



The Montgomery SIERRAN

Serving the People and Land of Montgomery County, Maryland

June/July 2007

County Council Proposes Greenhouse Gas Cuts

In an April 20th announcement, eight members of the Montgomery County Council agreed in principle to a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the county by 25 percent from today's levels by 2020. Unlike some other local governments whose carbon dioxide reduction goals apply only to government-owned facilities and vehicles, Montgomery County's target covers all sources of greenhouse gases—homes, commercial buildings and private cars and trucks, as well as buildings and vehicles owned by the county. In this regard, Montgomery County has joined the ranks of California and New York City in broadly defining its climate action plan.

Carbon Inventory

County Executive staff members are preparing a carbon inventory that measures the amount of energy consumed to heat and cool Montgomery County's homes and buildings, power its businesses, light its streets and fuel the cars and trucks on its roads. Once the amount of consumed energy is calculated, it is relatively easy to determine how much carbon dioxide is generated. The report is expected to be completed this fall and will serve as the baseline against which future progress will be measured.

Package of Initiatives

Councilmember Roger Berliner (Democrat, District 1—Bethesda, Chevy Chase, Potomac) has proposed a package of initiatives for consideration by the Council this fall (see www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Council/PressRelease/PR_details.asp?PrID=3471 for the entire announcement).

Among them are:

- having the County Executive join the Chicago Climate Exchange, a national cap and trade program that

would require County-owned facilities by 2010 to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 6 percent below their average emissions for the years 1998-2001.

- establishing a "Ratepayer and Environmental Advocate to represent the County in all energy-related matters before appropriate state and federal agencies." This could be especially significant now that Pepco has a proposal before the state utility commission where, in return for encouraging energy conservation among its customers, the utility would be allowed to collect an additional fee from its ratepayers.
- requiring that new homes built in the county meet the US Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star standard. These homes would be at least 15 percent more energy efficient than new homes built today.
- assisting owners of existing homes to identify retrofits that would make their homes more energy efficient.
- providing incentives "for promoting energy efficiency retrofits to multi-family housing at time of sale."
- requiring that new commercial buildings be more energy efficient.
- developing an energy efficiency retrofit plan for all existing government buildings.
- requiring that by 2020 all gasoline sold in the County have 10 percent less carbon intensity. This could be met by blending low-carbon ethanol into gasoline or by having more electric vehicles powered by electricity from renewable sources like wind and solar power.
- using bio-diesel fuel in County-owned diesel-powered vehicles.
- raising fuel efficiency standards for County-owned vehicles to 44mpg for cars and 33 mpg for light trucks by no later than 2012.

- developing a "Montgomery County Solar Initiative" that encourages the use of solar power in the county.
- directing the Planning Board to "include considerations of climate protection in all major planning decisions."
- finally, developing a "Montgomery County Tree Canopy Preservation Program" in recognition of the role trees play as a "carbon sink" and in reducing energy requirements for building cooling.

Legislative Proposals

Over the next few months, Council members will be considering legislative proposals aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the county. In addition, various county agencies, led by the Department of Environmental Protection, will seek to develop programs that will contribute to greenhouse gas reductions as well. If they are successful, Montgomery County will slow the rate at which greenhouse gases have been growing in recent years and will have started on the path toward seeing an absolute reduction in global warming gases in future years.

Sierra Club Plan

The "Cool Cities Task Force," Sierra Club members in Montgomery County working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow climate change, has launched its own effort to devise a comprehensive basket of legislation and programs that would help Montgomery County achieve the 25 percent carbon dioxide reduction target by 2020.

The Sierra Club's Climate Action Plan for Montgomery County will include a mix of measures that support the proposals now on the table and, in the case of making existing buildings more energy efficient, add new ones. Among the proposals,

- some will be mandatory requirements (e.g. requiring energy efficient retrofits when single-family and multi-family residential buildings are sold; changing the building code to require new residential construction to be at least Energy Star qualified or equivalent; requiring new commercial buildings to achieve a specified level of energy efficiency). These will require new legislation.

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Letter from the Chair

An Alternative Vision's Power

I've been thinking a lot lately about the power of having an alternative vision to the "business as usual" reality. When confronted with a problem, the "business as usual" approach trots out the usual solutions without ever seriously considering alternatives. Are drivers angry about being stuck in traffic? Build more roads. Are people worried about climate change? Provide subsidies to coal and oil companies to develop cleaner versions of their products.

If we are to be successful in stopping "business as usual" solutions that don't really solve the problem, we need to find ways that enable a wide range of people to imagine themselves living in an alternative vision that actually makes their lives better. The alternative solutions exist but they don't seem to be getting into the popular imagination.

Smart Growth

Let's take the example of suburban sprawl versus smart growth in Montgomery County. Because the suburban pattern of housing development has been dominant in the US for more than fifty years, most people have forgotten, or never knew, what it's like to live in a more urban setting with a mix of housing options, stores, offices and transportation choices. Or, if they do remember, they feel this is fine for when you're fresh out of college or fresh into retirement, but doesn't work when you're raising a family. Yet it doesn't have to be this way. We can accommodate future growth in communities with higher housing densities that provide shared parks in place of extensive lawns; shops, libraries and schools within walking distance in place of always having to drive to everything; and easy access for our children to the museums, theaters and monuments of Washington, DC in place of the shopping mall. The challenge is how to help people feel what it would be like to live in that community.

Energy Efficiency in Comfort

On a less sweeping scale, we need to help people imagine what living in a more energy efficient home would be like. I worry that for many, if you asked them to imagine a home that uses 30 percent less energy, a picture of a house uncomfortably cold in the winter, unbearably hot in the summer and lit by humming, flickering compact fluorescent lights would pop into their heads. Not a compelling vision. The reality is that homes can achieve that level of energy saving by sealing air leaks, adding insulation, replacing older appliances with more efficient models and using the newer compact fluorescent lights that don't flicker, hum or take forever to reach their full brightness. And living in that house is actually more pleasant—no more cold drafts—and less expensive as well. Maybe we need an Energy Efficient House Tour where none of the homes look out of the ordinary.

How You Can Help

What does all this mean for the Sierra Club Montgomery County Group? It still is very important for us to

oppose "business as usual" plans that fail to provide long-term solutions to problems such as traffic congestion, increased dependence on cars, unsustainable growth in energy use and the ongoing harm to Montgomery County's natural environment. But we can't stop there. I believe in each of these areas we have to develop positive solutions that provide a different way of addressing these problems and, if adopted, will create a future Montgomery County that is more livable. Then we have to go out into the community and help people imagine themselves living in that kind of a future. Once they do that, then watch out "business as usual."

How can you help? As you read the newsletter, you'll see a call for ideas to incorporate into a Climate Action Plan for Montgomery County with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout the county by 25 percent by 2020. We're also looking for someone to bring their energy and ideas to fill an open seat on our Executive Committee. Finally, at the last meeting of the Executive Committee, we added four new committees that all will be working toward building the capabilities of our local Sierra Club to successfully take on new as well as ongoing issues. Look in the "Volunteer Opportunities" section of the newsletter for a description of these committees and some ways you can help.



David Hauck

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or visit www.conservationengineering.com

Items for Publication

Members are invited to express their opinions and concerns. Please submit items to hauck_d@msn.com. Material submitted may be edited for length or clarity at the discretion of the editor. Unless specifically noted, articles reflect the views of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Sierra Club.

News and Letters

(Continued from p. 1)

- some will provide incentives that reward actions that increase energy efficiency in existing homes and commercial buildings. These will require new legislation and, if the incentives are financial, new funding as well.

- some will involve public outreach and education that results in an increase in voluntary actions that result in greater energy efficiency and energy conservation. (e.g. working with the business community to promote greater energy efficiency in existing commercial buildings; working with

Montgomery County public schools to roll out a new curriculum that teaches and encourages energy efficiency). These will require funds to pay for additional staff, marketing and publicity.

- and, because many of these proposals will cost money to implement, the Cool Cities task force is also considering recommending new funding sources that are socially equitable and structured in a way that rewards energy conservation.

Montgomery County is poised to take a leadership role in slowing our rush towards global climate change. Achieving the goal of a 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 will require a creative and comprehensive Climate Action Plan, political leadership and broad-based community support.

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The Cool Cities/Global Warming Task Force Needs You (and Your Ideas)!

Many of you work for research firms, environmental groups, government agencies or think tanks that are grappling with how to reverse the growth of greenhouse gas emissions. The Sierra Club Montgomery County Group needs your best ideas for what the county can do to achieve its target of a 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

Ideally you will be able to include with the description of your idea:

- a quantitative estimate of its impact on greenhouse gas emissions and the rationale underlying this estimate
- examples of other states, counties or cities that have adopted this action
- an estimate of resources and costs associated with the action
- if legislation is required to implement the action, examples of actual legislation or model legislation.
- if the action involves financial incentives, suggestions for funding sources.
- other benefits beyond greenhouse gas reductions, especially if those benefits coincide with other social goals such as promoting social equity, preserving green space, and protecting local air quality and watersheds.

But even if you cannot provide all of this, we still want to hear from you—soon.

Contact David Hauck either by email:

david.hauck@maryland.sierraclub.org or phone: 301-270-5826.

The Inter-County Connector—Impeller of Climate Change

We are used to thinking about the Intercounty Connector (ICC) in terms of stream and forest and neighborhood destruction. We are used to thinking about fighting global warming in terms of solar power, green buildings and hybrid cars. In fact, the ICC and global warming are intimately linked.

Scientists say we have ten years to turn CO₂ levels in the atmosphere from rising levels to falling levels. Our approach to transportation and land use will play a big role in determining if we meet this goal.

Gasoline on a Bonfire

Four reports released in May should convince Governor O'Malley and other elected officials to drop the ICC now, before wasting millions of tax dollars attempting to defend the indefensible in court and before taking any more homes or land for the ICC.

First, in early May, the Washington Post reported that global warming emissions from power plants and motor vehicles in the Washington region rose by more than 13 percent between 2001 and 2005 – twice as fast as the national average. If this trend is real and if it continues, the region's power plant and vehicle emissions could double by 2025.

Second, in mid-May, the National Aeronautic and Space Administration released findings that average summer time temperatures in the eastern United States may soar by 10 degrees Fahrenheit by the mid-2080s – several degrees hotter and perhaps decades faster than previously predicted. This is under the "Business As Usual" scenario, in which people, communities and nations don't act to reduce projected emissions. This is not a worst-case scenario.

Third, in late May, the Global Carbon Project and the U.S. National Acad-

emy of Sciences reported that since 2000, worldwide emissions have risen three times faster than in the 1990s. If this decade's trend continues, worldwide emissions could double in less than 25 years.

Fourth, on May 23, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments released preliminary findings that, without serious reduction measures, emissions from motor vehicles in our national capital region will increase by nearly 50 percent between 2002 and 2030.

Building the ICC would be the equivalent of throwing gasoline on this already-roaring bonfire, and feeding the fire three billion dollar bills. Increased driving stimulated by the ICC likely would wipe out most of the emissions reductions that might be achieved in Montgomery County through Maryland's brand new Clean Cars Act.

Three major transportation studies in 10 years have predicted that the ICC would sharply increase automobile

use in the Washington region. On some roads, such as I-495 and other major commuter routes, the ICC would worsen congestion, not ease it. The latest such study, the 2006 Bush-Ehrlich EIS, predicted that the ICC would increase vehicle miles traveled in the ICC Study Area (much of Montgomery County and part of northern Prince George's County) by 20 percent, or 700 million miles per year—excluding automobile trips generated by the sprawl that the ICC would help trigger in Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, and perhaps Anne Arundel counties. The 2001 Transportation Policy Report published by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the 1997 Draft EIS published by the Clinton and Glendening administrations offered similarly disturbing results.

The First Step

The first step to slowing then stopping global warming is to kill

News and Letters

projects and programs likely to boost global warming emissions. The second is to implement the types of energy efficiency and clean energy measures called for by the Sierra Club and other organizations. Quite simply, Maryland cannot cut global warming emissions rapidly or quickly enough if we waste billions of dollars speeding in the wrong direction.

Concern about global warming should persuade Governor O'Malley to abandon the ICC. And with our local, state and federal governments facing massive budget shortfalls, with the Chesapeake Bay and many of its tributaries decades behind in their recovery, with petroleum becoming increasingly expensive in all meanings of the term, and with three major studies in 10 years showing that this \$3+ billion project would do little or nothing to relieve congestion, the Governor has many reasons to abandon the ICC project and no good reason to pursue it.

We urge you to:

1 Call and write Governor O'Malley as soon as possible. Urge him to drop the ICC, stop taking homes and land for the ICC, invest in public transit, and put Maryland on the path to sustainability. Please e-mail him a letter, then write him via fax or regular mail, then call.

- Phone: (800) 811-8336
- Fax: 410- 974-3275
- Email: governor@gov.state.md.us
- Address: 100 State Circle, Annapolis MD 21401-1925.

2 Share this issue of the Sierran with friends, neighbors, and local officials in your community. Fact sheets on the cost of the ICC and the General Assembly Letter can be found at: <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/>

3 Sign the Sierra Club's on-line petition to stop the ICC, and volunteer in our efforts to promote climate-friendly, community-friendly alternatives to highways and sprawl.

—Greg Smith
(Pam Lindstrom also contributed to this article.)

Sierra Club's ICC Lawsuit Moved To U.S. District Court for Maryland

In a decision opposed by the Sierra Club and Environmental Defense, a DC District Court judge granted the Defendants' motion to transfer the Intercounty Connector lawsuit to the U.S. District Court for Maryland, to be consolidated with the other pending Intercounty Connector lawsuit.

Opinion

In her opinion, the Honorable Judge Gladys Kessler found that the case "constitutes a far greater 'matter of great public concern' to the citizens of Maryland than to the citizens of the District of Columbia." In addition, the Court determined that "the public interest in judicial economy also weighs heavily in favor of transfer," since

the same Federal Agency defendants, the same administrative records, and many of the same issues were involved in this lawsuit and the pending Maryland action.

Attorneys for Sierra Club and Environmental Defense had opposed this transfer. There is some concern about having the matter heard in Maryland, because appeals of decisions reached by the District Court for Maryland are heard by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, which is one of the most conservative in the country on environmental matters.

How You Can Help

We still need to raise funds to pay for attorneys and expert witnesses. We have made a lot of progress,

thanks to you, and are only \$3000 short of our goal to raise \$15,000 for the litigation fund.

If you are a member of a homeowners association, you can ask if it wants join the Gayfields, Stonegate and other homeowners associations that have contributed to the litigation fund.

Donations are tax deductible. Make checks payable to:

The Sierra Foundation-Maryland Chapter
(be sure to write "ICC litigation" in the note field on the bottom left corner of your check)

Mail to: Betsy Johnson; 4413 Ridge Street; Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Thank you for your support in stopping the ICC.

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A Very Convenient Truth - You can help fight global warming easily and simply through Clean Currents!

Montgomery County residents can sign up for clean energy for their homes and the county will pay for a good part of the costs thanks to the County's Clean Energy Rewards Program. Clean Currents, a Silver Spring based sustainable energy business started by former Sierra Club volunteer and staffer Gary Skulnik is offering low cost wind power as part of the program.

It's an easy step to take in the fight against global warming.

Clean Currents is offering 100% local new wind for only 1.0 cent/kwh (after rebate).

For the average house, that comes to only \$10 a month above your current electric bill to completely make your home's electricity use 100% carbon neutral.

To sign up, go to www.cleancurrents.com and click on "Montgomery County Clean Energy Rewards."

Questions? Go to www.cleancurrents.com email Gary at gary@cleancurrents.com

Clean  Currents
Green Energy Solutions

News and Letters

Kate Konschnik Joins the Executive Committee

Hi, there, my name is Kate. I am the newest member of the Executive Committee for the Montgomery County Group. I am very excited about the opportunity to serve on this committee, and to work with you to make Montgomery County a greener place to live! I thought I'd tell you a little bit about myself, and why I decided to volunteer for the Executive Committee. I've been an armchair Sierra Club member for years, so maybe my decision to step up will inspire others to get more involved, too.

Washington Metro Roots

I grew up in Maryland, in Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties. I went to Tufts University, and graduated in 1994 with a degree in political science. While in college, I became very interested in environmental issues - for instance, I did an independent study project on the influence of the Green Party on European politics while studying in France my junior year, and ran the Tufts "ECO" club.

After graduation, I returned to Washington, DC, where I worked for a year as a Campaign Coordinator at Save America's Forests. We lobbied Congress on National Forest issues, and provided campaign advice and resources to forest protection groups across the country. The following year, I worked as an AmeriCorps member on urban environmental issues in Washington, DC. Then, in 1996, I moved to San Francisco and began

working for the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG), where I edited the organization's newsletters, wrote grants, drafted speeches for the Executive Director, and negotiated the lease of public lands for urban gardens.

In 1999, I decided to pursue environmental law as a career, and I graduated from University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 2002. While in law school, I worked on a number of really interesting environmental projects, such as a PCB cleanup on Saipan, and the protection of sea turtles as a law clerk with EarthJustice. Since 2002, I have been a trial attorney in the Environmental Enforcement Section of the Department of Justice.

Wanting to Do More

Despite my professional work in the environmental field, my personal involvement in environmental issues has been limited to writing checks to the Sierra Club, and writing letters every now and then to elected officials. But this year, I found myself wanting to do more. Part of it was seeing An Inconvenient Truth and wanting to do my part to slow glo-

ISO Executive Committee Member

We are looking for a Montgomery County Sierra Club member interested in filling a vacancy on the 9-member Executive Committee (ExCom). If you have knowledge of environmental issues and experience in lobbying, media relations, policy research, or grassroots organizing, we should talk. The ExCom meets one evening a month in Rockville. Between meetings, ExCom members assist in working toward environmental goals such as global climate protection, land use and transportation policies that minimize environmental impacts, and conservation of streams, forests, and open space in Montgomery County. If you would like to discuss possible appointment to the ExCom and need more information, please contact the Chair, David Hauck, at 301-270-5826 or Hauck_D@msn.com.

bal warming. Part of it was getting frustrated by short-term development decisions that are being made in Montgomery County and Maryland - most notably the decision to build the Inter-county Connector. And part of it was just wanting to get to know other green-minded folks in my county. So when I read in the newsletter that the Executive Committee had two vacancies, I threw my name into the hat.

One of my goals as a member of the Executive Committee will be to turn

more of my 7,000 fellow Montgomery County Sierra Club members from armchair participants to active volunteers. In particular, I think younger members really need to get more involved. So feel free to contact me if you are interested in getting more involved, or if you have ideas for attracting 20- and 30-somethings to the Sierra Club. I look forward to hearing from you!!

Kate Konschnik

kkonschnik@hotmail.com

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The following trip list is a partial reprint of the Sierra Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program calendar. You can see the entire calendar through the MWROP website at:

www.mwrop.org

Events

Sat. June 9. Rated H. Halfmoon Mountain and Cherry Ridge. Moderate pace with stops for flora and fungi of interest. History-related stops at Crack Whip and Capon iron furnaces. About 1 mi. of bushwhacking. Total of 17 mi. with 3000 ft. of elev. change. Inexperienced hikers call for requirements. To carpool, meet at 7:30 am at Oakton Center. Joint event with PATC. Leader: William Needham, 410/884-9127 or Needham82@aol.com.

Sat. June 9. Rated B. National Arboretum (Get to Know DC series). Leisurely paced, mildly hilly, and 7.5 mi. two-loop educational hike through exotic springtime landscape of botanical delights. Highlights will include late-blooming azaleas, ten-hole bricks (invented there), National Herb Garden, former chunks of U.S. Capitol, and bonsai museum. Meet at 10 am in main parking lot (just inside R Street entrance, which is also terminus for Metrobus X6 from Union Station). Leashed dogs and children are welcome. Do either or both loops (call leaders for details). Joint event with AMC/DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott, 703/256-6351, and Frank Wodarczyk, 703/569-6737 (before 10 pm) or fwhiker44@cox.net.

Sat. June 9. Not Rated. Scouting Trip by Canoe for Annual Seneca Creek Cleanup. Second outing to prepare for actual cleanup (see June 16 entry for details). Leader: Jim

Finucane, 301/365-3485 (before 9 pm) or jim.finucane@yahoo.com.

Sat.–Sun. June 9–10. Not Rated. SNP Backpack. Explore the very heart of this national park on a weekend-long backpack along the AT. Our route will take us from Milam Gap near Big Meadows to Little Stony Man cliffs. Side trips will include the summits of the park's two highest peaks at Hawksbill and Stony Man, with classic views of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. Total of 17 mi. For reservations, contact Glenn Gillis, 703/430-0568 or glennpotomacfalls@yahoo.com.

Sun. June 10. Not Rated. Harpers Ferry Area (AT Mega-Transect series). See how Sierrans and others are using GPS, motion-detector-equipped cameras, and scent lures to assess wildlife along the length of the AT. At least one such camera will be checked to confirm it is in good working order. Leader: Larry Broadwell, 301/215-7135.

Sun. June 10. Rated B. C&O Canal Towpath Hike plus Carderock Picnic. Educational out-and-back hike of up to 10 mi. starting at 9:30 am at Carderock, heading toward Great Falls, and turning around to finish by noon (chose your own pace and distance), followed by optional potluck picnic and cookout at noon to celebrate the 34th walking of the One Day Hike. Call for trailhead details or if carless. Leaders: Gary Kosciusko, 703/765-0306, and Paul Elliott, 703/256-6351.

Sat. June 16. Rated G. Central SNP: Corbin Cabin Area (Splash-down series). Moderate to fast paced hike of 12 mi. with 2250 ft. of elev. gain. Very scenic hike on beautiful trails, a great climb, and some pristine swimming holes. Bring swimsuit and Texas. To carpool, meet at 8:30 am at Oakton Center. Beginners must call for requirements. Leader: Ted Fryberger, 410/312-2982 (until 9:30 pm) or tkfryberger@comcast.net.

Sat. June 16. Not Rated. Seneca Creek Cleanup by Canoe. Join Sierrans and other volunteers to clean up Seneca Creek from Seneca Creek State Park (near Montgomery Village) to the creek's mouth on the Potomac River. We will cut out major logs, remove smaller branches, and de-trash this beautiful creek segment (full of wildlife) to also make it canoe accessible. A picnic celebration will follow. Leader: Jim Finucane, 301/365-3485 (before 9 pm) or jim.finucane@yahoo.com.

Sun. June 17. Rated A/B. Wonders of Baltimore Hike. Explore the charm of Baltimore—and some of its history—by hiking from Fort McHenry National Park and around the Inner Harbor to the Korean War Memorial. The return hike will be by water taxi. To carpool, meet at 9 am at the Takoma Park Metro station (Red line). RSVP so we can organize ride sharing in advance. Leader: Jane Hudson, 301/589-8708 or janedc2002@yahoo.com.

Tue. June 19. Rated H. Vigorous Hike in SNP: Rose River. Climb Rose River Fire Rd. connecting to scenic Rose River Loop Trail; then climb to AT south to the Lewis Falls. Then return via Rapidan Fire Rd. and Dark Hollow Falls Trail. A total of 18 mi. with 4300 ft. climb. Joint event with PATC. Leader: Chris Nolen, 301/469-8931 or chrishiker@verizon.net

Sat. June 23. Rated E. Great North Mountain: Big Schloss. Moderate 12 mi. circuit hike in the GWNF on the VA/WVA border. Beautiful wooded area. First 4 mi. fairly gentle uphill, followed by steep but short climb to the gorgeous view at the top of the schloss, and then 2 mi. steeper downhill. To carpool, meet at 7:30 am. Call for meeting place. Leader: Sue Auerbach, 703/931-2728.

Tue. June 26. Rated H. Vigorous Hike on South Massanutten Mountain: Runkles Gap. This 15.4 mi. hike with 3300 ft. climb features ascent of pretty Morgan Run and return via Fridley Gap on the Massanutten South Trail and the Boone Run Trail. Joint event with PATC. Leader: Chris Nolen, chrishiker@verizon.net or 301/469-8931.

Sat. June 30. Rated G. Duncan Hollow and Duncan Knob. A 12 mi. circuit hike to Duncan Knob with 2200 ft. of elev. gain. Starting from Camp Roosevelt, we'll form a circuit with the Massanutten, Scothorn Gap, and Gap Creek trails, and do a significant rock scramble to the top of Duncan Knob, which, with its beautiful 270-degree view, will be our lunch stop. To carpool, meet at 8 am. Call for meeting place. Leader: Mike Gingerich, 202/370-7957 or 2023707957@grandcentral.com.

Sat. June 30. Rated H. SNP: Stony Man to Hawksbill. On this 14 mi. circuit hike with 3500 ft. of elev. change, we'll get great views from atop SNP's two highest peaks and possibly get to see the acrobatics of the area's peregrine falcons.

MWROP Contacts

Paul Elliot, Chair:
(703) 256-6351
Scott Wilson, Subscriptions:
(301) 220-3248
Carol Ivory, Calendar:
(703) 476-8730
Christine Ford, Finances:
(703) 425-6899
Marcia Wolf, Leader Coordinator:
(301) 565-3165
General Information:
(202) 457-2326

Rating Key

A-B Easy
C-E Moderate
F-G Hard
H Very Hard

To carpool, meet at 7:30 am at Vienna Metro station, north parking lot. Contact leader for details. Leader: Russ Norfleet, 703/294-6068 or russnorfleet@verizon.net.

Fri.–Sun. Jun 29–July 1. Rated H. Laurel Fork II Backpack (GPS Hike series). This unscouted backpack of 10–13 mi./day in WV will include the trails not covered on last year's trip to this area. Not much elevation but hard-to-find trails in this wilderness; expect bushwhacking. We will try to visit the waterfalls on the Allegheny Trail and do a separate trip to the Sinks of Gandy. Car shuttle required. To qualify, participants must have hiked with the leader before or join him on a scouting trip (which happen most weekends) before this outing. Leader: Dimitri Tundra, 301/770-9639 or tartakd@hotmail.com.

Sun. July 29 (Rescheduled from June 24). Rated C or E. AT between Gathland State Park and Ed Garvey Shelter, with Optional Side Trip to Weverton Cliffs. Moderately paced, out-and-back ridge-top hike of either 7.6 mi. and 1500 ft. of elev. change (to shelter) or 12 mi. and 2,000 ft. of elev. change (to vista-rich cliffs). Leisurely lunch at shelter, where we'll discuss environmental issues and remember hiker/biker Roberto Reyes. Optional posthike dinner in Frederick. To carpool, meet at 9 am in Bethesda, under Macy's deck that fronts on Democracy Blvd. at Westfield Shoppingtown (Montgomery Mall). Joint event with AMC/DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott, 703/256-6351, and Marcia Wolf, 301/565-3165 (before 9 pm) or wolfmk@comcast.net.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Executive Committee of the Sierra Club Montgomery County Group recently approved the formation of four new committees that will increase our reach and effectiveness on local issues of concern to the Sierra Club. Take a minute to look over the responsibilities of each committee and see where your skills, experience and interests best fit. Then, call or email the contact person.

Events Committee. A series of varied and compelling events is the major way the Sierra Club informs members about the issues, motivates them to become more active and recruits new members. We need you to help come up with creative ideas for future events; publicize them to ensure a good turnout; help on the day of the event itself by greeting attendees, working the literature table, or by making sure the projector works with the speaker's laptop. Please contact either of the Co-Chairs: Tom Ralph (tom.ralph@comcast.net 301-299-2028) or Eric Luedtke (ericluedtke@yahoo.com 301-847-0461).

Campaign Resources Committee. We see this committee acting like our local Sierra Club group's very own in-house consulting group and campaign clearinghouse. The purpose of this committee will be to supply critical support by: (1) providing strategic planning to our group's campaigns; (2) matching resources to campaign needs; and (3) offering skills training and workshops on local environmental issues to our membership as

part of our expanded schedule of events

We need your help to get this Committee off the ground! For starters, we are developing two databases - one, the Campaign Allies database (identifying contacts in other environmental organizations, schools, neighborhood associations, etc. that we can work with to achieve our campaign goals) and two, the Member Skills database (identifying the skills and areas of expertise present among our members - graphic design, media relations, legal consulting, energy policy, computer skills, you name it - to be called upon as needed for campaigns). These databases will be important tools for the committee.

Please call Kate Konschnik, Campaign Resources Committee chair, at (301) 891-8578 or kkonschnik@hotmail.com to help create the databases, or to provide information to be included in these databases.

Communications Committee. This committee is responsible for our newsletter, website content and design, and other forms of communication with members. Specifically, we need several people to maintain the content on our redesigned website (launch scheduled for July/August) and someone to provide backup editing and layout support for the newsletter. Please contact David Hauck (hauck_d@msn.com, 301-270-5826) or Clay Birkett (cbirkett@origene.com 240-620-0252)

Fundraising Committee. Campaigns to slow climate change, stop the ICC, protect the urban forest and open spaces, and reduce storm water runoff into the Chesapeake Bay require money

to rent meeting rooms, print flyers, do mailings and pay for expert advice. Do you have fundraising experience? Do you have some time to help your local Sierra Club?

Please contact David Hauck, hauck_d@msn.com, 301-270-5826)

Expanded Membership and Volunteers Committee. We've always had a Membership Committee but now it has been expanded to include responsibility for making sure volunteers are matched up with meaningful opportunities that help to preserve and protect our own corner of the planet here in Montgomery County. We specifically need volunteers to contact new members about local Sierra Club events and campaigns. If you can help with this, or if you have some hours to volunteer but aren't sure where you would best fit in, contact Barbara Newland, the new chair of this Committee, (bnewland@verizon.net 301-926-5922)

Cool Cities/Global Climate Change. Do you belong to a civic association or a homeowners' association (HOA)? How aware are your members of the critical need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Do they know what to do? With your help, the Sierra Club's

Cool Cities Campaign can discuss with them the threats posed by climate change and what they can do to avert the worst of a global catastrophe—and save themselves some money in the process. If you are in a position to arrange a global warming solutions presentation and discussion for your civic association or HOA meeting, or would just like to join the Sierra Club's Cool Cities Campaign Public Outreach Committee, please contact Anne Ambler at 301-946-5599 or anneambler@comcast.net.

Chincoteague Island, VA. Weekly Rental

Renovated 19th Century Victorian. 4 Bedrooms, Central AC & Heat. New dishwasher.

Beaches, ponies, wildlife.
Easy walk to restaurants
and shops.

\$950/wk. summer
Reduced rate off-season.
Call Island Properties
Ask to rent "JB Homeplace"
(757) 336-3456

CHINCOTEAGUE, VA

3-bedroom, 2-bath house within walking distance of town.
Sleeps 10 comfortably.

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screened-in porch. Short drive to
wildlife refuge and protected beach.

Summer: \$650/week
March – May: \$65/night
September – November: \$65/night
December – February: \$55/night
Non-summer holidays: \$65/night

Call Sara at (301) 622-2888

SECLUDED RETREAT IN CANAAAN VALLEY, W. VA

3 Bedroom, 2 bath cedar home on private 5-acre lakefront lot. Direct access to Timberline Conservancy, Canaan Valley Refuge, and Dolly Sods Wilderness Area. Cross country skiing, mountain biking and hiking from property. Short drive to Timberline, Canaan Valley and White Grass ski areas. Outdoor hot tub, indoor Jacuzzi, wireless Internet access.

Discount for Sierra Club Members

Email jideupree@gmail.com for rates and availability

Save the Date

June 12th (Tues.) 5:30-7:30

Sierra Club Happy Hour

Come join us on June 12th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for happy hour at the Quarry House Tavern in Silver Spring. Enjoy a drink and tasty food, meet new folks who care about conservation, and find out about Sierra Club's grassroots campaigns to protect our remaining wild places and fight global warming. All drinks will be \$1 off! Based on the DC Chapter's successful monthly happy hours, we are hoping to make such outings a tradition in Montgomery County too.

The Quarry House is located at 8401 Georgia Avenue and sits on the corner of Bonifant Street and Georgia below Bombay Gaylord restaurant - just three blocks east of the Silver Spring Metro Station. Its menu features veggie burgers and organic, hormone-free beef burgers and chicken wings, and its extensive beer list includes Wolaver's and Samuel Smith's organic beers as well as a selection of local beers, including Clipper City from Baltimore, Flying Dog from Frederick, and Old Dominion from Ashburn, VA.

Contact Stephanie DeMoss at skdemoss@hotmail.com or 202-494-3511 or Barbara Newland at bnewland@verizon.net if you have any questions or would like to help us get a rough headcount.

June 14th (Thurs.) 9:00-4:30

Potomac Watershed Trash Summit

The World Bank Headquarters in Washington D.C.

The Alice Ferguson Foundation is hosting the 2nd Annual Potomac Watershed Trash Summit. The Potomac has been littered with trash for too long! Join your local and regional elected officials along with other concerned citizens and organizations to learn, plan, and take action to make the Potomac Watershed "Trash Free By 2013!". Registration fee \$50. Scholarships available. Register now at www.TrashFreePotomac.org. Call 202-518-7415 for additional info.

June 16th (Sat.) 10:00-12:00 tour. 12:00-1:15 lunch.

Smart Growth Walking Tour of Bethesda.

RSVP: Coalition for Smarter Growth 202-244-4408 ext. 125

Bethesda, a regional destination for its restaurants and entertainment, provides a wide range of design and land use elements to both admire and critique. The tour will provide a look at recent and ongoing development efforts from several different perspectives. Please join the Coalition for Smarter Growth, with guest tour guides Pat Harris of Holland & Knight and Marilyn Clemens of the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, for an exciting tour.

Meet at the Bethesda Metro Plaza (go up both escalators past the bus parking area to the above-ground plaza) for a brief introduction.

June 6th, 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, July 13th

Growth Management Speaker Series

Montgomery County Planning Board

8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD

This free series of talks by leading planning experts looks at issues related to developing high-density, transit-oriented communities; creating pedestrian-friendly environments and other planning topics concerning how future growth in Montgomery County will be directed. For more information on individual topics and speakers, go to <http://www.mcparkandplanning.org/development/agp/agphome.shtm>.

June 17th (Sun.) 3:00 - 4:30

Plug-in Hybrids:

The Cars that will Recharge America

Azalea Room, Takoma Park Municipal Building;

7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD

Contact: david.hauck@maryland.sierraclub.org or bnewland@verizon.net.

How can we reduce the greenhouse gases we create when we drive? Plug-in hybrids and designing our communities in a way that reduces the need for car trips, can cut carbon emissions from cars by more than half. Plug-in hybrid cars are coming that can get over 100 miles per gallon of gasoline. By using cleaner, cheaper, domestic electricity, plug-in hybrids will reduce global warming emissions and improve national security by reducing our dependence on petroleum. Better yet, the addition of vehicle-to-grid technology could put money in the pockets of plug-in car owners and vastly expand our access to renewable energy. Award-winning journalist Sherry Boschert tells how in a talk based on her new book, Plug-in Hybrids: The Cars that will Recharge America.

June 26th (Tues.) 7:00-8:30 pm

Sierra Club 101

Forsythia Room, Takoma Park Municipal Building;

7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD

Contact: david.hauck@maryland.sierraclub.org or bnewland@verizon.net.

Are you an activist who is looking to get more involved? A new Sierra Club member wondering how the Club works? **Sierra Club 101** is a great place to start to learn more about what the Sierra Club is doing, how we are structured and learn how to "table" at festivals and public events the Sierra Club will need volunteers for. Don't wait! Get involved in our efforts to explore, enjoy and protect the planet.



Montgomery County Group
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Rockville, MD 20850

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