



Baltimore Sierran

Serving 3,500 Members in Baltimore City, Baltimore County & Harford County • Summer 2005

Farewell

By Richard Klein

Five years ago I was in for a routine exam by my dentist, Brian Parker, who also happened to be the Greater Baltimore Sierra Club chair. Brian mentioned that the Group was looking for a Conservation chair and asked if I might be interested. I said, "Well, gee, Brian I don't know? Sounds like a pretty big job." Brian said, "I understand, but let me put it another way. Would you prefer to forego Novocain or become Conservation chair?" How could I turn down such a gracious request? "Sure, Brian. Where do I sign up?"

I quickly learned that serving as Conservation chair and as a Group Executive Committee (ExCom) member was far from a painful experience. In fact, I found participation on the ExCom so rewarding that I volunteered to serve as both Group chair and Conservation chair.

It's my fellow ExCom members who make this responsibility so enjoyable. Folks like Jack Wise and John Railey who kept the Group together through some very rough times in the 1990s. With the help of Outings Committee members Bette Thomson, Christine Kuduk, and Joyce Fletcher, Jack and John raised participation on our hikes and other outings from a low of 250 people per year to more than a thousand now. We have also benefited from the tremendous transportation planning expertise of Patrick McMahon who represents our Group on the Baltimore Regional Transportation Planning citizen advisory committee. As a result of Patrick's leadership Sierrans have played a much more active role in fostering an expanded rail system throughout the region. Cliff Terry has been our advisor and leader on political and population issues. Last year Cliff organized dozens of Greater Baltimore Sierrans to work for the election of environmentally responsible candidates. Cliff also organized an event to educate our members about the need to expand family planning services and supported several population-related bills on behalf of the Group. Bob Burchard is a founder of the Baltimore Inner City Outings (BICO) pro-

gram, which has allowed thousands of city kids to experience the natural world. Ron Henry keeps us informed of conservation opportunities in Harford County. Angela Buffington and Kathy Harget started our Young Sierrans group, which has involved a whole new generation of Sierrans in Greater Baltimore activities. Doug Gaede has done a great job managing our website. And the nice layout you see in this newsletter and past issues is thanks to the services donated by Richard Messick. Now we have two new co-editors of the Baltimore Sierran - Mary Corddry and Mickey Mullany.

Thanks to the help of the Sierrans mentioned above and many others, the Greater Baltimore Group has accomplished much over the past five years. We took the lead on a brewing controversy over the management of Baltimore's reservoir forests and worked with a number of very knowledgeable and committed city and state officials to come up with a tentative agreement to preserve as much as half the forests as old growth. We played a key role in preserving 45,000 acres of Baltimore County farm and forestland from sprawl. And these are but a few of the Group's many accomplishments.

But the time has come for a change in leadership. Volunteer organizations grow in large part when new leaders try out new ideas. After five years as Group chair and Conservation chair I have decided to bring my participation on the ExCom to a close. It is my hope that the vacuum thus created will attract some of you reading this article to attend the next ExCom meeting and offer your fresh ideas and volunteer hours to help us enhance environmental quality and offer more people an opportunity to enjoy our abundant natural places through new hikes and other outings. Our next ExCom meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 19th, beginning 7:00 pm at the Towson library, 320 York Road. To reach the library, take the Baltimore beltway (695) to Exit 27 (York Road). Take

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Transportation Bill Reauthorization

The House has finished work on the Transportation bill, and as of the date this goes to the printer the Senate is still working on it. The bill may be completed and signed by the time this gets to you, but if not then Maryland Sierrans should contact Senators Mikulski and Sarbanes to reinforce the following points regarding the Senate bill:

- Incorporate Sen. Harkin's "Safe and Complete Streets" bill (S. 794) into SAFETEA, including "Safe Routes to Schools"
- Correct the funding imbalance (the transit share was reduced from \$53.3 billion to \$51.6 billion by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in March)
- Keep the stormwater set-aside (of 1/3 cent per dollar) provisions in

the bill to modernize drainage and reduce water quality impacts

- Support the Rep. Young & Oberstar's Amtrak Reauthorization over the President's starvation budget
- Create a "Small Starts" program in the Senate bill to fund smaller transit projects, such as streetcars, with a federal share under \$75 million
- Equalize employee transit and parking tax benefits (currently \$100 for transit and \$190 for parking)

Contact information:

Senator Barbara Mikulski - 202-224-4654 or senator@mikulski.senate.gov

Senator Paul Sarbanes - 202-224-4524 or senator@sarbanes.senate.gov

Harford Co. Seeks Volunteers

By Ron Henry, Harford Co. Representative

The Greater Baltimore Group Sierra Club received a solicitation from the "Friends of Harford" conservation group asking our help. The "Friends of Harford" group was an active and effective participant in the recently completed Harford County Land Use Master Plan. They have taken on an ambitious, but very necessary plan, commensurate with the county process as it proceeds with its' cycle of Comprehensive Rezoning cases.

The Friends of Harford will parallel the work of the County by providing an independent recommendation to Council Members for each case. Volunteer committees from each Council Member's district will evaluate each of the 337 properties whose owners have

applied for a zoning change. They have developed a guide points list to aid in the zoning case review process.

Sierra Club has been invited to partner with Friends of Harford in the zoning case reviews to help insure fairness and add our Sierra Club strength to the process. They are seeking Sierra Club volunteers to be active participants on the review committees.

As Sierra Club members this an excellent opportunity to be proactive with the Friends of Harford in the vital environmental and conservation issues of our county. Never has there been a greater need in Harford County as developer pressure is tremendous!

Contact me at (410) 838-9119 or RonLHenry@msn.com.

**Greater Baltimore
Group
Sierra Club**

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Cliff Terry, Political Chair,
Population Chair, Alternate
Chapter Delegate, 410-944-
9477, ckerry@BCPL.NET

Jack Wise, Outings Chair, 410-256-
3963, Hikingjack@Netzero.net

Greater Baltimore Group News

Executive Committee Meeting

Much of the Greater Baltimore Group's business is conducted at our quarterly Executive Committee (ExCom) meetings. The meetings are open to all. Due to limited space we ask that you call in advance to let us know you're coming.

July 19, 2005, 7:00 - 8:45 PM, Towson Library, 320 York Road

Take the Baltimore beltway (695) to Exit 27 (York Road). Take York Road (MD 45) south for 1.1 miles towards Towson. The library is on your left at Chesapeake Avenue. The parking garage is behind the library on Chesapeake.

Chapter in Search of...

- Treasurer for the Greater Baltimore Group - John Railey is stepping down after distinguished service. Do you enjoy tracking money coming in and going out and keeping ledgers?

- Assistant to the Webmaster Doug Gaede - Would you like to establish and update a new page on the Group's website with important information to share that can't wait to be printed in the newsletter, such as legislation being considered by Congress or the State Legislature, local land use or zoning issues, trainings, environmental activities?

- Contributors to the Baltimore Sierran newsletter - Is there something you know about that you want others to know about? Is there something you want to share about outing and conservation opportunities in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, or Harford County?

We Need Your E-Mails!

The Sierra Club is most effective when our members show up at meetings or contact their elected officials to voice their opinions and advocate for the environment. To let you know about upcoming meetings or important legislation we need to be able to contact you more than the four times a year this newsletter affords us. Please send your e-mail address to ckerry@bcpl.net.

Executive Committee Candidates

Following is a brief description of Sierrans who are running for reelection to the Greater Baltimore Sierra Club Executive Committee. Please use the mail-in ballot provided below to vote for these candidates

Mary Corddry — I joined the Sierra Club in 1986 but have not been active until I recently volunteered to become co-editor of the Baltimore Sierran newsletter. I have been an avid hiker and camper my whole life, enjoying the outdoors with family and friends. My daughter had her first camping experience at 6 weeks, and we have since introduced a series of her friends to the exploration of what's under rocks and in streams, including stream tests for Save Our Streams. My Shih Tsu dog is even an enthusiastic hiker, leaping for joy when I gather my hiking boots and water bottle. Now that I have more time, I want to do what I can to help assure that future generations will be able to eat, drink, breathe what this beautiful blue planet has to offer and will be able to see the beautiful sights I see every time I walk out the door.

Mickey Mullany Goldberg — Mickey Mullany Goldberg (Baltimore Sierran Co-Editor), recently completed a three-year contract as Executive Director of the Baltimore Theatre Alliance, an arts service organization. She founded (1996) and manages a professional, 40-member, a cappella touring caroling ensemble, JOYOUS VOICES. Mickey has freelanced as a grantwriter for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Icarus Puppet Company and San Diego Choral Artists, and has consulted for the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts. She served as Director of Religious Education at Cedarhurst Unitarian Universalists for three years. She is married and has one daughter (who majors in Environmental Science at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School).

Cliff Terry — I joined Sierra Club in 1993 because a local Group population commit-

tee was forming. I've been its chair since 1997, Chapter population chair 1998-2004. Although I think just about everything Sierra Club does is important—or desperately important—I chose population as my field of activity, because all efforts to protect the environment (including the oxymoron “smart growth”) are hopelessly futile in the long run if population continues to grow. At my urging, the Chapter adopted a resolution advocating government actions to minimize further growth of Maryland population.

On behalf of the Maryland Chapter, I've also been pushing the General Assembly for a few years to adopt public funding of campaigns for the General Assembly, because it seems clear that private campaign contributions, on the whole, influence politicians in favor of environmentally harmful policies, including population growth.

As an unintended result of asking to have population and campaign funding issues taken into account in the Club's decisions on which candidates for office to endorse and help, in 2002, I became chair of the Group's political committee. Incidental to that, I was appointed and later elected to the Group ExCom, for which I'm now running for re-election.

My main skill, as far as I know, is writing.

Jack Wise — Jack has been a Sierra Club outings leader for over 20 years. He is presently the Outings and Membership Chair for the Greater Baltimore Group. He believes as strongly as did John Muir that the best way to get people to care about the environment is to get them outside enjoying nature. Jack has been the backbone of the Group for many years. Had he not been there the Group would be far less active than it is today. We also benefit from Jack's tremendous knowledge of trails in the region. Long time hikers who thought they knew the region are endlessly amazed at the new trails Jack will show us.

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 four candidates. Mail your ballot to Greater Baltimore Sierra Club, 40 E. Jarrettsville Road, Forest Hill, MD 21050-1630

Mary Corddry

Mickey Mullany Goldberg

Cliff Terry

Jack Wise

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

MTA Red Line And Transit Pass

Planning for the Red Line from Woodlawn to Fells Point continues and we'd like to strongly encourage all Sierra Club members along the route to get involved planning the line and its stops in their community. Upcoming meetings are listed below and more information can be found at: <http://www.baltimoreregiontransitplan.com/>

Monday, June 6, 5:00 -7:30 PM

St. James Episcopal Church, Parish Cntr
1020 W. Lafayette A venue
Baltimore, MD 21217
Served by bus route: 21

Tuesday, June 7, 11:00 AM -1:30 PM

MTA Charles Ctr Metro Station Mezz.
Entrances at One W. Baltimore Street
and 110 E. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
Served by bus routes: 2, 3, 8, 11, 20,
31, 91, and Metro Subway

Tuesday, June 7, 5:00 -7:30 PM

Woodlawn Community Center
2120 Gwynn Oak Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21207
Served by bus routes: M-6 and Gwynn
Oak Park Loop Service on 44

Farewell (continued)

York Road (MD 45) south for 1.1 miles towards Towson. At Chesapeake Avenue you will see the library on your left. Turn left onto Chesapeake and park in the garage on your right past the top of the hill. All ExCom meetings are open to any Sierran who wishes to attend.

While I will no longer serve on the ExCom I will continue to participate in the Group's newest project, which is an effort to educate our members about opportunities to improve water quality through practices applied to the home and yard.

In closing, I would like to thank the Greater Baltimore Group and the Sierra Club for the last five years of satisfaction and enjoyment.

Best wishes.

Wednesday, June 8, 5:00 -7:30 PM

Edmondson High School
501 Athol Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21229
Served by bus routes: 20 and 23

Thursday, June 9, 5:00 -7:30 PM

Holy Rosary Church Hall
408 South Chester Street
Baltimore, MD 21231
Served by bus routes: 10 and 13

All locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. To request special services or if you have any questions, please call 410-767-3754 at least one week prior to the meeting you plan to attend.

Upcoming Bike Events in Baltimore City

Bike Jam!

May 28, 2005
<http://www.bikejam.org/>

Gwynns Falls Trail

Eight miles completed along the Gwynns Falls stream valley in west Baltimore. Grand opening of Phase III to the Inner Harbor
June 4, 2005
www.GwynnsFallsTrail.org

Tour Du Parks

June 12, 2005
<http://www.tourduparks.org>

Great Neighborhood Bike Ride

June 25, 2005
<http://www.womenshousing.org/BikeRideFlyer.pdf>

Jones Falls Celebration

September 18, 2005
<http://www.jonesfalls.com/>

Tour du Port

October 16, 2005
http://www.onelesscar.org/TdP_2004/tdp_info.php

Send Your Comments Regarding City Bike Master Plan

The consultants hired by the City of Baltimore have developed a draft network and the City is now asking for citizens (from the City and outside the City, current and potential bike riders) to write them via e-mail or the USPS to provide your comments on the draft plan.

The plan is available for downloading at <http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/planning/bikeplan.html>.

Mail your comments to Beth Strommen, 417 E. Fayette Street, 8th floor Baltimore, MD 21202 or send an e-mail to beth.strommen@baltimorecity.gov or fred.shoken@baltimorecity.gov.

Please write them with your feedback. The City needs to hear both that people care about having better bike facilities and where those should be. Contact me (patrick@mcmahon.com or 410-235-1512) if you have any questions or want to be more involved in transportation efforts.

Participating in Sierra Club Outings

1. In order to participate in Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver when the outing begins. A copy of the waiver can be reviewed at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or by calling 415-977-5630.

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

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

4. Beginners are welcome on most outings unless otherwise stated in the announcement. Bring at least one quart of water for every five miles or two hours of hiking. Bring a snack or lunch. Carry a first aid kit (including moleskin or firstskin), a map of the area where you'll be hiking and a compass. **Always** bring rain gear. In cold weather dress in layers with synthetics or wool against your skin. Avoid cotton. Wear good hiking boots that support your ankles, which you've broken in before the hike.

5. Hunters share the woods with us hikers in the fall and winter. So, wear an orange or red hat, bandana, etc. Avoid clothing with colors

resembling a deer - tan, buff or brown. If you carry a handkerchief then bring a red one, not white which looks like a deer tail when pulled from a pocket.

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

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

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



June

Sat. Jun. 4 – GB Moderate. Soldiers Delight

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

Sun. Jun. 12 – GB Gunpowder Tubing Trip

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

Sat. June 25 GB – Gunpowder Tubing Trip.

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

July

Sat. July 2 GB – Gunpowder Tubing Trip.

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

Thur. July 7 GB – Outings Committee Meeting

Come plan new outings and meet other outings leaders. New and prospective outings leaders welcome. Pot Luck dinner at 6:30 PM. Jack: 410-256-3963.

Sun. July 10 GB – Gunpowder Tubing Trip

Tube the chilly Gunpowder for one or more bridges. The river is not very deep or wide but it is very cold. Climb up a slippery slope and walk back on the NCR trail to warm up again. Bring a tube or rent one at the trailhead. Wear plenty of sunscreen, old sneakers or water shoes, and attach keys and other valuables. We will talk about the importance of adequate ri-

parian buffers and their role in erosion control. You will see and feel the dynamics of flowing water, why and how rivers can shift course over time. Meet at the north end of the Deerco Road Park and Ride at 10:00 AM OR at Monkton Station on Monkton Road at 10:30. Call Joyce at 410 254-7240.

Sat. July 23 GB – Easy. Daniels Trail

6 miles. Easy out-and-back hike along the south side of the Patapsco River, with one climb to the top of the ridge. Will examine remnants of the B&O railroad track and visit the Davis Tunnel. May be some muddy spots. Meet at the trailhead by the small lot near the end of Daniels Road, at 1:00 PM. Additional parking is around the corner by the dam. Alan: 443-334-2190 (weekdays)

August

Sun. Aug. 14 GB – Gunpowder Tubing Trip

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

October

Sat. Oct. 29 GB—Moderate. Sweet Air.

Approximately 6 miles of hilly terrain. Mud is likely in places. Bring lunch and water. Will discuss the ecology of this area. Meet at the small shopping center on the southeast corner of the intersection of 152 and Baldwin Mill Road at 10:00. Call Betsy for details at 410-569-5202.

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

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

November

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

7-8 miles with great views of the Susquehanna

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

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

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

December

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

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Waldorf, MD
Permit No. 152

Baltimore Sierran
7338 Baltimore Ave, Suite 101A
College Park, MD 20740

January 2006

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

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

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

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

For the most up-to-date Outings Schedule visit

[http://maryland.sierraclub.org/
baltimore/index.html](http://maryland.sierraclub.org/baltimore/index.html)