

SAT MAR 6: BRUNCH AND HIKE. Start with brunch at the Boeymonger Restaurant. Then hike 8 easy-to-moderate miles through Glover Archbold and Battery Kemble Parks and along the C&O towpath. Stop in Georgetown and return via Rosslyn Metro. Cost: return Metro fare (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 11 a.m. at Friendship Heights Metro (Western Ave./Military Road side). We leave the restaurant at 12:15 p.m. sharp. Leader: Stu S. (703) 517-3490.

SAT MAR 6: OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA -- ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE. Wear your green, see the parade, walk the route, and afterwards visit a pub for refreshments. Cost: \$2 for nonmembers. Meet at 11 a.m. at King Street Metro. Leader: Claire Lenihan (301) 937-7012, clr_lenihan@hotmail.com.

SUN MAR 7: STONY MAN. A moderate-to-strenuous 11-mile hike in SNP with views from the AT and Stony Man. Return by the Indian Run and Corbin Cabin Cutoff Trails. Cost: \$10 plus park-entrance fee (+\$2 for nonmembers). *There is no entrance fee for a car that can produce a park pass at the gate.* Meet at 9 a.m. at Vienna Metro. Leaders: Duncan T. and Nora P. (703) 527-2349.

SUN MAR 7: HUNTLEY MEADOWS – SLOW AND EASY. Join us for this slow-paced 2-3 mile meander in the beautiful Huntley Meadows Nature Preserve. Bring water and dress according to the weather. Cost: \$1 (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 1 p.m. at Huntington Metro (newspaper racks at lower entrance -- the Huntington Avenue entrance). Leader: Michael S. (703) 677-7777.

TUE MAR 9: VIENNA STROLL. Enjoy an easy 2-4 mile stroll through business and residential areas in Vienna. Return by 9 p.m. Possible snack stop. Cost: \$2 for nonmembers. Meet at 7 p.m. at Vienna Metro (north side). *NOTE: You must have a SmarTrip Card to use a Metro parking lot.* Leader: Rana H. (703) 532-2031.

SAT MAR 13: SHERMAN GAP-SHAWL GAP. A moderate 9-mile hike in GWNF. Experience fantastic views of river and valley below this time of year. Cost: \$10 (+ \$2 non-member fee.) Meet: 9am at Vienna Metro (north side). Leader: Russ S. 703-860-6735.

SAT MAR 13: GREAT FALLS, MARYLAND--GOLD MINE HIKE. Hike an easy-to-moderate 8 miles through an historic area of Montgomery County. View the Great Falls of the Potomac, Maryland side. Cost: \$2 (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 9:15 a.m. at Twinbrook Metro (Rockville Pike side). Leader: Jan Z. (301) 468-1896.

SUN MAR 14: THORNTON RIVER AND HULL SCHOOL TRAILS. A moderate-to-strenuous 11-mile hike in SNP that includes a rock-strewn stream, the rusted remains of an ancient automobile, old stone walls and, possibly, early spring wildflowers. Cost \$8 (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 9 a.m. at Vienna Metro. Leader: Buz G. (703) 765-0833 (BuzGroshong@earthlink.net).

SUN MAR 14: SLIGO CREEK, FOREST GLEN TO GLENMONT METRO. An easy- to-moderate hike of approximate 7 miles through Sligo Creek, Wheaton Regional Park and Brookside Botanical Garden, where we'll look for early spring flowers. Possible lunch afterwards. Meet at 10 a.m. at Forest Glen Metro. Cost: Metro fare (+\$2 for nonmembers). Leaders: Mike S. & Henri G. (301) 294-0132 (Mikkes@me.com).

SAT MAR 20: PRINCE WILLIAM FOREST PARK. A slow-paced, easy-to-moderate 4.8-mile hike in Prince William Forest Park that includes a pretty walk along stream. Not suitable for fast hikers. Cost: \$4 (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 10 a.m. at Huntington Metro (Huntington Ave. side). Leaders: Gail N (301) 572-6951 and Ron W. (703) 931-2526.

SAT MAR 20: CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL AND ROCK CREEK PARK. Join us on this easy 6-miler from Bethesda to Silver Spring via the Capital Crescent Trail and Rock Creek Park. Refreshments afterward at Panera Bread in Silver Spring. Cost: return Metro fare (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 1 p.m. at Bethesda Metro (west side of Wisconsin Ave). Leaders: Weber L. (703) 525-3357 and Marcia S. mkswan9013@aol.com.

SUN MAR 21: POTOMAC HERITAGE TRAIL. Celebrate the first day of spring on this moderate 11-12 mile hike that features a lunch stop on the site of a Civil War fort and a splendid view of the Palisades and Georgetown from a rocky promontory. Cost: \$2 (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 9 a.m. at Rosslyn Metro or 9:30 a.m. in the Roosevelt Island parking lot (north end). Leader: Jim H. houghtonjf@hotmail.com.

SAT MAR 27: HARPER'S FERRY NATIONAL PARK, HARPER'S FERRY, WV. Enjoy beautiful mountain scenery, choose between a hilly or a flat option. Hilly option will take in Maryland Heights and Jefferson Rock. Flat-option hikers will cruise the C & O towpath. Both groups will walk about 5 or 6 miles. We'll take the park bus shuttle to town. Pack or buy lunch in Harper's Ferry. Cost: \$8 plus daily fee (or National Park pass) (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 9 a.m. at Shady Grove Metro or at 10:15 a.m. at the Harper's Ferry Visitor Center on Route 340. Leader: Margaret C. (301) 977-8988. (Available most evenings, not Tuesdays.)

SAT MAR 27: TWENTY-FORTH ANNUAL CHERRY BLOSSOM HIKE (1 of 2). An easy 6-mile hike around Georgetown and the Tidal Basin. Optional dinner stop at Old Post Office. Cost: return Metro Fare from Federal Triangle (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 1 p.m. at Rosslyn Metro. Leader: Mike M. (202) 829-7749.

SUN MAR 28: HAWKSBILL AND ROSE RIVER FALLS. A moderate-to-strenuous 11-mile hike in SNP with views from the AT and Hawksbill and a visit to Rose River Falls. Cost: \$12 plus park-entrance fee (+\$2 for nonmembers). *There is no entrance fee for a car that can produce a park pass at the gate.* Meet at 9 a.m. at Vienna Metro. Leaders: Duncan T. and Nora P. (703) 527-2349.

TUE MAR 30: OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA STROLL. An easy 2-4 miles through business and residential areas and cemeteries in Old Town Alexandria. Return by 9 p.m. Cost \$2 for nonmembers. Possible snack stop. Meet at 6:45 p.m. at King Street Metro (by the Kiss & Ride, at original entrance). Leader: Rana H. (703) 532-2031.

SAT APR 3: CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK, THURMONT MD. We shall follow a circuit that includes the fine views from Chimney Rock and the Thurmont Vista Overlook. Added attractions are a visit to Cunningham Falls and an optional dinner at the Cozy. Distance: 6 to 7 miles. Terrain: moderate. Cost: \$6.00 (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 10:15 a.m. at Twinbrook Metro (Rockville Pike side). Leaders: Ellen A. (703-998-8617) and Marcia S. (MKswan9013@aol.com)

SAT APR 3: TWENTY-FORTH ANNUAL CHERRY BLOSSOM HIKE (2 of 2). An easy 6-mile hike in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area highlighted by cherry blossoms in the Kenwood neighborhood. Optional dinner stop at La Madeleine. Cost: \$2 for nonmembers. Meet at 1 p.m. at Bethesda Metro. Leader: Mike M. (202) 829-7749.

SUN APR 4: LITTLE DEVIL'S STAIRS – PINEY BRANCH. A strenuous 10-mile hike in SNP up Little Devil's Stairs and down Piney Branch. Rocky cliffs rise up from these beautiful streams; we'll see many small waterfalls. Cost \$8 (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet 9 a.m. at Vienna Metro. Leader: Buz G. (703) 765-0833 (BuzGroshong@earthlink.net).

SUN APR 4: EASTER HIKE. Don your Easter bonnet and stroll 5 easy miles through Dupont Circle, Massachusetts Avenue and Adams Morgan. Optional snack at a local churroria. Cost: \$2 for nonmembers. Meet at 11 a.m. at Dupont Circle Metro (Q street exit). Leaders: Debbie K. (301)773-7527 and Lenny G. (703) 276-0596.

FRI-SUN APR 9-11: CAPE HENLOPEN – CAMPING AND HIKING. Camp Friday and Saturday nights. Hike approximately 7 miles, or less, on Saturday. On Sunday choose a hike or a ferry ride to Cape May for a self-guided bike trip into town. Call for details and cost. Leaders: Gail N. (301) 572-6951 and Ed E. Address all questions to Gail.

SAT APR 10: SKY MEADOWS -- A.T. A moderate 10-mile hike that starts in Sky Meadows State Park. We climb up to the AT and then walk along the AT to a shelter for lunch. Cost: \$8 (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 10 a.m. at Vienna Metro. Leader: Stu S. (703) 517-3490.

SUN APR 11: THE MALL. Hike 7 miles in and around the Mall. Pass most memorials and museums. View the Tidal Basin, climb up the steps of the Lincoln Memorial (optional), have a rest stop at the coffee shop of the art gallery's sculpture garden. Follow all this with a walk around the outside of the Capitol. Cost: \$2 for nonmembers. Meet at 11 a.m. at Smithsonian Metro on the Mall. Leader: Beryl G. (703) 707-9702.

SUN APR 11: HUNTLEY MEADOW – SLOW AND EASY. Join us for this slow-paced 2-3 mile meander in the beautiful Huntley Meadows Nature Preserve. Bring water and dress according to the weather. Cost: \$1 (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 1 p.m. at Huntington Metro (newspaper racks at lower entrance – the Huntington Avenue entrance). Leader: Michael S. (703) 677-7777.

TUE APR 13: VIENNA STROLL. An easy 2-4 miles through business and residential areas in Vienna. Return by 9 p.m. Possible snack stop. Cost: \$2 for nonmembers. Meet at 7 p.m. at Vienna Metro (north side). *NOTE: You must have a SmarTrip Card to use a Metro parking lot.* Leader: Rana H. (703) 532-2031.

SAT APR 17: W&OD HIKE. Enjoy this easy 7-miler on the W&OD Trail from Herndon to Sterling and back to Herndon, where we'll enjoy a Mexican dinner at the end of the hike. Cost: bus fare (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 1 p.m. at West Falls Church Metro (upper level). Leaders: Weber L. (703) 525-3357 and Marcia S. mkswan9013@aol.com.

SAT APRIL 17: HOOVER CAMP. A moderate 7.5-mile hike in central SNP along the Laurel Prong and Mill Prong Trails. Optional dinner afterward. Cost: \$12 plus park-entrance fee (+\$2 for nonmembers). *There is no entrance fee for a car that can produce a park pass at the gate.* Meet at 9 a.m. at Vienna Metro (north side). Leaders: Ron W. (703) 931-2526 and Bob L. (301) 977-6561.

SAT APR 17: HISTORIC BIKE TOUR - PARKS AND BOUNDARY STONES #1. Unsuitable for fast cyclists. Bike about 35 miles at a leisurely pace on an historic tour. Travel along the Arlington boundary to Jones Point in Alexandria, stopping often and visiting DC boundary stones. Return along the Mount Vernon, W&OD and Four Mile Run Trails. Trip will be cancelled if the chance of rain is greater than 50 percent. Cost: \$2 for nonmembers. Meet at 9:15 a.m. at East Falls Church Metro. Leader: Bernie B. (703) 243-0179, bhberne@yahoo.com.

SUN APR 18: BULL RUN II. My favorite hike was snowed out in February, so let's try again. Celebrate the end of tax season on this moderate 11-mile walk from Hemlock Overlook to Fountainhead Park. Lunch at the Bull Run Marina. Meet 9 a.m. at Vienna Metro (north side) or 9:30 a.m. at Fountainhead Park (the parking lot is on the right, about a half mile past the park entrance). Leader: Jim H. (703) 266-2209 (houghtonjf@hotmail.com).

SAT APR 24: LAKE NEEDWOOD PLUS, ROCKVILLE, MD. A one-way 8-mile hike from Shady Grove Metro to Rockville Metro via Lake Needwood. Bakery and/or restaurant lunch stop in Rockville. Cost: \$2 for nonmembers. Meet at 9 a.m. at Shady Grove Metro. We'll be on our way at 9:15 a.m. Leader: Margaret C. (301) 977-8988. (Available most evenings, not Tuesdays.)

SUN APR 25: CIRCLES AND SQUARES. An easy 3 ½-mile hike to various circles and squares of Washington -- Farragut Square, Lafayette Park, Mt. Vernon Square, and others. Begin and end at the Metro. Brief stops along the way for commentary. Lunch optional. Cost: \$2 for nonmembers. Meet at 10 a.m. at Farragut North Metro (K Street exit). Leaders: Bill D. and Ann F. (301) 656-1798.

TUE APR 27: OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA STROLL. An easy 2-4 miles through business and residential areas and cemeteries in Old Town Alexandria. Return by 9 p.m. Cost: \$2 for nonmembers. Possible snack stop. Meet at 6:45 p.m. at King Street Metro (by the Kiss & Ride, at original entrance). Leader: Rana H. (703) 532-2031.

SAT MAY 1: HISTORIC CENTRAL ARLINGTON. Enjoy an easy walk of 10-12 miles. Tour various historic points in central Arlington, including colonial, Civil War, trolley, and W&OD Railroad sites. We will stop at cemeteries, log cabins, historic springs, old mill sites, a George Washington survey site, a D.C. boundary stone, and a library. Cost: \$2 for nonmembers. Meet at 9 a.m. at Clarendon Metro. Leader: Bernie B. (703) 243-0179. bhberne@yahoo.com.

SAT MAY 1: HIKE WITH A COFFEE BREAK. What's the rush? Enjoy a relaxed, slow-paced, moderate 4-mile hike up the AT to Stony Man for fabulous views, down to Skyland Lodge for coffee, and then along the Passamaquoddy Trail for more views. Not suitable for fast hikers. Optional dinner afterward. Cost: \$10 plus park entrance fee (+\$2 for nonmembers). *There is no entrance fee for a car that can produce a park pass at the gate.* Meet at 10 a.m. at Vienna metro (north side). Leaders: Gail N. (301) 572-6951 and Ron W. (703) 931-2526.

SAT MAY 1: NATIONAL ARBORETUM. Come see flaming billows of azaleas, rhododendrons and thousands of other flowering trees, shrubs and herbs in the USDA gardens in Northeast Washington, DC. We'll cover 5 to 6 miles of easy terrain with some gentle hills. Cost: \$2 nonmembers. Meet at 10:30 a.m. in the parking lot inside the R street entrance of the arboretum. Leaders: Dave G. (301) 925-7272 and Debbie K. (301)773-7527.

SUN MAY 2: LAKE ACCOTINK. Walk 6 easy miles through nature trails in Fairfax County to North Springfield. Watch waterfowl and other wildlife. Cost: \$2 (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 10 a.m. at Vienna Metro. Leader: Stu S. (703) 517-3490.

SAT MAY 8: SKYLAND TO PANORAMA. Enjoy great views on this moderate-to-strenuous 10-mile hike on the AT to Stony Man, the Pinnacles and Marys Rock. Optional dinner afterward. Cost: \$12 plus park-entrance fee (+\$2 for nonmembers). *There is no entrance fee for a car that can produce a park pass at the gate.* Meet at 9 a.m. at Vienna Metro. Leader: Stu S. (703) 517-3490.

SUN MAY 9: TRILLIUM HIKE. An easy-to-moderate 10-mile hike (there are uphill portions) through wildflower-filled woods near Linden, VA. If we timed it right, we will see thousands of trilliums and perhaps a few yellow lady slippers and showy orchids. Cost: \$6 (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 9 a.m. at Vienna Metro. Leader: Buz G. (703) 765-0833 (BuzGroshong@earthlink.net).

TUE MAY 11: VIENNA STROLL. An easy 2-4 miles through business and residential areas in Vienna. Return by 9 p.m. Possible snack stop. Cost: \$2 for nonmembers. Meet at 7 p.m. at Vienna Metro (north side). *You must have a SmarTrip Card to use a Metro parking lot.* Leader: Rana H. (703) 532-2031.

SAT MAY 15: UPPER ROCK CREEK PARK, MARYLAND. Join us on this easy-to-moderate 10-mile hike in upper Rock Creek Park, Maryland from Shady Grove to Twinbrook Metro. We'll pass lovely Lake Needwood. Optional pizza/Italian dinner after the hike. Cost: return Metro fare (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 1 p.m. at Shady Grove Metro (east side). Leaders: Weber L. (703) 525-3357 and Marcia S. mkswan9013@aol.com.

SUN MAY 16: CHIMNEY ROCKS, MICHAUX STATE FOREST. A moderate-to-strenuous 11-mile hike in southern Pa. along the AT and side trails. Views from Chimney and Shafer Rocks. Cost: \$10 (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 9 a.m. at Twinbrook Metro (Rockville Pike side). Leaders: Duncan T. and Nora P. (703) 527-2349.

SUN MAY 16: HUNTLEY MEADOWS – SLOW AND EASY. Join us for this slow-paced 2-3 mile meander in the beautiful Huntley Meadows Nature Preserve. Bring water and dress according to the weather. Cost: \$1 (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 1 p.m. at Huntington Metro (newspaper racks at lower entrance—the Huntington Avenue entrance). Leader: Michael S. (703) 677-7777.

SAT MAY 22: BALTIMORE CITY HIKE. Hike 7 easy miles through the tony parts of Baltimore. Visit Druid Hill, John Hopkins University and the Baltimore Art Museum. Optional early dinner at a funky restaurant. Cost: \$6.00 (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 10 a.m. at Cheverly Metro. Leader: Debbie K (301) 773-7527.

SAT MAY 22: LAKE FRANK AND LAKE NEEDWOOD. Enjoy an easy-to-moderate 9-mile, figure-8 hike around these two lakes in upper Rock Creek Park. Cost: \$2 (+\$2 for nonmembers). Meet at 9:15 a.m. at Twinbrook Metro (Rockville Pike side). Leader: Jan Z. (301) 468-1896.

SUN MAY 23: TRAIL WORK TRIP. Help maintain a trail in Shenandoah Park. Most of the work will be weed cutting; there will be a bit of pruning. We'll probably see some pink lady slippers and other wildflowers. Call for information. Cost: \$0. Meet at 9 a.m. at Vienna Metro. Leader: Buz G. (703) 765-0833 (BuzGroshong@earthlink.net).

SUN MAY 23: EAST FALLS CHURCH TO BALLSTON. An easy 4-mile hike on the W&OD trail with a stop at Bonair Rose Garden and an historic railroad car. Optional dinner afterward. Cost: return Metro fare (+\$2 nonmembers). Meet at 2 p.m. at East Falls Church Metro. Leader: Stu S. (703) 517-3490.

TUE MAY 25: OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA STROLL. An easy 2-4 miles through business and residential areas and cemeteries in Old Town Alexandria. Return by 9 p.m. Cost: \$2 for nonmembers. Possible snack stop. Meet at 6:45 p.m. at King Street Metro (by the Kiss & Ride, at the original entrance). Leader: Rana H. (703) 532-2031.

THU MAY 27: HIKE SCHEDULE MAILING. The few, the proud, the mailers: The Center Hiking Club pizza eating team makes sure you get your schedule between slices. For meeting time and place call Duncan T. (703) 527-2349.

SUN MAY 30: ELKWALLOW - MATTHEWS ARM. We'll enjoy a moderate 8-mile hike in northern SNP in the Matthews Arm Campground area. Optional dinner afterward. Cost: \$10 plus park-entrance fee (+\$2 for nonmembers). *There is no entrance fee for a car that can produce a park pass at the gate.* Meet at 9 a.m. at Vienna Metro (north side). Leader: Stu S. (703) 517-3490.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow outdoor fans,

In my last president's letter, I suggested that members come forward to fill our still-vacant position of vice president. This position usually requires organizing and making the arrangements for our picnics. Since there are some members who think that the best part of a strenuous mountain hike is the dinner afterward, we can readily see that eating and picnics are very important events for our club. So please, someone, help us out.

I have looked over the spring schedule and am glad to see that we have events of sufficient number and variety of events to satisfy all.

Please review the addition to the front page under **COSTS**.

Enjoy our hikes.

Jan

Want to join the Center Hiking Club? Send your dues (\$5 for individuals or \$7 for families) to Attilio & Patti Abate, Membership Secretaries, 4609 Weston Place, Olney, MD 20832.

**Visit the Center Hiking Club's website on the Internet.
The address is www.centerhikingclub.org**