

First Event - A Success!

October 12th turned out to be a rain-free day for a hike in the Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, MD. The weather forecast had been playing tricks with our minds for the couple of days preceding the hike, but we crossed our fingers and hoped for the best. A total of 8 hikers showed up despite the somewhat humid conditions. Everyone enjoyed the serene setting as they got to know their fellow hikers a little bit better. The Cash Lake Loop was a 2 hour walk through pine forests and near marshy lakes in an area that is arguably the wildest place within 75 miles of Washington, D.C.

We spotted a few deer on the trail, as well as some interesting sights - a large lone white mushroom caught our

attention and a huge knot on a tree caused us to pause for a moment.

A friendly black Labrador accompanied us on the trail, and gave us the impression that he was leading the hike.

Following the hike, some of the participants headed indoors to the Visitor Center to learn a bit more about the purpose of the PRR in Laurel and many of us just headed home for a nice shower! ✦

Amy Pickwick



October 12th hike in the Patuxent Research Refuge was led by Amy Pickwick. Photos: Amy Pickwick

News You Can Use

Club Merchandise

You can now order Maryland Outdoor Club logo T-shirts, Mugs, Frisbees, License Plate Frames, Tote Bags, Messenger Bags, Insulated Cooler Bags through our web site! If you haven't seen our products yet, don't forget to go to the "Shop" link found under the "Extras" tab on our web site:

www.marylandoutdoorclub.org

Upcoming Event Planning

We need your help for our Winter/Spring event planning, ongoing right now. If you know of any awesome cold weather activities or outfitters in the local area that we may want to consider for an upcoming event, please let us know. And, more importantly, if you'd like to organize such an event, please let us know that too. Contact our Events Coordinator with any and all ideas!

events@marylandoutdoorclub.org

How You Can Help the MOC

If you are interested in helping out in some way with the club, we have many suggestions for you. Our "Volunteer & Donate" page found under the "About Us" tab on our web site has got ways for everyone to help out. Find out how much time you have to offer and what skills/experience you have to lend, and we'll help you find a way that you can help shape the MOC on a more personal level.

Right now, we are mostly in need of Event Organizers, Social Hour Social Greeters & Club Promoters. All of these voluntary positions require limited involvement, are not officer positions, and are non-pay. Let us know if you are interested.

info@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Upcoming Events

Sun, Nov 3 @ 10 AM

Easy Loop Day Hike (4.5 Miles)
Pocomoke State Forest Hiking Trail
Snow Hill, MD (Eastern MD)



Sun, Nov 10 @ 10 AM

Easy Loop Day Hike (5.1 Miles)
Cedarville State Forest Loop
Waldorf, MD (Southern MD)



Tue, Nov 12 @ 7:30 PM

Social Hour
Bill Bateman's Bistro
Severna Park, MD (Central MD)



Tue, Nov 26 @ TBA PM

Tuesday Night Movies
Muvico at Arundel Mills Mall
Hanover, MD (Central MD)



Sat, Dec 14 @ 8 PM

Indoor Ice Skating
College Park, MD

For more info on upcoming events, please visit the "Events" tab on our web site.

Health Watch

Many health officials have confirmed in the last few months that the West Nile virus is spreading along the East Coast - it's likely here to stay. For every diagnosed human, about 250 are infected and don't know it. Would you know what the symptoms are?

Things to look for are fever, headache, swollen lymph nodes, and fatigue. In severe cases it can eventually lead to encephalitis or meningitis because the virus can eventually spread to the brain. People most at risk are children under 5, the elderly, and those with weak immune systems.

Protect yourself when outdoors:

- ♦ Use insect repellent containing DEET
- ♦ Wear long-sleeved shirts & long pants
- ♦ Avoid going out during dawn, early evening, and dusk (peak biting times)
- ♦ Limit standing water sources from around your yard

To learn more about the West Nile virus, visit the Center for Disease Control web site.

<http://www.cdc.gov>

Organize an Event

Interested in organizing a MOC event? It's simple, fun to do, and gives you great leadership experience that you can use on your resume.

There is a step-by-step guide to help members pull off a successful and safe event in the Member's Area of the web site. Reach this page by logging into the Member's Area from any page on the MOC web site, then continuing to the "Organizer Info" link on the left.

If it sounds like something for you, please let us know. All members are qualified for holding some type of activity - whether it would be outdoor, indoor, or traveling to new places.

events@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Member Spotlight



Mark Zawodny
MOC Treasurer

Member Since:
April 13, 2002

Primary Involvement with the MOC:
Mark touches a bit of everything, from the club finances, to helping establish the Maryland chapter, to writing a lot of the database driven code that runs the web site.

Favorite Adventure Sport, Social, or Travel Activities:
He's easy going, and is pretty much up for anything.

Currently Resides in:
College Park, MD

Originally From:
Baltimore, MD

Favorite TV Show:
The Sopranos

Favorite Music Group:
Dave Matthews Band

Favorite Sports Team:
TERPS!!! (Basketball)

Pets:
2 Cats, Brothers: Rocky & Puck

Job:
Works for a contractor of the TSA full-time in Arlington and part-time for a web design firm in College Park.

Next Month's Spotlight

Who would you like to see spotlighted in next month's issue? Write to us and let us know - then we'll see if that person would like to participate and we'll post some interesting background info on them.

explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org

November Birthdays!

Some of our members are turning another year older! The MOC wishes them all a happy and safe birthday!

11/4 - Matt Wolfe
11/8 - Allison Wymore
11/11 - Anne McCardell
11/13 - Kianna Huntley
11/18 - Amy Pickwick
11/18 - Pat Pickwick
11/25 - David Spriggs
11/26 - Emer Daly
11/28 - Jill Franklin
11/28 - Nuala O'Leary
11/29 - Sara Walsh
11/29 - Steven Day

We Give Our Thanks...

November is the time of the year when we are to pay close attention to the things in our lives that we are thankful for. The MOC wants to share many thanks with all the individuals over the last few months that have helped us get the ball rolling, all the people who believe in us and signed up for membership, and all the future help that we will be offered in the time to come.

We wish all of our members and participants a very safe, happy, and fun Thanksgiving, that is shared with those close to each and everyone of us.



Tip of the Month

It's hunting season - so please be extra careful/alert when hiking.

Tips to help you avoid an accidental injury:

1) Stay on a clearly marked, well traveled trail.

3) Wear clothing that distinguishes you from game. Bright colors make you look more humanlike from a distance than do earthy tones.

2) Plan your hikes, whenever possible, on Sundays. Hunting is illegal on Sundays (except for very few circumstances) in Maryland. And be sure to check with the regulations of the park you are hiking in - some areas may ban hunting any day of the week.

To learn more about the 2002-2003 hunting regulations, please check the Maryland Department of Natural Resources web site.

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us>

Monthly Statistics

As of November 1st:

101 - Total Members To Date
36 - October New Members
58% - Female Members
42% - Male Members
30.6 - Average Member Age

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

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.

Monthly Explorer

Submit reviews of events, articles, tips, etc. to the Newsletter Editor 30 days in advance of the next issue release (1st of each month). We'll review your work, and ad it to the newsletter if we feel it appropriate. You'll be given credit for the work although it becomes property of the club.

Write for the Monthly Explorer on an ongoing basis. Contact us for details.
explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Get the Monthly Explorer Delivered

The MOC hands out a limited number of Monthly Explorer publications at our monthly Social Hour events, as well as posts an electronic copy to our web site. However, if you prefer to receive our publication by mail, please fill out the following form, cut it out, and return it to Maryland Outdoor Club, ATTN: Monthly Explorer Publication, P.O. Box 854, College Park, MD 20741 with \$6.00 (Payable to Mark Zawodny) to cover S&H for a year.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____

Please
Place
Postage
Here



P.O. Box 854, College Park, MD 20741

Officers

Amy Pickwick

Founder & President

apickwick@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Mark Zawodny

Treasurer & Co-Founder

mzawodny@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Positions Open:

Vice President

Event Coordinator

Social Coordinator

Advertising & Promotions Coordinator

Safety & Equipment Rental Coordinator

Legal Coordinator

Preservation Coordinator

Newsletter Editor

Interested in a position? Please contact Amy by e-mail or come to Social Hour and talk with Amy directly. The duties are defined and we can show you what responsibilities you'll take on by becoming an officer. It's fun and is great on your resume!

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.

Contact Newsletter Editor

Until someone fills the Newsletter Editor officer position, I'll do my best to put together a useful Monthly Explorer each month. If you are interested in putting together this newsletter for the club, and have the time to dedicate to it, let me know. The duties have already been defined - so simply let me know you are interested and I'll give you an idea of what the position requires.

Hope you enjoyed this issue. All comments, questions, and suggestions are welcome. ✦

Amy Pickwick
explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org