



Newsletter for September 2008

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## The President's Chip by Dr. Geoff Patton, Ph.D.

MAGIC is about preserving future forests – today! So, it was shocking to get a flyer in the mail selling forest land “in the heart of Dolly Sods Wilderness Area”. Fortunately, the land is not in the *actual* Dolly Sods Wilderness Area. It is just east and still will be detrimental to our goal of preserving wildlife corridors connecting existing forest lands. You can see the flyer and a better map [here](#).

On the Good News front, I attended a workshop of the Steering Committee for a new National Climate Change and Wildlife Center being run by the U.S. Geological Survey, one of the research components of the U.S. Dept of Interior. There are many agencies with responsibilities for managing our Nation's natural resources and global warming is adding to the existing stressors. This new center will try to bring together the 20-odd major players to achieve lofty goals they have set for themselves. MAGIC is well-positioned to help with one of their identified future steps, that of “Integrating research on habitat fragmentation with climate change projections to identify the need for creating movement corridors...(for) at-risk species.” You can see a flyer about the new Center [here](#).

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**A Parkway Here, a Parkway There. Here a Parkway, There a Parkway, Parkways Everywhere. Where are the Parks? Oh, They're Under the Parkways!**

Former Governor Ehrlich's Folly – the Montrose Parkway, a road between I-270 and Rockville Pike.  
Governor O'Malley's Folly – the InterCounty Connector (ICC), destroying forests while wasting \$3B.  
U.S. Senator Byrd's Folly – the notorious Corridor H in WV with dreams of continuing into VA.  
The next folly – a Cross County Connector (CCC) in southern Maryland intended to connect the Chapman Forest area to more eastern reaches while crashing through Mattawoman watershed. Again, these plans bank on destroying habitat. The wisdom behind these development schemes needs to be deeply challenged as the public begins to question the future of SUVs, gas prices, and the benefits of working from home. For more on the issue of the CCC, click [here](#). To learn more about Corridor H, click [here](#). [To his credit, our environmental Gov. O'Malley did side with MAGIC and others who questioned a poorly-studied proposed [wind turbine installation](#) on western MD State lands.]

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## Our Affiliates -

Some more good news is that MAGIC is reestablishing our contacts with our affiliate organizations. It is very heartening to hear people speak so highly of Bob DeGroot. A representative from the **Chapman Forest Foundation** credits Bob with helping them save the 2200 acres of the Chapman Forest. The Anacostia Watershed Society is looking forward to us working more closely with them, and we hope to even patch things up with the MD DNR in the hopes that we can all work together and look toward a 100-year plan for preserving Maryland forests, connecting regional wildlife corridors, and helping to fight the global climate crisis.



Contrary to popular belief, invasion by exotic species is not an intractable problem. The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club is jump-starting a volunteer effort (courtesy of the Anacostia Watershed Society) to eradicate wavyleaf basketgrass before it becomes a national problem. Marc Imlay explains that victory may be at hand for a Prince George's County group of volunteers who work to eradicate the invasive species. Training sessions for volunteers will be held Saturday August 30 at 11:00 am, Saturday September 6 at 9 am, and Sunday September 7 at 5 pm for those who want to help. See [here](#) for more info (thanks to Karl Blankenship) and contact Marc at either 301-442-5657 (cell) or [marc@anacostiaws.org](mailto:marc@anacostiaws.org) to sign up.

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## Other news:

### New Alerts & Newsletters Sign-up Page on MAGIC Website -

If you run into anyone you think might be interested in MAGIC, please direct them to our new sign-up page for our alerts and newsletters. Just click [here](#) and Thanks to Board Member and Vice president John Trone for setting this up for us. Also, a tip of the hat goes to Board Member Doris Fausey for again coordinating MAGIC's participation in the Rockville Science Day.



**MAGIC President Dr. Geoff Patton presents Doris Fausey** with an award from the Board of Directors for her years of coordinating MAGIC participation in community events such as Rockville Science Days and Takoma Park Festivals. MAGIC benefits not only by gaining exposure for our Mission but also by getting new people interested and we typically get very nice, complimentary notes back from event organizers about our participation.

Should you hear someone agitated about global warming, ask them whether they know anyone capable of making a substantial donation to help us jump start our forest preservation efforts. They can contact MAGIC President Geoff Patton at [gwpatt01@yahoo.com](mailto:gwpatt01@yahoo.com) or at 301-221-9536. There is also a donation page on the MAGIC website. The **U.S. Forest Service** has a new video on climate change you might like to see. Click [here](#) to watch the video. MAGIC disagrees with thinning forests, though.

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