



Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Winter 2015-2016

## No Matter Your Vote, The Choice Is Green

The Sierra Club is a national grassroots environmental organization that elects volunteer leadership from among its members. Every Maryland Chapter member is entitled to vote and run for leadership positions within the chapter and local Groups. Learn more about the current candidates by reading the information below. We hope that everyone will vote in this year's election (see page 13 for voting information and page 15 for a paper ballot).

### *Chapter and Group Executive Committee Elections*

The Maryland Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) is composed of six at-large members and one delegate from each of the eight local Groups. Every year, the Maryland Chapter elects three ExCom members to serve two-year terms.

The Chapter ExCom is responsible for:

- Managing chapter affairs and activities.
- Establishing chapter policies.
- Providing members with activities and services that are consistent with the bylaws, policies and standing rules of the Sierra Club and applicable state and federal laws.
- Overseeing volunteer committees.
- Addressing Maryland's environmental issues.
- Electing the Maryland Chapter Chair and other officers from within its ranks.

Chapter ExCom activities include financial management, membership services, production of publications, and conservation and political programs. Those elected will begin their terms January 2016.

The Maryland Chapter's Groups serve smaller geographic areas within the state, which include:

- Anne Arundel (Anne Arundel County)
- Catocin (Frederick, Carroll and Washington Counties)
- Greater Baltimore (Baltimore City, Baltimore and Harford Counties)
- Howard (Howard County)
- Montgomery (Montgomery County)
- Prince George's (Prince George's County)
- Southern Maryland (Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties)
- Western Maryland (Allegany and Garrett Counties)

There is no active Group on the Eastern Shore at this time. These eight Groups carry out the mission of the Sierra Club and Maryland Chapter at the local level by promoting conservation, organizing outings, initiating local campaigns, and educating members. Every Group elects its own ExCom to set goals and manage activities. The size of each Group's ExCom and the number of openings that are up for election vary according to each Group's bylaws.

## ***Chapter ExCom Candidates***

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### ***Mark Posner***

I have been a Sierra Club member for over 40 years, since joining as a college senior. I'm currently serving on the Montgomery County Group Executive Committee, and on three Maryland Chapter committees, the Legislative Committee, the Energy Committee, and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

I'm committed to working to continue the Sierra Club's fight against greenhouse gas emissions. For the General Assembly's 2016 session, I will serve as the Chapter lead to support the renewal and extension of the Maryland Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act of 2009 (GGRA). In 2015, I participated in the Chapter's preparations for the 2016 session, including being the lead drafter of Club comments to the Maryland Climate Commission regarding the GGRA. I also am contributing to the Montgomery County Group's efforts to get Montgomery County to act against climate change.

I recently retired from a 35-year career as a civil rights attorney, first at the U.S. Department of Justice and then at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. I worked on

voting rights enforcement and also on police misconduct issues. I also am a member of 350MontgomeryCounty, Action Committee for Transit, and Purple Line Now.

### ***Talya Tavor***

I am interested in running to be on the Sierra Club's Executive Committee because I believe there is an incredible amount of potential for a better Maryland. I've organized campaigns across the state, and have seen first hand how much people want and need a better environment--both natural and living--for themselves and for future generations. If we are able to come together as a true community, fight for justice, fight for a place we feel safe to call home, then we can inspire states across the country, and perhaps even help affect change globally. I got my start in organizing with the Sierra Club as a bright eyed, bushy tailed, student volunteer with the Beyond Coal Campaign. Since then I've been an organizer with The Climate Reality Project, Green Corps, and Environment MD and others. Now looking back with years of training and experience, I hope to be able to add something of value in my home with an organization I greatly respect. When I'm not

organizing, you can find me at local racial justice events or singing and playing guitar at venues across the DMV area.

### ***Chris Yoder***

I have been a life member of the Sierra Club for over 35 years. I was the founding chair, and later conservation chair, of the Boise Sierra Club group. There were about 80 members when I started and over 500 members when I left Idaho to pursue a career change. I also served the Northern Rockies Chapter ExCom as a member and later vice-chair. I was the Chapter's representative on the national Sierra Club Council.

I interrupted my Sierra Club activities to work in Washington on a Senate Committee staff and as Counselor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. My Washington experience gives me a deep understanding of the development and implementation of public policy.

After retirement from federal service, I once again focused my energy on the goals I share with the Sierra Club. I have served as the Greater Baltimore Group representative to the Chapter ExCom for six years, I am an active member of the Chapter conservation committee and

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serve on the Chapter’s political, legislative, and water teams and have been an active leader in the Greater Baltimore Group for over a decade.

### **Group ExCom Candidate Statements**

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Groups conducting elections this year include Anne Arundel, Catoctin, Greater Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s, and Southern Maryland. The Western Maryland Group is not holding an election at this time.

#### **Anne Arundel Group**

##### **Ann Burchard**

I am a long time member of the Sierra club and have previously served on the executive board of the Howard County Group. Since moving to Annapolis in 2001, I have participated in rallies and lobbying for environmental issues. My chief concern is the impact of climate change on our community such as dramatic increases in the number of nuisance floods. My motivator is the joy I find in kayaking Back Creek and Chesapeake Bay and the national Sierra Club trips I have taken.

##### **Judith Eargle**

I have recently retired from the U. S. Census Bureau where I managed a large longitudinal household survey known as the Survey of Income and Program Participation. Prior to the Census Bureau I worked as a consultant on multiple environmental impact projects, including finding alternative (and environmentally friendly) uses for phosphogypsum (a by-product of fertilizer

production on the gulf coast). Prior to moving to Washington, I was Director of Financial Planning for a major public utility. Having held these leadership roles and responsibilities and having a keen interest in environmental issues has encouraged my interest in participation in the Anne Arundel Group.

##### **Joan Turek**

I served on the Sierra Club’s Anne Arundel Group Executive Committee in 2007 and 2008 and resigned in order to become a member of Anne Arundel Counties Planning Advisory Board (PAB). While on the ExCom, I received an award for my efforts of eliminate family conveyance in South County which was serving as a mechanism to promote development. While on the PAB, I participated in the MD General Development Plan process where I focused heavily on efforts to protect our rural environment and protect our water resources. I am currently on the board of the Chesapeake Environmental Protection

Association and President of the Harwood Civic Association. I am past Chair of the South County Exchange which took the lead in development of the Patuxent River and other Greenways in Anne Arundel County. I also served on the South County Small Area Planning Process which made recommendations for keeping South County rural. I wish to continue efforts to clean up our waterways. I also wish to educate the public about the costs of relying heavily on property taxes and other fees from development.

##### **Liz Vanden Heuvel**

I have been a member of the Anne Arundel Group since 1982 when James Watts inspired many people to join. During these 33 years I have been an active member. I have been the Chair, Outings Chair, an outings leader and have participated in many other ways. Right now our group is trying to stay alive and I intend to be part of this endeavor with your help. We have many, many challenges including keeping our group viable. There are lots issues of

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development facing us such as the proposed development of the Crystal Spring property. We also have to address the public's concerns about what has been labeled "the rain tax" but what is seriously needed storm water management. Anne Arundel County is surrounded by water - creeks and rivers that all lead to the Chesapeake Bay. Water pollution is increasing every year and there are now reports of health problems. We also need to face up to climate change and work hard to promote ways to remove and limit carbon in the atmosphere.

### Catoctin Group

#### **Amy Andrews**

I would like to serve on the Catoctin Group Excom as I have a true passion for protecting our Mother Earth. The Maryland Sierra Club is rich with caring stewards of our Earth, and I would like to be one of them.

It's a great feeling to connect and interact with such kindred people.

#### **Dan Andrews**

While hiking over 700 miles of the Appalachian Trail, I discovered how wonderful it is to live in the woods and travel lightly in life. Now that I have more free time, I've decided to devote energy to

education, activism, and fun within the Sierra Club.

I've been the group chairman for about ten years and find the position very rewarding. It's very gratifying to see people of various talents and interests pull together to achieve goals. I also feel our society is entering a more aware - ecological age - and the Sierra Club work is so necessary.

#### **Anthony Iacovelli**

Anthony joined the Sierra Club in 2011 and has worked on many issues in Maryland including the proposed incinerator in Frederick, the Myersville natural gas compressor station, and lobbying on behalf of environmental bills during legislative sessions. He is currently pursuing an Environmental Biology Master's degree at Hood College while working at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick. Applying his experience as an avid hiker and backpacker, Anthony is currently an outings leader for the Catoctin Group as well as its Treasurer.

#### **Veronica Poklemba**

I am interested in being part of the executive committee of the Catoctin Group/Sierra Club because my values closely align with those of the Sierra Club. I believe our highest priority is acting to

protect our air and water. The various campaigns of the Sierra Club work to achieve this. The political action arm of the Sierra Club also functions to ensure officials are elected who will work to protect our planet, which is very important. I have found that the Catoctin group acts to make the ideas of the Sierra Club more visible to the local community, which I also strongly support. I am pleased to function more actively in the Catoctin Group by being part of the executive committee.

#### **Carolyn Puckett**

Carolyn Puckett is a long-time member of the Maryland Sierra Club's Catoctin Group. In addition, she is an active master gardener, master naturalist, and Maryland Woodland Steward. She is also a member of the Maryland Invasive Species Council, the Maryland Native Plant Society, and the Carroll Forest Conservancy District Board. She coordinates the Weed Warriors of Carroll County, conducting invasive exotic weed removals at multiple public sites, training over 300 people, and organizing two native plant restoration demonstration sites at county parks where the Weed Warriors removed invasive non-native plants. She is a frequent speaker at workshops, organizations, and schools on the problems

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caused by invasive exotic weeds and on establishing backyard wildlife habitat.

### **Greater Baltimore Group**

#### ***Christopher Croft***

Christopher Croft is a biologist with extensive experience in commercial fisheries' management with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. While in Washington, DC, he also worked as an environmental consultant for Greenpeace USA, the Humane Society of the United States, and as Founder & Director of the Dolphin Coalition – a 37-member consortium of national and international organizations to advance marine conservation through passage of The Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act of 1990.

Moreover, Mr. Croft worked as Marine Wildlife Coordinator for Defenders of Wildlife where he led an undercover expedition to Mexico, successfully documenting an illegal fishery. This campaign helped lead to the designation of the Northern Sea of Cortez as a protected Biosphere Reserve. Croft is also President and co-founder of Environmental Solutions International.

After moving to Baltimore, Croft spent seven years working on the conversion of

brownfield industrial sites in the Baltimore-Washington area to environmentally sustainable transit-oriented, mixed-use developments.

Mr. Croft has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology from Virginia Tech and an MBA from Towson University and the University of Baltimore. He is an adjunct Professor of the Special Topics Courses "Global Environmental Policy" and "Sustainable Communities" at the University of Baltimore.

Professor Croft has been an active member of the Sierra Club while living in Los Angeles, California and in Baltimore, Maryland. Presently he is engaged with urban agriculture and sustainable community wealth building efforts in Charm City.

#### ***Maggie Davenport***

I am a healthy lifestyle professional, public health doctoral student who loves to bike, hike and be in the sun. My passion is to discover ways of bringing healthy behaviors to 'vulnerable' populations with the ultimate outcome of improved life quality. To this end, I have taught nutrition and fitness for diverse groups and conducted 'female only' retreats. The opportunity to serve as a member of the executive committee with the Sierra Club in developing the

Baltimore group resonates with both my personal and professional goals.

I have been a Sierra Club member for ten years; for five, I was a trip leader with Inner City Outings and started the group in Detroit, Michigan. Additionally, I have served as a board member for a charter school, event coordinator for community events and managed various non-profit agencies.

As a current resident of West Baltimore, I experience the lack of opportunities to interact with nature and address environmental needs on a daily basis. Developing a group in this area would provide these opportunities for a population who lack the resources to accomplish this independently. Serving as a member would be a great opportunity to help build community capacity.

#### ***Kevin Kriescher***

Degree: MS physics/atmospherics. As nine-year resident of Baltimore City, I have served as textbook editor, online math instructor, and adjunct physics professor at Towson University (among others). I currently tutor physics/calculus at Johns Hopkins and teach science, community/personal development, and environmental conservation at a local elementary school.

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I grew up in the Adirondack Mountains and each time I return to Baltimore the air hits my lungs like a pall. These challenges only increase my affinity for Baltimore, as I prefer to test my creative abilities and stare a problem in the eye rather than turn tail. I have been regularly and proactively involved in the MD Beyond Coal campaign for roughly two years now, canvassing, volunteering, and managing the MD Sierra Energy LTE Team.

"Environmentalism" has become non-descript. Conservation of species diversity and the requisite wilderness (unpainted by pollution) fascinates me most, though I am alert to all avenues of improvement...sooner rather than later! I harassed the management of my apartment building until a recycling room was created; I interviewed restaurants regarding incentives to commit to recyclable straws. Within arm's length there are myriad ways to improve the ecosystem/world you inhabit.

### **Jennifer Kunze**

I'm eager to join the Executive Committee for the Baltimore group because I want to help build a movement to address the environmental, public health, and environmental justice concerns of our city.

I've been volunteering with the Energy Committee for the past 1.5 years, organizing phonebanks and other outreach events within the Beyond Coal campaign. More recently, I've worked as team lead on the Sierra Club Baltimore Outreach Team, meeting with community leaders and neighborhood associations to learn about the city's environmental issues and increase the Sierra Club's capacity to address them. I've also been an active volunteer on the campaigns to stop explosive crude-by-rail and the trash-burning incinerator near Curtis Bay, as well as other social justice issues. I work at a community wellness center in East Baltimore as the Environmental Programs Organizer. There, I coordinate two community gardens, teach environmental education, run volunteer events, and manage partnerships; recently, I've worked on a community-wide initiative to install green stormwater management practices. As part of the Baltimore Group ExCom, I hope to contribute to creating a strong network of environmentalists that can address local environmental issues in a holistic and intersectional way.

### **Beth Renwick**

My goal is to work with other members of the Sierra Club in the Baltimore area to grow the

local organization based on a shared vision of growth and to empower others to advocate for the environment based on their understanding of the connectiveness of peoples' and companies' actions to a healthy planet. For many years I have worked with school-age children and their teachers with various partners, such as the National Aquarium in Baltimore, to help them make the connection between their actions and the Chesapeake Bay. In addition to being on the Leadership Team for the past 10 years in two Baltimore City elementary schools, I continue to develop my leadership skills on curriculum writing teams, church committees, and while officiating women's gymnastics.

### **Charlie Skinner**

I joined the Sierra Club in 1984 because environmental sustainability is essential to the quality of life. Despite gains, we now face environmental crisis. It's THE 21st century issue. Settled in Towson and supporting Sierra Club Maryland for 20+ years, in 2014, I capped a successful business career. Now semi-retired, I am focusing on volunteering with our Energy Committee, particularly chairing the Beyond Coal Campaign. I'm eager to reinvigorate a Baltimore Sierra Club Group. In the

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heart of Maryland's economy, population and pollution, we must have a diverse local team actively engaged in promoting better health and opportunity for all. The Baltimore Group's first priority should be community engagement to gain broad input on goals to reduce air and water pollution and increase the quality and accessibility of outdoor opportunities for all communities, particularly those with the worst pollution and the fewest current options. Our efforts will need to include influencing government, partnering with like-minded organizations and direct actions. We should also orchestrate fun outdoor events and trips.

Other non-profit experience includes Board service with Baltimore's Boy Scout Council since 1998. I have a Yale BA and Loyola Maryland MBA.

## Howard Group

### **Margarita Corrada**

Margarita Corrada was first attracted to Sierra Club in law school when studying environmental litigation. She was delighted in returning to her home in Puerto Rico to find a Chapter there and has been a member for more than 10 years. She moved to Maryland within the last year, and has joined the Sierra Club's Water Team, participated in the Sierra Club

march at the Howard County Fair, attended activities, and assisted at the Jamboree. She is eager to be more active. She feels that her Spanish language and culture will help Sierra Club reach out to, and involve many others here in Howard County to be involved in the plethora of environmental issues that besiege us. She advocates that all of us need to be responsible for the environment and the world's resources. She wants to help Sierra Club make environmental issues relevant and participate in the solutions to the quandaries that we are facing. She has a Master's Degree in Banking Law from Boston University.

### **David Gattis**

David Gattis has been a member of Sierra Club off and on for many years. For the last four years, he has been an Assistant Scout Master for Boy Scout Troop 615 where he is one of the primary leaders and has held several different roles with the Troop. Previously, he was the Oakland Mills Middle School representative to the Howard County PTA. He is interested in preserving the environment so that our children and their decedents will be able to enjoy the natural beauty in our world. He is interested in giving back to the community he lives in. He is an attorney licensed in Maryland.

### **Joanne Heckman**

Joanne Heckman has been a resident of Howard County for many years and has worked on numerous Sierra Club campaigns for conservation, legislation, and political candidates. She has served on the Group's Executive Committee as Secretary, Conservation Chair, Chapter representative, and as a member of the Political Committee; she led the campaign "Preserve Patapsco Valley State Park" and maintains an activist list-serv of the same name. Joanne is a Master Naturalist with a special interest in cultivating and promoting native plants and native habitat restoration.

### **Sue Muller**

Sue Muller uses her BS in Wildlife Management at her job at Howard County Recreation & Parks, where she has served a variety of leadership roles in many efforts, including the Howard County Greenfest, Frogwatch USA, Project Clean Stream. She also helped manage the Herp Atlas, a five-year effort to record the location of all of the species of reptiles and amphibians found in the state. Sue has been active in our group for many years, and has served as Conservation Chair, Programs Chair, and as an outings leader.

**Alan Schneider**

When neighbors objected to a development endangering the environment, Alan Schneider checked and found that our water, air and land, is not protected. Although protections are embraced by the majority of citizens, as expressed in the general plan, environmental goals and regulations are evaded or waived, and updated standards are opposed. He believes that our environment can be safeguarded by informing, by bringing together, and by combining mutual interests of multiple communities. Our future depends upon facilitating active citizen participation to preserve our environment.

To protect and to preserve our natural resources he has testified before the Board of Appeals, Planning Board, and the County Council. He helped collect some of the almost 7,000 signatures for a Referendum Petition to put citizen concerns on the ballot. He was endorsed by the Sierra Club in his campaign for election to the County Council. Currently he is a member of the Sierra Club Water Team, a Howard County Watersheds Academy student, and a member of the River Hill Water Team. He is a Board member of the Howard County Citizens Association and the Greater Highland Crossroads Association, and a

licensed attorney in Washington D.C., North Carolina and Oregon.

**Montgomery Group**

**Gerald Ehrenstein**

I am a physicist who has been interested in the issue of sustainable energy for many years, and has tried to publicize this issue in several ways. I taught an undergraduate physics course at the University of Maryland, and included in that course the physics and economics of global warming; I made presentations about energy conservation, under the auspices of the Sierra Club, to several civic associations; and next spring I will be teaching a course on "Energy and the Environment" for the Osher adult-education program at Johns Hopkins.

I was a member of the Montgomery County Sustainability Working Group (SWG) and its Renewable Energy Subcommittee. One of my proposals that was incorporated into the SWG report is for a revolving fund to provide low-interest County loans to homeowners for installation of solar panels. I also testified on the advantages of a carbon tax before the Montgomery County Council.

I am currently a member of the Montgomery County

Sierra Club Executive Committee, with a focus on solar energy installation, and I would like to continue on the Executive Committee and continue to work to minimize global warming.

**Michal Freedman**

Climate change is an unprecedented threat. Because of its far-reaching impact, it is tempting to look to federal and international levels for solutions. But decades of inaction at these levels make local initiatives critical. Moreover, ultimately greenhouse gases emissions (GHG) must be constrained locally. Despite Montgomery County's publicized commitment to drastically reduce GHG emissions, the County is falling further behind. We need to pressure Montgomery County to fulfill its commitments and become a model for local jurisdictions across the country.

I've been proud to be an advocate for Sierra Club on behalf of local political candidates who support Club goals, of legislation that promotes a clean energy transition, of county budgets that prioritize the transition, and of educational initiatives to help our members and supporters make their voices heard.

In the coming years, we need to aggressively push for

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reduced emissions in our houses, businesses, and transportation sector. I will advocate for strong implementation of the Green Bank and other legislation to expand financial resources for clean energy, for clean energy and mass transit that equitably reach low income groups, and for expanding opportunities for solar at promising new locations like public schools. Please join us to make these efforts a success.

**Randy Lyon**

I am seeking a position on the Montgomery County Group Executive Committee because I have a deep interest in improving environmental protection policies. Montgomery County has the potential to be a national leader in areas like clean energy, pesticide controls, and land use. Our Group has contributed in important ways to the County's progress, and I would like to help it extend these positive impacts at the local and state levels.

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1996 and am currently Treasurer of the Maryland Chapter. I would particularly like to promote improvements in our region's transportation planning and watershed protection. I also hope to assist with development of Montgomery County's Green Bank, which

has the potential to significantly expand solar energy deployment.

Professionally, I have worked on environmental policy matters for more than three decades, including as a federal executive helping to oversee budgets and policies of one of our most important environmental agencies. I am an avid biker and hiker and place a high value on our region's natural areas. I would enjoy the chance to contribute to further conservation progress and membership engagement with our Group.

**Mark Posner**

I am a longtime Sierra Club member, first joining as a college senior. I currently serve on the Montgomery County Group Executive Committee, and on three Maryland Chapter committees, the Legislative Committee, the Energy Committee, and the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee.

I'm committed to working in particular to continue the Sierra Club's fight against climate change. For the General Assembly's 2016 session, I am serving as the Chapter lead to support the renewal and strengthening of the Maryland Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act of 2009 (GGRA). In 2015, I have

participated in the Chapter's preparations for the 2016 session, including being the lead drafter of Club comments to the Maryland Climate Commission regarding the GGRA. I also am contributing to the Montgomery County Group's efforts to promote action by Montgomery County against climate change.

I recently retired from a 35-year career as a civil rights attorney, first at the U.S. Department of Justice and then at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. My work included enforcement of the Voting Rights Act and addressing police misconduct. I also am a member of 350 Montgomery County, Action Committee for Transit, and Purple Line Now.

**Stephanie Riddick**

I have been glad to serve our community on environmental issues especially in the area of expanding renewable energy. This includes work with the Rockville and Montgomery County energy advisory committees. I appreciated the opportunity to work successfully with the Sierra Club and other groups like the NAACP in 2015 to finally secure the passage of Community Solar bills HB1087/SB398 to bring access to solar energy to all Maryland residents regardless of home ownership status. Recently we completed the

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Rockville/Montgomery County Solar Co-op that recruited over 200 homes.

The Sierra Club has the opportunity in helping to facilitate the expansion of solar energy further than ever before to include most regions and all income groups. I hope to use my knowledge to inform our members of their opportunities through useful public programs and continued advice to elected officials.

I will help expand the Sierra Club membership and develop partnerships between the Sierra Club and organizations with similar goals including the NAACP and the Community Power Network. The Sierra Club is stronger when we work with other organizations. To that end I ask for your vote and your help and thank all Sierra Club members for your many efforts to protect our environment for future generations.

**Prince George’s Group**

**Martha Ainsworth**

I’m a community activist, a native of Prince George’s County, and live next to the Patuxent River wetlands. I have served on the Prince George’s Executive Committee since 2010, and was elected Group Chair and representative to the

Maryland Chapter ExCom in 2013.

Over the past two years I’ve worked with others to build the Group through more events and outings and to educate members, the public, and policymakers on key local environmental issues. In 2014, we mobilized 45 members and volunteers to survey reusable bag use in Prince George’s and Montgomery counties, showing the large impact of a small fee in Montgomery on shopper behavior. In 2015, members surveyed 200 county restaurants to measure use of foam containers, in support of the countywide ban, effective July 2016. With Patuxent Riverkeeper, I have led the Group’s efforts to prevent sprawl near the Patuxent River in Bowie.

If re-elected, I will continue to work for broader engagement of members and the public; support our conservation goals of “zero waste” and clean water – through a reduction in plastic bags and water bottles and a state-wide beverage container deposit; and smart growth that preserves open space and reduces congestion, pollution, and environmental damage.

**Tom Dernoga**

Tom Dernoga has served on the Executive Committee for four years. For two decades, he provided low cost legal

services to community and environmental groups fighting sprawl development (including legal services to the Sierra Club). He served on the Prince George’s County Council from 2002 until 2010, and promoted legislation for storm water management, agricultural preservation, smart growth, solar power credits and more. He was the first recipient of the Prince George’s Sierra Group’s Walter “Mike” Maloney Award.

**Ken Healy**

Having been a contributing member of the Sierra Club for some time, I was convinced by another member to become a participating member. I also belong to other organizations whose work I believe, dovetails nicely with the activities of the Sierra Club, including the Ocean Conservancy, Friends of the Earth, Nature Conservancy, Wilderness Society, and the Potomac Conservancy. I’m very excited and enthusiastic about belonging to the Sierra Club. I believe I bring something to the table in terms of my interest in preserving the environment and my curiosity in learning more. I am very interested in keeping fracking out of Maryland, preserving the Chesapeake Bay, especially in using the Phosphorus Management Tool, and in Storm Water Management.

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Possessing a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology I spent 37 years with the Federal Government, including the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Civil Rights Division. My assignments included increasing levels of responsibility leading to becoming a program and project manager. I used the skills I learned serving as past president of the Maryland Farms Community Service Association.

I am very interested in working on the Executive Committee and am asking for your vote. Thank You.

**Janis Oppelt**

As a member of the executive committee (ExCom) of the Prince George's group for the last four years, I have learned repeatedly that it takes many people with a wide variety of talents and skills—and patience—to “fight City hall.” Being organized and helping to get other people organized, paying attention to details, and communicating with members about events and issues—these are the nuts-and-bolt skills that I offer and hope to continue to use, if elected again, for the ExCom.

As a whole, it is the job of the ExCom to stay informed about issues that may harm the natural environment of Prince

George's County and consider actions that may lessen, if not stop, that harm. Working with other advocacy groups and the Maryland chapter, we try to rally our members to take action on key issues. Two priorities during the coming months are the threat of hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) in southern Prince George's County and legislation for a bottle-deposit bill. I will be involved in these campaigns and others that arise.

**Lauren Ragsac**

I've been a lover of nature and the outdoors since early childhood, and have always considered myself an environmentalist and wildlife conservationist. I became active with the PG County Sierra Club after moving to Bowie in 2013, and became an Outings Leader in 2015. I assisted in the design and implementation of the single-use food container survey in Prince George's County and have been active in the Melford CSP-06002-01 appeal, testifying in opposition before the County Planning Board. I'm particularly interested in issues related to smart growth, and the threats to water and air quality that unchecked development brings to the county. I am also interested in solid waste reduction strategies and creating public incentives for source reduction as well as

increased rates of recycling. I became a Prince George's County Master Gardener this year, and in that capacity I have the opportunity to educate the public on reducing reliance on pesticides and herbicides, and implementing conservation landscaping practices using native plants to prevent storm water runoff, reduce pollution, increase biodiversity and attract wildlife. I would like to bring these interests to my volunteer work serving on the Executive Committee.

**Susan Stewart**

Susan has focused on progressive and environmental issues for many years. She has attended leadership training, lobbied and volunteered with many groups, including the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, the Maryland Sierra Club, Progressive Majority, Wellstone Action, Peace & Justice coalition, Powershift, and Progressive MD. Over the years, she has contributed her time and efforts on issues such as civil marriage, LGBT equality, ending poverty, preventing climate change, healthcare reform, advocating for peace, fighting corruption, and protecting the environment.

Susan currently serves on the Executive Committee for the Prince George's Sierra Club. Her focus over the last two

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years has been on Zero Waste and issues surrounding natural gas. On the latter, she has publicly testified and lobbied against fracking, LNG exports at Cove Point, and the TPP. Most recently Susan helped organize the MD state chapter Jamboree, where she served on the planning committee, organizing the Auction, and supervised volunteers.

Susan lives in Greenbelt, MD, with her husband and 12-year old son.

### **Southern Maryland Group**

#### ***Donna Cave***

*(Hughesville, Charles)*

We now have new commissioners in Charles County...a crew with which we can work to finally effect the changes in the County's policies which we all have been working so hard for. In order for this to work, we need to get involved. It is the local issues which largely affect our quality of life. Attend meetings and write letters to the editor. I have and it has made a difference in my Hughesville community. Donna has been the treasurer and newsletter editor.

#### ***Frank Fox***

*(Mechanicsville, St. Mary's)*

Sierra Club Southern Maryland Group maintains a fine core group of activists who carry on outreach, conservation campaigns, and environmental education in our three counties. But we are not getting any younger! As Conservation co-chair, I urge you to become more active in protecting unique natural resources like Mattawoman Creek, improving public transportation including light rail to Waldorf, and promoting safe, clean energy alternatives while we stop Dominion Energy from exporting fracked methane gas from Cove Point ... right here in Southern Maryland. And while you're at it, give a Sierra Club gift membership for the Holidays.

#### ***Marc Imlay***

*(Bryans Road, Charles)*

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for many years and welcome this opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee. I am the Biodiversity/Endangered Species Chair of the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Vice President of the Maryland Native Plant Society.

#### ***David Kanter***

*(Hughesville, Charles)*

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for a number of years. Through my membership in Preserve Hughesville, I was instrumental in helping to prevent a baseball stadium from being built in Hughesville and oppose Chaney Enterprises in their endeavor to bring urban development to our rural village. I was a member of the Hughesville Revitalization Advisory Committee which contributed in the Hughesville Revitalization Plan. And as past ExCom Chair, I think I have a lot to offer to the Sierra Club as a member of the executive committee.

#### ***Anne Stark***

*(Waldorf, Charles)*

My love for the Mattawoman Creek has brought me to the Sierra Club. I'm an avid kayaker and a clean water activist. I'm very opposed to any further degradation to Mattawoman Creek and I want to add my voice to help insure its protection.

## ***How to Vote***

Leaders of the Sierra Club are chosen democratically from candidates who volunteer their time and talent with the shared goal of protecting the environment. Please honor this tradition and their willingness to serve by voting.

Please read all candidate statements before casting your ballot. All members can vote for Maryland Chapter ExCom candidates. Group members should only vote for ExCom candidates representing their respective Group.

You can cast your ballot in one of two ways:

1. Vote online at <http://sierraclub.org/maryland/club-elections>

All electronic votes must be recorded by **December 31, 2015**.

***OR***

2. Complete the paper ballot on page 15. Detach the page and mail it to the following address:

Elections Committee  
Maryland Chapter/Sierra Club  
7338 Baltimore Ave., Suite 102  
College Park, MD 20740

Ballots must be postmarked by **December 31, 2015**.

**You will need your membership number, which is printed on the address label of *Chesapeake*, to complete both the electronic and paper ballots.**

If you have any problems with either ballot, please contact the Maryland Chapter Office at 301-277-7111.

## ***An Invitation to Lead***

There are many leadership roles in the Sierra Club beyond serving on an Executive Committee. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities and the Sierra Club's interest in embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion, please contact Stan Boyd at [Stan.Boyd@mdsierra.org](mailto:Stan.Boyd@mdsierra.org). The Maryland Chapter's vision is for our members and leaders to reflect the diversity of our communities.

## Make the Most of Your Membership

Stay up-to-date on initiatives, get involved in chapter activities and events, and browse environmental news by exploring these online resources:

- **Visit the Maryland Chapter website**  
<http://sierraclub.org/maryland>
- **Sign up for email updates**  
Submit your email address and zip code on the Chapter's website at  
<http://sierraclub.org/maryland>
- **Follow the Maryland Sierra Club Blog**  
<http://sierraclub.org/maryland/chapter-blog>
- **Connect with the Maryland Chapter on Facebook**  
Like the Chapter's page at  
<http://www.facebook.com/SierraClubMaryland/>



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Continue  
the Legacy  
of Conservation

For over 115 years, Sierra Club volunteers and donors have provided a solid base of support for turning environmental dreams and goals into reality.

By including Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club chapter in your future plans, you will help ensure Sierra Club will have the financial resources to carry on its environmental activities well into the future.

For 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

## SIGN UP TO BE A VOLUNTEER!

Select your activities of interest:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please list your top 3 conservation issues:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

Please send form to:

Maryland Chapter/Sierra Club  
7338 Baltimore Ave., Suite 102  
College Park, MD 20740



## Chapter and Group ExCom Paper Ballot

### Maryland Chapter

- Joint Member Only\* **All Maryland Chapter members vote for up to 3:**
- Mark Posner (page 2)
- Talya Tavor (page 2)
- Chris Yoder (page 2)

### Anne Arundel Group

- Joint Member Only\* **Anne Arundel County Group members vote for up to 4:**
- Ann Burchard (page 3)
- Judith Eargle (page 3)
- Joan Turek (page 3)
- Liz Vanden Heuvel (page 3)

### Catoctin Group

- Joint Member Only\* **Frederick, Carroll and Washington Counties Group members vote for up to 5:**
- Amy Andrews (page 4)
- Dan Andrews (page 4)
- Anthony Iacovelli (page 4)
- Veronica Poklemba (page 4)
- Carolyn Puckett (page 4)

### Greater Baltimore Group

- Joint Member Only\* **Baltimore City, Baltimore and Harford Counties Group members vote for up to 6:**
- Christopher Croft (page 5)
- Maggie Davenport (page 5)
- Kevin Kriescher (page 5)
- Jennifer Kunze (page 6)
- Beth Renwick (page 6)
- Charlie Skinner (page 6)

### Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Vote for Chapter candidates and those in your Group.  
Detach this page and mail it to the address on page 13.*

Please note that the Western Maryland Group is not conducting an election at this time.

\*Both members in a joint membership are entitled to vote.  
Please use one column for each member in a joint membership.

### Howard Group

- Joint Member Only\* **Howard County Group members vote for up to 5:**
- Margarita Corrada (page 7)
- David Gattis (page 7)
- Joanne Heckman (page 7)
- Sue Muller (page 7)
- Alan Schneider (page 8)

### Montgomery Group

- Joint Member Only\* **Montgomery County Group members vote for up to 5:**
- Gerald Ehrenstein (page 8)
- Michal Freedman (page 8)
- Randy Lyon (page 9)
- Mark Posner (page 9)
- Stephanie Riddick (page 9)

### Prince George's Group

- Joint Member Only\* **Prince George's County Group members vote for up to 5:**
- Martha Ainsworth (page 10)
- Tom Dernoga (page 10)
- Ken Healy (page 10)
- Janis Oppelt (page 11)
- Lauren Ragsac (page 11)
- Susan Stewart (page 11)

### Southern Maryland Group

- Joint Member Only\* **Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties Group members vote for up to 5:**
- Donna Cave (page 12)
- Frank Fox (page 12)
- Marc Imlay (page 12)
- David Kanter (page 12)
- Anne Stark (page 12)

# Chesapeake

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