

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **May 2010**. It is going out to over **1,890 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 Yahoo group, 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 Yahoo Group 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
- June Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

May is the month for planting gardens, Farmer's Markets, and Community Supported Agriculture. Enjoy all the opportunities to be out of doors and enjoying local foods. Scroll down to "Action Opportunities & Tidbits" at the bottom for resources.

Thanks to this month's editor, **Susan Belchamber**.

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, May 9, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm
Potluck at 5:30

The New American Food Revolution

with Gordon Clark, Project Director of Montgomery Victory Gardens

<http://www.montgomeryvictorygardens.org/>

How can local, sustainable food bridge the gap as industrial agriculture declines? And how can we to eat and celebrate locally grown food while supporting the people who grow it? Please join us for this special forum and come early to meet and greet at the potluck. This will be the last Bethesda forum until September, so if you have been meaning to attend, this is the one!

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.

There will be a picnic in June instead of a forum in Bethesda on the Second Sunday. Location To Be Announced. **But hold the date: June 13th, 2 - 6pm**

EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY EARTH FORUM

Sunday, May 16, Earth Forum of Howard County, 3:00–5:30 pm, First Presbyterian, Columbia, MD.

Earth Forum of Howard County presents “**Howard County’s Green Future and You,**” featuring Joshua Feldmark, Dir. of the HC Office of Environmental Sustainability, presenting the Climate Action Plan for Howard County, and Phillip Nelson, Pres. of the Columbia Association, presenting CA’s Going Green plan and its new Office of Sustainability. These two key leaders each bring an innovative and far-reaching plan for greening and making it a leader in sustainability.

Several discussion/action groups will follow. Refreshments included. Free and open to the community. Please come and join the discussion.

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, May 23, 4:30- 6:30 pm
MD Presbyterian Church, 1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286

<http://www.mpchurch.org/About.htm>

Continuing our year-long theme on “Transition Towns” . . we will be exploring the topic of **ALTERNATIVE CURRENCIES.**

Hear from three representatives who are using various alternative currencies in their neighborhoods:

Larry Chang, founder of the **Potomacs** (modeled after Berkshares)

Nick Williams, founder of the **Anacostia Hours** (modeled after Ithaca Hours)

Carol Yaka, volunteer with **Takoma Time** (modeled after Edgar Cahn’s Time BankUSA)

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>.

SAVE THE DATE: Sun, June 27, BGF & SMEI combined picnic

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>

So far in 2010, we have started 11 circles (235 in total since 2002!) and have **2 more circles scheduled for May/June -- see those with an asterick (*) 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 "Sustainable Systems at Work". It was great. We are also planning a movie, about mountain top coal mining sometime in May. No new groups starting right now. 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

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

***Howard County Conservancy (CSL), , Intro Mtg: May 26, First Session: June 2**, CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Howard County College (GW), Intro Mtg: TBD, CS: Margo Duesterhaus, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Snowden Overlook (GW), 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

Greenbelt (MF), Intro Mtg: TBD, CS: Lore Rosenthal, 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 May. If you want to be informed about future circles starting, please contact marney@simplicity-matters.org.

Washington, DC

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 spring, 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 have transitioned 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

May Events

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/>.

Sat, May 1, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, 7 – 9pm, Ellicott City, MD 21042 (Near Centennial Park)
Please bring a vegan dish to share (store bought is fine) for the number in your party plus 8. Please RSVP via e-mail by April 26th. Bring your own reusable picnic-ware and feel free to wash up here. We will have basic table service available (for a small fee), if you forget. There will be iced tea and filtered water to drink. Kids are welcome!

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.

Mon, May 3, Green Remodeling, 7:00-9:00 pm, Silver Spring, MD. From simple concepts like timer switches to technical strategies like advanced framing layout, we'll provide you with the four major components you need to know to sustainably remodel an existing home. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org (Please note that this is one of the 2 classes that will be held at this location. For a full list of our classes held in the Silver Spring area, please visit: <http://greenbuildinginstitute.org/SilverSpring10.htm>)

Mon, May 3, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance (CSBA) Green Mondays, 6pm – 9pm, Hunt Valley, MD. Join CSBA in partnership with the Regional Manufacturing Institute at McCormick to hear Jeff Blankman, Sustainable Manufacturing Manager, talk about how the spice company's green manufacturing initiatives helped them reduce energy consumption and waste and deploy renewable energy. Price includes networking, a light dinner, beer and wine. \$20 members, \$30 non members. For more info and to register by Fri, April 30, go to www.csballiance.org.

Tues, May 4, EcolocityDC meeting on Food & Farming, 7 pm at Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW, Washington DC 20001. For more details, go to: <http://ecolocity.ning.com> for details, or contact Larry at 202 545 0869.

Tue., May 4, Neighbors of Northwest Branch bi-monthly program meeting; 7:30-9:15pm; White Oak Library, 11701 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD, (just north of the intersection with US 29, Colesville Rd.). Speaker will be Ryan Zerbe, the new watershed outreach coordinator at DEP. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome. No cost. For further information contact John Fay, 301-946-5599 or jhfay@verizon.net, or visit the web site: www.neighborsnw.org.

Wed, May 5, Green Tax Benefits, 7 - 9 pm, Vienna, VA. Green is more affordable than you think! Learn about the various Federal and state green tax credits and other tax incentives available to individuals and small businesses. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org. (Please note that this is one of 2 classes that will be held in this location. For a full list of our classes held in the Vienna area, please visit: <http://greenbuildinginstitute.org/Vienna.htm>)

Thurs, May 6, Plant a Rain Garden, 4 -7 pm, 3700 Fleet St., Baltimore, MD, Come out and learn about rain gardens. Southeast Community Development Corporation and Baltimore Medical Systems will be planting at the new green and healthy Baltimore Medical Systems building. For more information, contact Volunteer Maryland Coordinator Jenny Michalak, jmichalak@southeastcdc.org, (410) 470-6482. Directions and details at <http://volunteer.united-e-way.org/bvu-maryland/org/opp/10388412287.html> .

Thurs, May 6, Entrepreneurial Opportunities in the Garden, 6:30 -7:30 pm, Real Food Farm, 2801 St Lo Dr, 21213. Join us at Real Food Farm to learn about the many possibilities to reap the economic benefits from your garden. FREE for CGRN members, \$5 for non members. To RSVP and for more information, contact Sarah Ritter at 410-448-5663x128 or sarah.ritter@parksandpeople.org.

Thurs, May 6, Compassion Over Killing benefit at the Vegetable Garden, 11:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Rockville, MD Join us for delicious animal-friendly food and help COK help animals! The monthly Vegetable Garden funding day, when D.C.'s vegan favorite donates 10 percent of your bill to COK, is the first Thursday of every month. For more information, contact Francesca, info@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net/events.

Thurs, May 6, CSI for Bugs, 6:30 - 9 pm, Casey Trees, 1123 11th Street NW, Washington DC 20001 Instructor: Mike Raupp, a University of Maryland professor and entomologist, will lead participants through diagnostic techniques to help identify forest pests, including emerald ash borer and long-horn Asian beetles. This class will include an entertaining and revealing outside field session on the day of class. Free event. For more information, contact Carol Herwig, cherwig@caseytrees.org, 202-349-1907. Directions and details at www.caseytrees.org

Fri/Sat/Sun, May 7-9, The Solar and Wind Expo, 10 am – 6 pm each day, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD. Come to The Solar and Wind Expo to browse solar, wind and geothermal exhibits; learn from top renewable energy experts at free seminars all weekend long; tour a complete “zero-energy” home; see electric vehicles, including a three-wheel, solar-electric hybrid that’s going cross-country; and you’re your kids on an educational “Renewable Energy Scavenger Hunt.” For more information, contact Alan Cohen, alan@thesolarandwindexpo.com, 410 564-9889. Details, discounts and directions at www.thesolarandwindexpo.com.

Sat/Sun, May 8/9, Greenman Festival. Greenbelt MD, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-6 Come join us rain or shine for music, art, children’s activities, craft exhibitors, environmental awareness, food and fun.

<http://www.greenbeltgreenmanfestival.org/>

Sat May 8, GardenMart Plant Sale, 9am-1pm, Brookside Gardens Wheaton MD, The Silver Spring Garden Club’s 60th annual GardenMart Plant Sale features heirloom tomato seedlings, native plants, herbs, houseplants, and much, much more. Come early in the sale for best selection. Free event, open to the general public. Directions at <http://www.brooksidegardens.org/>.

Sat, May 8, An Eco-History Tour of Calvert County, MD, 8 am to 6 pm. 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 8, Organic Gardening - Class #3, 9:00am-1:00 pm, Columbia, MD. Learn the selection, use and maintenance of the tools suited to your size operation. You’ll also learn about composting, soil preparation, direct seeding, and transplanting. Topics include Tools, Composting, Soil preparation, Seeding, Transplanting. For more information, David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Sat, May 8, Free Solar Seminar, 3:30-4:30pm, Towson, MD. (also held Mon, May 10, 6:30-7:30pm); Free seminar on adding a solar electric system to your home or business. Info on new Maryland laws and new technology. For more information, contact Cara, cara@marylandsolarsolutions.com, 443-218-2620. Directions and details at www.marylandsolarsolutions.com

Tues, May 11, Compassion Over Killing Benefit Day at Sticky Fingers Bakery, 7am - 8pm, Washington, DC Want to satisfy your sweet tooth and help us help animals at the time? Join us for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert and a portion of your bill will be automatically donated towards our efforts to help farmed animals. For more information, contact Francesca, info@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at [www.cok.net.events](http://www.cok.net/events)

Tues, May 11, EcolocityDC film night, 7 pm, Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW, Washington DC 20001. For more details, go to: <http://ecolocity.ning.com> for details, or contact Larry at 202 545 0869.

Tues, May 11, Home Energy Audits, 7:00-9:00 pm, Gambrills, MD. Learn about the features and benefits of different types of energy audits and how to prepare for one. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org . (Please note that this is one of the 2 classes at this location. For a full list of our classes held in the Gambrills area, please visit: <http://greenbuildinginstitute.org/Gambrillsclasses.htm>)

May 11-13, CleanMed 2010 conference, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland. CleanMed is the premier conference on environmental sustainability for the health care sector. The conference attracts leaders and key decision makers from across the industry, convening health care professionals, university researchers, designers of professional buildings, and vendors of cleaner and safer products and services. www.cleanmed.org

Wed, May 12, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:30 pm, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive, Room 114. “Help shape Greenbelt’s Sustainability Plan” Meet representatives from neighboring Howard County and Baltimore City. Find out how citizens there helped draft their sustainability plans. Speakers include Cheryl Casciani, Baltimore Commission on Sustainability; Ned Tillman and Betsy Singer, Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board. For more information, contact Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Weds, May 12, The Cohousing Model: Economic & Environmental Sustainability 7:00-9:00 p.m. Winter Hill Apartments Clubhouse, 330 S. Virginia Ave. Falls Church, VA. The presentation and discussion will focus on how the social format of cohousing promotes green living for residents and the environment. FREE but must register. Call or email Ann: ann@cohousingcollaborative.com 703 663 3911.

May 12 - 13, Green Energy Business Opportunity Conference, Baltimore Convention Center. Join National and State Leaders on Green Economy Issues for small, minority, women-owned, and service disabled veteran business owners. Workshops and Exhibits will highlight business opportunities in Energy Efficiencies, Renewable Energy, Careers, Education and Training, and Financing and Investment. Highlights include Energy Star Awards and Reception (May 12th- 6p-9p); Exhibits and Workshops (May 13th- 8a-5p); and Power Luncheon with Industry Experts. Cost: \$50 per day http://businessforgreen.com/newsletter/Efficiency/efficiency_save_the_date.html

Thurs, May 13, Community Organizing for Block Projects, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Monroe Street United Methodist Church, 400 S. Monroe St, Baltimore, MD. Part of the Community Greens Workshop Series. Want to do more in your neighborhood but don't know where to begin? Community greens' mission of creating shared parks in urban blocks is becoming realized in neighborhoods across Baltimore. Learn tips for organizing your block project, generating volunteers, and building leadership. Come with questions! Please RSVP to Sarah at (410) 448-5662x128. Workshop is free for CGRN members, \$5 for non-members.

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.

Sat, May 15, Wild Bees in Civilized Places, 10am – 12pm, Carmine Gardens, Carmine Rd, Baltimore, MD 21215 Come Join Peggy Eppig from Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation and learn how you can attract these helpful pollinators to your garden! We will be building an actual bumble bee house and you can take away several different designs to try at your own garden! FREE for CGRN members, \$5 for non-members. Contact the CGRN Coordinator to RSVP: 410-448-5663x128, community.greening@parksandpeople.org.

Sat, May 15, Compassion Over Killing Benefit at Java Green, 10am - 6pm, Washington, DC. Support COK while enjoying delicious cruelty-free fare and socializing with other activists! Please join us at the monthly Java Green benefit when a portion of your bill will benefit COK. For more information, contact Francesca, info@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net.events

Sun May 16 & 23, June 6 & 20, 10 am – 3 pm, Wilderness Instructor Training, Greenbelt, MD. Topics include: Edible & Medicinal Plants, Rope Making, How to Survive in the Wilderness, etc. No cost; \$100 donation appreciated. For more info contact JoeMurray1@yahoo.com, 240-605-1985.

Mon, May 17 Building A Butterfly Garden, 7:30-9:30pm, Brookside Gardens Wheaton MD. The Silver Spring Garden Club invites you to this talk by Carol Allen on attracting "winged flowers" aka butterflies to your garden. Doors open at 7:30pm, speaker starts at 8pm. Free and open to the public. Directions at <http://www.brooksidegardens.org/>.

Tues, May 18, EcolocityDC discussion on the Transition movement, 7 pm, Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW, Washington DC 20001. For more details, go to: <http://ecolocity.ning.com> for details, or contact Larry at 202 545 0869.

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>.

Fri, May 21, Bike to Work Day, 6:30am, Bethesda, MD. Join the Bethesda Transportation Solutions staff and Maryland State Delegate Bill Bronrott at the Bethesda pit stop (Reed Street, at the corner of Bethesda Ave & Woodmont Ave). Attendees will enjoy breakfast, prizes, DJ entertainment, bike tune-ups on site by REI and City Bikes, and more, all for FREE! Register in advance online at: http://www.waba.org/events/btwd/md_bethesda.php

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@qjs.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.

Sat, May 22, Cohousing LIVE! 1:00-3:00 p.m. private residence in Vienna, VA area. See first hand how cohousing "works" to create integrated sustainability and is an example of "peak community." Major ice cream free for all and for fun! FREE but must register. Call or email Ann: ann@cohousingcollaborative.com 703 663 3911 Directions sent on registering.

Sat, May 22, Tree Tour w/Walking Town DC. "Discover Massachusetts Avenue" (Repeated Sunday, May 23) Casey Trees with Cultural Tourism DC, Part 1: 10am - 12:00pm; Part 2: 1pm to 3pm, Meet at Bike Station at Union Station, Columbus Circle NE, Washington DC, Tour Guides: Carol Herwig, Sue Erhardt, Free event. For more information, contact Carol Herwig, Volunteer Coordinator, at cherwig@caseytrees.org or 202-349-1907. To register, visit www.caseytrees.org.

Sat, May 22, Spiritual Movie Night, 7pm, Eldersburg, MD, Join the Center for Conscious Living for our monthly movie night. This month we will show the film: Paper Clips, a documentary based on the true story of a group of students in the small, rural town of Whitehall, TN who after studying about the holocaust, decide to do something to honor those who perished at that time and what they did changed their lives and the lives of others. Will be held at Masonic Freedom Lodge, 2253 Liberty Rd, Eldersburg 21784. Cost \$10 pp and we supply the popcorn and drinks. For more info or directions, visit: <http://www.ccccl.org> or call Iris 410-318-8877

Sun, May 23, The Future of Local Gardening, presented by Washington Gardener Magazine, at the Historic Society of Washington DC. Panel Discussion led by Kathy Jentz, Washington Gardener Magazine editor/publisher. Come join us for a slice of cake and cup of bubble to mark Washington Gardener Magazine's 5th Anniversary in print. We will host a panel discussion on local garden trends and the future of urban gardening in the 21st C. The talk is free and open to the public at the HSW-DC, directions at: <http://www.historydc.org/>

Tues, May 25, Maryland Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, White Oak Library. For more information and directions go to www.mdflora.org

Tues, May 25, EcolocityDC Community Building: Planning & Networking discussion, 7 pm at Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW, Washington DC 20001. For more details, go to: <http://ecolocity.ning.com> for details, or contact Larry at 202 545 0869.

Wed, May 26, Compost Tumbler Construction Workshop, 6 - 8 pm, Parks & People Foundation, 800 Wyman Park Dr, Baltimore, MD 21211, (entrance in rear). Composting your food and yard waste has so many benefits! 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. RSVP to Portia Smith at 410-448-5663 x115 or portia.smith@parksandpeople.org by Thurs, May 20, 2010.

Sat, May 29, CGRN Volunteer Work Day – Soil Prep, 10am – 12pm, Baltimore, MD. Location TBA
Troubles with your soil? Join Cheryl Carmona to learn some basic techniques for soil prep and then join us afterward for some hands-on work in the garden! Open to everyone of all ages. All tools, materials, and refreshments provided. Contact Sarah Ritter at 410-448-5663x128 or community.greening@parksandpeople.org for more info.

JUNE PREVIEW & BEYOND

Thursdays, June 3rd through mid-November, Centennial CSA, Burleigh Manor Middle School, Columbia, MD 21042; 26 weeks of locally grown fruits & vegetables (optional eggs, meat and cheese too!!!) picked at the height of the season. With Martin Farms, each shareholder will be able to place an individual order each week on-line, or opt to receive a farmer selection, depending on what is ripening in the fields. Your crate of produce will come prepared specifically for you. You choose what produce you receive based on what your family likes to eat, and to experiment

with new fruits and veggies when you are feeling adventurous! See website for more complete listings:
<http://www.martinherbfarms.com>. Contact Bonnie Sorak at centennialcsa@yahoo.com or 410-465-0427

Fri.-Sun, June 4-6, 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 5, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, 7-9 PM, Ellicott City, MD 21042 Near Centennial Park Please bring a vegan dish to share (store bought is fine) for the number in your party plus 8. Please RSVP via e-mail by Monday, May 31st. Bring your own reusable picnic-ware and feel free to wash up here. We will have basic table service available (for a small fee), if you forget. There will be iced tea and filtered water to drink. Kids are welcome! Curious about what vegans eat or want some camaraderie? This is the place for you. Bonnie Sorak, bssorak@yahoo.com, 410-465-0427 Home, 443-799-0349 Cell

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

June 20-25, Ornithological Society of MD Birds and Habitats Seminar for Students and Educators. Washington College, Chestertown, MD. The programs are being offered to teachers and students and will involve classroom and field work. Cost approx. \$350.00 but scholarships are available (see links below). Educators can work with youth in a professional or volunteer capacity. Open to students in grades 8 through 12 in the 2010–11 school year. Applications pairing student/adult from same school/county encouraged. Student brochure: <http://www.mdbirds.org/activities/youth.html>; Educator brochure: http://www.mdbirds.org/education/birdstudy/Program_Brochure_Teachers_2page.pdf. Contact radclifg@gmail.com.

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

May is a month full of native plant sales around the area. Go to <http://www.mdflora.org/events/plantsales.html> for listings.

For Farmer's Markets: http://www.mda.state.md.us/md_products/farmers_market_dir.php
http://www.marylandsbest.net/business_directory/index.php?search=y&bus_type=12
<http://www.localharvest.org/farmers-markets/>

For Pick-ur-own: http://www.marylandagriculture.info/category_info.cfm?categoryid=50
<http://www.pickyourown.org/MD.htm>

For Community Supported Agriculture:
http://www.marylandsbest.net/business_directory/index.php?search=y&bus_type=6
<http://www.localharvest.org/csa/>

For Community Garden Networks: <http://growit.umd.edu/Join%20Network%20Form.cfm>
DC: <http://fieldtoforknetwork.org/blog/>

Montgomery County: <http://www.montgomeryvictorygardens.org/>

Baltimore: <http://www.baltimoreurbanag.org/>, <http://www.parksandpeople.org/greening/resource-network/>

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.mtwpost.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 greenhip 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. . . including our friends in **Greenbelt** and the **Climate Change Initiative of Howard County!** 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