



Catoctin News

Newsletter of the Catoctin Group serving
Carroll, Frederick and Washington Counties

Volume 4 Issue 4

Winter 2017

Catoctin Group Accomplishments 2017

Dear Members,

I've listed our 2017 Sierra Club, Catoctin Group accomplishments; our local volunteers are very active. Please consider getting involved and have some fun along the way.

Sincerely,

Dan Andrews

Volunteer Catoctin Group Chairman

~ We held 12 Saturday morning monthly Group meetings of both the Group Executive Committee and our general membership.

~ Lew Sherman and Dee Dolan, with membership input, created and sent four quarterly Catoctin Group e-newsletters.

~ Several members tabled three events, viz;

- Middletown Earth Day 4/29
- Boonsboro Green Festival 5/13
- The Frederick City "In The Streets"

festival 9/9

~ David Barrow coordinated and led, two full buses of attendees to the People's Climate March in Washington DC.

~ Dan Andrews gave a local environmental initiatives presentation to ten master's program college students.

~ Lee Popkin, Director of the Scholarship Program, created the National Sierra Club written procedures for our High School Scholarship Program.

~ The Group under Lee Popkin guidance, awarded three Frederick County "John Muir" high school \$1,000 scholarships, viz:

- One to Oakdale H.S.
- One to Thomas Johnson H.S.
- One to Catoctin H.S.

~ Our group donated \$200 to the Frederick County Compost Summit.

~ We supported one Frederick Co. elementary school garden.

~ Veronica Poklemba led the Frederick County Zero Waste work for our Group.

~ Harry George led a Catoctin Mountain hike/outing.

~ Our Group supported the Carroll Co. Weed Warriors work at Piney Run Park with a \$500 donation.

~ Kathleen Rall (Group Political Chair) and others interviewed Frederick City Mayoral candidates and endorsed the winning candidate.

~ Lew Sherman distributed gratis calendars to key active members who gave them to participating scholarship high schools, local environmental group leaders and local politicians.

~ Several members participated in a Ruritan Yard Sale event to raise funds. We sold \$265 worth of donated items.

~ Kathleen Rall and Dan Andrews presented to the Frederick Democratic Club to explain our local environmental work and some statewide eco-initiatives.

~ Several members volunteered in various ways at the October Sierra Club Jamboree event.

~ Our group donated \$300 to the International Zero Waste Alliance and attended their presentation at Hood College in Frederick.

~ Our group is actively working to get the Governor to say "no" to the proposed fracked gas pipeline near Hancock in Western MD, employing letters to the editor, attending hearings and rallies and working to publicize the issue.

~ Shirley Lamdan coordinated a public meeting in Hagerstown to help bring awareness about a proposed natural gas pipeline near Hancock and promoted a Department of Natural Resources hearing on the issue in Hancock on December 19th.

~ Shirley Lamdan and Mike Koob coordinated public Power Point presentations by Ron Kaltenbaugh, on the issue of climate change. Electric cars were also discussed.

~ Christine Maccabee coordinated and screened five environmental movies in and around Thurmont. The movies were: Before the Flood, The Man Who Planted Trees and Bag It. Fun was had by all.

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- ~ Harry George and Dee Dolan hosted a Political Action Committee fundraiser in Frederick City, raising \$19,000.
- ~ Veronica Poklebma and Harry George attended the 1000 Friends of Maryland - Frederick County Coalition meetings to discuss local land development, Monocacy River health and water issues.
- ~ Our Group made presentations at Frederick County public hearings to support the Monocacy River Plan and to bring awareness about the proposed fracked gas pipeline beneath the Potomac River near Hancock.
- ~ Our Group provided testimony and monitored the What's Next process in Frederick County related to developing a county plan for waste management; the testimony encouraged a move toward Zero Waste methodologies.
- ~ Our group gathered petitions, attended rallies and hearings to support the successful achievement of a Fracking Ban in Maryland.
- ~ A big note: our Group has more active members, doubling over the last year. A year ago, attendance at our typical meeting was approximately 8-12 people; 24-26 members attended the last two meetings.

Consumer Power

BY CHRISTINE MACCABEE

Think globally, act locally

Some days I go shopping for food with enough time to look at the ingredients, whereas other days I just speed in, get my few items, and speed out. I love the days I have time to be more discriminate, for as I take more time to shop I am also educating myself.

This past year I have been focusing on not buying anything containing palm oil. Palm oil is used in multiple food products, some soaps and even fuels. Unfortunately, palm oil production has several associated problems, the most worrisome being extensive rain forest destruction. After four decades of production, a very small percentage of palm producers are exploring less damaging practices, but the majority are continuing their destruction. In Indonesia and Malaysia, they have bulldozed close to 80% of the rainforests. Such practices are killing and displacing orangutans, elephants and other wild creatures that depend on the diversity only a rainforest can provide. These mega-companies also use large quantities of toxic chemicals and inordinate amounts of water, affecting the health of workers and surrounding communities, both human and wild.

Lately I have been using my consumer power as a modest protest by restricting purchases of food products containing palm oil. Sadly, I am no longer able to eat my favorite fig bars due to the palm oil ingredient. However, it is well worth the sacrifice. Some people might say that my boycott of such products won't make a difference, but my values and my determination are unrelenting.

If more people knew about this problem, perhaps the boycott of palm oil products would make a significant difference. However, even if more sustainable practices are employed, substantial rainforest clearing is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. According to "Guardian

Sustainable Business News, the palm oil industry is coveting forests in the Amazon, Congo and Borneo.

Another worrisome global issue is the extensive use of herbicides and pesticides in agriculture, many of which create serious health risks in food products.

When we buy food, it is difficult to determine what chemicals were used on or in our purchases, so my approach to this problem is, first and foremost, getting accurate information. For example, did you know that some commonly used herbicides have glyphosate as a primary ingredient? Although touted by the manufacturer Monsanto, as totally safe

for agriculture use, concerns about possible adverse health effects of glyphosate have been growing. According to a highly appraised book, "White Wash", by Carey Gillam, this commonly used herbicide is

carcinogenic (World Health Organization 2015 report). In her book, Carey Gillam writes, "Testing shows glyphosate residues in bagels, honey, oatmeal, eggs, cookies, flour, beer, infant formula, and 90 % of the pregnant women tested."

So what should consumers do? For me, the answers are discrimination and action. I will be careful to consume as few chemicals in my food as possible, which means mostly buying organic foods and growing my own. I also plan to articulate my concerns to the companies that use them, and urge others to do the same. In other words, I will use consumer power.

The health of our planet is being severely compromised in innumerable ways and we must do our part to seek remedies, even in the small ways I propose. Remember the old slogan, "Think Globally, Act Locally", and do the best you can to make a positive change in your food buying habits. When we all work together, we can make a difference.



Proposed Fracked Gas Pipeline

BY PAUL WALKER

There has been frenetic activity over the past few months to block a proposed Fracked Natural Gas Pipeline under the Potomac River and C & O Canal near Hancock, MD. Several environmental organizations including the Sierra Club believe the risks of this pipeline substantially outweigh the benefits. The Catoctin Group has been in the forefront of this effort.

Background

Herein please find background on this project, including a comprehensive article from Chesapeake Climate Action Network's (CCAN), some of the actions Catoctin Group members have taken in opposition, and a brief on the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Hearing on the project on December 19 in Hancock.

The network of affiliations the Catoctin Group has is broad and deep, as the different groups opposing approval of a Clean Water certificate from the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) attest: (CCAN, Upper Potomac River Keepers, The Eastern (WV) Panhandle Protectors, MD Sierra Club Chapter, to name just a few). It is encouraging to see so many organizations from up and down both sides of the river fighting this battle.

Shared here, with approval, is a link to a CCAN blog about the project:

<https://chesapeakeclimate.org/blog/everything-to-know-potomac-pipeline/>

Action by Catoctin Members

Letter writing and publication in our two local papers by members has helped raise awareness. Here are links to Shirley Lamdan's letter published in the *Herald-Mail* on December 12th; and to my letter published in the *Frederick News-Post* December 19th.

https://www.heraldmilmedia.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor---dec/article_9dbc33c5-13b1-59de-ae3e-5a0baa2b580d.html

[Proposed fracked gas pipeline under C&O Canal, Potomac River at Hancock](#)

Catoctin Group members have taken several other actions to fight the pipeline, including:

- Shirley Lamdan, in the forefront of opposition to the pipeline, organized and promoted a September 9th pipeline meeting

at the United Methodist Church in Hagerstown.

- Dan Andrews, George Rudy, Kathleen Rall, Dave and Jan Barrow, Ron Kaltenbaugh, and Ronnie Poklemba attended the Saturday December 1st Frederick County Council Meeting and stated opposition to the pipeline.

- Kathleen Rall, Bob & Betty Ladner, Ron Kaltenbaugh, George Rudy and the author attended the MDE Hearing in Hancock December 19, where a few of us made statements of opposition. Some members arrived early and participated in a protest organized by CCAN with speakers from the Upper Potomac River Keepers and CCAN.

- Contacted many concerned citizens, the Governor and other public officials concerning this project.

The MDE Hearing

Between two and three hundred people attended the hearing sponsored by the MDE, 8 – 10 PM December 19. Over 70 attendees from as far away as DC, Glen Echo and Baltimore signed up to speak.

The evening started with a peaceful protest outside the auditorium sponsored by CCAN, including speakers Brooke Harper and Brent Walls, the Upper Potomac River Keeper. Besides two local WV politicians, two members of the Pipe-fitters Union and Trans Canada's Project Manager, all speakers expressed opposition based on concerns about the sensitive Karst geology, the threat to the water supply of 5-6 million and creating an infrastructure for fossil fuels. The meeting ended at 10 PM with a promise for a continuation before the January 16 deadline for citizen, comment, due to the large number of those desiring to express their opinion.

One of the first speakers pointed out this is the only public hearing the MDE has held on this issue. The only MD elected official in attendance was a lady from Boonsboro who read the City's opposition letter to the Governor, then entered it into the record. A resolution passed by the DC

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City Council opposing the Clean Water Certificate, was also read and entered into the record.

Call to Action

Gov. Hogan has the authority to say no to this project and its risks by directing the MDE to deny a special water-quality certification under the Clean Water Act.

What citizens can do:

- Contact Gov. Hogan by phone (800-811-8336 or 410-974-3901), by email (governor.mail@maryland.gov) or mail (Gov. Hogan, 100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401).
- Attend the next MDE hearing to be scheduled in January in Baltimore.

- Send written comments to the MDE by the deadline of January 16, 2018 at 5 PM. Correspondence related to the project should reference case number 201760592/17-NT-3089, and be addressed to Water and Science Administration, Wetlands and Waterway Program, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21230, or by email at paul.busam@maryland.gov.

Good News

There are two weeks left to ACT and VOICE your opinion before the January 16, 2018 deadline for comment to the MDE

Welcome to Podcasts

BY RON KALTENBAUGH

For some reading this article, podcasts are a daily part of life in the 21st century. For many others, this may sound like some strange new method for casting a fishing line. According to some unscientific

research, i.e. a Google search, about 20% of Americans over 12 have listened to at least one podcast in the past month. The goal of this article is to briefly introduce you to the concept of podcasts and to highlight some specific podcasts that may be of interest to Sierra Club members.

What is a Podcast?

The term podcast was coined around 2004 and comes from *iPod* + broadcast. Webster's dictionary defines podcast as "a program (as of music or talk) made available in digital format for automatic download over the Internet". The key word in that description is automatic. Once you subscribe to a podcast, new episodes are downloaded or pushed to your computer, phone, or tablet whenever they become available.

While the frequency and length can vary, the key is that you regularly have new content which you have selected being delivered to your devices. While Apple's iTunes is the original and still largest source

of podcasts, there are many other sources that you can find via an Internet search. You can also search the app store for your brand of smartphone to find apps for subscribing and listening to podcasts. Note that a smartphone is not required, you can listen to podcasts on a computer.

Podcasts are a great way to keep up to date on topics and learn about new things. Note that many podcasts also have websites where you can find additional information and stories. I plan to suggest other podcasts in future articles. If you have

podcast suggestions for a Sierra Club audience, send your ideas to me at rkaltenbaugh@mac.com.

Podcast Suggestions for Sierra Club Members

There are literally tens of thousands of different podcasts, almost all available for free, on almost any imaginable topic. Below are a few suggestions for Sierra Club members. All of the following are available via iTunes. They are also likely on other podcast repositories.

- BirdNote – This daily, two-minute podcast is great for birders or those who like wildlife.
- Green News Report – Available most Tuesdays and Thursdays, this podcast provides a six-minute summary of green news from Brad Blog.
- Climate One at The Commonwealth Club – Recorded at The Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, this podcast is generally about an hour long and covers live events on a wide range of topics that relate to Climate Change.
- The Energy Gang – A weekly podcast from Green Tech Media that covers energy, clean tech and the environment. Great for those who want to learn more about green energy.
- PRI: Living On Earth - A weekly, hour-long environmental news program.
- Grid Geeks – A very wonky, deep dive into how our electrical grid works.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Green Frederick.org

Catoctin Group Member Linda Norris-Waldt has launched a new website to offer mid-Maryland residents who want to live more sustainably. The site is called



GreenFrederick.org and features a Calendar of Green Events, a Directory of sustainable businesses and organizations, and a blog and tips about sustainable living and issues. Subscribers to the website can participate in reviewing books about sustainability, contests, volunteer opportunities and networking events like Green Drinks, which kicks off in January. For more information visit the website or contact Linda at lindam.norris@comcast.net

Frederick Compost Workgroup

The Frederick Compost Workgroup is a passionate group of community volunteers advocating for more training, better zoning and more opportunities for diverting food scraps and green waste from Frederick County's waste stream in a quest to produce valuable black gold soil amendments and to contribute to making Frederick a Zero Waste community. Facebook page www.facebook.com/frederickcompostworkgroup



County Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 7:00 pm

Winchester Hall, Frederick The Frederick County Council will be having a second reading of the proposed, and competing, amendments to the counties forest resource ordinance. One amendment, being proffered by County Executive Jan Gardner, would reinstate the ordinance to what it



Winchester Hall

was pre-2011, when the Blaine Young board significantly diluted it and loosened requirements in favor of the development community. A competing ordinance, being proposed by Council President Bud Otis, while making improvements to the current ordinance, still falls short of the pre-2011 version. The Sierra Club supports County Executive Gardner's proposed amendment. Please turn out for the meeting and show your support! The Council listens to public input and, as always, you can't be heard if you don't speak up!

Upcoming Outing/Hike

Saturday, February 10

Start 9:45 am start

Washington Monument State Park

to I-70 footbridge and back

[6620 Zittlestown, Rd., Middletown, MD](#)

Latitude: 39.4987180000

Longitude: -77.6233460000

Difficulty: Moderate

Length: 6 miles total: 400'

elevation gain

Duration: 4 hours

Contact: Paul Walker

301.318.7995

wallydog_2000@yahoo.com



Carroll County Forestry Board 2018 Winter Workshop

Local Forests, Global Needs

Monday, January 30

8:00 am — 4:00 pm

Location to be announced.

To register:

[http://
www.carrollcountyforestryboard.org/
index.cfm?
objectid=819CD780-8AB9-11E4-
AACF0050560F037A](http://www.carrollcountyforestryboard.org/index.cfm?objectid=819CD780-8AB9-11E4-AACF0050560F037A)



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Outings

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Political Chair

Kathleen Rall

Newsletter & Outreach

Lew Sherman

Further Information

<http://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/catoctin-group>