



## 20th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup April 5th

On Saturday, April 5, from 9 AM to 12 PM, join fellow Great Falls Group (GFG) members and other volunteers to help with the largest regional watershed cleanup, coordinated by the Alice Ferguson Foundation since 1989. This year GFG will again be hosting the neighborhood cleanup site at Ellanor C Lawrence Park. We will meet in the morning at the Visitor Center's parking lot and will work from 9am until noon, rain or shine.



Trash from the Great Falls Group's first cleanup in 2005

To get there from I-66 take Exit 53B which is Route 28 north (Sully Road). From Route 28, make an immediate right onto Walney Road. The visitor center is one mile up on the left.

For more information on the GFG cleanup, call Chris Koerner at 703-715-2204 or email [1koerner@verizon.net](mailto:1koerner@verizon.net).

Let's make this a record cleanup year! If you can't make the Great Falls Group location, see if there's something closer to you. Check [www.PotomacCleanup.org](http://www.PotomacCleanup.org), the Potomac River Watershed Cleanup tab, for a list of complete cleanup sites (including Loudoun and Prince William Counties) and to find out more about this regional event.

by Chris Koerner

## Cool Fairfax Advisory Group Established

As reported earlier, the Great Falls Group was intensely engaged in the initial establishment of Cool Counties and participation in it by Fairfax County. Since the initiation of Cool Fairfax, the Board Chairman has established an advisory group, including members from the Sierra Club. The group is now meeting regularly and is seeking to identify some first steps that can be taken by the County. One of our first concerns is the funding of an Energy Manager position. In tight financial times, the clear intentions of County staff may not be sufficient. We will be watching the situation closely as the budget process continues.

The group has begun work on defining a "Cool Neighborhood" template, which should describe a series of steps that a community could take to lower its collective carbon footprint. There are elements for the home, transportation, the yard and individual choices. There are also a set of actions for the neighborhood at large.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Earth Day – Get Involved!

Once again the Great Falls Group will have booths at many of the Northern Virginia Earth Day events. Stop by to say hello and see what we've been doing. If you'd like to help at one of these events, or have another to suggest, contact Norbert Pink at [norbert.pink@virginia.sierraclub.org](mailto:norbert.pink@virginia.sierraclub.org). More events may be added so be sure to check our website, [www.virginia.sierraclub.org/greatfalls/](http://www.virginia.sierraclub.org/greatfalls/). For other Earth Day events visit the Earth Day Network at <http://ww2.earthday.net/~earthday/>.

**Reston:**  
**Earth Day Festival at Walker Nature Education Center, Saturday, April 19, 5K Fund Run to benefit Nature House at 8AM Festival 1PM-5PM 11450 Glade Drive, Reston, VA 20191**

Festival activities include a native plant sale, musical entertainment, tree plantings, live animals, nature craft making, displays from local environmental groups and canoe/kayak rentals on Lake Audubon. There will also be on-site recycling of home electronics and cell phones. All ages welcome. Free. For more information visit [www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org). To register for the race, contact Larry Butler at [lbutler@reston.org](mailto:lbutler@reston.org).



Volunteers answer questions at a Great Falls Group booth

### Prince William County

Saturday, April 19, 10AM-2PM

Sean T. Connaughton Community Plaza  
1 County Complex Court, Woodbridge, VA

An Earth Day Festival created and hosted by local youth from across the community. Visit displays and take part in activities at five concern areas:

- Water Quality Protection
- Land Conservation
- Air Quality and Energy Conservation
- Animal and Habitat Protection
- Recycling, Litter Control and Trash Management.

Leave feeling inspired and empowered to make a difference for the natural systems in our community. All young visitors can earn a patch to show their dedication to protecting our planet. <http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=010079000100004302>. For more details, call the Department of Public Works at (703) 792-6819.

### Northern Virginia Community College.

#### Annandale Campus

Saturday, April 19, 11AM-4PM

Fairfax County's annual Earth Day/Arbor Day event with environmental displays, children's events, and more. The Mount Vernon Group and the Great Falls Group will share a booth at this event. [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu)

### Oakton Community Library

Saturday, April 26, 2:00 pm

10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton, VA 22124

Help honor conservation pioneer Dr. Ira Gabrielson (1898 - 1977), first Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NWF Conservation Hall of Fame Inductee, as the Fairfax History Commission presents

*(continued on page 3)*

## Vampires Called into Service for Dominion, Inc.

In its campaign to build the new coal-fired power plant in Wise County and a major new power line into Northern Virginia, Dominion Power has pointed its accusing finger at the rising demand for electricity in Northern Virginia. It is not all due to population growth and sprawl, Dominion tells us. In a communication mailed recently with the January bills, Dominion's president David Heacock, states that average home energy consumption is up 10% since the 1990's because "residences are filled with an increasing number of electronic gadgets many of which use electricity even when they supposedly are turned "off". He seems to be telling us that due to the numerous, presumably frivolous electronic choices we make, customers are responsible for 10% of Dominion's recent business growth. Surely this is a twenty-first century electric dream-come-true for a nineteenth century business model. But, is it really

fair for Dominion to credit us for its new found source of wealth?

The CoolFairfax Advisory Group described in this issue is working on a project for neighborhoods to evaluate the vampire loads of our household appliances and fixtures. "Vampire load" and "phantom load" are the terms for those electric current draws referenced by President Heacock, the ones from appliances that you cannot turn completely off unless you unplug them or disconnect them at the circuit box when they are hardwired like a dishwasher.

### Our preliminary evaluation is detecting some amazing and outrageous facts.

The most obvious vampires, plug-in transformers, are among the more modest offenders. They usually draw less than a watt when not charging or operating something such as an answering machine. They are

*(continued on page 2)*

# How You Eat Affects the Earth

## Sierra Club True Cost of Food Campaign

The Club's True Cost of Food (TCOF) Campaign seeks to educate consumers about how their shopping and eating habits affect the earth. Through local TCOF groups around the country, we educate people about the environmental and health benefits of eating a diet that is plant-based, locally grown, and organic. Learn more at: <http://www.truecostoffood.org/>

Until recently, the use of the term "organic" was not regulated; any farmer could use the term. In the past five years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has created a set of organic standards, and only farmers who are certified by an outside agency as strictly following these rules can label their food "organic."

Farms that rely on the use of chemicals cannot be sustainable because they require ever-increasing quantities of chemicals. Scarce natural resources are used to create these chemicals, and runoff from conventional agriculture pollutes the environment. Organic farmers and gardeners enrich their soil with natural ingredients.

Background: defining "local". Some food activists advocate looking for food that's grown as close to you as possible. For some people, that means living off the backyard garden, for others it means buying as much food as possible from sources within 50, 100, or 200 miles from home.

Buying food that's grown locally avoids shipping it and the pollution that transportation causes. It often allows you to get your food fresher, so it tastes better and is more nutritious and appealing. Food starts to deteriorate as soon as it is picked; food that is shipped across the country can spend a week in a refrigerated truck.

Another reason for supporting local farms is that they are usually smaller and more independent; there are lots of them, as opposed to just a few agribusiness giants. Keeping many small farms in business means that food decisions won't be concentrated in a few hands. Right now, 72% of our food comes from seven percent of our farms, and if that trend continues, there won't be many small farms left. If the big farms decide

*cont. on page 3*

## Outings for Everyone

Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP) conducts a variety of day hikes and other kinds of events year-round for the general public on behalf of the Sierra Club's Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia chapters and their close-in groups. Volunteer leaders organize the events, many of which include conservation, educational, or historical elements. To learn about MWROP's upcoming events, event participation guidelines, free calendar subscriptions, and other subjects, visit [www.mwrop.org](http://www.mwrop.org) or call the MWROP hotline (202-547-2326). To learn about becoming an MWROP leader (it isn't hard, and inquiries and qualified people are welcome), write to [info@mwrop.org](mailto:info@mwrop.org) or call 301-565-3165.

### Vampires *(continued from page 1)*

usually visible and convenient to unplug when not in use.

Nearly every modern appliance built since the 1990's has a vampire load to operate such "conveniences" as a touch screen, a digital clock, a remote control "on/off" feature or memory presets. These loads range from a fraction of a watt to at least 45 watts, possibly more.

Major appliances used to be fully automatic, in that at the end of their cycles they shut themselves truly off by automatically disconnecting from the electric circuit. Our initial tests show that new washers, dryers, and dishwashers, including Energy Star rated models, have vampire loads ranging as high as 5 watts. We have found none thus far that truly shuts off at the end of their cycles, and few include a manual "off" switch. Could these appliances, standard requirements for homes since the 1950's, be what Mr. Heacock refers to as frivolous "gadgets"? The newer the appliance, the better the chance it harbors a vampire load. It is easier today to count the things in a house that don't have vampire loads.

The phone company used to pay all of the electricity cost for phone service. This policy centralized the management of electrical requirements for phone service thus keeping the consumption low. The burden is shifting to the consumer in forms where the consumer cannot control it.

- Switching to Verizon FIOS will cost you approximately 11 vampire watts for every FIOS component installed in your home.
- Cable and satellite system boxes can be much worse, more than 4 times as greedy. We know of one type of proprietary HD satellite box that draws 48 watts when turned "off".
- We also know that one model DLP HD TV has a 45 watt vampire load, while at least some Energy Star LCD HD TV models draw less than one vampire watt.



45 vampire watts feeding off your electric power bill for a year totals nearly 400 kilowatt hours, enough energy, according to DOE, to operate a new 21 cu ft Energy Star refrigerator for 10 months.

Based on these high vampire consumption figures, we suspect that the cable boxes from Cox, Comcast, Direct TV and Verizon are the "gadgets" Mr. Heacock references to us. After all, we can live without TV. Should we wonder how those companies' CEOs would feel if they realized their services are categorized by Dominion's CEO as "frivolous" electronic gadgets?

#### What you can do:

- Educate yourself about this subject and share what you learn.
- When your appliances – or rather "electronic gadgets" – will not be used for a period of time or the whole family will be away from home, unplug them, or those you can and use power strips for shutting off computer equipment, audio-visual equipment and other suspected groups of electronic equipment – and of course, your "gadgets".
- Assume any appliance with a remote control, touch screen or soft-touch pad has a vampire load, unless there is a mechanical switch on it, in addition to the soft-touch gadgetry one.

- Always buy Energy Star appliances, and look for models with true "off" switches, which often means buying gadget-free European brands, such as NAD, Bosch, Cambridge Audio, etc.

- If you feel you cannot live without the level of TV cable service that requires a TV cable box, consider the fiber optics option and acquire as few boxes as you can live with.

- Volunteer to help us develop a gadget inventory by testing your appliances and reporting the results to us. We expect to have a few watt meters available on a loan basis in the near future. If you have your own watt meter, please provide us what you have learned, using a form we will provide to you. Contact Ross Shearer (703-938-9385, email [rsshearer@cox.net](mailto:rsshearer@cox.net)) or Ivy Main ([ivymain@cox.net](mailto:ivymain@cox.net)) for more information.

*by Ross Shearer and Ivy Main*

## Executive Committee Election Results

We had some write-in candidates this year, and the following people were elected to the Great Falls Group Executive Committee: Joe Apple, Linda Freimark, Karen Grycewicz, and Linda Stevens. Some new volunteers have stepped forward to help with the committees, many thanks to Steve Bruckner and Amelia Kissick for taking on Conservation and Environmental Education and to everyone else who has volunteered to help with committee support.

### Great Falls Group Executive Committee

The monthly meeting of The Great Falls Group's (GFG) Executive Committee is usually held on the first Monday of the month and is open to all Sierra Club members. Contact Linda Freimark for time and location.

<b>Officers:</b>	Chair, Linda Freimark Vice Chair, Chris Koerner Treasurer, Joe Apple Secretary, Ross Shearer	703-222-9240 703-715-2204 703-860-1254 703-938-9385	Linda.Freimark@virginia.sierraclub.org Chris.Koerner@virginia.sierraclub.org Joe.Apple@virginia.sierraclub.org Ross.Shearer@virginia.sierraclub.org
<b>Committee Chairs:</b>	Chapter Delegate, Joe Apple Conservation, Steve Bruckner Membership, Norbert Pink Programs, Linda Burchfiel Political, Bob Pearson Publicity, Linda Burchfiel	703-860-1254 703-883-3622 703-264-7445 703-506-4310 703 690-3071 703-506-4310	Joe.Apple@virginia.sierraclub.org sbruckner@cox.net norbertsierra@aol.com larva@attglobal.net Bob.Pearson@virginia.sierraclub.org larva@attglobal.net
<b>Committee Support:</b>	Editor, Karen Grycewicz Layout Designer, Nanette Rock-Shraga Social Chair, Bobbi Beck Website Maintenance, Linda Stevens Environmental Education, Amelia Kissick	703-273-6226 703-437-7323 703-464-4755 703-787-8861	Karen.Grycewicz@virginia.sierraclub.org nrshraga@yahoo.com Bobbi.Beck@virginia.sierraclub.org

**Cool Fairfax** (continued from page 1)

We are aiming to complete this in time for the Providence District Environmental Workshop. This annual event will be held from 9 am to noon on Saturday, March 29 at the Fairhill Elementary School, 3001 Chichester Lane, Fairfax. The Workshop will focus on steps local residents can take to address global warming.

Once we have an energy manager in place, the group will monitor the establishment of an inventory and a followup plan of action. Options for working with the business community and George Mason University are also being reviewed.

by Roger Diedrich

**Earth Day** (cont. from pg 1)

a State Historic Highway Marker to be erected in his name. Youth K-12 "Sharing Our Earth" Earth Day art contest winners will be awarded prizes. See the Oakton Library for entry information before the March 31 entry deadline. Questions? 703-242-4020.

**Herndon**

Saturday April 26, 2008, 9:30am-12:30pm

Herndon Municipal Center Town Green, 777 Lynn Street (rain or shine)

Herndon will hold its annual Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration with nature oriented organizations and earth/tree friendly activities for the whole family. There will be booths with information from various environmental and government organizations. Ron Warren, a Native American Traditional Flute Player, will provide music. Activities will include a small nature craft for kids, a presentation of the Tree City USA award to the Town Mayor and other activities related to the environment. For more information contact the Town Naturalist Susan Lilly, 703-435-6800, x-2113 or the Town Forester, John Dudzinsky x-2014. www.herndon-va.gov.

by Norbert Pink

**YES,**  
I want to join the Sierra Club!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues include subscriptions to SIERRA (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1.00). Dues are not tax deductible. Enclose check and mail to:

Sierra Club, PO Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322.

Membership Type	Individual	Joint
Introductory	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00	N/A
Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47.00
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175.00
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250.00
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32.00
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32.00
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32.00



**How you Eat** (continued from page 2)

to follow practices that we don't approve of, we won't have anyplace else to go for food.

Which is better, organic or local? Recently some of the biggest food companies have realized that the market for organic food is large and growing larger and they have started growing food that meets organic standards. A lot of this agribusiness-organic food is grown on huge farms and shipped around the world. Some food activists make a logical argument that it's better to eat agribusiness organic food than non-organic food.

These large companies use modern and efficient business practices to bring good food to the largest number of people possible all through the year. Some are dedicated environmentalists as well as competent and successful business people and they are very good at growing and distributing organic and other responsibly-grown food.

On the other hand, these farms don't provide the benefits of local food, savings on transportation, increased nutrition, and maintenance of small farms. But some small local farms can't afford the costs or time involved in getting certified, even though their practices are just as safe as certified organic farms. In fact, some large-scale organic farms use questionable practices that are allowed under USDA organic standards (such as overuse of approved botanical bugkillers); smaller farmers are often more careful (see www.naturallygrown.org).

But it's hard to be sure if uncertified local farms are not using chemicals. The choice becomes easier if you know the farmer who is growing your food. Whether or not a local farm is certified organic, if you can look the farmer in the eye and talk to him or her about their growing practices, you can be more comfortable with the choice you make. It might take a bit of time to find a local farm, but there are many sources of information (www.localharvest.org or www.sustainabletable.org for info about farmers' markets and stands; www.csacenter.org for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), co-ops that buy from local farms).

by Diana Artemis, Co-Chair Sierra Club National Consumption Committee

**Wooden planters could hold destructive emerald ash borer**

Wooden planter boxes sold at Lowe's stores in Minnesota and across the U.S. could be harboring emerald ash borer, a pest responsible for destroying millions of trees in the Midwest, the Duluth News-Tribune reported. Minn. Dept. of Ag. asked consumers to check for wooden planter boxes labeled Nature's Own Planters, manufactured in Indiana by Lawson Products. The planters come from an area under federal quarantine for emerald ash borers. "We are asking people to either burn the planters or double-wrap them in 6-millimeter plastic bags and put them in the trash," said Geir Friisoe, plant protection division director for MDA, in a statement.

"Emerald Ash Borer poses a major threat to ash trees", said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff.

Please do not move firewood or other ash wood materials in infested states, including Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Maryland. For more information on the emerald ash borer, see http://www.emeraldashborer.info/

**Climate Change and the Chesapeake Bay:**

**Challenges, Impacts and the Multiple Benefits of Agricultural Conservation Work**

Scientists agree: Climate Change is here, and it is affecting local rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay. In the Mid-Atlantic Region predicted effects include changes in agricultural and forest production to degraded coldwater fisheries and the influx of more invasive plants. One likely outcome: the loss of underwater grasses, like eelgrass, that support species as diverse as the iconic blue crab and the human communities that depend on them.

Making matters worse is the relatively fragile nature of the Chesapeake Bay's current condition and shrinking shorelines. Therefore the Bay will be particularly vulnerable to the temperature increase and sea level rise associated with global climate change.

Fortunately, the situation is not without hope. The work to reduce greenhouse gases that cause climate change is not unlike the challenge we face in cleaning up and restoring the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams. And many of the solutions are the same.

The Bay's watershed states have identified a list of cost-effective agricultural conservation practices that must be implemented to achieve the pollution reductions necessary to remove the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries from the nation's "dirty waters" list. And, as a recent Yale study demonstrates, many of these agricultural practices will also sequester substantial amounts of carbon from the atmosphere.

Using information on the number of acres of land, watershed-wide, expected to be placed under several agricultural best management practices, including cover crops, riparian buffers, rotational grazing and no-till farming, the Yale study estimated that 4.8 million metric tons of carbon dioxide would be sequestered annually over a 15-year period. This is the equivalent of mitigating the carbon dioxide emissions from residential electricity use across Delaware.

The conclusion is clear: Saving the Bay also helps us address the effects of climate change. Accordingly, CBF is working with partners across the watershed to secure state and federal funding for agricultural conservation practices and technologies to reap the multiple benefits of these practices.

by Joe Lerch, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

**Backyard Woods Workshops**  
Learning to Create & Enhance Natural Areas

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) is offering workshops in Fairfax (March 4 & 11, 6:30-9pm) and Manassas (March 8, 9am-3pm) for owners of 1-10 acres, based on the newly published manual, *The Woods in Your Backyard: Learning to Create and Enhance Natural Areas Around Your Home*, see www.nraes.org for details about the manual. Small woodlots, such as the one you may have in your backyard, are a big deal. Owners of even just a few acres can make a positive difference in their environment through planning and implementing simple management practices. The workshops will take participants through the manual to demonstrate how to use it and provide ideas on how to share it with others. For registration information, contact the local VCE office: Fairfax 703-324-5369, abordas@vt.edu; Manassas 703-792-6285, thacker@vt.edu.

## Table of Contents

20<sup>th</sup> Potomac Watershed Cleanup  
April 5<sup>th</sup>

Cool Fairfax Advisory Group

Earth Day - Get Involved! April 19-26

Vampires Called Into Service for  
Dominion, Inc.

How You Eat Affects the Earth

Outings for Everyone

ExComm Election Results

Climate Change and the Chesapeake

Emerald Ash Borer Danger

Backyard Woods Workshops



SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

# The Cascade

The Great Falls Group Newsletter

March-April 2008

[www.virginia.sierraclub.org/greatfalls](http://www.virginia.sierraclub.org/greatfalls)

## Upcoming Programs – Everyone Welcome!

### \*Mon. March 17<sup>th</sup> Save the Bay and Combat Global Warming

The Chesapeake Bay will be particularly vulnerable to temperature increase and sea level rise associated with global climate change. Joe Lerch of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will discuss how conservation practices to reduce pollution entering the Bay can also reduce greenhouse gases, and what we can do to help.

**\*Mon. April 21<sup>st</sup> The Environment and What You Eat** Diana Artemis, Co-Chair of the Sierra Club National Sustainable Consumption Committee, will speak on their True Cost of Food Campaign. She will be joined by local farmers Cliff Miller (Mount Vernon Farm) and Hiu Newcomb (Potomac Vegetable Farm) to discuss types of sustainable farming.

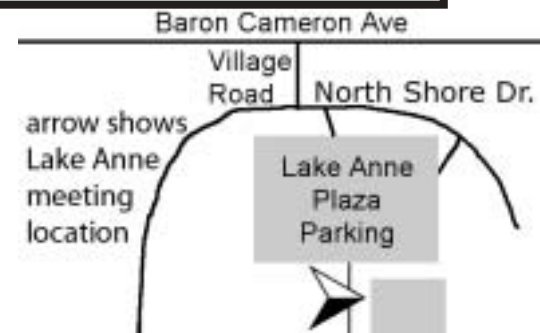
**\*Mon. May 19<sup>th</sup> Appalachian Treasures** Come see this multi-media presentation about a critical social and environmental justice issue -- mountaintop removal coal mining (MTR) in Central Appalachia. At the heart of this presentation are photos of Appalachia and mining sites, voice recordings from coalfield residents, and traditional Appalachian music. Come and learn about mountaintop removal coal mining, and how you can help stop the destruction of our nation's oldest mountains and the people and culture of Appalachia, from speaker JW Randolph of Appalachian Voices.

**\*Tues. June 17<sup>th</sup> Sierra Club Outings and You** Marjorie Richman, a Sierra Club national trip leader, will provide some background information on Sierra Club trips and then open the floor to YOU to share your slides and experiences from Sierra Club trips! Already on the agenda: a service trip to the St. Croix River in Wisconsin, and a backpack trip to the Navajo Nation in Utah. To sign up please contact Linda Burchfiel at 703-506-4310 or larva@attglobal.net.

Get the latest event information delivered to your in-box every week!

Sign up for the Great Falls Group email announcement list at  
<http://virginia.sierraclub.org/greatfalls/greatfalls-news.html>

**\*Socializing at 7PM, program 7:30-9PM, at Lake Anne Community Center: 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston (703-476-4500).** From Rte. 7 take Baron Cameron Ave., turn south (left) onto Village Rd., left onto Northshore Dr., then immediate sharp right into the Village Center parking lot. **From Fairfax County Pkwy** go east on Baron Cameron Ave., turn right onto Village Rd., continue as above.



**The Cascade** is published 5-6 times per year by the Great Falls Group of the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club. We are always open to contributions from members, including stories and photographs. We reserve the right to edit all submissions, both editorial and advertisements. The views expressed are those of the authors and may not be those of the Sierra Club. Deadlines are the same as for the ODS. For consideration, mail articles or photos to Karen Grycewicz, 3508 Winston Place, Fairfax, VA 22030 or email them to [karen.grycewicz@virginia.sierraclub.org](mailto:karen.grycewicz@virginia.sierraclub.org). Please send articles as plain text in an email or in Word or WordPerfect file format. For placing an ad, please contact Bobbi Beck at 703-464-4755 or [bobbi.beck@virginia.sierraclub.org](mailto:bobbi.beck@virginia.sierraclub.org) for details and pricing.

Sierra Club Virginia Chapter  
422 East Franklin Street,  
Suite 302  
Richmond, VA 23219

TIME SENSITIVE  
INFORMATION!  
PLEASE MAIL  
IMMEDIATELY!

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Richmond, VA  
Permit # 1673



SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

Check our website for meeting updates or changes:  
<http://www.virginia.sierraclub.org/greatfalls/>

### Also See Inside:

## Old Dominion Sierran

*The Sierra Club's Newsletter for Virginia*

#### Page 1

Governor's VA Commission on Climate Change

#### Page 2

Notes from the Chair

VA Chapter elects officers, seats new delegates  
From Inspiration to Action - March 2 14 VA colleges & universities sign on to climate plan

#### Page 3

300 people crowd into SCC hearing  
Smart Growth - Volunteers lobby on Capitol Hill  
Arctic species need protection from Big Oil  
Sierra Club's Project Renewal opposed

#### Page 4

Use CFLs safely and responsibly  
Dark side of ethanol and biodiesel subsidies  
Sierra Club adopts new population policy  
Do we really need all that stuff?

#### Page 5

Flood plains and fly ash  
Increasing energy efficiency can be achieved

#### Page 6

University of Richmond signs climate commitment  
Another Cool City  
Environmentalist elected to Board of Supervisors  
Get into the woods in 2008

#### Page 7

Canoe excursion planned April 20  
Fall Jamboree plans taking shape  
Activist outings help Sierra Club promote position

#### Page 8

Help Wanted: Bold leadership on global warming