

The Mound Builders

On March 23, the MOC saw 21 people and two dogs out on the trail at Little Bennett Regional Park in Montgomery County. The weather was nice and warm that day, about 60 degrees, and signs of the newly arrived Spring were definitely in the air.

Little do most know, but Little Bennett Regional Park actually encompasses the settlement of Kingsley. As early as the eighteenth century, the Valley was the scene of farms and small-scale industries capitalizing on the region's abundant amounts of timber, water, and large amounts of acreage for farming. Several mills were in place along the creek. However, the steep and rocky grades did not encourage farming. The farmers gave it their all, growing such crops as tobacco and grain well into the twentieth century. A small community flourished, named Kingsley - named after a prominent Montgomery County family whose surname, King, now identifies several subdivisions in the region.

With today's park zoning, there are

little signs of what used to be. It's actually quite peaceful in the woods and only faintly in your mind can you picture the previous use of the land. No one at work...

...Well, that's what you think, until you reach the little section of the loop hike known as the Mound Builder Trail!

What you'll see here will truly amaze you - and yes, if you missed the hike, you should go buy the Hiking Maryland & Delaware book featured on the MOC Books & Mags page, turn to page 67 and go check it out with a friend. There are anthills on this trail a couple of feet off the ground! And, we only saw them after all the snow and rain - so just imagine the size these ant homes become by the end of summer. They are so big you think it's something out of a science-fiction movie.

At every hike, we try and throw in a little extra sight or two, to make the trip a bit more worthwhile. So, don't miss out in the future - register early for our hikes - spots are going fast!

-Amy Pickwick

News You Can Use

Go to May's Sunday Cinema FREE

Out of all of the sign ups that we have for May's Sunday Cinemas event come 5 PM on May 13, one winner will be randomly selected out of a drawing at our May Social Hour to attend the movie for free. (They will receive a refund of their payment). The winner must be present at the Sunday Cinema event in May to claim their free ticket, but not the night of Social Hour.

Note that this event was our previous Tuesday Night Movies event, but it has changed dates and times - and will feature a meal beforehand so you can meet the other members prior to catching the flick. There is no movie event in April - this picks back up again in May.

Events with Payment Required to Attend

Please note the MOC's new policy: If we do not receive your payment for the events you register (with a cost associated) within 5 business days, your name will be removed off the attendance list for someone else to take. Our events are growing more popular, and we are unable to allow members to squat in spaces without payment.

New Partnership Formed with Local Club

The MOC has recently teamed up with local organization, The Perfect Circles, to bring you an additional variety of events - like a Golf Workshop in early-May, and an All-Inclusive Picnic on Memorial Day. Check out the site for more on these and other events.

Dog Owners: Win a Dog Lover's Book

We're having another contest! Between March 1, 2003 and April 30, 2003, send in your best digital dog photos. These photos can be cute or funny, but please keep them clean. Each member is allowed a maximum of one entry per day. All photos become property of the club and you give us permission to use these pictures on our web site or in our publications. The top 10 submitted photos (as judged by the officers) will be posted to the Member Area from May 1, 2003 and May 31, 2003 where members are allowed to vote on their favorite choice! On June 1, 2003, the winner will be announced and awarded a brand new edition of "The Dog Lover's Companion to Washington, D.C. & Baltimore: The Inside Scoop on Where to Take Your Dog" book. To enter, submit your photos with the dog(s) name(s), your name, phone number, and e-mail address to:

dogcontest@marylandoutdoorclub.org



March 23rd Easy Loop Day Hike in Clarksburg, MD. Left to Right: View of the Trail, Stoney Brook, and the Huge Anthills. There were hundreds of anthills around, even some right on the trail.

Upcoming Events

Sat, Apr 5 @ 10 AM

Bike the Capital Crescent Trail in Northwest DC - Then Lunch!
Georgetown to Bethesda



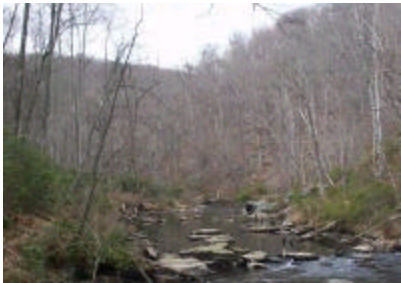
Tue, Apr 8 @ 7:15 PM

Social Hour
Rocky Run Tap & Grill
Columbia, MD



Sat, Apr 12 @ 10 AM

Moderate Loop Day Hike
Gunpowder Falls State Park
Kingsville, MD



Sat, Apr 19 @ 8 PM

Backyard BBQ
Food & Beverages at No Cost
Rockville, MD

Sat, Apr 26 @ 10 AM

Difficult Loop Day Hike
Featuring: The Billy Goat Trail
Potomac, MD



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

MOC Monthly Explorer + 2

Restoring the Bay

Written by: Tom Horton, SunSpot.net

Few would argue with the notion that the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is a reason to feel optimistic about restoring the bay to health.

With 100,000 dues-paying members, annual revenues of \$18 million to \$20 million, nationally recognized education programs and science-based campaigns to cut pollution and restore habitat, what's to argue?

How about whether it's actually going to work?

So says Howard R. Ernst in Chesapeake Bay Blues -- Science, Politics and the Struggle to Save the Bay, due in bookstores next month.

Ernst, a political science professor at the U.S. Naval Academy, strikes clearly and concisely at the central question about the Chesapeake's future:

Why have two decades of government action, with wide public support, not done a better job of restoring the bay? Conditions aren't getting worse, but a return to the healthy oxygen levels and underwater grass habitats of 50 years ago remains a distant goal...

Read on at: <http://www.sunspot.net/sports/outdoors/bal-md.horton04apr04,0,4905093.column>

Organize an Event

It's simple, fun to do, and gives you great leadership experience that you can use on your resume. Summer event planning is happening in April - don't miss your opportunity to pick out a date and time that works for your event!

If it sounds like something for you, please let us know.

events@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Product Spotlight

Have you been to our online store lately? There are lots of cool products that you may not have seen yet. Here are a few that you may want to consider picking up:

Flying Disc



A great way to show your MOC pride while hanging out in the park with your friends or playing a game of fetch in the back yard with Fluffy. \$6.99/each

Baseball Jersey



Great for both men and women, our jerseys are available in M, L, XL, and XXL. They come in blue/white, black/white, or red/white. \$19.99/each

Frosted Mug



What better way to keep your beverage cool, than by sipping it from your frosted mug that is both dishwasher and freezer safe. Made of glass. \$14.99/each

See more products by visiting the "MOC Apparel & More" link under the Extras tab on our web site!



Is your company looking for a better web presence? Or, possibly seeking a shop to design & build its first site?

When your company needs help designing its corporate identity or web site - Tivilon is the source to turn to!

See our site at: www.tivilon.com

March Birthdays!

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

4/1 - Debbie Kaplan
4/3 - Robert Burger
4/4 - JoLynn Peabody, Nora Diggs, Keith Koivisto
4/5 - Jennifer Edens
4/7 - Jennifer Weinstein, Debbie Kane
4/8 - Dusin Winter
4/9 - James Stout
4/10 - Andrew Gendaszek
4/11 - Martha Burger, Soren Powell, Rachel Lettre
4/13 - Kady Tran, Kevin Reed
4/14 - Mike Logan
4/16 - Maria Maranto
4/19 - Jennie Simpson
4/20 - Dee Campanella
4/22 - Patrick O'Brien
4/23 - Laura Husted
4/24 - Mike Bogdanski, Joel Schwartz
4/26 - Mary Beth Sodus, Kayla Bakshi
4/27 - Emily Fantaskey, Gregory Anderson, Matt Nofziger, Kathleen Curry
4/29 - Virginia del Casal, Thomas Wilson
4/30 - Tamara Vena

Earth Day Activities

April 22 is Earth Day - how will you be spending it?

4/5 - Potomac Watershed Clean Up
Sponsored by Potomac Conservancy
www.potomaccleanup.org

4/22 - Earth Day Grocery Bag Project
Baltimore Public Works Museum

4/22 - Navy Earth Day Celebration
U.S. Naval Memorial

4/22 - Photo Essay in Honor of Earth Day
Baltimore Public Works Museum

4/26 - Alexandria Earth Day
Four Mile Run Park (9 AM - 1 PM)

Tip of the Month

According to WebMD, here are some guidelines to follow to avoid getting bitten by ticks - and boy don't we all hate that - but its the season again!

Apply an insect repellent according to label directions. Some insect repellents can only be safely applied to clothing rather than skin.

- Use a lower-concentration repellent on children or if you are pregnant.

- Do not put repellent on small children's hands, since they often put their hands in their mouths.

- Wash the insect repellent off with soap and water once indoors.

Cover as much of your skin as possible when working or playing in grassy or wooded areas. Wear a hat, a long-sleeved shirt, and long pants with the legs tucked into your socks. Keep in mind that it is easier to spot ticks on light-colored clothes.

Read on at: www.webmd.com

Monthly Statistics

As of April 1st:

301 - Total Members To Date
81 - March New Members
59% - Female Members
41% - Male Members
32 - 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

Historian & Secretary

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

We are looking for a Newsletter Editor! Do you have Adobe PageMaker experience/software, editorial and writing experience, organizational skills, meet deadlines, and are looking for something fun and creative to do in your spare time? Please contact Amy if interested!

Until the position is filled, I'll continue to try my best...

All comments, questions, and suggestions are welcome.

-Amy Pickwick
explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org