



# Baltimore Sierran

*Serving members in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, & Harford County August 2008*

**Sierra Club Mission: Explore, enjoy and protect the planet**

## New Leadership for the Greater Baltimore Group!

After serving as Chair of the Greater Baltimore Group for four years, Ron Henry is moving up to serve as Chair of the Maryland Chapter. Chris Yoder, a newcomer to a leadership role in the Group, as Membership Chair, was elected by the Group's Executive Committee at a meeting on July 17 to serve as the Group's new Chair. Chris is also an at-large member of the Maryland Chapter's Executive Committee.

## Immediate Action Needed! The Deadline is now!

Act now to support sustainable and safe energy alternatives for Maryland rather than another nuclear reactor.

Please sit down right now and jot off a note to the Maryland Public Service Commission (at William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202).

Tell them you want the PSC to implement the EmPOWER Maryland energy efficiency program and the state's renewable electricity standard rather than approving Unistar's application to build a new nuclear reactor at Calvert Cliffs.

Tell them you want clean energy solutions that will deliver reliable and less expensive energy rather than the operating risks and highly toxic radioactive waste that come with nuclear power.

Thank you for writing today.

## Ron - Thanks for Your Service as Group Chair! Best Wishes as Chapter Chair!

Although Ron was an environmental advocate for many years, he did not formally join the Sierra Club until 2001. He served as the Harford County representative on the Greater Baltimore Group's Executive Committee (Ex Com). In July 2004, he was elected as Group Chair, while still serving as the Group's Harford County Representative and also as the Energy Chair, Conservation Chair, and Delegate or Alternate Delegate to the Maryland Chapter's Ex Com.

He was tireless, answering the many telephone calls and emails; manning Sierra Club tables at the Baltimore Green Fair, Harford County Earth Day, and other events; chairing the quarterly Group Ex Com meetings; participating in Chapter meetings and conference calls of the Ex Com and a variety of committees; telephoning members to get out the vote and support our endorsed candidates; faithfully authoring a "From the Chair" column and several articles for each quarterly *Baltimore Sierran* newsletter; effectively lobbying for and against legislation at Maryland's annual General Assembly sessions; and aggressively pursuing a variety of causes.



*(Continued on page 3)*

## Volunteer to:

- Volunteer to serve on the GB Sierra Club's Political Action Committee and get involved in the 2008 elections. Contact Janet Schollenberger by phone 443-386-5054 or by email [jscholle4@jhsph.edu](mailto:jscholle4@jhsph.edu).
- If you want to get involved with local environmental action but don't know how to get started; or if you want to serve as Cool Cities-Global Warming-Energy Chair, as Conservation Chair, on the Harford County subgroup, on committees or form a new committee: Contact Chris Yoder, Group Chair, at 410-466-2462 or [cncyoder@comcast.net](mailto:cncyoder@comcast.net).
- Be an outings leader: Contact Jack Wise at 410-256-3963
- Help maintain trails or eradicate invasive plants: Contact Mary Corddy at 443-386-0862, 410-239-4590, or [XxDiTz4LyFXX@aol.com](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFXX@aol.com).
- 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](mailto:bicobob3@copper.net). Check out the Baltimore Inner City Outings at [www.ico.sierraclub.org/Baltimore](http://www.ico.sierraclub.org/Baltimore)

## Opportunities for Involvement (see inside for more information):

- Sept. 19 – Happy Hour Social
- Oct. 2 - Outings Planning Meeting
- Oct. 16 - Executive Committee Public Meeting
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month - Young Sierrans Socials
- Saturday after 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month – Young Sierrans Outings
- See Outings Schedule in newsletter and on website

## GREATER BALTIMORE GROUP SIERRA CLUB CONTACTS

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Baltimore, MD  
E-mail: [cncyoder@comcast.net](mailto:cncyoder@comcast.net)  
410-466-2462

**Greater Baltimore Group:** [www.maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore](http://www.maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore)  
**Young Sierrans website:** <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore/youngsierrans>  
**Young Sierrans email:** [youngsierrans@gmail.com](mailto:youngsierrans@gmail.com)  
**Baltimore Inner City Outings:** <http://www.ico.sierraclub.org/baltimore/>

NAME	PHONE/EMAIL	POSITION
Bob Burchard	410-744-05d10 <a href="mailto:bobburchard@yahoo.com">bobburchard@yahoo.com</a>	Inner City Outings Liaison Cool Cities – Baltimore County Ex Com Member
Mary C. Corrdry	410-239-4590 443-386-0862 cell <a href="mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com">XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com</a>	Newsletter Co-Editor (copy) Recording Secretary Ex Com Member
Sherry Dowdell	410-484-2964 <a href="mailto:sierrasherry@comcast.net">sierrasherry@comcast.net</a>	Newsletter Co-Editor (design)
Doug Gaede	410-357-0007 <a href="mailto:sierra@gaede.net">sierra@gaede.net</a>	Webmaster
Kathy Harget	410-440-9896 <a href="mailto:hargetk@yahoo.com">hargetk@yahoo.com</a>	Young Sierrans Chair Ex Com Member
Ron Henry	410-838-9119 443-474-7449 <a href="mailto:RonLHenry@msn.com">RonLHenry@msn.com</a> <a href="mailto:RonLHenry@clearviewcatv.net">RonLHenry@clearviewcatv.net</a>	<b>Chapter Chair - NEW</b> Chapter Delegate Harford County Representative Energy & Conservation Chair Ex Com Member
Bob Iacovazzi	<a href="mailto:bicobob3@copper.net">bicobob3@copper.net</a>	BICO Chair
Katja Kjelgaard	410-455-0408 <a href="mailto:kkjelgaard@att.net">kkjelgaard@att.net</a>	Interim Treasurer
Patrick McMahon	410-599-5123 <a href="mailto:Patrick@mcmahon.com">Patrick@mcmahon.com</a>	Transportation Chair Ex Com Member
Paul Schoen	410-667-4889 <a href="mailto:pstech@smart.net">pstech@smart.net</a>	Ex Com Member
Janet Schollenberger	443-386-5054 <a href="mailto:jscholle4@yahoo.com">jscholle4@yahoo.com</a>	Political Chair Ex Com Member
Cliff Terry	410-944-9477 <a href="mailto:Cliff.Terry@maryland.sierraclub.org">Cliff.Terry@maryland.sierraclub.org</a>	Population Chair
Bette Thomson	410-666-2696 <a href="mailto:bette888@verizon.net">bette888@verizon.net</a>	Outings Gatekeeper
Jack Wise	410-256-3963 <a href="mailto:Hikingjack@Netzero.net">Hikingjack@Netzero.net</a>	Outings Chair Ex Com Member
Charles (Chris) Yoder	410-466-2462 <a href="mailto:cncyoder@comcast.net">cncyoder@comcast.net</a>	<b>Group Chair - NEW</b> Chapter Delegate <b>Ex Com Member – NEW</b>

## FROM THE CHAIR – JULY 2008

By Chris Yoder

The Sierra Club is a unique environmental group because we are active at every level of society and government and, most importantly, because we are a grassroots organization defined by the active participation of our members. The Sierra Club is effective because its footprint extends far beyond the world of Washington D.C. based lobbyists. Sierrans have been leading grassroots advocates for our planet and the human environment since 1892.

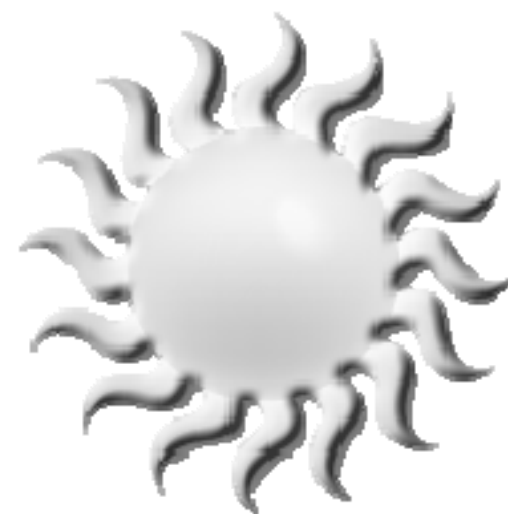
When you walk with the Sierra Club, you walk hand-in-hand with John Muir, David Brower, and thousands of other visionary environmental champions. As people, we are stewards of our planet; as Sierrans we are custodians of the legacy created by those champions. That obligation is why I am sobered by the responsibility entrusted in me when the Greater Baltimore Group Executive Committee elected me as your Chair.

Baltimore area and Harford County Sierrans have written an enviable record of advocacy. In opposition to dangerous and environmentally damaging proposals such as the Sparrows Point liquified natural gas terminal. As persistent advocates for the environment with the State Assembly in Annapolis and with our local governments. Our Club's "Cool Cities" campaign pioneered ongoing efforts to enlist local governments in the fight against global warming.

As Chair, I am anxious to harness the volunteer energy that led to our past successes and to magnify and focus that energy to address future challenges.

It is my hope that a year from now you, the members upon which the Sierra Club and the Greater Baltimore Group depend, will benefit from:

- More public events and programs to extend the reach of our message beyond the reach of our membership.
- Greater visibility in the media.
- More frequent communication on actions you can take to protect our environment. Given the lead time for newsletter articles and expense of postal alerts, I urge you to give us your e-mail address and permission to send you messages.
- More communication and coordination with other local organizations sharing our goals, including the many faith-based communities responding to the call for "creation care" and the green clubs found in many area schools and colleges.



- Clearly identified conservation goals with implemented campaign plans and follow-up.

- More social events. Perhaps an annual dinner.

- Systematic constituent-based communication with our elected representatives. Every Congressman, State Legislator, City and County Council member in the Baltimore/Harford area should hear, on an organized and regular basis, from an informed Sierran constituent.

- And, no environmental champion should face election or re-election without the active support of Sierra Club volunteers.

This is an ambitious agenda. The activists responsible for our current activities and successes are already giving 110% to your Sierra Club and to our Planet. The additional activities I would like to see will be achieved only if you, and others like you, step forward and volunteer to take action. Our actions now will define the legacy we leave for future Sierrans, just as our actions, as individuals and as a society, will define the planet we leave to our descendants.

I take up the gavel of the Greater Baltimore Group with deep appreciation for those who worked so hard to get us where we are today, especially our outgoing Chair Ron Henry and the activists who bring our Executive Committee to life. And I look forward to working with the new activists who build on our Club's defining tradition of grass-roots activism, by taking advantage of the many opportunities we now have to improve the environment we will leave to our children. Call (410.466.2462) or e-mail ([chris.yoder@mdsierra.org](mailto:chris.yoder@mdsierra.org)) me to join in creating your legacy of environmental action.

## Ron - Thanks for Your Service as Group Chair!

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He was also a board member of the Friends of Harford (FOH), a Harford County conservation group. During 2004 – 2006, he was active for both the Sierra Club and the FOH with researching Harford County land use issues and proposals and providing input on the County's Land Use Master Plan and the Comprehensive Re-Zoning Process. He was involved in related issues due to development and growth from the Pentagon's Base Realignment and Consolidation (BRAC).

His passion was particularly aroused by the proposed liquid natural gas terminal, storage tanks, and pipeline at Sparrows Point. He joined with the Greater Dundalk Alliance of community groups to oppose the proposal, as well as to file an anti-dredging suit against proposed dredging in the Patapsco River to accommodate the LNG supertankers. Also, an Earth Justice Class Action lawsuit was filed to redress extreme long-term health issues to the economically disadvantaged populace of the Greater Sparrows Point Peninsula, directly attributable to local, long-term heavy industry pollutants.

He was involved in the Climate Action campaign at the State and local levels to fight global warming. He participated with interviewing candidates for County and State elected offices and recommending endorsements. He worked with other environmental groups to achieve common objectives. He coordinated mailings to Harford County Sierra Club members and chaired meetings to encourage them to become involved in local environmental issues and to lead outings. He participated in planning for the Chapter's Jamborees and retreats.

In his statement published in the Chapter's December Chesapeake when he was running as an at-large candidate for the Chapter's Ex Com, he ended with the following:

*"I am a practicing Native American that believes in conservation because this environment that we call Mother Earth has been too long abused. There are many factors involved that have contributed to our environmental dilemmas. They all must be addressed if we are going to pass this planet over to the next seven generations in a corrected condition that will sustain them. It is an onerous but not impossible task. One of our main purposes is to be good stewards of this Mother Earth and it is we adults who must show the way so that our children will have the example to follow."*



## Chris – Welcome as the New Group Chair!

Charles "Chris" Yoder began his service as Group Chair in July. He also serves as the Group's Membership Chair and was recently elected as an at-large delegate on the Chapter's Ex Com. He has been a Sierra Club member for almost 30 years. When he was running for the Chapter's Ex Com, he provided the following statement in the December Chesapeake newsletter:

*"I first experienced the challenges and responsibilities of Club leadership in 1980 after asking a Club staffer why there was no local group where I lived (Boise, Idaho). She replied that I should start one and so I did. There were about 80 members when I started and over 500 members when I left Idaho to pursue a career change. In addition to serving as the group's founding chair, I had served as group conservation chair, chapter EXCOM member and vice-chair and chapter representative on the national Sierra Club Council. I led chapter campaigns for BLM wilderness and the group's National Forest planning participation as well as coordinating the group's political efforts."*

*There was a hiatus in my club activities after I left Idaho for Washington, D.C. where I served 12 years on the staff of a Senate Committee rising to the level of Deputy Staff Director. In addition, I served four years as Counselor to a Cabinet Secretary (Veterans Affairs) and two years as policy advisor and speechwriter for a Deputy Secretary. I also served as a staff supervisor for a Congressionally chartered Commission. While not directly related to the Club's conservation agenda, my Washington experience gives me a deep understanding of the development and implementation of public policy.*

*Retirement from my federal career enables me to once again focus my energy on the goals I share with the Sierra Club. For ourselves and our children: stewardship of the environment entrusted to us by our forebears. For our planet: Protection of the natural values upon which all living beings depend and that inspire humankind to better understand ourselves and our universe. I serve now as membership chair of the Greater Baltimore Group. I hope to meld my Sierra Club and Washington experience with the energy and commitment of our Chapter's leaders and members to build on the Club's unequalled record of effective advocacy and environmental leadership...I believe I have something to offer to the Chapter and its members."*

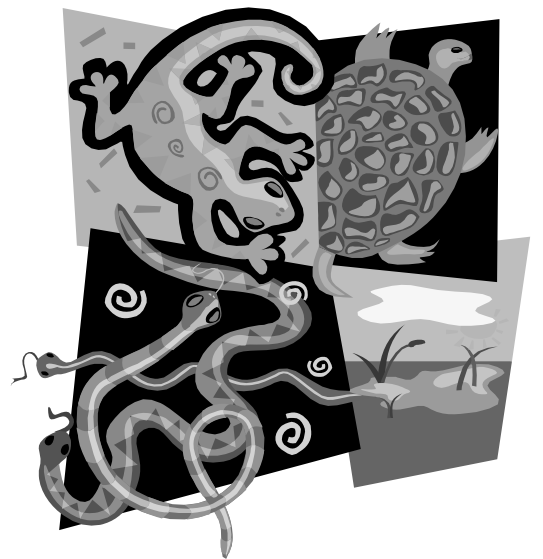
## WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAVE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES & THE CHESAPEAKE BAY?

By Richard Klein

Throughout the Greater Baltimore Area there are at least 37 wetlands supporting rare, threatened, or endangered species. All 37 wetlands are in jeopardy to varying degrees. Fortunately, mechanisms are available for enhancing the protection afforded each wetland. The Greater Baltimore Group just received a grant from the national Sierra Club to launch a project to protect these wetlands. All we are missing is a few good volunteers to help us win this battle. Former Group Chair Richard Klein is managing the project for us. If you are interested in lending a hand, we offer two options.

First, join us on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the Park and Ride lot at I-83 exit 36 (MD 439) for the Endangered Species Hike. Second, attend the Endangered Species Preservation gathering at Cockeysville Library on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. For further information, contact Richard at 410-654-3021 or [Rklein@ceds.org](mailto:Rklein@ceds.org).

The 37 areas have been designated Wetlands of Special State Concern (WSSC) by the Maryland Department of the Environment. This designation affords some additional protection beyond that applied to other wetlands. For example, a minimum 25-foot buffer must be maintained around most



wetlands, while a 100-foot buffer is required for WSSCs. But a 100-foot buffer is not sufficient to protect the highly sensitive species inhabiting a WSSC. Most of the WSSC wetlands derive their water from a land area - the *watershed* - that extends far beyond the nearest 100 feet. Poorly planned commercial development and other land use changes within the watershed could devastate the species inhabiting a WSSC, even though the 100-foot buffer remains intact.

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## 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, October 16** at the Sherwood House in Cromwell Valley Park at 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road in the Towson area. Come to participate in the discussions and planning. There will be a social and refreshments at 7:00 with a meeting to follow from 7:30 to 9:30.

Directions to Cromwell Valley Park: Take the Baltimore Beltway (695) to Exit 29 for Cromwell Bridge Road. At the first light, turn left, going east on Cromwell Bridge Road from Loch Raven Drive. Take the Sherwood Farm entrance into the park. Follow the road around to the right and then at the barn turn left and park beside the Sherwood House.

### Happy Hour Social

Members and non-members are invited to meet on **Friday, September 19**, 6 – 8 PM for socialization, happy hour, and dinner at the Charred Rib in the Ridgely Shopping Center in Lutherville near York Road. Walking distance to the Lutherville light rail station. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or [pstech@smart.net](mailto:pstech@smart.net).

### 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!

Several 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 schedule includes day hikes, camping trips, bike rides, tubing, and more. 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](mailto:youngsierrans@gmail.com), or 410-440-9896. Hope to see you on the trail or at one of our socials!

### 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 **Thursday, October 2**. 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. The meeting will be held at the Panera Bread restaurant in Timonium, beginning with **dinner and socialization at 6:30 p.m.** in a quiet corner **and a meeting to follow at 7:00.** From I-83 north, take exit 16 Timonium Rd. east, turn left on York Rd., and turn right at the next light for the Timonium Center across from the State Fairgrounds. The restaurant is in the right rear area of the parking lot beside Office Depot. For more information, call Bette at 410-666-2696.

### Photography and the Environment

By John MacHale

In November 2007, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Greater Baltimore Sierra Club, a group of people with an interest in photography and the natural world met to explore ways in which photography can be used to support the Sierra Club's mission. We have met several times since then and are now very close to finalizing the details of a nature photography exhibit to be co-sponsored by the Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club.

The November issue of the *Baltimore Sierran* will announce how and when photographic images can be submitted for inclusion in the juried exhibition. The exhibit is expected to be up and running by late winter or early spring of 2009. If you are interested in assisting with the final planning or running of the exhibit, please contact John MacHale at 410-377-6130.



Photo by David Rader

### Interested in Population Issues?

The Population Committee of the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter is looking for new members. If you are interested in the problem of overpopulation—local, State, or world—contact Sam Hopkins at 410-554-0006 or [sbh@hopkinsandassociates.com](mailto:sbh@hopkinsandassociates.com). We offer fellowship and opportunities for you to take meaningful action.

### In Search of Newsletter Contributors

The deadline is **October 16<sup>th</sup>** for submissions to the mid-November *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 Corrdry at 410-239-4590 or 443-386-0862 or [XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com) or 75 Perryfalls Place, Nottingham, MD 21236.

### 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](mailto: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: [f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu](mailto:f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu).



## "Cooling" Baltimore County

by Bob Burchard, GB Sierra Club Cool Counties Chair

The world's average annual temperature is rising, weather patterns are changing, species extinctions are increasing, and seawater is becoming more acidic. In the face of an ever-growing body of evidence that humankind is at least partially responsible for global warming and changing of ocean pH, our national government has provided no meaningful leadership toward ameliorating these serious threats. Given that Americans comprise 5% of the world's population and are responsible for 25% of the world's energy use, it's incumbent on us to take the lead in reducing energy use and developing green and renewable energy sources.

As readers of the *Baltimore Sierran* know, initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are being taken by state and local governments and by environmental organizations, businesses and universities. One such endeavor is the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" and "Cool Counties" programs (see <http://coolcities.us/>; <http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/coolcounties>). The first step in becoming "Cool" is signing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Baltimore City is one of 1,033 cities and towns that have signed. Seven Maryland counties have signed onto the Agreement or have made comparable commitments. Baltimore County has not done so.

From a Greater Baltimore Sierra Club perspective, here is a chronology of Baltimore County's progress toward reducing its emissions of GHGs and thereby becoming "Cool."

**August '06:** GBSC members hosted an open meeting with 1<sup>st</sup> District

Councilman Sam Moxley to explore the County's becoming "Cool." Subsequently, a letter was sent to County Executive Jim Smith, urging him to sign the U.S. Mayors Agreement.

**February '07:** David Carroll, Director of the County's Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management (DEPRM), was quoted at length in the *Baltimore Sierran* about steps that had already been taken toward implementing Cool Counties' goals. He cited preservation programs, tree planting, purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles, and the granting of tax credits for "high performance" commercial buildings, i.e., those meeting at least the LEED Silver rating.

**March '07:** Councilman Moxley requested the County's Commission on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to review the Sierra Club's Cool Cities initiative.

**May '07:** The spring issue of *Baltimore Sierran* carried an open letter from GBSC urging Baltimore County Government to become a Cool County as had neighboring jurisdictions.

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## Baltimore County-Sustainability Update

By David Carroll, Baltimore County Sustainability Director

They say the "devil is in the details" and, as we gear up to organize and move forward with Baltimore County's Sustainability initiative, those words not only may ring true but provide useful guidance. Formulating a sustainability strategy for the government of a jurisdiction takes some careful forethought, practical know how, and a driving vision. Fortunately, Baltimore County has a solid track record on managing both its fiscal and natural resources. The sustainability strategy challenge, put forward by County Executive Jim Smith on April 22, will require new thinking, new approaches, and new actions that are well formulated and coordinated. Unfortunately, in our need and desire to find new approaches to many of our energy and climate change problems, we have run pell mell down avenues not well mapped, without thinking through the comprehensive consequences of implementing that particular "solution." Baltimore County will steer clear of that pitfall.

With the establishment of the Sustainability Network, Baltimore County will be able to take advantage of the expertise of innovative programs both in and out of government. The com-

position of the Network, expected to be in place by September, will draw on our government staff, conservation organizations, the private sector, and applied experiences from academia.

The group is charged with developing a guidance framework for a sustainability strategy for the County that must address three primary areas:

1. Management of our natural resources,
2. Operations of County facilities, and
3. Our built environment.

The framework document will be available in a draft form within six months of the organizing meeting of the group. Upon concurrence with the document's elements, plans for implementation for the various sections of the strategy will be identified, tasks assigned and timelines set. The framework will comprehensively identify programs and projects that already exist, are underway, or that may need to be created and implemented. The Network will look at national programs and the experiences of other local governments in Maryland and across the country. There are already several mechanisms in place to evaluate approaches and successes or shortcomings. A major part of the sustainability strategy is the creation of a comprehensive public education and outreach element to give citizens practical, real world guidance on greenhouse gas emissions, personal "carbon footprints," a reality-check on issues, and approaches to energy conservation.

There are a number of efforts already underway that will help create the sustainability strategy. A greenhouse gas emissions inventory should be available in early fall to help the Network evaluate the benefits of specific programs. The Office of Community Conservation has been working for several years to develop practical guidelines of energy-efficient homes, both new and remodeled and now has a website to assist homeowners. The County is carefully evaluating the effectiveness of its hybrid and high gas

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## 2008 Legislative Environmental Bills

by Janet Schollenberger, GB Group Political Chair

Environmental legislation received a lot of attention in the 2008 Maryland General Assembly. Energy efficiency and alternative fuel use formed the largest category of bills. Legislation that will have the biggest impact on protecting the Chesapeake Bay is the Critical Area Act. In this newsletter, check out the summary of 10 important bills that were passed into legislation and how your State Senate representatives voted. The voting records of your House representatives were printed in the May issue of the Baltimore Sierran, which inadvertently omitted the Senators' records.

To get more information about any legislation, go to <http://mlis.state.md.us> and type in the bill number, for example HB377 on the main page of the website. SB means senate bill and HB stands for house bill. Most bills have both a House and Senate version. However, there are some exceptions. You may also contact the Department of Legislative Services, [Library and Information Services](http://Library and Information Services) at 1-410-946-5400 (Baltimore) or contact your representative. To locate your State representative, find your district on <http://mdelect.net/> or call your local state board of elections: Baltimore County-410-887-5700 Baltimore City-396-5550 Harford County 410-638-3565

### Energy Legislation

**HB377/SB207 Solar and Geothermal Tax Incentive and Grant Program** – expands the grant program to finance the installation of household renewable energy projects, such as solar water heating systems. For example, solar water heating grant was increased from a maximum of \$2000 or 20%, whichever is less, to \$3000 or 30% of the cost, whichever is less.

**HB374/SB205 Empower Maryland** – establishes a goal to reduce per capita energy use 15% by 2015. Utilities and the Maryland Energy Administra-

tion will offer energy efficiency incentives to consumers. Projected energy savings by 2020 is \$4.1 billion.

**HB368/SB268 MD Strategic Energy Investment Program** – funds energy efficiency programs for the low-income people, offsets utility rates from the sale of carbon allowances under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) that Maryland joined in 2006. The RGGI is a market based cap and trade program to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the Northeast by adopting energy

efficiency policies that promote renewable resources and lower emission fuels, and energy efficiency improvements. Other partners include Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

**HB376/SB208 High Performance Building Act** – requires high-energy efficiency standards for new buildings and renovations of old buildings paid for by State funds.

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## 2008 Legislative Environmental Bill Voting Records of Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Harford County State Legislative Representatives on 10 Important Environmental Bills

+ vote is favorable for the environment  
 - vote is unfavorable for the environment  
 O means did not vote (includes excused and non-excused absences)  
 \* indicates that 100% of the delegates or senators voted in favor of the bill.  
 % is the percentage of environmentally favorable votes out of the 10 possible votes.

Maryland State Senators	Locality	District	SB 205	SB 268	SB 207	SB 208	SB 209	SB 844	SB 259 *	SB 662	SB 204	SB 206*
<b>Larry Haines</b> 50%	BA	5	-	-	+	+`	-	-	+	+	-	+
<b>Norman Stone, Jr</b> 90%	BA	6	+	-	+	+`	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Andrew Harris</b> 30%	BA HA	7	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
<b>Katherine Klausmeier</b> 90%	BA	8	+	+	+	+`	+	+	+	+	+	O
<b>Delores Goodwin Kelley</b> 90%	BA	10	+	+	+	+`	+	+	+	+	O	+
<b>Robert (Bobby) Zirkin</b> 100%	BA	11	+	+	+	+`	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Edward Kasemeyer</b> 100%	BA	12	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Nancy Jacobs</b> 30%	HA	34	-	-	+	+	-	-	O	-	-	+
<b>Barry Glassman</b> 60%	HA	35	O	-	+	+`	O	+	+	-	+	+
<b>Catherine Pugh</b> 100%	BC	40	+	+	+	+`	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Lisa A. Gladden</b> 100%	BC	41	+	+	+	+`	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Joan Carter Conway</b> 100%	BC	43	+	+	+	+`	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>James Brochin</b> 100%	BA	42	+	+	+	+`	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Verna Jones</b> 100%	BC	44	+	+	+	+`	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Nathaniel McFadden</b> 100%	BC	45	+	+	+	+`	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>George W. Della, Jr</b> 60%	BC	45	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+

## 2008 Legislative Environmental Bills

(Continued from page 6)

HB375/SB209 **Renewable Portfolio Standard Percentage Requirements** – doubles the utilities renewable energy standard to 20% by 2022. Utilities will be required to generate 20% of their energy from renewable resources.

### Water Quality

HB1253/SB844 **Maryland's Critical Area Act (CAA)** – strengthens the enforcement of building restrictions on land that is within 1000 feet of the Chesapeake Bay's tidal waters. This legislation provides the Critical Area Commission with the tools it needs to limit development in these natural buffer areas to prevent sediment and contaminated runoff.

### Land Preservation

SB259 **Program Open Space** – increases the percentage of local Program Open Space funds from 75% to 100% for development of parks.

SB662 **Agricultural land transfer tax** – addition of a surcharge to preserve farmland by helping farmers purchase land and promote the use of sustainable farm practices.

### Smart Growth

HB373/SB204 **Transit Oriented Development** – promotes the creation of compact, walkable communities centered around high quality train systems.

HB366/SB206 **Base Realignment Closure** – gives local governments tax benefit incentives to build housing for relocated persons in developed areas. This legislation will help preserve undeveloped land.

## "Cooling" Baltimore County

(Continued from page 5)

**June '07:** Pat Brady, an Environmental Science graduate student at Towson University, initiated a County greenhouse gas inventory, the 2<sup>nd</sup> step in becoming "Cool." The project is for her M.Sc. under the supervision of Dr. Brian Fath, Associate Professor at Towson University and member of the CEQ. Using state-of-the-art, nationally-accepted software, Brady is quantifying emissions generated from residential, commercial, and transportation energy use (i.e., electricity, heating oil, gasoline) as well as from waste produced within the County. This is a timely project given actions recently taken by the state of Maryland, such as participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and formation of the Commission on Climate Change. She expects the inventory to be completed by the fall. It will include scenarios for achieving reductions of the County's GHG emissions.

**October '07:** GBSC joined 18 other environmental, faith-based and business organizations (the Baltimore County Climate Coalition) in writing a letter to Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith, urging him to:

- Adopt a comprehensive climate protection plan for the County. Twelve Action Items, based on best executive practices nationwide, were suggested
- Write to Maryland's leaders urging them to adopt greenhouse gas reduction goals for the State of not less than 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050, as recommended by the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and to provide regulatory authority and funding for implementation of the goals.

**November '07:** A significant step forward was taken by the CEQ in response to a request by 1<sup>st</sup> District Councilman Sam Moxley to review the Cool Cities initiative. The CEQ's Cool Cities Working Group recommended that Baltimore County:

- Join the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) to receive technical assistance;
- Create a County structure, a "Public-Private Sustainability Workgroup, to develop and implement a comprehensive policy to address climate change and sustainability";
- Include at a minimum the core programs of Cool Cities in the County's Sustainability Program; and
- Encourage, educate and incentivize County employees and citizens to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The summary of the report will become available on the CEQ's website at (<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/ceq/index.html>).

**January '08:** In Resolution 7-08, the Baltimore County Council requested the County's Planning Board, in conjunction with several other agencies, to create a model for a County Sustainability Program. (see [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/council/legislation/08resolutions](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/council/legislation/08resolutions))

**April '08:** County Executive Smith appointed David Carroll, Director of DEPRM, to the new cabinet level position of Sustainability Director. His primary objective is "to improve the environmental sensitivity and sustainability of government operations. He will develop a permanent Sustainability Policy and Program through which Baltimore County will implement sustainable practices. In addition, he will work with the private sector to improve environmental practices."

Smith also announced the establishment of the Baltimore County Sustainability Network "to give advice and guidance to the sustainability efforts. The network will be made up of representatives from County departments and the business sector, a member of the Baltimore County Commission on Environmental Qual-

ity, and representatives from conservation organizations. We are eagerly awaiting the announcement of the Network's membership.

**July '08:** Here are the perspectives of County leaders:

Sustainability Director David Carroll:  
See the article that follows.

1st District Councilman Sam Moxley:  
"Over the past two years, the County has made great strides in protecting our environment and preserving our resources. CEQ has worked hard over the last few years to put more and more ideas in front of County decision makers. I am very proud of our tax incentives for green buildings (both residential and commercial), our emissions inventory effort, the "greening of our motor vehicle fleet, and our Builders for the Bay program - just to name a few of the programs the County Council has supported. Also, I am most pleased that we now have a Sustainability Coordinator (a cabinet level appointee), Mr. David Carroll, ready to keep moving us forward. Through the efforts of the CEQ, the County Executive and the Council, I feel like Baltimore County is a preservation leader in the State and will remain so for many years to come."

Progress on **Baltimore City's** implementation of "Cool Cities" is described in Patrick McMahon's article in this newsletter.

**Harford County:** We are seeking activists who are willing to motivate that County's leadership to sign the U.S. Mayors Agreement and become "Cool."

## Neighbors Improving Water Quality in Jones Falls and Herring Run Watersheds

By Mary C. Corddry

The Jones Falls and Herring Run Watershed Associations joined with the Baltimore City and County governments to promote action for improving water quality in these watersheds with Chesapeake Bay tributaries. With a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, they are developing Small Watershed Action Plans (SWAPs), strategies for cleaning up the streams. They are identifying factors adversely impacting water quality and the actions from simple to more costly that residents, watershed and other community associations, schools, businesses, industries, and governments can take to stop harmful practices and improve the watersheds. There is a focus on storm water management because Baltimore City is under a consent decree with the Federal government to reduce sewage leaks into local streams flowing into the Chesapeake Bay.

In June 2007, a Jones Falls and Upper Back River Stakeholder public meeting was held to discuss visions and goals for the planning process. Since then, teams of watershed and local government staff with a consultant from the Center for Watershed Protection conducted field assessments in the upland areas of the Lower Jones Falls and the Upper Back River, which includes Herring Run. The upland assessments have four components: neighbors, open spaces, commercial/industry, and institutions (e.g., schools, churches).

The field assessors studied what happens when it rains in the uplands of these urban watersheds. This is where it all begins, with rainwater running off roofs and streets into storm drains and from there into streams. The teams drove around neighborhoods, observed what was happening in and around waterways, knocked on doors to talk with neighbors, tested water quality, and

took photographs. Also, a survey was conducted of public attitudes toward storm water in the Baltimore area (see the findings below).

On June 17, 2008, another stakeholder public meeting was held to review the findings about problems and to discuss best management practices for restoration and improvements. During breakout sessions, watershed residents prioritized recommended actions. A report will be completed this summer and an implementation plan by the end of this year.

- The field assessments identified many opportunities for restorative practices that can greatly impact water quality with relatively little effort and cost. Public and private collaboration is recommended for the following restorative actions:
- Disconnect downspouts from storm water systems: Many homes and other buildings have downspouts, which collect rainwater from their rooftops, either directly connected to storm drains or emptying onto impervious surfaces and flowing into storm drains. If there are at least 15 feet of pervious surface around the downspouts, it is recommended that the downspouts be disconnected and their flow directed away from the building and into an area with a pervious surface, such as a water garden or planted courtyard. Then, the water can be absorbed and can more naturally and slowly find its way to a stream. If there is insufficient pervious surface, connect the downspouts to water barrels. These large barrels can hold the water until it can be dipped or drained for watering plants or other uses.
- Sweep streets and keep storm drains clear: Street sweeping by local governments picks up sediment and debris that would otherwise be washed into storm drains and from there into streams. Runoff from storm drains is the source of bottles and other trash flowing out of the Jones Falls into Harbor Place. Neighbors may adopt a gutter or storm drain to keep it clear of leaves, garbage, and other debris.
- Change behavior to reduce the sources of pollution. Pick up pet waste. Stop littering and clean up trash. Buy products, such as laundry soap, that are biodegradable. Detergents create a slippery film that attaches to fishes' gills so they can't breathe. Don't wash your car or change the oil or antifreeze on the driveway or street where the runoff goes into a nearby storm drain. Don't pour rug cleaner, paint, oil, or wash water into the storm drain.
- Lawn care and bay-scaping education: Everyone should be trained on how to prevent excessive use of fertilizer and pesticides that results in their being washed into storm drains. Training is also needed on the use of native plants along streams and in yards, such as Joe Pye Weed and Black-Eyed Susans. They flourish with less need for fertilizer and pesticides. Plants prevent erosion and absorb and filter water. Nurseries and stores still sell invasive, non-native plants and do not distinguish native plants from non-natives.
- Plant the right tree in the right place: Request tree planting along city streets if there are at least four



feet between the street and the sidewalk. Plant trees in parking lots and beside buildings. Trees cool the area and so reduce energy costs. They filter and cleanse the air and water of pollutants. They absorb rainwater and prevent erosion. In Portland, Oregon, stream filters were put into the streetscape, with water directed from streets into containment areas with trees and other plantings and with sand underneath to enhance absorption.

- Fix leaking storm water and sewer lines and dumpsters. Report illegal discharges of sewage, wash water, and industrial residue.
- Reduce the amount of land covered by impervious surfaces and expand the pervious surfaces. Many shopping centers and schools have more paved areas than are needed.

Storm water runoff needs to be reduced, slowed, and filtered. Rain runs off impervious surfaces quickly without soaking in and washes everything on that surface with it. This unfiltered and untreated runoff contains excessive sediment, nutrients from fertilizers, pesticides, and all kinds of contaminants (e.g., bacteria, metals, grease, oil, antifreeze, trash) from roads, driveways, and industries. If rainwater runs off too quickly into streams, it causes erosion, flooding, and scouring of the streambed. Impervious surfaces include roofs, compacted ground, and paved parking lots, playgrounds, roads, and driveways. After a rain event last year, 10,000 fish were killed in the Baltimore Harbor. More pervious surfaces are needed so that rainwater can be naturally absorbed and filtered before finding its way to the streams.

The field assessors looked for potential open spaces for bio-retention of rainwater. These are public or private pervious areas of 1/2 acre to 10 acres, that can uptake nutrients if restored as grassy areas, meadows, parks, or gardens. Also, wetlands will treat large amounts of storm water (e.g., from highways), shelter wildlife, and are an aesthetic amenity. Green roofs can

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Neighbors Improving Water Quality in Jones Falls and Herring Run Watersheds

(Continued from page 8)

absorb rainwater, cleanse the air, and cool buildings.

The team also identified “hot spots” from commercial or industrial operations, where contaminants are released into the water system when it rains. They identified institutions, such as schools, which could help the watersheds through tree plantings, better trash and storm water management, downspout disconnections, and removal of impervious surfaces. They tested water quality. A high level of ammonia indicates sewage leaks. Detergents indicate problems with wash water (“brown” water) getting into streams. Metals indicate industrial contaminants. Nutrients indicate fertilizer runoff. High sediment levels indicate erosion of stream banks from flooding waters, runoff from construction sites, etc.

Because lawns are the dominant land use in many of these neighborhoods, what happens on the lawn affects the watershed. Don’t use more fertilizer and pesticides than you need, so they won’t wash off the lawn.

Baltimore City and County are engaged in extensive stream restoration projects, such as at Stony Run in Baltimore City (see the outings list for a hike along the stream on September 6) and the Minebank Run in Cromwell Valley Park. The stream banks are being hardened with boulders, etc.; narrow, steep stream beds are being raised and widened; natural curves are being restored; calming devices are being inserted to slow the flow and take the energy out of flood waters; and native vegetation is being planted along the stream banks and in a buffer zone.

Improving watersheds has positive side effects. Communities become more livable with healthier air and water.

Restoration of our watersheds is not just the government’s responsibility.

Many individual actions and behavior changes can make a big difference. Other actions are more expensive capital projects. Public and private cooperation is needed, to help each other make a difference.

As part of the project, a study was conducted of Baltimore residents’ attitudes and knowledge about storm water. OpinionWorks conducted four focus groups in March 2007 and a telephone survey of 800 residents during the summer of 2007. Respondents felt that storm water is an urgent problem and that trash and polluted water are having a negative economic impact on the region. Although they are relatively uninformed about what a watershed is and how storm water is managed, most are willing to help, if they are advised about what to do. They are motivated by very real anxieties about water-borne health threats. A major public communications campaign is needed with a focused message.

To find out how to help restore the watershed where you live, contact: Herring Run Watershed Association at 410-254-1577 or

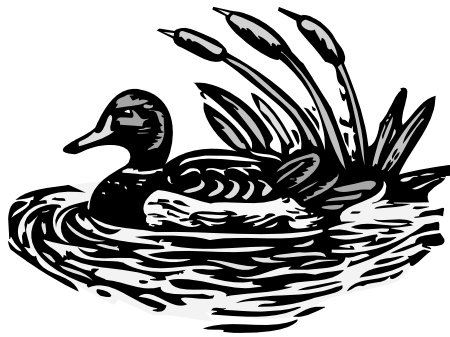
[www.herringrun.org](http://www.herringrun.org)

Jones Falls Watershed Association at 410-366-3036 or

[www.jonesfalls.org](http://www.jonesfalls.org).

Baltimore City Environmental Services at 410-396-0732 or <http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/dpw/water.html>

Baltimore County Watersheds & Monitoring at 410-887-5683, [watersheds@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:watersheds@baltimorecountymd.gov), or <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/deprm>



## Help us ban plastic bags from in Baltimore City!

Baltimore City Council member Jim Kraft introduced legislation to ban giving away plastic shopping bags at Baltimore City stores. The City Council needs to hear what their constituents think about it. A short call/email can make a huge difference!

Let them know how you feel about:

- The impact of plastic bags on the harbor
- How plastic bags stand in the way of a Cleaner, Greener Baltimore
- The convenience of reusable bags
- The use of oil in the production of plastic bags
- Damage to wildlife caused by plastic bags

Other facts and experiences that support banning the distribution of plastic bags at checkout

Questions? Contact Erin McVay at 410-396-4821 or [erin.mcvay@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:erin.mcvay@baltimorecity.gov).

To see the full text of the bill, agency reports, and a legislative history, visit: <http://legistar.baltimorecitycouncil.com/detailreport/?key=3833>

Find your City Council representative at: <http://cityservices.baltimorecity.gov/citycouncil/Default.aspx>

## How Can You Make a Difference in Local Watersheds?

From the Jones Falls Watershed Association

- Use a rainbarrel to catch rooftop run-off.
- Keep your sidewalks clean. Don’t sweep trash into storm drains.
- Plant native trees and shrubs.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of fertilizer.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides.
- Clean up after your pets.
- Reduce the amount of your yard devoted to grass.
- Use porous surfaces for paths and patios.
- Plant trees near backyard steam channels.

Join your local watershed association!

## Non-Sierra Club Outings

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

Appalachian Mountain Club, D.C.: <http://www.amc-dc.org/Events/date.htm>

Baltimore Bike Club: [www.baltobikeclub.org](http://www.baltobikeclub.org)

Baltimore Canoe Club: [www.baltimorecanoeclub.org](http://www.baltimorecanoeclub.org)

Biotrek Naturalists: [www.biotrek.org](http://www.biotrek.org)

Center Hiking Club: [www.centerhikingclub.org](http://www.centerhikingclub.org)

Chesapeake Audubon Society: <http://www.chesapeakeaudubon.org/fldtips.htm>

Chesapeake Paddlers Association: <http://www.cpakayaker.com/index.html>

Harford Senior Outings Club: contact Jack Dettner at 410-638-1433 to join their email list.

MD Association of Mountain Bike Operators (MAMBO): [www.mambomaryland.com](http://www.mambomaryland.com)

Maryland Native Plant Society: <http://www.mdflora.org/events/currentevents.html>

Maryland Outdoor Club: [www.marylandoutdoorclub.org](http://www.marylandoutdoorclub.org)

Mountain Club of Maryland: [www.mcomd.org](http://www.mcomd.org)

**Public Presentation & Discussion: “Connecting To Sustainability: Practical Examples of Sustainable Living,”  
Tuesday, September 9th (2nd Tuesday)  
7 – 8:30 PM**

Will include a discussion of society’s inter-connectedness through our goals of sustainable living & environmental, financial and social responsibility.

Presented by **Rex Wright**: Chair of the Baltimore Regional Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, recent past Chair of the Baltimore County Commission on Environmental Quality, engineer and expert in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and construction management. Rex has made numerous presentations at professional conventions, has testified before State and local governments as an advocate for energy efficiency and green buildings, and has been featured in numerous print and television media reports.

Following this 45 minute presentation and discussion will be a brief open meeting of BCAN: Baltimore Climate Action Network (that's us) where we will consider options for promoting the Maryland Global Warming Solutions Act and local sustainability initiatives. At Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville, [www.towsonuuc.org](http://www.towsonuuc.org). For questions contact: [mail@baltimoreclimate.org](mailto:mail@baltimoreclimate.org) or 410-812-1447.

Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville, MD 21093-9705. For directions see: [www.towsonuuc.org](http://www.towsonuuc.org)

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAVE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES & THE CHESAPEAKE BAY?**

*(Continued from page 3)*

In addition to supporting rare, threatened, or endangered species, the 37 wetlands provide other important benefits. Of course, a number of other species thrive in each wetland ecosystem. The wetlands also maintain flows to downstream waters and retain a portion of the pollutants washed from surrounding lands. Finally, nearby residents derive considerable solace from knowing that they live in an area so clean that local wetlands can support highly sensitive species.

Should you choose to volunteer a few hours of your time, we ask for your help with the following tasks:

- Help us determine the vulnerability of each WSSC to watershed development or other threats.
- Research options to preserve each WSSC watershed in a way that allows property owners to make reasonable use of their land.
- Survey the watershed for activities that might pose a threat to rare, threatened, or endangered species, then initiate action to resolve the threat.

This project has been designed so there’s a place for everyone with a few hours to contribute, regardless of skills or expertise. In exchange for your contribution of time, you may well succeed in saving one of these unique ecosystems from an imminent threat, while keeping hundreds of pounds of pollution out of the Chesapeake Bay. Again, if you’d like to learn more about this project, contact Richard at 410-654-3021 or [Rklein@ceds.org](mailto:Rklein@ceds.org).

**Stop That Wavyleaf Basketgrass Now!**

Volunteers are needed to join a team of Federal, State, and local researchers and managers who are documenting the distribution of wavyleaf basketgrass grass, starting at the known locations in Beltsville, Greenbelt, and Baltimore. Marc Imlay, Chair of the Biodiversity and Habitat Stewardship Committee for the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Kerrie Kyde, the invasive plant specialist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, are working to assemble volunteers, funding, and a plan to control the plant. This response could serve as a model of how early detection of an invasive plant, followed by a coordinated rapid response effort, can remove a species before it becomes problematic.

This highly invasive, rapidly spreading grass is already too widespread to be eradicated in a single year. So, while volunteers will be working to control the plant, other efforts will go into precisely mapping known locations, to help botanists identify and get rid of any pockets. To limit the spread, priority will be given to areas along paths, although deer are also moving the seeds around.

Wavyleaf basketgrass, native to India and southeast Asia, is a low-lying, trailing perennial grass. Its flat leaf blades are about 0.5- to 1-inch wide and 1.5 to 4 inches long and have elongated pointed tips. The leaf sheaths and stems are noticeably hairy. The plant has two ways to spread: its stems can grow horizontally along the ground and root at the lower stem nodes. When it blooms from mid-September through November, it grows seed-bearing spikelets. These spikelets have long pointed bristle-like awns that produce a sticky substance that readily attaches the seeds to anything brushing past.



Wavyleaf basketgrass Credit: Kerrie Kyde / MD DNR

This invasive grass was first identified in North America in Patapsco Valley State Park in 1997. What was once small patches now blankets more than 150 acres. Right now, the plant has only been spotted in a handful of locations, also at Liberty Reservoir and Hernwood Landfill in Baltimore County. Based on its rapid spread, botanists fear that it could rapidly replace native plants, turning forest floors into monocultures with little habitat value for other species throughout the region.

Unless we act now, this mounting crisis is likely to destroy 10% of our natural areas in 1/4th of the United States in the next decade. If it is eliminated now in these limited areas, the entire continent will be free of yet another scourge to our native flora and fauna. If that happens, it would be a remarkable accomplishment. Although efforts have succeeded in removing problematic species from local areas, such as parks, examples of removing an invasive species from the continent are rare.

For information about the wavyleaf basketgrass, including information about identification and reporting sightings, visit [www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/wl\\_basketgrass.asp](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/wl_basketgrass.asp). Anyone interested in participating in eradication efforts, can contact Marc Imlay at [marc@anacostiaws.org](mailto:marc@anacostiaws.org) or Kerrie Kyde at 410-260-8534, 1-877-620-8DNR x8367 (TTY users dial 711) or [KKyde@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:KKyde@dnr.state.md.us).

## Area Environmental News and Activities

- About 570 requests for zoning changes are being considered by the Baltimore County Council, as part of the Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP) that occurs every four years. Zoning changes are being suggested on State-owned land, such as schools, so that if the properties were sold, less development will be possible. The Planning Board issued its recommendations in May after public hearings in March. The County Council held public hearings in June and will vote in September on the proposed rezoning petitions.
- The Baltimore City Department of Public Works is hiring rangers and district supervisors for a new police force to protect the City-owned Loch Raven, Prettyboy, and Liberty Reservoirs in Baltimore and Carroll Counties. The rangers will have full police powers and will monitor and enforce conservation laws, in order to protect the metropolitan area's drinking water and water infrastructure used by about 1.8 million consumers.. They will also provide public education about safe, responsible public use of the reservoirs' areas.
- Governor Martin O'Malley signed an executive order to create the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature, a coalition of public, private, and nonprofit groups to develop outdoor learning experiences. U.S. Representative John Sarbanes has proposed a No Child Left Inside Act to direct \$500 million in Federal funding over five years for environmental education.
- The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education, as part of its Maryland Green Schools Award Program, named a record number of three dozen new or recertified public or private "Green Schools" throughout Maryland for 2008. Since 1999, 201 schools have been certified for incorporating environmental education into their curriculum and for using model best practices in their

campuses. Seven Baltimore County schools were named for the first time and nine were recertified. Baltimore City had two recertified Green Schools. Harford County had one new Green School and five recertified. Marshy Point Nature Center was designated as a Maryland Green Center for its efforts in promoting best environmental practices and supporting environmental education. For more information, check out [www.dnr.state.md.us/education/greenschools](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/education/greenschools).

- The Maryland Conservation Corps (MCC) was expanded this summer with the hiring of 200 Baltimore City youths, including juvenile offenders. An additional 100 low-income teenagers were recruited by the Parks and People Foundation, a City-based nonprofit organization. The youth were given summer jobs building trails, painting shelters, taking water samples, and pulling invasive weeds at Patapsco Valley and Gunpowder Falls State Parks. The MCC, a division of Ameri-corps, consists of seven crews throughout Maryland.
- The Maryland Board of Public Works approved the purchase of 25 easements in 13 Maryland counties to preserve about 3,000 acres of farmland using more than \$21 million in State and local government money. One new easement is in Harford County and five are in Carroll County. A total of 268,778 acres of farmland have been protected through the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.
- The Maryland Presbyterian Church of Towson, located on Providence Road, has been named a Great Green Congregation by the Eco-Justice Program of the National Council Churches of Christ. It is one of eight churches nationwide to receive this award. The congregation has undertaken a number of projects to protect the church's property and its environment.
- The Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center is being built near Baltimore's Brooklyn and Curtis Bay Communities, as the anchor to a \$153 million waterfront restoration project. It is the first step to transform a maritime junkyard into a public park, wildlife preserve, and marine terminal, to be built on sand and dirt dredged from the harbor's shipping lanes by the Maryland Port Administration.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as part of its "brownfields" program, awarded \$200,000 to the National Aquarium towards cleanup of a contaminated 13-acre waterfront site beside the Middle Branch in South Baltimore. A \$110 million aquarium expansion project is proposed for the site, including a center to care for marine animals and a public park and conservation area with restored wetlands. The funding will help pay for cleanup of heavy metals, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, and semi-volatile organic compounds.
- The Friends of Middle Branch Open Spaces & Parks was formed to help protect and maintain open spaces and parks in the Middle Branch area. Meetings began in May. For more information, contact Abby Cocke at 410-448-5663 x 122 or [info@middlebranch.cherryhillnet.org](mailto:info@middlebranch.cherryhillnet.org), or check out <http://www.middlebranch.cherryhillnet.org>.



- The Trust for Public Land, a national land conservation group which played a key role in creation of the 14-mile Gwynns Falls Trail in Baltimore and which has preserved more than 8,000 acres of open space in Maryland since 1985, has identified thousands of acres of undeveloped land along the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay and throughout the Gunpowder, Patuxent, Patapsco, Potomac, and Susquehanna river systems. It wants to help State and local governments, conservation groups, and private donors to preserve this land. A long-term waterfront park plan was unveiled to buy individual parcels and turn them into one of the nation's largest systems of open spaces, public parks, and water-access points.
- The Associated Press did a series of 16 articles about pharmaceutical residues in water. The Baltimore Examiner aggregated the stories in the following link:
- <http://www.examiner.com/search.html?source=all&phrase=no&query/Type=text&q=tained+water&submit.x=9&submit.y=5>

## Local Environmental Activities

For non-Sierra Club invasive plant removal activities, planting of trees and other native species, stream cleanup, and stream monitoring, contact the following organizations for information about training sessions and outings:

- Cromwell Valley Park, call 410-887-2503 Mon–Fri 9-2 or contact Bill Breakey at [breakeys@comcast.net](mailto:breakeys@comcast.net) for information about invasive plant removals in the park the **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, 9 am-noon (8-11 am during summer)**. Tools and refreshments are provided. . You may also call to volunteer to participate in trail maintenance outings. Contact the park at 410-887-2503 or [info@cromwellvalleypark.org](mailto:info@cromwellvalleypark.org). Check out the park's varied activities at its website [www.cromwellvalleypark.org](http://www.cromwellvalleypark.org).
- Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, 410-343-3478 or [info@gunpowderfalls.org](mailto:info@gunpowderfalls.org), [www.gunpowderfalls.org](http://www.gunpowderfalls.org).
- A Trail Maintenance Day is planned for **October** in the Loch Raven Reservoir area. It will include hands-on trail maintenance, a hiking trail information session, and a guided nature hike.
- Volunteers are needed for tree plantings, Stream Watch, and other activities. Contact Peggy Perry, Assistant Program Director of Education and Restoration, at 410-668-0118 or [little-owl@msn.com](mailto:little-owl@msn.com). As one of the few land trusts in Baltimore County, GVC places land, which it obtains through purchase or donation, in perpetual conservation easements for protection and monitoring.
- Gwynns Falls Watershed Association, 443-429-3183, [info@gwynnsfalls.net](mailto:info@gwynnsfalls.net). Volunteers are needed to monitor local streams and report sewer leaks to responsible local agencies. Help to reduce storm water runoff by promoting the restoration of vegetation cover through stream-friendly landscap-

ing and land-use practices as well as community planting projects. Community clean-ups are organized to reduce litter and dumping that degrade the streams and communities.

- Herring Run Watershed Association, 410-254-1577, [volunteer@herringrun.org](mailto:volunteer@herringrun.org). Volunteers are sought to adopt sections of Herring Run to monitor, report, and prevent pollution. A trail through Herring Run Park is maintained, and invasive species are removed (contact Ashley Traut at 410-254-1577). The Herring Run Watershed Center recently opened at 3545 Belair Road in Baltimore City. It is a community resource center and a cutting-edge model of green building techniques, with an ecology lab, conference room, and library.
- Irvine Nature Center, 410-484-2413, [www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org). In July, Irvine Nature Center closed its building on the grounds of St. Timothy's School in Stevenson, to prepare for its move to a new facility at 11201 Garrison Forest Road in Owings Mills. The new building is scheduled to open to the public on August 23. A grand opening celebration with a variety of family activities is scheduled for **September 13 10-4 and September 14 noon-4**.
- Jones Falls Watershed Association, 410-366-3036, [www.jonesfalls.org](http://www.jonesfalls.org).
- The 9<sup>th</sup> "Rally for the River" (formerly known as the Jones Falls Valley Celebration) is scheduled for **Sunday, September 21, 8 – 2** on the closed northbound lanes of I-83 (JFX) between President Street to Northern Parkway. Free parking and the main entrance ramp will be at the Poly/Western parking lot at Coldspring Lane and Falls Road. Contact Rachel at [intern@jonesfalls.org](mailto:intern@jonesfalls.org).
- Join them for invasive plant removals 9:30 –12 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. Hundreds of native trees are available for planting this fall at schools located in the Jones Falls Watershed. In March, 25 volunteers planted 300 native trees in less than 2 hours along the Jones Falls buffer in Meadowood Park. They have a Stream Waders program to monitor local streams for aquatic life. Citizens are asked to report sewage leaks to the City by calling 311. Contact Suzanne Greene for more information about activities and volunteer opportunities at [sgreene@jonesfalls.org](mailto:sgreene@jonesfalls.org).
- Maryland Native Plant Society, [www.mdflora.org](http://www.mdflora.org)
- Patapsco State Park, 410-461-5005 or 1-877-620-8DNR, [park-patapsco@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:park-patapsco@dnr.state.md.us), [www.dnr.Maryland.gov](http://www.dnr.Maryland.gov). Check out the new on-line newsletter for events and volunteer opportunities for trail maintenance and invasive plant removal in the various sections of Patapsco State Park at [http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/spring\\_summer\\_2008\\_tributary\\_publiclands.pdf](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/spring_summer_2008_tributary_publiclands.pdf).
- Prettyboy Watershed Alliance, <http://www.prettyboywatershed.org/> or email [prettyboywatershed@gmail.com](mailto:prettyboywatershed@gmail.com). The Alliance sponsors stream cleanups, tree plantings, and trail maintenance.



- Urban Weed Warrior Program, Baltimore City Recreation & Parks, 410-396-0359, [weeds@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:weeds@baltimorecity.gov). Get trained as a weed warrior and help to eradicate invasive species in the City's parks. For information about upcoming invasive plant removals, contact Elizabeth Concra, Environmental Training Specialist, at 410-396-0339 or 443-602-5264 or [Elizabeth.Concra@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Concra@baltimorecity.gov).





## Baltimore County-Sustainability Update

(Continued from page 5)

mileage fleet. County buildings are now being designed to the “silver” standard set by the LEED’s program. The Commission on Environmental Quality has been working on a number of initiatives that will be implemented during the remainder of 2008. This is just a sample of efforts underway. There are many more that will fall under the Sustainability Strategy.

Baltimore County is fortunate to have many of the core elements of sustainability in place or in preparation. Fundamental to the basic needs of conservation are solid land and resource use planning and growth management. Jurisdictions that have not addressed sprawl growth have built-in disadvantages that will be hard to overcome: housing scattered throughout the landscape, few possibilities for walkable neighborhoods and commercial areas, and little or no protected resources, agricultural lands, and stream valleys.

Over 40 years ago Baltimore County embarked on an approach to manage its growth and resources, that has been recognized as a model nationally and internationally. The establishment of the Urban Rural Demarcation Line (URDL), down-zoning tens of thousands of acres of rural land, setting a goal of the protection of 80,000 acres of agricultural land (with over 50,000 acres now protected), funding land preservation programs, stream and water quality programs, implementation of a sustainable forest strategy, and an impressive list of laws, programs and initiatives have maintained Baltimore County in a leadership position. Baltimore County fully intends to not only maintain our leadership role but to enhance efforts in government operations and in the lives of our citizens.

## First Time in the Mid-Atlantic! Sierra Club Outdoors Leaders Training Workshop October 10 – 12 at Camp Barrett in Crownsville, MD

Basic Outings Leader Training (OLT101) is required for anyone leading Sierra Club Class 1 outings (dayhikes). Advanced Outings Leader Training (OLT201) is required for Class 2 outings (overnights away from a car). This weekend-long Sierra Club workshop will qualify participants to lead both classes of outings. It is hosted by the Virginia Chapter Potomac Region Outings section. A \$45 registration fee covers food, lodging, and materials. Sierra Club outings staff from San Francisco will conduct the training.

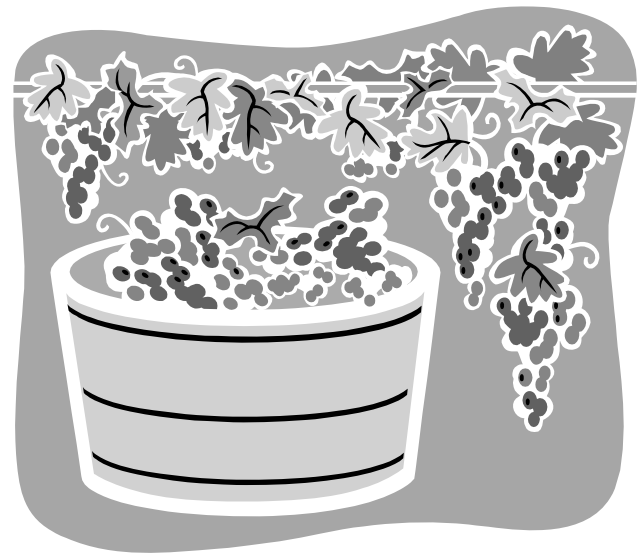
Visit [www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/brochures/2008\\_Maryland.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/brochures/2008_Maryland.asp) to learn more about the workshop and to register.

## Harford Senior Outings Club

A new outings club formed in Harford County in February 2008. The club provides a means for Harford seniors (aged 50+) to informally get together for a variety of activities in the great outdoors. So far, the varied weekly activities have included hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, birding, tubing, swimming, and berry picking. The activities consist of whatever the club’s volunteer leaders elect to lead. The emphasis is on activities in the county or close to the county in order to minimize driving time, expense, and further consumption of nonrenewable fossil fuel. The County with its many natural and public use areas offers wonderful opportunities, including four State parks and a wide variety of county parks. Since many seniors are retired, activities can be on any day of the week.

Announcements of future outings are sent to an email list of participants. There are no dues. This is just a “bare bones” club to enable seniors to share their common interests with others in the great outdoors.

If you are interested in joining or have questions, contact Jack Dettner of Forest Hill at 410-638-1433 or [jdettner@comcast.net](mailto:jdettner@comcast.net).



## Wanted: Weed Warriors for Invasive Plant Removal

If you are interested in outings for invasive plant removal, contact Mary Corrdry at 443-386-0862, 410-239-4590, or [XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com).

## Wanted – Volunteers to Maintain Local Trails

We are scheduling ongoing trail maintenance to rediscover and maintain the old Prettyboy Trail along the shores of Prettyboy Reservoir. The Prettyboy Watershed Alliance and the Mountain Club of Maryland are collaborating with the GB Sierra Club in this effort, for which a right-of-way permit was obtained from Baltimore City. Tools are available. For information about upcoming outings, contact Mary Corrdry at 410-239-4590 or 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at [XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com).

## 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 on **October 2** (see the Outings List). Participate in an outing. Contact Jack Wise, Outings Chair, at 410-256-3963.

## 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 online course of the National Sierra Club. He also has a paper copy of the course. Training is being offered at Crownsville on **October 10-12** (see above article).
- √ 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, such as the basic kit sold by REI. The Sierra Club will reimburse you for your expenses. Contact Katja Kjelgaard, Group Treasurer, at 410-455-0408 or [kkjelgaard@att.net](mailto:kkjelgaard@att.net) 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 [bette888@verizon.net](mailto:bette888@verizon.net). She will add you to the list of outings leaders and will publicize your outings in the Group's and Chapter's newsletters and websites and with local media.

## Participating in Sierra Club Hikes & Other Outings

1. Sierra Club outings are open to everyone—members 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 and there is no charge**, unless noted in the announcement.
2. Beginners are welcome. If you haven't hiked before or not for a long time and aren't sure about your capabilities, choose an easy outing to start out. 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. Check out the outing's details and call the leader ahead of time to find out if the hike is suitable for children, particularly if you want to bring a very young child. 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. 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.
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. 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.

## Outings of the Sierra Club Greater Baltimore Group August - December 2008

*Also, see the outings schedule of the Sierra Club's Howard County Group at: [www.maryland.sierraclub.org/hc](http://www.maryland.sierraclub.org/hc)*

### AUGUST

#### **Sat. Aug. 16 GB – Easy. Full Moon Hayride and Farm Tour**

Cost will be \$10 per person. We will meet at 7:00 PM at the church parking lot on Seminary Ave. west off Dulaney 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 full moon. After the hayride we will have refreshments of soda, cider, hot dogs, and marshmallows around a bonfire, with guitar music and sing-along. Extra instruments invited! Activity will end about 10:00 PM. For more information and reservations, call Lynn at 443-986-1100 or Paul at 410-667-4889 or email [pstech@smart.net](mailto:pstech@smart.net). Children OK with prior approval.

#### **Sat. Aug. 23 GB – Moderate. Kayaking at Rocky Point Park**

Kayak from this waterfront park to Hart Miller Island, a short paddle across in the Chesapeake Bay. Hart Miller (built from dredge spoil) is a favorite hangout for boaters and has a campground, observation tower, sandy swimming beaches, waterfowl, and floating vendors. Meet at 10 AM at the boat launch in the far end of Rocky Point Park past the beach area. Bring your own kayak. It is required to wear a life jacket. There is an admission fee to the park, which has a sandy beach, grassy shaded area with picnic tables and playground, sailboat rentals, and a marshy area with a fishing pier. 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 on the Bay. For details, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at [XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com)

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## Outings of the Sierra Club Greater Baltimore Group

### SEPTEMBER

#### Sat. Sept. 6 GB – Moderate. Stony Run Trail Hike (Older children and dogs are welcome)

5½ miles along the Stony Run stream through Baltimore neighborhoods including Hampden and Roland Park and through Wyman Park. The trail is well-maintained, mostly flat and shaded, with scenery ranging from jungle to manicured parks. Go underneath several bridges decorated with graffiti. See the results of extensive stream restoration by Baltimore City and the planting of native trees by the Jones Falls Watershed Association and other volunteers. Children under 18 must be able to hike this distance and be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Dogs must be friendly. Optional lunch afterwards. Meet at 10 AM and park on either side of Wyman Park Drive beside the ex-Stieff Silver and the Boy Scouts headquarters, or in the parking lot on the left with the Jones Falls Trail sign. From 28nd or 29th Street just east of the Jones Falls Expressway, turn north onto Keswick Rd./Sisson St. and then take the first left onto Wyman Park Drive. For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at [XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com).

#### Sat. Sept. 13 GB - Easy. Endangered Species Hike

Visit one of 37 wetlands in the Greater Baltimore area that support a threatened-endangered species and hike an adjoining forest preserved from land uses that would jeopardize endangered species. The four-mile hike will take us along a portion of the NCR Trail then onto the Bee Tree Preserve, owned by Towson Presbyterian Church. The Church has preserved this 258-acre woodland. It is our hope that we can help the owners of lands affecting the 37 wetlands to adopt similar preservation measures. During the hike you'll enjoy some beautiful woodlands while learning how you could help save one of these wetlands and the Chesapeake

Bay. Meet at the park and ride lot at I-83 Exit 36 (MD 439) at 10:00 AM. Children OK with prior approval. Sorry, no pets. Call Richard at 410-654-3021 or email [GBSierra@ceds.org](mailto:GBSierra@ceds.org) for details.

#### Sat. Sept. 13 GB – Easy. Gunpowder Falls Hike between Falls and Bunker Hill Rds.

4 miles. Hike will follow portions of the Gunpowder North and South Trails along one of the prettiest sections of river in the state. Trail is level but long pants and sleeves are recommended to protect against occasional overgrowth. Will discuss efforts to protect river quality. Meet at 1:00 PM at parking area where Masmore Rd. meets the Gunpowder River. Take I-83 to Mt. Carmel Rd. and exit west. After approximately one-half mile, turn right onto Masmore Rd. Continue 1.5 mi. to parking area after sharp curve and just before bridge. Some additional parking is available across the bridge. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email [f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu](mailto:f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu).

#### Fri. Sept. 19 GB – Easy. Happy Hour and Social

Members and non-members are invited to meet 6 – 8 PM for socialization, happy hour, and dinner at the Charred Rib in the Ridgely Shopping Center in Lutherville near York Road. Walking distance to the Lutherville light rail station. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or [pstech@smart.net](mailto:pstech@smart.net)

#### Sat. Sept. 20 GB - Moderate. C&O Canal Hike (Sharpsburg to Shepards town)

7 mile hike along the C&O Canal from Sharpsburg to Shepards town and back. We will examine how the canal and locks were constructed and operated. Possible dinner stop after hike. Meet at 9:30 AM at Southwest Park & Ride on Rolling Road off I-95. For details, call Bill at 410-574-1453.

#### Sun. Sept. 28 GB – Moderate. Antietam Battlefield Historical Hike

6-8 mile guided tour around the Antietam Battlefield in observation of the battle on September 17, 1862. The walk is mostly flat and paved. Bring

your lunch. Possible dinner stop afterwards. We'll meet at 9:30 AM at the park-and-ride on Rt. 32, just off Rt. 70. For information, call John at 443-739-6439.

### OCTOBER

#### Thurs. Oct. 2 GB – Easy. Outings Planning Meeting

New and prospective outings leaders are welcome to attend the next quarterly meeting of the Greater Baltimore Group's Outings Committee. 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. The meeting will be held at the Panera Bread restaurant in Timonium, beginning with dinner and socialization at 6:30 PM in a quiet corner and the meeting to follow at 7:00. From I-83 north, take exit 16 Timonium Rd. east, turn left on York Rd., and turn right at the next light for the Timonium Center across from the State Fairgrounds. For more information, call Bette at 410-666-2696.

#### Sat. Oct. 4 GB – Moderate. Glen Ellen – Seminary Trail Hike (Dogs and older children are welcome)

6 mile hike around coves bordering Loch Raven Reservoir, along streams, and through woodlands, walking along relatively flat paths and a fire road. Learn about this diverse habitat, including invasive vines creating meadows by snapping off trees. Children under 18 must be able to hike this distance and be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Dogs must be friendly. Meet at 11:00 AM where you can park on Seminary Ave. just past the light to the left off Dulaney Valley Rd., north of the Baltimore Beltway. For information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at [XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com).

#### Sat. Oct. 18 GB – Moderate. Hike at Oregon Ridge Park

5 miles. Enjoy the fall colors on this figure-8 hike to Ivy Hill Pond. Some shallow stream crossings. Will include a visit to the nature center. Meet in front of nature center at 1:00 PM. Take I-83 to Shawan Rd. and



**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.”*

exit west. After approximately 1 mile, turn left at stoplight onto Beaver Dam Rd. Turn immediately onto right fork into park. Follow road one-half mile to its end and walk up to nature center. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email [f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu](mailto:f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu).

#### Sat. & Sun. Oct. 25 & 26 GB - Moderate. Car Camping at Caledonia State Park in PA

Camping and day hiking along lakes and streams in the Michaux State Forest in southern Pennsylvania. Call Jack for details at 410-256-3963.

### NOVEMBER

#### Sat. Nov. 1 GB - Moderate. Kelly Run & Pinnacle Overlook Hike

8 miles with a good chance of seeing bald eagles. Meet at 10:00 AM at K-Mart on Rt. 1 just north of the Baltimore Beltway Exit 32. Call Jack for details at 410-256-3963.

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## Outings of the Sierra Club Greater Baltimore Group

(Continued from page 15)

### Sun. Nov. 9 GB – Moderate. Prettyboy Trail Hike (Older children and dogs are welcome)

7 miles along the shoreline and through forests around Prettyboy Reservoir on the old Prettyboy Trail. This will be a shuttle from parking at George's Creek to the Tracey Store Rd. parking lot for the CCC trails. The trail is newly re-discovered and maintained by the GB Sierra Club in collaboration with the Prettyboy Watershed Alliance and the Mountain Club of Maryland. Enjoy the pristine water and wildlife along this isolated trail. The trail is cleared to varying degrees, with some climbing over or bushwhacking around downed trees and walking through overgrown coves and across steams. Children under 18 must be able to hike this distance and be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Dogs must be friendly. Meet at 10:00 AM at the Mt Carmel Rd. Park and Ride just west off Rt. 83 north of the Baltimore Beltway. For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at [XXDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com](mailto:XXDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com).

### Sat. Nov. 15 GB – Easy. Full Moon Hayride and Farm Tour.

Cost will be \$10.00 per person. We will meet at 7:00 PM at the church parking lot on Seminary Ave at Dulaney 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 full moon. After the hayride we will have refreshments of cocoa, spiced cider, hot dogs, and marshmallows around a bonfire, with guitar music and sing-along. Extra instruments invited! Activity will end about 10:00 PM. For more information and reservations call Lynn at 443-986-1100, or Paul at 410-667-4889 or email [pstech@smart.net](mailto:pstech@smart.net). Children OK with prior approval.

### Sun. Nov. 30 GB – Easy. Loch Raven Late Afternoon Hike and Star Party

Come just for the hike, just for the gaze, or both! The HIKE will be 3 miles to a scenic overlook above the reservoir. The GAZE will be to watch the conjunction of Venus, Jupiter, and the crescent moon just after sunset (sun sets at 4:45 PM). All are easily seen with the naked eye, but bring binoculars or a telescope if you have them. Also bring something to sit on (such as a folding chair) and refreshments if you like. Meet at 3:00 PM at Loch Raven Drive and Morgan Mill Rd. for the hike. For the gaze, we will set up one-half mile south on the lawn near the "island" in the reservoir. Hike will still take place if cloudy for the GAZE. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email [f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu](mailto:f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu).

## DECEMBER

### Cross Country Skiing anytime when snow conditions allow.

Trips to Western Maryland and West Virginia may be planned. Call Jack for details at 410-256-3963.

### Fri. Dec. 5 - Sun. Dec. 7 GB – Easy. Camping and Historical Outing in Harpers Ferry, WV

We will leave the Baltimore area about 4:00 PM Friday evening and stay in a Kabin at the Harpers Ferry KOA <http://www.koa.com/where/wv/48107/> Friday and Saturday. Carpooling is encouraged, and alternate arrangements may be made among participants. We will discuss the history of Harpers Ferry and the Civil War Battle of Antietam. Saturday morning is a good opportunity to visit the nearby [Hagerstown factory outlets](#), including LL Bean and Timberland. Saturday evening we will take a short drive to Antietam to experience the annual illumination <http://www.nps.gov/anti/planyourvisit/luminary.htm>. Sunday we will take a 3-5 mile easy hike on part of the Appalachian Trail and the C&O canal, and visit historical sites in Harpers Ferry. For more information and reservations, contact Paul (preferably two weeks ahead) at 410-667-4889 or email [pstech@smart.net](mailto:pstech@smart.net). Children and pets OK with prior approval.

Sat. Dec. 13 GB – Easy/Moderate.

### Holiday Hike through Hampden and on Jones Falls Trail through Druid Hill Park (Older children are welcome)

4 miles on mostly flat paved trail and sidewalks beginning with a stroll around Druid Lake on a ridge overlooking the City. Visit the glass house of the Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, decorated with poinsettias for the holidays. Continue through the Druid Hill Park on the new Jones Falls Trail into renovated Woodberry and Clipper Mill. Walk through Hampden past fascinating shops decorated for the holidays. Lunch stop at Café Hon, Holy Frijoles, or another eccentric area restaurant. Finish by walking down the famous Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street, with its to-be-seen decorations, then past the old mill houses in Stone Hill back to our cars. Children under 18 must be able to hike this distance and be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Meet at 11 AM and park on either side of Wyman Park Drive beside the ex-Stieff Silver and the Boy Scouts headquarters, or in the parking

lot on the left with the Jones Falls Trail sign. From 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> Street just east of the Jones Falls Expressway, turn north onto Keswick Rd./Sisson St. and then take the first left onto Wyman Park Drive. For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at [XXDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com](mailto:XXDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com).

# MOVED?

Report your address change to:

**(415) 977-5653**

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

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College Park, MD 20740