

Chesapeake

Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Winter 2009-2010

MAPP, PATH and Maryland's Energy Future in Limbo

By Alana Wase—Despite Maryland's commitment to clean, renewable energy, plans are being made to import additional coal-fired power into our state. Two transmission line proposals, the Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP) and the Potomac Appalachian Transmission Highline (PATH), if built, would encourage existing coal-fired power plants to ramp up production and ship additional dirty coal power to population centers on the East Coast.

As many of you know from the previous issue of *Chesapeake*, the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter strongly opposes these proposals. The lines, which would cost consumers \$3.1 billion to construct, would further commit us to an antiquated energy system that exacerbates global warming and demands mountain top removal mining, while delaying renewable energy deployment. Expert testimony before the West Virginia Public Service Commission reported from PATH alone, "CO₂ emissions will increase (net) by 3.75 to 7.79 million tons per year, SO₂ emissions will increase by 67,000 to 88,000 short tons per year, and NO_x emissions will rise by 12,000 to 20,000 short tons per year."¹ This is a conservative estimate, the expert witness goes on to state repeatedly.

While the declaration "emissions will increase" should be enough to raise a red flag, these proposals are under seri-

ous consideration. To put 7.79 tons of carbon emissions into perspective, that is equivalent to a quarter of the *entire* state of Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions from transportation in 2005.² Clearly, MAPP and PATH are not solutions to current energy problems, but rather, the antithesis.

Over the last few months the debate on whether to build or not build the lines has been heating up. With the powerful utilities and the coal industry advocating for the transmission lines, it is essential that we remain engaged to ensure that the arguments against the lines are vigorously expressed and heard. Below is

an update on each proposal as well as an update on the Maryland Chapter's activities to oppose the lines and promote a better alternative.

PATH Update

In a significant win for our side, on September 9, the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) ruled to dismiss the application for PATH, as, by Maryland law, the application must be filed by an electric company, and PATH does not qualify. This ruling has had a domino effect on the project. As PATH is proposed to go through multiple states—Maryland, West Virginia,

and Virginia—the proposal is being reviewed by each public service commission. Since the Maryland ruling we have seen the staffs of Virginia and West Virginia's PSCs submit motions to dismiss the PATH applications. The West Virginia motion stated "through [PATH's] failure to assertively seek regulatory approval from the Maryland PSC, PATH has placed [the WV] Commission in a difficult analytical position and has required it to analyze the need to deliver electricity to a currently hypothetical terminus. Therefore, this certificate application should be dismissed...until such time as a proper application is filed in Maryland..."³

We are pleased with these PSC ruling
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University of Maryland students petition to oppose "Coal by Wire" projects MAPP and PATH and to promote renewable energy solutions.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

WINTER

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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,

Well, here we are in midst of the autumn quarter already! And what an energetic period it has been thus far.

In February 2009, a Jamboree Committee (JamCom) was formed. Many teleconferences and other coordination efforts resulted in our Jamboree, a well attended "Fun and Learning Event" on the first weekend in October 2009.

Thanks to all who attended: our volunteers who performed many tasks; all workshop presenters; the Bioblitz, Challenge Course, and Outings teams; our unequaled food staff; our auction team with chair Betsy Johnson and auctioneer par excellence Mike Martin; our keynote speaker, national President Allison Chin, for her excellent overview of national issues; and national Vice-President Robin Mann for her interesting, energizing conservation priorities presentation.

Allison and Robin—Thank you for carving out time to be with us and share with us. You provided a very meaningful and memorable experience for the Maryland Chapter.

Special thanks are due all the JamCom committee members, our MD Chapter staff, and especially our chair, Alana Wase. She stepped up when the former chair had to vacate, and shepherded us through this very successful event. Special thanks are also due to the Camp Barrett staff and management for their fine, well-run facility, and to Mother Nature for providing the wonderful weather that contributed immeasurably to the success of Jamboree 2009.

August and September were busy months for members of the Chapter Core Functions Tasks committees formed from our July Excom meeting. Those committees focused on 1) smart energy and global warming solutions, 2) reducing waste and toxics, 3) safeguarding and protecting communities (people), and 4) resilient habitats. During the September meeting, each task force's plans were presented and, winnowed by discussions in small work groups, were collated and prioritized. Subsequently, the larger planning committee determined that the MD Chapter's 2010 campaign priorities would be the transmission lines campaign (MAPP and PATH), also a Sierra Club national priority, and the "Save the Mattawoman Creek" campaign.

The transmission lines campaign has a well developed strategy in place and was the subject of a suite of wonderful articles in the Autumn 2009 *Chesapeake*. Thanks to those who have already donated to this campaign! See our front page article for more on this campaign.

The health of the Mattawoman is a long-standing issue for the Southern Maryland Group. A decision by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is due December 1 on permitting the initiation of the Cross County Connector (CCC), an ill-conceived highway that, if constructed, would devastate the viability of Mattawoman Creek. Mattawoman, as readily acknowledged by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, is the "Best of the Best" of the four remaining premier spawning areas of the Chesapeake Bay estuaries. The many species of fish that spawn there provide recreational and commercial value for the Bay, and a nationally recognized and highly regarded bass fishermen's tournament venue. And it is also a major provider of the "feeder fish" for larger ocean fish that are a mainstay for ocean saltwater sports fishermen.

Mattawoman is now recognized as a major environmental concern by the Recreational Fishing Alliance, the environmental arm of the ocean-sports-fishing boat and yacht builders industries with both national and international outreach, and its Maryland branch, the Maryland Saltwater Sportsfishermen's Association (MSSA).

By the time of this publication, a major MD Chapter Mattawoman "Kickoff," a canoeing and kayaking tour of the Mattawoman, will have occurred on November 8. Thanks in advance for all those who signed on and turned out for the tour. A comprehensive long-range campaign strategy to follow the canoe and kayak tour is being developed for the "Save the Mattawoman" Campaign. We have more on the Mattawoman on page 7 of this issue.

Preparations and planning for the 2010 Maryland General Assembly legislative session are underway and will continue throughout the remainder of 2009 and through the 2010 legislative session that begins mid-January and ends mid-April. The CCE (Citizens Campaign for the Environment), a group of environmental organizations with which MD Chapter Sierra Club has been involved for many years, has established its legislative priorities for the upcoming session. For more on our legislative initiatives, see page 5 for Yi-Hsuan Lee's

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In Our Chapter Elections, Every Candidate is an Environmentalist

This issue of *Chesapeake* includes the ballot for electing at-large members of the executive committee of the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club is a grassroots environmental organization that elects its own leadership. Every member is entitled to vote and to run for leadership positions in the club. The executive committee (excom) runs the chapter and determines the chapter's policies and responses to the many environmental challenges we face in Maryland. In addition to developing and supporting our legislative agenda, setting priorities for conservation campaigns, and facilitating communication between the chapter and the groups, the excom faces the challenge

Letter from the Chair

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article on our legislative committee, and page 4 for Dave O'Leary's piece on our conservation and legislative priorities.

We are now conducting an election for three open at-large executive committee delegates. The nominees' statements and the ballot appear in this issue, so please, read the statements, and vote.

Finally, I want to take note of the coming 2010 political year! It promises to be even more important than the successful 2008 political year in terms of real environmental achievements. We have made strides in 2009 but there is much yet to be done.

The chapter and group political committees are geared up and will be calling on you for support. Please be proactive in this process. There has never been a time in my lifetime when so much change is needed and so imperative from the environmental perspective.

Let's be the change we want to happen! We can make the difference! Let's do it!! ■

of achieving fiscal stability despite rising operational costs and a reduction in funds from the national club.

The excom comprises six at-large members elected by the Maryland membership, and one delegate from each of our nine groups. At-large members are elected for two-year terms. Three of the six at-large positions are up for election each year. The executive committee elects the chapter chair and other officers from its own ranks.

This is your chance to choose the people who will lead the chapter through the next year. Please read the candidates' statements, complete the ballot, and mail it to the chapter office at this address:

Elections Committee
Maryland Chapter/Sierra Club
Suite 101A
7338 Baltimore Ave.
College Park, Maryland 20740

The excom meets six times a year, on the third Saturday of every odd month. Those elected will take their position at the January 16, 2010 meeting. Ballots are due in the office by January 8, 2010.

Please read the candidates' statements carefully and vote in this election for members-at-large for the executive committee of your Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Ballot appears on Page 24. ■

Join the Maryland Chapter's
e-mail action alert list
www.marylandsierraclub.org/action

Excom Candidates' Statements

David O'Leary

I am running for re-election as a member of the chapter executive committee and would appreciate your vote. I have served as an at-large member of the chapter executive Committee for the past two years, including service as the chapter conservation chair from April, 2008 to the present, and vice-chair throughout 2009. Since moving to Maryland in the fall of 2005, my involvement in chapter activities includes service as the Cool Cities Campaign Chair from the spring of 2006 through spring of 2008, advocating for chapter positions in Annapolis and on Capitol Hill, and helping to form our current legislative committee. I am also a member of the chapter's Staff Oversight Committee.

Prior to moving to Maryland in the fall of 2005, I was active with the New Jersey Chapter, serving as a group conservation chair and group outings chair.

A few of the items I would like to continue working on during the 2010-2011 term include further outreach and support of the local groups, continuing to improve our processes for identifying and prioritizing campaigns and writing campaign plans, increasing the chapter's presence in Annapolis and on Capitol Hill, and strengthening our fundraising programs.

I would appreciate your vote. Please feel free to contact me on 301-580-8673 or at dave.oleary@mdsierra.org. ■

Brigitte Fortin

I am running for the position of at-large member of the executive committee of the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club. In my four years with the club, I've run a habitat restoration project in my hometown; assisted with a surprisingly successful rain-barrel campaign for the Howard County Group; completed a Masters in

Environmental Studies; began an Earth Intimacy group with Dr. Stuart Miller, professor emeritus of Towson University; and advocated for the environment at public hearings and through educational programs. I'm happy with what I've done, but can do much more.

Furthermore, I'm not strictly an environmentalist. What I believe is that all issues are interconnected. The healing of the planet can no longer be separated from healing ourselves. We must strengthen our ability to work together in order to make the massive changes that we must make in order to turn back the tide and bring the temperature down. Environmentalism was once only concerned with plants, animals and the land, but now it cannot be separated from human communities and our own future. This is a good thing. I believe that by helping people make spiritual connections with nature, we can heal the earth and each other and trigger an evolution of human consciousness that moves us to another level. In some circles this interconnection between personal healing, community well-being and planetary health is known as Integrated Environmentalism. I believe the time has come for us to implement and practice this kind of environmentalism in the Sierra Club. Through creating Earth Intimacy Groups, we can work with our grassroots members in deeper ways, developing greater inspiration for action, and drawing larger numbers into the good work we do. Earth Intimacy Groups may take the form of book clubs that discuss great nature writers, such as Thomas Berry, John Muir, Joanna Macy and others; outings that help members understand their more-than-physical connections to nature; political actions that combine their message with compelling personal stories; and new ways of framing messages that emphasize our interdependence. ■

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Excom Candidates Statements

Brigitte Fortin (cont.)

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dent relationship with nature.

Action without inspiration soon grows weary; however, inspiration without action is not enough. Let us work to bring these forces into balance; let me help in whatever way I can. ■

Betsy Johnson

I have served in a number of leadership positions since I became active in the Chapter in 1997. These include Montgomery Group Chair for three years, Montgomery Political Chair for three election cycles, Chapter Chair for three years, Chapter Political Chair for three years. I've also been actively involved in fundraising for the Chapter, lobbying the legislature for Chapter priority legislation, and working on various conservation efforts including the anti-ICC campaign and other smart growth and transportation initiatives.

We are coming into a state-wide election year when we will be participating in elections of state and local officials all across Maryland. Creating a strong, visible political presence for the Maryland Chapter across the state will be my top priority during this year. We will be issuing candidate endorsements, raising money for our Political Action Committee, and working on priority races at the state and local level. And, if you would like to join this effort, please don't hesitate to contact me.

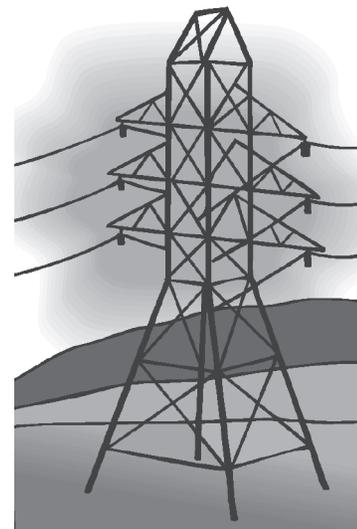
If elected, I promise time-tested reliability: if I say I will do something, I will do it. I am committed to the Maryland Chapter and have enjoyed working with members at all levels over the years, from co-chairs and committee members to volunteers during lobby days. I am a team player and, with your vote, I hope to continue serving the members of the Maryland Chapter on its Executive Committee. Thank you. ■



Remember to cast your ballot!
See inside back cover.

Chapter Conservation and Legislative Priority Campaigns

By Dave O'Leary—Throughout the summer and fall, chapter volunteers and staff were hard at work researching, planning and meeting to decide on chapter priorities for the remainder of 2009 and into 2010. We looked into the wide range of issues covered by the Sierra Club national Climate Recovery campaigns, and considered the many issues facing us here in Maryland. At an annual planning meeting in September, the chapter leaders decided to focus on two conservation priorities: reducing global warming pollution through smart energy solutions, and protecting natural



places and resilient habitats. The lead smart energy solutions campaign is stopping bad transmission line projects, as described in detail in the previous issue of the *Chesapeake*, and in the update in this issue. The natural place we are focusing on is Mattawoman Creek in southern Maryland, which is also described in more detail in this issue. I encourage everyone to learn more and get involved in these campaigns through the articles and also on our chapter website—maryland.sierraclub.org. These two campaigns were selected as priorities because they are particularly representative of the broader issues facing us here in Maryland; specifically, poor choices about energy use, and poor decisions about land use and transportation. There are many other examples throughout the state that deserve our attention, and the local Maryland Chapter groups are taking on many of these issues. Information about local campaigns and local group contact infor-

mation can be found in this issue and on our web site.

Tied to our conservation priorities are our legislative priorities for the 2010 Maryland General Assembly session, which begins in January. As described elsewhere in this issue, the Chapter legislative team has decided to focus on waste reduction legislation and energy efficiency (specifically the disclosure of energy use in commercial and government buildings). We also expect to work with other groups from around the state on legislation in the General Assembly, including protecting environmental

programs in the state budget, reforming our transportation prioritization process, and increasing the focus on stormwater pollution. The latter two issues relate closely to the campaign to protect Mattawoman Creek. Another likely effort in the state legislature in 2010 is a proposal to develop a process for comprehensive energy planning in Maryland. This issue relates closely to our transmission line campaign.

Many urgent challenges face us in the upcoming year, and there are many opportunities to get involved and make a difference. Please contact Alana in the chapter office at 301-277-7111, or Dave O'Leary, Chapter Conservation Chair at dave.oleary@mdsierra.org, or your local group leaders, to find out how you can help. ■



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!

Chapter Legislative Committee Prepares for Annapolis with Focus on Waste Reduction and Lowering Buildings Energy Use

By Yi-Hsuan Lee—The Maryland Chapter Legislative Committee has been finalizing our top legislative priorities for the 2010 Maryland General Assembly, and would like to welcome any new volunteers to participate in this exciting time! The assembly session lasts for 90 days, from mid-January to mid-April, during which time the legislative committee is involved in fast-paced lobbying activities in Annapolis in order to influence the passage of environmentally-friendly legislation.

The committee has decided to focus their efforts on waste-reduction legislation and on the public disclosure of energy use in commercial and public buildings. Not only



is Maryland's recycling rate at a low 34%, but tons of trash are sent to landfills, which increases carbon emissions. The governor's Commission on Climate Change found that increasing recycling is one of the most cost-effective measures to reduce Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions, and as such, the legislative committee's current proposal includes making single-stream curbside recycling programs available to everyone in the state, and implementing a statewide beverage container deposit system. Single-stream curbside recycling makes recycling easier, while a beverage container deposit system creates incentives for recycling. According to studies conducted in states which collect a deposit on beverage containers, beverage container litter was reduced 69 to 84%, with total reductions

in litter ranging from 30 to 65%. Taken together, these two provisions will provide a more comprehensive recycling program for the state.

Energy use is another issue the legislative committee is working on this year. Buildings, both commercial and residential, account for 39% of energy use in the

United States, the largest contributor to global warming. There is ample opportunity to improve energy efficiency in buildings, as most buildings are wasting 30% of their energy. The committee's proposed solution is to require the disclosure of energy use in commercial and public buildings. This involves negligible costs while

identifying buildings that need to become more energy efficient, and creating transparency and incentives.

Committee members have begun to contact and hold meetings with Maryland state delegates who may be interested in supporting these issues during the upcoming session. In order for the committee's efforts to be successful, your help is essential! If you are enthusiastic about environmental issues and have some time to spare, please join and help your fellow Sierra Club members make 2010 a success! If you would like to join the Legislative Committee, or if you would like more information, please contact Alana Wase at (301) 277-7111 or alana.wase@mdsierra.org. We hope to speak with you soon! ■

New Federal Action to Protect the Chesapeake Bay!

By Dave O'Leary—On Monday, October 19, Senator Ben Cardin introduced the "Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act of 2009." If this bill is passed, it should strengthen the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and reauthorize funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program. The next day, Congressman Elijah Cummings introduced a corresponding bill in the U.S. House of Representatives. These bills follow an Executive Order from President Obama in May regarding protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Information about the two bills is online at www.thomas.gov. The House bill number is H.R.3852. The Senate bill number is S. 1816.

Please thank Senator Cardin and Congressman Elijah Cummings for their leadership on this issue.

Senator Cardin's contact information: <http://www.cardin.senate.gov/> 202-224-4524 (Washington, D.C. office) or 410-962-4436 (Baltimore office)

Congressman Cummings' contact information: <http://www.house.gov/cummings/contact.shtml> (410) 685-9199 (Baltimore) (410) 465-8259 (Howard County)

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The current co-sponsors from Maryland are Representatives Donna F. Edwards, Steny H. Hoyer, John Sarbanes and Chris Van Hollen, and Senator Barbara Mikulski. They also deserve our thanks.

Leadership from Maryland is important, but we need many more elected officials from around the country to join this effort. Those of us in Maryland understand the importance of the Chesapeake Bay but many others may not.

In support of this effort, a new Chesapeake Bay Coalition was formed in the spring of 2009, then launched the Choose Clean Water campaign. The Coalition includes

the Sierra Club's Maryland Chapter and hundreds of other organizations from across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Coalition's first conference is scheduled for January 10-12 in Washington, DC. More information about the conference is available on the web site www.choosecleanwater.org.

If you are interested in helping with Chesapeake Bay issues at the federal or local level, please contact the Maryland Chapter office at 301-277-7111. ■

Dave O'Leary is the Maryland Chapter Conservation Chair.



Legislation and Conservation

MAPP, PATH, and Maryland's Energy Future

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ings in that they may delay the approval process anywhere for four months to indefinitely, depending on PATH's next moves.

MAPP Update

Similar to PATH, MAPP's fate is also unknown. The MD PSC is waiting for more complete responses from PEPCO Holdings, Inc. (PHI) regarding the project. Originally, PHI proposed that MAPP would begin in Virginia, pass through Maryland under the Chesapeake Bay, onto the Eastern Shore, to then travel to Delaware and end in New Jersey. This summer however, PHI announced their decision not to construct the northernmost leg of the line to connect Delaware to New Jersey. Given the change in plans, the MD PSC is scrutinizing the proposal closely. Additionally, on October 15, Dorchester County filed a motion to dismiss MAPP's application on the basis that the application is incomplete. At the time of writing, the MD PSC has not yet ruled on this motion.

The Sierra Club Role: Raising Awareness and Advocating for an Alternative

Over the last couple months the Maryland Chapter has been busy drumming up opposition to MAPP and PATH. We have been collecting petition signatures, holding public workshops on the issue, and keeping our members informed. A public rally, Down with King Coal! Clean Energy Revolution!, opposing MAPP and PATH, is planned for December 1 and should earn media coverage.

At the same time, we have attended meetings with the Office of the People's Counsel, the Maryland Energy Administration, the Maryland Public Service Commission, editorial boards, and more.

We have also been meeting with fellow environmental organizations in the state to work together in opposing MAPP

and PATH. In mid-October, we co-signed a letter to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) addressing our concerns with the proposals and requesting MDE's position on MAPP and PATH. We are awaiting a response. On October 28, the Maryland Chapter wrote a letter to the governor and circulated it to other environmental organizations inviting them to join us in asking Governor O'Malley to take a close look at the negative environmental impacts of MAPP and PATH. The National Wildlife Federation, Environment Maryland, and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network joined us in signing the letter. We are awaiting the governor's response.

While much is being done to oppose MAPP and PATH, we know that our work does not stop after the fate of MAPP and PATH is determined. In addition to direct opposition to the two lines, Sierra Club is working for smart energy solutions. We are encouraging the state to adopt a new comprehensive energy planning process so Maryland is more proactive in selecting clean, safe energy options, rather than reacting to proposals from the incumbent utilities. We are also discussing plans to host forums to educate our members and the state's

decision makers about better alternatives, such as responsibly sited off-shore wind turbines and other renewable technologies. We continue our Cool Cities and Cool Counties campaigns across the state, raising awareness of energy issues and encouraging energy efficiency and implementation of renewable energy among local elected officials and community members.

Evidence of the rate of global warming is accumulating faster than even climate scientists predicted. Maryland, with over 7,000 miles of coastline, is especially vulnerable to its impact. While MAPP and PATH remain in limbo, we are doing our best to defeat the lines and advocate for more sustainable energy solutions. The irreversible impact MAPP and PATH would have if built is unacceptable and irresponsible. While we cannot undo the mistakes of our energy past, we can define our energy future. This is a critical moment and we need everyone's help, including *yours!* ■

(Endnotes)

1 James, Christopher A. "Direct Testimony of Christopher A. James on Behalf of the Sierra Club." Virginia Public Service Commission Docket No. PUE-2009-00043. 14 October 2009.

2 Maryland Commission on Climate Change. *Climate Action Plan*. August 2008

www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/Air/ClimateChange/AppendixC_Inventory.pdf

3 "Staff's Motion to Dismiss the Filing as Insufficient or in the Alternative, Require PATH to Request a Tolling and Implement Further Case Processing Procedures." West Virginia Public Service Commission Docket No. 09-0770-E-CN. 28 October 2009.

Volunteer: Join the Maryland Sierra Club's Energy Team. Help us spread the word to oppose Coal by Wire Projects MAPP and PATH and advocate for renewable energy solutions. Contact Dave O'Leary to join, email: dave.oleary@msierra.org

Donate: We estimate that the cost of this campaign to the Maryland Chapter will be just over \$10,000. We have raised nearly \$6,000 to date. Every bit helps. Please make your check payable to the Sierra Club Foundation and note in the memo line "MD transmission campaign." This campaign is tax deductible, a bonus!

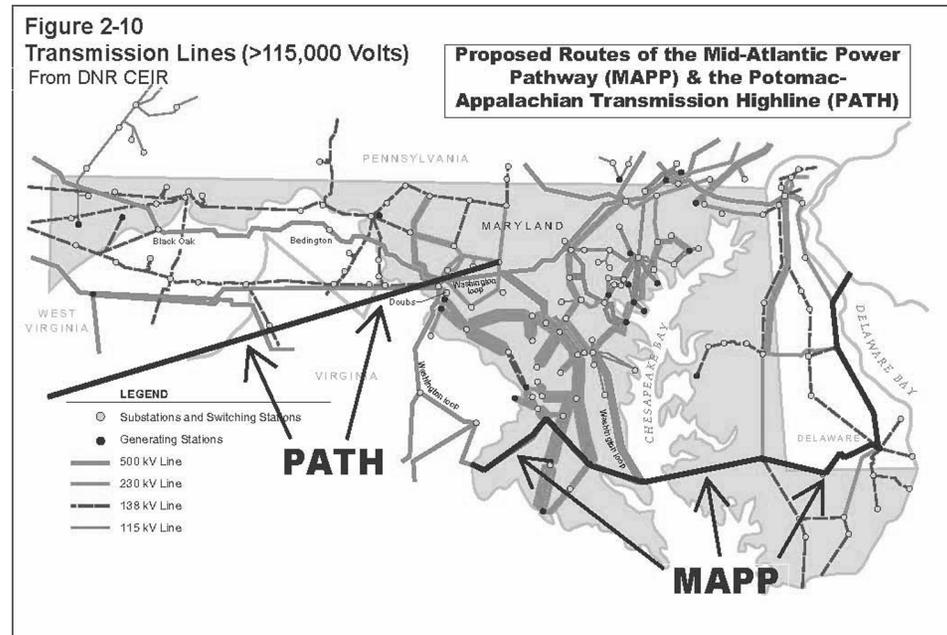
Contact Governor O'Malley: Write a letter. Call. E-mail. Your personal message to the governor does make a difference.

By letter:
Governor Martin O'Malley
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

By phone: 410-974-3901

By email:
www.governor.maryland.gov/mail/

For further updates on the campaign, visit www.maryland.sierraclub.org



Mattawoman Matters



By Jim Long—My affair with Mattawoman Creek began many years ago, after calibration paddling the Potomac's tidal-freshwater embayments near my home. Mattawoman is different. Wooded wildlands frame serene upper tidal reaches; acres of emergent wetland plants waver in the currents; wild rice nods above as submerged aquatics undulate below; and the picture is always animated by fishing birds drawn to this finest of all Chesapeake Bay fish nurseries. Truly, as its Algonquin namesake implies, it is "where one goes pleasantly."

- ♦ American Rivers named Mattawoman Creek the fourth most endangered river in the nation.
- ♦ Of all Chesapeake Bay tributaries surveyed by the Department of Natural Resources, Mattawoman possesses the greatest concentrations of migratory fish. One study showed that it has more than 40 times the density of anadromous fish (those that live in the ocean but spawn in freshwater) than seven other tributaries combined. Another study showed that it has ten times more anadromous river herring and two times the number of white perch than thirteen other tributaries combined.
- ♦ It is the most productive spawning ground in southern Maryland for yellow perch, and a bright spot in the Potomac's recovering American shad population.
- ♦ It hosts greater concentrations of largemouth bass than any other

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Could a Remarkable Creek on the Potomac River, Threatened by a New Highway, Be a Compass to Saving the Bay?

The Algonquin Indians termed it "where one goes pleasantly."

Paddlers and anglers, otters, egrets, and eagles prize it.

State fisheries biologists regard it "the best of the best."

Local government considers it a sewer district.

Mattawoman Creek epitomizes what ails the Chesapeake Bay in the face of sprawling urbanization: nearly all land-use decisions are handled by local governments, which, too often, have strong ties to the development industry. Because a water body is rooted to the land by the capillaries of its small tributaries, its health depends directly on land use within its watershed. Local officials thus have the greatest say in determining water quality, but the least interest in the bigger picture. As a result, the Environmental Protection Agency finds urbanization to be the only "pollution sector" still growing in the Chesapeake Bay, despite improvements in treating stormwater runoff.

Mattawoman Creek serves as a poster child for the issues of urban pollution. It is a twenty-mile river flowing along the border between Prince Georges and Charles Counties; it opens, twenty miles downstream of Washington, D.C., into the Potomac River's last tidal freshwater estuary to have escaped serious degradation from urbanization. The type of urbanization threatening Mattawoman, and much of the Bay, is sprawl development. In many areas, this replaces forest, the best land use for protecting aquatic living resources, with roofs, roads and parking lots, the least protective land use. Compared to forest, these hard surfaces can double the stormwater load to streams as they funnel an erosive rush of pollutant-laden and overheated runoff after rains. Being impervious to rainwater infiltration, these surfaces also leave little to be sponged and released to streams between

storms. Over-fertilized lawns also proliferate, sloughing excess fertilizer into streams. The ensuing algal growth clouds water, depletes oxygen upon decay, and can bloom into health-threatening clouds.

The Scale of Sprawl

To appreciate the scale of sprawl, note that the Bay watershed is losing forest at a staggering 100 acres per day. Or consider that the area of turf-grass now exceeds that of crops. Or that, while population in the watershed grew by 8% in the 1990s, the impervious cover of roofs, roads, and parking lots grew over 40%, five times faster.

Development proponents noisily assert that state and federal authorities would never permit harm to occur from local land-use decisions. However, as Howard Ernst emphasized in his 2003 book, *Chesapeake Bay Blues*, the Bay is being killed less by pollution than by politics. Or, more precisely, by a lack of political will to exercise the permitting authority to curtail harmful local land-use decisions.

The Mattawoman is a case in point. It is a Chesapeake gem (see sidebar), supported by a mostly forested watershed, but is threatened by a county "development district" 30% larger than Washington D.C. Consequently, it is teetering on the brink of serious degradation because its watershed is covered by nearly 10% impervious surface, a widely acknowledged point of no return, beyond which living resources rapidly decline. In addition, if business continues as usual, the Army Corps of Engineers projects development will consume 10,000 acres of forest by about 2020. As is stated in the Mattawoman Creek Watershed Management Plan, this "will represent a dramatic change in the landscape and function of the watershed."

Despite such strong words, local of-

icials persist in allowing business as usual. Charles County owns the records as the worst in the state for forest lost per dwelling unit, for forest replanting, for sprawl development patterns, and for children housed in trailers.

The Cross County Connector

Looming to push Mattawoman over the brink is Charles County's proposal to extend its Cross County Connector (CCC), a divided highway, across the full watershed. The highway is a primary reason why American Rivers, a national organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the nation's rivers, this year declared Mattawoman as the fourth most-endangered river in the nation.

As is true everywhere, to fill a sewer district with subdivisions requires taxpayers to subsidize developers by building highways such as the CCC. In this case, the subsidy is also required, according to county planning documents, to convert a one-stoplight town, Bryans Road, into a new edge city. Zoned, over public opposition, for 8,000 housing units in the town center alone, this city would drain to prime spawning grounds.

However, it is also true everywhere that highways can destroy wetlands and thus require permits, at the state level from the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) and at the federal level from the Army Corps of Engineers.

A convergence of factors give these agencies an ideal opportunity to exercise permitting tools so often locked in their toolboxes. The recognized stature of Mattawoman, its present status on the brink of serious degradation, an Executive Order to get serious about restoring the Bay, and viable Smart Growth alternatives all sharpen the focus on an unneeded highway that, if built, would surely seal the fate of Maryland's most

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Legislation and Conservation

A Remarkable Creek Could Point to Salvation of the Bay

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productive tributary to the Bay. Both MDE and the Army Corps of engineers should deny the permits to destroy 7.5 acres of wetlands, about one-fifth of the annual loss in the *entire* state, and an additional 6.1 acres of wetland buffer—a

total loss of almost 14 football fields of wetland function, not to mention almost 4/10 of a mile of streams.

The direct impacts would be multiplied many times by the indirect and cumulative impacts. Thousands of acres of forest would be lost to the sprawl devel-

opment facilitated by the highway. Consequent increases in nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients alone—at a time when the Environmental Protection Agency presumably requires a 40% reduction in the “total maximum daily loads” of these pollutants—provide ample justification for denying the permits. The risk to a “Tier II” tributary to Mattawoman, a pristine stream protected, in principle, by anti-degradation regulations, provides an example of the impact multiplication. If permits are not denied, MDE’s regulations for protecting all Tier II streams may be in jeopardy.

Without the Cross County Connector, the \$60 million cost of the highway could help Charles County redirect its transportation priorities from highways to light rail, a linchpin in plans to revitalize Waldorf, its existing urban core, and appropriately located on a rail line that could connect to Washington’s metro. Charles County, presently a sprawl capital in the state, could become a model for principled Smart Growth. In addition to a better environment, county residents would benefit from an improved quality of life and financial outlook, because sprawl costs more to service than it provides in taxes. By abandoning the failed policies of the last century, perhaps this county could serve as an example to others struggling to cope with the results of an addiction to sprawl.

The compass of last century still points toward antiquated highway projects that unsustainably chew up the Chesapeake’s forestland and spit it out as sprawl. We must choose an alternative route, and Mattawoman poses the choices in starkest terms. To swing the needle requires political will. What better magnet than a truly remarkable resource at risk to point the way? For how can you restore the Bay if you permit its gems to slip away? ■

Article courtesy of the Mattawoman Watershed Society.

Mattawoman Matters

(continued from page 7)

Maryland tributary to the Potomac River. Scores of tournaments are launched annually from its shores, making the Mattawoman the epicenter of a vibrant Potomac bass fishery, and generating tens of millions of dollars in Maryland commerce annually.

- ♦ Forests on Mattawoman’s shores provide for Maryland’s largest breeding wood duck population and unusually high concentrations of egrets and herons.
- ♦ Surveys by the Maryland-DC and Southern Maryland Audubon Societies find that Mattawoman forests qualify as an Important Bird Area (IBA).
- ♦ The Mattawoman is the Potomac’s last tidal-freshwater tributary to have escaped the urbanization sprawling from Washington, DC, and it includes extensive and diverse tidal freshwater marshes, a globally rare habitat.
- ♦ Much of the twenty-mile non-tidal stream lies in a broad forested stream valley characterized by wetlands and vernal pools, and described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a hotspot for reptiles, amphibians, and birds.
- ♦ The valley includes a site noted as the best coastal plain system in Maryland for amphibians and reptiles by the Maryland Biological

Stream Survey.

Unfortunately, signs of eutrophication (excess nutrients) are beginning to appear. The non-tidal stream bottom has in places acquired a new slipperiness. In midsummer, algae coats the submerged aquatic vegetation, and oxygen levels in the upper tidal reaches, while adequate, have dropped. Spawning activity by migratory fish in the fluvial stream has dropped dramatically, and survival of still abundant fish larvae appears less certain.

Now is the time to protect the forests and water of Mattawoman Creek, the fourth most endangered waterway in the nation, the Chesapeake Bay’s most productive spawning ground and fish nursery, hotspot for wildlife, and superb recreational area.

What you can do:

Please contact Governor O’Malley. A personal letter is most effective.

Ask that he publicly oppose Charles County’s Cross County Connector.

The Honorable Martin O’Malley
One State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone: 1-800-811-8336
email: governor@gov.state.md.us

Web-based contact:
www.governor.maryland.gov/mail/



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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

Legislation and Conservation

Congress Takes an Important Step in the Campaign to Protect Utah Wildlands.



By Chris Yoder—Legislation to protect the unique and vulnerable natural legacy embodied in the wilderness quality wildlands of Utah took an important step forward on October 1, 2009. The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 1925, a bill that would designate about nine million acres of these priceless lands as wilderness. This was the first hearing on a comprehensive Utah Wilderness Bill since Utah Congressman Wayne Owens first introduced the “America’s Red Rock Wilderness Bill” in 1989.

The good news: both the Obama Administration, speaking through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Utah political leaders recognized the value of Utah’s wildlands and accepted that those values can best be protected through wilderness designation.

The bad news: they opposed enactment of HR 1925. In effect, they want Utah wilderness, just not much and not that way. Their waffling brings to mind a prayer ascribed to St. Augustine when he asked the Lord to make him celibate, “just not yet.”

While HR 1925 opponents voice a desire for “compromise,” people and corporations blind to the scenic, habitat, and ecological values in these irreplaceable lands continue creating new “facts on the

ground.” They are obliterating wilderness values in a relentless campaign of destructive exploitation through commodity development, such as mining and oil and gas exploration, and motorized “wreckreation.”

More cosponsors for HR 1925 would increase the likelihood that the bill will pass. That prospect would give competing interests an incentive to come to the negotiating table in order to have voices in the final decisions. As it is, these competing interests are quite satisfied with the *status quo* and have little reason to negotiate.

At the deadline for this issue of the *Chesapeake*, only two members of the Maryland Congressional delegation (Sen. Ben Cardin and Rep. Elijah Cummings) have joined 22 Senators and 137 Members of Congress as cosponsors of America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act.

BLM has a statutory responsibility to protect wilderness values until Congress makes a final decision on designating wilderness. Congressman Maurice Hinchey, the lead sponsor of HR 1925, and 89 Members of Congress have signed a letter to Secretary of the Interior Salazar, urging him to meet that responsibility by completing a thorough inventory of lands proposed for wilderness protection, by barring energy leases and development in lands proposed for wilderness protection, and by finalizing new mining claims until after Congress reaches a decision on the fate of the lands. Congressman Hinchey’s letter also asks the Secretary of the Interior to prohibit uses incompatible with wilderness protection, such as off-road vehicle use, logging, and road construction. ■

Politics

Maryland Chapter Weighed in on Local Political Races: “Two Out of Three Ain’t Bad”

Annapolis and Frederick elected new mayors and city councils in November. The Sierra Club endorsed candidates in both places, and two-thirds of our endorsees won.

Annapolis City election

The Anne Arundel Group endorsed Josh Cohen (D) for mayor; Greg Stiverson (R) Council—Ward 6; and Ian Pfeiffer (D) Council—Ward 7. Cohen and Pfeiffer won.

Frederick City election

The Catoctin Group endorsed Jason Judd (D) for mayor, and Karen Lewis Young (D) and Michael C. O’Connor (D) for alderpersons. Lewis Young and O’Connor won.

But the Sierra Club might have done better. Before both elections, the group political committees issued questionnaires to the candidates, interviewed them, and then selected candidates to endorse. Had more Sierrans helped with this process, the groups might have turned out more voters to elect all of the endorsed candidates.

2010 will be an important political year, since most state and local elected offices, from the governor down to members of county councils, will be up for election. Whom we elect will determine how well our environment will be protected. Please help us win big for the environment. To get involved, contact Betsy Johnson at 301-656-4948, or email betsy_johnson@comcast.net. ■

Want to make a **difference?**

Enjoy politics?



The Political Committee has a place for you!

This past year, the Chapter’s Political Committee was successful in propelling Frank Kratovil into Congress. He in turn helped pass the recent American Clean Energy and Security Act in the House. The narrow passage of the bill illustrates the importance of making sure environmentally-friendly candidates get elected to office.

In 2010 we will be working on local, state, and national elections. Volunteers join together to interview candidates, recommend endorsements, and help our priority candidates win their elections.

We could use your help. Prior experience is desirable but not required. If you would like to find out about how you can join or help, please contact Betsy Johnson at 301 656-4948.

Energy 101

By Richard Reis, PE.—Energy technologies are key causes of environmental well-being or harm. To best understand these technologies, it helps to know a little thermodynamics, which is the branch of science and technology that governs or limits how we harness and use energy.

The first law proclaims that energy can be neither created nor destroyed.¹ We can only harness and transform the natural energy of our environment, such as converting wind energy into electrical energy. We should approach the energy problem with the same seriousness as personal finances. There is obviously a cost to spending money, and there is a cost to using energy. The quantity, type, and method of natural energy use influence environmental impacts.

The second law is subtler, but just as important. It states that the entropy or disorder of any system always increases over time. This means that all energy transformations lose useful energy. For example, when coal is burned for electrical generation, only 30 to 35 percent of the embedded chemical energy is converted into electrical energy, as other products are dispersed into the environment as pollution. Of course, actual system efficiency is much lower when we consider the energy used in coal mining and transportation and the electrical energy lost by transmission, distribution, and utilization.

The third law states that absolute zero (-460° F) is the coldest temperature possible. The formula for computing the maximum efficiency of any energy-conversion process uses absolute zero. That formula shows that efficiency improves with increasing input temperature and decreasing rejection temperature. This is the reason power plants reject unwanted heat through water sources or cooling towers.

Assessing Real Costs

As we choose energy supply and consumption technologies, we should ask about their efficiencies and their real costs. This analysis must include both the immediate costs and the hidden costs (externalities). A National Academies' report indicates that coal generators imposed a cost of \$62 billion upon the U.S. general public in 2005 through non-greenhouse air pollutants alone.² Considering that we consumed 2 trillion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of coal-generated electricity that year³, that works out to an added 3¢ / kWh. The widespread environmental destruction of coal mining adds perhaps \$120 / ton, or 6¢ / kWh.^{3,4} These would add about 9¢ / kWh to the cost of coal-generated electricity, making alternative energy and extreme energy-conservation measures very economically attractive. (If we had assumed the external costs are the price of renewable energy credits, that would add just another 2¢ / kWh.⁵)

The proceeding does not include the environmental cost of disposing of bottom ash, the solid residue from burning coal. Also, when the power industry scrubs its smokestacks to remove some of the air pollutants, many of these toxins wind up in our rivers, lakes, and ground waters.⁶

It is important to note that the coal remaining in the ground is clean and stable. Its chemical energy and components were bound through photosynthesis over many thousands of millennia. Coal only releases its energy as well as its toxic components when mined and burned.

Geoengineering

Some propose that we can sidestep global warming, by climate engineering (also known as geoengineering), such as lofting sun-blocking particles or spraying the air with seawater.⁸ However, these tactics would be very large, costly, and potentially harmful in other ways. Moreover,

climate engineering would leave high levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which would inevitably lead to higher levels of carbonic acid in the oceans and other bodies of water. Acidification would destroy corals and marine life, upon which we all depend.⁷

Carbon Capture and Storage

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is another technology that will not work. Although CCS targets greenhouse gases, it has too many significant shortcomings, as shown in a recent Greenpeace report.¹⁰ CCS's problems are so profound as to make one think that long-term storage of nuclear wastes is safe and cheap (but only by comparison).

- ♦ CCS can't be delivered in time to avert the worst aspects of global climate change.
- ♦ CCS degrades power plant efficiency, thus requiring the plant to consume more coal.
- ♦ CCS is expensive and could raise electricity prices by 21 to 91 percent.
- ♦ Safe and permanent storage cannot be guaranteed. Even a leakage rate of one percent per year would undermine the goal of CCS.
- ♦ A fast release could be lethal. (On August 21, 1986, the natural and sudden release of carbon dioxide from Lake Nyos in the Cameroon killed 1,700 people.⁸)
- ♦ Stored carbon dioxide can seep into and acidify soils and groundwater.
- ♦ Industry is unwilling to shoulder the severe liability risks of CCS. It is asking the public to assume those risks.
- ♦ Coal, unmined and unburned, could continue to safely store its carbon into millennia to come.

In his 2003 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush announced a \$1.2 billion program to develop hydrogen-fueled cars, the tailpipes of which would emit only water. Many experts rec-

ognize severe flaws in this approach.^{9,10} (The current administration recently attempted to defund this project; special interests persuaded Congress to restore these funds.) The most salient problems are the following:

- ♦ There are two potential sources of hydrogen, natural gas and water electrolysis. Using natural gas forgoes its better uses; the process would also emit carbon dioxide. With electrolysis, only 30 percent or less of the primary energy would be delivered to wheels.
- ♦ It is unlikely that we would develop the required hydrogen infrastructure in the next decades.
- ♦ Hydrogen is highly inflammable and it is difficult to store and transport.

There Are Better Answers!

The good news is that these better answers actually reduce air, water, and land pollution, improve the U.S. balance of payment deficits, provide jobs, and cost less.

Conservation displaces the need for dirty fossil and nuclear energy and costly alternatives. More efficient buildings as required under section 201 of the current U.S. House energy bill could more than eliminate the need to build 100 new nuclear power plants.¹¹ Appropriate technologies (or simple choices) include:

- ♦ Compact fluorescent lamps use 25 percent of the power of conventional lamps and last longer. LEDs (light-emitting diodes) are on the threshold of providing that light with only 17 percent of that power and last even longer.¹² Both of these provide more efficient lighting.
- ♦ Automatic occupancy and daylight sensors reduce lighting loads by more than 50 percent.
- ♦ More efficient appliances cut electrical usage,¹⁶ provided they are not too large for the need.
- ♦ Reduction of "vampire" loads, such

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Electrical Power

Mr. Bennet, my high school physics teacher, liked to remind his students that our parents' electric bills reflect the energy, not the power we use. However, because electrical capacity and loads vary by season and by time of day, commercial and industrial energy costs also vary by season and time of day. These customers also pay for peak power costs. PEPCO and other utilities are now offering incentives to allow them to remotely turn off our air conditioning systems using Digital Cycling Units (DCU) during some summer afternoons.

Local power companies are trying to build PATH and MAPP transmission lines to address peak power demands, as well as to deliver coal-generated electricity from Kentucky and West Virginia. Alternative energy can play an important role here because wind-generated electricity tends to be strongest during off-peak times. Further, solar energy in our region is generally distributed close to the points of use and peak output roughly coincides with peak air-conditioning demand on summer afternoons.

You can learn more about MAPP and PATH and what we can do about them at: <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/action/p0204.asp>

—Rich Reis

Energy 101

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as always-ready televisions, phone chargers.

- ♦ Appropriately sized dwellings and workplaces consume less energy than mansions and the like.
- ♦ Carpooling, transit, walking, and bicycling are far more efficient than the current practice of one person driving alone. These practices would also reduce road congestion, eliminating the need for new or expanded roads.
- ♦ The Obama administration's mandate for more efficient cars and trucks beginning in 2012 will obviously help.

We could avoid releasing soot (black carbon and other particles) that now emanates from coal smokestacks and diesel engines. As well as harming our health, soot may account for 12 percent or more of global warming by increasing sunlight absorption, especially on glaciers at high latitudes and altitudes.¹³ Because soot naturally decays much faster than other pollutants like carbon dioxide, limiting soot would moderate global warming faster. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should add soot to its list of drivers of global warming.

Mature forests provide stable carbon storage.¹⁴

Solar and wind energy has far fewer environmental costs than coal, other fossil fuels, and nuclear energy.

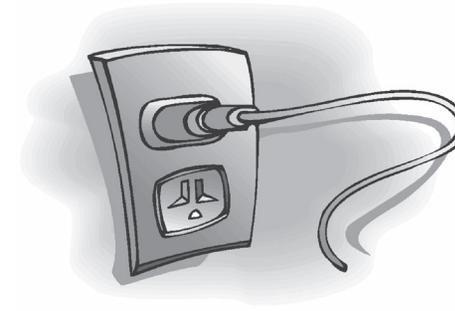
Algae-grown biofuels could be extremely efficient in terms of life cycle costs and land-use requirements, especially compared to corn-derived ethanol.

Since energy consumption is the product of per-capita consumption times population, limiting population growth reduces one factor of that equation.

Although pending climate legislation may raise the out-of-pocket cost of energy per kWh or gallon of fuel, each of us can reduce the amount we spend for energy and mitigate our environmental footprint by using less energy. See sidebar,

Getting Green by Being Green, to learn about some of the many grants and tax benefits available.

Technology is one thing that defines us as human. We should choose a set of



technologies that will serve humanity and our connection to the earth. ■

(Endnotes)

1 Even as nuclear energy exploits mass energy relativity, it neither repeals the laws of thermodynamics nor lessens their influence.

2 National Academies, "Hidden Costs of Energy: Unpriced Consequences of Energy Production and Use," 2009

3 Appalachian Voices Staff, June 2002 ($\$120 / 2000 \text{ pounds} \times 1 \text{ kWh} / \text{pound-coal} = 6\text{¢}$)

4 Greenpeace staff, "The True Cost of Coal," 12/08 (mining environmental cost of 674 Euros with 6.2 billion tons produced with conversions computes to $\$148 / \text{ton}$ or $7.4\text{¢} / \text{kWh}$)

5 U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), "Renewable Energy Certificates, Retail Products", May 2008, approximate median price

6 Buhigg, Charles, "Cleansing the Air at the Expense of Waterways," New York Times, 10/12/09

7 Blackman, Christine, "Global Warming Tactic Cools Climate But Won't Help Corals," Stanford University News, 7/2/09

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9 Romm, J., "The Hype about Hydrogen," Issues online in Science and Technology, 2007

10 Chu, Steven, quoted in Climate Progress, 5/7/09

11 Mazria, Architecture 2030 Bulletin, 7/23/09

12 U.S. DOE, "Transforming the Lighting Landscape," see www.lightingprize.org, 2009

13 Jacobson, Mark (professor of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University), U.S. EPA Testimony, May 18, 2009

14 Homer-Dixon, Thomas, "Our Panarchic Future," Worldwatch, May / June 2008

Getting Green by Being Green

Since coal is the primary fuel for 60 percent of the electrical energy in our area, saving electricity means being green—from less mountaintop removal mining to less global climate change. Burning less fuel oil and natural gas to heat our homes also reduces environmental harm. Fortunately, there are federal and state incentives for saving energy.

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (also known as the "stimulus bill") provides a 30 percent tax credit of up to \$1,500 through 2010 for homeowners to make their houses more efficient, including installing new windows, doors, insulation, and heating equipment. In addition, there is an unlimited 30 percent tax credit through 2016 for installing solar or wind systems and geothermal heat pumps. There are also attractive tax deductions for owners of commercial buildings. For details, see energystar.gov/taxcredits.

There are many programs through the 2007 Empower Maryland legislation that offer incentives to individuals and businesses to save energy. Contact your local electric utility to learn more about these grants:

BGE:

<http://bgesmartenergy.com/>

PEPCO and Delmarva Power:

<https://energywiserewards.pepco.com/> (includes a free digital thermostat)

SMECO:

<http://www.smeco.coop/save/>

Allegheny Power:

www.alleghenypower.com/EngConserv/MD/ResEECMd.asp

See a database of incentives for renewables and efficiency at www.dsireusa.org.

Group News Roundup

Maryland Sierrans Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

Edited by Mary C. Corddry—Following is a roundup of what's happening with the nine Sierra Club groups in Maryland: Anne Arundel County, Catoctin, Eastern Shore, Greater Baltimore, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Southern Maryland, and Western Maryland. If you have information to contribute to future "Roundups" for the *Chesapeake* newsletter, please contact Mary Corddry at XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com, or at 410-239-4590.

Sierra Club groups are preparing for next year's elections and the state's legislative session, identifying local priorities. Groups are active in the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" initiative, encouraging local governments and citizens to take action on global warming. They are involved with local land use and environmental issues, following local government activities and participating in 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.

Contact your group to get linked with your favorite issue or activity. The Maryland Chapter's home page includes links to each group's website at www.maryland.sierraclub.org.

Anne Arundel Group

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

By David Prosten—Led by Liz VandenHeuvel, the group co-sponsored and participated in a reforestation project that resulted in the planting of 400 trees at Homeport Farm Park, a new 25 acre county park near the South River. The

park will have hiking and nature trails, a canoe/kayak launch, gardening, and more. Some proposed activities at the park will serve as ecological models to demonstrate low-impact development, innovative stormwater management techniques, native plantings, and living shorelines.

The group wrote to Governor O'Malley asking that the state refuse Constellation Energy a permit to build a 65 acre fly-ash landfill in Baltimore until the Environmental Protection Agency makes its ruling on the hazards of the byproduct.

We endorsed and campaigned for Josh Cohen for Mayor of Annapolis, and Ian Pfeiffer and Greg Stiverson for City Council. Cohen and Pfeiffer won, aided by group mailings to members in Annapolis, candidate acknowledgement of our endorsement in their literature, and campaigning by several club members.

Sierra Club President Allison Chin accepted the group's invitation to speak at our annual potluck dinner, scheduled for January 30 in Annapolis. ALL Maryland members are invited. Check our website for more details as the day draws closer.

The group continues to have an active outings schedule, with a recent hike at Old Rag Mountain and a canoe/kayak trip on Buttons Creek at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

Catoctin Group (Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties)

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

By Gregor Becker—The biggest news for our diminished excom is that there are only four remaining members, who now do more than they committed for. Two non-excom members came to the Maryland Chapter's Jamboree. It was great to

meet folks! Good to know members we work for, not as just 950 names on our membership lists in Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties. No, we didn't "draft" the two who came; we were just glad to see them.

Our biggest needs now are for someone to run for a seat on the executive committee, and for a membership chair. As an excom member, you can just be on our email exchange, come to some excom meetings, and vote on issues we work on. We have families, so we understand when you have to say "no." With or without more help, we take one Sierra Club motto to heart, "For our families, for our future." A membership chair doesn't need to be an excom member. Actually, there are many ways to help without joining the excom, such as attending meetings none of the excom members can make, covering a display table for a couple hours, writing a letter to the editor (LTE) or to elected officials, helping with the Sustainable Living Fair in Westminster, or attending "Waste Not" meetings.

Our other big news concerns Frederick City elections. Gregor Becker is our political chair. Excom members drafted a candidate questionnaire that we sent to candidates for alderman and mayor after the primary elections. Fewer than half the candidates responded. We extended the deadline a little and telephoned all candidates. The response was better—all but one mayoral candidate and two alderman, all Republicans. The Catoctin Group, with Maryland Chapter approval, endorsed Jason Judd for mayor, and Karen Lewis Young and Chris O'Connor for alderman. Both Young, the wife of the former mayor, and O'Connor, possibly the strongest environmental candidate, are new to the council. We regret to say Judd lost for mayor, despite being endorsed by the *Frederick Gazette*. Judd was a strong opponent of the incinerator. The incoming mayor, Randy

McClement, is more of an unknown, as he did not respond to our questionnaire. We regret the delays and our inability to publicize our endorsements more widely. The *Frederick News Post* would not print our endorsement as a press release, and we ran up against their deadline for political LTEs. We did publicize on our website, <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/catoctin/index.asp> and through some email lists, and we informed candidates so they could spread the word.

(continued on page 13)



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Create an Environmental Legacy.



Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

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 info and confidential assistance, contact:
Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
85 Second Street, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270

Group News Roundup

The Maryland Chapter Groups Working Locally

(continued from page 12)

We'd love to have your email address for late breaking news! Send us your email address, your county of residence, and two issues you are interested in, such as global warming, Cool Cities, or the Climate Security Act. You could also let us know if you are interested in outings, especially in training to lead some!

Other issues are ongoing, such as electric transmission lines, Cool Cities, and the megachurch on the Montgomery-Frederick County line. The megachurch met preliminary denial by the Frederick County Planning Commission, but will undoubtedly be back for a second try, revising their mega sand-mound septic system.

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

Eastern Shore (Cecil County and Eastern Shore Counties)

Chair: Don Grace, 410-352-3722, Don.Grace@mdsierra.org

By Don Grace—The Eastern Shore Group of the Sierra Club meets on the third Tuesday of every month at the Wicomico Library, 122 South Division Street in downtown Salisbury. The meetings start at 6:30 p.m. The group is working on the Sierra Club Cool Cities campaign to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions on the Eastern Shore. Contact Don Grace at

Don.Grace@mdsierra.org for further information.

Greater Baltimore (Baltimore City and County, Harford County)

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

By Mary Corrdry—The group is looking for volunteers to run for election for two vacancies on its executive committee. Nominate yourself or someone else by submitting a one or two paragraph biography describing what you would like to accomplish and any relevant interests, activities, experience, education, skills, training, that you think are pertinent. Biographies of candidates will appear in the mid-February *Baltimore Sierran* newsletter, along with a ballot.

Send biographies to Chris Yoder, Group Chair, at 5701 Rusk Ave., Baltimore, MD 21215 or email to chris.yoder@mdsierra.org.

The Greater Baltimore Group is partnering with the University of Maryland on a conservation project to help save selected wetlands that support rare, threatened, or endangered species in Baltimore County. Volunteers were requested to join a University of Maryland team of students in conducting a landscape analysis of selected wetlands designated as Wetlands of Special State Concern (WSSCs) by Maryland's Department of Natural Resources and Department of the Environment. These WSSCs are a high priority for preservation because they are vulnerable to development and other harmful land uses. According to the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, headwater and isolated wetlands may be the most important wetlands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, because they are the first to remove nitrogen, phosphorous, sediment, and other toxic materials that would otherwise be transported downstream by streams and rivers to local

drinking water and the Chesapeake Bay estuary.

Bring a dish to share to the group's potluck social and slide show on January 7 from 6:30–9 p.m. We will meet at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center in Hunt Valley, west off Shawan Road from the I-83 exit. Dale Shelton, of the Maryland Geological Survey, will discuss Maryland's geology and geography and will bring slides, fossils, and rocks. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240 if you need further details.

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, kayaking, bike rides, stargazing, camping, hayrides, stream cleanups, trail maintenance, and invasive plant removals. Check the group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events.

The group publishes a quarterly newsletter, *The Baltimore Sierran*, which is mailed to members and is available on its web site. And, we're on Facebook. You can join us at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=76458501970>. Facebook will be updated with information about hikes, meetings, and public meetings relevant to the Sierra Club.

Check out the Young Sierrans Facebook page at www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=51601732426

Howard County

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

By Ken Clark—On Saturday, December 5, 3:30–6 p.m., we are organizing a Gift Swap & Resale event at the Howard County Central Library. Buy/sell/trade unwanted gifts and lightly used items. Put unwanted gifts and like-new items to use! Reduce, reuse, recycle; this is guilt-free shopping! FREE to attend and to set out items for sale. Open to the public. Sellers should contact Brigitte to register, pref-

erably before November 29, at 240-506-8976.

On the weekend of January 16-17, we will be sponsoring a Wilderness First Aid class. We highly recommend this class to anybody who spends a lot of time in remote locations, and particularly to hike leaders and backpackers. This is an 18-hour class, and includes CPR. Details are being finalized. Contact Ken Clark at kenclark7@comcast.net, 301-725-3306.

We are putting together a series of programs on various energy topics for early 2010. Check our web page for details. If you have questions or suggestions, contact Sue Muller at 301-498-8462, or sonicsue@verizon.net.

We had a good turnout for our August screening of the DVD documentary about Louisiana environmental concerns emphasized by Hurricane Katrina. The DVD, *Paradise Faded: The Fight for Louisiana*, is available for others who would like to view or present it. Contact Brigitte, 240-506-8976.

Our September program on dam removal on the Patapsco River was quite popular; viral marketing drew people from many groups in the area. The Union Dam removal is in progress now, and the Simpkins Dam is expected to be removed next fall.

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—Information on Sierra Club events in Montgomery County and on our efforts on behalf of habitat pro-

(continued on page 14)

Group News Roundup

The Maryland Chapter Groups Working Locally

(continued from page 13)

tection, smart growth, and energy efficiency can be found on our website, Maryland.sierraclub.org/Montgomery.

The past few months have been busy ones for the small group of volunteers who focus their efforts on pushing the county's planning department and the county council to make good on their verbal commitments to curtail suburban sprawl. As an article in the November 2, 2009, *Washington Post* pointed out, Maryland's 1997 law to promote Smart Growth "...has been a bust, largely because it has no teeth to force local governments to comply and because builders have little incentive to redevelop older urban neighborhoods."

"From 1998 to 2006," the article goes on, "development outside smart-growth areas in Montgomery County consumed an average of 915 acres a year."

The most immediate challenge to smart growth in Montgomery County is a proposal to create a massive "Science City" in West Gaithersburg, which would be several miles from the nearest subway station and would require more than a billion dollars in new roads and expanded intersections to handle the resulting traffic. We have argued that having the proposed Corridor Cities Transitway, which may be either a light rail trolley or bus rapid transit line proposed to run through this development, does not compensate for the sprawl and increased traffic the proposed development will create.

In addition, we testified at a September, 2009 public hearing before the county council that the planning department's own projections of the impact of the proposed development in West Gaithersburg show that the number of new jobs created by 2030 around metro stations, where transit is readily available, and in the eastern part of the county, where jobs are scarce, would be negatively affected if the "Science City" is built.

A longer-term challenge to smart growth in the county is the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) proposal to widen I-270 from where the Intercounty Connector meets it all the way to a point a few miles north of Frederick. The county council has been asked to vote for its "locally preferred alternative" from among the six proposed by MDOT. The alternatives differ from each other on the number of new lanes that would be built and whether the new lanes would be HOV lanes or toll lanes.

We have argued that road widening is not the best way to relieve congestion in the region and have called on MDOT to study what effect a robust expansion of transit (e.g., extending the subway north of Shady Grove, expanding MARC train service to Frederick, and building a rapid transit line that would serve the communities along Route 355 that parallels I-270) would have on I-270 traffic. Their response was that they have already done a preliminary study of an all-transit alternative, which concluded that an all-transit solution would not be cost effective. We plan to ask for copy of this preliminary study, which does not appear to have been released to the public.

We need volunteers who have some experience in transportation planning and land use policy. If interested, please contact David Hauck at 301-270-5826 or Hauck_D@msn.com.

In the area of habitat protection and restoration, we are continuing our monthly invasive plant removal events at three sites around the County and are making visible progress. With the onset of cooler weather, this is one of the better times of the year to carry out this work.

In January, 2010, we will begin our second winter lecture series on topics related to habitat protection and restoration. The talks will be held in the Rockville Public Library from 2:00-3:30 on four Sundays (Jan. 10, Feb. 7, Feb.

21, and March 7) and one Saturday (Jan. 16).

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—At our October, 2009 planning event, we made a commitment to push for smart energy solutions, and to campaign to save Mattawoman Creek (a chapter priority). Henceforth, our bi-monthly meetings will include a Cool Cities meeting and an "issues and action" forum—open to all comers. The group has a new executive committee, including newcomers Martha Ainsworth, Valerie Shelton, and Kerry Wargo. Re-elected officers are Alex Hirtle, Chip Reilly, Jon Robinson, Tom Topping, and Fred Tutman. The political committee for Election 2010 is looking for members. We are working with other groups to prepare a series of "values statements" that will capture the desires of residents for healthy communities, preserved areas, green jobs, and responsive government. Our next meeting will be on January 7, at 6:30 p.m. at Kettering Middle School in Largo. See the chapter calendar for future meetings.

Group meetings are held on the first Thursday of every other month.

6:30-7:30 p.m.—Business meeting of the Executive Committee Sierra Prince George's Group.

6:30-7:30 p.m.—Meeting of people interested in the "Cool Cities" initiative, to push the county government and municipalities to take measures to tackle global warming, especially by adopting smart and clean energy solutions.

7:45 p.m.—Presentation on issues. All welcome.

Dates of upcoming meetings:
Thursday, January 7, 2010

Thursday, March 4
Thursday, May 6

Location: Kettering Middle School, 65 Herrington Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774-1599; 301-808-4060

Look for signs directing you to the room. Always check our website for updates at maryland.sierraclub.org/pg/

Note: The Prince George's County Civic Federation meets at 7:30 p.m. on the same day and at the same location, so you may wish to join all or part of their program.

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

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

The Southern Maryland Group remains deeply involved with protecting Mattawoman Creek in Charles County, which the Maryland Chapter selected as a priority for conservation for 2010. Despite being declared the nation's fourth most endangered river last April, Mattawoman continues to suffer from Charles County's land use policies. The county is planning an extension of the County's Cross County Connector, the Western Connector, a new divided highway which would plow across the full width of the Mattawoman watershed.

The group joined the Mattawoman Watershed Society for a Last of Fall Colors kayak and canoe trip on Mattawoman Creek in November, to enjoy the changes in trees' colors and the creek's serenity.

The group advocates that SMECO and PEPCO convert areas under power lines and utility corridors to shrub/scrub habitat for birds, plants, and butterflies. We asked that they do not mow or broadcast herbicide. Instead, simply treat the

(continued on page 15)

Group News Roundup



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



“Every good thing, great and small, needs defense”

- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
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Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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

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

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Chapter Groups Work Locally

(continued from page 14)

seedlings of trees with triclopyr, an herbicide.

The group publishes a quarterly newsletter, *News from Southern Maryland*. Check the group's web site for a schedule of outings and other events. Monthly invasive plant removals are scheduled for the 800-acre Chapman Forest and 200-acre Ruth Swann Park in Charles County.

Western Maryland (Allegany and Garrett Counties)

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

By Sam White—The Western Maryland Group is assisting a group of consumers and producers in a local food initiative, seeking a venue to sell local food year round. Educating the public on the economic and environmental benefits of local food will be the focus. The group is also seeking volunteers to lead outings or to serve on the group excom. For more information, please contact Sam White at cedarrockcsa@yahoo.com or 301-264-4162.

The group publishes a newsletter, *Nature's Advocate of Western MD*. The group also conducts an email discussion group/listserv for members to discuss conservation issues pertaining to Western Maryland. The address is MD-WMD-FORUM@lists.sierraclub.org. The listserv is also used to announce group meetings, outings, and other events. To join, go to the website and click the “Join the list” link.

Anne Arundel Group to Host Allison Chin, National Club President; All

Are Invited



drugs in the fights against cancer and AIDS before resigning to devote all her time to her Sierra Club presidency.

“We are so fortunate to have Allison agree to visit with us,” said Anne Arundel Group Chair David Prosten. “She’s a great person and a wonderful speaker. We’re pleased that she can join us for the evening.”

The pot-luck is an annual event for the Anne Arundel group. Past speakers have included governors, members of Congress, and state and nationally known environmental leaders.

The dinner is open to all. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children (to cover hall rental, beverages and other basics), and each guest is asked to bring a dish large enough for their party plus one more.

Check in with the group's website, <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/AnneArundel/> for more information and updates.

National Sierra Club President Allison Chin will be the guest speaker at the Anne Arundel Group's annual potluck dinner in Annapolis, January 30. All Maryland Sierrans are invited.

Allison has been a club member since 1982, and held a variety of volunteer leadership positions before being elected national president in 2008. She is a scientist, and worked on developing

Thank You All for a Wonderful 2009 Jamboree

What a weekend! Of course we loved the workshops, bluegrass music, and food, but best of all was the wonderful company!

Nearly 150 passionate environmentalists and Sierra Club members came together for the Maryland Sierra Club's biennial Jamboree in October. The weather could not have been better for the many hikes. Our bioblitzers discovered all sorts of critters, plants, and trees, including a record size White Oak tree.

We're already looking forward to Jamboree 2011, but in the meantime, we hope to see members at our many upcoming events. Visit our website,

www.maryland.sierraclub.org for a look at all we have planned.

A special thanks to members of the Jamboree Planning Committee: Diana Watts, Susan Hartsfield, Lew Sherman, Ron Henry, Betsy Johnson, Nina Yu, Erin Barnes, Margaret Fisher, James Wolf and Marc Imlay.

And we also thank all of those who contributed to the live auction: Ron Henry, Anne Devlin-Lowe, Nancy Davis, Shirley Albert, Bonnie Bick, Susan Hartsfield and Phyllis Jones, and to the many contributors to the silent auction.

We hope YOU will join us next time!

Maryland Chapter Leaders



Remember to vote for
at-large excom delegates.
Ballot is on
inside back cover.

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Stewardship Outings



It could be considered another kind of sprawl, the incursion of non-native invasive plants into Maryland's natural areas. Just as highways and other paved surfaces smother biologically viable land with an unnatural cover, many invasive plants choke out the native plants that our insect, bird, and other animal populations depend on for food and shelter. Many natural areas in Maryland are no longer vibrant habitats for our native species. Instead, they host invasive plants that, unlike our native species, evolved elsewhere and thus face no natural controls that would keep them in check.

Chemical warfare, strangulation, and suffocation are among the strategies used by non-native plants to take over niches occupied by our own native plants. Garlic mustard, for example, is a chemical warrior, emitting toxins into the soil to inhibit the growth of neighboring plants. Honeysuckle and kudzu are stranglers, wrapping trees and shrubs in their own stems and foliage to deprive them of light and eventually pull them down. Japanese stiltgrass, at home in sun and shade, moist soils or dry, smothers by creating a dense blanket through which other plants cannot grow. The list of opportunistic invaders is extensive, and all over Maryland, volunteers and professionals are engaged in programs to remove them from treasured natural areas.

Following is a list of natural areas that have ongoing programs in habitat

Natural Areas Need Relief from Invasive Plants

restoration through the removal of invasive non-native plants. The programs have several things in common: they're fighting a familiar list of invasive plants; they're looking for volunteers to participate in the work; and they're eager to train "weed warriors" to identify and remove the invaders.

Want to help your favorite birds, butterflies, mammals or amphibians thrive in a natural area near you? Become a weed warrior volunteer! ■

Anne Arundel County

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

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

Baltimore City

Cyburn Arboretum, Herring Run Park, Leakin Park, and Wyman Park

Contact: Kimberley Mead, Kimberley.Mead@baltimorecity.gov, or call 410-396-0359

Herring Run Watershed Association

Contact: 410-254-1577 or volunteer@herringrun.org.
Web Site: www.herringrun.net.

Baltimore County

Cromwell Valley Park

Contact: Bill Breakey at breakeys@comcast.net or call 410-887-2503

Baltimore and Howard Counties

Patapsco State Park

Contact: Lee Walker Oxenham, Patapsco Riverkeeper, Inc 410-313-8826

Calvert County

American Chestnut Land Trust

Contact: American Chestnut Land

Trust, Post Office Box 204, Port Republic, MD 20676. Phone: 410-586-1570. Fax: 410-586-0468. Or visit www.actweb.org.

Hellen Creek Forest and Wildlife Preserve, Lusby, MD

Contact: Bob Boxwell, Executive Director, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, P.O. Box 336, Lusby, MD 20657, 410-394-1300, or bobboxwell@hotmail.com. Visit www.covepoint-trust.org.

Caroline County

Adkins Arboretum

Contact: Sylvan Kaufman at 410 634-2847 ext. 24, or visit www.adkinsarboretum.org

Charles County

Chapman Forest and Ruth Swann Park

Contact: Marc Imlay, 301-283-0808, 301-442-5657 cell.
For map and information about the area, see www.chapmanforest.org

Garrett County

Savage River State Forest

Contact: Ron Boyer, 301-895-3686, or info@elkridgenatureworks.com

Harford County

Otter Point Creek

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

Howard County

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

Contact: Aylene Gard, 410-992-9889, or Carol Filipczak, cfilipczak@comcast.net. For more

information about the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, see www.co.ho.md.us/RAP/RAP_MPEA.htm.

Howard / Anne Arundel / Prince George's Counties

Fort Meade

Contact: Don Marquardt, Installation Forester, 301-677-9185 or email marquardt@emhl.ftmeade.army.mil,

Patuxent Research Refuge

Contact: 301-497-5763 or visit patuxent.fws.gov.

Kent County

Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge

Contact: Visitor Services Specialist Michele Whitbeck, 410-639-7056, or michele_whitbeck@fws.gov

Montgomery County

Brookside Gardens

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

Contact: Carole Bergmann, M-NCPPC Forest Ecologist, 301-949-2818

More info: See website for M-NCPPC's Weed Warrior Program: www.mcparkandplanning.org/parks/ppsd/Natural_Resources_Stewardship/Veg_Management/Weed_Warriors.shtm

Northwest Branch of the Anacostia

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

continued ⇨

Stewardship Outings

← continued

The Potomac Gorge

Contact: Mary Travaglini,
PotomacGorgeVol@tnc.org or 301-897-8570

Sligo Creek

Contact: Sally Gagne, 301-588-2071,
or rip@fosc.org.

Woodend Nature Sanctuary, Chevy Chase

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

More info:

www.audubonnaturalist.org/cgi-bin/mesh/sanctuaries/woodend_md

Prince George's County

Belt Woods, Bowie

Contact: Maureen Fine, invasives species coordinator for Western Shore Conservancy at
maureenfine@earthlink.net or 301-464-9306.

Cherry Hill Park, College Park

Contact: Marc Imlay, 301-442-5657 or
301-283-0808, marc@anacostiaws.org

Lower Beaverdam Creek

Contact: Cathy and Dan Smith at 301-386-0889.

Riverfront Park, Laurel

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

Suitland Bog

Contact M-NCPPC Park Ranger Office, 301-627-7755

Indian Creek Trail at Lake

Artemesia, Berwyn Heights

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

Watkins Regional Park

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

Greenbelt Homes, Inc. Housing

Cooperative, Greenbelt

Contact: 301-474-4161 for information on GHI Woodlands Committee activities

Greenbelt National Park,

Greenbelt

Contact: Tom Crone, 301-864-1959 or
tomnjan@erols.com, or visit
www.nps.gov/gree or call 301-344-3944 for information or directions.

Little Paint Branch Park, Beltsville

Contact: Marc Imlay, 301-442-5657 or
301-283-0808, marc@anacostiaws.org

Magruder Park, Hyattsville

Contact: Colleen Aistis, 301 779-0245
home, 301-985-5057 work, e-mail
caistis@hyattsville.org

St. Mary's County

Hellen Creek Preserve (also in Calvert County)

Contact: 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

Contact: Bob Boxwell, Executive Director, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, P.O. Box 336, Lusby, MD 20657, 410-394-1300, or bobboxwell@hotmail.com ■

Earth Intimacy Workshop

Recently, several members of the Sierra Club, inspired by attending an Earth Intimacy workshop conducted by Dr. Stuart Miller and Brigitte Fortin at the October Jamboree, formed an Earth Spirituality Group to follow the inner path to enlightened ecological activism advocated by Miller and Fortin.

Stuart, Professor Emeritus of Towson University, the author of *Interior Space*, and teacher of green psychology courses, and Brigitte, whose Master's thesis for the Green Mountain College environmental studies program concerns spiritual environmentalism, created the workshop because of their belief that a spiritual mode of relating to the Earth is needed to provide the healing framework, intuitive knowledge, poetic inspiration, and psychic energy to initiate and sustain meaningful/successful ecological action.

The Earth Spirituality Group will meet regularly to discuss books from an Earth Intimacy reading list provided to workshop participants and generally explore topics and engage in activities to provide the energy and knowledge for creative ecological solutions. For further information about Earth Intimacy/Spirituality, please contact Brigitte (bfortinzaida@csc.com) or Stuart (drstu40@yahoo.com). Contact us and check the calendar at maryland.sierraclub.org to find the next Earth Intimacy/Spirituality meeting.

We're looking for an 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.

As the leader of our editorial team, you'll work with our chapter leaders and other members whose articles, essays, and notices fill our pages. You'll solicit, review

and circulate articles, develop story ideas, and assign the articles to our editors, who will work with the authors to get the articles ready for publication. Then you'll 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@mdsierra.org. Thanks!

Outings

To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

As many of you already know, Dan Soeder has moved to West Virginia and has resigned his position as our outings chair. I know he's going to be active in the West Virginia Chapter and I will attempt to fill his shoes as best I can.

The most recent outings news in the chapter is that we're trying to reestablish the Maryland Chapter Outings Committee. The purpose of the committee will be to promote the coordination and sharing of outings information between chapter groups and other entities; ensure safety and leader training; build and expand the outings program and activities; and support conservation efforts by encouraging the alignment of outings with conservation issues. The committee will be composed of the state outings chair and group outings chairs or group reps, and others interested in helping to build the Maryland Sierra Club outings program.

One of the first projects of the committee will be an attempt to create a user-friendly, statewide database containing a current list of all group outings. So if someone wants, for example to go kayaking this weekend, they can query the database asking "Are there any Sierra Club kayak outings this weekend?" rather than have to search the individual websites of all nine Maryland groups. We'll see how it goes!

See you on the trail,
Jan

Jan C. Hoffmaster is the MD Chapter Outings Chair. He can be reached at Outings@Maryland.sierraclub.org

Some Helpful Information for Outings Participants

Sierra Club outings are open to everyone, members and non-members alike. Each outing is intended to be a wholesome, safe, and enjoyable experience in the outdoors. Participants must have proper clothing, equipment, and stamina suitable to the event, and are encouraged to select activities that match their individual abilities for outdoor adventures.

The Club offers a variety of outings from "easy" to "strenuous" that suit all activity levels. The difficulty of each outing is clearly designated in the announcement. Reservations are generally not required for 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 Sierra 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 only by participants with brains. Also, any participant who is incapable of breathing underwater must wear a personal flotation device (PFD) 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.

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

(continued on page 20)

Outings (November, December)

NOVEMBER 2009

Saturday Nov. 21: Gunpowder - Sweet Air Area, MD. (*rated easy*) 7 mile loop through pines, hardwoods, around a pond and along pretty Little Gunpowder River. Depart at 8:00 AM. from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday Nov. 22: Savage Park, Wincopin Trail. (*rated moderate*) 7 mile hike along the Middle and Little Patuxent Rivers, easy except for a few hills and rocky parts. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:30 AM at Patuxent Valley Middle School, off Vollmerhausen Road just west of Savage Guilford Rd. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Sunday Nov 22: 20500 Zion Road, Laytonsville, MD. (*not rated*) Join us for a beginner's bird walk (7:30 AM) followed by invasive plant removal (9 AM.). The diverse habitats surrounding the closed Oaks Landfill attract birds and other wildlife. Bird diversity has dropped off in recent years due to invasive non-native plants. We are partnering with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Montgomery County Bird Club to observe the relationship between bird diversity and habitat, remove invasive plants, and return the area into a birding hot spot. Tools are limited so please bring clippers, saws, and loppers. Long sleeves, pants, comfortable walking shoes or boots, hat, water, and binoculars are recommended. Trail map at http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/ParkTrails/trails_MAPS/blue_mash.shtm. Meet at the Zion Road park entrance between Brookeville and Riggs Roads. Go north on Georgia Avenue through Olney

and Brookeville. Make a left on Brookeville Road. Make a right on Zion Road. The park entrance is on the left 1/2 mile from Brookeville Road. RSVP Mimi Abdu at mimi.abdu@maryland.sierraclub.org or 301-919-6060.

Friday Nov. 27: Gunpowder - Sweathouse Branch / Pot Rocks, MD. (*rated moderate*) 5 or 10 mile hike, do all or half. Some stream crossings. Visit the Sweathouse Branch Wildlands, Saw Mill Run and Pot Rocks. Depart at 8:00 AM from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday Nov. 28: FFA Full Moon Hayride and Farm Tour (*not rated*) Tractor-pulled hayride starts at 7:30 PM at Yoder's Land of Promise Farm in Long Green. We will hopefully see the full moon. After the hayride we will have refreshments of cocoa, spiced cider, hot dogs, and marshmallows around a bonfire, with guitar music and singalong. Extra instruments invited! Activity will end about 10:00 PM. Cost will be \$10.00 per person. We will meet at 7:00 PM at the church parking lot on Seminary Ave at Dulaney Valley Road 1/2 mile north of I695. If fewer than 8 people sign up, we will just meet as scheduled and go to dinner nearby. Children OK with prior approval. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, paul@peschoen.com.

Saturday Nov. 28: Patapsco Valley State Park. (*rated moderate*) 8 mile circuit hike in the Glen Artney/Orange Grove areas of the park, on the Soapstone, Valley View and Vineland Spring Trails. Lunch at the Cascades. Bring lunch and water. Hike starts at 9:30 AM from the Rolling Road Park & Ride, I-195 @ MD 166. Call Tim Ryan before 9:30 PM, 410-248-2974,

timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.

Sunday Nov. 29: "Last Sunday Easy Hike" (Dogs, children, and wheelchairs welcome) (*rated easy*) Meet at 2:00 PM at the Paper Mill Road parking lot for the NCR trail. Hike at an easy pace on flat paved surface to the Phoenix Rd parking lot and back, which is about 3 miles roundtrip. Scenic rest stops and historical sites along the route. We will finish the hike in time to attend the Baltimore Green Forum at MD Presbyterian Church 4:30-6:30 PM. Optional dinner stop afterwards. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or paul@peschoen.com.



DECEMBER 2009

Friday Dec 4 to Sunday Dec 6: Camping and Historical outing in Harpers Ferry, WV (*rated easy*) We will leave the Baltimore area about 4:00 PM Friday evening and stay in a Kabin at the Harpers Ferry KOA <http://www.koa.com/where/wv/48107/> Friday and Saturday. Carpooling is encouraged, and alternate arrangements may be made among participants. We will discuss the history of Harpers Ferry and the Civil War Battle of Antietam. Saturday morning

is a good opportunity to visit the nearby outlet stores, including LL Bean and Timberland. Saturday evening we will take a short drive to Antietam to experience the annual illumination <http://www.nps.gov/anti/planyourvisit/luminary.htm>. Sunday we will take a 3-5 mile easy hike on part of the Appalachian Trail and the C&O canal, and visit historical sites in Harpers Ferry. Pre-registration with leader is required (preferably two weeks ahead). Children and pets OK with prior approval. **Leader:** Paul Schoen (GB) 410-667-4889, paul@peschoen.com.

Saturday Dec 5: Soldiers Delight, MD. (*rated easy*) 5 mile circuit hike on meandering trails. An interesting geological area varies from one side of Deer Park Road to the other. See Serpentine Rock and evidence of old mining activity. Depart at 9:00 AM from the park & ride at the Clarksville Fire Department on Rt. 108 at Rt. 32. Contact Betty Steil, 443-745-3041, blsteil@verizon.net.

Sunday Dec 6: Gunpowder River Hike (*rated moderate*) Hike 8 miles along the Gunpowder River in the Hereford area. Meet at the Shawan Rd. park and ride off I-83 north of the Baltimore Beltway at 11:00 AM. For details, call Jack at 410-256-3963. **Leader:** Jack Wise (GB) 410-256-3963.

Saturday Dec 12: FFA Holiday Hike through Hampden and on Jones Falls Trail through Druid Hill Park (*rated easy to moderate*) Older children are welcome on this 4 mile hike on mostly flat paved trail and sidewalks beginning with a stroll around Druid Lake on a ridge overlooking the City. Visit the glass house of the Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, decorated with poinsettias for the

continued ⇨

Outings (December, January)

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holidays. Continue through the Druid Hill Park on the new Jones Falls Trail into the yuppified Woodberry and Clipper Mill area. Walk through Hampden, past fascinating shops decorated for the holidays. Lunch stop at an eccentric area restaurant. Finish by walking down the famous Miracle on 34th Street, with its to-be-seen decorations, then past the old mill houses in Stone Hill back to our cars. Children under 18 must be able to hike this distance and be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Meet at 11 AM and park on either side of Wyman Park Drive beside the ex-Stieff Silver and the Boy Scouts headquarters, or in the parking lot on the left with the Jones Falls Trail sign. From 28th or 29th Street just east of the Jones Falls Expressway, turn north onto Keswick Rd./Sisson St. and then take the first left onto Wyman Park Drive. **Leader:** Mary Corddry (GB) 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell); XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Saturday Dec 12: Fairhill NRMA, MD. (*rated easy*) 8 mile circuit hike through woods, open fields and along pretty Big Elk Creek. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Saturday Dec. 19: Gambrill State Park, MD. (*rated moderate*) 7 mile hike on wooded trails, with several scenic overlooks. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Bagel Bin off Rt. 40 in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, for a 9:00 departure. Call Tim Ryan before 9:30 PM, 410-248-2974, timothy_ryan@urscorp.com.

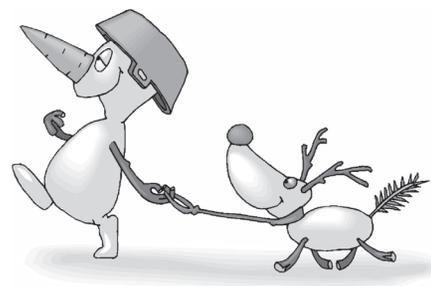
Friday Dec. 25: GB – Christmas Morning Hike (*rated moderate*) Hike

for 3–4 miles. Meet at 10:30 AM at the parking lot for the Gunpowder trails across the bridge for the Big Gunpowder River on Belair Rd. (Rt. 1) north of the Baltimore Beltway. The hike will be finished around 12:30 PM. For details, call Jack at 410-256-3963.

Saturday Dec 26: Greenbelt Park, MD. (*rated easy*) 8 mile circuit hike in this “urban oasis” through mature hardwood forest. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Sunday Dec. 27: “Last Sunday Easy Hike” (Dogs, children, and wheelchairs welcome) (*rated easy*) Meet at 2:00 PM at the Paper Mill Road parking lot for the NCR trail. Hike at an easy pace on flat paved surface to the Phoenix Rd parking lot and back, which is about 3 miles roundtrip. Scenic rest stops and historical sites along the route. We will finish the hike in time to attend the Baltimore Green Forum at MD Presbyterian Church 4:30-6:30 PM. Optional dinner stop afterwards. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or paul@peschoen.com.

Anytime – Cross Country Skiing When snow conditions allow, trip to Western Maryland or West Virginia may be planned. Call Jack for details at 410-256-3963.



JANUARY 2010

Saturday Jan. 2, 2010: Clopper Lake, MD. (*rated moderate*) 8 mile hike, circling beautiful Clopper Lake and branching out on other trails. Enjoy the geese honking, beaver, and deer. Depart at 8:30 AM from the park & ride at the Clarksville Fire Department on Rt. 108 at Rt. 32. Contact Betty Steil, 443-745-3041, blsteil@verizon.net.

Thursday Jan. 7 GB – Outings Planning Meeting (*rated easy*) New and prospective outings leaders are welcome to attend the next quarterly meeting of the Greater Baltimore Group’s Outings Committee at Oregon Ridge Nature Center. Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. If you’re interested in leading outings and are curious about what is involved, come and talk with the outings leaders. The meeting will be held at 6:15 PM before a potluck social and a slide show beginning at 6:30. For details, see the notice that follows.

Thursday Jan. 7 GB – Potluck Social and Slide Show (Children are welcome) (*rated easy*) Bring a dish (with serving utensils) to share for the potluck—appetizer, main dish, or dessert. We will have plates, napkins, utensils, cold drinks, and hot tea. Mr. Dale Shelton, a geologist with the Maryland Geological Survey, will bring slides, rocks, and fossils to finish his talk on the geology and geography of Maryland. We will meet at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center from 6:30 to 9 PM (talk beginning at 7:15). The Nature Center is at 13555 Beaver Dam Road and can be reached from the Shawan Road West exit (#20B) from I-83. Take Shawan Road to the traffic light at Beaver Dam Road, make a left and stay to the right, following the road up to the nature center’s parking lot past the swimming area. The nature

center is a short walk uphill. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240 if you need further details.

Saturday Jan. 9: Lake Roland and Robert E. Lee Park Hike (Dogs and older children welcome) (*rated moderate*) 4 mile hike beginning at Falls Rd. and walking a loop into the pine barrens, past a cliff, down to a stream, and through woods to Lake Roland. Learn about the Bare Hills serpentine area and this beautifully diverse habitat in the Jones Falls Watershed. Meet at 11 AM in a parking lot in back of the Bare Hills Business Park (with Princeton Sports, Indulgence, and Leesa Lee) at 6247 Falls Rd., across from Falls Rd. Animal Hospital, north of Mt. Washington, and just south of Old Pimlico Rd. For information, call Mary at 410-239-4590 or 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Saturday Jan. 16: Gunpowder River - Panther Branch Hike (Older children and dogs welcome) (*rated moderate*) 5 mile hike with hills along the Gunpowder River. Learn about the flora, fauna, geological and historical features. Meet at 11:00 AM in the parking lot beside the football field at Hereford High School on York Rd., northeast from the Mt. Carmel Road exit off I-83 north of the Baltimore Beltway and the Shawan Road exit. For information, call John at 443-739-6439.

Sunday Jan 31: GB – Local Cross Country Skiing If there is not enough snow for cross country skiing, a day hike will be held. Meet at the K-Mart on Belair Rd. just north of the Baltimore Beltway exit 32 at 11:00 AM. Call Jack at 410-256-3963.

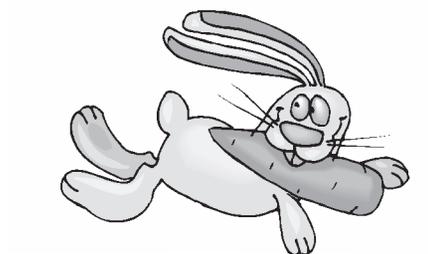
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Outings (February, March)

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historical features. Meet at the Rolling Road Park & Ride off I-95 at 11 AM. For more information, call John at 443-739-6439.



FEBRUARY

Saturday Feb. 6: GB – Cromwell Valley Park Hike (Children and dogs are welcome) (*rated easy*)

3 miles through this Baltimore County park that is a working farm with draft horses, woodlands, hilly meadows, streams, old limestone kilns, and a brook bubbling out of the ground. Learn about the invasive plant removals and native plantings. Meet at 10:30 AM in the parking lot beside the house in the park's Sherwood Farm section on Cromwell Bridge Rd. north from the Baltimore Beltway. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Stay for brunch at Sander's Corner Restaurant nearby. For information, call Mary at 410-239-4590 or 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

Friday – Monday Feb. 12-15: GB – Cross Country Skiing in Western Maryland If there is not enough snow for cross country skiing, moderate day hikes will be held in Western Maryland. Call Jack at 410-256-3963 by January 31 so that plans can be made.

Saturday Feb. 20: GB – Patapsco Hike (Older children and dogs are welcome) (*rated moderate*)

About 4 miles through the forests in the Patapsco Watershed. Learn about the flora, fauna, geological, and

MARCH

Sunday Mar. 14: GB – Prettyboy Trail Hike (Older children and dogs welcome) (*rated moderate*)

7 miles along the shoreline and hillsides and through forests around Prettyboy Reservoir on the old Prettyboy Trail, walking a loop between Prettyboy Dam and Tracey Store Rd. The trail is maintained neighbors, Boy Scouts, and the GB Sierra Club in collaboration with the Prettyboy Watershed Alliance and Mountain Club. Learn about this isolated trail and its wildlife and pristine drinking water for Baltimore. The trail is cleared to varying degrees and has hills and one stream crossing. Children under 18 must be able to hike this distance and be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Dogs must be friendly. Meet at 11:00 PM at the Mt. Carmel Rd. Park and Ride just west off I-83 north of the Baltimore Beltway and past the Shawan Rd. exit. For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com.

BICO Outings

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 350 outings serving over 3,000 youngsters.

BICO provides environmental education and promotes:

- * Respect for the outdoors
- * Teamwork and leadership skills
- * A community service ethic

BICO's outings in and around Baltimore include:

- * Nature hikes & orienteering
- * Camping, canoeing, cycling & caving
- * Initiative and Confidence coursework
- * Community service for Baltimore's Recreation & Parks Department

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

For more information, please send inquiries to baltimoreinnercityoutings@gmail.com, or visit our web site at <http://ico.sierraclub.org/baltimore>

December 2009

4 - 6	Blackburn Cabin	DHH
5	CBF's Clagett Farm Study Center	CGCC
5	Swimming at UMBC/College tour	BTDHS

Abbreviations:

DHH:	Digital Harbor High
CGCC:	College Gardens Community Center
BTDHS:	Baltimore Talent Development High School

Volunteer Opportunities and Chapter Excom Election Ballot

Volunteers!

Preserve Our Earthly Home
(It's the Only Planet We've Got!)

The Sierra Club, the biggest, oldest, and most prestigious grassroots environmental organization in the U.S., has had innumerable successes in protecting our natural world; the Maryland Chapter has been working on many local environmental issues, such as preserving Mattawoman Creek, one of Chesapeake Bay's few healthy tributaries.

If you have some spare time and a willing heart, you can be part of the Maryland Chapter's efforts by volunteering for one of the following positions:

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Extroverted? Attract new members and encourage current members to participate in social, political, and other activities.

OFFICE ACCOUNTANT

Less extroverted? Answer chapter mail, pay bills, and record and acknowledge donations.

SECRETARY

Good at administration? Maintain chapter records, advise on meeting agendas, take minutes at meetings, keep records, and help with elections.

Further descriptions of these positions are on our website, <http://maryland.sierraclub.org>. Click on the button that says "intern or volunteer." If you have questions, please contact Laurel Imlay, 301-277-7111 or Laurel.Imlay@sierraclub.org.

Maryland Chapter Excom Ballot

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

All Maryland Chapter members are eligible to vote.

**Vote for no more than three (3) candidates.
(Read candidates' statements on pages 3-4)**

Clip this ballot and return to:

Election Committee
Maryland Chapter/Sierra Club
Suite 101A
7338 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Ballots must be received by January 8, 2010.

Joint Member
Only

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | David O'Leary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Brigitte Fortin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Betsy Johnson |



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Credits

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

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

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

Change of address: send address changes to the Sierra Club, 85 Second Street (2nd Floor), San Francisco, California 94705-3441. For fastest service, please include your old and new addresses along with your 8-digit membership number. For local membership information contact the Maryland Chapter Office 301-277-7111 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*.

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Outings Editor: Jan Hoffmaster

Layout and Typography: Darla Tewell

Your Two Cents



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

Send your comments by email to newsletter.editor@mdsierra.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.

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Look inside!

- Coal-by-wire? It's as bad as it sounds, but not if we can stop it!
- Sprawl and the Bay's best creek
- Getting ready for the 2010 legislative session. Good news—you can help!
- Energy 101
- Our groups are busy; find out what's happening beyond your backyard.
- Volunteer opportunities on the trail, in Annapolis, or in your den
- Chapter Excom election ballot: *PLEASE VOTE!*

and much more!