

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **February 2011**. It is going out to over **1,930 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/](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/announcements/) or as a PDF at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/events/2011/2011-02.pdf>.

We also have a Yahoogroup, called "DCMetroSimplifiers," with about 267 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 96 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, Howard County Earth Forum, Northern Virginia Forum (**\*NEW\***)
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- March Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Please note that for the first time this month we have added a **fourth forum – in Northern Virginia**, on the fourth Sunday of the month. Please scroll down for full information.

This month's announcement is a record 14 pages! Please scroll down. There is something here for everyone. We appreciate the 170+ organizations who are invited to submit their events.

Thanks to this month's editor, **Janis Oppelt**.

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## **SECOND SUNDAY FORUM**

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**Sun., Feb 13, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm**

**Good Nutrition Revisited: The China Study with Sandy Shaw**

Every wonder whether there's truly a benefit to eating only plant-based foods? Join us to learn about the compelling results of The China Study, the most comprehensive nutritional study ever conducted. Your diet affects your health, your wallet and the

environment -- and all three may benefit from what you may hear at this lively discussion! (Note: the speaker will not be advocating one diet over any other.)

Our events are always free and open to all. Please join us!

**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](mailto:forum@simplicity-matters.org) . Please include your phone number in your message.

**March Forum on 3/6 Special Date!!** Sally Fallon Morell, President of the The Weston A. Price Foundation

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**EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY**

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**Sunday, February 20, 2011**  
**Earth Forum of Howard County**  
**Exploring Renewable Energy and Climate Change**  
**2–4:30 pm**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD.**

Features **Dr. Ross Salawitch**, Prof. of Atmospheric & Oceanic Science, UMCP. Carbon dioxide is the greatest waste product of modern society. Learn more about the affect of rising levels of atmospheric CO2 on climate, explore how to meet energy needs without adding to the CO2 burden and hear the pros and cons of using various renewable energies .

The afternoon includes **Emphasis/Action group discussions:** Influencing corporate Policy, Choosing Renewable Energy Wisely, and others.

The Forum is free and open to all. For information or to sign up, contact [earthforum@firstpreshc.org](mailto:earthforum@firstpreshc.org). **Directions and details** at [www.earthforumhc.org](http://www.earthforumhc.org).

**March 20 Forum Topic:** Faith, Community and Sustainability

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**BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM**

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**The Baltimore Green Forum**  
**Sunday, February 27, 2011**  
**4-6:30 pm**  
(the fourth Sunday of the month)  
MD Presbyterian Church,

1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286  
<http://www.mpchurch.org/About.htm>

This month's featured speaker: **TBA**

Check back on our website in a week or two: [www.baltimoregreenforum.org](http://www.baltimoregreenforum.org)

The Baltimore Green Forum's new format includes a short 45 min presentation, followed by break-outs into "Affinity Groups" (Food, Transportation, Energy, Economics, etc.). As always, time is left for announcements and networking.

For updated program info, visit [www.baltimoregreenforum.org](http://www.baltimoregreenforum.org) OR <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/forums/baltimore> or contact [baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com), 301-345-2234.

**March 27<sup>th</sup> Topic:** TBA

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**(\*new\*) SIMPLICITY MATTERS OF NoVa FORUM (\*new\*)**

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(fourth Sunday of each month)

**Sunday, February 27, 7:00 pm–8:30 pm**

**Leigh Glenn**, herbalist will lead an interactive discussion about "**Getting Your Body Ready for Spring.**" She will talk about wood elements and also what types of herbs to plant.

Our events are always free and open to all. Please join us!

**Where:** in a private home in Vienna, VA

**To RSVP:** I would appreciate an email RSVP and will notify people of changes, cancellations by email, or if they leave a phone number I will call them. please contact Helene Shore at [Teachhss@aol.com](mailto:Teachhss@aol.com) or 703-861-6638.

The **March 27th forum** will be about **Permaculture**. Details to follow.

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#### **DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE**

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**NWEI Discussion Guides:** (WOH) World of Health, (SSW) Sustainable Systems at Work; (RE) Reconnecting with Earth; (GW) Global Warming: Changing CO<sub>2</sub> course; (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 2010 with 19 circles for the year** (243 in total since 2002!). **So far in 2011, we have started one circle, with seven more to start this month. They are marked with an asterisk (\*).** One is in DC, two in Baltimore, one in Prince Georges County, one in Howard County, and two in Montgomery County.

You will see listed some of the “potential” circles in the works for later this winter or spring. More will be added as plans become more certain.

Our circles have become so widespread 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](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org) unless otherwise noted.

## **VIRGINIA**

**Vienna, VA** – The Northern Virginia Simplicity Matters has started a new Voluntary Simplicity discussion circle. The first meeting was Sunday January 23rd. 3 members of the group have embarked on a not buying anything new for 6 months. 1 is trying it for a month. If interested, please see a blog written by Julie Kimmel at [nostuffexperiment.wordpress.com](http://nostuffexperiment.wordpress.com). The Va. green baggers are having another bag giveaway on Saturday, Jan 29th at the Falls Church Community Center. They continue to need donations of fabric and people to sew the reusable bags. If interested, please contact Helene Shore at [Teachhss@aol.com](mailto:Teachhss@aol.com). For people interested in **future discussion circles in Northern Virginia**, contact Helene Shore at 703-861-6638 or email at [Teachhss@aol.com](mailto:Teachhss@aol.com).

## **Frederick & Washington County**

None currently scheduled to begin

## **Carroll County**

Westminster “Regroup” Contact [CirclesCarroll@Simplicity-Matters.org](mailto:CirclesCarroll@Simplicity-Matters.org) to join the group for discussions and to watch videos. CS: Carole Flood

## **Howard County**

\***Oakland Mills Interfaith Center** (VS) starting on **Wed, Feb. 23rd** at 7:15 pm. Continues weekly until April 6th. CS: Florence Miller, [fam57@verizon.net](mailto:fam57@verizon.net), 410-531-2303 and Donna Hawk, [donnahawk3@verizon.net](mailto:donnahawk3@verizon.net)

**Howard County Conservancy** (tbd) CS: Florence Miller, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Ellicott City “Matchmaker”** (MF) CS: Lore Rosenthal, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Snowden Overlook** (tbd), CS: Judy Burt, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**UU Congregation of Columbia** (MF), CS: Judy Burt, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Integrated Therapies, Ellicott City** (WOH), CS: Laura Muller, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Howard County College** (GW), **Intro Mtg: TBD**, CS: Kim Davis/Margo Duesterhaus, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Glenelg** (GW) **Intro Mtg: TBD**, CS: Marianne Pettis/Florence Miller, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Howard County, Climate Change Initiative of Howard County** (CCIHC) Committee is actively pursuing other potential venues. Details to follow. Visit [www.hococlimatechange.org](http://www.hococlimatechange.org) or email [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

## **Harford County**

None currently scheduled to begin

## **Baltimore City/County**

\* **Baltimore, Light Street Presbyterian** (GW), **Intro Meeting:** Thurs, Feb 10, 5:30-7:30 pm. CS: Retta Barkley, 410-591-0910 or [rvbarkley@aol.com](mailto:rvbarkley@aol.com)

\* **Baltimore, Villa Assumpta** (DSOP), **Intro Meeting:** Wed, March 9, 6:30-8:00pm CS: Helene Murtha, [helene.murtha@yahoo.com](mailto:helene.murtha@yahoo.com)

**Baltimore “Matchmaker” Circle** (tbd), CS: Lore Rosenthal, [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org)

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

**Baltimore, Villa Assumpta**, (CSL, MF, RE?), CS: Helene Murtha

### **PG County**

\***Bowie, St. Matthews Church** (VS), Intro Meeting, Wed, Feb 16, (time?) CS: Elizabeth Buckner, [naturesgifts@juno.com](mailto:naturesgifts@juno.com),

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

### **Montgomery County**

\***Bethesda, Cedar Lane UU Congregation** 9601 Cedar Lane. (WOH) **First session:** Wed, March 2, 7:30 - 9 pm. There may be room to join this group but you would need to contact Marney well in advance in order to register and acquire a book. **Note:** this group will not have an introductory session, so the first meeting is the first discussion night. Contact [Marney@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:Marney@simplicity-matters.org).

\* **Rockville** (WOH) at Sherry Salomon's house near Montrose & Seven Locks. The start of this circle has been delayed, so you still have a chance to join in. They will be meeting on Thursday evenings but the start date has not been determined. Please contact [SherrySalomon@comcast.net](mailto:SherrySalomon@comcast.net).

### **Washington, DC,**

\***Washington Ethical Society**, 7750 16th Street NW. (MF), **Introductory Session** Sun, Feb 6th, 1-2:30. They will decide at the Intro session what days and times the group will meet, so if you are interested please attend. Contact: Ann Baker at [Bakera@gao.gov](mailto:Bakera@gao.gov)

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](http://www.wbpf.org) for more information (events calendar). Contact person: Bill Jenkins, [worldofmuse@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 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](mailto:CirclesBalto@simplicity-matters.org) (Lore Rosenthal)

**Carroll Co.:** [CirclesCarroll@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesCarroll@simplicity-matters.org) (Marney Bruce)

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

**Howard Co.:** [CirclesHoCo@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesHoCo@simplicity-matters.org) (Lore Rosenthal).

See also **Climate Change Initiative of Howard County** (CCIHC) [www.hococlimatechange.org](http://www.hococlimatechange.org)

**Montgomery Co.:** [CirclesMontgomery@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesMontgomery@simplicity-matters.org) (Marney Bruce)

**Prince Georges Co.:** [CirclesPG@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesPG@simplicity-matters.org) (Lore Rosenthal)

**Washington DC:** [CirclesDC@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesDC@simplicity-matters.org) (Marney Bruce)

**Elsewhere in Maryland or Jefferson Co., WV:** [Circles@simplicity-matters.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org)

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

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### February Events

**Sun, Jan 30, 1-2:30 pm, GreenTHINK Meetup, University of the District of Columbia, Van Ness campus, 4200 Connecticut Avenue NW Room A03, Building 44, Speaker: Howard Ways, AICP, Director of Planning and Sustainability.** Under the leadership of President Allen L. Sessoms, the University of the District of Columbia has launched a sustainability initiative to expand and enhance its academic offerings to prepare students for some of our world's greatest challenges: climate change, biodiversity loss, global urbanization, natural resource scarcity, and energy demand. Come learn about how the university is greening its physical campus and operations to reduce its impact on the environment while providing opportunities for students to live and learn in a sustainable manner.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** this event has already passed, but you can access future GreenTHINK events at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/greenthink/>

**Tues, Feb. 1, 7:30-9:15 pm, Neighbors of Northwest Branch Program Meeting, Hillandale Local Park, 10615 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring.** Program will include an analysis of the recent area survey results, and the Outreach Committee will describe plans for involving neighborhood groups. Contact is John Fay, [jhfay@verizon.net](mailto:jhfay@verizon.net), 301-946-5599; web site is [www.neighborsnwb.org](http://www.neighborsnwb.org).

**Tues, Feb. 1, 6-8:30 pm, Design Conversation: Materials, Memory Sustainability, Windup Space, 12 W. North Ave. Baltimore.** Peter Doo, AIA, and Garth Rockcastle, FAIA, discuss the emerging influence of sustainability and re-use in the building arts. The Design Conversations are a free monthly forum (first Tuesday of each month) for ideas about Baltimore and beyond. Contact Geoff Stack, [geoff@stackcoordination.com](mailto:geoff@stackcoordination.com), 410-802-5754. Directions and details: [www.dcenterbaltimore.com](http://www.dcenterbaltimore.com).

**Tues, Feb. 1, 2 pm, Green Infrastructure Webinar Series.** Our free webinar will feature Peter MacDonagh of Kestrel Design Group discussing Minneapolis's Target Center, one of North America's most iconic green roofs. More information at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/438028130>.

**Wed, Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 4:30–7:30 pm, Project Wet, Project Wild and Project Learning Tree, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD.** Join us for a series that began on Weds., Jan. 19 and Jan. 26. A class on how educators can introduce nature to elementary-aged children (grades 1-6) with these three national, award-winning environmental education programs that focus on wildlife, trees and forests, and water. Program is designed for formal and non-formal educators (teachers, naturalists, day care instructors, scout leaders, etc.). Maryland teachers can receive one in-service credit. \$20 members, \$30 non-members. For more information: <http://www.explorenature.org/about-irvine/directors-corner>.

**Thurs., Feb. 3, 6:30-9:30 pm, Sacred Roots Silent Auction Fundraiser, Frederick, MD.** Come support the birth of Sacred Roots—an earth stewardship program dedicated to promoting both inner and outer sustainability, through earth-based activities and celebrations. Relax to the acoustic sounds of Camela Widad Kramer, enjoy organic treats by Veggie Annie, and bid on fabulous products and services. Contact Hillary Banachowski at [lunachic727@comcast.net](mailto:lunachic727@comcast.net). For more info: <http://sacredroots.shutterfly.com>.

**Thurs., Feb. 3, 5-8 pm, Bethesda Green Happy Hour @ Vapiano, Bethesda, MD.** Enjoy casual conversation and networking, hear about our upcoming Greening Condos information series, and enjoy complementary antipasti and pizzas at Vapiano, 4900 Hampden Lane (corner of Woodmont and Hampden). Contribution requested. Contact: Dave Heffernan, [dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org](mailto:dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org), 301-767-7222. More info and RSVP via Bethesda Green Meetup.

**Thurs., Feb. 3, 11:30 am-10 pm, COK Benefit at Vegetable Garden, Rockville.** MDSupport Compassion Over Killing while enjoying delicious cruelty-free fare and socializing with other activists! For more information contact COK at [info@cok.net](mailto:info@cok.net) or at 301-891-2458. Directions and details found [here!](#)

**Thurs., Feb. 3, 5:30-6:30 pm, Leafleting with COK in Dupont Circle, Washington, DC.** Please join us as we distribute our pro-vegetarian literature and educate the public about the many benefits of a vegetarian diet in Dupont Circle. We'll head to the Vegetable Garden for dinner after. For more information contact COK at [info@cok.net](mailto:info@cok.net) or at 301-891-2458. Directions and details found [here!](#)

**Fri., Feb. 4, 2-3 pm, Experimental and Numerical Investigations of Coupled Energy and Water Transport in the Built Environment, Baltimore.** Seminar speaker: Dr. Elie Bou-Zeid, Princeton University. Location: University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), Technology Research Center, Room 206. For further information contact Prof. Claire Welty, Director, Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education (CUERE), UMBC; [weltyc@umbc.edu](mailto:weltyc@umbc.edu); <http://www.umbc.edu/cuere> .

**Sat., Feb. 5, 1-3 pm, Effective Advocacy 101, Takoma Park.** Join us at the COK headquarters to learn about effective animal advocacy, meet like-minded people, enjoy delicious vegan snacks, and learn about the many volunteer opportunities COK offers. For more information contact COK at [info@cok.net](mailto:info@cok.net) or at 301-891-2458. Directions and details found [here!](#)

**Sat., Feb. 5, Peace Meal: Common Kitchen Herbs and Spices for Health and Peace 1 pm, Chevy Chase.** Michelle Borodinsky, herbalist & holistic nurse, will explore the benefits and considerations in using some common plants, storage and preparation techniques. Program includes interfaith prayers and songs, blessing of the food ceremony, speaker's address, and hot vegetarian lunch. Free. Location: 4209 East West Hwy, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Durga, [shantiyoga2@schooloflife.org](mailto:shantiyoga2@schooloflife.org), 301 654 4899, [www.schooloflife.org](http://www.schooloflife.org).

**Sat., Feb. 5, Interfaith Energy Meeting, 2:30-5:30 pm, Washington, DC.** Join us at St. Stephen's Church, 1525 Newton St NW, to discuss the connections between our faith and our consumption of energy. The meeting will be followed by an open audit across the street at the Discipleship House, providing everyone with a look at an energy audit conducted by WeatherizeDC-approved Home Performance Contractors. A potluck dinner will follow. For more information, contact Brett at [brett.wiley@thedcproject.org](mailto:brett.wiley@thedcproject.org) or 202.630.5586. Directions and details at [www.weatherizedc.org](http://www.weatherizedc.org) .

**Sat., Feb. 5, 9 am-3 pm, State of the Harbor Conference, Baltimore.** Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore Inc. has launched Healthy Harbor 2020 to restore the Baltimore Harbor and assure a vibrant, safe, sustainable future. The leadership has been assembled with key players and partners from every constituency (city government, civic organizations, business leaders, scientists, community activists, schools, and citizens). Location: Legg Mason Building 4th Floor, Harbor East. More information at <http://healthyharborbaltimore.org/>.

**Sat., Feb. 5, 7:30 pm, Late Groundhog Day Celebration and Fundraiser, Baltimore.** Please join the Baltimore Architecture Foundation and enjoy The Swingin' Swamis, plentiful food and drink, carnival games, and auction items. This celebration will once again take place within the architectural finery of The Maryland Club parlors at One East Eager Street. More information at [baltimorearchitecture.org](http://baltimorearchitecture.org) or call (410) 539-7772.

**Sat, Feb 5, Washington Gardener Seed Exchange, 12:30-4:00 pm, Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria, MD** Swap seeds with other local gardeners, here expert speakers, great door prizes, terrific goody bags. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, Washington Gardener Magazine, 301-588-6894, [WGardenermag@aol.com](mailto:WGardenermag@aol.com), [www.WashingtonGardener.com](http://www.WashingtonGardener.com).

**Sun, Feb 6, 6:30 pm, "Gasland" showing, Washington Ethical Society, Washington, DC.** The filmmaker embarks on a cross-country odyssey uncovering a trail of secrets, lies and contamination about the largest domestic natural gas drilling boom in history. Learn about the Halliburton-developed drilling technology of "fracking" or hydraulic fracturing, which has unlocked a "Saudi Arabia of natural gas"

beneath us. A \$5 donation is suggested. Veggie snacks, popcorn, candy, and drinks will be served. Address: 7750 16th Street NW. Contact: Rich Reis 301-384-0540 rreis@verizon.net or <http://www.ethicalsociety.org>.

**Fri., Feb. 6, 10:30–11:30 am, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills.** Why not choose Mother Earth for your valentine? At Irvine Nature Center, kids 5 and up come make their own heartfelt “love your mother” T-shirt, craft a Valentine’s Day card using recycled stationery, and sculpt a suet bird feeder into a heart shape. Free for members, \$10 for non-members. More information at <http://irvinenaturecenter.net/>.

**Sat., Feb. 7, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance (CSBA), Green Mondays, Baltimore.** Networking and a tour of the award-winning green building—Baltimore Medical System's Highlandtown Healthy Living Center, which provides services to 15,000 medically underserved people in East Baltimore. For more information: <http://www.csballiance.org/pages/monthlymeeting.html>.

**Tues., Feb. 8- Thurs, Feb. 10, Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference, Washington, D.C.** Join union, environmental, business and elected leaders and other stakeholders at this premier event and share ideas and strategies for building the new, green economy. For more information: <http://www.greenjobsconference.org/>

**Tues., Feb 8, 10-11:30 am, Preschool Program Awake or Asleep? Animals in Winter.** Programs include a stories, games and crafts, followed by a short walk, weather permitting. Programs are taught by a retired kindergarten teacher. Cost is \$5 per child (no charge for adults who are required to stay for the program). Must register in advance. For more information or to register for these events, please visit [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Wed., Feb. 9, 6:30-9 pm, Lecture: Sustainable Sites Initiative, Washington D.C.** Steve Windhager of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden will discuss the Sustainable Sites Initiative project at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. For more information, contact Carol Herwig, [cherwig@caseytrees.org](mailto:cherwig@caseytrees.org), 202-349-1907. Directions and details at [www.caseytrees.org](http://www.caseytrees.org).

**Wed, Feb 9, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive.** Please join us for a work session with the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES). During the session, Green ACES will give a status report on the Sustainability Master Plan and will host a series of “breakout circles” to solicit input from GCAN and invited guests. For more info, contact Lore, [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org), 301-345-2234.

**Thurs., Feb. 10, 8 am-5 pm, Vacants to Value Summit, Talon Center, Coppin State University, 2500 W. North Ave, Baltimore.** Come and learn more about Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake’s initiative. Take part in a day of candid, lively discussions with practical reality-based solutions for Baltimore’s vacant property crisis. Register by Tuesday, February 1, by contacting Jacinta Difourt at 443-984-3100 or [Jacinta.Difourt@habc.org](mailto:Jacinta.Difourt@habc.org); [www.baltimorehousing.org](http://www.baltimorehousing.org); [www.facebook.com/Baltimore-Housing-Vacants-to-Value-Initiative](https://www.facebook.com/Baltimore-Housing-Vacants-to-Value-Initiative)

**Thurs., Feb. 10, 6–8:30 pm, Moving Stories: Getting Around Baltimore, Walters Art Museum, Baltimore.** Maryland Humanities Council and The Stoop Storytelling Series present an evening of transportation stories, with discussion to follow, as a part of our new “Practicing Democracy” initiative. We are looking for storytellers to tell a five-minute true personal tale (the good, the bad, and the ugly) about their experiences of navigating Baltimore. Send three sentences about your idea to Beth Barbush at [ebarbush@mdhc.org](mailto:ebarbush@mdhc.org). <http://www.mdhc.org/programs/practicing-democracy/> <http://www.stoopstorytelling.com/>.

**Thurs., Feb. 10-Sat., Feb. 13, Maryland Association of Environmental Outdoor Educators (MAEOE) Annual Conference: Educating for Sustainability, The Marriott Inn & Conference Center, College Park.** For more information: <http://www.maeoe.org/conference/>. EDITOR’s NOTE: This is the organization that coordinates the Maryland “Green Schools” Initiative.

**Fri., Feb. 11, 7:30 pm, Screening of "No Impact Man," Baltimore, MD.** A Sundance-selected documentary, chronicles author Colin Beavan's year-long experiment of living in New York City, with his wife and toddler, with as little environmental impact as possible. This free screening at The Baltimore Ethical Society is open to all. Refreshments are available for donations. For more information: ask@bmorethical.org or 410-581-2322. Directions and details at [www.bmorethical.org](http://www.bmorethical.org).

**Fri., Feb. 11, 8:30 am-1 pm, U.S. Green Building Council Community Forum, Hunt Valley.** Forum includes networking breakfast, town hall discussion, concurrent breakout sessions, and more. Forum events are held in multiple cities throughout the year as networking and learning opportunities for members of the USGBC community. This event is free, but because space is limited you must RSVP if you plan to attend. (no contact info provided, try <http://usgbcmd.org/>)

**Fri., Feb. 11, 2-3 pm, CUERE Spring Seminar: Finding a Place for Lawns in Research on Global Environmental Change, Baltimore.** Series is free and open to the public, and no registration is required. Parking passes for those not holding a University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) pass are available for \$4 for the TRC parking lot. Location: UMBC, Technology Research Center, Room 206. For more information: Prof. Claire Welty, Director, CUERE, UMBC at [weltyc@umbc.edu](mailto:weltyc@umbc.edu) and <http://www.umbc.edu>.

**Sat., Feb. 12, 10 am, Wonder Walk/Talk: All About Chickens: Backyard or Barnyard.** Duane Alexander and Cathy Hudson present this free indoor activity. For more information or to register for these events, please visit [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Sat., Feb. 12, Coming Back to Life: Practices to Reconnect Our Lives; Our World. 1:00 – 5:30 pm. Arlington, VA** This workshop, inspired by Joanna Macy gives us the opportunity to look at our anger, despair, or overwhelm so that we can free up our full energy to be part of the solution. Our natural joy at being alive is reawakened and our hearts feel stronger to face the challenges and opportunities that lie before us. Facilitated by Mary Pike and Hillary Banachowski, Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22204, \$20 suggested donation. Contact: Mary L. Pike • 703-960-0577 • [marypike@cox.net](mailto:marypike@cox.net) to register.

**Sat., Feb. 12, 10 am-6 pm, Changing the Way We Eat, Bethesda.** A free TEDxManhattan Viewing Party at Bethesda Green, 4825 Cordell Ave., above the Capital One Bank branch at the corner of Woodmont and Cordell. Includes potluck lunch and discussion of local food issues. Contact: Cheryl Kollin, [ckollin@verizon.net](mailto:ckollin@verizon.net) or 240-491-1958. More info and RSVP via Bethesda Green Meetup.

**Sat., Feb 12, 2-3:30 pm, Forest Feeding Time, Owings Mills.** Help Irvine Nature Center show its forest friends some love by making edible ornaments to hang in our forest. We'll decorate pinecones with peanut butter, berries, nuts and seeds. Please note any allergies when registering. Ages 5 & up (with adult). \$10. For more information: [www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org) or 443-738-9224.

**Sat., Feb. 12, 9 am-12 Noon, Trees 101: Introduction to Trees, Washington DC.** Casey Trees staff teaches the benefits of trees, tree physiology and tree identification. Includes tree walk. For more information, contact Carol Herwig, [cherwig@caseytrees.org](mailto:cherwig@caseytrees.org) or 202-349-1907. Directions and details at [www.caseytrees.org](http://www.caseytrees.org).

**Tues., Feb. 15, 11:30 am, Hop, Slither and Crawl: Reptiles and Amphibians, Woodstock, MD.** Preschool program includes stories, games and crafts, followed by a short walk, weather permitting. Programs are taught by a retired kindergarten teacher. Cost is \$5 per child (no charge for adults who are required to stay for the program). Must register in advance. For more information or to register for these events, please visit [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Wed., Feb. 16, 6:30-9 pm, Lecture: Innovations in Plant Health Care, Washington DC.** Bruce Fraedrich, vice president of research, Bartlett Tree Expert Company, will provide an update on managing landscape plant health with an emphasis on managing invasive exotic pests (like borers), innovations in soil health management, and advances in integrated pest management (IPM). For more information,

contact Carol Herwig, [cherwig@caseytrees.org](mailto:cherwig@caseytrees.org) or 202-349-1907. Directions and details at [www.caseytrees.org](http://www.caseytrees.org).

**Tues., Feb. 15, 12 Noon to 1:15 pm, Green Gourmet Lunch Series, Hunt Valley.**

Does your business qualify for BGE's Small Business Lighting Solutions Program (SBLS)? If you do not know the answer to this question, then you do not want to miss this program. Learn how BGE could pay for up to 80 percent of the cost to perform an energy-efficient lighting upgrade. Lunch provided. Location: 230 Schilling Circle, Suite 132, Hunt Valley, MD 21031. For more information: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1126139313>.

**Wed, Feb. 16, Great Energy Efficiency Day, Washington, D.C.** Learn why energy efficiency is the most viable way for the 112th Congress to embrace a clean energy economy. Along with keynote addresses from members of Congress, there will be four panels focused on energy-efficiency legislation opportunities. For more information: <http://ase.org/event/2011-great-energy-efficiency-day>

**Wed, Feb 16, Takoma Hort Club Meeting talk on USBG, 7:30-9:00 pm, Takoma Community Center, Takoma Park, MD** Bill McLaughlin USBG curator tells all about the Native plantings in the new-ish National Garden at the US Botanic Garden grounds. For more information, contact Sherrell Goggin THC president, [sherrell901@yahoo.com](mailto:sherrell901@yahoo.com), [www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org).

**Fri., Feb. 18, 2-3 pm, Direct Measurements and Modeling of Neighborhood-Scale Carbon-Dioxide Emissions in Vancouver, Canada, Baltimore.** This seminar series at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education (CUERE) is free and open to the public, and no registration is required. Location: University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), Technology Research Center, Room 206. Parking passes for those not holding a UMBC pass are available for \$4 for the TRC parking lot. For further information: Prof. Claire Welty, Director, CUERE, at [weltyc@umbc.edu](mailto:weltyc@umbc.edu) and <http://www.umbc.edu/cuere>.

**Sat., Feb. 19, 1-3 pm, Gaia University Open House, Freeland.** Come learn about Gaia University, an institution for higher learning offering Bachelors, Masters, and Post Masters Graduate Diplomas in fields focused on planetary transformation and ecosocial regeneration. Free. For more information contact Karen Stupski at [education@heathcote.org](mailto:education@heathcote.org) or 410-357-9523. Details at <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/gaia-university-open-house>.

**Sat., Feb 19, 1-2:30 pm, Maple Magic! Owings Mills.** Learn how to identify maple trees, properly tap a tree to collect its sugary sap, and convert the sticky fluid into syrup using Irvine Nature Center's enormous evaporator. It's the perfect way to follow up a great pancake breakfast! All ages. \$10. Other dates: 2/20, 2/26 and 2/27. More information at [www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org) or 443-738-9224.

**Sat., Feb 19, American Conservation Film Festival on the Road, Woodstock, MD. Family films from 5-6:30 pm; and from 7- 9:30 pm, a special feature film: The Antarctica Challenge: A Global Warning followed by discussion with expert panel. \$5 individual; \$15 Family.** For more information or to register for these events, please visit [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Sun., Feb. 20, 12 Noon-6 pm, Vegan Day at Bakeshop, Arlington, VA.** This popular Arlington bakery is celebrating with a monthly Vegan Day event that doubles as a COK benefit. On the third Sunday of each month, Bakeshop's menu will be entirely meat-, egg-, and dairy-free! For more information contact COK at [info@cok.net](mailto:info@cok.net) or at 301-891-2458. Directions and details found here!

**Sun., Feb. 20, 6-8:30 pm, BNote Potluck Community Meeting, Baltimore Yoga Village in Hampden.** How can a local currency help show love to our businesses and community? Come share some wonderful dishes and join the discussion! The BNote will be circulating this April, helping to support local, independent business and increase the resilience and sustainability of Baltimore's communities. For more information, contact Jeff Dicken at [baltimoregreencurrency@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoregreencurrency@gmail.com) or 410.900.0673. Directions and details at [www.baltimoregreencurrency.org](http://www.baltimoregreencurrency.org).

**Mon., Feb. 21, 7 pm, Reel & Meal: What's the Economy for, Anyway? Greenbelt.** Free 40-minute documentary presents humorous, factual and highly visual challenge of the ways America measures economic success, questions gross domestic product (GDP) as a measure of society's well-being, and suggests workable alternatives to GDP as a yardstick and unrestrained economic growth as a goal. Dr. Brian Czech of the Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy (CASSE) will lead a discussion on how citizens can work together for a sustainable economic future. Location: New Deal Café, Greenbelt's Roosevelt Center, 113 Centerway. At 6:30 the cafe will serve an optional vegan dinner for \$13. For more information about this program, contact Lucy Duff at justpeacepg@earthlink.net or 301-577-2350. For more about CASSE: <http://steadystate.org/>.

**Mon, Feb 21, 9 am-3 pm, Presidents' Day-Off Camp, Owings Mills, MD.** Spend the day exploring the stream, searching under logs and learning about animal habitats at Irvine Nature Center. Children will take part in fun-filled activities including trail walks, games, crafts and animal encounters. Ages 6-10. \$60. More information at [www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org) or 443-738-9224.

**Mon, Feb 21, Silver Spring Garden Club talk on Meadowscaping in Urban and Suburban Spaces, 7:30-10:00 pm, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD** Catherine Zimmerman, author of the newly released book *Urban & Suburban Meadows* and sustainable landscape designer, will introduce meadowscaping as a lawn alternative. Do away with pesticide-ridden, manicured, water thirsty, monoculture lawns and restore your land to a beautiful, natural habitat for native plants and wildlife. Join the movement toward making natural landscapes the new landscaping norm! For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, SSGC Club President, 301-588-6894, [Laserblast@aol.com](mailto:Laserblast@aol.com)

**Tues., Feb 22, 10-11: 30 am, Flap Your Wings: Birds and Winter Bird Watching, Woodstock, MD.** Preschool program includes stories, games and crafts, followed by a short walk, weather permitting. Programs are taught by a retired kindergarten teacher. Cost is \$5 per child (no charge for adults who are required to stay for the program). For more information or to register for these events, please visit [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Tues, Feb. 22, 7:30 pm, MD Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting, Tree ID Workshop, White Oak Library, White Oak, MD.** Continuing our series of identification workshops, Cris Fleming will bring specimens of twigs, bark, and fruits to help participants learn different techniques of identifying woody plants in winter. Please bring a hand lens if you have one and any book that gives information about trees and shrubs without the leaves. For more information and directions go to [www.mdflora.org](http://www.mdflora.org).

**Tues, Feb. 22, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Free Annual Bicycle Symposium.** A place where advocates, industry leaders, on and off-road recreational cyclists and commuters, and elected officials come together. Event will educate and empower all attendees, identify common issues in local communities, set priorities for improving the future of bicycling in MD and demonstrate the economic impact of the state's bicycling community. To register: [www.bikemd.org](http://www.bikemd.org).

**Tues, Feb 22, 6:45-9:00 pm, Prince George's Green Power Coalition Forum: "Building Innovative Green Communities" Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt MD 20770** The forum will offer practical solutions for creating sustainable neighborhoods, including a green business incubator, a community solar co-op, and the first complete green street in Maryland. Speakers include Dennis Chestnut, Executive Director of Groundwork Anacostia Rive DC; Lore Rosenthal, Greenbelt Climate Action Network; and, Adam Ortiz, Mayor of Edmonston, MD. Prince George's Green Power Coalition is comprised of concerned residents, green business leaders, unions, youth and environmental groups plus other community groups. Though RSVPs are not required, we would appreciate knowing you plan to join us. Contact Green Power co-chairs: Lisa Lincoln, 301-642-3135, [lisa.l.lincoln@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.l.lincoln@gmail.com), Mariko Bennett, 301-741-3443, [marikobennett@gmail.com](mailto:marikobennett@gmail.com).

**Fri., Feb. 25, 8:30 am-4 pm, Green Matters Symposium: Real Food Renaissance, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD.** Focus: the growing number of local, regional and national grassroots efforts that encourage Americans to eat "Real Food." From public gardens to local government and nonprofit groups advancing change in our local food systems to high-profile chefs committed to changing the way

we eat and think about where our food comes from, we're experiencing a culinary renaissance. For more information, including detailed session descriptions, speaker and registration information, visit [http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/green\\_matters\\_symposium.shtm](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/green_matters_symposium.shtm). Registration fee: \$89 after January 31.

**Fri., Feb. 25, 2-3 pm, Estimating the Ex-Ante Willingness to Pay for Flood Protection for Baltimore City.** Seminar speakers: Dr. Scott Farrow (UMBC) and Dr. Michael Scott (U MD Salisbury). Seminars are free and open to the public, and no registration is required. Parking passes for those not holding a UMBC pass are available for \$4 for the TRC parking lot. Location: UMBC Technology Research Center, Room 206. For further information: Prof. Claire Welty, Director, Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education at [weltyc@umbc.edu](mailto:weltyc@umbc.edu) and <http://www.umbc.edu/cuere> .

**Fri., Feb. 25, BNote Design Reveal in Hampden, Baltimore, MD.** We will be unveiling the final first-series BNote design and detailing our cross-promotion agreement with Clean Currents, a green energy company. For more information, contact Jeff Dicken at [baltimoregreencurrency@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoregreencurrency@gmail.com) or 410.900.0673. More details on the BNote network, including a directory of participating businesses, at [www.baltimoregreencurrency.org](http://www.baltimoregreencurrency.org),

**Sat., Feb. 26, 9 am to 3 pm, Stand Up for Trees, Washington DC.** Casey Trees staff leads a day-long, hands-on program on how to become an advocate for urban tree canopy. For more information, contact Carol Herwig, [cherwig@caseytrees.org](mailto:cherwig@caseytrees.org) or 202-349-1907. Directions and details at [www.caseytrees.org](http://www.caseytrees.org).

**Sat., Feb. 26, Beginner's Minerals of Maryland, 1-3 pm, Benjamin Banneker Historic Park and Museum, Oella, MD.** An experienced mineral collector with extensive knowledge of Maryland minerals and geology will offer an overview of the minerals of Maryland. You'll read geologic maps and get to handle specimens from his collection. Free for Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM) members; \$5.00 for non-members. Directions and details at [www.meetup.com/marylandnature](http://www.meetup.com/marylandnature).

**Sat., Feb. 26, 10 am to noon, Moss Workshop, Benjamin Banneker Historic Park and Museum, Oella, MD.** If mosses intrigue you when you hike but you wonder exactly what you are seeing, this is your chance to figure it out in a fun environment. Join us as we take a closer look at a moss or two and work together to identify them. A walk down your street will never be the same! \$10 per person. Directions and details at [www.meetup.com/marylandnature](http://www.meetup.com/marylandnature).

**Sat., Feb. 26, 10:30 am to 12 Noon, Improving Energy Efficiency in Your Home Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills.** Save money on utility bills! Make your home healthier! And reduce your impact on the environment! Based on experience drawn from energy audits of more than 1,000 Maryland homes, we'll discuss energy leaks and how to fix them. Learn how to invest improvement dollars wisely, and find out more about the Home Performance with Energy Star process and programs that provide incentives for energy improvements. Leader Peter Van Buren, president of TerraLogos, will also provide an overview of how energy efficiency fits into national policy. \$15 members, \$20 non-members

**Sun., Feb. 27, 10:30-11 a.m., Meet the Critter, Owings Mills, MD.** Greet one of Irvine Nature Center's resident animals. You'll learn fascinating facts and get hands-on interaction! Ages 2 & up (with adult). Free! More information at [www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org) or 443-738-9224.

**Sun., Feb. 27, 1-5 pm, Mid-Atlantic Green Wedding Showcase, College Park, MD.** Featuring the Mid-Atlantic's most sustainable wedding vendors, eco ideas for your big day, a swanky eco-fashion show and lounge, the Man Cave for the guys, local/organic beer, wine and liquor, stylish eco swag and more. \$10 early bird; \$20 at the door. Directions and more details at [www.greenweddingshowcase.com](http://www.greenweddingshowcase.com).

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**MARCH PREVIEW & BEYOND**

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**Tues., Mar 1, Fundraiser for Anacostia Hours, day into evening, Hyattsville, MD.** Franklin's Restaurant and Brewery on US Rt. 1 is hosting the annual fund raiser. 20% of your purchases in the restaurant and general store will support the local currency movement. Mention AH when you pay the bill. Come in the evening and enjoy a brew with members of Anacostia Hours. For more information, contact Nick Williams at [nwilliams550@gmail.com](mailto:nwilliams550@gmail.com) or (443) 722-0528 (c) Watch for notices on [www.anacostiahours.org](http://www.anacostiahours.org).

**Wed. Mar 2, 6:30-9 pm, Lecture: Designing Trees in the Urban Environment, Washington DC.** Andrew Wilson, director of London College of Design, and British landscape designer Andrew Fisher Tomlin discuss the challenge of adding trees to the urban environment. For more information, contact Carol Herwig at [chewrig@caseytrees.org](mailto:chewrig@caseytrees.org) or 202-349-1907. Directions and details at [www.caseytrees.org](http://www.caseytrees.org).

**Sat., Mar 5-Sun., Mar 6 (fourth of six weekends), 8:30 am–5:30 pm each day, Home-Scale Permaculture Design Course, Freeland, MD.** Permaculture is a system of designing ecologically inspired landscapes that integrate home food production, energy, shelter and water. Weekend topic: Urban permaculture, social and economic permaculture. Audit for \$50/day plus room and board. For more information contact Karen Stupski at [education@heathcote.org](mailto:education@heathcote.org) or 410-357-9523. Details at <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/home-scale-permaculture-design-course>.

**Sun, Mar 6. 5:45 to 7 pm -- Presentation on Maryland Offshore Wind at Green Team Lenten series at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Laurel MD.** Margo Duesterhaus of the Climate Change Initiative of Howard County will explain why offshore wind turbines are an important source of renewable electricity in this region (decreasing our reliance on coal) and how we can all support the Offshore Wind Campaign. Info: [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com), 443-803-8546, [www.hococlimatechange.org](http://www.hococlimatechange.org) . Address: 10755 Scaggsville Road (off 216 between 95 & 2, west of Laurel). Directions: [www.eumclaurel.org/directions/](http://www.eumclaurel.org/directions/) . Free, all are welcome!

**Sun. Mar 6, 12 Noon-5 pm, Awakening the Dreamer Change the Dream, Catonsville, MD 21228.** This is a symposium about the crises facing our planet, but even more it is about the solutions that are already presenting themselves and raises possibilities that can be your role in the change. Program combines exquisite videos, expert speakers and intriguing exercises to welcome you into a state of action for change and grounded optimism about our future. The event starts with music by QueenEarth. For more information: Lynn Gardner at [lgardner@cleancurrents.com](mailto:lgardner@cleancurrents.com) or 410-227-2847. Atwaters, 815 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD Directions and details at <http://maps.google.com/maps>.

**Thurs., Mar 10 (6 pm)-Sun., Mar 13 (5 pm), Facilitation Training Workshop, Union Bridge, MD.** This experiential training can help you build your facilitation skills and transform your organization into a more dynamic and successful entity! \$350 for full participation, \$250 to audit. For more information contact Karen Stupski at [education@heathcote.org](mailto:education@heathcote.org) or 410-357-9523. Details at <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/integrative-facilitation-training-program-laird-schaub>.

**Thurs., Mar 10, 7 pm, Tales from the Patapsco Frontier: Mt Pleasant and its Neighbors.** Ned Tillman \$5; Students = Free. For more information or to register for these events, please visit [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Fri, Mar 18, Baltimore Green Works, 3rd Annual EcoBall.** Once again, we join forces with some of Maryland's most dedicated farmers and producers to challenge the Baltimore International College students to a "Top Chef-style" competition. Alongside our panel of judges, the audience will poll to choose the top three winning teams. Get a taste what our competitors do with these locally grown and produced ingredients. You be the judge! Old prom dress, bottle cap jewelry, recycled shopping bags aka tie or belt or whatever you can come up with! Mix this up with some great dance music and outstanding food choices and you've got the EcoBall. <http://www.baltimoregreenworks.com/ecoball/>

**Fri, Mar 18 (tentative date), 7:30 pm, Amphibian Night at the Vernal Pool, Baltimore and beyond.** Each county will have its own meeting place. Sign up for this free program for date changes and locations in your county. We will explore a vernal pool at night in several counties around Baltimore and beyond.

The date is tentative because no one can predict this far in advance when amphibians will decide to crawl from their winter hideouts to participate in their spring mating rituals. This is a good example of why you should join us on [www.meetup.com/marylandnature](http://www.meetup.com/marylandnature). You will automatically be updated when dates change. All ages; members and non-members; must be able to walk (or be carried) less than ½ mile.

**Wed., Mar 23 (9 am)-Weds., Mar 30 (6 pm), March Gaia Gather-In, Freeland, MD.** This mid-year event is for Gaia Southeast students and prospective applicants. Come and learn about this dynamic community of world changers. For more information contact Karen Stupski at [education@heathcote.org](mailto:education@heathcote.org) or 410-357-9523 or see <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/gaia-university-gather>.

**Sat., April 2, Howard County GreenFest: Don't Waste Our Future, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, 10 am-4 pm, Howard Community College, Columbia, MD.** The festival will feature a document-shredding event from 10 am to 2 pm, live reptiles and birds, children's activities, Sierra Club tree planting, reptile & amphibian search, rain barrel workshops, displays from local environmental organizations and vendors promoting energy efficiency just to name a few. Contact Sue Muller at [smuller@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:smuller@howardcountymd.gov) or 410 313-4697. Directions and details at [www.hcgreenfest.org](http://www.hcgreenfest.org).

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#### **ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS**

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**Fabric Donations:** The Virginia Green Baggers had another bag giveaway on Saturday, Jan 29th at the Falls Church Community Center. They continue to need donations of fabric and people to sew the reusable bags. If interested, please contact Helene Shore at [Teachhss@aol.com](mailto:Teachhss@aol.com).

**2011 is International Year of Forests!** The United Nations General Assembly declared it to be so to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. For more information: <http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/index.shtml>.

**Thurs., Feb. 3, Deadline for Maryland State Board of Education (MSDE) 30-day public comment period for Maryland No Child Left Inside Coalition.** The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) and more than 200 partners who make up the Maryland No Child Left Inside Coalition have been working with the Maryland State Board of Education to ensure that every Maryland student graduates from high school environmentally literate. Despite significant progress towards that goal, on January 3, 2011 the State Department of Education (MSDE) published proposed language providing a loophole that would allow students to satisfy the environmental literacy graduation requirement by simply completing existing science and social studies requirements for graduation. Governor O'Malley and thousands of people across Maryland have shown their strong support for environmental literacy for all Maryland students, yet we are in danger of losing the entire environmental literacy graduation requirement unless you act immediately! For more information, please visit [www.mdncli.org](http://www.mdncli.org).

**Invitation to Wonder: A Journey through the Seasons:** Veriditas Books announces the release of this book by Elizabeth Ayres in paperback, Kindle, Nook and audio formats. In a hectic, uncertain world, these elegantly written, life-affirming reflections on nature's beauty, wisdom and mystery provide a comforting respite. Annie Dillard, the Pulitzer Prize winning author of Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, says the book "creates space for all that is beautiful and true." For more information on the book and the MP3 audio series based on it, visit <http://invitationtowonder.com>.