big money in this election  
(hint: it's from polluters!)
- ~How you can help our  
candidates
- ~Ways to enjoy autumn in  
Maryland's great outdoors