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# Washington County Sierra Club Notes

You're  
Invited!

## Upcoming General Meeting

Our next general meeting is on September 28th 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 Rodney Tissue, Hagerstown City Engineer, who will present on several topics including stormwater management and public art. We hope to see you there!

If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Michael Brandt at [michael.brandt@mdsierra.org](mailto:michael.brandt@mdsierra.org) or Rebecca Beecroft at [beecr13@gmail.com](mailto:beecr13@gmail.com).

## Election Endorsements

It's election season, and Sierra Club is proud to endorse Brooke Grossman for Maryland House of Delegates District 2B (encompassing the city of Hagerstown). Sierra Club does extensive research into candidates before endorsing, and Brooke's record and knowledge of environmental and community issues is impressive. We believe she will represent Washington County well in Annapolis and strongly encourage local members to show her their support.

At the state level, there are a few more candidates the club is endorsing, including Anthony Brown for Attorney General and Brooke Lierman for Comptroller. You can find a complete list of endorsed candidates here:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/2022-election-endorsements>

## Local Leadership Opportunity

Sierra Club Washington County invites you to participate in setting the goals and managing the activities of our local group by running for the **local Executive Committee** (ExCom). Requirements of the role include attending monthly meetings (via Zoom) and may also involve planning general meetings, organizing outings, initiating local conservation campaigns or helping to provide educational

Brooke  
**GROSSMAN**  
FOR HAGERSTOWN



opportunities for members. This year we have **three open seats** and encourage any current Sierra Club member to submit their name for consideration by the Nominating Committee.

**If interested, please contact** Nominating Committee Chair, Lorraine Blaydes, [blaydeslh@aol.com](mailto:blaydeslh@aol.com) and send the following information by September 12th:

- Name and contact information
- Head shot (preferably in color)
- A candidate statement (250 words maximum) which addresses the following questions:
  - What would you like to accomplish as an Executive Committee Member?
  - What skills, experience and/or new ideas will you bring to the Executive Committee?
  - How will your role on the Executive Committee reflect diversity? (Diversity can include ethnicity, age, region of Maryland, affiliations with under-represented groups, etc.)

*Leadership begins at the  
end of your comfort zone.  
— Lolly Daskal*

## Riparian Ranger Training

*What we are doing to  
the forests of the world  
is but a mirror reflection  
of what we are doing to  
ourselves and to one  
another.*

*- Chris Maser  
Forest Primeval: The Natural  
History of an Ancient Forest*



On July 30, Sierra Club members met with Zach Carnegie of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay & received training as the first

step in forming a Maryland branch of the Riparian Rangers. Rangers provide maintenance support to recently planted riparian forest buffers. Participants practiced site visit tasks, such as straightening & securing tree shelters & stakes, monitoring and/or removing unwanted/invasive plants and marking dead trees. Rebecca Beecroft hosted the outing; another is planned for this fall. If you think you would like to participate, check out [Riparian Ranger Program](#) & contact Rebecca Beecroft [beecr13@gmail.com](mailto:beecr13@gmail.com) using MD Sierra Club as your subject line.



## Political Volunteers Needed

To better serve the environmental needs of the county, Sierra Club Washington County Group is looking to become more involved, not just with elections, but in local governance. We're looking for volunteers to help with everything from campaign support to sitting in on County Commissioner meetings. If you have an interest in politics and civic discourse (or even just the environment), volunteering with the Group would be a great way to help your community.

*The democratic process is  
only as great as the people  
who participate in it.  
-Jeff Miller*

If you're interested, please contact:  
Michael Brandt at [michael.brandt@mdsierra.org](mailto:michael.brandt@mdsierra.org)  
Peggy Mothershed at [peggymothershed@gmail.com](mailto:peggymothershed@gmail.com)  
or Doug Arnall at [darnall80@outlook.com](mailto:darnall80@outlook.com)

## Water Quality Monitoring

The Upper Potomac bacteria monitoring program is winding down as we near the end of summer. Water samples are being collected weekly by volunteers, including Sierra Club members, at 9 sites in Washington County, along the Potomac River and Antietam Creek. Hood College CCWS runs the water samples on the IDEXX system, requiring 24 hours to incubate and process before results are read. Data has been published on SwimGuide before the upcoming weekend to announce any passing or failing E. Coli



levels at certain locations for recreation. The data have shown high levels in the Antietam Creek; whereas, the Upper Potomac sites seem to be consistently low. If you are interested in volunteering next summer, which involves sampling as many or as few days as you wish, contact Catherine Gaudlip ([gaudlip@hood.edu](mailto:gaudlip@hood.edu)) or Brent Walls ([brent@potomacriverkeeper.org](mailto:brent@potomacriverkeeper.org)).

## Picnic



Our Group held a potluck picnic on May 22nd at Pen Mar Park. The weather was perfect, and the food and conversation were even better. Thank you to everyone who attended! For those who weren't able to come, we hope to see you at the next one!

