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## D.C. Council Votes Overwhelmingly to Save Klingle Valley, Build a Trail

*by Jason Broehm*

In a major victory for the Sierra Club, on May 13 the D.C. Council voted 10-3 to approve the plan of Councilmember Mary Cheh (D-Ward 3) to remove the old 0.7-mile road through Klingle Valley, clean up the valley and construct a hiker-biker trail in place of the road. The road has been closed to automobiles since 1991 when a rainstorm washed out a section of the roadbed, and in the ensuing years multiple sections of the road have suffered serious erosion. The decision caps the club's long and hard-fought campaign to preserve and restore this arm of Rock Creek Park north of the National Zoo.



Photo by Charles McCormick

*In testimony before a D.C. Council committee, Sierra Club leader Jim Dougherty (second from right) asks those who support a car-free Klingle Valley to stand, and an overwhelming majority of those present jump to their feet in solidarity.*

## Fort DuPont Park Slated for 15-acre Development

*by Jim Dougherty*

Yet another threat to national parkland near the Anacostia River was unveiled by the Fenty administration on May 12 at a meeting attended by approximately 75 people at Sousa Elementary School in Southeast. Under the proposal, 15 acres of Fort DuPont Park, administered by the National Park Service (NPS), would be converted into buildings or ballfields. Apparently because such a conversion would run afoul of NPS procedures or policies, the 15 acres are to be handed over to the D.C. government.

Fort DuPont Park is a large reserve (375 acres) located between Massachusetts Avenue, Minnesota Avenue and Ridge Road, S.E. The vast majority of the park is forested, providing habitat to over 100 species of birds. Notable developed spaces include Fort DuPont, a Civil War-era facility that is part of D.C.'s "circle

The council's recent action reverses a 2003 council vote to force then-Mayor Anthony Williams to rebuild the road and reopen it to traffic after he had endorsed a plan to close the road and replace it with a hiker-biker trail following the advice of Dan Tangherlini, who was then director of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and is now city administrator/deputy mayor.

Following the council's 2003 action, DDOT started work on an environmental impact statement (EIS) in support of rebuilding the road using federal matching funds. Sierra Club activists attended the public meetings and submitted written comments on the draft EIS document – which was released in June 2005 – highlighting the club's concerns about the many environmental problems associated with rebuilding the road, particularly runoff water pollution from the road surface. The National Park Service (NPS), which owns land in the valley on both sides of the road, also consistently raised objections to rebuilding the road. It is believed that due to the concerns raised by the club, the NPS and others, and in anticipation of likely litigation to block the road, the EIS has not yet been finalized.

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# Letter from the Chair

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## Klinge Victory Demonstrates Power of the Grassroots

by Damon Luciano

In summer 2007, Councilmember Mary Cheh (D-Ward 3) led about two dozen members of the community on a bike ride through Rock Creek Park that culminated in a discussion of Klinge Valley. On that warm day we got off our bikes at the eastern edge of Klinge Road, near the intersection with Porter Street. Klinge Valley itself was blocked off by chain-link fences.

The city was repairing the span that carries Connecticut Avenue over the stretch of Rock Creek Park just south of Cleveland Park—a span that stretches over the steep valley that holds the crumbling remains of Klinge Road, which washed out 17 years ago.

After the road washed out, a debate raged over reopening it. First, in 2001 then-Mayor Anthony Williams decided to close the road and replace it with a hiker-biker trail. But in 2003 the D.C. Council voted to rebuild the road against the wishes of the mayor and the advice of the Department of Transportation. The D.C. Chapter has been a vocal opponent of reopening the road, citing the need to preserve Klinge Valley as one of the few natural areas in the District and citing the impact of runoff from the road on the Klinge Valley stream and Rock Creek. Impatient with the pace of environmental review, road proponents succeeded in having road reconstruction funding added to the city's 2009 budget earlier this spring. Several weeks of intense emailing, phone calling and letter writing to oppose rebuilding of the road followed. Activists even sat outside the Wilson Building during their lunch hours, talking to councilmembers and staff and whoever came by. The end result was a 10-3 vote by the D.C. Council overturning road reconstruction in

favor of a hiker-biker trail. It was the power of grassroots activism on vivid display.

We feel, however, that Councilmember Mary Cheh and her staff deserve a specific mention. It was Cheh who rounded up the necessary votes in the Committee on Public Works and the Environment to strip out the D.C. funding to rebuild the road and replace it with federal funds to build a trail instead, leading committee chairman Jim Graham (D-Ward 1) to call a hearing on Klinge Road. Park

proponents packed the council's hearing room a week later.

The debate over Klinge Valley is a crucial test of our values. Will our community conserve natural areas for recreation, thereby protecting our watersheds, and invest in transit to improve mobility, or should the few natural areas in the District that remain be subordinated to the convenience of automotive transportation?

Subsequently, the Washington Post's editorial page characterized the D.C. Chapter and our allies as "the few but powerful." We felt strongly that the majority in our city does not approve of forgoing federal matching funds as a way to skirt an environmental review process, especially in a

year of budget shortfalls when there are so many competing priorities.

The Klinge Valley story to date proves that being vocal is the most important step to winning a grassroots victory. Steps as simple as writing one email to the D.C. Council are critical to making gains for the environment, small and large. In that, the Post is right to recognize the efforts of the D.C. Chapter.

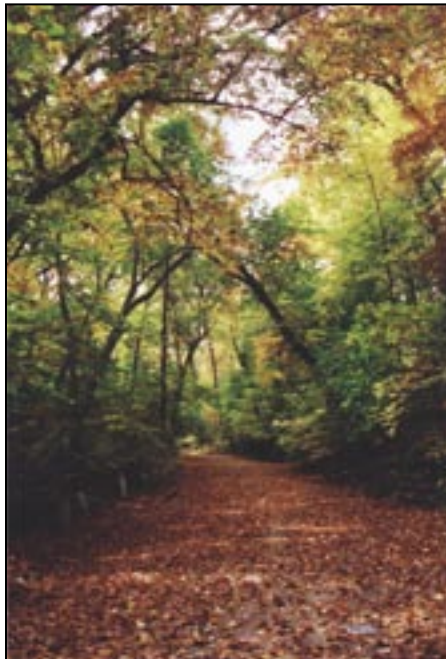


Photo by Biffie Brownstein

*It's the "end of the road" in beautiful Klinge Valley after the D.C. Council voted 10-3 to endorse Councilmember Mary Cheh's plan for environmental restoration and a hiker-biker trail in the valley in lieu of a road.*

ENERGY WATCH IN D.C.:

## The Clean and Affordable Energy Act of 2007

by Larry Martin

Many mainstream environmentalists are swayed by arguments contending that renewable sources of energy are inadequate to the demands of the modern U.S. economy. The D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club's Energy Committee will be challenging those arguments head-on in the coming year as we connect with project developers and schools across the District to educate them about efficient and renewable energy strategies and ensure that they adopt them. The Energy Committee invites your help. We'll get into details at our next "Plug-in" on Wednesday, June 25, after work. Join us for Sangria and munchies. Contact Larry at [lmartindc@gmail.com](mailto:lmartindc@gmail.com) for details.

It is revealing to note that the United States added more megawatts of wind-power capacity in 2007 than had been added by new coal-fired plants in the previous five years combined. Doubtless this was driven in some small measure by the renewable portfolio standards (RPS) passed across

the nation by states and the District. Also driving the shift was the decision by venture capitalists that renewables were a better investment than coal or nuclear generation – both of which are increasingly expensive.

These new realities are fully reflected in the D.C. energy bill proposed by Councilmember Mary Cheh (D-Ward 3). The bill has been revised and improved to push energy conservation forward immediately upon passage, and it includes several of the D.C. Chapter's recommendations. The bill provides for the D.C. Department of Environment (DDOE) to contract out the functions of what is termed a "Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU)." The function of the SEU is to design and fund projects to promote energy conservation and make the transition to renewable energy sources. It is funded through an existing fee on utility bills. Other features include an amendment to the RPS to push for a more aggressive transition to renewable energy in the District and a robust in-

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE REPORTS THAT POWER FROM NUCLEAR PLANTS IS PRICED AT 11-14 CENTS KWH; COAL PLANTS, 9 CENTS; AND WIND FARMS, 7 CENTS. OTHER SOURCES SUCH AS INDUSTRIAL AND BUILDING-SCALE CO-GENERATION CAN BE EVEN MORE EFFICIENT AT 5-12 CENTS KWH. BUT BY FAR, THE CHEAPEST POWER SOURCE IS IMPROVED END-USE EFFICIENCY, WHICH WHEN DESIGNED INTO NEW INSTALLATIONS CAN CREATE IMMEDIATE SAVINGS (I.E., -1 OR 0 CENTS KWH), OR BE RETROFITTED FOR AS LITTLE AS 1-3 CENTS KWH.

centive program to offset the cost of installation of residential renewable energy. The bill also includes provisions to require energy benchmarking for all qualified public and private buildings; the creation of Energy Independence Districts; and a requirement that Pepco

*Continued on page 5*

## A Little-Known Trail Runs through It

by Paul Elliott

Washington, D.C., is known for being a city of secrets. One of them is that it's the hub of a major regional trail that's much used by people who are largely unaware of the trail's name and extent and even its existence

This seemingly phantom route is the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST), which is planned to extend downriver from the city to the mouth of the Potomac River on the Chesapeake Bay and upriver to Cumberland, Md., and from there westward to the Laurel Highlands. And within the city, as you may not know, it will include a circle route from Oxon Hill Farm to Rock Creek Park and on to Fletcher's Cove, as well as two west-east routes from the Potomac to Anacostia by way of the Mall.

Congress authorized the PHNST as a National Park Service (NPS) unit in 1983, but did not fund the ambitious project. Rather, it simply designated the unit to be a locally managed 800-

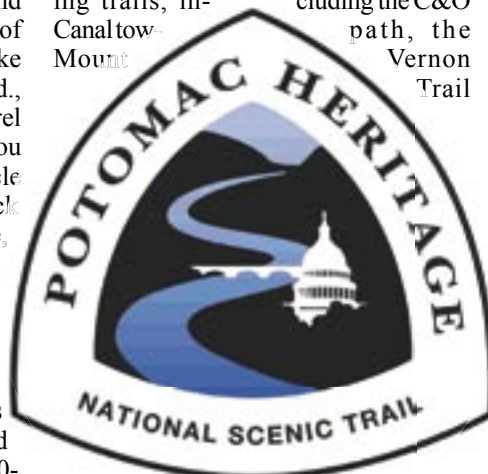
mile braided network of existing and new, NPS and non-NPS trails and trail segments lying on both the Virginia and Maryland sides of the Potomac, as well as in the District and Pennsylvania.

For some two decades, realization of the network languished. The PHNST remained a scattered patchwork of existing trails, including the C&O Canal towpath, the Mount Vernon Trail

and the Laurel Highlands Trail. And even though those routes were popular in their own right, they remained mostly bereft of PHNST signage, and so few users were aware of the dual designation or regional objective. Awareness was probably further compromised by the existence of the 10-mile Potomac Heritage Trail—a separate NPS unit but also part of the PHNST—stretching along the Potomac's Virginia shoreline north of Roosevelt Island, and by the casual and confusing interchangeability of the two trail names.

Over the past five years, though, an energetic volunteer membership organization called the Potomac Heritage Trail Association (PHTA), with the support of the NPS's PHNST office and other organizations, has made significant strides in getting the trail network out of the files and onto the ground. Working with various park and other local authorities and with private landowners open to the use of trail easements, the volunteers have

*Continued on page 9*



Logo by National Park Service

## Getting the Long View on Green Collar Jobs

by Irv Sheffey

The rhythms of an African drum drew our attention, calling us together for the beginning of the Dream Reborn conference in Memphis, Tenn. The use of the drum was apt, since it has traditionally been employed to send a message to the community that something important is about to happen. In this instance we, all 1,300 in attendance, would be gathering for the next three days to consider how we could fulfill the dream of economic, social and environmental justice that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. held before his untimely death in 1968.

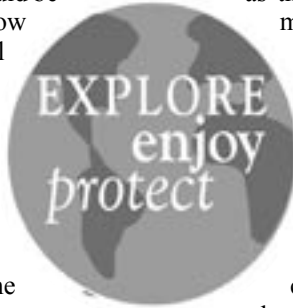
This conference, called by Green for All, a national organization based in Oakland, Calif., would explore how in coming together we could begin to outline a plan to build a sustainable society. That society, unlike much of the current one, would seek to be inclusive, creating a level playing field for everyone through the development of a green collar workforce, especially in communities of color and low income. With the passage by Congress of the Green Collar Jobs Act of 2007, we have an unprecedented opportunity to make that happen. The act will provide \$125 million for job development and training, giving many who have been disenfranchised by the current carbon-based economy the possibility of new jobs in a green economy.

This was truly a grassroots conference, with people who have been working on these issues on a neighborhood level coming from several communities and states. There were those working on re-entry for ex-offenders; those addressing problems related to toxic spills and brownfields; and those

involved in creating hope for our youth. All were there to seek pathways out of poverty through job development and sustainability. And speaking of youth, there were several students from colleges in Atlanta and Howard University and quite a number from the hip hop community. Their presence, as they mixed and spoke with the “elders” of this movement, foretold a future in which the rebirth of Dr. King’s dream will be maintained.

On a personal note, I was inspired by the energy, ideas and commitment that flowed throughout the event. Van Jones, founder of Green for All, and Majora Carter, of Sustainable South Bronx, co-lead much of the conference but I found leaders in just about everyone I met. There was Michele McGeoy, who is creating jobs and conserving energy through her group Solar Richmond; Brenda Palms-Barber of Chicago, whose cosmetic line is based on honey from bees in their own urban apiaries, and who is providing jobs and a new direction in life for ex-offenders; and Glen O’Gilvie who, here in the District, is restoring the Anacostia River and the lives of at-risk youth through tree plantings and wetland remediation. These were but a few of the people I met who are engaged in creating a new green economy and a sustainable future for all of us.

This is only a beginning. The second annual Dream Reborn Conference will be held in Memphis in April next year. I look forward to that meeting to see what has happened over the intervening year in realizing that future and what we, including those I work with in the Washington, D.C., area,



## Fort DuPont Development

Continued from page 1

of forts,” an ice rink and an associated parking lot, and a handful of tennis courts.

The administration’s plan has two components. First, a second ice skating rink would be constructed next to the existing rink, which has been in place since 1974. Proponents claim that the rink now in use has instilled a sense of community among ice hockey and skating enthusiasts and that there is demand for a second rink, which will cover approximately one acre of parkland.

The core of the plan involves the establishment of a “baseball academy.” Funded largely with monies pledged by the Washington Nationals as part of their agreement with the city to build the new ballpark, the proposed baseball academy would require 14 acres of parkland in order to construct three ball fields, stadium seating and a 15,000 square foot administration building. Several acres of the land needed to construct the baseball academy are heavily for-

ested.

At the hearing, some witnesses expressed the view that Southeast kids need some kind of physical activity in order to keep them out of trouble. But many environmentally minded witnesses pointed out that Ward Seven’s desire for more recreational facilities could be met by using land other than federal parkland, such as land near the Benning Road power plant (now designated for retirement) and/or schools targeted for closure by Michelle Rhee, chancellor of the D.C. schools.

The Sierra Club’s representative described the 25-year history of proposals to develop east-side parks, such as

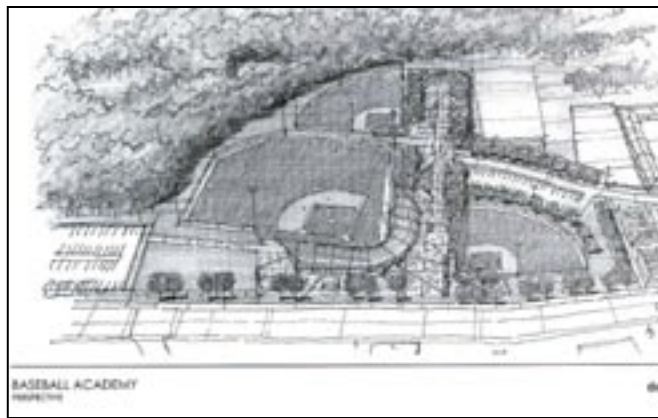


Photo by Devroux and Parnell

the Childrens’ Island amusement park, the Jack Kent Cooke stadium and the Barney Circle highway project. In each of these instances the Sierra Club collaborated with affected communities in successful campaigns to block the proposed developments with the goal of protecting national parkland.

For more information, contact Jim Dougherty at 202-488-1140 or jimdougherty@aol.com.

## Gearing up for 2008 D.C. Elections

by Lisa Swanson

If you live in Washington, D.C., chances are you know that our elected officials matter—we elect them, and they are supposed to listen to us to keep the job.

And at the local level, we have just had a demonstration of how our ballot box strength can translate into environmental gains. Mary Cheh, councilmember from Ward 3, who credited her win in 2006 to Sierra Club support, has emerged as a champion of the environment by taking an enthusiastic and dominant role on our issue of saving Klingle Valley from paving. As a member of the D.C. Council's committee with jurisdiction over the environment, she took up this long-standing issue for the constituency she knows matters, the Sierra Club and other environmental supporters. We won this issue narrowly

on the committee, but the council as a whole gave us a strong 10-5 win.

Significantly, even while voting against us in the committee, Councilmembers Jim Graham (D-Ward 1) and Muriel Bowser (D-Ward 4) loudly proclaimed their environmental credentials—good thinking, since we'll be back to the council on other issues.

The local 2008 campaign season begins in earnest now, as candidates file their intentions to run. These seats are up:

- ~ Ward 2 Jack Evans (D)
- ~ Ward 4 Muriel Bowser (D)
- ~ Ward 7 Yvette Alexander (D)
- ~ Ward 8 Marion Barry (D)
- ~ At-Large Carol Schwartz (R) and Kwame Brown (D)

At press time, all but Marion Barry had declared their plans to run

for another term. Bowser and Alexander were elected last year in a special election to fill the unexpired terms of Mayor Adrian Fenty and council chairman Vincent Gray.

You can be involved in the process. The Sierra Club's Political Committee is in the process of assessing the emerging candidates for the fall elections and will endorse those who show the best approach to our issues. If you can be involved in the endorsements—and in the campaign work to follow—send word to Lisa Swanson at [melatar@yahoo.com](mailto:melatar@yahoo.com). By electing more councilmembers like Councilmember Cheh, we will take Washington, D.C., into the future as model of a greener and more livable city.

## Energy Act

*Continued from page 3*

submit a proposal for a smart grid in the District. Details on these features will follow in subsequent newsletter articles. Energy Committee members will visit D.C. Council members to encourage their support for the bill, even though a comfortable majority of them have been identified as bill co-sponsors.

The prospects for making the transition to a green energy future in the District are encouraging. There is leadership on the D.C. Council and in DDOE. Green legislative initiatives in past years are providing needed direction and incentive. I've been impressed with several area developers for both their staff's LEED credentials and their broad awareness of urban ecology principles. But it is easy to get discouraged when one looks at school buildings under construction or newly completed, new private construction, and business as usual at the D.C. Office of Property Management (OPM). Many still have not seen the necessity to adopt green energy strategies, and they're still making decisions contrary to the spirit and law of recent accomplishments. There is a clear role for education and advocacy.

The Energy Committee is building capacity to work with partner organizations in the District to take

education and positive encouragement to where it's needed. We note there are new development initiatives across the city—from the redevelopment of the old Convention Center site, Northwest One and NOMA in Northwest, to the Anacostia waterfront area in Southwest. The Energy Committee aims to have teams assigned to as many projects as possible, advancing an entire agenda of clean, efficient energy as well as green building, Low Impact Development and non-automotive transportation amenities. We're developing project workbooks that pull together the best thinking on promoting clean, green urban living and design. Each project team will be provided resources and training to enable them to interact effectively with project managers to advocate for the entire spectrum of urban ecology. And we're going after the holdouts in the D.C. OPM.

Want to make a difference here and now? Work with the Energy Committee and help shape the new Washington, D.C. I hope to see you June 25 at the "Plug-In"!



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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Klingle Valley

*Continued from page 1*

At a 2007 hearing before the Public Works and the Environment Committee, Chairman Jim Graham (D-Ward 1) expressed frustration that the EIS had not yet been finalized. When the document still had not been finalized by early 2008, he worked with Mayor Adrian Fenty to circumvent the federal environmental review process, give up the 80 percent federal matching funds, and use \$2 million in D.C. funds in the mayor's fiscal year 2009 budget to begin rebuilding the road. Recent cost estimates by DDOT put the total cost of rebuilding the road at \$11.8 million.

On April 18, activists from the Sierra Club, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), Friends of the Earth (FOE), the D.C. Statehood Green Party and other concerned citizens attended Chairman Graham's committee hearing on the DDOT budget and testified against funding for the road.

At the committee's markup of the DDOT budget on April 30, Councilmember Cheh introduced amendments to strip the \$2 million in local funds for the road from the budget and instead insert \$2 million in federal funds to clean up the valley and begin construction of a hiker-biker trail in place of the road. She gained the support of Councilmembers Kwame Brown (D-At-Large) and Yvette

Alexander (D-Ward 7), and her amendments were adopted 3-2 over the objections of Chairman Graham and Councilmember Muriel Bowser (D-Ward 4). Following the vote, columnist Harry Jaffe described the vote in *The Exam-*

iner as a "rare spectacle . . . when the forces for clean water and pristine woods trounced the road builders." ("Klingle Road Heads Back toward Nature," p. 9, May 2, 2008.)

Following his defeat, Councilmember Graham scheduled a public hearing before his committee on May 8 at which he hoped to give road advocates one last platform to make their case in support of the road. But park and recreation advocates, led by the Sierra Club, WABA and FOE, packed more than 100 supporters into the Council Chamber to testify, greatly outnumbering road supporters. Long-time Sierra Club activist Jim Dougherty kicked off the public testimony by asking everyone in the room who supported a trail in Klingle Valley to stand up. The visual was compelling – about 80 percent of those present stood to be counted, most wearing green badges reading "Save Klingle Valley."

Although Graham gave the floor to DDOT Director Emeka Moneme for the first hour and a half of the hearing, most park supporters stayed to testify late into the night. Throughout the hearing, Councilmember Cheh advocated forcefully for the trail, and Councilmembers Graham and Bowser advocated equally forcefully for the road, but it would have



*Councilmember Mary Cheh demonstrated strong leadership and legislative acumen in forging a 10-3 council majority to save Klingle Valley, reversing a 2003 council decision to pave a road through the valley.*

## Recycling on the National Mall

*by Jeff Gustafson*

More than go to any other National Park, over 25 million people visit the National Mall every year. Not surprisingly, with so many visitors, the National Mall generates a large amount of trash, none of which is currently recycled.

In cooperation with the National Park Service, the D.C. Sierra Club is embarking on an exciting new project: building an effective recycling system for the National Mall. We need your help!

Volunteers will:

- Map the National Mall's trashcans using handheld GIS devices;
- Analyze the National Mall's waste stream;
- Educate visitors about the importance of recycling;
- Develop recommendations for building a National Mall recycling program; and

Be part of this volunteer effort that will forever enhance a national treasure!

For more information or to sign up, contact Jeff Gustafson at [Jeff.Gustafson@mac.com](mailto:Jeff.Gustafson@mac.com) or 925-209-9898.

been clear to any objective observer long before the hearing ended just shy of midnight that the support for the park was overwhelming. Thankfully, the council got the message loud and clear and strongly backed Cheh's trail plan. When Graham offered an amendment before the full council to overturn his committee's earlier action and fund the road instead, the council voted it down 10-3, with Councilmember Carol Schwartz (R-At-Large) joining Graham and Bowser in the minority.

The Sierra Club plans to press DDOT to implement the council's directive to restore the valley and build a hiker-biker trail, and we will need your support as we move forward. For more information or to get involved in this effort, please contact Jason Broehm ([jason\\_broehm@earthlink.net](mailto:jason_broehm@earthlink.net), 202-299-0745) or Jim Dougherty ([jimdougherty@aol.com](mailto:jimdougherty@aol.com), 202-488-1140).

*Photo by Charles McCormick*

## Outings

### The One Day Hike: A Long Day on the C&O Canal Towpath

by Jason Broehm

For several years, I eyed up the Sierra Club outings program's annual One Day Hike, a 100-kilometer (62-mile) walk along the C&O Canal Towpath from Washington, D.C., to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. In recent years, I did several other organized one-day endurance hikes of 25, 35 and 36 miles, two of which had significant changes in elevation, but 62 miles, even on the flat surface of the towpath, seemed particularly daunting.

This year, I made completing the One Day Hike a top personal goal. I started training in earnest in February, steadily increasing my walking distance. In addition to walking 4-10 miles on most weekdays, I spent one day each weekend on a long training walk, stringing together walks through Rock Creek Park, Potomac Park, Anacostia Park, the C&O Canal National Historical Park and along the Capital Crescent Trail. In early April, I participated in two of the Sierra Club outings program's training hikes along the C&O Canal Towpath, out-and-back hikes of 35 and 28 miles on consecutive Saturdays, which were invaluable experience on the trail.

As the big hike approached, I decided to turn my personal goal into a fundraising opportunity for the D.C. Chapter's campaign to restore streetcars to the District's streets, something I have been working on as a volunteer with the Transportation Committee. With little effort I collected pledges of more than \$1,500 on a per-mile and per-kilometer basis from friends and family.

At 3:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, I was one of 125 participants who set out on the trail. For the first several



Jason walks along with C&O Canal Towpath somewhere around mile 40.



Jason celebrates the end of the hike with Sonia Nagda and Chris Craig, who walked the last several miles with him.

hours, we hiked in the dark with only headlamps to illuminate the path. I remember walking under the Beltway and hearing the roar of traffic for at least another mile, which was followed by the more welcome roar of Great Falls ahead. Among my best memories from the hike are the beautiful scenery around Great Falls, and in particular Widewater, which I passed as the sun was rising and a heron flew overhead.

There were support stations with food, water and medical assistance along the way manned by helpful and encouraging Sierra Club volunteers. My girlfriend Sonia Nagda walked with me near several of the stations, and her parents surprised me at one of them, all of which helped boost my spirits. During a key stretch of trail, I walked with a woman named Sandy from Indianapolis, and our conversation helped pass the time.

Despite my best efforts to prevent blisters, for about the last 20 miles I had to both treat and cope with blisters on the bottoms of my feet. If not for the help of a medical volunteer at the Point of Rocks station (mile 48) who helped patch up my right foot, I'm not sure I could have finished. The last 10 miles were the hardest, with equal parts physical discomfort and mental exhaustion from a long day with little sleep the night before. With about four miles to go, the sun set and it began to rain steadily, and soon afterward my left Achilles tendon tightened up. But as I approached Harpers Ferry, Sonia along with Chris Craig, former editor of the Capital Sierran who now runs a bed and breakfast – Laurel Lodge – in Harpers Ferry, met me on the towpath and walked the last several miles with me to Bolivar Community Center, and that helped a great deal.

Following the lead of the woman ahead of me, I ran uphill for the last block and finished at about 9:15 p.m., more than 18 hours after starting out in Georgetown. I felt tired,

*Continued on page 11*

# Transportation

## Anacostia Bike Road

by Grace Cunningham



Left: On the sunny morning of May 3, chapter chair Damon Luciano and volunteer Tom Metcalf gather at Eastern Market with about a dozen other Sierra Club members for a bike ride along the Anacostia River organized by the Transportation Committee.



Right: A line of bikers enjoys the view of the river and railroad tracks from the west side of the Anacostia River.



Left: The neighborhood near Benning Rd. and Oklahoma Ave. behind RFK stadium is the only area where residents successfully prevented a Metrorail station from being built. Their concern? A large commuter parking lot. Instead, they got an even larger baseball stadium parking lot and a long walk to the nearest station.

Below: Resident Canada Geese observe baseball tailgaters still using the old RFK stadium parking lot. This site provides an opportunity to re-develop a large impervious surface into parkland near the water.



Above: This area of wetlands restoration along the east bank of the river provides a tranquil view of nature in the District.



Right: Smile everybody! We had a good turnout for a great and informative ride. Please check our calendar online at <http://dc.sierraclub.org/calendar/> for upcoming events!

All Photos by Grace Cunningham



# Announcements

## Potomac Heritage

*Continued from page 3*

built new trail segments to link existing trails and park units, and have marked them with turquoise blazes (where permissible) and the distinctive PHNST logo. The NPS office has cooperated by installing informative signage.

These efforts have been supported by local Sierra Club and Appalachian Mountain entities, which organize joint hikes to help publicize the PHNST.

They will put on two such hikes on June 28, in conjunction with a special all-day Potomac Heritage Trailfest being sponsored by the PHTA and REI to celebrate recent PHNST advances (visit [www.potomactrail.org](http://www.potomactrail.org) for Trailfest details, and [www.sierrapotomac.org](http://www.sierrapotomac.org) or [www.amc-dc.org](http://www.amc-dc.org) for hike details). Please join me and Trailfest coordinator Glenn Gillis that day at the festivities and on

the trail (we'll be leading the hikes) to help the PHNST become much less of a secret.

## Supporting Your Chapter Goes High Tech

*by Karen Cordry*

Like the swallows of Capistrano, the fund-raising campaign for your chapter comes around every spring. This year we have tried a different approach – we mailed our annual letter to some of you and we are contacting others by email and this newsletter to ask you to visit the chapter's website at [www.dc.sierrclub.org](http://www.dc.sierrclub.org). When you get there, you can read the letter and view the pictures in living color! Best of all, you have a choice of ways to donate this year – send a check by mail or click your way to a Paypal donation on line. Just look for the "Donate" button at the top left just below the Sierra Club logo. The mailing address is Karen Cordry, 10705 Torrance Dr., Silver Spring, Md. 20902 (make checks to Sierra Club - Washington D.C. Chapter.)

The results so far have been great – we've already had 69 mail donations for a total of \$4,690. In addition, nine more people have donated online through PayPal, notching up another \$465. Best of all, 13 of those people have taken up my offer to "bankrupt your local chapter treasurer." As a challenge to all of you out there, I've started with a \$200 donation and I will kick in a \$25 match for everyone who contributes over \$100. So far, that means we've added another \$575 for a grand total of \$5,805. Wow! We're well on our way to this year's goal of \$10,000 – but there's still lots more room for all of you to help as well. We have donations from \$15 to \$300 – and we welcome each contribution. Our thanks to all of you listed below (and those who asked to be anonymous) and for those who have not donated before, we hope we can see your name here next time.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

#### *\$100 and up*

Gordon W. Anderson  
Simi Batra  
Max Berry  
Luther Carter  
Sally Davidson  
Louis Eby  
Adrienne Fields  
Elinor Green-Hunter  
James F Handley  
Jessie M. Harris  
Lara K. Levison  
Philip Mayhew  
Christopher Millward  
Brenda Moorman  
A C Nichols, C W Nelson  
Marianne Phelps  
Mark Rabbage  
Richard Ricard, Jr.  
T Scott Riggs  
Jonathan B. Tucker  
Yoma Ullman  
Lawrence Williams  
Evelyn Wrin

#### *\$50-99*

Michael Bell  
Barbara Breteton  
Mary Cheh  
Dan Emerine  
Phoebe Felk  
Gloria Hidalgo  
John E. Kern  
Jennifer MacDonald  
Paul H. Meijer

Douglas C. Melcher  
Allan Jay Neff  
Jeffrey Norman  
Jo Ann Scott  
Patricia Taylor  
Philip A. Wagner  
Timothy Welsh  
John H. Wheeler

#### *Up to \$50*

Matthew Biel  
Lauren Brown  
Anna C. Chamberlin  
Ruth Connolly  
Martin Day  
Carol Dalton  
Margaret L. Elliott  
Lynn Faught  
Daphne Gemmill  
Ashley Hansen  
Rachel Henighan  
Elizabeth Koprowski  
John Kurz  
Linda McCaig  
M.K. Murphy  
Loretta F. Neumann  
Scott Opis  
Jeffrey Rasmussen  
Mary Hill Rojas  
Marie Sansone  
Cameron Scott  
David Scott  
David & Ursula Shears  
Florence S. Stone  
John Wennersten  
John Wickham

## Outings

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

No pets unless listing says otherwise.

For a more complete and up-to-date list and additional information, visit [www.mwrop.org](http://www.mwrop.org) or call 202-547-2326.

**Sun. June 1. Rated E. Northern SNP: Little Devils Stairs.** This is a steep and scenic, moderately paced 9- mi. loop with 2,000 ft. of elev. gain. We'll hike up a beautiful gorge, crossing the stream many times. Some rock scrambling required. To carpool, meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Vienna Metro Station's north parking lot. Leader: Janet Conley, [jconley333@yahoo.com](mailto:jconley333@yahoo.com) or 202-758-2355 (before 10 p.m.), and Ray Evert, [hikerdude22@msn.com](mailto:hikerdude22@msn.com) or 703-893-3792 (before 9 p.m.).

**Sun. June 1. Rated B. Rock Creek Park.** Explore the beauty of Rock Creek Park in the spring. Kids who can walk 7+ mi. on relatively level terrain are welcome. Bring water and a snack. Meet at 1 p.m. at Rock Creek Nature Center (Military Rd. and Oregon Ave. N.W.). Leader: Jim Finucane 301-365-3485 (before 9 p.m.) or [jim.finucane@yahoo.com](mailto:jim.finucane@yahoo.com).

**Tues. June 3. Rated H. Northern SNP: Big Devils Stairs (Vigorous Hike).** This circuit includes the AT between Jenkins Gap and Gravel Springs Gap and a descent to the depths of Big Devils Stairs; about 16 mi. with 3,500 ft. of ascent. Leader: Dave Green, 703-536-5189 or [dkgreenva@hotmail.com](mailto:dkgreenva@hotmail.com).

**Sat. June 7. Rated A. Tree ID Hike: River Bend Park.** Bring your field guides and see how many trees you can identify. Discuss unique features of trees along the Potomac River. Meet at the visitor's center at 9 a.m. From Riverbend Road turn right on Jeffery Road and follow for approximately 1 mi. to the park entrance. Leader: Carol Ivory, [carolivory@verizon.net](mailto:carolivory@verizon.net) or 703-476-8730.

**Sat. June 7. Not Rated. Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area.** Actively celebrate National Trails Day by joining other volunteers to spend the morning doing trailwork on this Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property located on Va.'s Northern Neck, about 20 mi. south of the Capital Beltway. As Meadowood's Jeff McCusker says, this is "a great way to get some outdoor exercise, work in some beautiful settings, learn some new skills, and make a contribution to your public lands that will benefit the community." At noon, we'll down tools, enjoy a BLM-supplied lunch, and then have the option of doing a short hike without having to use our arms. Joint event with AMC/DC. Contact the leader for details, including carpooling from Alexandria. Leader: Paul Elliott, 703-256-6351.

**Sat. June 7. Not Rated. Scouting Trip by Canoe for Seneca Creek Cleanup Project for 2008.** See June 14 entry for details. Leader: Jim Finucane 301-365-3485 (before 9 p.m.) or [jim.finucane@yahoo.com](mailto:jim.finucane@yahoo.com).

**Sun. June 8. Rated B. C&O Canal Towpath and Carderock Picnic.** Enjoy an open-to-all and lovely spring outing on the scenic stretch of the Potomac River shoreline between Carderock and Great Falls by doing this out-and-back hike of up to 10 mi. We'll start at 9:30 a.m. and finish by noon, with each of us choosing our own pace and distance. Then we'll have the traditional and optional potluck picnic and cookout to celebrate this year's One Day Hike to Harpers Ferry by bringing together ODH veterans and volunteers,

along with the curious and ambitious destined to do the hike next year. Call for details, driving directions, or if carless. Leaders: Paul Elliott, 703-256-6351, and Gary Kosciusko, 703-650-306.

**Tues. June 10. Rated H+. Northern Virginia AT: Roller Coaster (Vigorous Hike).** We'll use an easy car shuttle to do ups and downs from Snickers Gap to Ashby Gap; 14 mi. with 4,000 ft. elev. gain. Ref: PATC Map 8. Leader: Bob Livezey, 301-320-4679 or [bobbilbo@msn.com](mailto:bobbilbo@msn.com).

**Sat. June 14. Rated B. Manassas Battlefield.** Travel the battlefield of the 1st Battle of Manassas for a 6-mi. loop. Easy walk with relatively level terrain. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Manassas Battlefield Visitor Center (on Rte. 234 just north of Rte. 66); \$3 park fee. Leader: Pam Wilkie, 703-263-3139 (before 9 p.m.).

**Sat. June 14. Rated H. GWNF: Great North Mtn.** This 17 mi. circuit hike will start at Waite's Run and proceed up the Pond Run Trail to the Tuscarora Trail, completing the circuit through Vance Cove; elev. gain 4,000 ft. Moderate pace with stops for flora and fungi of interest. To carpool, meet at 7:30 a.m. at Oakton Shopping Center. Inexperienced hikers call for hiker requirements. Joint event with PATC. Leader: William Needham, 410-884-9127 or [needham82@aol.com](mailto:needham82@aol.com).

**Sat. June 14. Not Rated. Seneca Creek Cleanup by Canoe.** Join Sierras and volunteers from other environmental organizations to clean up Seneca Creek from Seneca Creek State Park (near Montgomery Village) to the mouth of the Seneca Creek, where it empties into the Potomac River. We will cut out major logs, take out smaller branches, and de-trash this beautiful nearby creek (full of wildlife) to make it canoe accessible over this stretch. A picnic celebration will follow. Leader: Jim Finucane, 301-365-3485 (before 9 p.m.) or [jim.finucane@yahoo.com](mailto:jim.finucane@yahoo.com).

**Sun. June 15. Rated C. Get to Know the Inner Harbor of Baltimore.** Explore historical Baltimore and learn about conservation efforts in the Inner Harbor/Chesapeake Bay by hiking around the inner harbor from the Korean War Memorial to Ft. McHenry. We'll take a water taxi ride back to the Korean War Memorial. Bring water and lunch. To carpool, meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Grosvenor/Strathmore Metro (Red Line). Leader: Jane Hudson, 301-589-8708 or [janedc2002@yahoo.com](mailto:janedc2002@yahoo.com).

**Sun. June 15. Rated A (hike only). Lands and Waters of American Chestnut Land Trust: Hike, Paddle, or Do Both.** We'll start with a moderately paced hike of about 5 mi. on the ACLT's hilly and wooded North Side property overlooking Parkers Creek in Calvert Co., Md. Then, after lunch, there will be a by-reservation-only and educational two-hour canoe/kayak trip on the creek, which is the last remaining undeveloped tributary on Chesapeake Bay's western shore. Call the leader for details, boat reservations (\$10 donation requested; boat availability limited), carpooling options, and optional meeting places and times (including for the hike only). Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott, 703-256-6351.

### 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		

**Tue. June 17. Rated H. Central SNP: Old Rag and Robertson Mtns. (Vigorous Hike).** We'll ascend Old Rag Ridge Trail, descend Saddle Trail to Weakley Hollow, then go up Robertson Mountain to the ridge. Our return will be via Corbin Mountain and Nicholson Trail; about 15 mi. and 4,000 ft. climb. Leader: Mike Moran, 703-281-4630 or [mjm.9406@cox.net](mailto:mjm.9406@cox.net).

**Sat. June 21-Sun. June 29 (tentative dates, dependent on permit availability).** Not Rated. Backpack in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Total distance 60 mi. Leader: Ted Fryberger, 410-312-2982 (before 9:30 p.m.) or [tkfryberger@comcast.net](mailto:tkfryberger@comcast.net).

**Sat. June 21. Rated D. Cedarville State Forest. Brandywine, Md.** Circuit hike from headwaters of state's largest freshwater swamp, the Zekiah, former CCC camp; lake, bald cypress, and pitcher plant; 14 miles with minimal elev. change. To carpool, meet at 8 a.m. at Huntington Metro Station, Kings Highway parking lot. Leader: Russ Norfleet, 703-294-6068 or [russnorfleet@verizon.net](mailto:russnorfleet@verizon.net).

**Sat. June 21. Rated A. Hike & Ride Outing #2: Lake Accotink Park.** This event will start with a leisurely, all-ages circuit hike of 5 mi. in the woodlands around a lovely 70-acre lake in wilds of Springfield, Va. Highlights en route will include nature- and history-related stops and the story of the park's role in the earning of a Darwin Award. After lunch at the marina (bring or buy), it'll be time to go riding on the park's 1920's Herschell carousel—and to learn about carousels and their long-ago role in training cavalymen. Leashed dogs are welcome (on hike only), as are accompanied children. Meet at 10 a.m. at the marina. Call for driving directions or if carless. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott, 703-256-6351, and Helen Epps, 202-363-1278 (leave message).

**Sun. June 22. Leader's Choice.** Moderate hike (rated D, E, or F) of 8-12 mi. with significant elev. change and beautiful overlooks. Check back on website ([www.mwrop.org](http://www.mwrop.org)) by June 8 to see possibly surprising choice that so-far-indecisive leader has made. Leader: Mike Darzi, 301-580-9387 or [michael.darzi@saic.com](mailto:michael.darzi@saic.com).

**Tues. June 24. Rated H. Central SNP: Rose River Fire Road (Vigorous Hike).** This circuit begins with ascent of Rose River Fire Road to Rose River Loop Trail and then to the AT at Fishers Gap. From there, we'll go south on the AT to Lewis Falls Trail, cross the AT to descend Rapidan Fire Road, follow Dark Hollow Falls Trail to Rose River Fire Road, and finish by going back down Rose River Fire Road; about 18 mi. with 4,300 ft. elev. changes. Leader: Tom Kloster, 304-535-2576 or [twk07@comcast.net](mailto:twk07@comcast.net).

**Sat. June 28. Rated B. Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail in Great Falls Park, Va.** Enjoy a 5 mi. afternoon roundtrip hike on most of the short stretch of the PHNST that lies within this scenic riverside park. From the park visitor center, we'll go down the steep canyon of Mather Gorge to the historic Potowmack Canal before returning past the most spectacular waterfall in the mid-Atlantic region. Arrive early to participate in the park's Potomac Heritage Trailfest festivities. Meet



# Calendar

at 2 p.m. at the visitor center ramp near the snack bar. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Glenn Gillis, 703-430-0568 or glennpotomacfalls@yahoo.com.

**Sun. June 29. Rated B. Greenwell State Park and Sotterly Plantation.** Venture forth to St. Mary's Co. in southern Md. to do a moderately paced 9 mi. hike in a nonmountainous 500-acre state park on the banks of the lower Patuxent River. You can expect good trails and views and many birds and wildflowers to please or baffle you. After the hike, we'll make an optional and educational visit to nearby Sotterly Plantation's 95 redolent-of-history riverfront acres (a national historic landmark, as you can learn at <http://www.sotterley.com>). Possible dinner stop on return trip. Joint event with AMC/DC. Leader: Paul Elliott, 703-256-6351.

**Sat. June 28. Potomac Heritage Trailfest.** You're invited to help celebrate the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail at a trailfest extravaganza in Northern Va. that will take place along the Potomac River at Algonkian Regional Park, Riverbend Park, and Great Falls Park between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The event will include hiking, biking, canoeing, and horseback riding trips, with each of the three parks also offering its own special program array, including a variety of family-oriented activities and also an REI-presented environmental expo and related activities. Food and drinks also will be available. The trailfest is being sponsored by REI and the Potomac Heritage Trail Association (PHTA), with the support of the National Park Service, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, and Fairfax County Park Authority. Among the dozen other participating outdoors organizations are the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, the Piedmont Environmental Council, the Potomac Conservancy, the Appalachian Mountain Club's Washington, D.C., Chapter, the M.O.R.E. biking club, and the Sierra Club's MWROP (see above for MWROP's Trailfest hikes). For more information, contact the event coordinator and visit the PHTA's website ([www.potomactrail.org](http://www.potomactrail.org)) and the parks' webpages (Algonkian Regional Park: <http://www.nvrpa.org/parks/algonkian/index.php>; Riverbend Park: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/events.htm>; and Great Falls Park: <http://www.nps.gov/archive/gwmp/grfa/extend/index.htm>). Event coordinator: Glenn Gillis, 703-430-0568 or glennpotomacfalls@yahoo.com.

## One Day Hike

*Continued from page 7*

sore, relieved, elated and amazed that I had actually walked 62 miles in one day. I tended to my ailing feet, ate some veggie chili, chatted with other hikers and then got a ride to Laurel Lodge where I slept about as soundly as I ever have. I later learned that I was one of only 51 (40.8 percent) of the original 125 hikers to finish the 100K hike.

For more information about the One Day Hike go to <http://www.one-dayhike.org>. To donate in honor of my hike to the chapter's campaign to restore streetcars to D.C.'s streets, you may send a check made out to "Sierra Club - Washington, D.C. Chapter" to 1825 T St. N.W., #104, Washington, D.C. 20009, or make a donation on the chapter's website at:

<http://www.dc.sierraclub.org/news/detail.asp?ID=126>.

## D.C. Chapter and Related Events

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

### Sat. June 7

Kayaking on the Potomac River, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Thompson Boat Center (2900 Virginia Avenue N.W.) RSVP. Contact Chasta Piatakovas, 202-320-1205 at [washingtndc.chaptersierraclub.org](http://washingtndc.chaptersierraclub.org).

### Mon. June 9

Second Monday Happy Hour (\$) 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.. Location TBD. Contact Chasta Piatakovas at 202-320-1205 or [washingtndc.chaptersierraclub.org](http://washingtndc.chaptersierraclub.org)

### Tue. June 17

Executive Committee Meeting. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Sierra Club Legislative Office, 600 14th Street N.W., Suite 750. All members welcome. Contact Damon Luciano at 202-374-1245 or [damonluciano@gmail.com](mailto:damonluciano@gmail.com).

### Tue. July 1

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

### Mon. July 14

Second Monday Happy Hour (\$) 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Jaleo (480 7th Street N.W.). Contact Chasta Piatakovas at 202-320-1205.

### Tue. July 15

Executive Committee Meeting. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Sierra Club Legislative Office, 600 14th Street N.W., Suite 750. All members welcome. Contact Damon Luciano at 202-374-1245 or [damonluciano@gmail.com](mailto:damonluciano@gmail.com).

### Tue. Aug. 5

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

### Tue. Aug. 19

Executive Committee Meeting. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Sierra Club Legislative Office, 600 14th Street N.W., Suite 750. All members welcome. Contact Damon Luciano at 202-374-1245 or [damonluciano@gmail.com](mailto:damonluciano@gmail.com).





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Vacant

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