



**SIERRA
CLUB**

Catoctin News

**Newsletter of the Catoctin Group
Serving Carroll, Frederick and Washington Counties**

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Update on a Fracking Ban in Frederick County and Statewide

by Ronnie Poklemba

Many of you may know that the moratorium on fracking in the state of Maryland will end in October of 2017. The governor has already had the Maryland Department of the Environment develop fracking regulations which are expected to be finalized by October 2016. We have a governor who wants to have the state ready to begin fracking ASAP. It's clear from observing other parts of the country with fracking regulations that they are not sufficient to protect the public.

Many of us do not agree that fracking is in the best interest of the citizens of Maryland. The last newsletter had a detailed article outlining the many negative effects of fracking on both the environment and health. Since that time Johns Hopkins University has released two more studies which show specific negative health effects related to fracking. **One study** shows a significant increase in asthma attacks in people who live close to fracking sites; **the second study** ties migraines and sinus problems to proximity to fracking sites.

The Culpepper and Gettysburg gas basins underlie 18% of Frederick County. It is not safe to assume that when fracking comes to Maryland it will be far from where you live. Fracking infrastructure (pipelines which are known to leak) are also very likely to go through Frederick County as the gas from further west is moved out to Cove Point for export.

The Sierra Club has joined with Food and Water Watch, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and Clean Water Action in an effort to achieve a ban on fracking in the state of Maryland. Stepping stones in that process involve getting fracking bans in various localities throughout the state. This will help to convince the legislature in the upcoming legislative session that residents throughout Maryland do not want fracking; thereby creating support for a statewide ban. So far, Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties have taken steps to ban fracking, as well as several small communities in Western Maryland.

Frederick County could play a meaningful role in achieving a ban on fracking throughout Maryland by passing a ban in the county.

If you agree that you want a Fracking Ban in Frederick County, please e-mail the County Council and tell them!

councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov

ALSO, encourage all your friends to make contact! It will take strong support to get this ban passed, but it can be done. Please ACT now.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Breaking News - Fracking Update

On Sept. 27 there will be a rally and delivery of petitions requesting a ban on fracking in Frederick County at Winchester Hall, 4 pm. These petitions will be delivered to the County Council. We have approximately 1000 petitions at this time and would like to have more. Please add your signature to our [petition here](#) and then **join us at the rally 9/27!**

Environmental & Climate Justice Group Middletown United Methodist Church

Hosts a Screening of:



“...plain & simple, a compelling documentary about the human side of the fracking debate!” ~ Mark Ruffalo

Friday, September 30, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

**Q&A Discussion Afterward Led by
Brooke Harper, Maryland Outreach Coordinator
Chesapeake Climate Action Network**

Questions, contact mikekoob@hotmail.com

Middletown UMC is located at 7108 Fern Circle, Middletown, MD 21769

Fighting Non-native Invasive Plants

After the loss of habitat, the encroachment of invasive non-native weeds is the biggest threat to our native plants and critters. Learn how to recognize these invasive weeds and how to control them. Afterwards, you will be placed on an email list to notify you of weed removal sessions at Carroll County nature centers. Students earn service learning hours for both the training and participation in the weeding sessions. If you are from out of county, you may elect not to be placed on the email list.

Event: Free training on identifying and removing invasive non-native plants.

Date: Sunday, September 25, 2016.

Time: 2-4 pm.

What: Training includes 1-hour online training to take before the 2-hour field training on September 25.

Who: Adults and students aged middle school and older. You are welcome from any location.

Where: Bear Branch Nature Center, 300 John Owings Road, Westminster MD 21158.

How: To register, email ccforestryboard@gmail.com.

Sponsor: Sierra Club Catoctin Group and Carroll County Forestry Board.

Questions: Contact Carolyn Puckett at 410-876-1995.



Weed Warriors of Carroll County Welcome New Coordinator by Carolyn Puckett

The Weed Warriors of Carroll County have been recruiting and training volunteers to help remove invasive non-native weeds from public sites since 2010. We have been fortunate enough for the past two years to have assistance from a Volunteer Maryland coordinator. Starting in September 2016 for 11 months, we are pleased to welcome Nick Yoder, our new Volunteer Maryland coordinator. Nick is an exceptionally well-qualified and passionate individual who will continue to expand on the hard work so many volunteers have dedicated towards this program.

Nick graduated in 2015 from the University of Maryland (UMD) College Park with a Masters of Landscape Architecture. His thesis focused on wildlife habitat design. In particular, he created a design for a failed golf course to become a wildlife reservation for target species, while providing diverse recreational opportunities including trail system, viewing areas, environmental education opportunities, and programs for community involvement. Since graduating UMD, Nick has served as the Stewardship Outings Coordinator Intern for the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter, leading a small team of interns and volunteers in the identification, mapping, and management of non-native invasive species in local parks.

Welcome Nick! We look forward to working with you over the coming year and beyond.

The Climate Mobilization

by Monica Greene

For years, our leaders have ignored the warnings of scientists concerning the growing danger of climate change. Worsening heat waves and wildfires, increased years of drought, accelerated ice melt, more deadly flooding and more violent storms are all signs that climate change is upon us not a mythical concern of the future. **The Climate Mobilization (TCM)** was organized immediately prior to the Peoples' Climate March in 2014: an event that brought together some 400,000 activists marching through the streets of New York City while other activists simultaneously marched in various countries around the world. Advocates of TCM include Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club, Bill McKibben of 350.org, and scientist Michael Mann. TCM activists believe that without immediate action, the global consequences of climate change will be disastrous within this century.



The aim of TCM is to convince our leaders to protect civilization with an all-out, whole society effort, which enables rapid transformation in every sector in order to achieve a 100% clean energy economy by 2025. TCM recognizes that full employment is essential to the plan's success to restore a safe and stable climate.

TCM members have been communicating their concern to our leaders and candidates. On July 10, 2016, TCM demonstrations took place across the country, in New York City, Boston, Kansas City, Denver, and four cities in Florida and California. The Washington, D.C. Chapter's event was held on the West Lawn of the United States Capitol. An audience of some 50 people gathered to listen to the live music and watch the skit, "The U.S. Presidential Address on the State of the Climate," as imagined in the year 2020.

The night before the demonstrations, there was breaking news. The writers of the **Democratic Party platform** had adopted a progressive agenda underscoring the need for bold action on climate change: "We are committed to a national mobilization, and to leading a global effort to mobilize nations to address this threat on a scale not seen since WWII." See http://www.theclimatemobilization.org/dnc_ww2

TCM activists believe that continued political pressure is necessary. They encourage everyone to take the **Climate Pledge**. Thousands have already signed and therefore have committed to support candidates dedicated to mobilization, to spread the truth of climate change, and to help mobilize America.

Don't forget to check out the Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter Outings Calendar for the latest information on hikes, bike tours and camping scheduled for Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Officers/Committee Chairs

Chairman & Energy

Dan Andrews

Treasurer

Anthony Iacovelli

Secretary & Outreach/Social Media

Amy Andrews

Conservation

Lew Sherman
Anthony Iacovelli

Invasive Plant Removal Stewardship

Carolyn Puckett

Outings

Harry George
Anthony Iacovelli

Membership

Patti Fredericks
Teresa Baker

Newsletter

Teresa Baker

For further information visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/catocin-group>

The next Executive Committee/General Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Thurmont Regional Library, 76 East Moser Road, Thurmont, Maryland 21788 in Frederick County.

Executive Committee/General Meetings are usually held the first Saturday of every month. Location varies.

All are welcome, members and non-members alike.

Contact Dan Andrews at dooze@qis.net for exact date, times and location.