Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **March 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/ or as a PDF at http://www.simplicity-matters.org/events/2011/2011-03.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
• April Preview & Beyond
• Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Please remember we now have a **fourth forum – in Northern Virginia**, on the fourth Sunday of the month. Please scroll down for full information.

You can now find us on **Facebook**. Just type in “Simplicity Matters Earth Institute”! Our partners at Baltimore Green Forum and Climate Change Initiative of Howard County also have FB pages too!

Thanks to this month's editor, **Betty Wells.**

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***FIRST* SUNDAY FORUM (Special date and location)**
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Sun., March 6th, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm
GOOD NUTRITION REVISITED (Second Installment)
The Weston A. Price Foundation approach with Sally Fallon Morell, author of Nourishing Traditions and president of the Weston A. Price Foundation www.westonaprice.org

Are animal fats and proteins vital factors in our diets? Ms. Fallon will present reasons why, if Americans are to regain their health and vitality, there must be an emphasis on returning to organic farming, pasture-fed livestock and whole traditional foods, properly prepared. The resulting economy would be based on small scale organic production and food processing, rather than the current large-scale food processing conglomerates.

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

Where: Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814
http://www.cedarlane.org/directions.html

RSVP (to help us judge numbers attending): Call Marney at (301) 652-0492 or e-mail forum@simplicity-matters.org. Please include your phone number in your message.

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EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY

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Sunday, March 20, 2011
Earth Forum of Howard County
"Spiritual Traditions and Caring for the Earth"
2–4:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD.

The Earth Forum presents an interfaith panel discussion with prominent clergy members of faith communities in Central Maryland exploring their ancient roots and current approaches to practicing stewardship of the Earth.

This Forum includes **Emphasis/Action group discussions**: Spiritual Well of Earth Care, Influencing Corporate Policy, and Food and Faith Project, JHU.

Free and open to all. For information or to sign up, see earthforum@firstpreshc.org. **Directions and details** at www.earthforumhc.org.

April 17 Forum Topic: "What's the Difference between Weather, Climate and Extreme Weather?", Dr. Wayne Higgins, Director, Climate Prediction Center, National Weather Service, NOAA

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BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

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The Baltimore Green Forum
Sunday, March 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

"LOW TECH" TECHNOLOGIES FOR A BRIGHTER, GREENER, FUTURE
Cherry Picking The Best Technologies From The 19th Century To The 21st To Serve You!
Mark Fisher, Director, HARVEST CHAPEL MISSION, INC. www.harvestchapelmission.org

Mark is a structural engineer who has developed appropriate technologies for those in need around the world. Mark will explain, with some demonstration, technologies such as a simple hand "grinder" to the more complex "Empower-train", a prototype diesel/electric hybrid drive farm vehicle that runs on vegetable oil made right on the farm. A prototype vehicle was transported as checked baggage and re-assembled in Uganda in 2008 with simple hand tools. If you could produce enough food and electricity for a family of 4 in just 2 hours a day, from 5 acres of land, would you feel more secure in our troubled world?

The Baltimore Green Forum's 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 our new website, www.baltimoregreenforum.org or contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 301-345-2234.

April Forum, Sun, April 17 (one week earlier than usual, as part of Baltimore Green Week), "Building Bridges: Collaborative Projects for a Healthy Harbor)

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(*new*) SIMPLICITY MATTERS OF NoVa FORUM (*new*)
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(fourth Sunday of each month)
Sunday, March 27, 7:00 pm–8:30 pm
Bernice Peltier, a permaculturalist will be speaking . She will discuss what permaculture is, it's origins and forest gardens. She will talk about how to turn your yard, patio, or even a window box into edible delights.

Where: in a private home in Vienna, VA

To RSVP: RSVP by email at teachhss@aol.com or by phone at 703-861-6638

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

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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 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 this year, we have started 5 circles (248 in total since 2002!). **We have four more circles starting this month. They are marked with an asterisk (*).** One is in Baltimore, one in Prince Georges 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 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. 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. 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
Howard County Conservancy (tbd) CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Ellicott City "Matchmaker" (MF) CS: Lore Rosenthal, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Snowden Overlook (tbd), CS: Judy Burt, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
UU Congregation of Columbia (MF), CS: Judy Burt, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Integrated Therapies, Ellicott City (WOH), CS: Laura Muller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Channing UU Church (tbd) CS: Dot Rockstroh, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Panera Bread "regroup" (tbd) CS: Sydney Wallace, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Howard County College (GW), **Intro Mtg: TBD,** CS: Kim Davis/Margo Duesterhaus, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Glenelg (GW) **Intro Mtg: TBD**, CS: Marianne Pettis/Florence Miller, 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 or email hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Harford County
None currently scheduled to begin

Baltimore City/County
* **Baltimore, Villa Assumpta** (DSOP), **Intro Meeting**: Wed, March 9, 6:30-8:00pm CS: Helene Murtha, helene.murtha@yahoo.com
Baltimore "Matchmaker" Circle (tbd), CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

PG County
*** College Park** (WOH) CS: Janice Oppelt (contact Lore Rosenthal for details)
Greenbelt (VS), CS: Lore Rosenthal
Greenbelt, "We Can Save Energy" Support Group, CS: Lore Rosenthal
Greenbelt, "Common Security Club", CS: Lore Rosenthal
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.

* **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.

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 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 (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

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COMMUNITY EVENTS
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March Events

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 or (443) 722-0528 (c) Watch for notices on www.anacostiahours.org.

Tues, Mar 1 - 2, 8am – 4pm, ABC Supply Co. Product Expo Featuring Sustainable Products/Systems Greenbelt, MD 20770, Marriot, 6400 Ivy Lane. Lucas Hamilton, Manager, Building Science Applications, CertainTeed Corp., will present AIA Accredited Courses and lecture on Building Science. Lucas has over 20 years of experience in the construction industry. His experience includes research and development of both construction materials and building performance computer simulations. Lucas is a practitioner of both one and two dimensional computerized transient hygrothermal simulation and energy modeling for building envelope analysis.

Tues, March 1, 6 - 8:30 PM, Design **Conversations, Windup Space - 10 W North Ave at Charles Street, Balto, MD** The Design Conversations are a monthly series of events loosely curated by a group of volunteers, focusing on rotating topics that are timely and engaging. These events are always free, always at the Windup Space, and now on the first TUESDAY of every month! Design Conversations are encouraged by the generous support of D:center Baltimore and Baltimore Community Foundation. For more information, please visit www.dcenterbaltimore.com . Cash bar, AV hookup available for spontaneous presentations!

Tues, Mar 1, 6:30 – 8:30pm, GBI Event - Presentation & Networking, ENVIRO CENTER, 7761 Waterloo Rd., (Rte. 175), Jessup, MD Green Services, Goods and Technology Exporting. http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.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 or 202-349-1907. Directions and details at www.caseytrees.org.

Wed, Mar 2, 7-9 pm, Greening Condos presentation at Bethesda Green. First in a free monthly series of panel discussions focusing on greening condominiums. This session introduces the benefits of energy audits for condo units and common areas. Bethesda Green, 4825 Cordell Ave., above the Capital One Bank branch at the corner of Woodmont and Cordell. Contact: Dave Heffernan, dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org, 301-767-7222. More info and RSVP via www.bethesdagreen.org.

Thurs, Mar 3, 5-8 pm, Bethesda Green Happy Hour @ Vapiano, Bethesda, MD. Enjoy casual conversation and networking, hear about clean energy options from Clean Currents, and enjoy complementary antipasti and pizzas at Vapiano, 4900 Hampden Lane (corner of Woodmont and Hampden). Contribution requested. Contact: Dave Heffernan, dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org, 301-767-7222. More info and RSVP via Bethesda Green Meetup.

Thurs, Mar 3, Leafleting in Chinatown & Dinner at the Vegetable Garden, 5:30-6:30pm, 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 or at 301-891-2458.

Thurs, Mar 3, Compassion Over Killing Benefit Dinner, 11:30am-10:00pm, Rockville, MD Join us at The Vegetable Garden's monthly COK benefit day. Dine in or order take-out and 10% of your bill will be automatically donated to COK. It's a great way to support COK's work while enjoying delicious cruelty-free fare and socializing with other activists. For more information contact COK at info@cok.net or at 301-891-2458.

Thurs, Mar 3, 7-8pm in Columbia, MD Wind Power for Home - Free Public Presentation by Clean Currents
Learn about your options to support clean energy sources through your electricity bill. Talk to representatives from Clean Currents and Climate Change Initiative of Howard County. No RSVP necessary. Location: Harper's Choice Columbia, MD at Kahler Hall - 5440 Old Tucker Row.

Sat, Mar 5 – Sun, Mar 6 (fourth of six weekends), Home-Scale Permaculture Design Course, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm each day, 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 or 410-357-9523. Details at http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/home-scale-permaculture-design-course

Sat, Mar 5, Gardener's Guide to Global Warming, 10 a.m. − 12 p.m., Owings Mills, MD
Better gardening practices can have a positive impact on the local environment – join Irvine Nature Center to find out what you can do to be a greener gardener. Free! For more information, contact Courtney, SagalC@explorenature.org, 443-738-9224. Directions and details at www.explorenature.org. Please sign up through www.nwf.org.

Sat., Mar 5, 12 to 2 pm, Marshy Point Nature Center's 5th Annual Popsicle Plunge, Chase MD
Be one of hundreds of our coolest friends who will take the plunge at Gunpowder State Park, Hammerman Area to benefit the Marshy Point Nature Center Council's many free programs, events, and trail enhancements. Registration info can be found at www.marshypoint.org or by calling 410-887-2817. Come out to support Baltimore County's only waterfront nature center, making nature and the Bay accessible to everyone**.**

Sat, Mar 5, Leafleting in Dupont Circle, 3:30-4:30pm, Washington, DC Join **Compassion Over Killing** as we distribute pro-veg literature in memory of a dedicated activist, Bethany Richmond, whose life was sadly cut short earlier this month. After leafleting, many of us will head to Elizabeth's Gone Raw for a memorial for Bethany at 5:30 p.m. For more information contact COK at info@cok.net or at 301-891-2458.

Sat, Mar 5, Peace Meal: Raw Milk for a Peaceful Human Nature, 1-3 pm, Chevy Chase, MD 20814 Come hear from dairy farmer Thomas Roemer why raw milk has been called "one of the most perfect foods," for healing and spiritual development. Program starts with interfaith prayers and songs, followed by the talk and a hot vegetarian lunch. There is no charge for this monthly event. For more information, contact Durga, shantiyoga2@earthlink.net; www.schooloflife.org

Sat, Mar 5, 7:30pm, "NATURE: Photographed through the Eyes of George Grall". Enjoy an extraordinary slide presentation of stunning images, documenting the adventures of this National Geographic Photographer. Discover nature's hidden beauty that is often overlooked in your own backyard, to remote and exotic habitats. Listen to stories behind the photos, and observe George's approach to photographing animals in nature. $10 per adult by 3/4, $12 at the door. Children under 16 = FREE. No tickets will be mailed, registration list at the door. www.hcconservancy.org

Sat, Mar 5, 7:30-9:00 pm, Gaia University Open House, Freeland, MD
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 or 410-357-9523. Details at
http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/gaia-university-open-house-0

Sat, Mar 5, 2:30 pm, Free Screening of "Gasland," College Park, MD. This documentary film "Gasland" (running time: approximately 106 minutes) explores the environmental consequences of hydraulic fracturing (or hydrofracking), which it calls "one of the country's biggest environmental and public health challenges in history." Following the screening, we'll have a discussion with Delegate Heather Mizeur (District 20), lead House sponsor of The Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Act of 2011 (HB 852 and SB 634), which would regulate drilling for natural gas in Western Maryland. Location: College Park City Hall, Council Chambers, 2nd floor, 4500 Knox Road, College Park 20740. Sponsored by City of College Park Committee for a Better Environment (CBE), Maryland Sierra Club, and Community Research . RSVP to Janis Oppelt at janiso@erols.com or leave a message at 240-888-6972.

Sun, Mar 6, 12 - 5 pm, Awakening the Dreamer – Change the Dream, Catonsville, MD. A world traveling symposium for a profound inquiry into a bold vision to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, community connectedness and socially just human presence on Earth. Dynamic video and discussions. See trailer: www.awakeningthedreamer.org $20.00 donation, 815 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD 21228. Location finder: http://www.atwaters.biz/about_storeLocations.php#catonsville . RSVP: Lynn Gardner, 410-227-2847, lgardner@cleancurrents.com

Sun, Mar 6, Sounds of Jewish Heritage Global Mitzvah Concert to raise money for Nyanza Province of Kenya, 4 – 5:30 pm, Kensington, MD 20895. Temple Emanuel. 10101 Connecticut Avenue, 301-942-2000
Cost $10 donation per person frontdesk@templeemanuelmd.org

Sun, Mar 6, 5:45 to 7 pm -- Presentation on Maryland Offshore Wind at Green Team Lenten series, Laurel MD, in Emmanuel United Methodist Church. 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, 443-803-8546, www.hococlimatechange.org . 10755 Scaggsville Road (off 216 between 95 & 2, west of Laurel). Directions: www.eumclaurel.org/directions/ . Free, all are welcome!

Sun, Mar 6, Prince George's County Peace & Justice Coalition open house 2:30-5:00 pm, Greenbelt
Shall we outfit our communities at the military surplus store? No charge, at the New Deal Café (Roosevelt Center, 113 Centerway). Jean Athey of Montgomery Peace Action will present a slide- show critique of the military-industrial slice of the federal budget pie; describe Maryland's Fund Our Communities, Bring the War Dollars Home campaign; and lead brainstorm on how Marylanders with diverse concerns can work together to cut the military budget for true security and the common good. Directions at www.newdealcafe.com .
More info at www.ourfunds.org. Host: justpeacepg@earthlink.net Lucy Duff at 301-577-2350.

Mon, Mar 7, Habitat Stewards Training Program, 5-8 p.m., Owings Mills, MD Irvine Nature Center is hosting the highly acclaimed Habitat Stewards program. Completing this program certifies you as a Habitat Stewards volunteer, and you'll leave equipped with the knowledge to help others transform their backyards into wildlife habitat. The 7-session program **(Mon and Thurs, 3/7 to 3/24, plus Sat. 3/19, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m**.) includes a Habitat Stewards resource book. $60 members, $65 non-members. For more information, contact Courtney, SagalC@explorenature.org, 443-738-9224. Directions and details at www.explorenature.org .

Mon, Mar 7, Network with CSBA and Buy Local members, 6-10pm, Baltimore, MD.
Enjoy light fair and CASH bar at Teavolve Cafe & Lounge Harbor East. Hear the vision of Teavolve from one of the owners of this local venue. Get an update on the Baltimore arts scene and enjoy the sounds of "Open Mike Night" Join CSBA at the event and receive 15% off the membership price! At 1401 Aliceanna St, Baltimore, MD 21231, 410.522.1907 www.teavolve.com. COSTCSBA/BLB Members $20 through Mar 4 / $30 thereafter
Guest/Non-Member $30 through Mar 4 / $40 thereafter, Student Member $20 through Mar 4 / $30 thereafter

Wed, March 9, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. Please join us for a panel of local student groups (middle school, high school, college, Girl Scouts) explaining about the green projects they are involved with. For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Wed, Mar 9, Maryland Offshore Wind Project, 7-8 p.m., Owings Mills, MD Join the Irvine Nature Center to learn about Maryland's impressive untapped offshore wind energy potential and legislation by the O'Malley administration intended to help the State tap the benefits of offshore wind including good jobs, healthier air and stable energy costs. Free for members; $10 non-members. For more information, contact Courtney, SagalC@explorenature.org, 443-738-9224. Directions and details at www.explorenature.org.

Mar 9, 10 a.m. Pre-Festival Screening – Bag it, Warner Theatre, 513 13th St., NW. The Washington, D.C. premiere of Bag It. This engaging film examines our society's use and abuse of plastics through the actions of one man who decides to stop using plastic bags at the grocery store. Discussion with the filmmaker, Suzan Beraza, follows the screening. This screening, planned especially for D.C. middle and high school students (to register groups, contact Maribel Guevara: maribel@envirofilmfest.org or 202-342-2564), is also open to the public and is free.

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! For more information contact Karen Stupski at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523. Details at http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/integrative-facilitation-training-program-laird-schaub $350 for full participation, $250 to audit.

Thurs., Mar 10, 7 pm – Tales from the Patapsco Frontier: From Elkridge Landing to Mt Pleasant – Fascinating look at the native Americans, first settlers, and early frontier of the Patapsco Valley before the railroads, with colorful stories of leading characters and glimpses of special places. Ned Tillman $5. www.hcconservancy.org

Mar 10, 15 – 27, DC environmental Film Fest and Launch Party, 60 venues across the Washington, D.C. area. This year's 19th annual Festival will screen 78 Washington, D.C., United States and World premieres. Over 55 filmmakers and 94 special guests will present and discuss their work at the Festival. The critical relationship between energy and the environment is a special theme of the 2011 Festival and most screenings are free. Please join us to celebrate the 2011 Environmental Film Festival at our Festival launch party on Thurs, Mar 10 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Warner Building Atrium, 1299 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (entrance at 13th & E Sts.) The evening will include open bar, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction and entertainment. Tickets are $20 and can be purchased www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org

Tues, Mar 10, Volunteer Naturalist Training Course, 9:30 a.m. -12 p.m., Owings Mills, MD Become a volunteer naturalist at Irvine Nature Center! This 5-session course will teach you how to lead educational field trips for school groups. No experience necessary − just bring enthusiasm for nature and working with kids! Tuesdays and Thursdays, Mar 10 through 24, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. $30 refundable deposit. For more information, contact Courtney, SagalC@explorenature.org, 443-738-9224. Directions and details at www.explorenature.org.

Sat, Mar 12, 10am, FREE WonderWalk - What is Was it Like to Live and Farm on This Land? - Carol Filipczak. Great stories about how people lived before electricity and motorized vehicles, focusing on the time period prior to 1902 when the outbuildings at the Conservancy were reconstructed. No registration required. Program will be outdoors. No rain date. www.hcconservancy.org

Sat & Sun, Mar 12 & 13, CCBC Women's Expo, 10 am – 5 pm, Catonsville, MD
Free. Exhibitors, Talks, Workshops, Demos. www.WomensExpoMd.com

Sat, Mar 12 & Mar 19, 9 am – 5 pm GBI Event - Organic Gardening
(2 day course). Shane LaBrake . http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/

Mon, Mar 14 – Fri, Mar 18, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. each day Independent Schools Spring Break Week Off Camp, Irvine Nature Center A whole week off school? Spend the week exploring the stream, searching under logs and learning about animal habitats. Children will take part in fun-filled activities include trail walks, games, crafts and animal encounters. Kids should wear nature-friendly clothing and bring a lunch each day. Ages 5-10. $250 members, $280 members (after care available until 5:00 p.m. for an additional fee)

Mon, Mar 14 – Sun, Mar 20, Third annual Fix a Leak Week With household leaks wasting 1 trillion gallons of water nationwide each year, learn how to "check, twist, and replace" to stop those drops.
http://www.epa.gov/watersense/about_us/winter2011.html#0.1_2

Tues, Mar 15, 12 – 1 pm at Your Computer, Free webinar: "What to Expect from this Congress on Climate Legislation" Get the inside scoop on plans for legislation to combat climate change on the local and national level. Hosted by Clean Currents with expert speakers from Chesapeake Climate Action Network and 1Sky. Free and open to anyone interested. Simply **RSVP** to gogreen@cleancurrents.com by **Mar 11**. Tell others by sending these links:
http://local.1sky.org/actions/events/show/390
http://www.facebook.com/#!/event.php?eid=140781659319438

Wed, Mar 16, 6 to 9 pm, NWF's Habitat Stewards Series at MPNC, Chase MD Do you love wildlife? And gardening? Combine the two passions and get information on creating more habitats for wildlife in this 7-day workshop series. Dates: Wednesdays, Mar 16, 23, 30, April 6,13,20 from 6-9 pm and Saturday, April 9 from 9-1. For more information, call Winny Tan at 410-887-2817 or email winny@marshypoint.org.

Wed, Mar 16, Takoma Hort Club Mtg: Community Gardens, 7:30-9 pm, TP Community Center, Takoma Park, MD The evening will include a showing of a "Corner Plot," a short documentary about local urban farmer Charlie Koiner followed by an overview of the new-ish Montgomery County Parks Community Garden Program. The talk will include the benefits of community gardens, operations and guidelines for community gardens, and a brief look at the 5 current sites and the 6 future sites available in Montgomery County, MD. Our speaker, David Vismara, is Chief, Horticulture, Forestry and Environmental Education Division, Montgomery Parks. Division consists of public gardens (Brookside and McCrillis Gardens), arboriculture section, landscape crews, Pope Farm, nature centers and the community garden program. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, 301-588-6894, WGardenermag@aol.com. Directions and details at www.takomahort.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/

Sat, Mar 19, Davidsonville Area Civic Association, 2nd Annual Green Expo, Riva Trace Baptist Church, 475 West Central Avenue, 11am-4 pm. http://www.daca-md.org/GreenExpo.shtml

Mon, Mar 21, Leafleting in Tenleytown in honor of Meatout, 5:30-6:30pm, Washington, DC Join Compassion Over Killing as we leaflet outside of the Tenleytown Metro station in honor of Meatout. After leafleting, we'll go to Pete's Apizza for dinner! For more information contact COK at info@cok.net or at 301-891-2458.

Mon, Mar 21, Silver Spring Garden Club Meeting: Chanticleer - a Pleasure Garden, 8-9:30pm, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD. Adrian Higgins, Washington Post's garden editor, presents talk on the cutting-edge Chanticleer Garden in Wayne, PA. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, 301-588-6894, WGardenermag@aol.com. Directions and details at www.brooksidegardens.org

Wed.-Fri., Mar 23 - 25, 10 am-1 pm, Marshy Point's Trail Guide Training, Chase MD Help children learn more about the Bay, nature and the environment at Marshy Point Nature Center. This 3 day training will give you everything that you need to bring school kids out on fun, outdoor explorations around the park. For more information, call 410-887-2817 or visit www.marshypoint.org.

Wed, Mar 23, 9 am – Wed, Mar 30, 6 pm, Mar Gaia Gather-In, Freeland, MD This gather-in is a mid-year event for Gaia Southeast students and prospective applicants. One of the great assets of Gaia University is its dynamic community of world changers, and we are excited to welcome prospective applicants into this community!! For more information contact Karen Stupski at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523 or see http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/gaia-university-gather

Fri, Mar 25, Student Artist Reception, 6-8 p.m., Owings Mills, MD Join Irvine nature Center to celebrate the artistic accomplishments of Baltimore County and City students during our third annual Student Art Exhibition, appearing Mar 8 − April 2. Students (grades 6-12) fill our hallways with handmade images of trees and the wildlife that rely on them. This reception gives the students a chance to see their work on display, and discuss it with attendees. Free! For more information, contact Courtney, SagalC@explorenature.org, 443-738-9224. Directions and details at www.explorenature.org .

Fri, Mar 25, 5:30pm – TBD , Intro to Permaculture, Wayne Weiseman, The Permaculture Project . http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/

Sat, Mar 26 – Sat, April 2, Permaculture Design Certificate, 8 Day Training , Permaculture – AIA & LA CES™ Wayne Weiseman The Permaculture Project . http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/

Sat, Mar 26, "Growing Food, Growing Faith II: Creating a Vegetable Garden with Your Faith Community" 10am - 2pm, Baltimore, MD Please join the Baltimore Food & Faith Project for a tour of three congregation and religious school vegetable gardens, followed by an instructional workshop about how to create a garden with your own faith community or religious school. This free event includes lunch and transportation to the different gardens, and will be held at Govans Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. For more information, contact Angela Smith, angsmith@jhsph.edu, (410) 502-5069. Directions and details at http://www.jhsph.edu/clf/events/

Sat, Mar 26, 6:30 pm. The Economics of Happiness - DC Film Premiere. Transition Movement film extraordinaire featuring Transition founder Rob Hopkins, Vandana Shiva, Bill McKibben, David Korten, Michael Shuman, Juliet Schor, Richard Heinberg and many more. The Economics of Happiness describes a world moving simultaneously in two opposing directions. On the one hand, an unholy alliance of governments and big business continues to promote globalization and the consolidation of corporate power. At the same time, people all over the world are resisting those policies, demanding a re-regulation of trade and finance – and, far from the old institutions of power, they're starting to forge a very different future. Communities are coming together to re-build more human scale, ecological economies based on a new paradigm – an economics of localization. FREE. No reservations required. Bolivarian Hall (Salón Bolivariano), Embassy of Venezuela, 2443 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington DC.
www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org/films/show/721#ticketInfo www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org

Sat, Mar 26, Shop Schmooze, Savor Mini-Expo for Women, 12 – 5 pm, Arlington VA Presented by On Purpose Networking for Women. Artisans, Talks,Networking, Demos. Free. www.GinnyRobertson.com.

Sat, Mar 26, 1-3 pm, Annual Membership Meeting for Anacostia Hours, Joe's Movement Emporium, Mount Rainier, MD. For more information, contact Nick Williams, nwilliams550@gmail.com, (443) 722-0528 (c) Watch for notices on www.anacostiahours.org

Sat, Mar 26, 8:30 am - 3 pm, 25th Annual Lahr Native Plant Symposium and Plant Sale, Beltsville, MD Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) Registration information will be available February 1, at www.usna.usda.gov

Tues, Mar 29, Maryland Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, White Oak Library. "Alienweeds: The Art of Invasives" with Patterson Clark, The Washington Post's "Urban Jungle" columnist. A super-abundance of invasive weeds often overwhelms parklands, out-competing native vegetation and degrading biological diversity. Land managers often attempt to stem the exotic tide by hiring manual labor to remove the plants, or by using chemicals to thwart the onslaught. But an alternative perspective exists. Use this abundant material for art! Artist Patterson Clark created Alienweeds, an art project to create art out of invasive plant materials. He will describe and demonstrate the different types of artwork he creates from a host of familiar invasives. Come enjoy this creative approach to dealing with invasives. For more information and directions go to www.mdflora.org

Thurs, Mar 31, 5:30Awards Program- 2nd Annual BrickStainable Design Competition, National Building Museum, 401 F Street NW, Washington DC Potomac Valley Brick presents the 2nd Annual BrickStainable International Design Competition. The Competition seeks integrative solutions for a building using clay masonry units (brick) as a primary material. Current Green and Living Building initiatives acknowledge the importance of integrated design solutions to achieve sustainability goals. This competition seeks to explore the potential of brick construction in the creation of an energy efficient building. Design teams are challenged to maximize the physical characteristics of this construction in the creation of integrated design solutions utilizing the physical characteristics of this material such as thermal mass, porosity (or lack thereof), modularity, color, etc. www.brickstainable.com

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Action Opportunities and Tidbits

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Mar 19th to Apr 13th – Wednesdays to Saturdays, 9 am to 3 pm Art of Stewardship: Juried Art and Photography Show (Historic Lands and Buildings) CALL FOR ARTISTS OPEN: The Howard County Conservancy will host its Second Annual Juried Art Show and Auction, "THE ART OF STEWARDSHIP –Lands & Historic Buildings & Structures" Mar 19-April 13, . For additional info and registration form visit: www.hcconservancy.org

Wed., April 27-Sun. May 1. Choosing a Sustainable Future Presentation/lecture/discussion. Various times and locations in DC, MD, VA. Book tour for LIz Walker, founder of The Eco Village in Ithaca NY. ***Would you like her to speak to your group?*** We are organizing her scheduled appearances NOW! For more information, contact Ann Zabaldo, zabaldo@earthlink.net, 202 291 7892 Directions and details at http://www.MidAtlanticCohousing.org. Info on book and research at: http://www.liz-walker.org/

11 Meetings a Month, On Purpose Networking for Women, Multiple Locations.
Meets monthly in Annapolis, Bel Air, Bowie, Columbia, Derwood, Lutherville, Overlea and Ruxton MD and Arlington VA, For the details www.GinnyRobertson.com.

Veriditas Books announces the release of **Invitation to Wonder: A Journey through the Seasons 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.

The Washington Peace Center's **calendar of Progressive Grassroots events** in DC/MD/VA, many of which are related to environmental issues, is http://www.washingtonpeacecenter.org/calendar-date/ or (202) 234-2000

ICC Call for Committees and Councils: The International Code Council (ICC) currently is accepting applications to serve on ICC Committees and Councils. These high-profile Committees and Councils play a vital role in ICC's Commitment to establishing a Safe and Sustainable Built Environment. For application deadlines and a complete list of 2012/2013 Committees and Councils being called. http://www.iccsafe.org/cc/Pages/2011Call.aspx

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April and beyond PREVIEW

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Sat, Apr 2, Howard County GreenFest, 10am to 4pm, Howard Community College, Columbia, MD This family event will feature children's activities, live reptiles and raptors, rain barrel workshops, organic food, green vendors and crafters, "Bikes for the World" bike collection, Sierra Club tree planting and a reptile and amphibian search! See latest details and scheduled events at hcgreenfest.org. FREE**.** Contact Sue Muller, smuller@howardcountymd.gov, 410 313-4697

Sat, Apr 2, Bowie Green Expo Bowie Parks and Grounds Building, Bowie, MD; 1 p.m.-4 p.m.; Vendor setup 9:30 a.m. http://www.bowiechamber.org/

Sat, Apr 2 – Sun, Apr 3 (fifth of six weekends), Home-Scale Permaculture Design Course, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm each day, Freeland, MD Permaculture is a system of designing ecologically inspired landscapes that integrate home food production, energy, shelter and water. This is the fifth of six weekends. The weekend topic is: Grains, Aquaculture, Forest Gardening, Guilds, Animals. Audit for $50/day plus room and board. For more information contact Karen Stupski at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523. Details at http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/home-scale-permaculture

Sun, April 3, Be The Change Event, 10 am – 5 pm, Pikesville, MD
3 Speakers, Networking, Vendors, Lunch Included. www.BeTheChangeEvents.com.

Wed, Apr 27-Sun May 1, Choosing a Sustainable Future Presentation/lecture/discussion. Various times and locations in DC, MD, VA. Book tour for LIz Walker, founder of The Eco Village in Ithaca NY. Would you like her to speak to your group? We are organizing her scheduled appearances NOW! For more information, contact Ann Zabaldo, zabaldo@earthlink.net, 202 291 7892 Directions and details at http://www.MidAtlanticCohousing.org. Info on book and research at: http://www.liz-walker.org/

Sat, Apr 30 – Sun, May 1 (sixth of six weekends), Home-Scale Permaculture Design Course, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm each day, Freeland, MD Permaculture is a system of designing ecologically inspired landscapes that integrate home food production, energy, shelter and water. This is the sixth of six weekends. The weekend topic is: Forest Garden Installation, Design Presentations. Audit for $50/day plus room and board. For more information contact Karen Stupski at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523. Details at http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/home-scale-permaculture-design-course.

Sun, May 1, Great Carroll County Herp Search, 11 am to 4 pm, Sykesville, MD We will be going to Piney Run Park in Carroll County in search of herps (reptiles & amphibians) as part of the Maryland Amphibian and Reptile Atlas that is currently underway statewide. Field guides and some search equipment donated by Sierra Club. Please bring your cameras if you have them as we will need photo documentation of each species. Pillow cases and plastic containers are helpful to transport herps to the ID station. Meet in Howard County at 11:00 AM at the west side of the park-and-ride on Brokenland Pkwy at Rt. 32 to carpool. Please contact June Tveekrem for more information at june@southernspreadwing.com. For more information about the Atlas in Carroll County, visit the website at http://southernspreadwing.com/herps.

Sun, May 1, Permaculture Design Presentations, time TBD, Freeland, MD Come see the Home-Scale Permaculture Design Course students present the designs they have created for their sites. See examples of permaculture designs for many different sites and clients! For more information call 410-357-9523 or email education@heathcote.org.

Sat, May 21, Go Local Fair ~ (Formerly Md. Heartland Sustainable Living Fair), Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S. Center St., Westminster, Maryland 21157, 9am-4pm Learn about renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, healthy living practices, green building. Live music, food, farmers' market. Free admission, can't beat that! Contact: Dan Andrews, 410-857-4129, www.sustainablelivingmd.org