

Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club Late Winter 2004

National Club Election in March

The annual election for the SC Board of Directors is now underway.

In March you will receive your national Sierra Club ballot in the mail. The ballot will include information on the candidates for the Board of Directors. The Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level, and works closely with the staff to run the Club. The Sierra Club is democratically structured at all levels, and our Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership.

The regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership is required for the Club to function well. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership. Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leaders and other experienced members that you know.

Members are encouraged to sign up for a Sierra

Club members-only list serve where they can ask questions of the candidates. This list serve will allow you to see the questions that other members ask and the answers that the candidates provide. The list serve also allows dialog between members about candidates for

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the board. This list serve is moderated. To sign on, go to the following web site:

whistler.sierraclub.org/lists/sub/?listname=BOD-CANDIDATES-OPEN-FORUM. The list serve is available now.

You can also visit the Club's election web site, www.sierraclub.org/bod/2004election, which will include candidate responses to questions posted by various Club leaders. The election pamphlet will appear on

this site the first week in March, and the questions and answers from the candidates will appear at about the same time.

Controversy about this Board election has already gained coverage in the national press. As in any election, healthy skepticism is the best protection against being misled. Just because something is printed in a newspaper doesn't mean it is necessarily true.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate, make your choices, and then cast your votes. You will find our ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark. You can even cast your vote electronically!

Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Please honor our democratic tradition by casting your vote this spring. ■

8.7%.

That's the percentage of Sierrans who voted in the last Board Election. The Sierra Club is a democracy that needs YOUR voice and YOUR vote. Contact any of your Chapter or group leaders for more information.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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Thank You, Jon Robinson!



by **Betsy Johnson**—As newly elected Chapter chair, my first order of business is to thank Jon Robinson for his fine leadership these past three years. Despite working a full-time job and serving on the Prince George's executive committee, Jon found time to run the Chapter with a firm hand. I feel privileged to have worked at Jon's side as Chapter Vice-Chair these last two years, and I am grateful that he has consented to being Chapter Vice-Chair this year, a reversal of roles that I hope he doesn't

find too difficult after being in charge for so long. I will frequently call on him for advice and support, and the Chapter will benefit from that continuity in leadership. So thank you, Jon—for all the hard work you have contributed to the Chapter, and for staying so involved over the years.

Other changes to your Chapter leadership occurred this year. The executive committee welcomes two new at-large members: Dan Boone and Bob DeGroot. Last year Dan was the delegate from Prince George's County on the Chapter Ex-comm, a role that will now be assumed by Chip Reilly, chair of the Prince George's group. Dan has also consented to continue as Chapter Conservation Chair, a very important position that has oversight over all of the conservation work of the club. Bob DeGroot is President of the Maryland Alliance for Greenway Improvement and Conservation (MAGIC) and has been involved in Sierra Club conservation work for many years. We will now benefit from his voice on the Chapter Ex-comm.

Sherry Dixon will continue her fine work as our treasurer, and Marc Scott has agreed to perform as secretary, a position that was previously rotated among executive committee members to the detriment of our record-keeping. Many thanks to all, and may our service this year be productive.

And to all you members out there - please consider actively volunteering this year. In an election year we need all the help we can get. If you would like to volunteer, please call me at 301 656-4948. ■

Join the Maryland Chapter
action alert e-mail list

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



Chapter Leaders

Maryland Chapter Leaders

Executive Committee

Betsy Johnson, Chair
301 656-4948
betsy_johnson@comcast.net
Jon Robinson, Vice Chair
301-422-0064
jonwrobinson@erols.com
Dan Boone, At Large Del.
301 464 5199
ddanboone@yahoo.com
Bob DeGroot, At Large Del.
301 340-8348
BobDeGroot@comcast.net
Charlie Garlow, At Large Del.
301 593-9823
charlie.garlow@juno.com
Jan Graham, At Large Del.
410 648-5476
jgraham@bluecrab.org
Earl Bradley, Anne Arundel Del.
410 267-9357
earlbradly@aol.com
Gregor Becker, Catocin Del.
410 876-2182
gregb@ccpl.carr.org
John Railey, Greater Baltimore Del.
410 752-0104
jrailey7007@aol.com
Glenda Kruger, Howard Del.
410 995-1940
gKruger@aol.com
Ginny Barnes, Montgomery Del.
301 762-9287
ginnybarnes@juno.com
Chip Reilly, Prince Georges Del.
301 218-3920
cbreilly@his.com
Bonnie Bick, Southern MD Del.
301 839-7403
bonnie@radix.net

Issues Contacts

Dan Boone, Conservation Chair
Charlie Garlow, Air and Energy Chair
Jan Graham, Legislative Chair
John Railey, Outings Chair
Betsy Johnson, Charlie Garlow, Political Chairs
Ed Stennett, Population Chair
301 948-0168
bev-ed.stennett@worldnet.att.ne
Joan Willey, Fundraising and Public Lands Chair
410 267-0716
herbals@erols.com
Marc Imlay, Biodiversity, Invasive Species, and Habitat Stewardship Chair
301 283-0808
ialm@erols.com
Steve Cafilisch, Transportation Chair
301 654-3288
cafilisch@erols.com
Bob Burchard, Baltimore Inner City Outings Chair
410 744-0510
rpburchard@att.net

Non-Ex-Comm Support

Sherry Dixon, Treasurer
410 203-9842
sdixon@enterprisefoundation.org
Marc Scott, Secretary
301928-1458
marcscott@verizon.net
Laurel Imlay, Chapter Staff
301 277-7111
laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org
Darla Tewell, Newsletter Editor
darlaann@erols.com

Chapter Office Address

7338 Baltimore Avenue #1A
College Park, MD 20740
Tel: 301 277-7111
Fax: 301 277-6699

Energy



Victory!

Legislature Overrides Governor's Veto of Energy Efficient Appliances Bill

by **Charlie Garlow**—Thanks in large part to the calls, letters and e-mails from Maryland Sierra Club members, along with help from the House and Senate leadership and other environmental allies, we were successful in overriding Governor Ehrlich's last-spring veto of the Energy Efficient Appliances bill, which had passed by large margins. The vote in January was again lopsided, showing that the legislature really means it. Now it is the law of Maryland that inefficient appliances, as specified in the law, may not be sold in our state.

Our new law will affect consumer purchases of two products, ceiling fans and torchiere lamps. Only energy-efficient models of these fans and lamps will be sold; inefficient ones will not be. And new efficiency standards will apply to other appliances that businesses will buy,

like big washing machines for coin-operated laundries and exit signs for buildings. While sometimes the initial, up-front cost may be slightly more, in other instances the efficient appliance is no more expensive than the inefficient one. In each case, purchasers will save money over the life of the appliance in the form of reduced energy bills.

Give yourselves a pat on the back. We have moved our state into the forefront of the energy conservation/efficiency movement, ahead of all other states in the union on this issue. Wow! It doesn't get much better than this as a great way to start off the legislative session. ■

Want to be on e-mail alert list for future good energy-related bills? Write to me, charlie.garlow@juno.com

Online Nomination Forms Make National Award Nominations Easier Than Ever

Do you know a club member who deserves national recognition for his or her work? If so, nominating them is easier than ever this year thanks to new web-based nomination forms.

June 1 is the deadline to nominate candidates for the Club's 2004 national awards. The online nomination forms may be found on the awards home page at www.sierraclub.org/awards.

Clearing the Air: The 4P Bill

Emissions from Coal-Burning Power Plants to Be Reduced



by Jim Fary — What do nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, mercury and carbon dioxide have in common? They are all air pollutants that come out of power plants that will be regulated when the Maryland legislature passes the 4P bill.

The health impact of these pollutants is significant.

“Code Red” days, when nitrogen oxides and fumes from gasoline, paint, and other volatile organic compounds combine to create an ozone-filled smog, induce asthma in children and the elderly. Sulfur dioxide makes acid rain, as does nitrogen, and even becomes a particulate, like the black smoke that comes out of diesel trucks and buses. This grit, soot or dirt can get in the lungs and cause more

breathing problems than smog, including Sudden Infant Death syndrome or SIDs. Mercury, a neuro-toxin, gets in the water and builds up in the food chain to the point that, in some states, fish are unsafe for children and child-bearing mothers to eat. Mercury poisoning can cause brain damage.

Humans are not the only ones whose health is affected.

Too much nitrogen in the air comes down with the rain into the Chesapeake Bay and kills fish and other Bay critters. Acid rain stunts the growth of our forests and acidifies streams. Carbon dioxide is the principal greenhouse gas that is causing the earth’s temperature to rise, making 2003 the second warmest year in recorded history. The result may be, according to a recent study reported in the *Washington Post*, extinction for 5%-35% of all species. The polar bears in the far north are getting the brunt of the warming, as are coral reefs that are bleaching out.

Here in Maryland, coal-fired power plants are the biggest contributor of SO₂ and mercury and are a major source of NO_x and CO₂. We need a 4P bill to control and curb these gases.

But isn’t the federal government and the federal Clean Air Act taking care of these problem air pollutants?

Yes, SO₂ emissions have been reduced under the acid rain program and other programs that we environmentalists helped to get passed, but we need to make more progress, as this bill would accomplish. Mercury emitted by power plants has not been controlled before, though a Clinton-era proposal would have controlled 90% of the mercury emissions within three years. Now the current Administration is proposing a weaker standard of control that won’t be completely phased in until 2018.

Nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) have been controlled un-

der a number of EPA regulations, but recently the Bush EPA weakened one of the most important ones, the New Source Review rules, which require older “grandfathered” power plants to install state-of-the-art pollution controls when they make major modifications.

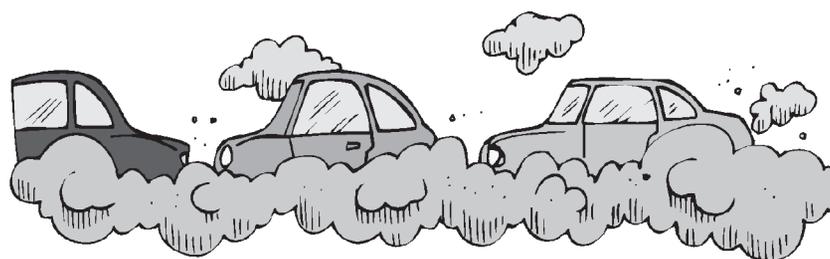
New Bush Administration rules would create a giant loophole in these regulations and let coal plants get away with major increases in pollution with no consequences.

The rules have been challenged in court by the good guys but it may be years before the litigation is resolved.

Smog levels are so bad in Maryland that now both the Baltimore and Greater Washington, D.C. areas have been classified as severe non-attainment [violation] of the health based standards. DC used to be merely serious. Now, we are severe! Only one smog classification is worse: extreme. Like Los Angeles. ■

Clean Cars Bill Passes in NJ. Is Maryland Next?

by Charlie Garlow — Despite heavy opposition from automobile manufacturers and dealers, New Jersey Governor James McGreevey has signed into law S2351/A3393, better known as the Clean Cars Bill. The bill requires the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to begin implementing the California Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) program in 2009. The California program demands reductions in tailpipe and evaporative emissions of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides for all passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and sport utility vehicles. The bill



will also require that carmakers produce a total of approximately 40,000 gas-electric hybrid cars and 128,000 super-clean gasoline cars between 1999 and 2009. The combination of stricter standards and the promotion of cleaner vehicles is ex-

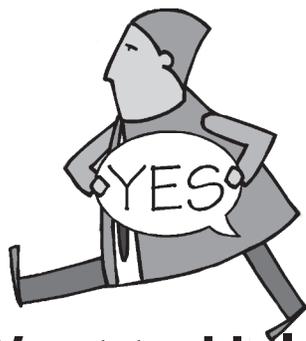
pected to reduce smog by 19 percent by the year 2020.

The Maryland legislature considered this bill last year and it will be reintroduced in 2004.

California is constantly improving

its clean cars law, and as it does, the other states that have adopted California’s standards will also enjoy these improvements. New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, and now New Jersey are on board.

California’s rules will also require reductions in global-warming gases by almost 20% according to the latest reports out of California. Most of this improvement should come from the vehicles, but there may be some allowance for planting trees and other offsets. ■



Want to Help?

Enough about the bad news about coal fired plant emissions. . .What is the solution to this problem?

The Maryland General Session will be considering HB1172, legislation that will regulate these emissions. Soon we will know the details of this legislation and the list of sponsors, so we can urge for passage of this beneficial bill.

Want to help? Join the Air and Energy Committee, or just be on the list of folks who want tips on who to contact, and when. First, call your delegates and state senator to tell them to support the 4P bill. Then, call or e-mail me at 301 593-9823 or charlie.garlow@juno.com, to join the team of folks working to stop global warming and other airborne assaults on our health and the environment.



The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supported the Clean Cars bill last year and will do so again this year. Call your legislators and urge them to support it. When a bill number is assigned, we will get the word out on the web. Or contact me at charlie.garlow@juno.com or 301-593-9823 if you want to get active on this issue.

Wind Farm Tour

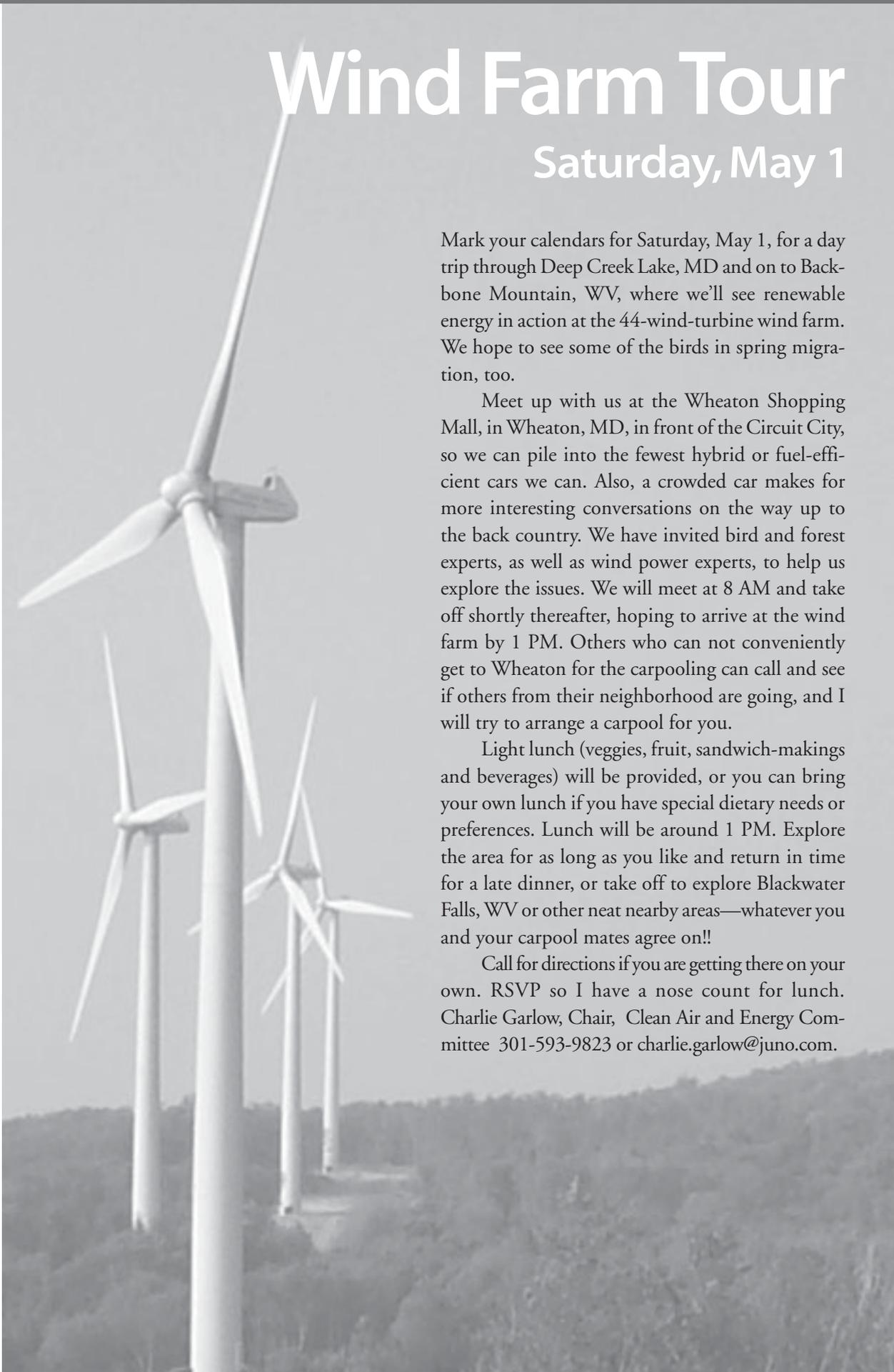
Saturday, May 1

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 1, for a day trip through Deep Creek Lake, MD and on to Backbone Mountain, WV, where we'll see renewable energy in action at the 44-wind-turbine wind farm. We hope to see some of the birds in spring migration, too.

Meet up with us at the Wheaton Shopping Mall, in Wheaton, MD, in front of the Circuit City, so we can pile into the fewest hybrid or fuel-efficient cars we can. Also, a crowded car makes for more interesting conversations on the way up to the back country. We have invited bird and forest experts, as well as wind power experts, to help us explore the issues. We will meet at 8 AM and take off shortly thereafter, hoping to arrive at the wind farm by 1 PM. Others who can not conveniently get to Wheaton for the carpooling can call and see if others from their neighborhood are going, and I will try to arrange a carpool for you.

Light lunch (veggies, fruit, sandwich-makings and beverages) will be provided, or you can bring your own lunch if you have special dietary needs or preferences. Lunch will be around 1 PM. Explore the area for as long as you like and return in time for a late dinner, or take off to explore Blackwater Falls, WV or other neat nearby areas—whatever you and your carpool mates agree on!!

Call for directions if you are getting there on your own. RSVP so I have a nose count for lunch. Charlie Garlow, Chair, Clean Air and Energy Committee 301-593-9823 or charlie.garlow@juno.com.



Nothing But Roads in Capital Budget and New Funding Proposals

by Steve Caflisch—The overwhelming majority of speakers at Montgomery Blair High School in November told Maryland's Transportation Task Force (the Hellman Commission) that the Governor's proposed capital transportation budget, as well as proposals for spending any increased transportation revenues from new or increased taxes and fees, favor roads so one-sidedly that they are completely unacceptable. The proposals completely ignore the benefits of transit; transit-oriented, mixed-use development; and safe, convenient pedestrian and bike access to activity centers and transit stops. Now is the time for us to tell our state legislators the same thing.

The benefits of transit include:

- cleaner air and water
- critical mobility for non-drivers
- superior travel choices for many drivers
- economic development
- encouraging efficient land use that protects the environment while reducing trip lengths
- reduced travel delays for those who do drive.

Without transit, time lost to congestion would increase

The Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) estimates that without currently available transit service, time lost to congestion would increase 33% in the Baltimore region and 41% in the Washington region. The TTI estimates that congestion reductions from transit save *drivers* in the two regions over \$1.3 billion each year. Transit-oriented, mixed use development and safe, convenient pedestrian and bike ac-

cess to activity centers and transit stops provide many of the same benefits.

Many major transit projects in Maryland deserve prompt funding. Washington's highly successful transit system also needs \$1.5 billion in the next several years just to avoid deteriorating service on the existing system. Of course, Metro is not solely Maryland's responsibility, but Maryland will need to make a major contribution to solving Metro's funding problem.

Distorted funding priorities.

Despite the multiple benefits of transit and the clear need for transit funding, the Ehrlich Administration proposes to devote virtually all transportation capital spending to highways. Billions are proposed for highways, with completion to be expedited. Transit projects, including those that were far along in the study process when the administration took office, are to be deferred to sometime after 2010, with even the studies not fully funded in the budget. And Metro's critical needs barely receive lip service.

Tax increases for highways alone?

In this legislative session, highway advocates will press hard for new or increased taxes to raise hundreds of millions of dollars a year exclusively for new highways and bridges. If pressed, they may concede a few crumbs for transit and for bicycle and pedestrian access to transit stops and activity centers. But the real goal is to fund highways and bridges, many of which will directly damage the environment, increase auto dependence, and encourage sprawl.

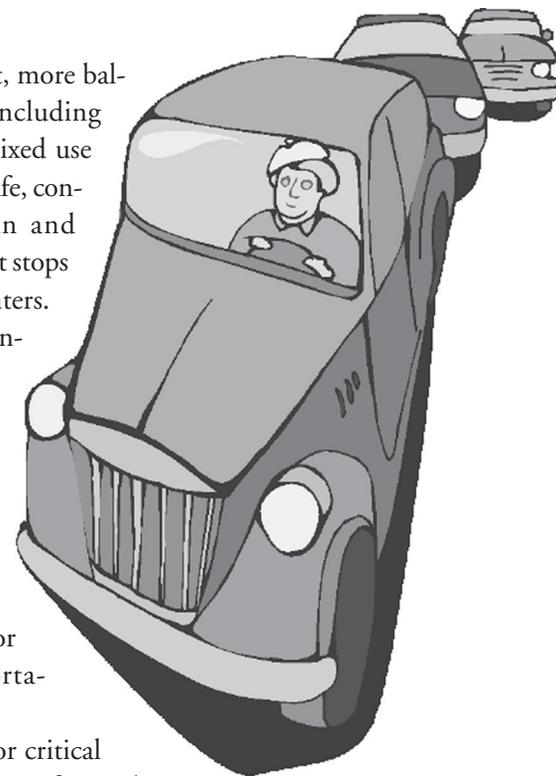
A better idea

We urge a different, more balanced approach, including transit-oriented, mixed use development and safe, convenient pedestrian and bike access to transit stops and to activity centers.

A wide variety of environmental and transit advocates have endorsed the following principles:

- Increase transit funding by at least 50% of any new or increased transportation revenues.
- Move funding for critical rail projects and Metro forward promptly.
- Maintain Maryland's ability to fund transit through the Transportation Trust Fund.
- Reject attempts to limit the amount available for transit.
- Reject attempts to increase state funds for roads while leaving it to local jurisdictions to increase funds for transit.
- Extend the current 40% farebox recovery rate (the proportion of operating costs a transit service must cover with fares).

The Ehrlich administration wants the current provision to lapse, leading to a 50% farebox recovery requirement. Many feeder buses to Metro have low fares to encourage Metro ridership, which covers well over 50% of operating costs. Applying a 50% farebox recovery rule to



such feeder buses would undermine a conscious and successful policy.

What you can do

Please write or call your representatives in Annapolis and urge them to insist on these principles. Tell them raising revenues primarily to fund roads is a complete misallocation of resources. And ask them not to waste a fortune on the ICC. Even assuming it could be built legally, it would not provide the promised transportation benefits but inevitably would cost well over the currently projected \$1.7 billion even without the large financing charges. ■

For more information:

*Steve Caflisch, Transportation Chair
301 654-3288, caflisch@erols.com*

Federal Transportation Legislation Threatens Your 'Environmental Bill of Rights'

by Bert Melcher—Proposed national laws for transportation contain a major attack on your “Environmental Bill of Rights” – the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Administration and Congressional bills re-authorize the “Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century” (TEA 21) for six years. On February 13, the Senate passed its bill, “SAFETEA”. The House will take action on its bill in June.

SAFETEA is a disaster in several respects. A main problem is in a new Section 326. This establishes the State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) as “Lead Agency” for ALL transportation decisions where Federal funds are involved. “Transportation” includes transit and rail. The lead agency has sole power to define the “purpose and need” of any project and the alternatives that may be considered.

Here is a major disaster—just read it slowly aloud:

“The lead agency **may** [emphasis added] determine that any of the following factors and documents are appropriate for consideration in determining the alternatives for a project: (A) The overall size and complexity of the proposed action. (B) The sensitivity of the potentially affected resources. (C) The overall schedule and cost of the project. (D) Transportation plans and related planning documents developed through the statewide and metropolitan transportation planning process under sections 134 and 135 of title 23 of the United States Code. (E) Land use plans adopted by units of State, local, or tribal government (or, in the case of Federal land, by the applicable Federal land management agencies). (F) Economic development plans adopted by (i) units of State, local, or tribal government; or (ii) established economic development planning organizations or authorities. (G) environmental protection plans, including plans for the protection or treatment of (i) air quality; (ii) water quality and runoff; (iii) habitat needs of plants and animals; (iv) threatened and endangered species; (v) invasive species; (vi) historic properties; and (vii) other environmental resources. (H) Any publicly available plans or policies relating to the national defense, national security, or foreign policy of the United States.”

In other words, the DOT *may* ignore all of the factors identified above, plus more, despite the rest of NEPA that is not over-ridden and gutted. The word “may” regarding DOT duties, *i.e.*, the option to ignore what it wants to ignore, occurs other places. As a minimum, “may” should be changed to “shall” throughout the law.

Local and regional governmental units and plans, local influence and checks and balances, local citizens’ involvement are all jeopardized. Time frames for agency and public reviews and comments are shortened to 30 days. This is a travesty and designed solely to avoid NEPA and due process and to give by “stealth” more power to the State DOTs.

This bill would give state DOTs authority over transit and commuter rail such as BART in San Francisco, MARTA in Atlanta, RTD in Denver, etc. This is not tolerable. Transit agencies were established by state laws, voted on by voters; are recipients of Federal funding, conforming to Federal (FTA, Civil Rights and NEPA especially) laws; funded primarily with local taxes; have locally elected or appointed boards, and have duties and responsibilities that should not be usurped by a DOT.

Clean air rules are also weakened elsewhere in the bills. Civil rights can be seriously weakened.

There are some good provisions, especially in proposed Senate funding to increase transit funds. However, President Bush has threatened to veto this.

Sierra Club members should use every avenue to protest these attacks on NEPA, health, good government, multimodal transportation and citizens’ rights. This is a paving industry bill: ask your US Senators and Congressmen to delete Section 326 of SAFETEA. ■

Bert Melcher is Transportation Chair, Rocky Mountain Chapter Sierra Club. This article will appear in the newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, and is used by permission of the author. For further information on this issue, contact Steve Caflisch, Transportation Chair at 301 654-3288, or caflisch@erols.com

Bush Administration Proposes More Loopholes in CAFE Standards

In yet another anti-environmental action occurring shortly before a holiday, the Bush administration proposed rule changes that would undermine Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Standards, the nation’s most successful oil-savings law.

The Bush proposal would create ‘weight-based’ categories for light trucks (SUVs, pickups and vans) with a separate fuel economy standard for each class. This encourages automakers to fatten up their trucks to qualify them for a weaker fuel economy standard. This proposal abandons the current approach which requires auto makers to meet a specific fleet wide average.

The Bush administration’s plan would not guarantee a certain level of oil savings or pollution reduction, making clean air and energy independence just an afterthought. While the proposal would close an existing loophole that allows vehicles over 8,500 lbs, such as Hummers, Suburbans, and Excursions to evade fuel economy standards, this one step forward is overshadowed by the three steps back that would come from instituting “weight-based” standards.

Instead of opening up new loopholes for their friends in the auto and oil industries, the Bush Administration should put existing gas-saving technology to work and make all cars, trucks, and SUVs go farther on a gallon of gas. Taking this step would save consumers’ money at the gas pump, curb global warming, and cut our dependence on oil. ■

For more information about the Bush administration’s record on the environment, see www.sierraclub.org/lwwatch.

Forests: Trees, Not Timber

Clean air, watershed protection, recreation, and wildlife should be forest products

Legislators Propose to Protect State Forests

by Bob DeGroot —Forest protection bills are designed to protect and improve interior forest habitat for both plants and animals. Most forests in Maryland are privately owned and have been logged repeatedly. Remaining forests are highly fragmented by human habitation, logging, and development. This creates young forests that provide good habitat for invasive weed species and for animals like white-tailed deer. But mature forest habitat for plants and animals that live in interior forests continues to shrink. According to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Maryland has already lost at least 180 plant and 35 animal species, and another 310 plant and 165 animal species are considered rare, threatened, or endangered.

State forests belong to the public and should be managed primarily for public needs and the services they provide, like watershed protection, clean air, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Recreation is a growing public activity and the public wants forests which are not devastated and fragmented by logging activities.



There will never be a better opportunity to show your support for public forest protection and preservation than now. Please pick up the phone today and call two Delegates on the Environmental Matters Committee (listed in box at right) and ask them to support the forest bills. Choose Delegates you either know or who live close to you (counties represented by the Delegates are listed). Sponsors are already coming under attack by the forest industry. When you call a sponsor of these bills, thank them for supporting Maryland's public forests.

We now have two bills pending in the Legislature:

HB867: Logging Impact Report

Requires DNR to detail the cumulative environmental impacts from logging activities in state forests over the last 30 years. Report will include impact caused by fragmentation of habitat, and impact on forest species and water quality.

HB868: Use of Revenues from Timber Harvesting

Requires DNR to use logging revenues (after the counties have taken their cut) to:

- Inventory, protect, and restore forest interior species and habitats
- Eradicate invasive species
- Acquire forests that will not be eligible for timber harvesting.

The bills must first be approved by the Environmental Matters Committee in the House in order for them to get to a floor vote. Each of the bills has ten sponsors; not all of the sponsors are on the Environmental Matters Committee. ■

Remind Your Rep That...

1. The public owns only 15% of Maryland's forests, and wants their forests preserved.
2. Economically, public forests are worth four times more for recreational activities than for wood fiber production.
3. Public surveys show overwhelming support for forest protection - 82% favor protection vs. 3% that favor logging.
4. Recreational users do not want logged forests for their activities.
5. Logging reduces native species and introduces exotic weeds to forests.

Environmental Matters Committee

Phone: 1-800-492-7122 (extension)

Maggie L. McIntosh, Chair, Balt. City, x3990
James E. Malone, Jr., VChair, (D), Balt. Co., x3378

John S. Arnick (D) Balt. Co., x3458
Kumar Barve (D) Montg., Sponsor, x3464
Elizabeth Bobo (D) Howard, Sponsor, x3205
William A. Bronrott (D) Montg., Sponsor, x3019
Rudolph C. Cane (D) Dorchester, x3427
Virginia P. Clagett (D) AA, x3211
John W. E. Cluster, Jr. (R) Balt. City, x3365
Barbara A. Frush (D) AA & PG, Sponsor, x3114
Barry Glassman (R) Harford, Sponsor HB 867 only, x3289
Patrick N. Hogan (R) Frederick, x3240
Marvin E. Holmes, Jr. (D) PG, x3098
J. B. Jennings (R) Harford, x3334
Tony McConkey (R) AA, Sponsor HB868 only, x3223
Karen S. Montgomery (D) Montg., Sponsor, x3380
George W. Owings III (D) Calvert, x3231
Rosetta C. Parker (D) PG, Sponsor, x3326
Richard A. Sossi (R) Kent, x3543
Joan F. Stern (D) Montg., x3045
Paul S. Stull (R) Frederick, x3107
Michael H. Weir, Jr. (D) Balt. Co., x3328

Other Sponsors

Charles Barkley (D) Montg., Sponsor, x3001
James W. Hubbard, PG, Sponsor, x3103
Brian Moe (D) AA & PG, Sponsor, x3114

Public Financing of General Assembly Campaigns Could Reduce the Role of Big Contributors



by Cliff Terry—The role of big contributors in General Assembly races could be substantially diminished by the passage of two bills which would provide for full public funding for campaigns for the General Assembly. They are SB 725 and HB 1317, and the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club urges you to contact your legislators to support them. You can read them at mlis.state.md.us.

Many of the legislators whom you lobby on environmental issues depend heavily for their campaign financing on contributions from businesses and industry trade associations. And the financial self-interest of many of these big contributors puts them on the “anti-environment” side of some of the issues you care most about. Big campaign contributions cannot help but influence General Assembly members’ votes on bills that will help or hurt the contributors. A politician would have to be a saint—or an ingrate—to pay no attention at all to the requests of his biggest donors. If you have more phone messages than you could possibly return, and you notice one is from a big contributor, it seems humanly impossible to put his message anywhere but near the top of the pile.

No amount of tinkering with the current system of financing campaigns will solve this problem. We need a new system. That new system is public financing of General Assembly campaigns, as recommended by the Study Commission on Public Funding of Campaigns in Maryland.

It would be similar to systems working well in Maine and Arizona. All General Assembly candidates who wish to receive public funding would first have to show broad public support by collecting “qualifying” contributions of at least \$5 each from a specified number of registered voters in their legislative districts. They would then have to agree to abide by spending limits set for each office. Provisions are made to level the playing field somewhat for publicly-funded legislative candidates who are out-spent by a privately-funded opponent. In that case, a publicly-funded General Assembly candidate could receive up to twice the usual amount. Funding would come from a variety of sources, including general revenues as needed.

How much will this cost? Preliminary estimates are about \$27 million over a four-year election cycle; that is, about \$5 per Maryland resident over four years. The state government is in dire budgetary straits. How can we possibly afford that? The system would not go into effect until the 2007-2010 election cycle, with the great majority of expenditures being in the last year of that cycle. By that time the state should be back on its feet fiscally. ■

If you have questions, contact Cliff Terry at ckterry@bcpl.net or 410-944-9477.



Legislature to Consider Making Emergency Contraception Available Without A Prescription

by Cliff Terry—The Maryland Sierra Club asks you to urge your state legislators to support four bills that would allow women to buy emergency contraceptive (EC) pills without a prescription. They are HB 203 and 204 and SB 247 and 248. You can read them at mlis.state.md.us. Similar bills failed in the 2003 General Assembly by the narrowest possible margin.

EC pills, often called morning-after pills, are ordinary birth control pills taken in special doses after unprotected intercourse to reduce the risk of pregnancy by up to 95%. The brands packaged for this purpose are PREVEN and the newer Plan B. They are not the abortion pill.

It can be hard, especially on weekends or holidays, to get a prescription and get it filled within the 72 hours after intercourse when the pills must be taken.

The bills would not allow sale over the counter. Pharmacists would be required to screen customers to verify medical appropriateness.

Almost half of the six million annual pregnancies in the US are unintended. EC holds the potential to reduce unintended pregnancies by half, so it could also cut in half Maryland’s abortion rate.

The American

Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists support making emergency oral contraception available to women without a physician’s prescription. Washington State, California, Alaska, Hawaii, New York, and New Mexico all allow it.

Advisory committees for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently voted overwhelmingly that the pills are safe enough to sell without prescription nationwide, but the FDA has postponed a decision. Right-wing political pressure is likely to affect that decision.

What makes EC a Sierra Club issue? Environmental concerns are only

one of the reasons easy access to EC is important, but they are an important reason. All those unintended pregnancies contribute, of course, to continuing population growth.

Maryland’s population grew by 11% from 1990 to 2000. That may not

sound rapid, but at that rate there would be twice as many of us in the state every 63 years. As you know, growth contributes directly to sprawl, road congestion, air pollution, and degradation of all of our natural environment. ■

For lots more information about emergency contraception, see not-2-late.com or contact Cliff Terry at ckterry@bcpl.net or 410-944-9477.

Journey to Ecuador

By Todd Daniel — Of all the environmental issues, I believe the most important one is global population. The real awakening for me was four years ago when I witnessed the doubling of world population in my lifetime — from 3.02 billion in 1960 to 6 billion in 1999. The massive growth is placing a major strain on our planet and is the source of most environmental ills.

Much of this growth could be curtailed if the United States and other nations were to fulfill the commitments they made during a United Nations population conference in 1994. However, instead of getting closer to U.N. goals, our government is moving in the opposite direction.

As a population activist, I have worked hard to advocate maximum and restriction-free funding for international family planning. This work has included three trips to Washington, where I have visited the offices of my senators and representative.

So, it was an incredible surprise when I learned that I was chosen to participate in a Sierra Club study tour to Ecuador to visit family planning clinics. At long last, I would see how U.S. dollars can make a difference in the field.

In mid-August I departed for my 10-day trip to this small but beautiful nation. My first impression was that Ecuador is a land of extremes. The endless mountain ranges are an incredible sight, and the people of Ecuador are fun loving and kind. But once outside the capital city of Quito, there is no escaping the widespread poverty. Every time I looked out the window of our comfortable tour bus, it was there—and it haunted me daily.

Beneath the beauty of Ecuador is a lingering problem that is shared by most other developing nations. Currently, their population is 12.3 million, with an annual growth rate of 2 percent. If this trend continues, the nation's population will double in 35 years! Already, farmers are tilling land farther and farther up the slopes of mountains, and a guest speaker told us about the rapid development in the rainforests. Considering the immense poverty and the environmental impacts that I witnessed, I am certain that another 12 million people will not bring prosperity to this great nation.

During our tour, we visited several clinics operated by Centro Médico de Orientación y Planificación Familiar (CEMOPLAF), a non-profit family planning organization. Undoubtedly one of the most successful programs in Latin America, CEMOPLAF provides family planning and reproductive health services to lower income and indigenous people. Founded in 1974, the organization has expanded its services over the years to include pre-natal and delivery care, STD/AIDS prevention, and adolescent reproductive health projects. But what really fascinated me are their integrated programs that link the environment and reproductive health in rural areas. These programs help farmers to produce crops more efficiently and sustainably. For instance, in one community I visited, the indigenous people were restoring a forest in the mountains above to help with water and soil conservation.

In fact, that was the biggest realization of my trip: that family planning is more than just passing out contraceptives. Rather, it requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses not only the woman, but also the entire family and community. Increasing opportunities for women, reducing infant mortality, and raising people out of abject poverty are all pieces of the puzzle. Throughout the week, the words of Sierra Club founder John Muir stayed in my mind: “When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.”

Of all my memories during the trip, one is particularly vivid. While visiting a clinic laboratory, I happened to look down to see a decal on a piece of equipment that simply read “USAID” (United States Agency for International Development). I started looking around and the decals were everywhere. It was then that I realized that the international family planning dollars of my government really do make a difference. And it's not just about stabilizing global population, but rather it's about health, increased opportunities, and the improvement of living standards. And most importantly, it's about hope. ■

Todd's story was originally published by yellowcanary.org, and is reprinted by permission of the author. It was submitted by Ed Stennett, Chair, Population Committee.

Ecuador and Other Countries Suffer Under Bush Policies

According to one USAID worker, as of 2004 there is, unfortunately, no more funding for family planning in Ecuador. “The [Bush] administration just doesn't believe in it.”

Ecuador is but one place adversely affected by the Bush administration's extreme stance on family planning. The following time line is a sample of just how extreme.

January 2001 Days after being sworn in as President, Bush reinstates the Global Gag Rule Against Family Planning. (The Sierra Club, Population Connection, and many other organizations have emphatically opposed the gag rule since first introduced by the Reagan administration.)

November 2001 Bush names Patricia Ware, an ardent abstinence-only supporter, to head the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

May 2002 At a U.N. Special Session on Children, the State Department allies with Syria, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, and Libya to block consensus on sexuality education.

June 2002 Key health findings are altered on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Institute for Health (NIH) websites. Specifically, new wording removes references to volumes of evidence previously available on the sites regarding findings that abortions do not increase breast cancer risks; and condom education reduces the spread of HIV and does not increase sexual activity.

continued on page 11>

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July 2002 Despite his own State Department's report which found no violations of the UNFPA program, Bush withholds \$34 million in family planning aid pledged by Congress, Secretary of State Colin Powell, even the President himself.

September 2002 Bush names Dr. Freda McKissic Bush to head the CDC's Advisory Council on HIV and STD Prevention. Dr. Bush, director of an abstinence-only program, is also a member of an anti-condom research group.

November 2002 Bush's administration freezes \$3 million in funding for the World Health Organization's reproductive health program because they had researched the "morning after" pill.

December 2002 At the second U.N. population conference in Bangkok, the U.S. delegation moves to delete the terms *reproductive health services*, *reproductive rights*, and *sexual health and rights* from a resolution, while pushing abstinence. The U.S.'s objections were rejected by votes of 32-1 and 33-1.

Material submitted by Ed Stennett, Population Chair. His sources were "A Fine Balance," Marilyn Snell, Sierra Magazine, January/February 2004 and www.populationconnection.org/Reports_Publications/Publications/publication323.html

"How Many Can the Earth Support?" Is the Wrong Question

by John Stuart Mill—There is room in the world, no doubt, and even in old countries, for a great increase in population, supposing the arts of life to go on improving, and capital to increase. But even if innocuous, I confess I see very little reason for desiring it. The density of population necessary to enable mankind to obtain, in the greatest degree, all the advantages both of cooperation and of social intercourse, has, in all the most populous countries, been attained.

A population may be too crowded, though all be amply provided with food and raiment. It is not good for man to be kept perforce at all times in the presence of his species. A world from which solitude is extirpated, is a very poor ideal. Solitude, in the sense of being often alone, is essential to any depth of meditation or of character; and solitude in the presence of natural beauty and grandeur, is the cradle of thoughts and aspirations which are not only good for the individual, but which society could do ill without. Nor is there much

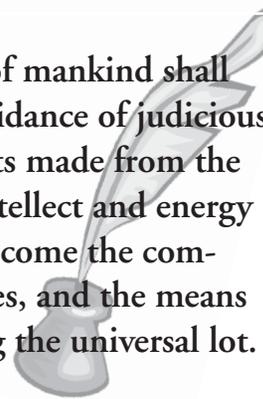
satisfaction in contemplating the world with nothing left to the spontaneous activity of nature; withevery rood of land brought into cultivation, which is capable of growing food for human beings; every flowery waste or natural pasture plowed up, all quadrupeds or birds which are not domesticated for man's use exterminated as his rivals for food, every hedgerow or superfluous tree rooted out, and scarcely a place left where a wild shrub or flower could grow without being eradicated as a weed in the name of improved agriculture.

If the earth must lose that great portion of its pleasantness which it owes to things that the unlimited increase of wealth and population would extirpate from it, for the mere purpose of enabling it to support a larger, but not a better or happier population, I sincerely hope,

for the sake of posterity, that they will be content to be stationary, long before necessity compels them to it.

It is scarcely necessary to remark that a stationary condition of capital and population implies no stationary state of human improvement. There would be as much scope as ever for all kinds of mental culture, and moral and social progress; as much room for improving the Art of Living, and much more likelihood of its being improved, when minds ceased to be engrossed by the art of getting on. Even the industrial arts might be as earnestly and as successfully cultivated, with the sole difference, that instead of serving no purpose but the increase of wealth, industrial improvements would produce their legitimate effect, that of abridging labor.

Only when...the increase of mankind shall be under the deliberate guidance of judicious foresight, can the conquests made from the powers of nature by the intellect and energy of scientific discoverers, become the common property of the species, and the means of improving and elevating the universal lot.



Hitherto it is questionable if all the mechanical inventions yet made have lightened the day's toil of any human being. They have enabled a greater population to live the same life of drudgery and imprisonment, and an increased number of manufacturers and others to make fortunes. They

have increased the comforts of the middle classes. But they have not yet begun to effect those great changes in human destiny, which it is in their nature and in their futurity to accomplish. Only when, in addition to just institutions, the increase of mankind shall be under the deliberate guidance of judicious foresight, can the conquests made from the powers of nature by the intellect and energy of scientific discoverers, become the common property of the species, and the means of improving and elevating the universal lot. ■

From Book IV, Chapter VI, Section II of Principles of Political Economy, published in 1848. The title of this excerpt is not in the original. This piece was submitted by Cliff Terry,, Population Committee

Voting in Maryland: The Need for Paper Audit Trails

by Janis K. Oppelt—When it comes to computers, a little paranoia, and downright distrust, about their consistent reliability and diehard security is a healthy thing. Professionals who work with computers on a regular basis are quick to say, “No system is so secure that it couldn’t be hacked.”

This probable fact speaks volumes for the wasted brilliance of some human minds—those minds that know, and actually have the time, to do such hacking. Unfortunately, it also raises very serious concerns for many activists and concerned citizens about the electronic voting systems being purchased and used throughout the country, including Maryland.

Maryland is, in fact, the first state in the country to implement a uniform state-wide computerized touch-screen voting system called the AccuVote-TS, which Diebold Election Systems manufactures. Since March 2002, the state has spent more than \$72 million to purchase 16,000 or so of these computers, and it was these systems Marylanders used in the March Democratic primary.

Slick but suspicious

Despite the many positive features of the electronic voting systems, skeptics are asking many reasonable questions: Can officials conduct U.S. elections safely via computer? Will the systems accurately record and count our votes? And last, but most pertinent to this article, should printers be installed with the systems to provide a voter-verified paper audit trail?

According to a January 30, 2004, article in *The Baltimore Sun*, the state hired a group of local computer whizzes to evaluate the security of Maryland’s new machines and to determine whether paper receipts are needed. Here’s part of what happened, according to Stephanie



Desmon, who wrote the article.

“One guy picked the locks protecting the internal printers and memory cards. Another figured out how to vote more than once—and get away with it. Still another launched a dial-up attack using his modem to slither through an electronic hole in the State Board of Elections software. Once inside, he could easily change vote totals that come in on Election Day.”

Michael A. Wertheimer, director of Columbia-based RABA Technologies—the firm hired by the state to do the evaluation—presented his team’s findings to state House and Senate committees. As Desmon reported, he “calmly” presented the system’s weaknesses and a short-term plan to plug many of the loopholes before the Democratic primary. (Apparently, the patches were installed.)

However, in the long run, many people, including Wertheimer, think there’s a need for some type of paper receipt. Essentially, a printout of each vote would be generated as it is cast. Voters could then check the accuracy of their vote before leaving the polling place. Without the voter-verified paper trail, a

recount would be impossible.

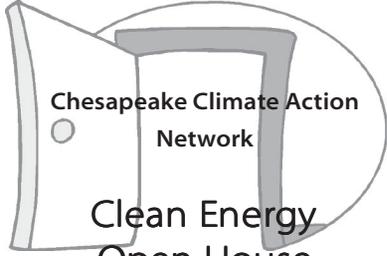
Tried and true for Maryland

To advance the need for a paper trail, Delegates Karen S. Montgomery (District 14) and Joan Cadden (District 31) introduced House Bill (HB) 53. The bill requires that voting systems without a document ballot must produce a paper record of a voter’s ballot choices, which could be inspected before leaving the polling booth. HB 53 also requires that the paper records be preserved at the polling place “in a manner similar to document ballots so that the paper records may later be used in a manual recount if necessary.”

On February 10, Nancy Wallace, a technical project manager for Computer Sciences Corporation, presented testimony to the state House Ways & Means Committee supporting HB 53. In her comments, she said, “I am appalled at the lack of quality of the Diebold system bought by the State Board of Elections.” She proceeded to list examples of security gaps that occurred in other states that used Diebold’s voting machines. Like many of her colleagues and fellow activists, Wallace advocates the paper audit trail for votes.

“The best computer fraud is invisible,” said Wallace in her testimony. “Even with the best machine in the most secure situation, an election can be stolen, and nobody—not even the State Board of Elections—would know. No matter how good the system is, we need House Bill 53.”

More information about a voter-verified paper audit trail can be found at the web site of the Campaign for Verifiable Voting in Maryland, www.truevotemd.org. The mission of this non-partisan group of citizens is to “ensure transparent, fair elections and to ensure voter confidence, our voting system must provide a voter-verified paper audit trail.” ■



Chesapeake Climate Action
Network

Clean Energy
Open House

Saturday, March 13, 2004
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Visit Maryland’s only 100% renewable energy home. See a corn-burning furnace, solar panels, low-energy refrigerator, hybrid and bio-diesel cars, and a tofu-powered lawn mower. Great opportunity to purchase wind energy certificates and energy-efficient light bulbs. Free to all ages.

7125 Willow Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912
Call 301 270-3722

Sierra Club Training Academy

Friday, March 26 to Sunday, March 28, 2004

*The Maritime Institute Conference Center
Linthicum Heights, Maryland (near Baltimore)*

Learn how to take effective action! Take part in the Sierra Club Training Academy. Our training will help you to expertly assess your conservation goals, choose the best strategies to achieve them, maximize your volunteer time and energy, and get the word out in the media. You will hear from experienced organizers from around the country, network with fellow activists, and get the kind of hands-on experience developing a written plan that gives you both the skills AND the confidence that you can organize in your own community to protect and preserve the environment.

The Academy is an intensive workshop that begins on Friday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. Participants must be available for that entire period of time to participate in team activities. The training typically involves 30 to 50 participants from your region. Room & board are paid for by the Sierra Club and travel scholarships are available to help with those expenses if necessary. There is a \$20 materials fee for participation.

To learn more about this program, view the agenda, get the facts about the facility and register online: go to <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/leaders/training/>
Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until all spaces are filled.

You will be prompted to enter the following user name and password:

The username is: clubhouse
The password is: explore

Thank you for your interest in the Sierra Club Training Academy. If you have any questions, please contact Sierra Club Training Academy Organizer, Liz Pallatto at liz.pallatto@sierraclub.org or by phone at 415 977-5674.

Statements of Candidates for Eastern Shore Group Ex-Comm

The following are statements of those who are running for the Executive Committee of the Eastern Shore Group. Members of the group should vote for five (5) candidates. The ballot and mailing instructions appear on page 23.

Loretta C. Walls

A transplant to Maryland's Eastern Shore after decades working as a journalist for news agencies and newspapers in cities such as Washington, New York, and Paris, I am constantly amazed at the peaceful beauty of this region's marshy environment and the plants, birds and animals that inhabit it.

One of my main goals since moving here three years ago has been to restore the wetlands on my property, which were used for many years as a dump. Now, ducks nest there, the marsh grasses grow high and new, unexpected gifts from nature appear, such as the native white hibiscus whose exotic flowers unfolded suddenly one summer.

Restoring natural environments is a real passion for me; I'd done the same thing twice before, while living overseas, and I'd served on the executive committee of a small environmental association in France dedicated to preserving from commercial development a valley where endangered orchids grew. These experiences gave me an inside look at the nuts and bolts of local politics and at dealing with people not necessarily sympathetic to an ecological agenda. Yet, it was not until last year, when I became conservation chairman for the Sierra Club's Eastern Shore Group that I realized how seriously the ecology of this whole region—including the mighty Chesapeake Bay—is under threat from development pollution.

Since then, I've spent many hours researching the issues, writing about them for two Sierra Club publications and joining in a campaign to prevent the creation of a rubble dump near lovely Unicorn Lake in Queen Anne's County.

I admire the Sierra Club for achieving results in nature preservation against sometimes stupendous odds. I would consider it an honor to be part of the Eastern Shore Group's executive committee, using my dedica-

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Eastern Shore Group Elections

Eastern Shore Ex-Comm Candidates Statements

< continued from page 13

Loretta C. Walker (cont.)

tion to nature and my journalism skills to advance this most urgent of causes: the preservation of our natural environment.

Lucille V. Kuntz

Growing up, my grandmother and mother taught me to stand up for what's right. I have acquired a deep interest and appreciation of the earth on which we live through living in the country. As a special education teacher I incorporate environmental education into my work. I have been active in the organization Millington Quality of Life and have been active and involved in environmental issues all my life, writing letters to the editor and making phone calls. I have been serving as the Secretary of the Eastern Shore Group of the Sierra Club and would be glad to serve on the Executive Committee.

Adrienne Nash

"Facts carry the traveler only so far: at last he must penetrate the land by a different means, for to know a place in any real lasting way is sooner or later to dream it. That's how we come to belong to it in the deepest sense."
-William Least Heat-Moon, 1991.

I think that the above quotation adequately describes how I feel about the Eastern Shore. From the moment I stepped into Kent County, I felt a deep connection to the people, the land, the water, and the culture surrounding me. Some people call our area the "jewel of Maryland". In essence, I agree. We live amidst a vibrant and working landscape where we not only build strong, dedicated activists, but we also build a sense of community.

Because the Eastern Shore is so important to me, I want to work with you to help preserve it in all of its beauty. This is my fourth year working with the Sierra Club and the Sierra Student Coalition (SSC). I have worked on various international, national, state-wide, and local social justice and environmental issues. In this capacity, I have found great joy in working on state-wide and local issues. This is my second year holding a leadership position in the Maryland Network of the Sierra Student Coalition. As membership chair and now state coordinator, I have been extremely impressed with the excellent work of students across the state. On the Eastern Shore group Ex-Comm, I hope to use the skills

I have learned with the SSC and build a strong network. As a student, I hope to bring a unique perspective to the group. This is my junior year at Washington College, where I am studying sociology and Spanish. In my free time I enjoy reading, playing the harp, hiking, teaching at a local after-school program, and doing SSC training. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have. Adrienne Nash, Maryland State Coordinator, Sierra Student Coalition, 300 Washington Ave., Chestertown, MD 21620



410 778-8973 adrienne_nash@yahoo.com

Matt Webb

Hello, my name is Matt Webb and I would like YOU to vote for me for Ex-Comm. I have extended experience in environmental anthropology and education. I recently graduated from the University of New Hampshire. Now I am working with a non-profit and the University of Delaware in Youth Environmental Education development.

As part of the Eastern Shore group, I did a series of environmental presentations on the topic of Unicorn Lake to various colleges and schools. I also organized the fall outings schedule for the Eastern Shore. Through these hikes, we recruited dynamic new members.

Technology is an amazing and valuable tool for communication. Because I strongly believe in technology, I helped create the Eastern Shore web page. I also have held the position of treasurer for the Eastern Shore group. I believe I will continue to be a great asset to the

Eastern Shore group. Please vote for me.

Laetitia Sands

I would be willing to serve as Vice Chair of the Sierra Club Eastern Shore Group as I have for the past year. I feel I need to stay connected as I have been fighting a major landfill problem at Unicorn Lake area. I am serving as President of the Millington Quality of Life Preservation Coalition for at least eight years as we battle a rubble landfill that would bring in out-of-state waste.

I am also a member of:

- Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
- Haztrak
- Maryland Conservation Council
- Queen Anne's Conservation Assoc.
- Eastern Shore Heritage, Inc.
- Historic Sites Consortium
- Queen Anne's Historical Society
- Save Our County (of Queen Anne's)
- League of Women Voters (Queen Anne's)
- Watershed Restoration Action Strategy Committee (Upper Chester River)

Mike Apperti

I would like to serve on the executive committee. I have published the newsletter for a couple of years; I have a degree in wildlife biology; and I have worked for the State Health Dept as an environmental trainer. I am past CEO of Jenkins Creek Environmental Research Center. Janet Phillips of the Lenape Tribe has helped us purchase a 26-acre farm in Eden, MD that used to be a stone quarry, and we are writing grants to convert it into wetlands. When it is finished we will have a Native American survival school there.

Jan Graham

The Eastern Shore is a unique and wonderful place to live. It will take diligence, care and a great deal of work to preserve our resources. The Sierra Club is an organization known for its ability to organize, energize and mobilize. We need a viable group on the Eastern Shore and I would like to take an active part in the revitalization of the Eastern Shore group. Currently I am the political chair; in the past I have been Vice-Chair, Political Chair and Conservation Chair. On the state level I'm the Legislative chair and an at-large member of the Executive Committee. ■

Natural Selection: Books and Writers

Robin Kimmerer Writes of Simple Plants with Complex Lives

Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses

Reviewed by Elaine Friebele — Until reading *Gathering Moss*, I did not fully understand what intricate lives these “primitive” plants lead. This collection of essays by bryologist and writer Robin Kimmerer has made me appreciate these diminutive plants in new ways. Her book encouraged me “to see the world through moss-colored glasses,” as she says in her preface—to get down on my knees with a hand lens and explore these miraculous green forests.

Mosses play vital roles in the world’s ecosystems. Their relationship with rocks is something to behold, says Kimmerer, an associate professor at the State University of New York’s College of Environmental Science and Forestry. “The rocks are beyond slow, beyond strong, and yet yielding to a soft green breath as powerful as a glacier, the mosses wearing away their surfaces, grain by grain bringing them slowly back to sand. There is an ancient conversation going on between mosses and rocks, poetry to be sure.”

Mosses also play an integral part in forest succession. Experiments by Kimmerer and her graduate students showed that seeds grow and survive better when they happen to land on a moist, nutritious clump of moss. When looking at moss, I never imagined the multitude of animals that call it home. One gram of moss from the forest floor harbors hundreds of thousands of tiny organisms.

In addition to expanding our perceptions, Kimmerer traces the parallels between mosses and her life. These moisture-loving plants attune themselves to the weather, shriveling when it is dry and miraculously reviving and photosynthesizing when raindrops fall. As a mother, Kimmerer feels herself expand in the presence of her daughter, a college student. “The mutuality of moss and water,” she writes. “Isn’t this the way we

love, the way love propels our own unfolding? We are shaped by our affinity for love, expanded by its presence and shrunk by its lack.”

Mixing science and personal reflection, the author invites readers along on her scientific sleuthing, asking questions about why, where, and how mosses grow as they do. In one quest to understand the patterns of a particular species, she abandons the directness of the scientific method and relies on her Native American heritage, which uses respectful observation as a way of learning. She realizes that to understand why various mosses grow where they do, she needs “to see like a moss and not like a human.” Eventually she sees that one species growing on decaying logs, an unstable habitat, faces its demise when the logs fall apart and the moss topples to the ground. This particular moss, which often finds itself in this situation, has the ability to be very flexible about how it reproduces, depending upon the local population density of other mosses. It can reproduce asexually, sexually, or, if need be, it can even change sexes. Planned parenthood, to be sure!

Though humor pervades Kimmerer’s book, one particularly funny chapter describes her research on the dispersion of mosses. Here she tells of timing snail races in the lab and examining the tummies of chipmunks for pieces of moss.

One of my favorite essays is entitled “The Red Sneaker”—a reference to her own sneaker that now lies at the bottom of a Sphagnum bog. She describes walking through a quaking bog: “As I dance alone in a sunlit bog, the ground beneath my feet rolls in slow waves. For a long seasick moment my foot hangs in midair, waiting for a solid place to stand. Every step sets off a new undulation, like walking on a waterbed.” Of course, in bogs mosses are supreme. We learn that as many as

15 species of Sphagnum grow in the micro-topography of a bog. Like a good professor, Kimmerer employs great analogies to bring each idea alive. Noting that Sphagnum can hold up to 20 times its weight in water, she says, “An individual stem . . . is reminiscent of an English sheepdog after a swim in the pond, dripping puddles onto the floor.”

She compares the bog to a Native American water drum—a wooden bowl filled with sacred water and topped with a stretched deerhide—which signifies the heartbeat of the water, of the universe, of creation of the people. “The Sphagnum is the living membrane stretched between two shores, creating a meeting place for earth and sky, embracing the water within. I am standing quietly on the surface of an earthly Drum, my feet supported by the floating Sphagnum, responding to the smallest movement, rippling under my shifting weight. I start to dance. My feet make a drumbeat on the surface and the whole bog is set in rhythmic motion.”

Kimmerer writes passionately about the destruction of mossy habitats through forest clear-cutting, moss harvesting for ornamental gardening or commercial displays, and the *pièce de résistance*, the dynamiting of lush, moss-covered boulders so that a wealthy man can have green-carpeted fragments in his garden. Like the old growth forests they call home, moss communities do not arise overnight. After reading this book, I look upon each clump with renewed appreciation for the progression of complex processes and interactions that create these tiny forests. ■

Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses, published in Corvallis, OR by the Oregon State University Press, 2003

Fleas in Winter: Fewer, Slower, But No Less Pesky

by **Annie Rehill** —The first clue was tiny red spots in the empty bathtub, where we keep a water bowl for our ever-thirsty cats. Some looked like minuscule puddles of diluted blood. I thought Nancy must have cut her paw, where the claw grows in to the pad if we don't keep it trimmed. I investigated this possibility with a magnifying glass and re-groomed the cat.

The spots remained. Now I turned my focus to them, applying the glass for a close scrutiny of their composition. The specks themselves were actually black, I discovered, but once they came into contact with water they leaked red. Near them lay little tufts of fur.

With evidence untouched and the magnifying glass waiting like a prepped lab experiment, I called in the entomologist husband.

"Poop," he pronounced: this could be flea excrement.

But how could an animal have fleas in the winter? Why weren't they multiplying, as fleas do faster than rabbits, and why were they not on us, biting our ankles, infesting our bed? Why was the house not overcome with fleas?

Still Brian insisted that Nancy could have "a few fleas," that because it was winter-time they would not reproduce quickly and would be content to feast slowly on the cat until spring. In fact, he went on, the insects were "completely limited by temperature, because the incubation time of their eggs depends on warmth. In the dead of winter their eggs develop more slowly; they take months to hatch instead of days in the summertime. The larvae take longer to make it to adulthood when it's cold, too."

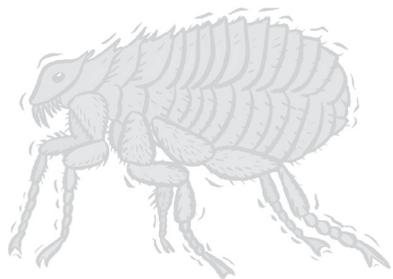
Because fleas live on or near their warmth-giving hosts, slowing down the

reproductive process works well for them. Other insects don't have this thermal luxury and need different strategies to make it through winter. Among the weirdest of these is the goldenrod ball galler, which not only fabricates a "house" (a round gall) on the plant, it also makes anti-freeze proteins and puts them in its hemolymph, or insect "blood." Thanks to these crafty measures, the future fly can hole up outside for the cold months. And those spiders I used to worry about dooming when we put them outdoors don't necessarily die either: they may burrow into leaf litter and overwinter there.

As for the fleas in our own winter-time dwelling, Brian's certainty convinced me that it was at least a possibility worth pursuing. We applied the topical insecticide that we normally use only in the warm season, less frequently than the package recommends but often enough to keep vampires away from our beasts—and from us. Within hours the proof was clear, as struggling fleas fell to the floor and the cats seemed in better moods. Within days the spots disappeared.

There was one remaining problem: Watching the tiny legs twitch as the creature staggered and fell, I wondered what kind of death this was and felt like a monster. Sure enough, Brian confirmed that the final moments are "probably agonizing." The insecticide disrupts the nervous system and makes movement impossible. This is how it kills.

I feel bad about this. But when it comes to fleas, roaches, and others with whom we battle for territory, with whom peaceful cohabitation is impossible, we must win or be overwhelmed. It's us or them. Hopefully someone will find a kinder way to win. ■



Sierra Club Mutual Funds Declares "Year of Financial Activism"

Sierra Club Mutual Funds is calling on those who care about the health of the environment to make 2004 the "Year of Financial Activism." Sierra Club Mutual Funds president Alan Reid believes that this is the year in which consumers' financial practices can unite with their environmental ones.

"While most of us care deeply about clean water and air, each day we make decisions about where to put our investment dollars without thinking about the impact on the environment. In 2004 we can change that," said Reid.

Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club, agrees. "In the new year, we can all do more to protect our air, our water, our health and our natural heritage. By investing in our environment the Sierra Club Mutual Funds shows that social and financial objectives don't have to be mutually exclusive."

The numbers support Pope's point. In fact, in 2003, the Sierra Club Stock Fund returned more than 30%, outperforming the S&P 500 by more than 5 percent.

To help consumers understand ways that they can make a difference environmentally through financial means, Sierra Club Mutual Funds outlines the following steps:

10 Steps Toward Financial Activism

1. Ensure that the companies and mutual funds you own reflect your values. Reward the companies and funds that take care of our planet. For instance, consider the Sierra Club Mutual Funds that only invest in securities that meet the strict environmental and social guidelines established by the Sierra Club.
2. Ask your financial advisor for, or find a financial advisor that specializes in, environmentally and socially responsible in-

vestments. First Affirmative and Progressive Asset Management are two firms that specialize in these types of investments.

3. Ask your benefits manager at work for an environmentally or socially responsible option in your retirement plan.

4. Take action by attending company shareholder meetings and making your voice heard.

5. If you can't attend a shareholder meeting, actively vote your proxies to reflect your values.

6. Take action by signing resolutions that promote environmental responsibility such as the Rose Foundation petition, which seeks specific new regulations designed to close environmental accounting loopholes and prevent environmental accounting fraud.

7. Educate yourself on the issues by using resources like SIF.com and the GreenMoney Journal.

8. Look closely at the funds in which you are investing. Ensure that funds have an independent chairperson and redemption fees to protect against short-term traders. Also ask if the funds disclose insider trading.

9. Open a charitable gift trust account and designate your favorite organizations as beneficiaries. Use environmentally/socially responsible investments in those trusts.

10. Use a credit card or phone card company affiliated with your favorite environmental or other charitable organization. For example, the Sierra Club offers a credit card. ■

Meeting the Challenge of Finding a Simpler Way

Treading More Lightly

by Betsy Johnson and Annie Rehill—Thoreau's sylvan meanderings near his cabin had a purpose that has outlasted the walker by centuries, with many more, hopefully, to come. Living in an age dominated by big-business interests with compelling marketing strategies, it's an ever-increasing challenge to choose a simpler way.

Ben Franklin said: "There are two ways to be happy. We may either diminish our wants or augment our means—either will do—the result is the same." He added, "if you are wise, you will do both at the same time, and . . . if you are very wise, you will do both in such a way as to augment the general happiness of society" ("Dr. Benjamin Franklin's Prescription for Happiness").

Augmenting our means is the standard prescription for happiness in American culture, but if, like some of us, you are intrigued with taking the other path, then check out some of the online resources on this subject. A Google search on "frugal living" or "simple living" will yield numerous sites to help you obtain things more cheaply or make them yourself, or show you how to repair things you already own, even how to darn socks. Craigslist.com is an online community where you can join the underground marketplace. Amy Dacyczyn's *Complete Tightwad Gazette* is one of the best and most entertaining books for creative ideas to reduce your cost of living. For further alternatives to the mainstream American ethos of buying big and often, see the Dollar Stretcher (www.stretcher.com/index.cfm). Here you'll find help with everything from getting out of debt to making it without

health insurance. There's even a link that makes Medicare understandable—and explains how it may affect you well before you reach retirement age.

The Simple Living Network (www.simpleliving.net) offers information on "the simplicity movement," with links to resources such as articles, workbooks, courses, and more. There's SimpleRadio™ programming, Simple Living Discussion Forums, and an Eco-Living Resources Database. You might see volunteers on campuses and around town trying to get people to listen. They may be distributing fliers and trying to interest you in their handbook, which features instructions on how to organize teach-ins and study circles, how to pitch a story to local media about this "wait a minute" reaction to our over-industrialized culture.

Take Back Your Time, one of the initiatives, is dedicated to showing the United States how our population has made itself ill through overwork, overscheduling, and a constant sense of time urgency. The group seeks solutions that are in part political, but also cultural and personal. In the January 2003 newsletter (Take Back Your Time Day), national coordinator John de Graaf asks, "Where is Howard Dean on this? As a doctor, he must surely understand what time stress and overwork are doing to American health. Al Gore writes eloquently about the issue in his recent book, *Joined at the Heart*. And former labor secretary Robert Reich says any Democrat who proposed a four-week minimum paid vacation act would vault to the top of the pack. Why is no one listening?"

To those who are listening, a Quaker poet offers these words:

As a child, I thought
simplicity meant
doing without,
starting from scratch,
bare floors,
hard benches,
plain speech,
dull colors.

As I grow older, simplicity
becomes a question of:

how to live
on this planet
so that all
life can be
nurtured;

how to redesign what we
live in,
drive in,
dress in,
eat from,
throw away;

how to choose what we put into
our mouths,
the air,
the water,
our lawns to make them green;

how to quiet our minds, so we can
center,
listen,
lift those who are falling,
deal with greed and fear,
envision community,
run joyfully into the world. ■

Some Simple Ways to Find a Simpler Way

Complete Tightwad Gazette
by Amy Dacyczyn

www.craigslist.com

www.ecostewardsalliance.org

www.frugalliving.about.com

www.life.ca

www.simpleliving.net

www.stretcher.com/index.cfm

Many persons
have a wrong idea
of what constitutes
true happiness.
It is not attained
through self-
gratification
but through
fidelity to
a worthy purpose.

-Helen Keller

Is Your Relationship in Trouble? Seven Warning Signs

by John Byrne Barry —It's a new year, time to take stock of your relationship with your president. What's ahead? A ring—or couples' counseling? How did it feel seeing him over the holidays? What do your friends think? Check out our seven warning signs and see how your relationship stacks up.

1. He says one thing, does another.

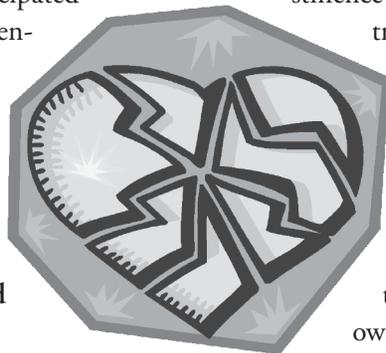
He tells you he is going to reduce air pollution, but his administration allows old, dirty power plants and refineries to expand without installing modern pollution-control technology. He tells you he is going to protect communities from forest fires, but it's actually a ruse to open up national forests to more logging. He warns you about high mercury levels in fish, but won't recommend tighter controls on mercury emissions.

2. He won't introduce you to his friends.

Actually, he won't even tell you who his friends are. His energy task force, chaired by Vice President Cheney, drafted a national energy plan in secret in 2001. Lobbyists from the fossil fuel industry participated in these meetings, but consumer and environmental groups were shut out. And two years later, despite lawsuits filed by the Sierra Club and others, we still don't know who the task force members were.

3. He lets his friends make a mess and not clean up after themselves.

He allows polluters to break the law and go unpunished. For example, in November, in what was essentially a presidential pardon for polluters, the administration announced it would drop cases involving 50 plants and refineries that had violated the Clean Air Act. The administration also refused to reauthorize the "polluter-pays" provision of the Superfund toxic-waste cleanup, forcing taxpayers to pay cleanup costs. He is the first president in history not to put a Superfund trust request in the budget.



4. He spends your nest egg and plunges you into debt.

And of course, this means cuts in natural resource spending, cuts in enforcement of environmental laws, and so on. One small example: The EPA cut by one-third the operating budget of Energy Star, its highly touted energy conservation program, that gives a federal government seal of approval for energy-efficient refrigerators and other appliances. And he gives no incentives for existing technologies that would clean up power plants or make cars more fuel efficient.

5. He tells you everything is fine when it isn't.

After 9/11, the White House instructed the EPA to hide potential health risks in Lower Manhattan from the World Trade Center collapse. The EPA said the air at ground zero was safe to breathe, despite the presence of high levels of benzene, lead, mercury, PCBs, and asbestos.

6. He doesn't believe in using birth control.

Domestically, he's pledged to increase funding for abstinence-only sex education programs, where contraception is only discussed in terms of failure rates. On the international level, the administration rescinded \$34 million for family planning programs abroad. It also brought back the Reagan-era "global gag rule," which bars international family planning organizations that receive U.S. funds from using their own money to provide abortions or even talk about abortions with their patients.

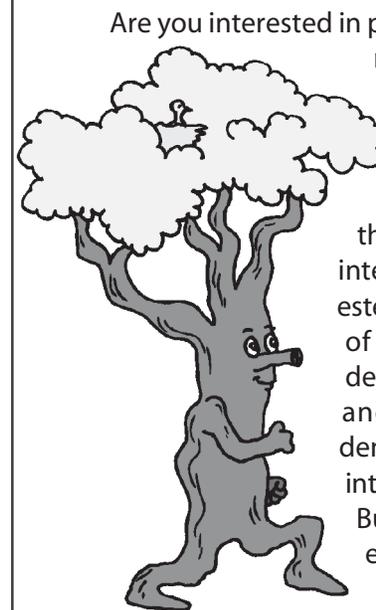
7. You want a hybrid; he wants a Hummer.

Not only that, his administration gave a \$100,000 tax deduction to small-business owners who purchase sport-utility vehicles, including Hummers. ■

Excerpted from The Planet, January/February 2004; used with permission.

Trees, Edginess, and You

Calling All Students and Young People...
We Want You!



Are you interested in playing a key role in making sustainable changes to our environmental and trade policies in Maryland, the country, or even internationally? Interested in meeting some of the nation's most dedicated, fun-loving, and prominent student activists? Simply interested in stopping Bush's assault on our environment?

Join the Sierra Student Coalition!

The Sierra Student Coalition is the student-run arm of the Sierra Club, and is made up of young activists and student activists from all over the country. It runs national campaigns, as well as facilitating local and statewide campaigns, and has a Student Action on the Global Economy network that runs World Bank and Fair Trade campaigns. It also holds environmental leadership training during the summer, and shorter training sessions during the school year. In Maryland this past year, we have worked on the Energy Bill; Fair Trade; protection of Unicorn Lake on the Eastern Shore; the Intercounty Connector Highway (ICC) and public transit in Maryland; and environmental justice issues. As the Maryland General Assembly session begins, we have planned some amazing actions and lobbying opportunities. We also have awesome state-wide gatherings, training, and lots of fun.

The Maryland Network of the SSC connects activists from across the state and unites people around issues of concern to them. You can contact the Maryland organizers Adrienne Nash (adrienne_nash@yahoo.com, 410 778-8973) or Eli Snyder (maguill@hotmail.com, 240 895-4569). Also, check out the web site at: www.ssc.org. Join us to help create a clean, green, sustainable future!

Habitat Preservation and Invasive Species Removal

Opportunities Abound for Field Work in Restoring and Protecting Natural Habitats

Chevy Chase, Woodend Sanctuary

The Audubon Naturalist Society is seeking volunteers to help remove non-native plants from its Woodend Sanctuary, in Chevy Chase, MD, every second Saturday of the month between 9 a.m. and noon. Volunteers will be trained by staff and/or experienced volunteers. Call 301 652-9188 ext 30 for more information or to sign up.

Caroline County, Adkins Arboretum

Adkins Arboretum in Caroline County on Maryland's Eastern Shore is seeking volunteers to assist the staff in the removal of invasive non-natives on the Arboretum's 400-acre site. Volunteers will be trained by the Arboretum staff. Workdays are Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm. For more information, contact Sylvan Kaufman at 410 634-2847 ext 13.

Washington/Allegany Counties, Sideling Hill Creek

Weedbuster Workday, Saturday, May 15, 10am to 4pm. The target is Barren brome grass (*Bromus sterilis*), a troublesome exotic that threatens to displace some of the rare plants that occur only on shale barrens. Test your billy (or nanny) goat skills as we work on a sometimes steep and rocky slope of the Bellegrave Shale Barren. We will be pulling the invasive; herbicide is not involved. For information call Meredith Malone, Conservation Steward, The Nature Conservancy, at mmalone@tnc.org or 301 897-8570.

Washington County, Licking Creek

Weedbuster Workday, Thursday, June 17, 10am to 4pm. There is a large but manageable infestation of *Ailanthus altissima*, the tree-of-heaven (also known as the "tree from hell" among land managers), just uphill from a rare limestone forest community. Our continuing goal has been to extirpate this non-native invasive so that its seeds don't drop downhill and degrade the rare plant habitat. For two years we have conducted "hack and squirt" treatments on the larger trees with great success. This year our task will be foliar spraying of new growth with herbicide. For information call Meredith Malone, Conservation Steward, The Nature Conservancy, at mmalone@tnc.org or 301 897-8570.

Greenbelt, Greenbelt Homes Inc Housing Cooperative

The Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) housing cooperative in Old Greenbelt has 85.6 acres of stewardship forest as well as other wooded parcels. The Woodlands Committee is actively involved with urban forestry management. Regular work sessions for the removal/eradication of non-native invasive plant species are scheduled throughout the year. Also scheduled are bird counts and plant identification seminars and field experience. The City of Greenbelt has passed, in principle, a forest ordinance for large parcels of its woodlands. The City is establishing a committee to work out the management details. For more information on GHI Woodlands Committee activities, contact Mary Kingsley at mkingsley@hotmail.com. Mary and her husband, Roger, are also Sierra Club members.

Greenbelt, Greenbelt Homes Inc Housing Cooperative

May-June: The GHI Woodlands Committee is gifting members with small native shrubs and understory trees at the cooperative's annual meeting. This gift is accompanied by information on the committee's activities, the value of landscaping with native plants and the need to remove non-native invasive species that have migrated from members' gardens and are threatening nearby woodlands. Ongoing urban forest management activities in the Stewardship Forest include: eradication of non-native invasive plant species, raising plant stock for reforestation and erosion control needs, bird counts and training in plant identification. For more information of GHI Woodlands Committee activities, contact Mary Kingsley at mkingsley@hotmail.com.

Greenbelt, Greenbelt Park

Greenbelt Invasive Removal Saturday, March 6 and April 3, 2004 (1st Saturdays). Located just 12 miles from Washington D.C., Greenbelt Park is a beloved retreat from the city and an important refuge for native plants and animals. Come join us in defending Greenbelt Park from encroachment by alien invasive plant growth. Volunteers will be hand pulling harmful non-native plants such as Japanese honeysuckle, beefsteak mint, mile-a-minute weed and garlic mustard. People of all ages, backgrounds and interests are invited to spend a fun day

outdoors while learning about the differences between native and non-native plants and helping to preserve the health and native wildlife of this local natural area. Bring lunch, drink, appropriate clothing for weather. Directions: From the beltway, take Kenilworth Avenue south about 1/4 mile to Greenbelt Rd, MD 193. (Kenilworth goes under 193.) Stay to the right so you can take MD 193 East (a left to go over Kenilworth) for only a few hundred yards to the park entrance. Follow the signs to the Sweetgum picnic area. For any questions and information about upcoming events, contact Tom Crone at tomnjan@erols.com or 301 864-1959 or Kate Odell at kateo@wam.umd.edu or 301 474-5395.

Crow's Nest, Stafford County, VA

Hi, Virginia and Maryland residents. Along our common border lies a treasure on the Potomac River. It is the best last great place in our region to save. The 3,800-acre peninsula includes one of the last stands of old-growth forest in the Mid-Atlantic region. A 600-year-old pin oak, alive when Capt. John Smith explored the area, flourishes there. It contains some of the rarest forest communities on earth. The undeveloped shoreline is home to one of the largest heron rookeries in the Chesapeake Bay region. Bald eagles nest in the trees. In addition, the peninsula is at a strategic location that provides protection for the seafood industry of the Chesapeake Bay.

But Crow's Nest is in potential peril. In November of 2003, K&M Properties, the largest landowner on the peninsula, broke off negotiations with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Trust for Crow's Nest for the purchase of Crow's Nest. In January 2004, K&M began discussing plans for developing portions of Crow's Nest by introducing up to 2,500 units of cluster housing.

Community information and action meetings throughout the area are creating opportunities for citizens to share information about the ecology and history of Crow's Nest, make their views known to elected officials, and educate the public about K&M Properties' complex corporate network. For more information, go to www.savecrowsnest.org, or contact Marc Imlay, Biodiversity Chair, at 301 283-0808 or ialm@erols.com.

Sierra Club outings are open to everyone, and normally go, “rain or shine.” Reservations are not required, unless noted in the announcement.

Each outing is intended to be a wholesome, safe, and enjoyable experience in the out of doors. For that to happen, each participant must have the clothing, equipment, and stamina suitable to the event. Inexperienced/new participants are encouraged to first join trips that are rated “easy” or “moderate”, to evaluate their own individual suitability for more difficult adventures.

If you have questions about the terrain, the duration of the trip, or about recommended clothing or equipment, please contact the outing leader.

Each outing participant should carry an adequate supply of food (lunch, snacks or more), a personal first aid kit, any personal medications that may be needed during the event, and at least one quart of water for every two hours that he or she expects to participate in the event. On hot days or on more strenuous outings, more water is likely to be needed.

Unless noted in the announcement, Club outings are intended for adults. Before bringing a minor to an outing that is not specifically designated for children, please consult the leader to determine if it is appropriate.

Minors (under 18 years of age) must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian, or they must have both 1) a signed permission slip, and 2) the leader’s prior consent, to participate in the Club outing.

All outdoor adventure activities carry some risk. Participants should be aware that Club outings are often to places where professional emergency medical aid may be two or more hours away. All participants should consider the implications of this fact. People with health concerns should consult their doctor to determine the advisability of participating in these activities.

Sierra Club outings normally begin and end at the trailhead, canoe put-in/ take-out point, or some other similar starting/ending point. Travel from the advertised meeting place to the starting point and back, is the sole responsibility of each participant. While the Club encourages car-pooling, such arrangements are strictly between the riders and the drivers, and are not a part of the outing. Participants must 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. If you would like to read the waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, it is available on the Sierra Club website, at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/index.asp>.

The following outings are planned and managed by volunteers from the Chapter’s local groups, and the Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP). Each organization is identified in the announcement by the following abbreviation:

- AA = Anne Arundel Co. Grp.
- CA = Catocin Group
- ES = Eastern Shore Group
- GB = Greater Balto. Group
- HC = Howard Co. Group
- MC = Montgomery Co. Grp.
- MW = M.W.R.O. Program
- PG = Pr. George’s Co. Grp.
- SM = Southern Md. Group
- WM = Western Md. Group

Sierra Club outings are free of charge, unless specified in the announcement. However, the Club may ask for a donation to help defray the expenses associated with the outings program.

Take only pictures, leave only footprints, and have fun out there. ■

John Railey – Outings Coordinator
410-752-0104 – jrailey7007@aol.com

MWROP’S HIKE RATING SYSTEM

One point is assigned to each mile & each 400 feet in elevation change (up and down) - the higher the points, the more difficult a hike. For example, a 5 mile hike with 1,200 feet of elevation change (400 feet up plus 800 ft. down), is given a total of 8 points and rated “B”; an 8 mile hike with an elevation change of 3,600 feet is assigned a total of 17 points and rated “E”.

HIKE RATINGS

<u>Rating</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Points</u>
A (Easy)	7 or less	E (Moderate)	17 - 19
B (Easy)	8 - 10	F (Hard)	20 - 22
C (Moderate)	11 - 13	G (Hard)	23 - 25
D (Moderate)	14 - 16	H (Hard)	more than 25

February

Anytime there is enough snow – Cross Country Skiing. GB. Local skiing or possible trip to Western Maryland. Call Jack at 410-256-3963.

Sat 28

Sligo Creek Park. MW. Rated B or D. In Get-Fit-for-Spring, OneDayHike Series. Hike down and back the length (8+8 mi) of this beautiful suburban stream while learning about its flora and ecological challenges. The first leg (downstream) will be at a leisurely pace accompanied by a botanist; the second leg will be at individual pace. Hikers have the option of doing one or both legs. Meet at 8:30am (for short hike’s car shuttle) and 9:00am (for long hike) near the trail at the far end of the Kemp Mill Shopping Center parking lot (Arcola Av & Lamberton Dr). A joint event with the Friends of Sligo Creek. Leaders: Mike Darzi, 301/593-4551 and Gary Kosciusko 703/708-7159.

Dark Hollow and Rose River. MW. Rated C. 7.5 miles, 1,500 of elevation change in SNP. Falls, overlook and cemetery. Meet 8:30am, Vienna Metro Station North Parking Lot. Leader: Russ Norfleet 703/294-6068, rnorfleet@co.arlington.va.us.

Jerusalem Mill. GB. Easy. Approximately 4 miles along Little Gunpowder Falls. Easy-paced; good hike for beginners, but may be muddy. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Jerusalem Mill parking lot on Jerusalem Road at 10:00 a.m. For details, call Betsy at 410-569-5202.

Sun 29

Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge and Mason Neck State Park. All options rated A. MW. Three moderate-paced hikes of 3.6, 3.2, and 1.5 miles in succession (linked by short car rides) in scenic and little-visited waterfront areas where eagles dare to fly. Children welcome; no pets. To carpool, meet at 9am in front of Giant supermarket in

Outings & Events (February/March)

Springfield Plaza, off Old Keene Mill Road. Call for directions or if carless. Joint hike with AMC/DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott 703/256-6351 and Frank Wodarczyk 703/569-6737.

Canoe Antietam Creek. Not Rated. MW. Celebrate end of winter and overcome cabin fever. Practiced novice trip of 12 mi., class 1-2 whitewater running through Antietam National Battlefield Park. Life jackets required. Dry bags with clothing change strongly suggested. Cosponsored with Canoe Cruisers Assoc. & Blue Ridge Voyager Canoe Club. Contact Jim Finucane 301/365-3485 before 9pm.

Sun 29

Patuxent Branch Trail. HC. Easy 6-7 mile hike on paved trails in Columbia, the new Patuxent Branch Trail, and around Lake Elkhorn. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Call Sue Muller, 301-498-8462, sonicsue@boo.net.

March

Tue 2

Knob Mountain. MW. Rated H. Revisit an original "Terwilliger vigorous hike." Beahm's Gap to the AT north, returning on Knob and Neighbor Mts. About 17 miles with 4,000 ft climb. Leader: Chris Nolen, chrishiker@erols.com or 301/469-8931

Sat 6

Northern Central Railroad Trail Bike trip. GB. Moderate. Approximately 30 miles round trip from Paper Mill Road to New Freedom PA. Bring lunch and water. Meet at parking lot on Paper Mill Road, 1 mile east of York Road, at 9:00 a.m. Call Ron at 443-854-6665

Rose River/Dark Hollow, Shenandoah NP. HC. Moderate 6.4 mile circuit hike featuring waterfalls and a panoramic view of the valley. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Walk and Stretch at Quiet Waters Park. AA. Observe and learn the beauty and power of nature in land and water. 5+ mile hike, mostly flat. Tai Chi stretch overlooking South River - no Tai Chi experience required. Meet 10:00 a.m. at Bay Ridge shopping plaza parking lot across from park entrance. Optional lunch after hike at local restaurant. Call Young-410 849-2720 (leave message) for information.

Bull Run/Occoquan Trail Hike. MW. Rated E or B. In Get-Fit-for-Spring, OneDayHike Series. Out-and-back for about 17.5 miles (or 9-mile option) on woodland trail, with a bit of elevation change. Meet 9am; call for details or if you wish to carpool. Leaders: Christine Ford 703/425-6899 and Frank Wodarczyk 703/569-6737.

Sun 7

Woodcock Walk. HC. A short walk starting around dusk, to witness the sky dance of woodcock in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area in Columbia. Bring a flashlight. Limited space available, call Sue Muller for reservations, 301-498-8462, sonicsue@boo.net.

Oregon Ridge Pancake Hike. HC. Easy 5 mile hike, with some hills and stream crossings, optionally followed by pancakes. Every March, the park demonstrates the boiling down of maple syrup, and has a fundraising

pancake breakfast for \$5.00. Depart at 8:30 from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. Or meet us at the nature center at 9:15. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Tue 9

Little Devil's Stairs. MW. Rated H. Ascend the stairs to Keyser Run Rd, AT, Hogback, Piney Ridge and Hull School Trails. About 13 miles and 4,100 ft climb. Leader: Chris Nolen, 301/469-8931 or chrishiker@erols.com

Sat 13

Annapolis Rocks. HC. Moderate 11 mile hike along the Appalachian Trail, from Washington Monument State Park to Annapolis Rocks and return. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for a 9:00 departure. Call Tim Ryan before 9:30 PM, 410-248-2974, timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.

Prettyboy Forest Stewardship Hike. GB. Moderate. Leisurely hike with State Watershed Forester Rob Northrup and Sierra Club forest biologists to discuss options for managing nearly 18,000 acres of forests adjoining Liberty, Loch Raven and Prettyboy reservoirs. Meet at 11:00 AM at the parking area on the north side of Prettyboy Reservoir at the Beckleysville Rd bridge. From the Baltimore beltway take Exit 23 - Falls Road (MD 25). Go north on Falls Road for 18mi and turn right onto Beckleysville Rd. Go east for 2.9 mi. After passing over Prettyboy reservoir you'll see the primitive parking area where we'll meet on your left. For further details contact Richard at 410-654-3021 or GBSierra@ceds.org.

C&O Canal Towpath Hike. MW. Rated F or B. Get-Fit-for-Spring, OneDayHike

Series. Out-and-back hike of 20.3 miles from Edwards Ferry to MP 41 (or turn around sooner for 10.3 miles). Meet 9am at Edwards Ferry, off River Rd. For driving directions see <http://onedayhike.tripod.com/driving.htm>. Leaders: Carol Ivory 703/476-8730 or carolivory@erols.com and Pat Hopson 703/379-1795 (call before 10pm).

Massanutten Mountain, North. MW. Rated G. Circuit hike over 18 mile with 3200 ft. of elevation changes. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center at 7:30. Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. Leaders: William Needham, 410/884-9127 or Needham82@aol.com, and Jack Thorsen, 703/339-6716 or Thorsen4@juno.com.

Tue 16

"CCT-III:"The Third Annual Cross County Trail Hike. MW. Rated H. This one-way 30+ mile hike along the stream banks and through the woods of Fairfax County, VA will require an early start to allow us to ford Difficult Run at the end of the hike and be off the trail by sunset. Great training for the big hikes coming up — The Brandywine, The Redbud (see Apr 13 listing), and Sierra Club's 100 K. Leader: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181 or cliff.noyes@juno.com.

Thu 18

Potomac Heritage Trail/Key/Chain Bridge Circuit. MW. Rated C. Arlington, VA. 9 miles. Some rocky sections and stream crossings. At end, an optional foray into Georgetown. Starts at 10am at Roosevelt Island parking lot off the northbound G.W. Parkway. Easy walk from Rosslyn Metro. Bring lunch. Joint hike with PATC. Leader: Henri Comeau 703/451-7965 or henricomeau@aol.com.

Outings & Events (March/April)

Sat 20

Sugar Loaf Mountain. HC. Moderate 8 mile hike featuring rocky outcrops with sweeping views. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for an 9:00 departure. Call James Perschy, 410-964-1902, jmatp@starpower.net.

Bull Run Mountains Preserve. MW. Rated A. Kick off Spring with this 6-mi. hike to the recently created preserve. Enjoy spectacular views of the VA horse country. As urban sprawl moves west, this preserve will become extremely important in helping to protect the beauty and heritage of northern VA. Leader: Glenn Gillis 703/430-0568.

Cabin John Regional Park. MW. Rated A. Moderately easy 4 mile walk, partly along Cabin John Creek. Meet at 1 pm at the Locust Grove Nature Center parking lot, 7777 Democracy Blvd., about 2/3 mile west of Westfield Shoppingtown Montgomery (Montgomery Mall). Bring water and a snack. No pets. Leader: Jim Fremont, 301/962-4703 before 9 pm.

Western Maryland Rail Trail. MW. Rated F or C. In Get-Fit-for-Spring, OneDayHike Series. 22 miles, or 12-mile option, along the beautiful WMRT and the C&O Canal. Meet 9:45am at Fort Frederick Park, off I-70. Come at 9am if you'd like to visit the fort before starting. Check www.mwrop.org the week of the hike for more details. If you wish to carpool to the trailhead, call one of the leaders: Mike Darzi 301/593-4551 and Gary Kosciusko 703/708-7159.

Tue 23

Leading Ridge. MW. Rated H. Train for upcoming long hikes. Leading Ridge Trail to the AT Corbin Cutoff, Indian Run and Crusher Ridge trails. 18 miles with 4,000 ft elevation gain. Leader: Chris Nolen, 301/469-8931 or chrishiker@erols.com.

Sat 27

Racer Camp Hollow-White Rocks, VA/WV. HC. Moderate 9.4 mile hike with 1300 foot elevation change, views, streams, beaver dams. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the park & ride at Rt. 32 and Broken Land Parkway. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Gunpowder River Hike. GB. Moderate 7 to 8 miles below Prettyboy Dam. Expect some hills and a rocky area. Meet at Mt. Carmel P&R at noon. Call Jack at 410-256-3963.

Rarely visited waterfall in the Great North MTN. MW. Rated H. GPS Hike. On this challenging hike we will climb the mountain with the most difficult steepness-distance ratio in the Washington Area according to the leader's software leading to a breathtaking view. There will be a short bushwhack to the falls 17.7 mi, 3500 ft gain all in the first half of the hike. Meet @ Oakton S.C. near McDonalds at 7:30 am. Leader Dimitri Tundra: 301-770-9639, tartakd@hotmail.com.

Spring MWROP Leaders Meeting. Bashee Reeks Nature Preserve, 21085 The Woods Rd. Leesburg, VA See <http://www.bansheereeks.org> for driving directions. 10am – 1pm including potluck lunch. Contact David Cheng at hikerbiker@starpower.net, or at 301/990-3689 before 9 PM.

Sun 28

Bog Clean up and Tour. Eagle Hill Bog, 1:30 p.m. AA. Come learn what a bog is and help clean up an area next to it bought by an environmentalist to save it from development. Call Earl Bradley 410-267-9357 for further information.

Patuxent River State Park. HC. Moderate 6-7 mile hike, west of Howard Chapel Rd. Trail may be muddy. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:30 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Massachusetts Ave. NW. MW. Rated A. Easy 5-mile afternoon walk to admire the varied exterior architecture of some of the embassies in D.C. Limited to 20 hikers. Leader: Dan Ryan 301-622-5259 from 3pm to 9 pm.

Compton Peak. MW. Rated E. 11 mile circuit hike along the AT and side trails in northern Virginia, starting at Rt. 601 and traversing Compton Peak. Approximately 2,200' of elevation gain. Spectacular views of the mountains and an outcropping of columnar basalt. Leaders: Marjorie Richman (301) 320-5509 and Christine Ford (703) 425-6899 before 9 pm.

Modified Parade of Parks. MW. Rated G or C. In Get-Fit-for-Spring, OneDayHike Series. Circuit of 23 miles (or 14.4-mile option) on paved and dirt trails in DC and Maryland parklands, with some gentle elevation change. Meet 8am at Fletcher's Boathouse, off Canal Rd. Leaders: Paul Elliott 703/256-6351 and Russ Norfleet 703/294-6068, rnorfleet@co.arlington.va.us.

Tue 30

Doubletop. MW. Rated H. From Meadows Cabin parking lot, climb to Doubletop for views, scramble up the rocks and descend to the Rapidan to tour reopened Hoover Camp. Then climb Mill Prong Trail to AT, enjoy Dark Hollow Falls before returning via Stony Mtn Trail, 16 miles, 4,000 ft climb. Leader: Chris Nolen, 301/469-8931 or chrishiker@erols.com.

April

Susquehanna River Clean Up. GB. Date not known at this time. Contact Jack 410-256-3963

Sat 3

Old Rag Mountain, VA. HC. Strenuous 9 mile hike, features boulders, some scrambling, and a great view. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 7:30 from the west lot of the park & ride at Rt. 32 and Broken Land Parkway. Hessam Dahi, 410-721-2642, hessamd@hotmail.com.

Alexandria-Arlington Slow Marathon. MW. Rated H or less. In Get-Fit-for-Spring, OneDayHike Series. Circuit of 27 paved miles on Mount Vernon Trail and other Alexandria & Arlington trails, with a few minor undulations. Shorter, Metro-assisted version also available. Meet 8am at north parking lot at Belle Haven, on GW Pkwy south of Alexandria. Leaders: Gary Kosciusko 703/708-7159 and Scott Wilson 301/220-3248.



Outings & Events (April)

Blockhouse Point – Seneca Creek Greenway Tr. – C&O Canal. MW. Rated H. GPS Hike. One of the most beautiful overlooks of Potomac River 40 minutes to D.S. combined with the newly built Seneca Creek Greenway Tr. Easy hike. Rolling hills, walking along the creek. Bird watching, view of the farmland. 21 miles, 1350' gain. Wear boots, bring 2 extra pairs of wool socks - some places may be wet. Hike will be slightly altered in case of flooding of the Seneca Creek. Meet at the North-Western parking near Twinbrook Metro Station. Leader: Dimitri Tundra (301) 770 – 9639 tartakd@hotmail.com.

Sat -Sun 3-4

Big Schloss Backpack, VA-WV. HC. Backpack 8 miles on day 1, strenuous uphill along a stream, then along a ridge with a fantastic 360 degree view at Big Schloss. Day 2 return 4.5 miles. Contact Mike Juskelis to register, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Tue 6

Half Moon. MW. Rated G. Climb for views from Half Moon Lookout then on to White Rock Lookout. Return via the Old Mail Path. About 13 miles and 3,000 ft climb. Leader: Chris Nolen, 301/469-8931 or chrishiker@erols.com.

Wed 7

Outings Committee Meeting. GB. Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. New and prospective outings leaders welcome. 6:30 PM. Bette: 410-666-2696.

Sat 10

Harpers Ferry. HC. Strenuous 9 or 11 mile hike through 3 states, along the C&O canal and up to spectacular overlooks of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, from Maryland Heights, Split Rocks, and Jefferson

Rocks. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for a 8:30 departure. Call Tim Ryan before 9:30 PM, 410-248-2974, timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.

Harford Glen. GB. Moderate. Approximately 8 miles around Atkinson Reservoir. Slow-paced enough to look at wildflowers and spring migrants. Bring binoculars if you like, also water and lunch. Expect mud. Meet at Harford Glen (first lot on right, by pond) at the west end of Wheel Road at 10:00 a.m. For details, call Betsy at 410-569-5202.

Old Rag Mtn. 7.7 miles, 4,000 ft. elevation change. MW. Rated E. Meet at Vienna Metro station north side. 8:30 a.m. Leader: Russ Norfleet, (703) 294-6068, rnorfleet@co.arlington.va.us.

Massanutten Mountain. MW. Rated G. New Market Gap to Duncan Knob. Circuit hike over 17 miles with elevation changes over 2500 feet. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center at 7:30. Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. Leaders: William Needham 410/884-9127 or Needham82@aol.com and Jack Thorsen 703/339-6716 or Thorsen4@juno.com.

Doing the Towpath Lockstep. MW. Rated H or D. In Get-Fit-for-Spring, OneDayHike Series.. Out-and-back for 32 miles (with 16-mile option) between Pennyfield Lock and Whites Ferry. Meet 8am at Pennyfield Lock parking lot, off River Rd. Leaders: leader Frank Wodarczyk 703/569-6737 and Ray Abercrombie 703/569-2691.

Sun 11

Carderock Wildflowers. HC. Moderate 8.5 mile hike on the C&O canal towpath, and over rocky terrain by the Potomac River on the lower sections of the Billy Goat Trail. We will take a slow pace in some areas with a profusion of wildflowers. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.



Tue 13

"Redbud II:" 2d Annual Dogwood Memorial Hike. MW. Rated H. This hike on the Tuscorora Trail follows the Big Blue Trail route of PATC's 4th, 5th, and 6th long distance Dogwood hikes of a dozen years ago. On this 30+ mile, self-supported reprise, we will hike west from Maurertown, VA, then north through the mountains along the VA - WV border to Hawk Campground. Leaders: Cliff Noyes, 703/451-5181 or cliff.noyes@juno.com, and Chris Nolen, 301/469-8931 or chrishiker@erols.com

Thu 15

Great Falls, VA. MW. Rated C or A. A scenic 10 miles over variable terrain at a moderate/fast pace, with 5-mile option. Meet in lot in front of Park Visitor Center. Entrance fee \$5 per vehicle or pass. Bring lunch/water. No pets. Joint hike with PATC. From I-495, exit 44 West on Georgetown Pike for 4 miles to Old Dominion Drive. Turn

right to Park entrance. Starts at 10 am. Leader: Henri Comeau 703/451-7965 or henricomeau@aol.com.

Sat 17

Green Ridge State Park. HC. Strenuous 11 mile shuttle hike on the C&O Canal and Fifteen Mile Creek trail. Rocky, steep, narrow, with several stream crossings. Beautiful views and wildflowers. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Calvert Cliffs State Park, Calvert County. SM. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Explore the network of trails in the northern half of the park, with Sierra Club outings leader Bob Boxwell. Well shaded, but often hilly, this hike ranges between 5 and 8 miles. Meet the leader in the upper parking lot (past the playground) Park fee of \$3 applies (annual passes available as well). For details call 410-414-3311 (w) or 301-872-5998 (h) or e-mail bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

Wildflower Walk at Riverbend Park, Virginia. MW. Rated A. Joint walk with the EcoStewards Alliance. Meet at 10 am at the visitor center. Optional 4-5 mile hike in the afternoon along the Potomac toward Great Falls. Directions: Take Beltway Exit 44, Georgetown Pike, west past the road to Great Falls. Turn right on Riverbend Road, then turn right on Jeffery Road and follow it for about 1 mile to the park entrance. Bring water and lunch. No pets. Leader: Jim Fremont, 301/962-4703 before 9 pm.

Outings & Events (April/May)

Shadbush Half-Hundred. MW. Rated H or less. In Get-Fit-for-Spring, OneDayHike Series, this circuit covers 20.8, 25.5, 28.3, or 33 miles on hilly back roads in Poolesville area and on C&O Canal towpath. Meet at 8am at Poolesville H.S., off West Willard Rd. Leaders: Paul Elliott 703/256-6351 and Frank Wodarczyk 703/569-6737.

Sun 18

Kelly Run and Pinnacle Hike. GB. Moderate. 7 to 8 miles with a good view of the river. Good chance of seeing bald eagles. Will talk about the eagles decline and recovery into this area. Meet at K-Mart on Belair Road at 10:00 a.m. Jack, 410-256-3963.

Mason Neck, VA. HC. Easy 5 mile hike in the state park and wildlife refuge. Look for bald eagles and early bird migrants. Bring binoculars, lunch, and water. Depart at 8:45 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Call Sue Muller, 301-498-8462, sonicsue@boo.net.

Roberto Reyes Memorial AT Hike. MW. Rated C. Join family and friends to celebrate the memory of Roberto Reyes and to remember all our family and friends lost in body but not in mind. Bring your stories and pictures to share. We shall reminisce on a 7-mile round trip hike from Gathland State Park to the Ed Garvey Shelter. Elevation change about 1,500 feet. Leader: Robert Lovisa, 301/593-5360, rlovisa@yahoo.com.

Help Write the Guidebook Series: Hoover Camp Circuit. MW. Rated D+. Unscouted 10-mi. loop in central SNP with 2,400 ft. total elevation changes (ups & downs), includes visit to Pres. Hoover's precursor to Camp David.

With the 14th edition of the PATC guide to SNP circuit hikes in hand, we will check distances and note changes in landmarks to produce the 15th edition of this venerable book, or just enjoy the walk. Leader: Larry Broadwell, 301/215-7135.

Tue 20

Camp Roosevelt Loop. MW. Rated H. Enjoy Kennedy Peak, then loop back on Stephen's Trail to Duncan Knob rock scramble; 15 miles and 3,300 ft climb. Leader: Chris Nolen, 301/469-8931 or chrishiker@erols.com.

Thu 22

Great Falls, VA. MW. Rated A. Celebrate Earth Day with a 6-mi. hike along the Potomac Gorge at Great Falls and River Bend Park. See Mather Gorge and the mighty falls of the Potomac along the Potomac Heritage Trail. Leader: Glenn Gillis, 703/430-0568.

Fri -Sun 23-25

GPS Backpack: Cranberry Wilderness. MW. Unrated. South-Eastern West Virginia. North and Middle Fork Trails, Laureley Branch Trail. 23.5 mi, 3450' gain elevation. Optional bushwhack. Unscouted hike. Most of the time we will be walking along the river banks. The goal of the hike is to find as many different types of Trillium flowers (last year we saw 3 types) and salamanders (only one type last year) as we can. Leader Dimitri Tundra: 301/770-9639, tartakd@hotmail.com. Please, reserve your seat no later than a week in advance.

Sat 24

Patapsco, Daniels Area. HC. Moderate 9 mile hike along both sides of the river. Wade across the river or cross railroad bridge. Meet at 9:30 at the Daniels Dam parking lot, on Daniels Rd. Call

James Perschy, 410-964-1902, jmatp@starpower.net.

Final OneDayHike Tune-Up. MW. Rated H or less. In Get-Fit-for-Spring, OneDayHike Series. Out-and-back along the C&O Canal towpath between mileposts 10.2 & 22.7 (Riley's Lock), with shorter options, familiarizing hikers with the towpath detour. Meet 8am at middle parking lot (next to picnic area) at Carderock. Leaders: Gary Kosciusko 703/708-7159 and Mike Darzi 301/593-4551.

Sun 25

Rock Creek Park/Lake Needwood Conservation Walk. MW. Rated A. 2-4pm. A leisurely 2 mile hike that will take us along Mill Creek, ground zero for the Intercounty Connector (ICC), a controversial proposed highway that would cross and devastate many sections of Montgomery County's best stream valleys. We will discuss the ecological, economic and political issues involving this project. Leader: Ron LaCoss, 301/946-1106 before 9pm.

Help Write the Guidebook Series: Sugarloaf Circuit in SNP. MW. Rated E. Figure-8 circuit in northern SNP covers 10 mi. with 3,200 total ups & downs along Sugarloaf, AT and other trails in Hogback Mtn area. Help check distances and note changes in landmarks to update popular guide, or just enjoy the walk. Leader: Larry Broadwell, 301/215-7135.

Tue 27

Hazel Mtn, Sam's Ridge. MW. Rated G. Follow the Hazel River, circle Hazel Mtn to descend Hannah Run, and return on the Hot-Short and Sam's Ridge trails. Then rest up for the 100K on Saturday. About 13 miles and 3,000 ft climb. Leader: Chris Nolen, 301/469-8931 or chrishiker@erols.com.

Fri-Sun April 30-May 2

North Fork Mountain Camping, WV. HC. Car camping in Monongahela National Forest, at modern Seneca Shadows campground. Day 1: Set up camp and hike to Seneca Rocks. Day 2: Moderate 9 mile shuttle hike to Chimney Rocks. Day 3: Tour Dolly Sods on the way home. Reservations recommended. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

May

Sat 1

31st Annual 100 Kilometer One Day Hike Washington, D.C. to Harpers Ferry, W.VA. MW.

100K Starts: Saturday, May 1, 2004 at Thompson Boat House, Washington, DC, 3:00 AM

80K Starts: Saturday May 1, 2004 at Old Anglers Inn, near Potomac, MD, 6:00 AM

50K Starts: Saturday, May 1, 2004 at Edwards Ferry, near Poolesville, MD, 10:00 AM

The One Day Hike is one of the oldest annual long-distance hikes in the mid-Atlantic region. The first 100K (62.14 miles) from Washington DC to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, along the C&O Canal, was held in 1974 and has been an annual event ever since. In 2000 a 50K (31.07 mile) version was added to make the event accessible to more people. Then, in 2002 an 80K (49.71 miles) version was added for those who wanted approximately 50 miles. These three hikes are held concurrently with staggered starting points and times. All hikers will be on the second half of the trail together and end up at the PATC lodge, Highacre, in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Note that this is a new

Outings & Events (May/June)

endpoint for the three hikes this year. At about mile 60.7 on the towpath you will turn off and ascend a metal spiral staircase, cross the Potomac River on a pedestrian walkway alongside the railroad bridge and continue on the streets through Harpers Ferry to Highacre. This event is extreme only in distance. Hikers assist and encourage one another along the trail, only competing against their personal goals and the challenge to their physical and psychological endurance. Along the way there are six stations that provide food, drink, and, when needed, medical care. Bike patrols monitor progress and ensure that everyone is accounted for. Along the way, the Potomac River and C&O Canal provide beautiful scenery, wildflowers, birds and other wildlife. For information and registration see <http://www.onedayhike.org> or call Carol 703/476-8730 or Paul 703/256-6351

Gunpowder Park Mingo Forks. GB. Easy 6 mile hike through Hereford area of Gunpowder Park, including the Mingo Forks, Bunker Hill and Gunpowder River Trails. Meet at Mount Carmel Road Park & Ride off of I-83 at 8:30 AM. Ron 410-767-0106.

Quiet Waters Hike with Tai Chi stretch. AA. Call Young-410 849-2720 (leave message) for information.

White Oak Canyon, VA. HC. Strenuous 9 mile circuit hike with numerous waterfalls and cascades. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 7:30 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Hessam Dahi 410-721-2642, hessamd@hotmail.com.

Sat 8

Laurel Run/Stack Rocks, VA/WV. HC. Strenuous 6.5 mile hike featuring pink lady slippers, wild iris, and incredible

views beyond Big Schloss. 1600 ft. elevation change over 2 miles. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com. Gunpowder, Sweet Air Area. HC. Moderate 7 mile hike along the Little Gunpowder and Barley Pond. Bring lunch and water. Depart Columbia at 9:00 from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. Or call to meet at the trailhead. Call Tim Ryan before 9:30 PM, 410-248-2974, timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.

Sun 9

Mother's Day Outing at Myrtle Point, Myrtle Point Park, St. Mary's County. SM. 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Join trip leader Bob Boxwell for the third annual Mother's Day Outing at Myrtle Point. We will explore the various habitats within the park concentrating on the wildflowers and wildlife. Near the Thomas Johnson Bridge, take Patuxent Blvd. off route 4 in St. Mary's County to the end. Meet the leader in the grass parking lot on the left as you enter the park. Please call 410-414-3311 (w) or 301-872-5998 (h) or e-mail bobboxwell@hotmail.com for details.

Sat 22

Jug Bay, Patuxent River Park. HC. Five hour paddle down this flat water river and tidal marsh; expect to see ospreys and plenty of other wildlife. Bring



lunch and water. Sign up early to reserve a \$20 canoe or kayak, or bring your own. Depart Columbia at 7:30 from Broken Land park & ride. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net

Gunpowder Park Sweet Air. GB. Easy 6 mile hike through scenic section of Gunpowder Park, including a walk through a bucolic corn field, by a Waldenesque pond, along the Little Gunpowder River and through a pine forest. Meet in Safeway parking lot on southeast corner of Route 145 (Paper Mill/Sweet Air Road) and Route 146 (Jarrettsville Pike) at 8:30 AM. Ron 410-767-0106

Wed 26

Gunpowder River Hike. GB. Moderate. 2 – 3 miles along the Gunpowder River. Meet at Gunpowder Parking Lot on Belair Road at 7:00 PM. Jack: 410-256-3963.

Fri- Mon 28-31

Dolly Sods Backpack, WV. HC. Day one: Hike 5 miles from Lanville up Red Creek to Big Stone Coal Junction. Day 2: Hike up to the Forks and across to the Lion's Head. Day 3: Return on Little Stone Coal Trail, then stay at a campground. Limit of 10 participants. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat 29

Gunpowder Falls, Hereford. HC. Moderate 7-8 mile hike to Prettyboy dam. Optional afternoon picnic, volleyball, and splash in the river. Depart at 8:30 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Call in advance for picnic, Hessam Dahi, 410-721-2642, hessamd@hotmail.com.

Sat-Mon 29-31

Memorial Day Weekend Backpack-Dolly Sods. West Virginia. GB. Moderate. We start off with a short backpack to our basecamp on Saturday followed by a long dayhike on Sunday where we will take time to explore this unique wilderness. Must have proper gear. Call Ted for details at 410 239-4590.

June

Sun 6

Fair Hills/Big Elk Creek Hike. GB. Moderate 7 miles through forests and fields, and along Big Elk Creek in the Fair Hills NRMA, near Elkton Md. This hike will visit a covered bridge and several ruins that may date to colonial times. As we ramble, we will talk about the history and ecology of the area. Depart the White Marsh Park & Ride on Honeygo Blvd. at 10:00 AM. John 410-752-0104.

Sat 12

Hemlock Gorge. HC. Moderate 7 mile hike along the headwaters of the Gunpowder River above Prettyboy Reservoir. Includes a beautiful rocky gorge full of hemlocks and cascades. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat 19

Susquehanna State Park. GB. Moderate 8 mile hike beginning at historic Rock Run Grist Mill, along hilly trail overlooking the Susquehanna River and through deciduous forest. Meet at the parking lot at K-Mart on Route 1

Outings & Events (June-August)

north of Belair Road exit from 695 at 8:30 AM. Ron 410-767-0106

Fri -Sun 25-27

Roaring Plains Camping, WV. HC. Car camping in Monongahela National Forest, at modern Seneca Shadows campground. Strenuous 11.5 mile hike on Sat. along a rocky Canadian plateau full of wind-swept red spruce and blooming mountain laurel. Reservations recommended. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sun 27

Gunpowder Tube Trip. GB. Wear old shoes or water shoes and have a way to keep keys from falling out of your pocket. Bring a tube or rent one at Monkton Bike Shop. Meet at Monkton Station at 1:00 PM. Jack: 410-256-3963

July

Sat 3

Gunpowder Tube Trip. GB. Wear old shoes or water shoes and have a way to keep keys from falling out of your pocket. Bring a tube or rent one at Monkton Bike Shop. Meet at Monkton Station at 1:00 PM. Jack: 410-256-3963

Fri - Sun 9-11

Lake Sherwood Camping, WV. HC. Car camping in Monongahela National Forest in a tent area with nearby modern facilities. Main hike is 9 miles, moderate with stream crossings, featuring azalea and rhododendron thickets along the ridge. Reservations recommended. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sat 17

Caledonia/Michaux Forest, PA. GB. Moderate 7.5 mile hike through a forest of towering hemlocks, a forest of deciduous trees and along free-flowing mountain streams bordered by rhododendron. Circuit hike will include parts of Locust Gap and Hosack Run Trails and Quarry Gap portion of Appalachian Trail with 800 foot change in elevation. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Park & Ride just north of I-70 on Route 32 at 8:30 AM. Ron 410-767-0106.

Thu - Sun July 29-Aug 1

Tea Creek Backpack, WV. HC. Camp first night at Tea Creek primitive campground, then two day backpack, 17 miles in the Tea Creek watershed. Possible additional night in the campground. Limit of 10 participants. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

August

Fri-Sun 27-29

HC: Blue Bend Camping, WV. Car camping in Monongahela National Forest, along scenic Anthony Creek under hemlocks and surrounded by mountains. Hike Blue Bend and Anthony Creek trails. On the way home visit Humpback covered bridge and scenic Goshen Pass. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

BICO Outings

For additional information on BICO (Baltimore Inner City Outings), see www.sierraclub.org/ico/baltimore or call Bob Burchard at (410) 744-0510. Please contact BICO for information on rain delays.

MARCH

Mon 1

BICO Meeting with all groups.

Sat 20

Community service with Rec and Parks and ice skating with UMBC Shriver Center's Choice program.

Caving at Indian Echo Caverns and a hike in Gifford Pinchot State Park, PA with Learning, Inc.

Sat 27

Animal tracking at Eden Mill Nature Center with College Gardens Community Center.

APRIL

Sat 17

Biking on NCR trail and wildflower searching with Learning, Inc.

Hiking and biking at Harper's Ferry with UMBC Shriver Center's Choice program.

TBA

Stream Cleanup Project (tentative) with College Gardens Community Center.

MAY

Mon 3

BICO Meeting. All invited.

Sat 15

Sheep and Wool Festival with College Gardens Community Center.

Cabin camping and hiking in the Appalachian or Catoclin Mountains with Learning, Inc.

TBA

Steam clean up project (tentative) with UMBC Shriver Center's Choice program.

JUNE

Sat 5

Environmental education on board CBF's Snowgoose with Learning, Inc.

Canoeing with UMBC Shriver Center's Choice program.

Fishing with College Gardens Community Center.

JULY

Mon 12

BICO Meeting.

Sat 17

Canoeing on Patapsco Middle Branch and/or archaeological digs with Learning, Inc.

TBA

Tubing on the Gunpowder river with either College Gardens Community Center or UMBC Shriver Center's Choice program.

AUGUST

Sat/Sun 7/8

Camping at Cape Henlopen, DE with Learning, Inc.

TBA

Caving with either College Gardens Community Center or UMBC Shriver Center's Choice program.



Letter to the Editor

Cleaning Up the Nitrogen

Recently there seems to be a lot of local interest in cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay by fixing the sewage treatment plants. Because it is widely believed that nitrogen is a pollutant, the focus of this effort is to remove it. But nitrogen should not be labeled a pollutant in the sense that if we get rid of it the Bay will rejuvenate itself, because nitrogen is a basic element, essential for life on Earth. The problem here is not that it exists, but that it is out of balance in the Bay. The question is how much of it we need to remove, and how.

When sewage lines and storm drains are the same, during heavy storms the system can't handle both and we get raw sewage going out of the plants along with the storm water. Sewage treatment plants can only remove a portion of the excess nitrogen in the first place.

Much of the Bay's nitrogen overload also comes from the fossil fuels that we burn in our electric power plants, and it looks like we are not going to be able to change that in the near future. Automobiles also produce nitrogen that ends up in the Bay, and we are not going to get rid of them anytime soon either. On top of all this, we are going to be adding still more people and that means more electricity, more automobiles, and more nitrogen in our wastewater.

We know where the nitrogen comes from. Sewage treatment plants are a good place to start to see if the amount we can remove will have a positive effect on the Bay. Maybe it will be enough and maybe not. If not, then we will have to look elsewhere. But let's get started now.

—Bill Bartlett

Walk at Chapman Forest

Walk on the Wild Side at Chapman Forest

Jim Long will lead a walk at Chapman State Park on Saturday March 27 10 AM to noon.

Appreciate the nature and history of Chapman Forest, while at the same time supporting the preservation of the natural and historical assets.

It was in his extended 1862 essay "Walking" that Henry David Thoreau coined the phrase: "In wildness is the preservation of the world."

Chapman Forest offers the uncommon opportunity to experience, not far from the nation's capital, the wildness that surrounds deeply wooded habitats, forest interior, and

unblemished riparian borders. At the same time, the historical milieu remains largely intact. Join this opportunity, in the spirit of Thoreau's celebration of walking among wildness.

Directions: Take Capital Beltway to Indian Highway, Rte 210 South toward Indian Head (from VA Exit 2; from MD Exit 3A). After 14 miles, pass the traffic light at Rte. 227 that marks the town of Bryans Road. After another 1.1 miles from the light, veer to the right onto Chapman's Landing Road. Follow for 1.6 miles to the gated entrance of Mount Aventine (Chapman State Park).

Information: 301 283 2948

Eastern Shore Group Executive Committee Election Ballot

1. Vote for no more than five (5) candidates:

		Joint Member Only
Loretta C. Walls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lucille Kuntz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adrienne Nash	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matt Webb	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laetitia Sands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Apperti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jan Graham	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Clip the ballot and mail to:

Eastern Shore Group Election 2004
Maryland Chapter/Sierra Club
Room 101A
7338 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Ballots must be received by April 1, 2004.

Leaders of the Sierra Club are chosen democratically from candidates who volunteer their time and talent to protect our Earth. Please honor this democratic tradition by voting.

Eastern Shore Group Only!



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Credits

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

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

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

Change of address: send address changes to the Sierra Club, 85 Second Street (2nd Floor), San Francisco, California 94705-3441. For fastest service, please include your old and new addresses along with your 8-digit membership number. For local membership information contact the Maryland Chapter Office 301-277-7111/410-813-2225 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, The Chesapeake
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Writers: Betsy Johnson; Charlie Garlow; Jim Frey; Steve Caffisch; Bert Melcher; Bob DeGroot; Cliff Terry; Todd Daniel; Ed Stennett; Janis Oppelt; Elaine Friebele; Annie Collier Rehill; John Barry, Bill Bartlett

Editors: Dan Boone; Laurel Imlay; Betsy Johnson; Janis Oppelt; Annie Collier Rehill; Ed Stennett; Darla Tewell

Habitat Preservation Outings Editor: Marc Imlay

Outings Editors: Christian Frazar; Bob Burchard

Layout and Typography: Darla Tewell

Action Items

March

SC Board of Directors ballots to be mailed to members by mid-March. For further information on election or candidates, contact your group or chapter leaders.

March 2

Maryland Primary Election

Anytime

maryland.sierraclub.org/action



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- How Is Your Relationship With the Prez?
- Outings, Events, and Much More

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