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D.C. Parkland Under Threat

by Andrew Wolman

Jaws dropped all across the city this fall as people learned that Rep. Richard Pombo (R-Calif.) had proposed to sell D.C.'s beloved Roosevelt Island—a national park dedicated to Theodore Roosevelt, one of the country's first and greatest conservationists—to developers. Soon afterward, the proposal was shelved amid general uproar. But this worrisome episode serves to highlight a serious problem. The District's parklands, which are cherished by hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors, are under threat. Two areas in particular are in danger of being transferred to developers—the Poplar Point section of Anacostia Park and an environmentally important parcel of the C&O National Historical Park in Georgetown.

Poplar Point is a 149-acre parcel of undeveloped parkland located on the east side of the Anacostia waterfront, roughly opposite Federal Center Southeast and the Navy Yard. It is currently owned by the National Park Service (NPS), but legislation introduced earlier this year would have transferred the parcel to the District for use as a cultural park, with plans

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Rally signs at the ready on Roosevelt Island.

photo by Will Hirzy

New Riders Council Offers Members an Avenue to Strengthen Metro

by Dennis Jaffe

Sierra Club members and supporters of a strong local transit system have reason to be proud of the new Riders Advisory Council (RAC). Metro's Board of Directors established the panel, which was championed by board chairman Dana Kauffman of Fairfax, on September 22. Its mission will be to advise the transit agency's board and staff on how to improve service to customers.

Sierra Club's Role in the Creation

Sierra Club activists shaped the council's formation in many ways. Its creation follows a 10-month effort by Sierra Club volunteers throughout the region who sought to make Metro responsive to riders and open to the public. Last December, the D.C. Chapter's Transportation Committee launched its "10-Step Program for Metro Accountability" campaign. We held over 20 meetings with Metro

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D.C. Chapter Helps Chart New Course for the Sierra Club at Sierra Summit

by Jason Broehm

In the last five years, the Sierra Club and the environmental movement as a whole have faced major challenges in our efforts to make progress toward our vision of a cleaner and greener world. The Bush administration and Congress have thwarted most of our goals, and the federal courts have become more hostile toward citizen involvement in environmental protection. We have found ourselves largely trying to defend progress made in years past rather than achieving new victories.

In the wake of the disappointing 2004 election, top Sierra Club leaders did some serious thinking about what we as an organization could do to be most effective in the difficult political environment ahead. The initial brainstorming soon blossomed into an organization-wide dialogue at the grassroots level about how and where the club should focus our resources—money, staff and volunteers—in the next five years.

In the spring, the D.C. Chapter, like other chapters across the country, elected delegates to represent it at the Sierra Summit, the club's first-ever national convention and direction-setting process. In early summer, our chapter held a meeting at which we prioritized the issues we believed the club should work on and provided our chapter's five delegates with guidance for when they would represent our more than 3,000 members at the summit.

The months-long effort was dubbed "From Our Roots to the Summit," which accurately describes organizationally and metaphorically the process that began at the grassroots level and culminated in early September when thousands of Sierra Club members, including about 700 delegates, convened in San Francisco for the summit and made important decisions about the club's future.

At the summit's direction-setting sessions, our chapter delegates were assigned to different tables, each with about eight or nine delegates from across the country. During break-out sessions we discussed and deliberated in the small groups at our tables. Mine included delegates from California, Florida,

Wisconsin, Nebraska, Vermont, Oklahoma and Oregon, and we had lively exchanges. At each decision point, each delegate voted by pressing buttons on a wireless device so that the results could be tabulated and displayed almost instantaneously. At a couple of points during this very participatory and democratic process, members grabbed microphones and challenged the process from the floor. We worked through the issues they raised and were stronger for it in the end, I believe.

The timing of the summit, coming just about two weeks after Hurricane Katrina had devastated New Orleans and much of the Gulf Coast, played heavily into the way the meetings unfolded. For instance, we were treated to a rousing, inspirational and surprise keynote address from former vice president Al Gore, who ironically had originally been scheduled to be in New Orleans speaking at a conference of state insurance commissioners about hurricanes and global climate change. Second, the delegates chose as our first priority "Building a New Energy Future," a vision for switching to cleaner energy sources as a way to fight global climate change and its potentially devastating effects. Our second highest priority was "Building Vibrant, Healthy Communities," which rose in importance as delegates mulled over the possibilities for rebuilding New Orleans and other hurricane-ravaged coastal communities better than they were before the storm. Spontaneously, the club created a Gulf coast restoration fund to support the Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama chapters as they work with local communities to rebuild these areas, and by the end of the four-day summit had already raised about \$40,000 from the members in attendance.

The Sierra Summit and all of the grassroots discussions that led up to it were the Sierra Club at its best—democracy in action. The next step is to take the energy and inspiration we felt at the summit and spread the word among our membership and beyond to the general public, whose help we will need in order to make our vision a reality.

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Chapter Recognizes Local Environmental Leaders at Awards Dinner

by Chasta Piatakovas

The Washington, D.C., Chapter of the Sierra Club hosted its first awards dinner in a number of years on Sunday, October 2 at the Josephine Butler Parks Center in Northwest Washington. Andrew Altman, CEO of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation, delivered a keynote address describing his vision for a greener future for the Anacostia River and its adjoining neighborhoods.

Following dinner and Altman's address, the chapter presented its 2005 Environmental Leadership Awards to four individuals and a community group who had demonstrated leadership in advancing environmental protection in the District of Columbia.

The chapter gave awards to two chapter activists who have made important contributions on the Transportation Committee. Dennis Jaffe was recognized for leading the successful "Get Metrobus on the Map" campaign and for playing a key role in the chapter's ongoing "10 Steps to Metro Accountability" campaign, the cornerstone of which is a Riders Advisory Council (RAC), which was recently approved by the Metro Board of Directors. Melanie Mayock, a dedicated chapter volunteer and one-time regional Sierra Club employee, received an award in recognition of her work to advance both the club's efforts to fight sprawl by

improving regional land use and transportation planning and its campaign for dedicated funding for Metro.

Sally Strain, also a club member, received an award as a community activist for devoting considerable time and effort to building a coalition to oppose private development on environmentally and historically sensitive public parkland, including the C & O Canal National Historical Park, where Georgetown University has proposed to build a giant boathouse, and Whitehaven Park, part of which the Casey Foundation had intended to use for the construction of a mayoral mansion until the plan was scrapped.

The chapter presented an award to the Fort Davis/Fort Dupont Citizens' Task Force in the community activist category for the group's successful campaign to prevent construction of a gasoline station in their neighborhoods in Southeast D.C. Pastor Patrick Walker, Carolyn Hobbs, her daughter Tunisia, Henrietta Wright and Geraldine Washington accepted the award on behalf of the group.

Councilmember Phil Mendelson (D-At Large) received an award in recognition of his role as a preeminent governmental leader who has consistently promoted environmental protection and has been a strong ally of the Sierra Club for many years.

Letter to the Editor:

I protest the fact that Andrew Altman, former D.C. director of planning, was invited by the D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club [to give the keynote address at the awards dinner on October 2]. Mr. Altman was material in endorsing the Katz building that blocks the Metropolitan Branch Trail in Takoma Park, D.C., despite his knowledge of the situation.

As you are well aware, we are trying to have a bicycle trail built through the city with as few traffic crossings as possible.

Our hopes were dashed for the safe crossing of Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park, D.C. [by the Katz building]. When the plans to build an office building to block the trail became known, we

protested to the authorities. (See the article of September 12, 2002, in the Washington Post.) The planning office was well aware of our report on the concept plan. Although this plan had no legal status, it was approved by the D.C. Council. Instead of helping us, they pulled the rug from under us! We were summoned by the D.C. Office of Planning around September 2002 and were read our rights, so to speak. The director, Mr. Altman, was present in the building, but had somebody else read his verdict, so we could not defend ourselves.

Sincerely yours,
Paul Meijer

Paul Meijer is co-chair of the Coalition for the Metropolitan Branch Trail.

Brief Response from Jason Broehm, Chapter Chair:

The D.C. Chapter invited Mr. Altman, who was then CEO of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation, to speak at our awards dinner because we believed our members would be interested in hearing about his vision for the future of the neighborhoods along the Anacostia River. While we may not agree with every decision a public official makes, we believe that we need opportunities to listen to them and explain our views so that we may encourage them to make more favorable decisions in the future.

Chapter Leaders Give Sierra Club President Tour of D.C.

by Jason Broehm

In early October, members of the Washington, D.C., Chapter had an opportunity to meet with Lisa Renstrom, president of the Sierra Club, while she was in town for meetings. Several chapter leaders gave Renstrom and Bernie Zalaha, vice president for conservation, a tour highlighting some of the sites across the city where the chapter's conservation efforts have made an impact.

The tour began at Roosevelt Island, national parkland thought to be at risk at the time from a proposal to sell it that had been floated in Congress. From the Virginia side of the Potomac River nearby, Bob Morris pointed out the Georgetown waterfront and talked about Georgetown University's proposal to construct a massive boathouse on national parkland in the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

Next the group stopped at the CSX rail line in Southwest D.C., where Jim Dougherty described the chapter's efforts to pass and then defend a city law blocking CSX from shipping ultrahazardous cargo on the line, which passes within blocks of the Capitol.

At the bus stop outside the Stadium-Armory Metrorail station, Dennis Jaffe described the chapter's efforts to convince Metro to provide riders with bus maps and other information that would encourage them to use Metrobus.

The last stop on the tour was at Heritage and Kingman islands in the Anacostia River where years back the chapter had worked with the nearby community to halt the construction of a proposed amusement park.

Finally, the tour group joined other chapter leaders at a member's home for dinner and engaging discussions with Renstrom and Zalaha about the Sierra Club and its future direction.



Bob Morris points out the C&O Canal National Historical Park, which the chapter is working to protect from inappropriate boathouse development, during a chapter-led tour for Sierra Club president Lisa Renstrom.

photo by Jason Broehm



While the Clean Water Act has been instrumental in keeping millions of tons of sewage and toxic chemicals out of our waterways each year, we are still a long way from cleaning up ALL of the nation's water bodies. The goals of the Clean Water Act are still achievable — all that's missing is the will of our leaders to achieve them. We need to strengthen the enforcement of the Clean Water Act. And we could use your help to do it. Join the Sierra Club today.

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Recycling — A Fresh Look

by Brenda Moorman

If you are reading this column, you are probably already a committed recycler.

Recycling was one of the first issues to receive the attention of environmental groups but it is a campaign that requires constant nurturing. In decades past, people practiced more reuse and recycling but were motivated as much by frugality as environmental ideals. Milk and soft drinks came in returnable glass bottles and diapers were washed and reused. Every thrifty homemaker reused aluminum foil. Now, everything is disposable, making the need to recycle greater than ever.

A fresh way of looking at recycling is to consider the possible energy savings. Energy conservation is of growing importance and stands at the forefront

of the national agenda. Recycling can have a significant impact on energy conservation. If people understood the connections between their rising heating bills and their recyclable trash, recycling would receive a needed boost. For example, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, manufacturing using recycled aluminum cuts energy use by 96 percent compared to using new aluminum from virgin ore. (Remember that when you are tempted to toss that Coke can away at a sporting event.)

Here are a few facts that put the energy savings in perspective:

- Recycling a ton of glass is the equivalent of saving nine gallons of fuel oil.
- In 2000, the energy saved due to recycling was the equivalent of energy for six million homes; the projection for 2005 is nine million homes.
- Recycling two aluminum cans saves the same amount of energy it takes to power a personal computer for eight hours.

You may not need convincing, but maybe some of your friends and neighbors do, and certainly our public officials do. It is going to take all of us to make the case for recycling. To get involved, contact the D.C. Chapter Recycling Committee. We always need more volunteers to keep the campaign alive and thriving.

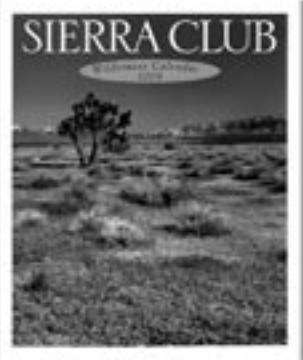
Don't Forget Your Calendars!

It's that time of year again—time to stock up on Sierra Club calendars! The best idea of all is to get your office in on the Sierra Club spirit. If your office buys calendars for the staff, why not ask your office manager if the staff can have the option of buying a Sierra Club calendar. In my small office alone, staff snapped up 15 calendars last year with no effort on my part beyond sending around a single e-mail.


Calendars will be available at the chapter's Christmas Party on December 7, or you can use the form below or contact Karen Cordry at karenc425@aol.com. Surround yourself with the Sierra Club next year!

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Sierra Club 2006 Engagement Calendar—Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding.



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Metro D.C. Building Environmental Community Campaign

by Chris Carney

How many times have you wished we had more activists? More people working on conservation issues? Well, we're working on it, and we can use your help. A major goal of the Building Environmental Community campaign is to increase the number of our neighbors who are engaged in conservation work—not just aware, but engaged. That means we have organizing to do. When asked for his secret to organizing, United Farm Workers leader Cesar Chavez famously said, "First you talk to one person, then you talk to another person, then you talk to another person...."

Sierra Club 101

D.C. Chapter leaders held a Sierra Club 101 over the summer. This program is geared to new activists. We talked about the history of the Sierra Club and our national, regional and local issues and actions. Afterward, we had hands-on activist training where everyone got to put their new skills into action.

One-on-One Outreach

If we're going to talk to our neighbors, we need to go find them. And D.C. Sierrans have talked with hundreds of D.C. residents face to face this year: door-to-door in neighborhoods like Eastern Market and Tenleytown, at Metrorail stations all over town, and at community events in Mount Pleasant, Adams Morgan, River Terrace and Brookland. These efforts generate critical grassroots support on local issues, particularly the campaigns to improve and expand Metro.

Sierra Club and Beer Night

Following the example of Sierra Club leaders in big cities around the country, D.C. Sierrans organized their first

Sierra Club and Beer Night. The idea is simple: if you want to get a lot of environmentalists together in a room to talk to each other, offer them free beer. In October, over 65 folks got together at Marx Café in Mount Pleasant to share pints of local brews and to become part of the mission to explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

What's Next?

2006 will feature more trainings like Sierra Club 101, more grassroots outreach and more social gatherings like the beer night. Want to get in on the action? Then contact Chris Carney at 202-237-0754 or Chris.Carney@SierraClub.org, or Ralph Garboushian at 202-547-3764 or RalphGarboushian@gmail.com. (*Watch for an announcement for the next Sierra Club and Beer Night in mid-January!*)



Over 65 members and interested folks gathered for fun and environmental trivia at the first Sierra Club and Beer event in Washington, D.C. Pictured are (above) Kelly Rand and Katrina Managan, (below) Deborah Katz and Lilli Ferguson, (left) Sherry Hao and Katrina Managan.



photos by Chris Carney

Riders Advisory Council

Continued from page 1

staff and individual board members. We took our message to the media so that the proposal could be opened up to the light of day.

The cornerstone of the campaign was getting an effective passengers' advisory committee established. After considerable effort, we succeeded in getting two especially ill-advised provisions eliminated. One would have barred RAC members from speaking about Metro issues to the public or the media without advance approval from Metro's board. Another would have shut down the panel after one year—despite applicants to serve on it being required to commit to three-year terms.

During Metro's 30-day public comment period, we handed out flyers to riders. More than 160 citizens, many of whom were Sierra Club members, made their voices heard by submitting individually written comments. And then the board, in a welcome development, decided to allow the RAC—not Metro's CEO—to lead the selection of staff who will assist the council. Without that change, the RAC would have been hampered by depending on staff who owed their jobs to Metro's CEO.

Staying Involved

Metro is a very good system. But it also has deficiencies

that do a disservice to riders. We believe the best way to improve Metro is to strengthen the voice of riders in influencing how the agency is run. An effective Riders Advisory Council

can lead to improved service, higher customer satisfaction and stronger public support for Metro funding. A more effective Metro means less traffic congestion and less air pollution.

Almost 1,000 citizens from the D.C. metro area applied for appointment to the 21-member council.

Metro is expected to appoint the members on December 15. The Riders Advisory Council will hold a public meeting each month at night. It may convene its first meeting in January. Among the issues likely to receive attention are overcrowded buses and trains, buses not running on schedule, safety, escalators out of service and poor signage.

It's up to the Metro Board of Directors to appoint individuals who will provide the kind of advice the agency needs, not the kind it wants. But, first, it's up to us to urge board members to live up to their obligation. To urge Metro's board to make strong appointments, visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/dc/sprawl/metro/metro-accountability.html>.

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

**REMIND METRO'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
METRO IS OUR TRANSIT SYSTEM
— THEY ARE ITS CUSTODIANS.**

New Political Committee

by Lisa Swanson

The strength of the Sierra Club is its membership of informed and committed activists. How environmental issues figure in the political choices people make is up to us. The goal of the newly formed 2006 Political Committee is to ensure that environmental issues are prominent in public debate among candidates, whether the subject is baseball, recycling, public transit, or the future of car-sharing and of a wild Klingle Valley.

The calendar has not yet turned to 2006, and petitions to file as candidates for election to the D.C. Council will not be available for months, but the primary season has begun in earnest. Political

aspirants have declared their intention to run, publicly or quietly, have printed brochures and stickers, and are out in the community seeking vocal and financial support.

Even before Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D) declared his intention not to seek a third term, contenders for his office were at the ready. Five people have publicly announced that they want the job. Current councilmembers Adrian Fenty, Linda Cropp and Vincent Orange, as well as Michael Brown and former telecom executive Marie Johns, showed up for the bright lights and microphones in the first public forum of the season, held on a surprisingly

early November 9. Others are rumored to be considering the race, including city manager Robert Bobb, and possible contenders who have taken preliminary steps but not said much publicly. At-large councilmember Phil Mendelson's term is up, and he wants to keep the job, but A. Scott Bolden, former Democratic Party leader, Abdul-Raheem Abdullah and Antonio Dominguez are interested too. Bolden has announced and already withdrawn his bid. David Catania's at-large term is up in 2006 though, as an Independent, he can skip the primary.

Declared candidates who move on create opportunities for others to take their places. Linda Cropp's mayoral run

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Political Committee

Continued from page 7

has attracted two council colleagues, Jack Evans and Kathy Patterson, to run for council chair (though because of scrutiny into Evans' financial dealings, his plans are on hold for a time), and other councilmembers may be interested too. The ambitions of Patterson and Orange create active races in wards 3 and 5, and Sharon Ambrose's decision to retire leaves an open seat in Ward 6.

As the electoral season proceeds, club members can make their presence felt by attending forums and other appearances by candidates and posing questions about the issues. As in past elections, we will evaluate candidates

by means of a questionnaire on issues important to our environmental agenda and through personal meetings to determine their strengths on our issues and as candidates. We will contribute money, our endorsement and, more important, our member volunteers to candidates we favor.

Ultimately, we want a mayor and city council in the District who recognize the importance of the environment to a healthy, livable city. To be more involved in the activities of the Political Committee, contact Lisa Swanson at melatar@yahoo.com or at 202-291-5972.



True Cost of Food Campaign: Java Green Restaurant

by Susan Prolman

The motto of Java Green is "Drink Green. Eat Green. Live Green." Java Green is a bustling vegetarian restaurant in downtown D.C. that is a model for environmentally conscious businesses around the country.

Owner D.J. Kim and the Java Green crew have done a lot to reduce the restaurant's environmental footprint. Java Green participates in the Clean Energy Partnership, so all of the restaurant's energy comes from wind power. (To learn more about how your business or home can switch to wind power, visit www.cleanenergypartnership.org.) Many of the items Java

Green offers are organic, including the French toast and pancakes that are available on Saturdays. Other items, such as the fresh berries, are produced by local farmers. In addition, the restaurant uses environmentally gentle cleansers, such as Seventh Generation dishwashing liquid.

D.J. believes that by providing a pleasant dining experience to mainstream customers, he can help to open hearts and minds to important environmental issues. He often has the opportunity to chat with customers about the environmental benefits of a plant-based diet rich in organic and locally produced foods. "Eating is a way people can start," he says, noting that roughly 80 percent of his customer base is not vegetarian.

D.J. also shares his experience of incorporating green practices at Java Green with people interested in opening their own green business or making their current business more environmentally friendly.

Java Green is one of many environmentally conscious restaurants that the Sierra Club visits as part of the True Cost of Food campaign. We'll return to Java Green on October 26, 2006. For other True Cost of Food restaurant visits, check out the calendar on page 17.

For more information on Java Green, go to www.javagreen.net.



photo by Susan Prolman

Java Green's D.J. Kim speaks at a Sierra Club True Cost of Food restaurant outing.

D.C. Parklands Threatened

Continued from page 1

calling for memorial gardens, a museum, affordable housing, and possibly a new soccer stadium for D.C. United. Environmental groups have supported this bill, which requires that at least 70 percent of the parcel be preserved by the city as parkland.

Before the land transfer bill could be voted on, however, Republican House members intervened with a new addition to the House Appropriations bill that would simply auction off Poplar Point to the highest bidder, thus scuttling the District's plans for a cultural park. According to Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D), the most likely end result if this new bill gets passed would be the construction of office buildings on the land.

Republican leaders have framed the proposed parkland sale as a means of raising money for rebuilding New Orleans. This is a clever political ploy—Washingtonians have already shown their desire to help out after the destruction by Hurricane Katrina. But there are other places to find that money. It would be ironic if the devastation of New Orleans, which was worsened by the wholesale destruction of Louisiana wetlands, was used as an excuse to build on waterfront parkland here in the District.

The park auction proposal is being opposed by the Sierra Club and other environmental and community organizations, as well as the mayor's office. As this newsletter goes to press, the bill is pending a vote by the House of Representatives. Reps. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) and Tom Davis (R-Va.) are fighting to get the D.C. parkland provisions removed from the bill. The Senate version does not currently mention auctioning off Poplar Point.

The other major issue now facing park activists is the proposed construction of a boathouse by Georgetown University (GU) on land that is cur-

rently part of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The proposed 20,000 square foot boathouse would be 50 feet tall, would include a 70-foot private dock, and would be located on an environmentally significant flood plain at the entrance to the Capital Crescent Trail. The project is being actively opposed by the D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The origins of the GU boathouse project lie in a land swap that the NPS agreed to several years ago. The university agreed to give the NPS a parcel of land that it owned upriver but was unable to build on for logistical and environmental reasons in exchange for a parcel of national parkland in Georgetown just upstream of Key Bridge. The swap was not widely noticed at the time, but as the university has made public its plans for the site, community groups have coalesced in demanding both that the

boathouse be located downriver on a less sensitive site and that the building's size be reduced.

The NPS is currently conducting an Environmental Assessment of the proposed boathouse, the results of which are expected to be issued any day now. The public will then be able to comment on the NPS's conclusions. If the NPS finds a significant environmental impact, it will be required to conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement.

If you would like to find out how you can get involved in helping to protect Washington's parkland, please contact the Sierra Club's D.C. chair, Jason Broehm, at 202-299-9745 or jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org.



photo by Will Hirzy

Protesters participate in the rally at Roosevelt Island against the proposed sale of parklands.

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MWROP Evolves Around Outings

by Paul Elliott

As 2005 grows short, the Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP—pronounced “em-rop”) can collectively look back on having had a very successful year—or so I claim. In terms of measurable results, MWROP’s 45 or so leaders conducted roughly 250 group outings, which attracted between 3,500 and 4,000 participants. We’re still compiling the figures, but, overall, MWROP seems to have been more active in 2005 than in previous years. Also, the organization’s safety record remained basically unsullied, with the only significant injury being a tumble on ice that cut the tumbler’s lip.

In terms of intangible results (and drawing, too, on anecdotal evidence), I feel sure that MWROP’s hikes and other outings generated considerable goodwill not only for MWROP itself but also for the Sierra Club and its three client chapters—the New Columbia, Maryland and Virginia chapters. We found that new hikes in particular tended to attract a lot of people. And first-time hikers often became second- and third-time hikers, and some returned with friends in tow.

I am also certain that our outings generally contributed to increased public awareness of both the natural and human history of the metro area and the environmental challenges that continue to bedevil it. That happened because, with encouragement from the three chapters, more of our leaders opted to add an educational dimension—and occasionally a guest expert—to their outings.

As a result, the tone of our bimonthly calendar and also our Web site shifted somewhat away from our long-time recreational emphasis and more toward at least mentioning, if not emphasizing, environmental, conservation and preservation issues. Consequently, our on-the-trail discussions included such hot topics as the Intercounty Connector, Klingle Valley, the Benning Road power plant, Georgetown University’s mega-boathouse, Southwest D.C.’s historical and imminent removal projects, the Mall’s bollardization, and the entire metro area’s

pervasive invasive-plant problem. Of course, in keeping with MWROP custom, those outings also emphasized the pleasure of getting outdoor exercise, enjoying the passing scenery and socializing.

In 2006, we MWROP leaders will continue to focus primarily on doing what the organization has done for some four decades—provide a unified outings program for the metro area’s residents on behalf of the three Sierra Club chapters (although, to quibble, MWROP actually predates all three chapters). We also will continue to do what we’ve been doing over the past year or so in paying more attention to educational and environmental issues and on finding ways of coordinating our efforts with those of the chapters and other organizations.

Doing so will enable us to better follow in the footsteps of Sierra Club founder John Muir, who declared long ago that, “If people in general could be got into the woods, . . . all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish.” In our 21st century case, though, we’re also intent upon getting the people into the urban parks and neighborhoods, the suburban sprawl and the threatened farmlands—even though we know the difficulties won’t vanish.

To that end, I strongly encourage you *Capital Sierran* readers to come out and hike with us. (See the back of

this newsletter for a sampling of upcoming MWROP events; be sure to mark your calendar for January 1; and visit www.mwrop.org for the full outings schedule). Also, feel free to provide us with suggestions for new hikes and hiking venues, especially ones we could add to our Get to Know D.C. series. Lastly, looking to MWROP’s evolving future, I invite you to explore the possibility of qualifying to lead MWROP outings (just contact me at metrohiker@yahoo.com or 703-256-6351 or our leader coordinator, Marcia Wolf, at wolfmnc@comcast.net or 301-565-3165).

Paul Elliott is the current MWROP chair and author of 60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Washington, D.C.



Sierra Club Holiday Cards

Boxed Card Assortments

Inside message: Season's Greetings; Each box includes 20 cards, 20 envelopes, 5 each of 4 designs, \$15.00



SC3005 Horses of Winter
Photographs by Art Wolfe.



SC3006 Yosemite
Photographs by Dave Welling.



SC3007 Winter Trees
Photographs by Dennis Frates.

Single Design Notecards

Inside message: Season's Greetings; Each box includes 12 cards, 13 envelopes, \$12.00



SC3115 Lupine and pinecones
Photograph by William Neill



SC3130 Ice-covered rose hips
Photograph by Charles Gurche



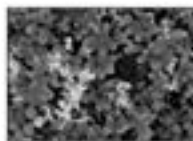
SC3179 Harp seal pup
Photograph by Kevin Schafer



SC3155 Blue jay in flight
Photograph by R. Meyerriecks



SC3119 Adélie penguin
Photograph by Art Wolfe



SC3168 Tundra detail
Photograph by Brenda Tharp



SC3170 Snowflake
Photograph by Roland Birke



SC3154 Frost on wild geranium
Photograph by Scott Pope

SIERRA CLUB HOLIDAY CARDS ORDER FORM



Ship To:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

Make checks payable to "Sierra Club" and mail to the return address shown on your newsletter.

Item	Catalog Number	Retail Price	Quantity	Total
<i>Holiday Boxed Assortments</i>				
Horses of Winter	SC3005 (20 cards)	\$15.00		
Yosemite	SC3006 (20 cards)	\$15.00		
Winter Trees	SC3007 (20 cards)	\$15.00		
<i>Holiday Card—One Design</i>				
Lupine and pinecones	SC3115 (12 cards)	\$12.00		
Adélie penguin	SC3119 (12 cards)	\$12.00		
Ice-covered rose hips	SC3130 (12 cards)	\$12.00		
Tundra detail	SC3168 (12 cards)	\$12.00		
Harp seal pup	SC3179 (12 cards)	\$12.00		
Snowflake	SC3170 (12 cards)	\$12.00		
Frost on wild geranium	SC3154 (12 cards)	\$12.00		
Blue jay in flight	SC3155 (12 cards)	\$12.00		

Shipping and Handling

\$0-49.....\$5.75

\$50-99.....\$9.75

\$100 and up.....10% of purchase price

Subtotal _____
Shipping _____
Grand Total _____

Sierra Club Summit

From Our Roots to the Summit

Reflections on the First Ever Sierra Club Summit

Two of the delegates to the Sierra Club Summit, held in San Francisco, Calif., in September 2005, share their experiences and insights.

Report from Lisa Swanson

I was fortunate enough to be at the Sierra Club Summit at San Francisco in September. Let me list some of the inspiring and happy connections I heard there.

Al Gore, Robert Kennedy Jr. and others—progressive activists, Democrats—talked about their faith or faith

in general as a motivation for working on preserving wilderness, where the spiritual messages of the world's faith systems originated. Do we sense a move to find the good side of the right-wing idea of God?

Alice Waters and others talked about healthy food, everyone's primal interaction with the environment, and using gardens as a sensible way to teach children about the relationship of our bodies and the earth.

A U.S. Marine, now charged with caring for all the Marine bases west of the Mississippi, calls himself a steward of the land and is concerned that it be

attractive and livable for human recruits and other species too. Can I accept this last guy? A combatant who nurtures? Challenging.

By sharing tales and strategies with club members from all around the country, I got a new perspective on how uniquely urban our program is. Lacking hundreds of acres of wilderness needing protection within our boundaries, we worry about the cutbacks in our buses and trains.

I hope that the summit in San Francisco, at which there was both good discussion and shouting on the floor, will result in a strengthened organization.



photo by Jason Broehm

Five D.C. Chapter delegates and several other chapter members went to San Francisco in early September for the Sierra Summit, including (left to right): Julie Heinzman, Julie Eisenhardt (at-large delegate), Lisa Swanson (outings delegate), Bob Morris (CCL delegate), Matthew Tisdale (under-30 delegate), Jim Dougherty, Jason Broehm (senior leader delegate), Angela Wallis. Not pictured: Linda Fennell, Gwyn Jones, Brenda Moorman and Jim Moorman.

Sierra Club Summit

Report from Matthew Tisdale

As the “under-30” delegate for our chapter, I feel a duty to report what September’s Sierra Summit revealed to me: unless young people immediately begin to take responsibility for the leadership of the Sierra Club, this organization will be dead in 50 years. The leaders of this club, many who were on hand for the summit, are on average 54 years old. Don’t get me wrong, these pentagenarians are full of steam and as committed as ever and their contributions to the cause have been immense, but in my opinion they need an infusion of youth, and they need it now.

Consider my point in context: a majority of the summit’s delegates agreed that the Sierra Club’s top priority should be “building a new energy future.” In other words, as a club we have set our sights on a goal that is nothing short of revolutionizing the global fossil fuel based economy. The breadth of this objective cannot be overstated; it is an undertaking of massive proportion. Is it possible? Absolutely. Is it going to take 50 years to achieve this goal? At least that many. Can it be done by a club whose leaders are 20 years short of their average life span? No.

Young people, I have been to the summit and have seen the future of environmentalism and let me tell you—without your help, the future looks bleak. Get involved.



Former vice president Al Gore put in a surprise appearance as a keynote speaker at the Sierra Summit.



D.C. Chapter Executive Committee member Bob Morris played an important role in planning the Sierra Summit. He is pictured here on a giant screen as he spoke to hundreds of assembled delegates from across the country.



D.C. Chapter recycling activists show off their exhibit and discuss with a summit attendee their successful campaign to get Starbucks to begin recycling in D.C.

photos by Jason Broehm

Announcements

New Chapter Assistant Hits the Ground Running

by Jason Broehm

In early October, we were very pleased to hire Joanna Winchester as our new chapter assistant, filling the half-time chapter support position that had been vacant since May.

Joanna graduated from Kenyon College in May with a B.A. in sociology and moved to D.C. over the summer, seeking to pursue a career in environmental protection. She has been involved with the Sierra Club since 2001, volunteering with the Sierra Student Coalition during high school and interning with the New Hampshire Chapter of the Sierra Club during college. In those capacities, she gained excellent experience—organizing grassroots support, building

coalitions, lobbying public officials, organizing events and representing the club to the media and the public—all skills that have prepared her well for her current position.

Joanna is very upbeat and full of energy, enthusiasm and good ideas. In the short time she has been working with us, she has already met with most volunteer leaders, planned and organized meetings, helped run events like our fun and successful Sierra Club and Beer night and recruited new volunteers. I hope you will read Joanna's adjacent article and get in touch with her to learn how you could contribute your time and expertise to our efforts to protect D.C.'s environment.

I Want to Help You Make A Difference in D.C.

by Joanna Winchester

My first few weeks as the D.C. Chapter's chapter assistant have been very exciting. From protecting park areas like the C&O Canal, to building support for Metro, to working on the local level for a healthier climate, there is so much going on in the chapter! And with so much going on, there are always more and more opportunities for volunteers (and potential volunteers!) to get involved.

In the upcoming months, we will need volunteers to help out in a number of ways. There are a lot of different opportunities and different levels of involvement! Here are some areas where YOU can get involved and help make a difference here in the District:

- **Communications/Media:** We are working on making our communications and media work more effective and creative. If you are interested in communications or media, or if you have experience doing press work, marketing, public relations, writing or using the Internet, or just have a lot of creative ideas, please get in touch with me to find out how you can contribute your ideas and skills to this exciting new communications team.

- **Political Committee:** This committee is gearing up for a busy election season in 2006. If you are interested in putting environmental priorities on the D.C. political agenda, we need your help!

- **Outings:** A perfect chance for an outdoor enthusiast to escape the downtown hustle and bustle and meet new people! Get involved with our regional outings program—become certified to lead hikes in D.C.-area parks.

- **Transportation:** Be part of an extremely effective campaign that is working to support and expand public transportation options in the District. The Transportation Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month and is always looking for new volunteers and creative ideas!

- **Energy, Climate Action Team (E-CAT):** A brand new action team focused on working at the local level for clean power and climate protection. Get involved and help make the District a cleaner, healthier place to live and work!

- **Recycling:** We are working



Joanna Winchester, Chapter Assistant

to expand recycling and encourage responsible waste practices. Help make D.C. a cleaner city.

I would be happy to talk with you about how you could get involved in any of these activities, so please give me a call at the D.C. Chapter office at 202-543-0552 or send me an e-mail at joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org. I am generally in the office Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. I look forward to hearing from you!

Joanna Winchester is chapter assistant to the D.C. Chapter.

Announcements

You are Cordially Invited to Join the Sierra Club Annual Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 7, 2005
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Nirvana Indian Restaurant
1810 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

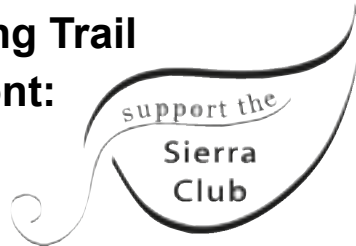
Please join us for the Washington, D.C., Chapter's annual holiday party! This is an excellent opportunity to meet your chapter leaders, fellow members and non-members, and distinguished guests from the D.C. government for an enjoyable evening of socializing over food and drink. There will be door prizes from Results Gym, Patagonia, Bikram Yoga, Sierra Club and many more.

A \$15 per person donation is suggested to help cover the cost of the food. There will be a cash bar.

RSVP by Friday, December 2 to Chasta Piatakovas at nckaos@aol.com.



Hiking the Long Trail Across Vermont: Presentation by Jason Broehm



The slide show describes Jason's experience backpacking the Long Trail end-to-end through the Green Mountains of Vermont in the summer of 2005.

Thursday, February 16, 2006
6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metrorail: Union Station (Red Line); Metrobus: D6, Circulator.
RSVP: Joanna Winchester at joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org or 202-543-0552.

Communications and Media Strategy Meeting

Whether you are experienced writer or a novice, the D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club needs your help to develop and implement an effective communications and media strategy that will actively engage club members, the public, the media and government officials. We need your help in communicating our message through brochures, newsletter articles, the Web site and press releases and by building and maintaining effective relationships with members of the local media and pursuing media attention for events and announcements.

Thursday, December 15, 2005
6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metrorail: Union Station (Red Line); Metrobus: D6, Circulator.
RSVP: Joanna Winchester at joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org or 202-543-0552.

Chapter E-mail Alerts

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

Calendar

Outings

Following is a partial list of activities offered by the Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP).

No pets unless listing says otherwise.

For a more complete and up-to-date list and additional information, visit www.mwrop.org or call 202-547-2326.

Sat. Nov. 26 (rated C). Goose Creek Riverway Parks. Explore two new local parks in the heart of Virginia's scenic Loudoun Co. This 10-mi. hike will travel through Evergreen Mills Park and Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve along Goose Creek near the historic Otlands estate. Enjoy views of Bull Run Mtns and a state scenic river. In the future a 20-mi.-long trail will extend along Goose Creek from Banshee Reeks to the Potomac River. To carpool, meet at 9 a.m. at the Dulles Town Center in Sterling, in front of the Hechts facing VA 7. Leader: Glenn Gillis 703-430-0568.

Sun. Nov. 27 (rated D). Harpers Ferry, Maryland Heights. Work off the bird and desserts on this 7-mi. hike to the top of Maryland Heights opposite Harpers Ferry. See Civil War sites with spectacular views. To carpool, meet at 8:30 a.m. at Shady Grove Metro Station—east side by Metro tunnel. Leader: Bob Goldberg 301-540-2915 before 9 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 3 (rated C). Antietam Hike and Illumination. This annual event features an afternoon hike of 11 mi. (shorter options available) on mixed surfaces of Civil War battlefield, followed by a drive through the Memorial Illumination: 23,000 candles commemorating casualties of the bloodiest single-day battle in U.S. history. Bad-weather date: Dec. 10. Optional posthike dinner at historic Old South Mountain Inn (limited reservations; e-mail/call soon). Leader: Mike Darzi mike_darzi@ssaihq.com or 301-593-4551.

Sat. Dec. 3 (rated C). Appalachian Trail in Maryland, Hike #3: Washington Monument State Park to Gathland State Park. We'll do 10 mi. on the AT from Washington Monument State Park to Gathland, with about 1,000 ft. of elev. gain. To carpool, meet at 8 a.m. at Shady Grove Metro Station tunnel entrance. Leaders: Marjorie Richman 301-320-5509 before 9 p.m. or mar0522@aol.com, and Christine Ford 703-425-6899 before 9 p.m.

Sun. Dec. 4 (rated B). Rock Creek Park. Easy 6.5-mi. walk through central Rock Creek Park. Meet at 1 p.m. at Cleveland Park Metro Station on east side of Connecticut Ave. at Ordway St. at street level. Bring beverage and light snack. Leader: Jim Finucane 301-365-3485 before 9 p.m.

Sun. Dec. 4 (rated D+). Central SNP: Catlett Mtn. and Short Mtn. Circuit. This 8.5-mi. hike starts on Skyline Drive, circles two mountains on trails dotted with old settlements and at least one gold mining site, and then climbs past more ruins along Hannah Run. Total climb, mostly on return to Skyline, is 2,400 ft. Some steep and rough sections, stream crossings, and winter conditions require good gear and physical conditioning, and agility. Leader: Larry Broadwell 301-215-7135 before 9 pm.

Tue. Dec. 6 (rated H). Central SNP: Rose River. We'll climb the Rose River Fire Rd. and the scenic Rose River Loop Trail, see Lewis Falls, and return via the Dark Hollow Falls Trail: 18 mi. and 4,300 ft. climb. Leader: Chris Nolen chrishiker@erols.com or 301-469-8931.

Sat. Dec. 10 (rated A). Scotts Run Scramble. This small nature preserve on the Potomac River bluffs just outside the Capital Beltway in Virginia offers ruins, a waterfall, views over Potomac rapids, and surprisingly tangled trails. We'll hike under 5 mi., but it will feel like more. Leader: Larry Broadwell 301-215-7135 before 9 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 10 (rated B). Further Change of Seasons Hike. On this 10-mi. out-and-back from Glen Echo Park (adjacent to Clara Barton House) in Maryland, we'll use C&O Canal towpath and river trails to enjoy Potomac habitat. We'll pause for seasonal flora and walk with alacrity between pausings. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Minnehaha Pedestrian Bridge in Glen Echo's parking lot off MacArthur Blvd. near Goldsboro Rd. Back to cars by 2:30 p.m. Leader: Dave Burd 703-998-9390 or dburd301@netzero.com.

Sat. Dec. 10 (rated H). SNP: Pine Hill Gap. This 17-mi. circuit hike ascends Hot Short and Robinson Mtns. and returns via Weakley Fire Rd. through Nethers. Elev. gain: 3,500 ft. To carpool, meet at 7:30 a.m. at Oakton shopping center. Inexperienced hikers call first for requirements. Co-leaders: William Needham 410-884-9127 or Needham82@aol.com and Jack Thorsen 703-339-6716 or Thorsen4@juno.com.

Sun. Dec. 11 (rated C). Sugarloaf Mtn. This moderate 7-mi. winter hike in one of our most scenic close-in hiking venues is also a birthday hike—for the trip leaders and any other participants who have birthdays in December. To carpool, meet at 9 a.m. at Shady Grove Metro Station—east side by Metro tunnel. Leaders: Bob Goldberg 301-540-2915 before 9 p.m. and Frank Wodarczyk 703-569-6737 before 9 p.m.

Sun. Dec. 11 (rated C/D). Last-Minute Poetry Hike. A nice moderate hike someplace where you can avoid the shopping hordes. Check www.mwrop.org for details as the date gets closer. Limited to 20. Leader: David Cheng 301-980-9112 or dmcheng@yahoo.com.

Fri. Dec. 16 (rated A/B). Get to Know D.C.: Moonlit Hike on the Mall. Explore the beauty of D.C.'s National Mall and monuments by the full moon. Meet at 7 p.m. at former entrance to now-closed parking lot by Washington Monument. Park on street or use Metro (nearby Federal Triangle station). Kids who can walk 7+ mi. (or 3 mi.) on relatively level terrain are welcome. Leader: Jim Finucane 301-365-3485 before 9 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 17 (rated B/C). Sugarloaf Mtn.—Northern Peaks Trail Conservation Walk. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. A scenic 7-mi. loop will take us from the base up around the main summit and over several lower peaks. We'll discuss the history of the area, the concept of Montgomery Co.'s agricultural reserve and other conservation issues relevant to this part of Maryland. Leader: Ron LaCoss 301-946-1106 before 9 p.m. or ronenviroed@aol.com.

Sat. Dec. 17 (rated C). Christmas at Harpers Ferry. Spend part of the holiday season by hiking through historic Harpers Ferry in wild wonderful West Va. This 9-mi. circuit will explore the town's historic district (dressed out for Christmas), as well as the view from Loudoun Heights. To carpool, meet at 9 a.m. at the

Dulles Town Center in Sterling, in front of the Hechts facing VA 7. Leader: Glenn Gillis 703-430-0568.

Sun. Dec. 18 (rated C). Metro-based Hike: Md.'s Rock Creek Regional Park and Local Streets. Moderate-paced one-way hike of about 12 scenic mi. mostly on Rock Creek Trail in Montgomery Co., from Twinbrooks Metro Station to Friendship Heights Station (both on Red Line). Optional side trip, en route, to Audubon Naturalist Society's Woodend property. Meet at 9 a.m. on sidewalk at Friendship Heights station entrance to mass-transit-pool to trailhead. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351.

Tue. Dec. 20 (rated H). SNP: Overall Falls. We'll climb Overall Run from Thompson Hollow, view the falls, continue to Mathew's Arm and Elkwallow, and return via Beecher Ridge: 16 mi. and 3,500 ft. climb. Leader: Chris Nolen chrishiker@erols.com or 301-469-8931.

Wed. Dec. 21 (rated C). Winter at Great Falls. Kick off the first day of winter with this 6-mi. hike through Virginia's Great Falls Park. Enjoy the thundering Great Falls and the classic Mather Gorge along the Potomac Heritage Trail. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Great Falls visitor center parking lot off of Old Dominion Drive. Leader: Glenn Gillis 703-430-0568.

Sun. Dec. 25 (rated A). Get to Know D.C.: Columbia and Roosevelt Islands. Leisurely paced hike of up to 7.4-mi. along Potomac River waterfront near Key Bridge, with emphasis on attractions and history of islands. Adults only (because of road crossings). Do full hike to burn enough calories to offset dessert. Route shortcuts available for cooks and gourmands on call. Meet at 9 a.m. at Roosevelt Island's parking lot (accessible only from George Washington Pkwy.'s northbound lanes). Or use Rosslyn Metro Station (Orange, Blue Lines), 0.8 miles distant, to create your own Metro-based hike. Leashed dogs welcome. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351.

Tue. Dec. 27 (rated H). SNP: Little Devils Stairs Circuit. We'll ascend the stairs to Keyser Run Rd., then take AT south over Hogback for views, descend Piney Ridge Trail, and return on Hull School Trail. About 13 mi. and 4,100 ft. climb. Leader: Chris Nolen chrishiker@erols.com or 301-469-8931.

Sat. Dec. 31 (rated D). Riverbend Park and Great Falls Park, in Fairfax County, Va. Circuit hike of 9.5 mi. with 2,200 ft. of elev. change. Meet at 8 a.m. at Riverbend Park's former nature center parking lot. Leader: Russ Norfleet 703-294-6068 or russnorfleet@verizon.net.

Sun. Jan. 1 (rated B). 32nd Annual New Year's Day Hike on C&O Canal Towpath. Start 2006 right with a 10-mi. walk along the C&O Canal. Learn about this historic area. Meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wisconsin Ave. at the canal, south of M St. in Georgetown. Walk to Little Falls Pump Station (or turn around sooner) and back. Leashed dogs OK. Leaders: Carol Ivory 703-476-8730 or carolivory@verizon.net and Christine Ford 703-425-6899 before 10 p.m.; honorary co-leader, event founder and long-time event leader Walter Wells.

Hike Rating System

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

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



Calendar

D.C. Chapter and Related Events

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

Tue. Dec. 6

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

Wed. Dec. 7

Annual Holiday Party (\$). RSVP by December 2. 6:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m. Nirvana, 1810 K St. N.W. Metro: Farragut West (Blue/Orange Lines) or Circulator, L2, 80, 38B. Contact Chasta Piatakovas at nckaos@aol.com or 202-320-1205. A donation of \$15 per person is suggested to help cover the cost of food. There will be a cash bar.

Mon. Dec. 12

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

Tue. Dec. 13

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

Thu. Dec. 15

Communications and Media Strategy Meeting. 6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m. All members welcome. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station (Red Line) or D6. Contact Joanna Winchester at joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org or 202-543-0552.

Tue. Jan. 3

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

Jason Broehm at jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org or 202-299-0745.

Mon. Jan. 9

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

Tue. Jan. 10

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

Wed., Jan. 11

Costa Rica Presentation. 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. RSVP. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station (Red Line) or D6. Contact Joanna Winchester at joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org or 202-543-0552.

Thu. Jan. 26

True Cost of Food Campaign Restaurant Outing (\$). 6:30 p.m. RSVP. Singh Thai, 2311 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. Metro: Courthouse (Orange Line). Contact Susan Prolman at Prolmans@aol.com or 202-667-1162.

Wed. Feb. 1

Screening of David Brower Films. Time and location TBD. RSVP. Contact Joanna Winchester at joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org or 202-543-0552.

Tue. Feb. 7

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

Mon. Feb. 13

Second Monday Happy Hour (\$). 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Local 16, 1602 U St. N.W. Metro: U Street – Cardozo (Green Line) or 52/53/54, 90/92/93/96/98, S1/S2/S4. Contact Chasta Piatakovas at nckaos@aol.com or 202-320-1205.

Tue. Feb. 14

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

Thu. Feb. 16

Hiking the Long Trail Across Vermont: Presentation by Jason Broehm. 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station (Red Line) or D6, Circulator. Contact Joanna Winchester at joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org or 202-543-0552.

Thu. Feb. 23

True Cost of Food Campaign Restaurant Outing (\$). 6:30 p.m. RSVP. Nirvana, 1810 K St. N.W. Metro: Farragut North (Red Line); Farragut West (Orange/Blue Lines) or L2, 38B, 42, D1/D3/D5/D6, 30/32/34/35/36. Contact Susan Prolman at prolmans@aol.com or 202-667-1162.

Tue. Mar. 7

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

Mon. Mar. 13

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

Tue. Mar. 14

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

Thu. Mar. 30

True Cost of Food Campaign Restaurant Outing (\$). 6:30 p.m. RSVP. Aladdin's Eatery, 4044 South 28th St., Shirlington, Va. Contact Susan Prolman at prolmans@aol.com or 202-667-1162.

Preserve the Future

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, please contact:

John Calaway, Director of Gift Planning
Sierra Club, 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 977-5639
e-mail: planned.giving@sierraclub.org

SIERRA CLUB
founded 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Chapter Executive Committee Elections

Following are statements from each of the candidates running for the 2006 Executive Committee. An asterisk () denotes a current voting member of the Executive Committee.*

Jason Broehm*

I have been actively involved with the Sierra Club's Washington, D.C., Chapter for the past five years, including four years as a member of the Executive Committee. I am now seeking re-election to another two-year term, and I ask for your support.

For the last year I have served as chapter chair, leading the chapter in strategic planning to help us be more effective at protecting D.C.'s environment. Prior to that, I served one year as vice chair and two years as membership chair, reaching out to our members and recruiting new members and volunteer activists. I first became involved in the Sierra Club as an activist and leader of campaigns to protect Rock Creek National Park, and I remain passionate about protecting our parkland citywide.

I have more to contribute to the chapter leadership, and I ask for your support so that I may continue representing you on the Executive Committee. I want to continue recruiting new volunteers and grooming new volunteer leaders. With this new volunteer energy I would like to launch new campaigns to protect our local environment and elect good local environmental leaders who will be our allies in protecting the environment.

Gwyn Jones*

This year marks a new melding of my professional and volunteer commitments as I assume the marketing manager role with the U.S. Green Building Council, which focuses on promoting sustainable "green" building – also a key focus of the D.C. Chapter with the Anacostia Watershed Initiative and other initiatives. As a long-time leader in the D.C. Chapter, I've been privileged to be a part of our growth in membership and chapter leaders and of numerous successful campaigns. Moving forward, I see as next steps facilitating leader and volunteer development and building on the great communications team that has come on

board to enhance the chapter's ability to reach out to and activate members as well as increase our presence in the media. Thanks for your continued support of the D.C. Chapter.

Heather Kerst

I found the Sierra Club a few years ago when I was looking for a way to get involved in environmental efforts. Soon after joining, I started a recycling campaign in my apartment building. After a few months, my apartment management company complied with D.C. commercial recycling laws. It was apparent to me then that many individuals, each doing small things to help, can effect enormous change. I later attended the Sierra Club Training Academy and left inspired to do more.

I got involved in the D.C. Chapter's Recycling Committee. I joined fellow volunteers in dumpster diving, looking for evidence of commercial recycling violations. I e-mailed company leaders and local recycling enforcement, asking businesses to comply with D.C. recycling laws. I am currently working with my office building to implement a recycling program that will affect the hundreds of people who use the building.

The Sierra Club has taught me that the more people we can engage in environmental campaigns, the more change we can effect. I'm excited about the efforts of new programs to reach out to more members. I'd like to continue that work and focus especially on expanding the number of chapter members who get actively involved in campaigns.

Elliott Negin

I have been a member of the Sierra Club's D.C. chapter for five years, and have nearly 30 years of experience in local and national politics. Now I'm running for the chapter's executive committee. Over the last three decades, I have toiled as a community organizer, labor organizer, environmental advocate, "Nader's Raider," print and broadcast journalist, and documentary film producer.

For the past six years, I have been the Washington communications director for the Natural Resources Defense Council. Before I joined NRDC, the organization's D.C. office

had been focused solely on national issues. I spearheaded the group's first regional campaign, working with the Sierra Club to persuade the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to buy natural gas buses. A third of the agency's fleet is now powered by natural gas. More recently I helped pull together a coalition of groups, including the Sierra Club and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, to convince the D.C. City Council to require the new Washington Nationals ballpark to feature an environmentally sustainable design. The stadium likely will be the greenest stadium in the world.

As a member of the Sierra Club's Executive Committee, I would have the chapter work closely with the D.C. Environmental Network in drafting the D.C. Environmental Agenda for 2006; dovetail that work with persuading the city council to adopt the Urban Environmental Accords (which were first presented last June in San Francisco at the U.N. World Environment Day); hold periodic informal get-togethers with key city council and administration staff members; and broaden club efforts to work with members and chapters in Maryland and Northern Virginia to address regional issues.

Lisa Swanson*

As an individual, I find it easy being green. Almost daily, I enjoy the city's rivers, woods, and parks by running, biking and paddling. I recycle, avoid excess packaging, and have been called a "worm rancher" for keeping a worm composting operation in my urban kitchen.

I came to the Sierra Club by way of the trails in Rock Creek Park and Klingle Valley. In recent years, I have worked on the campaign to save Klingle Valley – informing the public, gathering signatures, lobbying the D.C. Council. My former community organizer self especially loves good old-fashioned organizing.

In my two years on the Executive Committee, I have served on the Political Committee, and I have continued to work on protecting parks. I currently serve in the dual roles of vice chair and chair of the Political Committee.

As 2005 draws to a close, the 2006 election season is already in full swing with numerous candidates lining up to run for mayor, council chair and

Chapter Executive Committee Elections

How to Vote:

1. You may vote for up to four candidates by checking the box in the first column next to their names.
2. If you are a joint member, the second member also may vote for up to four candidates by checking the boxes in the second column.
3. Tear off the entire page, making sure to include your mailing address, which appears on the reverse side.
(NOTE: Mailing labels will be separated from ballots before counting to ensure confidentiality.)
4. Mail the ballot **TODAY** to:

Sierra Club Elections
Mark Wenzler
814 Massachusetts Ave. N.E
Washington, D.C. 20002

Official Ballot
2006 District of Columbia Chapter
of the Sierra Club
Executive Committee Elections

You may vote for as many as four (4) candidates.

	single member	joint member
Jason Broehm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gwyn Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heather Kerst	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elliott Negin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lisa Swanson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew Tisdale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write in:	_____	_____

many other city council seats. My goal is to involve more of our members in the Sierra Club's efforts to ensure that environmental issues are on the political agenda and that we as a city elect candidates who will support environmental protection.

I want to make sure that the Sierra Club continues to grow in numbers and influence so that local elected officials, candidates, residents, and visitors will see the economic and life-quality advantage of considering the environment in collective planning.

Matthew Tisdale*
 If elected to retain my seat on the Executive Committee, I would continue to challenge the Sierra Club to adopt a new way of thinking—one that encourages cooperation over confrontation—because I believe our

club must, if it wishes to succeed, work as hard to understand as it does to be understood

By focusing on cooperation instead of confrontation, our club could begin to improve its public image. In my work as an environmental activist it has been, and will remain, my goal to improve the club's public standing. So many of the challenges we face in our movement stem from our failure to manage the image of conservation. This must change. I believe that the Sierra Club must take the lead in creating a more positive public image of conservation, one that focuses on cooperative rather than confrontational methods of advocacy. As a member of the D.C. Chapter's Executive Committee I'll work to make these changes locally.

In addition, if re-elected to the Executive Committee, I would continue

to encourage the chapter's young people to get involved. As the only committee member under the age of 30 (I am 24), I feel I bring a unique perspective to the chapter. I sincerely hope that other twenty-somethings will soon join the ranks, and I will use my seat on the Executive Committee in support of that cause.

VOTE TODAY!

BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY

December 31, 2005

TO BE COUNTED!

WASHINGTON, D.C., CHAPTER DIRECTORY

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