

Tubing Redux

Although tubing pressure on the river was heavy again this year, it was somewhat more manageable than last year. Thanks to efforts by the State Highway Administration, the parking areas in the vicinity of Monkton Village were re-painted and the no-parking zones clearly designated during the road repaving in the spring. This improvement, in conjunction with dedicated patrols by the Cockeysville Police, resulted in fewer illegally parked cars and a less hazardous traffic situation in Monkton Village most of the time.

However, inner tubers and cars continued to congregate near the narrow bridge at Blue Mount Road, creating a nuisance and hazard for other traffic on that road. A second inner tube vendor, Tube N' Taxi, set up operations at a satellite location in Hereford and offered alternative rental and parking opportunities for visitors who have for years rented tubes from the bike shop in Monkton Village. As the temperatures climbed, partying, excessive noise, and the use of alcohol on the river also increased and interfered with other user groups, including canoeists, kayakers, fishers, and families with children who had also come to enjoy the river. Quick action by the Maryland Natural Resource Police, the Gunpowder State Park rangers, and the Cockeysville Police curbed some of the illegal use of alcohol and precluded commercial vendors from operating within the boundaries of the Gunpowder State Park.

The tubing season came to an end earlier than expected because of heavy rains from Hurricane Irene and the historic flood from Tropical Storm Lee. In anticipation of a busy tubing season next year, SGPC will be working with residents, commercial vendors, state and local officials and the Baltimore County Council to build on the progress this alliance has produced to date. To this end, the Council's activities will be joined by those of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Sport Fish Advisory Commission, and the Mid-Atlantic Council of Trout Unlimited. These groups, which were originally responsible for establishing the management of the Gunpowder Falls as a unique cold water resource, are very concerned about its survival as a premier trout fishing habitat. They will be working to develop a plan to limit uses of the river that are incompatible with trout fishing. This may require restricting the number of tubes on the Gunpowder in the future.

Run For Green

Sparks-Glencoe's first annual Run For Green took off. The 5k race, 2 mile fun walk drew approximately 75 participants from all parts of Maryland and neighboring states to the NCR Trail. Support from the local community



Old Field School's Running Team

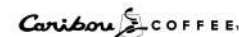
was essential to the success of the race. Old fields school fielded a team of cross-country runners, including the winner of the Under 15 Age

Category, Bibi McGill. The school also fielded a team of volunteers, whose enthusiastic cheering probably helped some runners shave a few seconds off their times.



They're Off!

Coming in first place with a time of 17:24 was Keith Lucas, of Phoenix, Maryland. The fastest female runner was Megan Van Den Hengel of Mechanicsburg, PA. We're grateful for the support of our sponsors listed below, and for the additional prizes, provided by Hair Culture in Hereford, Kingsdene Nursery, and the Milton Inn. Many thanks to co-chairs Gina Navarro and Renae Olver for their hours of hard work organizing our first race.



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