

# Monthly Explorer

[www.marylandoutdoorclub.org](http://www.marylandoutdoorclub.org)

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Adventure Sports • Travel • Social

## MARYLAND Outdoor Club

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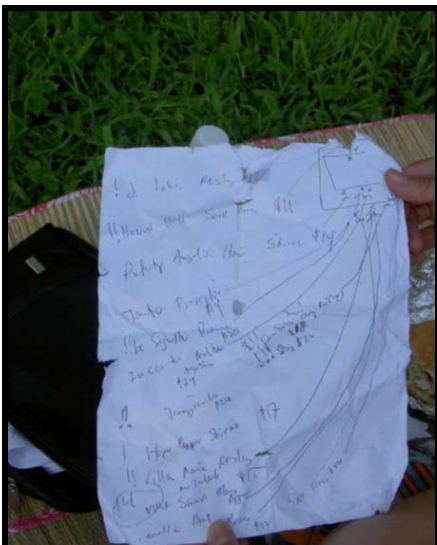
### Inside This Issue

- 2 Mosquito Control: Are you aware?
- 2 MOC News & Updates
- 4 Upcoming Events

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Interested in contributing? Send articles, story ideas and general comments to [explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org](mailto:explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org)

## Great Grapes! Great Map!



Trail maps come in all shapes and sizes. This crafty MOCer made sure to map out the perfect route back to the Malbec from Argentina during a MOC event at the Great Grapes Wine Festival in Annapolis.

## MOC Celebrates Four Years

MOCers ponder the answer to Maryland-themed trivia: How many counties are in Maryland? Think you know the answer... look on the last page to see if you are right.



## K-9 Corner: Hiking with Your Dog 10 Hikes in the Baltimore Area

Looking for a quick hike with your dog? Baltimore has a number of nearby hikes for a quick ramble with Fido.

(1) Camel's Den Trail (Patapsco Valley State Park, Daniels Area, Howard County) On this loop you will enjoy the flattest dogwalking in greater Baltimore or some of the steepest. A hiking loop begins just across the small stream by the parking lot; to the left the trail switchbacks to the top of a high ridge leading past the Camel's Den cave and to the right it begins a 2.5-mile journey on a former railbed of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. The two are joined by an old access road. Backed up by the Daniels Dam, the dog paddling is super here.

Continued on page 3

## Mosquito Control: Join the Cause?

There is officially a bracelet for every cause. Concerned about mosquito control? The American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) is, and has the bracelet to prove it. Show your support with the mosquito control awareness bracelet available online at [www.mosquito.org](http://www.mosquito.org).

If you've spent the weekend slapping your arm in your personal form of mosquito control, here are some fun facts to ponder:

- ✓ Mosquitoes can fly up to 1.5 miles per hour.
- ✓ The "champions" of the mosquito world are the saltmarsh breeders, which have been known to travel more than 100 miles. Usually, they stick to shorter distances – just 40 miles.
- ✓ There are about 2,700 species of mosquito, with 176 species in the United States.
- ✓ West Virginia has the least amount of mosquitoes – only 26 species.
- ✓ Texas, on the other hand, has the most with 86 species. Yikes!
- ✓ No one really knows why mosquitoes are attracted to people. However, beer drinkers are seen to be more attractive to mosquitoes.
- ✓ Mosquitoes are also attracted to people who like to eat Limburger cheese. Scientists speculate this might be why mosquitoes are attracted to people's feet.
- ✓ Blondes might not be having all the fun in the outdoors, since they tend to be more attractive to mosquitoes than brunettes.
- ✓ Mosquitoes find hosts by sight (they observe movement); by detecting infra-red radiation emitted by warm bodies; and by chemical signals (mosquitoes are attracted to carbon dioxide and lactic acid, among other chemicals) at distances of 25 to 35 meters.
- ✓ All that attraction to lactic acid and carbon monoxide isn't good for active and fidgety people – they tend to produce more of both.
- ✓ Dark clothing attracts mosquitoes.
- ✓ Movement increased mosquito biting up to 50% in some research tests.
- ✓ A full moon increased mosquito activity 500% in one study

– *Courtesy of mosquito.org*

## MOC News & Updates

### **Are You Receiving Your MOC E-mail Newsletter?**

You can opt-in and opt-out of Maryland Outdoor Club e-mail newsletters AT ANY TIME. We do not automatically opt anyone in without their initial consent nor do we buy or use addresses without the user's permission. You can "Change Your Preferences" in the [Member Area](#) of the web site. Also, complete opt-in and opt-out instructions are at the bottom of our member e-mail newsletters.

To ensure delivery of MOC e-mail newsletters to your inbox (not bulk or junk folders) please add our "From" address [emaillist@marylandoutdoorclub.org](mailto:emaillist@marylandoutdoorclub.org) to your address book or e-mail whitelist.

### **Save the Bay**

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's environmental assessment measures the waterway's health based on a 100-point scale. On one end, at 100 points, is the bay in its "pristine" state, when John Smith first encountered it. On the other end is where the bay is today, with a rating of 27 points in 2005. (A "saved" bay would rate 70.) Simply put, if the bay were human, it would resemble an Adams Morgan reveler on Sunday morning – bedridden and in need of a good detox.

That's where the Baltimore Aquarium's Fort McHenry Field Days come in. The field days are a chance for community members to help clean debris from the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore. The next cleanup event, scheduled for National Public Lands Day, is Sept. 30. If you can't attend the cleanup itself, then be a part of the pollution prevention effort.

"Be careful about where your plastic shopping bags go," advises aquarium spokeswoman Molly Foyle, who notes that 95 percent of what volunteers pull out of the marsh during the cleanup days is plastic.

To learn more about volunteering for the Field Day, call (410) 576-3851 or visit [http://www.aqua.org/conservationevents\\_fortmchenrydays.html](http://www.aqua.org/conservationevents_fortmchenrydays.html).

— *Courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation*

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### **Send Your Story Ideas to MOC**

Remember how your friends loved that story you told about the best/worst camping/hiking/rafting trip that you took last summer/fall/winter. We want to hear it too! Realize your dreams of being a published author. Send in story ideas to [explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org](mailto:explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org). Of course, we also gladly accept completed articles.

# Have Leash, Will Travel: Ten Hikes with Your Dog in the Baltimore Area

Continued from page 1

## (2) Circle Trail (Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore County)

The 176 acres of Cylburn Arboretum's grounds are visited by five loop trails, all of which can be reached from the Circle Trail. This is a paw-pleasing circumnavigation on a wide path of soft dirt or cedar mulch but you will still want to stray off the trail to read the labels of the many ornamental trees.

## (3) Gunpowder South Trail (Gunpowder Falls State Park, Hereford Area, Baltimore County)

The entire length of this scenic route is 7.1 miles but with only one hour you'll just cover the western section of the trail from Falls Road to Prettyboy Dam (named for a local farmer's favorite horse who drowned in a nearby stream). This waterside path is narrow and requires a fair amount of rock scrambling for you and the dog in stretches. Your reward is stunning views of the rugged gorge.

## (4) Hashawha Trails (Bear Creek Nature Center, Carroll County)

The blue-green (Vista-Stream) circuit totals a bit less than three miles, mostly on gently sloping ground. The Vista Trail takes in fields, woods and ponds. Toss in the Stream Trail (green blazes) and you add a restored log cabin, grassy meadows, the gurgling Bear Branch Creek and a boardwalk crossing over part of tranquil Lake Hashawha.

## (5) Hemlock Gorge (Prettyboy Reservoir, Baltimore County)

The best hiking at Prettyboy is out of sight of the reservoir and along the Gunpowder Falls, accessed by pull-offs on Gunpowder Road. Here you'll find walks through dense hemlock forests, none more special than the hike back in time down Hemlock Gorge. For this one, leave the fire roads behind and walk down a narrow dirt path on the northeast side of the bridge over the river. After crossing a tumbling stream the towering hemlocks begin in earnest, blocking out all other plants except the mosses clinging to the rock outcroppings on the steep slopes. When the river bends 90 degrees to the right, it serves up one lasting impression of Hemlock Gorge before the civilized part of the trail comes to an end. Scarcely, a half-mile long, there is a fair amount of rock scrambling and log-hopping for a fairly robust dog to follow the river.

## (6) Loggers Red Trail (Oregon Ridge Park, Baltimore County)

After you get under way with a pleasant stroll across the wooden bridge spanning the Grand Canyon of Oregon Ridge (an abandoned open pit mine), the shaded trail pulls you to the top of the ridge - elevated enough to launch hang gliders. The old access road makes for easy hiking. Along the way you can pick and choose from many short trails radiating off the red trail.

(7) The Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenways Trail (Susquehanna State Park, Harford County) Tracing the route of the 160-year old Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal towpath, this wide dirt path stretches 2.2 shady miles along the water. The level going makes for as pleasant a hike as you can take with your dog. Scan the skies beneath the Conowingo Dam for bald eagles plying the waters for an easy meal of stunned and splattered fish.

## (8) Savage Historic Mill Trail (Savage Park, Howard County)

Starting with a stroll across the historic Bollman Truss Bridge, this wide, level wooded path traces the boulder-packed stream below the confluence of the Little and Middle Patuxent rivers for 3/4 mile. You will want to linger by the rushing water while your dog explores some of the prettiest canine swimming holes in the Baltimore area.

## (9) Serpentine Trail (Soldiers Delight NEA, Baltimore County)

Early settlers called the region "barrens" because serpentine rock, colored green by the mineral olivine, was so close to the surface that every shovel seemed to clank against it and no crops would grow here. The hiking through rare grasses and stunted pines is more akin to midwestern prairies than Eastern woodlands in this unique habitat. Be careful of the stone on your dog's paws - it sticks out like the serrated edges of a knife in places.

## (10) White Trail (Rocks State Park, Harford County)

This hardy loop trail runs up and down and around the mountainous knob. A short detour will lead you - and a well-tethered dog - to the top of the signature King and Queen's Throne rocks for an impressive view of Deer Creek. The trail will get narrow and rocky at times, conjuring up a true alpine feel to the walk.

— Listing courtesy of [www.hikewithyourdog.com](http://www.hikewithyourdog.com).

## Hiking Lecture at Baltimore REI

Looking for something to do on August 17<sup>th</sup>? Jeff Alt, author of *A Walk for Sunshine* and *A Walk for Mike*, will present his "John Muir Trail Show," a multi-media presentation of his adventure with his wife across the Sierra Nevada mountains. After a family tragedy, Jeff convinced his wife that a long hike was just what they needed.

Jeff will be at the Baltimore (Md.) REI clinic, 63 W. Aylesbury Rd, (410) 252-5920. The lecture starts at 7 p.m.

Interested in learning more about Jeff's adventures? Visit [www.awalkforsunshine.com/AHikeForMike.htm](http://www.awalkforsunshine.com/AHikeForMike.htm).

## Upcoming Events

To see our full list of upcoming and events in the works, visit the MOC Web site: [www.marylandoutdoorclub.org](http://www.marylandoutdoorclub.org). Interested in something that's not on the list? Why not organize an event? See the organizer section on the MOC Web site, or speak with an officer.

Want to share organizer duties? You can use the new Member Forums or post on the Message Board to find a co-organizer.



Social Hour	Tuesday, 8/8
Kayak in Gunpowder Falls State Park	Saturday, 8/12
Moderate Hike at Great Falls (Billy Goat)	Saturday, 8/12
Hiking, Boating & Disc Golf	Sunday, 8/13
Happy Hour & Dancing at Cancun Cantina	Friday, 8/18
Easy/Moderate Hike at Great Falls (Gold Mine)	Saturday, 8/19
Football 101 for Women	Sunday, 8/20
Pennsylvania Ren Faire & Wine Tasting	Saturday, 8/26
Bike the C&O Canal (Carderock)	Saturday, 8/26
Bike Ride in Blackwater Wildlife Refuge	Sunday, 8/27
Difficult Hike in George Washington National Forest	Sunday, 8/27
Historic Annapolis Boat & Walking Tour	Saturday, 9/9
Whitewater Rafting – Gauley Marathon	Friday, 9/22 – Sunday, 9/24

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## Trivia Answer

How many counties are there in Maryland? There are 23 counties in Maryland.

Want to test your knowledge of Maryland even more? Can you name the state sport? Hint: An upcoming MOC event will see it first-hand.

E-mail your answer to [explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org](mailto:explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org) and we'll promise to give you credit as Trivia Monarch of the Month.

## Join MOC

Want to join this fun group we call MOC? Visit [www.marylandoutdoorclub.org](http://www.marylandoutdoorclub.org) and click on any of the "Join Now" buttons you'll find throughout the site. Signing up is a short process and will save you time when you sign up for events. MOC does not sell or share your personal information with any third parties. MOC conducts all administrative tasks through our Web site to cut down on processing time and costs.

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### Web Site Committee:

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**Matt Toerper**, Message Board Monitor

### Want to be more involved?

Positions are still available. MOC is still seeking to fill the following positions: Vice President; Treasurer; Safety & Equipment Rental Coordinator; Legal Representative; and Advertising & Promotions Chairperson