



Volume 4, Issue 1
April 2023

*You're
Invited*

Washington County Sierra Club Notes

Upcoming General Meeting

Our next general meeting is on **April 26th from 6:30-8:00 pm** at the Washington County Teachers' Association building at 18047 Oak Ridge Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21742. Our guest speaker will be Brent Walls of Upper Potomac River Keepers. We hope to see you there!

The meeting will also be available on Zoom for those who cannot or prefer not to attend in person. Please contact Michael Brandt if you want to attend via Zoom. If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact:

Michael Brandt at michael.brandt@mdsierra.org
or Rebecca Beecroft at beecr13@gmail.com.

Have You Voted?

The annual election for Sierra Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Does the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club recommend specific candidates? The Maryland Chapter recommends a vote for [Shruti Bhatnagar](#). Additional information about the election, this year's candidates, and how to vote can be found on the Sierra Club website (www.sierraclub.org/board/election) **Your participation is critical for a Strong Sierra Club.**

Want to show your Sierra Club Maryland Chapter pride? Shop at a local Maryland print shop for Sierra Club Maryland branded gear like t-shirts, sweatshirts and kids sizes too! Share with friends & family & support the club you love.

https://stores.inksoft.com/sierra_club/shop/home



C&O Canal Stewardship - Earth Day Clean Up

Washington County Group is continuing our involvement with the C&O Canal Trust for another year. The Environmental Club of HCC will join with members of the Washington County Sierra Club to do a clean-up on the canal on Earth Day, April 22. **If you're interested in participating, please contact Dr Eric Schwartz at dr.eric schwartz@gmail.com.**

HCC Environmental Club

That isn't all for the HCC Environmental Club. They will also be doing a native tree giveaway on April 19th, and a tree planting and beautification event on April 21st. We applaud their commitment and find their efforts inspiring! Learn more about the club at <https://www.hagerstowncc.edu/environmental-club>

“A vibrant, fair, and regenerative future is possible — not when thousands of people do climate justice activism perfectly but when millions of people do the best they can.”

— Xiye Bastida

Earth Day Events – City of Hagerstown

The city will be hosting Earth Day and Arbor Day activities on Saturday, April 22nd from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM at various locations. Activities include: Tree planting, trash cleanup and stormwater drain stenciling. **[Sign up with the City here...](#)**

Lobby Night & Legislative Session

On Feb 13th, we kicked off the legislative session with productive discussions with delegates and senators from all across Maryland. In Washington County, we doubled our member participation since last year while speaking to our representatives about the environmental legislation most important to our community. A huge thank you to all of you who participated!

Maryland's Legislative Session concluded on April 10th. There were over 150 bills the Sierra Club actively supported in one form or another. Many were passed and others had important progress made that puts them in a better position for 2024. More detailed results will be published in a separate email from Maryland Chapter.

Swap & Recycle Event - May 13, 2023

The Boonsboro Green Fest committee is sponsoring a Swap and Recycling Event in Shafer Park on Saturday, May 13 from 9 am – 2 pm. Event is **open to the public**.

See event flyer for a list of items to be recycled. [2023 Event Flyer](#)
Clothing will be collected on Friday, May 12 beginning at 3 pm at Pavilion 1. If possible, please separate and label bags: Boys, Girls, Mens, Womens, etc. to help with sorting.



If you are able to volunteer at the event or help with set-up and/or clean-up, please reach out to the committee at info@boonsborogreenfest.com.



Riparian Rangers

The Riparian Rangers is a program of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and focuses its efforts on the maintenance of stream and riparian buffer restoration in the watersheds of the Chesapeake Bay. The Washington County Group of the Sierra Club started participating in the maintenance program in 2022 and are continuing with the program in 2023.

The first event this year, held March 4th, was maintenance of a planting along the Harpers Ferry Rd near Sharpsburg, MD. The project was to remove any intruding vegetation in the tubes surrounding the planted trees and do any trimming necessary to the trees themselves. The turnout on this very cold and windy day was not great, but with the additional people from the Antietam-Conococheague Watershed Alliance (ACWA) we had a nice time getting outdoors and accomplishing some good work for the environment. We hope more people can attend the next event this spring in either April or May.



Water Quality Monitoring

Join Upper Potomac Riverkeeper Brent Walls and his colleague from Hood College, Catherine Gaudlip, to be a summer volunteer to monitor bacteria in the Upper Potomac.

The meeting will be held on **May 2, from 5-7 PM**, at Mount Aetna Retreat Center, 10375 Retreat Way, Hagerstown, MD 21742. You will learn about details and plans for this summer's monitoring and how you can be a part of it! Note that sampling will begin Memorial Day weekend, and you need not commit to being available every week.