



CAPITAL SIERRAN

Newsletter of the Washington, D.C., Chapter

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Chapter Stands Firm on Anacostia Waterfront Protections

by Gwyn Jones

Earth Day has passed, the hundreds of volunteers who walked along the Anacostia's banks collecting tons of trash have for the most part turned their attention to other things. Yet, while spring brings new life to D.C.'s "other river," an old threat seems poised to emerge: development.

With the virtually inevitable dissolution of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation (AWC) and efforts by councilmembers to speed up development along the Anacostia, the environmental community is once again on alert. As with other development occurring at the river's edge,

community members must work to ensure that the environment and habitats along the river, and the river itself, are protected from develop-



Photo by Jim Dougherty

ers eager to bypass or diminish the established planning framework and guidelines that put the environment and community on equal footing with economic development.

Over the last decade, the restoration of the

Continued on page 4

Invasive Plant Control: Whose Responsibility Is It?

by Peter R. Wieczorowski

"If someone said they were planning to bulldoze these woods and pave them over in green, would you do something about it?" Dr. Marc Imlay, Anacostia Watershed Society.

The natural areas of Washington, D.C., and its surrounding communities are under a silent, man-made assault that threatens to permanently alter ecosystems, destroy habitat for native wildlife and deforest large areas, resulting in negative impacts on air quality, storm water runoff and quality of life. The culprits are invasive non-native plants, also known as "invasive exotic plants" or "invasive weeds." Many Sierra Club members who have joined in public land cleanup days have learned first hand of the threat posed by these plants. There is a desperate need to expand these invasive plant control efforts, by both



Photo by Peter R. Wieczorowski

Green carpets this overwhelmed area of woodlands

government agencies and volunteers, to save our natural areas.

What's all this about "invasive plants?"

Twenty-five years ago, the issue of invasives was limited largely to fringe areas and disturbed land, and the invasion crept along at a snail's pace. In the past five years, however, two phenomena have occurred: the number and vigor of invasive plant species has exploded

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Honoring Our Mothers

by Jason Broehm

I spent part of the recent Mother's Day weekend back in my hometown exploring the Urban Ecology Center and strolling through a city park with my mom, sister, niece and nephew. We rested next to the Milwaukee River, watching high school students conduct water quality tests of a polluted but rebounding urban river.

I thought back to several weeks earlier when I participated in an Earth Day cleanup of the Anacostia River in honor of another mother – "Mother Nature." The Anacostia, the District's polluted urban river, faces many challenges on its path to recovery, but many people throughout the watershed remain committed to restoring what's been called "the People's River."

Visionaries and many citizen advocates, who are working hard to restore these once great urban rivers, give us all hope for a better future – one in which residents of both cities will once again be able to fish and swim in their rivers.

In these struggles, we could all draw inspiration from another "mother" – Rachel Carson who, although she gave birth to no children of her own, is considered a mother of the modern environmental movement. In her landmark book, "Silent Spring," which was released in 1962, she single-handedly sounded the alarm on threats to natural life posed by widespread use of chemical pesticides.

In an introduction to the 1994 printing of her book, then-vice president Al Gore wrote that her book "changed the course of history" by awakening the public to invisible threats to life on earth. He went further, asserting: "Without this book, the environmental movement might have been long delayed or never have developed at all." Carson's book is credited for the ban on the pesticide DDT and for laying the groundwork for establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and enactment of important laws that protect our air, land and water.

According to the website of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where she once worked, Carson "had long hoped someone else would publish an exposé on DDT," but when she realized that she was in the best position to do it, she took it on as her mission.

Sadly, in 1964, just two years after the release of her book, she died at age 56. She had been diagnosed with breast cancer midway

through writing "Silent Spring." She demonstrated great strength, determination and courage by continuing her work throughout her cancer treatment, even on the days when she felt ill and had to work from bed, to complete her mission and release the book. And upon its release, she stood firm in the face of withering attacks by the chemical industry, which tried to discredit her and her work. All the while she kept her cancer a secret, fearing that the industry would use this knowledge to impugn her motives for writing the book.

May 27, 2007, marks Carson's 100th birthday, an occasion for us all to celebrate her life, reflect upon her significant contribution to our cause, and draw inspiration from her advocacy. Each of us should aspire to follow her example, channeling our own passion, energy and abilities to do whatever we can to save our environment. This will keep Rachel Carson's spirit alive.

Capital Sierran Editors

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To submit letters to the editor or other materials for publication or inquire about display advertising, write to: jhanff@earthlink.net

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Send membership forms to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



Photo provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

"Over increasingly large areas of the United States, spring now comes unheralded by the return of the birds, and the early mornings are strangely silent where once they were filled with the beauty of bird song." Rachel Carson, "Silent Spring" (1962)

Students Learn ABC's of Waste Reduction

by Matthew Tisdale

This spring the Sierra Club launched its Recycling Education Program. A part of the Washington Waste Reduction Initiative, the program teaches children the value of waste reduction and provides guidance on how to reduce, reuse and recycle.

On three occasions this spring the program visited Brightwood Elementary School and worked with students participating in an after-school program coordinated by CentroNia, a comprehensive family support organization that provides affordable access to exemplary early childhood education. The students learned three different lessons on how to reduce, reuse and recycle. The first lesson, which focuses on recycling, includes a waste audit. For this activity, students sort through bags of (prepared and clean!) trash and recyclables to determine what items can be recycled. The lesson helps students understand what materials can be separated from their trash and recycled



Photo provided by Matthew Tisdale

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Learning Environment

by Dennell Reynolds

I did not spend the night before my last Advanced Placement (AP) test in high school cramming or panicking like I had in the past before other exams. Instead, I spent the evening thinking about energy conservation, global warming and other hot-button topics that I already often discuss with my friends and parents.

The next morning, I came to school and took a three-hour-long essay and multiple-choice test called the Environmental Science AP. The Advanced Placement designation means that a course is equivalent in difficulty to a college class on the same material, and each AP course ends with a standardized test, like the Environmental Science exam, that might win me some extra class credits when I start college in the fall.

I am lucky enough to attend a school that offers a course on environmental

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Georgetown Boathouse Fight Still Raging

by Sally Strain

The National Park Service (NPS) is reviewing public comments submitted in June 2006 on an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a university-owned private boathouse the length of a football field for Georgetown University and a new road to it inside the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The NPS has not yet decided whether to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and proceed with the proposal. The Sierra Club wants the NPS to conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the misguided plan.

Voice your opposition to the boathouse and road by sending a letter to the recently appointed Honorable Mary A. Bomar, director, National Park Service, 1849 C St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240 (or email her at Mary_Bomar@nps.gov—however we recommend a paper copy). In your letter, demand that the NPS:

- * preserve national parkland for public use, not trade it for private development;

- * build this private boathouse outside the C&O Canal National Historical Park; and

- * prepare a full EIS/comprehensive study of the entire Potomac River waterfront area to carefully examine alternative locations, uses and sizes for boathouses and other development outside the C&O Canal Park.

For background on the proposal, and the EA comments submitted by the D.C. Sierra Club and other members of Defenders of Potomac River Parkland and individuals, visit www.savethecanal.org.

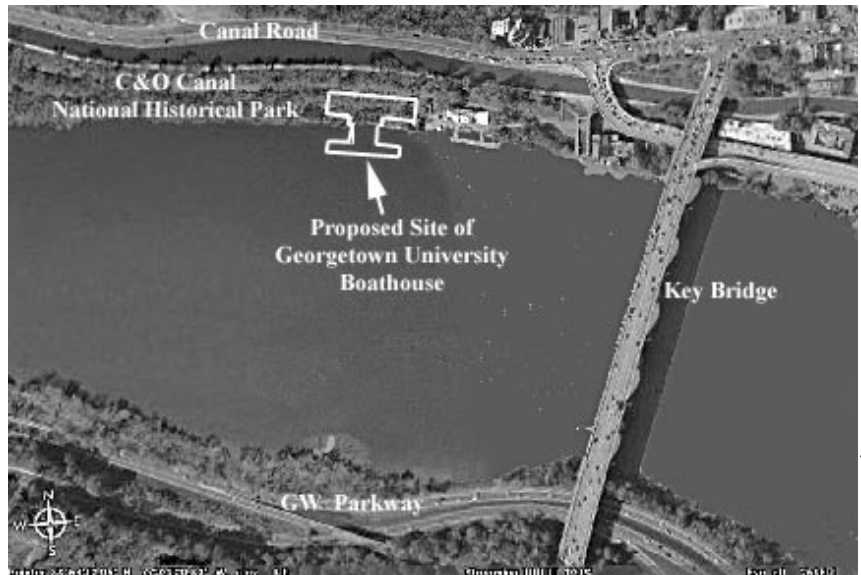


Illustration by David Winer

Proposed Georgetown University boathouse would be located just west of the Key Bridge.

Conservation

Anacostia Waterfront

Continued from page 1

Anacostia and its surrounding communities received increasing amounts of attention, not only from environmentalists and community leaders, but from former Mayor Anthony Williams and the Office of Planning led by Andy Altman. The Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI) that resulted from the combined efforts of neighborhood participants, consultants and District professionals was to provide the framework to guide development that would restore the river and revitalize the surrounding communities.

But in recent months councilmembers Jack Evans (D-Ward 2) and David Catania (I-At Large), responding to complaints that development was not moving fast enough, have led a council initiative to disband the AWC, the body charged with the implementation of the AWI framework plan.

It appears that effort will succeed, but how the Fenty administration will address the implementation of the AWI remains unclear, and that has prompted a lot of questions from organizations across the city that work in the environmental, social justice and affordable housing arenas.

In March, D.C. Chapter Vice Chair Lisa Swanson testified at a council hearing on the matter, saying that the AWC was the only body charged explicitly with carrying out the implementation; to repeal the act that created it would leave a void and threaten to undo the valuable planning and environmental and social mandates designed to restore the river and its neighborhoods.

In April, 37 organizations, including the Sierra Club, signed onto a letter to Mayor Fenty urging him to make sure that if the AWC were disbanded, a plan was in place to assure the implementation of the AWI framework, and that all environmental mandates to protect and restore the river would be retained.

Now the council's Committee on Economic Development, led by Councilmember Kwame Brown (D-At Large) has



Photo by Jim Dougherty

Protesting the amusement park in 1995: Jim Dougherty, Mark Rabinowitz, Gwyn Jones, Alisa Stone, Jake the Pooch

proposed to dissolve both the National Capital Revitalization Corporation (NCRC) and the AWC and in their place create a new economic development authority. In the "Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Support Act of 2007," Bill 17-0148, the Acts establishing the AWC and the NCRC are repealed and the Economic Development Authority (DCEDA) is created.

It's déjà vu all over again.

You see, the AWC was created because the Williams administration – and the council – felt that the single body overseeing special development in the District, the NCRC, would not be able to focus adequately on the Anacostia development and the special environmental needs the river's restoration would require.

In light of this recent development, a loose alliance of 37 organizations including DC Appleseed, the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth (FOE), the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS), are working to see that the proposed DCEDA's charge includes all the mandates from the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative Framework Plan, as well new environmental standards, for which AWC is in the process of gaining approvals.

Specifically, the alliance requested that in the section dealing with the area defined as the "Anacostia Waterfront Development Zone," the bill specifically state what each of the mandates is and how it should be applied.

In a broader gesture, the Sierra Club, joined by AWS, FOE and NRDC, provided comments to Brown to rework the DCEDA's mission to take a stronger environmental stance. As part of its general purpose, the group proposed adding that the authority should "promote economic development that protects the environmental values of, and quality of life within, the Development Zones and surrounding community and the city as a whole."

In its May 13 letter to Councilmember Brown, the chapter stated, "We believe that in establishing the DCEDA, the council has a tremendous opportunity to reshape the way in this body approaches economic development.... No longer can economic development be done in a vacuum; instead, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the District – or any city



Photo by Jim Dougherty

Sonia Nagda helps during a 2007 clean-up

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True Cost of Food: Coming Home to Roost

by Michael Greger, M.D.

How we treat animals and the environment can—and does—have global public health implications. The spread of Lyme disease, for example, has been traced to suburbanization, in which the chopping down of North America's woodlands into subdivisions scared away the foxes and bobcats that kept down the deer tick-infested mice populations. In the "hamburgerization" of the tropical rainforests in South America, we discovered a slew of new hemorrhagic fever viruses or, rather, they discovered us. The emergence of Ebola has been blamed on deforestation in Africa, and the emergence of AIDS is thought to have been a result of exposure to primate blood as a result of the burgeoning trade in bushmeat used to feed the migrant workforce of the transnational timber corporations. Someone butchered a chimp a few decades ago and now 25 million people are dead.

Over two-thirds of new diseases emerge from the animal kingdom. Industrial animal agriculture has played a starring role from the cannibalistic feeding practices that led to mad cow disease, to the use of antibiotics as growth promoters for farmed animals

leading to antibiotic resistant superbugs, to the intensive confinement of pigs that facilitated the emergence of the deadly Nipah virus in Asia and a virulent strain of *Streptococcus suis* discovered in 2005. One animal disease threat, though, steals the show.

The last time a bird flu virus triggered a pandemic, an estimated 50 to 100 million people lost their lives in what became the worst plague in human history, the influenza pandemic of 1918. The emergence of H5N1, the strain of avian influenza currently threatening to trigger the next flu pandemic, has been traced back to the intensification of the poultry industry in South China. By overcrowding tens of thousands of birds into massive, filthy sheds where they lie beak-to-beak in their own waste, we are creating fertile breeding grounds for emerging pathogens like H5N1.

We have essentially created billions of feathered and curly-tailed test tubes in which viruses can incubate and mutate—billions more spins at pandemic roulette. Along with human culpability, though, comes hope. If changes in human behavior can cause new plagues, changes in human behavior may pre-

vent them in the future. Hopefully, for humanity's sake, the direction we will take is away from raising birds and other animals by the billions under intensive confinement.

Michael Greger, M.D., is director of public health and animal agriculture at The Humane Society of the United

How to Help

The Sierra Club National Sustainable Consumption Committee created the True Cost of Food campaign to share information on how diet choices affect the environment, human health and the animals used in agriculture.

The True Cost of Food campaign encourages consumers to:

- Avoid all factory farmed animal products.
- Choose to eat a plant-centered diet. Eat more organic, locally grown vegetables and grains, less meat, less dairy.
- Choose organic food whenever you can. Agricultural chemicals are a major contributor to water pollution and wildlife deaths.
- Support local, responsible food producers. Buying local food reduces pollution and other environmental damage associated with long-distance food transportation.

To learn more about the Sierra Club's True Cost of Food campaign, please visit <http://www.truecostof-food.org>.

Happy Birthday, John Muir!

by Chasta Piatakovas

John Muir Day, celebrated each April 21, provides us with an opportunity to acknowledge the modern ecological insight that humankind is a part of nature, and that our well-being – indeed our very survival – depends upon an ecologically sound natural environment. By taking some time to appreciate how far we have come in the environmental movement launched by the extraordinary legacy of the self-described "poetico-trampo-geologist-naturalist" and Sierra Club founder, John Muir, we can be inspired as we tackle the myriad environmental problems facing us today.

In honor of John Muir Day and to celebrate Muir's 169th birthday, the Sierra Club's Washington, D.C., Chapter and MWROP (Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program) organized a conservation hike on Sunday, April 22. More than 20 hiked a leisurely 5.5-mile circuit in the scenic, wooded and somewhat hilly central section of Rock Creek Park, with brief pauses at Pierce Mill and its spooky art gallery, the new Rock Creek fishway, Jusserand Bench, Pulpit Rock, Boulder Bridge, the Fort DeRussy ramparts, eye-catching wildflower displays and the hidden remains of the Capitol's pre-1958 east portico. En route, hike leader Paul Elliott discussed Muir's role in the creation of the national park system and the Sierra Club and the history and future of Rock Creek Park.



Conservation

Sierra Club Activist Outings Highlight Adventure and Advocacy

by Vicky Hoover

The Sierra Club national outings program features several special trips each year. The goal of these trips is to inform participants about the issues surrounding their particular trip and train them to advocate effectively for the relevant campaign. Wilderness and other preservation campaigns are the chief focus for 2007's seven activist trips, headed for Alaska, California, Utah, New Mexico, Washington, and Nevada. [West Virginia is omitted because it happened before publication.]

*Brooks Range on a Budget: Eric Rorer's June 10-23 backpacking trip in Western Alaska's contested National Petroleum Reserve is filled and has a waiting list. Trip 07014A \$1,375.

*Walk Among Giants in California's Sequoia National Monument, June 17-23, studies management problems in this area that was proclaimed to be a new monument by President Bill Clinton. Learn about the ongoing threats to these unique big trees and their ecosystem on day hikes with veteran leaders Cal and Letty French and former Sierra Club president Joe Fontaine. Trip 07191A \$395.

*Rafting and Activism in Dinosaur Nation Monument in Utah is a family activist adventure from July 5-9 that helps kids as well as adults figure out why we care so much about saving Wild Utah's dazzling landscapes. Join leader Pat Fritz on the historic Green River. Trip 07261A \$855/\$755 child.

*Wild in the Wide Open Wild Sky, backpacking in Washington State, August 15-21, studies the recently well publicized Wild Sky Wilderness campaign. Participants will enjoy trails and views in designated wilderness and candidate-for-wilderness areas in the heart of the Mount-Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Trip 07175A, \$495.

*Valle Vidal Service and Advocacy, July 22-29, focuses on public land protection in New Mexico. Join leader Gene Goldberg and local volunteer Norma McCallan in scenic day hiking plus two novel service projects for trail

and river restoration. Northern New Mexico's Valle Vidal—the Valley of Life—has just gained some protection from proposed oil and gas drilling. Trip 07315A, \$525.

*Eastern Nevada's Wild Heights, September 1-9. White Pine County has



Photo by Lawrence Wilson

The author with Sierra Club Director and longtime Utah Chapter activist Jim Catlin on a 2006 activist outing to Utah's Tushar Mountains

just won landmark wilderness designation for many of its beautiful, wild mountain ranges, all too little known, that leader Melinda Goodwater shares with you. Besides a brief visit to Great Basin National Park, this remarkable trip, while mostly scenic day hikes with car camping, features a two-day traverse of the dramatic High Schells with an overnight backpack. Mt. Grafton and the Egan Range and possibly the Highland Range, are other memorable destinations. You also have the opportunity to learn some of the complexities of Nevada wilderness politics. Trip # 07196A, \$495.

To learn about partial scholarships to bring qualified activists to these advocacy trips, contact activist outings chair Vicky Hoover at vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org or 415-977-5527.

More Articles Online!

Just can't get enough Sierra Club news? Visit us online at dc.sierraclub.org to read many more articles and see photos from recent events!

Please visit the website to read these complete stories:

Carbon Tax Redux: James Handley ventures further into the complexities and possibilities of carbon taxes to fight climate change in this part II of our feature from last edition.

Parking as Environmental (and Historic Preservation) Threat: In one D.C. neighborhood, parking in front of your house might be considered an environmental threat. Read more on this and how important the use (and abuse) of our small pieces of D.C. yard can have a big impact.

Environmentally Preferable Paint: Is it worth the effort and cost? Read more on this from a professional painter who knows the business.

Fair Trade Coffee: Read about fair trade coffee issues and the premiere of *Black Gold*, a documentary on Ethiopian coffee culture and trade.

Global Warming Countdown: How to take small steps to curb your impacts on global warming.

Step It Up Event Recap: Photos and more about the recent Step It Up march on climate change.

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

Outings

One Day: One Hike

by Paul Elliott

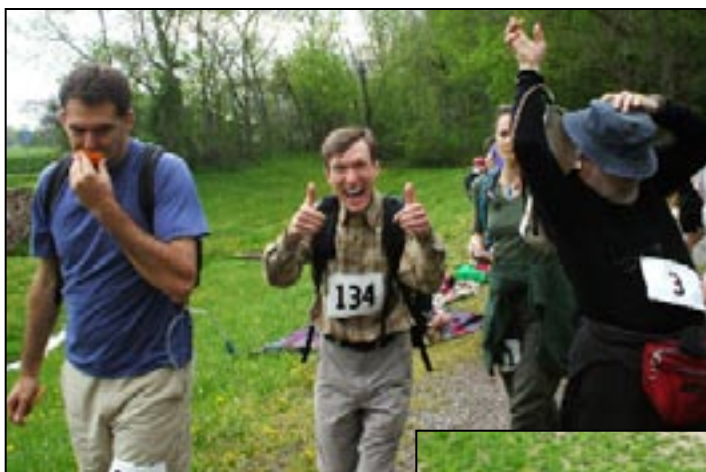
This year's One Day Hike along the C&O Canal towpath to Harpers Ferry—organized as usual by the Sierra Club's Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program with myself as trail boss for 2007—featured 217 participants from 23 states and with a 65-year age span (the most on all those counts in 33 years), 90 volunteers (another record), an easier 50K starting place (Whites Ferry), a great new and spacious end point (the Bolivar Community Center) and a new shuttle service to help hikers get started and home. We also had very good weather, a bit of luck when needed, and success in meeting our No Hiker Left Behind goal. Visit www.onedayhike.org for detailed results and more photos—and consider joining us next year.

Northern Virginians Matt Carroll (left) and Gary Jenkins were two of the hikers checked in by volunteer Rob Anderson at Whites Ferry—at the 35.5-mile mark on the One Day Hike's full 61.15-mile (100-kilometer) version. They were among the 53 100K finishers, out of 97 starters.



Photos by Paul Elliott

Veteran 100Ker Curt Anderson (dubbed "Moses" by the volunteers) also took photos all the way from 2:30 a.m. to about 11 p.m. (visit <http://nardov.tripod.com/hiking/OneDayHike2007.html>).



Hikers had assorted ways of approaching the support stations, as revealed here by (left to right) 50Kers Marc Eisenberg, Eric Hushbeck and Skip Dye.



Dr. Angela Calle's footwork at the Monocacy support station (at the 42-mile mark) helped Roanoke-based Deb Simon complete the 100K with her husband Bryan (rear).



100Ker Russell Smith and 50Ker America Bowie, both District residents, reached the Bolivar Community Center together just before 9 p.m.

Washington, D.C., May Day Special Election

by Lisa Swanson

Voters in Wards 4 and 7 Pick New Councilmembers Headed for the Environmental Committee

One of two Sierra Club-endorsed candidates was successful in the May 1 special election to fill vacancies on the city council. The special election was necessitated by the upward mobility of Vince Gray, who moved from Ward 7 councilmember to the council chair, and of Adrian Fenty, who vacated his Ward 4 seat to become mayor. The open seats attracted huge fields of candidates—19 in Ward 4 and 18 in Ward 7—making the choices difficult and the races hard to predict. The Sierra Club endorsed Muriel Bowser, the Ward 4 winner, and Greg Rhett, who came in fifth in a crowded field in Ward 7.

Muriel Bowser proved a truly strong candidate in a strong field. Her experience working for Montgomery County in Maryland has given her practical knowledge of transit issues, including non-auto commuting, and she is a prominent supporter of Bike to Work Day. In her interview with our chapter, she committed to the strong framework and priorities of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation, a framework and priorities that must not be lost no matter the fate of the organization itself.

Greg Rhett stood out among the many candidates in Ward 7 because of his range of experiences in many neighborhoods in the diverse ward. His goals were increasing recreation possibilities and improving the public health through environmental action, such as closing the Benning Road coal-burning facility.

Both Bowser and Yvette Alexander, the winner in Ward 7, will fill unexpired terms that end in January of 2009. They join councilmembers Jim Graham (D-Ward 1), Kwame Brown (D-At Large) and Mary Cheh (D-Ward 3) on the Committee on Public Works and the Environment.

For the first time, the Sierra Club joined forces with Clean Water Action and Friends of the Earth in the candidate endorsement process. The groups have differing priorities on environmental issues but, given the special circumstances of this election, they worked together in a unified process. All three member groups provided sample questions for a questionnaire put to all candidates, participated in narrowing the list of candidates to those they wanted to interview based on the answers and other information, and provided at least one representative to meet with the candidates.

Robbie Cox Elected Sierra Club President

by John Byrne Barry

At its May meeting, the Sierra Club Board of Directors elected Robbie Cox to be the new club president. A communications professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Cox also served as the club's president from 1994 to 1996 and 2000 to 2001.

Other newly elected officers are Robin Mann (vice president), Sanjay Ranchod (secretary), and Alison Chin (fifth officer). Joni Bosh was re-elected as treasurer.

You can listen online (<http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/bod/minutes/2007/2007-05-20presidentsummary.mp3>) to Cox explain the new technologies and strategies the club will be rolling out this year to better communicate and interact with not just our members, but anyone interested in helping the planet.

And thanks to outgoing president Lisa Renstrom for her inspired leadership.

Waste Reduction

Continued from page 3

and why it is important to be sure those items do not get buried in landfills or incinerated.

The second lesson focuses on reusing materials that could have been discarded as trash. For this lesson volunteers bring in reusable materials such as cardboard boxes, cereal boxes and magazines. The students use these materials to make bookmarks, magazine holders and recycling bins. They learn to think again before trashing materials that could still be useful.

The third lesson helps students learn one way to reduce the amount of trash they produce. To illustrate this lesson students decorate canvas bags that they will use in place of plastic grocery bags. The Brightwood students were surprised to learn that plastic bags are made out of oil and that they are harmful to our environment. Each student designs canvas bags with pro-recycling messages, reflecting all they have learned over the three visits, and take the bags home to share with their family and friends.

In addition to volunteer leadership from the Sierra Club, students from George Washington University who participate in the university's Neighbors Project, a community service effort which includes an environmental stewardship focus, also participate.

Having had a successful kickoff this spring, the Recycling Education Program is now turning its attention to the next academic year when we hope the program will expand into new

schools, after-school programs and child-care facilities. The Sierra Club is eager to bring the program to as many students as possible. If you are associated with education and you think this program may be appropriate for your students, please contact Jeff Gustafson at recycledc@gmail.com. Sierra Club

leaders will work with you to bring the good news of waste reduction to students across Washington!



Anacostia Waterfront

Continued from page 4

— economic development must occur as part of a holistic vision that integrates environmental protection and improvement with community revitalization and support.”

The council’s Economic Development Committee did not incorporate any changes to the legislation prior to the its first reading before the council on May 15, citing a lack of time.

However, in another potentially troubling move, Councilmember Marion Barry (D-Ward 8) proposed an amendment to the legislation that would separate the Poplar Point parcel from the rest of the Anacostia Waterfront Development Zone in order to keep plans for its development moving forward. While the language in the amendment retains the critical mandates that apply to the rest of the zone, chapter and other environmental leaders felt that separating this parcel sets a bad precedent and could potentially lead to other development areas such as Reservation 13 near RFK Stadium or the Southwest Waterfront being spun off in an effort to speed along development.

The bill, with the Barry amendment, passed with a unanimous voice vote on its first reading. The second reading is scheduled for June 5, 2007.

To become law, legislation must be passed by a majority of the council at two public meetings separated by at least 13 days. Once passed, it goes to the mayor, who must either sign or veto within 10 days, or allow it to pass into law without his signature. The bill then becomes an “Act” and is sent to Congress for mandatory review. All told, it can take up to four months for a bill to become law.

To find out more about this and other issues regarding development along the Anacostia, or to learn how you can get involved, contact Gwyn Jones (gwynjones@aol.com) or Joanna Winchester, chapter assistant (joanna.winchester@sierraclub.org)

Invasives

Continued from page 1

ed and their penetration into the woods has increased at rate noticeable even to the untrained observer. Some experts theorize that these changes may in part be due to increased CO₂ levels in the atmosphere or elevated temperatures. A 2006 study published by Jacqueline Mohan, currently of Woods Hole, found that vines in particular thrive under such conditions. Local field observations of the rapid expansion of Japanese honeysuckle vine and other invasives may support this concept.

Perhaps worse is the unsustainable population growth of white-tailed deer, which disdain eating invasives but relish native plants. Research indicates that the deer population’s overgrazing of native species has led to a dramatic reduction of native plants in large areas of the parks. A recent study of Rock Creek Park estimated that the deer population is 2.5 times larger than what is generally considered sustainable for its ecosystem—a condition observed in most other local natural areas as well—and research conducted last year at St. Mary’s College concluded empirically that invasives become more plentiful than natives in deer-browsed areas. In addition, new invasive plants are constantly being introduced through novel garden plantings and increased transportation, both domestic and international.

Some of our natural areas have become so overwhelmed, in fact, that experts predict reclamation will only be possible through drastic, expensive and long-term programs. These invasive plant-infested areas tend to expand every time a tree succumbs to the onslaught. In order to successfully re-tree such areas, it may take two to three years of work to sufficiently eradicate the infestation to allow planting, followed by an additional five years of intense invasive control. While it likely will not be possible to wipe out invasive plants totally—in this they and the common cold are not dissimilar— it may be possible to wipe out large infestations and through vigilance keep new and repeat invasions in check.

What is the government doing about this?

There is a very positive develop-



Photo by Peter R. Wiczorowski

Volunteer at a invasive weed pull event

ment on the government front. The District of Columbia metro area is a patchwork of jurisdictions and landowners, with federal and local governments and private landowners responsible for natural areas. Currently there is an effort in the District to establish what is known as a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) to include the entire city. A CWMA will facilitate the pooling of knowledge, enhance interagency communication, and allow control efforts to cross jurisdictional boundaries. This last element is crucial as the spreading of invasive plants is not limited by artificial boundaries of land ownership. The National Park Service’s (NPS) Center for Urban Ecology and the District’s Department of the Environment are spearheading this effort. Once this program is in place, control efforts will become more coordinated and comprehensive. But its success will also require an increase in funding, currently woefully insufficient, to pay for control teams, supervisory staff and equipment.

Why do private citizens need to get involved?

It is widely acknowledged that severe public health threats require involvement of the public. It makes sense that public lands also need stewardship from the public. Land managers across the United States recognize that the control of invasive plants ultimately requires increased public awareness of the threat. They also are seeing the benefits of using trained citizen volun-

Continued on page 10

Invasives

Continued from page 9

teers. The problem is simply too large to be addressed by government alone. The public can and must be recruited not only to assist with control activities but also to serve as the eyes of the land managers, alerting them to new infestations as they occur.

What can I do to help?

Sierrans can help these efforts in three ways. One way is to look out for and support the efforts of the NPS and the D.C. government by advocating for increased funding of official control efforts. Another is to get involved directly through volunteer invasive plant control. And the third is to make a few small and helpful lifestyle changes. See below for some examples.

Learn to identify invasive plants and lend a hand in the fight.

Volunteering to control invasive plants is fun; it is also a good and free way to get exercise, become more familiar with the District's natural areas, and make new acquaintances. Try it once and you will likely get hooked. There are plenty of opportunities to join group volunteer efforts on weekends through such organizations as the Nature Conservancy, the Anacostia Watershed Society, the Earth Conservation Corps and DC Woodlands. One can also pursue the area-specific approach, that is, working primarily in Rock Creek Park, along the C&O Canal, or in the National Arboretum, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, or other geographically distinct area. Links to these opportunities may be found on the DC Woodlands website (www.dewoodlands.org).

Can't I just work on my own?

Please restrict any solo control efforts to your own property. This plea can not be stressed enough, for two reasons: 1) accurate plant identification and control requires training and hands-on experience; and 2) some plants can only be controlled by methods not available to volunteers. It is also essential that land managers keep track of control activity on their lands because this information assists them

in allocation of limited resources and in their planning.

The parks need as much help as they can get, but well-intentioned but misguided "rogue" efforts cause them severe damage. Here are two examples:

One common weed tree is the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), also known as Stinking Sumac. Fairly easy to identify, though sometimes confused with native nut trees, it responds vigorously if one chops it down or severely wounds it, sprouting multiple clones from its roots. Where one had one tree, one now may have dozens.

Native grape vine, a prime and protected source of food for wildlife, sometimes seems to be overwhelming the trees on which it grows, but in fact manages to live in harmony with its host. Unfortunately, the grape vine is easily mistaken for some extremely bad invasive vines, particularly Porcelain

of a local environmental disaster – two weeks later the stumps are still weeping sap and any knowledgeable observer is likely to want to weep as well. If only that person had taken some training from one of the authorized groups and become certified to work in the area, a commitment of less than five hours would have saved hundreds of years of growth.

I hope that these examples reinforce the need to volunteer responsibly.

Besides volunteering, is there anything I can do personally?

Stay on marked trails while walking through the woods, so as not to carry seeds into relatively pristine areas. For the same reason, keep your dogs leashed and on the trails.

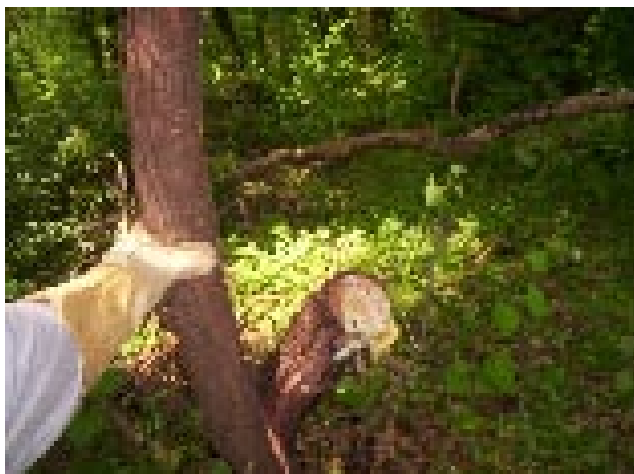
Select native or non-invasive non-native plants for your home garden. Many plants marketed for home gardens are non-native invasives, and most are quite beautiful. Some of those

plants can be kept non-invasive if managed properly, such as English ivy, but most generate seeds that are easily transported by birds, wind and runoff. So a seemingly benign shrub, tree, or ground cover can in fact be a source of repeated and widespread infestation for woodlands near and far. For suggestions of native alternatives, the web is helpful and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden has recently published an excellent book, "Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants," available through their website and online bookstores.

DC Woodlands is an organization focused on addressing the threat of invasive

plants in the District of Columbia through the dissemination of information, promotion of volunteer control efforts and general advocacy. For more information including numerous web links, go to www.dewoodlands.org.

Peter R. Wieczorowski (veech-or-OF-skee) is the founder of DC Woodlands and is an active participant in the National Park Service's Volunteers in Parks exotic plant management program.



Four-inch native grape vine severed by well-intentioned but unauthorized and uninformed citizen

Berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* – yes, I can't pronounce it either). Even with extensive experience, it is very hard to tell the difference – the bark, leaves and the way they grow are remarkably similar. Recently, over a very short time a rogue weed warrior attacked the grape vines in one our parks, severing every last one of them, probably over 50 in total, and some exceeding six inches in diameter and over 100 years old! This is nothing short

Photo by Peter R. Wieczorowski

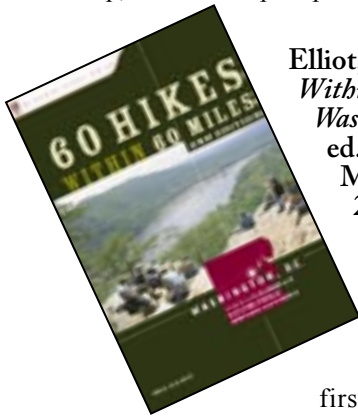
Book Reviews

60 Hikes Within 60 Miles, 2nd Edition

Review by Christa Watters

Paul Elliott's *60 Hikes Within 60 Miles, Washington, D.C.*, second edition, is a fine new guidebook to hiking in our metropolitan area. This user-friendly book provides maps and directions to the trailhead and along the route. It rates the hikes by difficulty, distance, elevation, trail surface and configuration, time required, seasonal and weather considerations, even traffic. But more than this, Elliott's *60 Hikes* is an eye-opener to seeing our city and its surroundings on foot.

Elliott is not just a dedicated longtime hiker; he's an explorer of sorts, a well-read writer with wide-ranging interests. Dense with detail, his tightly crafted essays go well beyond describing the terrain to give us glimpses of local history, culture, geology and the plants and animals we might encounter along the way. He also gives practical advice: Never hike alone, use proper footwear; dress for the weather; carry a map, a spare pair of socks and a cell phone.



Elliott, Paul. *60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Washington, D.C.* 2nd ed. Birmingham, Ala. Menasha Ridge Press, 2007. \$16.95

The second edition includes 13 new hikes, updated maps, new and better photos. While the first edition arranged the hikes alphabetically, this one groups the hikes by location, starting with those within the city of Washington and working outward to close-in Maryland suburbs, close-in Virginia, and then rural areas of both states within the 60-mile range. Like the first edition, it also lists hikes by categories such as elevation change, access to scenic views, richness of historic sites, degree of seclusion and suitability for children.

Most of the hikes can be customized to suit the reader's interests and needs. Elliott suggests what else we might do in the area besides hike: see a museum, tour a monastery, eat crab cakes or sushi at a local restaurant, rent a canoe and go out on the river. He shows us where the best views are, tells us what grows there, what birds we might hear or see, whether the river there is clean enough to touch.

With others in my hiking club, I've gone on a few of the hikes Elliott led when he was working on the two editions of this book. I've hiked with him, for example, along the C&O Canal, up in the Blue Ridge (the Overall Run/Heiskell Hollow Hike, where he once lugged in a cooler of iced watermelon for the group to devour by the pools near the end of the hike), and here in Washington at the Arboretum, and in Rock Creek Park. His wit and humor are as evident in the book as on the trail, as is his careful planning.

Menasha Ridge Press publishes *60 Hikes Within 60 Miles* guides for a variety of cities. This one encompasses a variety of terrains and interests – urban and suburban, parks and preserves, mountain trails, flat walks along bays and rivers, hikes

for families with children, and hikes for fit, hard-charging folks wanting to take on a mountain or test their endurance going 60 miles along the C & O Canal Towpath.

Christa Watters is a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, D.C. Chapter.

The Owl and the Oak: The Climate Change Novel

Review by Russell Edwards

Robert Emmett Morris, known to many as an indefatigable promoter of decentralized action in service of environmental protection and social justice, has signaled with the publication of *The Owl and the Oak: The Climate Change Novel* that the time is ripe for a resurgence of individual uprisings against the material indulgence that has compromised the rough but honest best parts of the American character. Earthy and irrepres-

ible Aaron Morris, Robert Emmett. *The Owl and The Woods is Oak: The Climate Change Novel*. Frederick, Md., PublishAmerica, 2007. \$21.95

lyst for the growth of a movement to “move our culture away from wasteful consumption and towards thoughtful conservation.” This book is populated by a full cast of characters who are unafraid to take action to change, or defend, the world in which they live. The Henry James quote, “What is great about a life is doing something that will outlast it,” not only hangs over the desk of Tony Albritton, the manipulative environmental leader who seizes on Aaron as a tool to further his own ambitions, but also drives the main protagonists on both sides of the central issue of climate change.

And rightly so. Those who come to pursue careers in the nation's capital do so in order to be a part of the major issues of their time and beyond. Climate change certainly fills that criterion, and readers will enjoy the way the characters bring human scale and sense to this huge and complex concern. The strong, true strokes that define the characters of *The Owl and the Oak* make us aware that government, corporations, lobbying groups and nonprofits, no matter how large and powerful, are defined by the people who fill those offices and those people are subject to the same faults and weaknesses as every one of us.

The Owl and the Oak engages readers in a strong narrative, introducing characters through their words and actions, with a minimum of explanation. The prose is direct, pressing a wealth of well-paced action into a spare 260 pages, although in truth it seems the publisher has been overly frugal by squeezing the maximum words into the minimum of space. *The Owl and the Oak: The Climate Change Novel* is Bob Morris's first novel, and readers will come away with an appreciation for a new writing talent, a deeper understanding of the way power is wielded in our nation, and a sense of what drives those who commit to an ideal beyond what is considered reasonable or prudent. Most of all, however, readers will come away with the pleasure of meeting characters who will persist in their memory and a good story well told.

Russell Edwards is a D.C. school teacher and D.C. Chapter Cool Climate Action Team leader.

Announcements

Be a Force for Change: Student Environmental Leadership Training Programs

The Sierra Student Coalition (SSC) invites applications for its summer 2007 week-long training sessions in organizing skills. These programs are led by the nation's top student organizers and include campaign planning; communication skills; Organizing 101; and the opportunity to hear guest speakers. Learn to develop effective groups that can tackle serious environmental issues, and network with other activists to build your region's student environmental movement. Then take what you've learned and put it into action at your high school, on your campus and in your community.

Global warming presents an enormous threat to the health and the sustainability of our planet. The good news is that young people everywhere are rising to the climate challenge and the SSC can give you the skills you need to succeed. It's time for our schools and communities to take the lead in advocating for clean energy and to challenge our political leaders to follow. Energy's not your thing? Don't worry—the skills you'll learn at the summer program will be applicable to whatever issues excite you the most.

Dates and Details:

Washington State: June 15-22, Lewis & Clark State Park
Iowa: June 18-24, Iowa 4-H Center
New Hampshire: June 18-24, Kimball Union Academy
Los Angeles, Calif.: June 18-24, Loyola Marymount College
Northern Virginia: July 9-15, Prince William Forest Park
Louisiana: July 16-22, Hidden Oaks Family Campground
New Mexico: July 23-29, Glorieta Lifeway Conference Center
Michigan: TBD
Puerto Rico: TBD Native Spanish speakers only

Cost: The subsidized cost of the program is set up on a sliding scale, from \$150-\$200 (please pay what you can afford). This covers tuition, room and board, local transportation to and from the site, and all the benefits of membership in the Sierra Club. Don't let money concerns keep you from applying and attending. We are dedicated to helping you request funds from your school or local Sierra Club chapter, and you can also apply for a need-based fee waiver from the SSC. Travel scholarships are also available.

Apply now online at www.ssc.org/sprog. Questions? Call 1-888-JOIN-SSC.



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Announcements

Grace Cunningham Joins Chapter Executive Committee

by Jason Broehm

In March, Grace Cunningham was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club's Washington, D.C., Chapter. Grace has been involved as a volunteer in a number of chapter activities over the last year, and recently she has become more involved in the Communications Committee. The Executive Committee is composed of nine members of the chapter who are elected to staggered two-year terms. Each year, all chapter members have an opportunity to vote in the chapter leadership election. Ballots are typically included in the winter issue of the Capital Sierran. Vacancies occurring between elections are filled by appointment. If you are interested in learning more about running to serve on the Executive Committee, please contact Jason Broehm, 202-299-0745 or jason.broehm@dc.sierraclub.org.

New Intern For Chapter

Greetings! Let me introduce myself: my name is Lea Lupkin and I am one of those hopeful college students who flock to D.C. for summer internships. I volunteered to intern with the D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club to lend my energy to improving the quality of life for the region and gain perspective on the inner workings of the club. I am a rising junior at Roanoke College of Southwest Virginia where I pursue a bachelor's in environmental policy with minors in sociology and French. At Roanoke I lead Earthbound, our campus environmental group, which is how I became connected to the Roanoke Valley Coalition. As liaison to I have pressured my col- ate and dedicate itself to contribution to global warming. In my spare time I enjoy biking, dancing, social documentaries, bookstores, ethnic food, baseball, live music and long walks on unpolluted beaches.



Lea Lupkin

Photo by Jim Guzel

March (Window)

Every year, the Sierra Club sets aside March for its chapters to make a direct fundraising appeal to their members for help in carrying out their local programs. This year, the D.C. Chapter's appeal focused on the issue of global climate change—but with an emphasis on the very local efforts of our dedicated volunteers. Those same volunteers helped us make a special March Window pitch this year with personalized notes to those who have given before—a category that next year, we hope, will include many more of you. The campaign is off to a rousing start—we have had 76 responses thus far, for a total of \$5,091.00. Most heartening is that many of those contributions have come from new donors, and that some of our prior donors have stepped up their efforts this year. In a chapter with more than 3,000 members, however, we can do much better. If everyone donated only \$10, we would collect more than \$30,000—and ensure that our volunteers and our superlative staff person, Joanna Winchester, could continue to have the resources they needed to do the great things that the chapter has been doing and that you can read about in the rest of the newsletter. It's an exciting time to be in D.C. with a new mayor and a new Congress—and a great chance to make needed change happen. But, as always, it all takes resources—so, if you still have your March Window envelope sitting on that stack marked "I'll get to it one of these days," how about making today the day?

Cool Cities the coalition, lege to affili- reducing its

Env. Education

Continued from page 3

science that lasts an entire year. The class is exceptionally wide-ranging, touching on every other scientific discipline taught in high school—biology, ecology, chemistry, even some physics—with sizable doses of social science, epidemiology, current events, geology and policy studies included. The course outlines the facts behind current local and global issues, cutting through the hype and various slanted viewpoints that often color media coverage of the environment.

I entered this class knowing that I would encounter subjects that were highly relevant to my life, especially since I love outdoor adventure sports and have done environmental community service work. When we talked in class about desert and wetland ecosystems, my mind flashed back to time spent camping in Nevada and kayaking on the Eastern Shore. When we studied the environmental justice movement and the Anacostia River, I told my teacher about how I had volunteered the previous summer with the Sierra Club and local nonprofit groups at sites around the Anacostia watershed. I felt that everything that we learned in class could be connected to my life outside the lab, whether I was thinking critically after seeing a newspaper article about the Bush administration's environmental policy or noticing soil layers in an eroded stream bank during a walk through a park with friends.

I only wish that this environmental science course was open to the public. The class could offer valuable lessons for everyone from families to nonprofit organizers to members of Congress. Certainly the most precious lesson that the course taught me was not how to successfully take a big final test, or how to write a cogent lab report, or any of the number of other small skills I can take along with me to college. The most important message I learned was how to understand, appreciate and seek to improve the outdoor environment that I spend so much time enjoying.



I look forward tremendously to getting to know you, the members of the D.C. Chapter, and contributing to efforts to protect and improve this vibrant community. No better day than today to change our home for the better, right?

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.

Tue. June 12. Rated H. Vigorous Hike in SNP: Franklin Cliffs. Our 16 mi. circuit with 4,300 ft. of climb begins at Hawksbill parking area, goes south on the Skyland-Big Meadows Trail to the Rose River Loop Trail, and then heads up the Dark Hollow Falls Trail to Big Meadows, and then returns on the AT to end with a climb of Hawksbill. Joint event with PATC. Leader: Chris Nolen, chrishiker@verizon.net or 301-469-8931.

Sat. June 16. Rated G. Central SNP: Corbin Cabin Area (Splashdown series). Moderate-to fast-paced hike of 12 mi. with 2,250 ft. of elev. gain. Very scenic hike on beautiful trails, a great climb, and some pristine swimming holes. Bring swimsuit and Tevas. To carpool, meet at 8:30 a.m. at Oakton Center. Beginners must call for requirements. Leader: Ted Fryberger, 410-312-2982 (until 9:30 p.m.) or tkfryberger@comcast.net.

Sat. June 16. Not Rated. Seneca Creek Cleanup by Canoe. Join Sierrans and other volunteers to clean up Seneca Creek from Seneca Creek State Park (near Montgomery Village) to the creek's mouth on the Potomac River. We will cut out major logs, remove smaller branches, and de-trash this beautiful creek segment (full of wildlife) to also make it canoe accessible. A picnic celebration will follow. Leader: Jim Finucane, 301-365-3485 (before 9 p.m.) or jim.finucane@yahoo.com.

Sun. June 17. Rated A/B. Wonders of Baltimore Hike. Explore the charm of Baltimore—and some of its history—by hiking from Fort McHenry National Park and around the Inner Harbor to the Korean War Memorial. The return hike will be by water taxi. To carpool, meet at 9 a.m. at the Takoma Park Metro Station (Red line). RSVP so we can organize ride sharing in advance. Leader: Jane Hudson, 301-589-8708 or janedc2002@yahoo.com.

Tue. June 19. Rated H. Vigorous Hike in SNP: Rose River. Climb Rose River Fire Rd. connecting to scenic Rose River Loop Trail; then climb to AT south to the Lewis Falls. Return via Rapidan Fire Rd. and Dark Hollow Falls Trail. A total of 18 mi. with 4,300 ft. climb. Joint event with PATC. Leader: Chris Nolen, 301-469-8931 or chrishiker@verizon.net.

Sat. June 23. Rated E. Great North Mountain: Big Schloss. Moderate 12 mi. circuit hike in the GWNF on the Va./WVa. border. Beautiful wooded area. First 4 mi. fairly gentle uphill, followed by steep but short climb to the gorgeous view at the top of the schloss, and then 2 mi. steeper

downhill. To carpool, meet at 7:30 a.m. Call for meeting place. Leader: Sue Auerbach, 703-931-2728.

Sun. June 24. Rated C or E. AT between Gathland State Park and Ed Garvey Shelter, with Optional Side Trip to Weverton Cliffs. Moderately paced, out-and-back ridge-top hike of either 7.6 mi. and 1,500 ft. of elev. change (to shelter) or 12 mi. and 2,000 ft. of elev. change (to vista-rich cliffs). Leisurely lunch at shelter, where we'll discuss environmental issues and remember hiker/biker Roberto Reyes. Optional posthike dinner in Frederick. To carpool, meet at 9 a.m. in Bethesda, under Macy's deck that fronts on Democracy Blvd. at Westfield Shoppingtown (Montgomery Mall). Joint event with AMC/DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott, 703-256-6351, and Marcia Wolf, 301-565-3165 (before 9 p.m.) or wolfmk@comcast.net.

Tue. June 26. Rated H. Vigorous Hike on South Massanutten Mountain: Runkles Gap. This 15.4 mi. hike with 3,300 ft. climb features ascent of pretty Morgan Run and return via Fridley Gap on the Massanutten South Trail and the Boone Run Trail. Joint event with PATC. Leader: Chris Nolen, 301-469-8931 or chrishiker@verizon.net.

Sat. June 30. Rated G. Duncan Hollow and Duncan Knob. A 12 mi. circuit hike to Duncan Knob with 2,200 ft. of elev. gain. Starting from Camp Roosevelt, we'll form a circuit with the Massanutten, Scothorn Gap and Gap Creek trails and do a significant rock scramble to the top of Duncan Knob, which, with its beautiful 270-degree view, will be our lunch stop. To carpool, meet at 8 a.m. Call for meeting place. Leader: Mike Gingerich, 202-370-7957 or 2023707957@grandcentral.com.

Sat. June 30. Rated H. SNP: Stony Man to Hawksbill. On this 14 mi. circuit hike with 3,500 ft. of elev. change, we'll get great views from atop SNP's two highest peaks and possibly get to see the acrobatics of the area's peregrine falcons. To carpool, meet at 7:30 a.m. at Vienna Metro Station, north parking lot. Contact leader for details. Leader: Russ Norfleet, 703-294-6068 or russnorfleet@verizon.net.

Fri.-Sun. Jun 29-July 1. Rated H. Laurel Fork II Backpack (GPS Hike series). This unscouted backpack of 10-13 mi./day in WVa. will include the trails not covered on last year's trip to this area. Not much elev. but hard-to-find trails in this wilderness; expect bushwhacking. We will try to visit the waterfalls on the Allegheny Trail and do a separate trip to the Sinks of Gandy. Car shuttle required. To qualify, participants must have hiked

with the leader before or join him on a scouting trip (which happens most weekends) before this outing. Leader: Dimitri Tundra, 301-770-9639 or tartakd@hotmail.com.

Events Sponsored by Affiliates and Other Organizations

The following events are not sponsored by MWROP. Neither MWROP nor other Sierra Club organizations can take responsibility or make representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of events that they do not sponsor. Readers should contact the event sponsors directly for more information.

Every Tue., June 5-Aug. 28, 6:30-8 p.m. Evening Canoe Lesson and Picnic (see above). Join Sierrans and others for hands-on lessons on the C&O Canal at Fletcher's Boathouse (Fletcher's Cove), in N.W. D.C. just off Canal Rd. and 0.4 mi. below Chain Bridge. The lessons cover canoeing at all levels. Bring food to share at the postclass potluck picnic. Cost for the lesson and use of the canoe, paddle and life jacket is \$4/person; there's no charge for kids. (Note: On weekdays, Canal Rd. is one way going west out of Georgetown from 3 to 7 p.m.). For more information, contact Jim Finucane, 301-365-3485 (before 9 p.m.) or jim.finucane@yahoo.com.

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Check out our
chapter website at:
dc.sierraclub.org

Hike Rating System

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

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



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. Unless otherwise noted, for more information on these and other events, contact Chasta Piatakovas at cpiatakovas@netzero.com.

Tue. Jun. 5

Melting Ice – a Hot Topic? World Environment Day Conference. 1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. National Geographic Society Grosvenor Auditorium, 1145 17th St. N.W. Registration is requested at rsvp.emb.washington@mfa.no.

Tue. Jun. 5

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

Wed. Jun. 6

DC Fair Trade Coalition June Social. (\$) 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Ebenezers Coffeehouse, 201 F St. N.E. RSVP. Contact Elizabeth Gilhuly at MakeTradeFairMeetup@email.com.

Mon. Jun. 11

Second Monday Happy Hour (\$) 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Cafe Asia, 1720 Eye St. N.W. RSVP.

Thu. Jun. 14

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

Tue. Jun. 26

FOOD, FOLKS, AND FUN! Volunteer Night 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. RSVP. Contact Clayton Wilkerson, 919-539-1469, claytonwilkerson@yahoo.com.

Wed. Jun. 27

Environmental Book Club: *The Quest for Environmental Justice*. 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Roasters On The Hill Coffeehouse, 666 Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. RSVP.

Thu. Jun. 28

True Cost of Food Restaurant Outing. (\$) 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Vegetate, 1414 Ninth St. N.W. RSVP. Contact Susan Prolman at 202-441-7104 or susanproلمان@aol.com.

Tue. Jul. 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 Ralph Garboushian at 202-547-3764 or ralphgarboushiangmail.com.

Sat. Jul. 7

Kayaking on the Potomac River. 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Thompson Boat Center, 2900 Virginia Avenue N.W. Pricing: Singles (sit-ins) rent for \$8/hr or \$24/day; Doubles (Mainstream) rent for \$10/hr or \$30/day; Canoes (Oskigan) rent for \$8/hr or \$22/day and can hold two occupants.

Mon. Jul. 9

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

Thu. Jul. 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 202-299-0745 or jason.broehmdc.sierraclub.org.

Thu. Jul. 19

Environmental Book Club: *The Weather Makers*. 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Location TBD. RSVP.

Tue. Jul. 24

FOOD, FOLKS, AND FUN! Volunteer Night. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. RSVP.

Tue. Aug. 7

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

Thu., Aug. 9

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

Mon. Aug. 13

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

Thu. Aug. 16

Environmental Book Club: *The Owl and the Oak: The Climate Change Novel*. 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Location TBD.

Tue. Aug. 28

FOOD, FOLKS, AND FUN! Volunteer Night. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Sierra Club, 401 C St. N.E. RSVP.

Tue. Sep. 4

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



Giant Sequoias are the most massive trees on the planet—some stand as tall as the Statue of Liberty and date back over 3,000 years, making them among the largest and oldest organisms on Earth. Today, plans to open the Giant Sequoia National Monument to the chainsaws of the logging industry threaten its conservation. We need your help now—only an active citizenry can stop this destructive action that will forever damage treasures such as the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

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