



# CAPITAL SIERRAN

*Newsletter of the Washington, D.C., Chapter*

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## Regional Roundup of the Metro D.C. Healthy Communities Campaign

*by Chris Carney and Dan Emerine*

The Metro D.C. Healthy Communities Campaign is a joint effort of the Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia Sierra Club chapters. Here is an update on some of the regional issues that keep the campaign busy.

The Sierra Club has a vision for a better future in the Metropolitan Washington region. We can build communities that benefit everyone, and reinvest in neighborhoods that have been neglected. We can protect our historic Civil War battlefields and rural farmland, and we can restore health to the Chesapeake Bay. We can stop wasting tax dollars on multibillion dollar boondoggles like new Outer Beltway highways. Instead, we can invest in a sensible and balanced transportation sys-

tem that includes building the Purple Line, maintaining and expanding our Metrorail and Metrobus system, and creating well-connected networks of “complete streets.” By protecting our natural heritage, making our communities friendlier for walking and biking, and concentrating future development near transit, we can build a Washington region that is truly a network of safe and healthy communities and build a brighter future for everyone.

### **Metrorail: While Gas Prices Drive Record Ridership, Metro’s Short on Funding**

Metro has had three of its top ten busiest days recently; two of the three weren’t even days featuring special events or holidays—a sign of the times as gas prices climb past \$3 per gallon. Regional planners predict millions more residents and more jobs will come to our region. For the sake of our air quality, we need to make room for newcomers on Metro.

At the same time, Metro has a looming  
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## D.C.’s Dream of a Green Ballpark

*by Gwyn Jones*

It’s been a year and a half since the D.C. Council, prodded by the Sierra Club, mandated that the new Washington Nationals ballpark be a “green” stadium. Yet despite a legislative mandate, only the continued involvement of environmental leaders with the ballpark design team and District Sports and Entertainment Commission (SEC) officials has pushed the design—we hope—to a level of greenness

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*Act by June 15 to defeat the GU Boathouse! See page 4 for details!*

## Cleaning Up the Anacostia River, One Bottle at a Time

by Jason Broehm

The Anacostia River, which flows from Maryland through the District of Columbia, is a waterway of contradictions. It is at the same time a beautiful urban river, along which it's not uncommon to spot a great blue heron or an osprey, and a waterway terribly polluted by sewage, trash and toxics.

As Washington has grown over the last century, the Anacostia River's 176-square-mile watershed has been largely developed, which has increasingly polluted the river. With nearly every rain, raw sewage from the District's antiquated sewer system is mixed with storm water and discharged directly into the river. And as the rain runs off our streets, parking lots, roofs and lawns it carries into our storm sewers trash and chemicals that further pollute the river.

While the river was neglected for far too long, there have been many encouraging signs in recent years as citizens have joined together and taken action to clean it up. Advocates have set ambitious goals for making fishing and swimming in the Anacostia safe once again. To be sure, this vision will not be realized overnight. It will take a lot of political will, billions of dollars, thousands of volunteer hours and many years.

The Sierra Club is among the many groups working toward the vision of a clean Anacostia. The club supports an environmental justice (EJ) organizer who works with residents of the communities that surround the Anacostia River. The organizer helps empower them to urge the government to clean up the river and to be involved themselves in community initiatives to clean it up and thereby improve their quality of life. Linda Fennell, the current EJ organizer, has made cleaning up the Anacostia River a major focus of her work, and the Washington, D.C., Chapter has joined with her in partnership with the communities and other organizations to do our part.

On a rainy Earth Day, it was encouraging to see dozens of Sierra Club volunteers cleaning up trash on the shores of Kingman Island near RFK Stadium. Fennell helped recruit many participants--children and



photo by Chris Carney

adults--from the nearby River Terrace community and the Washington Middle School for Girls. And they were joined by volunteers from the Earth Conservation Corps, the Boy Scouts, the National Guard and others, totaling hundreds of volunteers at the club's site. And ours was just one of 20 sites throughout the watershed participating in the Anacostia Watershed Society's annual Earth Day cleanup.

As an individual volunteer digging through sticks and mud to remove plastic bottles, pieces of Styrofoam, hubcaps, and many other types of trash that don't belong in or around a river, it's easy to feel that you're barely making a dent, even as you fill up multiple trash bags. When you step back at the end of the day, however, and realize that 1,115 volunteers collectively removed 31.5 tons of debris and 143 tires from the river, you realize that you've made a real impact.

Two weeks after Earth Day, the Sierra Club, in collaboration with the Penn Branch community, the Casey Trees Endowment Fund, and volunteers from AmeriCorps, Potomac Job Corps, Booz Allen Hamilton, D.C. United, and others, planted 35 trees along Pope Branch Creek, a tributary of the Anacostia River, where significant erosion was literally washing residents' steeply sloping back yards into the creek and thereby sending sediment into the Anacostia. This very successful event, coordinated by Fennell and the community, is only the first phase in the re-greening and restoration of Pope Branch Creek. There will be a second tree planting in the fall.

There are many ways in which you as an individual Sierra Club member can make a real difference toward achieving the goal of a clean Anacostia River, and we hope you will volunteer your time with us in the future. I assure you that there are many more trees to be planted and plastic bottles to be picked up along the river and its tributaries! To learn more about future volunteer opportunities, please contact Linda Fennell at 202-610-0200 or [linda.fennell@sierraclub.org](mailto:linda.fennell@sierraclub.org), or Chasta Piatakovas, membership chair, at 202-320-1205 or [nckaos@aol.com](mailto:nckaos@aol.com).

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Deadline, Fall Issue: August 14, 2006.

Capital Sierran is published quarterly by the Washington, D.C., Chapter of the Sierra Club. Membership dues pay for subscription to this publication. Nonmembers may subscribe for \$5.00 a year by writing to: Sierra Club, Membership Services Dept., 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

### Send changes of address to:

Sierra Club, Member Services, Capital Sierran, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org). Please include both your old and new addresses for fast service.

### Send membership forms to:

Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

# Earth Day

## Earth Day 2006 Cleanup Success

by Linda Fennell

Thanks to everyone who joined the D.C. Chapter and the D.C. Environmental Justice Program on Kingman Island for the Anacostia Watershed Earth Day Cleanup on April 22, 2006. Sixty-three volunteers, including chapter members and our partners, the River Terrace Elementary School and the Washington Middle School for Girls, attended the event, which included a rally and picnic at the Seafarer's Yacht Club on M Street S.E. Participants braved torrential downpours as we collaborated with the Earth Conservation Corps, the D.C. National Guard and other youth groups to clean up the site, which is located along the Anacostia River near RFK Stadium. According to Brian Van Wye, the Anacostia riverkeeper, we helped retrieve approximately 14,360 pounds of debris, which consisted of 25 tires, 381 bags of trash and other items.

The event was organized by our partner The Anacostia Watershed Society. Over 1,000 volunteers from across the region participated in a great day of environmental stewardship.



photo by Linda Fennell

Participants of all ages braved the cold and rain to clean up over seven tons of debris.



photo by Kathleen Shorter - WMSG

Students and staff from The Washington Middle School for Girls gather to celebrate their efforts to clean up the Anacostia River.



photos by Chris Carney

## Chapter E-mail Alerts

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

## Conservation Committee Update

### Where Do you Fit In?

by Bob Morris

There have been times when I thought that having a robust volunteer activist conservation program in Washington, D.C., was impossible. People are busy, there are lots of alternative ways to spend time, people work on doing good at the office and don't need to do it in their time off, we don't have a cadre of retirees with time to spend, we don't have lots of two parent/one wage earner families. You know all the reasons because you are living them.

Now is not one of those times of despondency. The D.C. Chapter's conservation program is exploding with vibrant, effective, fun activism on important issues. Are you part of this upwelling of energy? The list below is a small sample of who is doing what to make our environment better in Washington, D.C.

- Clayton Wilkerson had a house party so that people could meet author Mike McClosky, former president of the Sierra Club.
- Geoffrey Edelmann was at the Pope Branch cleanup the week before the tree planting.
- Alec Bennett was at the Earth Day cleanup of Kingman Island the week before that.
- Russ Edwards is organizing fundraisers for libraries and other groups selling compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Sarah Buchanan is taking the new position as liaison between our conservation committees and the Communications Committee.
- Lance Brown, along with Tom Metcalf and Ralph Garboushian, led a nearly 30-person bike tour of the Anacostia River.

- Chris Meehan is editing the initial grant proposal for the Energy-Climate Action Team (E-CAT).
- Anica Landreneau is preparing and finalizing that proposal.
- Chris Barnes questioned Hines Group developers about making the New City Center project carbon neutral.
- John Wickham has been working with the Episcopal Diocese to promote green building.
- David Kessler has done research, organizing and outreach to build the E-CAT.

This list could go on and on and is just a small sample of what is happening. All these people have busy lives, but somehow busy people find time to do good things. The good news for you is that there are many more things to do than there are people doing them. We need more volunteers. For example, we need to have one volunteer for each school and each place of worship in the District, helping those institutions advance their environmental stewardship and providing materials to children, PTAs and other groups.

There are two ways for you to help make good work happen. You can do one or both. First, you can contact Joanna Winchester at [joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org](mailto:joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org) or 202-543-0552 and let her know what kind of things you are interested in doing. Second, you can send a donation of between \$5.00 and \$50,000 to the D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club, 408 C St. N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002.

How do you fit in? You decide. We have lots of work to do, we enjoy ourselves while we do it and we need you to join us in this work.

*Bob Morris is a National Council Delegate.*

## **ACTION ALERT: Act by June 15 to Protect the C&O Canal National Historical Park from Private Development**

Georgetown University (GU) wants to build an enormous private boathouse, the length of a football field, within our C&O Canal National Historical Park and the Potomac Gorge. The public has until June 15 to comment on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for this huge project. For a sample letter, see below, or go to [www.savethecanal.org](http://www.savethecanal.org).

The land proposed for the boathouse is a narrow, wooded section of tidal floodplain near the entrance to the park that contains wetlands, is situated next to the busy Capital Crescent Trail (CCT) and is close to the fragile and leaking canal embankment/levee. Running under the proposed site is an 84-inch diameter corroding sewer line. Current plans would extend a 75-foot private dock out into the river from the boathouse. Rowing hulls, on trailers 60 feet long, would share the CCT route with hikers, bikers and other trail users.

***And yet, the National Park Service (NPS) says there would be only "minor impacts" to the C&O park from the project.***

The boathouse EA, paid for by GU and available for public comment, justifies the large size

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## Cage-Free Eggs Take Off with D.C.-Area Schools, Companies and Consumers Leading the Way

by Susan Prolman

Ninety-five percent of eggs produced in the United States come from hens raised in battery cages. Bat-

tery-cage egg production is an intensive confinement system so inhumane it is banned in many European countries and will be phased out of the entire European Union by 2012.

In the United States, egg-laying hens are raised in sheds the length of football fields, with battery-cage operations housing roughly 80,000 hens. Up to 10 hens are crowded into a barren wire cage so small the birds can't spread their wings. Each bird is afforded less space than a single sheet of paper on which to live, leading to high levels of stress and injury. The

cages are stacked one on top of another, with the waste of the birds above dropping down onto the birds in cages below. Because of the low value of egg-laying hens, no individual veterinary

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photo by Compassion Over Killing



Up to 10 hens are crowded into each battery cage in conventional egg production.



photo by Pete and Gerry's Organic Eggs

Hens at cage-free facilities are able to spread their wings and walk on a solid surface.

### Recycling Committee Update

## Recycling Officials Encourage Cultural Change

by Robyn Liska

*"Tickets and fines combat sanitation problems for now, but education and outreach change sanitation practices for a lifetime!"* - Sign in the D.C. Office of Recycling

The motto above aptly reflects the mentality that William Easley, recycling program coordinator for the D.C. Office of Recycling, is trying to promote in Washington, D.C. His job is to teach commercial property owners in the District about the value of recycling, help them implement programs and enforce the law mandating commercial recycling.

Currently, only 14 percent of commercial properties recycle. According to Easley, achieving Mayor Anthony A. Williams' citywide target of a 45 percent recycling rate is "mathematically impossible" without improved "commercial sector participation [as well as] expanding the types of materials able to be recycled to include food and organic waste." He also believes we need to cultivate a "green mentality" in the city, because without a "complete culture change" we will never be able to meet the city's recycling goals.

But Easley acknowledges that culture change is hard to create. When he and his investigators visit small businesses throughout the city, they see that "most of the mom-and-pop businesses are just out to make a buck [and] have never heard

of recycling." "We are not out there to beat up businesses; there is no point in fining someone who has never heard of recycling.... We want people to recycle, not just pay a fine." Faced with this challenge, Easley's solution is straightforward: "Education, education, education."

"Culture change comes from education," he stresses, and the Office of Recycling is looking for long-term change, not temporary compliance. Easley believes that fines will only be effective if they are much higher, and ultimately he would prefer not to have to fine people to get them to recycle. What he would like to do instead is create a public education campaign to broadcast a recycling message that emphasizes waste reduction and prevention. Unfortunately, he faces a perpetual shortage in education funding, probably because an education campaign doesn't create immediate improvement and people in government like to see concrete results. Yet he remains hopeful. When asked how the Sierra Club can help reinforce the culture change he is trying to bring about, his reply was, "Get the word out. Tell people to use their bins! Education is the most important thing you can do."

The Washington Waste Reduction Initiative of the Sierra Club welcomes your feedback on this article. Please contact us at [RecycleDC@gmail.com](mailto:RecycleDC@gmail.com) to tell us what you think of Bill Easley's approach to recycling in the District.

## Biking the City

by Tom Metcalf

Stunningly beautiful weather--sunshine, temperatures in the mid 70's--no doubt contributed to the enthusiastic turnout of nearly 30 cyclists who joined the Transportation Committee for a cycling tour highlighting the influence that transportation infrastructure has on the livability of our communities. The tour was entitled "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," and participants got to experience some of each.

Starting at the Eastern Market Metro plaza, the group



photo by Lance Brown

first rode south to the Anacostia riverfront, under the 11th Street bridge.

Through a chain-link fence we could see the section of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail that will run across the Navy Yard. Here tour organizer Lance Brown highlighted uses of the river and riverfront, including rowing. In fact, a regatta that morning at the Anacostia Community Boathouse required a last-minute detour.

The group then rode to a vantage point overlooking the southeast freeway, a perfect backdrop for Ralph Garboushian, a member of the Executive Committee, to explain the way in which the freeway consumes enormous amounts of land and acts as a barrier between the river and the neighborhoods that should be within easy walking distance of its banks. The group traveled alongside the river on the RFK access road, stopping in the parking lot just south of Benning Road, where Transportation Committee chair Tom Metcalf explained that it was the only location where neighborhood opposition to Metro actually got a planned station taken off the planning map.

Crossing the Anacostia River at Benning Road, the group headed into Anacostia Park, where Sierra Club organizer Chris Carney talked about the work of the club and its long-standing efforts to improve public transportation in the District while fighting

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## Metropolitan Branch Trail

### Support for the MBT

by Paul Meijer

For 10 years, the D.C. government has had \$10 million allocated for the Metropolitan Branch Trail (MBT), yet after all this time only two useable miles have actually been built. This is despite valiant efforts by Jim Sebastian and Chris Holben of the D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT) to overcome the bureaucratic hurdles that have slowed the project to a snail's pace. While celebrating the completion of the trail's segment next to the New York Avenue Metro Station, we have to recognize that it is as yet not connected to anything.

First, a little history:

The D.C. Government included the MBT as part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Washington region as required by the Clean Air Act. Specifically, DDOT has declared to the federal government that "this project is intended to serve both recreational users and commuters to meet TIP and air quality objectives." With these objectives in mind, the D.C. Concept Plan supports "completion of a feasibility study and other measures necessary to construct



photo by Paul Meijer

*Jim Sebastian (DDOT bicycle and pedestrian coordinator) and Councilmember Vincent B. Orange (D-Ward 5) at the opening of the New York Avenue Metro Station on November 20, 2004, in front of the MBT banner.*

the Metropolitan Branch Trail for bicyclists and pedestrians adjacent to the Metrorail Red Line between Union Station and the Maryland border."

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## Regional Transportation

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budget gap. Just to keep the rail and bus system running smoothly, \$300 million a year is needed. The District has passed legislation that would establish a new guaranteed source of funding for Metro, but it doesn't go into effect until Maryland and Virginia do likewise.

At the time of this newsletter, the Virginia Assembly was in special session but had tabled talk of Metro funding. Maryland legislators sent the issue back for further study shortly before their session ended for the year, meaning no action until 2007. Metro riders will anxiously await the decisions in Richmond and Annapolis. The Sierra Club and other transit supporters will continue to demand action from our public officials to make sure you have better Metro service.



*photo courtesy of Wilson Bridge Project website*

*Rendering of a bike path on the new Wilson Bridge*

### Rail on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge

This summer will see the opening of the newly constructed first span of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Left on the drawing board are plans to add Metrorail to the bridge. The good news is that bridge contractors are building the new bridge to be rail-ready, with around \$10 million worth of rail-specific engineering features designed to avoid expensive retrofits when rail gets the go-ahead.

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has had the Metrorail expansion in their plans for years—it would connect the Yellow Line in Alexandria to the Green Line at Branch Avenue—and last summer's federal transportation bill authorized funding for the next step: engineering and design. But rail is not a done deal. It's up to Maryland and Virginia leaders to start putting the rail project in their transportation plans and to follow up on the federal government's funding authorization. The Sierra Club

is organizing rail supporters on both sides of the Potomac.

### Public Opinion Turning Against the Intercountry Connector (ICC) in Montgomery County

If D.C. residents hear a rumbling to the north, it's the sound of thousands of disgruntled Montgomery County residents as they find out the real story behind the ICC, a proposed six-lane, 18-mile highway from Rockville to Laurel. On the ICC Study website, Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. (R) claims "The Intercountry Connector will relieve traffic congestion on some of the most congested roads in the Washington region." The state's own study of the ICC, released early this year, arrived at very different results.

Buried among the thousands of pages of the Final Environmental Impact Statement are the findings that the ICC would not relieve traffic on the Beltway, I-95, or I-270, or on major north-south arterial roads in Montgomery County. When county residents were told *that* side of the story in a recent survey, a majority said it was time to rethink the ICC. In fact, the March poll commissioned by the Sierra Club and its partners like the Audubon Naturalist Society found that 60 percent of residents agreed that we should make funding Metro, building the Purple Line, and pedestrian and safety improvements a priority over major new road building like the ICC.

At \$3 billion, the ICC would suck up funding for all of these priority projects, generate enough air pollution to harm public health, and cost you about \$7 in tolls if you drove it end to end. Undaunted, Ehrlich and company push on to paving day for the ICC. ICC opponents will continue the grassroots campaign to stop this boondoggle.



*photo by Sean Robertson*

# D.C.'s Old Convention Center: This Decade's Most Critical Grassroots Effort

by David Kessler

Redeveloping the site of the old convention center in Washington, D.C., to create the New City Center is not going to be an overnight project. But that means we have time on our side. Construction on the site is scheduled to begin in November 2008 with a completion date set for April 2011. This gives the D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club's Energy-Climate Action Team (E-CAT) enough time to make the project a model of energy efficiency.

How are we planning to do this? Well, it's simple and it starts with you; grassroots involvement is the key to our campaign. And to make things even easier, E-CAT's goals for energy efficiency are simple and can be achieved with existing technologies. Plus, energy-efficient buildings not only help protect the climate by lowering greenhouse gas emissions, but they also provide savings in energy costs for their proprietors.

We are in the early stages of this campaign but we will have established a strong grassroots movement by mid-summer. E-CAT has grown to over 40 volunteers already – and there is

always room for more! Recent grassroots efforts included writing letters to and meeting with Hines Interests, the project's lead developer, and mobilizing large turnouts for community meetings on the project.

As the lead developer of the New City Center, Hines Interests is largely responsible for the project's energy efficiency. Our campaign will focus on what it is doing in this respect at every phase. We will also pay close attention to the D.C. Council's level of support for this important issue.

Hines is currently planning to include 275,000 square feet of retail space; 515 units of rental housing (20 percent affordable); 257 units of for-sale housing (20 percent affordable); 300,000 to 400,000 square feet of office space; up to one acre of civic/open space; 1,085 spaces of private parking; and 850 spaces of retail and public parking. In addition, a parcel of 111,000 square feet will be reserved for the District for a convention center hotel or a library or additional office, retail, residential or civic space.

Hines is placing a lot of emphasis on this project's economic benefit for the downtown area. It is also assuring

the public that the New City Center will enhance the economic and social quality of life for all Washingtonians.

More important, according to Howard Riker, Hines' vice president in the District office, "energy efficiency will be a priority when developing this project." Hines' interest in energy efficiency is evident from previous projects that have earned the developer recognition as a leader in energy-efficient design. According to Riker, "Hines has won more awards from EPA's Energy Star program for its buildings in D.C. and nationwide than most other firms." Riker also states "so successful is Hines, that EPA has created a separate category for it within Energy Star."

Hines maintains contacts with green architects, building professionals, and the U.S. Green Building Council. Jerry Lee, head of construction for Hines, serves on the LEED board and Hines' head of commercial buildings serves on the LEED's construction board. Though this information is reassuring, Hines has not clarified its exact plans for making the New City Center energy efficient. Will it aim for the minimum or really go the distance?

This is where Sierra Club members can help. We should all write to Hines and ask for an outline of its plan for energy efficiency in this project. For how and where to write, see the end of this article.

The New City Center remains the top campaign priority for E-CAT this summer due to the project's size and impact on Washington, D.C. Our goal is to make this an iconic project of energy efficiency and climate protection not only for Washington, but for the rest of the country. But currently E-CAT is also looking for people to take ownership of the educational outreach on energy issues more generally. Ideally, we are looking for people who will

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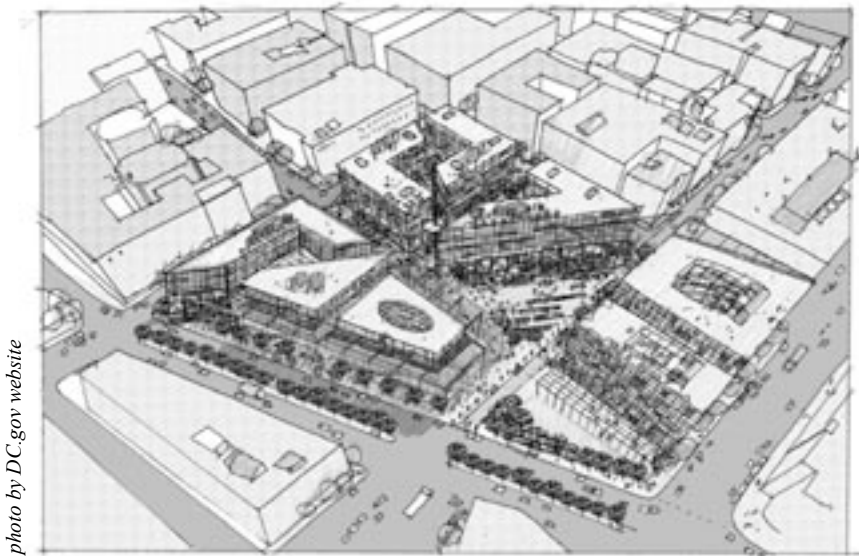


photo by DC.gov website



## Green Ballpark

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that the District and the Anacostia River deserve.

“The District could be a model of green building for the country – and the world,” chapter activist Jim Dougherty said. “We had a chance with the convention center, which the District promised would be green and then didn’t follow through on. This time, we’ve been involved since the beginning. We got the D.C. Council on board, so there are no excuses for the Sports and Entertainment Commission not to get this one right.”

But questions remain. At the unveiling of the ballpark design in January 2006, District officials were quoted in the national media as saying the ballpark would achieve certification under the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED® Green Building Rating System™ (USGBC). But the SEC was painfully slow even to register the project with the USGBC, which is the first step in applying for LEED certification. And they were unwilling to consider requests by environmentalists for confinement and special treatment of the large amounts of storm-water runoff that the ball park will generate that would otherwise flow directly into the Anacostia River.

Then Councilmember Jack Evans (D-Ward 2) convened a meeting that brought together the SEC, the ballpark’s ar-



*Rendering of new ballpark.*

*photo by Jim Dougherty*

chitects, the Sierra Club and other environmental groups. Evans insisted that the design team follow through on a variety of green initiatives, including storm-water collection and filtration and LEED certification.

Dougherty was encouraged by the Evans meeting, but cautioned that the SEC is still trying to squeeze the D.C. Council for more money in order to pay for environmental design features. Environ-

mental groups must stay vigilant to ensure that the city, the architects and the contractors follow through this time.

“Too often environmental values get short shrift because someone claims it’s too expensive,” Dougherty said. “But we have to think long-term here. It’s not just about the cost of the bricks and mortar: it’s the health of the river and the communities surrounding the stadium that we have to consider. We’ll have to live with that for the next 30 years.”

Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D) is a key player in this campaign. Although he stated on Earth Day 2005 that all future D.C. buildings would meet the LEED silver standard for environmental performance, he has not put pressure on the SEC to abide by that commitment. You can reach him to urge his support for a green stadium by sending an e-mail to [mayor@dc.gov](mailto:mayor@dc.gov).

### What Would Green Building Mean to the District?

Green buildings mean much more than just energy efficiency. Green buildings embody a range of strategies that combined reduce the overall impact of the building on the environment by making better use of transit, preserving habitat, using recycled and rapidly renewable materials, being more energy efficient, and saving water.

In an urban area like the District, green buildings can play an especially important role in two key areas: water quality and energy consumption. Because we are bounded by two rivers, and the District’s storm-water system is overburdened, storm-water runoff can be a huge problem, even with a very light rainfall. By incorporating strategies such as green roofs, bioretention swales, no-water landscaping using native plants, and water conservation measures such as low-flow toilet fixtures, green buildings could significantly mitigate the District’s combined sewer overflow problem by keeping water out of the storm and sanitary sewers.

Green roofs are also appealing for other reasons: they provide excellent insulation and reduce the heat island effect, which in turn reduces demand for energy-intensive air conditioning in the summer.

Green buildings are not only environmentally responsible; they are fiscally and socially responsible, too. Because they typically have healthy indoor environments with good air quality, ample daylighting and efficient thermal control, green buildings provide an environment in which employees are actually healthier and more productive.

Buildings annually consume some 30 percent of the country’s total energy and 60 percent of its electricity, according to the U.S. Green Building Council. Green buildings can save 30 percent and more in energy costs. And in public buildings, that means taxpayers must foot less of their government’s electric bill.

## Building Bonds in Culturally Diverse Communities

by *Chasta Piatakovas*

On the cold rainy morning of Saturday, April 8, 18 participants from diverse backgrounds came together at the Sierra Club Legislative Office in Northeast Washington for a five-hour informative and interactive workshop entitled “Building Diverse Relationships: Working Together for a Healthy Community.” The D.C. Environmental Justice (EJ) Program, along with the D.C. and Maryland chapters of the Sierra Club, invited chapter leaders, volunteers and community activists of many backgrounds to a diversity workshop designed to sharpen everyone’s relationship-building skills. Groups represented besides the Sierra Club included the Anacostia Watershed Corporation, Casey Trees Foundation, Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, Watts Branch Citizens Alliance and the River Terrace Community Association.

Facilitated by Bill McCabe and Linda Fennell, who are EJ organizers from Tennessee and the District of Columbia respectively, the workshop comprised three hands-on training sessions. Participants learned that perceptions are formed in nanoseconds by three inputs: the media, intuition and background. The participants then divided into groups for an interesting and thought-provoking exercise — identify five things needed for success in building a Sierra Club chapter in Cuba. Although the exercise was brief, the participants learned that they should never assume that communities are uninformed about the issues that most affect them and that communication and respect are the key to building diverse and lasting relationships.

Another seminar reminded everyone that building relationships is more than just grassroots organizing. Community builders transform themselves and their communities by, first, discovering allies as they seek common interests and new

ways to work with other people and groups, including those who may at first seem “unlikely”; second, creating new social arrangements – such as support circles and citizen advocacy for excluded people – to make up for what emerges from these discussions as missing; and, third, waking up to the interconnections among various attempts to build community and look for ways to strengthen other initiatives.

When invited into a community that has been targeted by polluting industries, the Sierra Club’s National EJ Grassroots Organizing Program provides organizing assistance and advises following the lead of the community members as they define the agenda and build self-reliance. “We will not be present to persuade the community to work on ‘our’ issues, but rather provide support to the community as it seeks to define its own issues and lead its own campaign,” state the guidelines for the program.

As an example, Linda Fennell told the David-and-Goliath story of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) campaign in Hyattsville, Maryland. LNG is a hazardous substance that can produce a cloud of combustible vapor if accidentally released into the regular atmosphere; if it interacts with electrical wire or heat, it can result in intense fires. Fennell and the Maryland Chapter have been supporting the residents of Hyattsville in stopping an inappropriate and dangerous development by the Washington Gas Company, which has requested a special exception to enable it to construct an LNG storage tank at the Chillum Natural Gas Facility at 2130 Chillum Road. Participants enjoyed the story and learned that storytelling and listening to stories are ways to find common ground and build relationships.

Working with communities such as the Avondale Community Association in Hyattsville has added one more ally to the Sierra Club portfolio but what happens after the campaign is over? Do we organize and then move on, letting

the relationship dissolve? As in any grassroots organizing, it is important to maintain relationships even when a campaign has ended. And to build relationships, the best advice is to attend community meetings and listen, listen and listen.

**A Will is a Way**  
Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others preserve the intricate balance of nature.

Contact:  
John Calaway  
Director of Gift Planning at  
(415) 977-5639 or e-mail:  
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

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# Volunteer Spotlight

## Susan Prolman



**1) Where are you from originally, where did you go to school? What degree did you get?** I'm from Nashua, N.H. I went to Nashua High School, Vassar College and Georgetown University Law Center.

**2) Do you currently work in the environmental field? If not, how did you end up volunteering in this field?** I am the Washington Representative for the Union of Concerned Scientists' Food and Environment Program. My work with the D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club, however, is strictly on my own time as a volunteer.

**3) In what areas have you been most involved? What are your particular interests?** This is my second year of organizing the D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club's True Cost of Food Campaign. This campaign is a project of the Sierra Club's Sustainable Consumption Committee. The campaign's goal is to let environmentalists know that they can have a significant positive impact by choosing foods more thoughtfully. We ask Sierra Club members and others, whenever possible, to eat a plant-based diet, organic foods, and locally produced foods. Working cooperatively with the Potomac Chapter's True Cost of Food Campaign, the D.C. Chapter sponsors monthly outings to restaurants that support a more sustainable approach to food. We have also toured a lo-

cal sustainable farm and have held cooking demonstrations.

**4) In your opinion, how has the Sierra Club been effective? What would you say have been the most significant accomplishments?** Participation in the True Cost of Foods events has grown, with events now regularly attracting 20 to 35 people. This positive reception has been quite inspiring.

**5) What words of advice would you give to someone looking to get involved?** The D.C. Chapter is always looking for enthusiastic people to help with our campaigns. Please do join us!

**6) What's in your DVD player?** Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

**7) What are your television favorites?** Lost

**8) What was the last movie you saw?** Tsotsi

**9) What's your favorite Web site?** VegDC.com

**10) What's your dream job?** Working to educate Americans about the problems with factory farms, including animal cruelty, environmental degradation, poor treatment of workers and harm to rural America.

## Dave Kessler



**1) Where are you from originally, where did you go to school?** I am originally from Westfield, N.J. I am a graduate of Drew University with a B.A. in History and Art.

**2) Do you currently work in the environmental field?** I was an intern with the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (minority side) last fall. I have an interest in climate change. The public has to pay more attention to this problem. If we fail to make serious our efforts to slow its progression, what will our children inherit?

**3) How long have you been involved with the Sierra Club? What got you involved?** I've been volunteering with the D.C. Chapter's Energy-Climate Action Team (E-CAT) since November 2005. One evening I was walking past the D.C. legislative office and I saw some people in the board room. I stopped in and asked them how to get involved with the Sierra Club. They gave me some contacts, and within two weeks I was working on the campaign that I am now helping to manage.

**4) In what areas have you been most involved? What are your particular interests?** In organizing much of the E-CAT campaign, I have arranged meetings with the developers and worked with volunteers to create a viable and practical strategy to promote energy efficiency. I also maintain a blog as an educational and informative

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Clayton Wilkerson

component of our campaign.

**5) What words of advice would you give to someone looking to get involved?** Do not let shyness inhibit you from asking others how to get involved. The worst thing you can do is to miss an opportunity to help your community and gain valuable experience in campaigning and public outreach. Finally, it is fun and you will meet great people and make lasting friendships.

**6) What's in your DVD player?** Napoleon Dynamite, The Chappelle Show (Season Two) and Hotel Rwanda

**7) What are your television favorites?** The Simple Life, C-SPAN's Washington Journal and Major League Baseball

**8) What was the last movie you saw?** Thank You for Smoking

**9) If you could be any superhero, who would you be?** President William Jefferson Clinton, because he is brilliant and admirable

**10) Pick three people, living or dead, who you think would make the most fascinating dinner guests imaginable.** C-SPAN's Brian Lamb, Paris Hilton and Che Guevara.

**11) What's something you've always wanted to do but haven't yet tried?** White-water rafting.

**12) What's your favorite season?** Spring-time, because everything comes to life.

**13) What's your dream job?** To work for an organization that promotes a cause which benefits mankind with others who are passionate about what they do.



**1) Where are you from originally? Where did you go to school?** I am from a small town in eastern North Carolina, New Bern, N.C. I went to school at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C. My degree was a B.S. in Political Science with an Earth, Marine and Atmosphere concentration.

**2) Do you currently work in the environmental field? If not, how did you end up volunteering in this field?** I do not currently work in the environmental field as I have been with IBM for five years this May. I volunteered in this field because I did not think that my job in computers was making a difference to the environment—an environment that I want to make sure is around for my nieces and nephews to enjoy in the decades to come.

**3) How long have you been involved with the Sierra Club? What got you involved?** I started getting involved both with the Sierra Club and the D.C. Chapter in February 2006.

**4) In what areas have you been most involved? What are your particular interests?** I have been most involved in the volunteer night held each month because every time I see results right away. I always try to bring along at least one friend who either has an interest in joining or wants to help with a worthy cause.

**5) In your opinion, how has the Sierra Club been effective? What would you say have been the most significant accomplishments?** I believe the Sierra Club has been effective because it mobilizes the grass roots in an effort to change elected officials' opinions and local opinion. The club's most significant accomplishment is getting people to think about the future environment and what they want to leave for the next generation.

**6) What words of advice would you give to someone looking to get involved?** Bring a friend the first time you come to a chapter event. That way you are more likely to feel comfortable and to come back. The added bonus is that your friend might join along with you.

**7) Who's your greatest influence?** My parents. They showed me that no matter what you have in life, your main goal is to be happy.

**8) Pick three people, living or dead, who you think would make the most fascinating dinner guests imaginable. What would you serve?** George Washington, Jesus and Bette Midler. I would serve salad, salmon, bread and red wine.

**9) What's your favorite season?** Winter

**10) What kind of plant would you be?** Redwood tree

**11) What's your dream job?** To write travel books

## GU Boathouse

*Continued from page 4*

and location for the private facility in terms of the immediate and future “program needs” of the GU rowing crews. Due to the “encumbered” location of the facility in a bottleneck area of a popular, public recreational and commuter corridor, the public would not be invited to share the space, nor would the growing high school rowing crews have access to it.

***And yet, the EA claims that the project “will beautify and increase public access to that area....”***

Note that the public would only be allowed to walk down to the river’s edge and around the building. No trees or bushes or animals or wetlands would get in the way—only an elegant 21st century McMansion almost 300 feet long.

If you believe the plan may cause “*significant impacts*” to the park, the CCT, the Potomac Gorge, the canal embankment, the river, and the human environment, from the construction, maintenance and servicing of the \$15-\$17 million structure, and if you believe there may be “*alternative locations, sizes and uses*” for a GU boathouse (on wider, more accessible, degraded land outside the C&O Canal National Historical Park at 34th and K/Water Streets, for example, next to the other private, George Washington collegiate boathouse proposed for our waterfront, or better yet, a Georgetown “universal” boathouse at the same location, paid for

by the universities and shared by everyone), please send the following message to the NPS by June 15:

“The National Park Service should conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement for the enormous Georgetown University boathouse that will:

1. Provide further analysis of the environmental consequences to the park from the proposal; and
2. Take a truly hard look at the alternative locations, sizes and uses for the private facility outside the park.

A better boathouse plan is possible that will both protect the C&O Canal National Historical Park—a national, regional and local treasure—and provide boating opportunities for collegiate, high school and public boating programs.”

Submit your comments on the EA for the GU boathouse proposal as follows:

By mail:

Mr. Kevin Brandt, Superintendent  
C&O Canal National Historical Park  
1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100  
Hagerstown, Md. 21742

By fax: 301-739-5275

By e-mail: Link from [www.savethecanal.org](http://www.savethecanal.org) to the EA and website for submitting comments.

## Bike Ride

*Continued from page 6*

suburban and exurban highway proposals that would only drive sprawl and draw resources from the city. Ralph Garboushian pointed out nearby parkland on Kingman Island, which the Sierra Club once had to fight to save from development as an amusement park, and the Pepco power plant. For years the outdated Pepco plant polluted the River Terrace neighborhood and other neighborhoods until the Sierra Club won a fight to have its use limited, sparing neighbors from excessive pollution.

In Anacostia Park, riders experienced the good, in the absolutely beautiful riverfront park; the bad, in the

“unfinished” sections of the trail and the lack of a decent railroad crossing; and the ugly, at the 11th Street bridge. Before going back across the river, tour participants learned of the city’s plans to draw more automobile traffic through the city by reconfiguring the bridges, then saw first-hand how woefully inadequate the current bridge is for pedestrians and cyclists.

Covering about eight miles in a leisurely two hours, tour participants of all cycling levels enjoyed the trip. Almost every participant experienced some part of the city they hadn’t even known about before, and even long-time Transportation Committee members found

it quite useful to see on the ground the areas and projects they spend so much time working on. The next cycling and walking tours are listed in the calendar, and anyone interested in planning future tours is invited to join the Transportation Committee.



## Cruelty-Free Eggs

*Continued from page 5*

care is given. Sick and dead birds are common sights inside battery cages. Approximately 300 million hens are raised in battery cages in this country each year.

Because these operations crowd large numbers of animals into a small area – often millions of birds at a single egg-producing concentrated animal feeding operation – they produce a massive amount of manure and other animal waste. This manure frequently leaks, spills, or runs off into ground and surface water, killing fish and other aquatic life and contaminating drinking water supplies. These operations also produce dangerous amounts of ammonia and other gases that pollute the air.

The Humane Society of the United States, a D.C.-based nonprofit organization, recently instituted a successful campaign to encourage cage-free egg production as an alternative to battery cages. Cage-free facilities house roughly 20,000 hens on the floor of the shed, where the birds can walk, stretch their wings and engage in other natural

behaviors.

Moving the animals from stacked cages to the floor greatly reduces the density at these facilities, with cage-free sheds accommodating only around one-quarter the number of hens. Lowering the density of animals at egg-producing operations is an important step for the environment, as less animal waste is produced in the same amount of space, which reduces potential water, air, and soil pollution problems. Cage-free egg facilities, however, are still concentrated animal feeding operations that raise environmental concerns.

As they become aware of these problems, more and more educated consumers opt to avoid eggs altogether. Others prefer to support local producers at area farmers markets who offer eggs from pasture-raised hens.

In response to student demand, a growing number of colleges around the nation have stopped buying battery-cage eggs. One of the first in the nation to adopt a cage-free egg policy was the District's own George Wash-

ington University, followed soon after by Georgetown University, Georgetown University Law Center, American University, Washington College of Law and Gallaudet University.

Several grocery chains, including Whole Foods Market, sell only cage-free eggs. Trader Joe's recently converted all of its store-brand eggs to cage free. Businesses are also adopting cage-free egg policies. In April, AOL, based in Dulles, Va., announced it would serve only eggs from cage-free hens in its cafeteria.

Although demand for eggs raised in cage-free facilities is growing fast, these eggs still represent only a small segment of the market. One barrier is expense. Cage-free eggs can cost as little as 25 percent or as much as 100 percent more than battery-cage eggs. Yet, as U.S. consumers learn about battery cages, the push for more humane and more environmentally sustainable alternatives is gathering momentum.

*Susan Prolman is director of the D.C. True Cost of Food Campaign.*

## Metro Branch Trail

*Continued from page 6*

Yet, so far, trail users encounter so many discontinuities and major obstructions that the trail is nowhere near achieving its goals of serving as a practical alternative to a polluting automotive commute or as a recreational facility connecting inner city residents with the abundant trail systems in Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

To date only a fraction of the MBT has been completed and several major political as well as physical obstacles threaten its usefulness. The original Takoma Small Area Plan indicated the MBT would take a route along the Red line tracks, over busy Piney Branch Road, and over the congested five-road intersection at the Takoma Metro Station on an overhead bike path similar to the one now built next to the New York Avenue Metro Station. The bridge over Piney Branch has met political opposition, and residential development has necessitated a circuitous rerouting of the trail away from the five-road intersection and the Metro tracks.

An overpass over Riggs Road is required for safety. This is being contested by the National Park Service on the basis that a stand of scrub trees would be affected. Without the

overpass, traffic will present a major safety concern, will be bottled up on an already congested road, and will discourage cyclists from using the trail.

With gasoline prices rising, people are starting to reach for their bicycles and one would have hoped that by now the MBT would be ready to help them get to work in this way. We are dealing with a vicious circle. Unless there are many people on bicycles we lose in the political process. But to get the average person on a bicycle, he or she must feel comfortable, which means being free from cars zipping past as they ride. So a safe path is crucial.

We are grateful for the help we have received from Councilmember Vincent B. Orange (D-Ward 5) and hope that Councilmember Adrian Fenty (D-Ward 4) will make the same effort in his ward. But surely our elected officials can do more to motivate DDOT and other responsible parties to finish this project in a timely manner. We ask our members to voice support for the MBT to either or both of these mayoral candidates.

## Announcements

# The Anacostia

Waterfront Corporation

JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION OF  
THE GROUNDBREAKING

Marvin Gaye Park Trail

June 24, 2006\*

Kick-off Parade: 10:30 am

Beginning at Watts Branch Recreation  
Center

6201 Banks St. N.E.

Groundbreaking Ceremony: 12:00 noon

Heritage Green

Corner of Division Ave. N.E. and Foote St.  
N.E.

For more information,  
visit [www.anacostiawaterfront.net](http://www.anacostiawaterfront.net)  
or call Howard Ways at 202-406-4040

Sponsoring Organizations:

Anacostia Waterfront Corporation

Department of Parks and Recreation

District Department of Transportation

Washington Parks and People

Watts Branch Community Alliance

\* Rain or Shine

## Give to the D.C. Chapter – It Needs You!

Every year in March, the national Sierra Club gives the local chapters a “window” in which to make a direct mail appeal to their members to support the vital work being done by the chapter. This year, the D.C. Chapter had an overflowing crowd of volunteers to get the mailing out in record time. Since that great start, the response has been equally gratifying—we’ve already heard from 66 people and received over \$4,300. That’s a great start and invaluable assistance, but we need more. We really need to hear from every one of you. Our chapter has over 3,000 members. If each of you gives only \$10, we could raise \$30,000 for our work!

### What Happens to Your Money

The chapter and its activities grow every year and in order to keep up with our goals, we have invested in part-time chapter staff. The decision to take on that financial responsibility was a major challenge to the chapter, but we believe it has proved well worthwhile. Since last fall, when we hired our new staff assistant, Joanna Winchester, our activity level has gone up markedly. Joanna has done a marvelous job in terms of getting volunteers in touch with conservation leaders, helping our equally marvelous membership chair, Chasta Piatakovas, put together an amazing number of events and activities, and just generally keeping the chapter running on an even keel.

The March Window letter and this newsletter detail many of the chapter’s actions and triumphs from helping to establish the Metro Riders Advisory Council, to supporting recycling enforcement, to setting up our Energy-Climate Action Team (E-CAT). All of those activities have benefited from the strong support of our part-time staff person. Now we’d like to move to a full-time staff person, hoping for an even greater increase in chapter activity, and we need your help! We are looking at many sources of added funding, including grants, but our best resource is you, our members. As your treasurer, I urge each of you to respond to your March Window letter and send what you can to help the chapter move forward.

Remember! Our chapter has over 3,000 members. If each of you gives only \$10, we could raise \$30,000 for this new staff person and support our many activities aimed at putting our message across to government officials, other groups and individuals alike! If you can’t find your envelope, just make out the check to “Sierra Club—D.C. Chapter,” and mail it to Karen Cordry, 10705 Torrance Dr., Silver Spring, Md. 20902. THANKS!



## D.C. Sierra Club Wish List

Many of our supporters want to get involved, but aren't sure how to fit their support for the environment into an already too-busy schedule. Wouldn't you like an easy, but vitally important, way to show your support for the D.C. Chapter beyond a financial contribution? Here's your chance! We have opportunities here from large to small – any and all will go a long way toward helping us work to improve the District's environment and quality of life. Look over these creative ideas and look forward to seeing your name listed in the next edition of the *Capital Sierran* and on our website at [www.dc.sierraclub.org](http://www.dc.sierraclub.org):

- Office supplies (from colored copy paper to a desk or bookcase, we'll take working-condition, used or new)
- Gift certificate to organizational/shelving supply store
- Portable stereo/boom box
- Digital camera
- Mini-digital video camera
- Projector and/or screen (must work with laptops and DVDs)
- Scanner
- Storage space
- Software – Adobe Acrobat and/or Adobe Creative Suite (InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator); fundraising/donor tracking software.
- Underwrite an edition of the *Capital Sierran* (printing and distribution costs)
- Underwrite the cost of printing conservation campaign materials
- Used car or Zipcar/Flexcar membership to help organizers cart around tabling and/or event materials; garage parking space
- Underwrite the cost of ad space in local newspapers
- Underwrite an event – from paying for refreshments at a house party to underwriting our Holiday Party. This would be a great help!

Please contact Joanna Winchester, D.C. Chapter assistant, at [joanna.winchester@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:joanna.winchester@dc.sierraclub.org) or 202-543-0552, to discuss our current needs and learn more about how you can get involved.

## New City Center

*Continued from page 8*

devote some of their time to promoting energy efficiency in their local schools, community centers, places of worship and community associations. The Sierra Club will make information on energy efficiency and climate protection available to those involved in the outreach.

Don't forget to write a letter to Hines asking it to clarify its plans for energy efficiency in the redevelopment of the old convention center site. All letters should be addressed to Dawn C.

Marcus, Communications Manager, Hines, 555 13<sup>th</sup> St. N.W., Suite 1020 East, Washington, D.C. 20004, 202-347-6337, [hines-smith@hines.com](mailto:hines-smith@hines.com). If you have any questions regarding what to include in the letter or for more information on this campaign, please contact me at [Kessler862@yahoo.com](mailto:Kessler862@yahoo.com). We also maintain a blog which can be accessed at <http://e-catdc.blogspot.com>.

Together we can make a difference, but without your help we can't.



## Tráiganos Sus Ambiciones

¿Por qué no usar sus conocimientos bilingües escribiendo para el *Capital Sierran*? Si así lo hace, tendrá la oportunidad de escribir o traducir artículos sobre temas medioambientales acerca de la comunidad hispana.

La comunidad enfrenta un peligro desproporcionado. Estudios demuestran que demasiadas comunidades hispanas están situadas en las áreas más contaminadas de las ciudades. Tres de cada cinco latinos viven en comunidades cercanas a lugares tóxicos. El 80% de los latinos vive en los condados con el peor aire del país. Cuanto menos una persona habla inglés, más vulnerable es a las consecuencias de las injusticias medioambientales.

Esta es una oportunidad de utilizar sus experiencias para ayudar a una comunidad olvidada en D.C. Si tiene tiempo para ofrecer su ayuda, por favor mándenos un e-mail a: [washingtondc.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:washingtondc.chapter@sierraclub.org).

## 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.

### The Hike Series

**Change of Seasons Hikes** use the C&O Canal towpath and other trails along the Potomac River to explore what happens to local flora and fauna as we move from one season to the next.

**Conservation Hikes** are generally slow-paced, family-friendly walks of 3-6 mi., rated A or B, with an emphasis on education. They usually focus on the natural history and conservation problems of the areas they explore. Sometimes a local expert accompanies the MWROP leader.

**Fairfax County Cross County Trail (CCT)** Hikes are one-way outings covering the just-about-finished trail's 40-plus mi. between the Occoquan River and the Potomac River.

**Get to Know D.C.** hikes are educational/recreational outings open to all but aimed chiefly at newcomers to hiking or the metro area. They focus on selected areas and combine exercise with brief, information-enhanced stops, often along interesting but little-known routes.

**Sat. June 3. Rated A. Potomac Heritage Trail Hike** in conjunction with PHT National Trails Day Outdoor Expo. We'll help celebrate National Trails Day by doing a 6-8-mi. section of the trail in Loudoun Co., using as our base the new Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park, which is the expo location. Highlights will include the new riverfront park along both the Potomac River and Goose Creek, new Bles Park at Broad Run, and time to enjoy the expo festivities. To carpool, meet either at 8:30 a.m. at the Vienna Metro Station (north parking lot near sidewalk) or at 9:30 a.m. at the Dulles Town Center Hecht's (front lot off of City Center Blvd., in Sterling, Va.). Joint event with AMC/DC. Leaders: Glenn Gillis 703-430-0568 and Paul Elliott 703-430-0568.

**Sat. June 3. Not Rated. Seneca Creek Cleanup Canoe Scouting Trip.** First of two outings to prepare for actual cleanup (see June 17 listing). Leader: Jim Finucane 301-365-3485 (before 9 p.m.).

**Sun. June 4. Rated B. C&O Canal Towpath Hike plus Carderock Picnic.** Out-and-back hike of up to 10 mi. starting at 9:30 a.m. at Carderock, heading toward Great Falls, and turning around to finish by noon (choose your own pace and distance), followed by optional potluck picnic and cookout at noon to celebrate One Day Hike's 33rd year. Call for details, driving directions, or if carless. Leaders: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351 and Mike Darzi 301-593-4551 or [mike\\_darzi@ssaihq.com](mailto:mike_darzi@ssaihq.com).

**Sun. June 4. Rated B. Rock Creek Park (Get to Know D.C. Series).** Explore the beauty of Rock Creek Park in the spring. Meet at 1 p.m. at the Rock Creek Nature Center (Military Road and Oregon Ave. N.W.). Bring water and a snack. Kids who can walk 7+ miles on relatively level terrain are welcome. Leader: Jim Finucane 301-365-3485 (before 9 p.m.).

**Sat. June 10. Not Rated. Seneca Creek Cleanup Canoe Scouting Trip.** Second outing to prepare for actual cleanup (see June 17 listing). Leader: Jim Finucane 301-365-3485 (before 9 p.m.).

**Sat. June 10. Rated B. Fairfax County Cross County Trail Hike #6.** One-way 7.5 mi. hike in Lorton/Springfield area consisting of 4.5 mi. on newly opened Laurel Hill Scenic Greenway Trail from Occoquan River to Wadebrook Terrace, and 3 mi. along parkland-encased Pohick Valley Stream Park to Fairfax County Pkwy. Bring lunch and water. Car shuttle required. Limited to 20 people. Joint event with PATC. Leaders: Ray Evert 703-893-3792 (between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.) or [hikerdude22@msn.com](mailto:hikerdude22@msn.com) and Henri Comeau 703-451-7965 or [HenriComeau@aol.com](mailto:HenriComeau@aol.com).

**Sat. June 10. Rated B. A Later Change-of-Seasons Hike.** This reprise of the May 13 outing is likely to feature even more floral, avian, insectile, and mammalian variety as we do a spritely 10-mi. out-and-back with frequent pauses on riverside trails and the C&O Canal towpath. We'll take a leisurely lunch break on riverbank rocks (bring food!). Youngsters are welcome, as are good dogs bringing good owners, subject to leash laws and leader's approval in advance. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Minnehaha Bridge in Glen Echo Park's parking lot, near Clara Barton House, 2 mi. inside the Beltway where Goldsboro Rd. meets MacArthur Blvd., in Bethesda, Md. Leader: Dave Burd [dburd301@netzero.com](mailto:dburd301@netzero.com) or 703-998-9390.

**Sun. June 11. Rated D. MWROP Book Club Hike.** On this 8-mi. walk from Sky Meadows State Park to the AT and back along the new Ambassador Whitehouse Trail, we'll discuss Jon Krakauer's "Into the Wild." Afterward, we'll have dinner and more discussion. Leaders: Marjorie Richman 301-320-5509 and Christine Ford 703-425-6899 (before 9 p.m.).

**Sat. June 17. Rated D. Gambrill State Park.** We'll seek panoramic views in all directions during a mostly circuitous hike of 7 mi., while walking up and down (about 3,000 ft. total) various hills, including the high point of High Knob. To carpool, meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station's Park&Ride back lot. Bring water and food. Leaders: Mike Fischetti 703-771-8559 and Mike Darzi 301-593-4551 or [mike\\_darzi@ssaihq.com](mailto:mike_darzi@ssaihq.com).

**Sat. June 17. Rated E. Big Schloss/Great North Mtn.** Moderate 12-mi. circuit hike in the GWNF on the Va./W.Va. border. First 4 miles fairly gentle uphill, next part along the ridge, then short but steep climb to the top of the schloss itself. Gorgeous view from the top. Last 2 mi. steeper downhill. Meet at 7:30 a.m. Call for meeting place. Leader: Sue Auerbach 703-931-2728.

**Sat. June 17. Not Rated. 28th Annual Seneca Creek Cleanup—by Canoe.** Join Sierrans and volunteers from other environmental organizations to clean up Seneca Creek—in Seneca Creek State Park—from near Montgomery Village to the mouth of the Seneca Creek on the Potomac River. We will cut out major logs, take out smaller branches, and de-trash this beautiful stretch of the full-of-wildlife creek to make it canoe ac-

cessible. A picnic celebration will follow. Leader: Jim Finucane 301-365-3485 (before 9 p.m.).

**Sun. June 18. Rated E. Bull Run Mtns. Conservation Hike.** Scenic 10.5-mi. route covers most trails in Bull Run Mtns. Natural Area, including ruins, cemetery, quarry trench that saw a Civil War engagement, flora, fauna and bluffs offering fine views. As we climb some 1,500 ft., we'll watch for snakes in one of the few breeding areas for rattlers east of the Blue Ridge, and we'll learn how they and other indigenous life are protected. (Absolutely no dogs allowed in preserve.) Leader: Larry Broadwell 301-215-7135.

**Tue. June 20. Rated H. Runkles Gap, South Massanutten Mtn.** Features ascent of pretty Morgan Run and return via Fridley Gap on Massanutten South and Boone Run Trails. About 15.4 mi., 3,300 ft. climb. Leader: Chris Nolen 301-469-8931 or [chrishiker@erols.com](mailto:chrishiker@erols.com).

**Sat. June 24. Rated C (with D option). AT between Gathland State Park and Ed Garvey Shelter, with optional side trip to Weverton Cliffs.** Moderately paced, out-and-back ridge-top hike of 7.6 mi. and 1,500 ft. of elev. change (add in vista-rich side trip for 12 mi. and 2,000 ft. total), with leisurely lunch at outhouse-equipped shelter, where we'll use the Roberto Reyes benches, water the memorial trees and tell RR stories. Optional posthike dinner at Jennifer's restaurant in Frederick to discuss local environmental and other issues. To carpool, meet at 9 a.m. at Montgomery Mall on Democracy Blvd., in the Hecht Company parking area beneath the deck. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351; spiritual adviser: Maggie Chan.

**Sat. June 24. Rated E. Conestoga Trail.** Challenging 11-mi. hike with 3,000 ft. of elev. change. Very scenic area of Pennsylvania, with spectacular views of Susquehanna River, wooded ravines, streams, waterfalls, and a cave. Bring swimwear and towel for cool-off in streams along the trail (optional). Call for details. Leader: Russ Norfleet 703-294-6068.

**Sun. June 25. Rated E. Fast Conservation Hike: High Points of the Catoctins.** This eye-opening 10-mi. circuit is both challenging (over 3,000 ft. of elev. change on steep, rough terrain) and a learning experience. Tough climbs to rock outcrops offer fine vistas, a waterfall and a not-too-near approach to the sanctum of Camp David. En route, we'll note how charcoal- and iron-making begun in the 1700s changed the land, how the land has recovered, and how encroaching suburbia (even here) affects the environment. Limited to 12 fit people. Call for details. Leader: Larry Broadwell 301-215-7135.

**Tue. June 27. Rated H. SNP: Piney Branch.** Enjoy two great valley trails. Ascend Thornton and Hull School Trails, circle around on AT, and return down full length of Piney Branch Trail, with option to swim. About 16 mi. and 3,500 ft. of climb. Leader: Chris Nolen 301-469-8931 or [chrishiker@erols.com](mailto:chrishiker@erols.com).

### Hike Rating System

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

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



# Calendar

## D.C. Chapter and Related Events

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

### Mon. June 12

Second Monday Happy Hour (\$) 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. El Tamarindo, 7331 Georgia Ave. N.W. (at Georgia & Geranium). Metro: Georgia Ave. – Petworth (Green Line) or 60/62/66/68, 70/71, H8. Contact Chasta Piatakovas at [nkaos@aol.com](mailto:nkaos@aol.com) or 202-320-1205.

### Tue. June 13

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

### Tue. June 21

Kayaking on the Potomac River (\$) 6:30 p.m. RSVP. Jack's Boathouse, 3500 K St. N.W. Metrobus: 32/34/36, Circulator. Contact Chasta Piatakovas at [nkaos@aol.com](mailto:nkaos@aol.com) or 202-320-1205.

### Sat. June 24

Shaw, Columbia Heights and Petworth Walking Tour. RSVP for start time. African-American Civil War Memorial, 10th & U Streets N.W. Metro: U St./African-American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo (Green Line) or 66/68, 90/92/93/96/98, X3. Contact Chris Carney at [chris.carney@sierraclub.org](mailto:chris.carney@sierraclub.org) or 202-237-0754.

### Thu. June 29

True Cost of Food Campaign Restaurant Outing (\$) 6:30 p.m. RSVP. Soul Vegetarian, 2606 Georgia Ave. N.W. Metrobus: 70/71. Contact Susan Prolman at [prolmans@aol.com](mailto:prolmans@aol.com) or 202-667-1162.

### Mon. July 10

Second Monday Happy Hour (\$) 5:30 p.m. RSVP. Marty's, 527 Eighth St. N.E. Metro: Eastern Market (Blue/Orange Line) or 30/32/34/35/36, 90/92/93, N22. Contact Chasta Piatakovas at [nkaos@aol.com](mailto:nkaos@aol.com) or 202-320-1205.

### Tue. July 11

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

### Thu. July 13

Executive Committee Meeting. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station (Red Line) or D6, Circulator. Contact Jason Broehm at [Jason\\_broehm@earthlink.net](mailto:Jason_broehm@earthlink.net) or 202-299-0745.

### Wed. July 19

Sierra Club 101. 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. RSVP. Sierra Club Legislative Office, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station (Red Line) or D6, Circulator. Contact Chris Carney at [chris.carney@sierraclub.org](mailto:chris.carney@sierraclub.org) or 202-281-9565.

### Thu. July 27

True Cost of Food Campaign Restaurant Outing. 6:30 p.m. (\$) RSVP. Amma Vegetarian Kitchen, 344-A Maple Ave. East (Route 123), Vienna, Va. Contact Susan Prolman at [prolmans@aol.com](mailto:prolmans@aol.com) or 202-667-1162.

### Sat. July 29

Metropolitan Branch Trail Bike Tour. RSVP for start time. First Street and Massachusetts Ave. N.E. Metro: Union Station (Red Line) or D6, Circulator. Contact Chris Carney at [chris.carney@sierraclub.org](mailto:chris.carney@sierraclub.org) or 202-237-0754.

### Tue. Aug. 8

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

### Thu. Aug. 10

Executive Committee Meeting. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station (Red Line) or D6, Circulator. Contact

Jason Broehm at [Jason\\_broehm@earthlink.net](mailto:Jason_broehm@earthlink.net) or 202-299-0745.

### Mon. Aug. 14

Second Monday Happy Hour (\$) 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. 601 F St. N.W. Metro: Chinatown-Gallery Place (Red/ Green/Yellow Lines) or 70/71, Circulator. Contact Chasta Piatakovas at [nkaos@aol.com](mailto:nkaos@aol.com) or 202-320-1205.

### Thu. Aug. 24

True Cost of Food Campaign Restaurant Outing. (\$) 6:30 p.m. RSVP. Harmony Café, 3287 M St. N.W. Metrobus: G2. Contact Susan Prolman at [prolmans@aol.com](mailto:prolmans@aol.com) or 202-667-1162.

### Wed. Aug. 30

Membership Appreciation Day. 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. RSVP. The Reef, 2446 18th St. N.W. Metro: Woodley Park – Zoo/Adams Morgan (Red Line) or 90/92/96. Contact Chasta Piatakovas at [nkaos@aol.com](mailto:nkaos@aol.com) or 202-320-1205.

### Residential Lot for Sale in Local Ecovillage

1/3 acre FSBO in Loudoun Co., VA near Lovettsville. Water well & electric service installed; septic drainfield site pre-approved by county. Peaceful rolling hills, forest, and creeks. MARC train 10-min drive away. Part of new 180-acre green cohousing community requiring eco-friendly construction. 8 homes now built and occupied. Standard house plans available; custom designs also allowed. Lot price includes usage & shared ownership of over 100 acres of common land and forthcoming community house & swimming pool. \$143,700.

Info on this lot: contact Mike, [Opitz@macconnect.com](mailto:Opitz@macconnect.com), 301-962-5060

Info on the Ecovillage: [www.ecovillages.com](http://www.ecovillages.com)

Sierra Club members are 750,000 of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.



## WASHINGTON, D.C., CHAPTER DIRECTORY

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