



Baltimore Sierran

Serving members in Baltimore City, Baltimore County & Harford County May 2010

Sierra Club Mission: Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Economy's Impact on Greater Baltimore Group

The economic slowdown has trickled down to impact the Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club. Because our bank account is almost bare, we have made the tough decision for this to be our last print edition of the Group's quarterly Baltimore Sierran newsletter until our fiscal situation improves. Because so many people have less discretionary money to spend on things like annual membership in the Sierra Club, our membership nationally and at the State and Group levels has decreased rapidly. This means there is less money from the membership dues for the National Club to share with the State Chapters and for the State Chapters to share with the Groups.

Our commitment and our involvement have not waned, just our money. We will continue to use our human capital, influence, and networking to pursue environmental activism in the Greater Baltimore Area of Baltimore City and Baltimore and Harford Counties, and to participate in activities at the State and National levels. We are just losing one means – a newsletter – to inform and communicate with our members and others.

We will still have public Executive Committee meetings, outings, socials, and sponsored events. We will still post to our website an outings list, notices of upcoming events, and links with related information and activities. We will still send regular emails to individuals who have asked to receive information from the Group's list-serve. We will still email a monthly list of upcoming outings to individuals who have asked to be included on the Group's email-notify



outings list. We will still communicate using our Facebook page.

Following is how to contact us and how to obtain information about upcoming events and issues with which we are involved. As always, we welcome your ideas, feedback, participation, and involvement. A Group is only as active and effective as its members.

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.

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.

Opportunities for Involvement (see inside for more information):

- ◆ June 17, 7:00 p.m. – Ex Com public meeting
- ◆ June 23, 6:30 p.m. – Potluck and Slide Show
- ◆ 2nd Thursday of each month - Young Sierrans Socials
- ◆ Saturday after 2nd Thursday of each month – Young Sierrans Outings
- ◆ See Outings Schedule in newsletter and on website

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 at the State or local level with the upcoming elections this fall. 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. Check out the Baltimore Inner City Outings at www.ico.sierraclub.org/Baltimore

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. We offer fellowship and opportunities for you to take meaningful action.

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, June 17, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.** at Ukazoo Books at 730 Dulaney Valley Road, Towson (www.ukazoo.com) (410) 832-2665). Come to participate in the discussions and planning. Here's a link to a map and directions. <http://www.ukazoo.com/directions.htm>

Greater Baltimore Group - Sierra Club Contacts

Chris Yoder, GB Group Chair
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Baltimore, MD 21215
E-mail: chris.yoder@mdsierra.org
410-466-2462

Greater Baltimore Group: www.maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore

Group Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=76458501970>.

Young Sierrans Website: <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore/youngsierrans>

Young Sierrans Email: youngsierrans@gmail.com

Young Sierrans Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=51601732426>

Baltimore Inner City Outings: <http://www.ico.sierraclub.org/baltimore/>

NAME	PHONE/EMAIL	POSITION
Jim Bonnet	410-823-4992	Ex Com Member — NEW
Bob Burchard	410-744-0510 bobburchard@yahoo.com	Inner City Outings Co-Chair Cool Cities — Baltimore County Ex Com Member
Mary C. Corddry	410-239-4590 443-386-0862 cell Xd0i7z4LyfX@aol.com	Newsletter Co-Editor (copy) Outings Gatekeeper
Sherry Dowdell	410-852-8901 sierrasherry@comcast.net	Newsletter Co-Editor (design)
Doug Gaede	410-357-0007 sierra@gaede.net	Webmaster
Kathy Harget	410-440-9896 hargetk@yahoo.com	Young Sierrans Chair Ex Com Member
Katja Kjelgaard	kkjelgaard@verizon.net	Interim Treasurer
Patrick McMahon	410-599-5123 Patrick@mcmahon.com	Transportation Chair Interim Secretary Ex Com Member
Caroli Mullen	410-366-6953 carolimullen@verizon.net	Social Justice Chair Membership Chair Ex Com Member
Paul Schoen	410-667-4889 paul@peschoen.com	Group Vice-Chair Ex Com Member
Janet Schollenberger	443-386-5054 jscholle4@yahoo.com	Political Chair Ex Com Member
Cliff Terry	410-944-9477 Cliff.Terry@maryland.sierraclub.org	Population Chair
Jack Wise	410-256-3963 Hikingjack@Netzero.net	Outings Chair Ex Com Member
Joyce Wolpert	410-358-0977 jbdance8@yahoo.com	Ex Com Member — NEW
Charles (Chris) Yoder	410-466-2462 chris.yoder@mdsierra.org	Group Chair Group Rep.- Chapter Ex Com Ex Com Member

April 2010 From the Chair

What I really should have said.

A writer for the Baltimore Sun contacted me a week or so before Earth Day seeking quotes on tips for greener living. I provided some obvious advice: Save money and reduce pollution by driving less, and increase gas mileage by driving the speed limit and ensuring tires are properly inflated. I observed that meat is a very pollution-intensive source of nutrition; and, although there's too much inertia in my dietary habits for me to go cold turkey, I am trying to reduce consumption by reducing portion size and adding a vegetarian main dish or two to the mix of meals I consume. All this, and more, is good advice to reduce our personal footprint on the planet.

But, even in the unlikely event that *every* citizen of Maryland or even the United States adopts *all* these green habits and practices, we would be unlikely to save to the Bay or stabilize the climate. Yes, we should all act locally while thinking globally. We should all strive to ensure our personal actions contribute to the solution rather than to the problem.

But, even if everyone doubled their gas mileage, air pollution could still increase because increasing population means more drivers. Also, America's patterns of living, working, and playing lead to each driver driving more miles. Given the projections for population growth and sprawl development, that outcome is more likely than not. We could all install rain-barrels, but stormwater pollution will still get worse if the amount of impervious surface continues to increase.

Individual action is both important and necessary, but success in restoring a balance of nature will require action both by individuals *and* by our community as a whole. Action by the community as a whole requires decisions and actions by the elected executives and representatives we entrust to make decisions on our behalf.



Photo by Sherry Dowdell

A few months ago the environmental community celebrated as a great victory the State's decision to delay developers' compliance with stormwater control legislation for up to 10 years after the State legislature's 2007 unanimous approval of the statute. Why are seven more years of pollution counted as a "victory"? It became clear that if the legislature had to choose between protecting the Bay or responding to developers' demands, the Bay would lose and the law would be gutted. This outcome tells us more about the State legislature we elected in 2006 than it does about stormwater or the Bay.

In April, the Baltimore County Council gave a sympathetic hearing to the Planning Board's proposed regulations that would impose severe restrictions on residents seeking to tap the power of the wind. Residential wind turbines would offer residents an opportunity to reduce both their electric bills and their consumption of electricity generated primarily from coal, likely the dirtiest possible source of power. Council members' questions at the hearing, and the lack of Council members' support for wind-power, make it clear that residential wind-power may be an endangered species in Baltimore County. That hearing may tell us more about the Council elected in 2006 than it does about the wind.

The biological principle of natural selection is sometimes incorrectly described as "survival of the strongest." More accurately stated, natural selection favors those most adaptable to changes in the environment.

Our society must now adapt to a world in which human population growth, combined with increasing resource consumption, produces human-caused pollution on a planetary scale. Successful adaptation to the resulting challenge will require changes in our behavior -

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April 2010 From the Chair

both in personal behavior and in community behavior. Each of us is responsible for our own decisions about our own lives, but community-wide decisions are collective. The decisions Maryland's electorate will make in this September's primary and November's general election will shape the ability of our State and our nation to successfully adapt to the world our generation will pass on to our children and grandchildren. The individual decisions each of us makes over the next few months, when the Sierra Club calls for contributions and volunteers to help elect public officials who understand the importance of protecting our environment, will help determine our community's ability to adapt to our changing environment.

Chris Yoder, Chair



In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.

-John Muir (Sierra Club founder)

Save the Rocks!

The State Highway Administration (SHA) plans to realign sections of MD Rt. 24 (Rocks Road) through Rocks State Park, due to Deer Creek's eroding stream banks which are beginning to undercut the roadway. But moving the roadway requires blasting away rocks this summer, which would significantly harm the scenic and natural beauty of the road and the park itself, at both the north and south entrances to the park along Rt. 24. We believe there are better ways of addressing the erosion problem. Therefore, we are doing what we can to stop this plan from going any farther. We would like to see another proposal that addresses the actual cause of the problem – the erosion of the stream bank. We hope a stream bank restoration plan can be devised that will protect the roadway, as well as improve fish habitat and cost a lot less than \$9.25 million.

- We believe SHA's proposal is inconsistent with:
- The goals of Harford County's Master Plan and Priority Preservation Area because the road improvements could triple the traffic on Rt. 24 within the next two decades

and serve as a growth-inducer for an area the County is trying desperately to preserve;

- The State's Rural Legacy program, and specifically the Deer Creek Rural Legacy Area;
- The State's effort to rejuvenate the Chesapeake Bay because it will increase polluted stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces and remove nutrient-absorbing trees from the creek bank;
- The State's scenic river law because the law is intended to protect scenic qualities, not just river flow; and
- The road's Maryland Scenic Byway designation because some of the most important scenic features of the Deer Creek gorge would be damaged.

Please call or write the SHA at www.sha.state.md.us, Maryland Department of Natural Resources at www.dnr.state.md.us, and your elected officials and tell them to Save the Rocks! For more information, visit the Facebook website called "Save The Rocks" or contact Deborah Bowers of the Save The Rocks Committee at farmland-pres@gmail.com.

Do You Want A Hard-Copy Newsletter?

We recognize the fact that many Greater Baltimore Group (GBG) Sierra Club members do not have easy access to on-line resources, or for various reasons do not use the internet and email. But, because the costs of publishing a quarterly printed newsletter have exceeded our Group's financial resources, we have made the difficult decision to make this issue our last one printed in paper format and mailed to all members in our Group. There are also important environmental reasons for moving from the print media – to reduce our use of paper products and the fuel costs of postal mailing. We also question the importance of the printed and mailed newsletter in terms of readership.

So, we are including in this issue a response form that requests feedback from members, where you may give the Group's Executive Committee members your opinions on our decision. Also, you may provide any suggestions, comments, and interest in volunteering time or financial support to continue the printed edition, or to pursue other means for providing information to our members. The response to this request will also give us much needed information on how many members read this newsletter. You may return a completed form by postal mail or by email to:

Chris Yoder, GB Group Chair
5701 Rusk Ave., Baltimore, MD 21215, or
E-mail: chris.yoder@mdsierra.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Member number: _____ Year joined: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I prefer email delivery of the newsletter in PDF format: _____

I would use the website to access the newsletter: _____

I would like to receive a printed newsletter _____

I would like to suggest the following: _____

I am active on the following social networking sites:

Facebook _____ Ning _____ Twitter _____ MySpace _____ Other _____

My opinion of the GBG website is: _____

I would like a phone hotline for local club information _____

I am willing to volunteer to help with the GBG to do _____

Baltimore County Wind Ordinance

By Chris Yoder, GB Chair

The Baltimore County Council is considering a proposal from the County Planning Board that would restrict the ability of County residents to gather part of their electrical energy needs from the wind. The seed of the proposed restrictions is found in a resolution (52-08) adopted without dissent by the County Council in July 2008.

The language of that resolution includes findings by the County Council that:

1. Baltimore County is committed to environmental sustainability,
2. The Council wants to create a model for a Baltimore County Sustainability Program,
3. Wind energy is a plentiful, renewable, and clean source of power,
4. Wind turbines are a proven reliable source of residential wind power, and
5. Windmill power can help homeowners reduce utility costs, provide emergency power,
6. and provide a benefit to the environment.

That all sounds good, and the Sierra Club applauds the language of that resolution. We count on the County Council to facilitate opportunities for County citizens to utilize renewable energy. We believe the County should increase, not constrain, its citizens' options for independence from utility-furnished, fossil-fuel-generated power.

However, the draft policy now being considered by the County Council does not meet this standard. It is inconsistent with the Council Resolution that led to its drafting. The draft policy is a step backwards at a time when the need for progress is more glaringly apparent with every passing day.

Some specifics: Arguably, the policy would limit wind-turbines only to residential properties. Such a limitation makes no sense at all. Assuming that the Council does not intend to deprive, for example, owners of commercial properties or dairy farmers the opportunity to offset some of their energy costs, the Council should



explicitly state that this proposal applies **only** to residential properties. Renewable non-utility energy may be the lifeline that keeps a County business or farm solvent when utility bills again spike.

The provision regulating and limiting opportunities for the sale of wind-generated energy is another example of an impediment to, rather encouragement of, energy independence for Baltimore County citizens. That provision may also be inconsistent with legislation approved in the 2010 session of the Maryland Assembly.

A blanket limit of one turbine per property makes no sense. The County's policy should make allowance for the size of the property. One size does not fit all. Proposed limitations on height and setback requirements would severely limit the effectiveness of wind turbines and make no allowance for the size of the property.

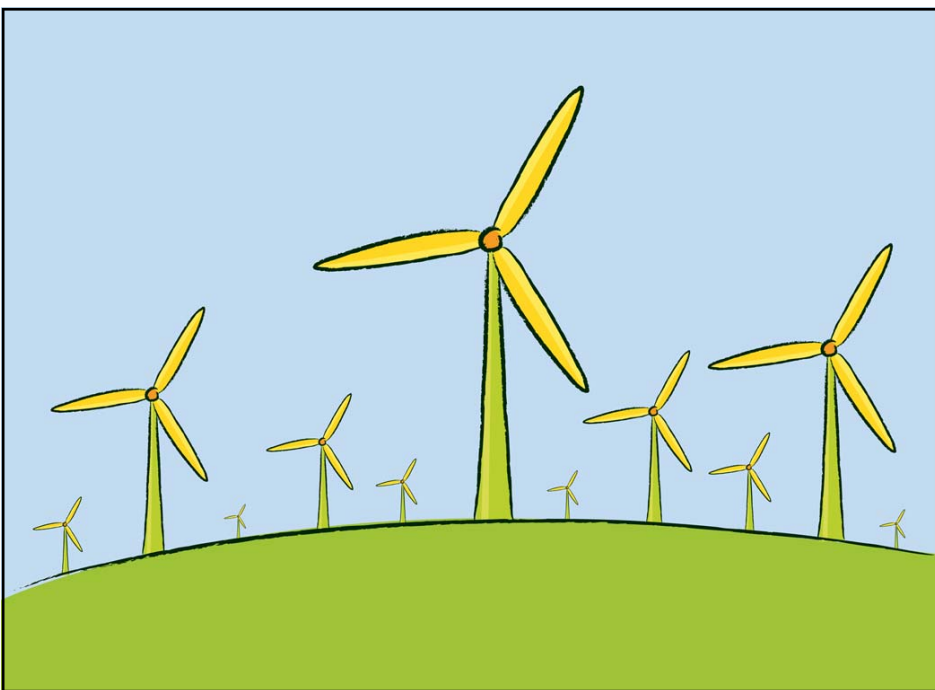
At an April 19 County Council hearing, wind turbine opponents expressed their fear of reduced property values and possible injury from defective or abandoned wind turbines. However, the Baltimore County Council has the opportunity to base its decision on actual experience rather than unsubstantiated fears. Carroll County does not limit wind turbine height and has a reasonable setback requirement. Their setback is from utility lines, not from much broader utility rights of way, and is from the property line, not from structures beyond the property line. Carroll County does not limit how the electricity is used. Carroll County does not establish a specific noise

standard for wind turbines but instead requires only that turbines comply with generally applicable County noise standards. Also, Carroll County has provided for more than one turbine per property.

Baltimore County citizens and businesses are dependent upon electrical power. If our lives are to remain the same and we are to continue to enjoy the privileges of an electric life, we have to acknowledge that some things are going to have to change. One of those inevitable and necessary changes will be a transition to non-fossil fuels. A forward-looking County Council should look to the future and facilitate that transition by adopting a residential wind turbine ordinance that will encourage wind energy. Instead, the Planning Board's proposal would discourage residential wind energy even if the Council approved it under the guise and rhetoric of providing for wind energy.

What you can do: If you live in Baltimore County, contact your Council Member and tell him that the County should reject the Planning Board's proposal to unnecessarily restrict residential wind turbines. The Council should instead approve regulations modeled on those successfully used in Carroll County.

The Baltimore County Council website (www.baltimorecountymd.gov/countycouncil) provides a map of Council districts. Clicking on your district leads you to contact data for your Council member.



Maryland Safe Routes to Schools Network

by Patrick McMahon

With funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Kaiser Permanente, the Safe Routes to School National Partnership (SRTS Partnership) and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) are developing the Maryland Safe Routes to School Network. The Network is a coalition of advocacy groups, State agencies, local governments, school districts, and public health organizations working to change policies to improve the conditions for students to safely walk and bike to school. The Network has decided to focus on the following six policy areas in the near term:

- Implementation of the Federal Safe Routes to School program in Maryland,
- Complete Streets,
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Curriculum and Training Programs,
- Low-Income Communities,
- Personal Safety, and
- School Busing Policy.

Also, the Network will monitor other policies. I serve as the part-time staff person for this project. Other Sierra Club members have been involved to a limited extent. If you're interested in working on this effort, please contact me at maryland@saferoutespartnership.org. More information about the network can be found at www.saferoutespartnership.org/maryland/.

PlanMaryland

by Patrick McMahon

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDoP) is coordinating PlanMaryland, a new planning process designed to create a better and more sustainable future for Maryland. MDoP is holding 13 PlanMaryland public forums, or meetings, throughout the State during the first half of 2010, looking to identify how to prioritize the 12 Planning Visions laid out in the 2009 law that clarified the State's role in the land use planning process. These meetings are an ideal opportunity for Sierra Club members to weigh in on how development should occur throughout Maryland and where we should focus our efforts. At the session I attended in Essex, **Quality of Life and Sustainability** was selected as the goal with the highest priority. In retrospect, **Implementation** may be where we need to focus, as the State has articulated a clear vision for Smart Growth but has not always had the tools to make it a reality.



Although the meetings in the area served by the Greater Baltimore Group have already occurred, listed below are the dates and locations for upcoming meetings. More information can be found at plan.maryland.gov/getinvolved/PublicForums.shtml.

- Wed., May 19 – Frostburg State Univ.
- Wed., May 26 – Cecil College
- Thurs., June 3 – Bowie State Univ.
- Wed., June 9 – Hood College
- Wed., June 16 – Washington College

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, or 410-440-9896. Hope to see you on the trail or at one of our socials!

B'More Streets for People

by Patrick McMahon

After a successful 1.3 mile "ciclovía" in Roland Park in October, the group that organized that event is looking to dramatically expand to multiple events in 2010 over a much longer distance. The Baltimore City Departments of Transportation & Health applied to the Centers for Disease Control for a grant to fund a variety of projects, including ten "ciclovías" over two years to increase physical activity and access to healthy food. But the grant was not funded. So now a group of volunteers is working to see if they can find enough volunteers and private funding to implement a transformational street closure. Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke sponsored legislation to create "B'More Streets for People." The City Council has been very supportive of the project.

Given the City's budget, there isn't any City funding to assist with the project's implementation. However, the group will work with the Department of Transportation and the Police Department to find a route that

maximizes the project's impact while minimizing challenges for the transportation network. It will also try to minimize costs by using volunteers instead of police officers at many intersections along the route. The City Sustainability Plan called for the implementation of a "Sunday Streets" recreational street closure program. Various agencies are supportive of the concept, but are concerned about funding.

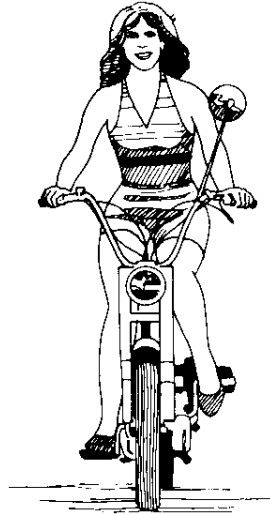
If you're interested in getting involved with this effort, please contact me (patrick@mcmahon.com) or Mike McQuestion (mike.mcquestion@gmail.com). We're going to need a lot of volunteers to make this a reality, but it can be an amazing, transformative experience. For more information about ciclovías, watch the videos of it in Bogota, Columbia (www.streetfilms.org/ciclovía/), Portland, Oregon (www.streetfilms.org/portlands-sunday-parkways/), or other cities around the U.S.

Baltimore City Bicycling Bills & Resolutions

by Patrick McMahon

Responding to comments made at a City Council hearing on what the City could do to improve the conditions for bicycling in Baltimore, City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke sponsored the following seven pieces of legislation to address different issues around bicycling in Baltimore:

- 09-0429 - Required Parking for Bicycles for Employees & New Construction
- 09-0430 - Transit and Traffic - Bike Lanes (\$50 fine for parking/stopping in bike lanes)
- 09-0431 - Bike-Safe Grates for all city construction projects
- 09-0433 - Street and Transportation Projects - Complete Streets in all City transportation construction projects
- 09-0175R - Informational Hearing with the Baltimore Police Department (Conduct a hearing between area cyclists and the BPD to address concerns and improve public safety)



- 09-0176R - Cyclists' Bill of Rights
- 09-0177R - B'More Streets for People (establishing several cyclovias annually)

More information about the bills can be found at: [http://www.bicyclelaw.com/news/n.cfm/proposals-seek-to-encourage-more-cyclists-and-to-make-baltimore-](http://www.bicyclelaw.com/news/n.cfm/proposals-seek-to-encourage-more-cyclists-and-to-make-baltimore). A petition in support of the bills can be found at: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/petition/853575826>.

Baltimore City Public Schools Cleaner, Greener Sustainability Challenge

by Patrick McMahon

Sixteen public schools in Baltimore City received \$1,000 in funding from the City's Cleaner, Greener Baltimore initiative and the Baltimore Community Foundation to make their schools more environmentally-friendly environments in which to learn and to reduce their school's environmental impacts. The grants were awarded through a competitive process initiated by the Baltimore City Sustainability Commission, the Office of Sustainability, and the Baltimore City Public Schools and are being implemented by students, teachers, and parents at each of the schools. A number of the schools took on the issue of recycling and reducing waste, other schools focused on greening their school campus, and others are doing a mix of those types of projects.

Several of the teachers leading the projects presented their progress at the April meeting of the Sustainability Commission. It was amazing what they have been able to accomplish with a limited amount of funding and how each of them have de-

veloped plans to expand and continue their efforts over the next several years. The involved schools include both the City's largest and smallest high schools. They have all incorporated their efforts into their curriculums. They use their efforts as a way to get students more engaged in environmental issues and more excited about their schoolwork by relating it to the world around them.

The participants from all 16 schools are going to be honored at a special event on Saturday, May 15th from 1-4 p.m. at the Top Of The World Observation Level at the World Trade Center at the Inner Harbor. More information about the schools and their projects can be found in the Annual Sustainability Report (www.baltimoresustainability.org) or in an article that appeared in the *Urbanite* magazine (www.urbanitebaltimore.com/sub.cfm?is-sueID=83§ionID=4&articleID=1496).

Charm City Circulator

by Patrick McMahon



After some delays in implementation (as the vehicle design from New Zealand was modified for operations in the United States), the Charm City Circulator began operations for its first route, the Orange Line, in January. It served 100,000 passengers by April 4th. The buses run on electric power supplied by an on-board diesel turbine engine and have regenerative braking power, with low-floors and an open seating layout. The Purple Route, connecting from Cross Street Market up to Penn Station, is planned to start in May. The Green Route, connecting City Hall, Fells Point, and the Hopkins Medical Campus, is scheduled to start in mid-summer. The service is free. The location of buses can be tracked on-line at www.charmcitycirculator.org.

Baltimore City First Annual Sustainability Report

by Patrick McMahon



The Baltimore City Office of Sustainability and the Sustainability Commission released the first Annual Sustainability Report on April 19th. This was one of the first events at the new Vollmer Center, a green building constructed as a visitors center for the Cylburn Arboretum. The Report goes through all 29 goals in the Sustainability Plan. It provides facts about the status of each goal and highlights a success story for each of the Plan's thematic chapters. You can download a copy of the plan and see how Baltimore City is becoming more sustainable at www.baltimoresustainability.org.



Transportation Bills In Annapolis

by Carol Silldoff

On April 12, the final day of the 2010 Maryland legislative session, over 85 bicyclists rode to Annapolis in honor of Lawrence Bensky, 43, of Owings Mills, who died on April 6 while riding his bicycle on Butler Road in Baltimore County. This is a rural road that I and many of the attendees bike on frequently. Both Delegates and fellow bicyclists joined One Less Car in addressing the crowd to honor Larry and his family and express the need for bicycle safety legislation. Maryland has a low ranking of 40 out of the 50 States for bicycle safety legislation.

On a different note - it is time to celebrate! FOUR significant Bike/Ped/Transportation bills passed the Maryland General Assembly! The following bills are on the way to the Governor's Office for signature:

- ✓ SB 624/HB 1193 - Shoulder Rule bill
- ✓ SB 51/HB 461 - 3 Foot Clearance bill
- ✓ HB 1155/SB 760 - Transportation Transparency bill
- ✓ HB 282 - Funding for Bike/Ped Access bill



A wide variety of Delegates and Senators (Cardin, Carr, Lafferty, Raskin, McIntosh, Malone, Pena-Melnyk, and more) played a pivotal role in drafting and working for the passage of these important bike safety and bike/pedestrian funding bills. A call or email from a constituent is a BIG deal to them – a few minutes of your time can make a big difference!

We must remember Larry and work together during the 2011 General Assembly session to make Maryland a safer place to live, work, and play.

In the next few months I will develop the One Less Car legislative agenda for the 2011 General Assembly session. A few items on my mind are:

- Strengthening the new 3 foot rule
- Placing a strong focus on the manslaughter-by-vehicle bill
- Introducing a bill to increase tax credits for bicyclists, and
- Reintroducing the accident vs. crash bill.

More priorities will be added to this list. Your legislative assistance is appreciatively accepted. To learn more about One Less Car events, volunteer opportunities, and our legislative agenda, please visit www.onelesscar.org/ and go to the contact header.

Stormwater Management Compromise

by Patrick McMahon

A compromise on the State's stormwater management law negotiated with developers by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 1,000 Friends of Maryland, and Del. Maggie McIntosh (D-43) during this legislative session divided the environmental community. Eventually, the regulatory changes were approved by the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review over the objections of Sen. Pinsky (D-22), the Audubon Naturalist Society, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and others.

The negotiated compromise included a process to "grandfather in" a lot of "in-process" development. This seems to have been the primary point of conflict. But it also allowed for flexibility in the way that local jurisdictions would implement the regulations, allowing for off-site stormwater remediation and other flexibility in managing stormwater. Local jurisdictions are now writing regulations to address how they will administer the new law. It is worth closely monitoring that process to see whether the flexibility is used effectively or to degrade the environment.

As I understand it, the stricter interpretation of the 2007 stormwater bill would have required for all stormwater to be dealt with on-site and promotes innovative treatments to deal with that. That's all well and good on suburban or rural sites where the development only takes up a portion of the site and there is space for on-site rain gardens. But in the City or any area targeted for dense, walkable, transit-oriented development (i.e., most places within the Beltways), the only way to deal with stormwater on-site is to put in a big cistern under the development, a very expensive, concrete-heavy solution that has no side benefits. The cost of this on-site remediation would have been prohibitive for most development in Baltimore and other

dense, urban areas and would have provided more incentives to develop in a sprawling suburban manner rather than in dense, walkable ways.

The flexibility in interpreting the 2007 legislation seems necessary to a) help achieve those dual goals of community greening and stormwater reduction and b) maximize development in urbanized areas rather than pushing development out to greenfields where more stormwater for the development can be done on-site (but that will be less walkable and require all sorts of new infrastructure including lots of impervious roads). I believe that Baltimore City had proposed, and that the negotiated compromise allowed for, for the use of rain gardens, green streets, and other remediation techniques off-site. These will achieve the same numerical goals but at a lower cost and while helping to green the communities around the new urban development (a win-win situation). I see this as a greener interpretation of the law and, thereby, discourages sprawl or wasteful spending on concrete solutions. Philadelphia has been taking a similar approach (spending on surface greening rather than on expensive underground concrete solutions (http://www.phillywatersheds.org/what_were_doing/green_infrastructure) with regards to their stormwater needs that stand to really improve communities and the environment in Philadelphia.

I hope that, in the wake of this experience, the environmental community will be able to work more closely together to minimize these types of conflicts during future legislative sessions, and to think more about the unintended consequences of regulations and how our laws can be written and interpreted in ways that are appropriate for urban, suburban, and rural communities. Also, I hope it will promote smart growth while ensuring environmental quality around new development. Some information about the compromise and its resolution can be found at www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/balmd.stormwater07apr07.0.7577206.story.

ONE LESS > CAR

MTA's Charm Card

by Patrick McMahon



After years of talking about implementing a “smart” fare card for transit service, the Maryland Transit Administration is in a second round of testing their “CharmCard,” with the plan to make it available to the general public in the fall of 2010. Smart farecards, like the SmartCard for Washington, D.C.’s Metro, allow passengers to carry a virtual debit card that stores information about either the passenger’s monthly pass or the money in an account that can be used to pay for individual fares on transit trips. The card is used by simply tapping it on the turnstile or fare collection machine when getting on a subway, light rail, or bus, dramatically reducing the time for passengers to board and speeding up transit trips. It also means that occasional transit riders like myself don’t have to always carry \$1.60 in quarters, dimes, and dollar coins but can just jump on a bus and conveniently pay any time we want to ride transit.

To be a truly smart system, the card would ideally calculate the optimal fare by week or month based on how frequently the card is used, automatically charging you for a monthly pass once you’ve used transit a certain number of times in a month, and then not charging the passenger for the remainder of the month. But that capability is not yet incorporated for the Baltimore system. The use of the CharmCard should also help the MTA better understand travel patterns, to see how users are utilizing the transit system and use that information to make improvements to transit routes. You can find out more about the CharmCard at www.mtacharmcard.org.



Bike to Work Day 2010 (Friday, May 21)

by Patrick McMahon

Bike to Work Day will take place on Friday, May 21st across the Baltimore region. Bicyclists can ride to rallies to celebrate Biking to Work in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Howard, Harford, and Carroll Counties and can learn at those rallies about the support they can get to bike to work on a regular basis or everyday. They also can receive and start using a Bike for Benefits rewards card and support bike-friendly businesses.

I’ll be leading a convoy of cyclists from Eddie’s Market in Charles Village to the rally downtown. Similar convoys will come from neighborhoods throughout the region. Registration is free at www.Bike2WorkCentralMD.com. Participants who register on-line will receive a free t-shirt and be eligible to win other prizes.



8th Annual Tour dem Parks, Hon!

by Gary Letteron

For the past 8 years Baltimore City has held Tour dem Parks, Hon!, an annual bike ride held the second Sunday of June. The ride takes locals and visitors through Baltimore’s parks and neighborhoods. Riders get an up-close view of regional parks like Carroll, Patterson, Clifton, and Druid Hill, as well as some quietly tucked away gems. Riding any of the routes is a great way to see more of Baltimore City and especially the City’s parks and greenspaces.

Participants choose from 4 routes: 14 miles--the family ride on the Gwynn’s Falls Trail, 25 miles, 35 miles, or a metric century (64 miles). The Tour is followed by a relaxed barbecue with live music. Proceeds are donated to groups and non-profit organizations affiliated with parks, greening, and bicycling. Every participant who registers by May 31 will receive a t-shirt featuring this year’s logo, inspired by the classic French bicycle advertisements of the late 1890s.

The 8th annual Tour Dem Parks, Hon!
Sunday, June 13

Carroll Park
(1500 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21230)
Registration starts at 7AM.

Presented by: Mayor’s Bicycle Advisory Committee, Department of Recreation & Parks, and Department of Planning / Office of Sustainability.



Imagine 2060: BRTB & BMC Invite the Public to Imagine the Future of Regional Transportation

by Regina Aris of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council

The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) invited citizens and organizations from all around the Baltimore region to take part in a groundbreaking series of public workshops to imagine the future of transportation. Workshop participants had an opportunity to share their values and ideas about how future transportation initiatives can make the region a better place to live. Later, public workshops will deal more specifically with the planning process to achieve this vision.

This initiative, called “imagine 2060,” grew out of the BRTB’s desire to work with community leaders and other regional stakeholders to develop general agreement on

“Green” Lawn Mowing

by David H. Smith from “Lawn Size” by Eric Chapman, Contributing Editor, Grounds Maintenance for Golf & Green Industry Professionals website

Amid all the concern about global warming and the need to reduce our use of oil, one small solution that seems to be frequently overlooked is the reel mower. Now, as summer approaches, using a reel mower is something that many people can easily do to help address some of the problems associated with oil usage.

While the amount of gas each person uses to cut their grass is quite small, Americans collectively use hundreds of millions of gallons each year taking care of their lawns. There are about 85 million household lawns in the U.S. The average size of which is about one-fifth of an acre. This means that there are millions of small lawns that could easily be maintained with a reel mower. Although lawn mowing represents only a small fraction of the oil we consume, the savings could be significant.

Perhaps more important is the public health benefit to be had from the use of reel mowers. Gasoline engines produce various types of pollution that are very harmful to people with respiratory health problems like asthma. These problems are most pronounced in urban areas in the summer. Lawnmower engines are particularly bad in this regard since they are minimally regulated and produce much more pollution per gallon of gas than car

goals and values for a balanced 21st century transportation system. In addition, a key focus of the imagine 2060 is to improve accessibility for all and promote livable and sustainable communities throughout the metropolitan area.

An online survey at www.baltometro.org is intended to gauge the values of as many residents as possible to help craft the vision and to compliment the meetings being held before this newsletter reaches our members. You may also request a mail-in survey by calling 410-732-0500 x1047. The input gathered in imagine 2060 will guide the development of the federally mandated, financially constrained 2011 Baltimore Region Long-Range Transportation Plan.

engines. Pollution-free reel mowers would be particularly helpful for this problem, as small “reel mower sized” lawns are most prevalent in urban areas.

Since the problems we face from our use of oil are immense, using a reel mower would, of course, only address a tiny sliver of those problems. However, there is unlikely to be any one solution to our problems with oil. We are going to need a wide array of small solutions. This is one that we can use now, without any new technology, without any new infrastructure, and without any huge investment of public funds. Just a walk and a little sweat on a summer day.



Our Commitment to Mother Earth and Future Generations

By Mary C. Corddry

As I picked up trash along a stream for Earth Day, my mind wandered as it always does in quiet outdoors activities (weeding a garden, cutting back brush along a trail, clipping invasive vines, sitting beside a stream, strolling along a trail, gazing up at stars as I walk the dog). I thought about commitment.

I have always been a tree-hugger, after spending long evenings looking at the beautiful maple trees lining the street outside my childhood bedroom window. Some of the earliest photos of me were in the woods with my mother and baby brother. My family was large so our vacations were cheap – spent camping or going to the ocean. After a holiday celebration or other family gathering, we all went on an outing, which often turned into an adventure like the Thanksgiving we got stuck wading into a marsh. From six weeks old, my daughter had to follow the family tradition of camping and hiking. After taking a break for teenage activities, she is returning to the outdoors and the adventures it holds.

These days, we never have enough time. Too often, we aren’t satisfied with our jobs. We feel money pressures, stresses from competing commitments, and distress from living by the clock. So I leave the chores and have-to-do’s behind at least once a week and go outside. It doesn’t matter how or what or how long or with whom. It’s all good. I return at peace and fulfilled, enriched by whatever I’ve experienced.

I also try to put aside some time for volunteer work. I do what fits in with my life, my interests, skills, and passions. I do what I can when I can. I try to keep myself informed on issues with which I’m concerned and to share those interests and concerns with others. I try to make a difference in how I live on behalf of Mother Earth and future generations. This is my commitment.

Area Environmental News and Activities

Clean Ports

The Teamsters helped form the Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports with the Sierra Club and over 100 other environmental and community groups around the country to come up with a comprehensive solution to the environmental, safety and labor challenges associated with port trucking. Earlier this week I urged congressional leaders for their support on clean port truck legislation, along with Dick Gephardt and our friends and allies from the Teamsters (President James P. Hoffa and Vice President /Director of Ports Fred Potter), Los Angeles Ports community (Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and LA truck drivers Jose and Rudy), Change to Win (Nick Wiener). Our Angeles, Bay, New Jersey and Cascade chapters' campaigns on clean ports were highlighted.

Maryland Environmental Bill

At press-time, the bill entitled "Environment - Coal Combustion By-Products - Disposal and Non-Coal Mine Reclamation Sites" has passed both the Maryland House and Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature. This is great news for the State.

Bill's Synopsis: Prohibiting the Department of the Environment from issuing a permit to install a new refuse disposal system that would accept coal combustion by-products for disposal or for new non-coal mine reclamation using specified coal combustion by-products if the refuse disposal system or non-coal mine reclamation would be located in a critical area.

News From Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

Maryland's Rural Legacy Program granted GVC an additional \$500,000 for 2010. Coupled with grant funds from prior years, GVC has about \$750,000 available for new conservation easements. For more information, call 410-472-4886.

With project partners and a \$100,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, GVC has undertaken a preservation project to reduce stormwater runoff in the Jennifer Branch tributary of the Lower Gunpowder River in Carney and Cub Hill area of Baltimore County. Educational information is being offered about the watershed, its problems, and practical and simple ways that community residents can help to restore the watershed including rain barrels, rain gardens, composting, permaculture gardens, "bay-wise" yards certified by the University of Maryland's Master Gardener program, planting of trees and native plants, stream adoption, and downspout disconnections. For more information, check out www.jenniferbranch.org.

Merger of Five Watershed Associations

The Jones Falls Watershed Association, Herring Run Watershed Association, Gwynns Falls Watershed Association, Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association, and Baltimore Harbor WATERKEEPER are implementing a full merger of programs, staff, operations, and finances. The "working" name is the Baltimore Water Alliance. For more information, see www.baltimorewateralliance.org.

Baltimore Parks & Recreation Alliance

The Greater Baltimore Parks & Recreation Alliance was formed recently to advocate and develop strategies for supporting Baltimore City's parks and recreation assets. To learn more about the group or get involved, email parksandrecreationalliance@gmail.com or check out www.gbpra.org.

Cylburn Arboretum Visitor Center

The Vollmer Center, a new visitor center, opened at Cylburn Arboretum on May 1. The park with its trails winding through gardens and woods around a mansion house was closed temporarily for construction of access roads, parking, and the visitor center.

Green Up, Clean Up Jobs

The Parks & People Foundation was awarded \$1,077,000 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to fund 22 new green jobs for 18 months. Four new Green Up, Clean Up teams will restore urban habitat and watersheds and undertake community forestry, trail maintenance, horticulture, landscaping, light construction, invasive plant species removal, trash cleanups and removal, and other projects that will directly contribute to the environmental health of Baltimore City and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.



Green Across America Grant for Pinewood Elementary

The National Education Association (NEA) chose Pinewood Elementary School in Timonium, Baltimore County, to launch its first Lorax Student Earth Day and its Green Across America grants program. The school was presented with the NEA's first of numerous \$1,000 grants to be awarded nationwide to the most environmentally active schools. It had already won a Maryland Green School Award from the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education. Pinewood was recognized for incorporating green initiatives into its daily activities with its trash-free lunch days, stream restoration project, perennial gardens, and recycled art projects.



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:

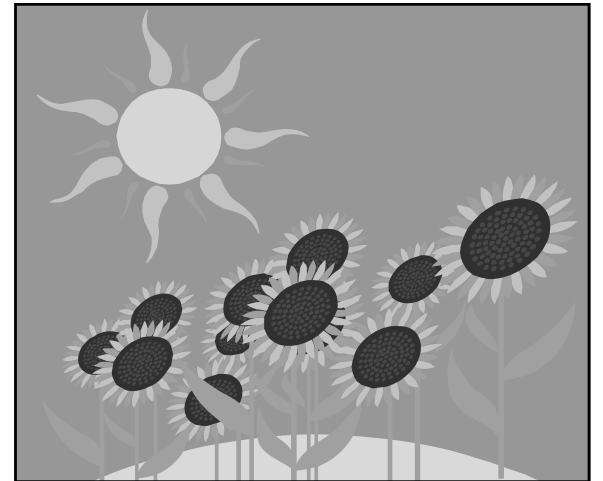
- Community Greening Monthly Update of Parks & People Foundation, Inc.: info@parksandpeople.org
- E-news Stream of the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management (DEPRM): watersheds@baltimorecountymd.gov and DEPRM website at <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/deprm>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



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, contact the park office at 410-887-2503 Mon-Fri 9-2 or info@cromwellvalleypark.org or contact Bill Breakey at breakeys@comcast.net for information about invasive plant removals in the park the 2nd Saturday of each month, 9 am-noon. 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.
- Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, 410-343-3478 or info@gunpowderfalls.org, www.gunpowderfalls.org. Volunteers are needed for tree plantings, Stream Watch/Adopt-a-Stream, and other activities. On **May 29**, there will be a Trail Maintenance/Invasive Removal/ Native Plant Workshop at 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM at Loch Raven Reservoir. As one of the few land trusts in Baltimore County, GVC has placed 1,350 acres of land, which it obtains through purchase or donation, in perpetual conservation easements for protection and monitoring. Contact Peggy Perry, Program Director, at 410-668-0118 or pperry@gunpowderfalls.org.
- Gwynns Falls Watershed Association, 443-429-3183, 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, www.herringrun.org. Volunteers 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. Native plants are grown and sold at the Herring Run Nursery. The Watershed Center at 3545 Belair Road is certified as a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold building by the U.S. Green Building Council.
- Jones Falls Watershed Association, 410-366-3036, www.jonesfalls.org. Join them for watershed restoration projects (invasive plant removals, tree planting, etc.) 9:30 –12 on the 2nd Saturday of each month. 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 Environmental Restoration Manager, for more information about activities and volunteer opportunities at dflores@jonesfalls.org.
- Patapsco State Park, 410-461-5005 or 1-877-620-8DNR, park-patapsco@dnr.state.md.us, 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_public.pdf.
- Prettyboy Watershed Alliance, <http://www.prettyboywatershed.org/> or email prettyboywatershed@gmail.com. The Alliance sponsors stream cleanups, stream testings, tree plantings, and trail maintenance.
- Urban Weed Warrior Program, Baltimore City Recreation & Parks, 410-396-0359, 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.



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

Baltimore Canoe Club: www.baltimorecanoecub.org

Biotrek Naturalists: www.biotrek.org

Center Hiking Club: www.centerhikingclub.org

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

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

Harford Senior Outings Club: contact Sharyn at hsoc10@aol.com

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

Maryland Outdoor Club: www.marylandoutdoorclub.org

Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE): www.more-mtb.com

Mountain Club of Maryland: www.mcomd.org

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club: <http://www.potomacappalachian.org/>



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. 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 on-line course of the National Sierra Club. He also has a paper copy of the course.
- ✓ 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 about reimbursement.
- ✓ Provisionally lead at least one outing, accompanied by an experienced outings leader.
- ✓ Once you have completed these requirements, inform Jack and also contact Mary Coddry, Outings Gatekeeper, at 443-386-0862 or XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com. 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.



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. 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.
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 a permission slip signed by their parent/guardian.
4. Dogs and other pets are not allowed on Sierra Club outings, unless the announcement specifies that the outing is “dog friendly.”
5. 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.
6. All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver before the outing begins.
7. Practice “Leave No Trace” hiking. Keep on the trail to avoid trampling things or getting hurt.
8. Keep with the group. A “sweep” is usually designated to go last and make sure no one gets lost or runs into trouble.
9. 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.
10. 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.

Outings of the Sierra Club Greater Baltimore Group

May 2010 – September 2010

Also, see the outings schedule of the Sierra Club’s Howard County Group at: www.maryland.sierraclub.org/hc

From Hippocrates, regarded the founder of Western medicine, circa 460 BC-circa 370 BC: "Walking is the best medicine."

MAY

Wed. May 5 through Sept. 29 GB – Easy/Moderate. Evening Hikes at the Baltimore SPCA

Bring your own dog or borrow one from the many available for adoption at this shelter near Reisterstown. Dogs are more adoptable when exercised and socialized, and you can help while you also enjoy the trails and open fields of this facility. Hikes start at 6:30 PM and last about an hour. See website at: <http://www.bmorehumane.org/upcoming-events>. Donations and adoptions welcomed. For details, contact **Paul** at **410-667-4889** or email paul@peschoen.com.

Sat. May 15 GB – Moderate. Eden Mill Hike (Child and Dog Friendly Outing)

4-5 mile hike looking for wildlife and wildflowers in woodlands and meadows with some hills along Deer Creek at Eden Mill Nature Center in Pylesville. Afterwards, visit the Nature Center and the Historic Grist Mill Museum to learn about the local history, floral, and fauna. Bring a picnic lunch to eat in the gardens beside the Deer Creek. Meet at 10 AM in the parking lot at the park entrance at 1617 Eden Mill Rd. near the Nature Center. Find out more about this Harford County park at www.edenmill.org. For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

Sun. May 16 GB – Easy. Dog's Day In The Park (Child and Dog Friendly Outing)

Let yourself go to the dogs at this park near York, PA, and help a local animal rescue group. 10 AM to 4 PM. For details see websites below, or contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or email paul@peschoen.com. Possible carpool from Hunt Valley mall at Light Rail Station.

<http://animalrescueinc.org/>
<http://www.yorkcountyparks.org/parkpages/Rudy.htm>
<http://www.yorkcountyparks.org/parkpages/caninemeadows.htm>

Sat. & Sun. May 15 & 16 GB - Moderate. Shenandoah National Park Car Camping at Big Meadows

Day hikes along the AT and other side trips to waterfalls. Call Jack at 410-256-3963 for details.

Sat. May 22 GB – Easy. Joust at ERII Horse Rescue in Hereford

Cheer on your favorite knights and fair maidens as they compete in Maryland’s Official Sport. The proceeds benefit ERII’s horse rescue efforts. 11 AM - 3 PM. \$5/car for parking. They will have craft vendors, food, a petting zoo, and kids stuff like face painting. For details, see the website at <http://www.horserescue.com/p7.html> or contact **Paul** at **410-667-4889** or email paul@peschoen.com.

Sun. May 30 GB - Easy. "Last Sunday Easy Hike"

Meet at 2:00 PM at the Paper Mill Rd. parking lot for the NCRR trail. Hike at an easy pace on flat paved surface to the Phoenix Rd. parking lot and back, about 3 miles round-trip. Scenic rest stops and historical sites along the route. Dogs, children, and wheelchairs are welcome. Optional dinner afterwards. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or paul@peschoen.com.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

Outings of the Sierra Club Greater Baltimore Group

JUNE

Fri.-Sun. June 4-6 – Easy. Western
MD Bluesfest Weekend

"I got dem Hikin' Blues" outing in Hagerstown, MD. We will leave the Baltimore area about 4:00 PM Friday evening and stay at the [Hagerstown/Antietam KOA Campground](#) Friday and Saturday nights (tent, RV, or Kabin camping). Carpooling is encouraged, and alternate arrangements may be made among participants. We will discuss the history of the canal and the City Park, and consider positive and negative environmental impacts of commercial campgrounds. Saturday morning is a good opportunity to visit the [Hagerstown factory outlets](#), including LL Bean and Timberland. From about noon to 8 PM we may attend the [Western Maryland Blues Festival](#) downtown, which costs about \$34-\$40 per person. Sunday morning we will take a 2-3 mile easy hike on the C&O canal near Williamsport, and visit the museum. From about noon until 5:00 PM we may attend the second half of the Blues Festival (no charge) at the beautiful [City Park](#). We will do an easy circuit hike of about 1-2 miles. For more information and reservations, contact **Paul** (preferably two weeks ahead) at 410-667-4889 or email paul@peschoen.com. Children OK with prior approval. Check out <http://www.blues-fest.org/>.

Sat. and Sun. June 5 - Aug. 29 GB – Easy. Evening Musical Con- certs

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 at the gate. All concerts start at 6:00 PM 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. Contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or email paul@peschoen.com. Children OK with prior approval. Website: www.Lurman.com.

Sat. June 12 GB – Easy. AM Hike and PM Kayak at Piney Run Park (Child and Dog Friendly Outing)

4-5 mile hike through woodlands and along the 300-acre lake at Piney Run Park in Sykesville. For the hike, meet at 10 AM in the parking area beside the Nature Center. Afterwards, visit the extensive Nature Center with natural history exhibits and live animals. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in this 825-acre Carroll County park.

Bring your own kayak or canoe or rent one to explore Piney Run Reservoir, with a couple stops along the shores. For the boating, meet at the boat launch at 2:00 PM. There is a launch fee of \$8/boat (paid at the park's entrance booth). The rental fee is \$8/hour or \$30 per day.

The park is at 30 Martz Rd., just off Rt. 26 or 97 north of I-70. There is an entrance fee of \$5/car for Carroll County residents and \$10 for others. For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at XxDiTz4LyFxX@aol.com.

Sun. June 20 GB - Moderate. Leakin Park/Gwynns Falls Park Hike

Meet at 1 PM. 5-6 miles along paved and unpaved trails within the parks. Scenic views of Gwynns Falls valley. Includes visit to Carrie Murray Nature Center. Hike will be cancelled for steady rain. From I-695 take Exit 16, I-70 East (not West). Exit ramp will open onto Security Boulevard. Make the first right onto Forest Park Ave. After one-half mile, turn right onto Windsor Mill Rd. After one-third mile, turn right into Eagle Dr. and parking. Park by tennis courts. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email apenc-zek@stevenson.edu.



Wed. June 23 GB – Easy. Potluck Social and Talk (all are welcome)

We are sponsoring a potluck social and talk at Oregon Ridge Nature Center. The lecture covers part two of the geography of Maryland by a Maryland Geological Survey naturalist. There will be slides, rocks, fossils, and plenty of grub. Potluck social begins around 6:30 PM. Bring a dish you enjoy and would like to share--sweet or savory, homemade or store bought--along with a friend or two. The talk will follow starting about 7:15 and ending no later than 9 PM. The Nature Center is at 13555 Beaver Dam Road and 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 stay to the right, following the road up to the parking lot. The nature center is a short walk uphill. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240, if you need further details.

Sun. June 27 GB – Easy. Gun- powder Tube Trip

Meet at the Monkton Station at 1:00 PM. Bring a tube or rent one there. Wear old shoes or water shoes. Call Jack at 410-256-3963 for more details.

Sun. June 27 GB - Easy. "Last Sunday Easy Hike"

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. Dogs, children, and wheelchairs are welcome. Afterwards, join the Baltimore Green Forum for a picnic from 4:30 – 6:30 at the Maryland Presbyterian Church. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or paul@peschoen.com.

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Outings of the Sierra Club Greater Baltimore Group

JULY

Sun. July 4 GB – Easy. Celebration and Fireworks in Frederick

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

paul@peschoen.com. Children OK with prior approval. Website: www.cityoffrederick.com/departments/SpecialEvents/july.htm

Sat. July 10 GB - Easy to Moderate. Daniels Trail Hike

Meet at 1:00 PM. 6 miles. Out-and-back hike along the south side of the Patapsco River, with one climb to the top of the ridge. Will examine remnants of the B&O railroad track and visit the Davis Tunnel. There may be some muddy spots. Hike will be cancelled for steady rain. From I-70 take Route 29 North to the end. Turn right onto Rogers Ave. After 0.7 mi. turn left onto Old Frederick Rd. After 0.6 mi. turn left onto Daniels Rd. Meet at the trailhead by the small lot near the end of Daniels Rd. Additional parking is around the corner by the dam. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email apenczek@stevenson.edu.

Sun. July 18 GB – Easy. Kayaking and Camping at Elk Neck State Park

Kayak into the Chesapeake Bay from Elk Neck State Park in Cecil County. Meet at 11 AM at the boat launch. Bring your own kayak or canoe or rent one (contact Park to confirm that rentals are available). It is required to wear a life jacket. Kayaking is weather-dependent—no threat of thunderstorms. To camp, make a reser-

vation at <http://reservations.dnr.state.md.us> or 1-888-432-2267, or take your chances without a reservation. The park has many activities and facilities—a boat launch, campground, nature center, trails, picnic ground, playground, and swimming. From I-95 north, take exit 100 to Rt. 272 south going 11 miles past North East. **Call Mary before the outing to confirm details** at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at XxDiTz4LyFxFX@aol.com

Sun. July 25 GB - Easy. "Last Sunday Easy Hike"

Meet at 2:00 PM at the Paper Mill Road parking lot for the NCRR 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. Dogs, children, and wheelchairs are welcome. Optional dinner afterwards. For details, contact Paul at 410-667-4889 or paul@peschoen.com.

AUGUST

Thurs. 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 round-trip to a scenic overlook above the reservoir. After sunset we will gather on the shore to watch the Perseid meteor shower, usually the best 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. The hike will still take place if cloudy, but will be cancelled for steady rain. For more details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email apenczek@stevenson.edu.

Sun. Aug. 22 GB – Easy. Kayaking and Day at the Beach at Hammerman State Park

Kayak where the Gunpowder River and Dundee Creek empty into the Chesapeake Bay. Explore the marshes and shoreline and look for wildlife in the air, in the water, and along the shores. Meet at 10 AM on the beach next to the Ultimate Watersports concession at the Hammerman Area of Gunpowder State Park. The park is on Ebenezer Rd. reached from the Whitmarsh Blvd. east exit off I-95. Bring your own or rent a kayak from Ultimate Watersports. It is required to wear a life jacket. There is an admission fee to the park. Stay afterwards or join us later for a picnic lunch and day at this sandy beach, which has picnic tables, a bathhouse, playground, etc. Kayaking is weather-dependent—no threat of thunderstorms and no high waves in the Bay. For details, call Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at XxDiTz4LyFxFX@aol.com.

Fri. Aug. 27 – Sun. Aug. 29 GB – Easy. Camping and Williamsport C&O Canal Days (Children and pets OK with prior approval)

Outing near Hagerstown, MD. <http://www.williamsportmd.gov/calendar.asp>. We will leave the Baltimore area about 4:00 PM Friday evening and stay in a Cabin 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.



SEPTEMBER

Sun. Sept. 12 GB – Moderate. Cromwell Valley Park Hike (Older children and dogs are welcome)

4 miles through this Baltimore County park that is a working farm with draft horses, woodlands, hilly meadows, streams, old limestone kilns, and a brook bubbling out of the ground. Learn about the invasive plant removals and native plantings. Meet at 10:00 AM in the parking lot beside the house in the park's Sherwood Farm section on Cromwell Bridge Rd. north from the Baltimore Beltway. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Stay for brunch at Sander's Corner Restaurant nearby. For more information, contact Mary at 410-239-4590 (home), 443-386-0862 (cell), or email at XxDiTz4LyFxFX@aol.com.

Sun. Sept. 19 GB – Easy. CPAA Woofstock Festival in Harrisburg

Bring your pooch or just enjoy the last Dog Days of Summer at the beautiful Riverfront Park in Harrisburg, PA, and support efforts to close down inhumane puppy mills. For more details, see website at <http://www.cpaawoofstock.com/>. Meet the burly guys from the TV show RescueInk who love dogs and cats, and scare the **** out of those who abuse them. Carpool from Hunt Valley Light Rail at 10 AM. Contact **Paul** at 410-667-4889 or email paul@peschoen.com.

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Outings of the Sierra Club Greater Baltimore Group

Sun. Sept. 26 GB - Easy. "Last
Sunday Easy Hike"

Meet at 2:00 PM at the Paper Mill
Road parking lot for the NCRR 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 his-
torical sites along the route. Dogs,
children, and wheelchairs are wel-
come. Optional dinner afterwards.
For details, contact Paul at 410-667-
4889 or paul@peschoen.com.

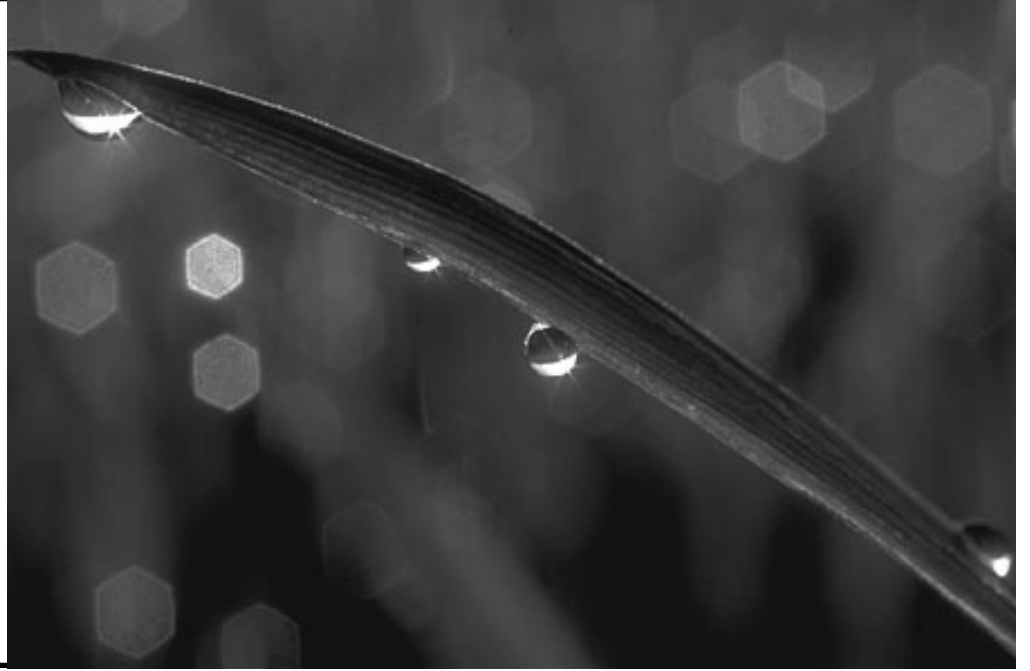
Morning On Herrington Lake

Poem by Joyce Wolpert
(Herrington Lake is in
Garrett County, MD)

Blue-gray mists enveloping
Then rising etherrally
Unto their source

Now sunlight twinkles down
On spindly blades
Of marsh grasses

Catch-hooks
For dew glistening
White doily webs
Crocheted by the morning's
Finest water spiders.

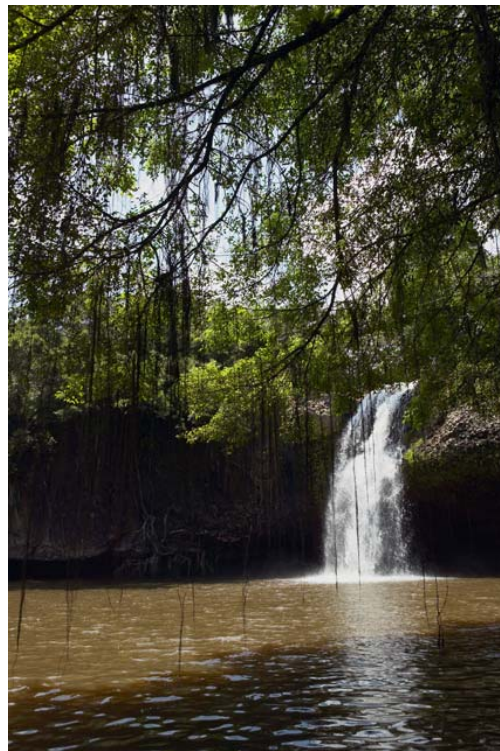


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*If people in general could be
got into the woods, even for
once, to hear the trees speak
for themselves, all difficulties
in the way of forest preserva-
tion would vanish. —John
Muir (Sierra Club founder)*