



Getting Serious About Energy: Sierra Club's Energy Efficiency Town Hall Meeting

National Rural Electric Association
in Ballston (Arlington)
November 12, 2008 - 7:00 PM

Elections are over but the real work has just begun! We must encourage our newly elected officials to work towards a more energy efficient economy. We, as a state and as a nation, are falling behind when it comes to leading in energy-how we use it and how we get it- and we must transition before it is too late. Whether you are interested in energy issues because you are just plain sick of your escalating energy bills or you know our climate is warming with potentially catastrophic consequences this is the Town Hall you need to attend. We know that it is imperative that we begin conserving energy and using it more efficiently and this Town Hall is designed to address the steps we need to take, the barriers that arise, and to answer many questions that citizens have about what efficiency really means and what steps we need to take. Learn how we can lower electricity rates, conserve energy and create jobs on November 12th.

Speakers Include:

- Representative from American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy
- Paul Ferguson, Member of Governor Kaine's Commission on Climate Change
- Walter Tejada, Chairman of the Arlington County Board
- Representative from a VA power company

RSVP to Kayti Wingfield at Kayti.wingfield@sierraclub.org soon because space is limited!



The Great Falls Group and friends met at Loudoun County's Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES) on July 26 for family-oriented outdoor fun and learning experience. The early risers began at 8:30 am by joining the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's regular monthly bird walk, led by Joe Coleman, and spotted a total of 55 species, including a wild turkey, a blue grosbeak and a grasshopper sparrow. More people arrived for the potluck lunch,

Becoming a "Cool Neighborhood"

Members may recall previous articles on Cool Fairfax, begun in July 2007 at the meeting of the national Association of Counties. The County has continued to take steps to address climate change and a small group of volunteers, at least half who are Sierra Club members, meet monthly to advise and develop ways to advance the program. Most recently, they have announced their "Cool Neighborhoods" initiative.

The Fairfax County Cool Neighborhood Program is aimed at engaging citizens as **voluntary** participants in the County pledge by the Board of Supervisors to lower greenhouse gas emissions. Speaking about the program, County Board Chairman Gerry Connolly, stated:



"Cool Neighborhoods is designed to empower local communities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Collective action by neighborhoods is a critical part of the County's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050."

An individual neighborhood can enroll in the program with Fairfax County by providing the County with information on their size and location and a contact who should act as a Coordinator. The neighborhood is expected to adopt a goal to reduce emissions among a subset of their households (20%) and report the success to the County.

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Citizens for a Sustainable Tysons Formed

For over 3 years, Fairfax County has been diligently crafting a plan for redesigning the 1700 acres defined as Tysons Corner with the anticipation of the eventual extension of Dulles Rail. That process is coming to an end as the Board-appointed Task Force presented its recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in late September. The next step is for the Planning Commission and the Board to adopt new Comprehensive Plan language to control the development that would occur over many years. It is expected that this process will be completed early in 2009.

The Sierra Club and other environmental parties are anxious that this be a true Transit Oriented

Development that works operationally, economically, sociologically, and from an environmental perspective. Among the elements that are required are much better balance of uses (residential, commercial, public), better street design and greater density, especially around the future Metro stations. It is possible that there be a doubling of employees and five times the current residents in the Tysons area. There is some resistance to this level of growth in Tysons and in order to provide the political support for a balanced, functional redesign, a campaign, under the name "Citizens for a Sustainable Tysons" was formed. The members adopted this statement of purpose:

(continued on page 2)

GFG at Green Festival in DC Nov. 8-9

Green Festival, the largest sustainability event in the world (over 31,000 attendees in 2007), will have over 125 speakers, 350 exhibitors will be at the Washington DC Convention Center on Nov 8-9. These exhibitors represent many parts of the globe and will be providing many eco-related products for sale and related information. Subjects range from organic clothing, investing, community networking, body care products, fair trade items, and green products for the home.

Speakers come from backgrounds of educators, leaders, community activities and business, will speak on local to global eco-friendly and sustainable topics. How-to workshops on various topics will be presented

along with films, music, and kids activities. Organic food and beverage will be available. For more festival information please visit www.greenfestivals.org.

One of the exhibitors will be your Great Falls Group (GFG) as part of the Metro DC Sierra Club booth being organized by Norbert Pink. We will need many friendly volunteers to greet the festival attendees, so please volunteer by contacting Norbert Pink at norbert.pink@virginia.sierraclub.org. Attend one of the GFG functions to get a free 2-for-1 admission coupon to the Green Festival.

by Norbert Pink

Birds, Butterflies and Organic Farming

where the adults enjoyed lively conversation and the children played with the hammock. After lunch, we were led through the fields for a butterfly walk and helped identify 9 species.

Next was a tour of the BRCES organic farm, led by farm manager Shawna DeWitt (plus baby in a sling). She explained how crop rotation, cover crops, and compost fortify the soil and grow healthy crops that thrive without pesticides. BRCES animals are fed organically as well. The chickens were corralled in a

large (20x20 feet) chicken wire cage on wheels, which allowed them to move freely as they fed, and Shawna is able to move the cage to another spot the next day. The baby goats were thriving and feisty and made a hit with adults as well as kids.

BRCES (www.brces.org) is open dawn to dusk daily and with 900 acres of varied habitat has something of interest to all.

by Linda Burchfiel

Banshee Reeks, a Local Gem

Like its name, Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve is unique. The preserve, which is more than 700 acres, strives to protect natural habitats and wildlife populations, be a place to conduct and coordinate ecological, historical and other scientific research, and to provide the public with an opportunity to enjoy and learn from this unique reserved area. And it's located in the heart of the largest growing county in the state!



Spring House Pond at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve

Located off the beaten path, so to speak, the preserve, located on The Woods Road, near Heritage High School in Leesburg, is operated by the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services. It was purchased by the county from a private land owner in 1993 and opened to the public in 2003. It is now opened to the public every weekend, 8-4 on Saturday and Sunday.

The preserve has hosted a photography show by retired National Geographic photographer Bruce Dale, been mapped out by a Phase I archeological survey, and has provided opportunities for high school and college students to perform internships in

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



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many areas such as field and wildlife management. The place is also a wealth of historical information. A 3,000-year old arrowhead was found on the property and the bank barn located on the eastern corner of the preserve is believed to be one of the few left of its kind in the county from the Civil War era. Banshee Reeks is currently the meeting place for a chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist program

(<http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org>).

This property is also kept intrinsically dark and will be

Sustainable Tysons (continued from page 1)

We support the transformation of Tysons Corner into an urban, transit-oriented, center, because of the environmental benefits gained from reducing land consumption, vehicle miles traveled, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and energy use.

We are promoting development that encourages a style of living that lessens dependence on the automobile and enables residents and workers of Tysons to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance their quality of life. By following the principles outlined . . . we believe that both the community and private landowners will benefit.

The group also developed a vision and specific list of goals and the Club and its allies (Currently the Coalition for Smarter Growth, Audubon Naturalist Society, and neighborhoods near Tysons) will work to ensure these basic principles are represented in the Comprehensive Plan language that is adopted. This is a critically important activity for Fairfax County and Club members should engage in the process.

In a related but parallel effort, the Sierra Club has written the County Board of Supervisors to ask that they keep the option of a tunnel under Tysons alive.

Members that wish to assist in this campaign should contact John Byrne at 703-938-6650 or Roger Diedrich at 703-352-2410.

by Roger Diedrich

managed as a "Dark Sky Facility" for the benefit of both the environment and visitors. It is supported by the Friends of Banshee Reeks, a volunteer, nonprofit organization. There is a team of volunteers (VIVA's) who work in the visitor center the third weekend of every month. To learn more about the Friends of Banshee Reeks, the VIVA program, and the preserve in general, visit www.bansheereeks.org.

by Christyna Hunter,
Friends of Banshee Reeks

Cool Neighborhood (continued from page 1)

To be included by your neighborhood as a participant, a household must first estimate the emissions from the past year from carbon emitting activities. This value is compared to an estimate for a typical Fairfax County household and if the household is 20% below the County level, it can be immediately counted as Cool Household by the neighborhood. If the value doesn't meet that standard, the household must attempt to lower their CO2 emissions by 2% below their measured amount within the next year.

One step that many find attractive is to measure phantom loads on their home electronic equipment and take simple measures to cut those loads off. This is one example of a simple measure that can reduce electricity demand and therefore emissions without affecting lifestyle.

The Cool Fairfax Working Group has developed a list of other actions that a household can choose from as steps toward reaching the 2% goal.

At this writing few neighborhoods have fully engaged in the program, although others are showing interest. Any citizen is encouraged to enroll and especially to organize their neighborhood, which could be defined as an elementary school district or as the members of a religious institution. Get full instructions and access to tools on the County website at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/coolcounties/neighborhoods>

by Roger Diedrich

Lobby your State Legislators

With the national elections behind us, we can turn our attention to influencing the processes in our state government. The Virginia General Assembly meets from January 14 to March 15 in Richmond and typically takes up several thousand bills. You can help shape the outcome of what goes on there by getting to know and making regular contact with your local Delegate and/or Senator. The GFG leadership can help put you in contact with other members with the same legislator and provide the information you need to become an effective lobbyist on our issues. It is time to begin reviewing possible legislative issues and making early contacts with legislators. If you are able to commit to a modest amount of time for a few local meetings and keeping up with targeted bills, please contact Roger Diedrich.

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.

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

Meet the 2008-2009 Candidates for the Great Falls Group Executive Committee

Linda Burchfiel

I was first elected to the Executive Committee 2 years ago and my focus has been mainly outreach. While officially serving as Program and Publicity Chairs, and developing and publicizing 11 programs a year for monthly meetings, I have also tried to raise environmental awareness throughout the County. I am trying to reach out to different parts of the County by rotating monthly member programs/meetings around 3 geographical sites. I am also trying to reach out to new groups by speaking about environmental issues to churches, by assisting with a "Sierra Club and Beer" event and by twice (together with Roger Diedrich) introducing the Sierra Club to newcomers through "Sierra Club 101" presentations. VCN invited me to participate in the Environmental Leadership Institute. In addition, I was recently appointed to Fairfax County's Environmental Quality Advisory Council.

Chris Koerner

Hi – I'm an environmental engineer and scientist, and have been on the Great Falls Executive Committee for 7 years; I currently serve as the Vice-Chair. For 28 years I've worked to clean up toxic waste sites and solve other environmental challenges in the US and internationally. Since 1997 I have fought to get Fairfax County to enforce stormwater and erosion regulations against local developers who extensively damaged the Lake Martin watershed in Oakton. I persuaded US EPA to issue an enforcement order against the developers, forcing the County to sue and win \$356,000. The County was unable to award a contract due to insufficient funds, and I used the funds to manage the lake restoration, performing 5 times the required work for a third the price of the County contractor's bid. I would like to use my management experience to help the Club be more effective. Although we have made some progress on critical environmental issues, I believe that much more has to be done, and the Sierra Club can better leverage our membership to achieve positive environmental results. Thank you for your support.

Norbert Pink

I have been a Sierra Club member for many years and have served on the GFG ExCom for the last 2 years as Membership Chair.

I believe that understanding the member's interests and reasons for joining the Sierra Club are important to having active and involved members for a strong and viable organization. I have been trying to bring my work experience and introducing new technology into the processes of the organization and making the ExCom more effective in accomplishing the Club goals.

Some of my significant accomplishments have been to create a local database of membership interest and skills for matching members to GFG resource requirements, getting members involved with their local communities with invasive plant removal, plant rescues, festivals, tabling etc., spending many hours on the phone calling members and getting insight into members interests and generating participation which has led to more members participating, created the Sierra Club DC Green Festival committee which focuses on getting more participation from the local chapters, groups, and members in the Green Festival, actively served on the Sierra Club National Membership Engagement Committee, etc..

I would like to be reelected to continue my activities in building a stronger and more active membership to improve our NoVa environment.

Scott Monett

Scott has been an advocate of the environment since he was a child and was active in the Boy Scouts of America. An avid hiker and fisherman, Scott recognizes the immense value in protecting the land, the air and the water. He is also a life member of the Sierra Club.

He believes he can be of significant help to the conservation and environmental movement. Scott hopes to assist the Club in bringing a greater awareness of the Club's objectives to the business community as well as not-for-profit and civic organizations. He hopes to work with other members to develop programs to help small businesses reduce their electricity consumption and adopt sound environmental practices in the operation of their businesses.

Scott has a special interest in helping on the implementation and analysis side of our Club's objectives to determine how businesses and industry might adapt to our requests. He wishes to work with Club leaders to identify policy implications of and barriers to our agenda in Virginia and at the Federal level and will strive to overcome them.

Brian Morrissey

I have been a resident, homeowner and landlord in Northern Virginia for many years. I am also semi-retired after pursuing a career as trainer, educator, workshop leader, researcher and author of two books on human performance and brain wave states. My formal education includes both Bachelor and Master degrees, and teaching certification. Ultimately, I wish to utilize my skills, talents and experience to make a contribution to increased public awareness and understanding of the threat of global warming, and to help empower individuals and institutions to mobilize effective ways, including behavioral and lifestyle transformation, to mitigate that threat.

I began focussing on the issue of global warming and the environment 2 to 3 years ago, following an original

interest that went back to the 70's. In 2006, I delivered a behavioral transformation workshop to a group that led to lively and sustained discussions concerning the global warming literature. I continue to locate, study, and collect research articles in order to remain current with global warming and climate change phenomena and its impact on environmental systems. This research has been channeled into workshop development and design integrating a deeper understanding of human brain wave states and their role in assessing and taking personal cognizance over human capabilities to -- and social and psychological issues in -- adapting to the increasing acceleration of change in the environment.

While developing my workshops, I first joined the Sierra Club approximately 8 months ago. I have begun attending its functions: most recently, the 2008 Virginia Sierra Club Jamboree. I attended my first Great Falls Group meeting only this September, during which I learned of vacancies on the Executive Committee. Despite my status as newcomer, I am interested in serving on the Board.

Steven Bruckner

I've been a Life member of Sierra Club since the '60's when I used to go on club outings in CA. However, I didn't become active in the club until a year ago when I retired from my career in software product development and management. I'm now serving as the Conservation Chair of the GFG.

My activities in this role over the past year include: testifying three times in public hearings against the Wise County Coal Plant, tabling on Vampire Loads at multiple energy events, attending three conferences on Wind Energy and giving a presentation to our monthly meeting on *Alaska Public Lands Issues - Global Warming, Oil Drilling and Polar Bears*. This coming year I would like to focus on advocacy targeting the state legislature and writing legislation to support the club's initiatives to increase Virginia's investments in energy efficiency and for Virginia to begin the process of developing its offshore wind potential for new clean electricity generation.

Great Falls Group Election Ballot

CAST YOUR VOTE with this ballot!

You may vote for up to six candidates (the number of current vacancies on the Executive Committee). You may choose to vote for someone not on the ballot by writing the name(s)* at the bottom of the ballot. For joint memberships, the second voter uses the second column to vote. Mark with an "X" in either the primary or joint membership columns your choice of candidates.

	PRIMARY VOTER	JOINT MEMBERSHIP VOTER
Linda Burchfiel	_____	_____
Chris Koerner	_____	_____
Norbert Pink	_____	_____
Scott Monett	_____	_____
Brian Morrissey	_____	_____
Steven Bruckner	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____

Deadline for receiving ballots is December 23, 2008. Include your mailing label code for membership verification, and mail to: Linda Stevens, 1607 Oak Spring Way, Reston, VA 20190, postmarked no later than Dec 19 or deliver at the holiday party.



The Cascade

The Great Falls Group Newsletter

November-December 2008

www.virginia.sierraclub.org/greatfalls

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Cast Your Vote!

Upcoming Programs – Everyone Welcome!

Nov. 8-9th – Green Festival Come help hand out Sierra Club information at the Metro DC Sierra Club booth. Contact Norbert Pink at norbert.pink@virginia.sierraclub.org. See page 1 for more information about the festival, or www.greenfestivals.org.

Nov. 12th – Energy Efficiency Town Hall Meeting 7:00pm *National Rural Electric Cooperative, 4301 Wilson Blvd., Arlington* (corner of Wilson & Glebe, closest Metro stop is Ballston). Details on p.1, RSVP to Kayti.wingfield@sierraclub.org.

Nov. 17th – Cut Home Energy Costs 7:30-9pm (GFG program)* Learn how you can increase the efficiency of your home's heating/AC system and appliances and cut your bills while you're cutting green house gases. Jason Dispenza, Building Performance Consultant with EGDE Corp. will separate truth from myth and answer your questions about weatherization, insulation and electronics. *Fairfax County Gov't Center, 12000 Gov't Center Pkwy., Fairfax.*

Dec. 15th – Holiday Party, 6:30-9pm (GFG program) Socialize with members and guests, enjoy music and a pot luck dinner. To coordinate your pot luck contribution, please email Linda Freimark at Linda.Freimark@virginia.sierraclub.org. *Lake Anne Community Center, 1609 Washington Plaza N., Reston**.*

Jan. 12th – Environmental Issues and the 2009 Legislative Session 7:30-9pm (GFG program)* *McLean Gov't Center, 1437 Balls Hill Rd., McLean.*

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

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>

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Old Dominion Sierran

The Sierra Club's Newsletter for Virginia

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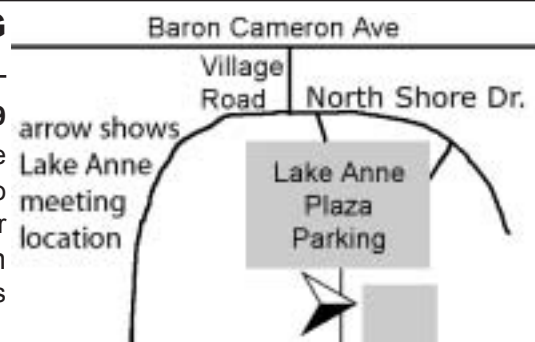
Help!

The Great Falls Group needs a volunteer (or more) to manage our newsletter — solicit articles; have submissions reviewed by volunteer editors; work with our layout volunteer to ensure the articles fit in the newsletter and arrange for editing as needed; coordinate proofreading before submission to the printer. Our newsletter editor has a family emergency and will not be able to continue.

***Socializing at 7PM, program 7:30-9PM for GFG programs**

****Directions to 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. 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 for details and pricing.

Sierra Club Virginia Chapter
422 East Franklin Street,
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