



Baltimore Sierran

Serving Members in Baltimore City, Baltimore County & Harford County • August 2005

Opportunities for Involvement (see inside for more information):

September 16 - Baltimore Sierran
Happy Hour Mixer

October 4 - Outings Committee meeting

October 9 - Loch Raven Reservoir
Cleanup Day

October 14-16 - Maryland Chapter Jam-boree

October 18 - Executive Committee meeting

2nd Thursday of each month - Young Sierrans socials

See Outings Schedule

Deadline October 18 for November newsletter - contributions are welcome!

Volunteer to:

- serve on committees or form a new committee
- serve as Conservation Chair
- be an outings leader
- help Friends of Harford review rezoning proposals and attend hearings
- help the Political Committee to develop questionnaires and interview candidates for state and local office in 2006

337 Harford County Rezoning Proposals

by Mary C. Corddry

At least every 8 years, Harford County is required to undergo a Comprehensive Zoning Review. For the 2004/2005 Review, 337 rezoning proposals were filed when property owners were given until 1/31/2005 to request changes.

The Friends of Harford formed a team of volunteers for each of the 6 Councilman Districts to review these rezoning proposals. They designed a review process and a form for recording the findings. Recommendations for each proposal will be presented to the county, and representatives will attend each hearing. The Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club offered its assistance.

If you want to participate in this important effort, contact Ron Henry at RonLHenry@msn.com or 410-838-9119. The Summer 2005 edition of the *Baltimore Sierran* has an article

that Ron wrote about this effort. It is not too late to help!

The county's Department of Planning and Zoning is reviewing each rezoning application, and preparing technical assessments. In September and October, the zoning department and Planning Advisory Board will conduct public informational meetings prior to making final recommendations. At the end of 2005, the Director's Report will be submitted to the County Executive for review and submittal to the County Council. The County Council will conduct one or more public hearings in February 2006, and reach a decision on each rezoning request. (See www.co.ha.md.us/PlanningZoning/ComprehensiveZoningReview.)

On July 7, David R. Craig was sworn in as the new Harford County Executive. *The Aegis* reported that he stated

New Leadership for the Greater Baltimore Group

There are many changes in the leadership of the Sierra Club's Greater Baltimore Group. As some have stepped down after years of service and extensive contributions to the Group, others have stepped forward to volunteer their skills, energy, and commitment. At the Executive Committee meeting on July 19, Ron Henry was elected to replace Richard Klein as the Group Chair. Ron Henry and Patrick McMahon served as interim Co-Chairs after Richard Klein stepped down at the April Ex Com meeting.

After their bios were published in the June (summer) newsletter, four persons were elected by the Group's membership to join the four existing members of the Executive Committee—Mary Corddry, Mickey Mullany Goldberg, Cliff Terry (Political Chair and Population Chair), and Jack Wise (Outings Chair and a long-term outings leader). At the July Executive Committee meeting, the members elected Kathy Harget (Chair of the Young Sierrans and an outings leader) to fill another vacant Executive Committee position. The other Ex Com members are Bob Bur-

chard (Inner City Outings Liaison), Ron Henry (Group Chair and Harford County representative), Patrick McMahon (Transportation Chair), and John Railey.

As a result of a solicitation in the February newsletter, Mary C. Corddry and Mickey Mullany Goldberg volunteered to replace Richard Klein as co-editors of the Baltimore Sierran newsletter. When Richard Messick stepped down as the newsletter's layout editor, Sherry Dowdell stepped forward to help. Sherry also volunteered to assist the Group's webmaster Doug Gaede with expanding the Group's website. Joe Lyons volunteered to replace John Railey as Treasurer. Bette Thomson continues to serve as the Outings Gatekeeper. Angela Buffington stepped down as the Young Sierrans Co-Chair.

A Conservation Chair is needed for the Greater Baltimore Group. If you're interested, contact Ron Henry at 410-838-9119 or RonLHenry@msn.com.

at his swearing-in ceremony, "I also believe that we do not need to open up the development envelope to more growth," promising to control the county's growth. He said he will submit a comprehensive rezoning bill to the County Council by November 1.

The Friends of Harford newsletter for spring 2005 was devoted to this comprehensive rezoning effort. (See excerpts from their newsletters at www.friendsofharford.com) The newsletter included a chart describing 328 of the requests for rezoning 3,872 acres. 38 of the requests are in Councilman District A, 47 in B, 35 in C, 103

in D, 67 in E, and 38 in F.

A total of 126 properties are proposed to change from agricultural use (**AG**). 47 of these requests, representing 38% of the impacted acreage or 1,486 acres, propose rezoning from AG to rural residential (**RR**). Other proposed changes from AG zoning include: 26 requests for 731 acres to **R1** (urban residential with single family homes on 15,000-20,000 square foot lots), 17 requests for 334 acres to **R2** (urban residential with townhouses or with homes on 7,500-10,000 square foot lots), 15 requests for 214 acres to **B3** (general business district), and 12

(continued on page 6)

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John Railey, Ex Com Member,
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Jack Wise, Outings Chair, Ex Com
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New Era for GB Sierra Group

The July 19th Executive Committee meeting represented the beginning of a new era for the Greater Baltimore Sierra Group. Ron Henry was elected as the new Group Chair. Five new members were elected to the 9-member Executive Committee. The meeting was attended by another 19 club members and interested persons. Everyone participated in a lively discussion of concerns, led by Betsy Johnson, Chair of the Sierra Club's Maryland Chapter, and Laurel Imlay, Chapter Staff.

Members commented about why they came to the meeting: I want to find out how I can become more active, I want to make a difference, I want to see what is going on and what I can do, I want to get involved in a cause that I believe in, I have a strong environmental interest and want to learn something.

Betsy Johnson began by saying that every level of the Sierra Club is run by volunteers. Therefore, a lot of passion goes into the work. Next year will be critical, with elections for Senate, Congress, the Governor, State Senate, State Delegates, Baltimore and Harford County Councils, and Baltimore and Harford County Executives. This opportunity comes once every four years to support the election of people at the State and local levels who care about the environment. Cliff Terry, the Political Chair, needs a lot of volunteers to develop questionnaires and

participate on teams to interview the dozens of candidates. Then, agreement will be reached on endorsing candidates who support environmental issues, have the potential to win, and have a campaign plan and financing. She pointed out that the closer the races are to the local level, the more they affect you. You can call Cliff Terry at 410-944-9477 or email him at ckerry@BCPL.net to find out how you can get involved.

Besides the upcoming elections, various other concerns were expressed by meeting attendees:

- large deer population
- numerous Harford County rezoning proposals
- Loch Raven Reservoir cleanup
- Intercounty Connector road proposal
- cell phone towers
- transportation planning and infrastructure—restructuring of Baltimore City bus lines, bicycles sharing the roads with motorists, Red Line
- development close to the Gunpowder River
- protection of native plants and removal of invasive species.

Upcoming Greater Baltimore Sierra Club Meetings

Executive Committee Meeting

Sierra Club members and non-members are invited to attend the next quarterly meeting of the Greater Baltimore Group's Executive Committee. The meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 – 8:45** at the Towson Library, 320 York Road. Light refreshments are served.

Due to changes in the Group's leadership and urgent issues for the area, the discussion will focus on the future direction of this Group serving Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Harford County. Bring your ideas or concerns about conservation or environmental

activities. Come to participate in the discussions and planning.

Take the Baltimore Beltway (695) to Exit 27 (York Road). Take York Road (MD 45) south for 1.1 miles towards Towson. The library is on your left at Chesapeake Avenue. A parking garage is behind the library on Chesapeake. Street parking is also available, and the meters don't need to be fed after 6:00 p.m. The meeting room is on the street level, before going up the interior circular ramp.

Outings Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the GB Outings Committee is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30** in Hamilton, Baltimore City. Call Alan Penczek at 410-319-9330 for directions.

Discussion about getting the youth involved—out of the malls and off the cell phones—led to a committee being formed to develop a proposal for a high school educational program. They will call the high schools in Baltimore City and County and in Harford County and get a contact person, such as the advisor for an environmental club. The committee will investigate the cost and process for the GB Sierra Club to purchase a Sierra Club membership for each school, so the students will have access to the information in the national magazine, the Chesapeake newsletter, and Baltimore Sierran newsletter. They will also investigate partnering with other environmental organizations to get involved in the schools—giving presentations; sponsoring invasive plant removals, park cleanups, tree plantings; etc. Students welcome the opportunity to earn community service hours, which can lead to a lifetime of involvement.

The Sierra Club can work with and support students through the Student Conservation Coalition (SCC). Montgomery County has one of the strongest SCC member organizations in the country, called Montgomery County Student Environmental Activists (MCSEA), of junior and senior high school students who conduct weekly environmental activities.

The Outings Committee meets quarterly in members' homes. The meeting kicks off with the potluck supper. You never know what might show up, just like you never know what's around the next bend of a trail. Come and participate in planning for future outings. If you're interested in leading, co-leading, sweeping, or scouting for outings and are curious about what is involved, come and talk with the outings leaders.

The group will also discuss the contents of first aid kits that will be purchased for all outings leaders with money from the \$1 donations collected at outings. The donations also reimburse the leaders for the required CPR and first aid training and recertifications. Additional training is available through an on-line course offered on the web site of the national Sierra Club and other resource materials.

Happy Hour Sierran Mixer

Put Friday September 16 on your calendar for a monthly Happy Hour Sierran Mixer at a place to be determined. Join us for an evening at a local pub/bar/grille/restaurant to meet and greet, mix and mingle, and get to know one another in a non-threatening, un-sweaty, bug-free manner. Members and non-members, outings enthusiasts and environmental activists, and the curious are welcome. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240 for details.

In Search of: Contributions for the Sierran Newsletter

Your contributions are welcome—articles, news, photographs, or poems related to the environment, conservation, or outings in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, or Harford County. Send contributions or ideas to Mary Corddry at XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com or 75 Perryfalls Place, Nottingham, MD 21236. The deadline for submissions to the November Baltimore Sierran newsletter is October 18th. Help further the Sierra Club's mission to *explore, enjoy, and protect the planet.*

We Need Your Email Addresses!

The Sierra Club is most effective when our members show up at community meetings or hearings or contact their elected officials to voice their opinions and advocate for the environment. We can use email to contact you more than the four times a year this newsletter affords us, in order to let you know about upcoming meetings or important legislation. If you want to join this environmental hot-mail, give your email address to Cliff Terry at: ckerry@bcpl.net.

If you don't want to rummage around looking for outings schedules before each weekend, get on the email notification list for upcoming outings. Send your email address to Alan Penczek at: f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu.

Baltimore Young Sierrans

by Saki Sakakihara

In the summer of 2004, Angela Buffington and Kathy Harget planned a new organization, a subgroup of the Sierra Club's Greater Baltimore Group called the Young Sierrans. The goal was to attract young adults (20-30 somethings) looking to make an impact on the environment. Their plan was put into action on September 18, 2004, when the Young Sierrans came to life with its first outing at Gunpowder Falls State Park. Hurricane Ivan brought with it predictions for bad weather, which led in part to a low initial turnout. However, what the group lacked in size, it made up for in spirit. The motivation of the leaders and enthusiasm of the participants was contagious and by February 2005, hikes were drawing as many as 25 participants.

Baltimore Inner City Outings (BICO)

by Walter Jones

The Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program is a community outreach program providing opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world. The Baltimore chapter (BICO) was founded in 1999 by two academicians, Beth Ruekberg and Bob Burchard. It was started with the goal of providing under-served Baltimore City youth with educational, enjoyable and safe outdoor experiences at no cost to them. Since start-up, BICO has conducted more than 215 outings, serving over 2,300 youngsters. The youth are drawn from the four city organizations with which BICO has formed a partnership: College Gardens Community Center, Digital Harbor High School in south Baltimore, The Shriver Center's Choice program based at University of Maryland Baltimore County, and, most recently, the Franciscan Youth Center.

Each of the teams conducts one outing per month. Outings activities include nature hikes & orienteering, canoeing, caving, camping, and community service activities (tree plantings, city park clean-up & oyster restoration). On the

Currently, almost 100 people are on the Young Sierrans email list.

The Young Sierrans hosts a social on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at City Café (in Mount Vernon), 1001 Cathedral Street (just south of Eager Street), Baltimore City. The monthly outing (typically a hike) generally occurs on the Saturday two days after the social. Past events have been comprised of hiking and tubing, while future events will also include kayaking and camping. For more information, check out our newly launched website: [http://maryland.sierraclub.org/
baltimore/youngsierrans/](http://maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore/youngsierrans/)

We're always looking for new members, especially those who are fun, active, and have a sense of adventure.

outings the youths learn respect for the outdoors, teamwork and leadership skills, and a community service ethic. Our outings are conducted at no cost to either the youngsters or the volunteer leaders.

BICO has a solid core of dedicated volunteer leaders who enjoy working with the under-served youths of Baltimore. Demographically, the volunteers are an ethnically and professionally diverse group ranging from students and teachers to financial experts and engineers. They are twenty-somethings to retirees who share a love/respect/reverence for the outdoors, a commitment to the environment, and a strong desire to share these passions with Baltimore youths. The leaders are certified in CPR and basic first aid as well as trained in BICO and Sierra Club techniques on working with youths and leading outings. Certification also requires undergoing a background check and having a membership in the Sierra Club.

If you are interested in volunteering or donating, please contact Walter Jones at: TinaWalter.Jones@att.net or 410-655-3113. Further information about the BICO chapter, as well as the complete outings schedule, can be viewed at the BICO website: [http://
www.sierraclub.org/ico/baltimore/](http://www.sierraclub.org/ico/baltimore/)

Young Sierr:

Young Sierran Socials on the second Thursday which fall on the following dates: **September 8, October 12**. Stop by and have a cup of coffee, a drink or some food with the folks. These socials provide an informal way to meet and mingle with people concerned about environmental issues and interested in group hikes, activism, and other outings. Monthly socials are held at City Cafe, located at 1001 Cathedral Street (just south of Eager Street) in Baltimore City. For more information, check out the Young Sierrans website at [http://maryland.sierraclub.org/
baltimore/youngsierra](http://maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore/youngsierra) or contact Kathy at 410-440-9896.

In Search of:

More Outings I

Calling all leaders and volunteers. Help enhance your skills and experience with more activities, techniques, and difficulty—nature exploration, photography, canoeing, cycling, car camping, orienteering, cross-country, trail maintenance, cleanup, invasive plant removal, and skydiving. You are interested in pursuing and sharing your skills with others, find out how to get involved. Talk to an outings leader at the next quarterly Outings Committee meeting. Contact Jack Wise, Outings Coordinator, 410-396-3963. No experience necessary. Training and mentoring available. You can start as a volunteer or help leaders to coordinate outings.

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Young Sierran Socials

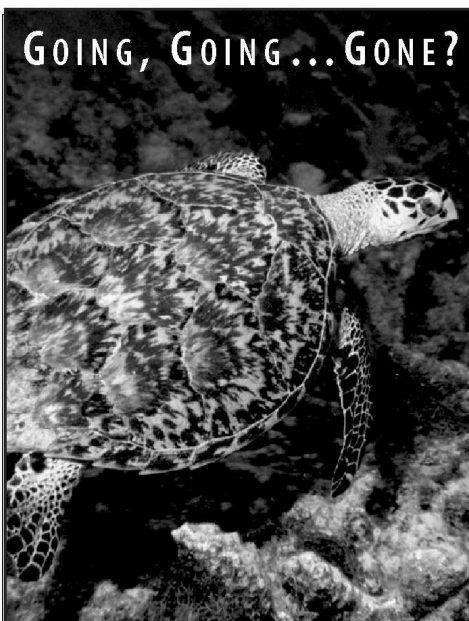
Young Sierran Socials are held at 7:00 on the second Thursday of each month, which fall on the following dates: **September 8, October 13, November 10**. Stop by and have a cup of coffee, a drink or some food with like-minded folks. These socials provide us with an informal way to meet other young people concerned about environmental issues and interested in organizing group hikes, activism activities, and other outings. Monthly socials are held at City Cafe, located at 1001 Cathedral Street (just south of Eager Street) in Baltimore City. For more information, check out the Young Sierrans new website at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore/youngsierrans/> or contact Kathy at 410-440-9896.

In Search of:



More Outings and Outings Leaders

Calling all leaders and outdoors enthusiasts. Help enhance the outings offerings for the Greater Baltimore Area with more activities of all types, locations, and difficulty—hiking, strolling, nature exploration for children, stargazing, canoeing, tubing, kayaking, cycling, car camping, backpacking, orienteering, cross country skiing, bird watching, trail maintenance, watershed cleanup, invasive plant removal. If you are interesting in sharing your outdoors pursuits and special places with others, find out how to get started. Talk to an outings leader, attend the quarterly Outings Committee or Executive Committee meeting, or call Jack Wise, Outings Chair, at 410-256-3963. No experience is required. Training and mentoring are provided. You can start as a sweep or co-leader, or help leaders to scout upcoming outings.



Sea turtles date back nearly 90 million years and are among the Earth's oldest surviving species. Yet the Kemp's Ridley sea turtle is quickly fading away—it is losing its habitat at an alarming rate. At the Sierra Club, we've mounted a major campaign to defend the Endangered Species Act and preserve threatened habitats before their inhabitants are gone forever. Please join the Sierra Club today and help protect threatened and endangered animals.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



My Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

email _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my MasterCard Visa AMEX

Exp. Date ____/____/____

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Membership Categories **INDIVIDUAL** **JOINT**

INTRODUCTORY \$25

REGULAR \$39 \$47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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Enclose check and mail to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Area News of Note

● Mark Sunday, October 9, 12-4 on your calendar for the annual Loch Raven Reservoir Cleanup Day. The shuttle buses depart at 12:30 from Warren Elementary School at 900 Bosley Road, Cockeysville. There will be free pizza afterwards. The activity is approved for student learning hours. You should wear work gloves, tough shoes/boots/fishing waders, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Last year over 250 volunteers participated, including County Council members and State Delegates. Sponsors include the Springdale Community Association, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, and Watershed Protection Coalition. It is funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. For more information, contact 410-683-3144 or FriendsLochRaven@aol.com.

● Cromwell Valley Park reopened July 1st after a year of repairs. The stream was restored to shore up the eroding banks, the bridge was replaced to Sherwood Farm, and an access road was constructed between Sherwood Farm and Willow Grove Farm. This 371-acre Baltimore County park has more than 7 marked and mapped trails, some of which link with the Loch Raven Reservoir trail system. The park has a variety of habitats—meadows, hilly woodlands with streams, and gardens. It has a schedule of family-oriented activities—a spring and fall family campout, bonfires with marshmallow roasting, ranger-led hikes, and festivals including the annual fall event with scarecrow stuffing, pumpkins, and cider-pressing.

● The official opening of the Gwynns Falls Trail was celebrated on June 4th. The trail was initially envisioned in a plan prepared in 1904 by the Olmstead brothers. It cost \$14 million in federal, State, local, and private funds. The project represents a collaboration of the national Trust of Public Land, Baltimore's Parks & People Foundation, Gwynns Falls Trail Council, multiple Baltimore City departments, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and Baltimore citizens. The first 7-mile section of the trail opened in 1999. Now the 14-mile-long, 10-foot-wide,

paved trail runs in west and south-west Baltimore City from Winans Meadow at the west-side edge of the Baltimore City and splits along Warner Street to head north to the Inner Harbor and south to Cherry Hill. An additional 1-mile extension to the I-70 Park and Ride will open in 2006.

This is one of the nation's largest urban greenways. The trail links 2,000 acres of parkland as it winds through Leon Day Park, Leakin Park, Gwynns Falls Park, Carroll Park, Carroll Park Golf Course, Rash Field, Federal Hill Park, Solo Gibbs Park, and Middle Branch Park, and ends at Cherry Hill Park. The trail meanders along the Gwynns Falls stream valley to the Inner Harbor and Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. It passes more than 30 neighborhoods and a variety of historical and cultural attractions. Cyclists, walkers, and roller bladers enjoy the trail. There are a variety of access points with parking. A special section of the Baltimore City Police Department patrols the trail. Each trailhead has the trail's map and guide posted on a kiosk. If you want a copy of the map and information, you may download them at www.gwynnsfallstrail.org or call the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks at 410-396-0440 or the Gwynns Falls Trail Council at 410-448-5663 ext.135.

● In a proposed consent decree with federal and State agencies and the Department of Justice, Baltimore County tentatively agreed to make more than \$800 million in repairs and improvements to its aging sewer system. Also, it will pay a \$750,000 fine for past sewage spills. Over the next 14 1/2 years, the County will fix and update its network of 3,000 miles of sewer lines and 111 pumping stations that handle about 40 billion gallons a year. Potential problems will be anticipated. The County's sewage overflow averages less than 10 million gallons a year. The agreement will resolve violations of the Clean Water Act. In 2002, Baltimore City agreed to pay a \$600,000 fine and make \$900 million in repairs to resolve problems that resulted in more than 100 million gallons of sewage overflowing into the City's waterways over a 6-year period.

Improving Water Quality with Forests

by Richard Klein

The Greater Baltimore Sierra Club received a \$1,500 grant from Baltimore County to help our members improve the quality of streams and other waters near their homes. The improvements will result from enhancing forest buffers near these waters through tree plantings. The buffer of trees will capture pollutants before they can enter waterways, cool trout streams from the heating effects of the sun, and create habitat when branches and trunks fall into the channel. Leaves and twigs will become a vital food supply when immersed.

The grant will cover the cost of printing and distributing two issues of a special forest stewardship newsletter for the 1,800+ Sierra Club members in Baltimore County. The first issue will be received by our members in early October. It will focus on the status of creek-side forests in Baltimore County and the benefits these buffers provide to both the aquatic environment and property owners. The arch 2006 issue will suggest how to reap the full benefits of buffers by planting more trees along waterways. This issue will go into detail on what to plant, how and when to plant, and how to get the best deal when buying tree seedlings and saplings.

The grant funds were provided through the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant Program by the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection & Resource Management and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This effort is part of the Baltimore County Rural Residential Stewardship Initiative. The Greater Baltimore Sierra Club is deeply grateful to both agencies for making this project possible. For further information, contact Richard Klein at 410-654-3021 or Rklein@ceds.org.

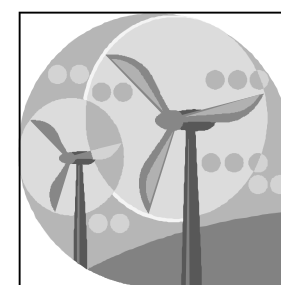
Baltimore Clean Energy Policy

by Janet Schollenberger, M.H.S.

Baltimore has a great opportunity now to make real progress in cleaning up our air, fighting global warming, and creating local jobs by embracing clean energy. Thanks to Council member Jim Kraft (D), there's a resolution being debated in the Baltimore City Council that would direct the City to buy clean energy for its buildings and come up with a clean energy policy. The Baltimore Clean Energy Resolution (Council Bill 05-0050R) recommends "at least 5% of the City's total annual electric load should be supplied by clean renewable energy generated power". Passage of this bill will be a major first step towards a cleaner energy future for Baltimore. The City Council will have a 3rd and final hearing in mid-September to discuss adopting this resolution and transforming it into permanent legislation.

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There is also an ongoing Green Building Task Force that welcomes people to join. The task force's purpose is to produce a final report by December 31, which will lead to legislation introduced in January 2006. If anyone has further questions or would like to get involved, please contact Billy Hwang at Council member James Kraft's office at 410-396-4821.



Why Baltimore Citizens Should Oppose the Inter-county Connector (ICC)

(information provided by the Sierra Club's Maryland Chapter)

The proposed Intercounty Connector (ICC) will (if built) be a 6-lane, tolled highway from I-270 to I-95 near Laurel, going through what is now a series of forested stream river parks.

At \$2.4 billion (excluding financing costs), the ICC is the 3rd most expensive transportation project in U.S. It will cost every Maryland household \$1,473.

The funding for this 17-mile road will take \$265 million from the State General Funds, which will affect funding for education, health care, and other local programs.

The funding will include revenues from tolls collected at the Baltimore tunnels, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, and other toll roads.

And the ICC itself will be a toll road, costing between \$3 and \$5 one way!

It will cost so much that other projects like extension of the Baltimore Rail Line and the Washington Region's Purple Line might not be built for many years. In order to fund this road, the State will have to borrow from its transportation funds for the next 20 years, besides spending current State and local revenues and tolls. All this money will build one 17-mile road that the State's own study proves won't provide the gridlock relief promised by its supporters. Instead, it will open the area along its route to development. Alternatives to this road have not been adequately researched. Although funding has been approved, the fight is not over. There will be a lawsuit to block this project.

Please write the [Baltimore Sun](http://www.baltsun.com) at letters@baltsun.com and let people know that the ICC is not the right project for Baltimore. Also, call and write your State Senators and Delegates and tell them that you want the Baltimore Rail Line – not the ICC. Find your legislator at <http://mlis.state.md.us/>.

Participating in Sierra Club Hikes & Other Outings

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For more information land Chapter's web si <http://www.maryland.sierraclub.org> spring 2005 *Chesapeake* You can register by ei from the web site. Fo a registration form, yo 301-277-7111 or email land.Chapter@sierraclub.org registration form may Sierra Club Maryland Jamboree 2005/Md C ing, 7338 Baltimore A College Park, MD 207

Donations are needec vices for the Jambore which will help to fur costs. The items don new, just in good shaq objects, books, T-shir items of interest. Ser nated such as a massa baking, art lessons, wl best. Contact: betsey_johnson@com

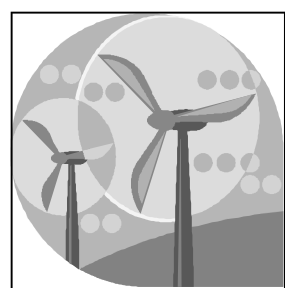
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4. Practice low impact hiking. Keep on the trail to avoid trampling things or

getting hurt.

5. Keep with the group. A "sweep" is usually designated to go last and make sure no one gets lost or runs into trouble.

6. Since there are rarely bathroom facilities, every hour or so the outing leader will announce a "separation." Men and women walk out of sight of each other to answer Nature's call. Pick a spot at least 200 feet from any water.

7. Outings participants often carpool between a meeting place and the trailhead. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling is strictly a private arrangement among the participants, who assume full responsibility and liability for all risks associated with such travel.

8. All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver before the outing begins. If you want to read the waiver beforehand, see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/index.asp> or call 415-977-5630.

Have fun. There's nothing like being out there. Outings can become a healthy habit.

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For more information, see the Maryland Chapter's web site at: <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/> or the spring 2005 Chesapeake newsletter. You can register by emailing the form from the web site. For information or a registration form, you may also call 301-277-7111 or email Maryland.Chapter@sierraclub.org. The registration form may be mailed to: Sierra Club Maryland Chapter, Attn: Jamboree 2005/Md Chapter Gathering, 7338 Baltimore Ave., Suite 101A, College Park, MD 20740.

Donations are needed of goods or services for the Jamboree's silent auction, which will help to fund the weekend's costs. The items don't need to be new, just in good shape, such as art objects, books, T-shirts, any special items of interest. Services may be donated such as a massage, special hike, baking, art lessons, whatever you do best. Contact: betsy_johnson@comcast.net

Dredged Material Containment on Patapsco River

by Mary C. Corddry

On June 15 the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) had a Public Scoping meeting at Harbor Hospital, for a proposed Dredged Material Containment Facility at Masonville. The site is on the Patapsco Middle Branch's south shore, across from Ft. McHenry. Next, an Environmental Impact Statement will be drafted then revised based on public comments. In February 2006 there will be a joint public hearing with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Maryland Department of the Environment, and in May 2006 a ROD/Permit decision will be issued.

According to Maryland's Dredged Material Management Act of 2001, the MPA must provide a long-term plan through a comprehensive, open, and inclusive process for 20 years of placement capacity for dredged materials. The sediment is dredged to provide safe passage and berthing for commercial vessels calling on the Port of Baltimore. About 4-5 million cubic yards of clay, sand, silt, and other sediments are dredged annually from Baltimore Harbor's berths, anchorages, and 125+ miles of shipping channels. These potentially contaminated materials are required to be contained. Additional sites are needed because dredged materials may no longer be accepted as of 2008 at Hart-Miller Island and 2010 or earlier at Pooles Island. A Cox Creek site on the Patapsco River will be ready this December, but it has a total capacity of only 6 million cubic yards.

Committees including community organizations, Port-related businesses, local governments, scientists, and engineers have been working over a decade on this project. The Harbor Team still meets quarterly. Anyone is welcome to participate. They narrowed a list of 52 potential sites to three—BP Fairfield at the mouth of Curtis Bay, Masonville, and Sparrows Point. The MPA is looking

at Masonville first because it owns the property and there is community support. A large berm or dike will be constructed in 120 acres of open water for a containment facility with a capacity of 16 million cubic yards. Dredged material will be pumped from scows. Drains will release water so the material can settle and make room for more. The facility must have permits and meet standards for the discharged water. When the facility is filled, settled, and graded after 18-20 years, its end-use will be an automobile park for the Fairfield Terminal. This area can be considered a Brownfields site. It has debris, abandoned ships, and poor sediment. The old dry dock of Kurt Iron nearby has piles of rubble and wood to be removed.

Maryland legislation requires that dredged materials first be considered for a beneficial use, such as restoring habitat or an eroding island. Therefore, the MPA will use engineering and ecological improvements to restore 150 acres of land and water at Masonville Cove next to the proposed containment facility. Although the Cove now has debris and poor habitat, it is heavily used by migrating birds and has a large variety of other birds, fish, and a bald eagle nest. Based on the community's recommendations, the site will have limited public access and will focus on the environment and education. There will be a bird sanctuary, sandy beaches, wetlands planted by volunteers and students, a shoreline hike and bike path that may link with the Gwynns Falls trail, a "green" environmental education center, a canoe and kayak boat launch, and an observation tower.

Comments on this proposal may be submitted to Jon Romeo of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at: jon.romeo@nab02.usace.army.mil or 410-962-6079. The notice of intent was published in the Federal Register on May 26, 2005. Information about the MPA and its dredging activities may be found under "Safe Passage" at www.mpa.state.md.us.

Harford County Rezoning

(continued from page 1)

requests for 39 acres to B2 (community business district).

Another 39 requests with 147 acres are proposed for rezoning from general industrial (**GI**: industrial uses of a larger scale or more intensive processing with large areas of unenclosed storage) to commercial industrial (**CI**: moderate industrial, office, and business uses). There are 10 requests for rezoning 19 acres from R2 to B3.

Concerning the proposed intended use for the 328 properties, 79 of the properties are proposed for rezoning to B3, 56 to CI (many from GI), 49 to RR (all from AG), 43 to B2, 31 to R1 (mostly from AG), 21 to R2 (mostly from AG), 14 to **VB** (village business district), 13 to **B1** (neighborhood business district), 11 to **R3** (urban residential with homes on 5,000-6,000 square foot lots, townhouses, condominiums, or garden apartments), and 11 to **RO** (residential office).

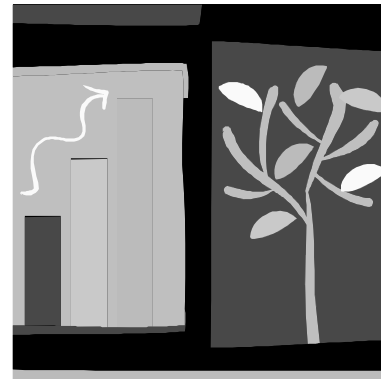
For five properties, rezoning more than 100 acres each is proposed from agricultural to either rural residential or R1 urban residential. These properties are on Calvary Road, Chestnut Hill Road, Dorothy Avenue, High Point Road, and Laurel Bush Road.

Although Harford County's population growth has slowed somewhat compared to the blistering growth in the 1970's and 1980's, its percentage increase of 7.8% between 4/1/2000 and 7/1/2004 was the 8th highest among Maryland's jurisdictions. Its estimated numerical increase of 17,004 over these 4 years was the 7th highest, according to statistics issued in April 2005 by the Maryland Department of Planning. According to the 7/1/2004 estimates, the county's population grew by 1.5% or 3,564 in just one year. During the 1970's, the county grew by 30,045 persons or 25.8%, in the 1980's by 37,323 persons or 25.5%, and in the 1990's by

35,789 persons or 19.5%. (See www.mdp.state.md.us/msdc/Pop_estimate/Estimate_04).

This rapid population growth has caused extensive land use changes. The continuing pressure to accommodate the demand for housing and the accompanying commercial and business development is reflected in the 337 rezoning requests now under review. If 5,200 scientific and engineering jobs are relocated to Aberdeen Proving Ground from Fort Monmouth in New Jersey, as proposed by the U.S. Department of Defense, that will increase the need for housing and services. The impact would be lessened, however, if 4,200 jobs with the Army Environmental Center and Ordnance Center are relocated from APG.

If you live in Harford County, consider volunteering to help the Friends of Harford team for your Councilman District. Any help that you can give will be greatly appreciated. A large coordinated group is needed, the more the better, to review properties, write letters, and attend the public meetings and County Council hearings over the next 6 months. County Executive Craig needs to know that Harford County has aware and active citizens who are interested in what is happening in their county and concerned about environmental and conservation land use issues. That kind of signal may prove to be very important to a new County Executive who is promising to keep growth within the development envelope. After all, the election is coming up next year.



Baltimore Sierran

POETRY CORNER

Preserving Our Environment

by Jonathan Gorman

A fly jets through the air

In search of lunch,

Just doing his share

Thinking only of something to munch.

It finds some bread in plastic wrap

Ignoring the danger it's facing,

But flies away when it hears a clap

In fear of the person chasing.

Another animal was carelessly lost

Senselessly killed for no reason,

Sometimes this comes at a bigger cost

It's hard to believe this happens every season.

Everything from grass to trees

All including an insect or bear,

If we could just understand their pleas

There would be a lot more people who care.

Taking care of our environment is more than a choice

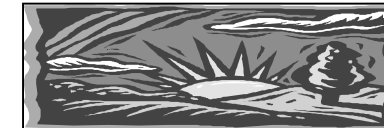
To protect nature and mankind are a must,

Always listening to nature's voice

The world deserves it cause it needs our trust.

Jonathan Gorman is 10 years old and has his own membership to the Sierra Club.

August 2005



Loch Raven Reservoir Cleanup Day

When: Sunday, Oct. 9, 2005 12 noon - 4 pm

Shuttle leaves for cleanup site at 12:30

Where: Meet at Warren Elementary School

900 Bosley Rd. Cockeysville, MD 21030

What: Participants will clean up a section of the Loch

Raven Reservoir (**Free Pizza Afterwards!**)

Details: Wear sunscreen, insect repellent, work gloves,

tough shoes/boots (tall fishing boots if you have them!)

All children under 12 accompanied by an adult.

Approved for Student Learning Service Hours.

For more info call (410) 683-3144 or

Email: FriendsLochRaven@aol.com

Sponsored by: Springdale Community Association, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy,

Watershed Protection Coalition

Funded by: Chesapeake Bay Trust

Supported by: Baltimore City Dept. of Public Works, Baltimore County *Pitch-In For Progress*

QUICK TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

Baltimore City Bike Planning – The draft plan is still available at <http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/planning/bikeplan.html> and the City would still welcome your comments. Public meetings will likely be held this fall to discuss the plan and its implementation.

MTA's Greater Baltimore Bus Initiative – The plan to restructure the bus system has been put on hold due to the level of public concern about the project. The Sierra Club supports the concepts of the planning to improve efficiency of the system, simplify route structures, and attract more riders. However, we were disappointed to see this being used as a way to take \$5 million from bus service and that did not effectively involve existing riders or reach out to potential riders. We hope that we can work with the MTA over the next several months to create a restructuring plan that will be more effective and improve transit service for the region. Information about the original proposal can be found at: http://www.mtamaryland.com/MTA_GBBLCfm

MTA's Red Line Planning (Security to Fells Point Transit Line) – Several Sierra Club members attended the June Open House events. We need to do more to support this line but also to push for the highest quality service possible. At this point both the alignment and the mode (Light Rail or Bus Rapid Transit) are undecided. If you live near the proposed Red Line, please review the

information at: http://www.baltimoreregiontransitplan.com/pages/prior_redover.htm and contact Patrick McMahon at

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B'More Involved (E-Mail Newsletter & Website) – The Baltimore Metropolitan Council is now publishing a weekly e-mail listing upcoming public meetings on transportation and development-related issues and how you can influence the issues that affect our region's environment. To read the announcements and/or to subscribe to the list, go to: <http://www.baltometro.org/eNews/BMoreInvolved.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jones Falls Celebration - September 18, 2005 – From 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. the northbound lanes of the Jones Falls Expressway will be closed for your running, biking, walking, skating, canoeing, eating, and dancing pleasure! For the past seven years, the Jones Falls Valley Celebration has reminded Baltimore that the Jones Falls is not just an expressway. This is a uniquely urban event that combines recreation with environmental awareness. Entrance is free.

<http://www.jonesfalls.com/>

Tour Du Port (Bike Ride) - October 16, 2005 – 8 and 25 mile rides around Baltimore's waterfront. Get to know the water's edge and the City's waterfront neighborhoods. <http://www.onelesscar.org/tdp2005/tourduport2005.php>

Greater Baltimore of the Sierra Club September

2005

SEPTEMBER

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Sun. Sept. 18 GB E Falls Trail/Dickey 6 miles. Easy to mod exploring the trails of Gwynns Falls Parks, historic community c These are now part of Greenway and the no the trail that now stre ner Harbor. Will disc efforts protecting the the Carrie Murray Ot tion Center. Meet at Eagle Drive tennis co Windsor Mill Road, l Park Ave and the Gv Call Alan at 410-319-

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Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club September 2005 – January 2006

2005

SEPTEMBER

Fri. Sept. 16 – GB. Monthly Mixer

Join us for an evening at a local pub/bar/grille/restaurant to meet and greet, mix and mingle, get to know one another in a non-threatening, unsweaty, bug-free manner. Hiking boots and extra socks are not necessary. This is a low impact outing with no hills or stream crossings. Members and non-members are welcome. Bring a friend. This may become a regularly scheduled event depending on interest and attendance. Call Joyce at 410 254-7240 after August 25th for full details.

Sun. Sept. 18 GB Easy. Gwynns Falls Trail/Dickeyville.

6 miles. Easy to moderate circuit hike exploring the trails of Leakin and Gwynns Falls Parks, as well as the historic community of Dickeyville. These are now part of the East Coast Greenway and the northern end of the trail that now stretches to the Inner Harbor. Will discuss conservation efforts protecting the area, and visit the Carrie Murray Outdoor Education Center. Meet at 1:00 PM at the Eagle Drive tennis courts, just off of Windsor Mill Road, between Forest Park Ave and the Gwynns Falls itself. Call Alan at 410-319-9330.

OCTOBER

Tue. Oct. 4 – GB Outings Committee Meeting.

Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. New and prospective outings leaders are welcome. Pot Luck dinner at 6:30 PM. Call Alan at 410-319-9330.

(Continued on page 8)

Sat. Oct. 15 GB - Moderate. Havre de Grace Walking Tour.

Moderate walking trip in and around Havre de Grace. We will start at the canal house and stroll down to the oldest operational lighthouse, along the newly refurbished boardwalk to the waterside park. We will look for the remains of damage from Hurricane Isabelle and discuss the differences in environmental damage to developed and natural areas. There should be time to stop in the decoy museum for those interested. Bring your lunch or stop along the way for carryout. Meet at the Honeygo Park and Ride at 9:30 AM. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240.

Sat. Oct. 29 GB - Moderate. Sweet Air.

Approximately 6 miles of hilly terrain. Mud is likely in places. Bring lunch and water. Will discuss the ecology of this area. Meet at the small shopping center on the southeast corner of the intersection of Rt. 152 and Baldwin Mill Road at 10:00 A.M. Call Betsy for details at 410-569-5202.

Sat.-Sun. Oct. 29 & 30 GB - Moderate. Michaux Forest Camping at Caledonia State Park.

Day hiking along lakes and streams with good mountain views. Will discuss the history of this area. For details call Jack at 410-256-3963.

NOVEMBER

Sat. Nov. 5 GB - Moderate. Kelly's Run & Pinnacle Overlook.

7-8 miles with great views of the Susquehanna River. Good chance of seeing bald eagles. Will also see hawks and waterfowl as they migrate down the Susquehanna River. Meet at K-Mart on Belair Road (Rt. 1) just north of Beltway exit 32 at 10:00 AM. For details call Jack at 410-256-3963.

Sun. Nov. 12 GB - Moderate. Muddy Creek Hike.

7-8 miles on Mason Dixon Trail through a very scenic stream valley. Will discuss the geology of the area. Meet at K-Mart on Belair Road (Rt. 1) just north of Beltway exit 32 at 10:00 AM. For details call Jack at 410-256-3963.

Sat. Nov. 19 GB - Moderate. Rocks State Park.

Moderate hike in this small Harford County park. Some climbs but the views are worth it. We will have lunch at the King and Queen Seat and observe the extravagant rock formations and cliffs. With luck there may still be some fall color. If not, we will try to winter botanize the trees based on bark and buds. Bring lunch, water and an inquiring mind. Meet at the Carney Park and Ride at 9:30 AM. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240.

DECEMBER

Sat. Dec. 3 GB - Moderate. Gunpowder Falls State Park.

6 to 8 miles below Prettyboy Dam. Meet at Mt.Carmel Park & Ride at 11:00 AM. Will discuss the geology of the area. For details call Jack at 410-256-3963.

Sun. Dec. 25 GB - Moderate. Holiday Escape or Work Up an Appetite Hike.

A very pretty hike of about 6 miles along the Sweathouse Branch in Gunpowder Park. Some stream crossings may be tricky if we have icy conditions. There are a few hills as well. Work up an appetite for the too-big holiday dinner and secrete extra endorphins to deal with the in-laws as well. We will talk about the need to protect shorelines and waterways and how development in one area can alter conditions in another one regardless of distance. We won't stop for lunch but we will take a break about midway. Bring water. Meet at

the park on Belair Road just north of the Gunpowder Bridge at 10:00 AM. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240.

JANUARY 2006

Sun. Jan. 1 GB - Moderate. New Year's Day hike.

Start working on your Resolutions with this moderate 5-6 mile hike around Oregon Ridge Park. There are a few hills and a few stream crossings. We will talk about the old mines, quarry and village that were here over a century ago. We will also see the remains of a few buildings that are still left in various states of decay. Bring water! Meet at the park on the Nature Center side at 1:00 PM. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240.

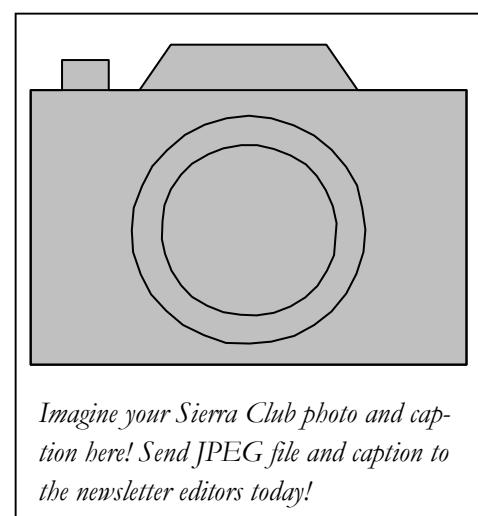
Fri.-Mon. Jan. 13-16 GB - Moderate. Cross Country Skiing in Western Maryland.

Cross Country skiing at New Germany State Park. Beginners are welcome. Will discuss the geology of the area.

For details call Jack by December 31st (if possible) at 410-256-3963.

Sun. Jan. 22 GB - Moderate. Local Cross Country Skiing.

If there is not enough snow, a hike in Loch Raven will be held. Will discuss the geology of the area. Meet at Loch Raven High School, Cromwell Bridge



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