



# Baltimore Sierran

Serving Members in Baltimore City, Baltimore County & Harford County November 2005

Sierra Club mission: Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## FROM THE CHAIR: Greater Baltimore Sierra Club Group

Ron L. Henry

Greetings everyone! Things have been very busy and event-filled since our July Ex Com meeting! I was truly privileged to be a Maryland delegate at the first ever National Sierra Club Summit, held in San Francisco on September 8 - 11. The Summit was truly democracy in action, as the 700+ Summit delegates helped set the future direction for the National Sierra Club. There were more than 5,000 participants at the Summit and numerous off-line, on-going discussion panels that covered many subject areas. These deliberative sessions

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

- January 10 - Outings Planning Meeting
- January 19 - Executive Committee Public Meeting
- February 3 - Baltimore Sierran Happy Hour Mixer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month - Young Sierrans Socials
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month - Young Sierrans Outings
- See Outings Schedule in newsletter and website for BG outings
- Deadline **January 19** for February newsletter - Contributions are welcome!

### Volunteer to:

- ☞ serve as Treasurer
- ☞ serve as Conservation Chair
- ☞ serve on committees or form a new committee
- ☞ be an outings leader
- ☞ help Friends of Harford review rezoning proposals, attend hearings, and submit comments
- ☞ help the Political Committee to develop questionnaires and interview candidates for State and local office in 2006
- ☞ Are you interested in sharing your enthusiasm for the outdoors with Baltimore City youngsters? Check out the **Baltimore Inner City Outings** at [www/sierraclub.org/ico/Baltimore](http://www.sierraclub.org/ico/Baltimore).

marked the first time that so many Club delegates gathered in one place and voted on priorities. It was truly one of the Club's finest hours – the most impressive display of democratic, large-scale, collective decision-making I've ever witnessed! I am proud to have been part of that process!!

The first thing to which everyone overwhelmingly agreed is that the National Sierra Club will be looking at things in a different way. The intent is not to detract from our central mission, but to re-examine our processes, methods, and priorities to achieve that mission. From the pre-Summit inputs derived from Groups, Chapters, and Regions and from many hours of Summit deliberations, 67% of the delegates chose **"Building A New Energy Future"** as the Club's top priority over the next five years. Also ranking high were **"Building Vibrant, Healthy Communities"** (52%), **"Defending Federal Lands and Public Waters"** (49%), and **"Protecting People and the Planet from Pollution"** (46%).

Delegates also voted upon how the Club should use its resources to reach

## Phytoterrorism: An Urban Reality

by Mickey Mullany  
Goldberg

Aliens- unwanted invading plants- threaten to devastate our natural flora. In the mid-Atlantic region, 300 known species of weeds, shrubs, vines and trees imported from other countries and climates have been displacing local plants (per Jill Swearingen, National Park Service). A stand of exotic Japanese barberry alters nitrogen levels and soil pH, ultimately choking out native plants. With benign names such as *Tree-of-heaven* (fast-growing and toxic to local species), *Kudzu* (not the comic

these goals. The results: (1) Seeking new allies and building new coalitions, (2) Creating media visibility, and (3) Bringing people together. Finally, delegates chose the top three ways to impact environmental decision-makers. They were: (1) Influence voters' electoral decisions, (2) Focus on State policy-makers, and (3) Influence local decision-makers about specific issues and places.

There were several inspiring speakers who significantly added to the general euphoria. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. spoke eloquently and with great expertise about environmental matters. Vice-President Gore compared the events preceding World War II (as the storm was gathering over Europe) to our present day warnings about global warming. He emphasized a Biblical quote that "Where there is no vision, the people perish." His strongest and most resonating statements were: "We have a moral responsibility to deal with the consequences of quadrupling the population and industry's emissions that influence the climate and create global warming... This is not about scientific debate. It's about who we are as human beings. It's about our capacity to transcend our limitations... Political will is a renewable resource and NOW is a

moral moment... There are those who say this problem is too big... This is a time for those who see and understand and care and are willing to work!"

I'll add two quotes. Robert Kennedy quoted the Lakota people: "We didn't inherit this planet from our ancestors; we borrowed it from our children." And, I say: If we don't return to our children something roughly equivalent to what we received, both in quality of our environment and the integrity of our values, we have failed!!

I left this first ever Sierra Club National Summit feeling inspired and infused with a new energy and a sense of purpose in moving forward to create necessary changes to achieve our objectives. We are presented with an opportunity in 2006 to focus our collective energies on our local and State election processes by influencing voters' electoral decisions, selecting State policy-makers, and influencing local decision-makers about specific issues. Let's work together to make our democratic process work to ensure that we will be able to proudly hand over to our children a sustainable planet Earth for generations yet to come!

strip character, but the smothering leafy killer), and *English ivy* (particularly grim when its stealth-like infestation weakens its host maples, elms and oaks), these foreigners cannot assimilate; they destroy.

You likely have some phytoterrorists in your own backyard or local park. My holly tree has been invaded by the dreadful *Mile-a-minute* or *Devil's tear-thumb* from Asia; a nasty, prickly vine that chokes off light to its innocent but enabling plant. Analysts suspect its fatal introduction to Maryland came from an unintentional York County planting in the 1930s. For a list of common plant predators that includes photo links to

aid identification, visit <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/common.htm>.

The Irvine Nature Center in Stevenson has partnered with the Maryland Native Plant Society (MNPS) to offer seminars and meetings open to the public. In August, during the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plant Seminar and Sale, speakers urged attendees to biodiversify their gardens and yards. With ongoing projects to restore areas at the Ft. Meade Army Installation, Greenbelt National Park and elsewhere, MNPS holds monthly meetings for free open to the public.

(Continued on page 2)

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**Young Sierrans website:** [http://  
maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore/  
youngsierrans](http://maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore/youngsierrans)

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## Harford County Enters 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of Rezoning Reviews

by Mary C. Corddry in collaboration with  
Friends of Harford

Harford County is in the middle of the first  
Comprehensive Zoning Review since 1998.  
Last December and January, property own-  
ers filed 328 requests to rezone 3,872 acres,  
including 126 requests for rezoning 2,804  
acres from agricultural use to homes, town-  
houses, or commercial development.

Community involvement is essential in this  
process for planning the county's future.  
Land use should reflect how county resi-  
dents want the land used. It is important  
for us to pay attention as government offi-  
cials review the county's zoning and growth  
policies. Become informed. Discuss what  
you want with your neighbors. Speak out at  
public hearings. Submit written comments.

The seven members of the County Council  
will vote on each rezoning request after  
holding public hearings next January and  
February. As reported in *The Aegis*, the  
County Executive David R. Craig, who will  
run for election next fall, announced on  
September 15 that his Administration, in-  
cluding the Planning and Zoning Depart-  
ment, recommends denying more than two-  
thirds of the rezoning requests. Denial of  
up-zoning is recommended if the proposal  
does not fit with the county's 2004 Land  
Use Master Plan, public facilities are not  
adequate for the needs, there is an over-  
abundance of the requested zoning (e.g.,  
commercial or residential), or the property  
is outside the "development envelope,"  
which was drawn by the County Council in  
1976. The envelope is like an inverted T,  
running along Routes 24 and 924 and along  
Route 40 and I-95.

Among the 126 requests for rezoning 2,804  
acres of agricultural land, 37 requests for  
rezoning 673 acres are recommended for  
approval by the Administration, mostly to  
residential use.

Rural residential zoning is recommended  
for 246 acres out of the 1,473 acres of agri-  
cultural land proposed for this rezoning.

Intensive business use is being discouraged  
in the designated rural villages, such as  
Churchville and along the congested Route  
22 corridor.

Up-zoning to intensive business use is rec-  
ommended for 15 acres in the county.

The County Executive's recommendations  
follow the Planning and Zoning Depart-  
ment's research of each property. Four pub-  
lic hearings in August and September were  
attended by about 900 concerned citizens,  
and an additional 1,100 written comments  
were received, urging denial of most rezon-  
ing requests. The public comments were  
described as specific and well researched.

Next, the Planning Advisory Board will  
develop its own recommendations for sub-  
mission to the County Council in Novem-  
ber, along with the administration's report.  
The County Council will hold public hear-  
ings--possibly on **January 12, 19, and 26  
and February 2**. The seven members will  
then vote on each rezoning request to ap-  
prove the Administration's or Board's rec-  
ommendations, approve a different zoning  
classification, or deny any change.

The County Council could decide to ap-  
prove rezoning requests that the planning  
representatives and County Executive rec-  
ommend for denial. Therefore, it is impor-  
tant that concerned citizens express their  
opinions during this political process by  
speaking at the public hearings and submit-  
ting written comments, rather than waiting  
until the bulldozers arrive. Zoning determi-  
nations are one of the most important func-  
tions of county government, directly im-  
pacting residents' quality of life, community  
health, the environment, and tax dollar  
expenditures.

This process occurs every eight years. It  
began in December 2004 and January 2005  
when property owners submitted rezoning  
applications. The process will end in Feb-  
ruary 2006 when the County Council ap-  
proves any comprehensive revisions to the  
zoning maps. Campaign contributions and  
politicians' promises reflect the stakes of  
this political process, especially with local  
elections coming next fall.

At the four hearings in August and Septem-  
ber, high school auditoriums were filled  
with 900 citizens, who were overwhelm-  
ingly opposed to property owners' requests  
for more intensive residential or commer-  
cial use of their properties. They expressed  
concerns about the impact of rezoning on  
such intangibles as quality of life and enjoy-  
ment of rural landscapes and village centers.  
Concerns were expressed about the need to  
preserve the county's agricultural heritage  
and beautiful vistas for future generations.  
Once the county's fertile lands are paved  
over, the agricultural use and way of life are  
gone forever. Citizens repeatedly urged the  
county to follow the approved Master Plan  
and not approve rezoning where there is  
already surplus residential or commercial  
capacity. They urged the county to keep  
residential, commercial, and industrial de-  
velopment within the designated  
"development envelope," where such inten-  
sive development is planned with the neces-  
sary public infrastructure of roads, schools,  
and utilities.

Many community groups were represented  
at these public hearings. For example, the  
Concerned Citizens of Churchville attended  
the Aberdeen public hearing, wearing yel-  
low shirts. They oppose the proposed rezon-  
ing of 50 acres for intensive business  
use (e.g., big box or suburban shopping

center) deep into the properties at the for-  
mer Big-M Drive-In and former agricultural  
auction buildings. Also opposed is other  
commercial rezoning for Glenville Road's  
agricultural land and elsewhere around the  
already congested Route 22. The Land Use  
Master Plan advises against such heavy de-  
velopment in the designated rural village of  
Churchville.

Following are some comments from the  
public hearings:

"Rather than say I remember when, say this  
is beautiful, let's keep it."

"What I longed for in moving back here was  
village life... What we've proposed here is  
more blacktop... What I long for is a plan  
with vision and imagination and, maybe I  
should say, with soul. I long for leadership  
at any level for such a plan."

"You should do the people's business. I  
hope you will actively listen. I wish you  
would make decisions based on what the  
neighborhood and community need, not  
what a few need. If one property is rezoned,  
there will be the next and next. Just say no."

"People who own the property want the  
money now. This is property rights versus  
citizen rights. Citizens in this county de-  
cided that zoning is important. We need to  
decide what we want in the next 100 years  
and still have a farm fair."

"This may well signal the complete change  
of our area if this goes through."

(Continued on page 7)

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## Phytoterrorism

Continued from page 1

Its next meeting at Irvine will be No-  
vember 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm; no registration  
required. Visit MNPS at [http://  
www.mdflora.org/](http://www.mdflora.org/).

In fall, you may typically prepare your  
yard for the spring; however, resist the  
urge to simply yank alien plant invaders  
on sight. Flora may be ready to shed its  
seeds, and pulling can unwittingly help  
them propagate for years to come. If  
you identify the invaders you can learn  
safe eradication options. I personally  
feel that the only thing that can rid our  
area of exotic bamboo may be napalm,  
but easy Internet research reveals more  
rational alternatives at [http://  
www.invasive.org/eastern/midatlantic/  
bamb.html](http://www.invasive.org/eastern/midatlantic/bamb.html). Additionally, to purchase  
plants from local nurseries that cater to  
natives, try [http://www.mdflora.org/  
publications/nurseries.html](http://www.mdflora.org/publications/nurseries.html).

# Upcoming Greater Baltimore Sierra Club Meetings

## Executive Committee Public Meeting

Sierra Club members and non-members are invited to attend the next quarterly public meeting of the Greater Baltimore Group's Executive Committee. The meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 19, 7:30 – 9:30** at the Maryland Presbyterian Church near Towson. Light refreshments are served. Bring your ideas or concerns about conservation, environmental, educational, or outings activities. Come to participate in the discussions and planning.

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

## Outings Planning Meeting

The next meeting of the GB Outings Committee is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30** in Cockeysville. New and prospective outings leaders are welcome. Pot luck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Call Bette at 410-666-2696 for directions.

Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. If you're interested in leading outings and are curious about what is involved, come and talk with the outings leaders. The group will also discuss the contents of first aid kits that are purchased for all outings leaders with money from the \$1 donations collected at outings. The donations also reimburse for the required first aid training.

## Happy Hour Sierran Mixer

**Friday February 3 – GB Easy Mixer**

Come out and bring a friend, member or non-member, and get acquainted without the need for boots, sunscreen, or bug juice. No hills to climb or streams to cross. Just a complimentary buffet with indoor plumbing included at no extra cost. Meet at Schooners for happy hour (anytime between 5 & 7 p.m.) located on Belair Road just south/inside of the Beltway. The manager has been extremely accommodating. Please return the favor and register with me so we will have adequate space. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240.

## Young Sierrans Socials and Outings

The Young Sierrans Group of the Greater Baltimore Area holds monthly **Socials** on the **second Thursday of each month at 7:00: December 8, January 12, and February 9**. The Socials are held at the City Cafe, located at 1001 Cathedral Street (just south of Eager Street) in the Mt. Vernon area of Baltimore City. 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.

The Young Sierrans Outings are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month after the monthly social. For details, check out the Young Sierrans web site at <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore/youngsierrans/>

Questions? Contact Kathy, Young Sierrans Chair, at 410-440-9896 or [har-getk@yahoo.com](mailto:har-getk@yahoo.com).

## HELP WANTED!!

**A Treasurer is needed** for the Greater Baltimore Group.

A **Conservation Chair** is also needed.

If you're interested, contact Ron Henry at 410-838-9119 or

[RonLHenry@msn.com](mailto:RonLHenry@msn.com).

## In Search of:

### Contributions for the Sierran Newsletter

We are seeking contributions to the Baltimore Sierran newsletter from environmentalists of **all ages** and interests. We need articles, news, ideas, photographs, or poems related to the environment, conservation, or outings in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, or Harford County.

Send contributions or ideas to Mary Corddy at [XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com](mailto:XxDiTz4LyFxx@aol.com) or 75 Perryfalls Place, Nottingham, MD 21236. The deadline for submissions to the February Baltimore Sierran newsletter is **January 19<sup>th</sup>**.

## We Need Your E-mail Addresses!

The Sierra Club is most effective when our members show up at community meetings or hearings or contact their elected officials to voice their opinions and advocate for the environment. We can use e-mail to contact you more than the four times a year this newsletter affords us, in order to let you know about upcoming meetings or important legislation. **If you want to join this environmental hot-mail**, give your e-mail address to Cliff Terry at: [ckerry@bcpl.net](mailto:ckerry@bcpl.net).

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

## Forest Stewardship Newsletter

A very special THANK YOU to our Chairman Emeritus, Richard Klein, for his efforts to produce an excellent special edition newsletter on forest stewardship. Great job, Richard!! This newsletter was received a few weeks by the 1,819 Sierra Club members who live in Baltimore County. It was made possible by a grant from the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The newsletter is part of Baltimore County's Rural Residential Stewardship Initiative. The purpose is to encourage Sierrans and all other citizens to look around for opportunities to expand existing forests, particularly along rural streams, rivers, wetlands, and other water bodies. Look for another forest stewardship newsletter in the spring.

## Girl Scouts of Central Maryland need your help for Year-round Outdoor Programs

The Girl Scouts of Central Maryland are in need of outdoor program volunteers to help with adventure programs. Adults interested and certified in archery, orienteering, canoeing, kayaking, astronomy, hiking, back packing, ropes courses or life guarding are needed for program activities throughout the year.

Not certified in archery or rope courses? The Girl Scouts of Central Maryland will pay for your certification if you are willing to give at least 4 week-ends a year to present the program to our girls.

If you have a special talent that you would like to present as a cooperative program (pottery, drama, dance, etc.) through the Girl Scout Outdoor Program Department let us know. Contact Abby Neyenhouse or Billy Heimbuch at 410-358-9711 or email [aneyenhouse@gscm.org](mailto:aneyenhouse@gscm.org) or [bheinbuch@gscm.org](mailto:bheinbuch@gscm.org) for more information or to get involved.

## Help Elect Pro-Environmental Public Officials

by Cliff Terry, Group Political Chair

We're getting close to the 2006 election campaign season, believe it or not. It's time to gear up for Sierra Club political work. The Group Political Committee's work can be a lot of fun, and you get to help determine who will be in a position to protect or trash the Chesapeake Bay, our open space, drinking water, wildlife habitat, the air we breathe.

We have a lot of work to do, but it's a fascinating and eye-opening experience. You get to hobnob with movers and shakers, as well as wannabees (who may be future movers and shakers). In fact, by helping to sort them out, you become a bit of a mover and shaker yourself.

Next year we elect a Senator, Congressmen, Governor, General Assembly Senators and Delegates, County Executives, and Council members. Our Group's service area covers Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Harford County. It has major chunks of three of Maryland's eight Congressional Districts--now represented by Dutch Ruppersberger, Ben Cardin, and Elijah Cummings, which gives our Group much of the responsibility for choosing and helping the Maryland Chapter's endorsees in those districts. Moreover, since Paul Sarbanes is retiring from the Senate and Ben Cardin is running to succeed him, both of their seats will be open. That means at least two unpredictable races of top importance, since they will help to determine which party controls the respective houses of Congress.

Our Committee will write questionnaires to screen candidates for local offices. We will review questionnaire responses by them and by the area's General Assembly candidates. We will interview both groups and recommend Club endorsements. Then, we'll help those endorsees who have a good chance of winning, but may need our help.

If there are enough participants, we will support the endorsees such as by writing press releases and letters to the editor; planning, organizing, and recruiting volunteers for news conferences and rallies; canvassing voters; distributing literature; telephoning voters; putting up yard signs; stuffing envelopes for mailings; and greeting voters at the polls.

But don't think that if you volunteer you're committing to an overwhelming job. Whatever you can do will make a difference. We will, at least, screen candidates and recommend endorsements in the most important races. And we'll help our favored candidates, at a minimum, by publicizing our endorsements and sending volunteers to the most important campaigns.

I'll be glad to talk with anyone who is even just maybe, possibly interested. Contact me at 410-944-9477 or [ckterry@bcpl.net](mailto:ckterry@bcpl.net)

## Student Environmental Activism at UMBC

Jake Tanenbaum, a sophomore at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) is speaking to individuals around campus about the possibility of establishing a UMBC Sierra Club group. He has found many people who have expressed an interest in becoming involved with the Sierra Club. The group will focus on outings and, additionally, provide education about the local environment and major, current environmental issues. After the group is created, it will seek recognition from UMBC's Student Government Association. Recruitment of members will then get underway, and qualified members will be sought for leadership positions. There is excitement about this group's potential, and hope that the movement will spread to other Maryland college campuses. For more information, contact Jake at: 410-322-5440 or [jtanenbaum@umbc.edu](mailto:jtanenbaum@umbc.edu)

The UMBC Sierra Club group will work in conjunction with UMBC's Students for Environmental Awareness, which is already recognized by the Student Government Association. Its mission is: "to achieve greater awareness and take action to address environmental problems within the UMBC campus, the surrounding community, and the world." This group may be contacted at: <http://sta.umbc.edu/orgs/sea>

## Other Contacts To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

1000 Friends of Maryland: 410-385-2910 [www.friendsofmd.org](http://www.friendsofmd.org)  
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: 410-377-6270 [www.alliancechesbay.org](http://www.alliancechesbay.org)  
Audubon Patterson Park Initiative: 410-558-2473 [http://www.audubon.org/chapter/md/md/patterson\\_park](http://www.audubon.org/chapter/md/md/patterson_park)  
Appalachian Trail: 304-535-6331 [appalachiantrail.org/Maryland](http://appalachiantrail.org/Maryland)  
Baltimore Canoe Club: [www.baltimorecanoeclub.org](http://www.baltimorecanoeclub.org)  
Balto. City Dpt. of Public Works: <http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/dpw>  
Balto. City Dpt. of Recreation & Parks: <http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/drp>  
Balto. Co. Dpt. Of Environmental Protection & Resource Mgmt.: 410-887-3733 <http://www.co.ba.md.us/Agencies/Environment>  
Biotrek Naturalists: [www.biotrek.org](http://www.biotrek.org)  
Carrie Murray Nature Center: 410-396-0808  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation: [www.cbf.org](http://www.cbf.org)  
Chesapeake Bay Trust: 410-974-2941 <http://www.chesapeakebaytrust.org>  
Cromwell Valley Park: 410-887-2503  
Cylburn Arboretum Assoc.: 410-367-2217 [www.cylburnassociation.org](http://www.cylburnassociation.org)  
Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)  
Friends of Harford: 410-838-7333 [www.friendsofharford.com](http://www.friendsofharford.com)  
Gunpowder Falls State Park: 410-592-2897  
Gunpowder Valley Conservancy: [www.gunpowdervalley.org](http://www.gunpowdervalley.org)  
Gwynns Falls Trail Council: 410-448-5663 x135 [www.gwynnsfallstrail.org](http://www.gwynnsfallstrail.org)  
Harford Land Trust: 410-836-2103 [www.harfordlandtrust.org](http://www.harfordlandtrust.org)  
Herring Run Watershed Assoc.: 410-254-1577  
Irvine Nature Center: 410-484-2413 [www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org)  
Izaak Walton League Save Our Streams Program: <http://www.iwla.org/SOS>  
Jones Falls Watershed Assoc.: 410-261-3515 [www.jonesfalls.org](http://www.jonesfalls.org)  
Marshy Point Nature Center: 410-887-2817  
MD Cooperative Extension: <http://www.agnr.umd.edu>  
MD Dpt. of Natural Resources: [www.dnr.state.md.us](http://www.dnr.state.md.us)  
MD Native Plant Society: [mnps@toad.net](mailto:mnps@toad.net)  
MD Office of Smart Growth: [www.smartgrowth.state.md.us](http://www.smartgrowth.state.md.us)  
MD Outdoor Club: [marylandoutdoorclub.org](http://marylandoutdoorclub.org)  
MD Sierra Club: 301-277-7111 [maryland.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:maryland.chapter@sierraclub.org)  
Mountain Club of MD: [www.mcomd.org](http://www.mcomd.org)  
Oregon Ridge Nature Center: 410-887-1815 [www.oregonridge.org](http://www.oregonridge.org)  
Parks & People Foundation (Balto. City): 410-448-5663 [www.parksandpeople.org](http://www.parksandpeople.org)  
Patapsco Valley State Park: 410-461-5005  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy: [railtrails.org](http://railtrails.org)  
Soldiers Delight Natural Environmental Area: 410-922-3044  
Students for Environmental Action UMBC: <http://sta.umbc.edu/orgs/sea>  
The Smarter Land Use Project: <http://landuse.org>  
The Valleys Planning Council (Balto. Co.): 410-337-6877

## How to End the Anti-Environmental Influence of Campaign Contributions

by Aryah Fradkin, Field Director for Common Cause Maryland

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

Common Cause Maryland is working on an important and exciting campaign to bring public financing of campaigns to Maryland. Our elections have become a contest between high-powered lobbies competing for who can spend the most on their candidates and lobbyists. Between 1995 and 2000, \$17 million was spent by organizations and individuals on funding political campaigns in Maryland. Between 2001 and 2005, that amount jumped to \$118 million, an astonishing increase of \$100 million, driven by such heavily lobbied issues as slot machines. Think of all the parks we could preserve, the open space we could protect, if these groups would put even a 10th of that money towards conservation.

HB 1031 for public financing of State political campaigns was introduced by Delegate Jon Cardin during the 2005 session of Maryland's General Assembly. The "Clean Elections" bill garnered the support of 39 co-sponsors, passed the Ways and Means committee by a vote of 14-6, but did not receive a vote by the full House. A system of public financing was proposed that is similar to campaign finance reform practiced in Arizona and Maine. Candidates could qualify by collecting at least \$5 from 0.25% of the people in the district they wished to represent (or from 282 people in an average State Senate district). Qualifying candidates would then receive \$80,000 for a House race and \$100,000 for a Senate race. These amounts are extremely reasonable when you consider that the average amount spent in 2004 for a House campaign was \$77,000 and \$110,000 for the Senate. After a candidate receives these funds, they would agree not to raise any more private contributions.

In order to directly demonstrate the im-

pact of corporate money on environmental issues, we need look no further than the "4-P bill", which would have reduced emissions of the four most toxic chemicals produced by power plants. Naturally, the bill had the backing of the State's entire environmental community, with the Sierra Club, League of Conservation Voters, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Clean Water Action all submitting letters of approval and generating hundreds of letters from concerned constituents. So what happened?

The answer lies in who opposed the bill and how much money they invested to defeat it. Allegheny Energy, Constellation Energy, Mirant, and Pepco were the four main power companies that opposed the bill. According to a study done by Common Cause in 2004, these companies combined to contribute approximately \$56,000 in the past five years to members of the Maryland Senate, and more than \$440,000 to all candidates, far more than given by environmentalists. In light of this glaring discrepancy and the huge advantage that corporations and other wealthy donors enjoy over the average voter in money for campaign contributions, Common Cause has made public financing of elections its top priority for the upcoming 2006 legislative session.

Reducing the influence of power companies and other corporate donors will bring our lawmakers' attention back to the pressing issues that matter to their constituents, and away from the lucrative offers of big money and big polluters. That will make the "one person, one vote" system of democracy a reality in Maryland.

On November 6, a conference was held on "Clean Money – Campaign Finance Reform: A Real Solution for Maryland." The event was sponsored by the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter, Common Cause Maryland, League of Women Voters of Maryland, Progressive Maryland, American Jewish Congress Maryland Chapter, and Baltimore Jewish Council. Attendees discussed how to advance a bill for campaign finance reform in the 2006 session of the State legislature.

If you want more information, please contact Aryah Fradkin at 443-695-1761 or at [afradkin@commoncause.org](mailto:afradkin@commoncause.org).

## Loch Raven Reservoir Cleanup Day 2005!

by Paula Faith Kurrus, Founder and Project Leader

The Loch Raven Reservoir Cleanup Day started out four years ago with one large, messy site and 100 hard-working volunteers, mostly from Springdale. The event has enlarged each year to include more sites and volunteers. Cleanup Day 2005 was another huge success. Over 300 people cleaned up eight sites. Debris removed from the reservoir's shoreline and many watershed trails filled 200 large trash sacks. The Baltimore City Department of Public Works hauled all of it away— trash sacks, many tires, and lare pieces of debris.

The volunteers included people of all ages, mostly from the Loch Raven Watershed area, but also from Bethesda, Rockville, and Silver Spring. Neighbors with their whole families came out along with Scout troops, church groups, Jewish groups, the Cockeysville Police Department, and several political leaders. Many elementary, middle, and high schools were represented by their Key Clubs, environmental clubs, and science clubs. Many other students participated who were not necessarily members of any club, but interested in receiving Service-Learning Hours.

The Springdale Community Association donated \$750, Sam's Club \$1,000, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust \$500. Supplies and food for the volunteers were donated by many local businesses, the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management, Baltimore City Department of Public Works, and Pitch-In For Progress.

Congratulations, Maryland citizens for caring about the state of our drinking water and consistently coming out to do something about it! Thanks to all the supporters and especially to all of those volunteers who faithfully come out and work so very hard each year to help keep the Loch Raven Reservoir, the local source of our drinking water, clean. I encourage all of our neighbors living in the Loch Raven Reservoir Watershed area to be more responsible with your trash. Place your trash only in trashcans and all of the large debris at the dump, not in the source of our water supply!! Otherwise, you are not only poisoning yourself, but all of the rest of us.

For more information about the Loch Raven Reservoir Cleanup Day and other fun, environmentally helpful activities, please call 410-683-3144 or email [FriendsLochRaven@aol.com](mailto:FriendsLochRaven@aol.com) or go to <http://gunpowdervalley.org/>

## Memorial Stadium Artificial Reef Project

by Sherry Dowdell

William G. Huppert, Maryland Saltwater Sport Fishermen's Association's Reef Ball Coordinator, has been hard at work with Gibson Island Country School. Together, they have deployed seven concrete reef balls beneath the School's Pier. These concrete reef balls are constructed of concrete salvage from the old Memorial Stadium and are part of the Larger Chesapeake Bay Artificial Reef Program. Maryland Saltwater Sport Fisherman's Association (MSSA) is working in conjunction with many other organizations including the Oyster Recovery Program, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Environmental Services, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The students helped

build the reef balls last spring and attached oyster shells with year-old spat to them.

The reef balls will become a living laboratory for the students by providing sanctuary for crabs and small fish as well as oysters and mussels. They will scientifically study the wildlife populations for the next three years and document the reef animals by using underwater photography.

MSSA involves itself in environmental education whenever possible. This includes scholarship assistance to students planning to major in Marine Biology or any other field of study related to the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. For more information contact William G. Huppert, MSSA Reef Ball Coordinator at 410-256-3733.

## THE DEAD WOODS

by Glenn Langan (14 years old)

The woods behind my Grandmother's house used to be a beautiful deciduous forest. We used to take walks there in the trees. At the bottom of a valley, there was a fairly large stream. It was a wood full of big hills covered in trees, and in between them valleys with the occasional small swamp with skunk cabbage.

Unfortunately, that all changed. The owner of the woods decided to log it. They chopped down almost all of the trees in most of the woods. Only patches of medium sized trees remained. All of the larger trees were taken away, while the smaller ones were left lying on the ground.

In the tangle of tree trunks, various invasive species have taken hold. Mile-a-minute vine has totally covered large areas in a blanket. Pokeweed has sprouted up everywhere, and multi-flora rose has formed large prickly thickets. The trails themselves have suffered. Some were used as logging roads and have been churned up into wide swaths of mud, which will erode and pollute the streams. Others are unrecognizable because of the trees cut down and lying around them. The swamps with their skunk cabbage are drying up in the sun that is flooding the forest. Some of the animals we used to see are gone, either because of the light or the destruction of the landscape. It does not look like a forest anymore.



## TREE HARVESTING IN MARYLAND

### ***Participating in Sierra Club Hikes & Other Outings***

1. Sierra Club outings are open to everyone--member and non-members. Activities are normally "rain or shine" at the leader's discretion. Check with the leader if the weather appears threatening. Reservations are not required, unless noted in the announcement.
2. Beginners are welcome. If the outing requires experience or good conditioning, this will be stated in the announcement. Call the outing leader if you have questions about the terrain, difficulty, duration, or recommended clothing or equipment.
3. Children under 18 years old must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult. Call the leader ahead of time to find out if the hike is suitable for children. If older teenagers want to attend without their parents, they must have the outing leader's prior consent and have the Minor Medical Treatment Authorization form and a permission slip signed by their parent/guardian.
4. Dogs and other pets are not allowed on Sierra Club outings, unless the activity is specifically advertised in the announcement as being "dog friendly."
5. Participants must have the proper clothing, equipment, and stamina for the event. Bring at least one quart of water with you for every five miles or two hours of hiking. Bring a lunch, snacks, or more. **Always** bring rain gear. In cold weather, dress in layers with synthetics or wool against your skin. Avoid cotton. During hunting season, wear bright clothing; don't impersonate a deer. Wear good hiking boots that support your ankles, which you've broken in **before** the hike. Carry a personal first aid kit. Bring any medications that you may need. A hiking stick can come in handy when crossing streams or navigating slippery or rocky slopes.
6. Practice low impact hiking. Keep on the trail to avoid trampling things or getting hurt.
7. Keep with the group. A "sweep" is usually designated to go last and make sure no one gets lost or runs into trouble.
8. Since there are rarely bathroom facilities, every hour or so the outing leader will announce a "separation". Men and women walk out of sight of each other to answer Nature's call. Pick a spot at least 200 feet from any water. You may want to bring some toilet tissues, a small spade, and double zip-lock plastic storage bags to carry out any soiled tissues.
9. Outings participants often carpool between a meeting place and the trailhead. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling is strictly a private arrangement among the participants, who assume full responsibility and liability for all risks associated with such travel.
10. The Greater Baltimore Group suggests a \$1 or \$2 donation to help defray the expenses associated with the outings program.

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver before the outing begins. If you want to read the waiver beforehand or get a copy of the Minor Medical Treatment Authorization form, see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/index.asp> or call 415-977-5630.

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

Forests currently cover 2.6 million acres or approximately 41% of the State. An estimated 130,600 private landowners own 76% of the forests. State Forester Steven W. Koehn, Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Service, states on the DNR website <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/landplanning/> :

"Privately owned forests should be recognized for the many goods and environmental services they provide. These forests protect soil, ensure quality water, store carbon, and provide habitat for wildlife. ... In Maryland, well over half of our population depends on water supplies that originate on or are protected, in part, by private forestlands, making the bond between drinking water and the sustainable management of privately owned forest obvious... The improper cutting of forest lands can cause long-term adverse effects on forest composition, quality and economic value of forest resources for decades... Forest, timberlands, woodlands and soil resources of the State are basic assets, and the proper use, development, and preservation of these resources are necessary to protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of the State."

Since 1977, forest harvesting in Maryland has been regulated by the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Forest Harvest Operations. This is now administered under the Water Management Administration of the Maryland Department of the Environ-

ment (MDE). District Forest Boards inspect timber harvesting for sediment and erosion control. The Forest Watershed Management Program provides technical assistance to promote best management practices. According to H.B. 168 effective October 1, 2005, anyone performing tree care or removal must be insured and be licensed by the DNR as a Maryland Tree Expert.

State law and regulations require that a sediment control plan be approved before any earth disturbing activity exceeding 5,000 square feet. The DNR and MDE developed a Compliance Agreement for the Standard Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for Forest Harvest Operations. Each county may be delegated the authority to enforce the State's minimum requirements. When a tree harvest is planned on private property, an erosion and sediment control plan must be approved by the local Soil Conservation District. The plan must particularly address sediment control at the site's entrance, roads, trails, landings, and waterways. It must include a Streamside Management Zone, as an uncut and undisturbed buffer, on either side of a perennial or intermittent stream, river, lake, pond, bog, or marsh. Areas with steep slopes must be stabilized with seed and/or mulch to prevent future erosion. A silt fence or straw bale dike may be needed as a sediment barrier on the down-slope.

## Harford County Rezoning

(continued from page 2)

“It is getting impossible to farm in Bel Air.”

“Millions of dollars are going into agricultural preservation... Show support for a viable agricultural industry.”

“I want the community to retain quality to raise children... We are being surrounded by commercial properties. Small communities are being squeezed out.”

“Many of us moved there because we were tired of commercial buildup. Now, you're doing this again.”

“My neighborhood was zoned agricultural when I bought my home... One day I'm going to wake up to a warehouse outside my window and across the street, light industry.”

“Business in this area would be an atrocity. If I wanted to live next to businesses, I would live in the city.”

“How would you like a big business in your neighborhood?”

“Only give consideration to a zoning change if it is for the better of the community, not for the better of the pocketbook of landowners.”

“If something is good for one person, it is not necessarily good for the entire community. If it doesn't make sense or is not right, it should be denied. Development incursion into residential neighborhoods and into the woods is not right. Keep it along the highway.”

“He got 10 houses and doesn't need more. You should deny the proposal and make him wait until the next cycle of rezoning. He's made his money.”

“None of the new plans should be granted because it is clear they don't meet the objectives of the Master Plan.”

“We are asking for fairness in the process. Take care of infrastructure issues first and approve something more in line with the community such as large houses.”

“There is no public sewer or water. The water pressure can't take more. I vehemently oppose multi-family dwellings here.”

“It can take three lights to get out now.”

“I witnessed five accidents in the last year, two of them fatal. I have seen considerable development in the last five years. When is enough enough?”

“I ask to preserve as much woods as possible rather than stripping away all the trees.”

“This is a beautiful, rural quality of life. It will ruin what's left for this area.”

Friends of Harford is a local organization that formed in 1997 to advocate for smarter growth, managed development, and quality design. This organization mobilized over 100 volunteers, encouraged citizens to become involved, distributed fliers, wrote letters to local newspapers, testified at hearings, and submitted written comments. They visited each property proposed for rezoning, researched the potential impact on the surrounding area, and prepared recommendations for a report to the County Council.

The Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club is collaborating with Friends of Harford to ensure that citizens' voices are heard during this comprehensive zoning review. We urge county officials to engage in responsible decision-making that preserves the county's historic rural character, scenic charm, and quality of life. We oppose up-zoning unless it is needed and wanted by the community, consistent with the Master Plan, within the “development envelope,” and carefully planned to provide the necessary public infrastructure and mitigate negative impacts.

The following problems are being experienced in Harford County:

Environmental impacts are a concern with farmland developed, trees cut, and streams degraded or diverted into culverts. Sensitive watersheds are threatened by development in areas with a history of septic failures and contaminated wells.

Storm water drains across private properties. Runoff ends up in the Chesapeake Bay.

Farms are becoming surrounded by residential and commercial development. Some farmers must deal with constant complaints from their neighbors, such as about the smell from normal farming operations, spraying, and harvesting into the night.

With spot zoning, there is a domino effect of development creeping through rural landscapes, with uncoordinated building of homes and townhouses in isolated pockets and commerce spreading from highway intersections into rural or residential neighborhoods.

Intensive residential and commercial development is occurring or proposed in areas without public water and sewer, and for which none is planned for the next 6-10 years.

There is a moratorium to stop additional residential development in high school districts with overcrowded schools. It is in danger of being lifted.

A comprehensive traffic plan is needed. Commercial and residential development in

rural areas is resulting in congested and unsafe traffic. Country roads are typically narrow and winding, have only two lanes, lack shoulders, and have limited sight-lines around curves and on hills.

Parks and recreation facilities have not kept up with the residential development.

According to the 2004 Land Use Master Plan and a Legg Mason study, only 41% of the county's existing commercial land inventory will be used by the year 2025. New businesses in areas saturated with commercial development threaten the viability of existing businesses. This has resulted in closed shopping centers with boarded up buildings and vacant parking lots. Such blight is near newly created or proposed commercial properties (e.g., the empty Ames building in the Campus Hills Shopping Center). The county is investing in redevelopment of the commercial corridor on Route 40 in the Edgewood area. This is all the more reason why rezoning to commercial use should be denied outside the development envelope. Unbroken commercial corridors along road frontage are undesirable.

Also according to the Legg Mason study, there are 31,308 parcels already zoned for new residential building, enough to last the next 25 years. The Administration's recommendations would add another 2,000+ parcels to this inventory. The demand for new housing has been relatively low compared to the capacity, since only 1,800 residential building permits were approved annually in the past five years. This was a significant

decrease from the 3,000 permits annually that was typical 10-15 years ago. Facilities such as schools are just beginning to catch up from the County's unprecedented growth rate.

The Planning and Zoning Department estimates that the growth rate will rise again over the next 10 years, with the County adding 15,675 new households. This recently revised estimate reflects the military base realignment and closure process, which may result in 2,200 government jobs being moved to Aberdeen Proving Ground and an additional 10,000 related private sector jobs. Officials are expecting the biggest expansion to APG and its associated defense contractors since World War II.

***Concerned citizens are urged to remain informed and actively involved in this zoning review process, which will directly affect the County's environment and quality of life now and for future generations. It is important to come out for the County Council's public hearings in January and February, or to submit written comments during the comment period. This process may be followed in the county newspapers. The County Planning and Zoning Department has extensive information (including maps showing current and proposed developments) in its Bel Air office at 220 South Main Street and on its web site at: [www.co.ha.md.us/PlanningZoning/ComprehensiveZoningReview](http://www.co.ha.md.us/PlanningZoning/ComprehensiveZoningReview)***

### ***In Search of: More Outings and Outings Leaders***

Calling all leaders and outdoors enthusiasts. Help enhance the outings offerings for the Greater Baltimore Area with more activities of all types, locations, and difficulty – hiking, strolling, nature exploration for children, stargazing, canoeing, tubing, kayaking, cycling, car camping, backpacking, orienteering, cross country skiing, bird watching, trail maintenance, watershed cleanup, invasive plant removal, tree planting.

If you are interesting in sharing your outdoors pursuits and special places with others, find out how to get started. Talk to an outings leader. Attend the quarterly Outings Planning Meeting. Participate an outing. You can start as a sweep, or help leaders to scout their outings.

#### **STEPS TO BECOMING AN OUTINGS LEADER**

- ⇒ No experience is required. You don't need to be a naturalist. Training and mentoring are provided.
- ⇒ To find out how to get started, contact Jack Wise, Outings Chair, at 410-256-3963. Jack has information and resource materials that are useful for new leaders.
- ⇒ Outings leaders are required to be a Sierra Club member and at least 18 years old.
- ⇒ Take the Sierra Club Outings Leader training (Basic OLT 101) or comparable training from a local outings entity. Jack will give you the access codes for the on-line course of the National Sierra Club. The course is also available from Jack in hard copy.
- ⇒ Arrange to take a Red Cross basic first aid course or a comparable or higher level course (e.g., wilderness first aid courses offered by Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities, the Wilderness Safety Council, etc.). Purchase the required first aid kit. The Sierra Club will reimburse you for your expenses. Contact Joyce Fletcher, Outings Treasurer, at 410-254-7240 about reimbursement.
- ⇒ Provisionally lead at least one outing, accompanied by an experienced outings leader.
- ⇒ Once you have completed these requirements, inform Jack and contact Bette Thomson, Outings Gatekeeper, at 410-666-2696 or [bette@bcpl.net](mailto:bette@bcpl.net). She will add you to the list of outings leaders.

## Outings of the Sierra Club Greater Baltimore Group

November 2005 – April 2006

2005

NOVEMBER

**Sat. Nov. 19 GB - Moderate. Rocks State Park.**

Moderate hike in this small Harford County park. Some climbs but the views are worth it. We will have lunch at the King and Queen Seat and learn about the extravagant rock formations and cliffs. With luck there may still be some fall color. If not, we will try to winter botanize the trees based on bark and buds. Bring lunch, water and an inquiring mind. Meet at the Carney Park and Ride at 9:30 AM. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240.

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. Will learn about the geology of the area. For details call Jack at 410-256-3963.

**Sat. Dec. 10 GB – Moderate. Cromwell Valley Park (Child-Friendly Hike).**

4 miles along lesser known trails in this county park that is a working farm with woodlands, hilly meadows, and streams. Learn about the park's historical and natural features, including 2 limestone kilns and a brook bubbling out of the ground. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Optional brunch afterwards at Sander's Corner Restaurant. Meet in the parking lot in the Sherwood Farm section of the park at 10 AM. Call Mary at 410-248-0423.

**Sun. Dec. 25 GB - Moderate.** Holiday Escape or Work Up an Appetite Hike.

A very pretty hike of about 6 miles along the Sweat-house Branch in Gunpowder Park. Some stream crossings may be tricky if we have icy conditions. There are a few hills as well. Work up an appetite for the too-big holiday dinner and secrete extra endorphins to deal with the in-laws as well. We will learn about the need to

protect shorelines and waterways and how development in one area can alter conditions in another one regardless of distance. We won't stop for lunch but we will take a break about midway. Bring water. Meet at the park on Belair Road just north of the Gunpowder Bridge at 10:00 AM. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240.

2006

JANUARY

**Sun. Jan. 1 GB - Moderate. New Year's Day hike.**

Start working on your Resolutions with this moderate 5-6 mile hike around Oregon Ridge Park. There are a few hills and a few stream crossings. We will learn about the old mines, quarry and village that were here over a century ago. We will also see the remains of a few buildings that are still left in various states of decay. Bring water! Meet at the park on the Nature Center side at 1:00 PM. Call Joyce at 410-254-7240.

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

Cross Country skiing at New Germany State Park. Beginners are welcome. Will learn about the geology of the area. 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. Will learn about the geology of the area. Meet at Loch Raven High School, Cromwell Bridge Road and Cowpens Avenue at 11:00 AM. Call Jack at 410-256-3963.

FEBRUARY

**Sat. Feb. 4 GB - Moderate. Great Falls Hike and Dinner**

History meets nature at Great Falls section of the C&O Canal in Potomac, MD. We will learn how the canal and locks were constructed and operated. We will take the boardwalk to the Great Falls overlook on Olmsted Island. Length of hike will be 4 miles or less depending on weather and condition of trails. Entrance fee required. There will be a dinner stop in Rockville after the hike. Meet at 1:00 PM at the South West Park & Ride (for map to park & ride see <http://www.mtmaryland.com/services/sports/ravens/>)

[New\\_Southwest\\_Map.cfm](#))

Call Bill for details at 410-574-1453.

**Sat. Feb. 11 GB - Moderate. Cunningham Falls/Cat Rock**

A moderately paced hike of about 9 miles in Cunningham Falls State Park. There is an option to add another two miles. There are a number of climbs, some steep and rocky but the views are worth it. Boots are preferred. This is an underutilized area that is next to Catoctin Park. We will learn about remnants of the work done by the CCC and WPA in the 1930's, development impacts on Little Hunting Creek, and impressive geological formations around the falls. Access to the falls is now restricted. We will discuss the conservation needed to protect the falls and Little Hunting Creek. Meet at Rt. 32 Park and Ride at 8:30 AM. Call Joyce for details at 410-254-7240.

MARCH

**Sat. Mar. 4 GB - Moderate. Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge**

Bring your binoculars to participate in this bird watching hike of approximately seven flat miles. Bombay Hook (located at 2591 Whitehall Neck Road in Smyrna, DE) was established in 1937 as a link in the chain of refuges that extends from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. It is primarily a refuge and breeding ground for migrating birds and other wildlife. We will learn about the value and importance of Bombay Hook for the protection and conservation of waterfowl, which has increased greatly over the years primarily due to the loss of extensive surrounding marshland to urban and industrial development. There is an entrance fee for the refuge and there will be a dinner stop on the way home. Meet at 9:00 AM at the South West Park & Ride (for map to park & ride see [http://www.mtmaryland.com/services/sports/ravens/New\\_Southwest\\_Map.cfm](http://www.mtmaryland.com/services/sports/ravens/New_Southwest_Map.cfm))

Call Bill for details at 410-574-1453.

**Sat. Mar. 11 GB - Moderate.** Hike Across Maryland, The Easy Way

Hike the AT from Gathland Park to Weverton Cliffs and back. Approximately 12 miles of gently rolling trail with lunch at the cliffs and a spectacular view of the tri-state area. Enjoy the AT from both directions in the same day. Only four miles from Harper's Ferry,

it is a historically and geologically rich section of the AT to learn about, including a 5-star shelter. Time and weather permitting, we will also tour and learn about the structures in Gathland Park, including the first (and possibly only) monument to war correspondents. Meet at Rt. 32 Park and Ride at 8:30 AM. Call Joyce for details at 410-254-7240.

APRIL

**Sat. Apr. 1 GB - Moderate.** Gunpowder Falls State Park

Will learn about the history of the Panther Branch and have lunch at the Raven Rock Falls. Meet at 11:00 AM at the Mt. Carmel Park and Ride. For details call Jack at 410-256-3963.

**Sun. Apr. 2 GB - Moderate. North Point State Park: From Carousels to Conservation**

Learn about the history of this southeastern Baltimore County state park that was once the site of a popular amusement park. Hike approximately five flat miles with a stop at the park visitor center to look at old photographs. Park is located off of Old North Point Road in Edgemere. Meet at parking lot near park entrance (entrance fee required) at 10:00 AM. Call Bill for details at 410-574-1453.

**Sat. Apr. 8 GB - Moderate.** Surprise Hike

This trip will be a moderately paced hike of 12 miles or less in Susquehanna State Park. The trail will be partly along the river. We will observe plenty of riparian buffer and learn about the erosive effects when it is removed. There are remnants of rail beds and mills along the way to discuss. Call leader after April 2<sup>nd</sup> for more details. Meet at White Marsh Park and Ride at 8:30 AM. Call Joyce for details at 410-254-7240.

**Sat. Apr. 22 GB - Moderate. Kelly's Run & Pinnacle Overlook**

7 to 8 miles with great views of the Susquehanna River. Good chance to see bald eagles. Will also see hawks and waterfowl and learn about their migration along 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.



# Baltimore Sierran

*Serving Members in Baltimore City, Baltimore County & Harford County*

*November 2005*

Sierra Club mission: Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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