



BALTIMORE SIERRAN

Serving Baltimore City, Baltimore County & Harford County

SUMMER 2002

ELECTIONS: CAST YOUR VOTE FOR GROUP EXCOM MEMBERS

The Greater Baltimore Group is governed by a nine-member Executive Committee (ExCom). Current ExCom members are Jim Bonnett, Stephen Kirsch, Richard Klein and Jack Wise. This leaves five vacant seats on the ExCom. In the Winter 2002 issue of the Baltimore Sierran, we called for candidates to fill these vacancies. Five very qualified Sierrans stepped forward and agreed to serve. Following is a brief biography for each of these candidates. Please use the ballot on page 3 to cast your vote.

Ron Henry has been active in the Greater Baltimore Group's efforts to preserve Harford County farm and forest land. As a member of the Group Executive Committee, Ron would continue to pursue this issue along with population and raising environmental awareness in general. Ron has been a member of a number of kindred groups for more than ten years: Friends of Harford, the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy, and the

Appalachian Mountain Club. He grew up on a Harford County farm and has worked at Aberdeen Proving Grounds for 40 years, currently as a physical scientist. Ron is serving as a Native American apprentice. He and his wife Sue have been active in Girl Scouting, the Harford County Recreation Council, and the United Methodist Church for many years.

Robin Leitch has been a Sierra Club member for two years. She is a resident of Harford County, a mother of two (Jack and Alex), and serves as the editor of this newsletter. Robin is interested in pursuing ways to make the region more bicycle friendly, such as installing bike racks on buses. Robin has been serving as a temporary member of our Executive Committee since August, 2001. As a full member of the Executive Committee, Robin would help the Group to further improve

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HELP URGENTLY NEEDED TO SAVE HARFORD FARMS & FOREST

Nearly 16,000 acres of Harford County farm and forestland will be turned into sprawl over the next 20 years. This loss will occur because the County has failed to adopt key Smart Growth measures. But with your help this could all change. This year we have an opportunity to elect a County Council dominated by people committed to preserving quality of life. To make this happen we need the active involvement of the nearly 400 Sierrans who live in Harford County. We would like to hold several small political organizing meetings for our members.

Would you be interested in hosting a meeting of 6-12 Sierra Club members in your home or attending such a meeting? Or, do you know of a place in your area where a meeting might be held? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then please call Ron Henry (410-278-6301) or Richard Klein (410-654-3021).

In the past, Harford County Council members have been elected countywide. This year, for the first time, six of the seven council members will be elected by district.

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TRANSPORTATION GET INVOLVED IN PLANNING OUR REGIONAL SYSTEM

By Patrick McMahon

We all know that transportation is at the heart of many environmental issues, but because of the way in which transportation is so intertwined in our lives, it can be overwhelming to try to tackle. However, as a major contributor to our pollution, energy, and sprawl problems, we need to address transportation, at a Federal, regional, local, and personal level. Luckily, there are an increasing number of ways in which we can have input on our transportation system.

Transportation issues impact our environment in a variety of ways. Motor vehicles contribute a large share of nearly all major pollutants found in the atmosphere, including roughly half or more of the nation's carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and ground level ozone. Additionally, motor vehicle emissions substantially increase global warming and the nation's demand for oil, driving the desire for oil in the Middle East, the

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MINORITIES & WASTE SITES

A recent University of Maryland study found that non-white communities in Prince George's County are significantly more likely to be located near a landfill when compared to majority white communities. In addition to the obvious health threats posed by these facilities, those living within 1.5 miles of a landfill lose nearly \$10,000 in the resale value of their homes.

The situation in the Greater Baltimore area is not much better. In Baltimore City, low-income families are twice as likely to live near a superfund site when compared to high-income households. If you live in a low-income household in Baltimore County, then you are 1.5-times as likely to live near a toxic chemical release site. And in Harford County low-income households are 2.4 times more likely to be affected by a toxic chemical release location.

The preceding are examples of unequal exposure to landfills, industries,

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NEW MEMBER HIKE & MEETING

Oregon Ridge Nature Center

Wednesday, June 5th, 7:00 PM

We'll meet outside the Nature Center for an easy 50-minute hike around the Park. Afterwards, we'll go back to the Nature Center for refreshments and an orientation meeting to learn about the Sierra Club and what we do. For more information call Jack (410-256-3963) or Richard (410-654-3021).

Minorities *Continued from page 1* superfund sites and other potentially dangerous facilities. This inequity has spawned a whole new movement known as Environmental Justice. In fact, the national Sierra Club Board of Directors adopted a set of principles to guide our Group and others in how to ensure that everyone receives equal protection from toxic chemicals and other hazards. The principles can be viewed at:

http://www.sierraclub.org/environmental_justice/

Maryland law currently provides little to prevent low-income or minority communities from bearing a disproportionate burden of waste facilities. It was thought that some protection might be provided through Federal law; specifically the Civil Rights Act. However, in *Alexander v. Sandoval* the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that the Act could not be applied to an environmental justice issue.

Last year the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities was established. Hopefully, the Commission will move quickly to establish protection for low-income and minority communities. At a minimum, the Maryland Department of the Environment should be required to consider whether a proposed landfill or other waste or industrial facility site was selected due to proximity to a low-income or minority community. If you would like to learn more about this issue or help our Group bring about environmental justice then contact Richard Klein at 410-654-3021 or GBSierra@ceds.org.

RALLY FOR THE REGION

Mark your calendar for CPHA's Rally for the Region 2002 on June 6th, 6 p.m. at the Baltimore Convention Center. The Rally will

bring together over 2,000 people from across the Baltimore region with leading elected officials to call for shifting the region's priorities away from subsidizing sprawl and toward equity, sustainability, and community quality of life.

For years the Baltimore region has been leaving older neighborhoods behind as we develop tens of thousands of acres of open space every year. The result is over 70,000 vacant homes, concentration of poverty in urban and older suburban communities, and air and water pollution that threatens our health and the Chesapeake Bay. Learn more by calling 410-539-1369.

Transportation *Cont. from page 1* Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and other sensitive areas. But the transportation impact that we see most directly is the influence that it has on the sprawling land use that is consuming woodlands and farms surrounding our urban areas.

A number of regional transportation planning processes are either currently underway or have recently been completed, allowing for a variety of means to express your support for environmentally friendly transportation decisions. The MTA just completed a plan for expanding rail service throughout the Baltimore region (see <http://www.baltimoretrailplan.com/>). Additionally, a Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Greenway Plan for the region has also recently been completed. Vision 2030 is a process currently underway to set regional priorities and land use and transportation goals. Attendance at the meetings that created these plans was disappointingly low, but I hope that some of you attended these and helped shape these important plans for our region's future.

In addition to issue specific community meetings, there are other institutionalized ways in which Sierra Club members can influence our region's transportation decisions. The Sierra Club has been

asked to have a representative on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB). The BRTB is comprised of the County Executives for Baltimore, Harford, Howard, Carroll, and Anne Arundel Counties, the Mayors of Baltimore City and Annapolis, and the Maryland Secretary of Transportation and is responsible for creating the long-range transportation plans for the Baltimore region. I've been asked to represent the Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club on the CAC but to do so effectively I will need members of the group to let me know about important transportation issues so that I can effectively represent them. In this capacity we can help to push for the implementation of these plans. This also provides a forum to weigh in on a variety of upcoming transportation issues, including the reauthorization of the Federal transportation legislation, the Inter County Connector, Maglev, and state funding for transportation.

However, to take a strong position on any of these issues, we need to hear from some of you about how you feel on these issues and see you at some of the meetings related to these issues. As with a variety of other environmental issues, writing your elected officials or attending a couple of meetings can have a profound impact on our region's transportation, especially when turnout is low. For the past several years CPHA, the Baltimore Regional Partnership, and a variety of other groups have been out front on regional transportation issues

and it is now time for the Sierra Club's members to be more involved in this process. Listed below are just some of the many ways you can get involved and push for a transportation system that is less detrimental to our environment:

- Attend the "Rally for the Region" to push for implementation of the Regional Rail Plan and to help reduce sprawl by revitalizing our urbanized areas.
- Check out the new transportation links on the Greater Baltimore Group's Web site to get current information on local, regional, state, and federal transportation issues.
- Write your elected officials and tell them to improve fuel efficiency standards, to fund transit, bicycle, and pedestrian transportation alternatives, and to maintain the requirements for public input and environmental review of transportation projects.
- Look out for upcoming Sierra Club meetings on transportation and e-mail me at patrick@mcmahon.com to let me know your views on transportation issues.
- Increase your use of transit, bicycling, and walking to meet your transportation needs and consider the benefits of living in a denser community close to where you work. The opportunities may be limited at first, but the only way we can improve the situation is by showing there is a demand for good alternatives to driving everywhere.

GREATER BALTIMORE SIERRA CLUB CONTACTS

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Elections *continued from page 1*
communications with our members and to use the Group's clout to advance bicycle access along with other, less harmful forms of transportation

Patrick McMahon has been a Sierra Club member since 1995 and directed the Sierra Club's door-to-door canvassing operation in Rhode Island during 1994 and 1995. He received his B.A. in Political Science from Colorado College and his Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from UNC-Chapel Hill. Patrick is a resident of Baltimore City and works for the Neighborhood Design Center providing planning assistance to community-based organizations. He has served on CPHA's Transportation Committee for the past two years and recently helped draft the Greater Baltimore Group's comments on the Baltimore Regional Rail System Plan. As a member of the Executive Committee, Patrick would like to help the Group use its clout to improve bus and rail mass transit throughout the region.

Macy Nelson has been a Sierra Club member since 1988. He is a resident of Baltimore City and is widely regarded as the leading environmental attorney in Maryland. Macy is the only attorney who has successfully contested a flawed decision by the State to issue a water permit. He also won one of the largest civil penalties against a

Maryland polluting industry. In addition, Macy has successfully represented citizens in a variety of land use and zoning cases. As a member of the Executive Committee, Macy would help the Group use its clout to improve local and State environmental laws and enforcement.

John Railey has been a member of the Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club for over twenty years. He served as the Group Outings Committee Chair from 1990-96 and has been the chair of the Maryland Chapter Outings Committee since then. From time to time he has contributed to the Group newsletter, and as an active volunteer, has attended various Group and Chapter functions. John believes that humans have been experimenting (acting without giving full consideration to the consequences) upon themselves and their environment, since they became sapient. In the past this has caused local, and sometimes species, extinctions, and has altered the terrestrial, aquatic, and climatic environment in which we live. Today, the Sierra Club, as an environmental organization, must be concerned with the consequences, of that experimentation. Issues include ozone depletion, acid rain, water pollution, the introduction of non-native species, population growth, noise pollution, habitat fragmentation and destruction, and genetic engineering. There is no shortage of issues for the Baltimore

Group to work on. What the Group needs is more dedicated volunteers to actively deal with the issues on a local level. John believes that a primary function of the Group Executive Committee should be to encourage the Club members to become more active.

Harford Sprawl *cont from page 1*
This increases the likelihood that pro-Smart Growth candidates can win a seat on the Council. But rest assured that the development industry will be fighting hard to keep the business-as-usual-bulldozer rolling over our open space.

Other Sierra Club Groups have been quite successful in helping pro-Smart Growth candidates win elections. A few months ago Tom Dernoga was elected to the Prince George's County Council in large part because of Sierra Club support. Tom is widely regarded as one of the most successful Smart Growth attorneys in the DC area.

The Greater Baltimore Group has just hired political campaign organizer Rich Norling to help us produce similar successes in the Harford County Council elections. But this investment will only produce the results we are seeking - preservation of open space, improved public transportation, less traffic congestion - if each of our Harford County members takes an active role. So please give Ron a call if you would like to become a part of the solution.

PARTICIPATING IN OUTINGS

1. In order to participate in Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver when the outing begins. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see

<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms>

2. In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

3. You don't need to register in advance for most outings. If this is required then it will be stated in the outing announcement.

4. Beginners are welcome on most outings. If the outing requires experience or good conditioning, then the announcement will make this clear.

5. Bring at least one quart of water with you for every five miles or two hours of hiking.

6. Bring a snack or lunch.

7. Carry a first aid kit, a map of the area where you'll be hiking and a compass.

8. Wear good hiking boots that support your ankles and you've broken in before the hike.

OUTING LEADER TRAINING

If you have ever thought you might like to lead Sierra Club day hikes or other outings, then please attend our new outing leader training session scheduled for Sunday, June 2nd, 10:00 AM, at Oregon Ridge Nature Center. For further information contact Outings Committee Chair Jack Wise at 410-256-3963.

Executive Committee Ballot

Please provide your name and address below then check the box next to the candidate(s) for which you wish to vote. Since there are five vacancies you may check the box next to all five candidates.

Mail your ballot to: Greater Baltimore Sierra Club, 8100 Greenspring Valley Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

Ron Henry Patrick McMahon John Railey
 Robin Leitch Macy Nelson

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

NEWSLETTER HELP

Robin Leitch, the editor of the Baltimore Sierran, is seeking folks willing to research and write articles or help with graphics and layout. If you'd like to lend a hand then call Robin at 410-420-9307 or send an email to hikinagain@hotmail.com.

SPEAKER IDEAS?

We are planning our fall meeting and speaker schedule. Is there some topic or some speaker you would like to hear? If yes, then contact Richard Klein at 410-654-3021 or



Outings Summer 2002

**SEE IMPORTANT OUTINGS
INFORMATION
ON PAGE 3**

*Tubing Trips anytime. If interested, please call
Jack at 410-256-3963.*

JUNE 2002

2 SUN: New Outing Leader Training. Oregon Ridge Nature Center, 10:00 AM. Jack 410-256-3963

2 SUN: Big Gunpowder Falls Circuit Hike. Moderately difficult 4-6 mile hike. Meet at Mt. Carmel Road Park & Ride, next to I-83 exit 27, at 1:00 pm. Richard: 410-654-3021

5 WED: New Member Hike & Meeting at Oregon Ridge Nature Center, 7:00 PM. After an easy paced two mile hike we'll return to the Nature Center for refreshments and a discussion of Sierra Club outing and conservation opportunities. Jack 410-256-3963

8 - 9 SAT & SUN: Savage River Forest Weekend. See one of the last remaining stands of Old Growth Forest (trees that are over 100 years old) on the east coast. Day hikes are planned for both Saturday and Sunday. Stay at a local motel, or camp at New Germany State Park. The group will dine together, on Saturday evening, at a local restaurant. Limited group size. For details, and reservations, contact John at 410-752-0104, before 8:30 p.m.

14-16 FRI-SUN: Wild Oak Trail Backpack. Moderate to strenuous backpack in George Washington National Forest. We'll leave Friday evening and return Sunday evening. Group size limited to ten. To make a reservation call Richard at 410-654-3021.

15 SAT: Inner Harbor Promenade. Hike from the Inner Harbor to Fells Point and back. Easy, flat walk of not more than five (5) miles. Stop in Fells Point for a snack. Meet at the Visionary Arts Museum at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Bill 410-574-1453. Co-Leader: Cecilia

21 FRI: Loch Raven Sunset Hike. Summer solstice sunset hike. Moderate 2 miles with a view of the sunset. Meet at Morgan Mill and Loch Raven Drive at 7:00 pm. Jack: 410-256-3963

23 SUN: Gunpowder River Tubing Trip. Bring a tube or rent one. Wear old sneakers or water shoes and have a way of keeping your keys from falling out of your pocket. Cool weather alternative will be a hike. Meet at Monkton Station at 1:00 pm. Jack: 410-256-3963

23 SUN: Loch Raven Hike. Moderate 4-6 mile hike. Meet 1:00 PM at Willow Grove Farm off Cromwell Bridge Road 1.5 miles northeast of beltway exit 29A. Richard: 410-654-3021

JULY

4-7 THU-SUN: Susquehannock Trail Backpack. Moderate to strenuous backpack in northern Pennsylvania. Group size limited to ten. To make a reservation call Richard 410-654-3021.

7 SUN: Gunpowder River Tubing Trip. Bring a tube or rent one. Wear old sneakers or water shoes and have a way of keeping your keys from falling out of your pocket. Cool weather alternative will be a hike. Meet at Monkton Station at 1:00 pm. Jack: 410-256-3963

12-14 FRI-SUN: Western Maryland Car Camping Trip. Car camping in New Germany State Park. Escape the summer heat of Baltimore for the weekend. Moderate hiking and biking and swimming at nearby lakes. Jack: 410-256-3963

14 SUN: Big Gunpowder Falls Circuit Hike. Moderately difficult 4-6 mile hike. Meet at Mt. Carmel Road Park & Ride, next to I-83 exit 27, at 1:00 pm. Richard: 410-654-3021

21 SUN: Gunpowder River Tubing Trip. Bring a tube or rent one. Wear old sneakers or water shoes and have a way of keeping your keys from falling out of your pocket. Cool weather alternative will be a hike. Meet at Monkton Station at 1:00 pm. Jack: 410-256-3963

23 TUE: Outings Committee Meeting. Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. New and prospective outings leaders welcome. 6:30 p.m. Bette 410-666-2696.

AUGUST

11 SUN: Big Gunpowder Falls Circuit Hike. Moderately difficult 4-6 mile hike. Meet at Mt. Carmel Road Park & Ride, next to I-83 exit 27, at 1:00 pm. Richard Klein: 410-654-3021

16-18 FRI-SUN: Ramsey Draft Wilderness Backpack. Moderate to strenuous backpack in one of the most beautiful wilderness areas of Virginia. Group size limited to ten. To make a reservation call Richard Klein at 410-654-3021.

31 SAT - 2 SEPT MON: Labor Day Weekend Dolly Sods Backpacking Trip. Spend three (3) days hiking and exploring this West Virginia wilderness area. Moderate level trip. Leader: Ted 410-239-4590.

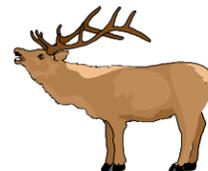
SEPTEMBER

8 SUN: Big Gunpowder Falls Circuit Hike. Moderately difficult 4-6 mile hike. Meet at Mt. Carmel Road Park & Ride, next to I-83 exit 27, at 1:00 pm. Richard Klein: 410-654-3021.

15 SUN: Appalachian Trail from Fox Gap. Seven moderately paced miles with several short stops, as we traverse a portion of the South Mountain Battlefield, and cross the Bank Road, on our way to the first monument to George Washington.

From Fox Gap, we will ascend 800 feet to the crest of South Mountain and then return by the same path. Bring lunch and water. Dinner stop possible. Depart WalMart / Giant shopping center parking lot (SE corner, Rolling Rd. & Rt. 40) at 10:00 a.m. John 410-752-0104.

20-22 FRI-SUN: Elk Bugling Backpack. Hear Rocky Mountain elk bugling while doing a moderate to strenuous backpack in the Quehanna Wild Area of northern Pennsylvania. Group size limited to ten. To reserve a place call Richard 410-654-3021.



**FOR OUTINGS SCHEDULED SINCE THIS
NEWSLETTER WAS PUBLISHED VISIT
<http://maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore/outings.html>**

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