

Old Dominion Sierran

Virginia Chapter Sierra Club
May/June 2009



Victory on the Mattaponi by Glen Besa

A kayaker enjoys a beautiful fall day on the Mattaponi River.

Photo by Garrie Rouse

An April decision by U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia could be the death knell for the City of Newport News' controversial King William Reservoir project.

The court held that the Corps' assessments of alternatives to the reservoir and the project's impacts on wetlands and the salinity of this freshwater tidal river were "arbitrary and capricious." The victory means that for now Newport News no longer has a key permit it needs to build the reservoir.

The 1,500 acre reservoir, if built, would destroy over 400 acres of wetlands and divert up to 75 million gallons of water per day from the pristine Mattaponi River. The river forms the boundary between King William and King and Queen Counties before its confluence with the Pamunkey River to form the York River at West Point.

Since the mid 1990s the City of Newport News has claimed that more than 40 million gallons of water per day would be needed before 2050 to serve the Virginia peninsula. However, water studies commissioned by the Sierra Club and the Alliance to Save the Mattaponi ultimately established actual need to be less than 19 million gallons per day.

At the outset of the project, Newport News officials said if water needs were less than 20 mgd they could not justify the reservoir project.

At an early point in the process, greed and stubbornness clouded peninsula officials' judgment. The reservoir became the only solution that Newport News would pursue even when the Army Corps of Engineers sided with Sierra Club and the Alliance to Save the Mattaponi, finding that the reservoir was not needed.

Soon the Southern Environmental Law

Center and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation joined the Alliance to Save the Mattaponi, the Mattaponi Tribe and the Sierra Club in challenging the King William Reservoir.

The fight to stop the reservoir has been a seesaw battle over the past twelve years with the permitting agencies generally siding with the environmental community and the Mattaponi Indian Tribe.

Only the intervention of politicians, including Newport News Mayor Joe Frank, Governor Jim Gilmore and U.S. Senator John Warner, keep the project alive. When the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) denied a critical permit because of the impacts of the project on Mattaponi's shad fishery, then State Senator Marty Williams introduced legislation to strip the agency of its permitting authority. Facing loss of its permitting, the VMRC reversed its decision and issued a state permit for the project.

It is hard to believe but the Sierra Club's efforts to save the Mattaponi River started in 1996 when Tyla Matteson was the Virginia Chapter's chair and Delegate Albert Pollard was our chapter director. Tyla heard Chief Little Eagle Custalow speak eloquently of the Mattaponi Tribe's ties to the river and the land that would be harmed by this project. It was then the Sierra Club joined the effort to save a river.

The recent court decision does not kill the reservoir project. However, it is a major victory that could spell the end of the project if federal and state agencies are finally allowed to do their jobs without political interference.

Glen Besa is Virginia Chapter Sierra Club director.

Help continue its protection

Win a trip down the Mattaponi River

As an incentive for you to contribute to Sierra Club's annual fund raising appeal, we are offering the chance to win a free, guided kayak or canoe trip for two on the Mattaponi River.

The Mattaponi River is a special place; the most pristine river in Virginia and a wonderful flat water experience that even the novice can enjoy.

For more than ten years, environmentalists and the Mattaponi Indian Tribe have battled the King William Reservoir to a standstill. To this day, the City of Newport News has not turned a shovel of dirt for this destructive project, and they may never get that chance if the State Water Control Board

rules against the city when it takes up the permit for this project again in 2010.

No contribution is necessary for a chance to win this half-day paddle on the Mattaponi. Simply return the March Mailer response form to enter or send a card or letter to Sierra Club, 422 E. Franklin St, Suite 302, Richmond, VA 23234.

If you can make a contribution to our annual appeal, you'll be helping us protect the Mattaponi River as well as support the wide range of conservation campaigns undertaken by the Sierra Club in Virginia. All entries must be received by May 15. You may also contribute on line at www.virginia.sierraclub.org



A warm spring day brings folks out to the rocks at Pony Pasture in James River Park.
Photo by Barbara Null

Conservation easement on James River Park gives park permanent protection

by Charles Price

Richmond has cause for celebration. On February 23 Richmond City Council unanimously voted to enact a permanent conservation easement (CE) on the cherished James River Park System (JRPS). This historic action guarantees the permanent protection of the park system's natural features and prevents its sale or development forever.

The 10-year odyssey to establish CEs to protect several of Richmond's public parks and natural green space began in May 1999, when Bandy Field, a city-owned open green space, was designated an official city park. Although public park status provided protection for Bandy Field, ordinances can be rescinded, prompting Friends of Bandy Field to seek a covenant to protect the park's natural features and perpetually shield it from developers' future attempts to acquire it.

The citizens' group discovered the concept of CEs permanently protecting public lands owned by local jurisdictions in other states. We began a campaign to acquire a CE on Richmond's newest city park.

One of Richmond's General Assembly delegates sought the Attorney General's ruling on the use of CEs by Virginia localities. The AG affirmed a local jurisdiction's prerogative to use CEs, thus Richmond could grant the easements, if it elected to.

The favorable ruling encouraged the citizens' group to pursue a strategy of "strength in numbers," recruiting other green space support groups to seek easements to protect their respective "property of interests." Two parks were identified as top candidates for CEs – James River Park System and the new Bandy Field Nature Park, which had had repeated offers to purchase it for a variety of development ventures. The two city-owned natural green

spaces were Crooked Branch Ravine and the Larus Tract. These groups formed the nucleus of a city-wide grass-roots coalition called ConservAlliance.

The coalition rapidly grew to include 15 parks, civic and conservation organizations, with 6,800 members, asking the City to grant CEs on the two targeted public parks and city-owned green spaces.

Then Mayor of Richmond, Tim Kaine, was enlisted to spearhead the CE initiative and persuade City Council to grant the easements. In May 2000, City Council approved a resolution to prepare CEs for placement on the four properties.

A year went by before any action took place. Instead, three ordinances were passed – one establishing Crooked Branch Ravine and Larus tracts as official city parks. The second prohibited leasing four parks for any uses that would result in their development. The third prohibited placing any city parks on the surplus property list for sale.

The substitution of ordinances for CEs was evidence City Council and the city administration had changed their minds about granting the easements. Like any ordinance, these could later be rescinded. They did not afford the permanent, irrevocable protection of CEs.

ConservAlliance remained quietly vigilant from 2001 until the end of 2004, when a developer approached the city to use Great Shiplock Park---a part of the James River Park System---to support a riverfront condominium development. This re-energized the coalition.

City Council president, Bill Pantele, was persuaded to reactivate the CE initiative, focusing this time only on the James River Park System, the target of the most recent development pressures. Council member Kathy Graziano later took the leadership to place the CE on the James River Park System.

Conservation Easements

When a conservation easement is placed on a parcel of land, some of the owner's property rights are relinquished to a designated "public body" or a non-governmental organization (NGO) that serves as the easement "holder." The easement holder is selected and approved by the property owner.

A "public body" is a state agency, local jurisdiction, park authority, soil and water conservation district, or community development authority.

An NGO holder is a private, charitable organization whose primary purposes include:

- protecting natural resources and natural or open space values of real property
- assuring availability of property for agricultural, forestal, recreational, or open-space use
- maintaining or enhancing air or water quality
- preserving historic, architectural, and archaeological aspects of land.

Conservation Easements include "permitted" uses and "restricted" uses of the applied real properties. Legal enforcement of the restricted uses or purposes of an easement is the responsibility of the easement holder(s).

The property owner continues to own, use, and control the land under the CE. The owner can also sell the property.

The easement is permanent and perpetual and its purposes and restrictions bind not only current, but all future owners of the land.

A resolution directing preparation of the James River Park CE passed unanimously in October 2005. After three and a half years of difficult negotiations over the provisions of the easement, repeated drafts and re-drafts of the document, frequent delays and seeming impasses, the final draft was completed in December 2008. After receiving approval of the Planning Commission, and the Council's Land Use, Housing, and Transportation Committee, it passed unanimously February 23, 2009.

It took ten years to secure permanent, perpetual protection for only one of several indispensable public properties in Richmond. Other city-owned land treasures require and await the same protection that only public land conservation easements can provide.

Charles Price, Virginia Chapter chair, was a founder of Friends of Bandy Field Nature Park and of ConservAlliance which started the CE move on public land in Virginia.

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May/June 2009

A publication of the Virginia Chapter Sierra Club
422 E. Franklin St., Room 302, Richmond, VA 23219
www.virginia.sierraclub.org

The Virginia Chapter Sierra Club's mission is to explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth and to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources.

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OLD DOMINION SIERRAN is published bi-monthly. The editor welcomes editorial contributions, photographs, news releases and art work. Submissions should be related to Virginia's environment.

Please e-mail the editor with questions prior to submitting material

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Put a Cap on Climate Change



Sierra Club teamed up with the Chesapeake Climate Action Network at the Annual Easter Parade in Richmond to send a message to Congress. Taking photos of citizens

wearing an assortment of hats, caps and Easter bonnets, the message was simple -- "Put a Cap on Climate Change."

Photo by Glen Besa

Virginia Chapter Sept. Annual Gathering features workshops, talks, entertainment

by Ann Moore

Allison Chin, Sierra Club president, will give the keynote speech at the Sierra Club Annual Gathering, September 18-20, at Pocahontas State Park near Richmond. Following the talk, we'll hear selections from singer/song-writer Narissa Bond of the Hampton Roads area. Candidates for governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general endorsed by the Virginia Chapter will be invited.

The weekend will open Friday afternoon, with check-in beginning at 4:30 p.m. An evening reception of light snacks, introducing the delectable cuisine of chef Melanie Roborchick, will provide an opportunity to get acquainted with fellow Sierra Club members from all over the state.

"Participants last year could not agree which meal was the most delicious and

which event was the most memorable," remarked ex-com secretary Tom Ellis.

On Saturday, a full day of workshops will focus on global warming and energy issues. Director Glen Besa and staff will update us on efforts to stop coal-fired power plants and other campaigns related to power issues.

Among the workshops will be a demonstration of a design for off-shore wind power presented by Eileen Levandowski and club members who have been studying prospects for wind power. A presentation on solar power is also planned.

Also featured during the weekend will be outdoor activities organized by rangers at Pocahontas State Park. The program concludes with a wrap-up session after breakfast on Sunday, and checkout at 11 a.m.

Ideas and proposals from the membership are welcome. For further information or to propose a session, contact Joe Apple, joe.apple@comcast.net; John Cruickshank, jcruckshank4@gmail.com; Ann Moore, anadonaldovna@gmail.com; Charles Price, fewmit@comcast.net, or Glen Besa, glen.besa@sierraclub.org.

The registration fee of \$80 adult and \$50 child includes two nights' housing in Ecology Camp cabins, all presentations and events, adult beverages Friday and Saturday evening, and meals from the reception Friday night through breakfast Sunday.

Volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen, assist with registration and setting up the presentations.

We look forward to seeing you this fall at Pocahontas State Park.

Your contributions to Virginia PAC can make a difference

2009: An Opportunity to Elect an Environmental Majority

by Glen Besa

In 2009, Virginians will elect a new Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General as well as all 100 members of the Virginia House of Delegates. Of the 100 House seats probably no more than 10 will be competitive.

The Virginia Sierra Club endorses candidates for public office because it is elected officials who pass the laws that set environmental policy. The failure of the environmental community to pass a mandatory energy efficiency bill in this year's General Assembly session reflects the need for a change in the

membership of the House of Delegates.

Sierra Club will be interviewing candidates for Delegate and endorsing and working for those candidates we believe can best help us advance our environmental agenda. We will also be interviewing candidates for Governor and may be endorsing in that important race as well.

Your PAC contributions to the Sierra Club make our important election work possible. As you review the surveys by the candidates for Governor on pages 10 and 11 of this issue of ODS, recognize just how important our election work is. The history

of our Mattaponi campaign demonstrates how having the wrong person as Governor (in that case, Jim Gilmore) can have dire consequences for our environment. (see article on saving the Mattaponi on page 1).

Already this year the candidates for Governor are talking about energy policy with McDonnell favoring offshore drilling and Moran opposing it, for example. Sierra Club will be paying attention to the candidates' position on new coal plants and renewable energy as well.

Please support this important work with as generous a contribution as you can afford.

VIRGINIA CHAPTER POLITICAL ACTION

Yes! I support the Sierra Club's essential political work. Here is my contribution to Sierra Club's Virginia Political Action Committee.

\$100 \$50 \$25 other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ (optional)

E-mail: _____ (optional)

Your Employer: _____ (required by state election laws)

Occupation: _____ (required by state election laws)

Place of Employment: _____ (required by state election laws)

I confirm that the following statements are true and accurate:
I am a U.S. citizen or have a valid green card.
This contribution is made from my own funds, and not those of another.

Please enter me to win a paddle for two on the Mattaponi (no contribution necessary.)

Make Checks payable to: Sierra Club-VA PAC and send to: Sierra Club, 422 E. Franklin Street, Suite 302, Richmond, VA 23219.

Virginia Chapter Annual Gathering

Registration Form

Pocahontas State Park - Chesterfield County
September 18 at 6 p.m through September 20 at 11 a.m.

Registration Fee includes

- Friday night wine/cheese party
- Saturday breakfast
- Saturday meetings
- Saturday banquet/entertainment
- Sunday breakfast
- Sunday Snack

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Cabin Preference - Family Men's Cabin Women's Cabin

I wish to share a cabin with _____

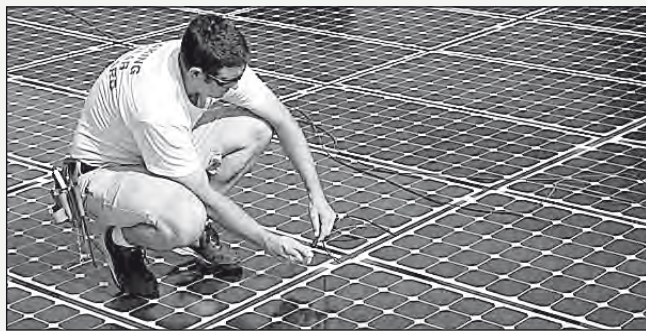
Adult(s) \$80 per person _____

Children (under 12) \$50 per child _____

Total _____

Make checks payable to Virginia Chapter Sierra Club
Mail to Joe Apple, 1946 Winterport Cluster, Reston, VA 20191

The New Economy/Clean Energy



Solar Installation



Wind Turbine Installation



Weatherization

2010 Budget blueprint stresses transformations for energy and the environment

by Jim Gould

In November 2009, Barack Obama was elected President of the United States and inherited the worst economic crisis in generations and the largest deficit in history.

Forced to revive a failing economy threatening the American way of life, the new President and his administration acted rapidly with a series of comprehensive plans that make a clean break from the failed policies of the past.

First exemplified by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, and now with the historic 2010 budget blueprint, President Obama has clearly indicated he wishes to invest in transformational policies that set new priorities for America.

The President's 2010 budget outlines

critical reforms needed in many facets of American society, including healthcare, education, and energy and the environment. Without devaluing other aspects of the budget, it is important to note the budget seeks to fund our transition to a cleaner, greener economy by making polluters pay for their global warming pollution through a cap-and-trade system.

Confident that a cap-and-trade system will be successful, President Obama has already asserted that we will use revenue from the auctioning of CO₂ credits to double America's renewable energy supply in the next three years and provide billions in tax breaks and assistance to Americans who need it most.

Without a doubt, these long awaited changes and transformation investments will stimulate new sources of clean energy, provide

millions of new green jobs, help fight global warming, and end our dependence on oil.

In addition to unprecedented attention to our climate and energy challenges, the President's budget funds wildlife and habitat adaptation efforts, critical international climate programs, and will protect workers and vulnerable communities during the transition away from dirty energy.

The 2010 budget not only restores funding for basic activities, but adds new funding for important environmental initiatives, including:

- 34 percent increase in The Environmental Protection Agency's budget.
- Funding for clean water is doubled and totals nearly \$4 billion.
- \$475 million for invasive species and water pollution control in the Great Lakes.

- \$5 billion, five-year state grant program for high-speed rail
- A dedicated fund to fight wildfires.
- Adaptation funding designed to enable fish, wildlife, and natural systems to survive the impacts of global warming.

Recognizing the immensity of the challenge we face to pass this visionary budget, a diverse group of organizations has joined in a campaign to Rebuild and Renew America Now to support and build upon the President's budget priorities. This coalition represents education, health, labor, faith and environmental interests among many others.

Sierra Club is a member of this coalition. For more information on this coalition effort see: www.rebuildandrenue.org.

Jim Gould is Central Virginia Conservation Coordinator.

Recovery Redefined -- An Incomplete Introduction to Recovery 2.0

by Ron McLinden

We are in recession. By all accounts, it's a different kind of recession, in part because of the degree of global interconnectedness of the economy. Conventional wisdom is that we will "recover" through some unknown series of bailouts and government interventions and fiscal stimuli.

But recover to what? The status quo ante? I think not. I hope not.

Humanity is in a period of extraordinary challenges. As if the economic situation weren't enough, we have global warming as the "slow emergency" that threatens climate stability that human life depends on. And then there's peak oil, plus growing levels of human strife exemplified by the global "war on terror."

Even our economic challenges are greater than generally acknowledged. We have a national debt of \$10 trillion, financed by borrowing from our grandchildren, and also, ironically, from principal economic competitors, notably China. We have a balance of payments imbalance. We have future

Social Security and Medicare liabilities that far exceed anticipated revenue streams. And as if that weren't bad

enough, we have a savings rate in negative territory, and the typical household has a net worth of virtually zero.

Tragically, there's a widely held attitude that government is some separate entity that is fundamentally evil – government should maintain a national defense and pave the roads, and that's about it. "The market" will take care of the rest. Taxes are a taking by government of what rightfully belongs to each of us. After all, we earned it, right?

Wrong.

What is lacking is remembrance of the fundamentals of our government – that it is of, by, and for the people. It's our mechanism for doing things together that we can't do separately, and that the market is not likely to do of its own accord. We need to make peace with government – redefine it as our implement.

We humans have been over-consuming for some time – outstripping the earth's capacity to support us.

But back to recovery.

The key to "recovery," according to some, is to just get people spending again. Consumption

has dropped to something less than the 70 percent of the economy that it has been in recent years, and all we need do is stimulate consumption back to that level.

If we anticipate a recovery in terms of a return to pre-recession economic activity and economic growth, we may be disappointed. In fact, we should be disappointed. We humans have been over-consuming for some time – outstripping the earth's capacity to support us.

What is needed is a redefinition of recovery. It begins with a shift from Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as the principal measure of our national well-being to some other measure or set of measures.

We've been satisfied with GDP as our principal measure for a long time, but a growing GDP doesn't assure that everyone shares in the benefits. Health care continues

to grow as a percentage of GDP -- so does obesity and heart disease and many other chronic diseases and conditions.

What do we really want for ourselves – both our individual selves and our collective self? We want the basics of food / clothing / shelter, of course, but we also want lives that are fulfilling on many levels. (Thinkers such as Abraham Maslow and E. F. Schumacher offer insights on what constitutes fulfillment.)

Components of an Aggregate Domestic Wellbeing index might include infant survival, literacy, educational attainment, etc. If we are really going to "recover," we need to re-define what constitutes recovery. And with that understanding, we need to assure the decisions we make now about how to "stimulate" the economy into recovery are things that will actually be useful in that Recovery 2.0 economy.

Ron McLinden is a member of National Sustainable Consumption Team Activist Network.



Moving towards 21st Century Transportation

by Roger Diedrich

The issue of transportation reform continues to receive attention in Washington and around the country. The Sierra Club has identified Green Transportation as one of six major campaigns for the next 10 years. The campaign's elements, often characterized as three legs of a stool, are:

- Clean, efficient vehicles
- Clean fuels
- Choice in travel mode

All three are needed to achieve the targeted CO₂ reduction goals -- transportation is responsible for a third of U.S. emissions.

The first element will largely be addressed by working for stronger Corporate Average Fuel Economy, or CAFÉ standards, on which positive measures have already been taken. This element could involve a transition to electric vehicles, which are also evolving.

The second element involves the biofuels debate concerning the source and conversion technologies for liquid fuels. This is being addressed by our energy and agriculture activist teams.

The goal of the third "leg of the stool" is to reduce vehicle miles traveled, which is probably the most significant, the longest termed and most complex part of the campaign. The main event for this work is reauthorization of the federal transportation bill, the successor to the original ISTEA bill passed in the early 1990s, which is set to expire in September.

Last year, a broad coalition, Transportation for America (T4A), was formed to promote a strong bill in Congress. Information on T4A can be seen on <http://t4america.org>. Sierra Club staff has held back on joining the group, so to provide encouragement, the Virginia Chapter passed a resolution at its last meeting, urging that the club affiliate with T4A.

Whether we align with T4A or with other allies, the campaign will involve promoting all the tools that smart growth advocates have long supported, from fix it first, better community design, to more

transit and bicycle/pedestrian funding and, as you may have heard, high speed rail.

Local activists should pay attention to land use reforms that will support good transit -- that is something that can't be done at the federal level. Should we get our preferred shift toward more transit and non-motorized project spending, we will want to help direct it to the best projects.

The federal effort may be our opportunity, because making progress in Virginia venues has been very difficult.

Roger Diedrich is Virginia Chapter Smart Growth and Transportation chair

New transmission lines will increase pollution and emissions

by Steven Bruckner

PJM, the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO), operates the bulk wholesale power market for 11 states including Virginia. In 2005, PJM proposed building four long distance high voltage power transmission lines capable of moving vast amounts of power from Western PJM (West Virginia, Ohio and western Pennsylvania) to Eastern PJM (New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware).

These lines would resolve an economic problem of market access from Western PJM, home to underutilized coal power plants that generate cheap power, to Eastern PJM, home to cleaner, more expensive power and increasing demand. This cheaper, dirtier Western power would displace cleaner Eastern power because the RTO selects cheaper power first.

Building these four transmission lines will have a negative environmental impact. Many of these coal-fired power plants pre-date the Clean Air Act of 1990 and lack effective emission controls. They have excess capacity that will enable them to ramp up their production considerably as demand increases. Analysis shows these plants could increase their power output by 18 percent over current levels, which would generate

Court rules permit allowing Dominion to discharge hot water from nuclear power station into Lake Anna invalid

by John Cruickshank

Clean water advocates won a stunning legal victory on February 20 when a Virginia court ruled that the Virginia State Water Control Board violated the U.S. Clean Water Act when it approved a permit allowing Dominion Power to discharge hot water from the nuclear power station into Lake Anna without any temperature limits.

Judge Margaret P. Spencer determined that the so-called hot side of the lake is "waters of the United States" and therefore protected under the Clean Water Act.

The Water Control Board must now go back to the drawing board to evaluate the adverse impacts of hot water from the two reactors to Lake Anna.

This legal appeal of the Virginia Pollution Discharge Permit was organized by the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League with financial and logistical support from the Virginia Sierra Club.

Louis Zeller, science director of the League, said, "We and lakeside residents have long believed that Dominion is guilty of thermal pollution; however, we believe



that the greatest impact of the Richmond court's decision is that the Commonwealth and the people must reject the permitting of a third reactor at our endangered Lake Anna."

Local environmentalists have long been concerned about lake temperatures that have risen as high as 106 degrees F. during the summer months. The North Anna Power Station has put a tremendous strain on the water resources of the entire York River Watershed. This decision will help protect the health and safety of people living in this region.

John Cruickshank is the Vice-Chair of the Virginia Chapter.

an additional 66 billion kWh of power and 64 million tons of CO₂. This is equivalent to the output of 15 new coal-fired power plants.

Sierra Club's national coal campaign seeks to derail construction of any proposed new coal power plants. Because building these transmission lines will cause as much environmental harm as building 15 new coal power plants, Sierra Club's legal team has filed an *amicus* brief in Pennsylvania state court which argues that the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) approval of TrAIL, one of the four lines, was unlawful. In addition, the legal team is planning to oppose the PATH line, which will be submitted to West Virginia's PUC in the next month or two.

A complicating factor is that the Obama Administration is promoting high voltage long distance transmission lines to move renewables-generated power from rural regions, where it is generated, to load centers, where it is consumed. Wind power from the Great Plains would be transmitted to the East Coast over these lines.

Coal utilities are now claiming their proposed power lines are for *moving wind-generated electricity*. The Sierra Club is working to influence legislation to avoid the harmful impact of transmission lines built for green power being co-opted by dirty coal power.

The superior alternative Virginia Chapter Sierra Club is promoting to these long distance transmission lines is *local* renewable energy, which, for the East Coast, is offshore wind. There is more than enough high-quality cost-effective offshore wind to meet all of our power needs and would only need short transmission lines to bring the power into the PJM grid.

Steven Bruckner is Virginia Chapter Conservation chair.



GRASSROOTS ACTIVISTS NEWS FROM the GROUPS



Photo by John Cruickshank

Citizens rally and go to court to save Charlottesville's McIntire Park

by John Cruickshank

McIntire Park is the "central park" of Charlottesville. For many years it has been enjoyed by hikers, birdwatchers, golfers, softball players and young swimmers. Now, developers and business people in the area are attempting to build a road in this park to facilitate the flow of traffic through the city between Rt. 29 N, Rt. 250 E, and I-64.

The Piedmont Group, long a defender of the park, argues that transportation money could be better spent on bike paths, pedestrian crosswalks, and public transit. We believe this beautiful area of green space is irreplaceable.

Last summer the Piedmont Group helped form the Coalition to Preserve McIntire Park. We retained attorneys and are going to court to prevent construction of the Meadow Creek Parkway through McIntire Park. Our case is based on Article VII, Section 9 of the Virginia Constitution, the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 4(f) of the 1966 Transportation Act, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.



Volunteers with Hopewell Clean Air Network getting ready to go door-to-door in City Point neighborhood.

Photo by Jim Gould

It is clear that VDOT and local government have segmented this transportation project in an attempt to evade some of the laws that protect public parkland in our country.

We believe we can save this beautiful natural area in the heart of Charlottesville, but litigation is expensive and it will cost thousands of dollars to win our case in court. Anyone who would like to help should contact John Cruickshank at (434) 973-0373 or jcrucickshank4@gmail.com.

John Cruickshank is the Chair of the Piedmont Group.

Hopewell Clean Air Network reaches out to citizens as it takes on rising pollution levels

by Jim Gould

Recent information from the Toxic Release Inventory indicates air pollution levels in Hopewell have risen steadily between 2003 and 2007. The most recent data, collected in 2007, indicates 5,801,459 pounds of pollution were released into Hopewell's air, making it the third most polluted municipality in the Commonwealth. Despite this staggering statistic, citizens in Hopewell are determined to improve air quality in their beloved city.

The Hopewell Clean Air Network (CAN) has been campaigning in the city since June 2008. Recent reports released by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have led to significant increases in the group's activity.

In addition to the recent release of the Toxic Release Inventory, DEQ finished a two year special air toxics study which seeks to identify the health risks chemicals in Hopewell's air pose to local residents. Although preliminary results indicated that 96 percent of the air sampled did not exceed state regulatory levels, many experts and



Student discards are piled in a U or R parking lot awaiting transfer to Milhiser Gymnasium where they will be priced and displayed. Photo by Diana Parker

University of Richmond student discards to be recycled May 16 at Big Yard Sale

by Tamara Smith

Items gently removed from dumping sights around the University of Richmond campus will be offered for sale to the public on Saturday, May 16 from 8 a.m. until 12 noon. Falls of the James Group and the University of Richmond Sierra Club Student Coalition partnered with Renew Organization will sell these treasures left behind as students leave campus.

The purpose? Salvaging books, furniture, linens, household items, food, shoes, and clothing and turning them over to the public for a small price. Otherwise, bulldozers and waste management trucks would soon arrive and haul the items to a public landfill.

Falls of the James Group has managed this recycle sale for more than 10 years and every year it becomes a larger, more productive event, last year rewarding the groups more than \$10 thousand, split among campus groups and FOJ Group. Food bank and various churches also benefit from the leftover salvaged items.

To catch this Big Yard Sale in action drop by the U of R Campus on Monday, May 11 and witness the army of spirited Sierrans as they accept donations, separate out the salvageable and deliver the items to Milhiser gymnasium, where they are sorted and arranged in preparation for public sale. *Tamara Smith is fundraising chair of Falls of the James Group.*

GROUP DIRECTORY

Groups are organized to conduct the work of the Sierra Club in local areas, cities and towns. Groups in Virginia include:

- Blue Ridge:** Tom Eick
434 277-5491; teick@ntelos.net
- Chesapeake Bay:** Fred Adams
757/467-2775; warbler2@cox.net
- Falls of the James:** John Zeugner
804-288-5005; jjzeugner@comcast.net
- Great Falls:** Linda Freimark
703/222-9240; lindyf@cox.net
- Mount Vernon:** Mary Kadera
703/684-2004; marykadera@gmail.com
- New River:** Maria Bowling
540-639-5290; maria.bowling@gmail.com
- Piedmont:** John Cruickshank
434/973-0373; jcrucickshank4@gmail.com
- Rappahannock:** Doris Whitfield
540-775-7856; dalw@va.metrocast.net
- Roanoke:** Bill Modica
modicabill2@aol.com
- Shenandoah:** Ralph Grove
540/433-1323; ralph.grove@alumni.perdue.edu
- Sierra Club Potomac Region Outings (SCPRO):**
Michael Darzi, 301/580-9387; Michael.Darzi@saic.com
- Thunder Ridge:** Brian Jablonski
434/384-1213; brj2a@virginia.edu
- York River:** Tyla Matteson, 804/275-6476
tmatteson1@mindspring.com

This year's General Assembly session lasted just over six weeks, convening on January 14 and ending on February 28. The day-long veto session, allowing the House and Senate to accept or reject the Governor's amendments to passed legislation, was April 8.

This was an important year to pass energy efficiency legislation in the Commonwealth. A lot of attention has been given to this subject with the Fall 2008 release of the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) Virginia report.

The report focused on reducing electrical consumption through efficiency measures, the recommendations from the Governor's Commission on Climate Change to establish mandatory efficiency goals, and the efficiency education campaign coordinated by the Wise Energy for Virginia Coalition.

The Virginia Chapter Sierra Club, along with other members of the conservation community, worked diligently to influence decision-makers to support beneficial energy efficiency policies.

Although the end result from the session represents slow progress for energy efficiency in Virginia, the chapter applauds the General Assembly members who sponsored and supported legislation that addressed needed policies to move the Commonwealth towards a more sustainable, economically viable energy future.

Sierra Club staff and members worked on the following bills, to support or defeat.

Bills Passed to Become Law

Supported

HB2506, sponsored by Del. Albert Pollard



and SB1248, sponsored by Sen. Ralph Northam allows electrical utilities to earn a general rate of return on energy efficiency programs. These bills establish the foundation of the framework needed for strong, future energy efficiency policies.

Opposed

SB1347, sponsored by Sen. Frank Wagner and HB2175, sponsored by Del. Clarke Hogan establishes a general permit procedure for renewable energy projects that generate up to 100mW of electricity. Although the chapter supports renewable energy projects, 100mW projects are massive and we believe such large projects should consider environmental implications through an individual permitting requirement.

Supported

SB1339, sponsored by Sen. Mark Herring increases the voluntary Renewable Portfolio

Standard (RPS) in Virginia from 12 percent to 15 percent. The chapter supports a mandatory RPS for Virginia.

Supported

HB1918, sponsored by Del. Anne Crockett Stark and SB865, by Sen. John Edwards requires a solid waste permit to authorize placement of coal combustion ash in a 100-year flood plain.

Supported

HB 1836, Del. Edward Toscano: regulates pesticide application in public schools using integrated pest management guidelines.

Supported

SB 988, Sen. Charles Colgan and HB 2422, Del. Joe May: electronic voting machines may only be used on a temporary basis.

Bills Defeated

Supported : SB1447, Sen. Donald McEachin: omnibus energy efficiency bill.

Opposed

HB 1633, Del. Chris Saxman: off-shore drilling royalties.

Supported

HB2202, Del. Margi Vanderhuy: mandatory green house gas inventory.

Opposed

SJ396, Del. Mark Obenshain: resolution which would stall taking action on climate change.

Supported

SB926, Sen. Creigh Deeds: bipartisan re-districting.

Supported

SB1239, Sen. George Barker: pedestrian rights at intersections.

Expectations for 2010 Session

A new House of Delegates will be elected November 10 in the general election and the chapter will work towards electing an environmental majority. We anticipate a continued state-level energy debate as national policies shift.

For further information pertaining to specific bills, your representatives' voting record or how to get involved in the chapter's legislative activities, please contact Legislative Chair Tyla Matteson at tmatteson1@mindspring.com or chapter staff Jayme Hill at jayme.hill@sierraclub.org.

The Virginia Legislative Information System can be accessed at www.legis.state.va.us.

Jayme Hill is Virginia Chapter Assistant Director Legislation and Development

Virginia convenes panel on coal combustion waste

by David Bernard

When news of the burst TVA dam that spilled millions of gallons of coal ash slurry into the Emory River in Tennessee came to Debra Miller, Solid Waste Manager for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), she knew what was ahead for 2009.

The United States burns about a billion tons of coal as year and that leaves about 120 million tons of coal combustion waste (CCW).

DEQ had already committed to a revision of CCW rules in recognition of emerging problems. Existing regulations essentially allow coal ash to be used like dirt in many construction applications, a totally unacceptable situation given the proven level of toxic metals in CCW and the many project failures. Coal ash must be sequestered so that water does not pass through it.

I recently joined 11 others on a Coal Combustion Byproduct (CCB, the industry's preferred term for CCW) Regulatory

Advisory Panel (RAP.) We had the first of at least five meetings on March 24. Issues to be considered include:

- Defining "amended CCB" in response to the passage of HB1918 and SB865, which prohibit unamended CCB's from being placed in 100 year floodplains.
- Developing a process for DEQ to permit and inspect CCB fill projects. They are currently "self-regulating."
- Developing a program to inventory, evaluate and possibly rework existing CCB sites. This is very important given the vulnerability of the Giles County floodplain site to inundation or water penetration and the problems (now in litigation) associated with the Battlefield Golf Course in Hampton Roads.

Seventeen sites have been built since regulations went into place in 1993. DEQ has no record of CCB sites from 1749-1993, and Virginians would be well-served if such a record were developed, so far as is possible. These sites will come into play as

they are redeveloped. Some may be causing problems in groundwater now.

- The protection of karst, or cave, terrain from CCW.
- Extending floodplain prohibitions to the 500-year floodplain.
- Setbacks from wells, schools, licensed daycare centers, and dwellings.
- The role of public participation in permitting and siting CCB projects.

The Environmental Integrity Project developed a set of guidelines that encompass these and other concerns and presented them to the EPA. It is essential CCW be secured in a permanent fashion in order to prevent water from entering the fill site.

CCBRAP meetings are open to the public. There is a limited opportunity for visitors to state their interest in the proceedings. Contact me or the DEQ if you are interested in attending.

David Bernard, chapter water quality chair, can be reached at david@aquariusplumbing.com

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Ready to join the Local Food Movement?

People worldwide are rediscovering the benefits of buying local food. It is fresher than anything in the supermarket and that means it is tastier and more nutritious. It is also good for the local economy--buying directly from family farmers helps them stay in business.

How you can become a part of the local food movement:

- Turn your lawn into a vegetable garden or join a community gardening program.
- Start a community garden program if there isn't one in your area.
- Eat more vegetables--a heavy meat diet creates more greenhouse gases.
- Can your foods and throw a "preserve party" to swap foods.
- Create a group to glean local farm fields of unharvested crops and take them to the



food bank or homeless shelter.

- Look for farmers markets, roadside stands to do your buying.
- Join a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) by making a financial commitment to a farm and receiving a weekly basket of produce.
- Form an organic food- buying club.
- Throw potlucks, with an emphasis on organic and locally-grown foods.

Thanks to *Organic Consumers.org*



Hikers from the Piedmont group pause in Shenandoah National Park. This hike was led by Janet Hunter of the Blue Ridge Group who leads hikes in the Charlottesville area every month. (l. to r.) Rosalie Bellanca, Tony Bellanca, Janet Hunter, Eileen Seaman, Liz Young, Dan Rappert. Photo by John Cruickshank

Help protect natural wonders and ecological integrity of GW National Forest

by Sherman Bamford

At 1.1 million acres, Virginia's George Washington National Forest is the largest National Forest in the eastern United States. The GW stretches along both sides of the Shenandoah Valley, and can be reached in less than two hours from both Washington D.C. and Richmond.

For the past two years the Forest Service has been developing a new plan for managing the George Washington National Forest. We are entering what may be the final stages before the Forest Service develops a draft plan and accompanying analytical report. The draft is expected to be released as early as May, 2009.

Sierra Club members and our friends in the conservation community have been working diligently to make sure the new forest plan is environmentally sound. The Forest Service needs to hear from all of us.

Let the Forest Planning Team know you care about our national forest and you expect the new plan to protect the ecological integrity of our forest. Ask the planners to:

- Provide an Environmental Impact Statement for the new forest plan.
- Plan for climate change by protecting core wilderness and roadless areas, reducing forest fragmentation and decreasing and eliminating other stresses such as logging, road building and oil and gas leasing.
- Protect all existing old growth tracts
- Protect all watersheds especially those that directly supply drinking water.
- Protect all "Special Biological Areas."
- Protect the habitat and population viability of all endangered, threatened and rare



Rock formation in Walker Mountain treasure area. Photo by Sherman Bamford

species--especially the Wood Turtle, the Cow Knob Salamander, and the Black-throated Green Warbler.

- Identify all qualified "roadless areas."
- Protect all areas identified in the Virginia's Mountain Treasures publication by designating them as unsuitable for timber harvest, new road building and surface-occupying oil and gas drilling.
- Protect the Shenandoah Mountain Area for its unique ecological and recreational attributes.

Comments can be submitted to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/forestplan/revision/contact.shtml>, Forest Supervisor Hyzer, George Washington National Forest, Attn. Plan Revision, 5162 Valleypointe Pkwy., Roanoke, VA 24019.

EPA to review new mountain top removal coal mines' permits

The Environmental Protection Agency announced in late March it will review the issuance of new permits for mountaintop removal coal mines. The announcement comes just over one month after a controversial Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals decision that paved the way for more than 100 additional mountaintop removal mining permits.

That decision left the permitting of mountaintop removal mines up to the Army Corps of Engineers, but this recent action will protect Appalachian communities and hundreds of miles of streams.

Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director, said, "We applaud EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson for her timely decision to intervene and review the most destructive form of coal mining. With the bulldozers and dynamite standing by, the Obama administration has taken decisive action to protect the streams, mountains and communities of Appalachia."

"Already close to 2,000 miles of streams have been contaminated or destroyed by mountaintop removal coal mining, and communities throughout the Appalachian region suffer daily from contaminated drinking water, increased flooding, and a decimated landscape."

"Reviewing the permits will stop the bleeding, and now EPA should begin to fix the Bush-era regulatory loopholes that made mountaintop removal possible. We thank the community activists who have fought long and hard to protect their mountains and to ensure a sustainable future for Appalachia."



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Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Along the trail on Walker Mountain treasure area

Photo by Sherman Bamford

Three Tour de Cut hikes planned this year

by Sherman Bamford

The Tour de Cut, a series of hiking events sponsored by the Virginia Chapter Sierra Club and other groups, is an educational event for all who want to learn more about how to protect our public lands. This year, we will feature three hikes.

May 30

Back Draft and Walker Mountain (Bath and Augusta Counties)

Walker Mountain is a long forested ridge above the Calfpasture River. We will hike the Back Draft Trail and a trail along the scenic crest of the mountain. The area is threatened by a timber sale and logging road.

Other logging projects are planned in or near the 32,000 acre Jerkentight-Benson Run Mountain Treasure areas to the north. (if interested in these other areas, please contact Sherman Bamford for possible additional forays into these areas.)

Hike difficulty - moderate. 920 feet elevation gain.

Length - approximately 5 miles

Meeting time and location - Depart at 10 a.m.. May 30 from Holiday Inn parking lot north of Staunton, Va. At Interstate 81, Exit 225, go north on Rt. 275. Signs to Holiday Inn are on the right side of the road a short distance from this exit. We plan to return by 5 p.m.

June 20

North Mountain Trail (Shenandoah County)

We'll hike a ridgetop trail surrounded by spectacular views of the northern Shenandoah Valley. Enjoy high grassy ridges, rock formations of a variety of colors and sizes, and wooded groves atop North Mountain.

The trail overlooks the site of the planned 22 cutting units of the Laurel Run/

Road timber sale. Other industrial development is proposed on the ridge where we will walk, and other areas to the south.

Hike difficulty - Easy with one short moderate section. Occasional small ups and downs along the ridgeline, one section with an elevation gain of 300 feet over 1/4 mile.

Length - approximately 5 miles

Meeting time and location - Depart at 9:30 a.m. June 20 at the Shenandoah County Library parking lot. At Interstate 81, Exit 279, go east (towards Edinburg). The library is on the left side of this road a short distance from the exit. We plan to return by 4:30 p.m.

August 29

Mountain Lake Wilderness and the Potts Mountain Trail (Giles County)

Come out and celebrate the addition of approximately 5,400 acres to the Mountain Lake Wilderness, north of Blacksburg. On March 30, President Obama signed legisla-

tion protecting 53,000 acres of new wilderness and national scenic areas in southwest Virginia. We will hike parts of the Potts Mountain Trail. Size of the group limited to 10 people. If interested, contact Sherman Bamford to sign up.

Hike difficulty - moderate.

Length - approximately 5 miles.

Meeting time and location - Meet at 9 a.m. at the Eastern Divide Ranger District Office, Blacksburg, located at 110 Southpark Dr., off South Main St., north of the intersection of Business 460 (South Main) and U.S. 460.

Sherman Bamford is Virginia Chapter Forests chair. He can be reached at 540-343-6359 or bamford2@verizon.net.

Virginia Ridge and Valley Act passes

by Sherman Bamford

On March 30, President Barack Obama signed legislation which included designating almost 43,000 acres as Wilderness and more than 10,000 acres as National Scenic Areas in Virginia's Jefferson National Forest.

The Virginia Chapter of Sierra Club was one of several conservation groups taking a leading role in shepherding the bill through Congress.

The bill establishes six new wilderness areas, a wilderness study area, and two new scenic areas, and will expand six existing wilderness areas in the Jefferson National Forest.

The Virginia Ridge and Valley Act had broad bi-partisan support including a majority of the Virginia congressional delegation, current and past governors of Virginia, Virginia Tourism Corporation, local businesses, faith groups, Garden Club of Virginia, and International Mountain Bicycling Association.



The trek to Muktinath can be so inspirational as to change a life as related in the outings article by Joe Apple.

OUTINGS

by Joe Apple

Outings, travel sometimes life-changing events

A number of years ago I ran across the saying, "Be careful where you go on vacation because it may change your life." Little did I know that would be true for me.

We reach a stage in our life when we think if I don't do it now, I never will. I reached that stage in 2000 and found myself on a Sierra Club outing to Nepal.

We started the outing by visiting the main square in Katmandu where I saw an infant left by itself while the mother begged for money. Then, we flew to Jomson through Pokhara where we began our trek up to Muktinath to see the pilgrimage temple. Finally, we trekked to Baglung where we boarded a bus to the Chitwan Jungle.

While hiking to Muktinath, I encountered the perfect day. The trail began in Kagbeni and wound through a number of small villages to Muktinath. Although a magnificent mountain confronted me throughout the trek, I kept thinking about the infant and how its life was substantially different than in the United States. Throughout the remainder of the trip I kept observing the industriousness of the Nepalese and continued thinking about that infant.

Later, I was reading a book about mountain climbing in Nepal. One of its appendices listed organizations that helped people located throughout the Himalayas. One organization is the American Himalayan Foundation. On its website www.himalayan-foundation.org I read the projects it supports. Immediately, one of them touched my soul -- the Rural Health Services Trust that educates young girls in rural Nepal. Young girls in rural Nepal are sold to traffickers by their families and sent to brothels in India. Educating the young girls gives them value to their families so they will not be sold. So far the American Himalayan Foundation has educated 6,000 girls. Not one has been sold into prostitution.

I am my grandfather's grandson. He spent his life educating college women during a time when it was not a high priority in the United States. In my humble way, I hope I can help achieve a similar goal in Nepal.

Go on a Sierra Club outing. You never know what/who you'll save.

Politics matters

Sierra Club sends survey on environment to Virginia gubernatorial candidates

by Glen Besa

On June 9, Virginians will go to the polls to vote in the Democratic Primary for their nominees for Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General. Republicans will select their nominees at their convention the end of May.

Sierra Club invited all four major candidates for Governor, three Democrats -- Creigh Deeds, Terry McAuliffe and Brian Moran -- and Republican Bob McDonnell, to submit answers to an environmental survey. Regrettably, Bob McDonnell elected not to respond, but on these pages you will find the three Democrats' statements on the major environmental issues facing Virginia.

The next Governor could be charting our course to a clean energy future or defending the coal industry until sea level rise is swallowing Virginia Beach.

The next governor could actually make a real difference in cleaning up the Chesapeake rather than merely using the Bay as a back drop for a photo op.

The next Governor could ensure the embarrassing boondoggle, otherwise known as the King William Reservoir, is finally laid to rest by standing up to the developers in Newport News and the Peninsula.

It is up to us who that next Governor is. As we close in on the Republican and Democratic nominations, take the time to go out and see the candidates and ask the tough questions. We hope our survey will guide you in making that important decision.

Sierra Club's Endorsement Process

Sierra Club is fundamentally a democratic organization. As members, you elect our

National Board of Directors and state chapter and local group executive committees.

Our candidate endorsement process is an open and democratic process, as well. Before we endorse any new candidate for public office he/she must complete a candidate questionnaire and submit to an interview. Incumbents with strong environmental records who we endorsed before do not need to complete a questionnaire or be interviewed. All other candidates must participate in our endorsement process.

That process requires a two-thirds vote of two entities of the Sierra Club. If a candidate for Governor earns our endorsement this year, two-thirds of the chapter political committee and two-thirds of the chapter executive committee will have given that candidate their support. For House of Delegate races, the local group executive committee or the chapter political committee and executive committee must vote, again by a two-thirds majority.

Once a candidate has our endorsement, he or she may inform the public of the endorsement. Sierra Club notifies members urging them to support that candidate. If we have sufficient funds, we can contribute money and staff time to an endorsed candidate's campaign. We can do mailings and phone banks notifying you of our endorsements.

That's where your PAC contributions to the Sierra Club go. The chair of the Virginia Chapter's political committee is Tyla Matteson. If you have questions, reach her at 804-275-6476 or tmatteson1@mindspring.com. See *mail-in form on page 3 to make your contribution*.

R. Creigh Deeds



From my experiences growing up on a farm, to being a ranger at Douthat State Park, to my fight to clean up the Kim-Stan Landfill, I am passionate about enjoying and preserving Virginia's environment. I have taught my children and focused legislative efforts on promoting good stewardship of our natural resources and our need to address the fundamental moral issue of our generation: the pollution of our air and water and destruction of our climate.

What measures would you promote to address climate change in Virginia?

As a member of Gov. Kaine's Climate Change commission, I have endorsed the many measures undertaken through our work. I believe we must promote conservation as well as be on the cutting edge of technology development to address climate change.

I successfully fought to require all new and renovated state-owned facilities meet LEED standards. As Governor, I will establish a bold new collaborative effort between our research institutions that will harness our natural resources to improve upon existing technologies and develop new ones to reduce Virginia's dependence on foreign oil and other fossil fuels.

What changes in transportation and land use policy would you propose to promote smarter growth and prevent sprawl development?

In 1999, I wrote and passed Virginia's land preservation tax credit program -- one of the most progressive environmental protection laws in the country. Since its passage, more than 100,000 acres have been preserved.

I continue to push for legislation I introduced during the 2008 special session on transportation to encourage telecommuting, flextime and alternative transportation to ease congestion. And I will look forward to integrate land use and transportation policy, and promote mass transit and rail.

What policies would you implement to reverse the declining health of the Chesapeake Bay?

Implementation of [Climate Change commission](#) recommendations will assist with improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay. As a legislator, I have supported any idea that increases the success of cleaning up the Bay. I have supported increasing penalties on polluters as well as finding additional sources of revenue to support Bay cleanup. As governor, I will continue to be

an advocate for accelerating Chesapeake Bay cleanup.

What is your position on each of these energy policy issues facing Virginia? (support or oppose.)

New coal fired power plants in Virginia

I believe in the goal to rid our society of the dependence upon fossil fuels and have fought to incentivize businesses to create and consumers to use any number of alternative energy sources. I also believe we must be realistic about the sources of energy available to our generation of consumers. I support continued research and development of carbon sequestration technology.

New nuclear reactors in Virginia

SUPPORT

Drilling for oil and gas off the Virginia coast

I believe that drilling for oil and gas off Virginia's shores should only be done if it can be done without negative impact to the environment and if Virginia receives financial compensation.

Uranium mining in Virginia

I have supported a responsible and updated study of the issues surrounding uranium mining, but I remain skeptical that the vast uranium sources in Virginia could be mined safely.

Renewable energy

I support this and speak about it extensively on the campaign trail.

The PATH and TrAIL transmission lines in Northern Virginia

OPPOSE

Mountaintop removal coal mining

I am very concerned about the environmental impact of steep slope mining and have always supported requirements to return steep slopes to their original shape upon completion of coal removal.

To contact Creigh Deeds, go to www.deedsforvirginia.com or call 434-202-8931, or write "Deeds for Virginia" Campaign Headquarters, P.O. Box 5462, Charlottesville, VA 22905.



Some Virginia politicians have been responsible for prolonging the fight to save the beautiful Mattaponi River from destruction by development of an unnecessary reservoir. See story page 1. Photo by Garrie Rouse

Terry McAuliffe

We need to protect our environment and make the investments in clean energy that represent the future for Virginia. The strategic investments we make right now in the clean energy sector will create thousands of good jobs for Virginians and help to reverse the harmful effects of climate change. I've



spent my life building businesses, turning around struggling ones, and volunteering for the Democratic causes that I believe in. I am confident that we can do right by the environment and position Virginia for future economic success, but it will take strong leadership and bold ideas that don't always come from Richmond. And I believe we need to start planning now. My Business Plan for Virginia contains incentives for renewable power generation, investments in efficiency measures, and other demand-reducing technologies, including incentives for innovative clean technologies that produce energy from biomass, such as chicken waste.

What Measures Would You Promote to Address Climate Change in Virginia?

We need to take aggressive action to combat climate change. Not only is it the right thing to do by our environment—failing to act will have devastating economic consequences, especially for Virginia's coastal communities. A necessary first step is to institute a mandatory renewable portfolio standard (RPS) of 25 percent by 2025, which would make Virginia's RPS competitive with other states in the region. I was the first candidate for Governor to call for such a mandatory standard.

What Changes in Transportation and Land Use Policy would you Propose to Promote Smarter Growth and Prevent Sprawl Development?

As Governor, I will encourage smarter growth and responsible land use. As we address our transportation problems, we need to shift the focus to more efficient ways of moving people and goods, like high-speed passenger rail from Northern Virginia to Richmond and Hampton Roads, light rail in our local communities, freight rail along the I-81 corridor, and other intermodal transport.

What Policies Would you Implement to Reverse the Declining Health of the Chesapeake Bay?

The Chesapeake Bay is one of our most precious natural resources. As Governor, I will work with the Obama administration and our neighboring states to set short-term, reachable goals to protect the Bay. We can also do more by supporting win-win technologies that reduce nutrient runoff from poultry manure and create economic value.

What is your Position on each of these energy policy issues facing Virginia? New Coal Fired Power Plants and New Nuclear Reactors in Virginia

Virginia should focus on reducing demand for energy and investing in clean, renewable sources of energy such as wind and solar, before building new coal-fired power plants or nuclear facilities.

Drilling for Oil and Gas off the Virginia Coast

I support Virginia's current bipartisan policy of exploratory drilling for natural gas only.

Uranium Mining in Virginia

I will not support mining for uranium if doing so poses significant health or safety risks. I look forward to reviewing the results of the scientific study ordered by the General Assembly subcommittee.

Renewable Energy

I want Virginia to be a national leader in developing renewable technologies. I will make a top priority of my administration to attract clean energy companies to Virginia and to encourage communities and individuals to invest in renewable energy.

The PATH and TrAIL transmission Lines in Northern Virginia

We should invest in efficiency and renewable energy in order to eliminate the need for divisive fights over large transmission lines.

Mountaintop Removal

I have serious concerns about the environmental impacts of mountaintop removal of coal.

To contact Terry McAuliffe, go to www.terrymcauliffe.com or call 571-633-4800 or write "Friends of Terry McAuliffe," P.O. Box 778, McLean, VA 22101.

Brian Moran

My Green Virginia Plan will fight global warming, protect our precious natural resources, and create tens of thousands of green jobs. I believe we must invest in energy efficiency, renewables, and innovation in energy technology. We can't solve 21st century challenges with 19th century fossil fuels. I am the only candidate for governor to oppose offshore drilling and the proposed coal mega-plant in Surry County.



What Measures Would You Promote to Address Climate Change in Virginia?

I have the boldest plan to address climate change and preserve our environment for the next generation. I was the first candidate for governor to support a 25 percent mandatory Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) by 2025, requiring a quarter of our energy come from renewable sources.

I am the only candidate for governor who has called for electric decoupling, because we should be compensating utilities for increasing efficiency, not just more generation.

Finally, I fought in the legislature for Green buildings and I am the only candidate committed to all new state buildings to be built to LEED green building standards.

What Changes in Transportation and Land Use Policy would you Propose to Promote Smarter Growth and Prevent Sprawl Development?

We must focus on smart growth, creating livable communities and reduce the number of cars on our roads. I support high-speed rail, increasing mass transit and passenger rail and developing density around mass transit through transit-oriented development.

I will increase land conservation by incentivizing urban redevelopment and expanding the Land Preservation Tax Credit.

What Policies Would you Implement to Reverse the Declining Health of the Chesapeake Bay?

I will make protecting the Bay a priority. The first step is stopping the proposed coal mega-plant in Surry County, which would dump thousands of tons of pollutants into the Bay and its tributaries. These pollutants, and the destruction of wetlands necessary to construct the Surry Plant, would further devastate the Bay. I stand alone among the candidates in opposition to the Surry Plant.

What is your Position on each of these energy policy issues facing Virginia? New Coal Fired Power Plants in Virginia

I am the only candidate to oppose the proposed coal mega-plant in Surry County.

New Nuclear Reactors in Virginia

My Green Virginia Plan does not include nuclear energy and I don't believe it should be our primary focus.

Drilling for Oil and Gas off the Virginia Coast

I am the only candidate to oppose offshore drilling. While some claim to be against drilling for oil, but support drilling for gas, there is no practical distinction between the two. There is no known way to exclusively drill for gas.

Uranium Mining in Virginia

I do not support uranium mining unless it is found to be absolutely safe. This requires an independently-funded and conducted study. Unlike my opponents, I do not believe that industry funded studies are credible.

Renewable Energy

I was the first candidate to call for a 25 percent mandatory RPS by 2025, to produce a quarter of our energy needs from renewable sources. I have proposed creating a Center for Innovative Green Technology to provide funding for green energy companies and Energy Technology Parks to spur innovation. I support revolving loan funds and renewable energy tax credits to strengthen the green energy economy.

The PATH and TrAIL transmission Lines in Northern Virginia

We should look at energy efficiency first before increasing production and building more transmission lines.

Mountaintop Removal

I support President Obama's decision to review these permits to evaluate the impact of mountaintop removal on our rivers and streams.

To contact Brian Moran go to <http://www.brianmoran.com> or call 703-370-3770 or write "Virginians for Brian Moran" Alexandria Office, 4154 Duke Street, Alexandria VA 22304.

Blue Green Alliance tries to dispel false dichotomies

by Brian Morrissey

Only when the banner proclaiming Sierra Club endorsement of the Employee Free Choice Act unfurled did it begin to dawn on me what the Good Jobs/Green Jobs Conference, sponsored by the Blue-Green Alliance, was all about. Several of us from the Great Falls Group had come to the conference in Washington D.C in February.

An Alliance of Labor and Environmentalists

But the full realization of *why* we were there didn't sink in until the next day, when I realized, while seated in the convention hall surrounded by thousands of people, that the *Blue* of the U.S. Trade Union movement had joined with the *Green* of the environmental movement in an alliance to advocate for good paying green jobs, as America forges towards a new, green economy.

Imagine that. Hadn't U.S. labor unions taken positions in the past that only served their members' short-term economic interests while acquiescing in the plundering of the Earth's resources? Hadn't the environmental movement fought the trade unions on the health of the environment? Could the two really transcend their subjective

attachments and vested interests to forge a new symbiosis that would strengthen both causes?

Addressing the conference, Leo Gerard, president of the United Steelworkers' Union, made the case that U.S. corporate and business leadership offer a false choice when it claims workers can't have both good-paying jobs and green jobs. The business leaders seek either to have taxes, regulations and pricey retrofits that would cap carbon emissions and other pollutants stripped away, or to have workers accept lower wages and lay-offs.

Leo argued you can have both, in fact the best way out of the current economic mess, triggered by the collapse of financial markets, is precisely by having good jobs and green jobs building a new Green Economy.

The problem for Leo – and for all of us – is that this false dichot-

Could the two really transcend their subjective attachments and vested interests to forge a new symbiosis that would strengthen both causes?

omy is not being offered as eye-wash. It is being offered because that is what the corporate leaders themselves believe. It is a problem of consciousness, and reasoning. It is a problem of seeing the world in opposing dichotomies (the environment versus the economy; business interests versus labor wages, etc.), to explain change and movement.

The historical rift between owner and employee is a result of thinking in terms of false dichotomies -- "Either suppress wages, or ruin business."

At the Good Jobs/Green Jobs Conference, we had the opportunity to glimpse beyond the dichotomy. Perhaps it was the interaction between trade union members and

environmentalists. Perhaps it was the eloquent speakers from both sides who share a passion for sustain-

ability and protecting the environment.

Or, perhaps it was the overarching theme uniting us, the emphatic *Yes, we can*. We were celebrating change to an Administration supportive of pro-environment, pro-labor policies.

The conference was an uplifting experience. I felt the train to the new Green Economy was about to leave the station and we were all on board. But, at the same time, something – or someone -- was missing. If the train is ready to leave the "old" failed economy, there has to be an alliance of more than Blue and Green. What is the color for the American business class, the owners, capitalists, Republicans? Is it Silver? Gold? Purple?

Spirit of Unity Musn't Dissipate

The Employee Free Choice Act was the prized piece of legislature championed at the conference. Now that its passage in the Congress is in jeopardy, the spirit of unity that America so desperately needs to power the train is dissipating. If the train is really to leave the station to power a new Green Economy, it will have to have more colors than Blue and Green.



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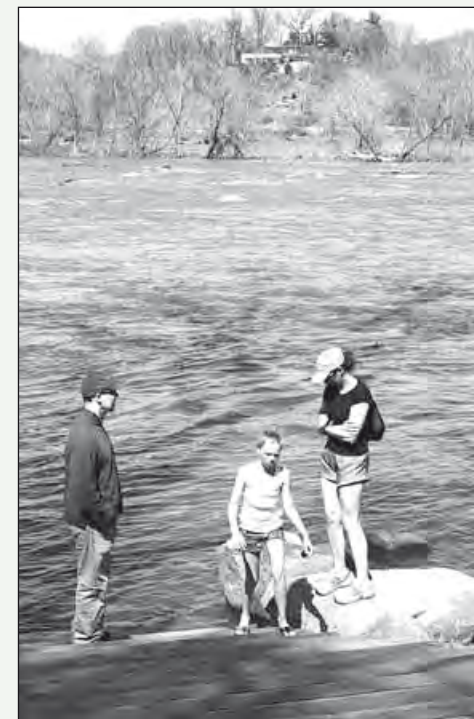
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James River Park



A family enjoys a warm spring day at the Pony Pasture, a section of the miles-long James River Park in Richmond. The park was recently given a conservation easement, the first publicly owned land in Virginia to be placed in permanent protection. See story on page 2. Photo by Barbara Null