

Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Spring 2009

Environmental Wins and Losses in Assembly Session Dominated by Budget Woes

By David O'Leary—This year's General Assembly session was once again a whirlwind of activity, dominated even more than usual by discussions of the state budget. Fortunately, environmental issues received some attention, and at least some elected leaders recognize that investing now to protect the environment will save money in the long run, and in many cases, create jobs. It is quite clear that we still have a lot of work to do in Annapolis in 2010 and beyond.

The chapter's two highest legislative priorities were to pass a bill setting a target for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the state, and to reverse the plans for funding for the Intercounty Connector (ICC). Both of these were multi-year efforts. We succeeded in the first effort, but not the second.

In both cases, we worked with other statewide organizations as part of the Citizens' Campaign for the Environment (CCE), an informal group for coordination of environmental lobbying efforts in Annapolis. Both of our top issues were among this year's four designated priorities for CCE, which also included working toward improved "smart growth" legislation and advocating for important environmental budget priorities.

Maryland Chapter Priority Legislation

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act (SB 278/HB 315), which was supported by Governor O'Malley and passed through both chambers, requires Maryland to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions 25% below 2006 levels by 2020. It does not take the state as far as the 2008 failed proposal, but still adds Maryland to

the list of only a handful of states that have passed a strong global warming bill. Through negotiations dur-



State House Dome, Annapolis. Photo by Fred Sypher.

ing the fall of 2008, coordinated by the Maryland Department of the Environment and supported by legislators such as Delegate Brian McHale of Baltimore, many changes were included in this year's bill that brought labor and manufacturers together with the environmental community to support the bill.

The next step is to watch and participate in the ongoing development of the state's specific plan for emissions reductions between now and the due date of 2012. In some sectors, it should be relatively easy to achieve reductions, especially since laws passed in previous years have set us on the right track. Examples include electricity generation, which is covered by the Healthy Air Act. We have an especially good opportunity to reduce emissions through energy efficiency in our homes and other buildings. It will be more difficult to achieve substantial, lasting reductions in other areas like transportation. Since the new Maryland law includes a "sunset clause" requiring the General Assembly to re-visit and re-approve the state's goal and plan in 2016, it is very important that we work toward a clear plan for Maryland, and also for passage of a strong federal global warming law. The conversations about a federal level bill are already well underway. Watch for separate information about how you can help throughout this year.

Removing the funding for the Intercounty Connector, a proposed highway cutting across more than 18 miles of Montgomery and northern Prince George's County, was another of the priority efforts by the Sierra Club and CCE. To achieve this goal, HB 27 was sponsored by Delegate Barbara Frush from Prince George's County and SB 753 was sponsored Senator E.J. Pipken in the Senate. Hearings were held in both the House Appropriations Committee and in the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee after many lobbying visits with the relevant sub-committee and committee members. A lobby night with dozens of Marylanders from across

(continued on page 3)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



spring/summer contents

- 2 Letter from the Chair
- 5 Omnibus Wilderness Bill Signed into Law
- 5 Utah's Red Rock Canyon
- 6 "Waste Not" Expo in Central Maryland
- 7 Green Jobs Conference Promotes Recycling
- 8 Creating Healthy People and Healthy Environments: The Connection Between Hunger and Habitat
- 9 Loss
- 11 I Remember
- 12 The Sierra Club's Climate Recovery Agenda
- 12 Excom Election
- 13 Group News Roundup
- 16 Maryland Chapter Leaders
- 17 Stewardship Outings
- 21 Camping Tech
- 22 Outings Policy
- 22 Outings
- 26 BICO Outings
- 26 ISO: Managing Editor
- 27 It's Back! The Jamboree!

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

Letter From the Chair



Ron Henry, Chapter Chair

Hello All,

Can you believe it? The 2009 Maryland General Assembly is now past tense. And what a challenging session it was for all. Not only did our delegates and senators have to deal with the usual batches of bills of every conceivable nature, but this year 2009 was driven both explicitly and implicitly by the severe impacts of our national economic turmoil.

I must express disappointment in the administration and the General Assembly for not taking the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity during this severe economic downturn to use sound fiscal judgment and make the all-too-obvious decision to defund the ICC. At the same time, I must give credit to the greatly increased numbers of delegates and senators who sponsored or co-sponsored and voted to support the respective house and senate bills to defund the ICC. Thanks for listening to the facts concerning the environmental and fiscal issues. And thanks for standing up to bat to defund the ill-conceived, environmentally and fiscally contraindicated ICC; your support was noteworthy and most appreciated!

Many thanks are due all of those who participated

in the legislative process this year – your efforts were greatly appreciated and we hope you'll join us in our efforts next session. Your effectiveness was realized by the change noted above with respect to many attitude changes concerning the ICC. A complete legislative wrap-up is provided in another article of this newsletter.

Now that we have a much needed breather from the General Assembly hectic pace, it is time to focus our efforts on our goals for the remainder of 2009. We will be moving forward with a continuing emphasis on the Cool City/Cool County campaigns through workshops planned for both high density and low density population areas. Harford County Sierrans—I'm calling upon you all to step up and become involved with this worthy campaign—details will be forthcoming. We are also working with Ms. Shari Wilson, MDE, on setting up meetings in several state areas (Harford County is one being considered) to have local citizen input on conservation and environmental matters – details to follow. Please check our chapter website for our planned activities and contact us with your ideas.

And please note this on your calendars – the biannual MD Chapter Sierra Club Jamboree is scheduled for the weekend of October 2-4 at Camp Barrett, Crownsville, MD. Plan to attend – watch for details. Have a great spring and summer! ■

Dear Maryland Chapter Sierra Club Member,

If you've already sent your donation to support the Maryland Chapter and your local Sierra Club group, please accept a boisterous "THANK YOU!" from the hardworking chapter leaders – volunteers who have also pledged to match your financial donations one-for-one.

If you haven't, SET THAT ENVELOPE FREE FROM BENEATH THAT STACK OF MAIL AND CONSIDER DOING SO!

We know you get lots of messages like this - but not from people who are working right in your back yard, on state and county regulations and local parks that benefit you and your neighbors directly.

So please, pull that envelope back out...

or if somehow you've lost it then you can still go to our website at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/action/p0091.asp> and donate to our spring state fundraiser.

And thank you!

Ron Henry,
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter Chair

PS. We know that in this busy world not everyone can give the time that our volunteers do, but you can support them in a very important way with your donation. Please give generously.

2009 Legislative Session Brings Success

(continued from page 1)

the state was held the week of the bill hearings. Although we recognized that this was an uphill battle, we thought there might be a window of opportunity, given the state's challenging budget situation. Unfortunately, the bill was voted down in the House Appropriations Committee, and no vote was held in the Senate committee. In addition to the bill sponsors, we received great support from Delegate Pena-Melnyk (District 21) and Delegate Mizeur (District 20) who helped us by requesting documents from the less-than-cooperative Maryland Department of Transportation, and negotiating the legislative process. Unfortunately, no champions for the bill emerged within the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

although Senator Pipken and his staff were very supportive. We also advocated for cutting funds for the ICC through the budget process, which could have slowed but not stopped the construction. Some funding for the road was shifted further into the future, but it does not appear that the construction, or destruction, is slowing at all.

Greg Smith and Suchitra Balachandran spent countless hours throughout over the past few years conducting research and in meetings with residents and elected officials from across the areas directly impacted by the ICC and other parts of Maryland. They deserve our thanks.

Other Legislation and Budget Items

In addition to our two priority bills, many other discussions across the breadth of the chapter's various conservation initiatives took place in Annapolis this session, as part of both the regular legislative process and the budget process.

Some of the issues of interest to the Sierra Club and our members which inspired legislative proposals included protection of natural places; continuing the transition to a clean-energy economy; improving land-use practices; reducing waste and toxic materials; environmental justice; and green jobs.

The General Assembly approved an operating budget of \$13.8 billion. Most of the environmental programs retained some funding, but none survived without some cuts. We should continue to be concerned about the state agencies which continue to face budget cuts when they are already struggling to implement and enforce existing laws.

Protecting Natural Places

Senator Pinsky and Delegate Bobo successfully introduced a "No Net Loss of Forests" bill (SB 666/ HB 1291), in an attempt to maintain the amount of for-

est cover in Maryland. Although there are a few notable loopholes, this new law should make a big difference in our efforts to protect the forests that help clean our air and water. The "Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009 (HB 771/ SB 549) was proposed to address private forest management plans and a wide variety of other forest-related issues. Because it was a real mixed bag and unlikely to be strengthened enough to provide across-the-board benefits, the chapter did not take a position on this bill, which passed with many amendments. Both of these new laws require additional action by the Department of Natural Resources for establishing detailed plans and regulations for their implementation, and we should remain involved to strive for effective protection of forests.

The Governor's proposed budget protected Program Open Space funding. Although the House budget also protected this important funding, some senators preferred other uses for this money. Many grassroots including the Sierra Club strongly objected, and most of the funding was preserved, but in the form of bonds to be used to buy land instead of cash. The program now depends on the recovery of the real estate market to repay these bonds and fund the program. For more information about Program Open Space, you can review the article in the previous issue of the Chesapeake.

Once again the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund was not fully funded. Each of the components of this important program received some money in the 2010 budget, but moving forward we will need to raise visibility of the shortfalls so the underfunding does not remain a habit.

Speaking of the Chesapeake Bay and water quality, several bills dealing with septic systems were introduced. One of the bills that passed, SB 554 / HB 176, sponsored by Senator Lenett, requires advanced nitrogen-removal technology for new and replacement septic systems

built in Maryland's Critical Areas. This is likely one of the strongest septic bills in the country.

As stormwater runoff is increasingly recognized as one of the most important sources of water pollution, regulations were instituted in recent years to manage it. However, local jurisdictions do not have funds to effectively implement the regulations. A proposal by Senator Raskin (SB 672/ HB 1457) would have required each county to establish a "stormwater utility" to assess fees on commercial and residential property to pay for retrofits of streets and communities to manage stormwater runoff. The stormwater utility approach is used in Montgomery County and in many other places around the country to provide this important funding course. Sierra Club actively lobbied on behalf of this bill along with several local watershed groups. Unfortunately, this bill was killed in the Senate in a close vote.

Global Warming and Clean Energy

In addition to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act described earlier in this article, several other issues related to global warming and clean energy were considered.

A bill sponsored by Senator Frosh, SB 625, requires counties to strengthen building codes to reflect recent best practices. This bill, which the chapter lobbied for, also passed after a few weakening amendments. Buildings, a major source of greenhouse gas emissions both during construction and ongoing use, will be required to be more energy efficient. It was great to achieve another success which helps to set the stage for federal legislation in this area.

Electricity market re-regulation was a major topic which received attention during the session. One proposal was introduced by multiple legislators, and an administration alternative was proposed.

(continued on page 4)

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



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

State Legislation

2009 Legislative Session Brings Success

(continued from page 3)

The chapter did not take a position on these bills, since both of the initial proposals and the proposal which emerged had both negative and positive components. This issue will likely continue to attract attention in the future.

A disappointment in the budget area was the two-year diversion of \$70 million in energy efficiency program funds from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund. This is money that come from Maryland's participation in Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) allowance auctions, with a specific designation for particular energy-efficiency programs. The Governor's budget proposal accurately anticipated stimulus funding from the federal government to use for the designated programs, so the programs weren't cut. However, the federal stimulus funding is only for one year, and the state funding diversion is for two years. In 2010, we will need to work again toward restoring this program to its designated levels.

Land Use and Transportation

Smart growth, or the lack of it, is an ongoing challenge in our state.

Beginning in the summer of 2008, the Maryland Chapter participated in meetings with representatives of a wide variety of groups from across the state, discussing how to improve our laws dealing with planning and growth. The conversations revolved around issues of effectiveness, fairness, and accountability. In addition to environmental organizations, the meetings included representatives of housing equity groups, economic development organizations, transit supporters, and many others. A multifaceted proposal was developed with various components addressing aspects of "Smart and Fair Growth," including not only environmental measures, but also metrics for job-housing balance, transportation, and others. Parallel to this process, the Maryland Department of Planning

(MDP) was conducting "listening sessions" throughout the state to gather opinions of residents regarding issues of planning and growth. As the General Assembly session began, Governor O'Malley introduced a series of bills based on the listening sessions and other work conducted by MDP in conjunction with various stakeholders.

Those of us who were also discussing Smart and Fair Growth felt that the Governor's proposals, while valuable, did not provide a means for accountability. So Senator Harrington and Delegate Lafferty were recruited to sponsor additional legislation to more completely address our recommendations.

The Governor's bills included an update of the state's "Visions" for planning; a bill to measure progress toward achieving the visions (using a series of "indicators"); a bill to close a loophole which allowed Allegheny County to permit a sprawling "dumb growth" development called Terrapin Run without inclusion in the county master plan; and a Historic Tax Credit bill. After many meetings and very long hearings with lots of testimony, the Harrington/ Lafferty bill died, but the Governor's bills all passed.

We anticipate a multi-year process to achieve more accountability in Maryland's planning and growth laws, but we hoped to make more than incremental progress this year. Unfortunately, many county governments continue to insist that they are effectively managing growth, despite ongoing loss of forests and farmland, a dying Chesapeake Bay,

and longer commutes and decreasing quality of life for Maryland's families.

Reduction of Waste and Toxics

A variety of bills to deal with waste reduction and handling and reducing toxic chemicals from the environment were introduced.

Bills were passed to increase recycling for a variety of materials in state facilities and to require counties to include public schools in their recycling plans. These are positive but small steps forward.

The third time was the charm for a



bill once again sponsored by Delegate Hucker, which requires removal of mercury switches from older vehicles which are being scrapped. This bill, HB 1263, provides training

and compensation for automobile recyclers to remove these switches and reduce the likelihood of the mercury escaping into the environment.

The Maryland Organic Farming Pilot Program (SB 516/ HB 449), which passed, creates a pilot program using federal funds to encourage farmers to transition toward organic farming practices.

Unfortunately, two other bills that would help to remove toxics from the home, specifically Deca, a type of polybrominated diethyl ether added to plastic as a flame retardant, and bisphenol-A (BPA), a plastic conditioner commonly used in baby bottles, did not pass out of the Senate committees. Both passed on the House floor. HB 1156, which would have allowed Baltimore residents who suffered from the effects of lead poisoning to hold the manufacturers accountable,

also did not pass.

Environmental Justice and Green Jobs

In addition to his work on legislation for smart and fair growth, Senator Harrington, along with Delegates Neimann and Ivey, sponsored a series of bills to provide additional protection for communities threatened by construction or expansion of dangerous or polluting facilities. The chapter testified in favor of all three bills, but unfortunately, only the bill that requires broader notification of residents when one of these facilities is proposed passed. This new notification requirement is a big step forward, but it doesn't go far enough to protect communities. Another bill requiring notification of local governments of applications for sewage sludge permits also passed.

"Green Jobs" are a hot topic as we seek a path toward both economic and environmental recovery. A bill titled "Green Jobs / Welfare to Work: SB 992/ HB 268" was passed to provide a mechanism to help people on welfare to get a job in the emerging economy based on environmental recovery and restoration.

Improving Government

A compromise standing bill, titled "Standing - Miscellaneous Environmental Protection Proceedings and Judicial Review" (SB 1065/ HB 1569) passed overwhelmingly in both the House and Senate after extensive negotiation among a variety of stakeholders. *Standing* is the legal term for the rules that govern access to the court system. In order to file a lawsuit, you must show that your case fits within these rules, which vary from state to state. Prior to this legislative session, Maryland had a very restrictive view of standing, which prohibited associations like the Sierra Club and, in many cases, individuals, from challenging violations of environmental laws. This new law allows citizens and associations to challenge

(continued on page 5)

State Legislation

2009 Legislative Session Brings Success

(continued from page 4)

certain environmental permits (especially in the designated Critical Areas along the shore), provided that they meet the federal test for standing and were involved in the public participation process. This welcome expansion will allow increased enforcement of Maryland's environmental laws.

A high profile campaign finance reform bill was introduced again this session by Senator Pinsky. A carefully crafted agreement unfortunately unraveled on the Senate floor, so this important government reform bill failed once again. Thanks to Cliff Terry for his ongoing work as issue chair for campaign finance reform.

Planning for 2010

The chapter took important steps toward establishing a Legislative Committee over the past year. I personally learned a lot, had opportunities to meet many elected officials and staff members, and gained an more detailed understanding of the process, in addition to finding many places to park throughout Annapolis.

Thanks are due to many individuals who provide important insights and

ideas, including Jan Graham, who served as the Maryland Chapter Legislative Chair for several years. Alana and Laurel, the chapter staff, and our legislative intern, Kristen Warn, who made phone calls and copied legislation, wrote and sent alerts, arranged for meeting with legislators, and countless other tasks.

Also critical to our effectiveness was the support of various issue chairs who reviewed bill language, suggested amendments, wrote testimony, and provided guidance on whether the chapter should support various bills. In addition to those already mentioned above, Erin Barnes contributed throughout the session, including writing text for this article.

Special thanks is due to all those to visited Annapolis, wrote letters or email to your delegates and senators, and made phone calls to legislators or participated in phone banking to generate even more calls. It really made a difference in passing important bills and protecting important environmental priorities.

As we begin the cycle again of planning for the 2010 General Assembly session, assistance is needed in many areas. It is important for us to align our state legislative efforts with chapter and national conservation priorities. We need to be more proactive in developing relationships with delegates and senators and their staff members over the coming months when there is less time pressure. Meeting with elected officials can be instructive and fun. There are plenty of opportunities for people to get involved in the process of reviewing proposals and bills. Expertise on a particular issue is helpful, but the only requirement is some time and enthusiasm. If you would like to find out about how you can help with these efforts throughout the year or during the next session, please contact Alana Wase in the chapter office on 301-277-7111. ■

David O'Leary serves as Conservation Chair for the Maryland Chapter.

Federal Legislation

Omnibus Wilderness Bill Signed into Law

By Chris Yoder—On March 30, 2009, President Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act. The most important public lands bill in decades, it cleared its final hurdle in March when the U.S. House of Representatives passed it. Both Maryland Senators supported the bill, as did all but one of our Congressmembers in the House of Representatives. Roscoe Bartlett was the only Maryland member of Congress who voted not to safeguard millions of acres of new wilderness, protect hundreds of miles of rivers, expand trails, and shelter over a million acres of key rangeland hunting and fishing grounds from oil and gas drilling.

The new Omnibus Wilderness Bill

protects more than two million acres of wilderness in nine states, including the Sierra Nevada mountains of California, Oregon's Mt. Hood, and Sequoia, Kings Canyon and Rocky Mountain National Parks. In our neck of the woods, it protects the Wild Monongahela Wilderness in West Virginia and the Virginia Ridge and Valley Wilderness.

Further, the Omnibus Bill adds permanence to the 26-million-acre National Landscape Conservation System, protects hundreds of miles of free-flowing rivers in six states, and designates numerous new National Scenic Trails, Natural Historic Sites, and National Heritage Areas across the United States. ■

Utah's Red Rock Canyon Wilderness

By Chris Yoder—We can celebrate the Omnibus Bill's protection of critical habitat, archaeological treasures, and natural values in Utah's Washington County, but that county is only one small corner of the most important, most fragile, and most threatened wilderness quality lands remaining in the lower 48. Millions of acres of Utah's red rock canyonlands and basin and range plateaus remain vulnerable to ORV (off-road vehicle) vandalism, and to the blind rush to seek the last drop of oil or sniff of gas, without regard to the damage done to the irreplaceable environment that will be our generation's legacy to the generations to come.

There is a compromise solution that would honor our stewardship obligation to the future while satisfying the demands of the present. America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, introduced in the House by Rep. Hinchey of New York and in the Senate by Senator Durbin of Illinois, would protect 9.5 million acres of wilderness quality land. The federal government assessed the lands that would be protected as having technologically recoverable oil to satisfy only four days of our

nation's thirst for fuel and fewer than 4 weeks of natural gas consumption. ORV users would still have access to 91% of ORV routes the Bush Administration tried to impose on wilderness quality lands, while the slowly eroding archaeological treasures marking the lives of the ancient and now lost civilizations of the desert southwest would enjoy increased protection.

What you can do: As of this writing, only Senator Cardin and Rep. Elijah Cummings are cosponsors of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. You can contact your representatives and thank them for supporting the Omnibus Public Lands Act (HR 146) and, at the same time, let them know that the job is not finished. Tell them how important it is to you that America protect the fragile, unique, and irreplaceable natural lands of the Red Rock Canyon country of Utah. Ask them to contact Rep. Hinchey or Senator Durbin to find out for themselves why these lands need protection. ■

Chris Yoder serves as Conservation Co-Chair for the Maryland Chapter.

Save the date!

Maryland Chapter
JAMBOREE

October 2-4

Camp Barrett,
Crownsville, MD

See page 23 for details.

Waste and Recycling

“Waste Not” Expo Encourages Reduction of Waste in Central Maryland



Above: Lew Sherm, left, and Ken Eidel at the Catoctin Group's Waste Not Expo.
Below, left: An introduction to pre-cycling, the practice of reducing waste by attempting to avoid the use of items which will generate waste.
Below, right: Andy Galli promotes waste reduction over waste incineration.



The Frederick County Commissioners, so bent on constructing an incinerator for the county's trash, have put the construction bids on hold. On Saturday, March 28, the Catoctin group cosponsored a terrific Waste Not Expo, aimed at “zero waste.” The exposition was held at Frederick High School in Frederick, MD. Over 300 people came to learn how communities across the country are increasing recycling, and choosing alternatives to landfills and incinerators. From 9:30 A.M. until 2:00 P.M., there were speakers, booths, kids' activities, and music.

The group held this event because Frederick county was considering building an incinerator to burn the county's trash. Such an incinerator would have been detrimental to the county fiscally, costing \$527 million, and environmentally, discouraging county residents from recycling, and polluting the air with toxins. Fly ash is emitted by incinerators; it should be captured and treated as toxic waste, not mixed with less toxic ash to dilute it.

The Frederick County Commissioners had asked Carroll County to “buy

into” building the incinerator, and had pushed forward despite fairly strong opposition to the incinerator. Hearings were held on the proposed incinerator on February 17 and February 19. The hearings concerned two proposed incinerator sites: one, an Alcoa industrial site, and the other, near the Monocacy Battlefield. But, for now, the location of the proposed incinerator just might be moot. The Expo and other efforts to educate the public about incinerators paid off; thanks to all the activists who worked on this issue.

Waste is a growing issue in our region. The permit for a waste incinerator in Baltimore was not renewed, and it has been operating, spewing waste without a permit, for a year. The Maryland Department of the Environment is suing. The Dickerson incinerator in Montgomery County should never have been constructed. It is lowering recycling rates and has maintenance issues. An incinerator is a 50-year commitment and goes in the wrong direction for achieving proper waste disposal, curtailing global warming emissions, and creating “green jobs” to help our economy. ■



Waste and Recycling

Green Jobs Conference Promotes Recycling

by Laurel Imlay—This year's "Green Jobs" Conference was held in Washington DC in January. Getting labor and environmentalists to the same event was a cool start to make necessary alliances in our goal to save the planet. Connecting, communicating, supporting, and learning about each other is our best hope to build people power in support of green jobs. One of the most exciting of the many workshops I attended was the one on trash the last morning. Just outside the main gathering room as people left to go to workshops, an enthusiastic person, later identified as Matteo Colombi of the Teamsters, waved at the exiting crowd to try to get us to come to a workshop entitled "Recycling: An Immediate Opportunity to Lower Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Create Sustainable Union Jobs." Intrigued, I detoured from the path to the transmission lines workshop. Who knew there was so much potential environmental good in trash?

Recycling efforts peaked in 1998, according to Peter Anderson, of Competitivewaste.org. To reinvigorate the commitment to recycling, we need a national effort with the target of "zero" waste. We have to stop burying organic compostable materials like cardboard and food scraps in landfills.

Why is it so important and how can we do it?

One-half to two-thirds of waste is organic and, when buried, can create methane (CH₄), a greenhouse gas with a shorter half life than carbon dioxide (CO₂), but 25 times more damaging to the global climate. The waste companies might tell us that methane can be captured from landfills for co-generation of energy, but to do that they have to open the landfills a bit to let in water to get methane, and so the majority of it escapes.

If the 10-year tipping point for global warming is 2019, we need to act now. And it'll create jobs!

Kevin Drew, Zero Waste & Residen-

tial and Special Projects Coordinator with the Department of Environment in San Francisco, spent 30 years in labor, plus 20 years in environmental work. San Francisco recycles 70% of its waste, thus diverting it from the landfill, and realizing side benefits like reducing the number of rats and injuries to workers. The composting facility makes rich compost for golf and vineyards, reducing their need for water, and producing healthier crops earlier. Food waste-to-energy at the sewage treatment plant uses 200 tons of the wettest garbage in digesters for methane. 30% of energy use is reduced through garbage recycling and composting, producing energy and green jobs.

They planned for good green jobs. Teamsters represent the workers at Norcal Waste Systems, Inc., which offers good jobs with benefits.

In recycling, sorting is the hardest job. Nationally these jobs tend to be minimum wage jobs with no health insurance, sick days, or other benefits. Yet Norcal is profitable. The city donated land and required Norcal to hire from low income communities and have job development. San Franciscans pay \$24/month for one pickup per week.

How have they done it?

- ♦ They set policy goals of 75% diversion of trash from landfills by 2010 and 0% waste to landfills by 2020. They have infrastructure now for 85%.

- ♦ They formed a partnership between the city of San Francisco, Norcal, a private trash company, and Local 350, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

- ♦ They created an outreach effort to overcome the challenges they faced with apartment dwellers and managers

- ♦ They converted a voluntary program into one legally mandated, including a food service ware ordinance for compostable takeaway containers, a plastic bag ordinance, mandatory recycling and composting for all sectors.

- ♦ They distributed color-coded bins so households can separate their waste: blue for glass or cans, green for compostables like food and cardboard, and black for stuff for the landfill.

Drew advises people interested in creating a similar waste reduction plan to be open to change, be willing to modify plans as you go, and be on board to pass bills.

Recycling is profitable

According to Neal Seldman, of the Institute for Local Self Reliance (ILSR, www.ilsr.org), recycling creates jobs, saves energy and resources, and is profitable. Trash is a \$50-70 billion/year industry. Recycling creates ten times the number of jobs as land-filling. Dumping 10,000 tons of computers in a landfill, for example, creates one job, while recycling 10,000 tons of computers creates 293 jobs. Deconstruction of buildings not only saves resources but gives workers good training.

What are key elements to make this happen? Federally we need a national goal of 75% recycling by 2015. Stimulus money should be used to green the waste stream. Shovel-ready doesn't necessarily mean green, but every city is shovel ready for composting! We need certificate and degree programs for waste management.

Waste separation is key. Organic and demolition waste is 60% of the waste, 500 million tons/year, while 12 billion tons is associated with mining and agriculture. Who pays for the negative environmental consequences? We should tax waste, and end subsidies for landfills and incinerators.

Labor has an interest and can help. 30,000 non-union workers are in the waste industry in dangerous jobs, driving big trucks, lifting heavy loads, handling toxics that are unsafe for communities. Unions can give information about the industry. Workers can be ambassadors and watchdogs for the communities.

Business interests in landfills, e.g., mega-landfill companies, haulers, and virgin materials industries often oppose recycling. Waste Management Corporation sends 2% to recycling and 60% of waste to disposals. Wall Street opposes recycling because there are no big bonds associated with construction. Right-wing pundits say mandatory recycling is a communist plot. But really, recycling is citizen power.

What do we need to do?

We need a revolution at the local level, with citizen power in local decision-making! Garbage should be dealt with within 50-70 miles of its origin. Local public officials need to demand that state and federal lawmakers pass legislation to encourage local towns and cities to do it right.

You can increase recycling in your school, building, or town; compost in your own yard or town. *Bio-cycle* magazine gives composting how-to info at www.jgpress.com.

Learn more about recycling. Read "Stop Trashing the Climate" by Brenda Platt at Institute for Local Self Reliance <http://www.ilsr.org>. Watch "Exporting Harm" a 10-minute film at www.ban.org.

Contact the office of the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club at maryland.chapter@sierraclub.org or 301-277-7111 to join the chapter's Zero Waste campaign, www.sierraclub.org/committees/zerowaste.

Check out the Catocin Group's recent Waste Not event to educate people about alternatives to a \$500+million incinerator at www.wastenotfrederick.org. The website for the conference which has speakers and some of the workshops that were presented at the Waste Not Expo is www.greenjobsconference.org.

Spread the word . . . ■

Laurel Imlay is the Chapter Coordinator for the Maryland Chapter.

Food and Sustainability

Creating Healthy People and Healthy Environments: The Connection Between Hunger and Habitat



By Jody Tick—The premise of community food security is based on “a condition in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice” (Mike Hamm and Anne Bellows). It’s this concept of sustainability—economic, social and environmental—that drives the Capital Area Food Bank’s Harvest for Health program. In this day and age of growing awareness of where food comes from and how it’s produced, Harvest for Health addresses social and environmental justice issues of our food and food system. Our programs operate on the tenet that in order to have a truly sustainable food system, it has to be affordable and accessible to all.

For many, the thought of a food bank brings to mind donations of non-perishable foods for food drives to help those in need. However, the public’s perceptions about who is hungry and why there is hunger may not reflect reality. A 2006 survey of Capital Area Food Bank agencies found that of metro area residents seeking emergency food assistance, one in four own their own home, and 50% report having to choose between buying food and paying for other living expenses. Though hunger still exists, the issue of low-income malnutrition pervades the communities we serve. The issue of malnutrition as it relates to poverty is due to lack of access to and avail-

ability of affordable healthy foods, especially fresh produce. This situation has created food insecure communities in many U.S. cities, but is especially glaring in Washington, D.C. DC Hunger Solutions’ 2006 Healthy Food, Healthy Communities report assessed Washington, DC grocery stores and found that there are only three major chain grocery stores for over 140,000 residents in Wards 7 and 8 compared with one major grocery store for every 11,881 residents in Wards 2 and 3.

We have become accustomed to a food supply that provides for an abundant and inexpensive source of food without understanding or paying for the “true” costs associated with producing food through an industrial agricultural system. These true costs are borne by the streams we pollute, the soil we degrade, and ultimately have ramifications for human health. Unfortunately, the industrial food system is promoted by federal policies that encourage and reward commodity production which ultimately translates into highly processed foods that are less than nutritionally optimal food. I would argue that this food system has disproportionately affected low income consumers and those in communities without access to healthy foods because these foods are readily available, inexpensive, and require little or no preparation.

As the demand for sustainably produced food continues to grow, society is slowly recognizing and understanding the link between how we treat the environment and our health. However, we need to go one step further and treat access to healthy food as a social justice issue. Until we can all take part in a food system that values the environment, health, and equity it will never be truly sustainable. Harvest for Health strives to meet our mission by facilitating access to affordable, high quality produce to low-income communities, educating about the link between diet, health and the en-

vironment and fostering the skills necessary for self reliance.

One way we do this is through From the Ground Up (FGU) at Clagett Farm in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. FGU at Clagett Farm is an innovative collaboration between the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Capital Area Food Bank to bring sustainably grown, fresh produce to Washington, D.C. metro area communities. Half of Clagett’s annual yield is sold through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project. The other half of Clagett’s produce is made accessible to low-income individuals through a variety of programs, including the donation of produce weekly to food bank member agencies and accepting Food Stamps for payment, among others.

FGU at Clagett Farm also has an educational component called the Farm Youth Initiative (FYI). Urban youth attend a nutrition class where they learn the importance of making healthy food choices. To learn how their actions can impact the environment, they gain valuable experience by growing and harvesting vegetables at Clagett Farm.

In addition, through FGU in the Community program, the Capital Area Food Bank is piloting a project in Anacostia to educate youth about nutrition and the social and environmental benefits of growing fresh produce through a fourteen-week hands-on urban gardening experience.

By reaching out to the low-income community and linking health, hunger, poverty, and environmental issues through education and access to affordable, nutritious, sustainably produced food, the Capital Area Food Bank is addressing hunger comprehensively. For more information about the Capital Area Food Bank and Harvest for Health, please visit www.CapitalAreaFoodBank.org. ■

Jody Tick is the Director of Harvest for Health at Capital Area Food Bank.



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:

Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter
7338 Baltimore Avenue, #101A
College Park, MD 20740

Loss

By Jim Long—I was recently asked to explain the importance of protecting the potato dandelion, a diminutive plant endangered in Maryland. Its moniker is unfortunate, for it conjures that bane of lawns, the common dandelion, a Eurasian invader that, like so many non-native species, has become a widespread weed. Our *Krigia dandelion*, on the other hand, is a native wildflower of open woods, prairie, or intermittently wet land. It tends to be uncommon on the coastal plain, where it lies in the path of the Cross County Connector extension, the controversial highway proposal that would traverse the watershed of Mattawoman Creek, one the healthiest tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay.

We can quickly dispense with guilt by association by asking “what’s in a name?” The *potato* in potato dandelion refers to fat tubers that sustain this state-rare perennial and uniquely bolster its propagation. *Dandelion* merely connects the aster-like bloom to the similar flower of the weedy lawn resident, so named for its toothy-edged leaf. Our native’s leaves are less toothy and devour no lawns. The genus *Krigia* should resonate with Marylanders, named as it is after David Krieg, one of the first collectors to specifically scour the state for plants in the late 17th century.

Hearing skepticism about the dandelion’s virtue recalled my own awakening to the losses we clumsy humans are inflicting on our world by elevating the extinction rate of plants and animals 100- to 1000-fold. As a scientist familiar with rate equations, I was stunned when I first learned of this estimate in E.O. Wilson’s seminal book *The Diversity of Life*.

The question touched personally when I assisted malacologists, zoologists who study mollusks, in a vain search of Mattawoman Creek for the federally endangered dwarf wedgemussel, a rare ani-

mal that lives in next-door Nanjemoy Creek. Freshwater mussels, inescapably confined to the narrow strings of water that thread our watersheds, epitomize the plight of the aquatic tribe. A deep and troubled seed is planted when one seeks what should be there but which is not.

What *are* the reasons to be concerned about species extinction?

The history of *Krigia dandelion* proves instructive. Its namesake, the man who collected it three centuries ago, was a physician at a time when physician and botanist were synonymous as doctors filled the apothecary with medicinal plants. Just as pharmaceutical companies do today!

Screening molds, fungi, and plants remains important in the fight against disease.

With our keen interest in our own health, self-interest alone should give pause

when confronting the loss of species worldwide. Consider the cancer-fighting drug Taxol, originally isolated from the Pacific yew, native to the Pacific Northwest. Never an especially common tree, the yew had been dismissed with chainsaws for years as an impediment to logging when Taxol was derived from its bark. Had not old-growth specimens survived—it takes a century before the compound infuses bark in quantity—perhaps we would have deprived ourselves of the yew’s gift.

Recent research finds that teaming

Taxol with another compound derived from marine sponges more than doubles effectiveness while reducing side effects. Reflect on this the next time you hear of the bleached bones of coral reefs and the myriad species they hosted.

The global-warming culprit carbon dioxide acidifies the sea just as it does a soft drink (a reason carbonated beverages are excised from the diet of ulcer patients). So reefs and their denizens, are lost to a climate-change double whammy: bathed in ocean waters too warm and too acidified.

An annoying conifer and an obscure sponge? Who knew? Therein lies an incisive lesson, aptly underlined by the eloquent logger-turned-preservationist, Aldo Leopold:

To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering.

Only a will-

ful ignorance would argue.

Take away the wolf, and the rainbow trout leaves.

Eradicate sea otters for lunging on abalone, and the abalone decline. Crush wildflowers while logging, and the honey creeper flies no more forever. Agrarian ancients who did not forage in supermarkets understood this lesson intuitively when recording the story of Noah who, after husbanding creation against great threat, returned all to the wild.

“All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds - everything that moves on the earth

- came out of the ark, one kind after another” (Genesis 8:19).

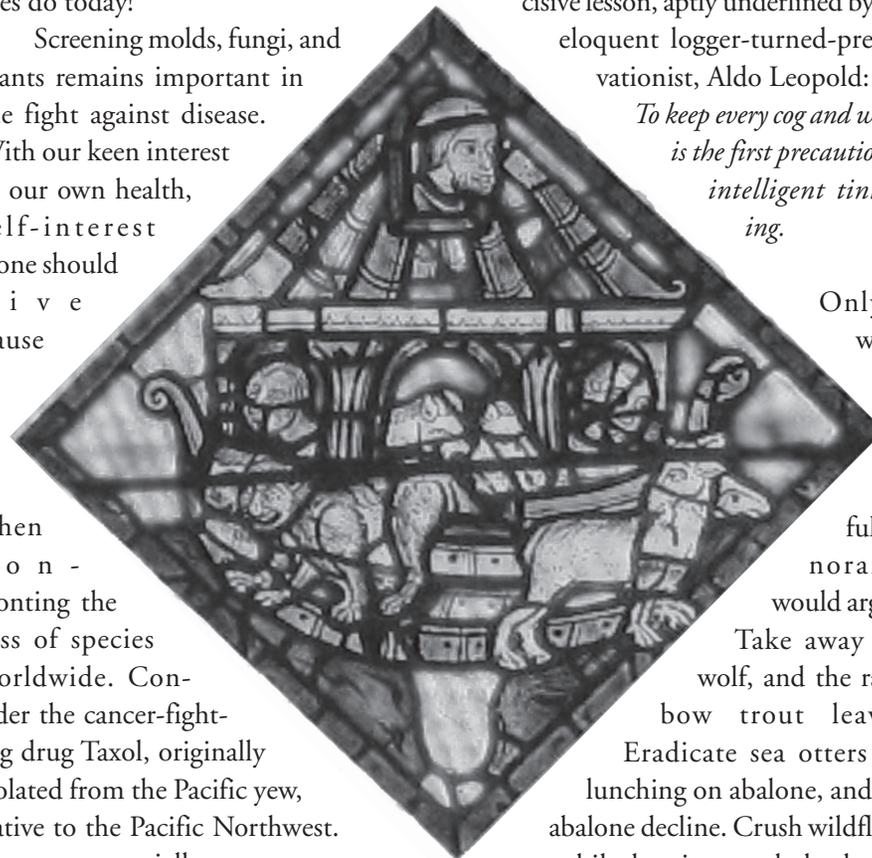
The complex themes in Noah’s story are celebrated in the stained glass of the medieval cathedral at Chartres, France, which takes pains to show the animals both entering and leaving the ark’s protection. Like a cathedral, but vastly more complex, is the edifice of life. Darwin gives a hint of the structure long before ecology was invented:

It is interesting to contemplate an entangled bank, clothed with many plants of many kinds, with birds singing on the bushes, with various insects flitting about, and with worms crawling through the damp earth, and to reflect that these elaborately constructed forms, so different from each other, and dependent on each other in so complex a manner, have all been produced by laws acting around us.

Habitat serves as cathedral foundation and flying buttress. The cogs and wheels that built and maintain the cathedral are the boggling interactions of birds, bushes, bugs, and worms that at any time serve as bricks, columns, and mortar. The grotesque gargoyle, by serving as rain-spout, keeps the place free of dampness, as the seemingly grotesque carrion beetle keeps the forest floor free of carcasses. The keystones that cap the arches keeping much of the soaring cathedral aloft are the wolves and otters. A wolf worries the elk, which no longer can loaf at the streamside browsing every cottonwood seedling in sight, which can now grow to shade the water, which, cooled, now invites the cold-water trout back to reside. The sea otter eats the sea urchin, checking a rampant population from grazing the kelp, which can now grow into a forest supporting hundreds more species, including the abalone.

By protecting an endangered species, we also protect habitat, a cornerstone in the cathedral that supports many more

(continued on page 10)



Species Diversity

Loss

(continued from page 9)

of the planet's inhabitants. Save the state-imperiled glade fern in Chapman Forest, and at once you have saved a rare habitat on the Potomac River's shore: a forest distinguished by soils rich with the calcium of ancient marine clays, a neutral refuge in the otherwise acidic coastal plain, harboring dozens more rare plants, snails, and we know not what.

Like a cathedral, the edifice of life inspires awe, rewarding with deep and mystic dimensions those who make the pilgrimage. Surely the authors of Genesis felt this when recording creation and Noah's salvation of it. It was Brahms who advised a fellow musician: "To improve...you must walk constantly in the forest." Our Hudson River School painters were seared by the loss of nature in the east, as the Bierstadts, Catlins, and Ansel Adams were inspired by the wildness of the west.

Today, artists increasingly find the path walked by artisans who fashioned animals in stained glass at Chartres. They report their findings to us along with the scholarly investigations that inform on the global loss of that which made us. The elegiac sculptures of the Lost Bird Project by Todd McGrain can haunt a species that vibrates at once with the instincts of hunter and cathedral builder.

Isabella Kirkland's painting *Gone*, a bouquet of extinct species elaborately composed after nature's elaborately composed web of life, tells more. Take the curvebill honey creeper perched among the bouquet's ghosts. Gone. Forever. It relied on lobelia wildflowers, cousins to the cardinal flowers that grace Mattawoman's banks. Honey creeper's curved beak was

perfectly matched to draw nectar only from lobelia's arcing tubular bloom. The demise of the wildflowers in Hawaiian lowland forests, crushed before the axe, plow, and introduced competitors, spelled catastrophe for honey creeper. No lobelia, no honey creeper. A memory, for a time, but a loss eternal.

Aldo Leopold tried to convey this sense of loss when describing the passenger pigeon, hunted to extinction in the 18th century:

They cannot drive out of a cloud, nor clap their wings in thunderous applause. They know no urge of seasons; they feel no kiss of sun, no lash of wind and weather, they live forever by not living at all.

Can a moral animal, possessed of the empathy that served our ancestors so well in tempering our more destructive impulses, hear these words and still condone such loss?



Gone, by Isabella Kirkland

The fossil record tells that the average life span of a species is several million

years. Our kind has pushed the extinction rate into overdrive and is responsible for the greatest mass extinction in hun-



Passenger Pigeons, by Todd McGrain

dreds of millions of years. The passenger pigeon lasted until the first world war. The carolina parakeet, until the year of my father's birth. The honey creeper, until I was fifteen. Presently, a species blinks into the void every twenty minutes, and the rate is accelerating. Extrapolate to future generations, and the implications are staggering.

The cogs and wheels of the planet's habitats and inhabitants perform a complex interactive calculus that we have little more hope of solving than did Noah. He wisely kept the pieces intact. More often than not, we do not know what will happen when we sentence a plant or animal to eternal extinction. If we take seriously our own self-laudatory Latin moniker, *sapiens*, meaning wise, perhaps we too should keep all the pieces intact.

The potato dandelion is in no danger of extinction. But it has been extirpated from Washington, D.C., and is be-

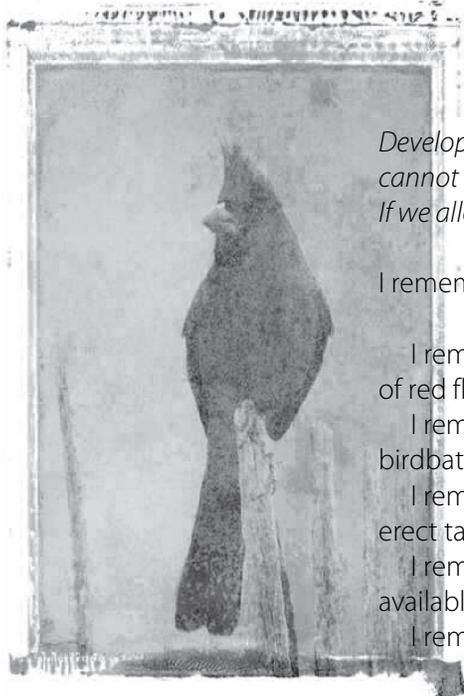
lieved to have met a similar fate in New Jersey. It is critically imperiled in Maryland. We don't know the ramifications of its loss. Some pollinating insect, relished by some warbler, relished by some raptor, may depend on it. Its plump roots might succor a soil organism of importance. But ignorance is no excuse in the eyes of the law, nor should it be before the laws of nature. We do know that Maryland harbors the wildflower's northernmost coastal-plain vanguard. Something in the genes of these particular plants enables survival at the edge. It is precisely this sort of variation that provides nature's insurance policy against environmental alteration. And with climate change, we are on the brink of an upheaval unprecedented in recorded history. If we savor a green planet for our grandchil-

dren, best to cherish, protect, and preserve what we ourselves have been bequeathed. We know that the continued winking out of our fellow inhabitants, even if unnoticed at first, will eventually leave an impoverished, inhospitable place for us to live. ■

To see a complete picture of the 13th century Noah window at Chartres Cathedral, go to www.sacred-destinations.com/francel/chartres-cathedral-64-noah-window.htm

*To see a color representation of Isabella Kirkland's beautiful *Gone*, and others in her "Taxa" series, go to her website at www.isabellakirkland.com/paintings/taxa.html*

To see a color photo of Todd McGrain's passenger pigeons, go to www.toddmcgrain.com and click on "outdoor installations."



I Remember

Development marches across increasingly scarce natural lands, endangering native birds and others who cannot adapt. In their place come alien species that thrive where humans do - such as crows and starlings. If we allow this to continue, then here is the story I fear we will tell to our disbelieving grandchildren:

I remember when birds were colorful, and sang songs.

I remember bright red cardinals, perched on bare tree branches like Christmas ornaments, sparks of red flame against glistening white snow.

I remember shy bluebirds the color of summer sky, creating cascades of rainbows splashing in the birdbath.

I remember tiny chestnut-brown wrens darting nervously onto the deck to grab a seed, their erect tail feathers flicking up and down like exclamation points.

I remember goldfinches gathering sociably on the tall, narrow thistle feeder, stacked on every available perch, a pearl necklace of sunshine.

I remember indigo buntings, flashing royal blue feathers in flight, bursting with grace and joy.

I remember when birds were colorful, and sang songs.

I remember awakening to the singing of birds greeting the dawn.

I remember the slow start of single chirps, of single calls, of single songs. The chorus of songsters grew as the sun appeared, becoming a full-throated chorus of delicate trills, complex songs and energetic chirping of birds announcing territories and inviting mates to join them.

I remember how the daily songs became more subdued as summer passed, but always they greeted the dawn.

I remember when birds were colorful, and sang songs.

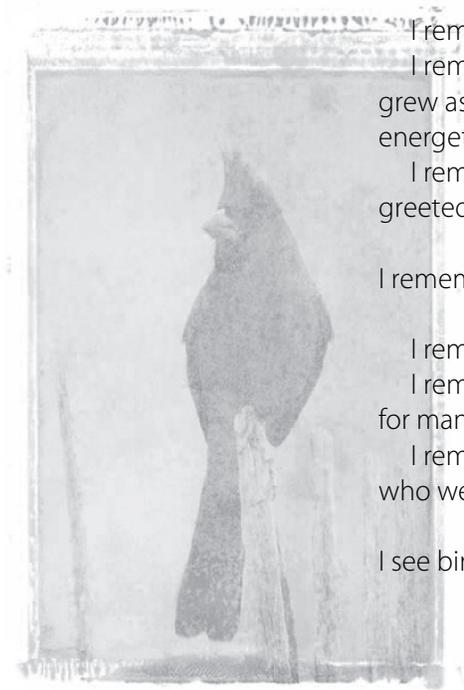
I remember how they died from our relentless destruction of lands once shared.

I remember single birds valiantly defending territories with song. But their songs were no match for mankind's bulldozers or the bullying gangs of blackbirds that followed close behind.

I remember those colors, those songs, now replaced by the harsh cawing and cackling of birds who wear the drab colors of mourning.

I see birds the color of mourning, and try to remember when birds were colorful, and sang songs.

—Morita Bruce



The Sierra Club's Climate Recovery Agenda

By Carl Pope—In 2008, Americans chose change. “New Energy for America” trumped “Drill, Baby, drill,” marking a major change across the country.

Now that the celebrations are done, we must roll up our sleeves and get to work. Barack Obama’s top priority is investment in clean energy and energy efficiency in order to jumpstart our economy, create green jobs and make us more secure – and the Sierra Club’s Climate Recovery Agenda closely follows that priority. Energy is now a national priority, and it’s clear that the steps we need to take to help our economy recovery will also help our climate recover.

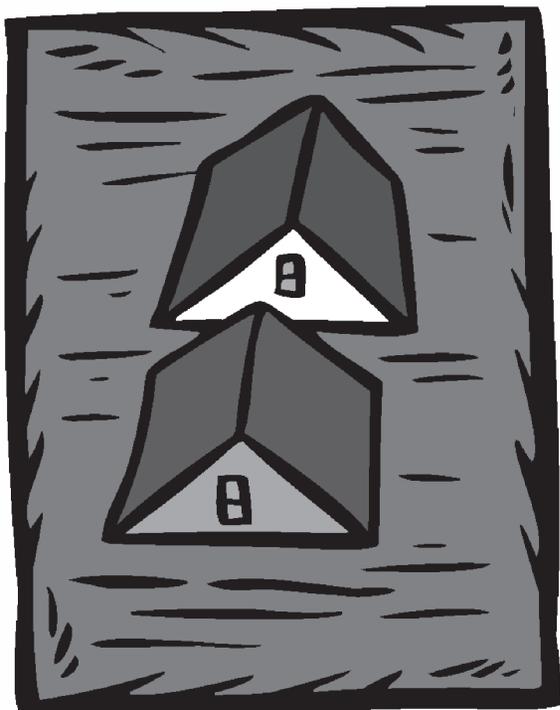
An Agenda to Rebuild America

Fixing our economy, transforming our energy future, slowing and ultimately reversing climate change and its consequences will require a clear agenda and aggressive timetable that will allow us to repower, refuel and rebuild America.

The Sierra Club’s Climate Recovery Agenda will help our economy recover, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, cut carbon emissions 80% by 2050, and protect our natural heritage, communities and country from the consequences of global warming.

Putting our planet on the path to economic and climate recovery will require Congress, working with the Obama Administration, to:

- ♦ Invest \$150–500 billion in clean energy to create millions of new, high quality jobs.
- ♦ Reduce our dependence on oil by increasing vehicle fuel efficiency, increasing the use of alternative fuels, and deploying innovative transportation technology like plug in hybrids.



- ♦ Move America to 100% renewable energy for electricity and dramatically increase the efficiency of our buildings and homes.
- ♦ Tackle global climate change by establishing an economy-wide cap on carbon emissions. Ensure that carbon permits are auctioned.
- ♦ Take action that acknowledges the consequences global warming is already having and the need to protect vulnerable communities, wildlife and their habitat from drought, intense flooding, wildfires and the other changes we are already experiencing.

Congress’ first step working with Obama Administration should be serious investments in high performance technologies and energy productivity improvements that will create millions of immediate jobs. Public and private building energy upgrades, mass transportation improvements and grid modernization should also be part of any economic recovery package.

America can lead by example. By taking actions at home, we can provide leadership on the international stage to both work with and be competitive with other nations. This agenda will be hard work, but the good news is that these are proven ways to face our economic and environmental challenges—and the solutions help everyone. ■

Carl Pope serves as the Executive Director of the Sierra Club.

Chapter Prepares for Excom Election

Each year, the Maryland Chapter holds elections for “At Large” delegates to the chapter executive committee. This fall, the members of the chapter will elect three people to serve two-year terms on the committee. The chapter’s nominating committee invites all interested members of the Maryland Chapter to enter the race for these positions. We are looking for at least six people who can bring management skills, a firm commitment to protecting the environment, and a willingness to invest their time and energy for the next two years to help manage the chapter. While experience on a group’s executive committee would be helpful, it is not necessary. Your work and life experience, and your common sense, are equally important ingredients. You may send a letter to nominate another member in good standing and, if you would be willing to serve for a two-year term, please submit a brief biography, no longer than 400 words, which describes your qualifications, your experience, and what you believe you can contribute. Send it to the nominating committee c/o Laurel Imlay, 7338 Baltimore Ave, College Park, MD 20740, by e-mail to laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org, or by fax at 301-277-6699.

Nominations are due in chapter office by October 12.

Please respond by October 12th, 2009. The nominating committee will review the qualifications described in the biographies, attempt to bring forward a slate of six candidates, and report the slate of candidates to the executive committee. The candidates’ statements and a ballot will be published in the winter issue of *Chesapeake*.

For additional information and a sample biography, please contact Laurel Imlay at the above address, or call 301-277-7111. ■

Group News Roundup

Edited by Mary C. Corrdry—Following is a roundup of what's happening with the nine Sierra Club groups in Maryland: Anne Arundel County, Catocin, 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 XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com or at 410-239-4590.

Sierra Club Groups are participating in the current State legislative session, identifying local priorities. Groups are active in the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" initiative, encouraging local governments and citizens to take action for addressing global warming. They are involved with local land use and environmental issues, following local government activities and participating on advisory committees and at hearings. They volunteer to eradicate invasive plants, plant native species, maintain trails, and clean up streams. They enjoy the environment by hiking, biking, paddling, 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 home page of the Maryland chapter, at www.maryland.sierraclub.org, has a link to each group's website .

Anne Arundel Group

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

By David Prosten—More than 100 Anne Arundel Sierra Club members and guests gathered in Annapolis on January 24 to mark the club's 25th annual birthday. We shared a great potluck meal, heard a dramatic presentation about the health and

future of the Chesapeake Bay, and honored two founding members. The honors were for longtime Anne Arundel Sierra Club activists Joan and Cliff Willey, who will be leaving the area later in the year. Joan Willey, especially, has been a tireless Club activist at every level of leadership in the county, state, and the national organization.

The presentation on the state of the Bay was by Gerald Winegrad, a former state legislator and now professor at the University of Maryland. His talk was sobering, suggesting that only dramatic governmental intervention at this point can save the iconic estuary.

In other group news:

- ♦ Thanks to the hard work of longtime activist Earl Bradley, we offered comments on two major growth development plans in the area, for Anne Arundel County and for the City of Annapolis.
- ♦ Several group members served as judges at the 2009 Anne Arundel County Regional Science and Engineering Fair and named cash prize winners, including a winner of the Club's \$100 Mike Rixham Memorial Award. (Last year's Rixham winner went on to place fourth in the national science fair competition.)
- ♦ The group continues to participate in the development of Homeport Farm Park, a 25-acre county property near the South River. Liz VandenHeuvel is heading up the group's work, which includes reforestation.
- ♦ Preparations are underway for the group's 15th annual Earth Day 5K Race and Walk on April 18. The event is the group's big annual fundraiser. Last year it attracted 200 people and raised \$4,000 to help in our work. More information and an entry form can be found on the Anne Arundel Group's website.
- ♦ Our outings program continues to meet with success, with leaders taking

folks on hikes, kayaking trips, and tours of the huge recycling plant in Elkridge.

Catocin Group (Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties)

Chair: Dan Andrews, 410-857-4129, dooze@qis.net

The Waste Not! Expo was held on March 28 at Frederick High School. This zero-waste conference was sponsored by the Catocin Group to educate, inspire, and encourage everyone to reduce, reuse, compost, and recycle many of the materials our society currently discards. The event offered nationally recognized presenters, vendors, exhibitions, food, music, and games for children.

Communities are successfully increasing recycling and choosing alternatives to incinerators and landfills to move towards zero waste. Frederick County's landfill is almost full, and waste is being shipped to Virginia as a stop-gap measure. A proposed \$500 million incinerator could release toxic waste into the environment and discourage recycling. Landfills release methane gas, which is 20 times more heat-trapping than CO₂. San Francisco has reached 70 percent recycling of all waste, while Houston recycles only seven percent. For more information about this statewide effort to reduce and deal with Maryland's waste, contact Ken Eidel at kceidel@verizon.net, or check out the Citizens for Incinerator Alternatives, at www.cfianow.org/learn.html.

On the 2nd Tuesday of each month, the group has a social at Café Nola on East Patrick Street in downtown Frederick, 6:30 – 9 p.m. Come meet and have good conversation with fellow outdoor lovers and environmentalists.

The group runs a number of hikes in and around the three-county area yearly. We are looking for new outings leaders who are interested in leading

Join the Maryland Chapter's

@ e-mail action alert list

www.marylandsierraclub.org/action

hikes, boat trips, or other activities.

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

Eastern Shore (Cecil County and Eastern Shore counties)

The Eastern Shore Group is urging members from all parts of this nine-county region to help build an active group. A temporary Executive Committee has been formed until formal elections are held this fall. Planning and coordination is more difficult in such a long, less populated stretch of Maryland east of the Chesapeake Bay from Cecil County down to Worcester and Somerset Counties. We have a vast and precious portion of our land and waterways to protect and preserve. We are currently accepting nominations for board positions. Also, the group particularly needs a Membership Chair and an Outings Chair and leaders. The temporary excom meets in person every other month throughout the region and by conference call in other months. If you are interested in assisting to reactivate and reenergize this group, contact Alana Wase, Chapter Conservation Coordinator, at Alana.Wase@mdsierra.org or 301-277-7111.

Whatever your specialty, concern, or interest, we have room for you and vari-

continued ⇨

Group News Roundup

← continued

ous resources (financial, personnel, and technical assistance) at our disposal.

Greater Baltimore (Baltimore City and County, Harford County)

Chair: Chris Yoder, 410-466-2462, cncyoder@comcast.net

By Mary Corddry—The Greater Baltimore Group celebrated Earth Day at Oregon Ridge Park's nature center with a potluck dinner and a slide show on Yellowstone National Park, led by a summertime ranger at Yellowstone.

The group is participating in Baltimore County's new Sustainability Network, which had its first meeting on November 15, and a public briefing on December 2 attended by more than 100. The network formed workgroups, which will report recommendations by mid-2009 for county facilities operations, protection of natural resources, built environment, and education and outreach. A greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory has been conducted of the county's operations. The goal is to reduce the annual GHG production of the county's operations, with the inclusion of public schools, by 10% below the 2006 level by 2010.

Baltimore City appointed a Commission on Sustainability, including Patrick McMahon of the Greater Baltimore Group, to provide guidance on sustainability. After a seven-month process, involving over 1,000 people in working group meetings, community conversations, youth efforts, and citywide meetings, Baltimore City posted a draft Sustainability Plan for review. The plan is being finalized. It articulates 29 ambitious, yet achievable goals to make Baltimore a more sustainable city. There are 126 relatively short-term strategies to move us toward that vision, including a Climate Action Plan. Also, the City completed an inventory of GHG emissions.

The group's outings program offers

hikes of varied lengths and difficulty, including outings that are child and dog friendly. There are also happy hours, kayak outings, bike rides, stargazing, camping, hayrides, stream cleanups, trail maintenance, and invasive plant removals.

The group publishes a quarterly newsletter, *The Baltimore Sierran*, which is mailed to members and is available on its web site. Also check the group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events.

Comprehensive Zoning in Harford County

By Morita Bruce—Sierra Club member and President-Elect, Friends of Harford Harford County has begun its Comprehensive Zoning process, where any property owner can ask to change the zoning of his property. A property's zoning determines what can be done with it (residential, business, or industrial use) and under what conditions (number of houses per acre, type of businesses allowed, how much impervious surface is permitted, open space requirements, building setbacks, etc.)

Harford's newly-written zoning code largely ignores smart growth and environmental protection, including protection of Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas. This means rezoning requests must be very carefully reviewed, with an eye to minimizing sprawl and the environmental damage that results.

Friends of Harford (FOH), Harford County's all-volunteer citizen land use advocates, is analyzing each rezoning request and will provide their recommendations for each property to the County Council. FOH's recommendations will consider Harford's Master Land Use Plan as well as neighborhood compatibility, environmental impacts, traffic impacts, natural features, and other concerns.

The Master Land Use Plan is important because it defines the planned future of specific communities and neigh-

borhoods. It also identifies which areas are targeted for agricultural use or rural residential use, or—within the designated “development envelope” — which areas are supposed to be developed at low, medium, or high density.

FOH's website (<http://www.friendsofharford.com/>) provides information on Comprehensive Zoning and other land-use topics. FOH will post their rezoning recommendations on this website so residents will have them before the County Council's public hearings on July 16 (6:30 PM, Aberdeen HS), July 21 (6:30 PM, Patterson Mill MS/HS), and July 23 (6:30 PM, North Harford HS). We hope every interested Harford Countian will take the opportunity to voice their opinions on specific properties (3 minutes max) to the County Council at one of these meetings. Your voice can make a difference!

Howard County

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

By Ken Clark — The Howard County government held its second annual GreenFest on April 4. The GreenFest was so popular last year, that it was moved to a larger location, at Howard County Community College. The Sierra Club gave a presentation on rain barrels, and offered 50 rain barrels for sale at a very low cost, as they were built as part of a Boy Scout project and many of the materials were donated.

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—The Montgomery County Group is benefiting from the enthusiasm of our newest members of the Executive Committee, who were elected at the end of 2008. During the first three months of 2009, Steve Lonker organized a series of four talks by experts on habitat restoration and sustainable gardening. Topics included “Watershed Friendly Yards and Neighborhoods,” “Gardening for Wildlife,” and “Managing Deer in Suburban Landscapes.”

In conjunction with these talks, Steve and other volunteers have been leading two invasive plant removal events each month throughout the winter. The highlight was when 120 volunteers joined them on January 19 to celebrate Martin Luther King Day with a day of service to remove invasive plants from Montgomery County's Underground Railroad Experience Trail Park.

Steve is also redesigning our website, and all nine excom members are working on providing updated material that will make it easy for Montgomery County residents to learn about our priority goals and how they can help us achieve them.

Dave Sears is the new chair of our political committee and has recruited several new volunteers to serve on it. As I write, the committee is interviewing candidates who are running for the county council seat that was vacated by the death of Donald Praisner earlier this year. In addition, the Montgomery County Group and the Action Committee on Transit hosted a candidates forum on March 31 at Kennedy High School. The candidates were questioned about their positions on the county's climate protection plan, smart growth, and their transportation priorities for the county. This is a practice run for 2010 when all nine members of the county council and the county ex-

continued →

Group News Roundup

← continued

ecutive will be up for election.

Ethan Goffman has stepped up and is resurrecting our transportation committee. In the months ahead, the county council will be making choices on how to ease traffic congestion. We hope to convince them that new public transit options, such as bus rapid transit with dedicated guideways, should always be the preferred option over building new roads. Ethan is our representative to Transit First!, a newly-formed umbrella group of public transit advocates, labor unions, and smart growth and environmental groups in Montgomery County. They are working to shift funds away from building new parking garages and wider roads and instead to use those funds for expanded and improved public transit.

Want to work with Steve, Dave, and Ethan to make Montgomery County a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly place to live? I would love to hear from you. You can email me at Hauck_D@msn.com, or call me at 301-270-5826.

The Montgomery County Group's newsletter is available on the web. Go to maryland.sierraclub.org/Montgomery and click on "Newsletter" in the left hand column when our web page opens.

Prince George's County
 Chair: Chip Reilly, 301-218-3920, chip.reilly@mdsierra.org
 Group's office: 301-277-0600 or 301-277-7111

By Chip Reilly— Oxon Hill High School (OHHS) students attended Power Shift 2009, a youth conference on climate change. At this conference in Washington, D.C., 12,000 high school and college students from all over the country demanded that the President and Congress rebuild our economy and reclaim the future, by passing bold and just cli-

mate and energy policies that prioritize renewable energy and green jobs.

The ten lucky members of the OHHS Sierra Student Coalition were addressed by many high-profile speakers, including EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, civil and environmental rights activist Majora Carter, and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. Representative Donna Edwards, who represents Maryland's 4th Congressional district in the House of Representatives, was one of the weekend's most anticipated keynotes. She was introduced by Dominique Hazzard of Fort Washington, a 2008 graduate of Oxon Hill who helped the current OHHS students organize to attend Power Shift. Representative Edwards told the massive crowd that, "It was young people who put the environment and climate change on the national agenda. People say that communities of color really don't care about the environment, that it's not top on our agenda...they're wrong about that. We know that they are wrong because your generation has proven that they are wrong. I look at Oxon Hill High School where brown and white and Asian and Latino children are out there together working to make a difference in the environment."

But Power Shift 2009 was not just amazing speakers. There were also concerts, a "green jobs" fair, an eco-fashion show by Howard University students, and over 100 panels and workshops about climate change. Maya Thompson, the President of the OHHS NAACP, attended a panel called 'Civil Rights, Hip Hop, and the Climate Change Movement.' "I really liked how this conference put so much emphasis on climate change as a civil rights issue. I learned that communities of color and low income people are disproportionately harmed by the burning of fossil fuels, but that people from all walks of life are working together to create a green economy."

The most important day of Power Shift was Monday, when thousands of young people braved the snow to meet with their legislators and rally for clean energy on the Capitol lawn. David Hanna, a sophomore at Oxon Hill, met with his Congressman, Rep. Steny Hoyer. "There were so many of us that we couldn't fit in his office and had to be moved to a bigger room!" said David. "We told him that we want the United States to use clean energy instead of dirty fuels like coal and be an international leader on climate change policy. And he listened. It was amazing to see so many people my age holding their elected officials accountable."

The students plan to continue working to make Maryland a leader on climate change.

Southern Maryland (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties)
 Chair: Frank Fox, 301-884-8027, ff725@yahoo.com

In mid-November, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sent Charles County a letter requesting additional information, including assessment of secondary growth-inducing impacts, in order to evaluate the county's application to destroy 7.5 acres of wetlands for the Cross County Connector. This proposed 6.5 mile, four-lane highway would cross forests and wetlands in the Mattawoman Creek watershed. At the end of November, the Maryland Department of Environment required six more months for evaluation of the application.

We cannot allow the Mattawoman, among the best of the last, to slip away and become another restoration project, while asking people to believe in a "save the bay" program. The Southern Maryland Group sponsored a Mattawoman wildland walk on January 18, through the diverse hardwood forest in State wildlands to the banks of the freshwater tidal Mattawoman Creek.

The Maryland Chapter's Southern Maryland Group joined a consortium of 17 organizations to form the Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles County, led by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. It promotes a vision for sustainable communities by revitalizing the urban core of Waldorf with transit-oriented development and light rail to the Branch Avenue Metro, rather than building highways in forests and spawning sprawl development. The alliance held a public forum on March 19 to help change the direction of growth with a "better vision" and to become part of the "roar of the future."

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 cedarrocksca@yahoo.com

We in the Western Maryland Group are looking for volunteers who are willing to help our neighbors in a variety of ways. We are available to lead discussions in schools and groups on environmental issues, lead outings, and provide expert advice to concerned citizens and the media. Please don't hesitate to ask!

The group publishes a newsletter, *Nature's Advocate of Western MD*, and facilitates an email discussion, MD-WMD-FORUM@lists.sierraclub.org, to allow members to discuss local conservation issues. The discussion group/listserv is also used to announce group meetings, outings, and other events. Join by going to the website and clicking the "Join the list" link. ■

Maryland Chapter Leaders



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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.

JOIN Sierra Club to keep breathing easy.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____
Exp. Date ____/____/____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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

F94Q W 1

Executive Committee

Ron Henry, Chapter Chair, At-Large Del. (2009)

443-474-7449

RonLHenry@msn.com

David O'Leary, Vice Chair, At Large Del. 2008

dave.oleary@mdsierra.org

Chris Yoder, At-Large Del. (2008)
410-466-2462

Chris.Yoder@mdsierra.org

Betsy Johnson, At-Large Del. (2008)
301-656-4948

betsy.johnson@maryland.sierraclub.org

Erin Barnes, At-Large Del. (2009)
202-236-0145

Legal.Chair@mdsierra.org

Baird Straughan, At-Large Del. (2009)
301-657-8121

baird@leadgreen.org

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

James Wolf, Greater Baltimore Del.
Jamesdwolf@gmail.com

Dan Andrews, Catocin Del.
dooze@qis.net

410-857-4129

Don Grace, Eastern Shore Del.
djgrace@mchsi.com

Kathleen Sheedy, Howard Del.
443-538-4084

Kathleen.Sheedy@Maryland.Sierraclub.org

Charles Reilly, Prince George's Del.
301-218-3920

Chip.reilly@mdsierraclub.org

David Hauck, Montgomery Del.
301-270-5826

David.hauck@Maryland.sierraclub.org

Bonnie Bick, Southern MD Del.
301-839-7403

Bonnie.Bick@Maryland.Sierraclub.org

Sam White, Western MD Del.
301-264-4162

sam.white@Maryland.Sierraclub.org

Issues Contacts

David O'Leary

Conservation Chair

dave.oleary@mdsierra.org

Chris Yoder

Conservation Co-Chair,

410-466-2462

Chris.Yoder@mdsierra.org

Sam White, Agriculture, CAFO,

TCOF Chair

301-264-4162,

sam.white@maryland.sierraclub.org

Charlie Garlow, Air Quality Chair

301-593-9823

charlie.garlow@juno.com

**Marc Imlay, Biodiversity, ESA, Inva-
sive Species, and Habitat Stewardship
Chair**

301-283-0808

marc.imlay@maryland.sierraclub.org

**Cliff Terry, Campaign Finance Reform
Chair, Population Chair**

410-944-9477

cliff.terry@maryland.sierraclub.org

**David O'Leary, Energy, Global
Warming, Cool Cities Chair**

dave.oleary@mdsierra.org

**Bonnie Bick, Environmental Justice
Chair**

301-839-7403

bonnie.bick@maryland.sierraclub.org

Erin Barnes, Legal Chair

202-236-0145

Legal.Chair@mdsierra.org

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

410-466-2462

cncyoder@comcast.net

Kim Birnbaum, Pesticides Chair

410-379-1075

Kim.Birnbaum@maryland.sierraclub.org

Sam B. Hopkins, Co-Population Chair
410-554-0006

sbh@hopkinsandassociates.com

Earl Bradley, Right Whale Chair

410-224-3236

Earl.Bradley@verizon.net

Mark Diehl, State Forests Chair

mad55@mindspring.com

301-724-6238

**Fred Tutman, Stormwater Mgmt.
Chair**

301-249-8200 ext 7

Fred@paxriverkeeper.org

Steve Caflisch, Transportation Chair

301-654-3288

steve.caflisch@maryland.sierraclub.org

Ed Merrifield, Water Quality Chair

202-222-0707

ed@potomacriverkeeper.org

Other Contacts

**Kathy Harget, Baltimore Young
Sierrans**

410-440-9896

youngsierrans@gmail.com

Bob Iacovazzi, BICO Chair

bicobob3@copper.net

Betsy Johnson, Fundraising Chair

301-656-4948

betsy.johnson@maryland.sierraclub.org

Ellen Pepin, Membership Chair

ellen.pepin@maryland.sierraclub.org

Daniel Soeder, Outings Chair

410-969-9465

Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

Mike Pretl, PAC Treasurer

mikepretl@aol.com

Betsy Johnson, Political Chair,

Fundraising Chair, Council Del.

301-656-4948

betsy.johnson@maryland.sierraclub.org

Clay Birkett, Postmaster

postmaster@maryland.sierraclub.org

David O'Leary, State Legislative Chair

dave.oleary@mdsierra.org

Lauren Burgess, Treasurer

Chapter.Treasurer@Maryland.Sierraclub.org

Rick Andrews, Webmaster

Andrews4art@yahoo.com

Chapter Staff

Laurel Imlay, Chapter Coordinator

laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org

301-277-7111

Alana Wase, Conservation Coordinator

Alana.Wase@sierraclub.org

301-277-7111

Office: 7338 Baltimore Avenue

#101A

College Park, MD 20740

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

<http://maryland.sierraclub.org>

Stewardship Outings

Anne Arundel County

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Join our team to remove the non-native invasive plants from our forests and nip these NIPs in the bud before they spread and threaten the special habitats and rare plants found on the Sanctuary. Those interested in continuing this effort throughout the year can adopt their very own plot to monitor, map and manage the invasives. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and sturdy work shoes. Bring water, and if you have them, work gloves and hand pruners. Children should be at least 8 years old.

Contact: Lindsey 410-741-9330, rpholl27@aacounty.org
Directions: Call JBWS 410-741-9330 or www.jugbay.org

Baltimore City and Baltimore County

Become an Urban Weed Warrior! Baltimore City Recreation and Parks has started its own Urban Weed Warriors program. Weed warriors can come to any of the sessions listed below to learn about the non-native invasive problem in Baltimore City parks. Training will include weed ID, removal techniques and native alternatives to exotic flora. The training will lead to certification as a weed warrior, whereby volunteers can work on their own to help control non-native invasives in Baltimore City parks. There will also be information about organized weed-pull activities throughout the spring and summer. Please contact: weeds@baltimorecity.gov
Urban Weed Warrior Coordinator
Baltimore City Recreation & Parks
2600 Madison Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21217
410-396-0359

For invasive plant removal activities, planting of trees and other native species, stream cleanup, and stream

monitoring, contact the following organizations for information about training sessions and outings:

Cromwell Valley Park

Call 410-887-2503 Mon-Fri 9-2. Work parties for removal of invasives and planting of natives are held at Cromwell Valley Park on the second Saturday of each month 9-12. Rain date is the following day, at the same time. Tools and refreshments are provided; all you need bring is suitable

protective clothing. You may also call to volunteer to participate in trail maintenance outings at opk@bprp.org. For information contact Bill Breakey at breakeys@comcast.net.

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

Start in late spring- tree maintenance
Contact: Peggy Perry, 410-668-0118, little-owl@msn.com.
www.gunpowderfalls.org.

Herring Run Watershed Association

Starting in May, one evening a week, every other Saturday. Volunteers are sought to adopt sections of Herring Run to monitor, report, and prevent pollution. "Free the Trees" Weed Pull at Herring Run Park. Meet at Chesterfield Ave. and Cardenas Ave. for weed pulling along the Chesterfield Ave. bike path in Herring Run. You should be

able to park along the street. Please wear sturdy work attire.

Tools and gloves will be provided but feel free to bring your own. There will be yummy veggie chili, hot cocoa, and coffee. For more information call Darin Crew @ 410-254-1577. Check website at volunteer@herringrun.org.

Irvine Nature Center

Contact: Karen Smith, 410-484-2413.

Check online calendar at
www.explorenature.org

Jones Falls Watershed Association

Check online calendar. Projects (not just invasive) second Saturday each month, 410-366-3036, www.jonesfalls.org or email sgreene@jonesfalls.org.

Join invasive plant

removals 9 a.m. -12 noon at Meadowood Park just outside the Baltimore Beltway on Falls Road at Stony Run Park the second Saturday each month.

Cylburn Arboretum

Weed pull at Cylburn Mansion (4915 Greenspring Ave.). Park in the designated parking area and meet at the steps of the mansion. Please wear sturdy work attire. Tools and gloves will be provided but feel free to bring your own. Refreshments will be provided. For more information or directions call 410-396-0359 or see website,

weeds@baltimorecity.gov.

Weed Warrior Training Sessions
Become a certified urban weed warrior! Be trained in the identification, threat, and control of invasive plant species like English ivy and Japanese honeysuckle. Once certified, you can work on your own or in organized groups to help rid the city of invasives that are harming Baltimore parks.

A Power Point presentation will be followed by a short walk through Cylburn Arboretum, Wyman Park Dell or Leakin Park!

Specific locations and times to be announced. Please email weeds@baltimorecity.gov or call 410-396-0359 for current dates, to reserve a place and for further information.

Baltimore County and Howard County

Patapsco State Park, Avalon and Glen Artney Areas

Betsy McMillion, Executive Director
Friends of Patapsco Valley & Heritage Greenway
6759 Arhol Ave., Elkridge, MD 21075
patapscofriend@gmail.com
www.patapscoheritagegreenway.org

NOTE: Additional stream cleanup dates and locations may be scheduled depending on group requests, number of available volunteers and compatible dates and times. Call 410-480-0824 day of event to make sure clean up has not been canceled. To learn more about the Friends of the Patapsco Valley & Heritage Greenway, visit us at www.patapscoheritagegreenway.org. If you would like to join hundreds of other volunteers in cleaning up the Patapsco Valley area, please call 410-480-0824 or e-mail patapscofriend@gmail.com.

Saturday, August 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. - Trail maintenance/stream cleanup/

continued ⇨

Stewardship Outings

↩ continued

invasive plant removal event at Patapsco State Park. Volunteers must register in advance at lmartin@dnr.state.md.us or call 410-465-3287.

Saturday, September 26, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. National Lands Day Trail maintenance/stream cleanup/invasive plant removal event at Patapsco State Park. Volunteers must register in advance at lmartin@dnr.state.md.us or call 410-465-3287. www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/patapscovolunteer.html

Calvert County

Hellen Creek Forest and Wildlife Preserve, Lusby, MD

For information and dates of invasive species removal, or to receive updates about workdays, email or call Bob Boxwell, Executive Director, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, 11785 Clifton Drive, P.O. Box 336, Lusby, MD 20657, 410-394-1300, cpnht@comcast.net or bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

Join us for our extensive non-native invasive plant removal program in one of the last pristine watersheds on the Western Shore of the Chesapeake Bay.

Work as a team or individually; includes training, tools, water, and gloves.

For dates, information, weather cancellations or directions contact Liz Stoffel, Land Manager, 410-414-3400, land@aactweb.org.

There will be a full invasive training program August 16, but it is not necessary to participate on the workdays.

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 are flexible. For more information contact Eleanor Altman, ealtman@adkinsarboretum.org. For workdays starting in May, contact Sylvan Kaufman at 410 634-2847, ext. 24 in May. For directions and more information, check website at www.adkinsarboretum.org Gardeners often unknowingly harbor serious invasive plants in their backyards. Or perhaps they recognize the invasive plants, but aren't sure what to replace them with. Participants learn about how using native plants to replace invasive plants can offer benefits from attracting more butterflies and birds to reducing the spread of invaders in their neighborhood. Participants will learn how gardens can reflect their native landscapes instead as well as being ornamental. Sylvan Kaufman is the Arboretum's Conservation Curator and co-author of *Invasive Plants*.

Charles County

Chapman Forest and Ruth Swann Park

Dates: First Sundays and following Saturday, monthly
Time: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Remove invasive non-natives from the 200-acre Swann Park and 800-acre portion of Chapman Forest designated Chapman State Park. There will be time for plant identification and a beautiful beach lunch. Participating organizations include Maryland Native Plant Society, Sierra Club and Chapman Forest Foundation.

Casual clothing, long sleeves and pants, sturdy comfortable walking boots/shoes, gloves are encouraged for these events.

INFO about the area and map <http://www.chapmanforest.org> and www.mattawomanwatershedsociety.org.

For further information about this extensive program or directions to the work sites, contact: Marc Imlay, 301-699-6204 or 301-283-0808. I can be

reached at 301-442-5657 on my cell phone on these dates.

Garrett County

Savage River State Forest

Battling Botanical Bullies in Bear Pen Wildland, Garrett County

Leader: Ron Boyer

Date: Time: 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Exotic Removal Workday description: Adult volunteers are needed to continue control efforts of Japanese spiraea in the Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Forest. Bear Pen is designated as a Type 1 Wildland and like other natural areas around the State is threatened by a variety of exotic invasive species. We'll be working on Friday, June 20th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon to continue our efforts to reduce the infestation using both mechanical and chemical control methods.

Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist with the Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service, is providing technical support. Larry Maxim, Savage River State Forest manager, is providing work tools. Mike Gregory, Big Run & New Germany State Park manager, is providing free camping the night before for any out-of-town volunteers. Ron Boyer, Elk Ridge NatureWorks, is coordinating the project and providing snacks and drinks for volunteers with assistance from the Savage River Watershed Association. For details or to register, contact Ron at 301-895-3686 or info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

Harford County

Otter Point Creek

Anita C. Leight Estuary Center
Become a part of the volunteer team of invasive plant removers and native plant restorers. Learn why non-native invasive plants are a threat to our ecosystem, how to identify problem plants, and removal and restoration strategies. Wear

sturdy shoes, long sleeves, and work gloves for fieldwork in the Reserve each meeting date. For summer schedule, please see contact info below.

Location: Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, 700 Otter Point Road, Abingdon, MD 21009
410-612-1688
www.otterpointcreek.org.

Howard County

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

The Conservation Stewardship Project, a joint program of the Howard County Recreation & Parks and the Howard County Master Gardeners, targets the problem of controlling invasive, exotic species in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Volunteer work dates occur monthly from March through November, skipping July and August. Each date includes an educational component concerning the target invasive species or target work area for the day. Time: 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Contact: Aylene, 410-992-9889 or Carol Filipczak, Master Gardener, cfilipczak@comcast.com.

June 23: Menacing Mile-a-Minute & Meadow Flower Lore
Meet at Trotter Road parking lot
The only thing that loves our meadows more than we do is invasive plants. Among several species, mile-a-minute vine is the worst offender. Come help us remove the variety of invasive vines from the Woodcock Habitat Management Area and be rewarded by a visit from a popular guest speaker we have invited back. Hint: She loves to talk about flowers!

September 22: Invasive Vine Trimming and Monarch Butterfly Fun
Meet at Trotter Road parking lot
Early successional habitat restoration is

continued ⇨

Stewardship Outings

↩ continued

relentless work. Invasive plants often impact the native woody plants associated with the wildlife meadows. We'll continue our restoration efforts by trimming the invasive vines and shrubs back from the native species. Plus we'll be treated to a presentation about Monarch butterfly natural history including a demonstration of capture, tagging, and release methods.

For more information and directions to work sites, contact Master Gardeners: Aylene Gard at (410) 992-9889, Carol Filipczak at cfilipczak@comcast.net, or Jeff Claffy, Assistant Natural Resources Manager, MPEA at (410) 313-6209 or jclaffy@howardcountymd.gov

Howard / Anne Arundel / Prince George's County

Fort Meade

Help remove Japanese stilt grass, English ivy, garlic mustard, tree of heaven, multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, common privet, phragmites, Asiatic tearthumb, etc. Prior to removing the weeds, there will be a short training session on identification, and control techniques of non-native invasive plants. People of all ages, backgrounds and interests are invited to spend a few hours outdoors, hand-pulling some non-native plants while learning about the differences between native and non-native invasive plants and how these invasives adversely impact our natural ecosystem.

Where and When: Fort Meade Army Installation

Contact Mick Butler, Installation forester, by phone at 301-677-9188 for dates starting in spring for the second Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. (time is flexible if enough volunteers are available), and for driving directions.

Patuxent Research Refuge

Non-native invasive plants are threatening our wildlife habitat. We need YOU to help stop them. Come out for one of our "Weed Warriors Days" and help us treat garlic mustard, mile-a-minute, Japanese stiltgrass and other non-native plant infestations on the refuge. All ages and abilities are welcome. Do your part to protect Patuxent from alien invaders, and become a Weed Warrior! You will receive a short educational briefing explaining the effects of invasive plants on wildlife and wildlife habitats and how to identify and control these plants. Wear long sleeves and pants and bring gloves. Please register for this event by calling 301-497-5887. Dates are as follows (dates and times subject to change if necessary):

Wednesday 06-10-2009, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Wednesday 06-17-2009, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Wednesday 07-08-2009, National Wildlife Visitor Center, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Wednesday 07-22-2009, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Wednesday 08-05-2009, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

For additional information and driving instructions, call 301-497-5763 or visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov>.

Christopher Wicker
Wildlife Biologist
USFWS, Patuxent Research Refuge
12100 Beech Forest Road, Room 138
Laurel, MD 20708
E-mail: Christopher_Wicker@fws.gov
Fax: (301) 497-5515

Riverfront Park, Laurel

Wishing for weeders in Laurel

Wholesome river with lots of curves seeks outgoing naturalists for invasive species removal and native plant propagation, possibly leading to complete restoration of the wild. Where: Riverfront Park, Laurel, MD When: Second Sunday of every month, 1 p.m.- 4 p.m.

Contact: Brigitte Fortin-Zaidan bfzaidan@Safe-mail.net or 240-506-8976.

Kent County

Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge

Wineberries with garlic mustard: A new type of exotic fruit salad? Not quite. These are two invasive plant species that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would like help removing from Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge (1730 Eastern Neck Road, Rock Hall, MD)

Garlic mustard is a newly arrived invasive species, and is a management priority. Wineberry is a raspberry-like plant that begins to ripen with fruit between June and July. Garlic mustard is pulled by hand, but a 4-pronged spading fork works best on wineberry.

High boots (for ticks) are recommended, along with a DEET-based bug repellent, a hat and gloves. Rachel is always looking for volunteers to help pull weeds. Contact 410-639-2108 for details about when and where.

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, weekends or weekdays, on your own schedule. Contact: Stacy Parsons 301-962-1417 or stacy.parsons@mncppc-mc.org. Websites: www.BrooksideGardens.org and/or www.MC-MNCPPC.org/environment/weed_warriors/intro.shtm

Montgomery County Parks

Help Us by Becoming a Weed Warrior!

We welcome citizen volunteers for help in removing non-native invasive plant species from M-NCPCC parks in Montgomery County, Maryland. Become a Certified Weed Warrior by completing a one-hour online course and a two-hour field training session with the forest ecologist for Montgomery Parks, Carole Bergmann. You'll learn identification, removal techniques, and control strategies for the most harmful invasive plants species. Once trained, Certified Weed Warriors can then work at their own pace and choose a schedule that best suits them. Opportunities to work with a group on invasive removal are also offered several times a year.

A newer program, Special Project Weed Warriors, enables various community groups (e.g., from a school, workplace, church or synagogue, or community association) to learn weed ID and removal on the spot and then spend a couple of hours tackling invasive vines, shrubs, and herbaceous plants on county parkland. Learn more about both programs at www.weedwarrior.org or call Paul Carlson at 301-942-4709 (Certified) or Lynette Scaffidi at 301-949-0223 (Special Projects).

The Potomac Gorge

Invasive Plant Control Workdays in The Potomac Gorge.

Help protect native plant biodiversity near DC!

The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with the National Park Service, will continue all season with 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. Volunteers are welcome to sign up for a variety of workdays, where we cut or

continued ↗

Stewardship Outings

← continued

pull some of the most problematic weeds, often in scenic areas. We will hold two more Weed Warrior training sessions, where volunteers learn 13 non-native plant species, adopt an area and work independently in the National Parks in the Potomac Gorge.

For more information or to sign up, go to: www.nature.org/maryland for a list of workdays, or contact Mary Travaglini if you would like to sign up a school or organizational group for a workday, or be added to our email list: PotomacGorgeVol@tnc.org (301) 897-8570 x210

Sligo Creek

The RIP - Removing Invasive Plants Committee of Friends of Sligo Creek holds plant removal events in Sligo between New Hampshire Ave and the headwaters in Kemp Mill and Wheaton. The group invites local residents and others to work on shrubs in fall and winter, garlic mustard in spring, mile-a-minute in summer, and vines throughout the year. For a schedule see www.fosc.org/RIPEventSched.htm

Woodend Nature Sanctuary, Chevy Chase

The Audubon Naturalist Society needs your help to remove invasive non-native plants from its Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD! Join us for group work sessions where training will be provided. Trained volunteers may also be authorized to work independently.

Contact Liz Jones, Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@audubonnaturalist.org Audubon Naturalist Society 8940 Jones Mill Road Chevy Chase, MD 20815 301 652-9188 x30

Northwest Branch of the Anacostia

Dates: Third Saturdays, monthly

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Please join us for a walk in the forest and to remove invasive plants including garlic mustard and multi-flora rose. Then we'll relax and have a vegetarian lunch. All are welcome.

Bring water and gloves. Vegetarian lunch provided.

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

Prince George's County Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center, Accokeek, MD

Volunteers needed for invasive plant removal. Call 301-292-5665 or e-mail Karen Jensen Miles, Program Director, at kmiles@fergusonfoundation.org for more information and schedule.

Belt Woods, Bowie

Ongoing Saturday, Sunday, and occasional mid-week invasive species workgroups. Times and dates vary based on available team leader. Please call or email for schedule. We will be removing creeping euonymus, Japanese honeysuckle, winged burning bush, multiflora rose, oriental bitter-sweet, Japanese stiltgrass, garlic mustard, etc. from various parts of the property. Tools and gloves provided, but feel free to bring your own favorite tool or pair of gloves. E-mail can be added to the contact list at pamelakcooper@verizon.net or call (301) 390-0797.

Lower Beaverdam Creek

Help most polluted stream in Anacostia watershed!

Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek seeks volunteers for last-Saturday-of-the-month invasive plant removal and native planting activity from approximately 9 a.m. until noon. Meet at Woodworth Park on Wayne Place in Cheverly, Md.

To join Friends of LBC or for more info about the park, contact Dan

or Cathy Smith at 301-386-4394 or Elaine Friebele at 301-341-5722 for confirmation of date and occasional change in location to Euclid Park and Magruder Springs in Cheverly.

Tools are provided, but wear work gloves and sturdy shoes.

Suitland Bog

Invasive Plant Removal Days
Leader: M-NCPPC Park Ranger Chris Garrett

Workday description: Manual removal of honeysuckle and multiflora rose using shovels, pruners and perseverance. Come and help preserve this unique habitat. Meet in the parking lot.

Bring water, work boots, durable clothes, long sleeves, gloves, pruners, and shovels. Note: Light refreshments will be provided. There is some poison ivy at work site.

For information and directions contact M-NCPPC Park Ranger Office 301-627-7755

Indian Creek Trail at Lake Artemesia, Berwyn Heights

Garlic Mustard Pull-off
Leader: M-NCPPC Park Rangers Chris Garrett and John Dillon

Workday description: Teams compete in removal of the non-native invasive weed garlic mustard. Prizes given to winning team for largest amount pulled in a given area and time. Meet in the Lake Artemesia parking lot along Berwyn Road. Location: Indian Creek Trail @ Lake Artemesia, Berwyn
Bring water, work boots, durable clothes, long sleeves, gloves. Note: Light refreshments will be provided. There is some poison ivy at work site.

Contact: M-NCPPC Park Ranger Chris Garrett or John Dillon M-NCPPC Park Ranger Office 301-627-7755

Watkins Regional Park Weed Warrior Work Day

Leader: M-NCPPC Park Ranger John Dillon

Workday Description: Manual removal of the non-native invasive weed garlic mustard. Location: Watkins Nature Center at Watkins Regional Park, Prince George's County. Meet at Watkins Nature Center parking lot.

Bring water, work boots, durable clothes, long sleeves and gloves. Note: Light refreshments will be provided. There is some poison ivy at work site.

Contact: M-NCPPC John Dillon or Chris Garrett, M-NCPPC Park Ranger Office; 301-627-7755

Greenbelt Homes Inc Housing Cooperative, Greenbelt

The Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) housing cooperative in Old Greenbelt has 85.6 acres of stewardship forest as well as other wooded parcels. The Woodlands Committee is actively involved with urban forestry management. Regular work sessions for the removal/eradication of non-native invasive plant species and tree plantings are scheduled throughout the year. Also scheduled are bird counts and native landscaping seminars and guided hikes. For more information on GHI Woodlands Committee activities, contact 301-474-4161.

Greenbelt National Park, Greenbelt

Invasive Plant Removal first Saturday of each month 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Located just 12 miles from Washington D.C., Greenbelt Park is a beloved retreat from the city and an important refuge for native plants and animals. Come join us in defending Greenbelt Park from encroachment by alien invasive plant growth.

Volunteers will be hand pulling harmful non-native plants such as Japanese honeysuckle, beefsteak mint,

continued →

← continued

mile-a-minute weed and garlic mustard. People of all ages, backgrounds and interests are invited to spend a fun day outdoors while learning about the differences between native and non-native plants and helping to preserve the health and native wildlife of this local natural area.

Bring lunch, drink, work gloves if you have them, and clothing appropriate for the weather.

For more information or directions contact Tom Crone at tomnjan@erols.com or 301-864-1959, or visit www.nps.gov/gree or call 301-344-3944.

Magruder Park, Hyattsville

Third Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friends of Magruder Woods

Contact Mary Parker 301-927-6216 or Colleen Aistis, 301 779-0245.

St. Mary's County

Hellen Creek Preserve (also in Calvert County)

Call for information and dates. Contact: cpnht@comcast.net. For more information, or to receive updates about workdays email or call Bob Boxwell, Executive Director, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, 11785 Clifton Drive, P.O. Box 336, Lusby, MD 20657, 410-394-1300, or bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

Myrtle Point Park

For information or updates about workdays, email or call Bob Boxwell, Executive Director, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, P.O. Box 336, Lusby, MD 20657, 410-394-1300, or bobboxwell@hotmail.com. ■

Camping Tech

By Dan Soeder—Back in the days when John Muir was trying to launch the Sierra Club, he turned to outings as a mechanism to build membership. Muir held the opinion that if the Club could just get people out into the wilderness to see what was there, they would be more inclined to support efforts to preserve it. We sometimes forget how much more difficult outings were logistically in the old days. The Club ran one big outing out of San Francisco every summer called the High Trip. The expedition traveled to Yosemite Valley, climbed up above the valley into Tuolumne Meadows in the High Sierra, and stayed at campsites along the Tuolumne River. In 1909, it took almost two weeks to get up there from San Francisco, lugging a ton of gear in horse-drawn wagons. A hundred years later, it can be done in an afternoon.

Although there used to be a lot more wild areas in the world, it is actually much easier to get to outdoor places these days. Roads now go almost everywhere, and even rural roads are paved. A century ago, dirt was the norm. It is hard to find an unpaved road anymore, especially in the eastern U.S. A lot of people own vehicles with four-wheel drive, but something like 85% of them have never been off pavement.

Our modern camping gear is better, lighter and stronger. Imagine hauling canvas tents and a cast-iron cookstove out to a campground today. The cookstove in particular was a cantankerous affair, set up inside a special tent with a sheet metal chimney arrangement poking out through the roof. It was fired with locally collected wood, and sometimes with char-

coal or coal that was brought along. Modern white gas and propane stoves are far lighter, smaller, easier to start, safer to use, and more efficient at heating food.

All I know about canvas is that it is heavier than nylon, and when it gets wet, it is a LOT heavier. The old-style tents were set up using wooden center poles for supports, with ropes stretched and staked out to stiffen and support the sides. Tripping over a rope or running into a center pole could bring the whole affair crashing down. A modern, fiberglass pole-supported, nylon dome tent is as different from the old canvas rigs as a 747 is from the Wright Brothers Flyer. Plus, they



can be set up in 10% of the time. My 1909-vintage secret for comfort camping in a tent is to sleep on a cot, which prevents the sore ribs that come from sleeping on the ground.

I don't know what they served up to eat in the old days. Probably soups and stews made from dried and preserved meats, potatoes, carrots and other vegetables that traveled well. Biscuits and flapjacks would have been made from

flour brought along, and maybe there were some dried fruits for breakfast or dessert. There also might have been some canned goods and foods preserved in jars. Modern, freeze-dried trail food would have astounded the old High Trip participants. Even the variety of convenience meals you can buy in a regular grocery store that only need water to prepare is pretty amazing. Everything from pancake mixes to macaroni and cheese travels well to a campground, and can be easily prepared in the outdoors. Camp cooking is an art, but you don't need to be a master chef to cook in the woods.

The joys of camping, including day hikes on local trails, the sight, sound and smell of a campfire, the sounds of the woods at night, and the view of the stars far from city lights are just as wonderful now as they were a century ago. We have some great camping trips planned this spring and summer. If you've never been camping, or haven't camped in awhile, please consider joining us. On all of our outings labeled "camping," you can haul your gear in a car (instead of a backpack) and enjoy luxuries in the woods that the old timers on the High Trip could only have dreamed about. It's a fun and cheap way to get out of town for awhile, and enjoy some solace with nature.

Plenty of people have extra gear they'd be willing to loan you, and there are lots of experienced Sierra campers who would be happy to show you how to make macaroni and cheese in the woods. Check out the trips and give one of us a call.

See you outside. ■

Dan Soeder is the Maryland Chapter Outings Chair.

Abbreviations Used

Most outings in the Maryland Chapter are run at the group level, with a few chapter and inter-chapter events.

The group originating the outing is identified in parentheses by the leader's name. These and other abbreviations used are listed below:

AA:	Anne Arundel Group
AMC:	Appalachian Mountain Club
AT:	Appalachian Trail
BLM:	Bureau of Land Mgmt.
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 Svc.
GB:	Greater Baltimore Group
GWNF:	George Washington National Forest
HC:	Howard County Group
JNF:	Jefferson National Forest
MNF:	Monongahela National Forest
MC:	Montgomery County Group
NPS:	National Park Service
NRA:	National Recreation Area
NWR:	National Wildlife Refuge
PFD:	Personal Flotation Device (lifejacket)
PRO:	Sierra Club Potomac Region Outings (formerly MWROP)
SF:	State Forest
SM:	Southern Maryland Group
SP:	State Park
SNP:	Shenandoah National Park

Sierra Club Outings Policy

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 a local outing unless noted, but the outing leader should be contacted in advance for questions about the terrain, the difficulty or duration of the trip, recommended clothing, footwear and equipment. Activities are normally held "rain or shine," but may be postponed at the leader's discretion for safety reasons in the event of inclement weather.

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 safety policy requires that helmets be worn on bicycling outings, and that personal flotation devices (PFDs) be worn on outings using personal watercraft such as kayaks or canoes.

Unless noted in the announcement, club outings are intended for adults. Children and dogs are not normally permitted, unless an outing is so designated. Even on outings that are designated as child/dog friendly, please contact the

leader in advance before bringing minors or pets. Minors (under 18 years of age) must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian, or they must have both 1) a signed permission slip, and 2) the leader's prior consent to participate in the club outing. Dogs must be non-aggressive, well-behaved, and on a leash. Sierra Club outings officially begin and end at the trailhead, paddlecraft put-in/take-out point, or some other similar designated locality near the activity. Travel to the official starting point and back, even from an advertised meeting place, is the sole responsibility of each participant. While the club encourages 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. ■

JUNE 2009

Sunday, Jun 7: Paddle the Little Blackwater River (*rated moderate*): Conservation outing. Paddle the largest tributary to the Blackwater River in Dorchester County on the Eastern Shore. This watershed and the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge downstream were threatened by a mega-development south of Cambridge a few years ago, which was stopped by environmental activists, including Sierra Club. We will put-in at the refuge about 11 AM, paddle upstream to a USGS streamgage location, and return for a round trip of about 10 miles. The stream is tidal flatwater, although it is fairly wide in places and might have a moderate chop. Participants must supply their own watercraft and wear a PFD on the water. Thunderstorms or high winds cancel. **Leader:** Dan Soeder, 410-969-9465; Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

Sunday, Jun 7: Potomac Conservancy Geology of the C&O Canal (*non-Sierra Club event*) We may not have the Rockies in our back yard, but we have the roots of mountains that were as high as the Alps. The C&O Canal's geology tells a story as fascinating as any place on the planet. Callan Bentley will use rock evidence to deduce geologic history of our region. Begins at 10 AM in River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, 7906 Riverside Ave., Cabin John, MD 20818. **Contact:** Bridget Chapin, Potomac Conservancy, 301.608.1188, ext.211, chapin@potomac.org

Wednesday, Jun 10: FFA Evening Hike at Prettyboy Reservoir (*rated easy*) Children and dogs are welcome on this two-mile hike along the shoreline and through forests around Prettyboy Reservoir along the old

continued ⇨

Outings

↩ continued

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. Explore the pristine water and wildlife along this isolated trail. Look for beavers. 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.

Saturday, Jun 13: Half Moon Mountain and Cherry Ridge (*rated strenuous*) Moderate pace with stops for flora and fungi of interest. Stops at Crack Whip and Capon Iron Furnaces. About 1 mile of bushwhacking. Total of 17 miles with 3000 ft of elevation change. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center in Vienna, Virginia on Route 123 near I-66 at 7:30 AM. Pre-registration with leader is required. **Leader:** William Needham (MC) 410-884-9127; Needham82@aol.com

Saturday-Tuesday, Jun 13-16: Camping at Grayson Highlands, VA (*dayhikes rated moderate*) Dayhikes of 8 to 10 miles each, featuring views across some fantastic balds, wild ponies and beautiful Catawba Rhododendrons. Pre-registration with leader is required. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday, 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. There is an admission fee to the park, which features a sandy beach,

picnic tables, a bathhouse, playground, etc.. Meet at 10 AM on the beach next to the Ultimate Watersports concession. Participants must supply their own watercraft and wear a PFD on the water. Boat rentals are available. Thunderstorms or high winds cancel. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell); XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Thursday-Monday, Jun 18-22: Annual Patuxent River Sojourn (*not rated*) Multiple-day paddle trip down the Patuxent River from the Queen Anne 4H Center to Perry Tract in Aquasco. Registration is available online at www.paxriverkeeper.org. **Sierra Club contact:** Liz Vanden Heuvel (AA) 410-267-9009; liz2vh@olg.com

Thursday, Jun 18: FFA Picnic and Stroll at Cromwell Valley Park (*rated easy*) Children of all ages and dogs are welcome at this informal picnic and socialization on the lawn in front of the Sherwood House at Cromwell Valley Park. Afterward, we'll hike for about two miles through the woods and meadows and along streams, with some hills. Dogs must be on a leash and friendly. Picnic will start at 6 PM; hike at 7 PM. Bring your own food and drink and, if you wish, bring something to share. Meet in the park's Sherwood Farm section on Cromwell Bridge Rd. north from the Baltimore Beltway (take the Cromwell Bridge Rd. exit). **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell); XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Thursday, Jun 25: Greater Baltimore Group Outings Planning Meeting (*not rated*) New and prospective outings leaders are welcome to attend the quarterly meeting of the Greater Baltimore Group's Outings Committee.

LAND FOR SALE

ONE-OF-A-KIND CONSERVATIONIST'S DREAM

This 6.6 acre residential building site one mile from Reisterstown, MD combines sections of wetlands and forest conservation designated areas. Over three acres of open grassland is ideally suited for gardening, an orchard or a vineyard. The well produces 15 gal./min. The zoning is RC-2 which allows for horses or other agricultural applications. Live in this country setting but be only minutes away from the Owings Mills train station and I-895. Grass has been the only crop on this land for years and it may be suitable for organic applications.

Price: \$335,000.00 **Address:** 4816 Piney Grove Road
Contact: lejohannes@gmail.com;
Tel: (301) 620-2940.

If you're interested in leading outings and are curious about what is involved, come plan new outings and meet leaders. The meeting will be held at the Panera Bread restaurant in Timonium at 6:30 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, Jun 27: AT - Keys Gap To Loudoun Heights, WV (*rated moderate*) 11 mile out-and-back hike on the Appalachian Trail, with lunch overlooking Harpers Ferry from Split Rocks. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 AM from the park & ride just north of I-70 on Rt. 32. **Leader:** John Cougnet (HC) 443-756-6741, jc5342@msn.com.

Saturday-Sunday, Jun 27-28: AT Backpack, Blue Ridge Environmental Area / Rolling Ridge Retreat, VA/WV (*rated moderate to strenuous*) Explore 18 miles of some lesser-known trails off this section of the AT to make a partial circuit, if we can get permission from the Retreat community. If not, the backpack will originate at Blue Ridge, overnight along the AT, and return the same route. Pre-registration with leader is required. **Leader:** Betty Steil (HC), 443-745-3041, blsteil@verizon.net.

Sunday, Jun 28: Flag Ponds Nature Park (*rated easy*) 4 mile hike down to the beach on the Chesapeake Bay, where we will hunt for shark teeth and other fossils eroded from Calvert Cliffs. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:30 AM from the west lot of the park & ride

continued →

Outings

← continued

on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32.
Leader: Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Sunday, Jun 28: Gunpowder River Tube Trip (*rated moderate*) Bring a tube or rent one at the Monkton Station. Have a way of keeping your keys in your pocket, such as a safety pin or zipper jacket. Wear sun screen and bring water. Meet at the Monkton Station and the NCR Trail at 1:00 PM. The Monkton Station is on Monkton Road about a mile or two off of York Road. **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963

JULY 2009

Saturday, Jul 11: Splash in the Middle Patuxent, in Columbia (*not rated*) Cool down with a leisurely 2 hour walk in the middle of the river, through the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Learn how this area was protected from development when Columbia was formed. Wear old sneakers, and be prepared to get wet. Optional restaurant lunch afterwards, so bring a change of clothes. Meet at 10:00 AM, 0.8 mile south of Rt. 108 on Trotter Road, at the gravel parking lot on the left (east). **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Saturday-Monday, Jul 11-13: Hammersley Wild Area Backpack, PA (*rated strenuous*) Backpack 7 miles in to a beautiful base camp area on the Susquehannock Trail System. Dayhike to explore this beautiful valley and the seldom-used Three Sisters Trail. Some bushwhacking and about 3 miles of forest road walking will be required to close the loop. The backpack out will be the reverse of the first day. Pre-registration with leader is required. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC)

410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Jul 18: Howard County Butterfly Count (*not rated*) Take part in a region-wide survey, in partnership with the North American Butterfly Association and the Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks. Survey butterflies at sites around Howard County including Centennial Park, Alpha Ridge Park and Font Hill Park, from 9AM – 2PM. No experience necessary. Bring binoculars, lunch and water. Pre-registration with leader is required by 7/16/09. **Leader:** Sue Muller (HC) 410-313-4697 (day phone), smuller@howardcountymd.gov.

Sunday, Jul 19: McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area, MD (*rated easy to moderate*) Hike 7 to 8 flat miles along the C&O canal and dirt roads to observe a variety of bird and animal life, wildflowers, and hopefully expanses of blooming sunflowers. This is a public hunting area, and on Sunday there may be dog training activities. Bring lunch, water, sun protection and insect repellent, and be prepared for muddy or wet conditions. Depart at 10:00 AM from the park & ride at the Clarksville Fire Department on Rt. 108 at Rt. 32. **Leader:** Betty Steil (HC) 443-745-3041, blsteil@verizon.net.

Sunday, Jul 19: Kaya king at Rocky Point Park (*rated moderate*) Kayak from this waterfront park to Hart Miller Island, a short paddle across in the Chesapeake Bay. Learn about and explore Hart Miller (built from dredge spoil), which is a favorite hangout for boaters and has a campground, observation tower, sandy swimming beaches, waterfowl, and floating vendors. Meet at 10 AM at the boat launch in the far end of Rocky Point Park past the beach area. There is an

admission fee to the park, which is reached from Rt. 702 and Back River Neck Rd. from the Baltimore Beltway 695 east. Participants must supply their own watercraft and wear a PFD on the water. Thunderstorms or high winds cancel. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell); XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Sunday, Jul 19: Potomac Conservancy Tree ID Walk and River Stories (*non-Sierra Club event*) Join Potomac Conservancy's Bryan Seipp on a walk around the C&O Canal as he helps us identify some common tree species found in the Potomac River watershed. Eco-historian Hayden Mathews will give an interactive talk which will weave regional history, natural history, and geology to interpret the forces and events that shaped both the Potomac River and the people that have lived on its banks for the past 12,000 years. Begins 10 AM in River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, 7906 Riverside Ave., Cabin John, MD 20818. **Contact:** Bridget Chapin, Potomac Conservancy, 301.608.1188, ext. 211, chapin@potomac.org

Saturday, Jul 25: Annual Dragonfly Count (*not rated*) Find and identify

dragonflies at various locations in Howard County from 9AM to 2PM, in an effort to learn more about species distribution. No experience necessary. Pre-registration with leader is required by 7/23/09. **Leader:** Sue Muller (HC) 410-313-4697 (day phone), smuller@howardcountymd.gov.

Saturday-Tuesday, Jul 25-28: Camping at Seneca Shadows, MNF, VA (*dayhikes rated moderate*) This campground is meticulously maintained. Dayhikes will include a 10 mile shuttle hike across North Fork Mountain with tons of views and a 10 mile circuit in Dolly Sods North. Optional hike to the top of Seneca Rocks for early arrivals. Pre-registration with leader is required. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday, Jul 26: Splash in the Middle Patuxent, in Savage Park (*rated moderate*) Cool down with a leisurely 3 hour walk in the middle of the river, from Murray Hill Road to Savage Park. Discover clams and other wildlife. Wear old sneakers, and be prepared to get wet. Due to hidden slippery rocks in the river, this hike is not appropriate for people with bad ankles/knees/

continued →



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

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

When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able - and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Make your contribution to Maryland Chapter, Sierra Club
7338 Baltimore Ave., #1A
College Park, MD 20740

Thanks so much!

Outings

↩ continued

backs. Bring a snack and water, and a change of clothes for an optional restaurant lunch after the hike. Meet at 9:30 AM at the Savage Park Wincopin Trail parking lot, off Vollmerhausen Road, a quarter mile east of the bridge over I-95. **Leader:** Ken Clark (HC) 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

AUGUST 2009

Sunday, Aug 2: Potomac Conservancy Dragonfly and Damselfly Walk (*non-Sierra Club event*) Join Kevin Munroe as he takes us on a journey along the C&O Canal towpath to explore the life of dragon and damselflies. Begins 1 PM in River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, 7906 Riverside Ave., Cabin John, MD 20818. **Contact:** Bridget Chapin, Potomac Conservancy, 301.608.1188, ext. 211, chapin@potomac.org

Saturday, Aug 8: Southern SNP Circuit Hike (*rated strenuous*) Hike the Brown Mountain and Big Portal Trails and Woodland Valley on the western side of the Blue Ridge starting from Skyline Drive. Return on AT and Loft Mountain; some good chanterelle mushrooms possible. 17 miles, 4,000 ft elevation gain. Park has an entry fee. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center in Vienna, Virginia on Route 123 near I-66 at 7:30 AM. Pre-registration with leader is required. **Leader:** William Needham (MC) 410-884-9127; Needham82@aol.com.

Sunday, Aug 9: Kayaking and Camping at Codorus State Park (*rated easy*) Kayak around the 1,275-acre Lake Marburg at Codorus State Park, just across the State line in Pennsylvania. Meet at 11 AM at the park office/visitor center, to purchase a

Pennsylvania 2009 boat launch permit for a small fee. There is no admission fee to the park, which has many activities and facilities. Contact leader for details about the park, camping reservations and directions. Participants must supply their own watercraft and wear a PFD on the water. Thunderstorms or high winds cancel. **Leader:** Mary Corrdry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell); XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Thursday to Sunday, Aug 13-16: FFA Camping at Spruce Knob Lake, WV (*not rated*) Beat the heat by camping in Monongahela NF at a remote mountain lake near the highest point in West Virginia. Bring your own gear and enjoy hiking, paddling, fishing, mountain biking, or just relax in a lawn chair. Great under-utilized family campground. Come for all or just a couple of days. Pre-registration with leader is required by July 15. **Leader:** Dan Soeder, 410-969-9465, Djsjoeder@yahoo.com.

Saturday-Monday, Aug 15-17: Quehanna Wild Area Backpack, PA (*rated moderate*) 30 mile backpack includes some seldom-used hunting roads/trails to close the loop. A few steep ascents and descents with lots of plateau walking in between. There should be lots of blueberries on this trip. Pre-registration with leader is required. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

SEPTEMBER 2009

Saturday-Sunday, Sep 5-6: Neighbor Mt./Knob Mt. Backpack, VA (*rated strenuous*) 18 mile trek with an overnight stop along Jeremy's Run. Total distance will depend on how far up the Run it takes to find a campsite.

Option to return along the Run instead of Knob Mt.; group decides. Beautiful views from Neighbor Mountain, and Jeremy's Run is always lovely. **Leader:** Betty Steil (HC) 443-745-3041, blsteil@verizon.net.

Saturday-Monday, Sep 5-7: AT Shuttle Backpack, The Triple Crown of VA (*rated strenuous*) This trek experiences over 3700 ft of elevation gain in 25 miles. Daily mileage 13/8/4, but this might change if we find other official campsites between the shelters. Fantastic views at the Dragons Tooth, McAfee Knob and Tinker Cliffs with more in between. Pre-registration with leader is required. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday, Sep 5: Big Schloss and Little Schloss. Great North Mountain Circuit Hike (*rated strenuous*). Schloss means castle in German, referenced here to the large, castle-like rock outcroppings that bear the name. 17 mile hike with 3,000 ft elevation gain features scenic overlooks of West Virginia mountains. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center in Vienna, Virginia on Route 123 near I-66 at 7:30 AM. Pre-registration with leader is required. **Leader:** William Needham (MC) 410-884-9127; Needham82@aol.com.

Saturday, Sep 12: FFA Stony Run Trail Hike (*rated moderate*) Older children and dogs are welcome on this hike along 5½ miles of the Stony Run stream through Baltimore neighborhoods including Hampton and Roland Park and through Wyman Park. The trail is well-maintained, mostly flat and shaded, with scenery ranging from jungle to manicured parks. Go underneath several bridges decorated with graffiti. Learn about

and see first-hand the extensive stream restoration by Baltimore City (which may still be in process) and the planting of native trees by the Jones Falls Watershed Association and other volunteers. Children under 18 must be able to hike this distance and be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Dogs must be leashed and friendly. Optional lunch afterwards. Meet at 10 AM on Wyman Park Drive beside the former Stieff Silver headquarters. Contact leader for details/directions. **Leader:** Mary Corrdry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell); XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Saturday-Tuesday, Sep. 19-22: Camping at World's End State Park, PA (*dayhikes rated moderate to strenuous*) Dayhikes will include one that is 8 miles in length. and the other will be 10-12 miles in length. Views and beautiful streams featured. Pre-registration with leader is required. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

BEYOND SEPT 2009

Friday-Sunday, Oct 2-4: Sierra Club Maryland Chapter Jamboree, Camp Barrett (*not rated*) Join other Sierrans at Elks Camp Barrett near Crownsville in Anne Arundel County for a weekend of workshops, activist training, campfires, hiking, discussions, debates, good food and fellowship. Outings-related activities will include a meeting for outings leaders, several hikes, outdoor skills workshops, and the Sierra Club Outings Leader Training 101 class. **Leader:** Dan Soeder, 410-969-9465, Djsjoeder@yahoo.com.

continued ⇨

← continued

Saturday Oct 13 Furnace Mountain and Jones Run Trails in Southern Shenandoah National Park (*rated strenuous*) Circuit Hike of 16 miles with a 3,500 ft elevation gain, featuring three waterfalls and possibly some good chanterelle mushrooms. Return on Madison Run Fire Road. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center in Vienna, Virginia on Route 123 near I-66 at 7:30 AM. Pre-registration with leader is required. **Leader:** William Needham (MC) 410-884-9127; Needham82@aol.com.

Saturday-Monday, Oct 10-12: Chuck Keiper Trail Backpack, PA (*rated strenuous*) 30 mile hike features steep ascents and descents. Daily mileage 10/10/10 depending on campsite and water availability. Pre-registration with leader is required. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday-Tuesday, Oct 24-27: Camping at Douthat State Park, VA (*dayhikes rated moderate to strenuous*) Camp in the oldest park in the Old Dominion. Dayhikes range from 7 to 10 miles. Lots of views. Pre-registration with leader is required. **Leader:** Mike Juskelis (HC) 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday, Nov 1: Potomac Conservancy Fall Photography on the Canal (*non-Sierra Club event*) Join photographer Joanne Miller for some one-on-one pointers as you capture the sights along the C&O Canal. Bring your favorite camera and a good eye. Begins 8 AM in River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, 7906 Riverside Ave., Cabin John, MD 20818. **Contact:** Bridget Chapin, Potomac Conservancy, 301.608.1188, ext. 211, chapin@potomac.org ■

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/>

June

June 20	Chesapeake Bay Foundation Green Building Tour and Environmental Water Activity FYC
TBD	TBD DHILL
June 18-23	Patuxent Sojourn DHH
No outing	Summer break CGCC

July

July 18	Tubing on Shenandoah River at Harpers Ferry, WV FYC
July 20-24	Kayaking DHH
TBD	TBD DHILL
No outing	Summer break CGCC

August

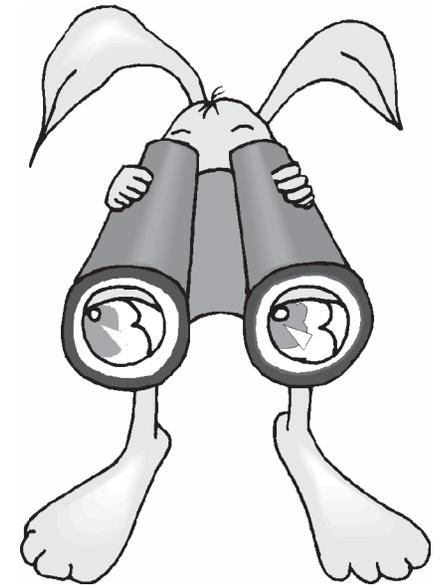
TBD	TBD DHH
TBD	TBD DHILL
No outing	Summer break CGCC
No outing	Summer break FYC

September

TBD	TBD DHH
TBD	TBD DHILL
TBD	TBD CGCC
Sept. 18-20	Overnight Camping at Cape Henlopen, Lewes, DE FYC

Abbreviations:

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



EDITOR

If you are an experienced editor and a diplomatic wordsmith, with good organizational skills and a commitment to environmental advocacy, here's a volunteer opportunity that may be just what you're looking for: managing editor of this newsletter.

About four times a year, you'll lead our volunteer team of editors, and work with our chapter leaders and other members whose articles, essays, and notices fill our pages. You'll review and circulate the articles that are submitted, develop story ideas, and assign the articles to our wonderful editors, who will work with the authors to get the articles ready for publication. Then you'll determine the content of each issue of the newsletter, and coordinate with the publication designer who'll put the newsletter together for printing. You can do this work from home.

Interested? Have questions that might help you get interested? Email Darla at Darla2L@msierra.org. Thanks!

The Jamboree is back, and YOU are invited!

October 2-4, 2009

Maryland Chapter
JAMBOREE

Camp Barrett, Crownsville, MD

The Jamboree is a weekend to meet other Maryland Sierra Club members, to learn, to share ideas, to have fun, and to be where we all want to be, outdoors!

This will be my third Jamboree. These events are wonderful opportunities to meet with others who enjoy the outdoors and have similar interests and concerns.

—Dan Soeder, MD Chapter Outings Chair

Jamboree is a great way to build relationships and network. There's so much positive energy, it's inspiring!

—Laurel Imlay, MD Chapter Coordinator

This will be my first Jamboree—I can't wait!

—Caroli Mullen, new member, Baltimore

Events will include speakers, conservation activities, training, workshops, hikes, live music, campfires, great food, fellowship, and much more.

The facility has dorms and tent sites, and is only a few miles from Annapolis. Your Chapter Jamboree Committee is working hard to assemble a great program in a beautiful location at a reasonable cost. This biennial event has been a favorite of hundreds of Sierra Club members. Please join us again or come see what you've been missing!

More details will be coming soon. Please use this form to let us know that you're interested in hearing more about the Jamboree!

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, ZIP _____
Phone _____
e-mail _____

I plan to attend the Jamboree _____

Number of guests _____

I would like more information _____

I would like to help _____

Mail to

Sierra Club Maryland Chapter

Attn: 2009 Jamboree

7338 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 101A

College Park, MD 20740

For more information call the chapter office at 301 277-7111, or visit <http://maryland.sierraclub.org>

JAMBOREE

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 thanks those who contributed to this issue of *Chesapeake*.

Writers and Contributors: David O'Leary, Fred Sypher, Ron Henry, Chris Yoder, Laurel Imlay, Jody Tick, Jim Long, Morita Bruce, Carl Pope, Mary Corddry, David Prosten, Ken Clark, David Hauck, Chip Reilly, Marc Imlay, Dan Soeder

Editors: Betty Brody, Mary Corddry, Donna Engle, Becky French, Laurel Imlay, Denise Jakobsberg, Betsy Johnson, Sue Kunkel, Dave O'Leary, Janis Oppelt, Cindy Paré, Darla Tewell, Alana Wase

Outings Editor: Dan Soeder

Invasives Editor: Estill Harrison, Cindy Paré

Layout and Typography: Darla Tewell

Special thanks to our guest managing editor, Denise Jakobsberg

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.



Cool reading inside,
for hot days outside

- How green was the legislative session? A wrap-up, and prospects for next year.
- An essayist and a poet consider loss of species
- Considering recycling, and pre-cycling
- Healthy food, healthy folks, healthy habitat
- Outings, events, and news from around the state

and much more!

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