

# THE WASHINGTON CONSERVATIONIST



Vol. 2, No. 1

Metropolitan Washington Group, Sierra Club

February 1975

## PLUS & Growth

What is PLUS? Does it affect your taxes? How might it change your lifestyle?

During the 1960's the metropolitan Washington area was the fastest growing major metropolitan area in the United States. It gained three-quarters of a million new residents. However growth in the region was not spread evenly among the metropolitan jurisdictions. Fairfax County (VA) grew nearly twice as fast as the entire metropolitan area. Citizens and public officials in this County have shown increasing concern over the problems associated with rapid and generally uncontrolled growth. Because of a better understanding of how growth affects costs for public facilities and services and negatively impacts on ecosystems, the traditional American assumption that growth is good and necessary has been challenged somewhat.

In 1971, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors initiated a "pause (in growth) for planning"; the courts struck down this attempt to manage growth. A second effort was made in 1972 with the so-called "Five-Year Plan". This growth plan recommended where development should occur in the period 1972-1977 while assuring that supporting capital projects and services (fire, water, sewer, streets) would be provided at minimal cost to taxpayers. Unfortunately the "Five-Year Plan" inadequately addressed

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## Sierra Quest

In the Summer of 1973, several Sierra Club members asked themselves—how can the Sierra Club's "voice" and its resources to deal with environmental issues be applied to the metropolitan Washington area?

For 5 years, the area's only Sierra Club "mouthpiece" had been the Potomac Chapter, consisting of Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, and its predecessor the Southeast Chapter, covering the entire southeastern United States. The Chapter's conservation committee (an officially appointed Chairman and unofficial, ever-changing collection of members and non-members) concentrated almost exclusively on rural environmental issues, such as wilderness, watershed impoundments and modifications, strip mining and wetlands protection. In October 1971, a committee was formed to work on inner-city environmental problems and to educate inner-city children about the environment. This (D.C.) Inner-city Environmental Committee attempted to deal with complex issues such as air pollution, freeways, parkland management and noise pollution. It also operated an outings program for inner-city children. In the Maryland and Virginia suburbs, a few Sierra Club members had been working on various environmental issues such as the Outer Beltway, new parklands acquisition, land use plans and water pollution. But there appeared to be a wall between the inner-city and suburbia. And further most conservation activists were concerned with preserving their wilderness playgrounds to which they trekked on occasion. Little, if any, concern was shown for urban environments—home to most Sierra Club members and the majority of our nation's people. Even many Sierra Club members spent 80% (or more) of their time in the urban environments like metropolitan Washington.

Are urban environmental issues markedly different from rural ones? Are air pollution, water pollution, ineffective transportation systems, energy demands, parklands management, watershed management exclusively rural or urban?

In the early 1950's, the metropolitan Washington area began to grow in population. During the 1960's, it was the *fastest* growing major metropolitan area in the United States; this growth was often not controlled, not planned. As residents of any metropolitan area can attest rapid, uncontrolled growth brings increased property taxes, conflict over development policies or non-policies, congestion on roads, sewer moratoria, air stagnation

## A Midcourse Overview

alerts, over-populated schools, housing shortages and, too often, over-utilization of inadequate recreation facilities. In the 1950's and early 1960's, the various governmental jurisdictions tried to "solve" most of these problems individually. Total independence gave way when local governments joined together in the 1960's to form the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

Meanwhile, the Congress of the United States was giving more attention to environmental and urban problems. Passage of the Clean Air Act, Department of Transportation Act, National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and Department of Housing and Urban Development Act during the late 1960's immediately affected all citizens—rural and urban—of the United States. But these Acts, subsequent amendments to them in the 1970's, and passage of the Urban Mass Transit Act, Model Cities Demonstration Act and others have been of particular significance to metropolitan and smaller urban areas. They require all governmental jurisdictions in each of the 30 metropolitan areas (designated by the U.S. Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce) of the United States to deal with air, water, transportation, housing and other issues on a *metropolitanwide* basis. Urban governments are highly dependent on Federal funding assistance for planning and operation of air, water, transportation, housing and other programs. But they cannot receive Federal funds unless projects and programs are integral parts of *metropolitanwide* programs.

Environmental activists in the metropolitan Washington area like the various governmental jurisdictions tried in the 1950's and 1960's to deal with environmental issues on a single jurisdiction basis, that is, D.C., Montgomery Co., Fairfax Co., etc. (some environmentalists still take this approach). Gradually, too gradually, environmentalists have recognized that a single jurisdiction approach is unproductive, foolhardy and self-serving. Now let us return to the Summer of 1973 and the several Sierra Club members.

These members decided that the Sierra Club should become more active in metropolitan Washington environmental issues, both micro (within a single governmental jurisdiction) and macro (metropolitanwide). At that time the most logical way to accomplish this goal was to form an official *regional group* of the Sierra Club—a subunit of the Potomac Chapter. Moreover an official

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**SIERRA QUEST — A Midcourse Overview, continued from page 1**

regional group of the Sierra Club would have more impact on elected and appointed governmental officials than "speaking with many tongues" through the multi-state, non-metropolitan Potomac Chapter. Already the metropolitan Washington area had an active Sierra Club social group, and the Chapter's meetings program was run exclusively for metropolitan Washington members. Better than 90% of the Chapter's outings leaders were residents of metropolitan Washington. So on November 19, 1973, Sierra Club members residing in the metropolitan Washington area came together and approved a set of bylaws for the Metropolitan Washington Group of the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club Council, on behalf of the Club's Board of Directors, officially recognized the Metropolitan Washington Group as of January 1, 1974.

What have been the activities of the Metropolitan Washington Group during 1974—its first year of operation. We ran a full-schedule outings program that included backpacking, biking, canoeing, day hiking and spelunking trips. Noting the importance of broadening the environmental movement, your Executive Committee heartily endorsed the adoption and continuation of the inner-city hiking program for children of minority and low income families. This program was very active during the Spring, Summer and early Fall. Our Social Group met every month and had some very interesting programs. Besides the monthly Executive Committee meetings, the Group held 13 other meetings. Starting in June, there were six conservation meetings in Virginia while two conservation meetings took place in both Maryland and the District. Additionally two general meetings were conducted in September to give members and non-members information on metropolitanwide conservation issues. A November general meeting was devoted to pending legislation on Grand Canyon—a longtime "battlefield" for the Club.

Beginning with John Muir's efforts in the late 1800's to save the Sierra Nevada Mountains from the timber barons, the raison d'être of the Sierra Club has been to improve the quality of the natural environment. Because 1974 was the first year of operation for the Group and because starting up a conservation program is an arduous, time-consuming task, the Group's conservation efforts were strong in some respects and weak in others. Members were continually urged to become involved in projects on transportation, air quality, water quality, land-use planning, parkland management and preservation of trees. These projects not only dealt with the issues on a single jurisdiction basis but frequently on a metropolitanwide basis.

Publication of "The Washington Conservationist" commenced in September. This newsletter was intended to give metropolitan Washington Sierra Club members in-depth coverage of metropolitan conservation issues, extensive listings of Group meetings and outings, selected coverage of national and regional conservation news and reviews of noteworthy books as well as other items of interest.

But where are we going in 1975? The answer depends in part on member support, and more importantly, on the degree of member participation in programs. Your Executive Committee will spend much time on beefing up the conservation program. The outings program is slated for expansion and

provision of new services. There is now a Meetings Committee that is actively working on a schedule of monthly meetings dealing with conservation issues and featuring expert speakers. Planning for Social Group activities has been completed through June; programs will continue to have a conservation orientation. New programs are being contemplated.

Your Executive Committee is aware of the many demands on member's time in this important metropolitan area, the capitol of the United States. We deeply appreciate any support by members even if it is only continuance of Club membership and occasional donations to various Group funds. Speaking of members the Group experienced an 11% membership growth rate during 1974. In fact the 2800 member Metropolitan Washington Group is larger than 29 of the Sierra Club's 45 chapters. Despite our large membership, the Group's treasury is not brimming. Our "parent," the Potomac Chapter, allocated about \$800 to the Metropolitan Washington Group in 1974 or \$.31 per member; this "income" had been exhausted long before the year's end. Yet under the (national) Club's present allocation policy, each of its chapters receives funds (rebates on membership dues) equivalent to slightly more than \$2.00 per member per year. Our programs are expanding and will need greater funding. We desperately need a small, part-time, paid staff—one member of which would be a secretary—to backup our conservation program.

Having an active, metropolitanwide unit of the Sierra Club in the Washington area is a valuable asset to the Club. Of course the most important purpose of this metropolitan Washington Sierra Club unit is to improve the natural environment through such means as monitoring of public agencies and corporate bodies, influencing legislation, taking legal redress and affecting public opinion. If we are better able to do these conservation tasks, future generations as well as the present one will be able to enjoy the wild areas of our nation including those in our metropolitan areas like the Potomac Gorge.

Geoff Hechtman  
Chairperson

**MEETINGS, from page 7**

13 Mar. (Th.), 8 p.m. Executive Committee meeting will be held at 1500 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington (Rosslyn), VA in the penthouse conference room of System Planning Corp.

20 Mar. (Th.), 8 p.m. D.C. conservation meeting will be held at 3606 Veazey St. N.W.

21 Mar. (Fri.), 8 p.m. Social Group meeting at the home of Ken Roberts in Fairfax, Virginia. Please call Ken for reservations and directions at 573-1885. Brock Evans will show his slides of the famous Hell's Canyon and Snake River area.

7 Apr. (Mon.), 8 p.m. Maryland Conservation meeting will be held at the Chevy Chase library, 8005 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD.

10 Apr. (Th.), 8 p.m. Executive Committee meeting will be held at 1500 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington (Rosslyn), VA in the penthouse conference room of System Planning Corp.

17 Apr. (Th.), 8 p.m. D.C. conservation meeting will be held at 3606 Veazey St. N.W.

18 Apr. (Fri.), 8 p.m. Social Group meeting at the home of Kay Woodward in Silver Spring, Maryland (work: 344-2266; home: 445-1687). Linda Billings from the National Sierra Club office will speak informally about her work as a lobbyist as well as answer questions about the activities of the National office.

At present there is no chairperson for the Maryland and Virginia conservation subcommittees. Anyone interested in Maryland or Virginia conservation problems or becoming active as subcommittee chairperson should call Geoff Hechtman at 471-1279.

## Participate in the Ecology Movement

### RIVER ADVENTURE: 1975

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Photo by Jo Terrill

Why was a bear present at our November general meeting? Mr. and Mrs. Aldo Becci, the Great Green Canyon Bear wearing Navaho cedar-berry beads to keep evil spirits away and Lizbeth Carr are waiting to view slides of a river trip. The Green Bear was mascot to the September 1974 Colorado River Oar Trip led by Ms. Carr. See page 6 for article on future general meetings.

## Book Review

**Mind in the Waters: A Book to Celebrate the Consciousness of Whales and Dolphins, assembled by Joan McIntyre; Charles Scribners Sons, New York, Sierra Club Books, San Francisco. \$14.95.**

Combining science, poetry and folklore, this attractive and handsomely illustrated volume is a fascinating collection of essays on the whale family—whales, dolphins and porpoises—and an eloquent appeal to put a halt to their slaughter.

We learn that these superbly adapted creatures of the sea have, together with primates, the most highly differentiated brains of all animals. Unlike most other animals, they appear to be conscious of what they are doing.

Scientists point out that many whales have brains that much exceed the human brain in the cortical surface area where thinking takes place.

"Captive dolphins," writes Dr. Sterling Binnell, "have often shown humor, empathy and self-control that few of us could match under comparable circumstances."

Whales appear to be susceptible to music and on one occasion 30 killer whales completely surrounded a ship on which a rock and roll band played and followed her for several miles. Gifted at mimicry, some whales make credible imitations of human speech sounds.

The extraordinarily sensitive sonar system of dolphins enables them, among many other feats, to distinguish between two types of metals or metal plates of different thickness.

These are the remarkable creatures that are being killed at a rate of about 36,000 a year—despite the fact that for all whale products there are now substitutes in the form of proteins, oils and chemicals.

Persons interested in saving whales should write to Project Jonah, Box 476, Bolinas, California 94924. Incidentally, the royalties of this book will go to Project Jonah.

Ted Meltzer

*Ed: The Sierra Club's Board of Directors has endorsed two boycotts. Members are urged to boycott Japanese and Soviet products; these nations are responsible for much of the whale slaughter. The Board has also asked members to boycott light (white) tuna products. Tuna fisherman are responsible for drowning many dolphins.*

## Energy Fallacy

Opening public hearings [recently] to help design a substantive national energy policy for the Ford Administration, Interior Secretary Morton touched on a pervasive myth when he asked, "How much conservation can the economy stand?"

Implicit in the question is the widely held belief that a slowdown in energy demand over years to come would halt, even reverse, the long-term growth of the American economy . . . .

Historically, of course, demand for energy has grown apace with the economy. That was because it was cheap, a negligible fraction of the costs of production . . . .

But that situation has changed, a fact impressively documented by a respected business research organization, the Conference Board, in a study started last year, even before the Arab oil embargo. "Energy use per unit of product declined at a 1.6 percent rate from 1954 to 1967. As a result, while total manufacturing output rose 87 percent, total energy use rose only 53 percent," the Conference Board study concluded.

Looking ahead in the light of the sharp increases in energy prices, the Conference Board projected an accelerating decline in energy use per unit of output at an average annual rate of 2 percent up to 1980. The study emphasized that their projections were not "technically possible optimums," but rather "economically probable developments."

It simply does not follow that pressures to conserve energy will stunt capital investment or shrink the gross national product. Rather, capital investment will be diverted into more energy-efficient plants and machinery.

Nor do living standards necessarily suffer when a greater part of consumer spending is directed toward so-called service industries — education, health, leisure activities — instead of toward ever more material goods which demand so much more energy to provide. The Ford Foundation's Energy Policy Project found that the top fifteen energy-intensive industries consumed 45 percent of the energy used in all manufacturing, yet produced only 9 percent of the value added and accounted for only 6 percent of manufacturing jobs.

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## Inner-City Hikes

There will be a meeting at Martin Flavin's home to plan the calendar for the Spring/Summer/Fall hikes on March 14, 8 p.m., 10803 Montrose Avenue, Garrett Park, Maryland (telephone: 946-4712 — in case you wish directions). All interested in participating in these hikes are invited and would be most welcome.

If you wish additional information regarding the meeting, or the program, please call Shirley L. Crawford (Office 632-9131, home 659-2884).

Shirley L. Crawford

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# Call for Activists

John Muir founded the Sierra Club in 1892 to work for protection of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. Over the years the Club has enlisted citizens of other states to support the efforts to protect our natural environment. Today, the primary purpose of the Sierra Club continues to be citizen action (by members) to improve the environment and to oppose "blind progress."

Do you understand metropolitan Washington's air pollution, water pollution, water supply and transportation problems? What are the tax, economic and health effects of these and other environmental problems? How can individual citizens get action from "city hall" with a modest investment of time? What are the psychological benefits of participation in conservation programs? Discover people power; volunteer for one of the projects listed below.

**Air Pollution - Bill Jordan, (202) 291-7507 (H).** Present activity includes analysis of air pollution documents. Specific administrative and legal appeals may be forthcoming.

**Energy - Jim Finucane, (703) 527-1345 (W).** Proposed areas of study are off-shore oil and gas drilling, rate structures (PEPCO and VEPCO), proposed fossil- and nuclear-fueled facilities within close proximity of the metropolitan area and alternative power sources. Action will probably involve some lobbying on state legislation. In fact, there are presently bills in both the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies dealing with energy and/or off-shore drilling.

**I-66 - Geoff Hechtman, (703) 471-1279 (H) or Roger McClure, (202) 337-4975 (H).** Current activities include analysis of the Final Environmental Impact Statement, lobbying in the Virginia General Assembly against a toll-road substitute and preparation of legal action. The Metro rapid-rail system urgently needs our support. We plan to take actions to support completion of the system.

**Land Use - Geoff Hechtman, (703) 471-1279 (H).** Most of the activity centers on Fairfax County's PLUS Program. We need volunteers to testify at upcoming hearings on the plans for the four planning districts (see PLUS article elsewhere in this issue).

**Legislation - Geoff Hechtman, (703) 471-1279 (H).** We need volunteers to help lobby on bills in the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies. A working knowledge of state politics and a good understanding of environmental issues is desirable.

**Outer Beltway - Rhea Cohen, (202) 547-1144 (W).** We have written a position paper proposing deletion of the highway from Maryland state highway plans (we support alternatives including mass transit). A bill is to be introduced in the Maryland General Assembly calling for deletion. We need volunteers to lobby on this matter.

**Potomac National River Bill - Bill Hartgroves, (703) 471-1996 (H).** This project involves research on land holdings, working with public officials, coordination with other conservation and citizen organizations and compilation of a slide show.

Geoff Hechtman,  
 Chairperson

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## PLUS - Towards More Rational Planning, continued from page 1

environmental and transportation issues and was too short term. However it did generate valuable data and set forth criteria to guide capital facilities planning. By February 1973, the Board was in receipt of a task force report entitled Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Controls. This was the launching mechanism for PLUS.

PLUS (Planning Land Use System) was formulated in the Spring of 1973 as a means to prepare a capital improvement program and to update the existing 1958 Countywide Plan and 14 District Plans. The Board of Supervisors adopted 16 interim development and redevelopment policies in August 1973 to serve as a basic framework for developing this long-range comprehensive planning process. PLUS was envisaged as a 20-year growth management plan. Despite legal challenges by development and realty interests, PLUS has moved forward and met its goals.

The County's Office of Comprehensive Planning considered present economic, environmental and social conditions; a synopsis of their findings follows. Despite improved emission control equipment on automobiles, the continuing growth of automobile and truck traffic (increasing Vehicle Miles Travelled) will result in dangerous countywide air problems. (Conservative estimates by the U.S. E.P.A. put health losses due to vehicle emissions at \$5.0 billion per year nationally.) Water quality in area streams has been significantly degraded by soil erosion and resultant siltation. The Occoquan watershed is chemically contaminated. (Occoquan supplies most Fairfax County residents, the City of Alexandria, and some other smaller areas.) Because public facilities have generally followed development rather than guided private development, citizens will face additional tax burdens to update and improve public facilities. Highway improvements and additional mass transit services will cost \$300 million (or more) just to serve the existing population efficiently. Only 14% of the present tax base is commercial and industrial. Moreover only 33% of County residents work in Fairfax County. The high cost of single (detached) homes force low and middle income citizens to seek apartments and townhouses that are in extremely short supply.

What are the "solutions" to the aforementioned problems? The planners have proposed development of new employment centers within the County. A 10-year water and sewer plan is being formulated. Protection of stream valleys, floodplains, wetlands and other critical environmental areas has been strongly recommended. The County plans to connect its parks and recreation facilities by "environmental quality corridors". The planners have developed and implemented a land classification system that designates preferred growth areas. A Countywide transportation plan has been formulated that places greater emphasis on development of mass transit facilities. Highway improvements are both radial and cross-country; some of these highway elements need to be carefully examined. Most importantly three growth options have been hypothesized. *Controlled incremental growth* continues present development patterns of widening bands with a westerly movement in response to market pressures. *Outlying growth areas* encourages selected, well-defined, planned growth areas primarily in undeveloped portions of Fairfax County. *Concentrated growth focus* locates growth in areas with existing urban services and facilities. It emphasizes

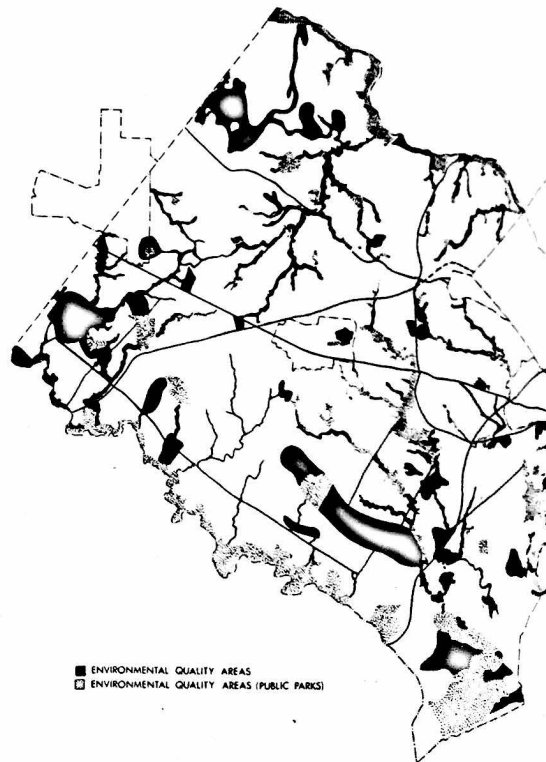
mass transit development, environmental protection of western Fairfax County and preservation of rural (open space) lands.

When are the "solutions" to be implemented? The Board of Supervisors created a Zoning Ordinance Study Committee (ZOSC) in 1972. In June 1974, ZOSC presented a revised County zoning ordinance. This ordinance is environmentally oriented and requires rezonings to comply with Countywide and district comprehensive plans (Harriet Hunt, a member of the Metropolitan Washington Group of the Sierra Club was active on ZOSC and instrumental in the adoption of the new ordinance). The Board of Supervisors took an unusual and controversial action in July 1974 - it comprehensively rezoned all existing undeveloped parcels in Fairfax County. Early on the Board decided that PLUS required citizen input if it was to adequately consider management of growth. Citizens have participated in and served on various countywide and district task forces.

There are yet opportunities for citizen input before the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to take final action on PLUS in June of this year. In November 1974, the Fairfax County Planning Commission began hearings to adopt the first (Area I) of four district plans. The second district plan (Area III) will be considered during February (copies of these plans are available at the County libraries). Now is the time to express your views on these important growth management plans.

According to many public officials, urban planners and special interest groups (including environmental ones), Fairfax County has undertaken possibly the most unique large-scale planning program in the history of the United States. With sufficient pressure from Sierra Club members and other citizens, the other jurisdictions of the metropolitan Washington area could "sense" the need to undertake PLUS-type programs.

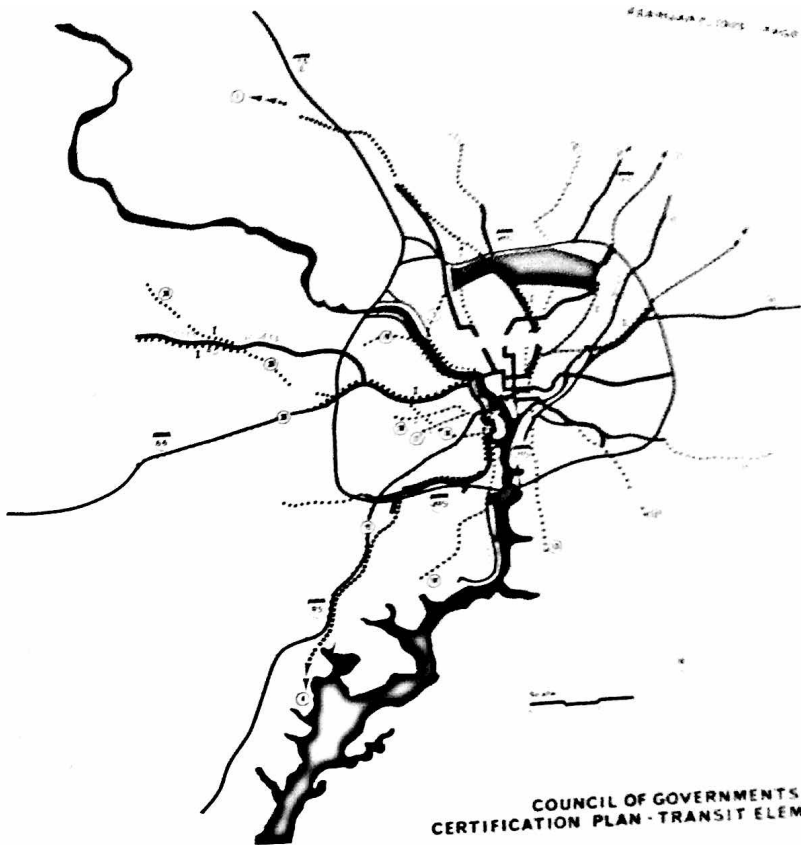
Geoff Hechtman



Citizens and planners in Fairfax Co. involved with the PLUS Program recommended creation of "Environmental Quality Corridors" to tie existing parklands and recreation areas together.

**LEGEND - TRANSIT ELEMENTS:**

- METRO ADOPTED 98-MILE REGIONAL RAIL RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM PLUS DULLES RAIL EXTENSION
- PROPOSED COMMUTER RAIL FACILITIES:
- ① 880 ROCKVILLE LINE
  - ② 880 LAUREL LINE
  - ③ PENN. CENTRAL ROWIE LINE
  - ④ R.F. AP LINE
- PROPOSED EXPRESS BUS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:
- ① 880 GEORGETOWN BRANCH BUSWAY
  - ② CONNECTICUT AVE. EXCLUSIVE BUS LANE
  - ③ GEORGIA AVE. / GLENMONT BUS LANE
  - ④ WESTERN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BUSWAYS AND BUS LANES
  - ⑤ BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON PARKWAY EXCLUSIVE BUS LANE
  - ⑥ ROWIE/RELAIR BUS LANE
  - ⑦ UPPER MARLBORO/ROUTE 4 BUS LANE
  - ⑧ CLINTON BRANCH AVE. BUS LANE
  - ⑨ SOUTH CAPITOL ST. CORRIDOR BUS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
  - ⑩ U.S. 1 CORRIDOR BUSWAY
  - ⑪ SHIRLEY CORRIDOR BUSWAY
  - ⑫ FOUR MILE RUN BUS IMPROVEMENTS
  - ⑬ COLUMBIA PIKE EXCLUSIVE BUS LANE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
- ELEMENTS BEING EVALUATED:
- ⑭ ARLINGTON BLVD. EXCLUSIVE BUS LANE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
  - ⑮ GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKWAY BUS LANE
  - ⑯ I-66 RELATED TRANSIT ELEMENTS
- CIRCUMFERENTIAL TRANSIT CORRIDOR
- INTERIM FACILITIES



COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS 1972  
CERTIFICATION PLAN - TRANSIT ELEMENTS

Mass transit — is it to be a dream or a reality? Will the Metro rapid rail system be completed? Future land use plans, like PLUS, can affect the transportation system. If citizens want a better environment they must answer these questions and communicate (write) government officials (appointed and elected).

**I-66 & Metro**

Since the Metropolitan Washington Group came into being one year ago, it has been officially involved in the I-66 controversy. Our Executive Committee approved a resolution in February 1974 that supported the mass transit alternative to the proposed 8- to 14-lane urban freeway called I-66. Representatives of the Group at public hearings as well as the Executive Committee have continued to support the mass transit alternative — completion of the Metro rapid-rail system, expanded Metrobus service, reserved bus lanes and implementation of other mass transit modes. Virtually all metropolitan governmental jurisdictions have supported the mass transit alternative. All area Congresspersons, that is, those elected in 1974, explicitly or implicitly support the mass transit alternative. Growing numbers of Congresspersons from other districts support the mass transit alternative. Five Federal agencies with review powers over highways support the mass transit alternative. So why does pressure continue for construction of the superhoaxway?

planned urban freeways for mass transit. The District of Columbia is giving serious consideration to "trading" planned freeways for increased allocations to the Metro rail system. Why not transfer highway funds for the proposed I-66 and other suburban freeways to mass transit? Congress authorized such simple transactions in 1973. The Governor of the state where funds are to be transferred need only to request such transfer and it is automatically granted.

to know that citizens want mass transit, suburban Washington public officials are especially squeamish. Write your city council member or county board member. Virginia members should also write Gov. Mills E. Godwin, Jr. (Governor's Office, Richmond, VA 23219) requesting transfer of I-66 monies to Metro.

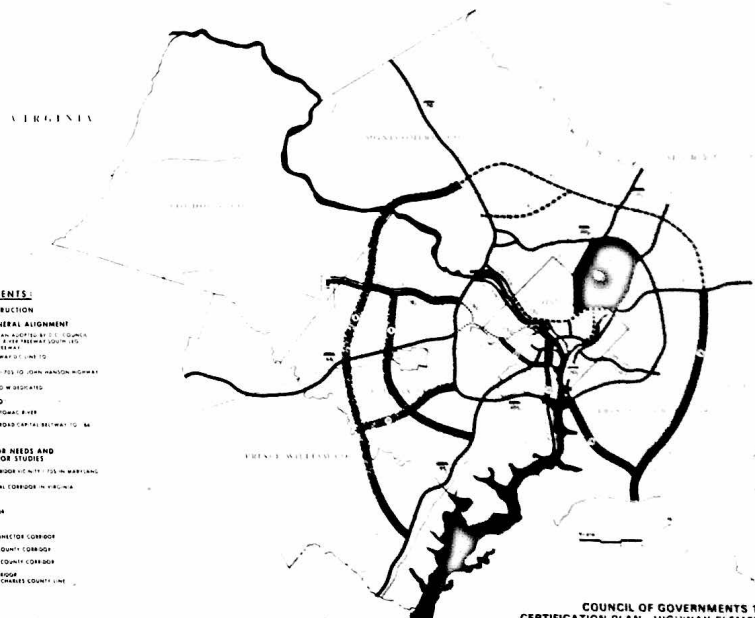
Tired of fighting rush hour traffic, of not finding a parking place downtown? Ride Metrobus and Metrorail.

Support mass transit. Public officials need

Geoff Hechtman

**LEGEND - HIGHWAY ELEMENTS:**

- EXISTING OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION
  - COMMITTED FACILITIES - GENERAL ALIGNMENT
  - ① BALANCE OF I-66 FROM METRO ADOPTED BY DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND FEDERAL AID FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
  - ② BALANCE OF PROPOSED I-66 FROM DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
  - ③ BALANCE OF PROPOSED I-66 FROM STATE OF VIRGINIA
  - ④ BALANCE OF PROPOSED I-66 FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
  - ⑤ BALANCE OF PROPOSED I-66 FROM DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
  - ⑥ BALANCE OF PROPOSED I-66 FROM STATE OF VIRGINIA
  - ⑦ BALANCE OF PROPOSED I-66 FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
- ELEMENTS BEING EVALUATED:
- ⑧ I-66 CAPITAL BELTWAY TO POTOMAC RIVER
  - ⑨ BALANCE OF I-66 CAPITAL BELTWAY TO POTOMAC RIVER
  - ⑩ I-66 CAPITAL BRIDGE
- TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR NEEDS AND GENERAL LIMITS OF CORRIDOR STUDIES:
- ⑪ QUINCY CIRCUMFERENTIAL CORRIDOR IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
  - ⑫ WESTMINSTER CIRCUMFERENTIAL CORRIDOR IN MARYLAND
  - ⑬ QUINCY CORRIDOR
  - ⑭ WESTMINSTER CORRIDOR
  - ⑮ U.S. 1 CORRIDOR IN VIRGINIA
  - ⑯ ARLINGTON-BALTIMORE CORRIDOR
  - ⑰ WESTERN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CORRIDOR
  - ⑱ SOUTHERN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CORRIDOR
  - ⑲ DULLES CIRCUMFERENTIAL CORRIDOR
  - ⑳ JOHN HANSON HIGHWAY TO CHAMBERS COUNTY LINE



COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS 1972  
CERTIFICATION PLAN - HIGHWAY ELEMENTS

Construct new ribbons of asphalt and concrete to "improve" air pollution and highway congestion, to promote urban sprawl, to raise taxes. Why not give up businesses and homes, parks and dollars for these ribbons? Anyone for dominoes?

## D.C. Active, Sets Priorities

Since early last fall, the D.C. Conservation Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Group has been working to develop a program which will be of interest to Sierra Club members and will make a significant contribution to conservation issues in the Washington area. As part of that effort, the Committee has found it necessary to examine closely its purpose and its relationship to the rest of the Metropolitan Washington Group, these issues were the central items of discussion at the January 23 meeting of the Committee. That discussion will continue at future meetings as well.

The Committee and the Group as well are faced with several options. Should the Committee, for example, be abolished in favor of Group-wide committees based on issues rather than geography? Should it exist and deal only with District issues? Or should the above two options be combined in some way, maintaining a District identity while contributing to such efforts as the I-66 fight? All of these and more are possibilities, the final determinations depending upon the interests of those who attend the next several meetings.

At this point, the Committee is involved in some actual conservation issues. These include an effort to protect trees in the District, ongoing involvement in the hiking program for inner-city children, efforts on behalf of the Potomac National River Park concept, and investigation into the problem of air quality, or lack of it, in the District.

With respect to the problem of air quality, the Committee is presently attempting to focus on how it can act effectively. To aid in this effort, Mr. Brink, head of the D.C. Bureau of Air and Water Quality, will join the Committee at its February 20 meeting to discuss what the problems are in the District, what the principal sources of pollution are, how his Bureau attempts to deal with them, and how we can be of assistance. The discussion will be open and free, and it is hoped that the Committee will gain from it the information which it needs to determine how it can act effectively. The meeting will be held at the West End Library at 24th and L. NW at 7:30 pm. It will be held in the small meeting room upstairs and will last only until 9:30 since that is when the library closes, so everyone who is interested should try to be on time if at all possible.

This is a crucial time for the environment in general and the D.C. Conservation Committee in particular. The success or failure of this Committee depends upon the willingness of Sierra Club members to contribute to it, whether that contribution is presence at meetings or more substantial expenditure of time. Both are necessary and valuable. All Sierra Club members are urged to attend the next several meetings of the Committee to help define it and allow it to move beyond the problems of group structure to the problems of environmental protection.

Bill Jordan

## \$ Cut, Help

Recently the Sierra Club's Board of Directors instituted an across the board cut in funding for Club programs. This cut has resulted in a personnel reduction at the Washington Office and consequently has affected the Club's national legislative program. The Washington Office needs several volunteers to do typing, filing and other office skills. To volunteer call Eleanor Zimmerman on 547-1144 (weekdays).

Five general areas were listed by the D.C. Conservation Committee at its January 23 meeting, Chairman Walter Wells announced. They are opposition to proposed extension of Route I-66, support of Potomac National River concept, support of full construction of Metro Rapid Transit system, support of measures and actions to improve air quality in the District, and support of tree restoration programs in the District. "This list is not final," Wells said. "Other items can be added contingent only on their being interested Sierrans to define them and develop needed programs and actions." He also announced the appointment of Bill Jordan as Vice Chairperson of the D.C. Conservation Committee. The Committee's mailing list now includes 14 persons but is inviting others to lend their talents and time to serve as resource people, attend hearings, prepare statements or assist in other aspects essential to effective conservation action. Plans are being prepared to provide volunteer assistance to the National Club office at 324 "C" Street, S.E.

Future meetings of the committee are scheduled to be held on the third Thursday of each month at Wells' home, 3606 Veazey St., N.W. at 8 pm. There will be no meeting there in February due to the planned open meeting on Feb. 20 on air quality. (See other item on this meeting elsewhere in this issue.) The next committee meeting will be on March 20. Call Walter Wells at 362-0250 for further information.

Walter Wells

## FALLACY, from page 3

Economists used to believe that a steady growth in population was essential to economic growth — an outmoded doctrine to which some developing countries still doggedly adhere. Sober analytical study — as opposed to the knee-jerk instincts of those whose business it is to sell ever more energy — is showing the equal fallacy of claiming that economic growth depends on a parallel rate of growth in the use of energy.

New York Times

## Evans to Speak

On January 14, Richard Lahn of the Sierra Club's Washington staff spoke on energy. The environmental aspects of extraction and usage of various energy sources for power generation were discussed as well as pending Congressional legislation, some of which was introduced a year ago.

Speaker for our February 11 meeting will be Brock Evans, Director of the Sierra Club's Washington Office. He will discuss the Club's lobbying efforts on national issues and legislation. After the main meeting, we will have a "mini" meeting for members who want to participate in a national legislative telephone network. Both meetings will be held on Tuesday, February 11, in the Woodward Room of the National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St., N.W. (16th & O Sts.), Washington, DC; the main program will begin at 8 p.m.

Topic for the March 18 meeting is "What Happens to Your Garbage?" David Sussman of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be speaking at 8 p.m. in the Woodward Room of the National Wildlife Federation (1412 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC).

## Nature Workshop

The Association of Interpretive Naturalists will hold its 1975 Annual Workshop on April 8 through April 12, 1975, at the Natural Bridge Hotel, Natural Bridge, Virginia. The AIN workshop provides an opportunity for historical and environmental interpreters to exchange programs and ideas. Further information is available from Prof. Carl J. Holcomb, Program Chairman, as follows:

Prof. Carl J. Holcomb  
1975 AIN Workshop Chairman  
304-E Cheatham Hall, VPI & SU  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Ed: Carl Holcomb is a Regional Vice-President of the Sierra Club and longtime environmental activist.

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# Outings

## OUTINGS TELEPHONE

By the time you receive this issue, the MWG Outings Committee will have installed a telephone with a recorded announcement concerning upcoming outings and meetings of the Group. The message will be updated as appropriate. The number is 202-547-2326, and we ask that you record this number for future reference. Do not call the club's Washington Office for news of Group events. The national office has its own tremendous workload and cannot afford to use its time to answer such inquiries.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Trips go on, regardless of weather. Cars are pooled at close-in meeting places. Riders share car expenses. An optional \$.50 per person to the Group Outings Committee is requested. You need not make a prior reservation unless trip announcement specifies it. Bring lunch and water on all day hikes and money for optional supper stops.

## A PLEA FOR LEADERS

The MWG Outings chairpersons have not found that holding an outings planning meeting is a very effective means to recruit leaders. Instead, we continue our plea for volunteers to contact us directly. When you call, please have a draft write-up of your proposed outing in a format similar to those printed here. If you have never led an outing and want to get your feet wet, one way to start is to go on several outings and observe how the leader does it and/or volunteer to serve as an assistant leader if the leader would like one. To schedule outings contact Dick Williams (703-524-5409) or Pat Hopson (202-484-0183).

**8-9 Feb. (Sat-Sun) Garrett Co., MD.** Beginning level cross-country skiing. Contact John Ryder (301-464-1362) for information and reservations.

**9 Feb. (Sun) Bull Run Mtn., VA.** Moderate 8-9 miles. Good views of Piedmont and Blue Ridge. Meet at 8 a.m. at Cooper School. Leader: Jim Clarke (301-869-0358).

**15-16 Feb. (Sat-Sun) Garrett Co., MD.** Intermediate level, cross-country skiing. Contact John Ryder (301-464-1362) for information and reservations.

**22-23 Feb. (Sat-Sun) backpacking, Hazel Country, SNP.** See remnants of old cabins and other relics of mountain folk. Moderate 8 miles each day; limited to 8 people. For reservations call Terry Medlin (301-322-2691) after 6:30 p.m.

**23 Feb. (Sun) Appalachian Trail, Northern Section, SNP.** Moderate 10 miles along the AT from Compton Gap to Hogback Mtn. Meet at 8 a.m. at Cooper School. Leader: Dick Shultz (301-299-8184).

**1-2 Mar. (Sat-Sun) backpacking, southern section, SNP.** Rocky Mountains. Rugged long-distance hiking, climbing, and bushwhacking on a circuit touching Rocky Mount, Rocky Mountain, and Rockytop. Leader: Ray Martin (202-338-1909).

**2 Mar. (Sun) White Oak Canyon-Cedar Run, SNP.** Strenuous 11 miles passing beautiful waterfalls and Lumberlost, virginia hemlock stand. Meet at Cooper School at 8 a.m. Leaders: John Martin (202-543-1296) and Pat Hopson (202-484-0183).

**9 Mar. (Sun) day hike and train ride to Harpers Ferry.** Meet at 10:30 a.m. at ticket windows, Union Station, for the 11:00 Amtrak train to Brunswick, Md. Maryland

members may board the train at 11:12 at the Silver Spring station on Georgia Ave. From Brunswick, hike an easy five miles along the Brunswick, hike an easy five miles along the C&O Canal Towpath to Sandy Hook and then a moderate 3.4 miles into Harpers Ferry. Time for sightseeing and dinner in Harpers Ferry before catching the train back at 6:27, arriving Union Station at 7:35. Total train fare \$7.00. Contact Frank Whitten (202-343-6763 days).

**16 Mar. (Sun) Catoctin Mountain Park, MD.** Moderate 10 miles, visiting Cat, Chimney, Wolf, and Hog Rocks and Cunningham Falls. Excellent views, scenic streams and falls. Bring money for supper. Meet 8:30 at the Hecht Co. Montgomery Mall. Leader: Dick Shultz (301-299-8184).

**16 Mar. (Sun) photography hike.** Contact Boots Judy (301-937-8437) for details and reservations.

**29-30 Mar. (Sat-Sun) backpacking, southern section, SNP.** Moderate 8-10 miles each day. Leader: Redd Crafts (703-437-1438).

**6 Apr. (Sun) Little Devil Stairs, SNP.** Second annual wildflower hike over fairly strenuous 9-mile route, at a moderate but not snail's pace, to enjoy the wildflowers. Meet at Cooper School at 8 a.m. Leaders: Ruth Douglas (703-521-6141) and Pat Hopson (202-484-0183).

**12 Apr. (Sat) Harper's Ferry or Bust, 100-km hike.** Thirty people have already expressed interest in the second annual 62-mile one-day hike from Washington, D.C. to Harpers Ferry, along the C&O Canal Towpath. Training hikes of intermediate length are planned for every weekend for those who wish to strengthen their feet, build up their stamina, or test their commitment to the Harpers Ferry or Bust hike. For more details call Loren Friesen (202-628-7899) or Ray Martin (202-338-1909).

**19-20 Apr. (Sat-Sun) backpacking, Massanutten Mtn.** Moderate 6-7 miles each day. Leader: Dick Williams (703-524-5409).

**26 Apr. (Sat) Old Rag, SNP.** Strenuous 8 miles of hiking and scrambling over rocks to see wildflowers at their spring peak. Meet at Cooper School at 7:30 a.m. Assistant leader wanted. Leader: Terry Medlin (301-322-2691 after 6:30 p.m.).

# Calendar

## CANOE TRIPS & INFORMATION

Be sure to wear warm clothing including gloves in March and early April; bring a change of clothes in a waterproof. Hot coffee or tea in a non-breakable thermos is recommended for early Spring trips. Use of life jackets or vests for all trips is required. The trips are scheduled with increasing difficulty to permit an *advanced* beginner to start with the first trip and to participate in all trips not rated higher than class 3-4. The following books give detailed descriptions of nearby canoeing streams: *Canoeing White-water*, R. Carter; *Wild Water West Virginia*, B. Burrell and P. Davidson; *Blue Ridge Voyages* (4 vol.), R. Corbett and L. Matacia. These books and others on canoeing are available at Appalachian Outfitters and Hudson Bay Outfitters (see advertisements in this issue for locations and telephone numbers). Canoes with paddles and life vests (top carriers are extra) may be rented from Matacia Outfitters (2700 Gallows Rd., Vienna, Va; (703) 560-8993) or Fletcher's Boat House (4940 Canal Rd. N.W., Washington, DC; (202) 244-0461; no top carriers). Reservations are required for some trips and recommended for others:

**16 Mar (Sun) Lower Catoctin River** from bridge at Largent to low bridge above Green Catoctin. Class 2. Meet at Largent. Take 1705 to Hancock, 522 to Berkeley Springs, 9 to Largent, or 50 to Winchester, then 422 to 120 - 45 - 29 - 9. Call leaders for meeting time. Limited participation. Leaders: Viktor Spielbichler (301) 585-2904 and Pamela Lee (301) 599-3889.

**23 Mar (Sun) Cedar Creek** from route 623 bridge to route 11 bridge. Class 2 - 3. Take 166 and route 56 via Front Royal to Lebanon Church and Wheatfield. Turn right on 623 to bridge. Do not take 628 right on Lebanon Church, it takes you to another bridge. Meet at 10 a.m. at 623 bridge. Leaders: Henning Harmuth (301) 299-7127 and Pete Bengtson (301) 869-6614.

**29-31 Mar (Sat-Sun) (Easter) Upper Green-briar River.** Class 2 - 3. Meet Saturday 10 a.m. at route 250 bridge just west of Durbin Camp in Seneca State Forest. Take 166 to Gainesville 211 to New Market, 181 to Harrisonburg, 33 - 28 - 250 to bridge. Leaders: Otto Spielbichler (301) 585-2904 and Henning Harmuth (301) 299-7127.

**12-13 Apr (Sat-Sun) Smoke Hole.** Meet Saturday 10 a.m. at Smoke Hole campground (if full, go to campground downriver at the big bend). Practice Saturday above campground (class 4 - 5) or below campground (class 2 - 3). Sunday downriver to Royal Glen Dam (class 3) west of Petersburg. Take 166 to Gainesville via Front Royal to Petersburg, 220 south to bridge across South Fork, turn right just after bridge onto Smoke Hole road. You may want to camp Friday night in Hawk Recreation Area, right side immediately after entering West Virginia and before sign "Welcome to West Virginia". Leaders: Henning Harmuth (301) 299-7127 and Otto Spielbichler (301) 585-2904.

**26-27 Apr (Sat-Sun) North Fork South Branch Potomac River from Mouth of Seneca to Royal Glen Dam.** Class 3 - 4. Meet Saturday 10 a.m. at Mouth of Seneca or Friday night in Hawk Recreation Area. Call leaders about water level, campsite and exact stretch of river to be run. Take 166 to Gainesville, 55 via Front Royal to Petersburg, 28 to Mouth of Seneca. Leaders: Tom and Susi Goff (301) 937-3956.

# Meetings

**11 Feb. (Tu.), 9 p.m.** General meeting to be held in the Woodward Room, National Wildlife Federation (1412 16th St. N.W., (16th & O Sts.), Washington, D.C.). Speaker will be Brock Evans, Director, Washington Office of the Sierra Club. Program: Lobbying on national issues.

**13 Feb. (Th.), 8 p.m.** Executive Committee meeting will be held at 1500 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington (Rosslyn), VA in the penthouse conference room of System Planning Corp.

**20 Feb. (Th.), 7:30 p.m.** D.C. Conservation meeting will be held at the West End Library, 24th and L Sts. N.W., Washington, D.C. Mr. Brink of the D.C. Bureau of Air & Water Quality will be speaking.

**21 Feb. (Fri.), 8 p.m.** Social Group meeting at the home of Marilyn Kincaid in Washington, D.C. Slide presentation to be announced. Please call Marilyn for reservation and directions at 338-0862.

**3 Mar. (Mon.), 8 p.m.** Maryland Conservation meeting will be held at the Chevy Chase library, 8005 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD.

# Directory of Metropolitan Washington Group Officers

## Executive Committee

<b>Chairperson</b>	Geoffrey K. Hechtman**	11400 Washington Plaza W., 401 Reston, VA 22090	703-471-1279 (H)
<b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	M. Lizbeth Carr*	1200 N. Queen St., 7 Arlington, VA 22209	703-243-1596 (H)
<b>Secretary</b>	rotates among members of the committee		
<b>Treasurer</b>	James S. Finucane**	4545 Linnean Ave. N.W. Washington, DC 20008	202-363-0336 (H)
<b>Conservation Director</b>	Amy A. Millen*	2500 Que St. N.W., 318 Washington, DC 20007	202-338-1777 (H)
<b>Legal Director</b>	Roger J. McClure*	3847 Beecher St. N.W. Washington, DC 20007	202-337-4975 (H)
<b>Membership Director</b>	Charles D. Williams	8419 Landover Rd., 104 Cheverly, MD 20785	301-773-4699 (H)
<b>Member</b>	Armin Behr	10681 Weymouth St., 4 Bethesda, MD 20014	301-493-4039 (H)

Term expires Dec. 75\*\*, Dec. 76\*

## Standing Committee Chairpersons

<b>DC Conservation Subcommittee</b>	Walter G. Wells	3606 Veazey St. N.W. Washington, DC 20008	202-362-0250 (H)
<b>MD Conservation Subcommittee</b>	to be announced		
<b>VA Conservation Subcommittee</b>	to be announced		
<b>Correspondence</b>	Walter G. Wells	3606 Veazey St. N.W. Washington, DC 20008	202-362-0250 (H)
<b>Meetings</b>	Terry P. Medlin	7711 Hawthorne St., 302 Landover, MD 20785	301-322-2691 (H)
<b>Outings</b>	Patricia Hopson	907 6th St. S.W., 504 Washington, DC 20024	202-484-0183 (H)
	Richard B. Williams	324 N. Adams St. Arlington, VA 22203	703-524-5409 (H)
<b>Publication Sales</b>	JoAnn Garges	8900 Charred Oak Dr. Bethesda, MD 20034	301-469-8120 (H)
<b>Social Group</b>	Sally Dunbar	2000 S. Eads St., 633 Arlington, VA 22202	703-521-0012 (H)
<b>Newsletter Staff</b>	Lizbeth Carr Sally Dunbar Rachel Evans Geoff Hechtman		

## Salesperson Needed

Publication of "The Washington Conservationist" is dependent in part on income derived from advertisements. So far advertising revenues have increased with each issue, but we would like to have more advertisers. A number of organizations have previously received letters of solicitation; many of these specialize in outdoors equipment and services.

We need a volunteer(s) to call upon prospective clients. Volunteers should call Geoff Hechtman on (703) 471-1279.

## "Friends"

Recently, the Sierra Club established a new membership category called "Friends of the Sierra Club." "Friends" are non-profit organizations—such as ecology clubs, scout troops, colleges, garden clubs, park boards and conservation commissions—who endorse the purposes of the Sierra Club and wish to support its work, be identified with it, and receive all publications normally sent to members including conservation alerts. Additionally, "Friends" will receive the weekly *National News Report*. Designation of an organization as a "Friend" does not confer voting privileges, nor does it confer upon its individual members any of the privileges of membership in the Sierra Club.

To qualify as a "Friend of the Sierra Club," an organization must contribute annually not less than \$24. Application for status as a "Friend" should be made in writing to the Member Services Department (1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, CA 94104) together with an explanation of the nature of the organization and an endorsement of the purposes of the Sierra Club. Each candidate group must be recommended and approved by a (local) chapter or regional group.



## Raffle Winner

Hudson Bay Outfitters opened a second store in December 1974 located in Gaithersburg, MD. As part of their grand opening celebration, they held a raffle for a \$190 two-man mountaineering tent. Proceeds from this raffle have been donated to the Metropolitan Washington Group. Winner of the raffle was Aric Finucane who at 5 years is already an avid backpacker, canoeist and hiker.

Hudson Bay decided to hold this raffle after the November issue of "The Washington Conservationist" was mailed. The Group Executive Committee had planned to publicize the raffle to Sierra Club members through "The Mountain Laurel". Due to circumstances beyond our control, the announcement that we had submitted was not printed.

## Earth Care

For those who plan in advance — Between June 5-8, 1975 the Sierra Club joined by the National Audubon Society will co-sponsor the 14th Biennial Wilderness Conference, in New York City.

'Earth Care: Global Protection of Natural Areas' will be the first privately sponsored conference to concentrate on all aspects of the problems of protecting the worlds priceless natural areas — its mountains, forests, grasslands, beaches, etc., and the many pressures that are facing them . . .

Earth Care will be held in New York City, U.N. Headquarters, in recognition of the important role the United Nations agencies can play and in co-operation with the U.N. a special salute is anticipated on World Environment Day, June 5.

We'll give more info about Earth Care in subsequent issues. You may write for details now to: Earth Care, 777 U.N. Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017 (212) 867-0798.



## Matacia Outfitters

Whitewater Canoeing Classes

Call one of the following numbers to register.

Fairfax Co. — 691-2671  
Arlington Co. — 558-2673  
Montgomery Co. — 530-7605  
Vienna Comm. Center — 938-8000  
Frederick Comm. College — (301) 662-0101  
Reston Rec. Program — 437-9580

Instructor: Louis J. Matacia, (703) 560-8993,  
Vienna, Virginia