

## Feelin' Hot, Hot, Hot!

Even though the weather wasn't always so hot, the MOC spiced it up this March with some sizzlin' new events.

### Hiking and Hottubs

Organizer: Amy Pickwick

Picture this: a vaulted-ceiling den with massive windows, wood burning fireplace, loft with a computer and internet access, basement with basketball, football, foosball, bumper pool, air hockey, a big screen TV, not to mention the other many TVs, VCRs, and CD player, a lake view, a bathroom (one of 4) with a jetted tub and massive glass shower, a grill, a washer & dryer, and a kitchen loaded with all the amenities. Add an 8-person hottub with neon blue lighting and the view of the moon and stars, and a group of MOC members, and you have the home base for Hiking and Hottubs at Deep Creek Lake. Hijinks ensued both in and out of the jacuzzi as members hiked, played games, ate, drank, and generally made merry. The relative merits of cinnamon roll placement were debated, compromising photographs were taken, and there was even some hiking. A great, relaxing weekend getaway.



Yes, Virginia, there really was hiking at Hiking and Hottubs; Members mug for the camera while awaiting a lively debate on "Crossfire"; Number one rule of dancing - don't look at your feet.

### CNN "Crossfire"

Organizer: Shelley Sanner

The sparks flew as members went to see this popular live D.C. area political debate show, with hosts Bob Novak and Paul Begala, and their Congressional guests. Did anyone catch a glimpse of Adam as the roving camera swept just inches from the audience? And was that the back of Rani's head? Members were kept laughing and thinking as the hosts prodded their guests into confessing their true opinions about the war in Iraq. After the show wrapped, the evening wrapped at The Front Page in typical fashion (good conversation, good food, and a few drinks), and even a chance meeting with other MOC members.

### Salsa Dancing and Dinner in D.C.

Organizers: Joanne Milne and Vincent Tsao

Things heated up as the MOC hit the Latin Jazz Alley for salsa dance class with Miguel with a remarkably even gender split. A "little embarrassed" at first as they stepped on each other's toes, before long the group began to shake their hips. After a Habana Village Cuban dinner of black beans and rice, the group went back to practice their moves and strut their stuff at the Latin Jazz Alley until the wee hours.

## News You Can Use

### Social Hour is Moving!

To Red Robin in Columbia, off Snowden River Parkway. See complete details on the web site under Events, where you can get directions and take a peek at the menu. We'll also be starting earlier, at 7pm. As always, please come and go as you like. Look for the orange, green, and white balloons and social greeters with name tags. See you there.

### In this Issue . . .

Jesse Allen, Preservation Coordinator, answers a tough question about why we're planting trees in Western Maryland. You can't stump this guy! Also, our Member Spotlight casts its glow on Chih Lin, organizing a Rafting and Rock Climbing weekend at the end of the month.

### Cancellations and No-Shows

The MOC will soon be instituting a new No-Show policy for people who do not cancel or even notify their event organizer prior to an event. For reasons of courtesy to our hard-working volunteer organizers and members that are attending or wanted to attend an event, we will soon be revoking memberships of repeat offenders.

The easiest way to cancel when you know in advance that you won't be able to attend is through the Member Area of the web site. If you can't make it last minute, please use the contact information the organizer has provided you to let the group know not to wait on you.

The registration process for events allows the club to limit the number of event attendees to a group size that the organizer feels comfortable safely leading and provides emergency contact information just in case. We always welcome suggestions as to how to improve the registration/wait list/cancellation process, however. Please feel free to share your thoughts with any officer via email, at any event, or at Social Hour. Thanks for helping us run the club smoothly and keep costs low for you!

### Member Network

Our members value the ability to stay in touch, but we also don't want to be pestered. If you have a question about an event and whether it will be cancelled, please ask the organizer or the Events Coordinator, Brian Loughery. While members also often encourage contacts from other members, please be courteous and respectful when approaching and contacting members whom you have not met in person.

## April Events

Tue., Apr. 13 @ 7 PM  
Social Hour - Red Robin Restaurant  
Columbia, MD

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Fri., Apr. 16 @ 5 PM  
"Office Space" Movie Night  
Bel Air, MD

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Fri. - Sun., Apr. 16-18 @ 7 PM  
C & O Canal Backpacking Weekend  
Little Orleans, MD

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Sat., Apr. 17 @ 11 AM  
Bike Around BWI Airport Trail  
Marley Station, MD

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Sun., Apr. 18 @ 8:30 AM  
Moderate AT Hike  
Markham, VA

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Sat., Apr. 24 @ 10 AM  
Bike the Northern Central Railroad Trail  
Hunt Valley, MD



Sat., Apr. 24 @ 12 PM  
Food and Fun at Univ. of Maryland  
College Park, MD

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Sat., Apr. 24 @ 9 AM  
Antietam Watershed Buffer Planning  
Waynesboro, PA

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Sun. Apr. 25 @ 11 AM  
Gettysburg Battlefield Hike  
Gettysburg, PA

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Sun., Apr. 25 @ 10 AM  
Difficult Hike (Little Devil's Stairs II)  
Shenandoah, VA

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Sun., Apr. 25 @ 1 PM  
Soccer Game and BBQ  
Point of Rocks, MD

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Fri. - Sun., Apr. 30 - May 2 @ 5 PM  
Rock and Raft Camping Weekend  
Fayetteville, WV

MOC Monthly Explorer + 2

## Preservation Press

### ***Why should we go to Western Maryland to plant trees?***

I was recently asked this question by an MOC member in response to an invitation to sign up for one of the forthcoming events to plant trees. It's a sensible question: why is the club off planting trees a hundred miles or more away?

Many of us get to enjoy the great outdoors frequently. For many members of the Outdoor Club, this is precisely the reason for joining. We also enjoy the Chesapeake Bay, whether we savour its culinary offerings of crabs, rockfish and oysters, or we sail or kayak its waters. My own first event with this club was a flat water kayaking event at Gunpowder Falls, where the river meets the Bay. The woods around us and the Bay are part and parcel of the value of the club.

### *So what about distant trees?*

Trees are critical to the ecosystem. Particularly in spring, they draw carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and turn it into the fresh oxygen we breathe and, through photosynthesis, into their own wood flesh, new leaves and flowers. They moderate the influence of greenhouse gases our modern society puts into the atmosphere. Their leaves intercept sunlight, providing shade that makes hiking pleasant and holding in the day's warmth during the night. Scientists studying such things have found an "urban heat island effect" where the predominately concrete and blacktop areas of major cities heat up in the day and cool off at night more dramatically than the surrounding forested countryside. Trees give habitat, shelter from the extremes of weather, and food to those cute little woodland creatures that we enjoy watching collect nuts and seeds in the fall. Trees also filter water: roots slow heavy rainfall runoff, allowing it to be absorbed as groundwater, and remove impurities from the water cycle.

*This still doesn't answer much about tree planting in western Maryland!*

Last September, Hurricane Isabel struck. Western Maryland took particularly heavy damage from both the strong winds and from very soft ground from all the rain making it much easier to uproot the trees even in gentle winds. With trees down, higher runoff carries more sediment into the rivers draining into the Bay, reducing water clarity and quality. Furthermore, downed trees reduce water filtration, especially those along streambeds like Antietam Creek, meaning more farm runoff with fertilizers reaching the Bay.

But Isabel is not the entire story. Maryland has changed in the last several hundred years from predominately woodland to predominately urban or open field agriculture. Again, more fertilizer plus fewer trees to intercept it.

Sediment clouds water, worsening habitat for crabs in the tidal estuaries. Fish can't find prey in murkier waters. The result? Fewer, more expensive crabs. Tasty local rockfish only a few years ago were removed from endangered species lists and opened to fishing again; a poor year or two could easily result in them reverting to their protected status in order to rebuild reduced stocks. And who really wants to kayak through a bed of green slime instead of crystal clear water?

In short, trees in western Maryland provide us with shade, comfort, and clean water in the Bay. They shape how we enjoy the immediate environment of our homes and the cities around us. Besides, they are pretty... and we hike, raft, and ski out in western Maryland, enjoying those trees all the more directly.

But watch what you say as you might find your words fodder for the next column! (with all due apologies to Bernadette Wassman)

Jesse Allen, Preservation  
Coordinator

## This Month in History

April is Keep America Beautiful Month and Lawn and Garden Month  
April 1, 1778 - Oliver Pollack invents the dollar sign \$ - No foolin'!  
April 6, 1896 - First Modern Olympics.  
April 9, 1691 - French explorer LaSalle reaches the Mississippi River.  
April 15 - U.S. Income Taxes Due.  
April 15, 1912 - Titanic sinks.

## Earth Day - Plant a Tree!

Do you want to help reestablish communities of native trees and improve the quality of the Bay? Then come plant some trees with us! Maryland Outdoor Club is coordinating with The Nature Conservancy to plant native red spruce in the Cranesville Swamp, which drains into Deep Creek Lake (where we have been snowtubing, hiking, and hot tubbing in the recent past) and the Youghagheny River (where we have gone white water rafting last summer). We are also working with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to establish trees along the streambed sides of Antietam Creek, which runs into the Potomac not high above where we went inner tubing last summer, and leads ultimately into the Bay.

<http://www.marylandoutdoorclub.org/events/details.asp?eventid=204>

Of course there will be opportunities for us to work with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Appalachian Mountain Club, The Nature Conservancy, Volunteer Central, and other like-minded organizations to tend to greenery and other challenges to the Bay nearer home. But spare a thought for those trees upstream of your homes. And perhaps even consider contributing directly to them by helping plant a tree in Western Maryland.

--Jesse Allen



April 2004

## MOC Member Spotlight



This month's spotlight is Chih Lin, a relatively new member who's already co-organizing a major weekend trip!

- \* Currently resides in: Bel Air, MD
- \* Originally from: Ann Arbor, Michigan
- \* Favorite Adventure Sport: Rafting, Rock Climbing, and Camping (April 30-May 2nd, check it out...)
- \* Favorite MOC events: Hiking and Hot-tubbing, monthly social hour
- \* Favorite TV shows: The Apprentice, Average Joe, Scrubs, Friends, 24
- \* Favorite books: Home Improvement 1-2-3 (only thing I've had time to read recently that isn't a textbook)
- \* Favorite movies: The Rock, The Matrix (first one), Meet The Parents, Enemy of the State, X-Men 2, Dead Poets' Society
- \* Favorite music: Rap & hip-hop and anything I can sing or dance to (except country...sorry country)
- \* Favorite sports team: Baltimore Ravens, Michigan Wolverines
- \* Favorite local "getaway": DuClaw's Brewing Company because they have mighty fine beer and pot stickers.
- \* Pets: There's a cat in the house, but he's not mine. His name is Donkey.
- \* Best part about organizing for MOC: "Knowing how much fun everyone else is going to have at the event. Don't be a stiff, live the adventure. I'm cool. I'm with it. I'm hip. Taka-Taka-Taka...."
- \* Other fun info about you: I swing dance a little (6-step) although my memory is a little fuzzy. I spend my extra time trying to be a handyman, learning to play the guitar and flossing my teeth."

Who would you like to see recognized here? Submit suggestions to:  
[explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org](mailto:explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org)

## Ads & Classifieds

**Advertise in the Monthly Explorer**  
Does your business want to advertise in the Monthly Explorer? Reach hundreds of potential customers each month with a free ad - in exchange for bartered items/goods. Contact us for details.  
[explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org](mailto:explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org)

**Place a Monthly Explorer Classified**  
Classifieds can only be placed by MOC members. With classified space you can sell single item goods (depreciated merchandise) or place notices. Classifieds are \$5.00 per 25 words or less. The MOC has the right to refuse or edit any classified. Send your classified, and amount due to Maryland Outdoor Club, ATTN: Monthly Explorer Publication, P.O. Box 854, College Park, MD 20741.

Deadline: the 15th of each month for the following month's issue.



## Member Benefits

We now have coupons and discounts available online in the Member Area. Community Relations Coordinator Joanne Milne is looking for ideas for businesses and restaurants to provide coupons and discounts to members.

If you've got a suggestion of a place MOC members frequent on events, an outfitter, or other venue where members might be interested in getting discounts for events or personal purchases, please email Joanne:  
[coupons@marylandoutdoorclub.org](mailto:coupons@marylandoutdoorclub.org)



## Monthly Statistics

As of April 1st

1525 - Total Members To Date  
135 - March New Members  
60% - Female Members  
40% - Male Members  
32.3 - Average Member Age

## Organize an Event

It's simple, fun to do, and gives you great leadership experience that you can use on your resume. If it sounds like something for you, please let us know. You can find step-by-step instructions in the Member Area of the web site.  
events@marylandoutdoorclub.org



## Officers

### Amy Pickwick

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### Mark Zawodny

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### Joanne Milne

Community Relations Coordinator  
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### Jesse Allen

Preservation Coordinator  
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## Member Bulletin Board

The MOC does not maintain a bulletin board on its website because it's frankly too hard to monitor, so we've made it a free feature of the newsletter. Use this area to hook up a team for a marathon or other race, get a group together for another special event that wouldn't necessarily be an MOC outing, or for other networking.

Got a post for the board? Email  
explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org

### EMS Club Day Sale

EMS, "Outfitters of Serious Outdoor Gear, Clothing, and Footwear," is offering a sale to members of outdoor clubs on Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24. In-store and online, check out discounts. For proof of MOC membership, print your Member Profile from the Member Area of the web site.

### Casual Hiking Partners Wanted

Kate Scherr of Baltimore wants to know if anyone is interested in joining her as she explores local trails such as those at Gwynns Falls Park, site of our recent Parks Cleanup event. Please contact her for details.

*Log on to the Member Network on the Member Area of the web site to contact these members.*



### Writers, Poets, Cartoonists, Photographers Wanted!

Want to see your name in print? Submit your outdoorsy content of any nature (pun intended) to the Monthly Explorer for upcoming newsletters!

## Join the MOC

The Maryland Outdoor Club conducts all administrative tasks through our web site to cut down on processing time & costs. If you are interested in signing up for membership, you need to go to marylandoutdoorclub.org and click on any of the "Join Now" buttons you'll find throughout the site. Signing up is a relatively short process and will save you time later on when you sign up for events and don't need to re-enter all of your information.

The MOC does not sell or share your personal information with any third-party.

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE!!!

## Save a Tree

If you are done with this issue, please consider throwing it in your paper recycle bin instead of into a trash can.

## Editor's Corner

Sometimes I feel like the kid in high school who is tempted to throw random passages of text into his fifteen page research paper to figure out just exactly how closely his teacher reads them. Is anyone out there?

Seriously, personal wonderings of the readership of this newsletter aside, please remember that this club is entirely volunteer-run, from the events to the officers who put many hours into making this club (what we hope is) an enjoyable experience. That means that our only recognition and feedback comes directly from you - there's no "vote with your dollars/feet" aspect of the club since we're essentially free. My point: please let us know - your organizers, your officers - how we're doing, what we could do better, and what really is outstanding.

Have an idea or an article, photo, news clipping for the Monthly Explorer? Send it my way.  
-Katie Stofer  
explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org