

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **April 2011**. It is going out to over **1,945 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/2011/2011-04.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
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits
- May Preview & Beyond

This month is packed with events, due to Earth Day (Earth Week, and Earth Month). Lot's of stream clean ups. Also, if you have not signed up for a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture – weekly share of a farm), you can find a CSA near you at <http://www.localharvest.org/csa/>

This week is a crucial one in the Maryland Legislative as well as Congress. Since SMEI is an educational organization, we will never tell you how to vote on a specific bill. However, if you scroll down to "Action Opportunities", we have listed some of the "hot bills" currently being debated.

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, **Beth Lacey**.

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sun., April 10, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm

Just One Step: Easy Reducing and Reusing with Susanne Wiggins

How can you do even better than recycling? Susanne Wiggins is a master reducer and reuser with 15 years' experience working in local solid waste management. Through a facilitated discussion, she will help you find creative ways to generate less waste, reuse the items you can't do without, and do more with less.

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

Bring: Questions, tips, resources to share.

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

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

May Forum on 5/8/11: DVD night "Home".

EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY

The Earth Forum of Howard County

Sunday, April 17, 2011

2-4:30 PM

(Third Sunday of the month, spring and fall)

First Presbyterian of Howard County,

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, 21045

Information at <http://www.earthforumhc.org> , e-mail: earthforum@firstpreshc.org

ARE THERE LINKS BETWEEN WEATHER EXTREMES AND CLIMATE CHANGE?

Dr. Wayne Higgins, Director, Climate Prediction Center, National Weather Service, NOAA

Tornados in Maryland, drought in the West, and hurricanes on the Gulf Coast !!! Why are we seeing so many weather extremes? How can scientists accurately predict climate change decades ahead when weather forecasters can't accurately predict local weather more than two weeks in advance? In his highly informative, illustrated presentation, Dr. Higgins will answer these and many other weather questions. He will also explain important differences and connections between weather and climate, as well as the differences between natural climate variability and human-induced climate change.

Following the presentation, nutritious, freshly prepared refreshments will be served. Information tables will be displayed for viewing. At 3:30 – 4:30 PM, Emphasis/Action group discussions will be held, from which to choose. They include: 1) Weather 2) Congregations Caring for the Earth, and 3) Organic Vegetable Gardening.

The Earth Forum is free and open to all. **This will be the last Earth Forum until next fall.**

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM (*special date*)

The Baltimore Green Forum

Sunday, April 17, 2011

4-6:30 pm

(*special date* the **third** Sunday of the month)

MD Presbyterian Church,

1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286

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

“Building Bridges: Collaborative Projects for a Healthy Harbor”

Realizing the dream of a “fishable, swimmable harbor” will require lots of caring work and deep collaboration between unlikely partners. Our speakers, Ashley Traut (Blue Water Baltimore), and Chris Streb (Biohabitats) will share details about projects already underway to green the city’s alleyways and engage school children in the construction of the floating wetlands at the World Trade Center.

Structured networking in “Affinity Groups” will follow their 45-minute presentation. Please join us!

For updated program info, visit our new website, www.baltimoregreenforum.org or contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 301-345-2234.

May Forum, Sun, May 22: Video “The Turning Point” (featuring the Findhorn Ecovillage in Scotland)

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

(fourth Sunday of each month)

Sunday, April 24, 7:00 pm–8:30 pm

Topic: “TBA”

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!

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

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 7 circles (250 in total since 2002!). **We are not currently aware of any circles starting this month.**

Below, you will see listed some of the “potential” circles in the works for later this spring or fall. 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 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

UU Church of Frederick (tbd) Contact Marney at marney@simplicity-matters.org for details

Carroll County

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

Howard County

Kittamaquidi Church (VS) CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Howard County Conservancy (MF) CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

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

Channing UU Church (tbd) CS: Dot Rockstroh, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Home Schoolers network (tbd) CS: Dot Rockstroh, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Kid-Friendly Circle (tbd) CS: Kelsi Nibbana, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Panera Bread "regroup" (WOH) CS: Sydney Wallace, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Snowden Overlook (tbd), CS: Judy Burt, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Columbia Jewish Center (tbd) CS: Bonnie Sorak, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Howard County College (GW), CS: Kim Davis/Margo Duesterhaus, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

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 (tbd), CS: Helene Murtha, helene.murtha@yahoo.com

Baltimore Ethical Society (tbd) CS: John Reuter

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

Prince Georges 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

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.

Rockville UU Church (tbd) Contact Marney at marney@simplicity-matters.org for details

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fri, Apr 1, "Can the Future Compensate the Present? Potential Limitations on Cost-Benefit Analysis in Climate Policy," 2-3 pm, Catonsville, MD. Dr. Tim Brennan, UMBC, Department of Public Policy. The Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education at UMBC spring 2011 seminar series. The seminars are free and open to the public. For further information contact Claire Welty at weltyc@umbc.edu; <http://www.umbc.edu/cuere>.

Sat, Apr 2, HCM Project Clean Stream, 9 am-12 pm, Baltimore, MD. Last year more than 30 HCM'ers, family and friends cleaned up one ton of trash from our section of Herring Run! Join in the fun as we return to the scene for Project Clean Stream, a state-wide project sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Blue Water Baltimore. RSVP to jhiggins@hcm2.com. For more information on Project Clean Stream visit www.allianceforthebay.org

Sat, Apr 2, Project Clean Stream, 9 am-12 pm., Owings Mills, MD. If you want to make a difference to our waterways, this is a great opportunity. Irvine Nature Center and its partner organizations join together each year to address the trash in our local streams – and we've been doing it since 1977! Be sure to wear clothes that can get wet and dirty to this cleanup effort. Free! The phone number to register is [443-738-9224](tel:443-738-9224).

Sat. Apr 2, Sierra Club, Gunpowder Watershed Stream Cleaning, 9 am-12 pm, Perry Hall, MD. Intersection of Dunfield and Belair Roads. Contact Janet Schollenberger at jscholle4@yahoo.com

Sat, Apr 2, Our Food, Our Farms, Our Future: Creating A New Paradigm, 9:30 am-12 pm, Arlington, VA. At this forum and dialogue, learn how eating local helps save the Chesapeake Bay; hear what changes in U.S. farm policy can promote sustainable agriculture; and discover ties between immigration reform and food and environmental justice. Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington 22204. For more information, contact Lavona Grow at socialjustice@uucava.org or 703-524-4860. Free, but please register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1383113931>

Sat, Apr 2, Workshop: Energy Incentives for Congregations, 10 am-12 pm, Gaithersburg, MD. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is hosting a FREE workshop focused on energy-efficiency incentives for faith-based organizations and other businesses and organizations, featuring experts from Pepco's Energy Savings Program, the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, and the Energy Star for Congregations Program. Persons interested in Creation care, property managers, boards of trustee members, maintenance staff and others should attend this event to learn more about how these support their energy efficiency goals and hear success stories of organizations that have upgraded their properties. For more information, and to RSVP: [301-349-5052](tel:301-349-5052), office@poplutheran.org

Sat, Apr 2, Howard County GreenFest: Don't Waste Our Future, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, 10 am-4 pm, Columbia, MD. The festival will feature a document-shredding event, live reptiles and birds, children's activities, Sierra Club tree planting, reptile and 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 or [410 313-4697](tel:410-313-4697). Directions and details at www.hcgreenfest.org.

Sat, Apr 2, Bowie Green Expo, 1-4 pm, Bowie, MD. Bowie Parks and Grounds Building, <http://www.bowiechamber.org/>

Sat, Apr 2, Leafleting at the Cherry Blossom Festival, 1:30-2:30 pm, Washington, DC. Join COK as we leaflet on the National Mall at this year's Cherry Blossom Festival! Help us distribute our new pro-vegetarian literature, Compassionate Choices. Afterwards, join us at [Telegraph Station](#) in Alexandria for the launch of their new vegan-friendly menu! For more information contact COK at info@cok.net or at [301-891-2458](tel:301-891-2458). Directions and details found [here!](#)

Sat, Apr 2, April Peace Meal: Meeting the food needs of people around the world by Combining CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) and SPG (Sattwic Square Meter Peace Gardens), 1 pm, Chevy Chase, MD. SPG is a unique type of intensive gardening that Global Coalition for Peace teaches with a focus on impoverished women, so far in the US, Guatemala, Haiti and Bolivia and soon Venezuela. Learn the history of the CSA movement and how CSA can meet the needs of people for food security worldwide. Talks will be followed by a hands on demonstration on how to make an SPG. RSVP: Durga, shantiyoga2@earthlink.net; 301-654-4899, www.schooloflife.org. 4209 East West Hwy 20815. park at BCC, metro and bus accessible.

Sat, Apr 2, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, 7-9 pm, Ellicott City, MD. Please bring a vegan dish to share (store bought is fine) for the number in your party plus 8. Bring your own reusable picnic-ware and feel free to wash up here. We will have basic table service available (for a small fee), if you forget. There will be iced tea and filtered water to drink. Kids are welcome! Curious about what vegans eat or want some camaraderie? This is the place for you. 21042 Near Centennial Park, 21042. Contact Bonnie Sorak at bssorak@yahoo.com or [410-465-0427](tel:410-465-0427).

Sat, Apr 2-3, Home-Scale Permaculture Design Certification Course, Freeland, MD. Using both ancient and modern knowledge, permaculture mimics universal patterns found in nature to create

healthy human habitats. Guided by ethical behavior, permaculture design is a system of creating ecologically inspired landscapes that integrate home food production, energy, shelter and water. Topics include energy efficient site planning for house, gardens and wildlife habitat; beneficial microclimate; strategies for food production; alternative energy and water collection; and sustainable community economics. Cost: \$1,100 For more information, please contact Karen at [410-357-9523](tel:410-357-9523) or education@heathcote.org <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/home-scale-permaculture-design-course-2010>

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

Mondays, April 4, 18, May 2, 16 and June 6, Entrepreneurial Success for Women Workshop Series with Ginny Robertson, 10am-1pm or 6-9pm, Lutherville, MD For details or to register go to www.GinnyRobertson.com and click on Upcoming Events April.

Mon, Apr 4, CSBA Green Mondays, 6-9 pm. Chesapeake Sustainable Building Alliance. Green Mondays are first Mondays of every month! <http://www.csballiance.org/pages/monthlymeeting.html>

Tues, Apr 5, Design Conversations 6-8:30 pm, Baltimore, 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. Windup Space - 10 W North Ave @ Charles Street. 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!

Wed, Apr 6, Greening Condos presentation at Bethesda Green, 7-9 pm, Bethesda, MD Second in a free monthly series of panel discussions focusing on greening condominiums. This session covers organizing a Green Team in your building -- how to mobilize your board and your neighbors to save energy, money and the environment. Bethesda Green, 4825 Cordell Ave., above the Capital One Bank branch at the corner of Woodmont and Cordell. Contact Dave Heffernan dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org or [301-767-7222](tel:301-767-7222). More info and RSVP via www.bethesdagreen.org.

Wed, Apr 6, Moving from Talking to Doing, 7-9 pm, Baltimore, MD. Presentation by Gil Peñalosa, an internationally renowned livable city adviser who has delivered presentations at events across North America, Latin America, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe, is ED of 8-80 Cities and former Commissioner of Parks, Sports and Recreation in Bogota, Colombia. Centered on the promotion of creating interconnected networks of pedestrian, cycling and public transportation infrastructure and building vibrant parks and public spaces, Gil's presentations are an inspirational method to build capacity in government, business and community settings. First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3807 N. Charles Street, Baltimore. Learn more/rsvp here: <http://bikemd.org/page.php?id=281>

Wed, Apr 6, Baltimore's Green Building Standards: What's This Mean for Your Project? Presenter: Kim Schaefer, Terralogos -- other possible presenters TBD. For more information, contact either [Kristen Humphrey](mailto:Kristen.Humphrey@ndc-md.org) at [410-233-9686](tel:410-233-9686) ext. 101 or [Mark Cameron](mailto:Mark.Cameron@ndc-md.org) at ext. 102. www.ndc-md.org <http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1101852622487-213/Green+by+Design+Spring+2011.pdf>

Thurs, Apr 7, Greening Your Firm Boot Camp, 1-5pm, Washington, DC. Being a truly sustainable design or construction company is about more than just being able to deliver LEED projects. It's about aligning overall company management and operations with the demands of integrated design and collaborative relationships and measuring company performance as a result. This interactive workshop builds your capacity to implement these strategies in the most cost-effective way and

provides tools to enable you to implement these strategies in your company.
<http://www.nexusboston.org/civicrm/event/info?id=255&reset=1>

Thurs, Apr 7, Habitat Restoration, 3-5 pm. The Habitat Restoration Work Group works on projects such as removing unwanted invasive nuisance plants, replanting and maintaining plantings areas with native plants, stream bank restoration, deer protection, erosion control as well as general trail maintenance. Please join us. We provide tools, but you should wear appropriate clothing with long sleeves for working in the woods. All levels of experience welcome. In case of inclement weather, call the day of to see if we are still meeting. www.hcconservancy.org 410-465-8877.

Thurs, Apr 7, Bethesda Green Happy Hour at Lebanese Taverna, 5-8 pm, Bethesda, MD. Enjoy casual conversation and networking, hear about local watershed issues -- Little Falls, Rock Creek and Cabin John -- and enjoy complimentary appetizers at Lebanese Taverna, 7141 Arlington Road, Bethesda, MD. Contribution requested. Contact: Dave Heffernan dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org or 301-767-7222. More info and RSVP via www.meetup.com/greenhome-113.

Thurs, Apr 7, Leafleting in Woodley Park, 5:30-6:30 pm, Washington, DC. Join COK as we leaflet at the Woodley Park metro station during the evening rush hour. We will be distributing a variety of pro-vegetarian materials! Afterwards, we'll head to the Vegetable Garden for the monthly COK benefit day. For more information contact COK at info@cok.net or at 301-891-2458. Directions and details found [here!](#)

Thurs, Apr 7, "Farmworker Justice: The Missing Piece in Sustainable Food," 6:30-8:30 pm, Baltimore, MD. Please join us for a thought-provoking panel discussion about farmworker issues and how these relate to a sustainable, just food system. Leading our discussion will be Dr. Robert Gottlieb, author of *Food Justice*, Norma Flores of the Association of Farmworker Opportunities Programs, and Joan Norman of One Straw Farm. This event will be held at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 5401 Loch Raven Blvd. All are welcome and dinner will be provided. For more information, contact Angela Smith, angsmith@jhsph.edu or (410) 502-5069. Directions and details at <http://www.jhsph.edu/clf/events/>.

Thurs, Apr 7, Creating 8-80 Cities: Walking, Cycling, & Public Places for All, 7-9 pm, Columbia, MD. Free. Keynote presentation by Gil Peñalosa, Executive Director 8-80 Cities; Mr. Peñalosa is an internationally renowned livable city advisor and is passionate about vibrant and healthy communities. Gil's tireless commitment to fostering healthy communities remains front and center. As the Commissioner of Parks, Sport and Recreation for the City of Bogotá, Colombia, Gil's team initiated the "new Ciclovía"—car-free Sundays— today an internationally recognized program that sees over 1.3 million people walk, run skate and bike along 75 miles of Bogotá's city roads. Co-sponsored by the Columbia Association and Bike Maryland. RSVPs Preferred:
Event.Rsvp@ColumbiaAssociation.com
<http://greenbuildingnetwork.groupsites.com/calendar/event/2011/4/7/261188>

Fri, Apr 8, "Stormwater Economics in Urban Settings: Benefits, Costs, and Uncertainties" 2-3 pm, Catonsville, MD. Dr. Kurt Stephenson, Virginia Tech. The Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education at UMBC spring 2011 seminar series. The seminars are free and open to the public. For further information contact Prof. Claire Welty, Director, Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education, UMBC; weltyc@umbc.edu; <http://www.umbc.edu/cuere>.

Fri, Apr 8, "Great Falls & Mather Gorge," 6-9 pm, Bethesda, MD. Roy Sewall's book *Great Falls and Mather Gorge* is a close look at the C&O Canal in MD and Great Falls in VA. The photos beautifully depict the diverse wonderland of river scenery and unique environments including rare plants, wildlife, historic buildings, and recreational activities. Viewing of fine art prints start at 6:00; the slide show starts at 7:30; book signing and sale will follow. For info, contact Lauren Verrill at lauren.verrill@gmail.com or call 301-986-1090. www.themindfulnesscenter.com

Sat, Apr 9, Feathers in Flight: A Birding Seminar at Irvine, 8 am-4 pm, Owings Mills, MD. Join Irvine Nature Center for its first annual birding seminar, Feathers in Flight. The exciting new event will feature a keynote from nationally known naturalists [Clay & Pat Sutton](#). This is a great opportunity for beginner, intermediate and advanced birders to increase their knowledge and skills. For more information, visit <http://explorenature.org/experience-irvine/birding-seminar> or call 443-738-9224.

Sat, Apr 9, Trash Cleanup Day with The Nature Conservancy, 9 am-11:30 am, Silver Spring, MD. Volunteer and help us restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay by cleaning up your neighborhood stream. Gloves and bags provided. For details or to register, contact Christa Lewis, christa_lewis@tnc.org or [301-897-8570](tel:301-897-8570), ext. 227.

Sat, Apr 9, Extreme Stream Clean-Up, 9 am-12 pm, Rockville, MD. Make a special effort to do your part for the environment this April. Helping clean-up a local stream is a great way to get involved. Join Clean Currents at our designated site for a few hours of clean-up and camaraderie. Open to all ages (students can receive SSL hours) - gloves and snacks provided. This event is part of the annual Alice Ferguson Foundation's Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. 12920 Twinbrook Parkway Rockville, MD For directions: <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/parks-facilities/twinbrook.htm> (walking distance from the Twinbrook metro stop). RSVP to Kristin Schulz at kschulz@cleancurrents.com or 301-754-0430 ext.716.

Sat, Apr 9, Hike to the River: Signs of Spring, 10 am-12 pm. Explore the meadows and woods between the Conservancy and the Patapsco River with Conservancy naturalists Woody Merkle, John Cookson, and Audrey Suhr. Moderate hike (some steep terrain - one trail down and back, easy to do part and return on own if desired). The morning will be bursting with signs of Spring! Wear long pants and closed shoes for hiking; bring water, snack food, hat. If bringing small children, might wish to bring backpack for carrying. FREE. (In case of rain, check website.) www.hcconservancy.org

Mon, Apr 11, Clean Up Your Clutter at Juanita E. Thornton Shepherd Park Public Library, 7 pm, Washington, DC. Featuring professional organizer Judy Tiger of Just That Simple (www.just-that-simple.net) and her neighbor Tamara Belden. 7420 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20012 (just north of Geranium Street), [202-541-6100](tel:202-541-6100), Free of charge.

Mon, Apr 11-12, Living Architecture Regional Symposium, Washington, DC. Green Roofs for Healthy Cities is hosting the upcoming *Living Architecture Regional Symposium* near the end of the Cherry Blossom Festival in order to highlight best practices associated with the Design, Installation and Maintenance of green roofs and walls. The Regional Symposium will focus on how to derive the maximum benefits from these technologies as well as explore their enormous Green Jobs potential from a policy standpoint. Expert industry speakers will be combined with a one day trade show featuring the latest green roof and wall products and services. <http://wdc.greenroofs>.

Wed, Apr 13, Art of Stewardship Event: Juried Art Show, Benefit Silent Auction, Reception and Lecture. 6:30 pm. Lands & Historic Buildings & Structures with Rebecca Hoffberger, Founder & Director of the American Visionary Art Museum, Greg Mort, internationally acclaimed artist, and Anne Raver, New York Times contributor and author of Deep in the Green. Learn how artists and The Art of Stewardship can change the world. Meet the Award Winning Artists in the Art of Stewardship Exhibition (EXHIBITION RUNS – March 23 – April 13 Wednesday – Saturday). Support the Howard County Conservancy's Juried Art & Photography Auction. \$10. To register visit www.hcconservancy.org

Wed, April 13, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. Please join us for a brainstorming session about the future of Greenbelt as a "Food Shed". How can we work toward growing more of our own food?. For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Fri, Apr 15, "PhotoCity: Reconstructing the World Through an Online Game," 2-3 pm, Catonsville, MD. Dr. Noah Snively, Cornell University. The Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education at UMBC spring 2011 seminar series. The seminars are free and open to the public. For further information contact Prof. Claire Welty, Director, Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education, UMBC; welytc@umbc.edu; <http://www.umbc.edu/cuere>.

Fri, Apr 15-18, Power Shift 2011, DC Convention Center, Washington, DC (NEW DATE AND LOCATION) Power Shift is an historic summit where you will get the skills you need to create clean and just energy solutions in your community, get inspired, meet other passionate young people, take action and have fun!
<http://energyactioncoalition.org/content/power-shift-2011-new-date-new-venue-still-bigger-and-better-ever> OR
http://act.energyactioncoalition.org/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=5594

Sat, Apr 16, Marshy Point Nature Center Spring Festival, 10 am-4 pm, Middle River, MD. Free Entrance to the park & free Parking, music, natural history. Cost for some activities, including food, canoe trips, crafts, face painting. 7130 Marshy Point Road, Middle River, MD 21220, Kirk Dreier, Director, kdreier@baltimorecountymd.gov, 410 887-2817, www.marshypoint.org

Sat, April 16 OR Sun, April 17, Getting Out of Your Own Way Workshop With Ginny Robertson, 10am - 5pm, Lutherville, MD. No upfront fee to attend. Pay at the end based on value received and ability to pay. For details or to register to to www.GinnyRobertson.com.

Sat, Apr 16, BGW Ecofest, 12-5 pm, Druid Hill Park, MD. Free. Celebrate all things green during the 8th Annual Baltimore Green Week. The week kicks-off at EcoFest with over 100 vendors and exhibitors offering programs and products supporting good environmentally aware practices. Curious about growing your own garden, alternative forms of transportation, how to conserve on water and energy at home, bee keeping or vermiculture? This is your chance to explore what Baltimore has to offer. For a detailed list of participants, event details, and schedule, visit us at www.baltimoregreenworks.com.

Sat, Apr 16-23, 8th Annual Baltimore Green Week, Baltimore, MD. Each April, BGW hosts this weeklong series of educational workshops, lectures and events that offer the public an opportunity to voice their concerns, be educated and take action on issues such as climate change, sustainable food and agriculture, water conservancy and efficiency within the home. BGWeek kicks off with the EcoFest, an outdoor festival with music, yoga classes, bike rides and over 100 vendors and exhibitors who are local and share our mission for promoting sustainability and the environment.
<http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events/baltimore-green-week/>

Sun, Apr 17, Mayor's Spring Clean Up, 8 am-1 pm, Baltimore, MD. Join your neighbors and choose a location that needs a special cleanup. Community representatives should call 311 to register. Containers for debris collection will be available on a first call basis. Trucks will NOT be available. Even communities without a container can participate by bagging and stacking debris at a designated location so that it can be picked up on Monday, April 19th. Please provide your designated collection point when you register your clean up with 311. Clean up supplies will be limited and all tools must be signed for by the community leader and returned to the Bureau of Solid Waste.

Sun, Apr 17, Earth Day: Kids Unplugged, 11 am-4 pm, Owings Mills, MD. Irvine Nature Center's get outside initiative, Kids Unplugged, encourages families to literally "unplug" from video games, television and other forms of electronics to participate in activities focused on Mother Earth. At Irvine, children can explore the forest, make recycled crafts, encounter animal encounters and spend time

enjoying nature. It's a great way for families to celebrate Earth Day together. \$10 per child. Free for adults and children under 3 years old. www.explorenature.org

Sun, Apr 17, BNote Launch Event at Localize It!, 12-6 pm, Baltimore, MD. Localize it! will feature live acoustic music, gardening workshops, tours of the new Free Farm drip irrigation system, a chilibrew chili and beer tasting contest, craft and food vendors, and will be the second day of BNote exchange in Baltimore. Anyone who reserves BNotes through the Baltimore Green Currency website from March 11 to April 11 will be able to pick them up here. BGCA will also be doing new exchanges of dollars for BNotes, and they may be used to support local independent businesses at Localize it! For more information, contact Jeff Dicken, baltimoregreencurrency@gmail.com, [410-900-0673](tel:410-900-0673). Directions and details at www.baltimoregreencurrency.org

Sun, Apr 17, Artists for the Climate, 7-9 pm, Alexandria, VA. Bill McKibben and Janisse Ray will not only read from their work, they'll lead a special candlelight vigil right after the event, joined by Rev. Bob Edgar. For those inspired to come along, we'll silently march three blocks to Alexandria's Potomac River coal-fired power plant at 9 pm. Groups ranging from CCAN, to Sierra Club, to Energy Action Coalition and U.S. Congressman Jim Moran have all called for this aging, polluting, planet-warming plant to be shut down. Light a candle with us and walk with literary greats to protest coal combustion in the D.C. region. <http://artistsfortheclimate.eventbrite.com/>

Mon, Apr 18, Silver Spring Garden Club Mtg, 8-9:30 pm, Wheaton, MD. *Best Ornamental Edibles for Our Region.* James Gagliardi, horticulturist at AHS River Farm, will talk about growing edibles in the Mid-Atlantic. Doors open at 7:30pm. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, [301-588-6894](tel:301-588-6894), WGardenermag@aol.com. Directions and details at www.brooksidegardens.org

Tues, Apr 19, Improving Energy Efficiency in Your Home, 7 – 8:30 pm, Owings Mills, MD. 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. [443-738-9224](tel:443-738-9224).

Thurs, Apr 21, Day-Trip Garden Tour to Mt. Cuba Center, 9 am-4 pm, Beltsville, MD. This is the woodland garden of plant lover's dreams. These woodland gardens produce some of the most spectacular displays of wildflowers in the mid-Atlantic region. For more information, contact Cheval Force Opp, gardentours@gmail.com, [703-395-1501](tel:703-395-1501). Directions and details at www.chevals2ndact.com. For more information, contact Cheval Force Opp, gardentours@gmail.com, [703-395-1501](tel:703-395-1501). Directions and details at www.chevals2ndact.com.

Thurs, Apr 21, Tree Planting, Metropolitan Branch Trail, 3-6 p.m. Washington DC. This is the second of two tree plantings sponsored by the Rails to Trails Conservancy. For more information, contact Carol Herwig, cherwig@caseytrees.org or [202-349-1907](tel:202-349-1907)/ Directions and details at www.caseytrees.org

Thurs, Apr 21, Legislative Review, 6-7:30 pm, Baltimore, MD. Join Maryland LCV to learn the outcome of this past 2011 Legislative session. What bills passed and what can you do next year to pass solid environmental legislation? All this and more at the Legislative Review! For more information, contact Dannielle Lipinski at dlipinski@mdlcv.org, [410-280-9855](tel:410-280-9855) ex 203. American Brewery, 1700 Gay Street. Directions and details at www.marylandconservation.org

Fri, Apr 22, Earth Day Celebration. GBI & Youth ECo. Watershed School Raingarden Programs! Party at the ENVIRO CENTER! <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/>

Fri, Apr 22, Earth Day Feed-in at Dupont Circle, 5:30 pm-6:30 pm, Washington, DC. Join Compassion Over Killing as we celebrate Earth Day by dishing out free vegan food! We'll be distributing free samples of Field Roast "sausage" as well as our pro-veg literature. Following the feed-in we will walk to Bread & Brew to celebrate their 100% vegan Earth Day menu! For more information contact COK at info@cok.net or at [301-891-2458](tel:301-891-2458). Directions and details found [here!](#)

Sat, Apr 23, Natural History Society of Maryland: Introduction to Identifying the Common Native Bees in Maryland, 9 am-3 pm, Towson University, MD. A one-day introduction to identifying the common native bees in Maryland. Learn a small set of species to genus so you can spot them on the wing, with cameras, and with hand lenses. \$55 for NHSM members; \$65 for non-members. Become a member at <http://www.marylandnature.org/membership.htm>.) For more information, contact Linda Davis, lm.davis@verizon.net. Directions and details at www.meetup.com/marylandnature.

Sat, Apr 23, Tree Walk, Ornamental Trees, 10 am-12 pm, Washington DC. Tree walk with Casey Trees' arborist Shawn Walker. For more information, contact Shawn Walker, swalker@caseytrees.org. You must register with U.S. National Arboretum at www.usna.usda.gov.

Sat, Apr 23, Vegan Cooking Class: Making Quick & Easy Meals, 11 am-1 pm, Takoma Park, MD. Whether you're a long-time vegan or new to veg foods, join us for this fun and informative cooking class featuring [Veg Gourmet's](#) Mimi Clark! For more information contact COK at info@cok.net or at [301-891-2458](tel:301-891-2458). Directions and details found [here!](#)

Mon, Apr 25, Baltimore City Sustainability Commission Meetings, 4 pm, Baltimore, MD. The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability holds regular monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month. All meetings are open to the public. Department of Planning boardroom, 417 E. Fayette St. in the 8th Floor.
<http://www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/OfficeofSustainability.aspx>

Tues, Apr 26, Baltimore City Schools' Sustainability Day: Green, Healthy, Smart, 8 am-12 pm, Baltimore, MD. City Schools' Sustainability Day is a half-day professional development event for educators and administrators, facility managers, students and parents to learn from and collaborate with national and local partners active in greening Baltimore schools. This is an opportunity to celebrate the successes, identify the challenges and inform the effort to make every Baltimore City school, a green school. Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School

Tues, Apr 26, Maryland Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm. To support this year's MNPS theme of the "Year of the Fern," Dwight Johnson returns to present his fern identification workshop. A key to the ferns of Maryland will be passed out and explained, and then used to identify some common ferns of Maryland, both in photos and using actual plant material. This talk will help prepare you for the fern field trips that are planned for this year. White Oak Library. For more information and directions go to www.mdflora.org

Wed, Apr 27, Sierra Club Potluck and Talk, 6:30-9 pm, Cockeysville, MD. A social evening followed by a talk by a Baltimore County natural resource specialist on watersheds and their influence on streams, rivers, and the Bay. Baltimore County has initiated an action plan on improving and protecting the small watersheds of the Oregon Ridge streams. Take Shawan Road to the traffic light at Beaver Dam, make a left and stay to the right to the parking lot. Walk up to the nature center. Suitable for any age. Oregon Ridge Nature Center. Call Joyce at [410-254-7240](tel:410-254-7240) for any other questions.

Wed, Apr 27-Mon., May 1, Choosing a Sustainable Future. Various venues times and dates in tri-state area. Liz Walker, co-founder of the Eco Village at Ithaca will be at book signings, tours and other events promoting her new book. (Website: liz-walker.org) For more information: Ann Zabaldo, ann@midatlanticcohousing.org, [202.291.7892](tel:202.291.7892). Schedule, directions, details at: <http://www.midatlanticcohousing.org>

Thurs, Apr 28, Habitat Restoration, 3-5 pm. The Habitat Restoration Work Group works on projects such as removing unwanted invasive nuisance plants, replanting and maintaining plantings areas with native plants, stream bank restoration, deer protection, erosion control as well as general trail maintenance. Please join us. We provide tools, but you should wear appropriate clothing with long sleeves for working in the woods. All levels of experience welcome. In case of inclement weather, call the day of to see if we are still meeting. www.hcconservancy.org [410-465-8877](tel:410-465-8877).

Fri, Apr 29, Biomimicry Potomac Valley Brick Seminar, 8-9:15 am, Rockville, MD. RSVP to sales@PVBrick.com

Fri, Apr 29, "The Social and Environmental Geographies of Boston's Big Dig," 2-3 pm, Catonsville, MD. Dr. James McCarthy, Pennsylvania State University. The Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education at UMBC spring 2011 seminar series. The seminars are free and open to the public. For further information contact Prof. Claire Welty, Director, Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education, UMBC; weltyc@umbc.edu; <http://www.umbc.edu/cuere>.

Sat, Apr 30, Earth Day 5K Race, 9 am, Silver Spring, MD. Don't have plans yet to celebrate Earth Day? Join us to run for nature! The 3rd annual Earth Day 5k hosted by Pacers Running Stores benefits The Nature Conservancy to support oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay. Last year's race was sold out, so register soon! For more information or to register, go to www.nature.org/earthday5k.

Sat, Apr 30, Earth Day: Make a Difference, 9 am - 1 pm. Join us for a day of service to the earth at the Howard County Conservancy. Service projects include stream cleanup and invasive plant removal. Children's craft at 11:30, bird walk at 8 am. In case of rain, check website. www.hcconservancy.org

Sat, Apr 30-May 1, Home-Scale Permaculture Design Certification Course, Freeland, MD. Using both ancient and modern knowledge, permaculture mimics universal patterns found in nature to create healthy human habitats. Guided by ethical behavior, permaculture design is a system of creating ecologically inspired landscapes that integrate home food production, energy, shelter and water. Topics include energy efficient site planning for house, gardens and wildlife habitat; beneficial microclimate; strategies for food production; alternative energy and water collection; and sustainable community economics. Cost: \$1,100 For more information, please contact Karen at [410-357-9523](tel:410-357-9523) or education@heathcote.org <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/home-scale-permaculture-design-course-2010>

Action Opportunities and Tidbits

Baltimore Cohousing Potluck - April date, to be determined: A Baltimore area group interested in creating a new cohousing community is forming. We have met several times and will begin searching for a site soon. Contact Rebecca at Rebeccalachen@gmail.com for more information or to attend our next potluck meeting.

The Maryland Native Plant Society offers field trips regularly and many are scheduled in the next month. So get out and enjoy spring and all there is to see. These are free and are led by native plant

enthusiasts, including many MNPS board members. Check them out at <http://www.mdflora.org/trips.html>.

Native Plant Sales abound in April and are held all over the region. Check them out at <http://www.mdflora.org/plantsales.html>

Birdwalks in the DC area in April and May! Join The Nature Conservancy and fellow birders this spring for great sights and sounds in the DC region! Locations include Pennyfield Lock, Teddy Roosevelt Island, Great Falls, and more! Free. No experience necessary. For more information and to register, visit www.nature.org/marylanddcbirdwalks.

BILLS TO TRACK

Here are some of the hot bills being voted on this week.

In Maryland (many may end up "stalled" in committee):

HB 852/SB 634 "Fracking Bill" (Marcelles Shale Safe Drilling Act)

HB1034/SB602 "Bag Bill" (Clean the Streams and Beautify the Bay)

HB 1054/SB 861 MD Offshore Wind Energy

HB 754/SB417 Arsenic in Chicken Feed

Some websites to stay informed:

<http://www.mdhcv.org/issues>

<http://www.mdhcv.org/issues/2010hotlist>

<http://mlis.state.md.us/#bill>

In US Congress

Bills weakening the EPA

Budget Bills with Economic Riders

For more info:

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

<http://www.edf.org/> (What You Can Do - Action Alerts)

Thursdays June 2nd through mid-November, Centennial CSA, Pick-up 4:00-6:30 PM

First Evangelical Lutheran Church 3608 Chatham Road 21042 (near Miller Library)

26 weeks of locally grown fruits & vegetables (optional bread, eggs, meat and specialty items too!!!) picked at the height of their freshness. With The Zahradka Farms, each shareholder will be able to choose either a small, medium or large size share depending on what is right for your family. It will be set up like a pre-paid Farmer's Market where you get to select the items for your share. See website for more complete listings: <http://www.thezahradkafarms.com>. Small Share (4 items) \$350; Medium Share (8 items) \$650; Large Share (12 items) \$936. Optional Add ons are at extra cost. Contact Bonnie Sorak at centennialcsa@yahoo.com or 410-465-0427

Sundays June 5th through November 27th, Garden of Eden CSA, Pick-up 10:30-12:45 PM

Oakland Mills High School Kiliminjaro Road

26 weeks of locally grown fruits & vegetables (optional bread, eggs, and specialty items too!!!) picked at the height of their freshness. With The Zahradka Farms, each shareholder will be able to choose either a small, medium or large size share depending on what is right for your family. It will be set up like a pre-paid Farmer's Market where you get to select the items for your share. See website for more complete listings: <http://www.thezahradkafarms.com>. Small Share (4 items) \$350 Medium Share (8 items) \$650 Large Share (12 items) \$936. Optional Add-ons are at extra cost. Contact Bonnie Sorak at goecsa@yahoo.com or 410-465-0427

12 Meetings a Month, On Purpose Networking for Women, Multiple Locations.

Meets monthly in Annapolis, Bel Air, Bowie, Columbia, Derwood, Lutherville, Middle River and Ruxton MD, Arlington VA and Palm Beach County, FL. For the details www.GinnyRobertson.com.

Donate Gently Used Clothing and Housewares to the Light of Truth Center's Boutique Sale, June 24-27, Lutherville MD. Sale supports the Light of Truth Center, a recovery house for women in Baltimore. To donate contact Ginny Robertson at 410-252-2703 or ginnyrobertson@GinnyRobertson.com. Receipts provided upon request.

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>.

May and beyond PREVIEW

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.

May 5/11/19/25; June 8/16/23/TBA, PlanMaryland Open Houses, 5-8 pm. Salisbury Univ, Washington College, Long Reach HS, Morgan State Univ, Harford Comm College, Univ of MD, College of Southern MD, Frostburg State Univ. These are structured so that you can arrive at any time and to stay as long as you like. The Maryland Department of Planning is holding open houses throughout Maryland to welcome the public to learn about the draft of PlanMaryland. We want your feedback on what needs to be done for growth and development to be directed more to our urban and rural communities, towns and cities. We want to know what you think needs to be done to protect and preserve our farms and open spaces so that they will be around for future generations to enjoy. To register to attend one of the open houses or just to get more information, please click [PlanMaryland Public Forums II: The Open Houses](http://plan.maryland.gov/getInvolved/PublicForumsSchedule2011.shtml). Or call MDP at (410) 767-4500 <http://plan.maryland.gov/getInvolved/PublicForumsSchedule2011.shtml>

May 7-8, Greenbelt Green Man Festival <http://www.greenbeltgreenmanfestival.org/>

Mondays May 9, May 16, May 23, June 6, June 13, and June 20 from 6:30 PM to 8:15 PM. Field Trips – Sundays May 22 and June 12 from 12:30 to 3:30 PM, Maryland Naturalist Center, Baltimore. Natural History Society of Maryland: Trees of Your Neighborhood, Park, and Schoolyard. Learn to identify trees growing in your community. Teams assemble a checklist of the trees of their chosen site. \$350 per two-person team. For more information, contact Linda Davis, lm.davis@verizon.net. Directions and details at www.meetup.com/marylandnature

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