



# Baltimore Sierran

Serving members in Baltimore City, Baltimore County & Harford County August 2009

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

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

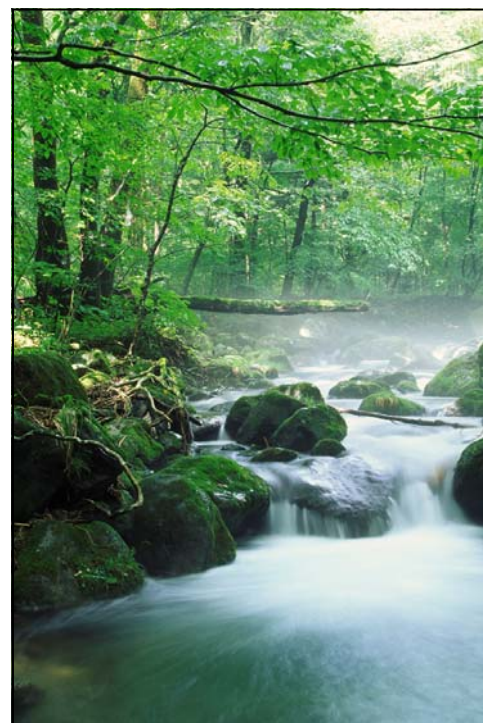
- Sept. 16, 6:30 p.m. – Potluck and Slide Show
- Sept. 18, 6:00 p.m. – Happy Hour and Social
- Oct. 1, 6:30 p.m. – GB Sierra Club Outings Planning Meeting
- Oct. 2-4 – Maryland Chapter Jamboree
- Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. – GB Sierra Club Executive Committee Public Meeting
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each 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

### Volunteer to:

- If you want to get involved with local environmental action but don't know how to get started, contact Caroli Mullen, GB Membership Chair, at 410-366-6953 or carolimullen@verizon.net.
- Volunteer to get involved with political action at the State or local level. Contact Janet Schollenberger, GB Political Chair, at 443-386-5054 or jscholle4@yahoo.com.
- Be an outings leader. Contact Jack Wise at 410-256-3963
- Share your enthusiasm for the outdoors with Baltimore City youngsters. We need leaders and co-leaders for outings with youth at the three schools with which we partner. Contact Bob Burchard at [bobburchard@yahoo.com](mailto:bobburchard@yahoo.com). Check out the Baltimore Inner City Outings at [www.ico.sierraclub.org/Baltimore](http://www.ico.sierraclub.org/Baltimore)

### September 16 – GB Sierra Club Potluck Dinner and Geology Slide Show at Oregon Ridge

Ever wonder what kind of rock that is? Well, come to the Oregon Ridge Nature Center and find out. All are welcome; you don't need to be a Sierra Club member. We have a naturalist from the Maryland Geological Survey to do a talk, with slides, on the geology of Maryland. Prior to the talk will be a potluck and social hour. Bring a sweet or savory dish to share, along with serving utensils. We will provide paper products, utensils, drinks, coffee, and tea. The potluck and social hour starts at 6:30 PM with the talk commencing around 7:30 PM.



So turn off the TV, PC, VCR, DVD, TiVo, Ipod, MP3, Xbox, Wii, Bluetooth, Blackberry and anything else with a battery or wire and meet at Oregon Ridge Nature Center, 13555 Beaver Dam Road, from 6:30 to 9 PM. Meet new people, try different foods and maybe even learn something. The Nature Center can be reached from the Shawan Road West exit (#20B) from I-83. Take Shawan Road to the traffic light at Beaver Dam, make a left, and then follow the right fork in the road to the parking lot. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240 if you need further details.



**Meet Fellow Sierrans From Around Maryland!**  
**Attend the Maryland Chapter Jamboree at Camp Barrett, Crownsville, MD (near Annapolis) on October 2-4.** We will learn, share ideas, have fun, eat, and be where we all want to be – outdoors! This is a great way to network and build relationships. Events include speakers, workshops, trainings, conservation activities, hikes, live music, and campfires. For more information, check out the Chapter website at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org> or call 301-277-7111.



### Sierra Club on Facebook

In order to better connect with our members and provide more up-to-date and easily accessible information about Sierra Club outings and campaign activities, the Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club now has a Facebook group that you can join. The group will be updated with information about hikes, meetings, and public meetings relevant to the Sierra Club. The Greater Baltimore Group's page can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=76458501970>.

The Young Sierrans Group also has a Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=51601732426> on which they list their social events and outings. If you're a member of Facebook, please join these groups so that you can get up-to-date information about policy issues and reminders about outings that you're interested in going on.

**Greater Baltimore Group  
Sierra Club Contacts**

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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/>

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Mary C. Corddry	410-239-4590 443-386-0862 cell <a href="mailto:XxDiTz4LyFvX@aol.com">XxDiTz4LyFvX@aol.com</a>	Newsletter Co-Editor (copy) Recording Secretary Ex Com Member
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Patrick McMahon	410-599-5123 <a href="mailto:Patrick@mcmahon.com">Patrick@mcmahon.com</a>	Transportation Chair Ex Com Member
Caroli Mullen	410-366-6953 <a href="mailto:carolimullen@verizon.net">carolimullen@verizon.net</a>	Social Justice Chair Membership Chair Ex Com Member - <b>NEW</b>
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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:chris.yoder@mdsierra.org">chris.yoder@mdsierra.org</a>	Group Chair Ex Com Member



Photo by Adam Safier

**July 2009  
From the Chair**

When it comes to addressing the challenges of global warming, we live in the best of times..... and the worst of times. When we look at where we stand in Maryland and the United States, we see the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Both the Maryland State Assembly and the Federal House of Representatives have taken the historic and unprecedented step of passing legislation intended to control global warming pollution. That is, without question good.

But, in both cases the bills are deeply flawed. Boiled to its essence, the Maryland bill does little more than mandate development of a plan for future actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The “cap and trade” process envisioned in the Federal bill would, at first, give polluters an essentially free right to pollute and severely weaken EPA’s role as a pollution watchdog. Both bills establish pollution reduction targets that are inadequate to achieve the greenhouse gas reductions that science tells us we will need to sustain the climate. That’s the bad.

The ugly? Both bills are the product of a political system responsive to input from effected interests and communities. We treasure that responsiveness as one of the attributes of our liberty. But, as Will Rogers once joked: If you like the law and sausage you should not watch either one being made. That can get really ugly. It’s ugly watching legislators who know better agreeing to water down or gut necessary protections for our planet and our children’s future in the face of opposition from forces who don’t want to lose the free ride they’ve always enjoyed when it comes to taking responsibility for the pollution inherent in the decisions they make.

Winston Churchill is quoted as observing that, “Democracy is the worst possible form of government, except for any of the alternatives.” And so it is. Polluters get a voice in the debate just as does the Sierra Club. Polluters participate in the political process, just as does the Sierra Club. We can’t have it any other way.

However, we won’t get better outcomes from the legislative process unless we both protect our champions and ensure that legislators know they cannot ignore the needs of our planet without risk. November 2010 is not that far into the future and your Sierra Club, at both the National and local levels, is already preparing for the upcoming elections. 2010 will be an especially significant year because every member of the Maryland legislature will answer to the electorate for their stewardship of the responsibilities of office. We can be sure that polluters will participate in the political process. Will you?

The Sierra Club is only as strong and involved as our membership, and we will make a difference only if you answer the call. We made a real difference in November 2008 in defeating an anti-environmental candidate in the first Congressional district. You can make a difference in 2010 by contacting Janet Schollenberger, our Group political chair, and signing up to get an early start on next year’s election.

Chris Yoder, Chair

## 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 15, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.** at the Maryland Presbyterian Church near Towson. Come to participate in the discussions and planning.

Directions to the Maryland Presbyterian Church: Take the Baltimore Beltway (695) to Exit 28 (Providence Road). Take Providence Road north. The church building is on your right just outside the Beltway. Parking lots are in front and at the side of the building.

### *Outings Planning Public 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 1**. 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.**

Directions: 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.



### *Happy Hour and Social*

**Fri. Sept. 18 GB – Easy. Happy Hour and Social.** Members and non-members are invited to meet 6 – 8 PM for socialization, happy hour, and dinner at a location to be determined. For details, contact **Paul** at **410-667-4889** or [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com).

### *Join the Young Sierrans*

By Kathy Harget, Chair of Young Sierrans

Join the Young Sierrans (generally ages 25-45) for Socials, Day Hikes, & Other Outings. With more than 200 people on the email list, the Young Sierrans attract between 10 and 25 people from all around the Baltimore area to each outing. Our group includes many city dwellers, so we usually meet at the City Cafe in Mount Vernon for carpooling to our hikes and outings.

We also gather for libations and socializing on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM, usually at a city watering hole like Rocket to Venus, Midtown Yacht Club, Joe Squared, or Club Charles.

Each spring we also do at least one service event. And in between the regular monthly events, we get together for fun and to support and learn about various environmental causes and city issues. We have four certified outings leaders, and we're always looking for new ideas and leaders.

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!

### *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 Chris Yoder at: [chris.yoder@mdsierra.org](mailto:chris.yoder@mdsierra.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: [apenczek@stevenson.edu](mailto:apenczek@stevenson.edu).

### *Election of New Executive Committee Members*

Chris Yoder and Caroli Mullen were elected by members of the Sierra Club's Greater Baltimore Group to fill two vacancies for its nine-member Executive Committee (Ex Com). Chris serves as the Group Chair and is an At-Large Member of the Maryland Chapter's Ex Com. Caroli serves as the Group's Membership Chair and Social Justice Chair.

The Ex Com provides direction and leadership for the Group's diverse activities from fighting global warming, to advocating for legislation and elected officials, to outings. It meets quarterly and communicates regularly by telephone and email. The next Ex Com meeting, to which members and the public are invited, is scheduled for **October 15**. Look for details elsewhere in this newsletter.



### *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 Cliff Terry, GB Population Chair, at 410-944-9477 or [Cliff.Terry@maryland.sierraclub.org](mailto:Cliff.Terry@maryland.sierraclub.org). We offer fellowship and opportunities for you to take meaningful action.

### *In Search of Newsletter Contributors:*

The deadline is **October 15<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 Corddry at 410-239-4590 or 443-386-0862 or [XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com) or 4512 Willow View St., Hampstead, MD 21074.

## Sierra Club Transportation/Baltimore City Articles – July 2009

### BRTB Seeks Input on Spending Stimulus Funds Amendment - Public Comments Through July 20

By Monica Haines Benkbedda, Public Involvement Coordinator, Baltimore Metropolitan Council

The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) has approximately \$20 million to spend on local transportation projects in the Baltimore region. These funds, allocated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, are to be used on "shovel-ready" projects that will put people to work and help stimulate the local economy. The BRTB welcomes comments from the public through July 20.

Eligible projects include such activities as the resurfacing, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of county roads; ADA compliance projects; and intersection improvements. These kinds of "fix-it-first" projects will improve safety and traffic flow, and allow the benefits of the stimulus program to be felt by workers and families throughout the region. The proposed projects are submitted as an amendment to the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A list of proposed projects is available at the Regional Information Center at 2700 Lighthouse Point East, Suite 310, Baltimore.

### One Plus ONE

by Patrick McMabon

The City has undertaken a dramatic shift to increase recycling, switching from twice weekly trash collection and recycling pickup every other week to having both of those pickups occur once weekly. Recycling in Baltimore increased by 30 percent in the year that single-stream recycling was introduced (meaning that you don't have to separate paper products from glass, plastic, and metal), and the weekly pickups should have a similar effect. Everything that is recycled is kept out of the BRESKO Incinerator, helping the environment and saving the City money. The funding saved by this shift will allow the City to devote more staff to cleanups of alleys, vacant lots, and other problematic dumping sites and to education and code enforcement when dumping occurs.

Listed below are some guidelines for the new system. You can find the dates of pickup in your neighborhood by going to <http://maps.baltimorecity.gov/imap/>



#### Trash & Yard Waste Pickup

- ⇒ Use trash cans with tight-fitting lids, each no larger than 32 gallons, with no holes.
- ⇒ Do not put out trash in a bag without a trash can.
- ⇒ Trash is limited to 96 gallons each Tuesday (three 32-gallon cans).
- ⇒ Yard waste (leaves, grass, clippings) is unlimited; bundle & tie or place in clear plastic or labeled bags; do not mix trash with yard waste.

#### Recycling Pickup

- ⇒ Recycling is unlimited.
- ⇒ Use any container (can, cardboard box, bin) or tie with string.
- ⇒ No plastic bags. Recycle these at your grocery store.
- ⇒ Newspapers, phone books, cardboard, junk mail, window envelopes, magazines.
- ⇒ Clean paper, no food or grease (thus, no pizza boxes).
- ⇒ No used napkins, tissues, or paper towels.
- ⇒ Glass jars and bottles, no broken glass, no window glass, no mirrors.
- ⇒ Milk and juice cartons.
- ⇒ Plastic jugs and bottles, prescription bottles, lids.
- ⇒ Metal cans, aerosol cans, clean aluminum foil and pans.
- ⇒ No Styrofoam, no plastic wrap, no food scraps, no take-out containers.



### Charm City Circulator

by Patrick McMabon

The City's free new bus service, the Charm City Circulator, will be starting in September, with three routes connecting downtown to the surrounding neighborhoods, employment centers, and tourist destinations. The name Charm City Circulator was chosen from 2,700 suggestions that were submitted. The Charles Street route will connect Penn Station and Federal Hill, the East-West route will connect the B&O Museum and Harbor East, and the final route will connect Fells Point, Johns Hopkins Hospital, and City Hall.

The vehicles being used are almost as close to a rail vehicle as you can get with rubber tires, having low-floors for easy boarding, a relatively open layout, and running on electric power with a quiet and clean diesel turbine engine to supply electricity. The new routes will provide City residents, visitors, and commuters with a high-quality local transit service that will compliment the existing MTA regional service.

The shuttles are free. A map of the routes and more information about them can be found at <http://www.yournameyourride.com/>.



## Club Transportation/Baltimore City Articles – July 2009

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### Tour du Port

by Carol Silldorff, Executive Director, One Less Car

*Tour du Port – October 4<sup>th</sup> 2009 – Baltimore*

You may register at: <http://onelesscar.org/page.php?id=156>. Join thousands of riders at Baltimore's Canton Waterfront Park to kick off the 16th Annual Tour du Port. Routes range from 12 to a new 1/2 century 50 mile ride! The route travels through 12 historic neighborhoods, waterfront areas, and parks. This fully supported tour includes lunch, refreshments at rest stops, map & sag, and a post-ride celebration at the Tour's end. All fees go directly to advancing the programs and advocacy efforts of One Less Car, a non-profit dedicated to walking, bicycling, and mass transit in Maryland.



### Baltimore Regional Fall Bicycle Forum

by Carol Silldorff, Executive Director, One Less Car

One Less Car is sponsoring the Second Fall Bicycle Forum on Wednesday, October 7 at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab (JHAPL) at the intersection of Route 29 and Gorman Road in Laurel. The Forum will take place from 6:00 - 9:00 PM. Over 80 bike advocates, planners, and elected officials attended this well received Forum last year. Attend this Forum to find how to make and keep Maryland Bike Friendly. This is an important opportunity to inform leaders about your concerns and ideas!

Let us know what you think should be a 2010 legislative priority. We are expecting advocacy groups from many counties all over the State: Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, St. Mary's, Baltimore City and Washington D.C. to attend and show/tell what they are doing in their areas. Additionally, we will discuss bike legislation for the 2010 Annapolis Session. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

To join One Less Car's Advocacy Task Force, please contact [Carol@onelesscar.org](mailto:Carol@onelesscar.org)

### Smart Commute – A One Less Car Smart Initiative

by Carol Silldorff, Executive Director, One Less Car

Do you want a free ride to work? One Less Car is analyzing potential carpooling (ride-sharing) programs to provide you with the best ride sharing opportunities available. Check out these 25 ride-sharing sites - <http://mashable.com/2008/09/30/carpooling/>. Your ride-sharing experience matters to One Less Car. Contact us at <http://onelesscar.org/page.php?id=166> and let OLC know which company gives you the best service/most matches.

One Less Car is partnering with the Maryland Department of Transportation to inform you about Commuter Choice Maryland (<http://www.commuterchoicemaryland.com/index.htm>). Did you know that your employer can receive incentives to reimburse you for bicycling to work? Employers can receive \$50/per employee/per month if they provide some basic transportation options to employees. Learn more about Maryland Commuter Tax Credits at: <http://www.commuterchoicemaryland.com/taxcredit.htm>.

### How Does Commuter Choice Maryland Work?

Your employer has three options for distributing MTA monthly passes or vouchers to you. All three offer outstanding tax benefits for you and your employer.

### Employer Supported Option

Each month your employer may provide you up to \$230 in tax-free commuter benefits in the form of a monthly pass or vouchers; or your boss may give you a pass at no cost to you to ride MTA transit free all month. The Internal Revenue Service IRS allows your employer to take a Federal tax deduction and the State of Maryland allows a State tax deduction as a regular business expense on the amount of benefit given to you. The State of Maryland also allows your company to claim a Maryland Commuter Tax Credit for 50% of the amount of benefit given to you up to a maximum credit of \$50 per participating employee per month.

Visit <http://www.commuterchoicemaryland.com/index.htm> to learn more about Employee Pre-Tax Salary Deduction and Combination Options.

### Bicycle Commuter Resource Guide

by Stephanie Yanovitz, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner, Baltimore Metropolitan Council

The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) recently produced a guide, which has a total of 30 pages with almost 6 pages of resources for where to ride, what to look up, and who to call. The guide answers most of the common questions such as: why bike to work and how to get started, proper on and off road riding skills, education, laws, outfitting yourself and your bike, enforcement, parking, and approaching your employer to negotiate bicycle facilities and for providing incentives for bicycling at work.

The BMC promotes bicycling through the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB), which is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Baltimore Region, representing Baltimore City, Annapolis, and Anne Arundel County, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard Counties. The BRTB reminds us that bicycling serves both a recreational and transportation purpose and that responsibility is required while riding to avoid crashes and injuries.

The guide was developed from the Washington D.C. Region's version and was edited to reflect the regional connectivity in the Baltimore Region. The guide will be distributed to large employers in the

Baltimore Region, as well as businesses, universities, and organizations that can share the resources provided. The guide realizes that biking to work is challenging. It provides useful information regarding the benefits to the environment and benefits for your place of employment.

Feel free to contact the BMC at 410-732-0500 ext. 1055 or log onto [www.baltometro.org](http://www.baltometro.org) to obtain a copy of the free guide. The guide will also be provided in a digital format shortly. The BMC will put you in touch with bicycle mentors in your neighborhood who bike to work and can begin to help you identify a comfortable route.

## Baltimore County Land Use Planning

- Every 10 years, State law requires each County to revise its Master Plan. Baltimore County's current plan was approved by the County Council in 2000. As the first step in revising the Master Plan, the County Office of Planning published draft changes for the rural section and had public input meetings in May and June. The Plan provides an overview of present conditions (area in preservation, agriculture, etc.) and describes goals to promote agriculture, protect water supplies, preserve additional land, and generally save natural resources. More information is available at [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/masterplanning/index.html](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/masterplanning/index.html).
- After conclusion of the Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP) in 2008, Baltimore County has entered Cycle 1 of its cycle zoning process, which occurs five times in each quadrennial CZMP period. Although for the CZMP the County Council decides each rezoning issue submitted by any citizen or community organization for any property in the County, the Board of Appeals is the decision-making body when property owners submit requests for rezoning their property during cycle zoning. For both processes, the Office of Planning and the Planning Board make recommendations, but they need not be followed. For zoning changes during the cycle process, the petitioner must demonstrate a change in the neighborhood's character or that an error was made during the previous rezoning.



### News Around the Watersheds

- Baltimore City and County recently completed a Phase I Action Plan for implementing the Baltimore Watershed Agreement. The Agreement was executed in 2002 to formalize the City and County's joint commitments and vision to address pollution in the region's watershed by agreeing to improve cooperative inter-agency management of environmental resources. Workgroups were formed to develop goals and specific actions to improve water quality during 2009 - 2012 in five

- The Baltimore County Office of Planning prepared a staff report on small wind turbines for residential use, including proposed legislation to allow one per property, similar to what Carroll County recently passed.
- "Rural Baltimore County Agricultural Profitability Study and Action Plan," a report sponsored by the North County Preservation, is available at Baltimore County's Cooperative Extension Office and on NCP's website at [www.northcountypreservation.org](http://www.northcountypreservation.org). Several of the study's recommendations have been implemented. Five trainees for the Beginning Farmer Training Program worked on Calvert's Gift's Organic Farm to prepare for farmers' markets. For the Fresh Forks Virtual Farmers' Market, a pilot team is testing a virtual marketplace for farmers, food retailers, and restaurants to manage the purchase and delivery logistics of fresh farm produce. The Chesapeake Region Agribusiness Development Corporation is now in operation and has applied for a Federal grant to help fund the Fresh Forks pilot. It will provide agriculture-related business incubation, business and marketing assistance, and financing for agriculture-related enterprises.



areas – stormwater, trash, public health, community greening, and development and redevelopment. Two additional areas of concern – sustainable communities and environmental justice – were identified and woven in the Plan's recommended actions. All relevant City and County agencies as well as representatives of various environmental and stakeholder groups were involved in the Action Plan's development. The Plan acknowledges that meeting water quality goals must be a regional undertaking. The two jurisdictions agree to collaborative management of the region's rivers, streams, and stream valleys. The City and County Offices of Sustainability are seen as inextricably linked to meeting the water quality goals. The Agreement and the Action Plan can be found on the County's website at <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/deprm>.

- The Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management (DEPRM) has completed a Small Watershed Action Plan (SWAP) for the Upper Back River and Lower Jones Falls. The SWAP identifies ways that the community can help Baltimore City and County to restore the watersheds through such actions as disconnecting downspouts and installing rainbarrels to reduce stormwater runoff into waterways, stream

cleanups, street tree planting, storm drain marking, fertilizer reduction, and improving land management at public institutions. Information is available at [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/deprm](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/deprm).

- The Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund of the Environmental Protection Agency awarded almost \$1.9 million in grants to four Maryland programs to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution flowing into the Back and Patapsco Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. The Herring Run Watershed Association was awarded \$450,000 to slow runoff from landowners into Herring Run and the Jones Falls by diverting stormwater from rooftop downspouts to lawns and landscaped areas. The Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education received \$312,177 to help stop runoff from compacted soils in parks, school yards, athletic fields, residential lawns, and vacant lots in the Baltimore area. The Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts was awarded \$345,000 to work with farms to implement trading options to reduce carbon emissions and nutrients. The University of Maryland and other universities were granted \$786,384 to address dry manure application in seven watersheds around the Bay.

## Keep Your Water At Home

Disconnect your downspouts and have the rainwater run off your roof to where you can collect and use it—into a rainbarrel, a container for household gray-water use, or a garden. Baltimore gets an average of 42 inches of rain a year. That means about 35,000 gallons of water will drain from an average-sized roof annually. If the water runs from the downspout across the pavement, it will pick up pollutants, sediment, and trash before it runs into a stormdrain and flows untreated into a waterway and ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay.



## More Environmental News and Activities

- September 26 is National Public Lands Day, a national day of caring for shared lands. Check out [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org) for information about volunteer opportunities.
- A proposal considered by the Baltimore City Council for a surcharge of 25 cents per plastic or paper shopping bag ran into opposition at the public meeting because of the economic burden on poor and elderly shoppers. Although it takes more energy and water to produce paper bags from wood pulp, plastic bags are non-biodegradable and account for 10 percent of debris on the U.S. coastline. At stream clean-ups, they are pervasive, along with bottles and cans. You can see blue plastic bags waving out-of-reach in trees throughout Baltimore City. Animals on land and in the water digest the bags, thinking they are food, and die. Nurdles, the basic components of plastic, are now found in the digestive systems of fish. Although many countries, including China, have banned plastic bags, 500 billion to 1 trillion are used each year worldwide. Many grocery stores and other merchants sell reusable bags for a small fee, and some even give a discount for each reusable bag that a customer uses. Some businesses or organizations are giving away reusable bags to encourage their use.
- Baltimore Green Space works to protect community gardens, pocket parks, and other open spaces created and cared for by Baltimore's residents. At the request of neighborhood groups, Baltimore Green Space acquires community-managed open spaces..

- Maryland is using Federal economic stimulus funds to expand the State's weatherization program by \$61 million. Sealing leaks around windows and doors is a cheap way to cut utility bills. When replacing an old appliance, consider purchasing an energy-efficient model. Homeowners can get a home energy audit for \$300 - \$500 to find out what improvements are needed. Homeowners and rehabbers who want to learn about "greening" homes can take classes at the Green Building Institute, a nonprofit information clearinghouse in Jessup. It also teaches about Federal and State tax breaks. Policies and regulations are compiled on the web at [dsire-usa.org](http://dsire-usa.org).
- The Maryland legislature formed the Maryland Green Building Council to recommend ways to "green" State buildings. It is working on recommendations for the State to legislate, fund, and communicate programs for everyone else. The U.S. Green Building Council certifies "green buildings" under its new Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. The 10-home development of Spencer's Crossing in Timonium, Baltimore County, is Maryland's first residential project to be certified as having the highest gold LEED status for leadership in energy and environmental design. The gold rating means buyers will qualify for a 60 percent property tax reduction for three years and can expect to save more than 50 percent on energy costs.
- Aberdeen Proving Ground is being transformed as it gets ready for the military's Base Realignment and Consolidation (BRAC). A \$23 million upgrade was completed for APG's main entrance from Route 715. About 350 jobs mostly from Fort Monmouth, New Jersey were moved to APG during 2008, and



another 900 are expected to come by the end of this year. An estimated 8,000 jobs will be added at APG by 2011 and about 10,000 at contractors associated with the Base. As many as estimated 40,000 new residents will move to Harford County and the surrounding area. A consortium, the Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor, was formed to help the State get ready for BRAC.

- The Maryland Board of Public Works approved a master developer agreement to begin design work costing \$3 - \$5 million for a public-private redevelopment of the State Center office complex in Baltimore City. This will be a mixed-use, transit-oriented, 28-acre complex with renovated State offices for more than 3,500 workers, commercial office space, retail space including a grocery store, 1,100 residential units, and 5,300 parking spaces. It is a transportation hub with ready access to the subway, light rail, and bus lines. Ground is scheduled to be broken next summer for this project expected to cost \$1.5 billion.

- Parks & People Foundation and the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks awarded 48 Community Greening and Partnership for Parks grants totaling \$82,080 for community gardens, schoolyards, and public green spaces in Baltimore City.
- The Community Greening Resource Network, an initiative of Parks & People Foundation and the Maryland Cooperative Extension, supports Baltimore City community gardeners and greeners by coordinating available resources.
- The Governor's Smart, Green and Growing campaign is promoting the planting of trees for their beneficial environmental effects. Check out the website <http://www.trees.maryland.gov/indix.asp>, from which you can print a \$25 coupon towards the purchase of a tree costing at least \$50 at participating vendors throughout the State. The site also includes helpful information and a "benefits calculator" for the benefits of your tree.
- Baltimore City and Baltimore and Harford Counties are collaborating on the national award-winning Growing Home Campaign to expand urban forests through a public-private partnership. The Campaign seeks to increase the tree canopy through comprehensive education of homeowners about planting trees and by offering a \$10 coupon towards a tree. For more information, check out [www.growinghome.info](http://www.growinghome.info).
- New Generation Biofuels, headquartered in Orlando, is producing heating fuel from vegetable and soybean oil at a small production plant that opened this year in southern Baltimore City. It is supplying biofuel to an East Baltimore health clinic as part of a pilot for using alternative fuels to heat City buildings. Now the company relies on commercial oils, but is considering used cooking oil, animal fats, and oils from algae.

### ***How Much Does It Cost To Operate Your Home Electrical Appliances?***

The cost of operating an electrical appliance is calculated using three factors: Multiply the wattage of the appliance (usually listed on the appliance) by the approximate number of hours it is used by your household each month, then divide by 1,000. This gives you the number of kilowatt-hours (kWhs) used by the appliance per month. Next, multiply your calculated monthly kWh use by the cost per kWh on your electric bill. Each month, a 30-gallon water heater may cost \$28 for one person and \$8.75 for each additional person, a 12,000 BTUH room air conditioner \$21, lighting \$10.50, clothes dryer for 24-32 loads \$7, range \$7, refrigerator \$3.85 - \$5.25, furnace fan \$5.95, freezer, \$4.90, computer \$3.85, television \$2.80, microwave \$1.12.

### ***Local Environmental List-Serves and Web Addresses***

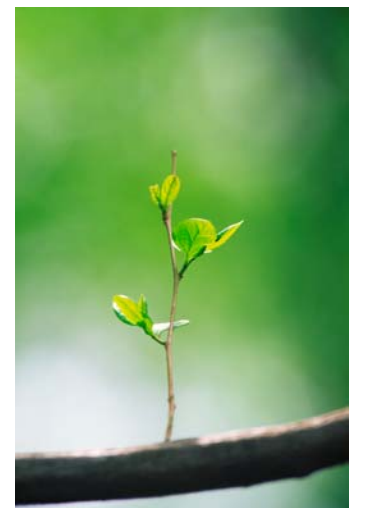
For information on local environmental activities, join one of the following list-serves or check out a website:

- Community Greening Monthly Update of Parks & People Foundation, Inc.: [info@parksandpeople.org](mailto:info@parksandpeople.org)
- E-news Stream of the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management (DEPRM): [watersheds@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:watersheds@baltimorecountymd.gov) and DEPRM website at <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/deprm>
- Information about activities at Baltimore's reservoirs: <http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/dpw.water/rnrs/index.php>

- 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, contact the park office at 410-887-2503 Mon-Fri 9-2 or [info@cromwellvalleypark.org](mailto:info@cromwellvalleypark.org) 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 the summer). Tools and refreshments are provided. You may also call to volunteer to participate in trail maintenance outings. 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). Volunteers are needed for tree plantings this fall, Stream Watch, and other activities. Last spring GVC planted about 1,900 trees along Loch Raven Reservoir, in riparian zones, and in forest regeneration areas. 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. Contact Peggy Perry, Assistant Program Director of Education and Restoration, at 410-668-0118 or [little-owl@msn.com](mailto:little-owl@msn.com).
- 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 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).

### ***Local Environmental Activities***

- 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 landscaping 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), [www.herringrun.org](http://www.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. Workshops are held for disconnecting downspouts and constructing rain barrels, which can save average homeowners up to 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months. Trees are planted in local parks. Native plants are sold at the Herring Run Nursery. Visit the new "green" state-of-art Watershed Center at 3545 Belair Road in Baltimore City.
- Irvine Nature Center, 410-484-2413, [www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org). Irvine Nature Center is happily settled into its new facility at 11201 Garrison Forest Road in Owings Mills. Besides the nature center with interactive, informative exhibits and an extensive gift shop, the center has hiking trails through woods and meadows, including blinds for bird-watching.
- Prettyboy Watershed Alliance, <http://www.prettyboywatershed.org/> or email [prettyboywatershed@gmail.com](mailto:prettyboywatershed@gmail.com). The Alliance sponsors stream cleanups, stream testings, tree plantings, and trail maintenance.



- Jones Falls Watershed Association, 410-366-3036, [www.jonesfalls.org](http://www.jonesfalls.org). Join them for watershed restoration projects (invasive plant removals, tree planting, etc.) 9:30 –12 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. Hundreds of native trees are available for planting. 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 David Flores, the new Environmental Restoration Manager, for more information about activities and volunteer opportunities at [dflores@jonesfalls.org](mailto:dflores@jonesfalls.org).
- Maryland Native Plant Society, [www.mdflora.org](http://www.mdflora.org)
- 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).



### **Farms-to-Schools Movement**

Attend a presentation sponsored by the Baltimore Climate Action Network (BCAN) to find out how Baltimore became the center of the national "Farms-to-Schools" movement.

- Speakers: Tony Geraci, Director of Food and Nutrition for Baltimore City Public Schools, and Greg Strella, Farm Manager of Great Kids Farm
- Wednesday, September 23, 6 – 7:30 pm
  - 6:00 meet, greet & eat
  - 6:30 presentation
  - 7:15 discussion, Q & A
  - 7:30 adjourn
- Towson Library
- Optional \$5 donation suggested.
- For questions or comments, contact [mail@baltimoreclimate.org](mailto:mail@baltimoreclimate.org)

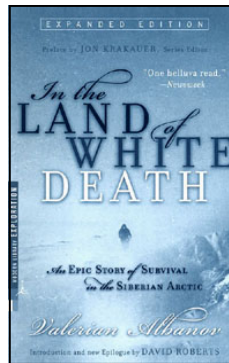
Restaurateur Tony Geraci is an architect of the national Farms-to-Schools movement, and of a "best practices" example of innovative approaches to nutrition at his former position at New Hampshire public schools. His department has taken over a 33-acre Catonsville farm, which is now used for vocational training and organic food production for Baltimore City's schools. Greg Strella has worked with thousands of students and volunteers to develop the Bragg Nature Center into a thriving educational organic farm.

Sponsored by BCAN (<http://www.baltimoreclimate.org/>), a chapter of <http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/>.

### **Book Review**

By Joyce Fletcher

In the Land of White Death by Valerian Albanov  
 Published by Modern Library  
 \$ 21.95 : 200 pages  
 Pratt Library call # G7001912.A5 A43132000  
 County Library call # not available



In 1912, the Saint Anna set sail from Alexandrovsk (now Murmansk) with a crew of 26 including a female nurse. The ship was well stocked with food for 18 months, but without adequate or accurate maps and charts. The captain, Lieutenant Brusilov, and most of the crew were either inexperienced or less than professional. By October 15<sup>th</sup>, the ship was iced in the Kara Sea off the Yamal Peninsula near the 71<sup>st</sup> parallel. She remained beset and drifting northward with the pack ice for months. By January of 1914, realizing that food and fuel were in short supply and they were still moving to the north, the navigator, Valerian Albanov decided to leave the ship. Brusilov agreed and gave his blessing, relieved to have one less mouth to feed. Within days, another 13 crewmembers asked permission to leave the ship as well.

Albanov was a 32-year old navigator who graduated in 1904 from the naval college of St. Petersburg. He had served on other ships before the Saint Anna. After about 15 months trapped in Arctic ice, tensions are growing. Brusilov believes that they would break out of the ice or help would arrive, while Albanov believes just the opposite. A flurry of sledge and kayak building begins in January. The crew is supplied with fuel, guns, and food for two months. By May 14, 1914, they are ready to leave. The crew that is staying behind write letters to send back. At this time, the ship is still locked in the ice pack north of Franz Josef Land near the 83<sup>rd</sup> parallel.

Albanov's plan is to travel about 235 miles over pack ice and open water until reaching Cape Flora where he believes there is a camp where help

can be found. Seven sledges are each hauled by two men and, for the first days, some of the remaining crew accompanies them. They walk into a blizzard that immobilizes them for three days. By the 11th day they have only made 28 miles, and three of the party decide to go back to the ship. At this point two of the sledges are broken up for firewood. Over the next three months, they are attacked by walrus and polar bears; suffer from the cold, snow blindness, lice, weakness, and short rations; navigate over or around polynyas; and lose several men from exposure and malnutrition. Yet somehow Albanov manages to keep a diary of their progress and, in spite of storms and fog, he continues to take bearings and stay on course.

In late June, the team reaches Alexandraland. They decide to split up with about half going overland and the rest going by kayak. They are all able to keep in sight of each other for a while. A storm blows up and separates the team and only two men, Albanov and Alexander Konrad, are able to reach Cape Flora. There they find remnants of an old camp and supplies, some of which are still usable. They explore the camp, clean up, and prepare to over-winter. On July 20, 1914, a ship is sighted off shore. The Saint Foka, a sail and steam ship that is out of fuel, is stopping to scavenge wood from the old camp buildings. The ship is a skeleton, having been stripped of all unnecessary timber to feed the engines. Having no sight or sign of their comrades for a month, the two survivors join the Saint Foka crew and steam through the pack ice to open water and the seaport of Rynda. By then the guns of August have blasted the world into the Great War. In Sep-

### **Loch Raven Trail Maintenance Workshop**

On October 10, join the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) the Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE), and Baltimore City Reservoir Natural Resources staff for a trail maintenance workshop between the Pines and the bridge on the part of Loch Raven Drive along the reservoir that is closed on weekends. MORE will lead volunteers to build rolling grade dips for stopping erosion on the trail. Dr. Sonja Schmitz, a naturalist from CCBC - Catonsville, will lead a hike. A City representative will speak about Loch Raven Reservoir's role in providing quality drinking water to area residents. For more information about this event or tree plantings this fall, contact Peggy Perry of GVC at 410-668-0118 or [little-owl@msn.com](mailto:little-owl@msn.com).

tember, Albanov, Konrad and three men from the Saint Foka are given free passage to Arkhangel'sk on the SS Emperor Nicholas II. The letters are delivered and the two survivors eventually return to sea again. Nothing is heard from the others or those who remained on board the Saint Anna.

Albanov fleshed out his diary into book form and published it in Russia in 1917. It was virtually unknown outside Russia until being translated into English in 2000. It's a fascinating narrative that is far too short. It is crammed with information on weather, navigation, game, the difficulties of progress, and arcane trivia such as that seal blubber will burn cleaner and brighter than bear fat. Albanov continued as a seafarer until 1919, when he either died from typhoid or was killed in a ship explosion. It is unfortunate that he did not take up writing as a vocation, as this brief volume offers all the elements of a great story told by a great storyteller.

## Non-Sierra Club Outings

Check out the websites of the following non-Sierra Club organizations for information about their hikes, trail work trips, educational and conservation activities, and invasive species removals:

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.baltimorecanooclub.org](http://www.baltimorecanooclub.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/fldtrips.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.

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

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

Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE): [www.more-mtb.com](http://www.more-mtb.com)

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

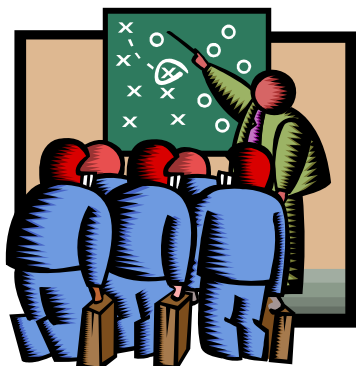


## Return of Potluck Lectures a Success

By Joyce Fletcher

Earth Day 2009 marked the successful return of the long dormant potluck lectures hosted by the Greater Baltimore Sierra Club. Donald Stahl, a local resident and summer ranger at Yellowstone, gave an enlightening and entertaining talk on our first national park. He covered a brief history of the park, the animals and plants that live there, and the subterranean geological turmoil that manifests on the surface as the geysers and mud pots. A slideshow of some wonderful pictures accompanied the talk. A question and answer period followed.

Oregon Ridge Nature Center provided the bucolic meeting space (with ample parking and some wild creatures), and the crowd provided the potluck dinner. It was a fair mix of dips, salads, and desserts along with hot and cold beverages. The night ended with the group apparently stuffed and happy.



Many thanks to the Nature Center for the use of their facilities; more thanks to Don Stahl for his time and expertise; and special thanks to all the folks who dragged their weary bottoms away from a cozy couch on a work night.

The next potluck lecture is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> at Oregon Ridge Nature Center from 6:30 to 9 PM. The topic is the Geology of Maryland given by a naturalist from the Maryland Geological Survey.

## Eagle Scout Project - Prettyboy Trail Maintenance

By Drew Gordon

Continuing the series depends on you, so spread the word. Bring your friends and family and enjoy a cheap night out.

Four years ago, I was introduced to the extensive network of trails and fireroads that exist on the south shore of the Prettyboy Reservoir. This network functioned beautifully as grounds for hiking and running, but I was dismayed to discover that the thoroughfare of this network, the much celebrated Prettyboy Trail, lay largely in disrepair. After further exploration and consideration, I came to the conclusion that much of the trail's neglect stemmed from hikers who were unaware of existing access points at fireroads in addition to parking lots/trail heads on paved roads. A loop, beginning at a convenient parking lot and involving a number of fireroads, would promote more diverse use of the trail. Having formed a general idea of how this might become my Scout Eagle project, I faced the seemingly insurmountable task of getting it approved by the watershed section of the Baltimore City Public Works Department. The task of finding the right authority to approve the project proved difficult. It was only a chance notice in the North County News of work on the trail under the auspices of the Sierra Club that broke the ice and led to a successful collaboration on the project. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mary Corrdry, Nancy Shaper, Rick Monogue, Luke Brackett, Denny Woodward, and Gene Scarpulla for their help in securing this approval. Their guidance on the trail and in navigating the bureaucracy has proved invaluable.

Concentrated effort on my project began in March of this year. Our first major workday was greeted with a cold, wind-blown rain, but I was blessed with a hearty crew of volunteers who accomplished a tremendous amount by the end of the day. On the first day we removed a number of large logs, built the first of

our two bridges, and hauled the timber needed for the signposts. The second workday took place with better weather, but a much lighter crew. On this day, we built a set of steps near the first bridge and cleared a significant amount of brush from around the path. With faithful help from my family, I finished the project on July 3. There are now bridges across the major stream crossings on this portion of the trail, and three different posts to mark the direction of the loop.

Tracey's Loop, as it has come to be known, encompasses a 3-4 mile section of pathway and fireroad on the south side of the Reservoir between George's Creek and Tracey's Store Roads. The loop begins with a left turn at the first fireroad on the north end of Tracey's Store Road. It follows the fireroad until arriving at a junction, accompanied by a directorial pole - from which it can be taken clockwise or counter-clockwise. Proceeding counterclockwise down the fireroad, you'll encounter a number of fallen logs that have been left to retain the rustic character of the trail. The path continues along a pristine cove, where fish can be spotted lazing in the shallows, to the first of two rustic wood bridges put in as part of the project. The trail follows the shoreline closely for the next 1.5 miles, giving splendid views of the reservoir and the north shore. The second bridge lies roughly 1.5 miles from the first bridge, and provides a crossing of the last small stream of the loop. Less than a .25 mile from this bridge is a small spit of land known as Pine Tree Point, which marks the intersection of the Prettyboy Trail footpath with an adjacent fireroad. A left turn here will lead to second fireroad junction at the top of a large hill. Proceeding straight onto a nearby fireroad will take you into a small valley, across an asphalt bridge, and eventually, with one last right turn, to the parking lot.

### ***History of Glen Ellen***

From an article by Dr. Charles J. Scheve of the Baltimore County Historical Society

<http://www.bcplonline.org/info/history/glen-ellen.html>

The Greater Baltimore Sierra Club has scheduled an invasive vine cutting and a hike along the Glen Ellen trail on **November 14**. As we wander through the woods beside the Loch Raven reservoir, we see scattered ruins and wonder what was there before the dams created the reservoir and what was the source of the Glen Ellen name.

Robert Gilmore III (1808-1874) built a castle on a 900-acre property that he purchased in 1832 along the southwestern shore of Gunpowder Falls. He named the estate Glen Ellen after his wife and the beautiful glen where the castle graced a wooded hillside overlooking Peterson's Run, which flowed down the valley and joined the Gunpowder River. While on a European tour after college graduation, he visited the Gothic revival castles of Sir Horace Walpole in England and of Sir Walter Scott in Scotland. They inspired him to build a similar castle on the New Market section of his property. The other section was named Ravensrock, for which Loch Raven Reservoir was named. Stone was quarried from the hill for a three-story castle with several towers, built on a platform projecting from the hillside. Also in the New Market valley property, he had a horse farm, racetrack, grist mill, fields, orchard, vegetable garden, cider mill, dairy, a guest house designed as a Greek temple, and various outbuildings. The couple raised 11 children including Harry Gilmore, a famous Confederate cavalry colonel who in 1864 led his battalion to burn down the railroad bridge over the Gunpowder River at Magnolia.

A dam was erected in the 1880s across the Gunpowder to supply Baltimore City with drinking water. After a larger dam was erected in 1914 and then enlarged in 1923, a lake gradually flooded the New Market section of the Glen Ellen estate and came within a few hundred feet of the castle. Since the castle and its septic system were so close to the reservoir, it could no longer be used. After parts of the castle were removed to adorn other houses, including The Cloisters on Falls Road, the walls tumbled down in 1930. Foundations still mark its location.



### ***Attack Invasive Vines Choking Trees in Our Watersheds!***

Join Mary to cut the invaders at their roots. Check out the Outings List in this newsletter for details about invasive vine removals at Prettyboy Reservoir on Sunday, October 4 at 9:30 AM and along the Glen Ellen Trail in the Loch Raven watershed on Saturday, November 14 at 10 AM. Tools are available or you may bring your own.

### ***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. 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 1**. (See the Outings Schedule.) Participate in an outing. Contact Jack Wise, Outings Chair, at 410-256-3963.



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

## Steps to Becoming an Outings Leader

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

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

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

✓Take the Sierra Club Outings Leader training (Basic OLT 101) or comparable training from a local outings entity. Jack will give you the access codes for the on-line course of the National Sierra Club. He also has a paper copy of the course.

✓The Maryland Chapter is offering Outings Leader training at Camp Barrett in October. See: [http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/brochures/2008\\_Maryland.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/brochures/2008_Maryland.asp).

✓Arrange to take a Red Cross basic first aid course or a comparable or higher level course. 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@verizon.net](mailto:kkjelgaard@verizon.net) about reimbursement.

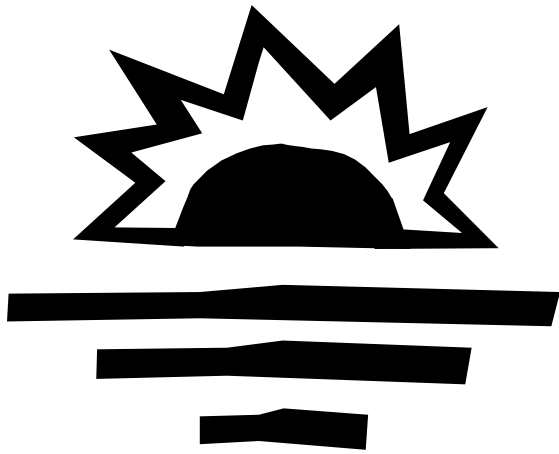
✓Provisionally lead at least one outing, accompanied by an experienced outings leader.

✓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

- 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.
- 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. The outing’s difficulty level is stated in the announcement. Call the leader if you have questions about the terrain, difficulty, duration, or what you should bring.
- 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 a permission slip signed by their parent/guardian.
- Dogs and other pets are not allowed on Sierra Club outings, unless the announcement specifies that the outing is “dog friendly.”
- Participants must have the proper clothing, shoes, equipment, and stamina for the event. Bring at least one quart of water 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.
- All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver before the outing begins.
- Practice “Leave No Trace” hiking. Keep on the trail to avoid trampling things or getting hurt.
- Keep with the group. A “sweep” is usually designated to go last and make sure no one gets lost or runs into trouble.
- 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.
- 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.



### **Harford County Comprehensive Zoning Issues**

The Friends of Harford (FOH) just issued a report on Harford County's Comprehensive Zoning Issues, with recommendations and rationale for each issue. The document is organized by County Council Districts A through F. For each district, there is a District Report which describes each issue, explains what FOH considered while evaluating the rezoning request, and discusses what zoning they believe is appropriate. There is also a map of the issues grouped geographically, spreadsheet of the issues with FOH's recommendations, recommendations from Harford County Planning and Zoning, and an explanation of where FOH's explanations can be found in the District Report.

In many instances, issues in a group share the same concerns. When this happens, the report discusses these common concerns at the beginning of the group. This discussion is in addition to what is written about individual issues within the group.

For more information, check out: <http://www.friendsofharford.com/foh-czr-rpt.html>

### **House Natural Resources Committee Approves Rep. Kratovil bill to Improve Bird Habitat**

Introduced by First District Congressman Frank Kratovil (D-MD) along with three other Representatives, the "Joint Ventures for Bird Habitat Conservation Act" would establish a voluntary program, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in coordination with other Federal agencies and the States, to develop and support cooperative conservation strategies for promoting sustainable bird populations.

The bipartisan measure would authorize, throughout the United States, self-directed partnerships (called "joint ventures") between agencies, organizations, corporations, tribes, or individuals to implement national or international bird conservation plans. These ventures would be patterned on the existing Atlantic Coast Joint Venture that has protected, restored, or enhanced over 280 thousand acres of Maryland habitat critical for birds using the Atlantic Flyway.

Approved by the House Natural Resources Committee on June 17, the bill must still be voted on by the full House of Representatives and the Senate before it can be sent to the President.

### **Outings of the Sierra Club Greater Baltimore Group August – December 2009**

*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)*

*From Hippocrates, regarded the founder of Western medicine, circa 460 BC-circa 370 BC:*

*"Walking is the best medicine."*

#### **AUGUST**

#### **Saturdays and Sundays, GB – Concerts (Children OK with prior approval)**

Enjoy a variety of FREE musical concerts in a beautiful outdoor setting. Bring folding chairs or blankets and have a picnic under the trees or on the grass. Donations are appreciated. All concerts start at 6:00 P.M. and last about 2 hours. We can carpool from the Lutherville light rail station on Ridgely Road at 5:30 PM. Optional pub crawl in Ellicott City after concerts. Call Paul at 410-667-4889 [or email paul@peschoen.com](mailto:email_paul@peschoen.com). Website: [www.Lurman.com](http://www.Lurman.com).

#### **Sat. Aug. 8 GB – Easy. Full Moon Hayride and Farm Tour (Children OK with prior approval)**

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 I695. 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 singalong. Extra instruments invited! Activity will end about 10:00 PM. If less than 8 people sign up, we will just meet as scheduled and go to dinner nearby. For more information and reservations call Paul at 410-667-4889 or email [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com).

#### **Sun. Aug. 9 GB – Easy. Kayaking and Camping at Codorus State Park**

Kayak around the 1,275-acre Lake Marburg at Codorus State Park, just across the State line in Pennsylvania.

We will swim along the shoreline, and have lunch on an island. Meet at 11 AM at the park office/visitor center, to purchase a Pennsylvania 2009 boat launch permit for a small fee. Bring your own kayak. It is required to wear a life jacket. Kayaking is weather-dependent—no threat of thunderstorms. There is no admission fee to the park which has many activities and facilities—several boat launches, a campground with 190 sites, cottages and yurts, trails, picnic grounds, playgrounds, swimming pool. The park is reached from Rt. 30, becoming Rt. 94 at the State line. Follow the signs for Codorus State Park and before reaching Hanover turn right at a stoplight for Grandview Rd. and then right at Rt. 216. Before the first bridge, turn left and then another left to go to the park office/visitor center. (From I-83, take Exit 8. Go 18 miles west on Rt. 216 to the park. After crossing the lake, turn right and then left to the park office/visitor center.) If you want to camp at the park that weekend (which includes dog-friendly sites), make a reservation at [www.visitPAParks.com](http://www.visitPAParks.com) or 1-888-PAPARKS (727-2757), or take your chances without a reservation. For details, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at [XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com)

#### **Wed. Aug. 12 GB – Easy. Loch Raven Evening Hike and Star Party (Children and dogs welcome)**

Come just for the hike, just for the star party, or both! The hike will be 3 miles to a scenic overlook above the Loch Reservoir. After sunset we will gather on the shore to watch the Perseid meteor shower, usually the best meteors of the year. Bring something to sit on (such as a folding chair) and refreshments if you like. Meet at 6:30 PM at Loch Raven Drive and Morgan Mill Rd. for the hike. For the meteors we will set up one-half mile south on the lawn near the "island" in the reservoir. Hike will still take place if cloudy, but cancelled for steady rain. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email [apenczek@stevenson.edu](mailto:apenczek@stevenson.edu).

*(Continued on page 14)*

## Outings of the Sierra Club Greater Baltimore Group

(Continued from page 13)

### Fri. Aug. 21 – Sun. Aug. 23 GB – Easy. Camping and Williamsport C&O Canal Days (Children and pets OK with prior approval)

Outing near Hagerstown, MD.

<http://williamsportmd.gov/williamsportdays.htm>. We will leave the Baltimore area about 4:00 PM Friday evening and stay in a Kabin at the Williamsport Snug Harbor KOA Friday and Saturday (approx \$20/night). Carpooling is encouraged, and alternate arrangements may be made among participants. We will discuss the history of Williamsport and the C&O Canal. Saturday morning is a good opportunity to visit the nearby outlet stores: <http://www.primeoutlets.com/locations/hagerstown.aspx>, including LL Bean and Timberland. There will be yard sales and booths at the park, and live entertainment Saturday night. Sunday we may take a 2-3 mile easy hike on the C&O canal, and possibly also visit historical sites in Harpers Ferry and go to their famous Flea Market <http://www.harpersferryfleamkt.com/>. For more information and reservations, contact Paul (preferably two weeks ahead) at 410-667-4889 or email [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com).

## SEPTEMBER

### Sat. Sept. 12 GB – Moderate. Stony Run Trail Hike (Older children and dogs are welcome)

5½ miles along the Stony Run stream through Baltimore neighborhoods including Hampton 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. Learn about and see first-hand the results of extensive stream restoration by Baltimore City (which may still be in process) 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 I-83 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 [XxDiTz4LyFxFX@aol.com](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxFX@aol.com).

### Wed. Sept. 16 GB – Easy. Potluck Dinner and Talk (All ages are welcome)

Slide show and talk on geology at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center by a naturalist from the Maryland Geological Survey. Prior to the talk will be a potluck and social hour. Bring a sweet or savory dish to share, along with serving utensils. We will provide paper products, utensils, drinks, coffee, and tea. The potluck and social hour starts at 6:30 PM with the talk commencing around 7:30 PM. Meet at Oregon Ridge Nature Center, 13555 Beaver Dam Road, from 6:30 – 9:00 PM. The Nature Center can be reached from the Shawan Road West exit (#20B) from I-83. Take Shawan Road to the traffic light at Beaver Dam, make a left, and then follow the right fork in the road to the parking lot. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240 if you need further details.

### Fri. Sept. 18 GB – Easy. Happy Hour and Social

Members and non-members are invited to meet 6 – 8 PM for socialization, happy hour, and dinner at a location to be determined. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com).

### Sun. Sept. 20 GB – Easy. Woofstock Festival in Harrisburg (Dogs are welcome)

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. "Paws" for a day with your dog (or enjoy other peoples' pets) at Riverfront Park in Harrisburg by the scenic Susquehanna River. There will be lots of tie-dyed



clothing, groovy music, food, and Victoria Stilwell as featured guest (from "It's Me or the Dog" and "Great American Dog"). Free admission. Check the website at: <http://www.cpaawoofstock.com/>. We will carpool from the Towson area at 10:00 AM. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com).

### Sun. Sept. 27 GB - Easy. "Last Sunday Easy Hike" (Dogs, children, and wheelchairs are welcome)

Meet at 2:00 PM at the Paper Mill Road parking lot for the NCR trail. Hike at an easy pace on flat paved surface to the Phoenix Rd parking lot and back, which is about 3 miles roundtrip. Scenic rest stops and historical sites along the route. We will finish the hike in time to attend the Baltimore Green Forum at MD Presbyterian Church 4:30-6:30 PM. Optional dinner stop afterwards. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com).

## OCTOBER

### Thurs. Oct. 1 GB – Easy. Outings Planning Meeting

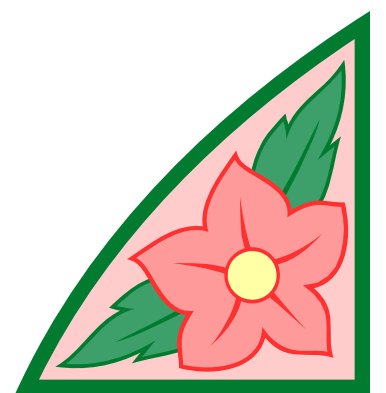
New and prospective outings leaders are welcome to attend the next quarterly meeting of the Greater Baltimore Group's Outings Committee. Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. If you're interested in leading outings and are curious about what is involved, come and talk with the outings 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.

### Fri., Sat., Sun. Oct 2, 3, 4 Maryland Chapter JAMBOREE - Crownsville MD – See elsewhere in newsletter for details.

### Sun. Oct. 4 GB – Easy. Invasive Vine Removal on Prettyboy Fire-road (Older children are welcome)

Give 2 hours of your time to cut invasive vines choking trees in the Prettyboy watershed. Some tools are available, or bring your own. Wear long pants and long sleeves. Meet at 9:30 AM at the Mt. Carmel Rd. Park and Ride just west off I-83 north of the Baltimore Beltway and past the Shawan Rd. exit. For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at [XxDiTz4LyFxFX@aol.com](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxFX@aol.com).

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## **Outings of the Sierra Club Greater Baltimore Group**

(Continued from page 14)

### **Sun. Oct. 4 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 between George's Creek and the Tracey Store Rd. parking for the CCC trails. The trail is maintained by friends of the trail including the GB Sierra Club in collaboration with the Prettyboy Watershed Alliance, the Mountain Club of Maryland, and the Boy Scouts. Learn about the wildlife and enjoy the pristine water along this isolated trail. The trail is cleared to varying degrees and has some hills and stream crossings. 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 1:00 PM at the Mt. Carmel Rd. Park and Ride just west off I-83 north of the Baltimore Beltway and past the Shawan Rd. exit. 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. – Sun. Oct. 10 - 11 - Apple Butter Festival, Berkeley Springs, WV** Possible overnight camping trip. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com).

**Sat. - Sun. Oct. 17 - 18 - Myersville (MD) Trolley Festival** Possible overnight camping trip. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com).

**Sat. Oct. 24 - PATC Pig Roast (Children OK with prior approval)** Cost is about \$25 per person for this Cuban style roast pig with black beans and rice, tamales, and other foods at the Blackburn Trail Center near Harpers Ferry. Come for the day or camp overnight with breakfast Sunday morning. Possible visits to Harpers Ferry historical sites or the flea market. For more information and reservations, call Paul at 410-667-4889 or email [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com).

### **Sun. Oct. 25 GB - Easy. "Last Sunday Easy Hike" (Dogs, children, and wheelchairs are welcome)**

Meet at 2:00 PM at the Paper Mill Road parking lot for the NCR trail. Hike at an easy pace on flat paved surface to the Phoenix Rd parking lot and back, which is about 3 miles roundtrip. Scenic rest stops and historical sites along the route. We will finish the hike in time to attend the Baltimore Green Forum at MD Presbyterian Church 4:30-6:30 PM. Optional dinner stop afterwards. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com).

### **Sat. & Sun. Oct. 31 & Nov. 1 GB - Moderate. Car Camping at Caledonia State Park in PA**

Camping and day hiking exploring lakes and streams in the Michaux State Forest in southern Pennsylvania. We will hike parts of the Appalachian Trail with some good views. Call Jack for details at 410-256-3963.

## **NOVEMBER**

### **Sun. Nov. 8 GB - Moderate. Kelly Run & Pinnacle Overlook Hike**

8 miles exploring gorges with great overlook of the Susquehanna River. This hike also has a good chance of seeing migrating waterfowl and bald eagles. Meet at 11:00 AM at the K-Mart on Rt. 1 (Bel Air Rd.) just north of the Baltimore Beltway Exit 32. Call Jack for details at 410-256-3963.

### **Sat. Nov. 14 GB – Easy. Invasive Vine Removal on Glen Ellen Trail (Older children are welcome)**

Give 2 hours of your time to cut invasive vines choking trees along fire-roads and trails in the Loch Raven watershed. Some tools are available, or bring your own. Wear long pants and long sleeves. Meet at 10:00 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. Nov. 14 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 1:00 PM 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. Nov. 28 GB – Easy. Full Moon Hayride and Farm Tour (Children OK with prior approval)**

Cost is \$10 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 singalong. Extra instruments invited! Activity will end about 10:00 PM. If less than 8 people sign

up, we will just meet as scheduled and go to dinner nearby. For more information and reservations call Paul at 410-667-4889 or email [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com).

### **Sun. Nov. 29 GB - Easy. "Last Sunday Easy Hike" (Dogs, children, and wheelchairs are welcome)**

Meet at 2:00 PM at the Paper Mill Road parking lot for the NCR trail. Hike at an easy pace on flat paved surface to the Phoenix Rd parking lot and back, which is about 3 miles roundtrip. Scenic rest stops and historical sites along the route. We will finish the hike in time to attend the Baltimore Green Forum at MD Presbyterian Church 4:30-6:30 PM. Optional dinner stop afterwards. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com).

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## **Outings of the Sierra Club Greater Baltimore Group**

(Continued from page 15)

### **DECEMBER**

**Fri. Dec. 4 - Sun. Dec. 6 GB – Easy. Camping and Historical Outing in Harpers Ferry, WV. (Children and pets OK with prior approval)**

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 outlet stores: <http://www.primeoutlets.com/locations/hagerstown.aspx>, 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 [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com).

**Sun. Dec. 6 GB – Moderate. Gunpowder River Hike**

8 miles along the Gunpowder River in the Hereford area. Meet at the Shawan Rd. park and ride off I-83 north of the Baltimore Beltway at 11:00 AM. For details, call Jack at 410-256-3963.

**Sat. Dec. 12 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 the yuppified Woodberry and Clipper Mill area. Walk through Hampden, past fascinating shops decorated for the holidays. Lunch stop at an 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>nd</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).

**Sun. Dec. 27 GB - Easy. "Last Sunday Easy Hike" (Dogs, children, and wheelchairs are welcome)**

Meet at 2:00 PM at the Paper Mill Road parking lot for the NCR trail. Hike at an easy pace on flat paved surface to the Phoenix Rd parking lot and back, which is about 3 miles roundtrip. Scenic rest stops and historical sites along the route. We will finish the hike in time to attend the Baltimore Green Forum at MD Presbyterian Church 4:30-6:30 PM. Optional dinner stop afterwards. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or [paul@peschoen.com](mailto:paul@peschoen.com).

***"Walking is  
the best  
medicine."***



*Hippocrates, regarded the founder of Western medicine, circa 460 BC-circa 370 BC*

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