

Sierra Club-- Prince George's group Election of the executive committee-2009- VOTE NOW

As a member of the Sierra Club and a resident of Prince George's County, you are invited to cast your vote for the leadership of the county group. Please fill out and return the ballot at bottom. The candidates are:

Martha Ainsworth is a community activist and Executive Secretary of her Civic Association, in a neighborhood in the rural tier bordering the Patuxent wetlands. She brings to the Executive Committee substantial experience with the county zoning and development approval process. A pilot, she was a leader of the successful effort to get zoning legislation enacted to prevent encroachment of development around the County's four airports (CB-51-2002). She also successfully appealed development approvals at Fairwood that resulted in the developer ensuring an open area under Freeway Airport's flight path. In 2007 she led the successful appeal to the District Council (joined by Sierra Club and Patuxent Riverkeeper) to deny a plan to put high-density housing and retail uses at the Maryland Science & Technology Center in Bowie, next to the wetlands. Professionally, she is a researcher and evaluator with a reputation for evidence-based decisions. She holds a PhD in economics. Her personal statement: "I grew up in Bowie and am a native Prince Georgian. We can benefit from the experience of neighboring counties to chart a better development path, one that's more conducive to preserving open space and ensuring sensible land use patterns that result in less congestion, pollution, and environmental damage. I look forward to working with and learning from Sierra Club members to make that a reality."

Alex Hirtle has been involved in environmental activism in Maryland for over 15 years, as a volunteer and professional. He served as the Political, Social, and Group Chair of the Anne Arundel Group, 1992-97. He has been Program Chair of the Prince George's Group from 2003-Present. He is a member of the County Green Power Coalition, Co-Founder of Green Drinks, and an Aide to Councilman Dernoga, 2004-Present. Alex initiated the Maloney award ceremony, now in its 5th year, recognizing worthy environmental elected officials and activists in the county. Regular participant of Sierra Club's annual lobbying effort during General Assembly. Initiated Riverdale Park to sign on to the Cool Cities agreement. Chair of Planning Committee, 2009 Prince George's GreenFest. His credentials include a BA from Univ. of Maryland, M.S. Urban & Regional Planning from Florida State Univ. Alex said, "The Prince George's Group needs to be a leader in working with and holding our elected officials responsible for smart growth, transit-oriented development, and preserving a significant area of undeveloped land for the Rural Tier. We also need to be engaging the population on issues, having a cutting-edge group of hundreds of citizens that can be relied on to contact their local officials at a moment's notice. Finally, the Group needs to be ushering the County into the Green economy, and facilitate our government, citizens, and private enterprises to change their practices to incorporate long-term sustainability."

Chip Reilly has been contributing to the group's efforts since 2003, first as political chair and now as group chair. He has coordinated support for endorsed candidates, labored on campaigns such as rural preservation and adequate public facilities, and acted as delegate to the state Chapter. Chip's recent accomplishment is leading the creation of the Prince George's Spring online resource, using grant funds. This site aims to "prime the pump of public participation" by linking county residents with expert knowledge about threats to our environment. Professionally, Chip is a researcher, and holds a doctorate in education policy. Chip wrote, "I believe that Sierra Club is in a unique position to support Prince Georgians' efforts to protect our land, air, and water. I'm committed to making the group more responsive especially by trying to attract a diverse pool of volunteers to guide efforts. The group is most effective when we collaborate with local organizations and the state Chapter."

Jon Robinson has been active in the Sierra Club since 1986. He has served as Prince George's Group Chair, Conservation Chair, and currently group Vice Chair. He has been Maryland Chapter Chair and participated in many campaigns over the years. Jon said, "I have a Ph.D. in Systematics and Ecology from the University of Kansas and have long viewed growth of the human population and the human economy as the chief threat to the environment. All else flows from that. A one percent growth rate doubles every 70 years, a two percent growth rate doubles every 35 years. Getting the citizens and political leaders to understand the implications of this for our future will be the focus of my term in office if I should be elected."

Valerie M Shelton is the founder and president of Green Power Living, an energy auditing/consulting firm. Founded in 2007, the firm has performed energy audits and Energy Star certifications throughout the Metro area. Valerie received her PhD in Chemistry from the University of Chicago in 2001, and has been teaching and doing research for many years. She has a husband and 3 children and lives in Fort Washington. Valerie stated, "I first became involved in environmental activism 20 years ago supporting Greenpeace on chemistry-related issues nuclear weapons and toxics, and later global warming and energy. When I learned that the Sierra Club was working locally with other cities on a major anti-global warming initiative, I wanted to get involved. After working with the Cool Counties group and seeing our impact on the County, I'd like to do even more. I would like for us to continue working with businesses, and the County through the Green Power Coalition, Cool Counties, and "Goes Green" initiative. I'd like to see recycling in all schools, local green workforce opportunities, and bringing chemistry into community education so that residents can make informed decisions regarding water supply, petroleum usage, air quality, foods, and nuclear energy."

Tom Topping, and his family, have been residents of Prince George's County since 1990. They live in the Prince George's County Rural Tier where they have 2 horses on a small farm. "I started working with the activist community in 2001 when a Zoning Special Exception threatened to impact our neighborhood. Since then I've helped other communities and groups work to improve, or maintain, the quality of life for all Prince George's County Residents. Working as a member of the Sierra Club Group Executive Committee has been both educational and rewarding. My vision for the Group is to continue to work with residents, citizen groups, and our county government toward preservation and smarter development."

Fred Tutman serves as the Patuxent Riverkeeper. Before founding the Patuxent Riverkeeper organization he spent nearly 25 years working as a media producer and consultant on assignments all over the globe. Previously, as a volunteer activist, he was involved in a number of civic causes related to conservation of the region's waterways and has long been a zealous presence in zoning and planning causes aimed at preserving rural lands along the Patuxent River. In his spare time Fred lives and works on an active farm that has been in his family since the 1920's and is learning to play the concertina.

Kerry Wargo is a 31 year old educator with a lot of passion and ambition. She has been working in Annapolis at a "Certified Green School". Kerry moved to Prince George's this summer and hope to transform her new school into a "Green School". Kerry wrote, "I am very passionate about environmental causes and see myself one day running for public office to further those causes as well as education reform. I believe that there needs to be a commitment to education when talking about environmental protection and conservation. I am working part time at Prince George's Community College and perhaps we can form a partnership with them to reach more young people about the environment."

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CUT OFF HERE AND RETURN BY MAIL BEFORE OCT. 30, 2009

There are 8 candidates for 9 slots on the executive committee. Put a checkmark in boxes of candidates you support:

- Martha Ainsworth Alex Hirtle Chip Reilly Jon Robinson
 Valerie Shelton Tom Topping Fred Tutman Kerry Wargo

MAIL TO Sierra Club (PG election), 7338 Baltimore Avenue -Suite 101A, College Park, Maryland 20740

**Invitation to participate
in action planning**



Prince George's County group

on Sunday, October 18, 2009, 2-4:30 pm.

at Riverdale Park City Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737

This gathering is a chance for members and allies to discuss the directions of the Prince George's group of Sierra Club in 2010 and beyond.

Draft agenda

- 1:45 p.m. Arrive, grab a drink, chat.
2 p.m. sharp! Introductions-participants & new executive committee
2:15 p.m. Issues overview
Conservation- Sierra's statewide focus in 2010.
David O'Leary, Chair, Conservation- Maryland Chapter
2:45 pm Coffee break
3 p.m. Priorities for Prince George's County
Efforts & collaborations by the group, 2008-9.
incl. Cool City-Cool County initiative
Participants state their top priority.
Action-oriented discussions (possibly as breakout) will be held on
Habitat & biodiversity protection in our county
County politics- election 2010
Priorities expressed by the assembly
4:00 p.m. Report out, resources, and next steps
4:30 p.m. Close meeting.

We are all volunteers, so effective action depends on discussion then commitment.

While the meeting is not centered on specific cases or issues, you are welcome to set up a table with information. Please discuss with us in advance so we can arrange for tables. Call Alex at (301) 927-2105.

You may reach the Prince George's group of Sierra Club at (301) 277-0600.

Stay in touch with us through <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/pg>

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Bring to meeting or mail to Sierra Club (PG), 7338 Baltimore Avenue -Suite 101A, College Park, Maryland 20740

Please tell us about your interests (check all that apply):

- Outings Transportation/Land use Habitat/Wildlife protection
 Climate change Energy Politics/Elections Public education
 Youth outreach Protecting communities _____
 I'd like to speak with Sierra volunteers about joining efforts for the environment in our county.

Comments (write addtl. comments on back):