



# CAPITAL SIERRAN

Newsletter of the Washington, D.C., Chapter

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## Green Design in D.C.

by Andrew Wolman

You may not have noticed, but commercial building design in Washington, D.C., is in the early stages of a revolutionary change. It is going green. After many years of lagging behind environmental trendsetters on the West Coast and elsewhere, the latest trend in architecture—green design—is finally starting to make an imprint on the nation's capital.

What is green design? Green design means different things to different people, but at its root it refers to a philosophy aimed at designing buildings that are energy efficient, conserve water, provide a high level of indoor air quality, and generally minimize the building's impact on the environment caused by, for example, waste disposal or greenhouse gas emissions. Other important aspects of green design typically include careful site selection, so as to increase alternative transportation options; responsible storm-water management practices; and reduction of urban heat island

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photo by William Hanif Jr.

*The National Associations of Realtors new building achieved a Silver LEED® rating.*

## D.C. EJ Program Hosts Appalachian Region's Dismantling Racism Workshop

by Linda Fennell

The Channel Inn in Southwest D.C. was abuzz with Sierra Club organizers during the weekend of August 19-21, 2005. It was the first Dismantling Racism Workshop for volunteers, staff and community partners. Appalachian organizers for the club's Building Environmental Community Program, along with local Sierra Club chapter leaders, national club staff and community partners, attended an intense weekend that focused on preparing staff and volunteers to move outside their comfort zone to work with diverse communities in their conservation campaigns.

Attendees hailed from as far away as Atlanta, Ga., to Baltimore, Md. The group was pleased to see Greg Haegele from the San Francisco office in attendance.

Rita Harris and Bill Price, EJ organizers, led the weekend diversity boot camp. Twenty-two attendees, among them Chasta Jones, a member of the D.C. Chapter's Executive Committee, viewed films, analyzed articles written by experts in the diversity field and participated in thought-provoking exercises with the goal of thinking "out of the box" as they reach out to more residents who are

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## Lessons from the Long Trail

by Jason Broehm

In mid-July I set out on a challenging adventure with the goal of hiking the Long Trail—which runs 272 miles through the Green Mountains of Vermont—end to end. My childhood friend and I had spent months preparing for the trip—reading, gathering advice, training and taking a practice trip to put ourselves through the paces. As our departure date approached, we felt reasonably well prepared but, never having tried anything this ambitious before, each of us experienced a few passing doubts as to whether we could accomplish our goal.

At midday on a hot, humid summer day in Williamstown, Mass., we hit the trail and began a steady ascent of our first mountain. Despite all the training and what seemed like a relatively light pack, I struggled up that first mountain. With sweat pouring down my face, mosquitoes circling and fatigue building, my nagging doubts grew louder, but I pushed on, and I made it up that mountain.

As the days passed, my body (and mind) gradually adjusted to the strenuous and sustained physical activity. In the ensuing days and weeks, we faced many challenges—mud, rain, biting insects, nettles, rugged terrain and aching bodies among others—and we had many highs and lows, literally and figuratively. We persevered, and on our 22nd day we reached our goal—the trail’s end at the U.S.-Canadian border. We were elated, relieved and proud at what we had accomplished.

As I reflected on lessons I learned on my journey, I realized that many apply to our work in the Sierra Club as we plan and implement campaigns to achieve our goal of a cleaner and greener environment. Here are a few.

**1. Take initiative.** Big challenges have a way of seeming insurmountable at first. As Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu said, “The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.” One must take action and start that journey in order to have any chance of overcoming the challenge and reaching that goal. Of course, it takes many more steps, and one must be patient and persistent along the way. As I frequently reminded myself on the trail, just put one foot in front of the other. Those steps add up.

**2. Plan ahead.** Just as a long-distance backpacking trip requires planning to ensure that you have the right gear and enough food, a campaign to protect a park or river requires a great deal of thoughtful planning in order to be successful. The Sierra Club strongly encourages activists to work through a strategic planning process to clearly identify a campaign goal and develop a sound strategy, a compelling message and a set of actions to implement the strategy and move closer to realizing that goal.

**3. Be determined.** On the journey toward any difficult goal, one is sure to encounter some tough times. I certainly did on my trip. There were days when the terrain was especially steep and rocky or I was feeling particularly tired. These were the times when I had to dig down deep and summon what a seasoned hiker I met called “G and D”—short for “guts and determination”—to make it through. Many of us have experienced trying times in conservation campaigns when we’ve suffered discouraging setbacks, and it’s at times like these that we need determination to keep us moving forward.

**4. You can achieve your goals!** Having reached my ambitious hiking goal, I am ready to set my sights higher for protecting Washington’s environment. I think we all have it within ourselves to do great things if we seize the opportunity. I encourage you to set difficult goals, work hard and challenge yourself to rise to the occasion.

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photo by Jason Broehm

## Private Boathouse Plan Threatens Scenic Potomac Gorge

by Amber Jones

Opposition is growing to Georgetown University's plan to build an enormous private boathouse on the undeveloped shoreline of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The Washington, D.C., Chapter of the Sierra Club is one of 15 organizations in a coalition calling for alternative proposals and a full review of the social and environmental impacts.

Sierrans are urged to contact the National Park Service (NPS), congressional representatives and Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D) of D.C. to demand protection of the historic national park from private development. So far, the NPS has agreed only to prepare an Environmental Assessment—a minimal review that is unlikely to result in significant changes to the location and size of the facility. The Sierra Club believes federal law requires a full Environmental Impact Statement that considers alternative locations outside the park and evaluates the impacts of all development planned for parkland along the Potomac

waterfront in D.C. Among projects under way are plans to construct additional boathouses, to create a waterfront park along K Street and to remove the Whitehurst Freeway.

“The Potomac is one river, and all of these projects are going to have interacting impacts on the river and its banks,” said Bob Morris of the District chapter's Executive Committee. “The Park Service is trying to do piecemeal reviews instead of embracing the National Environmental Policy Act and doing an Environmental Impact Statement that will provide a comprehensive analysis of those impacts.”

The Georgetown University boathouse would be the first private development in the C&O National Historical Park since it was established in 1971 and would set a precedent for future development in parks across the country.

The massive facility would be the length of a football field, rise higher than the C&O towpath, and destroy

habitat, wetlands and natural floodplain. To access the site for construction, maintenance and the delivery of 60-foot-long boats, a road would be built through the narrow recreational corridor housing the Capital Crescent Trail, displacing the trail and endangering the fragile C&O Canal embankment. A 70-foot private dock would extend into the river, blocking shoreline boaters and altering the flow of the river.

To be notified when the Environmental Assessment on the boathouse is released for public comment this fall, contact the NPS at [NCR\\_Georgetownboathouse@nps.gov](mailto:NCR_Georgetownboathouse@nps.gov). For a description of the project and its impacts, as well as sample letters and addresses, see the Web site of the Defenders of Potomac River Parkland at [www.savethecanal.org](http://www.savethecanal.org). To be added to the coalition's mailing list for periodic updates and notice of the public comment period, contact Sally Strain at [seawalk@starpower.net](mailto:seawalk@starpower.net).

## Recycling the Odds and Ends

by Matthew Tisdale

Ever wonder where you can go in the D.C. area to recycle your household odds and ends? If you're like me, you find yourself with a closet full of stuff that you know shouldn't be tossed into a landfill, but you're not quite sure how to get it recycled. Believe it or not, there is a wealth of resources in town to help you get rid of recyclable material in an environmentally sustainable way. Things like batteries, computers, chemicals and coat hangers can all be recycled in D.C., and this guide aims to help you get started.

First, D.C. residents should mark their calendars for the District's biannual household hazardous waste and electronics recycling drop-off event. The event will take place on Saturday, October 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Carter Barron Amphitheatre parking lot at 16th and Kennedy Streets N.W. The Department of Public Works (DPW) invites you to drop off household hazards including old cleaning and gardening chemicals, pesticides and poisons, acids, varnish, oil-based paints, solvents, aerosols, wood preservatives, spent batteries of all kinds, roofing tar, chemistry sets, automotive fluids and even asbestos floor tiles. Further,

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photo by Jessica Hanff

## TreeKeepers Sustaining Street Trees

by Liz Tylander

The life of a street tree is hard. Street trees face bumping, banging, litter, pests, drought, pollution, abuse and neglect every day. When the city plants street trees, there is often no one to maintain them after planting to ensure their survival. As a result, many contractor-planted street trees die in the first few years after planting and then become an eyesore the city must pay to have removed. In the District, not only street trees feel the effects of this neglect; communities feel it as well.

Street trees, like communities, have a far greater chance at health and success if there are folks looking after them, making sure they get the water, weeding and pruning they need. This is why D.C. Greenworks, a local nonprofit organization, created the D.C. TreeKeeper program to address the needs of both the trees and the community. Through the D.C. TreeKeeper program, interested residents can organize their neighbors to sign on to become a TreeKeeper community. The program will then provide them with options for neighborhood tree plantings and stewardship education, including workshops on planting, maintenance and pruning. What makes this program unique is that before a tree is planted, that tree must have a neighbor willing to adopt and care for it, and that neighbor must be part of a group of at least six other neighbors who are also willing to care for trees near their homes. D.C. Greenworks believes that street trees and public space are a



photos by Jessica Hanff

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## Recycling

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DPW will also have an electronics recycling station to receive old televisions, office and audio equipment, computers, and computer parts and accessories. During processing, the electronics are broken down into component parts, precious as well as toxic metals are extracted, and then the various materials are recycled or disposed of safely. Finally, residents who have old or unneeded recycling bins may also bring those to the event. The old bins will eventually be recycled themselves. For more information on this great opportunity to recycle your household odds and ends, visit DPW on the web at <http://recycle.dpw.DC.gov/recycle>.

Second, when you want to recycle odds and ends on a daily basis, make

use of the vendors from which you purchase recyclable goods. For example, plastic grocery bags can be taken back to most grocery stores. These sacks are commonly, but not always, made from plastic types 2 or 4. They are often collected in barrels at grocery stores and, when recycled, usually end up as plastic lumber. Another example is metal clothes hangers. I'm always amazed to see the number of these hangers coming out of the dry cleaners! What a pleasant surprise it was to learn that I could take the hangers back to them the next time I dropped off my laundry. Check with your dry cleaner to see if you can do the same. The same thing goes for cell phones, printer cartridges and motor oil. Cell phones and their batteries can often be returned to their vendors,

printer cartridges are gladly accepted by Staples and Office Depot, and the Jiffy Lube that services your car will take back your old oil. Complete the recycling circle by returning that reusable material!

And your options don't stop there! When it comes to recycling odds and ends, you'll be pleased to know that there are many more resources to help. For ideas on how to recycle just about anything, check out the Grassroots Recycling Network at <http://www.grn.org/>. And as always, the Sierra Club is glad to help whenever possible. Send your questions to Matthew Tisdale at [mtisdale@gmail.com](mailto:mtisdale@gmail.com).

# Conservation

## Street Trees

Continued from page 4

common resource that belongs to all of us, and by coming together as a group of concerned neighbors to take ownership of and responsibility for the health of the trees on our block, we begin the process of taking responsibility for the health of ourselves, each other and our communities.

The process of improving neighborhood environments is a complex one that includes reducing crime and trash and increasing pedestrian traffic and community pride. For precisely this reason, the TreeKeeper program chooses to focus on the street tree. Not only do these trees

have the potential to catalyze multiple environmental and economic benefits for dynamic urban neighborhoods, but they also hold enormous social value by serving as a symbol of community investment. After all, it is community ownership that will ultimately sustain any meaningful neighborhood improvement.

If you have questions or would like to know more about the D.C. TreeKeeper program, contact Liz Tylander by e-mail, [liz@dcgreenworks.org](mailto:liz@dcgreenworks.org), or by calling 202-518-6195.



photos by Jessica Hanff

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Bicycle Transit Center Planned for Union Station

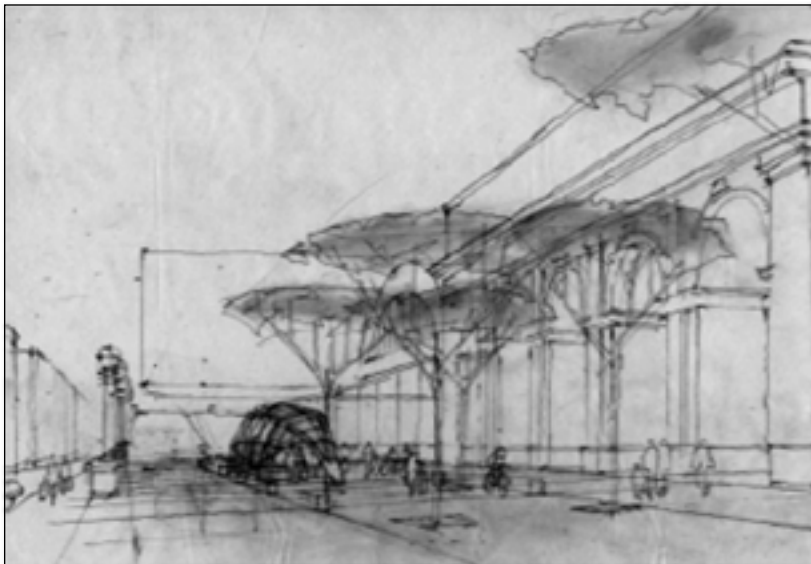
by Chris Craig

The District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) plans to open a bicycle transit center at Union Station in late 2006 or early 2007. The bike station will provide about 160 spaces of secured bike parking, each for a small fee, bike rentals and repairs, and sales of bike accessories. It may also include changing rooms and lockers, car-sharing reservations, Segway rentals and access to transportation information.

“It’s a very exciting project that is going very smoothly,” said Jim Sebastian, the bicycle coordinator for DDOT. “With its wonderful location, this has the potential of being the most successful bike station in the country.”

Bike stations were first developed in the Netherlands and Japan but have become successful in an Americanized version in California. They are meant to provide safe and secure parking for commuters and recreational cyclists and to encourage linkage of bicycling to various forms of public transportation. The Union Station site is considered ideal because of its proximity to Metro, Amtrak, and various bus routes, its centrality to many large employers and its importance as a tourist center. It is also positioned at the southern trailhead of the Metropolitan Branch Trail, which will eventually provide a mainly off-road bicycle route between the Mall and Northeast D.C. neighborhoods, Silver Spring and Takoma Park.

Bike stations often provide places for commuters and



other bicyclists to shower and change. Due to the lack of water at the proposed Union Station site, showers as well as sales of some food and drink will be impossible. Lockers and changing rooms, sales of snacks and bottled drinks, and internet use are potential services, however.

In the United States, bike stations have been the result of partnerships among municipalities, transportation agencies and private businesses. DDOT intends to design and construct the Union Station site with funding from the Federal Highway Administration.

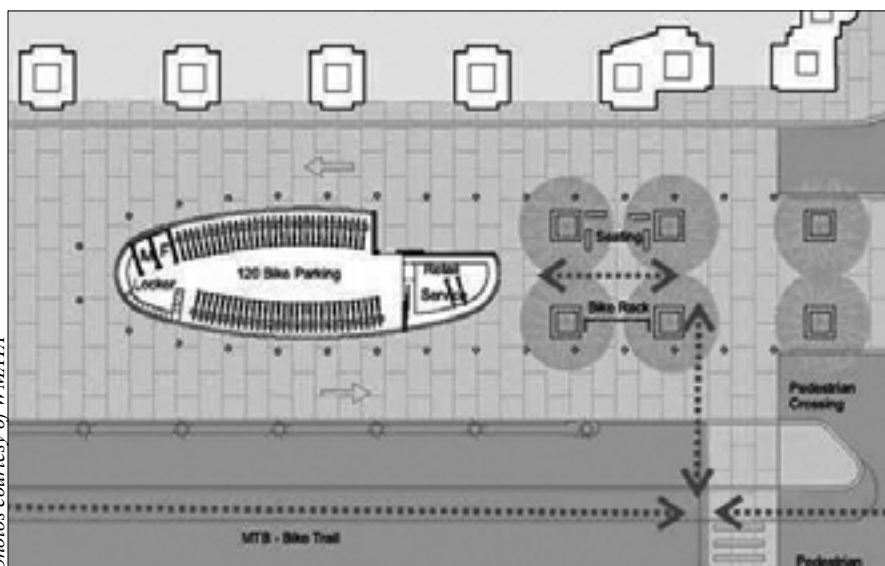
DDOT hopes to attract a private business to manage the facility. According to Sebastian, the managing business will gain a great location and free rent. An operating subsidy is also a possibility, although Sebastian believes retail sales and rental income should be enough to make the station

profitable. At an early August meeting, three bicycle shops and one bicycle rental and touring company met with DDOT representatives to discuss the bike station. All the businesses expressed interest in the project, although some expressed doubts about the ability of the site to be self-supporting.

“Experience has shown that new technology enables bike stations to do more with fewer staff,” counters Sebastian. Smart cards and on-line membership and reservation services will make staff time commitment minimal.

Educating the public about bike

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photos courtesy of WMATA

## Let's Reclaim Our Voice and Strengthen Public Transit

by *Dennis Jaffe*

Even though Metro's official public comment period for the proposed Riders Advisory Council (RAC) ended on August 16, we still have an opportunity to influence what their final proposal will look like.

Last December, the Sierra Club proposed that a strong RAC be established at the Metro agency. Its mission would be to solicit from riders a broad range of input on issues affecting passengers, and to recommend solutions to Metro's Board of Directors and staff. Dana Kauffman, chairman of the transit agency's board, has spearheaded the agency's commitment to create an RAC.

What does a strong RAC matter to the Sierra Club's agenda?

Metro is a good system, but years of neglect are causing it to decline. Clearly, more money is needed. And the Sierra Club is working to bring about public consensus to implement a dedicated source of funding for the agency.

But Sierra Club members and other riders also say they frequently find the agency unresponsive to complaints about quality of service and safety. Compounding all of this is the public's dissatisfaction with Metro—making it much more difficult for advocates to succeed at securing a dedicated funding source.

An influential RAC could help make Metro more responsive to riders' concerns, resulting in improved service and higher public confidence in the agency, which is critical to obtaining more funds.

Sierra Club activists held about 20 meetings with individual Metro board members and staff to flesh out the proposal's details. But Metro produced a proposal containing serious weaknesses. Its own board would appoint the volunteer members of the RAC. And Metro's CEO would select the staff serving the RAC. These flaws would seriously hinder the RAC's role as the genuine voice of riders.

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

(WMATA) received 170 comments on the proposed RAC in just 30 days during the height of vacation season—compared to just eight comments the agency received during a 60-day public comment period earlier this year on proposed changes to Metro's privacy policy.

Sierra Club members and other riders stressed one thing over and over throughout their comments: make the RAC more independent.

The feedback the D.C. Chapter received had a significant impact on the official comments we submitted to WMATA. You can read them online—and when WMATA posts its report on the public comments the agency received, we'll provide a link to that as well—at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/dc/sprawl/metro>.

WMATA's board will hold two meetings on September 15 and September 22 to finalize the creation of the RAC.

Until then, we still have an opportunity to demand the influence that we as riders deserve to have at the agency—and also to remind the members of the agency's Board of Directors that Metro is our transit system—they are its custodians.

To empower riders to help strengthen Metro, we must speak up now to influence board members to make the RAC more independent than is intended under the agency's proposal.

Let's reclaim our voice. Send a comment to a member of the WMATA Board of Directors who represents you. Their contact information is included at the end of a new online action alert at the Web address listed above.

A weak RAC won't do anything to make our job at garnering public support for a dedicated funding source any easier. But making your voice heard on the importance of establishing a strong council just might.

*Dennis Jaffe is a member of the D.C. Chapter's Transportation Committee.*

## Union Station Center

*Continued from page 6*

stations is another requirement for the transit center's success. Fortunately, its Union Station location and a proposed glass design will provide the best advertising available, Sebastian believes.

The architectural firm KGP Design Studio has developed three alternative plans for the facility. All would consist of a glass-enclosed, wing-shaped building at the southwest corner of Union Station in what is at present a driver drop-off and free bicycle parking area.

(In the preferred plan, these uses would continue to be available in the reduced space surrounding the bike station.)

Ellen Jones, chair of the District's Bicycle Advisory Council Facilities Subcommittee, believes that the Union Station transit center should be only the first of several stations around the city. At a recent meeting of the committee, the downtown site of the old convention center and space near the new baseball stadium in Southwest D.C. were men-

tioned as ideal additional locations.

For more information on the proposed Union Station transit center, visit <http://www.ddot.dc.gov>. For more information on bike stations in general, go to <http://www.bikestation.org>. To get involved in developing Washington's first bike station, contact Jessica Hanff at [Jess@improbablethings.com](mailto:Jess@improbablethings.com).

## Progress on Smoke-Free Workplaces

by Eric Marshall

Over the last few months, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network<sup>SM</sup> and more than 80 local coalition partners have been working hard to pass a comprehensive smoke-free workplaces law in the District. That hard work is really beginning to pay off.

On June 9, Councilmember Jim Graham (D-Ward 1) hosted a town hall meeting on smoke-free workplaces at the Lincoln Theatre. Hundreds of supporters of smoke-free workplaces packed the theater, many of them carrying signs. I was honored to be a member of the panel, along with three other great smoke-free workplaces advocates, Angela Bradbery (Smokefree DC), Peter Shields, M.D. (Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center) and Juan Romagoza, M.D. (La Clinica Del Pueblo).

At the end of the forum, Councilmember Graham took the stage and announced:

The evidence is clear that secondhand smoke makes people sick, and in many cases people die as a result.... I'm prepared to announce today and tonight that I will support the smoking ban.

Councilmember Carol Schwartz (R-At Large) held a hearing on smoke-free workplaces legislation at the

D.C. Council the following week, on Tuesday, June 14. Witnesses from both sides of the debate gave impassioned testimony during the 12-hour hearing. Throughout the entire hearing Councilmember Graham was an eloquent advocate for everybody's right to breathe smoke-free air. The councilmember constantly reminded opposition witnesses not to lose sight of the fact that smoke-free workplaces were a "health issue." Shortly after the hearing, Councilmember David Catania (I-At Large), chair of the D.C. Council's Committee on Health, publicly announced that in the fall he would hold a hearing and a vote on a comprehensive smoke-free workplaces bill now before his committee.

On July 15, the council began the summer recess, which allowed our campaign to refocus on grassroots activities. We will continue to reach out to Washingtonians to make sure the council hears their voices as we prepare for a vote in the fall. We believe it is possible for Washington, D.C., to become a smoke-free city by the end of the year, but there is still a lot of hard work to be done. Please visit <http://www.BreatheEasyDC.org> to find out how you can help.

*Eric Marshall is field representative for the D.C. Campaign of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.*

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## True Cost of Food Campaign Tours an Earth-Friendly Farm

by Susan Prolman

This summer, Chip Planck led 30 Sierra Clubbers on a tour of Wheatland Farms, the earth-friendly farm in Loudoun County, Va., he co-owns with his wife, Susan. Chip explained that the 35-acre farm is in the top 4 percent of highest grossing farms in the United States, with an annual gross of roughly \$350,000. He also noted that labor costs comprise 50

*Farmer Chip Planck leads a True Cost of Food Campaign tour of Wheatland Farms.*



photo by Susan Prolman

percent of the overall costs of running the farm. To support a chemical-free approach to farming, the Plancks and 15 college students plant by hand, weed by hand, remove pests like potato beetles by hand and harvest daily by hand. The Plancks have been selling their produce—which ranges from blueberries, to squash, to tomatoes, to okra—at area farmers markets since 1979. During this time, they have perfected techniques to minimize soil erosion, curb water use and increase biodiversity. They have reduced crop loss to pests by introducing beneficial predators such as the parasitic wasp. Wheatland Farms now sells at about a dozen farmer-only produce markets in the area, including the Dupont Circle, Mount Pleasant, and Penn Quarter farmers markets in D.C.



## Green Building

*Continued from page 1*

effects. Of course, how the green design ethos is manifested architecturally will vary according to the purposes and circumstances of the individual building being designed.

Nobody disputes that green design is hugely beneficial for the environment—according to the Department of Energy, buildings now consume 39 percent of all the energy used in the United States. What is perhaps more surprising is the fact that green design also saves money, protects public health and can even lead to a more efficient workforce. One study has found that improved environmental conditions in buildings lead to increases in worker productivity ranging from 1.5 percent to 6 percent. And while green buildings often have a higher upfront construction cost, the additional expenditure is generally more than made up for in cost savings from reduced use of energy and water, less waste, lower operations and maintenance costs and enhanced productivity among occupants.

The modern green buildings movement has blossomed fairly recently—one can perhaps date the trend back to 1999 when the U.S. Green Building Council initiated its evaluations of green buildings according to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) standards. To give some idea of the rise of green design, the number of LEED-certified buildings in this country has risen from a few buildings in 1999 to 263 in 2005 (with over 1,800 more in the planning or construction stages). Of course, environmentally friendly buildings were built well before 1999, and important earlier examples exist in the District—for example, the regional office of the National Resources Defense Council at 1200 New York Ave. N.W., which was built in 1996, and Georgetown University's Intercultural Center, which was built in 1982. The White House

was made “green” in 1993.

However, while D.C. has gained a few green buildings over the past few decades, and there have been a handful of LEED-certified building renovations, the modern trend toward green design has been late in arriving in the District. To date, the sole LEED-certified new construction in D.C. is the recently completed D.C. office of the National Association of Realtors (NAR) at 500 New Jersey Ave. N.W., two blocks north of the U.S. Capitol.

The NAR building is impressive in several ways. It is built on a cleaned brownfield site (a former gas station) within walking distance of several means of public transportation. It uses low-flow faucets, lavatory motion sensors and waterless urinals to reduce water usage by 30 percent. Eighty percent of its building materials came from the Washington region, thereby cutting down on the environmental effects of long-distance transportation. Its efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems result in a 30 percent reduction in energy use compared to code standards, and 50 percent of the building's energy is purchased from renewable sources. A carbon dioxide monitoring system introduces fresh air in response to increases in occupancy. Detailed descriptions of additional interesting green features are available at the NAR Web site: [www.realtor.org/vlibrary.nssf/pages/newdc](http://www.realtor.org/vlibrary.nssf/pages/newdc).

Although the NAR office is the first new construction in the District to receive LEED certification, it will clearly be the first of many. According to the U.S. Green Building Council there are a total of 21 green buildings either in the planning or construction stages in D.C.—a figure that includes several “green” renovations of existing buildings. Significant environmentally sound designs that are in the works in-

clude the planned 385,000 square foot commercial complex at 1101 New York Ave. N.W., the new Columbia Heights Community Center and the Department of Interior's new building at 1849 C St. N.W. There are ongoing discussions about green features in the new Nationals stadium, an issue in which the Sierra Club has been actively involved. The D.C. area has even spawned its own environmentally friendly developer in the Tower Companies, a Rockville-based outfit that specializes in green projects around the Metro area.

Despite these encouraging recent developments, much more needs to be done. Washington is by no means a leader in green design. Many other cities—including Seattle, Portland, New York and San Francisco—have already embraced the culture of green building that is only now catching hold in the District. Even some of the D.C. suburbs have been more proactive in encouraging green construction practices. For example, Arlington County, which is already home to two LEED-certified buildings with several others in the works, offers zoning variances to build larger buildings if they are LEED-certified.

Green buildings must become the rule and not the exception. The transition is slowly starting to take place, but the general public must play a bigger role in accelerating the trend. If your company is thinking of building new offices, make it known that the new offices should be environmentally friendly. If your company is staying put, ask if they have considered a “green” renovation. As one of the truly no-cost responses to environmental degradation, green design should be encouraged at all times.

# Environmental Justice

## ATSDR Report on Health Conditions of River Terrace Residents

by Linda Fennell

On July 21, 2005, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ruled that the River Terrace Community presented an Indeterminate Public Health Hazard. In its final report, ATSDR cites the results of air quality testing conducted in the community. The air was monitored for elevated levels of carbon monoxide, ozone, particulate matter, sulfate and sulfur dioxide. The data showed that some air pollutants exhibited elevated levels. ATSDR officials, however, concluded that while River Terrace was experiencing some elevated levels of pollutants, these would not be harmful to healthy residents although they would cause further health-related problems to those residents with pre-existing respiratory illnesses.

Living in the shadow of the PEPCO Benning Road facility and the Benning Road Transfer Station in the District's northeast quadrant, the River Terrace Community has long been urging more attention to its high rate of cancer and respiratory illnesses. In August 2001, the River Terrace Community Organization petitioned ATSDR to conduct a public health assessment after conducting its own health survey of 163 households. Community leaders George Gurley, president of the Urban Protectors, and Wanda Carter, then-president of the River Terrace Community Organization, and the Sierra Club's Environmental Justice Program collaborated to develop the assessment and members of the River Terrace community went door to door to collect the data.

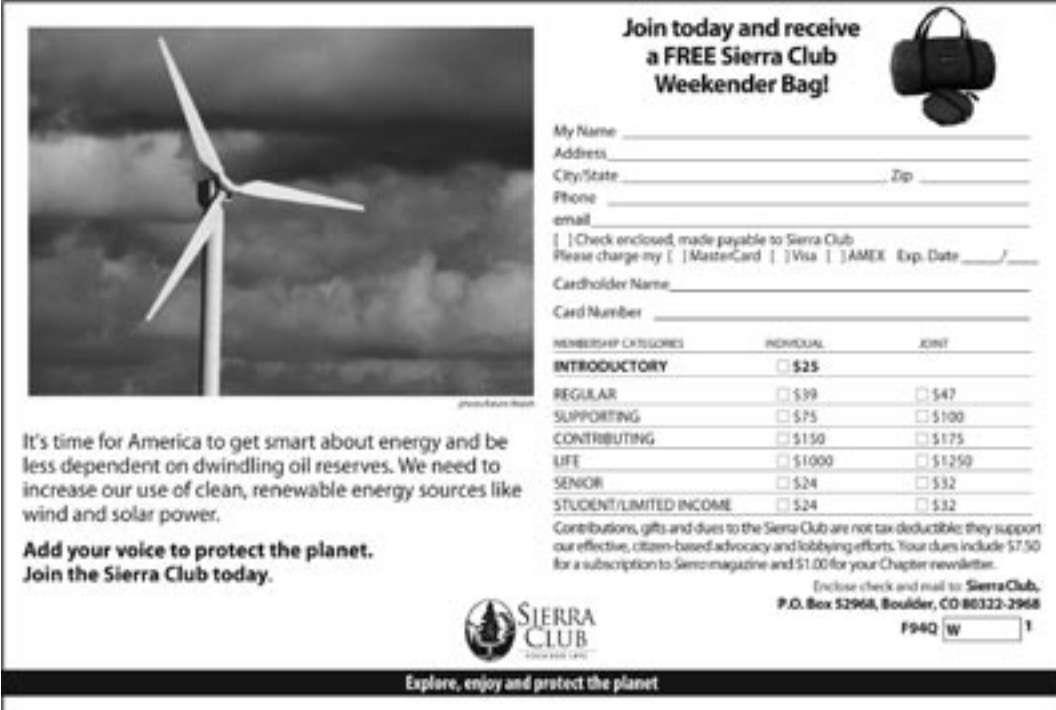
ATSDR officials convened two community sessions in July 2004 to present the initial findings of their report. Members of the community and other advocacy groups questioned the findings and voiced their dissatisfaction with them.

The recommendations, which the ATSDR has no official authority to enforce, include:

- Continue to sample criteria pollutants in ambient air in River Terrace;
- Sample additional pollutants, including volatile organic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon compounds, and metals in ambient air;
- Collect health outcome data on respiratory ailments in River Terrace; and
- Promote community awareness about air pollution in River Terrace.

Since the release of the draft report, an ad hoc community task force has met with D.C. Department of Health officials to develop another community health survey. "We had a very successful registration drive. Some houses have been surveyed," said Wanda Carter. The community is still waiting for the agency to return and reconvene the planning meetings. "We have not heard from DOH representatives about next step strategies," said Carter. "We are waiting to hear from them."

*Linda Fennell is Environmental Justice organizer of the D.C. Chapter.*



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# Environmental Justice

## Dismantling Racism

*Continued from page 1*

concerned about the environment.

Historically, it has been widely thought that communities of color were not concerned about mainstream environmental issues. Glen Besa, Appalachian regional manager, disagreed. “We know,” he said, “that communities of color are too frequently the location of choice for LULUS (locally undesirable land uses) like landfills, toxic waste dumps and chemical plants. Too many poor children in communities of color suffer the effects of lead poisoning from substandard housing. These are environmental issues that hit you in the gut—yes, environmentalism is very relevant for people of color.”

Wanda Carter, past president of the River Terrace Community Organization, a long-standing Sierra Club community partner, attended each session with great expectations. “I am glad that I came,” she said as the workshop attendees wrapped up the weekend. “The Sierra Club and River Terrace have always had a great relationship. This workshop has further strengthened that relationship and I will take this information back to the community because we have to break down racial barriers in order to get this important work done.”

Dr. Andrea Kidd-Taylor, a professor at Morgan State University School of Public Health, agreed. She journeyed from Baltimore accompanied by Linda Loubert, a research associate and professor also at Morgan State.

“This workshop enlightened me,” said Kidd-Taylor, “and demonstrates to me that the Sierra Club is in the process of reaching out and that is good for all of us.”

Lindsay Moseley from the Environmental Partnerships Program and Jenny Martinez, program manager for the Sierra Club Beyond the Borders Program, were also in attendance at the workshop. Martinez announced to the group that there was a page in process of development on the Sierra Club Web site that will further the club’s diversity goals. The Web site also makes available some of the Beyond the Borders Program’s reports that are targeted to Spanish-speaking audiences.

The Sierra Club continues to develop its capacity to conduct

dismantling racism workshops for staff and volunteers and the community leaders with whom they work. The club’s Training Governance Committee is also considering funding to conduct a “Train the Trainers” workshop in 2006 to develop more trainers to deliver the Dismantling Racism Workshops to club leaders, staff and communities.

If you are interested in the work of the Sierra Club to dismantle racism, please contact: Rita Harris, rita.harris@sierraclub.org or 901-324-7757 or Bill Price, bill.price@sierraclub.org or 304-854-1179.

*Linda Fennell is Environmental Justice organizer of the D.C. Chapter.*



**1st row from left to right: Ana Prados, conservation chair, Mt. Vernon Group; Wanda Carter, past president, River Terrace Community Organization; Chasta Jones, D.C. ExComm member and membership chair; Rita Harris, EJ program organizer, Memphis, Tenn.; and Laurel Imlay, Maryland chapter assistant.**

**2nd row from left to right: Dr. Andrea Kidd-Taylor, professor, Morgan State U.; Christa Wagner, BEC organizer, Charlotte, N.C.; Vicky Mattson, BEC organizer, W.Va.; Linda Loubert, associate professor, Morgan State U.; Anna Swinson, BEC organizer, Ga.; Jennifer Martinez, S.C. Beyond the Border Program; and Betsy Johnson, Maryland chapter chair.**

**3rd row from left to right: Kim Allen, James River Group, Va.; Bill Price, EJ organizer, W.Va.; Greg Haegele, San Francisco Office; Natalie Foster, manager, BEC, Ga.; Colleen Kiernan, BEC organizer, Ga.; Glen Besa, Appalachian regional manager; Linda Fennell, EJ organizer, D.C.; Bill McCabe, EJ organizer, Tenn.**

# New Sierra Club President Renstrom Urges Members to Enlist Friends and Neighbors

by John Byrne Barry

Attention chapter and group leaders: Don't underestimate the importance of new-member meetings. That's how Lisa Renstrom first got involved in her local group in Charlotte, N.C. Ten years ago, having just moved back to the United States from Mexico with her husband and young child, she attended the Central Piedmont Group's new-member meeting. She fit right in and "before I knew it," she says, "I was group political chair, even though most of my experience was with Mexican politics."

Fast forward to May 2005: After four years as group chair and four years on the Sierra Club Board of Directors, she's now the club's 51st president.

The Sierra Club may be 750,000 strong but as president, Renstrom wants to focus the organization on enlisting our friends and neighbors, even those who may, at first glance, disagree with us. The key, she says, is to "listen to what turns them on, find the seed of sameness, and build on that. It might be children's health, fiscal responsibility or caring for God's creation."

Renstrom has the credentials to lead such an outreach effort, with a background in business and community organizations. She's a political independent who grew up in a Republican family in Omaha, Neb. She has a finance degree from the University of Nebraska. In Charlotte, she worked with the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce, major banks, even local utility Duke Energy, as part of a coalition that helped pass a strong emissions law in

North Carolina.

In her twenties, she joined her father's hotel business and played a pivotal role in reviving several bankrupt companies in Mexico, earning her MBA "by fire." She spent six months in a Mexican jail while trying to settle a property dispute in Acapulco when her daughter was only a year old. "I was idealistic. I was in the right. I thought, I'm not caving. But six months later, I settled, and got back to running a business and raising my daughter."

Her biggest challenge at the moment is making the upcoming Sierra Summit 2005 a smashing success. (For more on the summit, including how to register and interviews with featured speakers Bill Maher, Arianna Huffington and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., go to <http://www.sierrasummit2005.org/interviews>.)

Renstrom, who serves as co-chair of the Summit Steering Committee,

played a similar role in North Carolina a decade ago, co-chairing an environmental summit in the 14-county area around Charlotte focusing on the burgeoning issue of sprawl. "We had grown about 20 percent in the past decade, and we decided, 'We don't want to be the next Atlanta.' We brought together 500 people, who met in advance of the summit to evaluate three scenarios for the future. We asked them what they wanted to see happen, what they wanted to leave behind--it was the first-ever event in this region where business, government and civic leaders got together on the same page about environmental issues, and though we didn't make a 180-degree turn, we raised awareness regionwide and served as a catalyst for change."

The Sierra Summit offers a similar opportunity for direction-setting and Renstrom says she wants to "bring the insight and experience of groups, chapters and national committees into the process, and then provide the leadership to work toward that vision together." As for the oft-repeated assertion that leading the Sierra Club is like herding cats, Renstrom will have none of that. "I don't think it's that hard. We're not cats. We are people who are acutely aware of the urgency and we want to solve problems. It is our job to get the country moving toward solutions and answers. We already do it around a forest here, a lake there, but let's pull together to get something big done, like curbing global warming. That's what I believe the summit can be, a time where we stab the knife into the table and say this is what we're going to do."



*Lisa Renstrom is the new president of the Sierra Club*

## Whale Protectors Urgently Needed! The BEACON Network

by Carmen Stagg

Right off our shorelines, along the Atlantic seaboard, roams the most endangered large whale in the world, *Eubalaena glacialis*, the magnificent North Atlantic right whale. Fewer than 350 remain—just a tiny portion of a population that once numbered in the tens of thousands.

North Atlantic right whales migrate each year from their winter calving areas off Florida and Georgia to their summer feeding and nursing grounds in the Bay of Fundy off New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. These slow-moving whales spend much of their time on the surface, which makes them particularly susceptible to ship strikes. In the past year and a half, eight right whale deaths have been recorded, including six adult females, three of them carrying near-term calves. It has been determined that at least three were hit by ships and one had been entangled in fishing gear. Sonar activities by the Navy and seismic activity in the exploration for oil and gas also threaten the whales, which communicate through the use of sound.

To respond to these threats, the Sierra Club's Atlantic Coast Ecoregion Task Force (ACE) is launching its North Atlantic Right Whale BEACON (Binational Early Alert Coastal Network) project. BEACON will monitor the entire coastal range of *Eubalaena glacialis* through teams of volunteers working in their own states and provinces. This unique international network will track development projects like harbor expansions, high speed ferry proposals, Navy sonar testing, liquefied natural gas terminals and oil and gas exploration and drilling to insure that the well-being of these marine mammals, protected under the federal Endangered Species Act, is taken into consideration before such projects proceed.

One example of such development in Canada is the proposed Whites Point quarry on Nova Scotia's Digby Neck. Digby Neck is a narrow peninsula bordering the Bay of Fundy where the right whales gather with their calves to feed in the summer. A massive basalt quarry is proposed that would result in acoustic disturbance to the whales from coastal blast-

ing to extract the rock. Additional ship traffic through right whale habitat would then be required to carry the crushed stone to New Jersey for use in road building.

To rally support for the North Atlantic right whale and to protect our coast ACE has developed fact sheets and will support a roadshow this fall and winter. To distribute the facts sheets and schedule our roadshow tour we need your help.

### What you can do to help right now!

1. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), a branch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has developed a Right Whale Ship Strike Reduction Strategy that would reduce ship speeds and require alternative routes during those times of the year when the whales frequent particular parts of the coast. Unfortunately, the U.S. Coast Guard is being uncooperative with regard to these measures, questioning the authority of NOAA to propose slower shipping speeds, declining to promote voluntary compliance and lagging in their utilization of Port Access Route Studies (PARS) to identify alternate ship routes that will reduce the incidence of right whale strikes. To send a letter to the Coast Guard urging protection of the North Atlantic right whale, please visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/ecoregions/atlantic.asp>.

2. Schedule our BEACON roadshow this fall or winter with your local Sierra Club Group or other interested and concerned organization. We have developed a presentation on the right whale and what citizens can do to help to protect it and our coast. Let us know of your interest in scheduling a showing by sending an e-mail to [narightwhale@hotmail.org](mailto:narightwhale@hotmail.org).

3. Sign up to volunteer. Please send an e-mail to [narightwhale@hotmail.com](mailto:narightwhale@hotmail.com) with your name, address, phone and e-mail so we can keep you informed on other ways you can help. For additional information call 804-565-4950.



## From Our Roots to the Summit

### Get Ready to Make a Difference: Update on the Summit

by Bob Morris

Winning the battle for a clean, healthy planet has never been more critical than it is now. We are at a point where the very biosphere that supports life as we know it is being changed in unpredictable but ominous ways due to the activities of a single species, the human. The gasses we emit on any one day from our cars, power plants, factories and lawn mowers will continue to harm nature's delicate balance for the next 50 years and more. In order to reverse our course and limit the economic, social, geopolitical and environmental consequences we need to stop filling the atmosphere, land and water with billions of tons of waste from our machines and activities every year.

We have the knowledge and technology right now to cut our harmful emissions by 60 percent before 2030. We can move to a clean energy economy that relies on clean and dispersed sources of power rather than the dirty and concentrated power sources we use today. We know that such a move will provide 1.3 million new jobs and give a boost to the economy. But we continue to pump out our poisons and harmful gasses.

Up until now we haven't had the organization and will to form a new environmental movement to bring our human species back into balance with the natural world we depend on for our own lives. That is changing right now.

As this newsletter reaches readers, the largest ever gathering of Sierra Club activists from across the country is meeting in San Francisco at the Sierra Summit. They are answering the call of our club president, Lisa Renstrom, to "stick the knife in the table" and say that now is the time for the Sierra Club to take the lead in building a new environmental movement. They are setting the direction of the club for the next five years and determining what we need to do to become the grassroots leader of that environmental movement. Many chapters, including the D.C. Chapter, have been very successful over the years in addressing local issues. Now we are going to join together and win the battle on national issues.

The delegates from the D.C. Chapter are Jason Broehm, chapter chair, Lisa Swanson, Matthew Tisdale and Bob Morris, members of the Executive Committee, and Julie Eisenhardt, at-large delegate. There is every indication that we will have the youngest (and according to Jason, best looking if Bob is excluded) delegation at the summit. We will not, however, suffer from any lack of experience. Jason and Lisa are well known for their leadership in the fight to save Klingle Valley. Matthew is a leader in the recycling campaign. Julie is a former Sierra Club Environmental Justice organizer

and remains a key activist in the District. Bob's experience goes back to shortly after the Civil War, but he still walks a strong picket line.

After the summit those activists will be coming back to our chapter and to chapters all across the country, ready to organize and take action. We will join together with our neighbors and friends, with our co-workers and competitors, with Republicans and Democrats, to build a culture that brings us back into balance with the natural forces that support life. Americans don't want to be known as selfish despoilers of the environment, backing our hunger for oil with a big military fist. We need to become leaders in reducing harmful emissions and protecting the health and habitat of all species, including our own.

This will be hard work and we will need every member of the chapter to make sacrifices, to take the time and energy to do this work in small and large ways. You will need to be the leader of your family, your apartment building, your street, your office.

Are you ready to join hands with other people who are committed to changing the current paradigm and building a national environmental movement? To find out how to take action that fits your abilities and schedule, please contact one of the D. C. Chapter Executive Committee members listed on the back page of this newsletter and leave your name, e-mail and phone number. Let them know that you want to be part of the movement.

*Bob Morris is the D.C. Chapter's Council of Club Leaders delegate to the Sierra Summit.*

### **Global Warming: Hear More about It!**

Free delivery! Educational presentations on global warming delivered to your home, office, church, school, parties or any gathering of friends or community!

Have a Sierra Club speaker come explain all the fuss about global warming—what British Prime Minister Tony Blair calls, "A challenge so far-reaching in its impact and irreversible in its destructive power that it alters radically human existence." Learn:

- Global warming science basics
- What is happening and the prognosis for the future, and
- How you can impact the issue!

Presentations may be short or long, and can be tailored to the level of the group.

For information, contact Jerry Hinkle at 925-530-7340 or 301-530-7340 or [jerryhinkle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerryhinkle@sbcglobal.net)

# Announcements

## D.C. CHAPTER ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS DINNER AND CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2005  
6:00-9:00 P.M.

JOSEPHINE BUTLER PARKS CENTER  
2437 15TH STREET N.W.

The Washington, D.C., Chapter is busy organizing a great awards dinner—our first in years—the evening of Sunday, October 2, at the Josephine Butler Parks Center overlooking beautiful Meridian Hill Park.

Our keynote speaker is Andrew Altman, chief executive of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation (AWC) and former director of the D.C. Office of Planning. Recruited by Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D) in 1999 to rebuild the city's Office of Planning, Mr. Altman created a strong agency that has won numerous awards for plans to revitalize areas including downtown, the Mount Vernon Triangle, H Street N.E., and the waterfront. He now heads the AWC, established in 2004 to lead the revitalization of the Anacostia River waterfront and to coordinate

environmental and programming initiatives that promote river cleanup and public awareness and enjoyment of the river.

In addition to our keynote speaker, we will present the D.C. Chapter's Environmental Leadership Awards to a chapter member, a community leader and a government official who have contributed greatly to improving the city's environment, as demonstrated through their involvement in one or more significant environmental campaigns or issues.

Please look for an invitation in your mailbox right around Labor Day, and we hope that you will be able to join us for an enjoyable evening! For more information, contact Chasta Jones at 202-320-1205 or [ncaos@aol.com](mailto:ncaos@aol.com).



*Andy Altman, chief executive of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation, will speak at the annual awards banquet.*

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## Announcements

### Chapter Bids Farewell to Long-time Newsletter Editor and Welcomes New One

by Jason Broehm

Earlier this year I was sad to hear long-time chapter leader Chris Craig announce that he would be stepping down from his leadership positions. In my five years of involvement with the chapter, Chris has been something of an institution, taking on a wide range of volunteer responsibilities and completing each task with great care and professionalism. He always exhibits a kindness and gentleness of spirit that make it a pleasure to work with him.

Since moving to Washington from his native Kansas about 13 years ago, Chris has been an active member of the chapter, serving as a bicycling activist, Executive Committee member, secretary, membership chair and most notably as newsletter editor for the past 6 years. This year he also assisted me with the supervision of our chapter's administrative assistant.

As editor of the *Capital Sierran*, Chris has greatly improved the quality of the newsletter's content and presentation. With the help of his fellow newsletter volunteers, he has consistently produced an excellent newsletter

that effectively communicates the Sierra Club's many local conservation activities to our membership and beyond. Having compared the *Capital Sierran* with many other Sierra Club chapters' newsletters, I am proud to say that ours is among the best and a great deal of the credit belongs to Chris.

Chris has also been an advocate for bicycling in the District. He commuted by bicycle to his job as a teacher

at the Lab School of Washington. Until recently, he served as a citizen representative on the D.C. Bicycle Advisory Council. He has been the Sierra Club's lead activist in working to advance the Metropolitan Branch Trail in Northeast Washington. During his summers off from teaching, he often went on long bicycling or paddling trips. This summer he bicycled 1,130 miles in Pennsylvania.

In a heartfelt tribute to Chris for his long and dedicated service to the chapter, one long-time activist aptly described Chris as a "godsend," and I cannot think of a better word to describe

Chris made good on a long-standing Sierra Club tradition of finding one's own replacement, and I am pleased to introduce Jessica Hanff as the new editor of the *Capital Sierran*.

Jessica is a life-long environmentalist who grew up on farms in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. Following collegiate studies in English and German, she worked in publishing. In pursuit of her dream of working on behalf of the environment, she moved to Washington where for five years she worked for the National Wildlife Federation promoting sustainability on college campuses.



Newsletter Team (L to R): Yoma Ullman, Chris Craig, Jessica Hanff and Gwyn Jones

Chris and his invaluable service to our chapter. He truly will be missed!

Chris and his partner, Ed Wheelless, who has provided valuable volunteer service to the chapter in his own right, will soon move to Harpers Ferry, W. Va., where they are turning a beautiful old home into a bed and breakfast. We wish them both well in the future and look forward to visiting them.

Thankfully, before his departure,

Jessica left that job to pursue a graduate degree in urban planning and natural resources at Virginia Tech's Alexandria campus where she focused on campus planning, which encompasses land use planning, "green" building, storm-water management and air quality. She is nearing completion of her master's thesis.

Currently, Jessica is putting her expertise to good use working in  
*Continued on page 17*



# Announcements

## You are Cordially Invited to Join the True Cost of Food Thanksgiving Potluck

True Cost of Food Campaign—Thanksgiving Potluck Celebration  
Saturday, November 19, 2005  
12 noon to 4:00 p.m.  
Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary  
15200 Mt. Nebo Road  
Poolesville, Md. 20837

Please join the True Cost of Food Campaign for a Thanksgiving potluck celebration at Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary in Poolesville, Md. Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary is a beautiful nonprofit refuge for wildlife and rescued farm animals located just 30 miles outside of D.C. Please bring a vegan (no meat, eggs or dairy) dinner or dessert item to serve eight. A \$10.00 donation is suggested to benefit the animals.

For more information, please contact Susan Prolman at [prolmans@aol.com](mailto:prolmans@aol.com).



photo by Susan Prolman

## Annual Holiday Party Set for December 7

Please join us for the Washington, D.C., Chapter's annual holiday party! This is an excellent opportunity to meet your chapter leaders and fellow members for an enjoyable evening of socializing over pizza and beer.

The party will take place Wednesday, December 7 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Nirvana at 1810 K St. N.W. (Metrorail Red Line). A donation of \$15 per person is suggested to help cover the cost of food. There will be a cash bar.

RSVP by Friday, December 3, to Chasta Jones at [nckaos@aol.com](mailto:nckaos@aol.com) or 202-320-1205.

## Newsletter

*Continued from page 16*

publishing and research by day and moonlighting on campus planning and sustainability issues. Her interests include spending time with her dogs, gardening, cooking, pottery and photography.

Jessica worked as an understudy to Chris on the previous issue and this is her inaugural issue as editor.

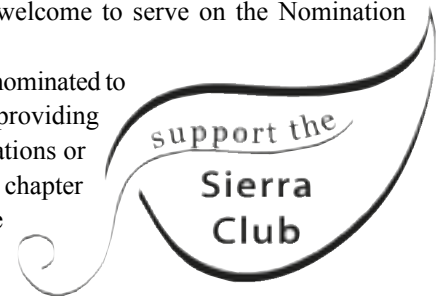
We are excited to have Jessica on board, and we know she will take our already impressive newsletter to even greater heights. If you have suggestions or would like to volunteer to help with the newsletter, I encourage you to get in touch with Jessica at [jess@improbablethings.com](mailto:jess@improbablethings.com).

## Chapter Elections Open for Nominees

D.C. Chapter elections will be held at the end of 2005 to fill five positions opening up on the Executive Committee. Nominations are needed.

"ExComm" members serve two-year terms, meet monthly and are expected to assist in at least one of the various functions of the chapter. The chapter is especially interested in finding people with skills and an interest in fundraising. If you wish to nominate yourself or another chapter member to office, please send the name and contact information to Mark Wenzler at [mwenzler@npca.org](mailto:mwenzler@npca.org). Additional volunteers are also welcome to serve on the Nomination Committee.

Any chapter member may also be nominated to the Executive Committee by petition, providing he or she agrees to serve. Any nominations or petitions must be signed by at least 15 chapter members and must be received before October 18, 2005.



## Calling all photographers!

The *Capital Sierran* is seeking amateur photographers or photographer wannabes. Would you be interested in sharing your photo skills in the *Sierran*? With sufficient interest, photo journalism training may be arranged. Contact Jessica Hanff, newsletter editor, for more information at [jess@improbablethings.com](mailto:jess@improbablethings.com) or 202-462-7360.

# Calendar

## Outings

Following is a partial list of activities offered by the Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP). For a more complete and up-to-date list and additional information, visit [www.mwrop.org](http://www.mwrop.org) or call 202-547-2326.

**Sat. Sep. 10 (not rated). Bicycle the Mount Vernon Trail.** Cycle along the shore of the Potomac River from Theodore Roosevelt Island to George Washington's home at Mount Vernon. Enjoy scenic views of the D.C. skyline, historic Old Town Alexandria, and a truly special section of the Potomac south of Alexandria. Optional tour of Mount Vernon. Out-and-back distance: 35 mi. over totally flat terrain. Helmets required. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Theodore Roosevelt Island parking lot, off the George Washington Pkwy. Leader: Glenn Gillis 703-430-0568.

**Sun. Sep. 11 (rated B). Seneca Creek State Park, Gaithersburg, Md.** Moderately paced 7-mi. circuit hike in Seneca Creek State Park along a stream and around Clopper Lake. Meet at 10 a.m. at the park Visitor's Center. Park in the Visitor's Center parking lot. Leader: Marjorie Richman 301-320-5509 before 9 p.m. or [mar0522@aol.com](mailto:mar0522@aol.com).

**Sat. Sep. 17 (rated A). Cabin John Regional Park.** Moderately easy 4-mi. walk, partly along Cabin John Creek. Meet at 10 a.m. in the Locust Grove Nature Center parking lot, 7777 Democracy Blvd., 2/3-mi. west of Westfield Shoppingtown (Montgomery Mall). Finish by 12:30 p.m. Bring water and a snack. Leader: Jim Fremont 301-681-7475 before 9 p.m..

**Sat. Sep. 17. (rated A). Northwest Branch Conservation Hike.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. A leisurely 6-mi. walk through one of the most beautiful stream valleys in the Metro area, with opportunities to discuss some of the conservation issues and potential threats (think Inter-County Connector) to this park. Leader: Ron LaCoss 301-946-1106 before 9 p.m. or [ronenviroed@aol.com](mailto:ronenviroed@aol.com).

**Sat. Sep. 24 (rated A). Especially for Kids: Lake Artemesia.** Easy, leisurely 3-mi. hike around beautiful lake and world's oldest continuously operating airport. The paved trails are friendly to strollers, tricycles, roller blades and feet (no bikes or pets, please). Meet at 10 a.m., 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant (5240 Paint Branch Pkwy., College Park, Md.), but park away from restaurant, toward road. Call in case of inclement weather, for directions, or if carless. Leaders: Mike Darzi 301-593-4551 and Carol Ivory [carolivory@verizon.net](mailto:carolivory@verizon.net).

**Sat. Sep. 24 (rated A). Greenbelt Park.** Quick 5-mi. afternoon hike around the woods of this inside-the-beltway wilderness, courtesy of the National Park Service. Meet at 1:30 p.m. at 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant (5240 Paint Branch Pkwy., College Park, Md.), but park away from restaurant, toward road. Call in case of inclement weather, for directions, or if carless. Leaders: Mike Darzi 301-593-4551 and Carol Ivory [carolivory@verizon.net](mailto:carolivory@verizon.net).

**Sat. Sep. 24 (rated A/B). Get to Know Loudoun Co.: Claude Moore Park.** Discover a little-known gem in the heart of suburban eastern Loudoun Co. and retrace some of the steps of those who traversed this area as wilderness over 250 years ago. This is an easy 7-mi. hike. Meet at 9 a.m. near visitor's center at park off Cascades Pkwy. Leader: Gary Kosciusko 703-765-0306.

**Sat. Sep. 24 (rated H). GPS Hike: Sky Meadows State Park.** This hike consists of three loops: the AT and old AT route, Sky Meadows State Park and the park's horse trails; 18 mi., with about 3,000 ft. elev. gain. The park offers most spectacular views of the Piedmont, and all less than an hour from D.C. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Oakton Shopping Center, across from McDonalds, to carpool. Leader: Dimitri Tundra 301-770-9639 or [tartakd@hotmail.com](mailto:tartakd@hotmail.com).

**Thu. Sep. 29 (rated B/C). Glen Echo Park.** A 9-10-mi. moderate hike on the Glen Echo and Cabin John Trails and C&O Canal towpath. At end, take a free tour of historic Glen Echo Park and Clara Barton House. Joint hike with PATC. Start at 10 a.m. from Glen Echo Park parking lot. Bring water and lunch. Leader: Henri Comeau 703-451-7965 or [henricomeau@aol.com](mailto:henricomeau@aol.com).

**Sat. Oct. 1 (not rated). Fall Meeting of MWROP.** To be held at Highacre in Harpers Ferry, the event will feature an informative morning program and an optional and outdoor recreational/educational activity in the afternoon, with a potluck lunch in between. Members of the general public are invited to participate. Contact: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351.

**Sun. Oct. 2 (rated B). Get to Know D.C.: Rock Creek Park.** Explore the beauty of the park in early fall. Meet at 1 p.m. at the park's Nature Center (just south of Military Rd. and Oregon Ave. N.W.). Bring water and a snack. Kids who can walk 7+ mi. on fairly gentle terrain are welcome. Leader: Jim Finucane 301-365-3485 before 9 p.m.

**Sat. Oct. 8 (rated A). Help Write the Guidebook: Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge.** Explore an easy 3.4-mi. trail in an eagle sanctuary amid an outstanding marsh on the tidal Potomac River. If you want, join in running a measuring wheel along the trail to confirm/update distances to update a well-known guidebook on northern Va. trails. Leader: Larry Broadwell 301-215-7135 before 9 p.m.

**Sun. Oct. 9 (rated A). Help Write the Guidebook: Pohick Bay Regional Park.** This easy 3.7-miler features upland woods, nature trail with learning stations and views of bay on the tidal part of the Potomac River. Leader: Larry Broadwell 301-215-7135 before 9 p.m.

**Fri. Oct. 14 (rated A/B). Get to Know D.C.: Moonlit Hike on the Mall.** Explore the beauty of D.C.'s National Mall and monuments by the full moon. Meet at 7 p.m. at former entrance to now-closed parking lot by Washington Monument. Park on street or use Metro (Federal Triangle Station). Kids who can walk 7+ mi. (or 3 mi.) on relatively level terrain are welcome. Leader: Jim Finucane 301-365-3485 before 9 p.m.

**Sat. Oct. 15 (rated B). Get to Know D.C.: Rock Creek Park.** Moderately hilly 7-mi. hike in northern Rock Creek Park, including a visit to historic Civil War Fort DeRussey. Meet at 10 a.m. at the park's Nature Center (just south of Military Rd. and Oregon Ave. N.W.). Finish by 2:30 p.m. Bring water and lunch. Leader: Jim Fremont 301-681-7475 before 9 p.m.

**Sun. Oct. 16 (rated B). Change of Seasons Outing:** A 10-mi. autumnal hike along the C&O Canal towpath from Glen Echo Park to a mile beyond the

Capital Beltway, with side trips down to the Potomac River. Meet at 9 a.m. at Glen Echo Park parking lot closest to the Minnehaha Pedestrian Bridge leading into the park at the intersection of Goldsboro Rd. and MacArthur Blvd. Leader: Dave Burd 703-998-9390 or [dburd301@netzero.com](mailto:dburd301@netzero.com).

**Wed. Oct. 19 (rated B). Get to Know D.C.: Parks, Cemeteries, Nooks, Storied Buildings, Crannies, Sidewalks, Gunbarrel Fences and Kingley Valley.** Wiggly, eccentric and easy-paced 8-mi. circuit hike through city's past and present, progress and predicament. See Web site after Oct. 12 for details. Meet at 10 a.m. at meterless Pierce Mill parking lot, off Tilden St. near Beach Dr. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351.

**Thu. Oct. 20 (rated C). Great Falls Park, Va.** A scenic, historic, moderate- to fast-paced 10-mi. hike with a 5-mi. option. Bring lunch/water. Joint hike with PATC. Directions: From Old Dominion Drive; turn right to park entrance (fee is \$5 per car or pass). Meet in front of visitor center parking lot. Starting time is 10 a.m. Leaders: Henri Comeau 703-451-7965 or [henricomeau@aol.com](mailto:henricomeau@aol.com) and Ray Evert 703-893-3792 or [Hikerdude22@msn.com](mailto:Hikerdude22@msn.com).

**Sun. Oct. 23 (rated F). Central SNP.** Moderate- to fast-paced, 12-mi. hike to Corbin Cabin, with 2,250 ft. elev. gain. Very scenic hike with nice vistas and a great climb. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Vienna Metro Station, north parking lot, to carpool. Beginners must call for requirements. Leader: Ted Fryberger 410-312-2982 before 9:30 p.m. or [tkfryberger@comcast.net](mailto:tkfryberger@comcast.net).

**Sun. Oct. 23 (rated H). Fall Colors on Massanutten Mtn.** We'll do 13-mi. hike along Massanutten East Trail from Milford Gap to Shawl Gap, with 5,000 ft. elev. change. Scenic stretch of the former Dogwood route with views of Shenandoah River's South Fork and a visit to vestiges of Virginia's iron-making history at Elizabeth Furnace. Leaders: Christine Ford 703-425-6899 and Mike Darzi 301-593-4551, both before 9 p.m.

**Sat. Oct. 29 (rated D). Sugarloaf Mtn.** Enjoy crisp Oct. skies on 8-mi. hike across Sugarloaf Mtn. in nearby Montgomery Co., Md. Savor the outstanding views of the county's surrounding agricultural preserve from Sugarloaf's rocky summit. Meet at 9:30 a.m. under the deck at Hecht's at Westfield Shoppingtown (Montgomery Mall). Leader: Glenn Gillis 703-430-0568.

**Sat. Oct. 29 (rated A + A). Especially for Kids and Get to Know D.C.:** Two Hikes in One at U.S. National Arboretum. First hike: Leisurely paced, child-friendly 3-mi. circuit hike on paved surfaces. Second hike (after lunch): family-friendly and slightly faster circuit hike, partially off-pavement, of about 4 mi. Meet at 10 a.m. at main parking lot (just inside R St. entrance). Joint event with AMC/DC. Call in case of inclement weather, or for directions. Leaders: Mike Darzi 301-593-4551 and Paul Elliott 703-256-6351.

**Sun. Oct. 30 (rated E). No Pumpkins, Just Poetry Hike.** A moderate 10-mi. circuit hike in SNP. Limited to 20 people. Bring Sour Patch Kids for trick or treat and some poetry. Metro-accessible meeting place. Leader: David Cheng 301-980-9112 or [dmcheng@yahoo.com](mailto:dmcheng@yahoo.com).

### Hike Rating System

One point is assigned to each mile and each 400' elevation change, up & down. The higher the point total, the more difficult the hike. For example, a five-mile hike with 1,200' elevation change (400' up, 800' down) gets a point total of 8 and is rated B; an 8-mile hike with an elevation change of 3,600' gets a point total of 17 and is rated E.

Rating	Points	Rating	Points	Rating	Points
A	7 or less	B	8-10	C	11 - 13
D	14- 16	E	17 - 19	F	20 - 22
G	23 - 25	H	more than 25		



# Calendar

## D.C. Chapter and Related Events

*Following is a list of activities of the D.C. Chapter at press time. All events are free unless indicated by (\$). Please RSVP where indicated. Because of the possibility of changes, please confirm with the contact person or by checking our Web site, [www.dc.sierraclub.org/](http://www.dc.sierraclub.org/).*

### September

#### Sat. Sep. 10

Tabling at River Terrace Community Organization Day: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. River Terrace Park. To volunteer, contact Chasta Jones at [nckaos@aol.com](mailto:nckaos@aol.com) or 202-320-1205.

#### Sun. Sep. 11

Tabling at Adams Morgan Day: 12:00–6:00 p.m. On 18th St. N.W. between Florida Ave. and Columbia Rd. To volunteer, contact Chasta Jones at [nckaos@aol.com](mailto:nckaos@aol.com) or 202-320-1205.

#### Mon. Sep. 12

Second Monday Happy Hour. (\$) 5:30–7:30 p.m. Warehouse Cafe & Bar, 1021 Seventh St. N.W. Metro: Gallery Place/Chinatown (Red Line); Mount Vernon Square/Convention Center (Yellow/Green Line) or Circulator, 70/71, G8. Contact Chasta Jones at [nckaos@aol.com](mailto:nckaos@aol.com) or 202-320-1205.

#### Tue. Sep. 13

Executive Committee meeting. All members welcome. 6:30–8:30 p.m. Note date change originally scheduled for Thu. Sep. 8. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station (Red Line) or D6, Circulator. Contact Jason Broehm at [jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org) or 202-299-0745.

#### Tue. Sep. 13

Transportation Committee meeting. All members welcome. 7:00–9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station (Red Line) or D6, Circulator. Contact Tom Metcalf at 202-832-3809 (evenings) or [thmetcalf@mac.com](mailto:thmetcalf@mac.com).

#### Sat. Sep. 24

Tabling at the Green Festival (\$) 10:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place N.W. Metro: Mount Vernon Square/Convention Center (Yellow/Green Line) or G8, 70/71 Circulator. To volunteer, contact Chasta Jones at [nckaos@aol.com](mailto:nckaos@aol.com) or 202-320-1205.

#### Sun. Sep. 25

Tabling at the Green Festival (\$) 11:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place N.W. Metro: Mount Vernon Square/Convention Center (Yellow/Green Line) or G8, 70/71 Circulator. To volunteer, contact Chasta Jones at [nckaos@aol.com](mailto:nckaos@aol.com) or 202-320-1205.

#### Mon. Sep. 26

True Cost of Food Campaign Restaurant Outing. (\$) RSVP 6:30 p.m. Amma Vegetarian Kitchen, 3291 M St. N.W. (upstairs) (Indian). Metro: Foggy Bottom (Blue Line) or 30, 32, 34. Contact Susan Prolman at [prolmans@aol.com](mailto:prolmans@aol.com) or 202-667-1162.

### October

#### Sun. Oct. 2

D.C. Chapter Environmental Leadership Awards Dinner and Celebration. (\$) RSVP 6:00–9:00 p.m. Josephine Butler Parks Center, 2437 15th St. N.W. Metrobus: H1, 66, S2, 52. Contact Gwyn Jones at 202-543-0552.

#### Tue. Oct. 4

Executive Committee meeting. All members welcome. 6:30–8:30 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station (Red Line) or D6, Circulator. Contact Jason Broehm at [jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org) or 202-299-0745.

#### Thu., Oct. 6

Gathering with new Sierra Club president Lisa Renstrom. RSVP 7:30–8:30 p.m. Location TBA. Limited space available so please RSVP as soon as possible to reserve a space. Contact Jason Broehm at [jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org) or 202-299-0745.

#### Mon. Oct. 10

Second Monday Happy Hour. (\$) 5:30–7:30 p.m. Café Nema, 1334 U St. N.W. Metro: U St. – Cardozo (Green/Yellow Line) or 90/92, 66, 52/54. Contact Chasta Jones at [nckaos@aol.com](mailto:nckaos@aol.com) or 202-320-1205.

#### Tue. Oct. 11

Transportation Committee meeting. All members welcome. 7:00–9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station (Red Line) or D6, Circulator. Contact Tom Metcalf at 202-832-3809 (evenings) or [thmetcalf@mac.com](mailto:thmetcalf@mac.com).

#### Mon. Oct. 24

True Cost of Food Campaign Restaurant Outing. (\$) RSVP 6:30 p.m. Meskerem Ethiopian, 2434 18th St. N.W. (Ethiopian). Metro: Woodley Park (Red Line) or L2, 90, 98. Contact Susan Prolman at [prolmans@aol.com](mailto:prolmans@aol.com) or 202-667-1162.

### November

#### Tue. Nov. 1

Executive Committee meeting. All members welcome. 6:30–8:30 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station (Red Line) or D6, Circulator. Contact Jason Broehm at [jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org) or 202-299-0745.

#### Tue. Nov. 8

Transportation Committee meeting. All members welcome. 7:00–9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station (Red Line) or D6, Circulator. Contact Tom Metcalf at 202-832-3809 (evenings) or [thmetcalf@mac.com](mailto:thmetcalf@mac.com).

#### Mon. Nov. 15

Second Monday Happy Hour. (\$) 5:30–7:30 p.m. The Reef, 2446 18th St. N.W. Metro: Woodley Park – Zoo/Adams Morgan (Red Line) or 90/92/96. Contact Chasta Jones at [nckaos@aol.com](mailto:nckaos@aol.com) or 202-320-1205.

#### Sat. Nov. 19

Potluck Thanksgiving Dinner. (\$) RSVP 12:00–4:00 p.m. Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary, 15200 Mt. Nebo Rd., Poolesville, Md. Contact Susan Prolman at [prolmans@aol.com](mailto:prolmans@aol.com) or 202-667-1162. Participants are asked to bring a \$10 donation to the sanctuary and a vegan dish to share.

### December

#### Tue. Dec. 6

Executive Committee meeting. All members welcome. 6:30–8:30 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station (Red Line) or D6, Circulator. Contact Jason Broehm at [jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org) or 202-299-0745.

#### Wed. Dec. 7

Annual Holiday Party. (\$) 6:30–9:00 p.m. Nirvana, 1810 K St. N.W. Metro: Farragut West (Blue/Orange Lines) Contact Chasta Jones at [nckaos@aol.com](mailto:nckaos@aol.com) or 202-320-1205. A donation of \$15 per person is suggested to help cover the cost of food. There will be a cash bar.

#### Mon. Dec. 12

Second Monday Happy Hour. (\$) 5:30–7:30 p.m. Mimi's American Bistro, 2120 P St. N.W. (smokefree restaurant) Metro: Dupont Circle (Red Line) or 42, L1/L4, D1/D3/D6. Contact Chasta Jones at [nckaos@aol.com](mailto:nckaos@aol.com) or 202-320-1205.

#### Tue. Dec. 13

Transportation Committee meeting. All members welcome. 7:00–9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station (Red Line) or D6, Circulator. Contact Tom Metcalf at 202-832-3809 (evenings) or [thmetcalf@mac.com](mailto:thmetcalf@mac.com).

## Chapter E-mail Alerts

Would you like to receive e-mail alerts from the chapter about upcoming events and opportunities to get active and speak up for the District's environment? To join, please submit a request by e-mail to [washingtondc.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:washingtondc.chapter@sierraclub.org).

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.



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