



Baltimore Sierran

Serving members in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, & Harford County

May 2007

Sierra Club Mission: Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

SPARROWS POINT PENINSULA CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT

From: Ron Henry, Group Chair

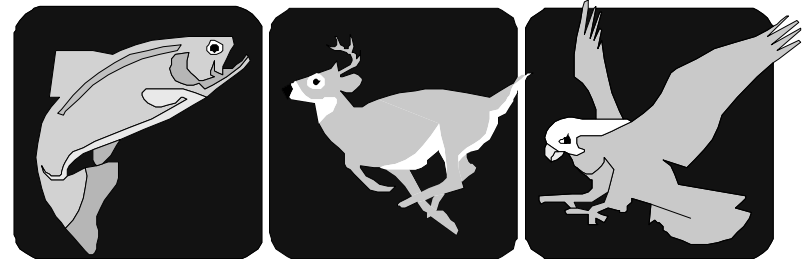
During the past two year period, the Greater Baltimore Sierra Club has worked closely with the Sparrows Point community associations, largely through the Greater Dundalk Alliance LNG Opposition Office. This Office has been very ably shepherded by Ms. Sharon Beazley, a Dundalk resident and area businesswoman. While doing research in opposition to AES's proposed LNG terminal and storage tanks at Sparrows Point, the LNG Opposition Office found that it became very evident that much, much more than the contraindicated LNG site was involved for the communities of Sparrows Point. The research revealed a 110 years plus negative legacy of severe toxics and pollutants that have affected the area's air, land, and water from the heavy, long-term industries in Sparrows Point. From this long-term exposure, the communities

have experienced severe health issues. In addition, reportedly there are designs to use much of Sparrows Point as a mid-East Coast major landfill/recycling center for all kinds of materials!

The LNG issue was the "barb" that convinced the communities that "enough is enough"! Two "pro bono" attorneys have been retained by the Greater Sparrows Point Peninsula communities to represent them in bringing a Class Action lawsuit for remediation of the residents' alleged ill-health effects, resulting from cumulative exposure to an array of pollutants and toxins over several generations. The largest proportion of the "Peninsula" population is the lower socio-economic class, which has been caught in this situation through ignorance, denial, or the economic need to stay in their home areas.

Sparrows Point itself and the surrounding water, land, and air are documented as extremely

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UPDATES

By Ron Henry, Group Chair

UPDATE - LNG

In February 2007, AES submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) its formal application for a permit to site at Sparrows Point a liquid natural gas (LNG) facility with an off-loading terminal and storage tanks, and construct a pipeline across Baltimore and Harford Counties.

On Monday April 23, 2007, I was privileged to attend a Congressional Hearing of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation sub-Committee, chaired by Congressman Elijah Cummings and held in the

ceremonial courtroom at the University of Maryland Law School in Baltimore. The Maryland delegation consisted of Governor O'Malley, Senator Mikulski, Congressman Ruppberger, Congressman Gilchrest, Senator Sarbanes, and Baltimore County Executive Smith.

All of them opposed the proposed AES LNG siting at Sparrows Point, due to its proximity to populous areas, the unacceptable risk of sabotage to the LNG ships while traversing the length of the Bay (87 miles), and the resultant unacceptable devastating damage from such an event. This was emphasized, particularly, for key points such as the Bay Bridge and the

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Volunteer to:

?Serve as Conservation Chair or Membership Chair. Serve on committees or form a new committee: Contact Ron Henry at 410-838-9119 or RonLHenry@msn.com

?Be an outings leader: Contact Jack Wise at 410-256-3963

?Share your enthusiasm for the outdoors with Baltimore City youngsters. We need leaders and co-leaders for outings with youth at the three schools with which we partner. Contact Bob Iacovazzi at bicobob3@copper.net. Check out the Baltimore Inner City Outings at www.sierraclub.org/ico/Baltimore

Opportunities for Involvement (see inside for more information):

June 25 - Outings Planning Meeting

July 19 - Executive Committee Public Meeting

2nd Thursday of each month - Young Sierrans Socials

Saturday after 2nd Thursday of each month – Young Sierrans

Outings

See Outings Schedule in newsletter and on website

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Jack Wise	410-256-3963 Hikingjack@Netzero.net	Outings Chair Ex Com Member



“This was a good year for the environment in terms of achieving successes with several key issues.”

FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Everyone! Well, I can hardly believe that we are already through the second quarter of 2007! The quarter has been very busy with much time and effort spent lobbying our many legislators during the Maryland General Assembly Session January – April 9, 2007. This was a good year for the environment in terms of achieving successes with several key issues. Notably among those were:

1. Clean Cars Act - focuses on reducing Maryland's single largest source of not only greenhouse gases that cause global warming, but their emissions that include cancer-causing toxics and pollutants that form smog and contribute to the Bay's "dead zone." This bill will reduce carbon dioxide by 4.4 million tons per year by 2020, other cancer-causing pollutants by 2,100 tons per year, and nitrogen pollution by 1,500 tons per year.
2. Solar Energy Act – adds solar energy to the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) and increases the total RPS. The RPS, passed by the MD General Assembly in 2004, was a huge first step that required Maryland to derive 7.5 percent of its electricity from clean, renewable power.
3. Stormwater Management Act – sets stricter standards for new development to reduce the polluted runoff that washes off our parking lots, roofs, and roads and damages our roadways. This is a significant step forward, but now the Maryland Departments

of Energy and Natural Resources must develop the requirements, standards, and policies to achieve the legislation's intent. We need to remain proactive by thanking the Governor for signing this act and urging him to ensure that MDE & DNR follow through with the legislation's intent. NOTE: This bill does not address pollution from current stormwater runoff practices!

4. Program Open Space (POS) – full funding restored in budget for fiscal year 2008. HOWEVER, a bill failed that would have closed a loophole now allowing certain property transfers to avoid the real estate transfer tax (thus denying POS some of its funding).

The Sierra Club's Greater Baltimore Group and MD Chapter worked closely with several sister environmental groups in lobbying for passage of these acts. I feel that these successes and even our near ones were greatly enhanced because we all worked together diligently to achieve their passage.

There is much to be done to ensure passage of key legislation for the 2008 Maryland General Assembly session. Information will be included in future newsletters. Until next time.....

Cheers,
Ron Henry

Upcoming Greater Baltimore Group Meetings

Executive Committee Public Meeting

Sierra Club members and non-members are invited to attend the next quarterly public meeting of the Greater Baltimore Group's Executive Committee. The meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 19, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.** at the Maryland Presbyterian Church near Towson. Come to participate in the discussions and planning.

Outings Planning Meeting

New and prospective outings leaders are welcome to attend the next quarterly meeting of the Greater Baltimore Group's Outings Committee on **Monday, June 25**. Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. If you're interested in leading outings and are curious about what is involved, come and talk with the outings leaders. Meeting will be held at a Leader's house in Parkton beginning with a **short hike at 6:00 with the meeting to follow at 7:00**. If you want, bring a dessert, finger food or drinks to share. If you miss the hike or are not interested in hiking, you are welcome to wait on the porch in this beautiful setting. Call Alan for details at 443-212-5082.

Happy Hour Social

Join fellow members (and non-members) at the Timber Creek Tavern on **Friday, June 15, 6-8 p.m.** for drinks, snacks, and/or dinner (crabs if available). Stop by for happy hour or stay for dinner. Come out, bring a friend, and get acquainted without the need for boots, sunscreen, or trekking poles. Located in Kingsville on Belair Rd. north of the Baltimore Beltway, on the south side of the Gunpowder River, across from parking for popular hiking trails on the other side of the bridge. Call Mary at 410-248-0423.



**Join the
Young
Sierrans**

By Kathy Harget, Chair of Young Sierrans

Looking to join a group of young or young at heart individuals who love to spend time outdoors for hikes and other outings, and indoors for lively chatter, good food, and libations? Search no further!

Upcoming Transportation & Planning Meetings & Events

Find out about upcoming meetings and events related to transportation and development by going to: <http://www.baltometro.org/eNews/BMoreInvolved.htm> You can also sign up there to get regular updates about important meetings coming up in the Baltimore region.

For information about the Chesapeake Bay Crossing Task force, go to: <http://www.mdta.state.md.us/mdta/servlet/dispatchServlet?url=/BayCrossing/baycrossing.jsp>

For information about the Baltimore Region Environmental Justice and Transportation Project, go to: <http://www.brejtp.org/>

For information about the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board Public Involvement Process, go to: http://www.baltometro.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=699&Itemid=0

For more information about these or other transportation issues contact Patrick McMahon, Transportation Chair, at patrick@mcmahon.com or 410-599-5123.

Wanted: Weed Warriors for Invasive Plant Removal

Learn how to identify and remove the non-native invasive plant species that are creeping into our yards and spreading from roads, trails, and other disturbed areas into our parks and woodlands. Since these weeds grow and spread rapidly and face little opposition to their invasion except from Weed Warriors, they are threatening our native forest ecosystem and even our backyards by smothering, strangling, and out-competing native species and other desirable plants. These pests are difficult to remove and control, and some even attack the Warrior with barbs or thorns.

If you are interested in outings for invasive plant removal, contact Mary Corddry at 410-248-0423 or XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com. For non-Sierra Club activities, contact the following organizations for information about training sessions and removal outings:

?? Cromwell Valley Park, call 410-887-2503 Mon–Fri 9-2 or check cvpark@bcpl.net for information about invasive plant removals in the park the 2nd Saturday of each month, 9am-noon. Come for great, productive exercise. Tools and refreshments are provided. You may also call to volunteer to participate in trail maintenance outings at the park. Check out the park's varied activities.

?? Herring Run Watershed Association, 410-254-1577, volunteer@herringrun.org

?? Irvine Nature Center, 410-484-2413, www.explorenature.org

?? Jones Falls Watershed Association, 410-366-3036, www.jonesfalls.org or email sgreene@jonesfalls.org. Join them for invasive plant removals on the 2nd Saturday of each month, 9:30 –12, at sites in the Jones Falls Watershed.

?? Maryland Native Plant Society, www.mdflora.org

?? Urban Weed Warrior Program, Baltimore City Recreation & Parks, 410-396-0359, weeds@baltimorecity.gov or Amanda.Holloway@baltimorecity.gov.

Two and half years after the Baltimore Young Sierrans group was formed, our email list has grown to 145 young adults in the Baltimore area. **We hold a social on every second Thursday of the month and at least one outing monthly.** We have four certified outings leaders – Kathy Harget, Lloyd Allen, Amy Swakhamer, and Sally Hoyt – and we're always looking for new leaders. Our 2007 schedule includes day hikes, two overnight camping trips, bike rides, tubing, participation in Baltimore's Green Week in May, and a trip to the Green Festival in Washington, DC in October. Approximately 15-20 people show up for each of our events, ranging in age from 21-40. And at most gatherings, we have at least one new person, so don't be afraid to join us solo or with friends!

For more information and details on upcoming outings, please visit our website: <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore/youngsierrans>. You can also feel free to contact the Chair of this group, Kathy, at youngsierrans@gmail.com, or 410-440-9896. Hope to see you on the trail or at one of our socials!

Baltimore County Comprehensive Zoning Begins in September

By Mary C. Corddry

The Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP) begins this September in Baltimore County, a 12-month process that occurs every four years. Following is a tentative schedule:

- ?? From September 1 to October 15, the public and Planning Director may file “issues” proposing properties for rezoning.
- ?? The Planning Board files its issues during October.
- ?? County Council members do their filing during November.
- ?? The Planning Board reviews all of the proposed issues until May 31, 2008.
- ?? On June 19, 2008, the Planning Director transmits the Board’s recommendations to the County Council.
- ?? The County Council holds one or more hearings between June and August, and then votes on the issues as a bill, adopting new zoning maps by September 16, 2008.

The County’s Office of Planning maintains the zoning map, keeps a log of “issues” filed for rezoning, researches properties, prepares zoning guidelines, and makes recommendations. The Planning Board then holds hearings, adopts zoning guidelines, and makes its recommendations to the County Council. The County Council and Executive have the final word, because zoning is enacted as legislation passed by the Council and signed by the County Executive.

The County Council has wide discretion. It may change a property’s zoning without explanation and with few constraints, except for prohibitions against “spot zoning” and contract/conditional zoning. Usually, the Council goes along with the recommendation of the Council member representing the District where a property is located. This is

one reason why local elections are so important for the local environment and quality of life and why it is important to monitor Council members’ records.

Any resident may request for any property to be rezoned during CZMP—the property’s owner, neighbor, interested citizen, or community organization. A fee is charged for filing an “issue.” When a property’s zoning is reviewed, all potential uses within the property’s zoning category must be considered, not just the property’s current use or any stated proposed use. Once more intensive use is approved for a property, the owner may choose to use that authority at any time.

Baltimore County has an Urban Rural Demarcation Line (URDL), with designated growth areas and town centers south of the line, and areas north of the line protected from development and preserved for their rural character with farms, watersheds, woodlands, and residential lots with relatively large acreage. In the face of development pressures, the County has stayed committed to maintaining this line. The URDL is consistent with principles of Smart Growth, to which the State government is now returning.

Sierra Club’s Involvement

The Sierra Club’s Greater Baltimore Group is researching existing zoning in Baltimore County, to identify environmentally significant or ecologically sensitive areas that are at risk under current zoning. We will propose a more appropriate zoning classification. We will help property owners to identify options for preserving the lands, such as by selling the development rights, imposing a conservation easement, etc. **To nominate a property for consideration or volunteer to help with research, contact Richard Klein, who volunteered his time to coordinate this effort, at 410-654-3021 or Rklein@ceds.org.**

Proactive Neighborhood Planning & The



Baltimore County Comprehensive Zoning Map Process is a publication that Richard wrote wearing his Community & Environmental Defense Services hat. This publication is intended to help individuals and community associations take full advantage of the upcoming CZMP process. The goal is to help citizens find constructive (win-win) solutions **before** a nearby property is proposed for development. If we can achieve this goal, citizens will be spared the expense of investing thousands of dollars in a frequently futile effort to convince the Zoning Commissioner that a project should not be approved.

This publication, along with other valuable information, is available free to citizens at the CEDS *Baltimore County Citizens Sprawl & Smart Growth Information Page* at <http://www.ceds.org/bcmd>.

Baltimore County Zoning 101 Information is available on the Baltimore County government’s website (www.baltimorecountymd.gov). “My Neighborhood: Zoning” may be used

to look up any property’s current zoning. The County’s Zoning Regulations are available. Community Update newsletters to help residents stay current with zoning, development, and capital construction in their neighborhood. Zoning forms and applications are downloadable.

According to the County’s “A Citizen’s Guide to Zoning in Baltimore County” available on the website: “Zoning is a legal mechanism by which county government is able, for the sake of protecting the public health, safety, morals, and/or general welfare, to limit an owner’s right to use privately-owned land. Zoning consists of maps and written regulations. The official zoning map of Baltimore County comprises 841 sheets...on which the entire county is divided among the 36 different kinds of ‘zones’...The written standards are contained in a loose-leaf volume of more than 300 pages, entitled *Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (BCZR)*. The Council has essentially an unlimited legislative authority to place whatever zone it deems to be appropriate on a particular piece of

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land...when the Council grants a map change on a zoning 'issue,' it is not allowed to impose any accompanying limitations on the use of the property; the owner is allowed to use the land in any of the ways already permitted by the regulations pertaining to that kind of zone."

Each zoning classification is governed by a different set of regulations which specify the kinds of uses allowed, the maximum intensity of use, height limits for structures, minimum setbacks from roads and other property lines, etc. The zoning regulations are enacted by the County Council and may be amended at any time after the Council receives the Planning Board's recommendations and holds a public hearing.

The official zoning map is also enacted by the County Council. The map may be changed in several ways including the CZMP every four years. The result of CZMP is zoning decisions reflected in a "log of issues." The County Council decides issue by issue whether to retain the property's existing zoning or to enact a different zoning. An issue may

include a single property or a number of adjoining properties. The zoning on properties without issues is re-enacted by the Council.

Between CZMPs, the zoning maps may be changed through the "cycle" process, with the ultimate decision made by the Baltimore County Board of Appeals, which is limited in its decision-making. It cannot grant a change in zoning unless the record shows either that there has been a "substantial change in the character of the neighborhood" since the last CZMP or that there was an error in the mapping. The "standard cycle" process operates on a schedule, twice a year, including the filing of petitions, recommendations by the Planning Board, and hearings by the Board of Appeals. There is also an "out-of-cycle" process, for expedited processing if the Planning Board certifies and the County Council approves that a quicker decision "is manifestly required in the public interest or because of emergency."

While anyone may raise an issue during the CZMP, only the property owner is entitled to petition in the

cycle process. The owner may submit an "open" filing, requesting an unrestrained use of the property within the requested zoning. Alternatively, the owner may submit a "documented site plan," specifying the manner in which the property would be developed and used. Compliance with the documented site plan is required, even if the property changes ownership; and the property automatically reverts to its prior zoning if the planned use is not developed within three years.

The County's Master Plan documents the priorities for land use. However, under Maryland law and County policy, the Master Plan is only a guide, not a mandate. The only exception is when a statute that requires uniformity with the Master Plan.

Baltimore County's Land Evaluation – Site Assessment (LESA) System

The following factors are considered by Baltimore County when evaluating whether to recommend a property for State conservation easements, in order to enhance preservation and evaluate the land's strategic importance in relation to other properties:

- ?? soil's quality and nature;
- ?? farm's size;
- ?? percentage of the acreage in crops or woodlands;
- ?? extent of soil conservation and water quality practices or other stewardship of the natural resources;
- ?? landowner's relationship with the farmland;
- ?? capital improvements related to the agricultural operation;
- ?? farm's contribution to the agricultural economy or citizens;
- ?? need to preserve large blocks of farmland for the continuance of agricultural operations;
- ?? whether the property lies within a designated Agricultural Preservation Area, serves as a buffer to the Urban Rural Demarcation Line, or is in a special project area;
- ?? whether the property contains historically or archeologically

- significant sites or has scenic qualities from a public roadway;
- ?? number of potential lots on the property; and
- ?? percentage of the site with environmental or physical limitations on development (e.g., steep slopes, unsuitable soil for a well or a septic system).

Current Resource Conservation Zones in Baltimore County

Downzoning in the rural areas of Baltimore County has involved rezoning properties from the more permissive RC-4 or RC-5 to the more restrictive RC-2, RC-3, RC-6, or RC-7. Following are descriptions of the categories from the County's website.

RC-2 Agricultural Protection: to foster and protect agriculture; 36% of the County or 140,000 acres; preferred use agriculture; limited residential development

RC-3 Deferral of Planning: to defer substantial development pending future planning and utilities; <1% of County or 250 acres; agriculture and low density residential

RC-4 Watershed Protection: to protect the watersheds of the three regional reservoirs; 15% of County or 60,000 acres; agriculture and low density residential

RC-5 Rural Residential: to provide for residential development in appropriate rural areas; 10% of County or 40,000 acres; agriculture and low density residential

RC-6 Rural Conservation and Residential: to protect the Patapsco/Granite area; 1% of County or 4,300 acres; agriculture and low density residential

RC-7 Resource Preservation: to protect cultural, historical, recreational and environmental resources: 1.3% of County or 5,200 acres; agriculture and low density residential

North County Preservation – Citizen Involvement in Baltimore County Rezoning

A coalition of residents and community associations in northern Baltimore County, the North County Preservation, is planning for citizens' participation in the CZMP. This spring, the group hosted the North County Institute, with monthly speakers to educate community leaders about the law and process of the CZMP. The coalition's focus is on identifying important blocks of land to "downzone" for less intensive use or to preserve the property for agriculture or for its natural features (woodland, stream valley, etc.). They talk with the property owner to see if the owner is interested in preserving the land through an agricultural or conservation easement. If the property is zoned for commercial or residential development or another relatively intensive use, the group may file a rezoning "issue," usually to change a property from RC-5 to RC-2. These citizens will also seek to meet with the Planning Board, Council members, and County Executive about properties identified for downzoning. The group formed a Technical Planning Committee to develop factors for identifying strategic properties for downzoning. They will use the Geographical Information System and other information sources, develop databases, and produce analyses. For more information, contact Irving Spitzberg, President of North County Preservation, at ijs@northcountypreservation.org or check out the website at www.northcountypreservation.org.

During the last three CZMPs, more than 45,000 acres were downzoned in the north County's Third Councilmanic District of Bryan McIntire. Most of the rezoning resulted in changing the more permissive RC-4 and RC-5 zoning classifications to the more restrictive RC-2, RC-6, or RC-7. Based on conversations with experts during the

North County Institute's spring and fall sessions in 2006, the group contends that there is no justification for further development in the northern county for at least the next decade. There is a surplus of development rights that needs to be addressed either through downzoning or by County legislative action to limit how long unused development rights may be retained.

Between 1996 and 2005, 9,637 rural household units were approved for construction, but a much fewer 4,163 were built. Only 350 units were built in 2006. Based on currently approved development rights, 7,000 additional household units may be built in the County's rural areas. About half of these properties are not buildable. The approximately 735 farms in the north County are at risk.

In January, Dan Rosen of the Maryland Department of State Planning spoke to the North County Institute. He stressed the importance of citizen involvement in rezoning and development issues. The County has five rural legacy areas, almost all of which has RC-2 or RC-7 zoning. The group can look around those areas to see what can be preserved through downzoning, such as from RC-5 to RC-2.

The right to subdivide a property is different than a zoning change. Zoning is considered to be a privilege, not a right that is transferred by purchase. However, a development right is recorded in the property's deed. Sometimes no one else knows about it until the right is exercised after the property is inherited or sold. Councilman McIntire is proposing a bill so that if a subdivision has not been built in three years, the owner will lose the development rights.

When reviewing properties' zoning, you may use maps, such as those produced by the State or County Planning, to analyze how a property relates to surrounding areas and natural features. The Maryland Department of the Environment calculates future water and sewage

“There is a surplus of development rights that needs to be addressed either through downzoning or by County legislative action to limit how long unused development rights may be retained.”

usage, stormwater runoff, and the percentage of impervious surfaces. Using standards for how much water the average home uses, you may compare the water available with the potential water usage for a development. When arguing for downzoning, you may stress the State and local area's return on investment, to protect properties for which the government has already purchased development rights, paid for an agricultural easement, or otherwise protected using public funding.

In February, Michael McCann, a property lawyer, spoke to the North County Institute. He explained that the County Council has unlimited authority to change zoning, like with any other legislative act; and there is no process to appeal a legislative act through court, except to challenge spot or conditional/contract zoning changes. An issue proposed during the CZMP may also be challenged on the basis that it is spot zoning or conditional zoning. The County Council may not impose any conditions on the property's use within its zoning category. Spot zoning is when property is zoned differently than surrounding properties. This is only acceptable if it is done for the public good and is related to public health, safety, and welfare. Issues may also be opposed because they violate the master plan, have a negative environmental impact, or violate other guidelines given to the County Council by the Office of Planning.

In March, Wayne McGinnis, a farmer and member of the County's Planning Board, was the

North County Institute's speaker. He pointed out that a property owner is not limited to a specific use for the property, since the owner may do whatever is authorized by the zoning classification. If development is coming, residents need to help make it happen consistent with the community's goals and values. Rezoning proposals must be strategic. You must pick your fights. The purpose of the short four-year CZMP cycle is to review zoning comprehensively and prevent multiple spot zoning changes between cycles.

He said that, initially, there was no zoning in the northern County. When the first zoning map was developed, owners got whatever zoning they requested. Then the Farm Bureau began to fight "block busting" as one after another farm was sold for other purposes. City residents began to move out to the countryside. The County drew lines for residential zoning around transportation corridors. The County's planners realized that RC-4 zoning was a mistake and that RC-5 needs to be placed where such intensive development can be provided with County services. There have been two rounds with a lot of downzoning and major battles. At first, farmers felt their equity was destroyed by zoning keeping their property as a farm, but now they are finding it an asset to know that the surrounding land will also remain as agriculture. There is a big backlog of proposals to put lands into agricultural preservation. More public funding is needed.

Patapsco Middle Branch Master Plan

By Mary C. Corddry

Baltimore City is developing a Master Plan for the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. The Master Plan will present land use, public policy, and maintenance recommendations for the area; identify potential funding sources; and specify an implementation strategy and timetable. The vision is: “to redevelop and revitalize the Middle Branch estuary and waterfront as a major resource by restoring and enhancing the natural ecosystem, creating waterfront recreational activities, and establishing compatible, sustainable, mixed-use development.”

The Middle Branch empties into the Chesapeake Bay just south of Harbor Place. It is a shallow estuary roughly three times the size of the Inner Harbor, with a predominantly vegetated shoreline connecting South Baltimore, Westport, and Cherry Hill. I-395, I-95, and the Hanover Street Bridge cross portions of it. Although skulls and kayaks wander through its waters, parts of the waterway border dredge spoil sites and abandoned industrial plants. The neighboring communities are very interested in the river’s esthetics, wildlife, and recreational opportunities. They want to clean up and beautify the waterfront. The new Gwynns Falls Trail, an urban greenway and stream valley connector for hikers and bikers, runs from Middle Branch Park and Harbor Place to the Interstate 70 Park and Ride.

The Sierra Club’s Greater Baltimore Group has volunteers participating on each of five subcommittees providing recommendations for the Master Plan—Water Quality and Habitat, Open Space and Recreation, Design and Development, Transportation, and Heritage and Tourism. According to Patrick McMahon, Transportation Chair of the Greater Baltimore Group, “This is a unique opportunity to be involved in ensuring that a unique part of the Chesapeake Bay is cleaned up, while encouraging the redevelopment of polluted and under-

utilized industrial land. Every resident and job we attract to the Middle Branch helps to clean up this area while reducing the pressure to develop forests and farmland elsewhere.”

On March 12 the Baltimore City Planning Department had a kick-off meeting for the Master Plan process. The five subcommittees are responsible for reviewing the proposed goals and objectives; obtaining, reviewing, and selecting data and background information for creating an implementation strategy; and developing strategies to achieve the goals and objectives. An Executive Committee was created to unify the “big” picture and involve State agencies and the Mayor’s Office. All committees met during March and May. Next, there will be two large meetings to present subcommittee recommendations, get input, present a draft plan, and collect comments. In August, a draft Master Plan will be presented to the City’s Planning Commission for approval.

The Middle Branch Master Plan has the following goals:

- ?? To restore and protect the Middle Branch estuary for wildlife habitat and improved water quality.
- ?? To develop a comprehensive open space and recreation system that complements and captures the unique qualities of the Middle Branch ecosystem.
- ?? To ensure that opportunities for economic development integrate and support the Middle Branch ecosystem, existing communities, and the unique character and location of the Middle Branch.
- ?? To develop a comprehensive access plan that assures all modes of transportation are represented in the redevelopment of the Middle Branch.
- ?? To preserve historic, architectural, and natural resources for public enjoyment and heritage tourism development.

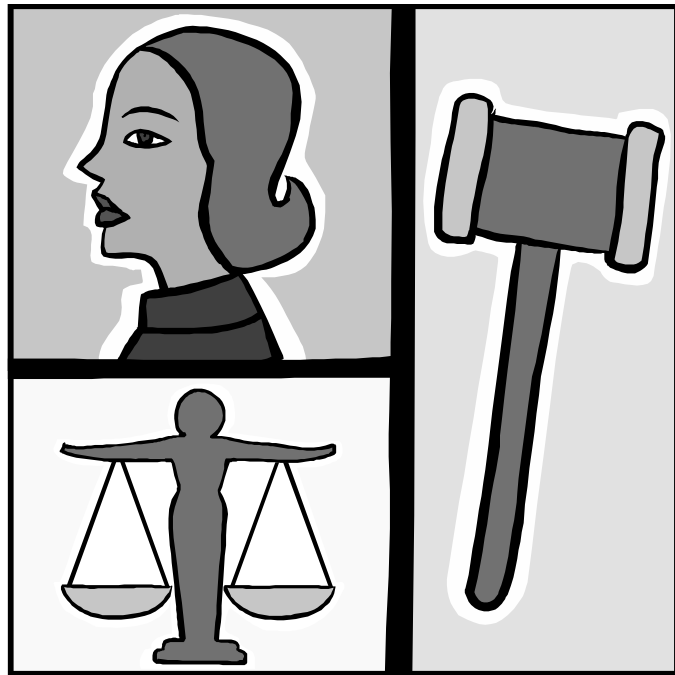


To address the water quality issues in the Middle Branch, the City is looking at the entire watershed. Among the water quality issues are development runoff in the upper portions of the Patapsco watershed, heavy metals and PCBs from the Middle Branch’s history of industrial uses, bacteria and trash from stormwater and sewers, and nutrient overloading from upstream uses. All of these issues need to be addressed to improve the Middle Branch for humans and habitat.

Patrick McMahon commented concerning the balance that must be struck with this Master Plan and with other development around the Inner Harbor, “There is sometimes a bit of an internal conflict between the Sierra Club national office’s push for dense, transit-oriented infill development and local chapters that are concerned about the impact of that on surround-

ing communities...As a planner I’m generally supportive of good, infill development as long as it has a mix of uses, viable transit/bike/pedestrian transportation options, mix of incomes, and good design, and is adjacent/complimentary to existing development. One consulting firm has framed it as the 4Ds—density, diversity, design, and destination accessibility. Plenty of ‘smart growth’ doesn’t always meet these criteria, but my preference is for the Sierra Club to push for these attributes and be supportive of development when they are present.”

For more information, contact Patrick McMahon at patrick@mcmahon.com or check out the City’s website.



Pollution, defilement, squalor are words that never would have been created had man lived conformably to Nature.

John Muir

SPARROWS POINT

(Continued from page 1)

polluted and toxic areas. The 1980's "Super Fund" cleanup efforts (which involved dredging to ensure an adequate shipping channel) engendered stringent recommendations to never again dredge to those levels. Much of the solid and gelatin-like pollutants and toxics could not and should not be removed. That portion of the Patapsco River and the Chesapeake Bay was deemed "severely impaired." Since then, only a very modest comeback has occurred. It is evident that further dredging should not occur, since dredged would negate the ecological benefit that has been realized.

The Greater Baltimore Group and MD Chapter of the Sierra Club have pledged support of the Greater Sparrows Point Peninsula Area Communities' planned Class Action lawsuit. Specifically, we have been asked to assist in any way we can in soliciting funds to prepare for the lawsuit. To that end I am in the process of soliciting support of all local, State, regional, and national environmental organizations to support us in this matter. I urge the Greater Sparrows Point Peninsula communities to support this effort in any way that you can.

Below is the memorandum describing the planned lawsuit. For further questions or inquiries, please contact Ron Henry the GBSC Chair, Ms. Sharon Beazley of the Greater Dundalk Alliance (443-756-0980), or the associated Sparrows Point Peninsula community associations.

MEMORANDUM

TO: SIERRA CLUB
FROM: ALAN H. SILVERBERG
SUBJECT: POTENTIAL CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT
DATE: 5/2/2007
CC: BART S. FISHER, ESQUIRE

I. BACKGROUND

This office, along with the office of Bart S. Fisher, Esquire has been engaged by a small class of private citizens residing in the areas surrounding the Sparrows Point Peninsula ("the Peninsula") in Baltimore County, Maryland, to protect their interests and welfare in connection with activities carried on by number of businesses occupying the Peninsula which have significantly and unreasonably interfered with the use and enjoyment of their property, as well as the use and enjoyment of the property of nearly ¼ million residents similarly situated in the communities of Dundalk, Turner Station, North Point Peninsula (including Fort Howard, Miller's Island and Edgemere), and the northern portions of Anne Arundel County. Further, it is, and will be, alleged that the activities carried out by these businesses have directly led to a wide variety of physical illnesses, ailments, and infirmities, including lung and pancreatic cancer, kidney disease, asthma and other respiratory ailments, illnesses, nausea from noxious odors, and various developmental disabilities. Finally, in addition to the substantial intrusion into the use and enjoyment of the residents' property and the physical illnesses already created, future and intended activities of some of the targeted businesses, most notably the attempt to establish an LNG import terminal and power plant facility on the Peninsula, have generated enormous and intense emotional distress for these residents by virtue of the well-known risks of a catastrophic accident or terrorist attack on such a facility.

II. INTENDED ACTION

The citizens intend to file a class action nuisance lawsuit in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County. This type of action has long been recognized and upheld in Maryland. "...where a trade or business as carried on interferes with the reasonable and comfortable enjoyment by another of his property, a wrong is done to a neighboring owner for which an action lies . . ." *Meadowbrook Swimming Club, Inc. v. Albert*, 173 Md. 645 (1938). "[I]t makes no difference that the business [is] lawful and one useful to the public and conducted in the most approved method." *Bishop Processing Co. v. Davis*, 213 Md. 465, 474 (1957). The Maryland courts have liberally interpreted what may constitute a nuisance to an owner's property. "Virtually any disturbance of the enjoyment of the property may amount to a nuisance so long as the interference is substantial and unreasonable and such as would be offensive or inconvenient to the normal person." *Washington Suburban Sanitary Comm'n v. CAE-Link Corp.*, 330 Md. 115, 125 (1993), citing *Gorman v. Sabo*, 210 Md. 155, 159 (1956), quoting *Prusser on Torts* 406-07 (2nd ed.).

II. POTENTIAL DEFENDANTS

Mittal – Owner of the International Steel Group, Inc. ("ISG"), who succeeded Bethlehem Steel Corp. in 2003 as operators of the steel facility

Kroff Chemical Co. – Recycler of oil waste for Bethlehem Steel and ISG

Lafarge – Processors of aggregate for manufacture of concrete and related products

SPS Limited Partnership, LLLP – Owners of a shipyard repair facility, this enterprise has already obtained a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to mechanically dredge more than 4 million cubic yards of sea floor over a 160-acre area of the shipyard turning basin. This turning basin has long been proven by numerous studies to be the most toxic area of the entire Baltimore Harbor/Patapsco River Basin. Although this action is currently being opposed in State court, SPS has already accomplished the dredging of more than 300,000 cubic yards of material.

AES Corporation – Large international corporation which is currently seeking permits to convert the Peninsula into an LNG import terminal and power plant facility, and which has indicated it would undertake even more massive dredging at Sparrows Point in order to accomplish this objective. Injunctive relief to prohibit the establishment of this LNG facility would be sought by the residents in this lawsuit, should AES obtain their requested permits.

III. POTENTIAL TORTS

Nuisance Causing Interference to Use and Enjoyment of Property –

The area surrounding the Peninsula is bounded by the Back River, Bear Creek and the Northwest Branch of the Patapsco River, and lies approximately three miles upstream from the Chesapeake Bay. These waters are used by the residents for fishing, swimming, boating and other forms of recreation. Occupied homes sit on the bank of the Patapsco, approximately 1,000 feet from the Peninsula's edge. Noxious odors, runoff from several landfills into the surrounding waters, and release of toxic pollutants into the air and water proven to be present in the sediment already dredged and to be dredged in the future, etc. have all created a major intrusion for the residents into the comfortable enjoyment of their property and the exercise of the daily routines of ordinary life, including the general enjoyment of multiple aquatic species, many of whom are listed as threatened or endangered by the State and federal government, and whose continued existence is threatened by the aforementioned release of pollutants into the water column.

Nuisance Causing Physical Illness and Disease – The class plaintiffs of this lawsuit intend to prove the direct and proximate causal connection between the actions of the targeted businesses and the host of illnesses, disease and ailments noted in Section I of this Memorandum. It has already been established that the neighborhoods in which the potential class plaintiffs reside suffer the highest cancer rate in the State of Maryland, and one of the highest cancer rates in the entire country.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUE

The acts of the noted businesses are merely the latest link in an interconnected chain of long standing polluting of the Peninsula which has continued for over 100 years, subjecting residents of Turner Station, a predominantly low-income and African-American community which sits directly on the water, as well as residents of Dundalk, to disproportionately high human health risks from new exposure to carcinogens. The population of Turner Station, combined with that of Dundalk, has the highest concentration of HUD program recipients and subsidized housing in Baltimore County. As a result, the potential class plaintiffs claim these acts are in direct contravention of Executive Order 12,898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations* (Fed. Reg. 7629 (1994), as amended by EO 12,948, 60 Fed. Reg. 6381 (1995)).

V. NEED FOR SUBSTANTIAL LITIGATION COSTS

Litigation of this nature against large corporations will necessarily entail large expenditures for litigation costs, both prior to and during trial. Specifically, these costs will include, but not be limited to:

Experts – Engagement of pre-trial experts for analysis of air and water quality for contaminants.

Epidemiological Studies – Substantial costs will be required to engage physicians and other public health officials to conduct studies to relate the various illnesses to the pollutants.

Discovery – To include costs for 1) obtaining copies of medical and other records, 2) copies of deposition transcripts, 3) payment to expert witnesses retained by defendants to conduct their discovery depositions, 4) court filing fees, 5) process server fees.

Expert Witness Fees – To retain expert witnesses to either 1) testify at trial, or 2) testify by way of video deposition for presentation at trial, as to the essential issues of causation and damages. If video depositions are conducted, then additional costs are incurred for the videographer and for the written transcript of the deposition. This would also include additional costs for pre-trial meetings with experts and obtaining of their reports.

Legal Research Costs – To include on-line research

VI. TIMING OF LAWSUIT

Counsel believes that the timing of this lawsuit is critical, not only for the purpose of obtaining appropriate compensation for the affected residents who have suffered the ravages of decades of serving as a waste pit for surrounding businesses, but also to serve as a warning shot to the business occupants of the Peninsula. Because of limits placed by the EPA in 1988 on dredging in the area, and the entry of a Consent Decree in 1997 between the EPA, MDE and Bethlehem Steel, the Chesapeake Bay (lying approximately three miles downstream from the waters surrounding the Peninsula) has enjoyed the beginnings of a recovery from its designation as “severely impaired”. Unfortunately, despite these declared safeguards, enforcement has often been lax, and the objectives of the various businesses in recent years seem to be gaining strength. Unchecked, nothing less than the survival of the Chesapeake Bay is at stake, and the critical nature of this estuary is self-evident to all.

1. Data Report of Chemical and Physical Analysis of Sediments from the Marine Channel and Associated Berths and Turning Basin, performed by EA Engineering, Science and Technology, Inc., Table 3 (Bulk Sediment Analysis Results) prepared for Bethlehem Steel in February, 1985. See also McGee, Fisher, *et al.*, “Assessment of Sediment Contamination, Acute Toxicity, and Population Viability of the Estuarine Amphipod...in Baltimore Harbor, Maryland, USA”, Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Vol. 18, pp. 2151-2160 (1999).

2 The Bog Turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*) and the Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*) that reside in this portion of the Chesapeake Bay are explicitly listed as protected species in Baltimore County by the State of Maryland. On November 5, 1997, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service extended Endangered Species Act protection for the Bog Turtle. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) Sea Tagging Program, notes that other sea turtles that are on the Federal Endangered Species List such as the Green Sea Turtle, the Kemp's Ridley Turtle, Loggerhead Turtles, Leatherback Turtles, and the Maryland Terrapin Turtle inhabit the area near the mouth of the Patapsco River which surrounds the Peninsula. Also affected would be the oyster population, which the State of Maryland has sought to develop (Fort Carroll Oyster Restoration Project NOAA #64), and essential fish habitat (including but not limited to eggs, larvae, and junior and adult species) for fish such as American Shad, Yellow Perch, and Atlantic Sturgeon.

3 Turner Station is also the oldest African-American community in Baltimore County.

4 The purpose of the Consent Decree was to address various environmental issues, including the release of hazardous constituents, compliance standards for two solid waste landfills located on the Peninsula, compliance standards for visible emissions, inspection and repair of active sumps and trenches containing hazardous substances, and to minimize waste production.

Let's Not Let Polluters Buy the General Assembly

By: Cliff Terry, Maryland Chapter Campaign Finance Reform Chair

"The main reason many politicians side with the polluters is their never-ending need for campaign cash. Public campaign financing will eliminate the influence of donors who want to weaken environmental laws, and it will shift power back to voters and volunteers," said the Sierra Club's National president a few years ago. Little has changed since.

A bill to provide public funding for campaigns for the Maryland General Assembly passed the Assembly's House of Delegates for the first time last year. This year the plan received its first vote in the Maryland Senate, failing by one vote.

The Baltimore *Sun* attributes the Senate defeat largely to the opposition of Senate President Mike Miller, whose reasons have been quoted variously as the plan's cost, presumed voter distaste for it, and his belief that it would be bad for Democrats.

The Sierra Club's Maryland Chapter has submitted testimony supporting similar bills for several years and presumably will again next year. Such groups as the Maryland Conservation Council, League of Women Voters, Common Cause, NAACP, and AFL-CIO have also supported the bills.

The system would be much like those working well for several years now in Maine and Arizona. All General Assembly candidates who wish to receive public funding would first have to show broad public support by collecting at least 350 contributions of \$5 each, plus a total of at least another \$6,750 in "qualifying" contributions from registered voters in their districts. They must agree to spend essentially nothing on their campaigns except the public funding they receive.

Funding for Senate candidates would be up to \$100,000 and for Delegate candidates up to \$80,000. That could be as much as doubled if a privately funded opponent spent more.

This article explores just one example of the problems with the current system of campaign funding. It is based on a report on campaign fundraising by Professor Paul Herrnson of the University of Maryland titled *Contributions to Maryland General Assembly Candidates in the 1998 Elections*.

One section of the report is about contributions by business interests, including such professions as doctors and lawyers. Who received those contributions is important because they were 87% of all contributions by "interest groups" and 35% of all contributions, period.

It is also of particular interest because, while you might reasonably assume most business interests would favor Republicans ideologically, the great bulk of their money went to Democrats. By "the great bulk," I mean 79% in the House and 73% in the Senate.

Combined with the Democrats' overwhelming control of the House and Senate, what does that tell us? Professor Herrnson thinks it tells us that the great bulk of the money from business interests was **not** given, in his words, "to elect policy-makers who share their views." It was given to ensure access to those legislators in the best positions to influence legislation that could help or hurt their businesses.

Are these business-interest contributors naively mistaken? Is their hope of buying access unrealistic? If so, it is truly amazing that they just never seem to learn.

The inference that business interests direct their contributions primarily toward influencing the influential is reinforced by the finding that they also gave the great bulk of their gifts to incumbents—82% in the House and 80% in the Senate. In other words, they gave to curry favor with the almost sure winners, not to help candidates who might need help.

Finally, among these fortunate incumbents, which of them were the most fortunate? The answer is those in leadership positions—committee chairs or majority or minority leaders. This tiny minority of all incumbents received 45% of business gifts to House incumbents and about half of those to Senate incumbents. Yet again, we see that business aimed its money to seek favorable attention from the powerful.

I am using business interests as an example **not** because their influence is necessarily more pernicious than anyone else's. In fact, the contributions of labor unions, detailed in the same report, follow a very similar pattern. The main differences are that the favoring of Democrats in giving by labor unions is even more extreme and that, of course, their contributions are

probably intended to help Democrats win as well as to gain access.

I used business contributions as an example because they are such a large part of the total, and because the pattern of their giving makes their access-buying motive so obvious, and because, of course, it is business contributions that are likeliest to be aimed at such goals as minimizing environmental regulation.

Neither legislators nor campaign contributors are probably any more motivated by self-interest than anyone else. In fact, someone who expects a bill affecting his financial interests to come before the General Assembly would have to be a **saint** to make big campaign contributions **without** hoping they will at least make the recipient feel, shall we say, somewhat friendly toward the contributor.



And the **recipient** would have to be a saint—or naive—not to pay attention to big contributors. If you have more phone messages than you could possibly return, and you notice one is from a big contributor, it seems just humanly impossible to put his message anywhere but near the top of the pile.

The point is not to impugn anyone's motives or ethics. The **system** of private funding of campaigns is the problem.

Public funding would not eliminate every possible way to buy legislative favors such as immunity to environmental regulation. It is probably impossible to eliminate every way. But that sad fact does not shield the General Assembly from the obligation to eliminate this most glaring, widely used way to buy influence.

Obituary – Robert J. Wirth – Co-Founder of the SC Greater Baltimore Group

By George Alderson

Robert J. Wirth, a co-founder of the Greater Baltimore Group, died on January 16 at the age of 83. An artist and graphic designer who taught for 35 years at the Maryland Institute College of Art, Bob was a lifelong defender of wild places.

Bob's daughters tell me that in the early 1960s Bob was leading cleanup days at Lake Roland. He was active in the campaign to protect Assateague Island and in 1965 was a guest at the White House when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Assateague National Seashore Act. He took his MICA students on field trips to the Appalachian Trail, which led the students to mount an exhibit to support the National Trails System Bill at Congressional hearings. He designed posters for the Appalachian Trail Conference.

In 1966, when the Sierra Club was almost unknown here, Bob Wirth wrote to me expressing interest in organizing club activities in Maryland (I was then chair of the Washington D.C. group.) Over the next two years, Bob and Beth Hartline were constant advocates for Baltimore, as volunteer efforts grew. Bob was a founder of the Greater Baltimore Group at its organizational meeting in September 1968.

The club then had fewer than 400 members in all of Maryland; we now have 17,000. Bob Wirth's vision of the role of nature in society went far beyond the prevailing view in the 1960s. He believed people needed to get organized to defend wild places, and he thought the Sierra Club was a good way to do that.

Time to Act to Prevent Global Warming

Open Letter to Baltimore County Government

From Greater Baltimore Group – Sierra Club

We urge Baltimore County to join the “Cool Cities” program, to be part of the solution not part of the problem. Because the U.S. has not signed the *Kyoto Protocol*, cities, towns, and counties throughout the country are signing the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement, to meet Kyoto’s goal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions 7 percent from 1990 levels by 2012. The Cool Cities program is a response by local communities nationwide to exercise leadership and responsibility by taking measurable steps to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions. Baltimore County, which has a nationally recognized tradition of land preservation, must expand its environmental stewardship in preserving our climate.

There is no silver bullet in reversing climate change. We cannot idly stand by and wait for technological solutions. Instead, Baltimore County should adopt smart policies to reduce emissions, like its neighbors Howard County, Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City that have committed to become “Cool Cities.”

Maryland has joined nine other northeastern States in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to reduce pollution contributing to global warming. Also on April 20, Governor Martin O’Malley issued an executive order creating the Maryland Commission on Climate Change. RGGI will force a 10 percent reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. Maryland’s participation in the RGGI agreement was mandated by the Clean Air Act, enacted last year. The State will begin studies for additional ways to combat climate change and limit the threat from rising sea levels.

Howard County has created a Commission on Environment and Sustainability composed of scientists, public health experts, farmers, and County personnel. The Commission is actively researching and planning activities in education and outreach, energy efficiency, green buildings, open space, and transportation to meet its Cool City agreement by 2020.

Baltimore County is one step ahead in that it already has a Department of the Environment. We just need to be smart enough to think globally and act locally. The Cool Cities’ goal is not formidable if we approach the tasks systematically and incrementally. For instance, energy efficiency can start with converting light bulbs to Energy Star light bulbs; turning off lights and computers at the end of the day; insulating; and installing Energy Star windows, heating systems, and appliances.

United States is responsible for nearly 28% of the CO2 emissions, the major contributor to global warming. On a per capita basis, we produce more emissions than all other nations. Other than Canada and Australia, no other industrial nation even approaches our rate of emissions.

Climate change is an international issue that is often viewed mistakenly as a problem that can be addressed only at the international and federal levels. It is an international issue to the extent that climate change is a global problem that will impact every nation, community, neighborhood, street corner, and personal life. There is no escaping it and time is running out. Glaciers on mountains are disappearing, as most recently reported by climbers in the April 8 edition of the *Baltimore Sun*. At the community level, the disappearance of glaciers means scarcity of water down stream, as already being realized in Southwestern United States. Rising sea level caused by increased precipitation and ice melts in the Polar regions will result in the inundation of our nearby coastal areas, loss of infrastructure, contamination of fresh water, population displacement, injuries, disease, and economic and social collapse.



Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Discussion Circles

By Lore Rosenthal

Simplicity Matters Earth Institute (SMEI) is a growing volunteer community that has been starting discussion circles in Maryland and the District of Columbia since January 2002. We are a sister institute of the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) based in Portland, Oregon. Our attention is focused on various aspects of sustainable living, voluntary simplicity, environmental stewardship, and living lightly on the earth. For more information, please visit our Website at: <http://www.simplicity-matters.org>.

SMEI is currently organizing discussion circles in the Baltimore metropolitan area. We believe in the power of deep conversations to improve the quality of our lives and to change the world for the better.

Discussion circles are the core activity of SMEI. Consisting of 8 - 12 individuals, these circles are peer-led, using one of the seven discussion guides produced by NWEI. Through the organization of discussion circles, SMEI strives to connect like-minded individuals who meet and examine personal values and habits in a supportive setting. Through readings and discussion, participants find encouragement for making life changes that have a positive effect on the environment and their community. The

subject areas of the circles are: Exploring Deep Ecology, Voluntary Simplicity, Choices for Sustainable Living, Developing a Sense of Place, Healthy Children/Healthy Planet, Globalization and its Critics, and the newest topic, Global Warming: Changing CO₂urse. We also offer other kinds of discussion circles, action circles, and video circles.

You can discover more about SMEI and our other activities at our Website at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org>. In addition, if you wish to join a discussion circle, contact “matchmaker” Lore Rosenthal at SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com or 301-317-9821. If you wish to start a discussion circle or would like more information about SMEI, contact Lena Rotenberg at Lena@simplicity-matters.org or 301-432-8721, or write us at 15 Millrace Lane, Keedysville, MD 21756.

Area Environmental News

?? In April, the Baltimore City Health Department closed Swann Park in south Baltimore after tests showed arsenic levels more than 100 times higher than what is considered safe. The Park is next to an industrial site where the former Allied Chemical Corporation used arsenic to manufacture pesticides until 1976. Children have used the Park's ball fields for years.

?? The Maryland Department of the Environment tentatively approved air pollution-control permits for two ethanol manufacturing plants in the Curtis Bay area and at Sparrows Point near Baltimore Harbor, to be built by the end of 2008. These would be the first ethanol plants on the East Coast.

?? On weekends, the Baltimore Biodiesel Collective is selling biodiesel from a fuel pump at an organic garden store in the Remington area of Baltimore City. Biodiesel is pressed from soybeans and may be used in any diesel-powered vehicle. Ethanol, which is distilled from corn or sugar cane, requires a modified engine.

?? Construction has begun on Phase II of the Jones Falls Trail in Baltimore City, for completion by January 2008. This section will wind through the entirety of Druid Hill Park, from Wyman Park Drive to the Woodberry Light Rail.

?? Johns Hopkins is offering the Flexcar car-sharing program to its faculty, students, staff, and residents of the Greater Homewood area. Flexcare members can use the program's hybrid vehicles 24 hours a day for short or long trips, at a much cheaper rate than owning, operating, and insuring a private vehicle.

?? North Harford High School in Pylesville is in the middle of a \$52 million expansion and renovation, after which it will open Harford County's first agricultural magnet program. Currently, the school has a greenhouse and gardens and offers courses in animal science, horticulture, agribusiness, and farm equipment maintenance. Plans are for opening a working farm with pastures for livestock, a chicken coop, a dairy farm, a barn, and fields for a variety of crops. Courses will be added in plant science, equine science, and

wildlife and forestry management. The magnet program is expected to open in 2010 for 200 students countywide.

?? The second phase of construction is almost complete at Marshy Point Park in Chase, Baltimore County. In the first stage, a nature center and parking lot were built. Now the Park is getting water access to Dundee and Saltpepper Creek, just off the Chesapeake Bay, with a canoe storage facility and dock, bridges, and another parking lot and entry road. Future construction phases include an education wing for the nature center and a hiking trail network. The trails will be part of the Eastern Regional Greenway Trail System planned by the County.

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, trail maintenance, watershed cleanup, invasive plant removal, tree planting, strolling, nature exploration for children, stargazing, canoeing, tubing, kayaking, bicycling, car camping, backpacking, orienteering, cross country skiing, bird watching. 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 Planning Meeting. Participate in an outing. Contact Jack Wise, Outings Chair, at 410-256-3963.



2007 Bay and River Sojourns by Canoe or Kayak

This summer the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is once again offering its annual "sojourns" along the rivers in the Chesapeake Bay's watershed, and even out into the Bay along part of the newly designated Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail. These canoeing and kayaking expeditions last 6 – 8 days and feature peaceful paddling down scenic rivers, educational programming, restoration projects, riverside camping, festive meals, and much more. Novice and experienced paddlers alike of all ages can enjoy a unique on-the-water experience that builds a strong environmental ethic, while having fun in the process. Following are this summer's offerings:

?? 17th Susquehanna River Sojourn, July 16-22, from Safe Harbor Dam, PA paddling across the northern part of the Chesapeake Bay to Elk Neck State Park, MD. Contact: Deborah Rudy at 717-737-8622. At Port Deposit on July 21, the group will meet up with the crew of the *Shallop*, recreating Captain John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake Bay in 1607-1608. The group will follow the *Shallop* to join the John Smith 400th anniversary festivities in Port Deposit and Perryville.

?? Patuxent River Sojourn, June 14-19, along the upper Patuxent from Governor's Bridge, MD through Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary to King's Landing, MD. Contact: 410-377-6270 or mail@acb-online.org. The Anne Arundel County Group of Sierra Club is one of the project's partners.

?? James River Sojourn, June 16-23, from Columbia, VA through Richmond to Henricus Park/Dutch Gap, VA. Contact Leslie Middleton at 804-775-0951.

You may sign up for as many days as you want to paddle, from one day to a full trip. The daily price includes all meals (except whatever snacks you bring), campsites, and interpretive education. Shuttles will be available. Although kayaks and canoes are not included, information is provided on how to rent a canoe or kayak and have it delivered to the site. More information is available on the Alliance's website at www.acb-online.org, or email mail@acb-online.org or call 410-377-6270.

UPDATES

(Continued from page 1)

entrance to the Patapsco River and travel through to Sparrows Point.

My overall sense was that this Congressional committee was opposed to the Sparrows Point location, as well. Special thanks are due our MD delegation that did a superb job of presenting the facts and issues.

The process will continue until FERC comes to a decision. That will not occur, however, until a U.S. Coast Guard assessment of Waterway Safety and Security and a subsequent report are completed and submitted to FERC in 3 - 4 months.

It is worthy to note that when asked what the State's recourse would be should FERC sanction a permit, Governor O'Malley indicated that the State would pursue legal recourse. Hopefully, that will not be necessary!

UPDATE – BRAC

Through my membership and other contact in Harford County government, I am continuing to follow the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activities. Things remain in a high state-of-flux with respect to specific numbers of personnel who will egress from various locations to here. Irrespective of that, the job slots will be forwarded to here.

It is worthy to note that Lt. Governor Brown leads a task force focused on BRAC impacts and the associated issues in all the affected geographic areas and that Harford County has State representation imbedded in its Planning and Zoning Code Re-write Working Group. Therefore, transportation needs, Smart Growth considerations, infrastructure impact and other appropriate matters are being considered. I will continue to keep you informed of BRAC on an on-going basis.

HARFORD COUNTY

Hello Harford County Sierrans! In a February 6, 2007 media presentation, the Harford County (HC) government unveiled a very ambitious plan to update the 25-year-old zoning code and complete comprehensive rezoning by 2009. The plan represents a joint effort of the County's Administration and County Council. Several key elements are revision of the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program; updating specific Maryland State mandates for plans such as Historic Preservation, Natural Resource, Water Source, and Transportation; and utilization of a facilitator to ensure the process's integrity.

Efforts will be made to create a web-based technology to connect citizens, help them to understand the update process, provide overviews and explanations of the zoning code, and allow interaction with the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) staff. Providing greater opportunity for citizen input in planning and zoning decisions is being emphasized. To that end, a Re-write Group has been formed comprised of the following entities:

- American Farm Land Trust
- HC Chamber of Commerce
- HC Firemen & EMS Association
- Harford Land Trust
- Susquehanna Society of Land Surveyors
- MD Chapter of Professional Engineers
- National Center for Smart Growth
- HC Realtors Association
- Greater Baltimore Committee
- HC Bar Association
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- HC Sheriff's Office

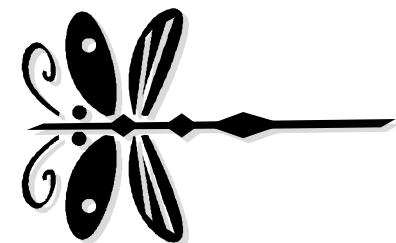
City of Aberdeen
City of Bel Air
City of Havre de Grace
Home Builder's Association of MD
Friends of Harford
HC Contractors Bureau
HC Farm Bureau
Urban Land Institute
HC Community Councils - Northern:
Fallston (1), Whiteford (1), At Large (1)
HC Community Councils – Southern:
1 representing Edgewood/Joppa – 25. Three (3) from HC Council

The Re-Write Workgroup will interact with P&Z during this process on a continual basis. At the conclusion of the process, there will be public hearings before the County Council for additional citizen input prior to the Council's approval.

During the process I enjoy you all to visit the re-write web-site, stay current with the issues, and send your comments via the web, e-mails or phone contact. By any method, please be proactive during this process! We can make a difference!

As stated in the last newsletter, we really need to get an active Harford County Sierra Club group going, so that we can focus and interact better on local issues and explore an outings program geared to Harford County. Please stay abreast of notices in the *Aegis* and the Harford section of the *Sunpapers* for a notice advertising a Sierra Club meeting at the Bel Air Library during June.

Thanks to all who stopped by and introduced yourselves during the Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 21 at Festival Park in Aberdeen. It was a beautiful day and the event was well attended. Hope to see you at the Bel Air meeting!



Participating in Sierra Club Hikes & Other Outings

1. Sierra Club outings are open to everyone—member and non-members. Activities are normally “rain or shine” at the leader's discretion. Check with the leader if the weather appears threatening. Reservations are not required, unless noted in the announcement.

2. Beginners are welcome. If the outing requires experience or good conditioning, this will be stated in the announcement. Call the outing leader if you have questions about the terrain, difficulty, duration, or recommended clothing or equipment.

3. Children under 18 years old must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult. Call the leader ahead of time to find out if the hike is suitable for children. If older teenagers want to attend without their parents, they must have the outing leader's prior consent and have the Minor Medical Treatment Authorization form and a permission slip signed by their parent/guardian.

4. Dogs and other pets are not allowed on Sierra Club outings, unless the activity is specifically advertised in the announcement as being “dog friendly.”

5. Participants must have the proper clothing, shoes, equipment, and stamina for the event. Bring at least one quart of water with you for every five miles or two hours of hiking. Bring a lunch, snacks, or more. **Always** bring rain gear. In cold weather, dress in layers with synthetics or wool against your skin. Avoid cotton. During hunting season, wear bright clothing; don't impersonate a deer. Wear good hiking boots that support your ankles, which you've broken in **before** the hike. Carry a personal first aid kit.

Bring any medications that you may need. A hiking stick can come in handy when crossing streams or navigating slippery or rocky slopes.

6. Practice low impact hiking. Keep on the trail to avoid trampling things or getting hurt.

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

8. 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. You may want to bring some toilet tissues, a small spade, and double zip-lock plastic storage bags to carry out any soiled tissues.

9. It is encouraged that outings participants carpool between a meeting place and the trailhead. However, the Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability. Carpooling is strictly a private arrangement among the participants, who assume full responsibility and liability for all risks associated with such travel.

10. The Greater Baltimore Group suggests a \$1 or \$2 donation to help defray the expenses associated with the outings program.

11. 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 or get a copy of the Minor Medical Treatment Authorization form, see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/index.asp> or call 415-977-5630.



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, said: "If people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish."

Steps to Becoming an Outings Leader

Experience is not required. You don't need to be a naturalist. Training and mentoring are provided.

*To find out how to get started, contact Jack Wise, Outings Chair, at 410-256-3963. Jack has information and resource materials that are useful for new leaders.

*Outings leaders are required to be a Sierra Club member and at least 18 years old.

*Take the Sierra Club Outings Leader training (Basic OLT 101) or comparable training from a local outings entity. Jack will give you the access codes for the on-line course of the National Sierra Club. The course is also available from Jack in hard copy.

*Arrange to take a Red Cross basic first aid course or a comparable or higher level course (e.g., wilderness first aid courses offered by Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities, the Wilderness Safety Council, etc.). Purchase the required first aid kit. The Sierra Club will reimburse you for your expenses. Contact Joyce Fletcher, Outings Treasurer, at 410-254-7240 about reimbursement.

*Provisionally lead at least one outing, accompanied by an experienced outings leader.

*Once you have completed these requirements, inform Jack and contact Bette Thomson, Outings Gatekeeper, at 410-666-2696 or bette@bcpl.net. She will add you to the list of outings leaders.

Wanted – Volunteers to Maintain Local Trails

Want to help beat back the undergrowth and rediscover local trails at Prettyboy Reservoir and other favorite locations in the Baltimore area? If you are interested, contact Greater Baltimore Sierra Club Outings Chair Jack Wise at 410-256-3963. Tools will be provided.

Gunpowder Falls State Park is seeking Trail Adopters to help maintain the more than 100 miles of trails in the various park locations. Besides being "extra eyes" to report maintenance needs on the trails, the Trail Adopters can cut back overgrown branches. They have the option to attend workshops to be trained in more technical aspects of trail maintenance. If you are interested in participating in this program, call the Park headquarters at 410-592-2897. For more information, check out the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website at www.dnr.maryland.gov and enter "gunpowder" in the search box.

We Need Your E-mail 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 e-mail 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 e-mail address to Cliff Terry at: Cliff.Terry@maryland.sierraclub.org.

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



In Search of Newsletter Contributors:

The deadline is **July 19th** for submissions to the mid-August **Baltimore Sierran** newsletter. We are seeking contributions from environmentalists of **all ages** and interests. We need articles, news, ideas, 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 410-248-0423 or XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com or 75 Perryfalls Place, Nottingham, MD 21236.

Non-Sierra Club Outings

Check out the websites of the following non-Sierra Club organizations for information about their outings:

Baltimore Bike Club:

www.baltobikeclub.org

Baltimore Canoe Club:

www.baltimorecanoeclub.org

Biotrek Naturalists:

www.biotrek.org

Maryland Outdoor Club:

www.marylandoutdoorclub.org

Mountain Club of Maryland:

www.mcomd.org

Hit the trails on National Trails Day – June 2.

Outings of the Sierra Club Greater Baltimore Group

June – September 2007

Also, see the outings schedule of the Sierra Club's Howard County Group at:

www.maryland.sierraclub.org/bc

ANYTIME tubing throughout the summer GB - Easy

Join the club anytime on hot days throughout the summer for tubing on the Gunpowder Falls. Trips will range from 1 to 4 hours, depending on water and weather conditions. Wear sun protection and sneakers or water shoes and attach your valuables. Bring or rent a tube and meet at Monkton Station on Monkton Road, under the trees. The water is always cold so be prepared. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240 to form a float group.

JUNE

Fri. –Sun. June 1-3 GB – Easy. Western MD Bluesfest and Camping (Kid friendly)

"I got dem Hikin' Blues" outing in Hagerstown, MD. We will leave the Baltimore area about **4:00 PM** Friday evening and stay at the [Hagerstown/Antietam KOA Kampground](#) Friday and Saturday evenings (tent, RV, or Kabin camping). Carpooling is encouraged, and alternate arrangements may be made among participants. We will discuss the history of the canal and the City Park, and consider positive and negative environmental impacts of commercial campgrounds. Saturday morning is a good opportunity to visit the [Hagerstown factory outlets](#), including LL Bean and Timberland. From about **noon to 8 PM** we may attend the [Western Maryland Blues Festival](#) downtown, which costs about **\$30** per person. Sunday morning we will take a **3-5 mile easy** hike on the C&O canal near Williamsport, and visit the museum. From about **noon until 5:00 PM** we may attend the second half of the Blues Festival (no charge) at the beautiful [City Park](#). We will do an easy circuit hike of about **2 miles**. For more information and reservations call **Paul** (preferably two weeks ahead) at **410-667-4889** or email pstech@smart.net. Children OK with prior approval.

Wed. June. 6 GB – Easy. Herring Run Hike (Children and dogs are welcome)

1½ mile stroll in a summer evening along Herring Run stream in Herring Run Park of Baltimore City. Learn how the neighbors and Herring Run Watershed

Association care for this beautiful park with the wooded stream, open fields, and Lake Montebello. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Dogs must be friendly. Meet at 7 P.M. beside the playground in Herring Run Park off of Harford Rd. The turnoff for the park is immediately right off of Harford Rd. after the light for Argonne Dr. to the west and Parkside Dr. to the east, if you are heading south. It is south of E. Cold Spring La. Call Mary at 410-248-0423.

Sat. June 9 GB – Moderate. Sweet Air Hike (Children and dogs are welcome)

4 miles through beautiful hilly woodlands, around a frog pond, through meadows, and along a stream at Sweet Air. We will look for berries and spring flowers, and wade in this stream known for its swimming holes. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Dogs must be friendly. Meet at 10:00 AM. at the Harford Road park-and-ride just north of the Baltimore Beltway, for a carpool to the park. Call Mary at 410-248-0423.

Fri. June 15 GB – Easy. Happy Hour and Social

Members and non-members are invited to meet 6 – 8 PM for socialization, happy hour, and dinner (crabs if available) at the Timber Creek Tavern in Kingsville on Belair Rd. north of the Baltimore Beltway, on the south side of the Gunpowder River, across from where popular hiking trails begin on the other side of the bridge. For details, call Mary at 410-248-0423.

Thur. June 21 GB - Easy. Gunpowder River Evening Solstice Hike. (Kid friendly)

Celebrate the summer solstice with this short evening walk along the Big Gunpowder Falls. Distance is about 2 miles with a wide stream crossing that could result in wet shoes. See river carved rocks and learn about the erosive power of water. Meet at 6:30 PM at the Big Gunpowder Falls State Park on Belair Road. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240.

Mon. June 25 GB - Outings Committee Planning Meeting

New and prospective outings leaders are welcome. Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. If you're interested in leading outings and are curious about what is involved, come and talk with the outings leaders. Meeting will be held at a Leader's house in Parkton beginning with a short hike at 6:00 with the

meeting to follow at 7:00. If you want, bring a dessert, finger food or drinks to share. If you miss the hike or do not want to participate, you may wait on the porch in this beautiful setting. Call Alan for details at 443-212-5082.

Wed. June 27 GB – Easy. Gunpowder River Sunset Hike

Two miles along the Gunpowder River. Good chance of seeing wildlife. Meet at the Gunpowder River and Rt. 1 (Belair Rd) just north of Perry Hall at 7:00 PM. For details call Jack at 410-256-3963.

Sat. June 30 GB - Easy. Loch Raven Sunset Hike and Star Party

Come just for the hike, just for the gaze, or both! The HIKE will be 2 miles to a scenic overlook above the reservoir. The GAZE will be to watch the conjunction of Venus and Saturn after sunset. This is really quite special—the planets will be less than 1 degree apart. They are easily seen with the naked eye, but certainly bring binoculars or a small telescope if you have them. Also bring something to sit on (such as a folding chair), and refreshments if you like. Meet at 7 PM at Loch Raven Drive and Morgan Mill Rd. for the hike. For the gaze we will set up one-half mi. south on the lawn near the "island." Hike will still take place if cloudy. Call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email f_pencze@mail.vjc.edu for details.

JULY

Sun. July 1 GB – Easy. Gunpowder Tube Trip

Bring tube or rent one. Have a safe way of keeping keys in your pocket. Meet at Monkton Station in Monkton at 1:00 PM. For details call Jack 410-256-3963.

Wed. July 4 GB – Easy. Independence Day Celebration (Kid friendly)

Celebrate Independence Day at Baker Park in Frederick, MD. Enjoy the sounds of a variety of bands, including well-known classic rock and country entertainers, as well as local musical talent, big band, and patriotic music. Have a picnic in the park, play volleyball, hike along Carroll Creek, and explore historic downtown Frederick. Finally, experience one of the biggest and best fireworks displays on the East Coast. Plus, as appropriate for this day, it's FREE! We will meet at 1:00 PM at the Lutherville light rail station on Ridgely Road. Children OK with prior approval. Call Paul at 410-667-4889 or email pstech@smart.net. Website: www.cityoffrederick.com/departments/SpecialEvents/july.htm

Sat. July 14 GB – Kayaking and Day at the Beach at Hammerman State Park

Kayak where the Gunpowder River and Dundee Creek empty into the Chesapeake Bay. Explore the marshes and shoreline and look for wildlife in the air, in the water, and along the shores. Meet at 10 AM on the beach at the Hammerman Area of Gunpowder State Park. The park is on Ebenezer Rd. reached from the White-marsh Blvd. east exit off Rt. 95. Bring your own or rent a kayak from Ultimate Watersports. It is required to wear a life jacket. There is an admission fee to the park. Stay afterwards or join us later for a picnic lunch and day at this sandy beach, which has picnic tables, a bathhouse, playground, etc. Kayaking is weather-dependent—no threat of thunderstorms and no high waves in the Bay. For details, call Mary at 410-248-0423 or 443-386-0862.

Sat. July 21 GB - Moderate. Great Falls Dinner and Hike

History meets nature at Great Falls section of the C&O Canal in Potomac, MD. We will examine how the canal and locks were constructed and operated. We will take the boardwalk to the Great Falls overlook on Olmsted Island. Length of hike will be 4 miles or less depending on weather and condition of trails. Entrance fee required. There will be a dinner stop in Rockville before the hike. Meet at 3:00 PM at the South West Park & Ride (for map to park & ride see http://www.mtmaryland.com/services/sports/ravens/New_Southwest_Map.cfm) Call Bill for details at 410-574-1453.

Wed. July 25 GB – Easy. Gunpowder River Sunset Hike (Children and dogs are welcome)

2 miles along the Gunpowder River. See how a river and its shoreline look in summer. Look for wildlife that comes out at dusk. Visit an isolated pond. Meet at 6:30 PM in the park's parking lot at the Gunpowder River and Rt. 1 (Belair Rd) in Kingsville, north of the Baltimore Beltway. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Stay for dinner (crabs if available) at the Timber Creek Tavern on the other side of the bridge over the river. For details, call Mary at 410-248-0423.

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Outings

(Continued from page 15)

Sat. July 28 GB - Easy. Soldiers Delight Hike

3 miles on the east side trails. Will discuss efforts to preserve unique serpentine geology and will visit historic chromium mines. Meet at the Soldiers Delight Visitor Center off of Deer Park Rd. at 1 PM. For details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu for details.

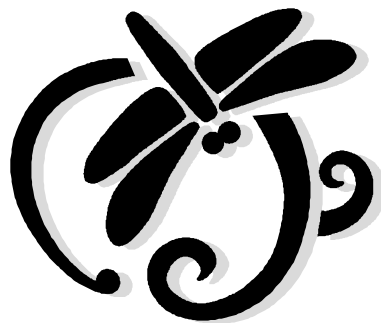
AUGUST

Fri. Aug. 3 GB - Easy. Eastern Regional Park Sunset Walk (Kid friendly)

Meet at the park for this 2-mile stroll through woods, marsh, and creek. Relax and enjoy waterfowl, reptiles, amphibians, and fish and learn about the importance of wetlands and their moderating effect on storms. The paths are asphalt, grass, or earth and are level. Meet at Eastern Regional Park visitor center at 6 PM. The park entrance is near Chase Elementary School on Eastern Avenue. For details, call Joyce at 410-254-7240.

Sat. Aug. 11 GB – Kayaking and Day at the Beach at Rocky Point State Park

Kayak from this waterfront park to Hart Miller Island directly across in the Chesapeake Bay. Hart Miller Island (built from dredge spoil) is a favorite hangout for boaters, and has a small park, campground, observation tower, and floating vendors of snowballs and lunch food. Meet at 10 AM at the boat launch at Rocky Point State Park. Bring your own kayak. It is required to wear a life jacket. There is an admission fee to this park, which has a sandy beach, grassy shady area with picnic tables and playground, and marshy area with a fishing pier. Stay afterwards or join us later for a picnic lunch and day at the beach. The park is reached from Rt. 702 and Back River Neck Rd. from the Baltimore Beltway 695 east. Kayaking is weather-dependent—no threat of thunderstorms and no high waves in the Bay. For details, call Mary at 410-248-0423 or 443-386-0862.



Mon. Aug. 13 GB - Easy. Prettyboy Sunset Hike and Star Party

Come just for the hike, just for the gaze, or both! The HIKE will be 2 miles on the Frog Hollow trail above the reservoir. The GAZE will be to watch the Perseids meteor shower after sunset. There will be a new moon this year. Bring binoculars or a small telescope if you have them. Also bring something to sit on (such as a folding chair), and refreshments if you like. Meet at 7 PM at 18860 Spooks Hill Rd., about 5 minutes from the Middletown Rd. exit of I-83. See Google Maps for location. Hike will still take place if cloudy. Call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu for details.

Wed. Aug. 15 GB – Easy. Cromwell Valley Park Sunset Hike (Children and dogs are welcome)

2 miles through this Baltimore County park that is a working farm with draft horses, woodlands, hilly meadows, streams, limestone kilns, and a brook bubbling out of the ground. Look for wildlife that comes out at dusk. Meet at 6:00 PM in the parking lot beside the house in the park's Sherwood Farm section on Cromwell Bridge Rd. north from the Baltimore Beltway. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Stay for dinner at Sander's Corner Restaurant nearby. For details, call Mary at 410-248-0423.

Sat. Aug. 25 GB – Easy. Full Moon Hayride and Farm Tour. (Kid friendly)

Cost will be \$10.00 per person. We will meet at 7:00 PM at the church parking lot on Seminary Ave at Dulany Valley Road 1/2 mile north of I-695. Tractor-pulled hayride starts at 7:30 PM at Yoder's Land of Promise Farm in Long Green. We will hopefully see the (almost) full moon. After the hayride, we will have refreshments of soda, cider, sausage, burgers, and marshmallows around a bonfire, with guitar music and sing-along. Extra instruments and voices invited! Activity will end about 10:00 PM. For more information and reservations, call Paul at 410-667-4889 or email pstech@smart.net. Children OK with prior approval.

SEPTEMBER

Sun. Sept. 2 GB - Moderate. Trolley Line #9 Hike

Take a trip down an old trolley line with a side trip to Banneker Park, a tour of Ellicott City, and a lunch break at the haunted Female Institute. Members may choose to break off for lunch or shopping in town and regroup on the return trip. Trail will be mostly paved and about 7 miles long. We will see conservation efforts at the historic Banneker buildings and adaptive reuse of the trolley line, and will learn about the birth of railroading and the importance of the Patapsco River and its tributaries to the development of Ellicott Mills. Meet at 10:30 AM at the end of Edmondson Avenue at Stonewall Road. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240.

Sat. Sept. 22 GB – Moderate. Prettyboy Reservoir Hike (Dogs are welcome)

6 miles along the shoreline and through forests around Prettyboy Reservoir, following fire roads, lost trails, and fishing paths. Look for beaver activity. Enjoy the pristine water. Look for the beginning changes of fall. Meet at 10:30 AM at the Mt Carmel Rd. park and ride off Rt. 83 north of the Baltimore Beltway. For details, call Mary at 410-248-0423.

MOVED?

Report your address change to:

(415) 977-5653

Sierra Club Member Services
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, CO 80328-2968

Baltimore Sierran
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enjoy and protect the planet.
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