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Published online at
dc.sierraclub.org

Why the Potomac Region Needs a Bottle Bill

by Matthew Mayers

You may see me on the street one day, picking up bottles. That's what I do. It's no substitute for concerted action, but it's what I do in the meantime. It may seem a little crazy, but no more crazy than the fact that according

to the Container Recycling Institute (CRI), we've thrown out over 75 billion cans and bottles this year. In the time it took you to read this sentence, another 10,000 cans and bottles went to landfills or incinerators.

Throwing out bottles and cans wastes energy, fills landfills and incinerators, and leads to litter on our beaches and sidewalks. According to Maryland's Citizens Using Resources Better (CURB), 40-60 percent of litter is made up of beverage containers. During the 2004 Potomac watershed cleanup, recyclable plastic bottles made up 30 percent of the trash collected.

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Photo provided by Container Recycling Institute



A dam made of plastic bottles underscores the need for better diversion of bottles from our rivers and streams.

Reconnecting With What Got You Here

by Irv Sheffey

As the Club's local Environmental Justice Organizer, I usually use these pages to let you know about some key environmental issue that I think you should know about or act upon. I thought that I'd digress from this for a moment and reflect a bit on why I do the work that I do and what brought about my interest to "Explore, enjoy and protect the planet."

Many of us joined the Sierra Club to address some inequity: perhaps a power plant gushing black smoke into our air, a pristine forest threatened by logging, a wetland being drained for a big box store's parking lot, the desire for a more walkable community

or a myriad of other inspired reasons tied to the environment. We write letters, sign petitions, attend rallies or join some other form of protest; actions that are needed to preserve and protect this precious place we call home. We often look around and wonder why others aren't as engaged, or for that fact enraged, as we are and why others are not heading to the proverbial barricades demanding change. Too often, we



A misty morning over the C&O Canal.

as advocates, or occasionally also known as "rabble-rousers," "demagogues" and "incendiaries," on behalf of the environment lose sight of what we are fighting for. On the other hand, I know many of you like to take long walks

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Photo by Yoma Ullman

Letter from the Chair

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Deadline, Winter Issue:
November 10, 2008.

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 Ser-
vices 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. *Please include both your
old and new addresses for fast
service.*

The newsletter is printed on
100% PCW recycled paper. An
electronic version is available
online at dc.sierraclub.org.
Please contact the editor to opt
in to the paperless newsletter.

Volunteering: It's Like Voting Twice, but Legally

by Damon Luciano

Four years ago I moved to Jacksonville, Fla., to volunteer in the presidential election. I spent every day for two and half months knocking on doors and talking to people about the importance of voting. When I encountered a skeptical voter I always asked that person what they cared about and what they wanted to see changed. Regardless of how they responded I would always find a way to connect voting to what was important to them.

While voting is critical to the issues we care about, volunteering is equally important. Not unlike the organization I worked with in Florida, the Sierra Club thrives on the energy of volunteers. Volunteer energy is critical to our success and defines us as an organization. For every Sierra Club staffer in the United States there are at least 20 committed volunteers leading the Club's efforts.

In Washington, D.C., volunteers implement all aspects of the chapter's activities, including leading all of our advocacy efforts, publishing our newsletter, managing our finances, serving on our Executive Committee and organizing dozens of membership events each year. Chapter staff have played a critical role in supporting these efforts, but these accomplishments would not be possible without dozens of dedicated volunteers.

Volunteer efforts make it possible for us to advocate for smart energy solutions, clean air, a balanced transportation system, and parkland and clean water—like we are doing at Poplar Point. These same volunteers also work with elected officials to improve legislation and enforcement.

Earlier this year two stalwart volunteers, Larry Martin and Sarah Buchanan, took

leadership of the chapter's energy committee. Since then several others have joined their ranks and this group continues grow and advocate for conservation and clean energy.

Despite our accomplishments there are major challenges ahead. Our commitment to fighting climate change is an achievable but herculean task that won't succeed without the volunteer contributions of many more members. Similarly, even though more and more people continue to join our streetcar campaign, building a 40-50 mile network of streetcars in the District will require growing an even larger grassroots movement.

When the challenges of protecting our climate and our local environment seem daunting, I think about the many people I spoke to in Jacksonville who felt voting would not make a difference to their lives. After talking to them about something they cared about, voting became meaningful to them. My hope is that these conversations helped people feel empowered by knowing that their voices count, while giving them a good reason to turn up at the polls. Volunteering with the Sierra Club can take that empowerment a step further, giving you a megaphone to amplify your voice and a meaningful way to contribute to your community.

Regardless of what motivated you to become a member, volunteering is as critical to having an impact on the issues you care about as voting. If you haven't gotten involved with the chapter in the past I'd like to hear from you and learn about what motivated you to join. Whatever your talents, we can use them to make progress on the issues that matter most to you.

SEPTEMBER 9 VOTE SETS THE STAGE

Sierra Club–D.C. Chapter Endorses Six Candidates in the D.C. Primary Elections

by Lisa Swanson

The D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club has endorsed six candidates in the District of Columbia primary election, which will be held on September 9. Council seats for Wards 2, 4, 7 and 8 are on the ballot this fall, as well as two of the four at-large seats.

Reflecting the fact that we generally have an environmental and transit-friendly City Council, most incumbents received the Sierra Club's support for reelection. Five of those endorsed will be on the Democratic ballot and one on that of the Statehood-Green Party. All of the candidates we support have actively sought out the club's endorsement.

Kwame Brown got the approval for his at-large seat, as he did when he first ran four years ago. Though new to the council, Brown is an eager study on environmental issues. "I'm down at the Anacostia River most weekends," he told us, exhibiting a previously

unknown personal connection to the river in his backyard. On the issues of keeping Klingle Valley car-free and holding on to the sound provisions on development of the Anacostia, Brown has done well.

The non-Democrat and the only non-incumbent, long-time activist David Schwartzman won our endorsement for the Statehood-Green Party primary. He is running for the at-large council position. Schwartzman, who teaches at Howard University, testified at hearings earlier this year in opposition to funding a road through Klingle Valley.

In the Democratic primary for the Ward 2 D.C. Council seat, the Sierra Club-endorsed incumbent Jack Evans, a consistent voice for environmental protection and a leader in recent efforts to "green" the Nationals' ballpark, has unwaveringly stood up to prevent the

reconstruction of Klingle Road.

Muriel Bowser, seeking a full term after filling the seat last year left open by Adrian Fenty's move to mayor, was selected as the strongest candidate in Ward 4. Bowser has differed with the Sierra Club on some issues, but in her short time on the Council has proven a strong force in her ward. We are optimistic that because of her good instincts and knowledge about bicycling and transit issues in her ward, we will be able to work with her in the future.

In the Democratic primary for the Ward 8 D.C. Council seat, the Sierra Club has endorsed incumbent Marion Barry. Damon Luciano, chapter chair,

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Sierra Club Endorses Obama

by Tom Valtin

The Sierra Club has officially endorsed Senator Barack Obama for President. We want to take this opportunity to tell you why.

Simply put, we believe Obama shares our concerns, values and vision for a clean energy future. He agrees with us that it's not time for half steps; that what America needs is bold, transformational action that will break the chokehold Big Oil has on our economy and Washington politics, provide short-term relief for American families and long-term solutions for our energy and economy problems.

Highlights of Obama's Energy strategy include:

Providing Relief for families struggling to pay their energy bills. His plan is to provide families with a \$1,000 tax credit and stimulus checks paid for by taxing the oil companies' record profits.

Investing \$150 billion over the next ten years in alternative sources of

energy—wind and solar power, and advanced biofuels, in the commercialization of plug-in hybrid cars, and development a new digital electricity grid. This investment will create up to 5,000,000 good-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced and will create the billions in new economic activity that will America back on the path to prosperity.

Requiring 25% of U.S. electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025 and increases energy efficiency in the U.S. 50% by 2030.

Attacking global warming. Obama has presented a bold and comprehensive plan for addressing global warming which includes a "cap and auction" system that would cut our carbon dioxide emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Rejecting drilling as the answer to our energy woes. Obama knows that drilling off of our beaches and destroying our last special places like the Arctic

National Wildlife Refuge in order to pad Big Oil's bottom line won't do anything to lower gas prices today, tomorrow, or even a decade from now.

This fall, The Sierra Club hopes to engage as many members in candidate campaign activities as possible. "The Obama campaign is putting together the largest and most sophisticated field operation in presidential history, and there will be meaningful ways for Sierra Club volunteers to engage," said Bob Bingaman, the National Field Director for the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club will be working to recruit team leaders and volunteers for the Obama campaign and for a number of pro-environmental races in seven target states - Colorado, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania. Members from

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Photo by Peter M (via Flickr)

Inner City Outings: Another Great Year Helping Area Youth Experience the Outdoors

by Scott Johnson

Washington, D.C. Inner City Outings (ICO) just completed yet another terrific year of work with our three active community partner groups: Beacon House (in Northeast Washington), Highland Addition and Wheeler Creek (both in Southeast Washington). If you are not familiar with the ICO program, we run weekly outings (one weekend day per month per partner group) to make available opportunities for outdoor adventures to at-risk youth who otherwise might not have them. Most of our outings are day trips, such as hiking the Billy Goat Trail in Great Falls, Maryland or through Rock Creek Park in Washington, swimming at Beaver Dam Swimming Club in Cockeysville, Maryland, rafting on the Shenandoah River in Front Royal, Virginia, canoeing at Jug Bay



Rafting on Wheeler Creek results in an opportunity for a quick swim!



Photos provided by ICO

An ICO participant enjoys swimming at Beaver Dam.

Wetlands Sanctuary in Lothian, Maryland, or ice skating at the Sculpture Garden on the National Mall (a perennial favorite). The highlights of our program each year are our summer overnight camping trips, some photos from the most recent of which accompany this update (along with several other photos from recent outings). On that trip, the Beacon House group visited Mathews Arm Campground in Shenandoah National Park. We spent the weekend hiking around the campsite, roasting hot dogs and marshmallows over our campfire, and telling campfire stories. The weather was perfect and everyone on the trip had a great time.

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A Retrospective from a Former Volunteer

by Russell Edwards

To the Sierra Club - Washington, D.C., family,

I'd like to take the time to share and thank all those who have made my time working with the D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club unforgettable. The D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club is the most fulfilling group of activists I've ever worked with. Looking back, I can point to two main actions I'm thankful the club took to ensure my success as an

environmental activist: it reached out to me and it provided guidance.

My whimsically-structured effort to distribute compact fluorescent light-bulbs, which began outside the Eastern Market on a street corner, continues today! I bought them inexpensively at www.1000bulbs.com and sold them at cost, which made them an irresistible bargain even for skeptical consumers. Selling at the Market was fun, though,

and I interacted with lots of community members. I realize this type of action isn't everyone's cup of tea, but it produces tangible results immediately which is gratifying, of course.

I worked at Stuart-Hobson Junior High School on Capitol Hill, and they have an excellent Environmental Club established and led by Suzanne Wells - a delight to work with and a wonderful woman. The schools on Capitol Hill

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Eco-Fabulous Living in the D.C. Area

by Mariana Gerzanych

Green is becoming the new black when it comes to houses. By now we've all heard about switching to energy efficient light bulbs, getting Energy Star appliances, buying local produce and turning off our computers. Yet when it comes to saving the planet, even these steps start to feel too small. There might be a possibility of taking much larger steps soon. Into the "local" equation, enter Bioregional Development Group, an independent environmental organization that creates products and services based on the concept of One Planet Living—i.e., living within our fair share of the earth's resources. They recently chose Washington D.C. as a future home for a large-scale One Planet Living community.

The latest word from scientists is that to stabilize the earth's climate and

return to the maximum safe level, CO₂ levels have to go back to 350 parts per million. LEED certification comes in handy, but we would still be putting



Photo by Bioregional Development Group

The BedZED development in London as seen from the air. The development incorporates renewable energy, recycling facilities, sustainable transport options and recycled water.

thousands of tons of carbon into the atmosphere even if every building in D.C. became LEED platinum certified tomorrow. The power distributed by Pepco is mainly generated from coal. Is eco-fabulous living an oxymoron

in D.C.?

The idea is not that far fetched, as comparable communities function well in Europe. The project will be an engineer's playground and a well-oiled (perhaps not literally) technological organism. Consider that a successful community called BedZED in South London became a reality in March 2002. Incorporating renewable energy, recycling facilities, sustainable transport options, recycled water, and various sustainable products and services led to lowering its environmental impact by 60 percent.

Another community in the works is Sonoma Mountain Village (north of San Francisco). When completed, it will be the first One Planet Living community in the U.S. According to

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ENERGY WATCH IN D.C.

Cool Cities and Energy Committee Activities Heating Up

by Larry Martin

The D.C. Cool Cities and Energy Committee meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday of every month. The location may vary, so check the chapter website, contact the co-chairs or go to our Facebook page for timely details.

Cool Cities is the educational arm of the D.C. Chapter's energy work and is focusing on residential, commercial and school projects to promote energy conservation and transition to renewables. We have developed and compiled resources on a Google groups page (http://groups.google.com/group/DC_Plug-in) to facilitate our activism. Highlights include the web publication of our very slick "climate councilors" toolkit that we'll employ at our house meetings this fall to help D.C. residents reduce their carbon footprints,

and save money.

We are also revisiting our work with Archstone-Smith & Hines, the developers of the old downtown conference center site, to assert energy efficiency objectives. The market is now reinforcing what environmentalists were advocating a short year ago; so we want to make these efficiency advances secure and press now for further efficiency standards such as district heating and cooling and the adoption of renewable energy sources. D.C. Chapter members met with developers in 2007 and asked for zero-emission buildings. Based on their appreciation of the goal in principle, we have a good relationship with these developers in order to press for bolder energy-related initiatives. We see this constructive engage-

ment with developers as a model for advocacy with this sector and plan to expand this sort of outreach with other development projects in the District as chapter volunteers are identified.

We are also setting our sites on making energy conservation in schools another priority for us. This goal is attractive to volunteers and has some traction with staff at D.C. Public Schools. Finally, Cool Cities is making initial plans for a local-area concert to highlight the environmental issues with coal-powered energy and coal-mining mountaintop removal, such as was recently presented in N.Y.C.

The chapter's Energy Committee is the chapter's legislative alter-ego that advocates pushing the legislative energy envelope. In August we pre-

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Sierra Club Forms Streetcar Alliance

by Jason Broehm

The Washington, D.C. Chapter's transportation committee recently renewed our effort to expedite the construction of a planned streetcar line along the H Street-Benning Road N.E. corridor between the Minnesota Avenue Metrorail station and Union Station and to promote the longer term goal of the construction of a larger network of streetcar lines across the city that will compliment the existing Metrorail and Metrobus network and expand environmentally friendly transportation options in the District.

In July, the Sierra Club joined with Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC) 6A and 6C, which represent communities along the H Street N.E. corridor, in forming an alliance to advocate for the H Street-Benning Road N.E. streetcar line, which has broad support in the H Street community it will one day serve. The elected commissioners who have served on ANCs 6A and 6C have been leaders in recent years in promoting this streetcar line and were successful in pressing the District government to include rail tracks in the complete overhaul of the H Street N.E. streetscape that is now underway as part of the Great Streets Initiative. In early August, the North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association also signed on as an alliance member organization.

Chapter activists continue to reach out to other ANCs, neighborhood organizations, businesses and other potential supporters of the streetcar line in order to harness existing support, reach out to prospective supporters and ultimately to build a coalition of organizations that can effectively push the city to expedite completion of the streetcar line.

Also in July, the chapter testified on behalf of streetcars at a hearing convened by Councilmember Jim Graham



One of three streetcars owned by the District and destined for D.C.'s streets is shown running on the streets of Plzen in the Czech Republic, where the cars are manufactured by Skoda-Inekon and are being held by the manufacturer until D.C. is ready to take delivery.

(D-Ward 1), chairman of the Council's Public Works and the Environment Committee. Although the hearing focused on the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) plan for a four-stop streetcar demonstration project that would run between the Anacostia Metrorail station and Bolling Air Force Base, the chapter's testimony focused on the promising H Street-Benning Road N.E. streetcar line and the importance of the larger streetcar network planned for the future.

Soon after the hearing, chapter transportation committee activists met with leaders of DDOT's Mass Transit Administration to express the Sierra Club's strong support for the H Street line and a comprehensive streetcar network and to learn about DDOT's plans for streetcars in Anacostia, along H Street-Benning Road N.E. and the

larger network.

We invite you to attend the chapter's Second Monday Happy Hour on September 8, 6:00-7:30 p.m. to learn more about the streetcar campaign in a social atmosphere. The happy hour will be hosted by the transportation committee and held at the Argonaut (1433 H Street N.E.), which is located on the future route of the streetcar line the chapter is advocating.

If you would like to attend one of the committee's monthly meetings, we meet on the first Tuesday of each month (please check the chapter's website calendar for details: <http://www.dc.sierraclub.org/calendar/>). To learn more or find out how you can get involved in this exciting campaign, you may also contact Ralph Garboushian, chair of the transportation committee, at ralphgarboushian@gmail.com.

Conservation

Back to the Future at the National Capital Trolley Museum

by Jason Broehm

In late June, the chapter's transportation committee led an outing to the National Capital Trolley Museum just outside of Washington in Colesville, Maryland. Following a delicious potluck picnic lunch, participants toured the museum, learning about the long history of streetcars (also known as trolleys) in Washington, D.C. between 1862 and 1962. The group then took a 20-minute scenic ride through Northwest Branch Park, where the museum is located, on an old streetcar retired from Toronto's extensive streetcar network. After the trolley ride, a museum volunteer provided a tour of the museum's car barn, where the museum's other trolleys are stored when not in use.

Outing participants viewed the trolley museum with an eye toward the future when streetcars will roll down the District's streets once again. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has plans to construct a streetcar network in D.C. beginning with a demonstration project in Anacostia where DDOT will soon begin construction of a short four-stop streetcar line as a demonstration project. The chapter's transportation committee is advocating for an extensive streetcar network that would

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Photos by Jason Broehm

ABOVE: A National Capital Trolley Museum volunteer gives Lance Brown (middle) and Ralph Garboushian (right) a tour of the museum's trolley car barn, pointing out an old D.C. streetcar behind them.

BELOW: Trolley with overhead catenary wire at the National Capital Trolley Museum in Colesville, Maryland.



Member Tracy Lloyd and her daughter Zuri enjoy the trolley ride through Northwest Branch Park during the trolley museum outing.



Letter

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are discussing a massive greening project which could certainly use the help of members of the D.C. environmental community.

The chapter reached out and got me involved. It's impossible to talk about my experience in the D.C. Chapter without discussing the influence of chapter leaders, such as Matthew Tisdale. He provided an easy avenue for me to join the chapter by recognizing that I was interested in the environment and taking a personal interest. Matthew seized the opportunity to recruit by proposing various chapter projects I could work on and introducing me to other members. This crucial catalyst allowed me to enter the group structure smoothly. He was my "in," a role which helped even for an organic, open group like the Sierra Club. I think it is manifestly important to reach out to new, or potential, members and make them feel wanted. This sense of belonging created a loving bond between me and other members, bringing joy to my life while I was being active. Matthew also importantly introduced me to a great friend of mine, Robert Morris, which leads to the second key action the chapter took.

The Chapter provided guidance. Bob was my Club mentor, but also ally, friend, and whiskey-pourer. His knowledge of the environmental movement provided me a consistent knowledgeable resource. Being a new member of an activist organization can be daunting. Bob dedicated time to explain how best to get involved but also told righteous stories like shutting down Baltimore with a ring of disenfranchised citizens holding hands. I aspired to follow in his footsteps. This mentor/mentee relationship created results. It was his idea to sell light bulbs, and I started selling them. Our interaction was invaluable and continues to this day. It was fitting he spoke at the Stuart-Hobson Youth Global Warming Summit right before I moved my home from D.C. I only wish I could be there to organize more.

Part of the purpose of this missive is to provide guidance to new members who want to take charge in their community. Find your passion and build on it. Contact the leaders of the chapter and ask questions. Build a larger community of activists. Sell compact fluorescent bulbs. Build a relationship with a school. Better still, you could create your own school Environmental Club.

In short, do something! The Club is volunteer-based and provides freedom to start your own projects. What problem are you interested in? Do you have an idea how to solve it? Then what's stopping you? The D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club is here to nourish your desire to create positive change

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ICO

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Each of our outing groups works with, and could not operate without, our pool of dedicated Outing Volunteers. Those Outing Volunteers work closely with Outing Leaders assigned to each partner group to make sure our outings go smoothly. Each Outing Volunteer team consists of a mix of environmental enthusiasts (like you!), volunteers experienced with at-risk youth, and first-time volunteers of widely varied backgrounds. There is no specific training, minimum time commitment, or other cost to volunteer, so participation has very little impact on volunteers' schedules and wallets. We are always interested in new Outing Volunteers to help us connect area youth with nature and plan to recruit, train, and certify approximately five new Outing Leaders during the coming year. We encourage all local Sierra Club members to get involved.

More information about the ICO program, and about our recent and upcoming outings, is available at <http://ico.sierraclub.org/dc> and <http://www.eteambuilder.org/DCICO>. If you like being outside, having fun, and would enjoy the chance to be a positive influence in the lives of some great D.C. kids, please visit the second website listed above, register and join our e-mail distribution list. ICO then will be able to keep you informed of our schedule of activities. With the continued assistance of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club, we will be able to make 2008-2009 an even more successful year. If you have any questions or are interested in more information, please feel free to contact Scott Johnson at any time at WashingtonDCICO@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you on the trails!



Friends helping friends on a hike with the ICO program.

Outings

Trolley Museum

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improve mobility for D.C. residents, complementing existing Metrorail and Metrobus service. The committee has focused its efforts on working with communities in Northeast D.C. to see that the second planned streetcar line – on H Street and Benning Road N.E. between Union Station and the Minnesota Avenue Metrorail station – is built as soon as possible.

The museum was founded in 1959 after the decision had been made to close down Washington's existing streetcar network and replace streetcars with buses. The museum, which is run completely by volunteers, seeks to preserve and interpret Washington, D.C.'s history of streetcars for the benefit of present and future generations. Unfortunately, the museum will close later this year when it is forced to relocate to another part of the park to make way for construction of the controversial Intercounty Connector highway project, long opposed by the Sierra Club's Maryland Chapter and many other organizations. The museum is constructing a new building to house its exhibits and a new car barn to store the streetcars and laying track for a new route for its streetcar rides through the park. For more information about the National Capital Trolley Museum, you may visit the museum website: <http://www.dctrolley.org>.

Energy

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sented oral testimony to the Highway Administration on outdated fuel-cost estimates that underpin the CAFÉ standards, as well as written testimony to the Washington Metro Council of Governments on their recently released Climate Change report. The D.C. Clean & Affordable Energy Act of 2008 passed the City Council unanimously and awaits approval by Congress when they return in the fall. The bill establishes a sustainable energy utility (SEU) dedicated to improving D.C.'s energy efficiency and development of renewable energy sources, and training District residents to perform energy-efficiency work, i.e. green-collar jobs.

Reconnecting

Continued from page 1

in the park, possibly watch a cloud go by, turn a spade of soil in the garden or a pot on your windowsill or enjoy similar moments in nature. I encourage you to take more of those moments to reconnect with the natural world around us, find the healing that it provides and renew not only the reason you "rabble-rouse," but also your spirit.

I recently had the opportunity to join a friend on a stroll along a path in Fort Dupont, something I hadn't done in quite awhile. Instead of just hiking through the trees and bushes, we took the time to slow our pace and notice some of those things we often miss. Getting down on my knees, I parted some of the grasses, noticing their differences, their color, their shapes, their textures. Some had flowers and others did not; some were smooth, others had sharp edges; some were cropped by unknown herbivores, others untouched.

As I explored, butterflies fluttered, beetles scurried away and ants trekked to places only they knew. Discovery and wonder were present, accompanied by joy. I had once studied to be a naturalist yet had gotten away from that, getting involved in land use issues, watershed restoration, advocacy for green collar jobs and the like. All important, but in the "bigness" of such matters, I had lost some of the spark that called me to champion them. Walking along this path, touching the earth, I re-ignited

that spark and my commitment to what I stand for.

I've now made taking time to notice the little things that connect me to the earth part of each day. Not only do I find joy in that moment, but renewal that I bring to my personal and professional endeavors. So take a moment and get outdoors, even your back yard or that patch of soil in front of your home and get in touch with the earth and yourself. Following are a few resources that can help you do so:

Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program—gets kids and adults out to the various parks and natural areas in the DC metropolitan region. Contact Scott Johnson at: WashingtonDCICO@gmail.com.

Building Bridges to the Outdoors—another Sierra Club program to promote getting children outdoors, developing their environmental stewardship—contact Jackie.Ostfeld@sierraclub.org.

Audubon Naturalist Society—offers several classes and field trips where you'll learn not only about birds but ferns, butterflies, bats and much more. Visit their website for more information: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/default.asp?page=554>.

Puro Aire—a program developed with the support of the Sierra Club directed to our Latino community to encourage the enjoyment of the great outdoors. Contact Isabel.Long@sierraclub.org for more information.



New on the Council's docket is the "Carbon Trading Pilot Program Act of 2008" introduced by Councilmembers Mary Cheh and Kwame Brown. It will require the Mayor to create a pilot project to evaluate the efficacy of utilizing emerging carbon markets to

advance the District's goals for energy efficiency and renewable energy. The Energy Committee is reviewing the legislation and has scheduled a meeting with council staff.

RECYCLING IN THE D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS

by Jeff Gustafson

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the average American generates about 4.6 pounds of trash every day, collectively amounting to 251 million tons annually. As the school year begins this fall, over 78,000 students will return to their classrooms in the D.C. public schools, each of them disposing of waste with little opportunity to recycle. The result is an enormous amount of waste being generated by local schools.



Photo by Matthew Tisdale

Despite the District's legal mandate that all schools maintain recycling systems, many lack resources to do so. The D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club is preparing to launch an initiative to assist D.C. schools with recycling education and building effective recycling systems.

The Waste Reduction Committee is looking to put together a team of volunteers to work with the D.C. Public Schools on recycling. This team will design recycling curriculum for K-12 classrooms, train volunteers to run recycling workshops, establish a recycling pilot project in a school in need, and build a constructive relationship between the Sierra Club and the D.C. Public Schools.

If you'd like to get involved, contact Jeff Gustafson at jeff.gustafson@mac.com or 925-209-9898. Individuals with backgrounds in curriculum writing, teaching K-12, working with kids, recycling, and working with school districts are very much desired for this initiative. Students interested in interning with the Sierra Club and working on this project are encouraged to send a cover letter and resume.

Eco-Fabulous

Continued from page 5

Katherine Salant of The Washington Post, its heat, hot water and electricity will be produced by on-site solar panels with backup heating provided by geothermal heat pumps. Many of the materials will be recycled and re-used, and local firms will produce the construction components. The whole neighborhood will have a New Urbanist design, including narrow streets lined with wide sidewalks. (Katherine Salant, "In California, Building a Town With a Gentle Footprint," The Washington Post, May 3, 2008)

One Planet Living Community, along with Bioregional Development Group, are partnering with local developers to create an eco-neighborhood. Their first order of business is to decide

which renewable sources would be the best fit in the area. Bioregional's Associate Director for D.C., Barbara Deutsch, said they are working with Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant to use biosolids for conversion into renewable energy. Since our own Blue Plains Plant is the largest wastewater treatment facility in the world, Bioregional expects to draw most of its renewable energy from there. They are also working with developers to find a geographical location with appropriate infrastructure in place—i.e., availability of public transportation, amenities and shopping all within walking distance.

Wherever it ends up being built, the idea is not to develop an exclusive community only for people with

Letter

Continued from page 8

and help you realize it. My activism through the Club will always live in my heart and the community.

I recently reached 5,000 bulbs distributed after a large sale to my hometown church in Peachtree City, GA. I recognize this milestone is minute, but I assure you I am still advocating for change and making connections in my new community of Athens, GA! Thank you all! Your warm community nourished my ambition to create positive change in my world by providing a framework of friends who stood by me. Needless to say, my first year of law school here was a drain on my efforts, but next year I hope to launch a fresh recycling campaign for the enormous tailgate parties taking place here. It should be especially exciting since UGA Football has the number one pre-season ranking. Go DAWGS! The recycled aluminum will also hopefully provide some funds for more outreach activities...that will, yes, most likely involve CFL's.

~Cheers,

Russell James Edwards

russelljamesedwards@gmail.com

green ideologies. The aim is to create a neighborhood with a sense of community, instead of simply enforcing a green vision.

And, speaking of green, what does the almighty dollar say about ecological living? Interestingly, the current economic downturn, the energy crunch and the housing slump will most likely have a favorable effect on the demand for these green buildings. For the developers, it's a good marketing strategy that will provide an edge over countless contractors that have swarmed the city. For the end buyer, it will be a great investment opportunity—between buying a house that consumes 60% less energy and a regular one, the first choice seems like a smarter option.

Regional Bottle Bill

Continued from page 1

The hard work of area environmentalists pushing for curbside recycling has made a dent in this problem, but much more needs to be done.

Why is curbside recycling not enough? Access to curbside recycling tripled in the 1990s, yet beverage recycling rates actually decreased and the amount of container litter and debris on our shores has increased. Many beverages are consumed outside the home, so there is no chance to recycle them. Public recycling bins—unveiled this summer in downtown DC—are far too sparsely located to deal with this problem.

Unfortunately, one of the groups behind the bins, the American Beverage Institute, has been a leading opponent of bottle bills. Also known as container deposit laws, these bills establish a refundable deposit on beverage containers. Customers receive a refund when they return containers for recycling. The institute's support of these bins seems like a convenient camouflage for their opposition to truly effective laws. Beverage companies do not like bottle bills because they increase the initial cost of their product. Grocers do not like bottle bills because it is a hassle for them to deal with the redeemed containers. But these companies have continued to flourish in states with bottle bills. There is no reason that they cannot afford to deal with the environmental consequences of their products.

Bottle bills work. They are a solution that takes advantage of market solutions to produce results. As of 2002, states with bottle bills have per capita recycling rates 2 1/2 times higher for beverage containers when compared to states without these laws. These ten states, which have only 29 percent of America's population, account for

over half of our recycled beverage containers.

States with bottle bills also have had massive decreases in litter, most seeing decreases of over 30 percent. Imagine that: a one-third reduction in all of our trash in the streets and parks. Michigan, with the highest deposit of 10 cents (leading to a classic Seinfeld episode) has the lowest percentage of beverage container litter of all the 11 states with deposit laws. As CRI has pointed out, these bills provide a disincentive to litter and they provide an incentive to recycle and to pick up bottles and cans that are littered.

Bottle bills also help fight climate change. Recycling of beverage containers led to energy savings equivalent to 32 million barrels of oil and avoided over 4 million metric tons of carbon equivalent in 1999 (which equals the greenhouse gas emissions of almost 2.5 million cars), according to a study by respected industry consultant R.W. Beck. These savings will increase dramatically with new container deposit laws, since states with these laws have such high recycling rates.

Just as the environmental problems caused by beverage containers affect all of us in the Potomac region, our solution must be region-wide. Without a law in at least two of the three main local jurisdictions (District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia), whoever passes the law first faces the prospect of dealing with large amounts of redeemed deposits from out of state. Determined citizens in Maryland are fighting in the legislature for a law. It's time for those of us in Virginia and D.C. to join them.

In his New York Times magazine article on deposit laws, "The Unintended Consequences of Hyperhydration,"

Jon Mooallem closes with the powerful story of the Redeemers - what a priest who works in Harlem calls those who collect and redeem cans for a living. He talks about how in Leviticus, the people are told to leave the corners of their fields for the poor to harvest. "What the Redeemers are doing is gleaning the fields, sustaining their lives in a way that actually ends up making life better for all of us." With a bottle bill, we have a chance to clean up our neighborhoods, protect the environment and help some people make a little money. We'd be crazy not to fight for it.

Obama

Continued from page 3

other states will also be encouraged to get involved by traveling to our target states to volunteer. Ken Brame, member of Sierra Club's Political Committee, adds, "I hope Club members will do as much as they can for the Obama campaign and the Sierra Club endorsed Congressional and state legislative candidates. Whether you can contribute a whole month or just an hour a week, volunteer help will make a big difference."

For those Club members who are able to travel to other locations to help with efforts on the ground, or for members in target states who are able to help by housing out-of-town volunteers, please visit:

<http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageNavigator/Obama2008>

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



photo/Clara Natoli

Announcements

SUPPORT OUR CHAPTER

Smashing Records but More to Go

by Karen Cordry

Each year, the D.C. Chapter sends out a call for pledges in March - called the "March Window" in Sierra Club leadership circles. As of early August, the new total for this year's March Window fundraising drive has risen to almost \$7400 with donations by more than 85 people. That total is a record for the club and a tribute to all who have given generously. Seventeen of you have had already given in excess of the \$100 level and accepted my offer to match such donations with another \$25 or my own. I'll be happy to keep doing that for the rest of the year for anyone who meets the challenge. And a challenge it is - while \$7400 is a record, so too are the opportunities and threats facing the environment now in D.C. and around the world. The opportunities are there - interest in climate change is at the forefront of both Presidential campaigns; governments are increasingly interested in recycling and green spaces and streetcars are on track to return to D.C.

But the challenges are there as well. The current administration is doing everything it can to do nothing about global warming; the reality of recycling in the District is far from our goal; green space continues to be looked on with envy by developers and the plans for street cars are still (literally) miles away from the need.

There is much the chapter can do; much that the national club can do, and much that each of us can do. I would hope that each of us can consider step-

ping forward as did our most recent donor, who asked to remain anonymous, but made a special gift of \$300 in light of the election coming up.

If each of the chapter's 3,000 members only donated \$10 a piece, we would smash the \$10,000 goal we have set for this year.

And that would provide the chapter funds to support the national Sierra Club and the candidates who will fight for the environment. If you haven't donated yet, please send your contribution, made out to Sierra Club, D.C. Chapter to Karen Cordry, 10705 Torrance Dr., Silver Spring, Md., 20902.

Donors since the Last Newsletter

Up to \$50

John and Livezey More
Susan Volman

Up to \$100

George Bohlinger, III
Monica Dignam
Lowell Dodge
Monica Goldberg
Kenneth Mazzer
Cathy McCarthy
Matthew Tisdale
Marchant Wentworth

Above \$100

Anonymous
Jason Broehm
Victoria Cordova
Damon Luciano

NEW CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Seeking a Newsletter or Blog Editor

The D.C. Chapter produces this quarterly missive for distribution to all of the members in the District of Columbia. For many years, Yoma Ullman has served as a diligent editor and proofer, ensuring this chapter's publication is a shining star among Sierra Club newsletters. Yoma has found a passion and not modest talent in photography which has taken her energies in wonderful new directions. Truly, I am lost without her assistance.

And so it is that the newsletter is seeking an editor.

The duties:

~ Reading, editing, and occasional fact-checking of submissions.

~ Proof final copy to match style-guide.

~ Committing to approximately 20 hours over a week each quarter to herd submissions, answer emails, and sit through a final review.

~ Preferably available for a face-to-face review once per quarter.

The newsletter is produced each May, August, November, and February.

We are looking for someone with exceptional eye for detail and strong curiosity. This opportunity has potential to expand into assisting with online conversion of the newsletter into blog format.

Interested? Contact Jessica Hanff at jlhanff@earthlink.net. I'd love to have help for the November issue.



Announcements

Call for Nominations for the 2009 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 2008, four 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 six candidates to run for the four 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 Jim Dougherty at jimdougherty@aol.com. Nominations and petitions must be received by October 12, 2008. 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 2009 and report the results to the Executive Committee at its January meeting with elected ExCom members taking office at that meeting.



WE'RE GLOBAL!

Check out our chapter website at:

dc.sierraclub.org



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Endorsement

Continued from page 3

noted that Barry has been a supporter of streetcar plans by the D.C. Department of Transportation. The first miles of what we believe will be an extensive asset to the city's transit system will be built in Ward 8.

As the current Democratic delegate to Congress, Eleanor Holmes Norton easily won the support of the group for years of commitment to public transit, as well as efforts to include energy efficiency in federal buildings and many other accomplishments. Even without a floor vote she has managed to get prominent consideration of the District of Columbia.

As in the past, the local Sierra Club cooperated with Friends of the Earth and Clean Water Action in creating written questionnaires for all candidates and conducting in-person interviews with many. After the September primary, we will consider all races for endorsement in the November 4 general election.



With your help, we can clean up our water.

Over the last 30 years, we've made great progress cleaning up our water. But the Bush Administration is threatening that progress, proposing that "isolated" small streams, ponds and wetlands no longer be covered under the Clean Water Act. Work with us to strengthen the Clean Water Act and its enforcement. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean water, air and wild lands.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (____) _____
 Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

| Membership Categories | Individual | Joint |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Special Offer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$49 |
| Standard | <input type="checkbox"/> \$39 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$49 |
| Supporting | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 |
| Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$175 |
| Life | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1250 |
| Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 |
| Student/Limited Income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 |

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-0968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

Calendar

Outings

Following is a *partial* list of activities offered by the Sierra Club Potomac Regional Outings (SCPRO) program. 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.

Mon. Sep. 1 (Labor Day). Rated B. Virginia State Arboretum and Sky Meadows State Park. A leisurely paced two-part hike of about 9 mi. through a lovely, gently rolling late-summer landscape. It will start with a 6 mile circuit through the arboretum, with time to discuss the arboretum's beginnings and the first director's obsession with ginkgo trees. Then, on the drive back to the Vienna meeting place, there will be a stop at the state park to do a 3 mi. up-and-down trek to take in the superb Crooked Run Valley views from the Piedmont Overlook (park entrance fee: \$4/car). Then there will be an optional stop at nearby Hollin Farms to pick/buy peaches and other fresh edibles. To carpool, meet at 8:30 am in the Vienna Metro station's north parking lot (train riders should turn right on emerging from station). Joint event with AMC/DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott 703/256-6351 and Carol Ivory carolivory@verizon.net.

Sat. Sep. 6. Rated B. National Arboretum (Get to Know DC). A leisurely paced, colorful, and educational hike that will show off such blooming plants as plum-leaf azalea, flame lily, harlequin glorybower, pepperbush, musk mallow, crape myrtle, maybe a few late azaleas, and many annuals, herbs, and old roses—beneath a canopy of tall trees and blue sky. Nonflowering sights will include 180-year-old transplanted Capitol columns, a CCC-built shelter, the Anacostia River, and the remains of an old brickyard (home of the ten-hole brick). We'll do two separate loops of roughly 3.6 mi. each, with lunch in between (either BYO or buy from food cart). To do the first loop or both loops, meet at 10 am in the main parking lot just inside the arboretum's R Street entrance; to do the second loop only, be there by 12:45 pm. Call for driving directions or if carless. Leashed pets and children are welcome. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott, 703/256-6351.

Sat. Sep. 13. Rated D. Sky Meadows State Park. Moderate circuit hike of 8.5 miles with approximately 1,500 feet elevation change. From the visitor center we will hike up to the Appalachian Trail and gain a beautiful view. On the way down we will stop to enjoy another view at the Piedmont Overlook. This Virginia State Park has an entrance fee of \$4 per car. Meet at Vienna Metro at 8:30 am. Leader: Marcia Wolf, 301/565-3165 (before 9pm) or wolmfmk@comcast.net.

Sun. Sep. 14. Rated C. Sugarloaf Mountain. (Conservation Hike) Moderate 7-mile conservation hike to one of our most scenic close-in areas. Get a scenic view and learn about our Agricultural

Reserve. Meet at 8:30 at Shady Grove Metro – East side by Metro tunnel. Leader: Bob Goldberg 301/540-2915 (before 9 p.m.).

Sat. Sep. 20. Rated C. C&O Towpath-Potomac Heritage Trail Loop. Savor the first Saturday in autumn with this nearly 11-mile, moderately paced hike. Starting on the towpath, we'll explore the wilder Potomac Heritage Trail (some rock scrambling required), then Theodore Roosevelt Island, as we negotiate a few ascents and descents along the way. Meet at Fletcher's Boathouse lower lot at 9am. Contact the leader if you need driving directions or a lift from a Metro station. Leader: Gary Kosciusko 703/765-0306.

Sun. Sep. 21. Rated A. Hike & Ride Outing #5: Watkins Regional Park. A leisurely paced, all-ages outing in the Largo area of Prince Georges County that (like others in the series) will consist of a short and easy hike followed by a ride on an antique carousel. This time, the hike will be a circuit through gently rolling parklands made up of woodlands, wetlands, and farmlands, and also will include a visit to Old Maryland Farm and its heirloom animal breeds, and the ride will be on the park's century-old Dentzel carousel (\$1.50/person). Leashed dogs are welcome (on the hike only), as are accompanied children. Meet at 10 am at the park, in the nature center's parking lot. Call for driving directions or if carless. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott, 703/256-6351, and Helen Epps, 202/363-1278 (leave message).

Sat. Sep. 27. Not Rated. Fall General Meeting of Sierra Club Potomac Region Outings. This general business meeting of SCPRO will be held in the library room of the beautiful Blandy Experimental Farm and the State Arboretum of Virginia from 9:30 am to about 2 pm. It will feature discussions of issues and upcoming events, special presentations, and a pot-luck lunch. All SCPRO outings leaders, prospective leaders, participants of SCPRO outings, and other members of the public are invited. An optional post-meeting exploration of Blandy and its holdings will be led by Carol Ivory, and will last about two hours. To carpool, meet at the Vienna Metro's north Park & Ride lot at 8:15 am. For information about Blandy, including directions to the location, see <http://www.virginia.edu/blandy/>. For other questions or details, contact Mike Darzi Michael. Darzi@SAIC.com; 301/881-7068).

Sat. Sep. 27. Rated C+ or E. Shenandoah River State Park with Canoe Option. A moderately paced 9.5 mi. circuit hike with about 3000 ft. elev. change in a hilly and scenic area south of Front Royal, with discussion en route of local air and

water quality and local flora. The canoe option will consist of doing the outing's last 3.5 miles on the Shenandoah's River's lovely South Fork in two-person canoes (single kayaks also available); canoe shunners will cover those miles on foot, along the riverbank. Canoe/kayak reservations are required (cost will be about \$50 per two-person canoe, \$32 per one-person kayak); call the leader by Sep. 25. To carpool, meet at 8:30 am at Vienna Metro station's north parking lot (train riders: bear right on emerging outdoors). Joint event with AMC/DC. NOTE: This event may have to be shifted to Sunday, Sep. 28, and any such change will be posted on the SCPRO website by Sep. 1. Leader: Paul Elliott, 703/256-6351.

Sun. Sep. 28. Rated B. Trails in DC to the Greek Festival (Get-to-Know-DC Series). Moderately paced 6-7 mile loop hike using a variety of wooded trails and some streets through NW DC. About a mile from hike's end we will stop for lunch at the St. Sophia Greek Festival. Hikers can stay there or return to the starting point with the leader. Meet at 10 am on Van Ness Street NW at the entrance to Glover Archbold trail, about a quarter block west of Wisconsin Avenue beside the McDonald's parking lot. The start is about a half mile south of the Red line's Tenleytown Metro station. Leader: Helen Epps, 202/363-1278 (leave message).

Sat. Oct. 4. Rated B. Rock Creek Regional Park: Part 1, Lake Needwood. Explore the trails of this Montgomery County regional park gem by hiking about 6 miles in the gentle area around the larger of its two lakes, Lake Needwood. Meet 9 am at Avery Rd parking lot (0.9 mi north of Norbeck Rd, on the right). You may combine this with the afternoon Part 2 for an F rated hike of about 12 miles; if so, bring lunch and extra water. Contact leader for additional directions or in advance for Metro station pickup. Leader: Mike Darzi, Michael.Darzi@saic.com or 301/881-7068.

Sat. Oct. 4. Rated C. Rock Creek Regional Park: Part 2, Lake Bernard Frank. Explore the trails of this Montgomery County regional park gem by hiking about 6 miles in the hilly area around the smaller of its two lakes, Lake Frank. Meet 1 pm at Avery Rd parking lot (0.9 mi north of Norbeck Rd, on the right). Alternatively, combine this with the morning Part 1 for an F rated hike of about 12 miles; if so, bring lunch and extra water, and meet at 9 am. Contact leader for additional directions or in advance for Metro station pickup. Leader: Mike Darzi, Michael.Darzi@saic.com or 301/881-7068.

Sun. Oct. 5. Rated C. Billy Goat Trail, Suburban Maryland. Moderate 8-mile hike starts at Carderock

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

and covers all 3 sections of the Billy Goat Trail, then returns on the Towpath to Old Anglers. The hike features some interesting non-technical rock scrambling on parts of the route and lovely river and island views. Meet at 9 am at the public parking lot across from Old Anglers Inn, 10801 MacArthur Boulevard, Potomac, MD; short car shuttle to Carderock. Leaders: Pat Hopson 703/379-1795 9am -10pm and Frank Wodarczyk, fwiker44@cox.net or 703/569-6737 (before 10 pm).

Tue. Oct 7. Rated H. Great Views on Massanutten North (Vigorous Hike). Visit Buzzard Rock, Buzzard Rock and Fort Valley Overlooks and Signal Knob via the Buzzard Rock, Massanutten, and Tuscarora Trails. A short, easy shuttle will be used. About 16 miles and 3500' ascent. Ref. PATC Map G. Leader: Bob Livezey bobbilbo@msn.com or 301/320-4679 (before 9 pm).

Sun. Oct. 12. Rated A/B (hike only). Lands and Waters of American Chestnut Land Trust: Hike, Paddle, or Do Both. We'll start with a moderately paced circuit hike of 7.6 miles on the ACLT's rolling and wooded South Side property in Calvert Co., MD. Then, after lunch, there will be a by-reservation-only and educational two-hour canoe/kayak trip on Parkers Creek, which is the last remaining undeveloped tributary on Chesapeake Bay's western shore. Call the leader for details, boat reservations (\$10 donation requested; boat availability limited), carpooling options, and optional meeting places and times (including for hike only). Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott, 703/256-6351.

Sat. Oct. 18. Rated A. Wakefield/Lake Accotink Parks, Annandale VA. A 6-mile mostly flat circuit hike. From Capital Beltway exit 54A, go west on Braddock Rd. At traffic light, about 100 yards beyond exit ramp, turn right into Wakefield Audrey Moore Park and meet at first parking lot on left. Bring water and a snack. No pets. Hike starts at 9:30 am. Leader: Henri Comeau, Hencom75@msn.com or 703/4517965.

Sun. Oct. 19. Rated B. Prince William Forest Park South Valley Trail. An excursion along the South Valley and High Meadows Trails, returning along the Turkey Run Ridge Trail, an easy 9-mile circuit hike. Elevation change is 200'. Meet at Woodbridge Commuter Lot at 10 am. Leader: Mike Gingerich 202/370-7957.

Sun. Oct. 26. Rated B. Along the Potomac River (Change of Seasons Series). Fall colors! Good pace while hiking, with many momentary points of interest; 9 miles total circuit. Should be fantastic Fall tones mixed with flowing river textures and river trails, with flush toilet facilities at half-way point. Good dogs can bring their owners - please contact Leader. Meet at 10 am, in Glen Echo, MD, at Glen Echo National Park parking lot, adjacent where Goldsboro Rd. terminates at MacArthur Blvd. (same National Park complex as Clara Barton House), next to the pedestrian bridge over Minehaha Creek. Bring a good lunch. Leader: David Burd; dburd26@hotmail.com or 703/998-9390.

D.C. Chapter and

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:

Mon., Sep. 1

Why the World Needs the Youth Vote (TENTATIVE). 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Tue., Sep. 2

Transportation Committee Meeting. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Teatism, 400 8th Street N.W. RSVP. Contact Ralph Garboushian at 202-547-3764 or ralphgarboushian@gmail.com.

Mon., Sep. 8

Second Monday Happy Hour (\$) 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. The Argonaut, 1433 H Street, N.E. Contact Chasta Piatakovas at 202-320-1205 or washingtondc.chaptersierraclub.org.

Sun., Sep. 14

Volunteer with DC Chapter at Adams Morgan Day (TENTATIVE). 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Adams Morgan, 18th Street N.W., between Florida Avenue and Columbia Road. Contact Chasta Piatakovas at 202-320-1205 or washingtondc.chaptersierraclub.org.

Tue., Sep. 16

Executive Committee Meeting. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Location TBD. All members welcome. Contact Damon Luciano at 202-374-1245 or damonluciano@gmail.com.

Wed., Sep. 24

Cool Cities & Energy Committee Monthly Plug-in. 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. The Saloon, 1205 U Street N.W. Contact Sarah Buchanan at 202-564-1204 or dc.cool.cities@gmail.com or Larry Martin at lmartindc@gmail.com.

Sat., Sep. 27

Public Lands Day

Tue., Oct. 7

Transportation Committee Meeting. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Teatism, 400 8th Street N.W. RSVP. Contact Ralph Garboushian at 202-547-3764 or ralphgarboushian@gmail.com.

Tue., Oct. 21

Executive Committee Meeting. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Location TBD. All members welcome. Contact Damon Luciano at 202-374-1245 or damonluciano@gmail.com.

Wed., Oct. 22

Cool Cities & Energy Committee Monthly Plug-in. 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. The Saloon, 1205 U Street N.W. Contact Sarah Buchanan at 202-564-1204 or dc.cool.cities@gmail.com or Larry Martin at lmartindc@gmail.com.

Sat., Oct. 25

Halloween Bash (TENTATIVE). (\$) 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Location TBA. For adults ages 21 and over. Gather your friends, get creative and dress up for a night of fun and frolicking with a costume contest, food and drink. 11th Hour and Inconvenient Truth (i.e., environmental) theme party. Contact Chasta Piatakovas at 202-320-1205 or washingtondc.chaptersierraclub.org.

Tue., Nov. 4

Transportation Committee Meeting. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Teatism, 400 8th Street N.W. RSVP. Contact Ralph Garboushian at 202-547-3764 or ralphgarboushian@gmail.com.

Sat., Nov. 8 - Sun., Nov. 9

Volunteer with DC Chapter at Green Festival. Washington DC Convention Center (801 Mount Vernon Place NW)

Mon., Nov. 10

Second Monday Happy Hour. 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Tue., Nov. 18

Executive Committee Meeting. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Location TBD. All members welcome. Contact Damon Luciano at 202-374-1245 or damonluciano@gmail.com.

Wed., Nov. 26

Cool Cities & Energy Committee Monthly Plug-in. 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. The Saloon, 1205 U Street N.W. Contact Sarah Buchanan at 202-564-1204 or dc.cool.cities@gmail.com or Larry Martin at lmartindc@gmail.com.

Tue., Dec. 2

Transportation Committee Meeting. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Teatism, 400 8th Street N.W. RSVP. Contact Ralph Garboushian at 202-547-3764 or ralphgarboushian@gmail.com.

Wed., Dec. 3

Annual Holiday Party & Silent Auction. 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Tue., Dec. 16

Executive Committee Meeting. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Location TBD. All members welcome. Contact Damon Luciano at 202-374-1245 or damonluciano@gmail.com.

Wed., Dec. 24

Transportation Committee Meeting. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Teatism, 400 8th Street N.W. RSVP. Contact Ralph Garboushian at 202-547-3764 or ralphgarboushian@gmail.com.



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Vice Chair

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