

NEWSLETTER EDITOR WANTED

Would you care to help us make the Baltimore Sierran newsletter even better?

We're looking for a co-editor to work with Richard Messick. Richard takes the copy for each newsletter and does the great layouts.

We're looking for someone to compile articles, outing schedules, and other newsletter copy then forward it to Richard for layout. The co-editor would also write articles and suggest topics for each issue to our Group Executive Committee. These duties require about four- to eight-hours of time once every three months. This work can be done at home, although access to a computer, e-mail services, and the internet is essential.

If you are interested in this great way to make the Greater Baltimore Sierra Club even better then contact Richard Klein at 410-654-3021 or GBSierra@ceds.org.

BALTIMORE STARTS ITS BIKE PLAN AND YOU CAN HELP

Over the past couple of years many Sierra Club members in the Baltimore area have expressed a desire to see bicycle facilities on the roads in the Greater Baltimore area and I've reported on some efforts towards that. For the past few years the focus has largely been on building the Gwynns Falls and Jones Falls Trails, but now the real work is beginning on addressing the streets in Baltimore City.

On Thursday, January 13th the City held the first public meeting on the development of a Bicycle Master Plan. The goals of the Bicycle Master Plan are: (1) to look at existing conditions, and (2) to identify and prioritize the facilities needed for safe bicycling in Baltimore. Over a hundred bicycle riders showed up to the first meeting and poured over maps and surveys to try and pass on their experiences to the City and the consultants working on the plan. This was one of the biggest turnouts the meetings organizers had ever seen for a local meeting and we need to continue this level of involvement to let our City leaders know that local residents care about bicycling in the City.

Even if you didn't attend that meeting, you can provide the same type of input via the Web. The surveys are intended to get feedback from existing and potential riders about where they ride, how often they ride, and where they would like to ride. Depending on how much you know which streets need help it should take less than 15 minutes.

Go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=86355743450>

There will probably be more opportunities to provide input before the plan is completed and presented to the Planning Commission in October, but we need as many people as possible to fill out the survey. There's still a lot to be determined because with limited City resources there are a lot of issues to be addressed and prioritized (drainage grates & roadway quality, bike lanes vs. wide lanes, bicycle parking and related facilities, etc.).

For more information contact about the planning process contact me (patrick@mcmahon.com) or Beth Strommen at (410) 396-8360 or Beth.Strommen@baltimorecity.gov or Fred Shoken at (410) 396-6856 or Fred.Shoken@baltimorecity.gov

TRANSPORTATION 2030 APPROVED, BUT NO STEP FORWARD

For the past three years the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board has been working to develop the latest in an ongoing series of 25 year plans to fund transportation projects in our region. The most recent process had a promising start with the Vision 2030 process, in which stakeholders from throughout the region weighed in and universally supported a change in our current growth patterns, pushing for more compact, mixed-use, and transit-oriented development patterns that would reduce farmland and forest consumption while making transit, bicycling, and walking more viable transportation options.

However, because of flaws in that planning process and in the transportation planning process, the new Long Range Transportation Plan incorporated little of Vision 2030's goal into its final project list. The number of major transit projects was reduced from three to one and the general focus did not shift from the roadway expansion that brought the development patterns so strongly opposed in Vision 2030. We in the Sierra Club need to work with other groups to pressure our local elected governments to fundamentally change the way our region makes transportation decision, to truly create regional plans that will guide development where we want it rather than responding to the congestion that development brings. I'm not yet sure of how to go about this but I hope to bring some ideas back to you in the near future.

BALTIMORE REGION CAN'T AFFORD THE ICC

While many of us are familiar with the Inter County Connector (ICC), Gov. Ehrlich's strong support for the new road, that it will lead towards an outer Beltway, and the impact it will have encouraging development in Montgomery County and beyond, most of us are not as familiar with the way it will sap transportation money from transit and roadway repair projects throughout all of Maryland. It has been suggested that the ICC will pay for itself through an innovative tolling system that eliminates the need for toll booths, but the truth is that those tolls will pay for only a portion of the project's cost.

While the project is currently budgeted at \$1.8 to \$2.1 billion, most of this would be paid for through GARVEE bonds, which basically borrow now with the hopes of paying them off with the state's future Federal transportation funds, and the Maryland Transportation Trust Fund. However, the cost does not include the cost of financing for the GARVEE or MDTA bonds, which would raise the project costs by up to a billion dollars. With likely cost overruns this brings the total cost to \$3 billion, with only 1/4th likely to be covered by ICC tolls. And this is assuming that a large portion of our State and Federal transportation dollars will go to pay off all of this debt over the next several decades.

All of this borrowing and use of Federal funds put the funding for the Baltimore Rail Plan and resurfacing of our region's roads in great jeopardy. Building the outer Beltway around D.C. will prevent us from having the money to build the transit we need to make our region more livable and sustainable. Please write or call your State Delegates and Senators to talk with them about the GARVEE bonds and the costs of borrowing from our future to pay for this project.

For more info about the ICC go to <http://www.savecommunities.org/>

TEA-21 REAUTHORIZATION STILL IN LIMBO

The US House and Senate failed to pass a new transportation bill in 2004, so the debate will continue into 2005, over funding levels, how transit projects will compete, public participation, and environmental regulation. As we have over the past year, the Sierra Club will continue to push to defend the existing environmental protections, prioritizing roadway maintenance over new construction, strong public involvement and planning provisions, and support for job access and enhancement projects. A new bill may be passed by May of 2005, although the debates and delays have continued for more than a year now and they may continue into the summer.

CLEAN CARS ACT OF MARYLAND

House Bill 314 - Clean Cars Act for Maryland would require 10% of all new cars sold in our state to be low emissions vehicles such as hybrids. This standard is tougher than the current federal law and is already in place in eight states, including California. It's very important that this bill be passed, as Maryland was found in a recent national survey to have the fifth worst smog problem in the nation.

You can help with this effort by contacting your legislator in the Maryland General Assembly and telling them to vote for the Clean Cars Act, House Bill 314. To find which State Delegate(s) and Senator represents you in the Maryland General Assembly, and to get their contact information, visit the *Who Are Your Elected Officials?* website at: <http://mdelect.net/> Together, we can help clean up Maryland's air.

SEARCHING FOR A FEW GOOD SIERRANS

If you'd like to make the Greater Baltimore Sierra Club even better, then please consider running for our Executive Committee (ExCom). Our nine-member ExCom meets quarterly and is responsible for running the Group. To nominate yourself or someone else send a one- to two-paragraph biography to Richard Klein, 8100 Greenspring Valley Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117 or GBSierra@ceds.org. The bio should describe why you want to run for election to the ExCom, what you'd like to accomplish, and any relevant experience, education, skills, training, etc. Your bio and that of other candidates will run in the next issue of the Baltimore Sierran along with a ballot.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTER

The Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club is a subset of the Maryland Chapter. And while this newsletter is primarily concerned with the activities within our local area, from time to time we feel that our members should be informed about Chapter initiatives, events, and concerns. The following are some highlights from the Chapter's January Executive Committee Meeting.

1. Except for donations that are made directly to the Chapter, all of the funds received by the Maryland Chapter come from the National Sierra Club. The Chapter in turn provides financial support to the Groups within Maryland. Over the past few years, however, as donations to the national Club and memberships have decreased, the financial support provided to the Chapter has also been decreasing. Part of that shortfall is passed on to the

Groups within Maryland. As a consequence, the Greater Baltimore Group expects its 2005 income to be about six hundred dollars less than it was in 2004. That means that there will be fewer funds to cover postage, newsletters, training, meeting room rentals, etc.

2. The Chapter is a party to an agreement with the Owners of the Liquid Natural Gas Terminal in Calvert County (Cove Point). This agreement only covers the Terminal Facilities; not the pipeline that connects the facility to the National Gas Distribution System. The agreement is being modified to allow for an expansion of the Terminal's capacity. And at the same time, the Chapter has learned of a proposal to build a new Gas Pipeline in a new right-of-way. Because of the environmental impacts associated with the new pipeline, the Chapter has referred the entire agreement to the Sierra Club's lawyers in San Francisco, to determine if we can legally insert wording into the agreement to address our pipeline concerns.
3. The chapter is formulating plans for a Campaign to identify important forests, wildlife habitats, and watercourses, throughout the state, that are in need of additional protection, and then to work on protecting those natural resources for future generations. To move ahead with this effort we will need a significant increase in the number of volunteers who are willing to devote some time to the cause. Tasks may include planting trees, corresponding with legislators, circulating petitions, drawing maps, attending public hearings, or organizing a trip to an imperiled site. Whatever the task, the Chapter will need volunteers in every corner of the state to get the work done. If you would like to be a part of this effort, see the article on new forest legislation.

NEW FOREST LEGISLATION FOR 2005

The Maryland Chapter is supporting two new pieces of legislation in the 2005 Maryland State Legislative Session. Both of these bills will be introduced within the next few weeks, and will need your help to get out of committee and to become law. The first bill would designate Green Ridge State Forest as the core of an Appalachian Preserve that will connect West Virginia with Pennsylvania, and act as a migratory route for wildlife. This bill would provide additional protection for the 42,000 acre forest, without altering its recreational uses.

The second bill will designate Crabtree Forest, the largest remaining tract of old growth forest in Maryland as a Wildland. Such designation will forever protect this rare 2,500 acre mountain ecosystem from logging and from mechanized intrusion, while still allowing most recreational activities, including hunting and fishing.

If you would like to help, please send a letter, send an e-mail, or call your state representatives in Annapolis, and ask that they support these two pieces of legislation. The communication need not be long or complicated. Just state that you are a constituent, and that you would like them to support the Appalachian Preserve Bill and the Crabtree Creek Wildlands Bill.

Written correspondence to your representatives in Annapolis should be sent to either the Lowe House Office Bldg., 84 College Ave, Annapolis, MD 21401-1991 or the James Senate Office Bldg, 110 College Ave, Annapolis MD 21401-1991.

The Maryland Chapter maintains a “Link” on the Chapter website (maryland.sierraclub.org) that will allow you to reach your representative by e-mail, or find their telephone number. If you don’t have access to a computer, call the Chapter office at 301-277-7111 and ask for your representative’s telephone number. The friendly people at the Maryland Chapter office will gladly help you to save a piece of wild Maryland for future generations.

YOUNG SIERRAN SOCIALS

Young Sierran Socials are held on the second Thursday of each month, which fall on the following dates: February 10th, March 10th, April 14th, May 12th, and June 9th. Stop by and have a cup of coffee, a drink or some food with like-minded folks. These socials provide us with an informal way to meet other young people concerned about environmental issues and interested in organizing group hikes, activism activities, and other outings. Monthly socials will be held at City Cafe, located at 1001 Cathedral Street (Cathedral at Eager Street). For more information, send a message to the group at Young_Sierrans@yahoo.com or contact co-chairs Angela at 410-783-0680 or Kathy at 410-440-9896.

GREATER BALTIMORE SIERRA CLUB EXCOM MEETING

The Greater Baltimore Sierra Club is overseen by an Executive Committee (ExCom). The ExCom meets quarterly. The next ExCom meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28th beginning 7:30 - 9:00 PM. The meeting will be held at Bob Burchard’s home, 913 Rambling Drive, Catonsville 21228, 410-744-0510. Directions: Take the Baltimore beltway (I-695) around to the south and exit at Wilkens Avenue (Exit 12c). Take Wilkens Avenue (MD 372) south for 0.95 miles and turn left onto Bob’s street - Rambling Drive. Our ExCom meeting is open to all: members and non-members. But due to limited space we ask that you call in advance to let us know you’re coming.

PARTICIPATING IN SIERRA CLUB HIKES & OTHER OUTINGS

1. In order to participate in Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver when the outing begins. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call 415-977-5630.
2. In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.
3. You don’t need to register in advance for most outings. If this is required, it will be stated in the outing announcement.
4. Beginners are welcome on most outings. If the outing requires experience or good conditioning, then this will be stated in the announcement as well. Bring at least one quart of water with you for every five miles or two hours of hiking. Bring a snack or lunch. *Always* bring rain gear. In cold weather dress in layers with synthetics or wool against your skin. Avoid

cotton. Carry a first aid kit (including moleskin or firstskin), a map of the area where you'll be hiking and a compass. 10. Wear good hiking boots that support your ankles which you've broken in before the hike.

5. Hunters share the woods with us hikers in the fall and winter. So wear an orange or red hat, bandana, etc. Avoid clothing colored tan, buff or brown. If you carry a handkerchief then bring a red one, not white which looks like a deer tail when pulled from a pocket.

6. If you suffer from allergies, asthma, diabetes or other medical conditions then be certain to bring any necessary medication and inform the outing leader so they can help if an emergency arises.

7. Always practice low-impact hiking by walking on the most durable trail surface present. For example, if you have the choice of walking on vegetation or bare earth, walk on earth. Its better to walk on stony surfaces than bare earth. But safety is always paramount so don't feel compelled to walk on larger stones or rocks which may roll under your boot. Most trails are narrow so walk single-file to avoid trampling vegetation.

8. On most trails there are no bathroom facilities. About once every hour or two the outing leader will announce a separation. At that point men and women separate, walking out of sight of one another, to answer Nature's call. Pick a spot at least 200 feet from a stream, pond or other water. If you need to defecate then dig a hole six inches deep with the heel of your boot then cover it over after use. Practice low-impact hiking by bringing double (one inside the other) zip-lock plastic bags to carry out soiled tissue paper.

OUTING LEADERS WANTED

In conjunction with the Maryland Chapter's effort to identify and preserve important natural sites throughout the state, we need volunteers who can organize and lead trips to these special places. Leaders do not need special skills. The primary qualification is a love of the out of doors, and a willingness to devote some time to scouting, planning and leading the trips. Required training will be provided, and where specialized knowledge is needed, a qualified expert will participate. If you are interested, contact John Railey at 410-752-0104 or by e-mail at jrailey7007@aol.com.

OUTINGS SCHEDULE

For important information see "Participating in Sierra Club Hikes & Other Outings" on page ?.

FEBRUARY

Anytime there is enough snow – Cross Country Sking

Local skiing or possible trip to Western Maryland. Call Jack at 410-256-3963

Sat. Feb. 12 – GB Moderate. Young Sierrans Group Hike!

The Group hosts socials and outings for young people ('20-30 somethings') looking to make in an impact on our environment. During this monthly outing we'll do a 4-6 mile hike different from the one we did last month. Meet at 11:00 AM at the parking area near the Forest Glen Trail in the Hilton Area of Patapsco State Park. We should finish by 4:00 PM. Angela 410-783-0680.

Sun. Feb. 13 – GB Moderate. Great Baltimore Fire Walk

Walking tour of the area burned in 1904. We will walk around and through the burned area and talk about the causes and benefits of the fire, the history and architecture of the area, and some juicy gossip as well. Should take between 2-3 hours. Suggest wearing comfortable sneakers and bringing water. No lunch stop is planned but there are plenty of places to eat afterwards if anyone would like to stay. Meet near Port Discovery on President Street just south of Baltimore St at 9:30 AM. Plenty of street parking (no meters on Sunday) or garages nearby. Leader: Joyce, 410-254-7240 (before 9 pm).

Sat. Feb 26 - GB Moderate. Jerusalem Mill Hike

A 5-mile hike at a relaxed pace, checking for the earliest signs of spring. We'll hike along Little Gunpowder Falls from Jerusalem Mill to Rt. 1 and back, with an optional after-lunch walk to a covered bridge. Bring lunch and water. Expect mud; ice is possible. Meet at Jerusalem Mill (park headquarters) lot on north side of Jerusalem Road at 10:00. Call Betsy for details: 410-569-5202.

MARCH

Sat. Mar. 5 -GB Moderate. North Point State Park / Black Marsh Walk

About four flat miles through woodlands and marsh, and along the Patapsco shore, in what was the old "Bay Shore Amusement Park". As we walk, we will talk about the history of the area, and the wildlife that has resettled here. And, for those who want to add a little more to their outing, we will drive to Fort Howard Park, after we have completed the North Point circuit and explore this abandoned fortification. This outing is appropriate for children. Meet at the first parking lot, just beyond the North Point entrance station, at 11:00 AM. Nominal entrance fee. For more information, or directions, call John; 410-752-0104 (between 4 & 8 PM).

Sat. Mar. 12 – GB Moderate. Young Sierrans Group Hike!

The Group hosts socials and outings for young people ('20-30 somethings') looking to make in an impact on our environment. During this monthly outing we'll do a 4-6 mile hike different from the one we did last month. Meet at 11:00 AM at the parking area near the Forest Glen Trail in the Hilton Area of Patapsco State Park. We should finish by 4:00 PM. Angela 410-783-0680.

Sat. Mar. 26 GB – Moderate. Gunpowder River Hike

Moderate 7 to 8 miles below Prettyboy Dam. Expect some hills and a rocky area. Meet at Mt. Carmel P&R at noon. Call Jack at 410-256-3963.

APRIL**Tues. Apr. 5 GB – Outings Committee Meeting**

Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. New and prospective outings leaders welcome. Pot Luck dinner at 6:30 PM. Bette: 410-666-2696.

Sat. Apr. 9 GB – Moderate. Kelly Run and Pinnacle Hike

7 to 8 miles with a good view of the Susquehanna River. Good chance of seeing bald eagles. Will talk about the eagles decline and recovery into this area. Meet at K-Mart on Belair Road (Rt.1) just north of the Beltway Exit 32 at 10:00 a.m. Jack: 410-256-3963

Sun. Apr. 10 GB – Moderate. Wildflower Hike

Enjoy the spring wildflowers along the Gunpowder River. This is about 5 miles of moderate terrain with some hills and stream crossings. Strong likelihood of mud in the lowlands. We will talk about wildflowers, both native and exotic, and the impact of development along riparian areas. Trail has remains of mills and an old fort and dam. There will be a snack break at Pot Rocks, an area of geological interest. This trip is suitable for families with older children. Meet at the Gunpowder Falls State Park parking lot at the Gunpowder River Bridge on Belair Road (about 10 minutes north of the beltway) at 9:00 AM. ALWAYS bring water! Call Joyce at 410 254-7240.

Sat. Apr.16 - Susquehanna State Park Clean Up.

Celebrate Earth Day early by helping to clean up a small, but important part of the earth. Susquehanna State Park has one of the best wildflower displays in Maryland. However, due to the heavy use of Susquehanna State Park in the spring a large amount of trash accumulates. Most of the trash consists of bottles and cans. Lunch and T-shirts will be provided for all volunteers. Meet at the White Marsh Park & Ride at 9:00 AM or meet at Susquehanna picnic area at 10:00 AM. White Marsh park and ride is located just west of I95 next to Ikea and White Marsh Mall. Susquehanna picnic area is located about 15 miles north on I95. Take I95 and turn left on RT. 155 to 161 (right turn @ flashing lights) to Rock Run Road and take a left on Stafford Road. Picnic area on left before the bridge. RSVP by April 9. Wear old clothing and bring gloves. Jack Wise: 410-256-3963

Sat. Apr. 23 - GB Moderate. Harford Glen.

A 7-mile hike at a relaxed pace, looking at wildflowers and migrating songbirds. We'll hike around Harford County's Atkinson Reservoir. Mud is likely in spots. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 10:00 at Harford Glen (first lot, on right, by pond) at the west end of Wheel Road. For details, call Betsy at 410-569-5202.

MAY**Sun. May 1 - GB Moderate. Fundraising Hike**

Get out the winter kinks and help the club to raise funds on this moderate 7 mile hike. The trail rambles over rocky hills and streams in the Gunpowder Falls Central area. We will talk about the ecological impact of human encroachment on wild areas and the increasing necessity for buffers, corridors and greenways. We will have a brief snack break but no lunch as there is an optional and reasonably priced lunch stop afterwards at a nearby inn overlooking the river. On this trip, the Greater Baltimore Group is requesting a \$10.00 donation (checks should be made out to The Sierra Club), to help defray administrative expenses (stationary, postage, first aid training, etc). As always, a donation is not required to participate in Group outings. The outing meets at 9:00 AM, at the Gunpowder Falls State Park parking lot at Gunpowder Falls bridge and Belair Road. ALWAYS bring water. Call Joyce at 410 254-7240.

Sat. May 7 - GB Moderate. Fair Hills/Big Elk Creek Hike

Seven miles through forests and fields, and along Big Elk Creek in the Fair Hills NRMA, near Elkton Md. This hike will visit a covered bridge and several ruins that may date to colonial times. As we ramble, we will talk about the history and ecology of the area. Nominal NRMA entrance fee. Depart the White Marsh Park & Ride on Honeygo Blvd. at 10:00 AM. Call John 410-752-0104 between 4 and 8:00 PM.

Wed. May 25 GB – Easy. Gunpowder River Sunset Hike.

2 miles along the Gunpowder River. Meet at Gunpowder Parking Lot on Belair Road (Rt.1) and the Big Gunpowder River, just north of Perry Hall at 7:00 PM. Jack: 410-256-3963.

JUNE**Sat. Jun. 4 – GB Moderate. Soldiers Delight**

5 miles. Easy to moderate figure-8 hike covering both the east side and west side trails. Will discuss unique serpentine geology and efforts to remove invasive pines. Meet at Visitor Center parking lot, off of Deer Park Road, at 1:00 PM. Alan: 443-334-2190 (weekdays)

Sun. Jun. 12 – GB Gunpowder Tubing Trip

Tube the chilly Gunpowder for one or more bridges. The river is not very deep or wide but it is very cold. Climb up a slippery slope and walk back on the NCR trail to warm up again. Bring a tube or rent one at the trailhead. Wear plenty of sunscreen, old sneakers or water shoes, and attach keys and other valuables. We will talk about the importance of adequate riparian buffers and their role in erosion control. You will see and feel the dynamics of flowing water, why and how rivers can shift course over time. Meet at the north end of the Deerco Road Park and Ride at 10:00 AM **OR** at Monkton Station on Monkton Road at 10:30. Call Joyce at 410 254-7240.

Sat. June 25 GB – Gunpowder Tubing Trip.

Bring a tube or rent one, wear old shoes or water shoes and have a way to keep keys from falling out of your pocket. Water can sometimes be very cold. Meet at Monkton Station at 1:00 PM.
Jack: 410-256-3963

JULY**Sat. July 2 GB – Gunpowder Tubing Trip.**

Bring a tube or rent one, wear old shoes or water shoes and have a way to keep keys from falling out of your pocket. Water can sometimes be very cold. Meet at Monkton Station at 1:00 PM.
Jack: 410-256-3963

Sun. July 10 GB – Gunpowder Tubing Trip

Tube the chilly Gunpowder for one or more bridges. The river is not very deep or wide but it is very cold. Climb up a slippery slope and walk back on the NCR trail to warm up again. Bring a tube or rent one at the trailhead. Wear plenty of sunscreen, old sneakers or water shoes, and attach keys and other valuables. We will talk about the importance of adequate riparian buffers and their role in erosion control. You will see and feel the dynamics of flowing water, why and how rivers can shift course over time. Meet at the north end of the Deerco Road Park and Ride at 10:00 AM **OR** at Monkton Station on Monkton Road at 10:30. Call Joyce at 410 254-7240.

Sat. July 23 GB –Easy. Daniels Trail

6 miles. Easy 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. May be some muddy spots. Meet at the trailhead by the small lot near the end of Daniels Road, at 1:00 PM. Additional parking is around the corner by the dam. Alan: 443-334-2190 (weekdays)

AUGUST

Sun. Aug. 14 GB – Gunpowder Tubing Trip

Tube the chilly Gunpowder for one or more bridges. The river is not very deep or wide but it is very cold. Climb up a slippery slope and walk back on the NCR trail to warm up again. Bring a tube or rent one at the trailhead. Wear plenty of sunscreen, old sneakers or water shoes, and attach keys and other valuables. We will talk about the importance of adequate riparian buffers and their role in erosion control. You will see and feel the dynamics of flowing water, why and how rivers can shift course over time. Meet at the north end of the Deerco Road Park and Ride at 10:00 AM **OR** at Monkton Station on Monkton Road at 10:30. Call Joyce at 410 254-7240.

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

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

NOVEMBER**Sat. Nov. 5 – GB Moderate. Kelly's Run & Pinnacle Overlook.**

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

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

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

DECEMBER**Sat. Dec. 3 – GB Moderate. Gunpowder Falls State Park**

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

JANUARY 2006**Fri.-Mon. Jan. 13-16 – GB Moderate. Cross Country Skiing in Western Maryland.**

Cross Country skiing at New Germany State Park. Beginners welcome. For details call Jack by December 31st (if possible) at 410-256-3963.

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

If there is not enough snow a hike in Loch Raven will be held. Meet at Loch Raven High School, Cromwell Bridge Road and Cowpens Avenue at 11:00 AM. Call Jack at 410-256-3963.