



Volume 3, Issue 1  
May 2022

# Washington County Sierra Club Notes

## Potluck Picnic General Meeting

**May 22, 2022, 1:00 PM, Pen Mar Park, Pavilion # 1**

We're combining the meeting with a potluck picnic to celebrate our return to in-person meetings! The event will also be posted on Campfire by May 1 for registration. Here is the link:

<https://campfire.sierraclub.org/campfire/clubevententry>

If you don't have the ability to sign in to campfire, register when you RSVP to Dr. Rebecca Beecroft.



**Boonsboro Swap & Recycling Event  
May 14<sup>th</sup>, 9 am-2 pm**

Shafer Park Community Center Parking Lot & Pavilion # 1. *Free parking: lot behind gas station Stouffer Ave entrance.*

[Download a full list of items that can be swapped/recycled here](#)

Please **RSVP to Dr. Rebecca Beecroft**

at [rebecca.beecroft@mdsierra.org](mailto:rebecca.beecroft@mdsierra.org) to sign up to bring a dish from the following list:

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Baked beans | Salads (pasta salad, potato salad, etc.) |
| Fresh fruit | Appetizers (veggie tray, chips, etc.)    |
| Dessert     | Your signature picnic dish               |

The **Sierra Club will provide vegetarian burgers and the fixings, and coolers of lemonade and water.** If you want beef burgers you will need to bring your own and we will be glad to grill them for you! There will be two grills going to keep the burgers separate.

We are **greening the potluck** by asking you to bring your own plates, cups, cutlery, and table coverings. No paper, plastic or Styrofoam please. We hope to set an example of zero waste as much as possible.

The pavilion has plenty of picnic tables with bench seats, but you may **bring your own folding chairs if desired.** The ExCom members will arrive at 12 noon to begin setting things up and get the grills going. Don't forget to RSVP to Dr. Rebecca Beecroft with your dish! [rebecca.beecroft@mdsierra.org](mailto:rebecca.beecroft@mdsierra.org)  
Hope to see you there!

## C & O Canal Clean-up

Students from Hagerstown Community College worked with Sierra Club member Eric Schwartz on the morning of April 9 to clean a mile-long portion of the C & O Canal Towpath. All told, more than three full bags of garbage were retrieved from the canal and the surrounding woods. The clean-up was completed in conjunction with the Alice Ferguson Foundation. As part of that event, individuals and groups were invited to schedule their own cleanup events on that day and register it with the foundation.



Our local Sierra Club has adopted a portion of the C & O Canal Towpath at the Williamsport access from the railroad bridge to the I-81 overpass. Cleanup and routine maintenance are needed frequently. If you use the Towpath regularly and/or would like to help with this effort, please contact Dr. Eric Schwartz.  
[eric.schwartz@msierra.org](mailto:eric.schwartz@msierra.org)

## Legislative Victories

The Maryland General Assembly concluded its 2022 legislative session in April, and, as always, we had a handful of successes and disappointments. We *can* safely say the environment will benefit from important enacted bills advancing clean energy, natural places, clean transportation, and social equity. To learn about these advances in more detail please visit [Maryland Environmental Legislative Achievements](#)

Every year, Sierra Club members and supporters contribute to the legislative process in many essential ways. Our issue teams and partners helped legislators craft some of the most important bills that passed this session, and provided written and oral testimony

## Activism

is the rent I pay for  
living on this planet.

- Alice. Walker

on over 120 bills. Finally, many of you helped meet with legislators to let them know our priorities. A heartfelt thank you to all of you who participated!

## Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

Upper Potomac Riverkeeper Brent Walls and Catherine Gaudlip of Hood College held a Water Quality Monitoring Program Training Info Session on April 9 at the Mt. Etna Nature Center in Hagerstown. The goal of the program is to monitor water safety at popular sites along the Potomac River and its tributaries. Community volunteers, including several Sierra Club members, were introduced to the Potomac Riverkeeper Network, trained on standard operating procedures for collecting water samples and signed up for collection sites in the Upper Potomac watershed.



*If the earth is a mother  
then rivers are her veins.  
- Amit Kalantri*

Water samples, collected every Wednesday from Memorial Day through Labor Day, will be tested for the bacterium E. Coli using the IDEXX system at Hood College. Results will be posted on Thursdays in the phone apps **Swim Guide** and **WaterReporters** and through social media.

If you missed the training, but would like to volunteer, you can do online training. More info at: [Potomac Riverkeeper Network](#)

## HCC Earth Week

To celebrate Earth Week this year, Hagerstown Community College held a series of events culminating in the presentation, *Extinct, Endangered, Restored: Saving American Wildlife 1900-2022*, by Dr. Mark Madison (Historian for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Over 50 people attended the presentation in-person! You can watch the presentation on HCC's Facebook Page at this link: [Madison Presentation](#)



## Arbor Day Celebration/Tree Planting

*Did you know* that Hagerstown has been designated as a **TREE CITY USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation for the last 36 years?



As a Tree City, each year we have:

- Maintained a tree board or department
- Established and maintained a community tree ordinance
- Spent at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry
- Celebrated Arbor Day

This year's celebration began at the Johnathan Hager House on Saturday, April 23 with city administrators and employees, members of ACWA, the Sierra Club and the Hagerstown community in attendance. Volunteers helped plant, stake, mulch and install tree protectors on 12 trees along the Arboretum Trail in City Park and cleaned up the creek and the gardens surrounding Hager House. We learned effective methods of tree planting and maintenance. In addition, we enjoyed an afternoon of working with members of our community, young and old, to help beautify the park, slow climate change, filter our air and water, and foster biodiversity.

*The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.*  
- Chinese proverb



If you would like to like to become involved with tree care in our community, check out the [Riparian Ranger Program](#) which will soon be adding a Maryland branch.

## Local Candidate Endorsements

*What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.*

*- Jane Goodall*

Washington County has a number of exciting candidates running for local offices with a wide range of ideas and experience related to environmental issues. As part of the club's endorsement process, we sent out questionnaires and many of these candidates responded. We are in the process of reviewing and evaluating these responses. Some candidates may receive endorsements through this process, and we will make our recommendations available before the primary election. If you have any questions, please contact our Political Chair Dr. Eric Schwarz.

[eric.schwartz@mdsierra.org](mailto:eric.schwartz@mdsierra.org)

## Local Outings Leaders Needed

As pandemic restrictions ease, Washington County Sierra Club intends to resume outings this summer. To make these outings as well-organized and safe as possible, each outing is led by one or more Outings Leaders. Sierra Club provides training to these leaders, who are essential to keeping the Club active and engaged.



*Photo by Eric Sanman*

Current ExCom members are working on certification, but the group will benefit from more members becoming certified. If you would like to learn more about this, please contact our Outings Chair Dr. Rebecca Beecroft. [rebecca.beecroft@mdsierra.org](mailto:rebecca.beecroft@mdsierra.org)