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## Anacostia River Waterfront Initiative Unveiled

by Chris Craig

In a presentation at Arena Stage on December 4, 2003, and a lecture at the National Building Museum on January 14, 2004, Mayor Anthony Williams unveiled the completed Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI) Framework Plan, which will guide development in Washington, D.C., over the next 25 years.

The plan anticipates the development of more than 100 acres of new parks, 20,000 residential housing units, one million square feet of retail development and 20 million square feet of commercial office space. District officials estimate that the plan could lead to well over \$1.5 billion in new tax revenue and \$4 billion in private investment for the District. (More on the plan can be found at [www.planning.dc.gov](http://www.planning.dc.gov).)

The mayor asserted that "The AWI Plan

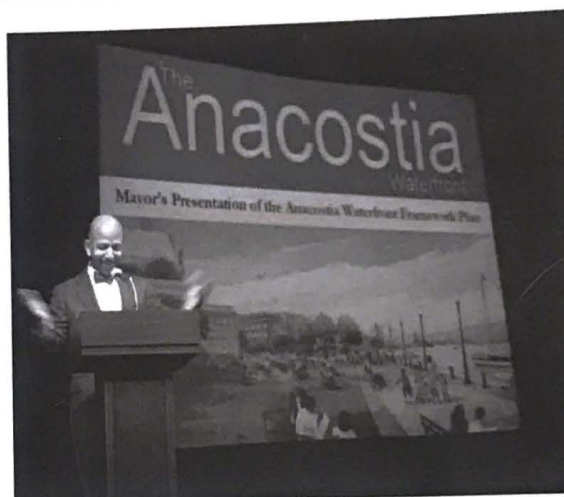


photo by Jim Dougherty

Mayor Anthony Williams unveils the final Anacostia Waterfront Initiative plan at Arena Stage.

is more than just a vision for the waterfront. It's a vision for 21<sup>st</sup>-century Washington with the Anacostia at its center."

The AWI project area encompasses approximately 2,800 acres along both sides of the Anacostia River. The D.C. Office of Planning has led the three-year AWI planning pro-

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## Holmes Norton Proposes Bill for Anacostia Cleanup

by Chris Craig

When the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI) Framework Plan was unveiled at Arena Stage on December 4, 2003, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton also presented the Anacostia Watershed Act of 2003.

This act is designed to enlist the federal government's help in the cleanup of the Anacostia's main sources of pollution. These sources are, first, the inadequate capacity of the District's ancient combined sewer system. As Marchant Wentworth wrote in the summer 2003 newsletter, the system "conveys both raw

sewage and storm water in the same pipes and during heavy rains discharges this mixture into the nearest waterway. The Anacostia River, already carrying sewage and silt from Maryland, bears the brunt of this flood of sewage." The second source is street runoff throughout much of the watershed. Approximately 83 percent of the watershed is in Maryland, but 15 percent of the watershed in both Maryland and the District is controlled by the federal government, which may therefore be expected

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## Letter from the Chapter Chair

### Two Important Votes: One for the Soul of Our Nation, One for the Soul of the Sierra Club

by Mark Wenzler

Most Sierrans are well aware of the stakes in this November's presidential election. If we fail to stop George W. Bush the nation will suffer four additional years of regulatory assaults on long-standing protections for our air, water and public lands. It's hard to imagine that anyone who cares about our environment would skip this important vote.

But most Sierrans are likely to skip another important national election this year—that for the Sierra Club's Board of Directors. The elections, set for this April, ordinarily don't get much attention 2,500 miles from San Francisco. But something extraordinary is happening in this year's elections that all Sierra Club members should pay attention to.

A few board members who were recently elected on broad environmental platforms have begun to focus on single issues and are pushing the club in directions that diverge from its traditional core conservation values. For instance, a handful of current directors see human population as the main environmental evil and are attempting to get the club to take tough stands against immigration, while another group believes that the club should focus on animal rights above all other conservation causes.

This year more anti-immigration and animal rights candidates are running for the board. If they win, they could fundamentally change the direction of the Sierra Club. A current member of the board, Paul Watson, told an animal rights conference in 2003 that "we're only three directors away from controlling that board." He

urged animal rights advocates to join the club so they could vote in the board elections and "change the entire agenda of that organization."

With fewer than 5 percent of Sierra Club members voting in board elections, it is entirely possible for small groups with focused agendas to alter the club's mission. Democracy is the club's greatest strength, but it's also a vulnerability when members don't vote.

Every Sierra Club member has a voice in what the club stands for. I believe the club is most effective when it sticks to our long-held core conservation values—working together to explore, enjoy and protect our planet and its natural ecosystems. Those values are best realized by having the most inclusive organization possible.

While I personally believe hunting is wrong, I think the club is right to reach out to hunters and anglers in our campaigns to protect public lands from ruinous logging and energy development. And while I believe our society should stabilize population, I do not agree that the Sierra Club should advocate closing our borders as a solution to ecological problems. We need to embrace and engage our neighbors in order to protect the environment, not turn our backs on them.

You may or may not share my views of what the Sierra Club stands for, but unless you vote in the upcoming board elections, others will decide for you.

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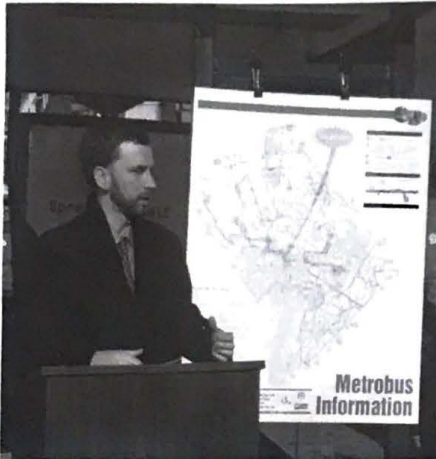
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## Conservation

### ***Challenge to Sprawl Campaign***

## **Making Gains in D.C.'s Transit System**

by Melanie Mayock



*DDOT director Dan Tangherlini unveils the new Metrobus maps. (Courtesy Downtown D.C. Business Improvement District)*

**C**onfused about where the bus goes? Thanks to the D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Downtown D.C. Business Improvement District (Downtown BID), the mystery of Metrobus is becoming a bit easier to solve. In late January, DDOT and the Downtown BID installed the first of over 300 large bus maps on a bus shelter near Metro Center, at 13<sup>th</sup> and G Streets N.W.

These full-color maps show all the bus routes in D.C. and highlight the routes that serve that stop. The rest of the maps will be installed at bus shelters throughout the city this spring. If you like the new maps, thank DDOT director Dan Tangherlini: [ddot@dc.gov](mailto:ddot@dc.gov).

Bus system maps are available online at: [http://www.wmata.com/metrobus/maps/metrobus\\_service\\_maps.cfm](http://www.wmata.com/metrobus/maps/metrobus_service_maps.cfm). You can also pick up a free portable bus system map at the Metro Center sales outlet. These maps are being redesigned and should be available in grocery stores and other locations by April.

### **Metro Board Funds Bus Information**

At its December meeting, the Metro

Board voted unanimously to re-program \$800,000 to fund improvements in information about busses, including posting schedules and bus maps at bus shelters and Metrorail stations. The move came after board members received phone calls and e-mails from Sierra Club activists in support of the proposal.

### **Bus Promotion Event: Ride the 30s in April**

The Sierra Club will be joining forces with Metro this spring to increase Metrobus ridership through a focused marketing effort. The promotional campaign, "The 30s Are Going Your Way," will target residents and commuters along the Wisconsin Avenue/Georgetown Corridor who may not be aware of the 30, 32, 34, 35 and 36 bus routes. This effort dovetails with Sierra Club's ongoing efforts to improve bus information and bus ridership in the region.

The campaign aims to increase ridership by providing customers with the necessary information to plan their trip and offering discounts from up to 50 merchants along the route as an incentive to ride. The promotion will also be featured on WASH FM, where a number of movies and dinner-for-two packages (along the route of the 30s, of course) will be given away. The promotional offers will be available to customers who ride the 30s between March 30 and April 30.

### **Volunteers Needed**

In the spirit of the 30s theme, we will need a minimum of 30 volunteers to assist at various stages of the promotion—hanging campaign signs in advance of the promotion, stuffing infor-

### ***Recycling Committee***

## **Getting Recyclables Out of D.C. Dumpsters**

by Brenda Moorman

**H**elp! I've just moved to D.C. and I want to start recycling but I can't get a bin. No one can tell me how to get one." "Help! My office does not recycle. What can I do to get it started?" "Help! My apartment building management has no interest in recycling. Who do I call to report them?" "Does the stuff really get recycled or is it just thrown in a landfill?" "Sometimes my recycling doesn't get picked up for a week. Should I give up?" "I think recycling is fundamental to a cleaner environment. How can I help?"

These are the kind of e-mails I get about recycling in Washington. They indicate things aren't going well. The D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club plans to change all that.

By the time you read this, the chapter's Recycling Committee will have met twice to map out a strategy to make recycling really work in the District. The recycling rate in D.C. is now at a paltry 13 percent for curbside and 6 percent for government. It's even lower for private and commercial entities. We need a lot of help.

We have decided to concentrate on five areas of concern: curbside, private/

*Continued on page 6*

mation packets for the six rush-hour outreach events and distributing information during those events. And hey, there's even a great t-shirt for you in the deal!

This is a great chance to make Metrobus ridership rock, and we need your help! For more information and to sign up to volunteer, please contact Melanie Mayock (now a Sierra Club volunteer, not staff member) at 202-546-5363 or [MKMayock@yahoo.com](mailto:MKMayock@yahoo.com).

## Conservation

### *Regional Conservation Committee*

## ARCC Lays Out Strategy for American Clean Energy Policy

by Bob Morris

If you can only have one issue, then clean energy should be it," Mike Tidwell, founder of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, told the audience of 50 or so activists. This reaffirmed the importance of the American Clean Energy Policy (ACEP) campaign of the Appalachian Regional Conservation Committee (ARCC), which I chair. (Regional conservation committees coordinate Sierra Club policy and activities at a regional level in areas that affect more than one chapter or state.)

The topic of clean energy is, of course, of great concern to the Sierra Club, and it is closely related to global warming. And global warming is also being considered in some surprising circles. In the February 2004 issue of "Fortune" magazine, not the most liberal venue, David Shipp reports on Pentagon studies that show that "the plausibility of abrupt climate change is higher than most of the scientific community and perhaps all of the political community are prepared to accept." The

group, led by legendary Pentagon planner Andrew Marshall, concludes: "By 2020 there is little doubt that something drastic [will be] happening."

Unfortunately the propaganda of the carbon-based industries and their paid political shills has met so little challenge that the Bush Corporate Energy Policy continues to lead this country toward increased use of coal, oil and gas. Getting the public to understand the importance of forging a new economy based on clean energy sources will fall to organizations such as the Sierra Club.

We have picked up some allies in this battle. The Apollo Alliance ([www.apolloalliance.org](http://www.apolloalliance.org)) brings together labor, environmental, civil rights, business and political leaders in seeking a "New Apollo Project" to create 3.3 million new jobs and achieve energy independence in 10 years. The ARCC is working with the Apollo Alliance to help "unify the country behind . . . strategic investment for clean energy technology and new infrastructure."

On February 20 to 22, a group of ARCC volunteers gathered in Washington, D.C., to finalize their American Clean Energy Policy kit, which will be rolled out to chapter leaders and delegates (who are appointed by each chapter) in a general ARCC meeting March 19 to 22. The kit will assist the various club entities to put on events contrasting the American Clean Energy Policy with the Bush Corporate Energy Policy. New, clean energy sources look their best when they are seen side by side with the dinosaur-age thinking of the fossil fuel industries and their lackeys.

For more information on how you can get involved, contact Bob Morris, 202-548-8240 or [capitalbob@earthlink.net](mailto:capitalbob@earthlink.net).

## Whitehaven Park Breakthrough

by Bob Morris

It's always darkest just before the dawn," I have always been told, and that proved true on the battle to keep the Casey Foundation from annexing 4 acres of wild parkland on Foxhall Road to add to its 17-acre site for a mayoral mansion. Neighborhood activists, banded together as Friends of Whitehaven and supported by the D.C. Chapter, did not oppose a mayoral mansion on the site owned by the foundation, but they fought a two-year-long battle to keep the wild parkland in the public domain.

The D.C. Council and Office of Planning, the National Capitol Planning Commission and the National Park Service (NPS) were all ready to yield to the demands of the foundation despite acknowledging that there was no demonstrable reason why the additional land was needed for the mansion project. Then, in a Christmas season surprise, Betty Brown Casey announced that she had decided to not build the mansion, but instead would sell the proposed mansion site and give the proceeds to

the Salvation Army to build a community service center in Anacostia.

While there is still the possibility that the 17-acre site owned by the foundation will be sold to a developer who will put in residences, the adjacent 4-acre public parkland is now safe. Friends of Whitehaven is organizing to care for the parkland and clear it of invasive species. There have also been reports that Discovery Creek and an anonymous conservation foundation are raising funds to acquire the 17-acre site and establish environmental programs for children on it. At any rate, through organized and determined resistance, the Palisades residents and the D.C. Chapter have shown that you can successfully fight city hall and defend public parkland from diversion to wealthy private interests.

Those interested in joining Friends of Whitehaven should contact Kent Slowinski at 202-338-9534 or [WKSALA@aol.com](mailto:WKSALA@aol.com). Those wishing to help in fund raising for Discovery Creek at Valley View should contact Sue Seligman at 202-337-5111.

### D.C. Citizens United for Clean Energy Moving Full Steam Ahead!

by Rachel Goldstein

As reported in the fall 2003 newsletter, the D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club is a leader in a coalition with organizations such as Friends of the Earth and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network with the goal of bringing clean energy into the District of Columbia. The coalition has made significant progress in this campaign in recent months.

First, the coalition is growing by the day. Over 85 organizations/businesses have signed a Clean Energy Petition to demonstrate their support for this initiative. The organizations represent environmental groups, health groups, faith groups and D.C. businesses.

Second, on January 22, the coalition held a Clean Energy Forum. The gathering was a great success with over 60 people attending. Expert panelists representing many of the coalition's constituent organizations discussed clean energy solutions such as wind and solar power. Panelists included Nsedu Obot Witherspoon of the Children's Environmental Health Network, Leslie Tune of the National Council of Churches, Gary Skulnik of Clean Energy Partnership and Mike Tidwell of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. After the presentations, everyone present engaged in a lively discussion.

Coalition representatives have continued to meet with members of the D.C. Council to discuss a bill to introduce a Clean Energy Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) in the District. An RPS would require utilities doing business in the city to provide a percentage of their energy from clean, renewable sources. The coalition is currently putting together language for a bill to be introduced in March that would call for the adoption of a 10 percent RPS.

Anyone who is interested in joining the campaign should contact Rachel Goldstein at [rbgoldstein@yahoo.com](mailto:rbgoldstein@yahoo.com) or Marty Silber at [marty\\_silber@yahoo.com](mailto:marty_silber@yahoo.com).

### Residents Face Lead Threat in Water

by Chris Craig

Lead has recently been revealed as a major contaminant in the tap water of many residents of Washington. Drinking water in over 4,000 of 6,000 D.C. homes tested contains lead at a level that poses a serious health threat and is over the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "action level"—the point at which federal law requires prompt action to protect public health.

The public's confidence in the city's drinking water supply was shaken once again by the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority's (WASA) lack of candor. WASA delayed announcing its findings and did not act quickly on the problem. In response to the news, Councilmember Carol Schwartz (R-At Large), chair of the Committee on Public Works and the Environment, held a public roundtable on the issue on February 4, followed by a public oversight hearing on February 25.

Even small amounts of lead pose a significant hazard to health when swallowed or inhaled. Children under age six and pregnant women are considered especially at risk. The link of lead to lowered intelligence, learning disabilities and behavior problems in children has been well established scientifically.

WASA has set up a Lead Services Hotline at 202-787-2732 or at [WQP2003@dcwasa.com](mailto:WQP2003@dcwasa.com). Contact WASA to determine the likelihood of your house having a lead service pipe and about testing your water. To find out about future public meetings/hearings on the issue, contact your councilmember.

In the meantime, you are advised to flush your system for several minutes before drinking tap water, use only cold water for cooking and drinking, identify and replace lead solder in your home's copper pipes and remove debris from faucet strainers regularly. You may also wish to use a home water treatment device or buy bottled water for drinking and cooking. WASA advises that "reverse osmosis systems or distillers can effectively remove lead from your drinking water. Some activated carbon filters may reduce lead levels at the tap; however, all lead reduction claims should be investigated."



Scene from Kelly Duane's "Monumental," highlighted in the Environmental Filmfest. See page 9 for more information.

## Waterfront Initiative

*Continued from page 1*

cess in partnership with community advisers and professional consultants. More than 40 community workshops have involved over 5,000 people in the AWI planning process.

Sierra Club activists were also involved throughout. At several community meetings Jim Dougherty spoke against proposed construction of roads and a small bridge north of Benning Road. This proposal was subsequently deleted from the plan.

At the January presentation at the National Building Museum, the mayor was joined by two well-known urban architects, Josep Acebillo, planner of the Barcelona waterfront in Spain, and Lord Richard Rogers, active primarily in London. Rogers stressed the importance of appropriate urban development in saving rural landscapes and the environment in general. He called for compact, beautiful, environmentally sustainable and mixed-income development that placed living, working and entertainment within easy reach of each other. He emphasized that redevelopment of abandoned industrial areas and the creation of streetscapes friendly for walking and biking were keys to a well-functioning city. "We must," he said, "rebuild the empty quarters of our cities to bring vitality and security before expanding into the countryside."

The January 14 event was timed to open "D.C. Builds: The Anacostia Waterfront," an exhibition at the Building Museum that explores the history of the Anacostia watershed, its ecological degradation and the ambitious plans for its rejuvenation. The centerpiece of the exhibition is a large scale model of the District's waterfront parks and neighborhoods as they might appear according to the AWI's plan. The exhibition is on display through May 23, 2004.



*One of the wetland restoration projects on the Anacostia River. You can be a part of the cleanup by joining our work day on Kingman Island March 27 (see p 13). (photo courtesy of D.C. Wetlands Protection Division)*

## Anacostia Legislation

*Continued from page 1*

to play a role in the cleanup.

The act would create an Anacostia Watershed Council to develop, within one year of its inception, a 10-year, multi-jurisdictional action plan for the "restoration, protection, and enhancements of the environmental integrity and social and economic benefits of the Anacostia watershed" based on the 1991 Anacostia Watershed Restoration Agreement. The council would be composed of the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the secretary of the Army, the secretary of the Interior, the mayor of the District, the governor of Maryland and the county executives of Montgomery County and Prince George's County.

According to the act, the District's Water Resources Development Act would be amended to authorize \$150 million to repair and upgrade the city's inadequate combined sewer system; the EPA would receive \$3 million per year for 10 years for cleanup; and the departments of Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce and Transportation and the Army Corps of Engineers would receive a total \$1 million per year for 10 years to develop and implement the plan.

The act would significantly aid in the cleanup of the Anacostia, but passage is not expected this year.

## Recycling

*Continued from page 3*

commercial, public education, government and schools/universities. We will use both carrots and sticks. So you'll have a wide choice of activities, from designing flyers to dumpster diving, to help find out who the bad guys are. If you want to work with us on this project, please contact Brenda Moorman@ aol.com or DainRoos-Snyder@ Sierraclub.org. We welcome your participation. There will be a meeting on March 25. Details will be available on at [www.dc.sierraclub.org](http://www.dc.sierraclub.org) or by calling 202-543-0552.

To answer the ever-present question of whether they really recycle or just dump everything in a landfill, we will tour Eagle Recycling Plant on Wednesday, March 24, starting at 7:30 a.m. The tour will be limited to 20 people so sign up early by e-mailing me or Dain.

A final note: the present head of the D.C. Department of Public Works (which oversees recycling) is leaving in April. Let's make sure her replacement sees recycling as a number one priority. Contact the offices of the mayor and the D.C. Council to let them know that recycling is important to you. You can help turn things around by pushing the city to meet its goal of a 50 percent recycling rate.

# Environmental Justice Program Reactivated as Fennell Takes Charge

by Chris Craig

In December 2003, Linda Fennell began working as the new Environmental Justice (EJ) Coordinator for the Washington, D.C., Chapter. She will be working to develop self-advocacy and environmental activism in District neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River. In a recent phone interview, Linda shared some of her background and her goals for the EJ program.

*Can you tell us a bit about yourself?*

My husband and I and our three children have lived for 16 years east of the river—currently in the Hillcrest neighborhood. I graduated cum laude from Catholic University with a degree in social science. I received my Masters in Public Policy at American University. I worked as the administrative assistant for then-Councilmember Charlene Drew Jarvis and more recently as an intern for D.C. VOICE, an organization that supports public education reform by training parents to be advocates for their schools.

*How did you get interested in environmental justice?*

As a teenager, I grew up playing in Rock Creek Park. I remember a summer camp that gave me a chance to get out on the river in a boat and go fishing. I found myself wanting those same opportunities for children today. Then as a part of my graduate studies, I took a course in environmental sociology at American University. I learned about how citizens without support suffered from environmental and neighborhood problems. When advocacy took place, they could get things done. It sparked my interest!

*Can you tell us what environmental justice means to you?*

A clean, safe living environment

should not have geographical boundaries. But we know that in certain areas of our city, communities are inundated with illegal dumping activities, unmonitored business activities that result in the degradation of once pristine communities and a lack of parks and recreational facilities that encourage healthy lifestyles. Environmental Justice strives to improve the quality of life for all of us, regardless of socioeconomic status.

*How does the Sierra Club EJ program work toward that goal?*

The EJ program works with churches, schools, community groups and grassroots citizens' groups not only in east-of-the-river neighborhoods, but also in other at-risk areas of the city to help them raise their collective voices for change. We provide advocates, resources and training opportunities to bring about change. We try to build community partnerships with existing groups who are already working in the community. We attempt to bring people together and develop new partnerships.

*In your first few months on the job, I understand you've been meeting with various activists and community groups. What are you hearing?*

It's the quality of life issues that matter to people: having clean neighborhoods; stopping illegal dumping of trash; supporting beautification projects; and getting government to be more aggressive in enforcing the environmental regulations. Seniors tell stories of how they used to fish in the Anacostia River and how they can't do that any more. People want to breathe clean air, and they are concerned about the high asthma rates in our at-risk communities. And residents want to address the problem of childhood obesity by



Linda Fennell is the new EJ coordinator for the D.C. Chapter.

developing clean and safe places for children to run and play.

*The District recently launched the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative as the guide to future development in the city. What are people east of the river saying about that?*

There's a lot of support for it. People feel that it's a wonderful proposal, especially for the trails and parks along the river. At the same time, some are questioning what the final result will look like. Will the people who have lived through all the years of neighborhood devastation reap the benefits? Will the development bring in businesses and housing that benefit only newcomers? Or will there be room for existing neighborhoods, home-grown restaurants and businesses that appeal to a diverse population? It's my hope that citizens will continue to participate in the planning sessions and that the government will listen.

*How can people get involved in the Sierra Club's EJ program?*

They should call me at 202-610-0200 or send me e-mail at Linda.fennell@sierraclub.org. We're always looking for volunteers!

## Plant a Songbird-Friendly Backyard This Spring

by Margaret Baird

Of all the wild animals that are observed and enjoyed by people in the United States, birds are the most popular by a long shot. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2001 survey, some 40 million people observe and enjoy birds around their homes. Of those, about 1.5 million are Virginians and 825,000 are Marylanders. Americans also dole out more than \$2.5 billion annually on seed for birds and associated products to attract and feed them.

Enticing birds to your yard and garden with feeders, nest boxes and birdbaths are all beneficial actions that increase the numbers of avian visitors to your yard. But imagine if urban and suburban dwellers invested all that time and money into cultivating *natural* habitat? Birds are strongly attracted to vegetation. Particularly in the ever-urbanizing Washington, D.C., metro area, where wildlife habitat is at a premium, landscaping to attract birds naturally rewards by being both environmentally friendly and aesthetically pleasing.

Appropriate plantings can provide not only basic food requirements like berries, nuts and seeds for birds, but vital shelter and nesting habitat as well. And if your landscape includes a selection of trees, shrubs and flowers that provide food during different seasons of the year, you'll draw birds all year long and find plenty of opportunities to observe a variety of species close-up.

### Birds Without Borders

Birds are the easiest animals to attract to a natural landscape of any size since they're not stopped by fences or similar barriers and don't require as much space to live as larger urban wildlife species, such as raccoons or deer.

The more varied your landscape is in terms of types of plantings and layers of vegetation—such as shrubs, vines, grasses and trees that grow to differing heights—the better your chance of attracting a diversity of avian species.

### Food

Food choices for songbirds differ according to the species and shape of the bill. For example, seed eaters, with their short, stubby bills, generally go for seeds from flowers and grasses. Common annuals like sunflower, marigold, California poppy, cosmos, cornflower and zinnia, and perennials such as aster, phlox and coreopsis, offer fine pickings for seed-eating songbirds like cardinals, finches, sparrows, grosbeaks, thrashers, chickadees, nuthatches and titmice.

Songbirds especially love berries. Berry-bearing shrubs like raspberry, blueberry and blackberry (along with almost any other bushes ending in berry) will tempt birds as well. And given enough alternative food sources, the birds should leave plenty of fruit to share with you and your family.

### Shelter

Shrubs, especially dense ones, afford excellent nesting sites for many birds as well as refuge from predators. Cardinals, mockingbirds, sparrows and catbirds are a few of the species attracted to the shelter provided by hedges and shrubs.

While clusters of shrubs and flowers are important wildlife attractants,

don't overlook the value of trees. Besides acting as magnets for migrating birds, trees also provide permanent homes for birds who don't rest or nest in hedges. Still other bird species need the cavities found only in older trees for nesting holes. If possible, plant a variety of canopy trees in your yard such as oaks, maples, cherry, tulip pop-



lar, sycamore and elm. All of these species can provide all the basics: shelter for a variety of species as well as important foods like nuts and fruits for birds.

### Water

Top off your songbird-friendly sanctuary with a source of water, such as a simple birdbath or shallow dish of water. For birds, water is essential for drinking and bathing—a year-round necessity to keep feathers in top flying and insulating shape.

*Margaret Baird is assistant director of The Humane Society of the United States' Urban Wildlife Sanctuary Program and can be reached at 202-452-1100 or mbaird@hsus.org. For more information, log on to [www.wildneighbors.org](http://www.wildneighbors.org).*



## Features

# 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Film Festival Set for March 18-28

by Helen M. Strong, *Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital*

From David Brower to David Attenborough, from Yellowstone National Park to the Anacostia River, and from global warming to community tree planting, the 90 films presented by the 2004 Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital, March 18 -28, offer fresh perspectives on local, national and international environmental issues.

Founded in 1993 by veteran film programmer Flo Stone, the Environmental Film Festival seeks to expand public knowledge and understanding of our planet. "The environment encompasses astounding diversity; the festival celebrates this diversity through film, attempting to broaden and deepen our audience's perception of the environments that surround us," explains Ms. Stone. Organized in collaboration with 60 organizations, the festival has become a major annual event in the nation's capital. Screenings take place over 11 days at museums, embassies, universities, libraries, environmental organizations and local theaters throughout the city. Discussion with filmmakers, scientists and environmental experts adds depth to film topics. Most films are free to the public.

The 2004 Festival features 51 premieres among a broad mix of documentary, animated feature, archival and children's films. The festival brings winning selections from national and international film festivals to Washington, D.C., with work from the 2003 Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, Germany's Okomedia Environmental Film Festival, the United Nations Association Film Festival and shorts from the Media That Matters Film Festival.

The world premiere of Kelly Duane's film, "Monumental: David Brower's Fight to Protect Wild America," will take place March 21 at the National

Museum of American History. The film brings to life the legendary founder of the Sierra Club who fought to preserve America's wild lands, including some of our most treasured national parks, seashores and monuments, for future generations. In telling the story of David Brower, whose activism helped

to inspire the modern environmental movement, the film explores the themes that absorbed Brower throughout his life. These include the spiritual connection between humans and the great outdoors and the moral obligation to preserve what is left of the world's natural wonders. Featuring exquisite 1950s and '60s archival footage (much shot by Brower himself) and photographic images from well-recognized artists, the film also incorporates interviews with leading conservationists, photographers, historians, curators and politicians, as well as Brower's family, friends and colleagues. Discussion with filmmaker Kelly Duane follows the screening.

Current issues that threaten the health and fate of Yellowstone, America's first national park, are examined in "Save Our History - Yellowstone," a film by David Vassar also screening on March 21 at the National Museum of American History. Controversy over the health of the grizzly bear population, the return of the wolf, the ban on snowmobiles and the policy on wildfire are placed in historic context in this pristine corner of America that has become a political battlefield.

The ongoing effort to save our own Anacostia River is documented in "The Anacostia-Restoring the People's

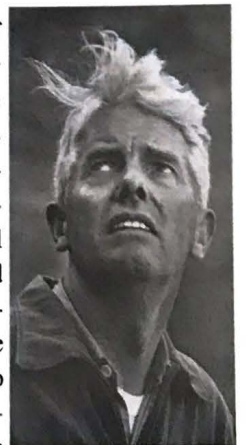


Photo by Olegas Truchanav

*The campaign to save the Tasmanian wilderness is the focus of the film "Wildness."*

River," which will have its world premiere on March 27 at the National Building Museum. Todd Clark's film features stunning footage revealing the natural beauty of the river's seldom-seen wildlife and natural habitats as well as commentary from neighborhood residents, local politicians, historians, engineers and religious leaders.

Additional highlights of the festival include an appearance by the distinguished British naturalist and filmmaker David Attenborough; a film about the community tree program in Falls Church, Va.; three episodes from the National Film Board of Canada's major series, "Arctic Mission," exploring the far-reaching effects of global warming; and films advocating sustainable approaches to fishing, growing cocoa beans and daily living.



David Brower in "Monumental"

For a complete film schedule, visit the festival on-line at [www.dccenvironmentalfilmfest.org](http://www.dccenvironmentalfilmfest.org) or call 202-342-2564 for a printed film brochure.

# National Board Elections

## ***Urgent Election Notice***

### **A Letter From the Sierra Club President**

by Larry Fahn

#### **From the Board**

The annual election for the national Sierra Club's Board of Directors is now under way. You will receive your ballot in the mail in March, and it will include information on the candidates.

To function well, the Sierra Club requires a regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership up to the Board of Directors. The board sets club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with staff to run the club. Because the club is democratically structured at all levels, the directors must stand for election by the club's members. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the club should grow and change is both a privilege and major obligation of membership.

Members often say they don't know the candidates and find it hard to vote without more information about them. You can learn more by asking your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the club's election Web site—<http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2004election>—which this year will include candidates' responses to questions posted by various club leaders.

When you vote, read the ballot statement of each candidate, make your choices and use your judgment to cast your votes. The ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark. You can even cast your vote electronically at the Web site!

The election of the Sierra Club's Board of Directors this year has attracted an unprecedented level of outside involvement and attention. Several organizations whose focus is not the environment have endorsed candidates in the club's board elections and are urging their supporters to join the club as a means to influence club policy in line with their own agendas.

Outside groups that may be attempting to intervene in the club's Board of Directors' elections include:

- Center for American Unity—VirginiaDare/Vdare.com collective, which includes “white nationalist writers”
- Coloradans for American Immigration Reform
- Federation for American Immigration Reform
- Fur Commission USA
- Limitstogrowth.com
- HempflagUSA.org, which promotes marijuana legalization
- National Alliance, an advocate of “ideology from a white racial perspective”
- National Immigration Alert (NumbersUSA)
- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)
- Project USA
- Social Contract Press
- Southern Poverty Law Center
- White Politics Inc./Overthrow.com

The Sierra Club has become an even more influential and effective voice in American society over the last decade. Now it appears that nonenvironmental groups are trying to take advantage of the club's open and democratic nature to influence the composition of our Board of Directors and our policies.

Faced with this threat, the Board of Directors urges every member of the club to act to ensure that the Sierra Club remains faithful to its environmental mission and principles. Please cast your vote in this year's election as a means of demonstrating to outside groups that they cannot influence our organization. Vote for candidates whose positions reflect your values and vision for the future of the

Sierra Club. Vote for candidates whose experience matches what you believe the club needs. Vote for candidates endorsed by club leaders whom you trust.

In addition to the information about candidates found in the ballot, some chapter and group newsletters will carry additional information. More can also be found on the Sierra Club candidate forum which you can reach from the club's Web site, <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2004election>.

Democracy really does work—but only if we all vote. Help maintain the Sierra Club's tradition as America's preeminent democratic and grassroots advocate for the environment.

Thank you.

*After the above letter was written, three candidates for our Board of Directors, Richard Lamm, Frank Morris and David Pimentel, filed a lawsuit in the California Superior Court in San Francisco against the Sierra Club. They have also sued Sierra Club President Larry Fahn and Executive Director Carl Pope as individuals.*

*The lawsuit seeks to remove three other petition candidates from the ballot in the upcoming election. It further takes the position that the Sierra Club has no right to provide its members with the names of outside organizations that are attempting to influence our elections. The lawsuit also seeks to prohibit club chapter and group newsletters, e-mail and Web pages from reporting on the actions of sitting members of the Board of Directors or candidates in connection with the election.*

*Fahn in a response writes, “This lawsuit challenges our organization's right to inform and communicate with our members and the right of our volunteer leaders to participate in its governance. Moreover, it is extremely unfortunate that the club's time, energy, membership dues and other resources will now be diverted from achieving our core mission to defend and protect the environment.”*

## Opinion

### The 2004 Board Election: Fending Off the Threat An Open Letter to Members of the D.C. Chapter

by Jim Dougherty

Having been active in Sierra Club affairs at the national level for some 20 years, I've occasionally been asked by friends for advice as to how to vote in the annual elections for the club's national Board of Directors. In some years I've had strong opinions as to the issues and candidates that appear on the ballot; just as often I've had none.

Never before, however, have I been motivated to disseminate my views publicly. Then again, never has the club faced a challenge like the one it faces this year.

This year the club's board is the target of a hostile takeover attempt by a coalition of outside organizations and individuals who seek to divert the club's conservation agenda. At a time when the club is focusing its energies on countering the Bush administration's assault on the environment, these outfits are attempting to tilt the makeup of the board in order to redirect its priorities to limiting immigration into the United States; opposing hunting; and promoting vegetarianism. They would do so despite the judgment of the current board, staff and senior volunteer corps (including me) that this would jeopardize our relations with many key constituent groups (e.g., Hispanics and anglers) and diminish our focus on critical national priorities like protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and limiting emissions of mercury from electric power plants.

Those who would redirect the club's priorities are linked with people like Paul Watson, head of the Sea Shepherds, who won election to the board last year without revealing publicly that he espouses the anti-immigration and antihunting agendas. Watson has been widely quoted for recent statements like these: "We're only three directors away from controlling that board [Sierra Club]. We control one-third of it right now." . . . "So, you know, a few hundred, or a few thousand people from the animal rights movement joining the Sierra Club—and making it a point to vote—will change the entire

agenda of that organization." . . . "Once we get three more directors elected . . . we can use the resources of the \$95-million-a-year budget to address some of these issues."

Don't get me wrong. I have concerns about immigration and hunting, and I aspire to veganism. But I think it is wrong for advocates of such campaigns to advance their agendas by capturing the resources of the Sierra Club, rather than straightforward organizing, fund raising and advocacy under their own banners. If the anti-immigration folks can pull this off, why can't the National Rifle Association? or Exxon?

In response to this threat, a grassroots movement has arisen within the club itself. Composed of former presidents (all 13, to my knowledge), staff and volunteer leaders, it has coalesced around the moniker of "GroundswellSierra" and established a Web site with that name. Those behind the takeover attempt have established a site under the rubric of "Sierra Democracy."

At last count, 17 people had won spaces on the ballot for the 2004 Board of Directors' election. Eight of those were nominated by the official Nominating Committee, and nine won spaces by circulating nominating petitions, as allowed by California law.

The Sierra Club's electioneering rules prevent me from supporting or opposing specific candidates in this space. So I urge all members to consider their choices, and the material found on the ballot—carefully.

And then vote. Since fewer than 5 percent of the club's members generally vote, your vote is extremely valuable.

*Jim Dougherty is a former member of the Sierra Club Board of Directors and the D.C. Chapter Executive Committee. He currently serves as the legal chair of the chapter. He may be reached at Jim.Dougherty@Sierraclub.org.*

## What They're Saying in the Media . . .

*The Philadelphia Inquirer:* "What's happening in the Sierra Club illustrates that members of an organization take for granted that the most venerable of groups cannot be diverted from a worthy mission. Clearly, they can. This is no time to lose the Sierra Club's voice. It's a time for people who care about the environment to pay more than dues. They need to pay attention."

*The Los Angeles Times:* Sierra Club members must "save their venerable organization" and consider this "a clear lesson in this turmoil for millions of Americans who consider themselves members of advocacy organizations. For these groups to play a constructive role in a democracy, members must pay attention to them. Discuss the issues. And vote."

# Developing Urban Green Communities

*John Wiebenson, the prominent architect and community activist, sent the following letter to Elon Danziger, author of our spring 2002 article on "Green Buildings." In it, he writes persuasively that density and "smart" plans for communities may be even more important than green design of buildings. Although he asks for more articles on this topic, we believe he makes the point well himself.*

Dear Elon Danziger,

I read your recent Capital Sierran article on Green Buildings with interest, particularly as it named some buildings worth thinking about. However, it seems that these buildings are generally dependent on cars, so that their greenery, although spectacular, ends at their walls.

You might want to do another article, one that focuses on green design beyond the walls: Green Communities. My long tenure in the Dupont Circle area suggests that my neighbors and I live in such a place, one where belching exhaust pipes belong, mostly, to commuters passing through, one where flowers are planted to enhance gardens rather than parking lots. Dupont Circle is still a work in progress, but it already demonstrates that a dense layout of low-rise buildings is an efficient design. (This Dupont Circle area is also a great demonstration of a Social Community, but that's a different issue.)

First, our Green Community saves more gasoline than does a whole suburb of fuel-efficient cars, because we move "greenly." We live close to one another, and close to commerce and public transportation. Although many of us own cars, we seldom use them because we can walk to our jobs, to our stores and to our nights out. Our kids can walk to primary school, and take Metro or bikes to high school. We adults can use bikes, too, when

our destinations are past walking distance. For even longer trips, we can walk to buses and Metro, which bring us to vast portions of the metropolitan area.

Second, our Green Community saves on heating and cooling, because we live in "green blocks." Our houses and apartment buildings share many walls, limiting the number of surfaces that gain or lose heat.

Third, our Green Community saves even further on heating and cooling, because we live along "green streets" where deciduous trees shade our buildings in summer and, later, they let the sun provide heat in the winter.

Fourth, some of us also have "green roofs" to save on heating and cooling, in that we add deciduous vines to trellises to bring summer shade and winter sun to surfaces beyond the reach of deciduous trees.

Unfortunately, many of our buildings have old-fashioned water-supply systems, many of our windows leak air, and many of our walls are underinsulated. This makes Dupont Circle a better demonstration of Green Communities than of Green Buildings, but it remains, at that larger scale, a demonstration well worth emulating.

I look forward to seeing more of your articles. Please feel free to use any of these green speculations when you write them.

My best,

John Wiebenson

*In September 2003 Wiebenson was killed in a tragic accident. We deeply regret his loss and extend our sympathy and best wishes to his widow Abigail Wiebenson. Read more about Wiebenson's work in an archived article from the Washington Post of October 12, 2003.*

... our Green Community saves more gasoline than does a whole suburb of fuel-efficient cars, because we move "greenly." We live close to one another, and close to commerce and public transportation.

—John  
Wiebenson

## Features

### Wetland Restoration Under Way on D.C. Anacostia Waterfront

by Peter Hill

Over the past three years, the Watershed Protection Division (WPD) of the Environmental Health Administration in the D.C. Department of Health has been steadily moving forward with environmental restoration projects aimed at increasing habitat for wildlife on the Anacostia River. The WPD is partnering with the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Chesapeake Bay Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in order to leverage District funds with federal dollars and gain additional technical assistance.

In 2003, the WPD completed the River Fringe Wetlands, in which 16 acres of freshwater tidal wetlands were created in the Anacostia River. This \$4 million project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lies adjacent to the River Terrace neighborhood in Northeast D.C. The wetland was planted in July and August and is rapidly establishing itself as a mid-high freshwater marsh.

In 2004, the WPD expects the completion of the Heritage Wetlands/Tidal Gut Project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This project will create another 5 acres of tidal wetlands in Kingman Lake to complement the 40 acres of tidal freshwater wetlands created there in 2000. To allow for canoe passage through Kingman Lake at low tide, a deep tidal gut will be excavated. Also in 2004 WPD, with the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation, expects to complete the restoration of Kingman Island and designs for its recreational use. Work on the island will begin in early 2005.

The WPD's stream restoration projects continue to move forward through detailed assessment and feasibility studies. These detailed assess-



*Temporary sheet piling allows planting for Anacostia wetland restoration. (photo courtesy of D.C. Watershed Protection Division)*

ments have confirmed initial concerns about the excessive bank erosion that contributes high sediment and nutrient loads to the Anacostia and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. As a contractor to WPD, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently working on conceptual designs for Oxon Run and Hickey Run. Under WPD's supervision, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is undertaking feasibility studies of both Watts Branch and Pope Branch. The WPD expects the projects, which will, it is hoped, control erosion, to be determined feasible and hopes to move forward with detailed designs later in 2004.

The WPD is proud of the strides made in 2003 with the help of its federal partners and continues to push the feasibility studies and plans toward implementation in 2004.

Members of the Sierra Club D.C. Chapter and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will have an opportunity to help with this work. On Saturday, March 27, the two organizations will sponsor a workday in the wetlands of the Anacostia. See adjacent announcement.

#### Help Plant Trees for Wetland Restoration

On Saturday, March 27, join Sierra Club and Chesapeake Bay Foundation members in a wetlands work day on the Anacostia. Work will involve tree and shrub buffer planting near Kingman Lake in Northeast D.C. Volunteers must be prepared to dig and move four- and five-foot trees. Work will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at the RFK Stadium parking lot near the intersection of Oklahoma Avenue and Benning Road, N.E. Bring water and gloves (if you need them). The D.C. Watershed Protection Division will provide snacks and drinks. For more information, contact Chris Craig at 202-554-5502 or [ccraig@zzap.org](mailto:ccraig@zzap.org) or Pete Hill of WPD at 202-535-2691. Detailed directions may be found at [www.sierraclub.org/dc/calendar](http://www.sierraclub.org/dc/calendar) or by calling 202-543-0552.

## Figures Don't Lie, But . . .

From the Sierra Club Current

The Bush administration is manipulating scientific studies to advance its own political agenda according to a recent report by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). The group, made up of Nobel-winning researchers and political activists, accuses the administration of distorting scientific research on global warming and air quality to prevent advice that "might run counter to the administration's political agenda."

In another example, the EPA was so frustrated over the White House manipulating EPA documents on mercury emissions that the agency leaked the original version to the media!

Learn more about the UCS's findings in the Atlanta Journal Constitution: <http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/science/0204/19scientists.html>.

## Factory Farms: It's a Mad, Mad World

From the Sierra Club Current

Steak knives are gathering dust across the country after the recent discovery of the first case of mad cow disease in the United States. Consumer advocates are urging the government to adopt stricter safeguards and increase the number of inspections on factory farms. According to the Organic Consumers Association, France tests more cattle in a single week than the United States has tested in a decade even though France has only a fraction of the U.S. cattle population. Some consumers are opting for organic meat, which has a stricter certification process and more inspections of organic farms where the meat is produced. These safeguards may make organic meat less likely to be contaminated by mad cow disease. (Adapted from The Oregonian, January 6, 2004.)

Check out the Eat Well Guide Web

site to find out where to purchase organic meat in your neighborhood: <http://www.eatwellguide.org/search.cfm>.

## Buy "Certified Humane"

Stores in the Washington, D.C., area are being encouraged to stock products bearing the new "Certified Humane" label. The label appears on meat, eggs and dairy products as a sign of the farmer's adherence to strict animal welfare standards. If your local grocers aren't yet carrying Certified Humane products, The Humane Society of the United States urges you to ask them to ensure that their suppliers meet the animal welfare standards. To learn more, visit [www.certifiedhumane.org](http://www.certifiedhumane.org).

"The Planet" is the Sierra Club's monthly newsletter guide to environmental activism at the national and international levels. Educate yourself on hot conservation issues, learn how to get involved in club campaigns, and find out how you can take individual action. You can read "Planet" online at [www.sierraclub.org/planet](http://www.sierraclub.org/planet). Or to subscribe, write Sierra Club Activist Desk, 85 Second St., Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 or e-mail [activist.desk@sierraclub.org](mailto:activist.desk@sierraclub.org).

To subscribe to "Sierra Club Current," an electronic listserv for environmental activists interested in and willing to respond to action alerts on various local, national and international issues, send an e-mail to [SIERRACLUB-ACTION-SUBSCRIBE-REQUEST@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG](mailto:SIERRACLUB-ACTION-SUBSCRIBE-REQUEST@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG). No subject line or message content is required. You will receive an action e-mail two or three times per week with recent information and suggested action. You will not receive other unsolicited e-mail.

## Join the Sierra Club today and help STOP the destruction and rescue what remains.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag

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LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32



Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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**P.O. Box 52968**  
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## Outings

### Volunteer with Inner City Outings This Spring

by Peter Kaplan

The Inner City Outings (ICO) program holds three to four outings each month with at-risk youth from three communities in the Washington, D.C., area: Wheeler Creek, Highland Addition and the Community of Hope. We help the children, typically 6-12 years old, build self-confidence as they interact with the outdoors. Children are drawn from only one community for each trip.

Volunteers are needed to help on outings and with ICO's fund raising and environmental education. The Environmental Education Committee, which next meets on March 11, helps develop appropriate programs for the outings.

ICO has also launched a series of restaurant nights at which prospective volunteers can chat with current leaders and learn more about opportunities to participate.

Some upcoming trips include: March 6, Discovery Creek Children's Museum; March 13, Sugarloaf Moun-



Two friends enjoy a trip to the National Zoo with Inner City Outings. (photo courtesy of ICO)

tain; April 10, Billygoat Trail, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Md.; April 17, Community Service Project; May 1, National Arboretum; May 8, Community Service Project; May 15, Hiking.

For a complete listing of upcoming trips, committees and restaurant nights, please visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/ico/dc> and click on the Events link.

### Thirty-first Annual 100-K One Day Hike Set for May Day

by Roger Clark

The Sierra Club's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual 100-K One Day Hike from Washington, D.C., to Harpers Ferry, W.Va., along the C&O Canal will take place on Saturday, May 1. Hikers may choose to hike 50 kilometers (leaving Edwards Ferry near Poolesville at 10 a.m.), 80 kilometers (Old Anglers Inn near Potomac at 6 a.m.) or the whole event (Thompson Boat House near Georgetown at 3 a.m.).

The One Day Hike is one of the oldest annual long-distance hikes in the mid-Atlantic region. The first 100-K (62.14 miles) on this route was held in 1974 and has been an annual event ever

since. In 2000, a 50-K (31.07 miles) version was added to make the event accessible to more people. Then, in 2002, an 80-K (49.71 miles) version was added for those who wanted approximately 50 miles. These three hikes are held concurrently with staggered starting points and times. All hikers will be on the second half of the trail together and end up at the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's lodge, Highacre, in Harpers Ferry.

Note that this is a new end point for the three hikes this year. At about mile 60.7 on the towpath hikers will turn off and ascend a metal spiral staircase, cross the Potomac River on a pedestrian walkway alongside the railroad bridge and continue on the streets

through Harpers Ferry to Highacre.

This event is extreme only in distance. Hikers assist and encourage one another along the trail, only competing against their personal goals and the challenge to their physical and psychological endurance. Along the way there are six stations that provide food, drink and, when needed, medical care. Bike patrols monitor progress and ensure that everyone is accounted for. As you hike, the Potomac River and C&O Canal provide beautiful scenery, wildflowers, birds and other wildlife.

For information and registration, see <http://www.onedayhike.org>. If you have questions, call Roger Clark at 703-217-9561.

## Announcements

### March Sierra Club Training Academy

#### Learn How to Assess Conservation Goals

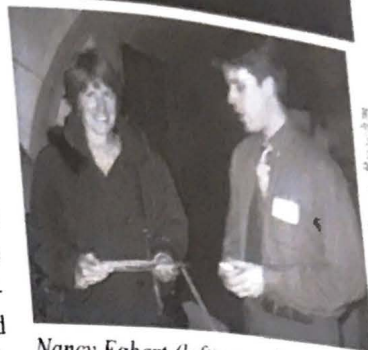
The Sierra Club Training Academy will take place Friday, March 26, to Sunday, March 28, at the Maritime Institute Conference Center in Linthicum Heights, Md. (near Baltimore). Join us to learn how to take effective action! Our training will help you to assess your conservation goals expertly, choose the best strategies to achieve them, maximize your volunteer time and energy and get the word out in the media. You will hear from experienced organizers from around the country, network with fellow activists and get the kind of hands-on experience developing a written plan that will give you both the skills AND the confidence to organize in your own community to protect and preserve the environment.

The academy is an intensive workshop that begins on Friday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. Participants

must be available for that entire period to participate in "team activities." The training typically involves 30 to 50 participants from your region. Room and board are paid for by the Sierra Club and scholarships for travel are available to help with those expenses if necessary. There is a \$20 materials fee for participation.

To learn more about this program, view the agenda, get the facts about the facility and register on-line, go to <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/leaders/training/>, where you will be prompted to enter a user name (clubhouse) and password (explore). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until all spaces are filled.

Questions? Contact the Training Academy organizer, Liz Pallatto, at [liz.pallatto@sierraclub.org](mailto:liz.pallatto@sierraclub.org) or call her at 415-977-5674.



*Nancy Egbert (left) was the winner of the raffle — a Potomac boat cruise to go eagle watching. Chapter staff person Dain Roose-Snyder awards the prize.*

### Sustainable Consumption

Human overconsumption and environmentally damaging consumption of natural resources are a central factor in environmental problems around the world. The Sierra Club has adopted a policy of encouraging environmentally responsible consumption and has tasked its Sustainable Consumption Committee (SCC) with educating Americans about the links between individual, household and institutional consumption and environmental harm and to provide practical examples of how to consume more responsibly.

The SCC currently focuses on three areas where consumption particularly damages the environment: energy use; food, agriculture and water; and forest products. The committee's priorities are to educate environmental activists and others about consumption issues, to work with other Sierra Club programs and campaigns and to provide support for club activists working on consumption issues in their local communities. It also works closely with other organizations concerned about the link between consumption and environmental harm.

Find out more about the SCC and read its current e-newsletter at [www.sierraclub.org/sustainable\\_consumption](http://www.sierraclub.org/sustainable_consumption).



*Sierra Club members socialized over pizza and beer at the chapter's annual holiday party.*



## Announcements



### Unsettling Facts to Know and Share About the Bush Administration

The Bush administration proposes to allow mining along streams and eliminate a 1977 policy that says land within 100 feet of a stream cannot be disturbed by mining activity unless a company can prove that the work will not affect the stream's water quality and quantity.

*Keep up on all Bush administration attacks on the environment at [www.sierraclub.org/wwatch](http://www.sierraclub.org/wwatch) (and share the news with others).*

### Volunteer Secretary Needed

The D.C. Chapter seeks a volunteer secretary to attend monthly meetings, take minutes and help with the organizational needs of the chapter. Time commitment is four to five hours a month. You will have lots of support and lots of appreciation from the chapter. For someone who has more interest and skills in writing and organization than in activism, this is a great opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the club and to Washington's environment. Contact Chris Craig at 202-554-5502 or [ccraig@zzapp.org](mailto:ccraig@zzapp.org).

### Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo with us and learn more about how to liberate our country from the influence of big polluters! On May 5, the D.C. Chapter will be holding a membership and fund-raising event at trendy RFD in downtown Washington. Enjoy happy-hour-priced drinks and complimentary appetizers while a speaker from the national office of the Sierra Club talks to us about the club's efforts to fight the environmentally destructive policies pursued by the Bush administration. We'll also discuss what D.C. residents, despite their lack of a voice in Congress, can do to make sure that the environment is the winner in upcoming national elections. Date: May 5. Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m. Place: RFD, 810 7th St. N.W. Suggested donation: \$5 members, \$10 nonmembers.

### D.C. Chapter Election Results

The 2004 election for the Executive Committee of the Washington, D.C., Chapter took place in early January. Klingle Valley activist Lisa Swanson was elected to a two-year term. Former chapter chair Gwyn Jones will return to the committee after a year-long hiatus. Jason Broehm, Brenda Moorman and Danilo Pelletiere were re-elected.

Marchant (Lucky) Wentworth and Chris Craig, who served as secretary of the chapter for several years, are retiring from the committee. We thank them for their years of service to the club and to Washington's environment. Both promise to stay active in the chapter—Lucky as D.C.'s premier water quality activist and Chris as newsletter editor.

In late January, the Executive Committee chose its officers for 2004. Mark Wenzler will continue as chapter chair, and Jason Broehm will now serve as vice chair. See the directory (p. 20) for a complete list of officers.

Thank you to the following companies for donating prizes that helped make the Washington, D.C., Chapter's annual holiday party a resounding success!

Flexcar  
Hartick, LLC  
Eco-artware.com  
REI  
Results the Gym  
Starbucks Coffee

We would also like to thank Lisa Swanson for donating a piece of her pottery and authors Gail Spilsbury and Lynne Cherry for signing copies of their books.

# 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. Mar. 6 (rated E). Signal Knob on Massanutten Mtn, Va.** 10-mi. circuit hike with about 1,600 ft. elev. gain. Exceptional views to west, north and east. Meet at 8 a.m. at Vienna Metro Station, north entrance. Leader: Marcia Wolf 301-565-3165 before 9 p.m. or wolfmk@comcast.net.

**Sun. Mar. 7 (rated A). Cosca Regional Park.** Moderately paced circuit hike of 5.5 mi., plus about 700 ft. of elev. change, in secluded rolling woodlands just southeast of District. Expect to get close-up views of trees, lake, ducks, geese, hawks and owls, and possibly an eagle and a prairie dog. Optional posthike visit to Surratt House Museum (a Lincoln link) and/or to unrelated local Italian eatery. Bring snack, but no pets. Meet at 10 a.m. at park, in parking lot nearest nature center. Call for driving directions or if carless or to check on carpooling possibilities. Joint event with AMC-DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351 and Mike Darzi 301-593-4551.

**Tue. Mar. 9 (rated H). Little Devil's Stairs.** Ascend the stairs to Keyser Run Rd, AT, Hogback, Piney Ridge and Hull School Trails. About 13 mi. and 4,100 ft. climb. Leader: Chris Nolen 301-469-8931 or chrishiker@erols.com.

**Sat. Mar. 13 (rated F or B). C&O Canal Towpath Hike.** In Get-Fit-for-Spring, OneDayHike Series. Out-and-back hike of 20.3 mi. from Edwards Ferry to MP 41 (or turn around sooner for 10.3 mi.). Meet 9 a.m. at Edwards Ferry, off River Rd. For driving directions see <http://onedayhike.tripod.com/driving.htm>. Leaders: Carol Ivory 703-476-8730 or carolivory@erols.com and Pat Hopson 703-379-1795 before 10 p.m.

**Sun. Mar. 14 (rated C). Patuxent Research Refuge.** Moderately paced double-loop hike of about 10 non-hilly mi. in woodlands, wetlands and meadowlands of the metro area's largest close-in wildlife refuge. First loop: about 3 scenic mi. in refuge's South Tract. Second loop: about 7 scenic mi. in refuge's little-used (by humans) North Tract. Between loops: time at National Wildlife Visitor Center,

plus lunch break. Leashed pets okay. Meet at 10 a.m. in visitor center parking lot in Laurel off Balt.-Wash. Pkwy. Call for driving directions or if carless. Joint event with AMC-DC. Leader: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351.

**Thu. Mar. 18 (rated C). Potomac Heritage Trail—Key-Chain Bridge Circuit.** Arlington, Va. 9 mi. Some rocky sections and stream crossings. At end, an optional foray into Georgetown. Starts at 10 a.m. at Roosevelt Island parking lot off the northbound GW Pkwy. Easy walk from Rosslyn Metro. Bring lunch. Joint hike with PATC. Leader: Henri Comeau 703-451-7965 or henricomeau@aol.com.

**Sat. Mar. 20 (rated A). Bull Run Mountains Preserve.** Kick off spring with this 6-mi. hike to the recently created preserve. Enjoy spectacular views of the Va. horse country. As urban sprawl moves west, this preserve will become extremely important in helping to protect the beauty and heritage of northern Va. Leader: Glenn Gillis 703-430-0568.

**Sun. Mar. 21 (rated F). Shenandoah Circuit.** An 11-mi. hike on the Buck Hollow, AT and Pass Mtn trails with 2,400 ft. of elev. gain. Meet at Vienna Metro Station, north side parking lot, at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Scott Wilson 301-220-3248 or swilson@rrnic.org.

**Sat. Mar. 27 (rated H). Rarely visited waterfall in the Great North Mtn, GPS Hike.** On this challenging hike we will climb the mountain with the most difficult steepness-distance ratio in the Washington area according to the leader's software, leading to a breathtaking view. There will be a short bushwhack to the falls. 17.7 mi., 3,500 ft. elev. gain, all in the first half of the hike. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center near McDonalds at 7:30 a.m. Leader: Dimitri Tundra 301-770-9639 or tartakd@hotmail.com.

**Sun. Mar. 28 (rated A). Massachusetts Ave. NW.** Easy 5-mi. afternoon walk to admire the varied exterior architecture of some of the embassies in D.C. Limited to 20 hikers. Leader: Dan Ryan 301-622-5259 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Sun. Mar. 28 (rated G or C). Modified Parade of Parks.** In Get-Fit-for-Spring, OneDayHike Series. Circuit of 23 mi. (or 14.4-mi. option) on paved and dirt trails in D.C. and Md. parklands, with some gentle elev. change. Meet 8 a.m. at Fletcher's Boat-house, off Canal Rd. Leaders: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351 and Russ Norfleet 703-294-6068 or rnorfleet@cp.arlington.va.us.

**Sat. Apr. 3 (rated H or less). Alexandria-Arlington Slow Marathon.** In Get-Fit-for-Spring, OneDayHike Series. Circuit of 27 paved mi. on Mount Vernon Trail and other Alexandria and Arlington trails, with a few minor undulations. Shelter Metro-assisted version also available. Meet 9 a.m. at north parking lot at Belle Haven, on GW Pkwy south of Alexandria. Leaders: Gary Kozlowski 703-708-7159 and Scott Wilson 301-220-3248.

**Sun. April 4 (rated B). Rock Creek Park.** Explore the beauty of Rock Creek Park in early spring. Meet next to the ground level of the elevator at the Cleveland Park Metro at 1 p.m. Bring water and a snack. Kids who can walk 7+ mi. on relatively level terrain are welcome. Leader: Jim Finucane 301-365-3485 before 9 p.m.

**Sat. Apr. 10 (rated E). Old Rag Mtn.** 7.7 mi., 4,000 ft. elev. change. Meet at Vienna Metro Station, north side, 8:30 a.m. Leader: Russ Norfleet, 703-294-6068 or rnorfleet@cp.arlington.va.us.

**Sun. Apr. 11 (rated A). Hike through the woods from Pennyfield Lock to Violettes Lock** and return along the towpath—back around 1 p.m. 5 mi. Meet at 9 a.m. at MacArthur Blvd and Goldsboro Rd or else at 9:30 a.m. at Pennyfield Lock. Leader: Ernie Bauer 301-469-6726 or Ernestbauer@aol.com.

**Fri. Apr. 16. Sierra Club Social.** At the Bethesda home of Susan Gartner, 8 p.m. Susan will describe her experience as a team member on the Earthwatch project "Conserving the Pantanal," a large fresh water wetland in southwestern Brazil. For reservations and directions, call Susan Gartner at 301-656-7338 before 10 p.m.

**Sat. April 17 (rated A). Wildflower Walk at Riverbend Park, Va.** Joint walk with the EcoStewards Alliance. Meet at 10 a.m. at the visitor center. Optional 4-5 mi. hike in the afternoon along the Potomac toward Great Falls. Directions: Take Beltway exit 44, Georgetown Pike, west past the road to Great Falls. Turn right on Riverbend Rd, then turn right on Jeffery Rd and follow it for about 1 mi. to the park entrance. Bring water and lunch. No pets. Leader: Jim Fremont 301-962-4703 before 9 p.m.

**Sun. Apr. 18 (rated D+). Help-Write-the-Guidebook Series: Hoover Camp Circuit.** Unscouted 10-mi. loop in central SNP with 2,400 ft. total elev. changes (ups and downs), includes visit to Pres. Hoover's precursor to Camp David. With the 14<sup>th</sup> ed. of the PATC guide to SNP circuit hikes in hand, we will check distances and note changes in landmarks to produce the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of this venerable book, or just enjoy the walk. Leader: Larry Broadwell 301-215-7135.



### 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

## Outings, Continued

**Thu. Apr. 22 (rated A).** Great Falls, Va. Celebrate Earth Day with a 6-mi. hike along the Potomac Gorge at Great Falls and River Bend Park. See Mather Gorge and the mighty falls of the Potomac along the Potomac Heritage Trail. Leader: Glenn Gillis 703-430-0568.

**Fri.-Sun. April 23-25 (unrated).** GPS Backpack: Cranberry Wilderness. Southeastern West Va. North and Middle Fork Trails, Laureley Branch Trail. 23.5 mi. 3,450 ft. elev. gain. Optional bushwhack. Unscouted hike. Most of the time we will be walking along the river banks. The goal of the hike is to find as many different types of trillium (last year we saw 3 types) and salamander (only one type last year) as we can. Leader: Dimitri Tundra 301-770-9639 or tartakd@hotmail.com. Please, reserve your seat no later than a week in advance.

**Sat. Apr. 24 (rated B-C).** C&O Canal Towpath from McCoys Ferry to Williamsport. We'll follow in William O. Douglas's famous footsteps to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his extraordinary save-the-canal hike—albeit only for one day and for 10.7 scenic mi. (towpath mi. 110.4 to 99.7). All being well, we'll encounter the C&O Canal Association's through-hikers, who'll be roughly half-way through their two-week trek on the full length of the towpath (see below **Events Sponsored by Affiliates and Other Organizations**). Call for details about arrangements for the day (schedule, possible carpooling from D.C. area and staying overnight, trailhead car shuttle, etc.) Leader: Gary Tobin 703-998-5057.

**Sun. Apr. 25 (rated A).** Rock Creek Park—Lake Needwood Conservation Walk. 2-4 p.m. A leisurely 2-mi. hike that will take us along Mill Creek, ground zero for the Intercounty Connector, a controversial proposed highway that would cross and devastate many sections of Montgomery County's best stream valleys. We will discuss the ecological, economic and political issues involved in this project. Leader: Ron LaCoss 301-946-1106 before 9 p.m.

## Events Sponsored by Affiliates and Other Organizations

**Sun.-Sat. Apr. 18-May 1 (no rating).** C&O Canal Association's 50th Anniversary Douglas Hike (not a Sierra event, but linked to the above Apr. 24 MWROP day hike). Two-week through-hike to commemorate William O. Douglas's historic save-the-canal hike. This year's hike, like the one in 1954, will cover all 184.5 mi. of the C&O Canal towpath, starting in Cumberland and ending in Georgetown, but it will also include National Park Service participation in the form of special events and access to historic structures. Because of limited area for camping, registration is required for the through-hike (call asap to check on space), but day hikers are welcome to participate unannounced. For details, contact Barbara Sheridan 703-306-6549 or barbara.sheridan@gsa.gov. Also visit [www.candocanal.org](http://www.candocanal.org).

## D.C. Chapter and Related Events

*Following is a list of activities of the D.C. Chapter at press time. Because of the possibility of changes, please confirm with the contact person or by checking our Web site, <http://dc.sierraclub.org/>.*

### March

**Tue. Mar. 16**

Executive Committee meeting. 7-9 p.m. Club offices, 401 C St. N.E. All members welcome. Contact Mark Wenzler at 202-547-3410 or mwenzler@net.org.

**Mar. 18-28**

Environmental Film Festival. Various locations and times. See announcement, p. 9.

**Fri.-Mon. Mar. 19-22**

Appalachian Regional Conservation Committee meeting to develop American Clean Energy Campaign. See article, p. 4.

**Sun. Mar. 21**

Film showing: Kelly Duane's "Monumental: David Brower's Fight to Protect Wild America." 1:30 p.m. National Museum of American History. See announcement, p. 9.

**Wed. Mar. 24**

Tour at Eagle Recycling Plant. 7:30 a.m. See article, p. 3. Contact Dain Roose-Snyder at 202-543-0552 or Dain.Roose-Snyder@sierraclub.org.

**Thu. Mar. 25**

Recycling Committee meeting. See article, p. 3. For time and place, contact Dain Roose-Snyder at 202-543-0552 or Dain.Roose-Snyder@sierraclub.org.

**Fri.-Sun. Mar. 26-28**

Sierra Club Training Academy. Maritime Institute Conference Center, Linthicum Heights, Md. See announcement, p. 16.

**Sat. Mar. 27**

Work day at Kingman Island. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. See announcement p. 13. Contact Chris Craig at 202-554-5502 or ccraig@zzapp.org.

**Mar. 30-Apr. 30**

Bus Promotion Event: "The 30s Are Going Your Way." See article, p. 3.

### April

**Sat. Apr. 10**

Canada Goose Count, sponsored by D.C. Watershed Protection Division. 9-11 a.m. Langston Golf Course parking lot. 26<sup>th</sup> and Benning Road N.E. Birding experts will be there. Contact Dhananjaya Katju at 202-727-6537 or dhananjaya.katju@dc.gov

**Mon. Apr. 12**

Sierra Club Second Monday Happy Hour. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Chef Geoff's (13<sup>th</sup> St. between E and F Streets, near Metro Center Metrorail station). Contact Dain Roose-Snyder at 202-543-0552 or Dain.Roose-Snyder@sierraclub.org.

**Tue. Apr. 20**

Executive Committee meeting (see Mar. 16).

**Sat Apr. 24**

Sierra Club Earth Day Picnic. 12 noon-3 p.m. Location to be announced. Celebrate Earth Day in a local park with fellow Sierra Club members. Bring food to share. Children and dogs welcome. For more information and to RSVP, contact Dain Roose-Snyder at 202-543-0552. Also check [www.dc.sierraclub.org](http://www.dc.sierraclub.org) for updated information.

### May

**Sat. May 1**

Annual 100-K One Day Hike from Georgetown to Harpers Ferry. See article, p. 15.

**Wed. May 5**

Sierra Club Cinco de Mayo membership and fundraising event. 6-8 p.m. RFD, 810 7<sup>th</sup> St. N.W. See announcement, p. 17.

**Mon. May 10**

Sierra Club Second Monday Happy Hour. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Café Saint-Ex, 1847 14<sup>th</sup> St. N.W. (near U Street-Cardozo Metrorail Station).

**Tue. May 18**

Executive Committee meeting (see Mar. 16).

### June

**Tue. Jun. 15**

Executive Committee meeting (see Mar. 16).