PLUS & Growth

What is PLUS? Does it affect your taxes? How might it change your lifestyle?

During the 1960’s the metropolitan Washington area was the fastest growing major metropolitan area in the United States. It gained three-quarters of a million new residents. However growth in the region was not spread evenly among the metropolitan jurisdictions. Fairfax County (VA) grew nearly twice as fast as the entire metropolitan area. Citizens and public officials in this County have shown increasing concern over the problems associated with rapid and generally uncontrolled growth. Because of a better understanding of how growth affects costs for public facilities and services and negatively impacts on ecosystems, the traditional American assumption that growth is good and necessary has been challenged somewhat.

In 1971, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors initiated a “pause (in growth) for planning”; the courts struck down this attempt to manage growth. A second effort was made in 1972 with the so-called “Five-Year Plan”. This growth plan recommended where development should occur in the period 1972-1977, while assuring that supporting capital projects and services (fire, water, sewer, streets) would be provided at minimal cost to taxpayers. Unfortunately the “Five-Year Plan” inadequately addressed continued on page 4

Sierra Quest

In the Summer of 1973, several Sierra Club members asked themselves—how can the Sierra Club’s “voice” and its resources to deal with environmental issues be applied to the metropolitan Washington area?

For 5 years, the area’s only Sierra Club “mouthpiece” had been the Potomac Chapter, consisting of Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, and its predecessor the Southeast Chapter, covering the entire southeastern United States. The Chapter’s conservation committee (an officially appointed Chairman and unofficial, ever-changing collection of members and non-members) concentrated almost exclusively on national environmental issues, such as wilderness, watershed impoundments and modifications, strip mining and windmills. Nonetheless, in October 1974, a committee was formed to work on inner-city environmental problems and to educate inner-city children about the environment. This (D.C.) Inner-city Environmental Committee attempted to deal with complex issues such as air pollution, freeways, parkland management and noise pollution. It operated an outings program for inner-city children. In Maryland and Virginia suburbs, a few Sierra Club members had been working on various environmental issues such as the Outer Beltway, new parklands acquisition, land use planning and water pollution. But there appeared to be a wall between the inner-city and suburbia. And further most conservation activists were concerned with preserving their wilderness playgrounds to which they trekked on occasion. Little, if any, concern was shown for urban environments—home to most Sierra Club members and the majority of our nation’s people. Even many Sierra Club members spent 80% (or more) of their time in the urban environments like metropolitan Washington.

Are urban environmental issues markedly different from rural ones? Are air pollution, water pollution, ineffective transportation systems, energy demands, parkland management, watershed management exclusively rural or urban?

In the early 1950’s, the metropolitan Washington area began to grow in population. During the 1960’s, it was the fastest growing major metropolitan area in the United States; this growth was often not controlled, not planned. As residents of any metropolitan area can attest rapid, uncontrolled growth brings increased property taxes, conflict over development policies or non-policies, congestion on roads, sewer moratoria, air stagnation alerts, over-populated schools, housing shortages and, too often, over-utilization of inadequate recreation facilities. In the 1950’s and early 1960’s, the various governmental jurisdictions tried to “solve” most of these problems individually. Total independence gave way when local governments joined together in the 1960’s to form the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

Meanwhile, the Congress of the United States was giving more attention to environmental and urban problems. Passage of the Clean Air Act, Department of Transportation Act, National Environmental Protection Act (NPPA) and Department of Housing and Urban Development Act during the late 1960’s immediately affected all citizens—rural and urban—of the United States. But these Acts, subsequent amendments to them in the 1970’s, and passage of the Urban Mass Transit Act, Model Cities Demonstration Act and others have been of particular significance to metropolitan and smaller urban areas. They require all governmental jurisdictions in each of the 30 metropolitan areas (designated by the U.S. Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce) of the United States to deal with air, water, transportation, housing and other issues on a metropolitan-wide basis. Urban governments are highly dependent on Federal funding; insistence for planning and operation of air, water, transportation, housing and other programs. But they cannot receive Federal funds unless projects and programs are integral parts of metropolitan-wide programs.

Environmental activists in the metropolitan Washington area like the various governmental jurisdictions tried in the 1950’s and 1960’s to deal with environmental issues on a single jurisdiction basis, that is, D.C., Montgomery Co., Fairfax Co., etc. (some environmentalists still take this approach). Gradually, too gradually, environmentalists have recognized that a single jurisdiction approach is unproductive, foolishly ineffective and self-serving. Now let us return to the Summer of 1973 and the several Sierra Club members.

These members decided that the Sierra Club should become more active in metropolitan Washington environmental issues, both micro (within a single governmental jurisdiction) and macro (metropolitan-wide). At that time the most logical way to accomplish this goal was to form an official regional group of the Sierra Club—a subunit of the Potomac Chapter. Moreover an official continued on page 2
SIERRA QUEST — A Midcourse Overview, continued from page 1

regional group of the Sierra Club would have much more impact on elected and appointed governmental officials than "speaking with many tongues" through the multi-state, non-metropolitan Potomac Chapter. Already the metropolitan Washington area had an active Sierra Club social group, and the Chapter's meetings program was run ex- clusively for metropolitan Washington members. Better than 90% of the Chapter's outings leadership were residents of metropolitan Wash- ington. So on November 19, 1973, Sierra Club members residing in the metropolitan Washington area came together and approved a set of bylaws for the Metropolitan Washington Group of the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club Council, on behalf of the Club's Board of Directors, officially recognized the Metropolitan Washington Group as of January 1, 1974.

What have been the activities of the Metropolitan Washington Group during 1974—its first year of operation? We ran a full schedule outings program that included backpacking, biking, canoeing, day hiking and spelunking trips. Noting the importance of broadening the environmental movement, your Executive Committee heartily endorsed the adoption and continuation of the inner-city hiking program for children of minority and low income families. This program was very active during the Spring, Summer and Fall. Our Social Group met every month and had some very interesting programs. Besides the monthly Executive Committee meetings, the Group held 13 other meetings. Starting in June, there were six conservation meetings in Virginia while two conservation meetings took place in both Maryland and the District. Additionally two general meetings were conducted in September to give members and non-members information on metropolitan-wide conservation issues. A November general meeting was devoted to pending legislation on Grand Canyon—a longtime "battlefield" for the Club.

Beginning with John Muir's efforts in the late 19th century to save the Sierra Nevada Mountains from the timber barons, the raison d'etre of the Sierra Club has been to improve the quality of the natural environment. Because 1974 was the first year of operation for the Group and because starting up a conservation program is an arduous, time-consuming task, the Group's conservation efforts were strong in some respects and weak in others. Members were continually urged to become involved in projects on transportation, air quality, water quality, land-use planning, parkland management and preservation of trees. These projects not only dealt with the issues on a single jurisdictional basis but frequently on a metropolitan-wide basis.

Publication of "The Washington Conservationist" commenced in September. This newsletter was intended to give metropolitan Washington Sierra Club members in-depth coverage of metropolitan conservation issues, extensive listings of Group meetings and outings, selected coverage of national and regional conservation news and reviews of noteworthy books as well as other items of interest.

But where are we going in 1975? The answer depends in part on member support, and more importantly, on the degree of member participation in programs. Your Executive Committee will spend much time on beefing up the conservation program. The outings program is slated for expansion and provision of new services. There is now a Meetings Committee that is actively working on a schedule of monthly meetings dealing with conservation issues and featuring expert speakers. Planning for Social Group activities has been completed through June; programs will continue to have a conservation orientation. New programs are being contemplated.

Your Executive Committee is aware of the many demands on member's time in this important metropolitan area, the capitol of the United States. We deeply appreciate any support by members even if it is only a continuation of Club membership and occasional donations to various Group funds. Speaking of members of the Group experienced an 11% membership growth rate during 1974. In fact the 2800 member Metropolitan Washington Group is larger than 29 of the Sierra Club's 45 chapters. Despite our large membership, the Group's treasury is not brimming. Our "parent", the Potomac Chapter, allocated about $800 to the Metropolitan Washington Group in 1974 or $.31 per member; this "income" had been exhausted long before the year's end. Yet under the (national) Club's present allocation policy, each of its chapters receives funds (rebates on membership dues) equivalent to slightly more than $2.00 per member per year. Our programs are expanding and will need greater funding. We desperately need a small, part-time, paid staff—one member of which would be a secretary—to backup our conservation program.

Having an active, metropolitan-wide unit of the Sierra Club in the Washington area is a valuable asset to the Club. Of course the most important purpose of this metropolitan Washington Club unit is to improve the natural environment through such means as monitoring of public agencies and corporate bodies, influencing legislation, taking legal redress and affecting public opinion. If we are better able to do these conservation tasks, future generations as well as the present one will be able to enjoy the wild areas of our nation including those in our metropolitan areas like the Potomac Gorge.

Geoff Hechtman
Chairperson

RIVER ADVENTURE: 1975

One way to stretch your vacation dollar! The joy and satisfaction can last a lifetime. Float with the river and, with family or friends, re-discover the purity of living. Let the rapids refresh your spirit. Leave the wisdom of wilderness. No energy wasted.

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Participate in the Ecology Movement

MEETINGS, from page 7

13 Mar. (Th.), 8 p.m. Executive Committee meeting will be held at 1500 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington (Rosslyn), VA in the penthouse conference room of System Planning Corp.
10 Apr. (Th.), 8 p.m. Executive Committee meeting will be held at 1500 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington (Rosslyn), VA in the penthouse conference room of System Planning Corp.
17 Apr. (Th.), 8 p.m. D.C. conservation meeting will be held at 3606 Vazeys St. N.W.
18 Apr. (Frl.), 8 p.m. Social Group at the home of Kay Woodward in Silver Spring, Maryland (work: 344-2266; home: 445-1687). Linda Billings from the National Sierra Club office will speak informally about her work as a lobbyist as well as answer questions about the activities of the National office.

At present there is no chairperson for the Maryland and Virginia conservation subcommittees. Anyone interested in Maryland or Virginia conservation problems or becoming active as a subcommittee chairperson should call Geoff Hechtman at 471-1279.
Book Review

Mind in the Waters: A Book to Celebrate the Consciousness of Whales and Dolphins, assembled by Joan McIntyre; Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, Sierra Club Books, San Francisco. $14.95.

Combining science, poetry and folklore, this attractive and handsomely illustrated volume is a fascinating collection of essays on the whale family—whales, dolphins and porpoises—and an eloquent appeal to put a halt to their slaughter.

We learn that these superbly adapted creatures of the sea have, together with primates, the most highly differentiated brains of all animals. Unlike most other animals, they appear to be conscious of what they are doing.

Scientists point out that many whales have brains that much exceed the human brain in the cortical surface area where thinking takes place.

"Captive dolphins," writes Dr. Sterling Binnell, "have often shown humor, empathy and self-control that few of us could match under comparable circumstances."

Whales appear to be susceptible to music and on one occasion 30 killer whales completely surrounded a ship on which a rock and roll band played and followed her for several miles. Gifted at mimicry, some whales make credible imitations of human speech sounds.

The extraordinarily sensitive sonar system of dolphins enables them, among many other feats, to distinguish between two types of metals or metal plates of different thickness.

These are the remarkable creatures that are being killed at a rate of about 36,000 a year—despite the fact that for all whale products there are now substitutes in the form of proteins, oils and chemicals.

Persons interested in saving whales should write to Project Jonah, Box 476, Bolinas, California 94924. Incidentally, the royalties of this book will go to Project Jonah.

Ted Meltzer

Ed: The Sierra Club's Board of Directors has endorsed two boycotts. Members are urged to boycott Japanese and Soviet products; these nations are responsible for much of the whale slaughter. The Board has also asked members to boycott light (white) tuna products. Tuna fisherman are responsible for drowning many dolphins.

Energy Fallacy

Opening public hearings [recently] to help design a substantive national energy policy for the Ford Administration, Interior Secretary Morton touched on a pervasive myth when he asked, "How much conservation can the economy stand?"

Implicit in the question is the widely held belief that a slowdown in energy demand over years to come would halt, even reverse, the long-term growth of the American economy. . . .

Historically, of course, demand for energy has grown at pace with the economy. That was because it was cheap, a negligible fraction of the costs of production . . . .

But that situation has changed, a fact impressively documented by a respected business research organization, the Conference Board, in a study started last year, even before the Arab oil embargo. "Energy use per unit of product declined at a 1.6 percent rate from 1954 to 1967. As a result, while total manufacturing output rose 87 percent, total energy use rose only 53 percent," the Conference Board study concluded.

Looking ahead in the light of the sharp increases in energy prices, the Conference Board projected an accelerating decline in energy use per unit of output at an average annual rate of 2 percent up to 1980. The study emphasized that their projections were not "technically possible optimums," but rather "economically probable developments."

It simply does not follow that pressures to conserve energy will stunt capital investment or shrink the gross national product. Rather, capital investment will be diverted into more energy-efficient plants and machinery.

Nor do living standards necessarily suffer when a greater part of consumer spending is directed toward so-called service industries—education, health, leisure activities—instead of toward ever more material goods which demand so much more energy to provide.

The Ford Foundation's Energy Policy Project found that the top fifteen energy-intensive industries consumed 45 percent of the energy used in all manufacturing, yet produced only 9 percent of the value added and accounted for only 6 percent of manufacturing jobs.

continued on page 6

Why was a bear present at our November general meeting? Mr. and Mrs. Aldo Bacci, the Great Green Canyon Bear, wearing Navaho cedar-berry beads to keep evil spirits away and Lizzie Carr are awaiting to view slides of a river trip. The Green Bear was mascot to the September 1974 Colorado River Oar Trip led by Ms. Carr. See page 6 for an article on future general meetings.

Inner-City Hikes

There will be a meeting at Martin Mavin's home to plan the calendar for the Spring Summer/Fall hikes on March 14, 8 p.m., 10803 Montrose Avenue, Garrett Park, Maryland (telephone: 946-4712—in case you wish directions). All interested in participating in these hikes are invited and would be most welcome.

If you wish additional information regarding the meeting, or the program, please call Shirley L. Crawford (Office 632-9131, home 650-2884).

Shirley L. Crawford

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Call for Activists

John Muir founded the Sierra Club in 1892 to work for protection of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. Over the years the Club has enlisted citizens of other states to support the efforts to protect our natural environment. Today, the primary purpose of the Sierra Club is to be citizen action (by members) to improve our environment and to oppose “blind progress.”

Do you understand metropolitan Washington’s air pollution, water pollution, water supply and transportation problems? What are the economic and health effects of these and other environmental problems? How can individual citizens get action from “city hall” with a modicum of effort? What are the psychological benefits of participation in conservation programs? Discover power; volunteer for one of the projects listed below.

Air Pollution — Bill Jordan, (202) 291-7507 (H). Present activity includes analysis of air pollution documents. Specific administrative and legal appeals may be forthcoming.

Energy — Jim Finucane, (703) 527-1345 (W). Proposed areas of study are off-shore oil and gas drilling activities (PECO and VEPICO), proposed fossil- and nuclear-fueled facilities within close proximity of the metropolitan area and alternative power sources. Action will probably involve some lobbying on state legislation. In fact, there are presently bills in both the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies dealing with energy and/or off-shore drilling.

Land Use — Geoff Hechtman, (703) 471-1279 (H) or Roger McClure, (202) 337-4975 (H). Current activities include analysis of the Final Environmental Impact Statement, lobbying in the Virginia General Assembly against a toll-road substitute and preparation of legal action. The Metro rapid-rail system urgently needs our support. We plan to take actions to support completion of the system.

Legislation — Geoff Hechtman, (703) 471-1279 (H). We need volunteers to testify at upcoming hearings on the plans for the four planning districts (see PLUS article elsewhere in this issue).

Potomac Headwater Bill — Bill Hartgroves, (703) 471-1996 (H). This project involves research on land holdings, working with public officials, coordination with other conservation and citizen organizations and compilation of a slide show.

Support Our Advertisers

PLU—Towards More Rational Planning, continued from page 1

environmental and transportation issues and was too short sighted. However it did generate valuable data and set forth criteria to guide capital facilities planning. By February 1973, the Board was in receipt of a task force report entitled Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Controls. This was the launching mechanism for PLUS.

PLUS (Planning Land Use System) was formulated in the Spring of 1973 to a means of preparing a capital improvement program and to update the existing 1958 Countywide Plan and 14 District Plans. The Board of Supervisors adopted 16 interim development and redevelopment policies in August 1973 to serve as a basic framework for developing this long-range comprehensive planning process. PLUS was envisaged as a 20-year growth management plan. Despite legal challenges by development and realty interests, PLUS has moved forward and met its goals.

The County’s Office of Comprehensive Planning considered present economic, environmental and social conditions; a synopsis of their findings follows. Despite improved emission control equipment on automobiles, the continuing growth of automobile and truck traffic (Vehicle Miles Traveled) will result in dangerous countywide air problems. (Conservative estimates by the U.S. E.P.A. put health losses due to vehicle emissions at $5.0 billion per year nationally.) Water quality in area streams has been significantly degraded by soil erosion and resultant siltation. The Occoquan watershed is chemically contaminated. (Occoquan supplies most Fairfax County residents, the City of Alexandria, and several other areas.) Because public facilities have generally followed development rather than guided private development, citizens will face additional tax burdens to update and improve public facilities. Highway improvements and additional mass transit services will cost $300 million (or more) just to serve the existing population efficiently. Only 14% of the present tax base is commercial and industrial. Moreover only 33% of County residents work in Fairfax County. The high cost of single (detached) homes force low and middle income citizens to seek apartments and townhouses that are in extremely short supply.

What are the “solutions” to the aforementioned problems? The planners have proposed development of new employment centers within the County. A 10-year water and sewer plan is being formulated. Protection of stream valleys, floodplains, wetlands and other critical environmental areas has been strongly recommended. The County plans to connect its parks and recreation facilities by “environmental quality corridors.” The planners have developed and implemented a land classification system that designates preferred growth areas. A Countywide transportation plan has been formulated that places greater emphasis on development of mass transit facilities. Highway improvements are both radial and cross-country; some of these highway elements need to be carefully examined. Most importantly three growth options have been hypothesized. Controlled incremental growth continues present development patterns of widening bands with a westward movement in response to market pressures. Ousting growth areas encourages selected, well-defined, planned growth areas primarily in undeveloped portions of Fairfax County. Concentrated growth focus locates growth in areas with existing urban services and facilities. It emphasizes mass transit development, environmental protection of western Fairfax County and preservation of rural (open space) lands. These are the “solutions” to be implemented?

The Board of Supervisors created the Zoning Ordinance Study Committee (ZOSC) in June 1974. ZOSC presented a revised zoning ordinance. This ordinance has been made available to the public and will be considered by the Board of Supervisors at a public hearing. There are yet opportunities for citizen input if it is adequately considered.

According to many public officials, urban planners and special interest groups (including those favoring “open space”), Fairfax County has undertaken possibly the most unique large-scale planning program in the history of the United States. With sufficient pressure from the Sierra Club member and others citizens, the other jurisdictions of the metropolitan Washington area could “sense” the need to undertake PLUS-type planning programs.

Geoff Hechtman

Chairperson

Citizens and planners in Fairfax Co. involved with the PLUS project recommended creation of “Environmental Quality Corridors” to protect parklands and recreation areas together.
Mass transit — is it to be a dream or a reality? Will the Metro rapid rail system be completed? Future land use plans, like PLUS, can affect the transportation system. If citizens want a better environment they must answer these questions and communicate their wishes to government officials (appointed and elected).

I-66 & Metro

Since the Metropolitan Washington Group came into being one year ago, it has been officially involved in the I-66 controversy. Our Executive Committee approved a resolution in February 1974 that supported the mass transit alternative to the proposed 8- to 14-lane urban freeway called I-66. Representatives of the Group at public hearings as well as the Executive Committee have continued to support the mass transit alternative.

Completion of the Metro rapid-rail system, expanded Metrobus service, reserved bus lanes and implementation of other mass transit modes. Virtually all metropolitan governmental jurisdictions have supported the mass transit alternative. All area Congresspersons, that is, those elected in 1974, explicitly or implicitly supported the mass transit alternative. Growing numbers of Congresspersons from other districts support the mass transit alternative. Five Federal agencies with review powers over highways support the mass transit alternative. So why does pressure continue for construction of the superhighway—

and psychologically to the Highway Lobby. The people of this nation suffer from:

- air pollution, much of which comes from automotive sources,
- trade deficits because of overdependence on foreign oil,
- rampant, sprawling growth as a result of excessive dependence on automobiles and trucks.

Should citizens be willing to pay ever-rising taxes and living costs for continuation of a highway oriented society? A clearcut choice exists — superhighway or mass transit. Not constructing I-66 will continue the growing trend in this nation's urban areas that has resulted in abandonment of existing and planned urban freeways for mass transit. The District of Columbia is giving serious consideration to "trading" planned freeways for increased allocations to the Metro rail system. Why not transfer highway funds for the proposed I-66 and other suburban freeways to mass transit? Congress authorized such simple transactions in 1973. The Governor of the state where funds are to be transferred need only to request such transfer and it is automatically granted.

Support mass transit. Public officials need to know that citizens want mass transit, suburban Washington public officials are especially squeamish. Write your city council person or county board member Virginia members should also write Gov. Mills E. Godwin, Jr. (Governor's Office, Richmond, VA 23219) requesting transfer of I-66 monies to Metro.

Tired of fighting rush hour traffic, not finding a parking place downtown? Ride Metrobus and Metrorail.

Geoff Hechtman

Construct new ribbons of asphalt and concrete to "improve" air pollution and highway congestion, to promote urban sprawl, to raise taxes. Why not give up businesses and homes, parks and dollars for these ribbons? Anyone for dominos?
D.C. Active, Sets Priorities

Since early last fall, the D.C. Conservation Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Group has been working to develop a program which will be of interest to Sierra Club members and will make a significant contribution to conservation issues in the Washington area. As part of that effort, the Committee has found it necessary to examine closely its purpose and its relationship to the rest of the Metropolitan Washington Group; these issues were the central items of discussion at the January 23 meeting of the Committee. That discussion will continue at future meetings as well.

The Committee and the Group as well are faced with several options. Should the Committee, for example, be abolished in favor of Group-wide committees based on issues rather than geography? Should it exist and deal only with District issues? Or should the above two options be combined in some way, maintaining a District identity while contributing to efforts at the larger level?

All of these and more are possibilities, the final determinations depending upon the interests of those who attend the next several meetings.

At this point, the Committee is involved in some actual conservation issues. These include an effort to protect trees in the District, on-going involvement in the hiking program for inner-city children, efforts on behalf of the Potomac National River Park concept, and investigation into the problem of air quality, or lack of it, in the District.

With respect to the problem of air quality, the Committee is presently attempting to focus on how it can act effectively. To aid in this effort, Mr. Brink, head of the D.C. Bureau of Air and Water Quality, will join the Committee at its February 20 meeting to discuss what the problems are in the District, what the principal sources of pollution are, and how his Bureau attempts to deal with them, and how we can be of assistance.

The discussion will be open and free, and it is hoped that the Committee will gain from it the information which it needs to determine how it can act effectively. The meeting will be held at the West End Library at 24th and L NW at 7:30 pm. It will be held in the small meeting room upstairs and will last only until 9:30 since that is when the library closes, so everyone who is interested should try to be on time if at all possible.

This is a crucial time for the environment in general and the D.C. Conservation Committee in particular. The success or failure of this Committee depends upon the willingness of Sierra Club members to contribute to it, whether that contribution is presence at meetings or more substantial expenditure of time. Both are necessary and valuable. All Sierra Club members are urged to attend the next several meetings of the Committee to help define it and allow it to move beyond the problems of group structure to the problems of environmental protection.

Bill Jordan

$ Cut, Help

Recently the Sierra Club's Board of Directors instituted an across the board cut in funding for Club programs. This cut has resulted in a personnel reduction at the Washington Office and consequently has affected the Club's national legislative program. The Washington Office needs several volunteers to do typing, filing and other office skills. To volunteer call Eleanor Zimmerman on 547-1144 (weekdays).

Evans to Speak

On January 14, Richard Lamm of the Sierra Club's Washington staff spoke on energy. The environmental aspects of extraction and usage of various energy sources for power generation were discussed as well as pending Congressional legislation, some of which was introduced a year ago.

Speaker for our February 11 meeting will be Brock Evans, Director of the Sierra Club's Washington Office. He will discuss the Club's lobbying efforts on national issues and legislation. After the main meeting, we will have a "mini" meeting for members who want to participate in a national legislative telephone network. Both meetings will be held on Tuesday, February 11, in the Woodward Room of the National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St., N.W. (16th & O Sts.), Washington, DC; the main program will begin at 8 p.m.

Topic for the March 18 meeting is "What Happens to Your Garbage?" David Sussman of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be speaking at 8 p.m. in the Woodward Room of the National Wildlife Federation (1412 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC).

Nature Workshop

The Association of Interpretive Naturalists will hold its 1975 Annual Workshop on April 8 through April 12, 1975, at the Natural Bridge Hotel, Natural Bridge, Virginia. The AIN workshop provides an opportunity for historical and environmental interpreters to exchange programs and ideas. Further information is available from Prof. Carl J. Holcomb, Program Chairman, as follows:

Prof. Carl J. Holcomb
1975 AIN Workshop Chairman
304-E Cheatham Hall, VPI & SU
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Ed: Carl Holcomb is a Regional Vice-President of the Sierra Club and longtime environmental activist.

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New York Times
Outings

OUTINGS TELEPHONE

By the time you receive this issue, the MWG Outings Committee will have called a telephone with a recorded announcement concerning upcoming outings and meetings of the Group. The number will be updated as appropriate. The number is 202-547-2288, and we ask that you record this number for future reference. Do not call the club's Washington Office for Group events.

The national office has its own tremendous workload and cannot afford to use its time to answer such inquiries.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Trips go, regardless of weather. Cars are pooled at close-in meeting places. Riders share car expenses. An optional $5.00 per outing is requested. You may need to make a prior reservation unless trip announcement specifies it. Bring lunch and water for all day hikes and money for optional supper stops.

A PLEA FOR LEADERS

The MWG Outings chairpersons have not found that holding an outings planning meeting is a very effective means of planning outings. Instead, we continue our plea for volunteers to contact us directly. When you call, please have a draft write-up of your proposed outing in a format similar to those printed here. If you have never learned how to print, get your feet wet, one way to start is to go on several outings and observe how the leader does it and or volunteer to serve as an assistant leader if the leader would details will be mailed to you. To schedule outings contact Dick Williams (703-524-5409) or Pat Hopson (202-484-0183).

9 Feb. (Sat-Sun) Garrett Co., MD. Beginning level cross-country skiing. Contact John Ryder (301-464-1362) for information and reservations.


22-23 Feb. (Sat-Sun) backpacking, Hazel Country, SN. See remnants of old cabins and other relics of mountain folk. Moderate 8 miles each day; limited to 8 people. For reservations call Terry Medlin (301-322-2691) after 6:30 p.m.

23 Feb. (Sun) Appalachian Trail, Northern Section, SN. Moderate 10 miles along the AT from Compton Gap to Hoggleback Mtn. Meet at 8 a.m. at Cooper School. Leader: Dick Shultz (301-290-8924).


2 Mar. (Sun) White Oak Canyon-Cedar Run, SN. Strenuous 11 miles passing beautiful waterfalls. Meet 8 a.m. at the entrance to Limberlost, virginia hemlock stand. Meet at Cooper School at 8 a.m. Leaders: John Martin (202-543-1298) and Pat Hopson (202-484-0183).

9 Mar. (Sun) day hike and train ride to Harpers Ferry. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at ticket windows, Union Station, for the 11:00 Antrak train to Brunswick, Md. Maryland members may board the train at 11:12 at the Silver Spring station on Georgia Ave. From Brunswick, hike 5 miles along the C&O Canal Towpath to Sandy Hook and then a moderate 3.4 miles into Harpers Ferry. Time for sightseeing and dining. Return to train for the return back at 6:27, arriving Union Station at 7:35. Total train fare $7.00. Contact Frank Whitten (202-338-6763 days).


16 Mar. (Sun) photography hike. Contact Boots Judge (301-337-8437) for details and reservations.

29-30 Mar. (Sat-Sun) backpacking, southern section, SN. Moderate 8-10 miles each day. Leader: Redd Criss (301-473-1438).

6 Apr. (Sun) Little Devil Springs, SN. Second annual wildflower hike over fairly strenuous 8-mile route, at a moderate but not snail's pace, to enjoy the wildflowers. Meet at Cooper School at 8:30. Leaders: Ruth Douglas (703-521-6141) and Pat Hopson (202-484-0183).

12 Apr. (Sat) Harper's Ferry or Bust. 100-km hike. Nearly everyone has already expressed interest in the second annual 62-mile one-day hike from Washington, D.C. to Harpers Ferry, along the C&O Canal Towpath. Training hikes of intermediate length are planned every weekend for those who wish to strengthen their feet, build up their stamina, or test their commitment to the Harpers Ferry or Bust hike. For more details call Lorinda (202-626-7899) or Ray Martin (202-338-1909).

19-20 Apr. (Sat-Sun) backpacking, Massanutten Mtn. Moderate 6-7 miles each day. Leader: Dick Williams (703-524-5409).

26 Apr. (Sat) Old Rag, SN. Strenuous 8 miles of hiking and scrambling over rocks to see wildflowers at their spring peak. Meet at Cooper School at 7:30 a.m. Assistant leader wanted. Leader: Terry Medlin (301-322-2691 after 6:30 p.m.).

Calendar

CANOE TRIPS & INFORMATION

Be sure to wear warm clothing including gloves in March and early April; hot coffee or tea in a non-breakable thermos is recommended for early Spring trips. Use of life jackets or vests at their spring peak. Meet at Cooper School at 7:30 a.m. Assistant leader wanted. Leader: Terry Medlin (301-322-2691 after 6:30 p.m.).

Meetings

11 Feb. (Tu.), 9 p.m. General meeting to be held in the Woodward Room, National Wildlife Federation (1412 16th St. N.W., 16th & O Sts.), Washington, D.C. Speaker will be Brock Evans, Director, Washington Office of the Sierra Club Program. Lobbying on national issues.

13 Feb. (Th.), 8 p.m. Executive Committee meeting will be held at 1500 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington (Rosslyn), VA in the penthouse conference room of System Planning Corp.

20 Feb. (Th.), 7:30 p.m. D.C. Conservation meeting will be held at the West End Library, 24th and L Sts. N.W., Washington, D.C. Mr. Brink of the D.C. Bureau of Air & Water Quality will be speaking.

21 Feb. (Fri.), 8 p.m. Social Group meeting at the home of Marilyn Kincaid in Washington, D.C. Slide presentation to be announced. Please call Marilyn for reservations and directions at 338-0862.

3 Mar. (Mon.), 8 p.m. Maryland Conservation meeting will be held at the Chevy Chase library, 8005 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD.
### Directory of Metropolitan Washington Group Officers

#### Executive Committee
- **Chairperson**: Geoffrey K. Hechtman*<sup>**</sup><br>11400 Washington Plaza W., 400 Room, VA 22310<br>1230 N. Quinn St., 7<br>Arlington, VA 22209
- **Vice-Chairperson**: M. Libeth Carr<br>4412 S. Silver Spring Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20904<br>
- **Secretary**: relates among members of the committee. James S. Flicker*<sup>**</sup><br>6401 Columbia Rd., Chevy Chase, MD 20815
- **Treasurer**: Amy A. Miles*<sup>**</sup><br>2900 Queen St., N.W.<br>Washington, DC 20001
- **Conservation Director**: Roger J. McClure<br>8674 Beecher St., N.W.<br>Washington, DC 20000
- **Legal Director**: Charles D. Williams<br>4430 Michigan Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20016
- **Membership Director**: Anim Behr<br>1098 Harmon Court, Silver Spring, MD 20904

**Term expires Dec. 30th**

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<tr>
<th>Standing Committee Chairpersons</th>
<th>DC Conservation</th>
<th>Sub-Committee</th>
<th>MD Conservation</th>
<th>VA Conservation</th>
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<tr>
<td>DC Conservation</td>
<td>Walter G. Wells&lt;br&gt;3608 Vasey St. N.W.&lt;br&gt;Washington, DC 20008</td>
<td>to be announced</td>
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<td>Meetings</td>
<td>Terry P. Meakin&lt;br&gt;7711 Hawthorne St., 202&lt;br&gt;Landover, MD 20785</td>
<td>9079 6th St. S.W., 504&lt;br&gt;Washington, DC 20024</td>
<td>324 N. Adams St.&lt;br&gt;Arlington, VA 22203</td>
<td>8930 Church Oak Dr.&lt;br&gt;Bethesda, MD 20004</td>
<td>2000 S. Eade St., 033&lt;br&gt;Arlington, VA 22202</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outings</td>
<td>Patricia Hopkins&lt;br&gt;9079 6th St. S.W., 504&lt;br&gt;Washington, DC 20024</td>
<td>Richard B. Williams&lt;br&gt;324 N. Adams St.&lt;br&gt;Arlington, VA 22203</td>
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<td>JoAnn Gorges&lt;br&gt;8930 Church Oak Dr.&lt;br&gt;Bethesda, MD 20004</td>
<td>Sally Dunbar&lt;br&gt;9079 6th St. S.W., 504&lt;br&gt;Washington, DC 20024</td>
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<td>Social Group</td>
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<td>2000 S. Eade St., 033&lt;br&gt;Arlington, VA 22202</td>
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<td>Newsletter Staff</td>
<td>Libeth Carr&lt;br&gt;Sally Dunbar&lt;br&gt;Rachel Evans&lt;br&gt;Geoff Hechtman</td>
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#### Salesperson Needed

Publication of "The Washington Conservationist" is dependent in part on income derived from advertisements. So far advertising revenues have increased with each issue, but we would like to have more advertisers. A number of organizations have previously received letters of solicitation; many of these specialize in outdoors equipment and services. We need a volunteer(s) to call upon prospective clients. Volunteers should call Geoff Hechtman on (703) 471-1279.

### "Friends"

Recently, the Sierra Club established a new membership category called "Friends of the Sierra Club." "Friends" are non-profit organizations—such as ecology study clubs, scout troops, colleges, garden clubs, park boards and conservation commissions—who endorse the purposes of the Sierra Club and wish to support its work, be identified with it, and receive all publications normally sent to members including conservation alerts. Additionally, "Friends" will receive the weekly National News Report. Designation of an organization as a "Friend" does not confer voting privileges, nor does it confer upon its individual members any of the privileges of membership in the Sierra Club.

To qualify as a "Friend of the Sierra Club," an organization must contribute annually not less than $24. Application for status as a "Friend" should be made in writing to the Member Services Department (1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, CA 94104) together with an explanation of the nature of the organization and an endorsement of the purposes of the Sierra Club. Each candidate group must be recommended and approved by a (local) chapter or regional group.

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**IF JOHN MUIR COULD SEE ME NOW!**

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**Raffle Winner**

Hudson Bay Outfitters opened a second store in December 1975 located in Gaithersburg, MD. As part of their grand opening celebration, they held a raffle for a $190 two-man mountaineering tent. Proceeds from this raffle have been donated to the Metropolitan Washington Group. Winner of the raffle was Aric Finucane who at 5 years is already an avid backpacker, canoeist and hiker.

Hudson Bay decided to hold this raffle after the November issue of "The Washington Conservationist" was mailed. The Group Executive Committee had planned to publicize the raffle to Sierra Club members through "The Mountain Laurel." Due to circumstances beyond our control, the announcement that we had submitted was not printed.

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**Earth Care**

For those who plan in advance — Between June 5-8, 1975 the Sierra Club joined by the National Audubon Society will co-sponsor the 14th Biennial Wilderness Conference, in New York City.

"Earth Care: Global Protection of Natural Areas" will be the first privately sponsored conference to concentrate on all aspects of the problems of protecting the worlds priceless natural areas - its mountains, forests, grasslands, beaches, etc., and the many pressures that are facing them...

Earth Care will be held in New York City, U.N. Headquarters, in recognition of the important role the United Nations agencies can play and in cooperation with the U.N. A special salute is anticipated on World Environment Day, June 5.

We'll give more info about Earth Care in subsequent issues. You may write for details now to: Earth Care, 777 U.N. Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017 (212) 867-0798.