

Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club Spring 2008

Opposition to New Nuclear Reactor at Calvert Cliffs Continues

By Bob Boxwell—The fight against the proposed new nuclear reactor at Calvert Cliffs in Lusby, Maryland (Calvert County) remains active. The Chesapeake Safe Energy Coalition (ChesSEC) (<http://www.safeenergymd.org>) continues to develop opposition throughout Maryland while promoting energy conservation and renewable energy sources.

Recently, Unistar Nuclear Energy¹ filed another partial application with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and a public hearing, which the company's cheerleaders at NRC will hold, is to occur on March 19. In December, Unistar submitted the required request for a "certificate of public convenience and necessity" to the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC).

Both the Maryland Public Interest Research Group (MD PIRG) and the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) have filed petitions to intervene in the PSC process. The groups intend to raise concerns about impacts of the proposed, large, and new reactor on the environment, public safety, and local energy prices.

In January, representatives of ChesSEC embarrassed Calvert County officials in a public meeting by asking where the emergency potassium iodide capsules required by federal homeland security legislation are located. They didn't know the answer—the same response we received when we asked other specific questions.

Constellation Energy executives frustrated Maryland
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Legislation Could Propel Maryland into Leadership on Global Warming Solutions

By Alana Wase—On January 17th more than 400 activists came together in cold, snowy Annapolis to rally for state action against global warming. It was a monumental

day; a guard who has been working in the capitol for many years told volunteers that it was the largest rally he had seen in a long time.

While the rally was a huge success, the battle has just begun. Citizens all across the state are weighing in to help pass the Global Warming Solutions Act, SB309/HB717. The legislation commits the state to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2020 (baseline 2006), and 90% by 2050, numbers scientifically set to avoid the most severe impacts of global warming. California, Hawaii, and New Jersey have already passed similar legislation, and more than a dozen other states have global warming legislation pending. Maryland's, however, is one of the most aggressive bills in the nation, and its passage is our chapter's highest legislative priority.

While many of the critics of bill suggest that this will damage Maryland's economy, I like to remind them how damaging hurricanes Katrina and Isabel were. Isabel alone caused more than \$5.5 billion in damage. Not to mention how such legislation would support the creation of thousands of green jobs.

Another common argument against the bill is that regulating greenhouse gases is not the state's responsibility, but rather that of the federal government. Most of us would probably agree, but we'd also agree with the Governor that "when the federal government fails to lead, states have no choice but to step up and act." This is certainly one of those occasions. Equally important, in passing such legislation we're able to send a strong

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Activists rally in Annapolis in support of the Global Warming Solutions Act
Photo by Charlene Church



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Meet Ron Henry, Our New Chapter Chair



Hello To All!

Well, I've been trying to settle into my role as Chapter Chair, but I am beginning to think that achieving anything that appears to be "settling in" may be like the proverbial desert traveler trying to determine if what he is

seeing is an "oasis" or a "mirage!" Seriously, I am looking forward to meeting and working with as many of you as I can during my tenure. We live in a wonderful but rapidly changing state here in our beautiful Maryland, and we have a myriad of environmental issues to address on a continual basis. We will be successful with these efforts because, right-up-front, I am asking each of you as Maryland Chapter Sierrans to be proactive with us, doing what you can to ensure that success.

The Maryland 2008 General Assembly legislative session is underway and we will be keeping you informed and calling upon you to actively support key environmental bills during the session. The first focus will be on passing the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) of 2008 (SB 309/HB 712). In a recent press conference, Governor O'Malley highlighted his support of this legislation and Maryland's role in "setting the bar" high and leading the way in combating global warming effects.

Our role is to enhance that support by being proactive at the grass roots level, by contacting all our state delegates and senators, and by urging them to sponsor and pass this bill. We did a lot of groundwork to garner support for GWSA passage in the 2007 session and during the summer and fall with our Climate Action Campaign. With a different governor and public opinion in our favor, let's do our part and get this important bill passed and signed into law.

Another key legislative effort will focus on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The Critical Areas Protection Program legislation (SB 844/HB 1253) will require updated, environmentally meaningful, and enforceable setbacks of any development, to protect the natural buffers that absorb polluted runoff before it

reaches the tidal waters of Maryland's rivers and streams, and the coasts of the Chesapeake Bay.

Energy efficiency for Maryland is being addressed by SB 205/ HB 374, and focuses on reducing statewide per-capita electricity consumption; SB 268/HB 368 creates an energy investment fund.

A key effort of MD Chapter Sierra Club during this legislative session is STOPPING THE ICC! This is a top priority for us since the ICC is a harbinger of other planned major highway development and expansion plans that are also environmentally unsound. This effort dovetails with the sorely needed emphasis on alternative transportation such as rail and bus. The passé cycle of continually expanding highways only leads to more pollution and unwise land use, and must be reversed.

This is "The Important Legislative Year" to obtain the environmental gains needed to offset and reverse the negative environmental impacts of the past. I solicit your help to achieve this objective!

In addition to 2008 being extremely important for the Maryland legislative session, we also need to be proactive with the national presidential and congressional political campaigns. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of actively participating in these campaigns; it is our opportunity to help elect environmental champions.

Closer to home, our chapter is on a talent hunt. We are looking for chairs and members for our fundraising, legislative, membership and communications committees. I am also looking for people to be chapter webmasters. Please call me or the chapter office to volunteer for these very important tasks.

My vision for this chapter is that we commit ourselves to achieve those things we need environmentally that will provide our descendants, seven generations from now, with a place to live that is better than what we have now. We can do no less. For as the adage goes—"We did not inherit this earth. We borrowed it from our children." We are obligated to give them their birthright.

If we respect each other and those we work with, use our resources wisely, and remain focused on what must be done, we can achieve this for the seventh generation!

Until next time! ■

Watersheds and Sprawl

Highways and Charles County Development Could Doom the Chesapeake's Crown Jewel

What would you say about a society that allowed the best tributary to the largest estuary in the world to slip away? That is exactly what is foreseen for Mattawoman Creek, deemed "the best, most productive tributary to the Chesapeake Bay" by Maryland state fisheries biologists. Its watershed, which lies beyond the urban gradient to the south of the nation's capital, is covered by a Charles County development district that sprawls larger than Washington, DC. The County is working from a Watershed Management Plan that predicts "a severe change in overall water quality" at buildout, with "severe repercussions on the biological community."

Sprawl is highway-dependent, and two new four-lane highways are proposed

to crisscross the watershed. The Cross County Connector extension (CCC-ex) would open vast forest tracts to development, and would enable developers to turn the one-stoplight town of Bryans Road into another Waldorf, the county's present urban center. The second highway, the Western Waldorf Bypass, is part of the piecemeal "Outer Beltway," and would irrevocably degrade the Mattawoman watershed through additional massive induced growth. Both highways have viable alternatives to consider.

The CCC-ex is being fast-tracked, with authorities evidently trying to avoid an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this 6.5 mile, four-lane highway that would destroy wetland acreage that is a significant fraction of Maryland's annual wetlands loss. A hearing on the wetland-destruction permits could occur as soon as April. Please stay tuned (www.mattawomanwatershed.org), plan on attending this hearing, and speaking or writing in support of an EIS. Because of Mattawoman's value to the Bay, this is a statewide issue, and beyond.

While an EIS does not stop a highway, if properly scoped it scientifically informs officials of the impacts to the natural and human environments, not only of the proposed highway, but also the alternatives. At the 12th Annual Meeting of the Maryland Tributary Strategies Teams on Feb. 9, Dr. Summers, Deputy Secretary of Maryland's Department of Environment, said in a keynote address that we must make sure that environmental impacts are properly mitigated. Putting aside issues of inadequate mitigation, we can ask "how can you mitigate impacts if don't even know what they are?"

We can not look the other way while letting this crown jewel slip away. ■

Courtesy of the Mattawoman Watershed Society, www.mattawomanwatershed.org.



Mattawoman Creek

Sierra Club is working in partnership with the Mattawoman Watershed Society and MD Bass Federation to protect this valuable Chesapeake Bay resource. Charles County is presently the fastest growing county in MD.

In addition to the CCC-ex and the Waldorf Bypass, it seems that we will have to address the need to change the Development District of Charles County, which is 1/3 larger than the District of Columbia. With the addition of new information about the health threats to the Chesapeake Bay and the increasing awareness of the reality of climate change, business as usual can not continue.

We need to find a way to better organize the citizens of Charles County who are Sierra Club members and outreach to additional members for their help. We are expecting a wetland destruction hearing for the CCC-ex early this spring, and we need lots of concerned citizens to stand up and testify that we need a properly scoped EIS before permitting decisions are made.

Anyone reading this with ideas on ways to help or suggestions, please email bonnie.bick@maryland.sierraclub.org.

Photo courtesy of Jim Long

Create an Environmental Legacy

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

John Calaway
Director, Gift Planning
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-977-5639 or e-mail
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Conservation and Efficiency a Better Bet Than Another Reactor at Calvert Cliffs

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land regulators on February 6 by skipping a hearing to discuss costs that might be passed on to consumers due to deregulation, highlighting a standoff between the state and the utility over rising energy costs. Major among these “stranded costs” is the potential \$5 billion that will be needed to dismantle the two Calvert Cliffs reactors at the end of their useful lives.

On Valentine’s Day, ChesSEC staged a rally at Constellation Energy corporate headquarters in Baltimore. Dressed in red and pink, activists, students, and friends facilitated a moving picket, street theater, and leafleting against Unistar’s proposed new reactor on the Chesapeake Bay.

ChesSEC includes a growing list of advocacy organizations: Beyond Nuclear, Green Party (MD), Maryland PIRG, NIRS, Public Citizen, and Sierra Club. Some heavy hitters in these groups—including award-winning activist Paul Gunther²—are making Unistar nervous.

The company has stated that they won’t do the project without billions of dollars in federal loan guarantees. It has further stated that if the atmosphere (an ironic choice in terms) is not friendly in Maryland, they will pick up their bags and move to New York. (Shall we buy them their bus tickets?).

Currently, the existing Calvert Cliffs plant is having trouble keeping up with a requirement to upgrade their pumping system and has received a six-month extension to do the work. This is not the response you or I would get if we asked Uncle Sam for an extension on filing anything.

But if Unistar is concerned about the Maryland state government not being friendly, they can always turn to the Calvert County commissioners. I, too, might be friendly to a company that agreed to cover a \$6 million deficit in my

budget. Here’s how this arrangement works.

When the Maryland government deregulated the electric power industry in 1999, it took away the power of the County to tax its transmission lines. This reduced Calvert County’s revenue some \$8 million (proof that Maryland government leaders didn’t shaft only the consumer by deregulating the industry). To fill this local hole, the State had been granting \$6 million to Calvert County annually. Given the current budget deficit, however, the State has withdrawn this

thing that isn’t nuclear. Power shortfalls may be just around the corner, but the power production by the proposed new reactor is not a safe or fiscally sound solution. Regardless of how many corners the NRC cuts, we would not, realistically, see a single megawatt from this project until 2015.

The real answer, of course, is to stop our massive over-consumption of energy. Viable options to reduce electricity consumption and atmospheric pollution do exist. Recently, the Sierra Club joined

These methods will be a far cheaper means to ensure enough electricity than building expensive reactors and creating more radioactive waste. Indeed, *Sierra* magazine senior editor Paul Rauber found that “a dollar spent on energy efficiency would save seven times more carbon dioxide than a dollar spent on nuclear power.”

Closer to home in Maryland, we must encourage this year’s passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act (SB309/HB 712), which is designed to reduce power plant greenhouse gas emissions, clean up the Chesapeake Bay and protect our health while maintaining energy availability.

So the fight continues. To get involved, contact Bob Boxwell at bobboxwell@hotmail.com or Maryland PIRG via johanna@marylandpirg.org. Also, call or write your legislators and Governor Martin O’Malley (via 1-800-811-8336 or governor@gov.state.md.us) to express your opposition to new nuclear reactors and your support for energy conservation. ■

¹Constellation Energy, which replaced Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE), and French-government-owned EDF comprise Unistar.

²Paul Gunter’s award was the Jane Bagley Lehman Award from the Tides Foundation. According to the foundation’s web site, these awards “seek to recognize individuals who have exhibited a deep commitment to the public interest and whose work demonstrates innovative approaches to social change. The 2007 awards specifically sought individuals whose anti-nuclear work reaches wide audiences and successfully bridges the gap between grassroots activists and decision-makers.”



grant. So the County asked Unistar for the money and Unistar said, “Yes!” (as would anyone who had a huge project on the table needing governmental cooperation). This is all very neat, all very legal, and all very suspicious.

Action: Stop Overconsumption

Considering current power consumption in Maryland and the projected shortages, we have to do something— but some-

with the American Solar Energy Society to advocate that “an aggressive, yet achievable increase in the use of energy efficiency and renewables alone can achieve a 60 to 80 percent reduction in U.S. global warming emissions by 2050.”

American ingenuity can create safe, clean energy and also vastly expand conservation through development of efficient appliances, energy-saving lighting, and innovative building techniques.

Demystifying Renewable Energy Credits

By Rich Reis—Some of my recent experiences raised a number of questions about what renewable energy credits (RECs) are and whether they were effective in mitigating global warming.

To minimize our impact on global warming, my local congregation, the Washington Ethical Society, considered a company's proposal to install a solar photovoltaic system. The company would retain system ownership, while the congregation would purchase its solar electricity for 20 years. The price, while higher than other market prices for electricity, would remain fixed during the 20 year contract. The solar-generated electricity would also yield RECs. The company would sell these RECs to partially offset the cost of the system.

I attended an informational meeting on global warming and the environment at the Silver Spring Unitarian Universalist Church. There, a representative from the county's energy office urged attendees to use Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) and to buy RECs to compensate for the global warming gas emissions of the ordinary electrical energy they use.

RECs are a market-based device to allow people and corporations to benefit financially when generating energy from renewable energy sources—sources that do not emit global warming gases, principally carbon-dioxide (CO₂). They also permit others to purchase these credits to offset their energy-intensive activities that produce global warming gases, such as air travel. Thus, RECs are a potential mechanism for reducing global warming.

RECs help address an essential problem in our economy described in Garrett Harden's seminal essay, "The Tragedy of the Commons" (*Science*, 1968). The

problem applies as an individual buying electricity from conventional sources does not pay for its adverse effects. For example, most of the electricity in our area comes from coal. Its mining is very environmentally destructive. When it is burned to generate electricity, it produces local pollutants and global warming gases.

One REC is awarded based for each megawatt-hour (MWh), equivalent to 1000 kilowatt-hours, of renewable energy generated. The types of renewable energy allowed for these credits include solar, wind, biomass, and geothermal. It does not depend upon the infrastructure needed to generate this electricity. Each REC can be considered equivalent to

Renewable Energy Credits come from electrical generators that emit no or less carbon than traditional generators, whereas carbon offsets can come from other sources.

about 1,350 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂) not emitted, based upon federal Energy Information Office Reports.

Yet it is important to realize that RECs and carbon offsets are similar, but different. RECs come from electrical generators that emit no or less carbon than traditional generators, whereas carbon offsets can come from other sources. RECs can be used to claim that one's electricity comes from no- or low-carbon sources.

Maryland power companies are required to meet renewable portfolio standards per the 2005 law as amended in 2007. Under this law they must either generate a portion of their electricity from certain renewable sources or purchase RECs from the open market.

The following scenarios illustrate the issues of selling and buying RECs and offsets:

In years past, John purchased 10

MWh of electricity from conventional sources. Those power plants emitted 10,000 pounds of carbon dioxide to supply that electricity. As a concerned environmentalist, John has a grid-tied solar electric system installed on his home. The system generates an average 10 MWh of solar electricity per year and allows him to harvest 10 RECs. If each REC sells for \$20 on the open market, each year John sells his 10 RECs for \$200 to partially pay back the cost of his system.

Mary plans to fly from St. Louis to San Francisco to attend a Sierra Club

meeting; he also needs to conserve and use less electricity. Mary should know that her purchase of RECs might not fully offset the extra global warming of her trip.

There are other issues to consider. We can compare the embedded energy of conventional and alternative energy systems. This includes the energy to mine the materials, manufacture the components, and install the system. There may be environmental impacts of alternative energy installation and use. For example, wind generation may harm birds. In the recent book, *Heat, How to Stop the Planet from Burning*, author George Monbiot argues that air travel must be avoided to moderate global warming. Although a

MWh of energy use avoided is at least as good for the environment as a MWh of alter-

native energy, RECs are not awarded for conservation. Finally, RECs should be certified by a third-party rater or verified through an audit. Perhaps the worst example is a plan by California-based Planktos, Inc. to dump iron in the Pacific to generate RECs. As the Friends of the Earth notes, the plan lacks oversight, could harm the ocean, and would probably not work anyway. Sequestration, another way to avoid carbon release when generating electricity from conventional sources, costs money. For example, a recent paper (*Energy Engineering* 2007, Vol. 104, No. 6, p. 15) estimates that carbon capture and sequestration adds about 5.44¢ per kWh to the cost of coal-generated electricity. To date, geological carbon capture and sequestration has only been tried with two relatively small demonstration projects.

Aside from using RECs, we can

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What is wrong with this scenario?

The RECs added balanced the RECs removed from the market. Yet the five flights added the equivalent of 13,950 pounds of CO₂ to the global atmosphere. The reality is that John cannot sell RECs and still "earn points" as an environmen-

Taking the Mystery from RECs

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lessen the harm from coal and other non-renewable energy sources by having the government mandate renewable energy portfolios for utilities (as mentioned earlier), regulating mining and electrical generation, taxing carbon, conserving energy, and using tradable carbon permits. These and other possibilities are used locally and around the world to some extent.

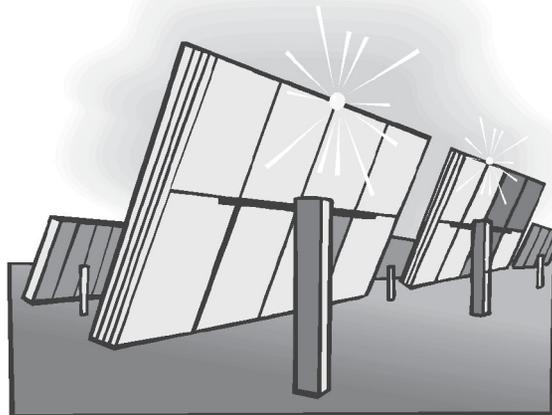
RECs do their job when they provide an effective incentive for commercial alternative energy investments. For example, NativeEnergy of Vermont is a privately held energy company. It uses RECs to help finance Native American alternative energy projects, such as the Toksook Bay Alaska Native Village Wind Turbine.

RECs have an important role to play in mitigating global warming, but like any accounting system, we need to be careful not to “cook the books” (and thus cook the planet) and not really reduce global warming gases. This essay is not the final word on this important and multifaceted topic. I look forward to questions and comments. ■

Richard (Rich) Reis is a professional engineer and principal of Conservation Engineering, as well as a long-time member of the Sierra Club. He can be reached at 301-325-8001 or rreis@verizon.net.

Rich thanks Cindy Paré and Dave O'Leary for reviewing this article and for their many helpful suggestions.

Buying RECs, CO₂ Offsets, or Alternative Energy



We can buy renewable energy credits (RECs) or CO₂ offsets by consulting several web sites including:

Clean Currents
(www.cleancurrents.com)
Wind Current
(www.windcurrent.com)
Sterling Planet
(www.sterlingplanet.com)
TerraPass (www.terrapass.com)
Native Energy
(www.nativeenergy.com)
One REC is about equal to 1,350 pounds (0.675 tons) of CO₂ equivalent offsets.

Some may be able to buy alternative energy delivered by our local utility through:

Residential and Commercial
Washington Gas Energy Services
(www.wges.com)
Residential:
Pepco Energy Services
(www.pepcoenergy.com/NaturalGasElectricity/default.aspx)
and click on the box “Looking for our residential Electricity Rates?”
Commercial
Constellation NewEnergy
(www.newenergy.com/) and select “Electricity” and “Products” from the top line and then scroll down to information on “ElectricGreen”.

A tool to find and purchase RECs can be found at Green-E (www.green-e.org). To find out where to purchase renewable energy select a “Buy Renewable Energy” link on the right side of the page.

Government resources are on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov/cleanenergy or www.epa.gov/greenpower), the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (www.nrel.gov), the Department of Energy, Green Power Network (www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower), and the Maryland Energy Administration (energy.maryland.gov).

There are also clean energy rewards credits in Montgomery County, MD for buying RECs or green energy through your utility. They are 1¢ / kWh for residential and 1.5¢ for commercial. For more information see: www.montgomerycounty.md/dep and select the link for Clean Energy Rewards, 240-777-7700 Susan Kirby 240-777-7753 or Stan Edwards (chief) There is also a program that provides credits to homeowners and others for energy generation such as using photovoltaic panels.

Internship Opportunity

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club offers you the opportunity to help solve the problems of global warming.

As a Cool Cities intern, you will learn about the Sierra Club Cool Cities campaign, and promote the campaign under the auspices of the Energy Committee. You'll educate and recruit Sierra Club members, the public, and local cities to participate in the campaign and to change our energy-using habits, systems, and choices. You'll help to build working relationships among organizations, local governments, and citizens, under the supervision of the Sierra Club MD Chapter Coordinator, the Cool Cities Campaign Chair, and local campaign leaders.

For information, call the chapter office at 301-277-0711 or e-mail laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org.

Post a Sign to Help Protect Maryland's Wildlands

By Mark Diehl—In the Savage River State Forest, a few years ago the beautiful Savage Ravines and South Savage Mountain areas were designated as wildlands largely through the efforts of the Sierra Club Western Maryland Group (WMG) and Maryland chapter of the Club. We can all be proud of this monumental success. It is good to know that these forested acres are now protected into the indefinite future—and it is also apparent that abuse is occurring within their boundaries.

The photo below shows serious erosion caused by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in the ravines. The photo showing the ruts was taken a mere 20 feet from Little Savage River, whose water is of extremely high quality. These deep grooves are not the result of casual usage; they represent frequent—and illegal—access.

In another area deep within the ravines wildlands, hemlocks were cut down to clear a path. ATV use in our wildlands is occurring frequently and with seeming

impunity. It must stop.

Nobody is really looking out for our wildlands. If we fall asleep on the job, we may wake up one day to find they've been reverted to the general management zone (a designation that basically means "subject to road building and logging").

The first step toward protecting our wildlands is educating the public. To this end, the Sierra Club Western Maryland Group (WMG) has been granted the Department of Natural Resources' approval to create and install signs (at our own expense) at key wildlands entry points. Using WMG funds, we bought two professional-quality, reusable Mylar master stencils. They are identical, and the wording is standard and approved by DNR.

The sign shown on the right below was prepared and installed in October 2007. It is posted on a DNR gate that blocks an old access road leading down to Little Savage River.

The WMG now invites the other Maryland Sierra Club chapters to fund

and install signs in your respective areas' wildlands. Essentially this entails a donation of \$25 per sign, which covers the cost of materials. Your group's volunteers obtain the materials, create and install each sign at a key wildlands entry point. Our group will gladly provide specifics regarding the recommended material list and assembly guidelines.

Basic costs include:

- ◆ Road-sign gauge sheet metal (2'H x 3'W): \$10
- ◆ One can spray paint: \$4
- ◆ One can stencil adhesive: \$4
- ◆ Mounting hardware (bolts/nuts/washers): \$2
- ◆ Two 2'H x 2"D x 6"W pressure-treated lumber (sign stiffeners): \$5.

Please consider this important invitation. Your wildlands need you! For more information, please contact Mark Diehl at mad55@mindspring.com. ■

Assembly to Vote on Global Warming Solutions Act

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message to the federal government about how crucial this issue really is.

But, as you might imagine, this bill threatens several rich private interests who are working to stop this legislation. While they've got the economic power, we've got the people power—what the Sierra Club is best known for! It's time now to roll up our sleeves and get to work to help pass this bill. As the governor has said, "The time to act against global warming has passed; the time to catch up is now."

Please contact your legislators and urge them to support SB309/HB717, the Global Warming Solutions Act. To find your legislators go to: <http://mdelect.net> Let's make Maryland a leader together! Remember, an email, phone call, or a handwritten letter really does make a difference. For more information about the legislation or how to help, check out our website, <http://maryland.sierraclub.org>, or call the Sierra Club office at 301-277-7111. ■



ATV tire tracks in the Savage River State Forest. Photo by Mark Diehl.



The Western Maryland Group hopes to educate the public about the appropriate use of wildlands with signs such as this. Photo by Mark Diehl.

Join the Maryland Chapter's Public Lands Defense Team!

By Chris Yoder—As an American, you are the partial owner of a vast legacy of lands of incredible beauty and the repository of untold wealth. These public lands include:

- ◆193 million acres of national forests and grasslands;
- ◆262 million acres administered by the Federal Bureau of Land Management;
- ◆More than 390 national parks, battlefields, seashores, monuments and historic sites in the National Park Service system;
- ◆100 million acres of wildlife refuges and other sites controlled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and
- ◆More than 300 recreation areas on water projects administered by the Bureau of Reclamation.

These lands offer us, and our descendants, an irreplaceable legacy of natural values. However, these lands also contain irresistible lures for those who would exploit their resources. The natural values of your public lands are constantly eroded by the pressures of excessive logging, overgrazing, irresponsible mining and rampant off-road-vehicle users. As owners of the land, Americans have an all-too-often ignored responsibility of stewardship for the lands entrusted to us. Protection of these priceless lands was one goal for John Muir and the other visionaries who founded the Sierra Club in 1892. You, as a member of the Club, are an heir to their vision.

As a practical matter, management of your public lands falls to federal agencies overseen by the U.S. Congress and acting in accordance with legislation enacted by the Congress. Sierra Club members can protect our nation's natural legacy by ensuring that our representatives know that we, as their constituents, support legislation to protect public lands and that we demand strong oversight over the agencies entrusted with their stewardship.

Action Steps

You can help preserve these national treasures by doing one or all of the following.

Join the Maryland Chapter's public lands protection team. Contact Chris Yoder, team chair, at 410-466-2462 or at cncyoder@comcast.net to get on the e-mail list (or snail mail if you don't have e-mail) of public lands defenders. We will let you know when legislation needs the support of our delegation or when land-management agencies need congressional pressure to stand strong in protecting the land rather bowing to pressure from commercial or motorized recreational interests.

Act now to support pending legislation. The following bills are moving now, or may move soon, in the House of Representatives. Your congressional representatives need to hear that you support these bills.

HR 3287: The Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Act. HR 3287 would designate 85,000 acres of spectacularly eroded cliffs and hills that host over 50 sensitive species and act as a refuge for endangered species such as the jaguar, peregrine falcon and Mexican spotted owl.

HR 2593: The Borderlands Conservation and Security Act. This bill is designed to help mitigate damage to federal and tribal lands from illegal border activity and border-enforcement efforts by increasing coordination between land management agencies and the Department of Homeland Security.

HR 3682: The California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act. With the help of this legislation, 125,000 acres would be designated as wild and scenic, and it also would create three new wilderness areas, which are important to the future of lo-

cally endangered species such as bighorn sheep and desert tortoises.

HR 2334: Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness. HR 2334 would protect as wilderness areas a spectacular national park that might otherwise be overrun by excessive use.

HR 1919: America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. More than 9 million acres of Utah would be protected as wilderness under this bill. These unique and fragile lands are threatened by off-road vehicles, mineral and energy exploration, and development. The bill needs more cosponsors. From Maryland, only Representatives Cummings, Van Hollen, and Wynn are cosponsors. Please contact your representatives and ask them to join in cosponsoring this important legislation.

So far this session the House passed *HR 1011, The Virginia Ridge and Valley Act of 2007*. The Senate companion bill is S. 570. Please contact Senators Cardin and Mikulski and ask them to support these bills in the Senate.

You can contact your representatives through the Capitol switchboard at 202.225.3121 or by writing to them at: [insert name of representative] U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

You can contact your senators through the Capitol switchboard at 202.224.3121 or by writing to them at: [insert name of senator] U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20510 ■

Chris Yoder is a long-time member of the Sierra Club, a member of the Maryland Chapter's Executive Committee, and an advocate for protecting the natural values embodied in America's public lands.

We're Almost There!

Public Funding of Campaigns for the General Assembly

By Cliff Terry—Last year, after several years of trying, a bill to provide full public funding for campaigns for the General Assembly came within one vote of passing the state Senate. That's the first time public funding even got out of the Senate Committee on Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs (EHEA). The House of Delegates never voted on it in 2007, waiting for Senate action, but passed it in 2006. This may be the year to get it through both houses.

Here's what it's about. Many of the legislators you lobby on environmental issues depend heavily on campaign 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.

For example, this session's bill to protect the Chesapeake Bay by strengthening critical-area rules prohibiting shoreline development will be fought bitterly by deep-pocketed development interests.

Big campaign contributions cannot help but influence General Assembly members' votes on bills that will help or hurt the contributors.

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 in 2004 by the Study Commission on Public Funding of Campaigns in Maryland.

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"Wilderness needs no defense, it needs more defenders." Edward Abbey

We're Almost There!

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It would be similar to systems that have been working well for several years in Maine and Arizona. It has worked so well that, last I knew, 84% of the Maine House and Senate and 9 out of 11 statewide elected officials in Arizona, including the governor, had run and won solely with public funding.

All General Assembly candidates who wish to receive public funding would first have to show broad public support by collecting a specified number and amount of "qualifying" contributions from registered voters in their districts. They must agree to spend essentially nothing on their campaigns except the public funding they receive.

The bills, cross-filed, are SB 593 and HB 971. If you agree that public funding of campaigns could transform Maryland

politics, please call your senator and delegates and ask them to support these



bills. [It is especially important that those of you who live in EHEA Chair Joan Carter Conway's district (District 43, Baltimore City) call her at 410-841-3145.]

Tell them the current system encourages public cynicism about the influence of big contributions on legislators' votes. Also, tell them it forces candidates to spend too much time asking for money, time that should instead be spent talking to voters and (in the case of incumbents) doing their jobs.

If you have questions, please call me at 410-944-9477 or e-mail to cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org. ■

An Inconvenient Truth that We Environmentalists Should Talk About—Again

By Samuel B. Hopkins—If environmentalists don't talk about the need to reduce population, who will?

The inconvenient truth is that the total human population must stop growing and then decrease, if we are to have any chance in the long run of preserving our environment, having a decent level of living in a resource-depleted world, and avoiding an uncontrolled collapse of population like that experienced by some past civilizations.

And, the long run is rapidly getting shorter. We need to appreciate how population growth explodes once it reaches a substantial size. We should not forget that population grows exponentially; exponential growth is eventually explosive even at low rates; and "eventually" is now. The doubling from one to two billion people (1927) took 123 years. We added another two billion in 46 years (1974). And we have since added another 2.7 billion in only 32 years, even though the growth rate has averaged less than 2%.

Environmentalists were vocal in the 1960's and early '70's about the need to stop population growth. We must again speak up, especially when we are talking about climate change and the impending decline in fossil fuel production.

Climate Change

How can we achieve a 70-80% reduction in our emissions of greenhouse gases without draconian measures in the short run? In the longer run, only population reduction can allow a substantial majority in the world to enjoy comfortable standards of living. Yet, at all the conferences I have attended on peak oil, climate change or both, nothing about population growth, size or decline was on the agenda. Al Gore's film and stump speech include a chart of the explosive population growth still in progress. But he did not say the obvious—that this growth must stop and

be reversed, if humans are to have a decent chance of stopping climate change.

Peak Oil, Natural Gas and Coal

Never has the production of food been so dependent on fossil fuels. Modern, so-called high-yield agriculture requires more energy for each calorie produced (by about a 10 to 1 ratio) than do the old, low-yield methods. So the impending decline in annual production of oil, natural gas and coal is a threat to our most basic needs, not just to the luxuries of central heating and air conditioning, and automotive and air travel. There is no long plateau when production peaks. Many experts say that oil has already peaked. The peak for coal was once thought at least a century away. But new assessments of coal reserves suggest that coal production could peak in as few as 17 years. The natural gas peak will vary geographically, since gas is expensive to transport. But the U.S. faces the peaking of gas production in the near future.

Growth of population is no longer the immediate problem. Rather, it is absolute size. Absolute size determines how feasible it is to:

- ♦ substitute biofuels, wind energy, hydro, and solar for fossil fuels
- ♦ reconsider land use and development in order to return to a less fossil-fuel-intensive (but lower yield) agriculture that requires more human labor, and
- ♦ move millions of people away from coastal areas in response to rising sea levels.

There are many reasons why environmentalists often find it difficult to talk about the need to stop human population growth on this planet and then thoughtfully and humanely reverse it.

Fundamental among the reasons are the modest sacrifices that must be accepted if a population is not growing and, even more so, if it is declining. First among these are the challenges of supporting the dependent elderly with a

smaller population of younger people, and the reduced opportunities for business.

Less fundamental are the following:

1. Complacency or hope from the fact that fertility rates have been declining in a large part of the world.
2. Growing organized hostility to abortion and even contraception.
3. Opposition of human rights groups to one of the very few effective efforts to slow or stop population growth—the one-child policy in China that began about 1980.
4. The position of some feminists that advocacy of fertility reduction infringes on women's reproductive freedom.
5. The promotion of growth with an illusory appeal of "green," "smart," or "sustainable," which can at best delay damage to the environment.
6. Concern of some environmentalists that population stabilization is another threat to economic or environmental justice.
7. The pro-population-growth wishes of many who fund environmental organizations.

We environmentalists must confront and overcome these obstacles so that we can once again take the lead in educating the public about the need to reduce the size of the human population. ■

Mr. Hopkins worked as an advisor at the West Pakistan Research and Evaluation Center (part of the Pakistan National Family Planning Program) in 1967-69. He was president of the Baltimore Chapter of Zero Population Growth, 1969-73, and a Research Associate with the Law & Population Programme at Tufts University, 1974-75. The latter funded research and monographs on how a large variety of laws in developing countries affected their population growths.

Group News Roundup

From the Mountains to the Shore, Groups Tackle Environmental Issues

Edited by Mary C. Corrdry—The following is what's happening with the nine Sierra Club Groups in Maryland: Anne Arundel County, Catoctin, Eastern Shore, Greater Baltimore, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Southern Maryland, and Western Maryland. If you have information to contribute to future "Roundups" for the *Chesapeake* newsletter, please contact Mary Corrdry at XdDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com or at 410-239-4590.

The local Groups of the Sierra Club are active with the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" initiative, encouraging local governments and citizens to take action to address global warming. They survey and interview local candidates for public office, and make endorsements in collaboration with the State Chapter. They are involved with local land use and environmental issues. They volunteer for service outings to eradicate invasive plants, plant native species, maintain trails, and clean up streams. They enjoy the environment by hiking, biking, kayaking, stargazing, camping, and backpacking. They discuss environmental issues and socialize at dinners, picnics, slide shows, movies, and speaker series.

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

Anne Arundel Group

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

By David Prosten—About 100 members and friends of the Anne Arundel Group participated in the group's annual potluck dinner January 26. They listened to the guest speaker, State Comptroller Peter Franchot, discuss his office's approach to environmental issues across the state. Several Anne Arundel County activists were

honored, including long-time Executive Committee member Earl Bradley, Annapolis Alderman Sam Shropshire, former Executive Committee member Joan Turek, and the late Tina Lorentzen Carlson. Attendees were encouraged to bring a dish made of ingredients grown or harvested within 100 miles of Annapolis.

The group is applauding two of its own who have taken on major environmental roles in the public sector. Nita Settina, a group activist and a former Executive Committee member, has been named superintendent of the Maryland state park system. Joan Turek—who resigned from the Executive Committee because of county conflict-of-interest rules—was named in December to the Anne Arundel County Planning Advisory Board by County Executive John Leopold.

The Cool Cities group continues to meet monthly, with a focus on reducing the county government's carbon footprint.

The Executive Committee held a morning-long retreat in February to look at goals and objectives, and set an active agenda for 2008. A primary focus: getting more of the group's 1,400 members involved in club activities.

Plans are being made for the group's annual Earth Day 5K Race and Walk, our big annual fundraiser held at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. Trophies and prizes will be awarded to competitors in several categories. Hundreds of dollars worth of goodies donated by local merchants will be given away as door prizes following the event. Check the group's website for information and an application. The event this year will be April 19.

The group is successfully using its new e-mail list for members who want to participate in the e-mail alert program.

Catoctin Group (Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties)

Chair: Chris Hodge, 240-388-6446, mdhiker2@yahoo.com

By Gregor Becker—Global warming is a concern that we want towns to recognize! Carroll and Frederick counties have recognized the concern and pledged to work on it locally and to support more action at state and national levels.

The Catoctin Group will host a meeting on Wednesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. at the North Carroll Library to discuss strategies to bring Cool Cities before the Hampstead Town Council. Sykesville was the first Cool City in Carroll County, the first locally to sign a global warming agreement. Westminster and Mount Airy have adopted similar agreements. Hampstead will be a greater challenge since Mayor Haven Shoemaker has written pieces in the newspaper against global warming "hype" and county acceptance. We want to convince a majority of the Council of the merits of adopting a resolution on global warming. There are many Sierrans in the Hampstead area; we need some who are motivated to help with this. Contact Gregor Becker at lorax4@carr.org (best) or call 410-346-6336.

Brunswick residents, please see the contact information above. We had a productive initial meeting a few months ago, but only a few attended. So we are looking for more participants as we prepare to approach the City Council. Gregor made two calls to each of 20 Sierra Club members in Brunswick. We expect to meet again on Saturday, March 22, but the location is not set as this newsletter goes to press. Our initial meeting was at the home of Paul Lehman and may be again. The meetings in Hampstead and Brunswick are open to anyone interested in global warming issues. You needn't be a Sierra Club member to care about the earth. Everyone is welcome. Please R.S.V.P. to Gregor; see contact information in preceding paragraph.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the Maryland Heartland Sustainable Living Fair at the Carroll County Farm Museum. Just \$10 a person or \$15 a couple. Children 15 and under are free. Check out www.sustainablelivingmd.org.

The Catoctin Group communicates with members electronically for the most part. Our website is <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/catoctin/> OR go to sierraclub.org, and then select Maryland Chapter and Catoctin Group OR email us at mdhiker2@yahoo.com to receive alerts on actions, hikes, or meetings.

Eastern Shore (Cecil County and Eastern Shore counties)

Chair: Howard Bedlin, 410-643-3283, Howard.Bedlin@ncoa.org

A new conservation committee has been meeting in the
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Group News Roundup

Chapter Groups Focus on Issues Close to Home

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lower shore of the Eastern Shore consecutively for the last three months and is building momentum. The group is currently working on a recycling symposium for Earth Day and is excited to begin working on a Cool Cities campaign. For details about the time and place of the next meeting contact Laura D'Alessandro at 443-523-8987 or my.name.is.laura.d@gmail.com.

Greater Baltimore (Baltimore City and County, Harford County)

Chair: Ron Henry, 410-838-9119, RonLHenry@msn.com

By Mary Corddy—The Greater Baltimore Group has a general meeting planned for February 25 with a speaker, *Baltimore Trails* author Bryan MacKay, and with a hiker's quiz developed by Richard Klein. The quiz winner will receive a backpack donated by REI, an outdoor equipment store.

The Sierra Club joined other environmental organizations to rally at Baltimore City Hall on February 25 for an "Eco-Summit: Health and Environmental Justice." The purpose of the rally was to ask the City Council to transform Baltimore into a "Cool City."

Baltimore County's Comprehensive Zoning Map Process is underway. Residents and civic organizations have proposed properties for rezoning. The County Council will vote on the rezoning issues this summer, and new zoning maps will be issued in November. Group members participated with North County Preservation to develop a Geographical Information System (GIS), assisted civic organizations and residents with using the GIS to identify properties for downzoning to a more restrictive rural conservation classification, are holding workshops for citizens on February 27 and March 5, and are now helping to review the properties proposed for rezoning and to provide information to community groups, the County Zoning Department, and County Council about environmental issues related to the proposals.

The Group is partnering with the Greater Dundalk Alliance to oppose a liquid natural gas terminal and storage facility at Sparrows Point and related dredging in the Patapsco River. It is also working on a class action lawsuit concerning the adverse health impacts of the area's past industrial activity.

The Group publishes a quarterly newsletter, "The Baltimore Sierran," which is mailed to members and

also is available on its web site. Check the Group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events. The Group has hikes of varied lengths and difficulty levels, including outings that are child- and dog-friendly. The Group also has happy hours, kayak outings, bike rides, star-gazing, camping, hayrides, stream cleanups, trail maintenance, and invasive plant removals.

Howard County

Chair: Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net

By Ken Clark—Following are the Howard Group's upcoming Events:

Scott Weidensaul, *Return To Wild America* Thursday, March 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Howard County Conservancy.

Author Scott Weidensaul retraces the 100-day trek around North America by Roger Tory Peterson 50 years ago. "Return to Wild America" has been praised by critics for the examination of what has been lost and celebration of what remains of the wild nature of America. Slides and lecture. The Howard County Conservancy, <http://www.hcconservancy.org/>, is hosting this program, and the Sierra Club is one of the sponsors.

Howard County Green Fest Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Glenwood Center next to the Glenwood Library.

See our web page for details, <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/hc>. The Sierra Club will have a table at this event and may lead a hike.

The Howard County Group has a very active outings program, including frequent backpacking trips. Check the Group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events. You may contact Ken Clark about getting on an email listing of outings and events.

Montgomery County

Chair: David Hauck, 301-270-5826, david.hauck@maryland.sierraclub.org

By David Hauck—We continue to work on developing

programs that will help us achieve the three goals the Group has set for Montgomery County.

For achieving the first goal—increasing energy conservation by residents and businesses—we are exploring a number of opportunities to partner with local groups and the County government on projects such as developing a "green resource guide" to encourage residents to become more energy-efficient and practice more sustainable lifestyles; creating a "green certification" program for businesses that encourages them to implement energy and resource conservation measures; and promoting a "green curriculum" in the schools.

We also are working to ensure that the global warming bills now before the County Council are strengthened and passed. On January 31, I testified in favor of the bills and recommended several additions to them. We continue to meet with council members, their staff, and members of the County Executive staff in support of Montgomery County's taking aggressive and creative steps to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Our second goal is to encourage the adoption of smart growth principles that will result in new communities that are more energy-efficient, use much less open land, and help to improve air quality by expanding the

utilization of public transit. Members track proposed changes to land use master plans and advocate for smart growth revisions to these plans. In addition, we have developed a set of smart growth guidelines to provide a vision to guide development in Montgomery County to reduce our impact on the environment while enhancing our quality of life. We plan to use these guidelines in our efforts to build public support for smart growth.

(For a discussion of these 10 smart growth guidelines, please see page 3 of our February-March 2008 Group newsletter available on our website. Go to maryland.sierraclub.org/Montgomery and click on "Newsletter" in the left hand column when our web page opens.)

For our final goal—protecting natural, critical
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Group News Roundup

Groups Act for a Greener Maryland

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spaces in Montgomery County, including the Agricultural Reserve, forest, and local streams—we are looking for ways to increase participation by local Sierra Club members in hands-on activities such as tree planting, stream cleanups, and activities that reduce storm water runoff.

Finally, we welcome two new members to our Ex Com, Tracy Stanton and Jim Grossfeld. Tracy has worked on smart growth issues and holistic land-use planning, and she's done research on best practices for improving environmental quality and protecting public health within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In addition to her work on the Ex Com, Tracy is actively working to help us achieve our goal of greater energy conservation. Jim Grossfeld's interests lie in building alliances between labor and environmentalists that challenge the false choice between good jobs and clean energy. Jim also is active in the field of public health and believes that problems such as workplace exposure to toxics and illness caused by industrial pollution in poor communities should not only be priorities for public health practitioners, but for environmentalists as well.

Prince George's County

Chair: Chip Reilly, 301-218-3920, chipreilly@mac.com or chip.reilly@maryland.sierraclub.org
Group's office: 301-277-0600 or 301-277-7111

By Chip Reilly—The campaigns on climate change, Cool Cities, and the elections have engaged hundreds of members in Prince George's County during the past three months. The victory by Donna Edwards for the U.S. House seat in District 4 is a cause for celebration by Prince Georgians interested in responsive government. Work is underway, led by Chip Reilly and Fred Tutman, to create a "Prince George's Environmental Knowledge Web"—a database of substantive and tactical knowledge on land use, environment, and transportation to strengthen the participation by residents of Prince George's County in matters that impact their quality of life. The project, including interviews with senior activists, educational web pages and workshops, was funded by the office of Tom Dernoga, a County Councilman and environmental advocate.

Pending State legislation of great importance: In order to protect the rights of Prince Georgians in land use decisions, we **support the Text Amendment Bill**

(www.princegeorghousedelegation.com/legislation/bill-history?local=PG/MC%20117-08), and **oppose the Zoning Appeals (Standing) Bill** (<http://www.princegeorghousedelegation.com/legislation/bill-history?local=PG/MC%20119-08>.)

Please contact your State legislator today and echo this position. We need people from other counties to support us, too. For more information, contact Chip at 301-218-3920.

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

Chair: Frank Fox, 301-884-8027, ff725@yahoo.com

Invasive plant removal is being conducted two Saturdays per month at Swann Park and two Sundays per month at Chapman Forest. Trash is being picked up,



and water quality is being sampled at a wetlands meadow tributary to Mattawoman Creek in Swann Park. These events have been conducted since 1999 with volunteers including the Sierra Club, Maryland Native Plant Society, and Chesapeake Climate Action Network. For more information, contact Marc Imlay at 301-283-0808.

The Group publishes a bimonthly newsletter, *News from Southern Maryland*. Check the Group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events.

Western Maryland (Allegany and Garrett Counties)

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

The Group publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Nature's Advocate of Western MD*. ■

ISO: Website Coordinator

- Are you organized?
- Do you like to communicate with people?

We need a smart, dependable person to work with Maryland Sierra Club committees to improve and update the chapter website.

Consider becoming the Maryland Sierra Club's Website Coordinator. We'll train you on needed technical skills.

For more details, please contact 301-277-7111 or e-mail Laurel.Imlay@SierraClub.org.

Website Section Webmasters

Have limited time but want to help out from home on a regular basis?

We need smart, dependable people to work with Maryland Sierra Club committees to improve and update sections of the Maryland website. Consider becoming a Maryland Sierra Club's Web-Section Webmaster. Will train on needed technical skills. Please contact 301-277-7111 Laurel.Imlay@SierraClub.org for more details.



Conservation Chair Joan Willey Interviews Nina Settina, Superintendent of Maryland State Parks

Joan Willey: You have recently been appointed as Superintendent of Maryland State Parks. What is your philosophy for State Parks?

Nina Settina: My philosophy for State Parks is that they should serve as an oasis for people from all walks of life who seek a periodic respite from the sights and sounds of man. I also believe that state parks should be models of ecosystem management and restoration, providing healthy forests, meadows, wetlands, streams and rivers to support the diversity of Maryland's native flora and fauna. State parks also tell the fascinating story of how the natural environment influenced history. Maryland State Parks are rich in cultural and historical places

State parks should serve as an oasis for people from all walks of life who seek a periodic respite from the sights and sounds of man.

that have meaning for generations of Americans, from Native American culture to the Civil War. Together, I believe that State Parks provide people, particularly children, with the life-long gift of a connection to nature and their heritage.

This philosophy will have some practical influences on how we manage Maryland's state parks. We want to avoid over-developing the parks, providing passive recreation opportunities, such as hiking and biking on trails, enjoying a picnic under a forested canopy, fishing, swimming and boating in natural water bodies, visiting restored historical sites and camping in undeveloped forest settings. These kinds of outdoor recreation activities are largely and uniquely available in Maryland's State Parks.

We are also putting greater emphasis on resource restoration to conserve ecosystem function wherever possible. We are working in partnership with the MD Department of Transportation on plans to convert agricultural uses in our State Parks to meadows, wetlands and for-

ests, particularly where we have hydric or highly erodable soils. Even in Day-Use areas, we will continue to employ and expand the "grow don't mow" practice. Other strategies will include working with our colleagues in the other DNR disciplines to eradicate invasive species, restore stream morphology and improve wildlife habitats.

A positive experience at a Maryland State Park is the result of the often unseen efforts of some 198 dedicated State Park employees, 6,600 caring volunteers and approximately 400 seasonal staff. These individuals, from Park Rangers to park technicians to camp hosts, ensure that the more than 133,000 acres of State Park lands and recreation facilities meet the expectations of

I do not believe that it is an overstatement to suggest that the state park mission is an important contributor to societal well-being.

11 million visitors annually.

Many of the State Park recreation amenities were built 75 years ago by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Not only are these facilities historic landmarks, but they continue to provide recreation enjoyment today. Caring for these places is a monumental task that our workforce takes great pride in achieving. An important part of my organizational leadership philosophy is that the State Park workforce feels supported and appreciated, and understands the value of their contributions to the Maryland Park Service mission.

I do not believe that it is an overstatement to suggest that the State Park mission is an important contributor to societal well-being. Most recently, we have turned increasing attention to the *No Child Left Inside* movement sweeping the country. Children are spending dramatically less time in nature enjoying unstructured play than in previous generations. The implications of this phenomenon, known as "nature-deficit disorder," are alarming, including serious impacts to both the mental

and physical well-being of youth. The environmental community also shares these concerns, as children are expected to mature into our future stewards of the Earth. Without a connection to nature, the prospects of future environmentalists carrying forward the torch of conservation grows dim.

The Maryland State Park Service is working on the development of an outdoor discovery program that will provide greater opportunities for youth to discover the awe, wonder and inspiration of nature. This effort will rely on a diverse array of partnerships, and include multi-faceted components to reach youth of all populations, as well as their parents. One program we are working on now is the development of a Civic Justice Corps

The Park Service is working on a program that will provide greater opportunities for youth to discover the awe and inspiration of nature .

in partnership with the Department of Juvenile Service. This program will provide adjudicated youth with opportunities to serve on paid summer work crews to restore State Park resources, gain new skills and confidence and recreate in some of Maryland's most beautiful places.

Last summer, I made a brief visit on the Patuxent River Sojourn to say hello to my Sierra Club friends. I met a group of teens from Baltimore City who were paddling the entire length of the trip with their teacher. I learned that the youth were able to enjoy this incredible experience as a result of a Sierra Club volunteer who had adopted their school. These are the kinds of connections, big and small, throughout Maryland that we must all strive to support.

Finally, one of our greatest challenges and opportunities in State Parks is the growing cultural diversity of our visitors, many of whom are non-English speaking. In order to serve these visitors, who clearly seek out State

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Joan Willey and Nina Sestina Talk about State Parks

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Parks and value recreating in the outdoors, the diversification of our workforce is vital. We will be investing more resources into recruitment efforts to attract a diverse workforce and in educating our park staff on the cultural norms and needs of our park visitors who have recently joined us from other countries.

JW: 20 years from now, looking back on your career as Maryland State Parks Superintendent, what would you like to say is your legacy?

NS: It may be a little premature to project my hoped for legacy for the next 20 years, having only been in this position for a few months; however, there are several issues that come to mind as part of my long-term vision. In the most practical sense, developing a means to provide the Maryland Park Service with a more stable and adequate funding source is essential. Second, the diversity of our visitor population presents a unique opportunity to bring people together and inspire greater harmony and understanding.

State Parks must remain an affordable recreation and leisure choice for Maryland's working families. Today, park entrance fees and other charges cover less than 50 percent of the costs of managing a State Park. The pressure to raise these fees is ongoing as the State Park Service battles with an ongoing structural deficit as a result of budget cuts. We must develop a new source of revenue that breaks this vicious cycle, so that State Parks can truly be accessible to all Marylanders as their public estate.

The State of our State Parks relies on the caring and pride of its visitors. The Native Americans believed that the way we treat the Earth is reflective of the way we treat one another. This concept resonates with me very deeply. If State Parks were able to become places of inspiration, where lives were turned around, people were brought together, and stewardship of the Earth was inspired, then this would be my greatest hope for a life-long legacy. ■

Better Cycling for Maryland

By David W. Sears—Let's spend a day in the Netherlands! You will notice many people going about their daily lives using their bicycles. You will see children riding their bikes to school. And you'll encounter workers riding to their jobs, or to the train station where they will continue the journey to work. You will see mothers and fathers taking the kids to day care on their bicycles. And you will see lots of folks with their bicycle baskets brimming with the purchases from shopping trips.

Bicycling is woven into the fabric of life in the Netherlands. This is especially true in Amsterdam and other high density regions, but also holds in rural districts. This is all very interesting, you might respond, and certainly spending a day wandering around the Netherlands can be fun; but what does this have to do with Maryland?

The answer: There's no reason that here in Maryland we can't approach the sort of bicycle paradise found in the Netherlands! The arguments for improving the bicycle infrastructure in Maryland will, of course, include the positive environmental impacts familiar to all Sierra Club members. At the top of that list is this issue: increased bicycling for transportation will lead to decreases in air pollution due to reduced automobile usage.

As the quick sketch of biking in the Netherlands demonstrates, the focus of improved bicycling infrastructure in Maryland should be on enabling and encouraging our friends and neighbors to hop on their bikes for daily trips to work, school, shopping, and so forth (this is what we might term *transportation bicycling*). While recreational biking is wonderful for its participants (think exercise and stress reduction), its ability to reduce automobile trips is limited.

The rationale for promoting transportation bicycling can be expanded well beyond the environmental arguments to a broader case for improving the quality of life in Maryland. In Maryland, we have been gener-

ally foresighted enough to pursue a *rush-to-the-top strategy* for economic development, which offers a package of highly qualified workers, excellent infrastructure, and first class public services, along with an overall high quality of life for both workers and managers. (This is in contrast to a *rush-to-the-bottom strategy*, with its emphasis on low taxes and low wages.)

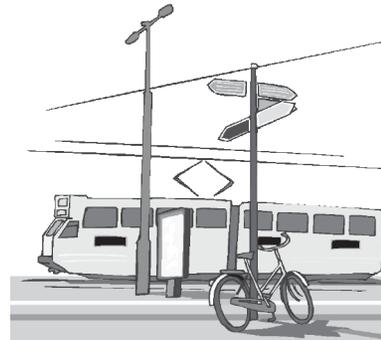
The easier we can make getting around for our daily business and errands, the higher our quality of life. (You know that everyone in Maryland would love to spend fewer hours a week stuck in slow-moving or non-moving traffic!) Increased transportation bicycling is a key part of the equation, fully supporting our dominant rush-to-the-top economic development strategy.

Hey, a great idea, you might say, but could we get our politicians to move forward on strengthening transportation biking here in Maryland? For one hint at an answer, let's return to Europe for a moment: this time to Paris. In July 2007, with the strong push of the mayor, Paris inaugurated a system of 20,000 rental bikes, located strategically at dozens of locations around the city. The Velib has been such a resounding success that the mayor's approval ratings have shot up rapidly over the past few months. So at least one politician has reaped the rewards of strong support for transportation bicycling! Maybe it could happen right here in Maryland too!

In the US, the greatest success in transportation bicycling is seen in college towns, such as Davis (CA) and Boulder (CO), but larger more diverse communities, such as Portland (OR), have also used enlightened political power to build a strong bicycling infrastructure. So success in Maryland is plausible!

And what exactly would this bicycling nirvana look like? In the ultimate bicycle-friendly community, the very first thought about almost any trip is to use a bi-

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Could Bicycling Become a Transportation Solution in Maryland?

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cycle. It is not weird or unusual to use a bicycle for a trip to work or to shop or for other daily business; such trips are so commonplace that they are totally unremarkable. In fact, for many such daily trips, no thinking is needed; the use of the bicycle is simply a part of the rhythm of life (similar to brushing your teeth every morning).

To reach this state of commonplace daily bicycling, the community must have in place a strong physical and social infrastructure to support bicycling.

The ultimate bike-friendly community is one in which bicycling is extremely easy and safe and pleasant. All major daily destinations are located within easy bicycling distance for the vast majority of the population, including schoolchildren and elderly riders, not just athletes. The routes would be well paved, well marked, and well maintained. The route network must be very dense, coming up to the front door of many common destinations (such as jobs and schools), and within a few hundred feet of almost all other such common destinations; and within half a mile of most residences.

In the ultimate bike-friendly community bicycling is extremely safe. All bicycling is well separated from speeding automobiles, trucks, and buses. Any bicycling on the same route as cars and trucks involves only vehicles traveling at 20 miles per hour or slower. This separation of bikes from high speed automobile traffic contributes to safety and, as a fringe benefit, makes the bike riding experience much more pleasant.

Eventually, strict segregation of bicycling from other uses will not necessarily be important or even always desirable. Part of what needs to happen in the ultimate bike-friendly community is that all citizens recognize that bicycling is a critical, and positive, part of the community fabric. Thus, all automobile drivers understand that keeping bike riders safe is a civic duty, not just an option; once bicycling has “caught on,” for almost all drivers, this will be easy because the very same person who is an automobile driver at one point in the day is a bike rider later in the same day.

The ultimate bike-friendly community is a smart growth community. This is because a higher density integrated-multi-use smart growth development is, all else equal, more conducive to bicycling than a lower density segregated-use dumb growth development. The reason for this: when thinking of transportation bicy-

cling, for most riders in most situations, a shorter ride is more appealing than a longer ride. (“Sorry, I’d love to ride my bike to work, but that would take way too much time.”) Thus, the typical bike ride from one place (e.g., home or work) to another place (e.g., school or shopping) is shorter (in both time and distance) — and therefore more attractive — in a smart growth neighborhood or region than in a lower density dumb growth area.

The ultimate bike-friendly community has facilities in place at all common destinations to make the bicycle riding experience as easy, safe, and pleasant as possible. Thus the bicycle parking area at work (or at home or school or shopping) is not a dirty dark basement or alley, but rather is a clean well-lighted covered space near the front door.

In addition, the ultimate bike-friendly community has a system of market incentives and subsidies in place to encourage transportation bicycling and, on the flip side, to discourage automobile usage.

Many bike riders can and will cope with a community that is less bike-friendly than the ultimate. This means that some level of success in encouraging increases in transportation bicycling can be expected even in communities that are less advanced. Greater success, however, should be achieved as communities move closer to the ultimate goal, since many potential bike riders will only be coaxed out of their cars when most of the components of the ultimate bike-friendly community are in place.

It is not outrageously optimistic to think that Maryland might be transformed into a bicycling paradise. It can be done. But it won’t be easy. ■

Dave Sears has worked on economic development issues in several federal agencies (HUD, USDA, Commerce) over the past quarter century. During a recent trip to the Netherlands a light bulb went off which led to the thesis of this article: Providing strong bicycling infrastructure is an important economic development tool, and one that is seldom used in the US. As part of his daily commute, Sears rides his bike to the nearest METRO station.

Dave would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in discussing the issues raised here. He would also be pleased to share a copy of a longer piece on this subject. Contact him at davidwsears@aol.com; please put “SC Chesapeake Newsletter” in the subject line.

Have Your Say Before the EPA Makes a Gift to Factory Farms

Pick an area of environmental concern—global warming, say, or air quality, water quality, land use, sustainable agriculture, food safety—and you’ll find factory farms at the heart of it. Confined animal feeding operations, CAFOs, sequester thousands of animals in crowded feed lots or sheds, and pool their resultant wastes in manure pits or lagoons. The pits emit toxic gases, hydrogen sulfide and ammonia, into the air. Though the EPA does not impose a limit on these emissions, it does require that CAFOs report the emissions when they exceed a certain level. The reports help local officials hold the feeding operations accountable for the pollutants they produce.

The EPA has proposed exempting CAFOs from this reporting requirements. The rule change would be a gift to CAFO owners and their trade associations, which have long complained that the reporting puts their businesses at risk for lawsuits when their identified emissions threaten public health.

The public which is being told we must accept that risk has an opportunity to comment on the proposed rule change. Tell the EPA “NO!” on or before March 27. Here’s how:

Prepare your comments, referring to Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-SFUND-2007-0469.

E-mail: superfund.docket@epa.gov. Refer to Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-SFUND-2007-0469 in subject line
U.S. mail: Mail code: [2822T], 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460.

Fax: Transmit to 202-566-9744

On the web: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Under “Comment or Submission” enter the Docket ID No., EPA-HQ-SFUND-2007-0469 and click “Go.” When the comment screen is displayed, click on “Send a Comment or Submission,” and enter your comments when the comment screen is displayed. Comments can be anonymous. ■

The Sierra Club's Mr. Green Fills a Book with Sage Green Advice

What's the best way to be more earth-friendly? Just ask Mr. Green! Bob Schildgen, a.k.a Mr. Green, is the author of *Hey Mr. Green: Sierra Magazine's Answer Guy Tackles Your Toughest Green Living Questions*, coming from Sierra Club Books in April. The book is available to Club members and friends at a discounted price of \$11.25 through the Sierra Club online store, <http://www.sierraclub.org/books>. To ask Mr. Green a question, visit www.sierraclub.org/mrgreen. And while we wait for the book, here are Mr. Green's answers to a few frequent questions.

Hey Mr. Green, Should I turn off my computer at night or put it to "sleep"? —*Dave in Bozeman, Montana*

Unless you have software or network hookups that require your PC to be on constantly, turn that sucker off. The sleep mode cuts energy use by 70 percent, but using the off switch reduces it even more—and turning off the power strip stanches the flow entirely. (Please don't confuse power saving with screen savers; though the latter may feature a heartwarming picture, they do *not* save energy.) Since computers in the business sector alone waste more than \$1 billion worth of electricity a year, it's surprising that more fuss isn't made about these simple steps.

Some people believe that restarting the computer each time you return consumes a significant amount of energy, but it's really not enough to worry about. Think about it, if these devices actually required as much power to boot up as some believed, circuit breakers would be snapping like castanets and you'd be flamenco dancing back and forth to the fuse box instead of sitting there typing out pertinent questions to Mr. Green. It's also rumored that turning a computer off and on repeatedly hastens its demise. This is simply not true. Even if it were, obsolescence would likely kill off your machine first. And when your desktop PC is put to sleep—permanently—consider replacing it with a laptop, which uses a lot less power.

Hey Mr. Green, I would like to encourage my son-in-law to turn off the lights when he leaves a room. To do that, I would have to show the cost benefit. Can you help? —*Ruth in Watertown, Massachusetts*

In olden times, a household authority figure would say, "Turn the lights out," and that would be that. But today's

contentious whippersnappers apparently need a detailed financial analysis before flipping the switch. Fortunately, the math is on your side. Electricity rates are based on the number of kilowatt-hours consumed (1 kilowatt equals 1,000 watts).

All you have to do to find the daily cost of

operating a light bulb is multiply its wattage by the number of hours it burns, then multiply that by the kilowatt-rate printed on your utility bill and divide the result by 1,000. To summarize: $(\text{hours used} \times \text{watts} \times \text{rate}) / 1,000 = \text{daily cost}$.

So if a 100-watt bulb burns for ten hours a day, and the power company charges ten cents a kilowatt-hour, it costs a dime a day to keep lit. That's about \$3 per month, or \$36 per year. Leaving a half dozen bulbs burning would waste more than \$200 per year. If your son-in-law turns off the lights and puts the annual savings into an account that draws 5 percent interest, in ten years he will have about \$2,650, a nice little sum he could invest in some booming alternative en-

ergy company.

Hey Mr. Green, I know the Sierra Club encourages replacing incandescent bulbs with efficient fluorescents, but the former are readily disposable in the trash, while the latter contain mercury. So what am I supposed to do with my dead fluorescent bulbs? —*Stew in Princeton, New Jersey*

How many environmentalists does it take to change an efficient lightbulb? While your local hazardous-waste authority is the best source for information, many hardware stores will take back your old bulbs—sometimes at no charge if you're buying replacements. Check www.earth911.org or call (800) CLEANUP to find a recycling location near you, or visit the EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling for info. It's worth the effort: Though fluorescents do contain mercury, a highly poisonous element that persists in the environment, burning coal to generate electricity puts almost fifty tons of the nasty stuff into the air each year. Since fluorescents are four times more efficient than regular bulbs—and last at least five times longer—replacing all household incandescents (and recycling all dead fluorescents) could cut mercury and CO₂ emissions while saving the equivalent of at least 4 billion gallons of oil annually.

Hey Mr. Green, I am urging my employer to participate in a paper-recycling program. Can you tell me how many trees would be saved by recycling a thirty-gallon bin of paper? —*Allan in Houston*

As teenagers, my buddy Gordo and I and our trusty McCullough chainsaw whacked scads of innocent trees and shipped them to the mill in Dubuque. Toiling to answer this sort of question is a penance for such sins. Better to do it now than to stew in a vat of boiling pulp in the hereafter, taunted by environmental sermons blaring through raspy amplifiers. Anyway, a 30-gallon bin

(continued on page 17)



On a Road to Nowhere—the Truth about the Intercounty Connector

By Alana Wase—As you read the title of this article, many of you might be reminded of the Talking Heads' catchy hit from 1985. Unfortunately, unlike the care-free approach the song suggests, the Intercounty Connector calls for the exact opposite: action. Let's take a stand and stop this beast once and for all!

As many of you know, the Sierra Club has been waging a very long campaign to stop the ICC.

The cost of the proposed highway is expected to exceed \$3 billion dollars. This financial commitment will drain all of the state's transportation funding for public transit, like the Red Line in Baltimore City or the Purple Line in Montgomery County. The environmental repercussions of the 18-mile long, six-lane wide, \$7-toll highway are grave. The ICC will create further sprawl, with its concomitant destruction of tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay. It will cut through residential communities, located only eighty meters from an elementary school, and within 500 meters of 30,000 people whose health will be affected by the traffic's pollution and noise.

It's true that traffic around D.C. is awful, but is this the way we want to address it, with more lanes of highway? Shouldn't we be a little more technologically

Hey, Mr. Green, I've Got a Question

(continued from page 16)

will generally hold around 80 pounds of computer paper, or up to 100 pounds if the paper is tightly packed. A typical tree used for pulp yields about 83 pounds of office paper, meaning your bin would essentially hold the equivalent of one tree. Since 10 to 25 percent of the mass gets lost in the paper-recycling process, you might not rescue a whole tree each time you fill a bin, but it's safe to say at least three-fourths of a tree could be saved per container. Now if you throw in a lot of crumpled paper that takes up extra space, you'll obviously fall short of that noble goal.

Of course, trees come in various sizes, and some species yield more pulp than others, so these are ballpark figures. Remember too that all paper is not created equal: virgin office paper requires twice as much pulp per pound as virgin newsprint. But any way you slice it, recycling paper saves a lot of trees, and we could save even more if we didn't trash over 45 percent of the 100.2 million tons of paper we produce each year. ■

advanced? The greenhouse gases emitted from cars on the ICC are predicted to cancel out completely the improvement in air quality that Maryland hopes to make with the new CAFÉ standards. To top it off, the road is expected not to reduce congestion on routes 495, 270, and 95 but rather, to *increase* it! We can agree that the ICC is the wrong solution for Montgomery and Prince George's Counties' traffic woes, and a fiscal problem for the entire state. In particular the ICC would shift needed jobs and growth from Baltimore City and Prince George's County to already overburdened Montgom-

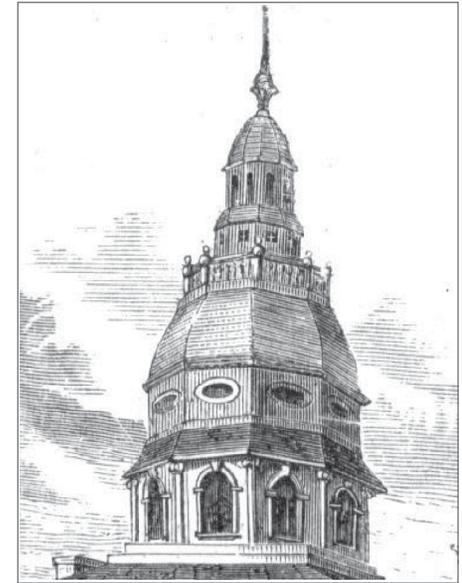


ery and Frederick Counties.

Fortunately, there is still time to act. With three different bills in the legislative session to stop the ICC, it's NOT a done deal—far from it. Delegate Barbara Frush (D. Prince George's County) has introduced HB 1471 to defund the ICC. With over forty co-sponsors this could be a winner. The bill repeals the Intercounty Connector Financing Plan passed by the General Assembly in 2005 and liberates more than \$2 billion in state debt capacity and in state and federal funds. Who can say no to this?

The second bill, by Delegate Dana Stein (D. Baltimore County) requires the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Department of the Environment to assess and quantify the full greenhouse gas impacts of the Intercounty Connector and the growth and increased driving it would induce. The final bill would require the state to disclose the cumulative public health impacts of air pollution from the ICC.

Regardless of what county you live in, who your representatives are, if we want to make any of these bills go anywhere and put an end to this "road to nowhere" we've all got to pitch in from across the state. A call, email, letter, or visit to your representative does make the difference. Help hold our officials accountable. For the names and contact information of your state delegates and senators, go to: www.mdelect.net. ■



Join us in Annapolis
to stop the ICC
and promote
sustainable transportation!

When: Every Monday evening
5 o' clock briefing, 5:45-8 lobbying

Where: Public Lounge on the ground floor
of the House of Delegates building,
6 Bladen St Annapolis

What: We meet for a briefing and updates
on the ICC bills and then break into groups
to meet with our legislators to ask for their
support to stop the ICC.

Never met with your legislators before?
No problem. Come, learn, and have a good
time!

Please RSVP to Alana at 301-277-7111 or
Alana.wase@mdsierra.org so that meetings
can be set-up ahead of time to meet with
your representatives.

Can't make it right at 5? That's okay; just
let us know and we'll be sure to schedule
an appointment with your legislator for
later in the evening!

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Plant Removal Outings

Opportunities Abound for Improving Habitat by Removing Invasive Plants

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

Stop the spread of invasives by helping the organizations below. It's easy! The sponsors of the listed outings will show you how to identify the targeted invasives and how to remove them. High intensity removal efforts followed by low intensity maintenance efforts are proving very effective.

Anne Arundel County

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Help preserve rare plants on the Sanctuary. Those interested can adopt a plot to monitor, map, and manage. On April 5, wear long sleeves, long pants, and sturdy work shoes. Bring water, and, if you have them, gloves and hand pruners. Children should be at least 8 years old.

DATE: Saturday, April 5, 1:00-4:00 P.M.
DIRECTIONS: Call 410-741-9330 or www.jugbay.org

CONTACT: Karyn Molines, 410-286-2928, kmolines@chesapeake.net

Baltimore City

Baltimore City Parks

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks supports an Urban Weed Warriors program. If you certify under the Weed Warrior program, you may work on your own to help control invasives in Baltimore City parks. Tools and refreshments provided. CONTACT: Urban Weed Warrior Co-

ordinator, weeds@baltimorecity.gov, or 410-396-0359.

Chinquapin Park

DATES: September 22, 9 A.M.-12 noon. Join the Friends of Chinquapin Park for weed pulling along Chinquapin Run. This area is in desperate need of weed control. Tools and gloves are provided. Wear durable work clothes. DIRECTIONS: Meet at the bridge by Northwood Dr. and Lenton Ave., between Northern Parkway and Belvedere Ave.

CONTACT: Roberta Cowan at 410-365-1351, robcow@gmail.com



Tree of Heaven. James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service bugwood.org

Cromwell Valley Park

Tools and refreshments are provided. DATES: 2nd Saturday of each month 9 A.M.-noon; rain date is the following day, at the same time.

DIRECTIONS: Cromwell Bridge Rd. off the Baltimore Beltway.

CONTACT: 410-887-2503, www.bcpl.net/~cvpark

Cylburn Mansion

Wear sturdy work attire. Tools and gloves will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. Refreshments also provided.

DIRECTIONS: 3915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore City

CONTACT: weeds@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-0359.

Glen Ellen-Seminary Trail

Sponsored by the Greater Baltimore Sierra Club. Tools and gloves will be provided.

DATE: March 22, 9: A.M. Sponsored by the Sierra Club.

DIRECTIONS: Loch Raven Watershed, meet on Seminary Ave., just past the light to the left-off Dulaney Valley Rd., just north of the Baltimore Beltway.

CONTACT: Mary, 410-239-4590, 443-386-0862, XxDiTz4LyFXX@aol.com

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

CONTACT: info@gunpowderfalls.org or 410-343-3478.



Garlic Mustard. Chris Evans, River to River CWMA bugwood.org

Herring Run Watershed Association

Tools and gloves will be provided, but you can bring your own. The following will also be provided: yummy chili, hot cocoa, coffee

DIRECTIONS: Herring Run Park, meet at Chesterfield Ave. & Cardenas Ave., www.herringrun.org

CONTACT: Darin Crew, 410-254-1577, volunteer@herringrun.org

Irvine Nature Center

CONTACT: www.explorenature.org or 410-484-2413.

Jones Falls Watershed Association

CONTACT: Suzanne Greene, sgreene@jonesfalls.org, 410-366-3036

Leakin Park

Sponsored by the Greater Baltimore Sierra Club. Cut invasives strangling beautiful old trees. Tools and gloves will be available.

DATE: May 17, 10 A.M.

DIRECTIONS: Carrie Murray nature Center, in Leakin Park, off Windsor Mill Road.

CONTACT: Mary, 410-239-4590, 443-386-0862, XxDiTz4LyFXX@aol.com

Prettyboy Watershed Alliance

CONTACT:

www.prettyboywatershed.org, or prettyboywatershed@gmail.com

Calvert County

American Chestnut Land Trust, Port Republic

Join the Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust for invasive removals in one of the last pristine watersheds on the Western Shore of Chesapeake Bay. Training, tools, water, and gloves provided

DIRECTIONS: www.acltweb.org

DATES: Wednesdays, early spring 10 A.M.-noon; late spring 9 A.M.-11 A.M. or Saturdays, 9 A.M.-noon, March 29, April 26, May 31, June 28, July 26, September 13, October 18

CONTACT: American Chestnut Land Trust, Liz Stoffel, Land Manager, 410-414-3400, land@acltweb.org

Hellen Creek Preserve

DIRECTIONS: www.ma-eppc.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=9

CONTACTS: Bob Boxwell, Director, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, 410-394-1300, bobboxwell@hotmail.com

Caroline County

Adkins Arboretum

Adkins Arboretum trains volunteers to assist the staff in the removal of invasive non-natives on the Arboretum's 400-acre site. Workdays flexible.

continued ⇨

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Plant Removal Outings

← continued

DIRECTIONS:

www.adkinsarboretum.org/directions.html

CONTACT: Sylvan Kaufman at 410-634-2847, ext. 24

Charles County

Chapman Forest and Ruth Swann Park

Remove invasive non-natives from the 200-acre Swann Park and 800-acre portion of Chapman Forest designated as Chapman State Park. and enjoy a beautiful beach lunch. Wear long sleeves and long pants, walking boots/shoes, and gloves if you have them.

DATES: 1st Sundays and following Saturday each month, 10 A.M. – 4 P.M.

DIRECTIONS: To Chapman Forest, Chapman State Park, Mount Aventine, and the Glendening Natural Environment Area:

<http://www.chapmanforest.org/directions.html>

To Ruth B. Swann Park: <http://somd.com/Detailed/1524.php>

CONTACT: Marc Imlay at 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808. On outings days, on cell phone at 301-442-5657. For carpools, call Laurel Imlay, 301-277-7111, and meet at MD Sierra Club at 9 A.M. and return at 5 P.M.

Garrett County

Savage River State Forest

“Battle Botanical Bullies in Bear Pen Wildland.” Volunteers are needed to continue control efforts of Japanese spiraea in the Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Forest. Snacks & drinks provided, along with free camping the night before for out-of-towners

DATES: Friday, April 18 and Friday, June 20, 9 A.M.-noon

DIRECTIONS:

http://www.stateparks.com/savage_river.html

CONTACT:

Ron Boyer of Elk Ridge NatureWorks,

info@elkridgenatureworks.com or 301-895-3686.

Howard County

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

The Conservation Stewardship Project at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) will meet March 3 for a presentation on invasives and the management plan for the MPEA.

DATES: March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, September 23, October 28, and November 25, 9 A.M.-11:30 A.M. Workday co-sponsors are the Howard County Recreation and Parks and the Howard County Master Gardeners.

CONTACT: Aylene Gard at 410-992-



Multiflora Rose. Ted Bodner, Southern Weed Science Society, bugwood.org

9889 or e-mail Carol Filipczak, cfilipczak@comcast.com

Howard/Anne Arundel/Prince George's Counties

Fort Meade Army Installation

DATE: 2nd Saturday of each month at 10 A.M. Time is flexible if enough volunteers are available. Bring hand tools, gloves, lunch, and water. Wear long sleeves and pants.

DIRECTIONS: Take Route 175 East from the 295 Baltimore Washington Parkway. Turn right onto Reece Rd. to enter the post, immediately turn left onto Ernie Pyle St., go approximately 1 mile, turn left on Llewellyn Ave., turn right onto Chisholm Ave., turn left on 3rd St., turn right on Ross Rd., and go to 2nd

building on the right—Environmental Division Office.

CONTACT: At least 3 days before the event, contact Don Marquardt, Installation Forester, 301-677-9185 or donald.marquardt@us.army.mil

Patuxent Research Refuge

Outings are conducted in partnership between the Department of the Army (Fort Meade), the Maryland Native Plant Society, the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Patuxent Research Refuge and volunteers.

DATES: April 20, Earth Day, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 2 P.M.-4 P.M., May 17, North Tract Visitor Contact Sta



Devil's Tearthumb. Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, bugwood.org

tion, 1 P.M.-4 P.M.; June 7, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9 A.M.-12 noon; July 12, National Wildlife Visitor Center, 9 A.M.-12 noon; July 26, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9 A.M.-12 noon; August 9, North Tract Visitor Contact Station

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

between MD Route 197 and the Baltimore/Washington Parkway, south of Laurel.

CONTACT:

Christopher Wicker, 301-497-5763, Christopher_Wicker@fws.gov, <http://patuxent.fws.gov>. Please register for outings by calling 301-497-5887.

Riverfront Park, Laurel

DATE: 2nd Sunday of each month, 1 P.M.-4 P.M.

DIRECTIONS: From I-95, take the MD Route 216-Laurel exit. At the 2nd traffic light (Main St.), turn right. Go to the end of the next block, turn right at 9th St., and park at the swimming pool. CONTACT: Brigitte Fortin-Zaidan bfzaidan@Safe-mail.net, 240-506-8976

Howard/Baltimore Counties

Patapsco Valley State Park

DATE: May 4, 1 P.M.-5 P.M., remove invasive garlic mustard for 2 hours and then enjoy live music, games, and environmental displays. Prizes for all.

Join the Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park on the second Wednesday evening of each month at the Avalon area to eradicate invasive vines. Wear long clothes and bring gloves, as there is some poison ivy. Bring hand pruners and loppers (the 2 handed cutters for larger vines) if you have them. We have some tools to borrow. CONTACT: Jim Palmer, 410-531-2065, or J.G.Palmer@jhupl.edu. For updates, www.fpvsp.org

Kent County

Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service needs help removing invasives from the Refuge. DIRECTIONS: 1730 Eastern Neck Rd., Rock Hall. Bring bug repellent, gloves, high boots, and a hat.

CONTACT: Rachel, 410-639-2108 or Rachel_Cliche@fws.gov.

continued →

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Plant Removal Outings

← continued

Montgomery County Brookside Gardens

Weed Warriors are needed for the forested areas surrounding the gardens. You will be given directions so that you may work independently on your own schedule. CONTACT: Stacy Parsons, 301-962-1417, stacy.parsons@mncppc-mc.org www.BrooksideGardens.org

Montgomery County Parks

Volunteer to remove invasives individually or in a group in the 32,500 acres of county parkland. Complete a two-part online course and attend a two-hour field training led by Carole Bergmann, Montgomery County Department of Parks forest ecologist. A newer program, Special Project Weed Warriors, is for community groups.

DATE: Earth Day week, and April 26, Earth Day,

DIRECTIONS: 10 parks, for details, see: www.mcparkandplanning.org/Parks/PPSD/Natural_Resources_Stewardship/Veg_Management/Weed_Warriors.shtm

CONTACTS: Paul Carlson, Volunteer Coordinator for Weed Warriors, 301-942-4709. or Lynette Scaffidi, 301-949-0223, Special Projects

Northwest Branch of the Anacostia, Montgomery County

DATES: 3rd Saturdays each month, 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. A vegetarian lunch is provided. Bring water and gloves. DIRECTIONS: 10204 Big Rock Road. www.neighborsnw.org

CONTACT: Jane Osburn, 301-754-1564, jgosburn@earthlink.net

The Potomac Gorge

The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with the National Park Service, has invasive plant control workdays in the Potomac Gorge, a 15-mile stretch of river valley between Great Falls and Georgetown with over 200 rare plants and

5 globally rare plant communities. At Weed Warrior training sessions, volunteers learn about 13 non-native plant species, adopt an area, and then work independently in the National Parks in the Potomac Gorge.

DATES: March 30, pull garlic mustard on Cabin John Island; also, for workdays for organizations or directions, contact Mary Travaglini, info below.



English ivy. *Chuck Barger, University of Georgia, bugwood.org*

CONTACT: Mary Travaglini, 301-897-8570, x210 or PotomacGorgeVol@tnc.org, or find out about workdays at www.nature.org/maryland

Sligo Creek

The RIP—Removing Invasive Plants—Committee of Friends of Sligo Creek holds invasive plant removal events in different parts of Sligo Creek Park between New Hampshire Ave. and the headwaters in Kemp Mill and Wheaton. CONTACT: For a schedule, see www.fosc.org/RIPEventSched.htm Sally Gagne, 301-588-2071.

Woodend Nature Sanctuary, Chevy Chase

Join the Audubon Naturalist Society to remove invasives from its Woodend Sanc-

tuary in Chevy Chase, MD. Training will be provided. Trained volunteers may be authorized to work independently. CONTACT:

Liz Jones at 301-652-9188, x 30, or volunteer@audubonnaturalist.org.

Prince George's County Accokeek

DATE: April 29, 9:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M.



Wineberry. *Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, bugwood.org*

For directions to Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center, check the web at www.hardbargainfarm.org/directions CONTACT:

Karen Jensen Miles, 301-292-5665 or kmiles@fergusonfoundation.org

Lower Beaverdam Creek

Tools provided. Wear sturdy shoes and bring work gloves.

DATES: March 29, April 26, May 31, June 28, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 29, 9 A.M. – noon.

DIRECTIONS: Woodworth Park on Wayne Place, Cheverly, MD. Take 202 East under the BW Parkway. Drive one block, turn right on Parkway. Drive 2 blocks, turn left on Wayne, drive one block. Meet at small playground.

Belt Woods, Bowie

DATES: Ongoing Saturday, Sunday, and occasional mid-week workgroups. Times and dates vary based on available team leader. Tools and gloves are provided, but feel free to bring your favorite tool or gloves.

CONTACT: For schedule, contact 301-390-0797 or pamelakcooper@verizon.net

Beltsville, Little Paint Branch Park and Cherry Hill Road Community Park

DATE: September 29, 10 A.M.-3 P.M. Native plants will be identified as we work to rescue them. Gloves and tools are provided.

DIRECTIONS: www.anacostiaaws.org/PDF/maps/DirectionsLPBP.pdf

CONTACT: Marc Imlay, PhD Conservation Biologist, Anacostia Watershed Society, 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808.

Berwyn Heights, Indian Creek Trail at Lake Artemesia

DIRECTIONS: Meet in the Lake Artemesia parking lot along Berwyn, at Indian Creek Trail at Lake Artemesia, Berwyn Hgts. The lake is located on Berwyn Rd. in College Park. www.rundc.com/Doc/MD/PG/Artemesia.htm

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 has regular work sessions throughout the year for the removal/eradication of non-native invasive plant species and tree planting.

CONTACT: Matt Berres, Landscape Specialist, at mberres@ghi.coop. 301-474-4161

Greenbelt National Park

DATES: 1st Saturday of each month, 11

continued →

Habitat Restoration and Invasive Plant Removal Outings

← continued

A.M.-3 P.M. People of all ages, backgrounds and interests are invited. Bring lunch, drink, and appropriate clothing for weather.

DIRECTIONS: meeting at the Sweetgum picnic area; www.nps.gov/gree/playourvisit/directions.htm

Hyattsville, Magruder Park

DATE: September 29, 10 A.M.-3 P.M. and ongoing outings.

DIRECTIONS: Meet at the Magruder Park parking lot. Take Eastwest Highway (410) east almost to Route 1 in College Park. Turn right on Queens Chapel Rd. about a mile before Route 1. Go south about a mile and turn left on Hamilton. Pass the Safeway on the right, pass 38th St., go about one block, and turn right into the park. Magruder Park is approximately a 10-block walk from the West Hyattsville Metro stop on the Green Line.

CONTACT: Marc Imlay, PhD Conservation Biologist for the Anacostia Watershed Society, 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808.

Suitland Bog

Help to preserve this unique habitat by removing honeysuckle and multiflora rose with shovels and pruners. Bring water, work boots, durable clothes with long sleeves, gloves, pruners, and shovels. Light refreshments will be provided.

DIRECTIONS: www.pgparcs.com/places/nature/suitland.html Meet in parking lot.

CONTACT: M-NCPPC Park Ranger Chris Garrett at 301-627-7755.

Watkins Regional Park

Join us for Weed Warrior Work Days at Watkins Nature Center in Watkins Regional Park. Light refreshments provided. Bring water, sturdy shoes, long sleeves and work gloves.

DIRECTIONS: Meet at Watkins Nature Center, in Upper Marlboro at Watkins Regional Park, one mile west of the Six Flags America amusement park. www.pgparcs.com/places/parks/watkins.html

CONTACT: M-NCPPC Park Ranger John Dillon or Chris Garrett, 301-627-7755.

Woodworth Park, Cheverly

DATE: Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek, Cheverly will resume invasive plant removals in the fall on the last Saturday of each month. All age groups can help rescue our native flowers, ferns, and other plants from non-native plants covering 30 to 90 percent of our parks that we have worked so hard to preserve. Tools are provided, but wear work gloves and sturdy shoes.

CONTACT: Cathy and Dan Smith at 301-386-0889. DIRECTIONS: Take Rt. 202 east under the Baltimore Washington Parkway. Go one block and turn right on Cheverly. Go one mile and turn left on Forest Rd. Go two blocks passing a church on the left and turn right on BW Parkway. Go 2 blocks and turn left on Wayne for one block. We meet at the park by the small playground.

St. Mary's County

Myrtle Point Park
DIRECTIONS: www.co.saintmarys.md.us/recreate/facilities/myrtlepointpark.asp
CONTACT: Bob Boxwell, Executive Director, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, bobboxwell@hotmail.com or 410-394-1300. ■



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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget.

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Maryland Chapter Leaders



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Sky's the limit?

Even today in 2008 over *half* of America's electricity is generated from coal-fired power plants. Consequentially, we are being exposed to soot, smog, acid rain, and dangerous toxins such as mercury, which threaten people and wildlife alike. Bush's "Clear Skies" plan will allow 520% *more* mercury pollution by 2010, not to mention delaying the enforcement of public health standards for smog and soot until the *end* of 2015. The sky isn't getting any higher, and the air we breathe isn't getting any cleaner. The sky IS the limit.

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

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
 P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Diversity on Outings

By Dan Soeder—The Sierra Club is seeking to become more diverse, and to better represent the wide variety of people who live in the United States. As a start, a number of national outings committee members (including yours truly) attended diversity training a few weekends ago in Tampa. I've been through several of these, because my agency holds them on a regular basis, and I thought the Sierra Club class was above average.

The training raised a lot of questions, including how we view racial, gender, age and sexual orientation stereotypes. We learned that many people possess a stereotype of the Sierra Club as being predominantly white, middle-aged to senior, and affluent. While not entirely true, this perception often makes it difficult for the Club to engage some segments of the population where we'd like our environmental message to be heard.

Because the outings program is an entry point into the Club for many people, the national outings committee has decided that outings should lead the way on diversity. We don't collect diversity data on the outings sign-in sheets, but anecdotal information suggests that Club outings participants (and leaders) tend to be middle-aged to older white men, and middle-aged to younger white women. Besides the general dearth of younger white men and older white women, the lack of participation on our outings by people from African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American, Southeast Asian, South Asian, Middle-Eastern and other ethnic groups is a significant concern. These groups make up huge segments of the population in the Washington and Baltimore areas. Somehow we are missing them.

Are these people not interested in the environment? I don't think so. It's hard to live around here and not be concerned about the poor health of the Chesapeake Bay, the loss of forest and farmland to urban sprawl, or the appalling air quality in our big cities, to name

just three issues. Perhaps these ethnic groups just don't like the outdoors? I don't think that's true either. Organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are far more diverse than the Sierra Club, and run outdoor activity programs that are world-class.

I believe it's a question of comfort level. Even under the best of circumstances, it can be difficult to show up at a trailhead and go hiking with strangers. Now imagine if not a single one of those strangers looked like you, talked like you, or shared your culture. This can be a formidable obstacle, and a lot of people might decide just to stay home.

It is much more pleasant to go on a hike with people who are familiar, and are friends. All of us know people from diverse races, religions, national origins and backgrounds. They might be neighbors, co-workers, folks from church, whatever. We may count some of them among our friends. So if you're going on an outing this spring, why not invite one of these friends to come along? They'll be comfortable being with someone they know, and maybe they'll have enough fun to bring another friend next time, and our program will grow. Sometimes, all that is needed is for someone to extend an invitation. This is how we will start to diversify the outings program and the Sierra Club.

We are offering a wide variety of outings at many different skill levels this spring. All of them are open to everyone. I would like to invite our members, regardless of their race, creed, ethnicity, age, gender, or sexual orientation to please consider joining us on an outing. We'd love to have you along, and it would do you, us, and the Sierra Club a world of good.

Thanks. See you outside. All of you.■

Dan Soeder, Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org, is the MD Chapter Outings Chair.

Information for Outings Participants

Sierra Club outings are open to everyone, members and non-members alike. Each outing is intended to be a wholesome, safe, and enjoyable experience in the outdoors. Participants must have proper clothing, equipment, and stamina suitable to the event, and are encouraged to select activities that match their individual abilities for outdoor adventures. The Club offers a variety of outings from "easy" to "strenuous" that suit all activity levels. The difficulty of each outing is clearly designated in the announcement. Reservations are generally not required for local outings unless noted; however, outings leaders should be contacted in advance for questions about the terrain, the difficulty or duration of the trip, recommended clothing, and equipment. Activities are normally held "rain or shine," but may be postponed at the leader's discretion for safety reasons in the event of inclement weather. Potential participants are reminded that all outdoor activities carry a degree of risk, and some take place in locations where professional emergency medical aid may be two or more hours away. People with health concerns should consult a physician to determine the advisability of participating in these or similar activities. The Club outing leader is responsible for the safety of all participants, and has the final authority to decide whether or not an individual may participate on a specific outing. Sierra Club policy requires that helmets be worn on bicycling outings, and that personal flotation devices (PFDs) be worn on outings using watercraft.

Unless noted in the announcement, Club outings are intended for adults. Before bringing minors or pets on an outing that is not specifically designated as being child/dog friendly, 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. Dogs are not normally permitted on outings, unless an outing is so designated. Sierra Club outings officially begin and end at the trailhead, paddlecraft put-in/take-out point, or some other similar designated locality near the activity. Travel to the official starting point and back, even from an advertised meeting place, is the sole responsibility of each participant. While the Club encourages car-pooling, such arrangements are strictly between the riders and the drivers, and are not a part of the outing. Participants assume full responsibility and liability for all risks associated with such travel.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver, which can be viewed on the web at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/index.asp>. Sierra Club local outings are free of charge, although payment of park entrance fees, a share of campsite rental costs, permit fees, equipment rental charges, etc. may be required from the participants. Such costs are specified in the announcement whenever possible. The Sierra Club practices "leave-no-trace" trail techniques, including hiking and camping on durable surfaces, minimizing campfire impacts, packing out all trash, respecting wildlife, being considerate of other visitors, and leaving the environment as it was found. Take only pictures, leave only footprints, and have fun out there.

The Sierra Club's California Seller of Travel identification number is CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Outings (March)

Most outings in the Maryland Chapter are run at the group level, with a few chapter and inter-chapter events. The group originating the outing is identified in parentheses by the leader's name. These and other abbreviations used are listed below:

AA	Anne Arundel Group
AMC	Appalachian Mountain Club
AT	Appalachian Trail
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CCA	Canoe Cruisers Association (Washington, D.C.)
CG	Catoctin Group
C&O	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
FFA	Family friendly activity (kids/dogs ok, but check with leader)
FWS	(U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service
GB	Greater Baltimore Group
GWNF	George Washington National Forest
HC	Howard County Group
MNF	Monongahela National Forest
MW	Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP)
NPS	National Park Service
NRA	National Recreation Area
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
PFD	Personal Flotation Device (lifejacket)
SF	State forest
SP	State park
SNP	Shenandoah National Park

MWROP

Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program

MWROP is an activity section of the Virginia chapter, with an extensive outings program run by leaders who live in and around the Washington, D.C. area. Please check their website (www.mwrop.org) for a calendar of activities, information, and updates.

March

Cross Country Skiing (*rated moderate*) Anytime when snow conditions allow, there is a potential for a ski trip to Western Maryland or West Virginia. Watch the weather, and keep Jack's phone number handy. **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

Saturday, Mar 1: Introduction to 3-Season Backpacking (*not rated*) **SEMINAR.** Learn the basics about this wonderful pastime including tips on gear, food, preparation, safety and leave-no-trace. Pre-registration is recommended but not required.

Oregon Ridge Nature Center, 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday, Mar 2: Oregon Ridge Pancake Hike (*rated easy*) Start the morning with a 5-mile hike, including some hills and stream crossings, followed by a pancake breakfast. The park demonstrates the boiling down of maple syrup, and holds a fundraising pancake breakfast for \$5.00 per person. Depart at 8:30 AM from Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. Or meet the group in the parking lot by the Oregon Ridge Lodge at 9:10 AM. Bring water and money for the breakfast. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Saturday, Mar 8: Catoctin Mountain Park, Wolf and Chimney Rocks. (*rated moderate*) Hike 9 miles to the falls and rock outcrops. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the

Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for an 8:30 AM departure. **Leader:** James Perschy (HC) 410-964-1902, jameshike@verizon.net.



Saturday, Mar 8: Compton Peak in SNP (*rated strenuous*) A 16-mile circuit hike starting at the 4H Center in Front Royal and proceeding to Compton Peak on the AT for a side trail stop at the columnar jointing geologic formation. Return via Land's Run Gap and Hickerson Hollow Trail. Elevation gain 4,000 feet. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center off route 66 on route 123 just outside Vienna, Virginia at 7:30 AM. Alternative meeting place in Howard County possible (contact leader). Moderate pace with stops for flora and fungi of interest. Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. **Leader:** William Needham (MW) 410-884-9127, Needham82@aol.com.

Saturday, Mar 8: Edwards Ferry Cleanup (*not rated*) Service Outing. Pick up trash, enjoy a beautiful part of the C&O Canal towpath, and make it even more beautiful. Join C&O Canal Association "level walkers" to clean up the towpath

and riverbanks near Edwards Ferry. We'll work until noon, then (optional) have lunch in Poolesville, MD. The leaders will supply trash bags; please bring your own work gloves. Meet at 9 am at Edwards Ferry (driving directions at www.mwrop.org/directions.htm). **Leaders:** Pat Hopson (MW) 703-379-1795 (9 am-10 pm) and Carol Ivory (MW) carolivory@verizon.net.

Saturday, Mar 8: Tuscarora State Forest, PA - Fowler Hollow/ Amberson Ridge (*rated moderate*) 11 mile circuit hike with a pretty stream and a possible vista.

Portions of this hike are previously unscouted. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Mar 8: Leaders Choice (*not rated*) Chris Hodge will be leading a hike on March 8 starting at 10 AM. Check the Catoctin Group website (<http://maryland.sierraclub.org/catoctin/>) for details, or contact the leader. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com. Note: The Catoctin Group (Carroll, Frederick, and Washington counties) hikes regularly on the AT, in Catoctin NP, and other Frederick and Washington County trails. Check the web page for the latest listings.

Tuesday, Mar 11: Catoctin Group Social and Informal Meeting at Isabella's Restaurant and Tapas Bar, Frederick (*not rated*) Come for drinks and/or dinner. This is

Outings (More March)

a good chance to meet fellow outdoor lovers and environmentalists, as well as make suggestions for Sierra Club activities you'd like to see. Isabella's is all non-smoking and is in downtown Frederick on the East side of Market Street between Patrick and Church. For garage parking, go right on Church then take an immediate left into the garage. We'll be at a table in the back. RSVP appreciated but not required. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Mar 15:

Soldier's Delight (*rated moderate*) This hike will be a combination of the Serpentine Trail, and the Choate/Red Run/Dolfield Trails, to form a figure eight that will start and end at the parking area. The total distance is approximately 5.5 miles. Soldier's Delight is a natural environment area that supports over 39 rare, threatened, or endangered plant species. This is a good hike if you are new to hiking, but can comfortably walk four or five miles. Bring lunch or a snack and water. **Leader:** Nicki (AA), email cybertrax1@netzero.net, and use "Sierra Club-Soldier's Delight" in the subject line for more information or to attend.

Saturday, Mar 15:

Jeremy's Run, Neighbor Mountain, VA (*rated strenuous*) Rugged, 14-mile circuit hike with 14 stream crossings. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Mar 15:

Patapsco Hike (*rated moderate*) About 4 miles. Meet at the Rolling Road Park & Ride off I-95 south at 10 AM. **Leader:** John (GB) 410-566-0915.

Friday, Mar 21:

Happy Hour and Social (*not rated*) Members and non-members are invited to meet 6 – 8 PM for socialization, happy hour, and dinner at the Charred Rib in the Ridgely Shopping Center in Lutherville near York Road. Walking distance to the Lutherville light rail station. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net



Saturday, Mar 22:

Invasive Plant Removal along Glen Ellen/Seminary Trail (*not rated*) Conservation/Service Outing. Help cut invasive vines and pull other non-

native plants along the Glen Ellen/Seminary Trail in the Loch Raven Watershed. Meet at 9:00 AM on Seminary Ave. just past the light to the left off Dulaney Valley Rd., just north of the Baltimore Beltway. Tools, gloves, and refreshments will be provided. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Saturday, Mar 22:

FFA Prettyboy Reservoir Hike (*rated moderate*) Conservation Outing. Older children and dogs are welcome on this 4-6 mile hike along the shoreline and through forests around Prettyboy Reservoir along the old Prettyboy Trail, newly re-discovered and maintained by the GB Sierra Club in collaboration with the Prettyboy Watershed Alliance and the Mountain Club of Maryland. Enjoy the pristine water and wildlife along this isolated trail. Look for the beginning signs of spring. Meet at 1:00 PM at the Mt Carmel Rd. park and ride just west off Rt. 83 north of the Baltimore Beltway. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Saturday, Mar 22:

Caving in West Virginia (*rated moderate*) Go underground for four hours of wild caving (spelunking), in Trout Cave, located near Franklin, West Virginia. The outing will consist of mostly walking and scrambling over rocks with no steps or handrails, and there will also be some crawling and tight passages. This activity is definitely not for the claustrophobic. A pre-trip meeting will be held in Annapolis one evening before the trip to go over safety and what to expect. No experience is necessary. Gear will be provided, including helmets, lights, gloves, and kneepads. Bring water and

a lunch to eat inside the cave. The trip is limited to eight participants plus the two trip leaders. The outing will officially start at the cave entrance at 10:30 AM, although participants from the Annapolis area are encouraged to join in a car-pool leaving at 6:00 AM, with a planned return to Annapolis by about 9:00 PM. **Leader:** Bill Shuman (AA) 410-263-4102, bshuman@harborsoftware.com.

Saturday, Mar 22:

Seventh Annual End of Winter Canoeing on Antietam Creek (*not rated*) Celebrate end of winter and overcome cabin fever. Practiced novice trip of 12 mi., class 1-2 whitewater, running through Antietam National Battlefield Park. Canoe and life jackets required. Dry bags with clothing change strongly suggested. Cosponsored with Canoe Cruisers, Monocacy Canoe Club, and Blue Ridge Voyager Canoe Club. **Leader:** Jim Finucane (MW) 301-365-3485 (before 9 pm), jim.finucane@yahoo.com.

Sunday, Mar 23:

FFA Easter Sunrise Service and Hike (*rated easy*) Celebrate Easter at a non-denominational Sunrise Service at Rocks State Park. It will be followed by fellowship with coffee, cocoa, and donuts, and an easy to moderate hike of about 3-4 miles. Children OK with prior approval. Meet at church parking lot on Seminary Ave W of Dulaney Valley Rd at 5:30 AM. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net

Saturday, Mar 29:

Fairfax Cross County Trail (*rated moderate*) Hike the 15 mile northern half of this beautiful trail in the middle of a major suburban area starting at the Potomac River. Meet at 7 AM at Oak Marr Recreation Center in Oakton,

Outings (More March, April)

VA. Joint outing with Northern VA Hiking Club. **Leader:** Michael Fischetti (MW) 703-771-8559 (leave message).

Saturday, Mar 29:

Gunpowder State Park Service Trip (*not rated*) Service Outing.

MCM in partnership with the local Sierra Club will clear and repair trails in the Hereford Area of Gunpowder State Park. Please come out and help us get the trails ready for the spring and summer hiking seasons. We will meet at 9:00 AM at the Mt. Carmel Road Park and Ride (Exit #27 of I-83). Bring lunch, water, and work gloves. **Coordinator:** Mike O'Connor (GB) 410-871-0066, sharonmike2002@msn.com.

Saturday, Mar 29:

Weverton Cliffs (*rated moderate*) Hike along the Appalachian Trail 12 miles from Gathland State Park to Weverton Cliffs and return. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for an 8:30 AM departure. **Leader:** Tim Ryan (HC) 410-248-2974 (call before 9:30 PM), timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.

Sunday, Mar 30: Savage Park,

Wincopin Trail (*rated moderate*) Hike 7 miles along the Middle and Little Patuxent Rivers, easy except for a few hills and rocky parts. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:30 AM at Patuxent Valley Middle School, off Vollmerhausen Road just west of Savage Guilford Rd. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

April

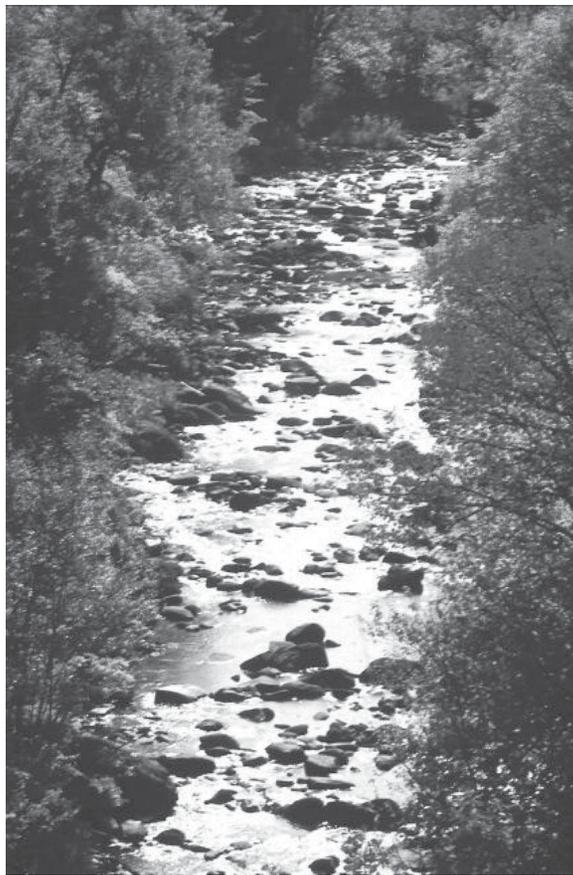
Thursday, Apr 3: Greater Baltimore Group Outings Planning Meeting (*not rated*)

If you're interested in leading outings and are curious about what is involved, come and talk with

the outings leaders. The planning meeting will be held at the Panera Bread restaurant in Timonium, beginning with dinner and socialization at 6:30 PM in a quiet corner, with the meeting to follow at 7:00 PM. From I-83 north, take exit 16 Timonium Rd. east, turn left on York Rd., and turn right at the next light for the Timonium Center across from the State Fairgrounds. **Leader:** Bette Thompson (GB) 410-666-2696.

Saturday, Apr 5: Howard County

Green Fest (*not rated*) From 9 AM to 1 PM at the Glenwood Center next to the Glenwood Library, see the Howard County government's GreenFest PDF Flier for details. The Sierra Club will have a table at this event. **Contact:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.



Saturday, Apr 5:

Spring Meeting of the Sierra Club's Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program Leaders (*not rated*)

Features election of officers, summary of 2007 activities, and plans for 2008, including a regional training event. Open to the public as well as current leaders, prospective leaders, and other Sierra Club members. Save the date and check the March-April calendar (www.mwrop.org) for more info.

Saturday, Apr 5:

Bucktail Trail/Halfmoon Lookout Loop, GWNF, WV (*rated strenuous*)

Hike 9.7 miles to one of the best views in GWNF. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Apr 5:

Gunpowder River Hike

(*rated moderate*) About 4 miles. Meet at the Mt. Carmel Road Park & Ride off I-83 north at 11 AM. **Leader:** John (GB) 410-566-0915.

Saturday-Sunday, Apr 5-6, Wilderness First Aid Training, Camp Hoover, New York (*not rated*)

Weekend workshop offered by the Sierra Club Outdoor Activities Training Program. This fast-paced and hands-on course covers a wide range of emergency medical topics to help people who spend time in the outdoors prepare for the unexpected. The curriculum is that of the Wilderness Medicine Institute, and the instructors are Sierra Club training staff from San Francisco.

Cost for members is \$125; \$150 for nonmembers. Camp Hoover is a historic Girl Scout facility located near Preble, NY, about 20 miles south of Syracuse. For more details and registration, visit http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/brochures/2008_WFA_NewYork.asp

Sunday, Apr 6:

Muddy Run (*rated moderate*) Hike 6-7 miles in Southern Pennsylvania. Meet at 11:00 AM at K-Mart on Belair Road just north of Beltway exit 32. **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963.

Sunday, Apr 6:

Project Clean Stream (*not rated*).

Service Outing. Take part in this regional stream cleanup organized by Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Bring gloves. The Howard County project will be 9:00 to noon. **Contact:** Sue Muller (HC) 301-498-8462, sonicsue@verizon.net (call for directions).

Sunday, Apr 6:

FFA Dog Walk at Quiet Waters Park (*rated easy*)

Hike about 2 miles with your dog; may be extended. Well-behaved dogs only are welcome! Meet at the Dog Park area at 9 AM. Quiet Waters Park also has a dog beach and a dog washing station. Bring water and treats (for dogs).

Leader: Joe Pepin (AA) 410-674-6127, pepin@toad.net. Note: there is a \$5 per-car entrance fee for Quiet Waters Park.

Tuesday, Apr 8:

Catoctin Group Social and Informal Meeting at Isabella's Restaurant and Tapas Bar, Frederick (*not rated*)

See Mar. 11 listing for details. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

Outings (More April)

Saturday, Apr 12:

FFA Kid's Nature Walk, Wincopin Trail (*rated easy*) Observe nature on this 3-4 mile hike targeted for children 10 and older. Contact leader for time and location. **Leader:** Sue Muller (HC), 301-498-8462, sonicsue@verizon.net.

Saturday, Apr 12:

Sugarloaf Mountain (*rated moderate*) Hike 8 miles of rocky outcrops with sweeping views. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for a 9:00 AM departure. **Leader:** James Perschy (HC) 410-964-1902, jameshike@verizon.net.

Saturday Apr 12:

Massanutten Mountain in Shenandoah Valley Shuttle Hike (*rated strenuous*) Total distance 16 miles with 3,500 feet elevation gain. The hike will begin at New Market Gap and proceed up Massanutten Trail to Strickler and Duncan Knobs, both of which are excellent vantage points for views of the Shenandoah Valley. The hike will proceed on the Scothorn Gap Trail at Crisman Hollow Road for a car shuttle back to the start. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center off route 66 on route 123 just outside Vienna, Virginia in at 7:30 AM. Alternative meeting place in Howard County possible (contact leader). Moderate pace with stops for flora and fungi of interest. Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. **Leader:** William Needham (MW) 410-884-9127, Needham82@aol.com.

Sunday, Apr 13:

Carderock Wildflowers (*rated moderate*) Hike 8-9 miles on the C&O canal towpath, and over rocky terrain by the Potomac River on the Billy Goat B and C trails. We will take a slow pace in some areas to identify and enjoy the profusion of wildflowers. Bring

lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Saturday, Apr 19:

Sugarloaf Mountain (*rated moderate*) Sugarloaf is a conservation/recreation area privately owned and managed by Stronghold, Inc. This 8.5 mile hike has several scenic views and varied terrain, including the summit. Bring lunch and water. Parking is limited, so carpooling is encouraged. **Leader:** Nicki (AA) email: cybertrax1@netzero.net and use "Sierra Club-Sugarloaf" in the subject line for more information or to attend.

Saturday, Apr 19:

Catoctin Trail, Gambrill State Park (*rated strenuous*) Out-and-back hike of 9 or 10 miles ending with a short loop. The first in a series of 5 hikes which will include the entire 26.5 mile Catoctin Trail. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 AM from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. **Leader:** John Cougnet (HC) 443-756-6741, jc5342@msn.com.

Saturday, Apr 19:

FFA Earth Day Stream Cleanup at Double Rock Park (*rated moderate*) Service Outing. Celebrate Earth Day (April 22) a few days early by cleaning up trash (bottles, cans, plastic bags, etc.) in and around the stream at this neighborhood park that includes a waterfall and trails through woodlands. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other

responsible adult. Wear footwear for wading in shallow water. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Meet at 10 AM in the parking lot at the park's entrance at the end of Texas Ave. off Harford Rd. in Parkville. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

Saturday-Monday, Apr 19-21:



AT Shuttle Backpack, JNF/GWNF, VA (*rated strenuous*) 26 mile backpack starting at Sunset Field, passing through the Thunder Ridge and James River Face Wilderness areas and ending at the Punch Bowl. Cross the 625-foot James River Foot Bridge, named for Bill Foot who spent years getting the \$1.5 million grants and other arrangements needed to replace a dangerous and unpleasant crossing on a road bridge. Register with leader in advance. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday, Apr 20:

Northwest Branch Park, Wheaton, MD (*rated moderate*) Hike 8-9 miles on mostly flat terrain, but with some hills and muddy portions. From Wheaton Regional Park, follow the creek on the Watersedge Trail, and return on the Rachel Carson Greenway. End with an optional visit to Brookside Gardens. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00

AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32.

Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Sunday, Apr 20:

FFA Gwynns Falls (*rated easy*) Conservation Outing. Celebrate Earth Day weekend by hiking 5 miles out-and-back on the Gwynns Falls trail, beginning and ending at Carroll Park near downtown Baltimore. Learn about one of the most urbanized streams in Maryland, and scientific studies underway in the Gwynns Falls watershed. We will discuss the hydrologic changes that occur when a stream is urbanized, and some possible ways to deal with them. Meet at the Carroll Park trailhead at 11:00 AM; bring lunch and water. Well-behaved dogs/kids okay; check with leader. Heavy/steady rain cancels. **Leader:** Dan Soeder (AA) 410-969-9465, Djsoeder@yahoo.com

Saturday, Apr 26:

The Annual One Day Hike. (*rated extreme*) Join a couple hundred new and old friends to walk 100 kilometers (about 62 miles) in a single, rather long day along the C&O Canal towpath from Washington, D.C., to Harpers Ferry, WV. Or start later the same morning upriver from DC for the 50K option. For information, see www.onedayhike.org.

Saturday – Sunday, Apr 26-27:

Car Camping at Caledonia State Park in PA (*rated moderate*) Day hiking along lakes and streams in the Michaux State Forest. Contact leader in advance to reserve a space. **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963.

Outings (May)

MAY

Saturday, May 3:

Overall Run, VA (*rated strenuous*)

Seriously vertical 10.3 mile hike featuring wading pools and Shenandoah's tallest waterfall. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32.

Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Saturday-Sunday, May 3-4:

White Oak National Recreation Trail Backpack, VA (*rated moderate*)

Beginner's 10-mile backpack including North River Gorge Loop, for experienced hikers who want to move up to backpacking. Hike 6 miles the first day with an elevation gain of 1000 feet over 3 miles and 0.5 miles of open

woods bushwhacking. Camp in a beautiful pine grove next to the river. Day 2 is a mostly flat hike along the river back to the cars. There will be 7 substantial stream crossings that might require a change of footwear. Register with leader in advance. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday, May 4:

Bike New York – The Five

Boro Bike Tour (*rated moderate*)

The all-time best way to see New York City. Ride 44 flat, traffic-free miles with 30,000 other cyclists from the southern tip on Manhattan through dozens of neighborhoods in all five boros of New York City. Finish by riding across the Verrazano Narrows Bridge to a festival on Staten Island. Fully-supported, safe, fun ride. The Sierra Club requires helmets to be worn on bicycling outings (as does Bike New York – funds raised by this event are used to support brain injury research). If interested, contact Dan Soeder at 410-969-9465, e-mail: Djsoder@yahoo.com, and perhaps we can put together a Maryland Sierra Club team. For more details and registration information, visit <http://www.bikenyork.org/rides/fbbt/index.html>.

Sunday, May 4:

FFA Perry Point Veterans Hospital

(*not rated*) Service Outing. Not all of our service outings have to be park cleanups or trail repairs. Brighten the lives of patients at the Perry Point Veterans Hospital with a visit and sing-along accompanied by guitar and other instruments you may bring. Many of the people here do not have family and friends to visit them, and

they appreciate interaction with other people, which is how we can show our appreciation for their sacrifices for our



country. We will follow our visit with a short walk around Havre De Grace (they have a special celebration that weekend), and an early dinner at an inexpensive diner with great food. Meet at church parking lot on Seminary Ave W of Dulaney Valley Rd at 1:00 PM. Children OK with prior approval. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, pstech@smart.net

Wednesday, May 7:

Gunpowder River Hike (*rated easy*)

Short and sweet walk on a spring evening to see wildflowers. Easy mile or two. Meet at Gunpowder River and Belair Road at 6:30 PM. **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963.

Saturday, May 10:

Catoctin Trail, Hamburg Road to

Fish Creek Road (*rated moderate to strenuous*) Out-and-back 9 mile hike through the Frederick Municipal Watershed. The second in a series of Catoctin Trail hikes. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 AM from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. **Leader:** John Cougnet (HC) 443-756-6741, jc5342@msn.com.

Saturday, May 10:

Conway River and Pocosin Hollow in Central SNP (*rated strenuous*)

This 16-mi. circuit hike will ascend 3500 feet up the Conway River Trail to the AT, proceeding south over Bear Fence Mountain with excellent 360 degree views of the Blue Ridge; return via the Pocosin Trail. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center off route 66 on route 123 just outside Vienna, Virginia in at 7:30 AM. Alternative meeting place in Howard

County possible (contact leader). Moderate pace with stops for flora and fungi of interest. Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. **Leader:** William Needham (MW) 410-884-9127, Needham82@aol.com

Sunday, May 11:

Patapsco, Daniels Area, and Potluck

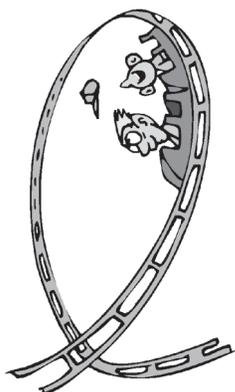
Lunch (*rated moderate*) Hike 6-7 miles along both sides of the river, visiting ruins of the old mill town. Wade across the river or cross a railroad bridge. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Daniels Dam parking lot, on Daniels Rd. Bring a snack and water, and optionally bring a lunch dish to share at a party at Stella's house after the hike. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Sunday, May 11:

Trussum Pond, Delaware (*rated easy*)

Paddle through the northernmost cypress forest in the USA on this small pond near Laurel, Delaware. View massive, old-growth cypress trees, waterfowl, beaver and other swamp critters. Participants must supply their own kayak or canoe; Sierra Club

Want to be kept in the loop?



Sign up to get an e-newsletter about the happenings within the MD Chapter, important Action Alerts, and ways to get involved!

It's easy. Just send an email to Alana.wase@msierra.org from the email address you'd like us to use and we'll sign you up. Put the word E-newsletter in the subject line. Don't worry, your email will be confidential and you'll only hear from us!

Outings (More May, June and beyond)

requires all participants to wear a PFD while on the water. Launch boats at 11 AM; trip should take an hour or two. Heavy/steady rain or high wind cancels; rain date is May 17. **Leader:** Dan Soeder (AA) 410-969-9465, Djsoder@yahoo.com

Tuesday, May 13:

Catoctin Group Social and Informal Meeting at Isabella's Restaurant and Tapas Bar, Frederick (*not rated*)

See Mar. 11 listing for details. **Leader:** Chris Hodge (CG) mdhiker2@yahoo.com.

Saturday, May 17:

Invasive Plant Removal in Leakin Park (*rated moderate*) Service Outing. Help cut invasive vines out of beautiful old trees in Leakin Park in Baltimore City. As well as getting satisfaction from freeing trees that are being choked and strangled, you will be rewarded with excellent exercise. Tools and gloves will be available. Meet at 10 AM at the Carrie Murray Nature Center in Leakin Park, off of Windsor Mill Road in Baltimore City. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Saturday, May 17:

FFA Bicycle Ride on the Gwynns Falls Trail (*rated moderate*) Explore all or part of the new 15-mile bike trail that runs from near Rt. 70, through a series of parks along the Gwynns Falls to Middle Branch Park at Baltimore City's waterfront. Older children are welcome. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Sierra Club requires all riders to wear helmets. Meet at 1 PM at Trailhead # 2, Winans Meadow – Leakin Park, 4500 Franklinton Rd off of Cooks Lane/Security Boulevard in Baltimore City. **Leader:** Mary Corddry

(GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Wednesday, May 21:

FFA Evening Hike at Cylburn Arboretum (*rated easy*) Children and dogs are welcome on this 2-mile evening stroll along woodland trails and through formal gardens around a mansion house from the 1880s. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Dogs must be friendly and leashed. Meet at 6:30 PM in the parking spaces along the side of the road just before the mansion. The park is in Baltimore City on Greenspring Ave. just off the Jones Falls Expressway between Coldspring and Northern Parkway. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Wednesday-Friday, May 21-23:

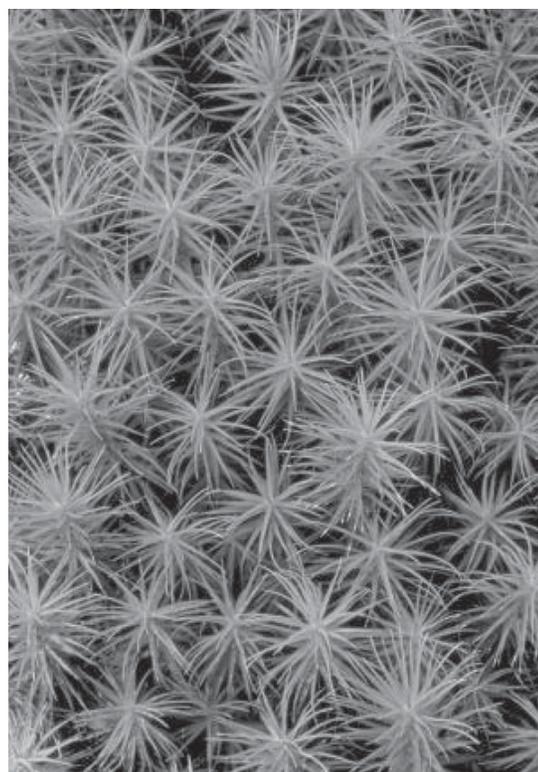
Hike Las Vegas (*rated moderate*): Meet us in fabulous Las Vegas, Nevada. Not for the shows, the games or the buffets, but for some spectacular hikes just a short distance from Glitter Gulch. The leader is a former 8-year resident, and will be leading daily hikes on easy to moderate trails at Red Rock Canyon, Spring Mountains NRA, Valley of Fire State Park, and Lake Mead NRA. Go on some or all. Trip limited to 12 participants; reserve a space by the end of March. Airfare, hotels and meals are on your own, and we will split the cost of a rental vehicle. Plan to arrive by Tuesday evening and leave Friday night or Saturday. Contact the leader for details. **Leader:** Dan Soeder (AA) 410-969-9465, Djsoder@yahoo.com

Saturday-Monday, May 24-26:

Canaan Mountain Backpack, WV (*rated moderate*) Awesome 29 mile backpack featuring mature forest, giant spruce and hemlock trees, streams, highland bogs and vistas. Register with leader in advance. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

June and Beyond

Thursday – Sunday, Jun 5-8: Loft Mountain Camping, Shenandoah NP, VA (*camping easy; hikes rated strenuous*) Car camp at Loft Mountain Campground. Featured hikes are the



Austin Mt/Furnace Mt loop (12.6 miles) and the Rocky Mount Circuit (9.8 miles). Both hikes are strenuous. Join us for one or both. Register with leader in advance. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Jun 14:

Kayaking and Day at the Beach at Hammerman State Park (*rated easy*)

Kayak where the Gunpowder River and Dundee Creek empty into the Chesapeake Bay. Explore the marshes and shoreline and look for wildlife in the air, in the water, and along the shores. Meet at 10 AM on the beach at the Hammerman Area of Gunpowder State Park. The park is on Ebenezer Rd. reached from the Whitmarsh Blvd. east exit off I-95. Bring your own or rent a kayak from Ultimate Watersports. All participants must wear a PFD while on the water. There is an admission fee to the park. Stay afterwards or join us later for a picnic lunch and day at this sandy beach, which has picnic tables, a bathhouse, playground, etc. Kayaking is weather-dependent—no threat of thunderstorms and no high waves in the Bay. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Saturday, Jun 14:

Great North Mountain near Wardensville, West Virginia (*rated strenuous*)

This 17-mile circuit hike with 4,000 feet of elevation gain will start at Waite's Run in GWNF and proceed up the Pond Run Trail to the Tuscarora Trail, completing the circuit through Vance Cove. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center off route 66 on route 123 just outside Vienna, Virginia in at 7:30 AM. Alternative meeting place in Howard County possible (contact leader). Moderate pace with stops for flora and fungi of interest. Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. **Leader:** William Needham (MW) 410-884-9127, Needham82@aol.com

Outings (More June and beyond)

Saturday – Monday, Jun 14-16: Chuck Keiper Trail Backpack, PA

(rated strenuous) Hefty 32 mile backpack in Sproul State Forest. Approximately 10 miles/day through beautiful stream valleys and across highland plateaus. Register with leader in advance. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Wednesday, Jun 18:

FFA Evening Hike at Prettyboy

Reservoir (rated easy) Older children and dogs are welcome to hike 2 miles along the shoreline and through forests around Prettyboy Reservoir along the old Prettyboy Trail, newly re-discovered and maintained by the GB Sierra Club in collaboration with the Prettyboy Watershed Alliance and the Mountain Club of Maryland. Enjoy the pristine water and wildlife (maybe a beaver) along this isolated trail. Meet at 6:30 PM at the Mt Carmel Rd.Park and Ride just west off I-83 north of the Baltimore Beltway. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

Sunday, Jul 6:

Gunpowder River Tube Trip (rated moderate) Bring a tube or rent one at the Monkton Station. Meet at the Monkton Station at 1:00 p.m. **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

Saturday – Monday, Jul 12-14:

Dolly Sods Backpack,WV (rated moderate) Challenging 26+ mile backpack through Dolly Sods North and Wilderness Area in Monongahela National Forest. This wild area looks more like the Canadian Shield than a typical area forest. We will explore some seldom visited trails on the first day. Challenging stream crossings might require a change of footwear.

Register with leader in advance.

Leader: Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Thursday to Sunday, Jul 17-20:

Camping at Spruce Knob Lake,WV (rated easy) Camp in Monongahela NF by a remote mountain lake near the highest point in West Virginia. Enjoy hiking, paddling, fishing, mountain



biking, or just relax in a lawn chair. Contact leaders for details. **Leaders:** Dan and Susan Soeder (AA) 410-969-9465, Djssoeder@yahoo.com

Thursday – Sunday, Jul 24-27:

Loyalsock Trail Backpack,World's End State Park, PA (rated moderate to strenuous) This is a 4 day, 2 part trip; do one or both parts. Part 1 is a 17 to 20 mile backpack on the Loyalsock Trail and Link Trail. We will either camp on the shores of a highland pond or along Loyalsock Creek. Second night, car camp at World's End. Part 2 will be an overnight backpack using the Loyalsock Trail and World's End Trail, of similar distance to the first part. Camp above a waterfall on Ketchum Creek. The next day, hike back and return home. Register with leader in advance. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP)

MWROP is an activity section of the Virginia chapter, with an extensive outings program run by leaders who live in and around the Washington, D.C. area. Please check their website (www.mwrop.org) for a calendar of activities, information and updates.

Mark your calendars:

The Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program, in cooperation with the Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia Chapters of

the Sierra Club, is in the process of making arrangements to host Sierra Club professional training staff from San Francisco for the advanced Outings Leader Training class (OLT201) in the Washington, D.C. area sometime in 2008. It will most likely be in the autumn. More details will be coming as a date and location are selected.

Fundraising Opportunity

The Maryland Chapter is looking for people with experience in fundraising and grant writing. If you are interested, please contact Betsy Johnson at 301-656-4948 or betsy_johnson@comcast.net



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



VOLUNTEER with US!

Sierra Club offers many different types of volunteer opportunities for anyone looking to become more involved in helping to protect the planet. By volunteering, you will be given the exciting opportunity to contribute to the betterment of our world and our future. So get active, meet new people, and have some fun!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Country _____
Home Phone (____) _____
Work Phone (____) _____
Fax (____) _____
Email _____

Please select the activities that interest you.

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

Please list your top three conservation issues:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Please send form to: Laurel Imlay
Maryland Chapter/Sierra Club
Room 101A
7338 Baltimore Ave.
College Park, MD 20740



Outings (BICO)

BICO Outings

Sierra Club Inner City Outings is a community outreach program providing opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world.

Baltimore Inner City Outings (BICO) was founded in 1999 with the goal of providing under-served Baltimore City youth with educational, enjoyable and safe outdoor experiences at no cost to them. Since start-up, BICO has conducted more than 290 outings, serving over 2,900 youngsters.

BICO provides environmental education and promotes respect for the outdoors, teamwork and leadership skills and a community service ethic.

For more information, or to volunteer with the BICO program, contact BICO Chair Bob Iacovazzi at bicobob3@copper.net, or visit our web site at <http://ico.sierraclub.org/baltimore/>

March 2008

15	Overnight	DHILL
24-26	Camping, Blackburn Cabin	DHH

April 2008

12	Earth Day program	CGCC
19 or 26	Earth Day clean-up	DHH
TBD	Garden Harvest organic farm & activity	FYC
TBA	Chesapeake Bay Foundation Cruise, (?)	DHILL

May 2008

3	Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival	CGCC
TBD	TBD	DHH
17	Hiking, Billy Goat Trail	DHILL

June 2008

14	Biking, Torrey Brown Trail, Sparks Nature Center visit	CGCC
TBD	Patuxent River Sojourn	DHH

Abbreviations:

CGCC: College Gardens Community Center
DHH: Digital Harbor High
FYC: Franciscan Youth Center
DHILL: Dickey Hill Elementary School

In Memoriam

The Maryland Chapter Remembers Dan Lynch



By Cliff Terry—Dan Lynch, who was active in the Greater Baltimore Group until moving to Massachusetts a few years ago, died January 5 at the age of 90.

Dan was the prime activist of the Greater Baltimore and Maryland Sierra Club population committees through

most of the 1990's. At every opportunity, he tabled for the Sierra Club and gave talks on population issues. He designed and built several novel devices to dramatize exponential growth visually or to ask and answer population questions in an engaging way.

Through the early 1990's Dan worked tirelessly in successful campaigns to preserve at least three large tracts of open space in Baltimore County: to preserve 200 acres known as the Merryman property as part of the County's Oregon Ridge Park rather than the site of 40 upscale houses, to prevent extensive development of recreation facilities at Black Marsh (on the Bay shore) when it became North Point State Park, and to preserve the Cromwell Valley (just north of Baltimore) as a County park rather than a housing development.

Dan was a warm and giving friend to many and one of the most scrupulously ethical people I've known.

There will be a memorial service June 14 at 2 PM at Stony Run Friends Meeting House, 5116 N. Charles St. in Baltimore, and all his friends are welcome.

Dan's family has asked that, in lieu of cards or flowers, his friends "choose a way to make the world a better place—conserve, recycle, walk, care for one another." That's just what Dan would have asked.

Credits

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

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

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

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

Advertising: For display and classified advertising rates and information, contact:
Editor, The Chesapeake
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
7338 Baltimore Ave, Suite 101
College Park, MD 20740

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

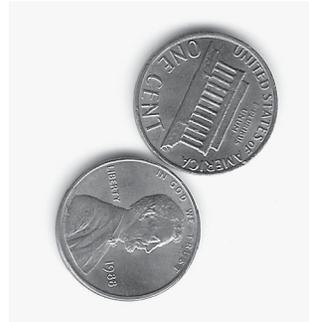
Writers and Contributors: Bob Boxwell, Alana Wase, Charlene Church, Ron Henry, Jim Long, Rich Reis, Mark Diehl, Chris Yoder, Cliff Terry, Samuel Hopkins, David Prosten, Gregor Becker, Mary Corddry, Ken Clark, David Hauck, Chip Reilly, Joan Willey, David Sears, Marc Imlay, Dan Soeder

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Outings Editor: Dan Soeder

Layout and Typography: Darla Tewell

Your Two Cents



Want to comment on something you've read in *Chesapeake*?

Send your comments by email to editorch@maryland.sierraclub.org with "For Chesapeake" in subject line. Please include your name, address, and phone number. We'll post comments on the Chapter website, <http://maryland.sierraclub.org>.

Material may be edited for length, content or clarity at the discretion of the editor.



Look what we have for you!

- The Assembly's Legislative Hot List
- Meet Ron Henry, Our New Chapter Chair
- Will Development Spoil the Mattawoman?
- Energy: Nukes, No; Offsets and RECs, Yes
- A Sign of the Times for Wildlands
- Bicycling in Maryland
- Outings, Events, and Volunteer Opportunities Aplenty

It's all inside.

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