



CAPITAL SIERRAN

Newsletter of the Washington, D.C., Chapter

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Carbon Taxes: Powerful Incentives to Steer Away From Climate Catastrophe

by James Handley

The weather forecast is frightening... Time to transfer fear into...prices!

Dr. James Hansen, NASA-Goddard's lead climate scientist, calculates that we must reduce carbon emissions 80 percent to avoid pushing Earth's climate past a cataclysmic tipping point. Our way of life must become much more energy-efficient, starting.... yesterday!

The good news: We could vastly reduce emissions by cutting waste and implementing known technologies. The bad news: We're being bribed not to do it.

Present fossil fuel prices don't reflect the

global and future costs of burning them. We're not paying for the devastation of polar regions and the loss of crop land and inundation of cities or entire countries as the sea level rises and storms become more destructive. Fuel prices don't even reflect costs of obtaining fuel, especially the military and human toll. So we use far too much because fossil fuel falsely appears less costly than conservation or renewables.

Leading scientists (e.g., Dr. Hansen) and economists (notably, former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker) advocate a gradually

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Activists Answer Call to Action on Global Warming

by Grace Cunningham

On February 5, the Sierra Club hosted a second screening of Al Gore's popular film, "An Inconvenient Truth," at the Social Action and Leadership School for Activists (SALSA). About 25 Sierra Club activists and community members gathered to watch the Oscar-nominated documentary, which dramatically illustrates the moral imperative to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, particularly carbon dioxide, before billions of people are affected by rising oceans and changing weather patterns. The showing was intended to prompt discussion of how everyone can increase awareness of the problems and reduce their own carbon footprint.

"Pass it on!" has now become the mantra of District resident Candice Crawford: "After seeing the film," she says, "I just want to talk to everyone about it, my friends, my family, and my co-workers." Candice wants to help by increasing awareness of the devastating effects of climate change.

"What can I do to find out how much of a carbon impact I'm making?" was the important

question posed by Bob Griss of Great Falls, Va. Among others, Chris Carney, Sierra Club conservation organizer, and Akima Cornell, the D.C. Chapter's Cool Cities coordinator, offered suggestions such as:

1. Use the "carbon calculator" at www.sierraclub.org/sierra/diet to determine your annual carbon emissions based on your energy bills, what kind of vehicle you drive and other factors. You can see how changing certain actions such as reducing the number of miles you drive or fly can change your total carbon output.

2. Perform a personal home energy audit to identify precisely where your home is losing energy, for instance, through poorly insulated walls and windows, and specific ways you can correct the problem areas. You can visit the U.S. Department of Energy website at www.eere.energy.gov/consumer to find "A Consumer's Guide to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy" that has additional information on energy audits and numerous other ways you can improve your personal energy

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Our Changing Climate: Polar Bears, Cherry Blossoms and Armadillos

by Jason Broehm

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It's undeniable – warm weather in the winter feels great. For those of us who love spending time outdoors, it's nice to be able to fit in an unexpected hike, bike ride or walk around the city without having to bundle up in warm clothes and brave the cold and wind. But increasingly, enjoying mild winter weather is something of a guilty pleasure because it's not quite the rarity it once was and the relationship to global climate change is feeling more and more real.

During the warm spell in early January, my girlfriend and I took advantage of the mild temperatures by walking down to the National Mall and taking in the "Nature's Best" photography exhibit at the Natural History Museum. I was particularly moved by a photo of a polar bear lying on a small chunk of sea ice adrift far out in the Arctic Ocean. The bear looked forlorn of all hope, resigned to its fate.

It was a powerful photo showing the effects of global climate change in stark terms. It was all the more powerful, I thought, because of the effects we experienced locally this year.

Following a mild December, we topped 70 degrees in early January. Unseasonably warm weather lasted long enough that flowers and trees bloomed, including some of D.C.'s cherry trees. Black bears in our area were seen roaming the woods rather than hibernating for a while. Even the birds seemed confused. Global climate change never seemed as real or unsettling to me as in recent months.

Don't get me wrong – we had some cold weather this winter too. But taken as a whole, 2006 was the warmest year on record in the continental United States, and climate experts are worried that 2007 may be even warmer. And it fits into a clear warming trend: worldwide, each of the last 14 years has ranked in the top 20 warmest years on record.

In fact, as a result of the warmer temperatures here in D.C. over the last two decades, the National Arbor Day Foundation recently reclassified our region as suitable for trees similar to those found in parts of North Carolina and Texas, prompting a local botanist to quip that "D.C. is the new North Carolina." On our present course, our future could include even hotter summers, more mosquitoes, rising waters submerging low-lying parts of our city

and sewage backing up into our homes.

Other parts of the country are experiencing similar changes due to warmer winters in recent years. I was surprised to read recently that armadillos, which most of us associate with Texas, have expanded their range and are now being found as far north as southern Illinois.

We in the Washington, D.C., Chapter are taking action at the local level to reduce energy consumption and the release of carbon emissions that cause climate change. While the problem is global in scope, we believe that we all have a role to play in the solution, and real change is possible only if local communities come together to do their part.

Very soon you should receive the chapter's annual fundraising letter. In it, you will read about a few of our recent successes in fighting climate change and about the ongoing work of Akima Cornell, Russ Edwards and Ralph Garboushian, three of our volunteers who are playing key roles in our local piece of the solution.

This year's fundraising drive is focused on supporting their work and the work of many other local volunteers who are advocating on your behalf for local solutions. Some of you have made donations in the past, and we hope you will give generously again this year. But only a small number of our more than 3,000 members contribute in a typical year – only about 3 percent in 2006. If you have not made a financial contribution in years past, please consider making a donation to our important work this year. The efforts of Akima, Russ, and Ralph and those of many other volunteers like them rely on your financial support!

Checks made out to "Sierra Club – Washington, D.C., Chapter" may be sent to our local office to the attention of "Sierra Club D.C. Chapter Annual Appeal" at 4000 Albemarle St. N.W., Suite 310, Washington, D.C. 20016. Contributions and gifts to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Chapter Leaders' Retreat Promises Strong Year Ahead

by Joanna Winchester

Late this January, 20 of our chapter's lead volunteers packed into carpools and drove to Lewes, Delaware, for our annual Chapter Leaders' Planning Retreat. The group spent the weekend at the house of Executive Committee member Karen Cordry, reviewing our successes and challenges from the past year, evaluating the progress we've made and drafting action plans for our work this year. The group was made up of our Executive Committee members, the chapter's committee chairs and lead volunteers in our priority campaigns, as well as our chapter staff person. Chris Carney, regional Sierra Club organizer, facilitated the group throughout.

Some highlights from the weekend included:

- A round-robin discussion of "why you do this work," during which leaders shared their frustrations and the inspirational experiences and hopes that keep them going;
- A review of successes from 2006, including the results of the District's elections, our Earth Day event, our wide array of membership and social events and the many new volunteers and leaders recruited over the year;
- A creative and spontaneous new fundraising strategy, with two leaders recruiting donation pledges for their "polar bear" style plunge into Delaware Bay;
- Nomination of Pete (a golden retriever puppy who belongs to chapter leaders Jim Dougherty and Gwyn Jones) as our chapter's unofficial mascot;
- A "show-and-tell" session, with each committee or campaign sharing its goals and plans for the year with the rest of the group and looking for ways to connect our work better; and
- Free time to explore Cape Henlopen State Park and the beach.

The retreat served as an opportunity to create well-thought-out plans for the year, to increase the level of communication between campaigns and leaders, and to integrate newly elected or appointed leaders into the chapter's leadership structure. Finally, the positive plans and connections made at the retreat were indicators of an exceptionally active and productive year ahead!

Fresh Faces on the Executive Committee

by Jason Broehm

The Washington, D.C., Chapter kicked off the New Year with three new volunteer leaders assuming seats on the chapter's all-volunteer Executive Committee: Jeff Gustafson, Damon Luciano and Scott Williamson.

The changes began at the first Executive Committee meeting of the year in early January when chapter election results were announced. Four of the committee's nine seats were up for election. Chasta Piatakovas, current membership chair, and Bob Morris, current co-conservation chair, were re-elected to new two-year terms, and Gustafson and Luciano were elected to their first terms.

At that meeting, Matthew Tisdale, who has served on the committee for the last three years, announced his resignation mid-term because he will be leaving the area later this year. Scott Williamson, who was a close runner-up in the chapter elections, was appointed to fill the last year of Tisdale's term.

Mark Wenzler, a long-time committee member who served three years as chapter chair, did not run for re-election. In addition to his many years as a volunteer leader in these capacities, Wenzler was also the chapter's lead advocate in persuading Metro to buy the clean natural gas buses that grace D.C.'s streets today.

After one term on the Executive Committee, Ralph Garboushian, who has been active on transit and smart growth issues, will now serve as chair of the chapter's active Transportation Committee but will no longer serve on the Executive Committee.

Subsequently, Elliott Negin, who has served on the Executive Committee for the last year, resigned his seat mid-term due to a job change and other commitments. Negin, along with Wenzler, was a leading advocate for natural gas buses as a representative of the Natural Resources Defense Council, where he worked until recently. Negin's seat is currently vacant.

Gustafson recently moved to D.C. to attend George Washington University and had become active in the chapter's

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Photo by Chris Carney

Group photo of 2007 chapter retreat participants. Floor (left to right): Gwyn Jones, Pete the Dog (unofficial chapter mascot); seated (left to right): Russ Edwards, Chasta Piatakovas, Joanna Winchester, Clayton Wilkerson, Justine Augeri, Robinne Gray, Matthew Tisdale; standing (left to right): Brad Green, Akima Cornell, Karen "Mama" Cordry, Tom Metcalf, Ralph Garboushian, Moira Annelin, Jeff Gustafson, Scott Williamson, Jason Broehm, Debby Cooney, Lance Brown. Not pictured: Chris Carney, Bob Morris, Lisa Swanson.

Who's Killing the Met Branch Trail?

by Henry Jaffe

(reprinted with permission from *The Examiner*)

In 1988, Pat Hare had a vision. One day he went to the old Eckington railyard north of Union Station to buy railroad siding. A city planner, he gazed at the abandoned railroad line and wondered: Why not use it to create a bike trail from Union Station north to Brookland through Fort Totten to Silver Spring?

Hare's vision took shape as the Metropolitan Branch Trail Coalition. At that moment, cities and towns across the country were transforming abandoned rail lines into trails. District and federal officialdom blessed the Met Branch Trail project. In 1995, Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton provided \$8.5 million to design and build the 6.8-mile stretch through the capital city's central spine.

Nineteen years after Hare had his vision, the Met Branch Trail is still mostly that: a vision. And Paul Meijer, who has taken over from Hare as the trail's champion, is hopping mad.

"It's connected to nothing," Meijer tells me. "At both ends, you cannot enter the trail. You cannot get onto it."

Why, nearly 20 years into the process, is the Met Branch not a biking highway for commuters and tourists? What's going on?

"The short, loud answer is NOTHING!!!!" says Eric Gilliland, executive director of the Washington Area Bicyclists Association (WABA).

That's rather harsh, but Paul Meijer and WABA have plenty of reason for rage. The city started to build the trail in 1998 and has spent \$6 million in the process, yet the trail is years from completion.

Says Gilliland: "Since 1998, when trail work first began, we've only completed one-third of the trail. At this rate it will take 24 years to build!"

Having written about rails to trails conversions in Seattle, Portland and Pittsburgh, I have plenty of experience in the process and know where the bad guys lurk. But in the case of the Met Branch Trail, the blame belongs in too many places.

"We're frustrated, too," says Jim Sebastian, the city's head person on biking and pedestrian safety. "It's not taking time because we're not working on it. I don't tell WABA to go easy on us. Maybe they can help break the bureaucratic inertia."

First, track owner CSX squabbled over control of the pathway. The city used eminent domain and took it to court, where they are now. Pepco owns some of the land. Metro controls little pieces. Neighboring real estate developers have been supportive, but they're in the mix. Then there are the feds: Funds have to come through the Federal Highway Administration; the Park Service controls land around Fort Totten. The D.C. Department of Transportation is no paragon of speedy action.

We need the Metropolitan Branch Trail, fast. We are getting fat and could use the exercise. We are sitting in our cars, burning fuel and cooking the planet. Mayor Adrian Fenty could bike the path to train for his next triathlon.

Fenty can turn Pat Hare's dream into asphalt, finally.

Harry Jaffe has been covering the Washington area since 1985. E-mail him at hjaffe@washingtonian.com.



CALL TO ACTION: Protect the George Washington National Forest

This year the Forest Service will revise its management plan for the George Washington National Forest under new rules that exempt the service from the rigors of an Environmental Impact Statement. If you care about our National Forests and don't want to see them logged, mined or sold off to the highest bidder, we urge you to attend one of the public workshops scheduled March 5-10. For D.C. area folks, the easiest workshop to attend is on Saturday, March 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Rockingham County Government Office Bldg., 20 E. Gay St., Harrisonburg, Va. 22802. If you can't make it, you can mail or e-mail your comments instead. For information, contact Chris Carney at chris.carney@sierraclub.org or 202-237-0754.

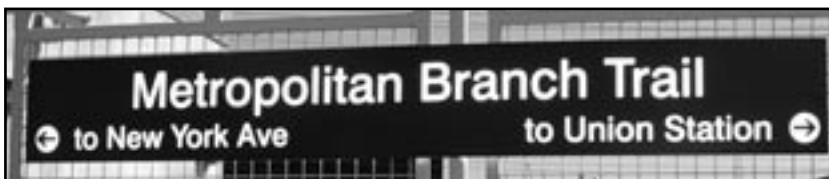


Photo by Heather Deutsch, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy



Photos by Chris Mulhy

Activists Gearing Up Metro Campaign

by Damon Luciano

According to its own figures, the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, known as Metro, moves enough commuters to take 568,000 cars off the road each weekday, significantly reducing the region's transportation-related energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Despite playing this critical role in the region's transportation infrastructure, Metro lacks a dedicated source of funding and periodic shortfalls raise major obstacles for its continued efficiency.

Late last year Metro's management mentioned possible service cuts that could include reducing bus frequency or even eliminating a small number of the least popular bus routes. To cut operating costs on weekends when ridership is low, Metro might close one entrance at stations that currently have two, and Metrorail might open one hour later on Saturdays.

Metro has also mentioned possible fare hikes that might include adding

a congestion charge for passengers exiting at the busiest downtown stations, adding 75 cents per ride for bus riders who do not use SmarTrip Cards, a general base fare increase or some combination of fare increases.

Volunteers on the D.C. Chapter's Transportation Committee have expressed their concern that the potential fare hikes and service reductions will cut into Metro's constituency, leading to declines in ridership and less long-term support for the institution. They are therefore ramping up a regional campaign asking Metro to seek alternative sources of funds to fill the anticipated funding gap of \$50-100 million in Metro's fiscal year 2008 budget. The budget must be approved by Metro's Board of Directors in June, and if there is a substantial shortfall at the start of the next fiscal year, Metro will be unable to find alternative sources of funds in time to prevent a crisis.

Metro's board recently sought to

"defer" discussion of service cuts and fare increases until after the agency first reviews its budget and pares down its expenses. Grateful that Metro is now pursuing cost cutting, committee volunteers still decided to push ahead with a campaign to encourage the board to exhaust all funding options before considering service cuts and fare hikes as part of the next budget.

The Transportation Committee's campaign started in February with volunteers handing out leaflets at Metro stations encouraging riders to contact the board and will continue for several months.

For more information on the campaign and how you can help, contact Ralph Garboushian at ralphgarboushian@gmail.com

Transportation Committee Leadership Change

by Tom Metcalf

After four years as chair of the Transportation Committee, I'm stepping aside in order to focus on one of the committee's longer-term projects. I'm pleased to announce that Ralph Garboushian has agreed to be my successor as committee chair. Ralph has helped plan and lead the committee's bike rides, which illustrate the relation between land use and transportation planning, and has worked on the committee's detailed response to wrong-headed 11th Street Bridge expansion plans. Much remains to be done to make D.C. a better place for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders. For starters, the District Department of Transportation's moribund streetcar plan needs to be put back on track. I have no doubt that under Ralph's leadership the Transportation Committee will continue to lead the way to greener methods of getting around.



Photo by Joanna Winesher

Ralph Garboushian, new Transportation Committee Chair

Take Two....

Interested in receiving a weekly e-mail about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities or action issues? Please complete the Washington, D.C., Chapter membership and volunteer survey at dc.sierraclub.org/volunteer. This information is for chapter use only and will not be shared with any other organization. All it takes is two minutes of your time!

True Cost of Food

They Eat What? The Reality of Feed at Animal Factories

Excerpted from *The Union of Concerned Scientists' Food and Environment Program's brochure of the same name*

When many Americans think of farm animals, they picture cattle munching grass on rolling pastures, chickens pecking on the ground outside of picturesque red barns and pigs gobbling down food at the trough.

Over the last 50 years, the way food animals are raised and fed has changed dramatically—to the detriment of both animals and humans. Many people are surprised to find that most of the food animals in the United States are no longer raised on farms at all. Instead they come from crowded animal factories, also known as large confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

Just like other factories, animal factories are constantly searching for ways to shave their costs. To save money, they've redefined what constitutes animal feed, with little consideration of what is best for the animals or for human health. As a result, many of the ingredients used in feed these days are not the kind of food the animals are designed by nature to eat. These ingredients may include animal carcasses, parts and other wastes, which are ground up, heated and further processed to create a variety of products in an industrial process known as rendering. Meat and bone meal, blood meal and feather meal are some examples of rendered products.



Same Species Meat, Diseased Animals, and Feathers, Hair, Skin and Blood

The advent of “mad cow” disease (also known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE) raised international concern about the safety of feeding rendered cattle to cattle. Since the discovery of mad cow disease in the United States, the federal government has taken some action to restrict the parts of cattle that can be fed back to

cattle.

However, most animals are still allowed to eat meat from their own species. Pig carcasses can be rendered and fed back to pigs, chicken carcasses can be rendered and fed back to chickens, and turkey carcasses can be rendered and fed back to turkeys. Even cattle can still be fed cow blood and some other cow parts.

Under current law, pigs, chickens, and turkeys that have been fed rendered cattle can be rendered and fed back to cattle—a loophole that may allow mad cow agents to infect healthy cattle.

Animal feed can legally contain rendered road kill, dead horses and euthanized cats and dogs.

Rendered feathers, hair, skin, hooves, blood and intestines can also be found in feed, often under catch-all categories like “animal protein products.”

Manure and Other Animal Waste

Feed for any food animal can contain cattle manure, swine waste and poultry litter. This waste may contain drugs such as antibiotics and hormones that have passed unchanged through the animals' bodies.

The poultry litter that is fed to cattle contains rendered cattle parts in the form of digested poultry feed and spilled poultry feed. This is another loophole that may allow mad cow agents to infect healthy cattle.

Animal waste used for feed is also allowed to contain dirt, rocks, sand, wood and other such contaminants.

Plastics

Many animals need roughage to move food through their digestive systems. But instead of using plant-based roughage, animal factories often turn to pellets made from plastics to compensate for the lack of natural fiber in the factory feed.

Drugs and Chemicals

Animals raised in humane conditions with appropriate space and food rarely require medical treatment. But animals at animal factories often receive antibiotics to promote faster growth and to compensate for

crowded, stressful and unsanitary living conditions. An estimated 13.5 million pounds of antibiotics—the same classes of antibiotics used in human medicine—are routinely added to animal feed or water. This routine, nontherapeutic use of antibiotics speeds the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which can infect humans as well as animals. Antibiotic resistance is a pressing public health problem that costs the U.S. economy billions of dollars each year.

Some of the antimicrobials used to control parasites and promote growth in poultry contain arsenic, a known human carcinogen. Arsenic can be found in meat or can contaminate human water supplies through runoff from factory farms.



Unhealthy Amounts of Grains

One last surprise. While grain may sound like a healthful food, the excessive quantities fed to some animals are not. This is especially true for cattle, which are natural grass eaters. Their digestive systems are not designed to handle the large amounts of corn they receive at feedlots. As a result of this corn-rich diet, feedlot cattle can suffer significant health problems, including excessively acidic digestive systems and liver abscesses. Grain-induced health problems, in turn, ramp up the need for drugs.

Want to Change What Animals Are Fed?

The rise in animal factories over the last 50 years has led to a system that is out of control. Mad cow disease, increased liver abscesses, and the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria are just some examples of the damage that

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D.C. Fair Trade Coalition Gains Momentum

by Elizabeth Gilhuly and Chasta Piatakovas

Fair trade has become an organized social movement to promote equitable standards for international labor, environmentalism and social policy in areas related to the production of Fair Trade goods ranging from handicrafts to agricultural commodities. Fair Trade certified products ensure that workers are paid a fair wage to help stabilize communities and to promote environmentally friendly business practices. The Fair Trade system has benefited over one million families of farmers and workers in 51 countries.

Backed by consumers such as you, Fair Trade organizations are actively engaged in supporting marginalized producers, in raising awareness, and in campaigning in support of fair international trade. The Washington D.C. Fair Trade Coalition, launched in November 2006, organizes activities focused on Fair Trade in the Washington metro area and provides an open forum for discussion of Fair Trade and how it both relates to our economy and benefits Americans. Numerous avenues are being taken to promote the coalition including the launch of a MySpace site, www.myspace.com/DC-MakeTradeFairMeetup, which contains comprehensive information regarding many aspects of Fair Trade from producer standards to up-to-date news on Fair Trade around the world to learning materials for children.

The coalition has gained the interest of movement professionals, consumers, wholesalers and retailers from around the country. In time, the coalition will unite and coordinate local efforts with national and international Fair Trade organizations to reach out to more consumers.

An important objective of the Washington D.C. Fair Trade Coalition is to provide a calendar of events that will educate the consumer in the metro area about Fair Trade. The coalition is currently working with the Washington, D.C., Chapter of the Sierra Club to host the "Passport to World Fair Trade" for

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National Club Election Coming This Spring — Do Your Duty and Vote

The annual election for the Sierra Club's Board of Directors is now underway. In March, those of you who are eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the club's website.

The Sierra Club is unique among major national environmental organizations in its emphasis on democratic election of leaders. This is especially true for the popular election of our governing Board of Directors. However, participation in our annual election has been dropping for many years, with now and then an occasional year of greater turnout when there are issues that generate widespread publicity and interest. Generally, voting has now dropped to less than 10% of those receiving a ballot. This is an alarming trend for democracy within the club.

We should do better! Yearly participation in elections at all club levels is a major membership obligation. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the club's election website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2007> election. This site provides links to additional information about candidates and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choices and cast your votes. You will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark. A growing number of members find the user-friendly Internet voting option to be very convenient as well as saving postage.

The candidates are listed below in the order they will appear on the ballot:

Clark A. Buchner - N
Alan Kuper - P
Sanjay Ranchod - N
Jerry Sutherland - P
Robert Brashear-Kaulfers - N
Robert Cox - N
Ayelet Hines - P
David Karpf - N
Allison Chin - N
Lisa Renstrom - N
Kenneth P. Langton - N

N = Nominating Committee candidate, P = petition candidate

Anacostia Cleanup

Sierrans Join Earth Conservation Corps for Anacostia River Cleanup

by Ralph Garboushian

Advantage of sunny winter weather on a recent Saturday morning to participate in an Earth Conservation Corps (ECC) Anacostia River cleanup. The ECC is a nonprofit organization that provides hands-on education, environmental training, professional experience and leadership skills for disadvantaged young people between the ages of 17 and 25 from communities on both banks of the Anacostia River.

After a brief orientation on the challenges facing the river from Anacostia Riverkeeper Service Coordinator Josh Burch at the ECC headquarters (in the Old Capitol Pump House located on the banks of the Anacostia and in the shadow of the new baseball stadium), volunteers donned life jackets for a quick boat ride across the river to Anacostia Park. Armed with gloves and garbage bags, we took advantage of low tide to clear garbage from a 100-yard stretch of riverbank just upstream from the Frederick Douglass Bridge. After several hours of work, our crew had collected a small mountain of garbage bags

and several tires of varying sizes. Most of the garbage is litter that is washed from District and Maryland streets into storm drains that empty into the river. According to Burch, the tires and other large debris are generally dumped into the valleys of tributary streams and washed into the Anacostia during periods of heavy rain. Burch says he has fished a surprising array of large items from the banks of the Anacostia, ranging from shopping carts to construction equipment.

As we made our way back across the river, our feeling of accomplishment was tempered by our increased knowledge about the major challenges involved in cleaning up the Anacostia River. Those challenges include upgrading combined sewers that dump raw sewage into the river during heavy rain storms, restoring wetlands and tributary stream banks, removing invasive species and educating the public that when they drop a potato chip bag or styrofoam takeout container on the street, it eventually winds up on the banks of the

Anacostia River. Despite those challenges, we made our way home that day inspired by the work of Burch and his co-workers at the ECC and by the positive impact of their work on our community and its environment.

The ECC is offering many opportunities in the coming months for volunteers to work with ECC youth on projects ranging from garage pickups to tree plantings to invasive species removal; there will be volunteer days every Saturday in March and every day in April. I am organizing my soccer team to participate in one. I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to help our city's environment and to get to get more acquainted with our city's other river. For more information about the ECC and its volunteer opportunities, visit the website at www.ecc1.org, call 202-554-1960 or e-mail info@ecc1.org.



D.C. Sierra Club members collect trash along the shoreline of the Anacostia River at Poplar Point.



Photos by Josh Burch

Anacostia Cleanup

Dreaming of a Cleaner Anacostia

by Irv Sheffey

What do an old raggedy box-spring, a rusty refrigerator and over 60 bags full of soda cans, plastic bottles, paper, leaves and weeds have in common? They are all examples of the things that were removed from along the Pope Branch tributary of the Anacostia River in southeast D.C. on January 15, the Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service. One hundred and twenty-four volunteers from around the District gathered that day, joining the Sierra Club and members of the Earth Conservation Corps, the District's departments of the Environment and Parks and Recreation, and our community hosts, the Penn-Branch Civic/Citizens Association and the Pope Branch Community Alliance, in removing trash

and invasive plants from the creek.

According to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government, over 20,000 tons of trash and debris enter the Anacostia River annually. Much of this trash comes from litter dropped on the ground and from illegal dumping. With each successive rain, the District's antiquated drainage system tends to overflow, flushing this trash and untreated sewage directly into the river. The District, through the Washington Sewer and Water Authority, is making an effort to address the problem but the solution will be several years in the making. Until then, it will be up to us to do what we can through such activities as the cleanup of Pope Branch Creek. Several federal, state

and local government and nongovernment organizations from around the region, including the Sierra Club, have declared that we will have a trash-free Anacostia by the year 2013. This is a seemingly daunting task, yet not insurmountable. But where do we start?

It begins with each item recycled and each item picked up from the ground and placed in a trash receptacle. It begins with each of us. Our next river cleanup will be this spring on the weekend of Earth Day. Join us by contacting Joanna Winchester, the chapter assistant, at joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org for details.



Photo by Irv Sheffey

Over 124 volunteers gathered to remove debris and garbage from the Pope Branch tributary of the Anacostia River on Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service.

Outings

Inner City Outings Leads to Adventure

by Thad Stringer

The Sierra Club's Inner City Outings (ICO) program in the District has completed another successful year of providing the city's youth with access to nature. In 2006, more than 700 children participated in the 52 outings organized by ICO, which featured hiking, camping, swimming and rafting trips in and around the Washington metropolitan area. The kids enjoyed trips to Beaver Dam Swimming Hole, Skyline Caverns, Lake Accotink and the skating rink on the National Mall.

We are counting on the Sierra Club's members in our area to help make 2007 just as successful. The five ICO programs – Beacon House, Highland Addition, Wheeler Creek, Community of Hope and Access Wilderness – are always looking for new volunteers and leaders to help connect D.C.'s inner city youth with nature.

We encourage all Sierra Club members to join us on Saturday, April 28, for a day of service. Volunteers and children from every ICO program are collaborating with the Earth Conservation Corps to clean up the Anacostia River waterfront in the District.

For more information about any of our 2007 trips, or to sign up to volunteer, please visit our website: www.sierraclub.org/ico/dc. You can also e-mail us at washingtondcico@gmail.com.

We hope to see you on the trails soon!



Photos provided by ICO



Memorable images from the many fun trips taken in 2006. Become a part of ICO in 2007! We always need more volunteers to lead trips.



Environmental Film Festival

Environmental Film Festival Celebrates 15 Years in D.C.

Leaders in the world of conservation and the environment will be spotlighted at the 2007 Environmental Film Festival in the nation's capital. From March 15 to 25, at venues throughout Washington, D.C., the 15th annual festival will screen 115 films exploring a wide range of topics, from Hurricane Katrina to the elusive ivory-billed woodpecker and from genetics to globalization.

The eminent naturalist Dr. E. O. Wilson will share his innovative perspectives on biodiversity and sociobiology and show clips from "The Secret Life of a Naturalist" about his life and work on March 23 at the National Geographic Society. Winner of two Pulitzer Prizes for his pioneering books, "The Ants" and "On Human Nature," Dr. Wilson, a professor emeritus at Harvard University, is considered among the leading thinkers of the 20th century. Examining the origins of sociobiology, he will show how it developed into the new discipline of evolutionary psychology.

The world-renowned genome pioneer Dr. Craig Venter will show and discuss his film, "Cracking the Ocean

Code," on March 17 at 1:00 p.m. at the National Museum of Natural History. In the film, Venter takes a globe-circling voyage as he scours the world's oceans for new life forms and genetic secrets that could help to solve the planet's most urgent energy and climate challenges. From Nova Scotia to the Galapagos Islands to Antarctica, Dr. Venter embarks on a mission to map the DNA of every microscopic organism in the ocean.

The visionary Canadian environmentalist, scientist, writer, communicator and thinker Dr. David Suzuki reflects on a life dedicated to making the world a better place on Saturday,

Continued on page 15



Photo by Sierra Club



Photo Courtesy California Newsreel



Photo copyright 2005 Nick Caloyianis

From Top to Bottom:

Scene from "The Boyhood of John Muir"

Scene from the film "Maquilapolis: City of Factories"

Craig Venter swims with a sea turtle in "Cracking the Ocean Code."

Membership & Fundraising

Why I Became a Sierra Club Member

by Grace Cunningham

My story of becoming a member begins with my mother. When I was growing up in Atlanta, Ga., my mom, Judy Cunningham, always took the family on outings to local parks, such as Stone Mountain Park. We frequently took family vacations to the Great Smoky Mountains and the Blue Ridge Mountains. She taught me the same love and respect for nature that she had learned from her mother.

After my mom visited Yosemite National Park in California for our cousin's wedding at Bridal Veil Falls, she returned excited about the great natural beauty of that park and the Muir Woods in the San Francisco area. Mom began reading about John Muir and his legacy—the Sierra Club. She joined the club to help protect the natural environments she loved so much. Several years ago, Mom gave me my membership in the Sierra Club as a Christmas gift and as a way to pass on her values, as she has always done.

When my boyfriend Damon and I moved to the District, we rediscovered the Sierra Club as a great way to meet people and get involved in our community, joining club members on bike outings in the city and becoming active volunteers. I chose to give him a membership in the Sierra Club as a birthday gift to express our shared love for the outdoors and our understanding of the need to actively protect what we both cherish.

Please pass on your love of nature and the gift of Sierra Club membership to your loved ones! If you are looking for a meaningful gift that keeps on giving, give the gift of membership for Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, etc. Your friends and family will delight in the gift that lasts. Visit dc.sierraclub.org or submit the gift membership form in this newsletter to give the gift today.



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Sky's the limit?

Even today in 2006, over *half* of America's electricity is generated from coal-fired power plants. Consequently, we are being exposed to soot, smog, acid rain, and dangerous toxins such as mercury, which threaten people and wildlife alike. Bush's "Clear Skies" plan will allow 520% *more* mercury pollution by the year 2010, not to mention the plan delays the enforcement of public health standards for smog and soot until the *end* of 2015. The sky isn't getting any higher, and the air we breathe isn't getting any cleaner. The sky IS the limit.

JOIN Sierra Club to keep breathing easy.

Name _____
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 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	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
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"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Membership & Fundraising

Junior Fundraisers

by Sheridan School Student Council

On behalf of our fellow students at Sheridan School, we, the members of the Student Council, are happy to announce that we have chosen the Sierra Club as one of the two charities that we will be supporting this year. We chose the Sierra Club because we believe that the environment is worth protecting. Our school held a vote to decide which two charities we would support this year. We had an assembly and had representatives from each of four charities come to talk to us. The representative from the Sierra Club was very impressive and got everyone excited about supporting this charity. The Sierra Club was the highest vote getter with 62 votes.

We are very excited to support the Sierra Club this year, and we believe that the club's efforts to help the environment are very important. We will be holding bake sales and other fundraisers to raise money for this important cause throughout the school year.

Sheridan School is a kindergarten through eighth grade, independent, co-ed school in Washington, D.C.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting our Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. This makes you an essential part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife and to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. **Thank you.**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

"Polar Bears" for Polar Bears

by Jason Broehm

On the night of January 20, 2007, Matthew Tisdale and Russ Edwards, two volunteer leaders of the Washington, D.C., Chapter, took a plunge into the frigid waters of Delaware Bay and in the process raised more than \$2,700 in pledged donations to the Sierra Club's local chapter.

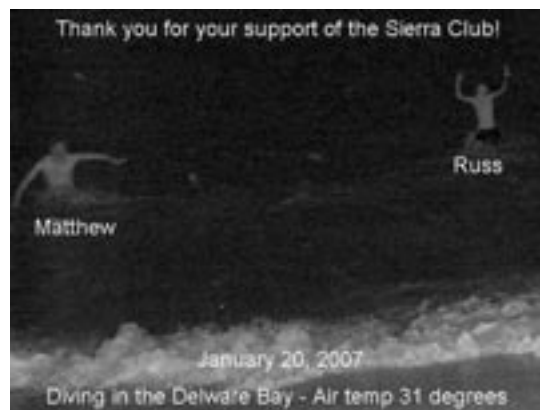
It all started that afternoon at the chapter's annual planning retreat, which was held at a member's rental property near Cape Henlopen State Park in Lewes, Delaware. Half-jokingly, Chapter Vice Chair Lisa Swanson laid down a challenge: she promised a \$100 donation to the chapter for every retreat participant who would take a dip in the bay.

Tisdale and Edwards weren't takers at that price, but they took up the challenge and started taking pledges from others at the retreat. Later, Tisdale phoned Swanson's husband, William, who made a generous pledge, upping the ante considerably. Throughout the evening the pair phoned friends and family members, scribbling down pledges on a tally sheet, and by later that night, they had eclipsed the \$2,700 mark.

Finally, the moment of truth arrived. Tisdale and Edwards emerged from a warm car and began sprinting about 100 yards down the boardwalk toward the bay. Those of us on the beach witnessed two streaks of white cutting through the darkness, as these two "polar bears" plunged into the 43-degree water. They quickly did an about-face, emerged from the icy water, grabbed towels and raced back to the warm car, which shuttled them back to the house.

After hot showers, they bundled up in blankets and drank hot tea to warm up. When they rejoined the rest of the group, they were greeted with applause and cheers for their impressive accomplishment.

The donations raised by the D.C. Chapter's two "polar bears" will support the D.C. Chapter's local initiatives to reduce energy consumption and curb global climate change, helping to protect the real polar bears, which are increasingly threatened by shrinking habitat as the polar ice sheets upon which they roam melt, break up and drift off into the open sea.



Conservation

Carbon Taxes

Continued from page 1

increasing carbon tax to shift our entire economy toward energy conservation and renewables. Taxes may sound repugnant, but carbon taxes don't have to mean a higher total tax burden. They could replace other taxes (e.g., payroll taxes penalizing work), fund new infrastructure (e.g., high-speed trains) or revenue could be refunded per capita so everyone would get an equal "allowance" and could decide how much to spend on fuel while reaping rewards for using less. The newly formed Carbon Tax Center (see www.carbontax.org) explains the many advantages of carbon taxes over "cap and trade" systems that lack transparency (allowing manipulation and profiteering) and don't provide incentives to the entire economy. The markets are tilted towards fossil fuel use. Let's level the table and give conservation and renewables a fair chance. Carbon taxes now!

For more information on upcoming teach-ins and events check online at <http://dc.sierraclub.org> or contact the author at jashand@juno.com.

Global Warming

Continued from page 1

efficiency at home and at work.

But after we've changed our light bulbs to energy-efficient compact fluorescents, replaced inefficient home appliances and revised our habits to regularly use public transit, bike or walk wherever possible, what can we do as communities and as a nation to improve energy efficiency? Chris and Akima described solutions on a communitywide or national scale. One example included improving public transit and urban planning, issues the D.C. Chapter's Transportation Committee tackles the first Tuesday of every month (for more information, visit dc.sierraclub.org).

Other solutions included using and producing fewer plastics, raising fuel efficiency standards, purchasing more renewable solar and wind power and implementing carbon taxes. Si-

erra Club life member James Handley strongly supports carbon taxes to "make the market reflect the true cost of fossil fuels." A majority of economists surveyed recently by the Wall Street Journal agreed that "a tax on fossil fuels would be the most economically sound way to encourage alternatives." (See "Is It Time for a New Tax on Energy?" at www.sierraclub.org/news).

All in all, to help implement solutions on a local and national level, sign on as a member of the Sierra Club at dc.sierraclub.org and become an advocate for global warming solutions while doing what you can yourself to adopt them. Contact Joanna Winchester, chapter assistant, at joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org or 202-363-4366 for more information on ways you can take action and get involved.

Local Impacts

Some examples of the local impact of **bad economic incentives:**

Why don't more people take Metro? Could it be because the District requires new buildings to include lots of parking? (And parking generates less revenue than office or retail space, so builders and owners wouldn't build all that parking without the requirement.)

Why do so many people move to the far suburbs? Could it be because developers are given tax incentives to convert farmland to sprawl and buyers are given deductions to buy new homes, basically bribing people to leave cities? Living in the suburbs has far more impact on the environment -- one must drive almost everywhere.

And here's a positive incentive: Fannie Mae and Metro's "Smart Commuter Initiative" allows purchasers of homes near transit to apply the money they save on commuting (e.g., a second car) toward a larger home mortgage.

Another item worth noting: Pepco Energy Systems provides energy choice. We can buy 100 percent wind-generated power and support the growth of a truly green alternative energy source. (Visit www.pepcoenergy.com.) It costs a bit more (because subsidies on fossil fuels make coal artificially cheap) but it's important to spur development of clean energy.



Skyline of D.C. showing many impacts on the environment!

Photo copyright 2005 Matthew Bralley

Environmental Films

Continued from page 11

March 17, at 3:30 p.m. at the National Museum of Natural History. Host of the long-running Canadian TV program “The Nature of Things” and the author of more than 40 books, Dr. Suzuki will speak about key points in his life, draw lessons from his experiences across the globe, and demonstrate that advocating for the environment is not all doom and gloom but can involve having great adventures, meeting amazing people, going to incredible places and occasionally celebrating great victories.

The National Archives presents the film “The Boyhood of John Muir,” the story of America’s first environmentalist and founder of the Sierra Club, on March 16 and 17. The film covers Muir’s early days on a hardscrabble farm, his ingenious mechanical inventions and his employment as a factory foreman. When an accident nearly kills him, he reflects on his life and charts a new course for his future.

Also of interest will be the film “Maquilapolis: City of Factories,” where viewers will meet globalization personally at one of its major touchdown points, Tijuana, Mexico, also known as Maquilapolis (city of maquiladoras, or sweatshops).

This insightful look at the experiences of the smart, tough, hardworking and usually invisible women who work at these maquiladoras focuses on the struggles of three Mexican women: Lourdes, Yesenia and Carmen. The women want the chance to keep working under conditions that don’t poison the land and for a wage that allows them to feed their children. Through bold, imaginative imagery—video diaries, interviews, visits to homes and hulking factories—we see the costs of globalization. The film screens at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars on Tuesday, March 20, at 12 noon and will be followed by a discussion with Andrew Selee, director, Mexico Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and Margrete Strand Rangnes, senior representative, Sierra Club Responsible Trade Program.

For a complete schedule for the film festival, visit the festival website at www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org or call 202-342-2564.

They Eat What?

Continued from page 6

comes from unwise and often inhumane approaches to raising food animals.

As a consumer armed with information, you have the power to promote a modern approach to raising animals that is both productive and healthful. You can help to effect change by supporting systems and producers that feed animals the food they were meant to eat.

You can:

- Avoid factory farmed animal products altogether by choosing plant-based foods.

- Choose grass-fed and grass-finished beef and dairy products and pasture-raised pork, poultry and egg products.

- Select certified organic meats, eggs, and dairy and those clearly labeled as using only vegetarian animal feed.

- Purchase meats, eggs and dairy products from local farmers on the farm, at farmers’ markets, or by buying a share from a local farmer as part of a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.

For more information on this topic and on how food choices impact the environment, please visit the [Union of Concerned Scientists at TheyEatWhat.org](http://UnionofConcernedScientists.org) and the [Sierra Club at TrueCostofFood.org](http://SierraClub.org).

True Cost of Food Campaign 2007 Restaurant Outings

Please RSVP to Susan Prolman at susanprolman@aol.com

Thursday, January 25, 2007. 6:30 p.m.
India Curry House
3181 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, Va.
(across street from Clarendon Metro/
Orange Line)

Thursday, February 22, 2007. 6:30 p.m.
The Vegetable Garden
11618 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md.
(across street from White Flint Metro/
Red Line)
Organic & Macrobiotic Cuisine

Thursday, March 22, 2007. 6:30 p.m.
Singh Thai
2311 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, Va.
(across street from Court House
Metro/Orange Line)

Thursday, April 26, 2007. 6:30 p.m.
Nirvana
1810 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C.
Indian/Vegetarian

Thursday, May 24, 2007. 6:30 p.m.
Lebanese Taverna at Pentagon Row
1101 S. Joyce St., Arlington, Va.
(Located near the Pentagon City
Metro station)

Fair Trade Coalition

Continued from page 7

World Fair Trade Day on Saturday, May 12, 2007. World Fair Trade Day is celebrated every second Saturday of May and is endorsed by the International Fair Trade Association (IFAT), the global association of Fair Trade organizations, composed of 300 organizations from 70 countries around the world. The 2007 theme for World Fair Trade Day is “Kids Need Fair Trade.” The “Passport to World Fair Trade” will pair musical entertainment by local child artists with a tour of various Fair Trade retailers in the Washington metro area that will raise awareness of Fair Trade product availability. Please visit www.myspace.com/DCMakeTradeFairMeetup and dc.sierraclub.org/calendar for more details on the “Passport to World Fair Trade” and other Fair Trade events.

Elizabeth Gilhuly is with the Washington D.C. Fair Trade Coalition. Chasta Piatakovas is membership chair for the Washington, D.C.,



Leadership

Chapter Executive Committee

Continued from page 3

waste reduction and recycling efforts. Prior to his move, he was an active volunteer with the club's Mt. Diablo Group within the San Francisco Bay Chapter.

Luciano has been an active volunteer with the chapter's Transportation Committee over the last year. Upon moving from Vermont to D.C., he got rid of his car because D.C. is so well served by transit. One of his top objectives is to advocate for a proposed streetcar system that would link areas of the city currently underserved by transit to the existing Metro rail and bus system. Luciano also accepted an additional position serving as the chapter's delegate, representing the chapter's views to the national organization.

Williamson, another recent transplant to the District, has been active with the chapter as a volunteer on energy and climate change issues in recent months. Although he is new to the D.C. Chapter, he is an old hand with the Sierra Club, having worked as a door-to-door canvasser for the club more than a decade ago. He has taken on the position of co-conservation chair along with Morris.

Executive Committee members are elected by the D.C. Chapter's dues-paying members, which number more than 3,000, most of whom live within the city limits of D.C. Ballots were included in the winter edition of the chapter newsletter, which was delivered in early December 2006. Members had about a month to mail in their ballots before the Election Committee counted ballots and the outgoing Executive Committee approved the results.

If you are interested in learning more about serving on the chapter's Executive Committee—either being considered to fill the currently vacant seat or running in a future chapter election—please contact Jason Broehm, 202-299-0745 or jason_broehm@dc.sierraclub.org.



Scott Williamson agonizes over an emerging action plan for energy and climate issues in 2007.



Jeff Gustafson sports a sombrero while preparing food at the chapter retreat.

Photos by Jason Broehm

Announcements

March Citizen Forester Class Registration is Open

During March, Casey Trees is offering free Citizen Forester classes on the planting and care of trees. Participants will learn to select and prepare a tree-planting site, choose an appropriate tree species for the site and properly plant the tree to ensure survival. The class includes classroom sessions and a Saturday morning practice planting session. Techniques critical to maintaining urban tree health will be presented, including mulching, watering, and pruning. No previous experience is required for this class which is being offered three times between March 6 and 17. All classes meet at the Casey Trees office, 1425 K Street N.W., Suite 1050. We expect all classes to be full, so sign up early to reserve your space.

For more information or to sign up, visit www.caseytrees.org.

Option A

Tuesday, March 6 and Wednesday, March 7 - 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 10 - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Option B

Friday, March 9 - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 10 - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Option C

Tuesday, March 13 and Wednesday, March 14 - 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 17 - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Bookmark This... The Chapter Has a New Website!

Launched this fall and designed by Webmaster Brad Green, the website, dc.sierraclub.org, has exciting new features. Have the latest Sierra Club news and events delivered to you through RSS feeds; find discussions, social events, meetings, outings and activities on the calendar; read chapter news and the *Capital Sierran* online; learn about conservation and politics; find experts on different issues; and take quick but effective action all on one site—dc.sierraclub.org.

New Contact Info for Chapter Office

Please make a note of the D.C. Chapter's new office information: Washington, D.C., Chapter of the Sierra Club
4000 Albemarle Street N.W., Suite 310
Washington, D.C. 20016
Office Phone: 202-363-4366
Office Fax: 202-244-4438

Update your address books, cell phones, Palms, Blackberries, Rolodexes and refrigerator phone lists.

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When:
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7 p.m.

Where:
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RSVP:
(required)
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coffeemovie@gmail.com

You already know how important coffee is in your daily life. Find out the role coffee plays in the lives of farmers around the world.

For more information on the movie visit:
BlackGoldMovie.com

Calendar

Outings

Following is a *partial* list of activities offered by the Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP). No pets unless listing says otherwise. For a more complete and up-to-date list and additional information, visit www.mwrop.org or call 202-547-2326.

Sat. Mar. 3. Rated A/B. Moonlit Hike on the Mall (Get to Know D.C. series). Explore the beauty of D.C.'s Mall and monuments by the full moon. Kids who can walk 7+ mi. (or 3 mi.) on relatively level terrain are welcome. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at Constitution Ave. and 16th St. Leader: Jim Finucane 301-365-3485 (before 9 p.m.) or jim.finucane@yahoo.com.

Sat. Mar. 3. Rated E or C. W&OD Trail (Get-Fit-for-Spring/Train for One Day Hike series). Out-and-back hike of 17 mi. (or do a 12-mi. option), between Vienna and Reston (or Herndon). Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna, Va. Leaders: Mike Fischetti 703-771-8559 or michael.fischetti@hq.doe.gov and Ray Evert 703-893-3792 or hikerdude22@msn.com.

Sun. Mar. 4. Rated B. Carderock/Gold Mine Tract, suburban Md. Easy 7 mi. walk along the C&O towpath and the Gold Mine Tract to Great Falls Tavern; return via the towpath. Meet at 1 p.m. at Carderock Recreation Area, off the Clara Barton Pkwy., 1 mi. west of beltway. Bring water and snack. Leader: Jim Finucane 301-365-3485 (before 9 p.m.) or jim.finucane@yahoo.com.

Sat. Mar. 10. Rated E or D. C&O Towpath (Get Fit for Spring/Train for One Day Hike series). From Swains Lock at towpath mile 16.5, do 19 mi. in two out-and-backs. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Swains Lock parking lot. Leaders: Ray Evert 703-893-3792 or hikerdude22@msn.com and Pat Hopson 703-379-1795 (9 a.m.-10 p.m.).

Tue. Mar. 13. Rated H+. CCT-VI: Sixth Annual Cross County Trail Hike. This one-way, 32 mi. hike along stream banks and through the woods of Fairfax Co. will start at "first light" to allow us to finish before sunset. Awful weather may postpone. Leader: Chris Nolen chrishiker@verizon.net or 301-469-8931.

Sat. Mar. 17. Rated D. Sky Meadows State Park. Moderate circuit hike of 8.5 mi. with about 1,500 ft. of elev. change. This Virginia state park has an entrance fee of \$4 per car. To carpool, meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Vienna Metro Station's north parking lot. Leader: Marcia Wolf 301-565-3165 (before 9 p.m.) or wolfmk@comcast.net.

Sat. Mar. 17. Not Rated. Edwards Ferry Cleanup. Pick up trash, enjoy a beautiful part of the C&O Canal towpath, and make it even more beautiful. We'll work until noon, then (optional) have lunch in Poolesville. Leaders will supply trash bags; please bring your own work gloves. Meet at 9 a.m. at Edwards Ferry; driving directions at www.mwrop.org/directions. Please contact one of us so we know how many people to expect. Leaders: Pat Hopson 703-379-1795 (9 a.m.-10 p.m.) and Carol Ivory at carolivory@verizon.net.

Sun. Mar. 18. Rated B. Fairfax County Cross County Trail Hike #1. One-way and scenic 6.5 mi. in Great Falls area. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Riverbend Park visitor center. Bring lunch and water. Car shuttle required. Joint event with PATC. Leaders: Frank Wodarczyk 703-569-6737 or fwhiker44@cox.net and Henri Comeau 703-451-7965 or hencom75@msn.com.

Sat. Mar. 24. Rated A. Cabin John Regional Park. Enjoy a moderately easy 4.3 mi. hike, partly along Cabin John Creek. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Locust Grove Nature Center parking lot, 7777 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda, Md. Finish about 12:30 p.m. Bring snack and water. No pets. Leader: Jim Fremont 301-962-4703 (before 9 p.m.).

Sat. Mar. 24. Rated G or D. Modified "Parade of Parks" (Get-Fit-for-Spring/Train for One Day Hike series). Circuit of 23 mi. (or 14.4-mi. option) on paved and dirt trails in D.C. and Maryland parklands, with some gentle elevation change. Meet at 8 a.m. at Fletcher's Boathouse lower parking lot, off Canal Rd. Leaders: Mike Fischetti 703-771-8559 or michael.fischetti@hq.doe.gov; Gary Kosciusko 703-765-0306; and Larry Broadwell 301-215-7135 (before 9 p.m.).

Sun. Mar. 25. Rated F. Central and Northern Rock Creek Park (Get to Know D.C. Series). A two-loop hike of 12.5 mi. with 3,000 ft. of elev. change and ranging across much of the park. Leashed dogs welcome for either loop (but check first with leader). Meet at 9 a.m. in parking lot next to Nature Center, off Glover Rd. just south of Military Rd. Call for directions or if carless. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351.

Sun. Apr. 1. Rated B. Fairfax County Cross County Trail Hike #2. Scenic and one-way 7.7 mi. hike in Reston/Great Falls area from Leigh Mill Rd. to Lawyers Rd. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Raccoon Ridge Ct., off Lawyers Rd. Bring lunch and water. Car shuttle required. Joint event with PATC. Leaders: Frank Wodarczyk 703-569-6737 or fwhiker44@cox.net and Henri Comeau 703-451-7965 or hencom75@msn.com.

Sun. Apr. 1. Rated H or E. Alexandria-Arlington Slow Marathon (Get-Fit-for-Spring/Train for One Day Hike Series). Circuit of 27 paved mi. on Mount Vernon Trail and other Alexandria and Arlington trails. Meet at 8 a.m. at Belle Haven, on George Washington Pkwy. Leaders: Ray Evert 703-893-3792 or hikerdude22@msn.com; Mike Gingerich 703-590-3188 or m.gingerich@comcast.net; and Russ Norfleet 703-294-6068 or russnorfleet@verizon.net.

Sat. Apr. 7. Rated A. Mount Pleasant and Adams Morgan via New D.C. Heritage Trails (Get to Know D.C. series). A 6 mi. walk along city streets. Meet at 9:45 a.m. at the southwest corner of Florida Ave. and 16th St. N.W. (near 2120 16th St.). Leashed dogs usually welcome, but call leader for approval. Leader: Helen Epps 202-363-1278 (leave message).

Sat. Apr. 7. Rated H or D. C&O Canal Towpath (Get Fit for Spring/Train for One Day Hike series). Starting at Rileys Lock (Seneca) and heading up canal, do a 28.4 mi. out-and-back to MP 37 or a 16.4 mi. out-and-back to MP 31. Meet at 8 a.m. at Rileys Lock parking lot, off River Rd. Call leaders for driving directions or Metro station pickup. Leaders: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351; Mike Gingerich 703-590-3188 or m.gingerich@comcast.net; and Herb Bastin 240-423-7566.

Sun. Apr. 8 (date subject to change). Rated A/B. Annual Bloomin' Monument Hike (Get to Know D.C. series). Celebrate the coming of spring with an

easy 4-plus-4 mi. walking tour of D.C. memorials during peak bloom of beautiful cherry blossoms. Meet at 9:30 a.m. near Ripley Center kiosk (on Jefferson Dr. near Freer Gallery and Smithsonian Metro Station's Mall entrance). Leashed dogs OK. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leaders: Mike Darzi 301-593-4551 or michael.darzi@saic.com and Jane Hudson 301-589-8708 (before 10 p.m.) or janeD.C.2002@yahoo.com.

Sun. Apr. 15. Rated A. Fairfax County Cross County Trail Hike #3. One-way 6 mi. hike in Oakton/Reston area. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Oak Marr Rec Center, off Jermantown Rd. Bring lunch and water. Car shuttle required. Joint event with PATC. Leaders: Frank Wodarczyk 703-569-6737 or fwhiker44@cox.net and Henri Comeau 703-451-7965 or hencom75@msn.com.

Sun. Apr. 15. Rated C. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. Moderate early-spring hike of 11 mi. in wildlife sanctuary on eastern shores of Patuxent River's Jug Bay in Anne Arundel Co., across from Patuxent River Park. Limited to 20 hikers; \$3 per person (sanctuary's requirements). Call leaders for reservations, driving directions, and Metro-based carpooling option. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351 and Glenn Gillis 703-430-0568.

Tues. Apr. 17. Rated E. Great Falls Park in Maryland. Hike Billy Goat Trail sections A, B, and C, plus River, Gold Mine, and Valley trails and sections of the C&O towpath. Meet at 9 a.m. at public parking area on MacArthur Blvd. across from Old Anglers Inn. Leader: Mike Moran 703-281-4630 or mjm.9406@cox.net.

Fri. Apr. 20. Not Rated. Potluck and Illustrated Talk. For dessert, MWROP's Paul Elliott will describe some little-used hiking venues in the Washington metropolitan area, most of which are covered in the just-published second edition of his "60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Washington, D.C." This off-trail event will be held at Frank Wodarczyk's house in Springfield, starting at 8 p.m. Call Frank 703-569-6737 (before 9 p.m.) for reservations and directions.

Sat. Apr. 21. Rated G or C. C&O Canal Towpath North of Carderock (Get-Fit-for-Spring/Train for One Day Hike Series). Out-and-back hike of about 25 mi. (or 13 mi. option) as a final "tune-up" for the 100K or 50K versions of the One Day Hike event on Apr. 28. Meet at 8 a.m. at middle parking lot (next to picnic area) at Carderock. Leaders: Mike Gingerich 703-590-3188 or m.gingerich@comcast.net and Gary Kosciusko 703-765-0306.

Sun. Apr. 22. Rated E. Sky Meadows State Park. Celebrate Earth Day with a hike through beautiful Sky Meadows along the crest of the Blue Ridge. This 10 mi. hike includes the AT, Thompson WMA, and terrific views of the Virginia horse country. To carpool, meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Vienna Metro Station's north parking lot (train riders: bear right on emerging outdoors at station). Leader: Glenn Gillis 703-430-0568.

Tue. Apr. 24. Rated H+. Vigorous Hikers Redbud-V: 5th Annual Dogwood Memorial. This 30+ mi. loop around Massanutten Mountain follows the former route of PATC's long-distance hike. Leader: Chris Nolen 301-469-8931 or chrishiker@verizon.net.

Continued on page 19

Hike Rating System

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

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



Calendar

D.C. Chapter and Related Events

Following is a partial list of activities of the D.C. Chapter at press time. All events are free unless indicated by (\$). Please RSVP where indicated. Because of the possibility of changes, please confirm with the contact person or by checking our website, dc.sierraclub.org where you can also RSVP. For more information on these and other events, contact Chasta Piatakovas at cpiatakovas@netzero.com.

Mon. Feb. 26

Movie Lounge: "Black Gold." 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Carnegie Institution, 1530 P St. N.W. In partnership with Co-op America's Fair Trade Program, Abol Coffee Inc., Oxfam America and the Fair Trade Federation, we present a free screening of "Black Gold," the award-winning documentary about the lives of Ethiopian coffee farmers and the human impact of the global coffee trade. RSVP before Feb. 25.

Tue. Feb. 27

Volunteer Night. March Window Mailing Party. 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Volunteer Night is great opportunity to meet other Sierra Club members and volunteers and to get to know the chapter. Contact Clayton Wilkerson at claytonwilkerson@yahoo.com.

Wed. Feb. 28

PowerPoint. "Adventures in New Zealand." 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Chapter chair Jason Broehm will give a presentation on his adventures in New Zealand visiting five national parks and hiking several trails. RSVP.

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

Thu. Mar. 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 jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org or 202-299-0745.

Mon. Mar. 12

Second Monday Happy Hour (\$) 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The Reef, 2446 18th St. N.W. Representatives from the Sierra Club Inner City Outings (ICO) will be available to answer questions about the program.

Wed. Mar. 14

G.R.E.E.N Team Membership Committee Meeting. 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. The Reef, 2446 18th St. N.W. Become a part of the G.R.E.E.N (Guys and Girls Recruiting, Retaining, and Engaging Environmentalists in the Nation's Capital) Team, the chapter's membership committee, by RSVPing to attend our monthly meetings every second Wednesday.

Thu. Mar. 15

Environmental Book Club: "Woman and Nature: The Roaring Inside Her." 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Teatism, 400 Eighth St. N.W. RSVP.

Sun. Mar. 18

Washington Capitals vs Tampa Bay Lightning (\$) 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Verizon Center, 601 F St. N.W. Please sign up by March 2 if you are interested in attending the Washington Capitals vs. Tampa Bay Lightning game then a late lunch at Austin Grill to recap the game and join a discussion on the melting Arctic. Ticket prices range from \$14 - \$90 depending on the number of interested parties and seating.

Tue. Mar. 20

Climate Crisis Action Day. 11:00 a.m. West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol Building. For more details, contact Chris Carney at chris.carney@sierraclub.org.

Thu. Mar. 22

True Cost of Food Restaurant Outing (\$) 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Singh Thai, 2311 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, Va. RSVP to Susan Prolman at susanprolman@aol.com or Diana Artemis at artemdi@yahoo.com. Metro: Court House

Movie Lounge: "The Day the Water Died." 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. RSVP.

Tue. Mar. 27

Volunteer Night: March Window Mailing Party. 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Volunteer Night is great opportunity to meet other Sierra Club members and volunteers and to get to know the chapter. Contact Clayton Wilkerson at claytonwilkerson@yahoo.com.

Thu. Mar. 29

Movie Lounge: "Oil on Ice." 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. RSVP. This documentary portrays the native Gwich'in Indians taking on powerful global energy interests to prevent invasive oil operations threatening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Tue. Apr. 3

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

Thu. Apr. 12

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

Tue. Apr. 24

Volunteer Night. March Window Mailing Party. 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. Volunteer Night is great opportunity to meet other Sierra Club members and volunteers and to get to know the chapter. Contact Clayton Wilkerson at claytonwilkerson@yahoo.com.

Thu. Apr. 26

True Cost of Food Restaurant Outing (\$) 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Nirvana, 1810 K St. N.W. RSVP to Susan Prolman at susanprolman@aol.com or Diana Artemis at artemdi@yahoo.com.

Tue. May. 1

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

Sat. May. 5

Movie Lounge and Boat Tour. (\$) "The Anacostia: Restoring the People's River." 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Earth Conservation Corps Pump House, First Street and Potomac Ave. S.E. \$15; \$20 for non-members. RSVP today because space is limited to 25 people.

Thu. May. 10

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

Fri. May. 18

Environmental Book Club. "The Quest for Environmental Justice." 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Roasters On The Hill Coffeehouse, 666 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E. RSVP.

MWROP Calendar

Continued from page 18

Fri.-Sun. Apr. 27-29. Rated H. Fifth Annual Cranberry Wilderness and Backcountry Backpack (GPS Hikes series, unscouted). We'll average about 12 mi. per day on Cowpasture and Pocahontas trails, visit Summit Lake, and do some other trails on this linear hike. Car shuttle required. To qualify, participants must have hiked with the leader before or join him on a scouting trip (which happens most weekends) prior to this outing. Leader: Dimitri Tundra 301-770-9639 or tartakd@hotmail.com.

Sat. Apr. 28. Rated H++ or H+. One Day Hike to Harpers Ferry/ Bolivar, W.Va. This 34th annual 100 kilometer (62 mi.) hike with a concurrent 50 km. option is, except for about 3.2 km (less than 2 mi.) at the end, wholly on the C&O Canal towpath. For details and volunteer opportunities, visit www.onedayhike.org or contact leaders (registration closes April 16!). Leaders: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351 or metrohiker@yahoo.com and Mike Darzi 301-593-4551 or michael.darzi@saic.com.

Sun. Apr. 29. Rated A. Virginia State Arboretum. An easy walk of about 5 mi. for tree lovers, with a picnic stop. Carpoolers meet at 9 a.m. at Starbucks (near the Giant supermarket) at Oakton Shopping Center, 1 mi. north of I-66 on VA 123. Back to Oakton by 3 p.m.. Leader: Dave Burd 240-418-9697 or dave.burd@verizon.net.

WASHINGTON, D.C., CHAPTER DIRECTORY

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