

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **April 2010**. It is going out to over **1,875 people**. If you do not want to receive this once-a-month email in the future, simply hit "reply" and ask to be removed. Please also remember that if you prefer not to read this announcement in email form, you can always access it on the web at www.simplicity-matters.org/announcements/.

We also have a Yahoogroup, called "DCMetroSimplifiers," with about 269 members, if you want to be involved during the month in an "interactive dialogue." You can subscribe from our "Online Convos" tab of our website or directly at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/online>.

For our friends in Baltimore, there is also a YahooGroup called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities and about 92 members. You also can subscribe from our "Online Convos" tab of our website or directly at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/online>.

This announcement is organized into five sections:

- Second Sunday Forum, Baltimore Green Forum, and Howard County Earth Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- May Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

April is the month for "Earth Day" events, especially this year as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary. Check out all the opportunities to be out of doors, especially the region-wide watershed clean-ups on April 10 and 24th.

Don't forget to scroll down to the bottom to the "Action Opportunities & Tidbits" which includes links to several articles written by or about "friends of SMEI".

Thanks to this month's editor, **Janis Oppelt**. Due to Earth Day, this is probably our LONGEST announcement ever!

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, April 11, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm

Opening to Wonder: Finding Our Sense of Place

A Presentation by Hayden Mathews of River Stories www.bayhistory.net

Hayden Mathews has been on a self-described "60 year journey of progressive amazement." With each passing year, with each new adventure, with each new conversation with nature and his fellow humans, he finds himself more and more in love with life and progressively more in awe of how he got here and how he fits into the web of life. Using poems, prose passages, personal reflections of his journey and some favorite images from his travels (both real and virtual), Hayden will share his thoughts about his "coming home process" and, in doing so, hopefully open some new doors for you as well. To get a sense of some of the varied things that have caught Hayden's heart and eye in recent years visit his River Stories web site (www.bayhistory.net).

Where: in a private home in Bethesda, within walking distance of the Medical Center metro (Red Line), close to I-495 and Wisconsin Avenue.

To RSVP (required): Call Marney at (301) 652-0492 or e-mail forum@simplicity-matters.org . Please include your phone number in your message.

EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY EARTH FORUM

**Sunday, April 18, Earth Forum of Howard County, 3:00–5:30 pm
First Presbyterian, Columbia, MD.**

Earth Forum of Howard County presents “**Transportation for Tomorrow**” with author **Anne Korin**, co-director, Institute for the Analysis of Global Security. Ride into the future landscape of flex-fuel and electric vehicles, mass transit possibilities, and electric bikes while freeing us from dependence on foreign oil. Also featured are the climate change dancers.

Several discussion/action groups will follow. Refreshments provided. Free and open to the community.

At the First Presbyterian of Howard County, 9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia. More info, sign-up and directions at church office 410-730-3545, ex.10 or <http://www.firstpreshc.org/Care/EarthForum/tabid/47845/Default.aspx> Come, join us.

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

**Sunday, April 25, 4:30- 6:30 pm
MD Presbyterian Church, 1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286
<http://www.mpchurch.org/About.htm>**

In 2010 the Baltimore Green Forum is hosting a series of talks on topics relevant to the Transition Town movement with the goal of supporting the development of Transition Initiatives in the Baltimore area.

TAPPING INTO OUR COLLECTIVE GENIUS

"Part of the process of developing an Energy Descent Action Plan is tapping into the collective genius of the community." This simple line from "Step #5" of the Transition Towns Primer asks a lot of a Transition team. It implies that we must (1) find "the collective genius," (2) gather it up and support it and (3) somehow tap into its potential to bring about long term change. We must ask ourselves:

What is our "collective genius"?

Who else do we need in order to succeed and what "genius" do they bring?

How can we discover the "genius" that our local communities hold?

At the April 25th Baltimore Green Forum, **Geoff Stack of STACK Coordination** will lead Forum participants in exercises to help us discover our own group's strengths and challenges. He will also give a short presentation on a collective effort underway to uncover the "genius" that the Catonsville area holds. **Please join us! What genius will you bring?**

Current co-sponsors include: Simplicity Matters Earth Institute, Transition Baltimore,

Network of Spiritual Progressives in MD, Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network, Baltimore Climate Action Network, MD League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, Inc., Parks & People, and the Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club.

FREE to attend, but donations to Maryland Presbyterian Church are greatly appreciated. For more program info, contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 301-345-2234
Poster available at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/forums/baltimore.php>.

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

NWEI Discussion Guides: (SSW) Sustainable Systems at Work; (RE) Reconnecting with Earth; (GW) Global Warming: Changing CO2urse; (CSL) Choices for Sustainable Living; (DSOP) Discovering a Sense of Place; (HCHP) Healthy Children-Healthy Planet; (MF) Menu for the Future; (VS) Voluntary Simplicity. **Other guides:** (LBP) "Simplicity Lessons" by Linda Breen Pierce; (LCD) "Low Carbon Diet" by David Gershon; (YMOYL) Your Money or Your Life.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Discussion circle books now cost \$20 plus s/h (except SSW, which cost \$35). They should be ordered directly from NWEI. For more info, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/order.php>

We ended the year with a total of 27 circles So far in 2010, we have started 9 circles (233 in total since 2002!) and have **3 more circles scheduled for April-- see those with an asterisk (*) below**, that are open to the public.

Plans have become so numerous that **we are now breaking them down by county**. Please scroll down to see what is starting up near where you live. For more info, you may contact Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org unless otherwise noted.

VIRGINIA

Vienna, VA – Helene Shore reports: We have just finished our circle on Sunday, "Sustainable Systems at Work". It was great. We will be doing a green bag giveaway at an Earth Day celebration in Reston, Va on Saturday April 24th from 1 to 5 at the Walker Nature Center on Glade Drive in Reston. We are also planning a movie, about mountain top coal mining sometime in May. No new groups starting in April
For people interested in **future discussion circles in Northern Virginia**, contact Helene Shore at 703-861-6638 or email at Teachhss@aol.com.

Frederick & Washington County

None currently scheduled to begin

Carroll County

Westminster "Regroup" Contact CirclesCarroll@Simplicity-Matters.org to join the group for discussions and to watch videos. CS: Carole Flood

Howard County

* **Oakland Mills Meeting House (HCHP) Intro Mtg: April 7, First Session: April 14**, CS: Tracy Manning, lore@simplicity-matters.org

* **Kittamaqundi Church (CSL), Intro Mtg: April 28, First Session: May 5** CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Howard County College (GW), Intro Mtg: TBD, CS: Margo Duesterhaus, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Howard County Conservancy (GW), Intro Mtg: TBD, CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Snowden Overlook (GW), Intro Mtg: TBD, CS: Judy Burt, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Snowden Overlook (VS), Intro Mtg: TBD, CS: Judy Burt, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Glenelg (GW) Intro Mtg: TBD, CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
"Matchmaker" Circle (CSL), Intro Mtg: TBD CS: Lore Rosenthal, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
"Matchmaker" Circle (MF), Intro Mtg: TBD CS: Lore Rosenthal, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Howard County, Climate Change Initiative of Howard County (CCIHC) Committee is actively pursuing many other potential venues. Details to follow. Visit www.hococlimatechange.org or email hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Harford County

None currently scheduled to begin

Baltimore City/County

Baltimore "Matchmaker" Circle (CSL), CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Baltimore, Towson Presbyterian Church (MF), CS: Ann Phillips

Baltimore, Light Street Presbyterian (SSW), CS: Retta Barkley

Baltimore Ethical Society (tbd), CS: Karen Elliott

Baltimore region (DSOP, GW, MF, CSL) As soon as we have 8-12 people who can agree on a night of the week, we will get started. Contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org

PG County

* **Mt. Rainier** (VS), **Intro Mtg: April 12, First Session: April 19**, CS: Joe Robbins, contact: lore@simplicity-matters.org

Paint Branch UU Church (VS), CS: Raman Pathik

Paint Branch UU Church (MF), CS: Mary Rooker

Montgomery County

No new circles starting in April. If you want to be informed about future circles starting, please contact marney@simplicity-matters.org.

Washington, DC

***Capital Simplicity: Capitol Hill home of Leonardo Neher, Tuesday, March 16, 414 4th St., SE** (short walk from Capitol South & Eastern Market metro stations), 7-8:30 PM, Topic: "A Sense of Place," session 1 of the Discussion Course "Discovering a Sense of Place," focusing on knowing, protecting, and taking responsibility for our geographic area. RSVP required. Contact Pope Barrow, 202-546-3933 & mpb56054@yahoo.com.

Washington, DC, Join the folks of the **Washington Buddhist Peace Fellowship** to discuss diet, climate change and how our spiritual practices relate to and illuminate these issues. Please see our web site www.wbpf.org for more information (events calendar). Contact person: Bill Jenkins, worldofmuse@aol.com, (301) 699-8704

Tenleytown or on Red Line (All Topics). There is interest but we need more people. If you are interested in joining a discussion group please let me know. Marney@simplicity-matters.org, 301 652-0492

"Circles List"/"Matchmaking"

This winter, SMEI will continue "matching" and/or "pointing" people into circles. In neighborhoods where circles are already forming, we will point you in the direction of a circle nearby. In those areas where there is not a circle already being planned, we will "match" people into home-based groups.

We are in the process of transitioning to a regional structure for the state. Please start using the emails below for more information about circles starting in your county.

SMEI Regional Coordinators:

Baltimore City/Baltimore Co.: CirclesBalto@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal)

Carroll Co.: CirclesCarroll@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Frederick & Washington Co.: CirclesFredWashCo@simplicity-matters.org (Lena Rotenberg)

Howard Co.: CirclesHoCo@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal).

See also **Climate Change Initiative of Howard County** (CCIHC) www.hococlimatechange.org

Montgomery Co.: CirclesMontgomery@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Prince Georges Co.: CirclesPG@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal)

Washington DC: CirclesDC@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Elsewhere in Maryland or Jefferson Co., WV: Circles@simplicity-matters.org or 301-432-8721 (Lena Rotenberg)

For a list of our **most popular NWEI-published discussion topics**, visit

<http://www.simplicity-matters.org/volunteers/forms/7guides.pdf>

If you are **starting your own circle** and would like to have your blurb posted here and on our website, please email it to Lena@simplicity-matters.org

For more info. about our discussion circles, visit our Discussion Circles page, <http://www.simplicitymatters.org/circles> , or email Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

April Events

Thurs., April 1, Compassion Over Killing (COK) Benefit at The Vegetable Garden, 11 am–10 pm, Rockville, MD. Join us at our monthly COK benefit day. Dine in or order take-out and 10 percent of your bill will be automatically donated to COK. For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. For directions and details, go to www.cok.net/events.

Sat., April 3, 2010, Dyeing Eggs the Natural Way, 2 pm–4 pm, Marshy Point Nature Center, Middle River, MD. Bring a dozen hard-boiled eggs and dye them in natural colors extracted from simple ingredients you can find in the garden or the market. For more information, contact 410-887-2817. Directions and details at www.marshypoint.org.

Sat., April 3, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, 7 pm– 9 pm, Ellicott City, MD 21042 (near Centennial Park). Please bring a vegan (NO animal products) dish to share (store-bought is fine) for the number in your party plus 8. Bring your own reusable picnic-ware. There will be iced tea and filtered water to drink. Invite friends and the merely curious. Kids welcome! Please RSVP via e-mail to bssorak@yahoo.com or call 410-465-0427.

Sat., April 3 and Sun., April 4, COK Benefit Weekend at Toscana Grill, 10 am–10 pm, Arlington, VA. Join us for an all-vegan brunch, lunch, or dinner and 10 percent of your bill will be donated towards our work to help animals. For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. For directions and details, go to www.cok.net/events .

Mon., April 5, COK and DC Vegan Drinks at Tonic Restaurant, 7 pm–10 pm, Washington, DC. After working with COK, Tonic has launched a new vegan menu and has invited us to help celebrate. We'll enjoy delicious vegan food, \$5 vegan white Russians, and \$5 vegan bloody marys—so be sure to bring a friend. For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net , 301-891-2458. For directions and details, go to www.cok.net/events .

Mon., April 5, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance (CSBA) Green Mondays, 6 pm–9 pm, Canton/Baltimore, MD. Join us at the Emerging Technology Center for networking and an overview about what they do to assist start-up businesses, how they do it and who benefits. Price includes light fare, beer and wine. \$20 members, \$30 non members. For more information and to register by Friday, April 2, go to www.csballiance.org .

EcocityDC meets EVERY Tuesday at 7 pm at Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW, Washington DC 20001. Click on <http://ecolocity.ning.com/events> for details

1st week (April 6) - Food & Farming

2nd week (April 13) - Film

3rd week (April 20) - Transition

4th week (April 27) - Community Building Community: Planning & Networking

5th week when there's one - Special guest

Wed., April 7, “Will Your Trees Survive Snowmageddon?” 6:30 pm to 9 pm, Washington, D.C. Mike Galvin, deputy director of Casey Trees and International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist, will present a free workshop for homeowners and property managers. Learn about reading the body language of trees, the risks certain types of damage pose, what types of damage can be fixed and what damage cannot, and what the “big melt” may mean for your trees. Contact Carol Herwig at 202-349-1907 or cherwig@caseytrees.org. Location: Casey Trees, 1123 11th Street NW, Washington DC 20001. To register: Go to www.caseytrees.org , click on “Get Involved/Calendar.”

Wed., April 7, Lecture and Art on Invasive Species, 7 pm–8:30 pm, Worldwide Office of The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA. Join lecturers from The Nature Conservancy's Potomac Gorge project, and Maryland's Dept. of Natural Resources to learn more about plant and animal invasives of the region. Also on display, whimsical sculptures made from the oriental bittersweet vines that our volunteers helped to remove! For more information, contact Cari Longman at clongman@tnc.org or 301-897-8570 x239.

Wed., April 7, Gardening Like the Forest, 7 pm–9 pm, Baltimore, MD. This talk introduces the vision of forest gardening with some scientific background, a few living examples, and a sampling of some useful perennial edibles

you can use in your own garden. Suggested donation: \$10. For more information, contact Kwame at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523.

Thurs., April 8, Greening Your Business, 6:30 pm–8 pm, Catonsville, MD. Focused on bottom line results, this free forum will help you through the first steps to "going green." This event is being hosted by the Greater Catonsville Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) and is a preview to a full CCBC continuing education course scheduled on the evenings of 4/22, 4/29, 5/6 and 5/13. Geoff Stack, geoff@stackcoordination.com, 410-802-5754. Registration and details at <http://freshgreenimage.com/free-green-business-forum/>.

Thurs., April 8, Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) Spring Gardening Lecture Series, 7 pm–9 pm, Bladensburg, MD. Join Kathy Jentz, Editor/Publisher, *Washington Gardener Magazine* in her presentation, "Preparing Your Garden For Spring." Free to AWS members. To be held at the AWS office. For directions and details, go to <http://www.anacostiaws.org/calendar/aws-lecture-series-1>.

Fri., April 9, Mid-Atlantic Regional Animal Law Symposium, 9 am–6 pm, Baltimore, MD. The first-ever symposium of this type, to be held at the University of Baltimore School of Law, will address a wide range of topics related to the legal condition and welfare of animals in the region. For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. For directions and details, go to www.cok.net/events.

Fri., April 9, Benefit Event at Pizzazz Tuscan Grille, 7 pm–10 pm, Baltimore, MD. Please join us for a fun-filled night of fabulous vegan food and drinks where 20 percent of your bill will automatically be donated towards our efforts to help farmed animals. For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. For directions and details, go to www.cok.net/events.

Fri., April 9, Presentation on Mattawoman Creek, 7:15 pm, Columbia. Mattawoman Creek, one of the healthiest creeks in the region, is in danger due to development pressures. Come learn why saving this "poster child of the Chesapeake Bay" is one of the Maryland Sierra Club's highest priorities. Directions to Howard County Recreation and Parks Headquarters, 7120 Oakland Mills Road: From Broken Land Parkway, take Snowden River Parkway east. At the third light, turn right onto Oakland Mills Road. Just before the railroad crossing, turn right into the parking lot.

Sat, April 10 – scroll down to "Action Opportunities & Tidbits" for stream cleanups near you!

Sat., April 10, Maryland's Amazing Turtles: Live and In Person, 10 am, Woodstock, MD. The Howard County Conservancy hosts a free talk and walk: Ray Bosmans, Professor Emeritus, University of MD. and President of the Mid-Atlantic Turtle and Tortoise Society (MATTS) and Greg Pokrywka MD FACP, co-founder and Past President of MATTS will be presenting a free program about identifying Maryland turtles, their habitats, and ways that you can help them to survive. For more information, contact 410-465-8877 or visit www.hcconservancy.org.

Sat., April 10, 2010, Firemaking, 2 pm –4 pm, Marshy Point Nature Center, Middle River, MD. Learn to make fire without matches. For more information, contact 410-887-2817. Directions and details at www.marshypoint.org.

Sat., April 10, Basic Vegetable Gardening, 10 am–12 Noon, Baltimore, MD. Grow it, Eat it! Come learn how to start and maintain a successful vegetable garden at the Waverly Branch Library, 400 E 33rd St, 21218. Win a new copy of either *Carrots Love Tomatoes* or *Roses Love Garlic!* Free. No registration required. For more information, please contact: Sarah Kroner at sarah.kroner@parksandpeople.org or 410-448-5663 x114.

Sat, April 10, Ecological Home Design Workshop, 9 am–6pm, Takoma Park, MD. Explore the full creative process to create an ecologically responsive home (or addition). This workshop is held at a home built following these practices. For more information, contact bill@HeliconWorks.com, or visit www.HeliconWorks.com.

Sat., April 10, Free Solar Seminar, 3:30-4:30 pm, Towson, MD. Free solar seminars geared towards home and small business owners, hosted by bluehouse in the shops at Kenilworth. For more information, contact cara@marylandsolarsolutions.com or 443-218-2620. Details at www.marylandsolarsolutions.com.

Sat., Apr 10: An Eco-History Car Tour of the Harper's Ferry Region. 8:30 to 5:00 PM beginning at the Point of Rocks, MARC Station, MD. Bring your car and join Hayden Mathews of EcoStewards Alliance and River Stories for an in-depth tour of four very special sites near Harpers Ferry, WV that will open new doors of appreciation for the Piedmont. Tickets \$40 Adult; \$15 Children with discounts for early bird reservations and special discount for combo with lecture. Reservation cut-off date is 03 April. Go to www.bayhistory.net or email Hayden Mathews at riverstories@comcast.net for more detailed information.

Sun., April 11, Paddle the Mattawoman Creek, Indian Head, Charles County, MD. Come and enjoy the tranquil beauty of a Chesapeake Bay tributary. Contact Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Tues, April 13 – EcolocityDC (see April 6 above)

Tues., April 13, Compost Tumbler Construction Workshop, 6 pm to 8 pm, Parks & People Foundation, 800 Wyman Park Dr, Baltimore, MD 21211. Come learn how to use a compost tumbler in your backyard and then construct your own tumbler. All materials, instructions, and assistance will be provided. Cost is \$65. RSVP required to Portia Smith at 410-448-5663 x115 or portia.smith@parksandpeople.org by Thurs, April 8, 2010.

Tues, April 13, 8:00 pm, Michael Pollan “In Defense of Food: The Omnivore’s Solution”
Kraushaar Auditorium Goucher College, Baltimore, MD Michael Pollan—the bestselling author, journalist, activist, and well-known critic of the global industrial food complex—will appear as the Spring 2010 Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Visiting Professor. This event is free and open to the public, but tickets must be reserved in advance by calling the Goucher College Box Office at 410-337-6333 or by e-mailing boxoffice@goucher.edu. There will be a book signing following the lecture, and books will be available for purchase. <http://www.goucher.edu/x39230.xml>

Wed, April 14 – GCAN Meeting, 7-9:30 pm, Greenbelt Community Center, Room 114, 15 Crescent Rd. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead Meet representatives from 4 local organizations who are motivating citizens to work together to reduce energy consumption: Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge, Weatherize DC, Clean Currents Green Neighborhood Effect, and GHI Buildings Committee. For more info, contact lore@simplicity-matters.org, or 301-345-2234.

Weds., April 14, Design Conversation #18: Invention, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm, Baltimore. Each month, designers of all types gather for informal presentations, activities and conversation about how design in all of its forms can help to improve the quality of life in Baltimore. Please join us! For more information, contact Geoff Stack at geoff@stackcoordination.com or 410-802-5754. Directions and details at www.dcenterbaltimore.com/.

Wed, April 14, Clean Currents opens a new office, Baltimore, MD. Clean Currents, a local green energy company based in Rockville, MD, is excited to announce that we will be opening a new office in Baltimore, MD! We are holding a press conference to celebrate the opening of our new office on April 14th. Local politicians, green non-profits, companies, and activists will be attending. RSVP to Amanda Duzak at aduzak@cleancurrents.com or call 301.754.0430 x716 if you would like to attend.

Wed, April 14, 6 to 9 p.m., PlanMaryland Public Forums, Community College of Baltimore County, Essex Campus Center Lobby 7201 Rossville Boulevard . PlanMaryland is a new planning process designed to create a better and more sustainable future for Maryland. The state legislature created the authority for such a plan in the 1970s, but a broader recognition of the costs of unsustainable types of land use has grown in recent years to the point where such a plan is now urgently needed. We need to do a better job of steering development toward areas that already have roads, schools and other public infrastructure. 6:- 7:.. - Open House, meet State and local officials and community groups. 7 to 9. - Public Forum including an interactive "Keypad polling" activity and table discussions <http://plan.maryland.gov/getinvolved/PublicForums.shtml>

Thurs, April 15, Artists for the Climate, 7:30 pm, Foundry Methodist Church, Washington, DC. Get fired up again about ending global warming. You'll laugh. You'll cry. And you'll have to act fast to get a ticket! Just \$10 for students. \$15 for everyone else. We're going to throw in a surprise musical act, too. You'll love it. All money raised will help support the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, an outfit Bill McKibben calls "the best regional climate organization in the world." Please also consider joining us for a special reception with the authors themselves just prior to the event. We'll feed you, give you wine, and you can get all your books autographed on the spot. www.chesapeakeclimate.org/Artists4Climate

Fri., April 16, “The Garden,” 7:30 pm, College Park, MD. SilverDocs winning documentary about a 14-acre urban community garden threatened by developers: a story of “green politics, money, poverty, power, and racial discord.” Free. Location: Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park, MD, 20740. Contact info@cpae.org or 301-927-3013 for more information.

Fri., April 16, 2nd Annual Urb Ag Gala! 7 pm to 10 pm, Baltimore. Celebrate the beginning of another explosively fruitful growing season. Come out and enjoy delicious, live, and local food, music, art and storytelling as well as a wealth of gardening information and resources. *Location:* 2640 St. Paul St. For more information, go to

www.baltimoreurbanag.org/content/urb-ag-gala or email urbaggala@gmail.com. Interested in volunteering for this event? Please email Thao at thaowowwow@gmail.com . \$10 donation requested.

Fri., April 16, Dreamcatcher Workshop, Greenbelt, MD. Led by Rev. LaKotahasia Frazier of southwest Virginia. Contact Robert Fireovid for more information at 301-982-0257 or bob.fireovid@verizon.net .

April 17–24, 7th Annual Baltimore Green Week, various locations in and around Baltimore City. Now in it's seventh year, Baltimore Green Week is a series of events that promote sustainability through lectures, workshops and other special events. The week kicks off at the **EcoFest in Druid Hill Park on Saturday, April 17**, from 12 Noon to 6 pm near the reservoir. Join us for music, art, free bike rides and yoga classes, all while picnicing under the newly bloomed cherry blossoms! For a full schedule of events, go to www.baltimoregreenworks.com/events or call 410.952.0334 for more information

Sat., April 17, Sweatlodge, Davidsonville, MD. This sweatlodge, which will be led by Rev LaKotahasia Frazier of southwest Virginia, is a spiritual ceremony practiced by earth-based, indigenous traditions around the world for purification, healing, and connecting with all creatures. Ceremony begins at 9:30 am; teaching at noon; lodge ~1:30 pm. Davidsonville is 10 miles southwest of Annapolis, MD. Potluck dinner follows. Monetary exchange requested. Contact Robert Fireovid for more information at 301-982-0257 or bob.fireovid@verizon.net .

Sat., April 17, Marshy Point Nature Center's Spring Festival, 10 am to 4 pm, Middle River, MD. Enjoy boat and canoe trips, Chesapeake Bay retriever demonstrations, animals, music, kids' games and crafts. Free! For more information, contact 410-887-2817. Directions and details at www.marshypoint.org .

Sat., April 17, Howard County Government's Third Annual GreenFest, Columbia, MD. Howard Community College, Burrill Galleria, 10 am to 4 pm, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway. Learn about all things green. Meet local vendors and organizations, and attend various presentations. For more information, go to www.howardcountymd.gov/OES/GreenFest.htm or contact Lindsay DeMarzo, 410-313-2350.

Sat., April 17, Tree Tour: Cedar Hill, Home of Frederick Douglass (19th century abolitionist, women's rights advocate, and President Abraham Lincoln's advisor), 8:45 am to 12 Noon, Washington, D.C. Includes free tour of historic house and grounds, a National Park Service site in historic Anacostia at 1400 W Street SE, Washington, DC, 20020. Presenter: Melanie Choukas-Bradley, author of "City of Trees." Learn about how Douglass, who was born into slavery, grew fruit and nut trees on his scenic hilltop during the last 17 years of his life. Learn to identify many tree species that grew at Cedar Hill during Douglass's day. Register at www.caseytrees.org. For more information, contact Carol Herwig at 202-349-1907 or cherwig@caseytrees.org.

Sun., April 18, EcoStewards Alliance's Annual Bluebell Walk, 12 Noon to 2 pm, Turkey Run Park. Attend a Nurturing Nature Outing to see the wonderful display of Virginia bluebells and other spring wildflowers along the Potomac River at Turkey Run Park. Naturalist and master gardener Marney Bruce will show us the flora and share her knowledge of the habitats and characteristics of the many wildflowers we will see. In addition, geologist Bob Root will describe some of the unique geologic and geographic aspects of the area. For more information and to RSVP contact Bob Root at 703-715-0362 or bnbroot@aol.com by April 16.

Mon., April 19, The Artful Vegetable Garden, 7:30 pm–9:30pm, Brookside Gardens Wheaton, MD. The Silver Spring Garden Club invites you to this talk by Robin Ripley on how to elevate your edibles garden from good to great. Illustrated with photos, Robin offers ideas and inspiration to make this your best—and most beautiful—veggie gardening year yet. Doors open at 7:30 pm, speaker starts at 8 pm. Free and open to the public. Kathy Jentz, laserblast@aol.com , 301-588-6894. Directions at www.brooksidegardens.org .

Tues, April 20 – EcolocityDC (see April 6 above)

Tues., April 20, Speaker Series: The Secret Love Life of Amphibians, 7 pm, Marshy Point Nature Center, Middle River, MD. Join us for Dr. Charlie Stine's presentation and journey with amphibians. This talk is rated "PG" for our audience! For more information, call 410-887-2817. Directions and details at www.marshypoint.org.

Thursday, April 22, 2010 – 40th Anniversary of Earth Day
<http://www.earthday.net/earthday2010>

Thurs., beginning April 22, Greening Your Business, Four CCBC class series, 6:30 to 9 pm, Catonsville, MD. Focused on bottom line results, this continuing education series will help you through the first steps to "going green" and provide answers to many of your questions. This course is scheduled on the evenings of 4/22, 4/29, 5/6 and 5/13.

Geoff Stack, geoff@stackcoordination.com, 410-802-5754. Registration, directions and details at <http://freshgreenimage.com/free-green-business-forum/> .

Thurs., April 22, Bmore Bgreen Traveling Sustainability Exhibit Opens! Port Discovery, Baltimore, MD. This exhibit was developed jointly by the architectural firm of Hord Coplan Macht, S.H. Silverblatt Electrical Contractor, Silsam Energy Group, and Baltimore Green Works. Through a unique combination of three-dimensional and interactive displays, the exhibit teaches children about the important concepts underlying sustainable living practices while facilitating a fun, learning experience for everyone. Information on tax-deductible sponsorship opportunities can be found at www.bmorebgreen.com/pdf/sponsorship.pdf and more information on the project at www.bmorebgreen.com .

Thurs., April 22, Green Drinks, 7 pm–10 pm, Washington, DC. This month's GreenDrinksDC will be on Earth Day. For more information, contact heatherd@greendrinksdc.org or Heather at 641-831-2011. For directions and details, go to www.greendrinks.org/DC/Washington.

Thurs., April 22, The Art of Stewardship: Earth, Water, Sky, An Evening with Foremost Artist Greg Mort, 6:30 pm, Woodstock, MD. Join The Howard County Conservancy for a reception of wine and hors d'oeuvres with the award winning artists in the Art of Stewardship Exhibition, and support the Conservancy's live auction of the artwork. Book signing by Greg Mort; all guests will receive a Greg Mort poster. Reception followed by Greg Mort speech and live auction at 7:30 pm. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 410-465-8877 or visit www.hconservancy.org .

Thurs., April 22, City of Trees, 7 pm, Washington, D.C. Celebrate Earth Day with local author Melanie Choukas-Bradley as she takes you on a virtual tour of Washington's botanic history and diversity. She will share gorgeous pictures and wonderful stories behind the trees in Cleveland Park, the White House, the Capitol, Mount Vernon and other historic sites. Location: Cleveland Park Neighborhood Library. For more information go to www.dclibrary.org/node/5345.

Thurs, April 22, Sierra Club potluck dinner and slide show, 6:30-9:00 pm, Oregon Ridge Nature Center, 13555 Beaver Dam Rd (off Shawan Road West - use I-83 Exit 20B) A master gardner program on garden design using native plants preceded by a potluck dinner (bring a dish to share - plates and drinks furnished) For more information, contact Joyce Fletcher at 410.254.7240.

Sat, April 24 – scroll down to “Action Opportunities & Tidbits” for MORE stream cleanups near you!

Sat, April 24 – Transition Greenbelt Re-Skilling Workshop: Soap-Making, 2-5 pm, Greenbelt Community Center, Room 114, 15 Crescent Rd. For more details, visit <http://transitionmaryland.ning.com/events/reskilling-workshop> or email lore@simplicity-matters.org

Sat, April 24, Earth Day Celebration in Reston, VA. 1 to 5 pm at the Walker Nature Center on Glade Drive. Look for members of the Blueberry Hill Discussion Circle, who will be doing a green bag giveaway, modeled after the Green Bag Lady. <http://greenbaglady.blogspot.com/>

Sat, April 24, Paddle the Mattawoman Creek, Indian Head, Charles County, MD. Come and enjoy the tranquil beauty of a Chesapeake Bay tributary. Contact Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Sat, April 24, Community Book and Yard Sale, 8 am–2 pm, Eldersburg, MD. We have hundreds of gently used books, CDs and movies as well as household items to sell. ALL are welcome (many of the books have a spiritual flavor) at the Masonic Freedom Lodge, 2253 Liberty Rd. Eldersburg, MD 21784 (5 miles above Randallstown). For more information about this, our annual fundraiser, call Iris at 410-318-8877 or visit <http://www.cccl.org> . Sponsored by Center for Conscious Living—a 501C3 spiritual community, supporting personal and global transformation and peace. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sat., April 24, 9 am to 1 pm, Earth Day: Make a Difference! Join us for a day of service to the earth at the Howard County Conservancy. Bird walk at 8 am. Service projects include stream cleanup and invasive plant removal. Children's craft at 11:30, Free. For more information, contact 410-465-8877, or visit www.hconservancy.org .

Sat., April 24, Another Chance at Rock Creek Extreme Clean-Up, 9 am to 12 Noon, Kensington, MD. Join Marney Bruce at the Stoneybrook Tributary to clean up this part of the watershed. Contact Marney at 301 652-0492 or marneyb@earthlink.net to RSVP.

Sun., April 25, Taking the Pesky out of Pests or How to Keep Your Sanity While Dealing with Bugs in the Garden, 2 pm–3:30 pm, Washington, DC. Part of the DC Urban Gardening Talk series presented by *Washington Gardener Magazine* and the Historic Society of Washington DC. Spend time with Carol Allen while she gives you sound, common sense ways of taking control of your garden again while still maintaining a healthy environment. Whether you grow veggies, flowers or care for a home landscape, there are safe, sane ways of controlling pests. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz at Wgardenermag@aol.com or 301-588-6894. Talk is free and open to the public. It is at the HSW-DC, directions at: www.historydc.org.

Sun, April 25, 11:15am - 11:15pm, The Climate Rally, National Mall – Washington, DC The 40th anniversary of Earth Day is quickly approaching, but the United States has failed to enact a comprehensive climate bill. Each day, government leaders are perpetuating a system that increases our reliance on foreign oil, drives job loss and threatens the well-being of future generations. On Sunday, April 25th, Earth Day Network and partner organizations will organize a massive climate rally on The National Mall to demand Congress enacts climate and clean energy legislation in 2010. <http://www.earthday.org/events/be-heard-climate-rally-%E2%80%93-national-mall-%E2%80%93-april-25th-2010>

Tues, April 27 – EcolocityDC (see April 6 above)

Tues., April 27, Maryland Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting, Preserving Maryland's Grasslands. 7:30 pm, White Oak Library. For more information and directions go to www.mdflora.org .

Weds., April 28, AFJ Training, 10 am to 3 pm, Annapolis, MD. The Maryland League of Conservation Voters is hosting a training that will address questions about helping the environment and what your organization (as a c-3, a c-4 or as a PAC) can do. For more information, contact Pete Johnson, pjohnson@mdlcv.org, ph: 410-280-9855 Ext 204. RSVP on our website at <https://www.thedatabank.com/dpg/288/personal2.asp?formid=meetedfund&c=1567671>.

Weds., April 28, Free Treescape Design Workshop, 6:30 pm to 9 pm, Washington, DC. Learn the basic design concepts to incorporate trees into your yard or garden landscape. Casey Trees' experienced landscape design experts help you create a treescape. Please bring pictures or sketches of your yard to help in the design process. Each D.C. resident participating will receive a free shade tree that will be delivered to their home. Location: Casey Trees, 1123 11th Street NW, Washington DC 20001. Register at www.caseytrees.org. For more information, contact Carol Herwig at 202-349-1907 or cherwig@caseytrees.org.

MAY PREVIEW & BEYOND

Sat., May 1, EarthSave Baltimore presents China Study author T. Colin Campbell, PhD, “Redefining Good Nutrition,” 5:30 pm to 9 pm, Catonsville, MD. Come to the Women’s Club at 10 St. Timothy’s Lane. Event will also feature talk by Bruce Friedrich, “Veganism: The Only Diet for a Small Planet.” Tickets \$20 advance, \$25 at door. Call 410-252-3043, write Baltimore@earthsave.org, or go to <http://earthsavebaltimore.org/>.

Sun, May 2, Audubon Naturalist Society Nature Fair, 11 am to 5 pm, Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase. Join us for this fun-filled family event! You'll find hands-on nature activities, local arts and crafts, food and drink, and live entertainment. For directions and more information go to <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/default.asp?page=568>,

Sun., May 2, Wheel of the Year Beltane (Mayfest), 5 pm, Bethesda, MD. Come celebrate with Maypole dance, the spiritual gifts that bloom along with the emerging shoots and opening blossoms of spring. Location: Upstairs at the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation (www.rruuc.org). For more information, contact Helen Popenoe at 301-229-0549.

Sat/Sun, May 8/9 Greenman Festival in Greenbelt <http://www.greenbeltgreenmanfestival.org/>

Sat, May 8, An Eco-History Tour of Calvert County, 8 am to 6 pm, MD. Join EcoStewards Alliance and River Stories on a 55-passenger A/C bus w/ lavatory for an eye-opening day trip to the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Calvert Marine Museum, and Flag Ponds Beach. This will be the last time ESA offers this very popular trip. Tickets: \$85 for adults, \$45 for children, and discounts for early bird reservation. Beginning/ending at Oakton High School and the Vienna Metro Station (Orange Line). Go to www.bayhistory.net or email Hayden Mathews at riverstories@comcast.net for more detailed information.

Sat., May 15, Beep! Beep! Annual Spring Cohousing Bus Tour, 9 am–6 pm, Silver Spring, MD. Tour by comfortable bus five cohousing communities in the Greater-Greater DC area: First LEED-certified cohousing community, an EcoVillage, a community that saved an organic farm ... and more! Contact: Ann at ann@MidAtlanticCohousing.org or 703 663 3911. For directions, details, registration, go to <http://www.MidAtlanticCohousing.org>. Fee includes transportation, lunch, expert guides, literature, snacks, etc. \$80 until May 1; \$85 after.

Fri., May 21, through Sun., May 23, Forest Gardening Workshop, Freeland, MD. Forest gardening is an efficient form of human food production that mimics the vertical layering of a natural forest. Learn to create this beautiful edible landscape in your own yard! Cost: \$325. For more information contact Karen, education@heathcote.org, 410-357-9523. Details at: <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/forest-gardening-workshop>.

Sat., May 22, The Maryland Heartland Sustainable Living Fair, 9 am to 4 pm, Westminster, Md. Come to the Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S. Center St. 21157 to a fair that promotes eco-friendly lifestyles, viz: renewable energy, green building, organic foods, sustainable living products and more. Contact Dan Andrews, 410-857-4129 or dooze@qis.net, Cost is very reasonable and please visit: sustainablelivingmd.org

Sat. May 22, EcoStewards Alliance Farewell and Celebration Concert, 5 pm to 9 pm, Lovettsville, VA. Join ESA to celebrate 15 wonderful years of changing the world one person at a time, share pot luck and hear a wonderful performance by award-winning local progressive folk musician, Andrew McKnight (www.andrewmcknight.net) beneath the rafters of a beautiful 1870s bank barn. This will be ESA's final public event ever, so join us for a spirited "last hurrah." Advance reservations required: \$15 per person; \$40 for a family of 3 or more. Reservation cut-off date is May 15. Go to www.ecostewardsalliance.org or email ESAToday@gmail.com for more detailed information.

Fri., June 4 to Sun., June 6, Social Permaculture Workshop, Freeland, MD. This workshop examines the social, economic, and personal aspects of sustainability. We will explore how permaculture ethics and design principles can be applied to create a culture that is not only in harmony with nature, but more peaceful and equitable. Cost: \$325. For more information, contact Karen at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523. Details at <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/social-permaculture-worskhop>.

Sat., June 19, Permaculture Design Presentations, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, Freeland, MD. Come see the home-scale permaculture course students present the designs they have created for their sites. See examples of permaculture designs for many different sites and clients! Free. For more information, contact Karen at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523. Details at www.heathcote.org.

Fri., Aug. 13 to Sun., Aug. 29, Permaculture Design Course, Freeland, MD. Earn your design certificate with Dancing Green during our summer residential immersive! Dancing Green offers the whole permaculture design course curriculum as an immersion in educational experiences of integration, collaboration, consensus, and self-empowerment within the context of land-use design. Cost: \$1,750. Financial aid available. For more information, contact Karen at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523. Details at http://www.livingmandala.com/Living_Mandala/Heathcote_Permaculture_Design_Course_10.html,

Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Sat., April 10, 22nd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup Day, 9 am–12 Noon, various locations in D.C., Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. For details, go to http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/trash_initiative/trash_cleanup.shtml or <http://www.friendsofrockcreek.org/2010-rock-creek-extreme-cleanup>.

Sat, April 24, Earth Day Anacostia River Cleanup & Celebration, 8:30 am–2 pm, 30+ cleanup sites in DC and MD. Join the Anacostia Watershed Society as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and help clean up the Anacostia River! Volunteers will be participating in a massive trash cleanup at 30+ sites along the shores of the Anacostia River in the District of Columbia and several upstream tributaries in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties in Maryland. An Earth Day Celebration will follow the morning cleanup at Seafarers Yacht Club in DC featuring free food, music and presentations by government officials. For volunteer registration and more information, visit: www.anacostiaws.org.

Don't miss The Story of Bottled Water—the latest from The Story of Stuff Project—at <http://storyofstuff.org/bottledwater/>. This just-released, seven-minute story explains how the bottled water industry

gets Americans to buy more than half a billion bottles of water every week when it already flows from the tap. According to the web site, "The film concludes with a call to 'take back the tap,' not only by making a personal commitment to avoid bottled water, but by supporting investments in clean, available tap water for all."

Several friends of SMEI are now famous authors!

Click below to read recent articles published by or about . . .

Susan Belchamber, "Is Economics a Green Issue"?

<http://www.bethesdagreen.org/News/Features/IsEconomicsaGreenIssue/tabid/328/Default.aspx>

Jeff Blankman, "Green Companies Save Money and Help the Planet with a Triple Bottom Line Approach"

<http://www.examiner.com/x-41999-Baltimore-Green-Business-Examiner~y2010m3d22-Green-companies-save-money-and-help-the-planet-with-a-triple-bottom-line-approach>

Polly Bart, Baltimore Magazine, "Kitchen Environmental"

<http://www.baltimoremagazine.net/article.asp?t=1&m=1&c=32&s=771&ai=89553>

and The Mt Washington Post, "Eco-Friendly Renovations"

<http://www.mtwp.com/2010/03/17/eco-friendly-renovations-part-1-greenspring-avenue/>

Salamander Points: A Daily, Individual Carbon-Counter and Blog. Thinking about a carbon diet? Wondering what's going on in Charm City that's green and great? Check out www.salamanderpoints.com for all the best in urban greenish and carbon-sexy activities!

Join Clean Currents Green Neighborhood Challenge – 75 Neighborhoods so far!

Support wind power, save money on your electricity bill, and earn some cash for a greening project in your community! Clean Currents wind power rates are lower than Pepco's and BGE's coal and nuclear rates. If your community (neighborhood, faith-based organization, or school) signs-up for the Green Challenge, Clean Currents will give \$10 per sign-up back to your community. Currently 75 neighborhoods are part of the challenge. See how they each are doing at <http://www.cleancurrents.com/index.php/Green-Neighborhood-Effect>

Interested? Contact Amanda Duzak at aduzak@cleancurrents.com or 301.754.0430 x716. Sign-up for wind power in 5-min at www.cleancurrents.com

MD League of Conservation Voters - Legislative Update- Session Ends April 12

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are including these recommendations from our friends at MD-LCV, with the understanding that our readers will decide how they feel about each piece of proposed legislation.

Protecting the Green Infrastructure Budget SB 140/141 and HB 150/151

We urge you to reject the Department of Legislative Services' proposals to cut the 2010 Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund and limit remaining funds to cover crops, to extend last year's diversion of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Programs, to repeal mandated funding for the Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service, and to eliminate the Maryland Environmental Trust.

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We oppose cuts to Program Open Space, the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund, the Heritage Structure Tax Credit (Historic Tax Credit), RGGI, and protect funding for our Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Planning agencies.

**Consolidated Transportation Program SB 760 and HB 1155**

These bills will establish smart growth criteria for funding transportation projects to make it easy for the state to choose proposals that ensure our transportation and land use decisions work together to provide more travel choices to Maryland citizens, especially for those who do not own cars. It will also reduce environmental damage from transportation projects and improve access to jobs.

**Comprehensive Energy Planning SB 910**

Requires the Department of Planning to oversee the creation of a state energy plan that is consistent with all state environmental laws and requires the Public Service Commission to review proposals from energy companies with respect to the state plan and environmental laws such as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act.

**Public Service Commission - Report on the State's Long-Term Energy Needs HB 522**

Requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to oversee the creation of a state energy plan that is consistent with all state environmental laws and to review proposals with respect to that state plan.

**For any questions,** contact Dannielle Lipinski, [dlipinski@mdlcv.org](mailto:dlipinski@mdlcv.org), ph: 410-280-9855