



# CAPITAL SIERRAN

Newsletter of the Washington, D.C., Chapter

## Inside

2 Letter from the Chair

3-4 Conservation

Trash-Free Anacostia

Cheh Bike Ride

"Green" Bus

Energy Choice cont'd

5 Outings

6-7 Volunteer!

8 Conservation

Anacostia cont'd

Climate Change cont'd

9-10 Announcements

11 Calendars

Outings

D.C. Chapter

12 Chapter Directory

Published online at  
dc.sierraclub.org

Volume 15, No. 3  
Fall 2007

## IT'S EASY TO MAKE THE SWITCH TO RENEWABLE ENERGY Greening Your Electric Bill

by Bradley Green

You were the first on your block to install compact fluorescent light bulbs. You turn off the lights every time you leave the room. You even run the air conditioning only when absolutely necessary (or if you are really brave, not at all). In other words, you've banished as many of those carbon-producing kilowatts from your house as you possibly can.

But what about the electricity still trickling into your home every day? Most of us aren't willing to wean ourselves off it entirely. We can, however, at least make it greener.

For the last several years, D.C. residents have had the ability to specify their electric power supplier. That choice includes two environmentally friendly options for not much more than the cost of traditional energy sources. Both options are offered by Pepco Energy Services, which also gives you the option of making the switch on line at: [www.pepcoenergy.com/naturalGasElectricity/greenenergy.aspx](http://www.pepcoenergy.com/naturalGasElectricity/greenenergy.aspx)



Photo by Bradley Green

The first of these options is marketed under the name "Green Electricity." While the website indicates it can draw power from a variety of sources, in reality it currently uses energy produced by capturing and burning the methane gas that seeps out of land fills. Methane is a greenhouse gas that traps 20 times

Continued on page 4

## GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE:

### Making the Difference

by Jerry Hinkle

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations's scientific advisory body, human activity—especially the burning of fossil fuels—is altering the composition of the atmosphere at an alarming rate and is directly contributing to climate change. New environmental disasters affect practically every aspect of human existence. For example, the United Nations believes that environmental degradation from climate change remains a key source of the Darfur conflict, where from 200,000 to 500,000 people have died and two million more have been forced into refugee camps.

On top of this, the Earth's temperature is likely to continue to rise this century with many accompanying catastrophic consequences.

No one is immune to the effect of climate

**Don't just sit there reading this!** The D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club needs volunteers. Consider volunteering as part of our democratic election process (easy and vital!) or on one of our many programs. See page 7 for more details. Please don't hesitate. Become an active part of the Chapter!

Continued on page 8

## We Need Renewable (Volunteer) Energy: Please Get Involved!

by Jason Broehm

### Capital Sierran Editors

Jessica Hanff, Yoma Ullman

To submit letters to the editor or other materials for publication or inquire about display advertising, write to: [jlhanff@earthlink.net](mailto:jlhanff@earthlink.net)

Deadline, Winter Issue: October 12, 2007.

*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

One of the great things about the Sierra Club is its grassroots approach to working for environmental protection. Sure, the club has paid staff who work on behalf of the organization's 750,000 members, lobbying Congress for clean energy, pressuring federal agencies to protect our public lands and litigating against polluters. They do very important work on our behalf. But if it were not for many members who get involved as volunteer activists at the state and local level, the Sierra Club would be far less effective than it is.

Here in the Washington, D.C., Chapter, we have more than 3,000 members. Our membership ranges from volunteers who have been active for many years to those who are dues-paying members but not actively involved. Considering the large number of members, it is a fairly small subset who are responsible for making our chapter work. Whether or not you've been involved, I hope you take the time to read in this quarterly newsletter about what our volunteers are doing on your behalf.

The work that our volunteers do is very impressive. Throughout my seven years of involvement, I have been inspired and energized by our volunteers' accomplishments. When I see compressed natural gas (CNG) buses on the streets, energy-efficient lighting in Metrorail stations or trains rumbling by my office in Southwest without hazardous cargo like chlorine, I feel proud because I know the local Sierra Club volunteers who helped make these things happen.

We are fortunate here in that D.C. attracts so many bright and talented people to our area. As a result, we are blessed with many new, often young, volunteers who get involved and

make a difference in cleaning up our environment. But the flip side of the coin is that D.C. is a fairly transient city, and some of these same energetic and committed volunteers also tend to leave, whether to go to graduate school or take a job elsewhere. Others are overtaken by life events and shifting priorities when they get married, have children or change jobs. Whatever the reasons, volunteer turnover is natural, but we need to find renewable volunteer energy in order to continue to be effective.

Several of our most actively involved volunteers have recently left or soon will, which leaves those of us who remain with the task of recruiting new volunteers to fill their shoes. I've been around long enough to see all but a couple of the volunteers who were active when I first became involved move on.

We need you, our members, to get involved and volunteer your time. I can tell you that you can make a difference because I've witnessed so many volunteers

—most of whom did not have any special training or skills before they got involved—who have already made a difference. If you want to see progress in cleaning and greening our environment, then you should get involved and help make it happen. Without you it might not happen.

We have many different volunteer opportunities to work on a range of issues. I would be happy to discuss these with you personally if you would be so kind as to contact me at [jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org) or 202-299-0745.



Photo by Ashley Hansen

## WAKE UP AND SMELL THE TRASH

### A Trash-Free Anacostia Begins with You

by Irv Sheffey

When we hear about the polluting of our lakes, rivers and other waterways, we can often look upstream to a major source such as a factory or an industrial farm that is spewing its waste almost unchecked. In such an instance, it would be relatively easy to bring attention to that source, create a campaign, petition regulatory oversight and generate public action to stop it. Rallies would be held, the media advised, government entreated and ideally the offending party would remedy the issue. But what do you do when the source is not so easily targeted? In the Anacostia River Watershed a vast majority of the pollution affecting the river does not come from big, insensitive, corporate entities, but from each of us as we work, play and live within the 176 square miles that compose the watershed. You and I, along with the approximately

one million others who reside in those sections of Montgomery and Prince George's counties and the District of Columbia that are part of the watershed, contribute over 20 million tons of trash that go into the river each year. This figure can be found in the April 2007 report entitled The Anacostia Watershed

tion Partnership in association with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

This is not to say that there are not other sources of pollution, like the illegally dumped toxic fluids, chemically laden silt and PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) that are flushed from our roadways and parking lots into the river, but unlike them litter and trash add up to a problem on which each of us can have an immediate and personal impact.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments has been very supportive in helping local governments within the watershed to take legislative and regulatory action.

Trash Reduction Strategy and put out by the Anacostia Watershed Restora-

Others, like the Anacostia Watershed Society and Earth Conservation Corps,

*Continued on page 8*



*View over the Anacostia from the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens*

Photo by Chip Py

## Councilmember Cheh Rides on Issues in Rock Creek Park

by Jason Broehm

Sierra Club members recently joined members of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), People's Alliance for Rock Creek (PARC) and Friends of Peirce Mill for an issues-focused bicycle ride in Rock Creek Park with new councilmember Mary Cheh (D-Ward 3).

The Saturday morning tour of the park began at Peirce Mill with brief remarks from Cheh, who spoke fondly of similar rides she organized in Ward 3 during her successful campaign last year. At stops along the way, ride leader Jim McCarthy of PARC and Eric Gilliland of WABA spoke about issues affecting recreational users of the park, including proposed upgrades to the bicycle trail along Rock Creek and management of automobile traffic on Beach Drive on weekdays in efforts to promote safer recreation in the heart of the park.

The ride ended at the closed portion of Klinge Road, where Sierra Club leaders Jim Dougherty, Lisa Swanson and Jason Broehm spoke about the history of the road's closure and about the D.C. Chapter's vision of a recreational trail instead of a rebuilt road through Klinge Valley and their efforts to promote it.

The Sierra Club endorsed Cheh in the Ward 3 Democratic Primary Election in 2006, and she has been ally on the D.C. Council, already acting as a leader on clean energy issues. Cheh is also a Sierra Club member.



*Jim McCarthy of People's Alliance for Rock Creek (PARC) describes for Councilmember Mary Cheh (right) and other riders options for improving recreational access to Beach Drive on weekdays.*

Photo by Jason Broehm

## Access to Green Spaces for All on the Green Bus!

by Ashley Hansen

People in D.C. are working together in a newly formed group to launch the D.C. Green Bus—a bus burning clean fuel that will travel from Metro stations to green spaces! The hope is that the Green Bus, a public and private partnership, will launch in 2008 and run daily in the spring, summer and fall. So far the focus is on sites not easily accessible by Metro: the U.S. National Arboretum (USNA), Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens (KAG), and the U.S. Botanic Gardens (USBG).

Who cares about giving more residents access to Washington's parks and gardens? First of all, the more people who get out and enjoy D.C.'s beautiful local green spaces, the more people will experience the peace and tranquility gained from being in the outdoors and the more they will speak in favor of the environment. In Richard Louv's book, *Last Child in the Woods*, he refers to a study by Peter Kahn, "The Human Relationship with Nature," in which Kahn says that adults experience stress reduction by being in nature. Imagine all D.C. residents experiencing this



Photos by Ashley Hansen



reduced stress!

Why the D.C. Green Bus? First of all, the vast majority of visitors drive to the USNA and KAG. If we want to reduce the number of cars on the road and increase the number of people visiting local green spaces we need to have public transportation available! Yes, there used to be a Metrobus to the Arboretum. Metro's X6 bus ran from Union Station on weekends but that service ended May 2007 due to low ridership. It would be really easy to give up and say it didn't work last time. But this group is committed to sharing these magical places with all residents.

What can you do? We need volunteers for outreach, marketing, grant

writing, contacting media, blogging, finding sponsorships, suggesting other stops and spreading the word all over town. Contact [DCGreenBus@gmail.com](mailto:DCGreenBus@gmail.com) to volunteer or with comments for us! The group includes employees from nongovernmental groups and government as well as local residents.

## Green Power

*Continued from page 1*

more heat than CO<sub>2</sub>. While burning it to produce electricity produces CO<sub>2</sub>, it prevents the release of the methane itself into the atmosphere.

The other option, NewWind™ Energy, uses power generated by wind farms in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. This energy is marketed to Pepco by Community Energy, Inc.

If you haven't already selected an electricity supplier, your power is being supplied by Pepco under what is known as the Standard Offer Service. Over half of this power is generated by coal-fired plants, with most of the rest coming from a combination of other fossil

fuels and nuclear power. Currently it costs you 9.16 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) on an annual basis, according to the Public Service Commission.

What about the cost of renewable energy? The cost to new customers is 11.99 cents/kWh for "Green Electricity" (methane) and 12.69 cents/kWh for NewWind™ Energy. The initial contract period for new customers is seven months. The cost of either program is slightly less for those renewing after the initial contract period.

This information applies only to District residents. Similar options exist, however, for those living in

Maryland or Virginia. I also stumbled upon another interesting option for Maryland residents, courtesy of a listserv at my church. It is called the Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light ([gwipl.org](http://gwipl.org)). Their website provides instructions on how you can sign up with them to make the switch to renewable energy.

Good luck greening the power to your house! Next step: that car sitting in the driveway . . .

Contact Bradley Green at 202-371-1919 or [brad@bradgreen.net](mailto:brad@bradgreen.net).

# Outings

## Ah Wilderness! Ah Hiking! Ah MWROP!

by Paul Elliott

I doubt that writer Katherine Anne Porter ever knew how close she could have been to achieving both parts of her winsome desire to live in either “a world capital or a howling wilderness.” She could have split her time between her Georgetown row house and a primitive cabin in, say, the Blue Ridge or another mountain fastness, or in any of the metro area’s surviving close-in pockets of wilderness. And what would she say if she knew that Rock Creek Park itself is now a place where coyotes howl?

The metro-area wilderness beckons most alluringly in the fall, when temperatures and tree leaves start to drop, vistas open up, wildflowers linger, migrating birds take flight and solitude is out there for the taking. And for this fall, we leaders of the Sierra Club’s Metropolitan Washington Outings Program (MWROP) have devised a rich assortment of wilderness-related day hikes and backpacking trips suitable for beginners as well as for backcountry veterans.

These photos illustrate just some of the venues that we’ll be visiting. For a sampling of the outings, see page 11 of this newsletter. For the complete list of MWROP outings (including a variety of nonwilderness ones), visit [www.mwrop.org](http://www.mwrop.org) or call 202-547-2326.



Photo by Paul Elliott

*The American Chestnut Land Trust provides a touch of close-in wilderness in Calvert County, where hikers can use canoes to explore Parkers Creek, the last remaining undeveloped tributary on Chesapeake Bay’s western shore—and then use their feet to roam the adjoining trails.*



Photo by Paul Elliott

*Hikers catch their breath and great views of the Shenandoah River as they climb Massanutten Mountain, which (although not evident here) also happens to be one of the metro area’s best and least-visited places to see some stunning autumn foliage.*



Photo by Don Xi

*Crescent Rock provides a wilderness panorama for hikers pausing on the Appalachian Trail along the Virginia-West Virginia border south of Harpers Ferry.*

*One bonus of early-fall hiking in the wilderness is to come across the ripe and exotically aromatic fruit of the pawpaw tree before the foxes, raccoons, and squirrels get there.*



Photo by Patrick Wansley

## Change Starts at Home: Become a Volunteer with the D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club

by Joanna Winchester

We all want to make the world a better place. Where better to start than in our own city?! The D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club has many ways to get involved and make a difference on important issues that affect people's lives every day. Whether it's volunteering for a cleanup or outreach event, hosting a house party, or working with a team of activists to plan and implement a strategy to reduce our city's impact on climate change, there is plenty to be done!

### MEET NEW PEOPLE, SPREAD THE WORD!

Neighborhoods across the city host festivals and events to celebrate their communities and encourage people to get involved with local organizations, patronize local businesses and enjoy local foods. The Sierra Club sends representatives to these and other opportunities, like farmers' markets, eco-business expos and much more, to get our message out. We need folks with ready smiles who care about the environment to help us reach out at these and other events. We will provide information and training – the most important thing is that you bring enthusiasm (and a friend)!

### THE FOUR "Rs": REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE AND RENEW OUR CITY!

Recycling was the big environmental fight in the '80s and '90s – and guess what? It's still an issue today! Managing the amount of waste we create is one of the most important and most effective things that we can do to reduce our impact on the environment in many ways, particularly in D.C., where much of the storm water from our streets empties directly into the Anacostia, taking with it any street litter or debris. That is not to mention the amount of energy consumed by producing, re-producing and transporting the packaging and disposable items we throw away daily. But there are lots of positive ways we can make a difference! We are assembling a team to work together to tackle this issue here in D.C. and we need some dedicated and passionate volunteers to work interdependently (meetings approximately once per month, with work and communication between meetings and special events scheduled by the committee as needed).

### CHANGE A BULB, CHANGE THE WORLD

Who knew that stopping global warming could start with something as simple as changing a light bulb? We want

to give everyone an opportunity to take this and other easy first steps to reduce their impact on climate change. We need folks who are willing to help us distribute light bulbs at community outreach events, at farmers' markets, at their places of worship, apartment complexes, schools – you name it! And, even more critical, we need someone who is willing to help us coordinate our light bulb distribution program. You'll get training, support and contacts for interested volunteers and suppliers, and you'll serve as our point of contact for those interested in the program.

### STOP GLOBAL WARMING!

Our Cool Cities program is making changes here in our city, helping the city council and the mayor live up to their promises of reducing our impact on the climate, teaching students in D.C.'s schools how they can make a difference, and enlisting our own neighbors, friends, families and co-workers by showing them the simple changes they can make to save the planet. We need your help! If you're concerned about climate change, there are a variety of roles you can play in reducing our impact on the climate right here in D.C. We have something for everyone – whether you want to spend one evening a month or several hours per week, we will appreciate your contribution! There are roles for leaders, followers and everyone in between. Please sign up today!

### ENLIST THE NEXT GENERATION

Our chapter has two education programs that reach out to D.C.'s schools – one that focuses on recycling and waste management and another that deals with climate change. We need volunteers at all levels of these programs, from crafting materials and curriculum, to volunteering in the schools, to making connections with the schools, to coordinating the programs and managing the volunteers. If you care about reaching out to young people about environmental issues, sign up today!!

### UNLEASH YOUR INNER POLITICO

There are lots of opportunities to make your mark on the political process in D.C. Join our Political Committee to craft, distribute and review candidate questionnaires; get involved with one of our issue teams (Cool Cities/Energy, Recycling/Waste Reduction, or Transportation/Urban Planning) and help their members track political action and

*Continued on page 7*



## Volunteer

*Continued from page 6*

advocate for their issues. We can make a lasting difference through grassroots organizing and building relationships with the elected officials who represent us.

### SHOW ME THE MONEY!

The D.C. Chapter can use all the support it can get and we need some good volunteers to join our fundraising efforts. You can help out with recruiting and acknowledging donors, writing and following up on foundation grant proposals, hosting house parties, putting together our annual appeal and crafting a solid fundraising and capacity building plan.

### BRING THE STREETCAR TO D.C.

Plans to build a 40- to 50-mile streetcar system in D.C. have been scaled back and put on the back burner until 20 to 30 years down the line. We know that streetcars will connect our communities, spur economic growth, provide more op-

tions to neighborhoods currently underserved by MetroRail and busses, and clean our air by encouraging more people who might normally drive to take public transportation. We want the full streetcar system, and we want it in a more reasonable time frame – like five years – starting with the Benning Road to H Street N.E. line that would bring much-needed transportation options for workers, residents, and the growing patron and customer base that currently has trouble getting to and from the H Street corridor. We need lots of volunteers to dedicate whatever time and talents they've got to making this effort a success. Sign up now!!

To volunteer, contact Joanna Winchester at [joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org](mailto:joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org) or 202-363-4366. If you don't see something here that appeals to you, get in touch with us to find out what else we have to offer.



### MY STORY AS A VOLUNTEER

## Environmental House Parties

*by Grace Cunningham*

On 7/7/07, thousands of people across the country and millions around the world gathered to watch the Live Earth Concert. This series of concerts on all seven continents, including a rock band composed of researchers in Antarctica, served as a rallying point for taking action on climate change.

I chose to be a part of the action and this momentous event by opening up my home to friends and new faces to join me in watching the televised concert and discussing ways we can reduce our carbon footprint. We had a great time enjoying the music performances, lively conversation and tasty organic snacks.

Hosting a house party is an excellent way to get to know your neighbors and, more important, bring new people into the environmental movement. One guest from Montgomery County told us that she had been inspired to become a more active part of her local Sierra Club after attending the party at my house. Nothing is more rewarding than knowing that your actions had an impact on someone else. I encourage you to step up to become a Sierra Club volunteer.

Contact Joanna Winchester or Chris Carney at [joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org](mailto:joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org) or [chris.carney@sierraclub.org](mailto:chris.carney@sierraclub.org) for details on fun ways to share your concern for the environment with others.

## Volunteers Needed to Serve on D.C. Chapter Executive Committee

Each year the Sierra Club's Washington, D.C., Chapter holds elections by which chapter members elect leaders to represent them on the chapter's nine-member Executive Committee or "ExCom." At the end of 2007, five of the nine seats will be up for election.

ExCom members serve two-year terms, meet monthly and are expected to assist in at least one of the various functions of the chapter. No special expertise is required, but the chapter is particularly interested in finding people with skills and an interest in helping the chapter build its fundraising capacity.

Any chapter member may nominate herself or any other chapter member to be a candidate for the Executive Committee. Any chapter member may also be nominated to run for a seat by the submission of the valid petition signatures of at least 15 chapter members.

The chapter is in the process of forming a Nominating Committee, which will consider suggested nominations and petition submissions and later in the fall will nominate a slate of at least seven candidates to run for the five seats.

If you wish to nominate yourself or another chapter member to run for the Executive Committee, please send the name and contact information to Jessica Hanff at [jlhanff@earthlink.net](mailto:jlhanff@earthlink.net). Nominations and petitions must be received by Friday, October 12, 2007. Members are also welcome to volunteer to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Typically, ballots appear in the winter edition of the Capital Sierran, and the chapter's more than 3,000 members have several weeks to cast votes by mail. Members of the Election Committee will count ballots in early January 2008 and report the results to the Executive Committee at its January meeting with elected ExCom members taking office at that meeting.

## Anacostia

*Continued from page 3*

are employing nets, skimmers and buoy systems to catch and remove drifting trash. Local sub-watershed groups participate in cleanup efforts throughout the year, hauling away bottles, plastic bags, tires and the like from along the Anacostia and its tributaries. We need to continue and encourage these types of initiatives because they make a difference. But what's truly needed is a sea change—a transformation in how individuals take responsibility for their personal behavior and the items of trash that leave their hands, only to find their way into the river with the next rainfall. Recently, I sat in a window of a popular espresso bar on U Street N.W., watching the passing scene. A flyer was being distributed by a Metro employee concerning some matter related to the Metro system. A young lady, actually a teenager, took a flyer, looked at it briefly, crumpled it into a wad and mindlessly dropped it at her feet. I say mindlessly because a trash receptacle was only two paces away, and if she'd been aware of what she was doing she could have simply tossed

the unwanted paper into it. Since then, I've witnessed similar instances all over the area. People seem not to care or to understand their impact as they toss a cigarette, drop a candy wrapper or leave a soda bottle abandoned on a curb. People sometimes don't see that it's wrong to litter, figuring that someone else will come along and clean it up. I've heard people say, "If I hadn't dropped it, someone wouldn't have a job." That type of approach is what I call the "other guy syndrome," but we have to remember that "to the other guy, you're the other guy." Simply put, if we don't take care of a problem we can't expect someone else to do so.

So what can you (and I) do about this? Recently I attended the Second Annual Trash Free Potomac Summit sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. The foundation has taken a lead in working toward the cleanup of the Potomac Watershed, which encompasses the Anacostia, by the year 2013. A lofty goal to say the least, but one that can be accomplished if we begin to take action now.

At that summit, over 300 people from around the area attempted to clarify the issues and identify possible solutions. Seven roundtables were convened. They explored market-based trash reduction strategies; legislation to address regional trash issues; enforcement; diverting the construction-debris waste stream; trash-reduction technologies and best management practices for storm water; maximizing regulatory tools; and establishing a regional public education campaign.

The work of the summit and the respective roundtable groups has not ended with the conclusion of the event. Additional meetings and work groups are being convened around each of the topics and your participation is invited. I participated as a panel member in the roundtable on public education. The panel will be holding a meeting this fall to plan a regional campaign. If you are interested, please contact me at [irv.sheffey@sierraclub.org](mailto:irv.sheffey@sierraclub.org) or by phone at 202-610-0200.

## Climate Change

*Continued from page 1*

change, but it will have a disproportionate effect on the one billion people living in poverty. Poverty increases people's exposure, and climate change increases the risks; people living in poverty and poor communities are the most vulnerable and, as we saw with Hurricane Katrina, relief efforts are least likely to reach them after they are hit by a disastrous event. The likely result is the mass migration of refugees, which has even military leaders considering climate change as a major security issue. Climate change is one scary movie—as former British prime minister Tony Blair said, climate change is "a challenge so far-reaching in its impact and irreversible in its destructive power, that it alters radically human existence."

As the Sierra Club members know, there is an urgent need to address climate change. This will be no easy task given that global emissions are still rising more than 3 percent per year, but each of us can make a difference. There are four simple, realistic ways you can

help reduce climate change:

1. Make a pledge to reduce your emissions, get a personalized list of ways to change your climate impact, and do it all online by visiting "Who knew cutting carbon could be so easy?" at [dc.sierraclub.org/news](http://dc.sierraclub.org/news).
2. Take the Challenge! Join the Sierra Club Team. Sign up online at [www.coolcapitalchallenge.org](http://www.coolcapitalchallenge.org) to learn the many ways you can reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> you produce and help lower your impact on climate change.
3. Go to [dc.sierraclub.org/calendar](http://dc.sierraclub.org/calendar) and sign up to attend "Climate Change: The Science, Projections, Impacts and Solutions" on August 21.
4. Attend Volunteer Night on August 28 to learn how to host a "Make the Difference" house party to help inspire your friends to be a part of the solution to the climate crisis!

For more information, contact Jerry Hinkle at [jerryhinkle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerryhinkle@sbcglobal.net).

**WE'RE GLOBAL!**  
Check out our  
chapter website at:  
***dc.sierraclub.org***

  
Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



# Announcements

SUPPORT OUR CHAPTER

## Special Thanks for Donating to our Chapter

**T**hank you to our 2007 contributors! Your gifts support our volunteer-driven work for the environment here in D.C. We hope that the generosity of our donors to date will inspire more members to contribute before the year's end!

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|-----------------------------------|----------|
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| Lucy Martin                      | \$35.00  |
| Kenneth A. Mazzer                | \$50.00  |
| Linda J. McCloud                 | \$50.00  |
| Paul & Marianne Meijer           | \$50.00  |
| Jeanne-Marie A. Miller           | \$50.00  |
| Christopher & Josephine Millward | \$100.00 |

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Sonia Nagda            | \$50.00  |
| Elliott J. Negin       | \$50.00  |
| Guy Nelson             | \$50.00  |
| Stephanie R. Newman    | \$36.00  |
| Alice Margaret O'Brien | \$150.00 |
| Marian Osterweis       | \$100.00 |
| David Panush           | \$20.00  |
| Marianne Phelps        | \$50.00  |
| Mark Rabbage           | \$40.00  |
| Jeffrey K. Rasmussen   | \$25.00  |
| Richard L. Rausch      | \$15.00  |
| Andrew D. Reamer       | \$50.00  |
| Richard Ricard         | \$100.00 |
| Robert Rosenberg       | \$35.00  |
| Marie G. Sansone       | \$25.00  |
| Clara G. Schiffer      | \$50.00  |
| David C. Scott         |          |
| & M. Corinne Scott     | \$35.00  |
| David & Ursula Shears  | \$25.00  |
| Dane & Judy Smith      | \$100.00 |
| Sally Strain           | \$50.00  |
| William S. Talbot      | \$50.00  |
| Patricia Taylor        | \$50.00  |
| Brian Turnbaugh        | \$20.00  |
| Yoma Ullman            | \$100.00 |
| Caroline E. Van Mason  | \$50.00  |
| Phillip Wearne         | \$20.00  |
| Lucky Wentworth        | \$100.00 |
| Maurice Werner         | \$50.00  |
| John Wickham           | \$100.00 |
| Evelyn & Robert Wrin   | \$100.00 |

Gifts to date total more than \$5,800.

## Home Depot Feels the Heat

*Reprinted from Sierra Insider*

**J**ust two weeks ago, the Sierra Club, Brave New Films and MoveOn.org Civic Action launched a campaign to ask Home Depot to pull its advertising from Fox News, which has been relentless in trying to portray global warming as a "hoax" and a "lie." More than 360,000 people have watched the video Fox Attacks: The Environment on YouTube since then and more than 30,000 have signed our petition to Home Depot.

Even better, more than 3,000 of the people who signed our petition have gone a step further and directly

contacted the executives at Home Depot to (politely) express their concern about Fox News by phone or email. Seattle's Tom Evans was one such activist and Home Depot customer. Tom spent five minutes talking to Ron Jarvis, Home Depot's vice president of environmental innovation. Why did Tom take the time to call? "I think picking one Fox advertiser and making them feel the heat is a very sharp strategy," he told us. "If Home Depot gets the message that they're becoming the poster child for this problem, others will follow suit."

If you haven't signed the Fox Attacks petition, it's not late. Add your name now by visiting the July 24, 2007 Sierra Insider (<http://www.sierraclub.org/insider/>).

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**A FREE WAY TO HELP SIERRA CLUB**

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## Help Restore the Environmental Communities of New Orleans

Did you want to help but not know how?

Did you give but want to do more?

Do you still want to help?

Join Sierra Club members from across the country in New Orleans September 28-30 for our Public Lands in Public Hands weekend event in celebration of National Public Lands Day! By working side by side with Louisiana residents on restoration projects, Sierra Club volunteers will advance the clean-up of a devastated landscape while supporting the rebuilding efforts of the people of New Orleans—actively showing them that the Sierra Club remembers and cares about their plight—and experience first hand the remains of storm ravaged communities.

New Orleans is coming back thanks to the help of groups like the Sierra Club. The world class restaurants, beautiful historic districts and jazz music are back. Our group is one of thousands to have come for a week or more to donate their time to help New Orleans rebuild. This service outing is unique in that you can really make a difference during the day and enjoy this national treasure after work.

Join us to help restore the environment and communities of New Orleans!

### Active Service Projects

1. Restore Bayou Bienvenu: The Bayou Bienvenu project is a partnership with the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association, University of Wisconsin and the Environmental Justice program of the Sierra Club. Activities will include trail building and planting.

2. City Park: City Park was designed by the Olmstead brothers, who also designed Central Park in New York City. The park was badly hit by the hurricane. Activities will include clearing brush and planting.

### Less Active Service Projects (actual will be determined closer to event)

1. Interview FEMA trailer residents about formaldehyde complaints

2. Polish statues in statue garden in City Park

3. Work with volunteer team doing energy efficiency in the Lower Ninth Ward.

### Transportation

Airfare/travel is to be paid by the participants. We will try to arrange pick-ups at the airport, otherwise you will need to take a taxi to the church. Transportation to work sites will be provided. If you drive to New Orleans, there is ample safe on-street parking near the church.

### Accommodations

You will stay in a dormitory in the Carrolton United Methodist Church, a historic church in the Uptown area. Sleep on air mattresses, almost like camping indoors. Community showers with separate men's and women's facilities. Facility is upstairs so volunteers need to be comfortable with stairs. Bring your own sleeping bag, towels, etc. The Sierra Club will be paying the bill. If this is too primitive for you, we can recommend nearby hotels where you can stay at your own expense.

### Meals

Breakfast and sack lunch will be provided. Dinners are on your own. The church is within short walking distance to a variety of restaurants and a short cab ride to the French Quarter.

### Miscellaneous

Participants need to be over 18 unless accompanied by a parent. In the event that someone needs medical attention, please note that we will have first aid personnel available but emergency services are not up to par with most cities. Please watch the weather in advance; it can still be hot at the end of September. Pack accordingly. We retain the right to cancel the event in case of extreme weather such as an oncoming hurricane or tropical storm.

For additional information and application and medical forms, please contact Jill Workman, chair, America's Wild Legacy Conservation Initiative Committee, at 503-654-8670 or [workmanjm@aol.com](mailto:workmanjm@aol.com), or Keren O'Brien Murphy, conservation organizer, at [keren.murphy@sierraclub.org](mailto:keren.murphy@sierraclub.org).

Send the completed application and medical forms to: Keren O'Brien Murphy, [keren.murphy@sierraclub.org](mailto:keren.murphy@sierraclub.org) or Sierra Club, 408 C Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002 by **September 15, 2007**.

Besides this New Orleans event, the Sierra Club is sponsoring single day events across the country. Participation in a Public Lands in Public Hands event on September 29 is a great opportunity to engage community members in a project that improves their neighborhood or distant public lands they care about and educate citizens about the Sierra Club's actions to protect our public land resources and to stop the public lands giveaways. Want to sponsor an event? Contact Keren Murphy at [keren.murphy@sierraclub.org](mailto:keren.murphy@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](http://www.mwrop.org) or call 202-547-2326.

**Tue. Aug. 14.** Rated H. Northern SNP: Jordan River (Vigorous Hike and Cool Summer Outing). About 17 mi. and 3,000 ft. climb. Leader: Chris Nolen, [chrishiker@verizon.net](mailto:chrishiker@verizon.net) or 301-469-8931.

**Sat. Aug. 18.** Rated D. AT from Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship to Harpers Ferry (Cool Summer Outing series). Joint event with AMC/DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott, 703-256-6351, and Frank Wodarczyk, 703-569-6737 (before 10 p.m.).

**Sun. Aug. 19.** Not Rated. Local Canoe Trip-Dealer's Choice. We will canoe a local creek/river. This will be a practiced novice canoe trip. Canoe and life jackets required. Joint event with Canoe Cruisers Association and Blue Ridge Voyager Canoe Club. Leader: Jim Finucane, 301-365-3485 (before 9 p.m.).

**Sat. Aug. 25.** Rated A/B. Potomac Heritage Trail (Get-to-Know-Loudoun and Cool Summer Outing). Be one of the first to hike this newly created section of the PHT in eastern Loudoun County. Meet at 9 a.m. at Bles Park. Call a leader for directions or if carless. Leaders: Gary Kosciusko, 703-765-0306, and Glenn Gillis, 703-430-0568.

**Sat. Aug. 25.** Rated F. Northern SNP: Overall Run Falls (Cool Summer Outing). Hike to highest waterfall in SNP; 13 mi. with 3,000 ft. elev. change. To carpool, meet at 7:30 a.m. at Vienna Metro Station, north parking lot. Leader: Russ Norfleet, 703-294-6068 or [russnorfleet@verizon.net](mailto:russnorfleet@verizon.net).

**Sat. Aug. 25.** Not Rated. Upper Montgomery County Bike Circuit. Cycle 15-30 mi. over rolling/hilly terrain. Helmets mandatory. Space limited; contact leader to reserve a spot. Leader: Jim Finucane, 301-365-3485 (before 9 p.m.) or [jim.finucane@yahoo.com](mailto:jim.finucane@yahoo.com).

**Sun. Aug. 26.** Rated A. Cabin John Regional Park (Cool Summer Outing). A moderately paced and easy out-and-back 4.2 mi. hike. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Locust Grove Nature Center parking lot (7777 Democracy Blvd.), in Bethesda, about 0.5 mi. west of Westfield Shoppingtown (Montgomery Mall). No lunch stop. Finish before 12:30 p.m.. Leader: Jim Fremont, 301-681-7475 (before 9 p.m.).

**Sun. Aug. 26.** Rated F. Northern SNP: Overall Run and Beecher Ridge (Cool Summer Outing). To carpool, meet at 9 a.m. at Vienna Metro Station's north parking lot (train riders: bear right on emerging outdoors at station). Joint event with AMC/DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott, 703-256-6351, and Frank Wodarczyk, 703-569-6737 (before 10 p.m.).

**Fri.-Mon. Aug. 31-Sep. 3.** Not Rated. Natural Wonders of Eastern West Virginia. Using moderate (rated C-E) day hikes (no backpacking), we'll explore natural wonders of eastern West Virginia staying in fully furnished cabins. No pets. Limited space available. Leaders: Mike Darzi, 301-593-4551 or [michael.darzi@saic.com](mailto:michael.darzi@saic.com), and Marjorie Richman, 301-770-3608 (until 9 p.m.).

## D.C. Chapter and Related Events

Following is a *partial* list of activities of the D.C. Chapter at press time. All events are free unless indicated by (\$). Please RSVP where indicated. Always check online for new events or to RSVP: [dc.sierraclub.org](http://dc.sierraclub.org).

### Tue. Aug. 28

FOOD, FOLKS, AND FUN! Volunteer Night. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station or D6, Circulator. RSVP. Contact Clayton Wilkerson at 919-539-1469 or [claytonwilkerson@yahoo.com](mailto:claytonwilkerson@yahoo.com).

### Tue. Sep. 4

Transportation Committee Meeting. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. All members welcome. Metro: Union Station or D6, Circulator. Contact Ralph Garboushian at 202-547-3764 or [ralphgarboushian@gmail.com](mailto:ralphgarboushian@gmail.com).

### Mon. Sep. 10

Second Monday Happy Hour (\$) 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Location TBD.

### Thu. Sep. 13

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

### Wed. Sep. 19

Movie Lounge: Maquilapolis: City of Factories. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. All members welcome. Metro: Union Station or D6, Circulator. RSVP. Join us to view this film which tells the inspiring story of women factory workers fighting for better treatment and a cleaner environment in Mexico's border region. Contact Chasta Piatakovas at 202-320-1205 or [cpiatakovas@netzero.com](mailto:cpiatakovas@netzero.com).

### Thu. Sep. 20

Environmental Book Club: Coffee with Pleasure. 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Ebenezers Coffeehouse, 201 F St. N.E. RSVP. Contact Chasta Piatakovas at 202-320-1205 or [cpiatakovas@netzero.com](mailto:cpiatakovas@netzero.com)

### Tue. Sep. 25

FOOD, FOLKS, AND FUN! Volunteer Night. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station or D6, Circulator. RSVP. Contact Clayton Wilkerson at 919-539-1469 or [claytonwilkerson@yahoo.com](mailto:claytonwilkerson@yahoo.com).

### Thu. Sep. 27

True Cost of Food Restaurant Outing. (\$) 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Java Green, 1020 19th St N.W. Contact Susan Prolman at 202-441-7104 or [susanprolman@aol.com](mailto:susanprolman@aol.com)

### Tue. Oct. 2

Transportation Committee Meeting. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. All members welcome. Metro: Union Station or D6, Circulator. Contact Ralph Garboushian at 202-547-3764 or [ralphgarboushian@gmail.com](mailto:ralphgarboushian@gmail.com).

### Sat. Oct. 6 - Sun. Oct. 7

Green Festival. D.C. Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place N.W.

### Mon. Oct. 8

Second Monday Happy Hour (\$) 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Location TBD. Contact Chasta Piatakovas at 202-320-1205 or [cpiatakovas@netzero.com](mailto:cpiatakovas@netzero.com)

### Thu., Oct. 11

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

### Sun. Oct. 14

5th Annual FRIENDS Block Party (GWU/Foggy Bottom West End). 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Eye Street Mall (right off the Foggy Bottom Metro Station). Contact Joanna Winchester at 202-363-4366 or [joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org](mailto:joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org).

### Tue. Oct. 23

FOOD, FOLKS, AND FUN! Volunteer Night. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Metro: Union Station or D6, Circulator. RSVP. Contact Clayton Wilkerson at 919-539-1469 or [claytonwilkerson@yahoo.com](mailto:claytonwilkerson@yahoo.com).

### Tue. Nov. 6

Transportation Committee Meeting. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. All members welcome. Metro: Union Station or D6, Circulator. Contact Ralph Garboushian at 202-547-3764 or [ralphgarboushian@gmail.com](mailto:ralphgarboushian@gmail.com).

### Thu. Nov. 8

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

### 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 |        |        |





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