

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **May 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/2011/2011-05.pdf>.

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

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

This announcement is organized into five sections:

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

Please **support the Climate Ride with a donation**, if you can. See details below, under "Action Opportunities".

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

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sun., May 8, 6:00 pm–8:30 pm *note earlier start!*

Video, "Home: The Movie"

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

This amazing documentary is a 'must watch' for anyone who cares about Earth and her inhabitants. Shot in 54 countries and 120 locations, Home presents the many wonders of planet Earth from an entirely aerial perspective. And we are afforded the unique opportunity to witness our changing environment from an entirely new vantage point. Produced to inspire action and encourage thoughtful debate, Home poses the prospect that unless we act quickly, we risk losing the only home we may ever have.

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

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

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

EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY

The Earth Forum of Howard County

2-4:30 PM

(Third Sunday of the month, spring and fall)

First Presbyterian of Howard County,

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, 21045

THE EARTH FORUM IS ON HIATUS UNTIL OCTOBER. See you then!

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

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

The Baltimore Green Forum

Sunday, May 22, 2011

4-6:30 pm

MD Presbyterian Church

1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286

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

VIDEO: “The Turning Point: A Return to Community”

A positive and inspiring film featuring the Findhorn Ecovillage in Scotland and visionary leaders in the fields of Human Ecology and Global Transition, taking a look at our potential to create a life-sustaining society. The film explores Community Supported Agriculture, the localization of wind energy, ecological sewage treatment, a Transition Town community garden, car pooling, egg, cheese and bread production and adopting a local currency.

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.

June Forum will be our Annual Picnic, date “tbd”

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

Northern Virginia Simplicity Matters Sunday Forum

(fourth Sunday of each month)

Sunday, May 22, 7:00 pm–8:30 pm

Topic: video, “King Corn” will be shown.

“King Corn” is a documentary about how farmers, powerful chemical fertilizers, government aid and genetically modified corn seeds have made their way into the American food chain. There will time for a discussion afterwards.

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!). **There are 4 circles scheduled, two this month, one in June, one in July. Scroll down where you see the asterisks(*), in Howard County and Prince Georges County.**

Below, you will see listed some of the "potential" circles in the works for later this spring (or later in the year) 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 Nothern Virginia Green Baggers continue to make reusable cloth bags from donated fabric and give them away in exchange for people taking a pledge to use them instead of paper or plastic. The Green Baggers will participate in the Reston Earth Festival on April 30th, educating people about the waste and pollution caused by using paper and plastic bags and give everyone one of their bags. Donations of washable fabric, leftovers from projects, drapes, old tablecloths etc are welcome. **To donate fabric or join us** to cut and sew bags please contact Helene Shore at Teachhss@aol.com

The **Voluntary Simplicity discussion circle** is coming to an end in May. A potluck celebration of the circle will take place in June. It will also celebrate the successful journey of 3 members who participated in 6 months of not buying anything new. See Julie Kimmels' blog, <http://nostuffexperiment.wordpress.com/> to follow her personal journey.

New discussion circles will be forming. For more information 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

***Channing UU Church** (VS) starting **May 2, 12:30-2:00**. CS: Dot Rockstroh, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Columbia, Lester Brown's "Plan B, 4.0", dates "tbd", CS: Ted Schmeckpepper, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

***Kittamaquidi Church** (VS), **Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm, June 16-July 28**, CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

***Howard County Conservancy** (MF), **Wednesdays, July 6-Aug 24** CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Oakland Mills or Owen Brown (DSOP), fall 2011, CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Harpers Choice Village Center (tbd), fall 2011, CS: Susie Jordan, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Integrated Therapies, Ellicott City (WOH), CS: Laura Muller, 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

***Greenbelt, Wednesdays starting Mid-May**, Topic will either be: “Voluntary Simplicity”, “Menu for the Future”, “We Can Save Energy”, or “Common Security Club”, CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org
College Park (WOH) CS: Janice Oppelt (contact Lore Rosenthal for details)
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 spring, SMEI will continue "matching" and/or "pointing" people into circles. In neighborhoods where circles are already forming, we will point you in the direction of a circle nearby. In those areas where there is not a circle already being planned, we will "match" people into home-based groups.

We have transitioned to a regional structure for the state. Please use the emails below for more information about circles starting in your county.

SMEI Regional Coordinators:

Baltimore City/Baltimore Co.: CirclesBalto@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal)
Carroll Co.: CirclesCarroll@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)
Frederick & Washington Co.: CirclesFredWashCo@simplicity-matters.org (Lena Rotenberg)
Howard Co.: CirclesHoCo@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal).
See also **Climate Change Initiative of Howard County** (CCIHC) www.hococlimatechange.org
Montgomery Co.: CirclesMontgomery@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)
Prince Georges Co.: CirclesPG@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal)
Washington DC: CirclesDC@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)
Elsewhere in Maryland or Jefferson Co., WV: Circles@simplicity-matters.org or 301-432-8721 (Lena Rotenberg)

For a list of our **most popular NWEI-published discussion topics**, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/volunteers/forms/7guides.pdf>

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

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

May is National Bike Month! Bike Maryland has events listed everyday in May.

Please visit: <http://bikemd.org/page.php?id=281>.

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](#). Or call MDP at [\(410\) 767-4500](tel:4107674500) <http://plan.maryland.gov/getInvolved/PublicForumsSchedule2011.shtml>

Thursday evenings: May 12, 19, 26, & June 2, 2011, "Run with the Wolves" Experiential Groups for Women, 7:15pm to 9:30pm, 2602 Calvert St, Baltimore 21218 Come together with other women to explore the messages of the archetypal stories in Women Who Run with the Wolves by Clarissa Pinkola Estes, Ph.D. Reconnect with the healthy, instinctual, visionary attributes of the Wild Woman archetype through varied experiences: small group discussion, art work, visualization, music.... Prior familiarity with the book not needed. Suggested contribution: \$45 for the 4-session series OR \$15 / session. For more information, Marcia can be reached at marcia.glass@gmail.com or 443-257-9053

Sun., May 1–Sat, May 14, Bird-A-Thon for Irvine Nature Center: It's like a scavenger hunt with binoculars! Or like a walk-a-thon with birds! Gather a few friends and pledges, then head for the wild outdoors for a great day of birding anywhere in the Delmarva area. With your help, Irvine receives a pledge for each bird your team spots. And the more birds you document, the more funding Irvine will have for school field trips. It's easy, relaxing and a terrific way to get started with bird watching. Free! For more information, contact Janet at HarveyJ@explorenature.org or 443-738-9231. Details at www.explorenature.org.

Sun, May 1, Bake Sale and Feed-in at the Takoma Park Farmer's Market, 10 am–2 pm, Takoma Park: Join us in offering delicious homemade vegan baked goods to hungry shoppers at the Takoma Park Farmer's Market. We need volunteers to donate goods, as well as help table at the event. For more information contact COK at info@cok.net or at 301-891-2458.

Sun, May 1, 11 am–3 pm Rock Creek cleanup and organic picnic, Bethesda: UU Church teacher's parking lot, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, 20814. Call 301-656-0467 if you plan to attend. Meet in parking lot for bags and gloves to clean both sides of Creek between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Ave.

Sun, May 1, 10:30 am–3:30 pm, Permaculture Design Course Presentations, Heathcote Community, Freeland, MD: Introduction to permaculture followed by examples of how it can be applied to urban, suburban, and rural properties, large and small. Please bring a vegetarian potluck dish to share for lunch. Free. RSVP by calling 410-357-9523 or emailing education@heathcote.org.

Mon, May 2, 6–9 pm, CSBA Green Mondays and Legislative Update. Pete Theodropolis, owner of The Natural (www.naturalbrothersfoods.com), will talk about his passion and vision for healthier eating. Dannielle Lipinski, Maryland League of Conservation Voters (www.mdlcv.org) will review the outcome of this past 2011 legislative session. Enjoy food, beer and wine. For more information and to register: <http://www.csballiance.org/pages/monthlymeeting.html>

Tues, May 3, 2nd Green Economy Business Opportunity Conference: Clean Energy and Sustainable Solutions, Four Points by Sheraton BWI Airport, Baltimore: Presented by the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus and Presidents' RoundTable. For more information: <http://www.businessforgreen.com/index.html>.

Thurs., May 5, and Fri, May 7, Healthy Food Events, Clarksville: May 5—Local Sustainable Meat and Poultry: Making the Shift in Institutional Purchasing, and May 7—Food Matters: A Clinical Education and Advocacy Program. For more information: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=yru9sffab&oeidk=a07e3nvwelg503774b7> and <http://www.wellness.umaryland.edu/>

Thurs, May 5, Leafleting at Gallery Place/Chinatown, 5:30–6:30 pm, Washington, DC: Join COK as we leaflet at the Gallery Place/Chinatown 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!](#)

Sat, May 7, How Square Foot Gardening Can Help You Live Like a Locavore, 1 pm, College Park: Linna Ferguson (<http://www.foodscaper.com/>) will discuss the positive impact that “local living” has on our environment and the world-famous method of square-foot gardening—a small space, intensive-growth approach that works. Location: Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park, MD 20740. Metro: College Park green line. For more information and to register, contact janiso@erols.com or 240-888-6972.

Sat, May 7, and Sun, May 8, Greenbelt Green Man Festival, Roosevelt Center in Historic Greenbelt: Honoring earth through music, art and science . For more information: <http://www.greenbeltgreenmanfestival.org/>.

Sat, May 7, Silver Spring Garden Club's 61st annual Plant Sale, 9 am–1 pm, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD. Herbs, tomatoes, peppers, flowering annuals, azaleas, \$1 raffle for fabulous prizes. Silver Spring Garden Club members' plant divisions, Mother's Day Gifts, and much more. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact SSGC President Kathy Jentz, Laserblast@aol.com. Directions and details at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SilverSpringGardenClub/> .

Sat, May 7, 1 pm, May Peace Meal: Cuban Strategy to Develop into a Nation of Peace, Chevy Chase: Presentation by Patricia Pego Guerra, First Secretary of the Cuban Interests Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba. Presentation follows the 30-minute documentary "Maestra." RSVP to Durga, shantiyoga2@earthlink.net or 301-654-4899. For more information: www.schooloflife.org. Location: 4209 East West Hwy 20815. Park at BCC, Metro and bus accessible.

Sat, May 7, renowned environmentalist Paul Gilding will be speaking in Washington, DC at Busboys and Poets. The location is 5th and K (1025 5th St, NW), and it starts at 5:30 PM. CASSE President Brian Czech will be introducing Paul and his book, [The Great Disruption](#). Please don't miss this opportunity for an engaging evening with one of the brightest thinkers on economics and the environment.

Tues, May 10, 7 pm, Eclectic Evenings Book Discussion, Columbia: Discussion of *No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process* by Colin Beavan. Copies of the book are available at the fiction desk of the Central Branch, Howard County Library, 10375 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia 21044.

Tues, May 10, Bird Ecology Course, 7–8:30 pm, Owings Mills: Designed for the beginner and intermediate avian enthusiast, this course at Irvine Nature Center will cover the mysteries of migration, nesting strategies, courtship behaviors, bird identification, conservation and more. It is 5 sessions: Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 10–19 and a Saturday session on May 21. \$60 for members, \$80 non-members. For more information, Courtney, SagalC@explorenature.org, 443-738-9224. Directions and details at www.explorenature.org.

Wed, May 11, Screening of *Planeat* at the Do Something Reel Film Festival 7 pm, Washington, DC: Are you interested in how our food choices impact our health and the environment? Join us at West End Cinema for an informational documentary, and see Compassion Over Killing's Campaigns Director, Christina Tacoronti, on the Question & Answer Panel after the film. For more information contact COK at info@cok.net or at 301-891-2458. Directions and details found [here!](#)

Wed, May 11, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. “Interfaith Panel/Discussion”. Lively discussion with people from various faith communities in the area on what is being done in our places of worship. We will exchange ideas about what we would like to do, to have greener sanctuaries and congregations. How are green initiatives faring in our faith communities? For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Thurs, May 12, Special Screening of “Living Downstream,” 6 pm, Baltimore: Based on the acclaimed book by ecologist and cancer survivor Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D., *Living Downstream* is an eloquent and cinematic documentary film. This poetic film follows Sandra during one pivotal year as she travels across North America, working to break the silence about cancer and its environmental links. For more information and directions, visit www.baltimoregreenworks.com.

Thurs, May 12, 3 pm; Maryland Health Care Sustainability Council Meeting; Maryland Hospital Association. The first meeting of the Maryland Health Care Sustainability Council was a great success, bringing together an enthusiastic and diverse set of individuals from hospitals, health systems, community health centers and more! There is plenty of room at the table for your health care facility to join the effort. Please contact Joan Plisko at plisko@son.umaryland.edu to have your facility represented (limited to health care providers only). Please R.S.V.P to plisko@son.umaryland.edu to attend.

Thurs, May 12–Sun, May 15, "Choosing a Sustainable Future" Book Tour. Venues and times vary. See website. Author Liz Walker, co-founder of The Eco Village at Ithaca talks and signs new book looking at sustainability from a "whole systems" approach. She profiles Town of Ithaca, NY. For more information, contact Ann, zabaldo@earthlink.net, 202-291-7892. For schedule, directions and details: www.MidAtlanticCohousing.org.

Fri, May 13, Spring Night Hike and Campfire, 7:30–9:30 pm, Owings Mills: Let's take a night hike at Irvine Nature Center to look for nocturnal animals, listen for frog calls and test our senses in the dark. We'll finish the hike with a campfire and s'mores. Ages 7 & up (with adult). Free for members, \$12 non-members. For more information, Courtney, SagalC@explorenature.org, 443-738-9224. Directions and details at www.explorenature.org.

Fri, May 13, Business for Good, 7–9 p.m., Baltimore: Baltimore Green Works and the Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance co-sponsor a panel discussion with representatives from local businesses, leaders bringing environmental and socially responsible ideals into practical reality. Hosted at the Waldorf School of Baltimore. For more information and directions, visit www.baltimoregreenworks.com

Sat, May 14, Bird-Banding Program, 10:30–11:30 am, Owings Mills, MD: One way scientists learn how long birds live and where they go is by "bird banding." Check out a demonstration of the banding process at Irvine Nature Center. We'll go over how to catch, band, age and identify migrating songbirds. All ages. Free for members, \$10 non-members. For more information, contact Courtney at SagalC@explorenature.org or 443-738-9224. Directions and details at www.explorenature.org.

Sat, May 14, Sustainable Speaker Series, 2 pm, Baltimore: Mark Kurlansky, author of the award-winning bestseller, *Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World*, and master storyteller offers a riveting new book for kids about what's happening to fish, the oceans, and our environment and what kids can do about it. For more information and directions, visit www.baltimoregreenworks.com.

Sat, May 14, 9:30 am–3 pm, Poetry as a Pathway to Place, presentation by Hayden Mathews of River Stories at the Friends Wilderness Center near Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Explore the many facets of place through poetry and prose selections in the leafy comfort of a real, live tree house! BYO brown bag lunch and beverages. Check <http://www.friendswilderness.org/> for details.

Sat, May 14, 10 am, Wonder Walk: Day of the Horse: All about Horses, "Spur & Stirrup." 4-H experts take you up close and personal with a horse and a donkey. At small group stations, learn about horse anatomy, breeds, behavior, care and grooming, tack and saddles, and safety. If raining, program (minus livestock) will be indoors. FREE. www.hcconservancy.org

Sun, May 15, Jewish Community Home Energy Workshop, 4–7 pm, Sixth and I Historic Synagogue, 600 I St NW (Metro: Gallery Place), DC: The Greater Washington Interfaith Power & Light and Weatherize DC are working together to weatherize homes in the Jewish communities through a series of workshops over the next eight months, culminating on Hanukkah, the original energy-efficiency holiday. You'll leave ready to undertake energy-saving measures at your own home, and to bring this workshop into your own synagogue or temple in the months to come. A suggested donation of \$5 at the door benefits Interfaith Power & Light. To RSVP, email Joelle Novey: joelle@gwipl.org.

Sun, May 15 - 7:00pm - 10:00pm, Evolver Baltimore, The Baltimore Yoga Village, 3000 Chestnut Ave. Baltimore, MD Come join Evolver Baltimore for a discussion on Revolution 2.0!! Revolution literally means a turn around, 180 degrees of a fundamental shift in governing power, transpiring in a short period of time. Spurred on by human rights violations, corruption, and poverty, the 2011 revolutions and uprisings of the Arab world show us the viral and inspirational power of change, as people become the change they wish to see in a ...groundswell of leaderless revolutions. This month 40+ Evolver spores will explore the multiple dimensions of Revolution 2.0 and collaborate with groups such as Zeitgeist, Transition Towns, 350.org to work for long term sustainable change and feedback the world a dream of its own transformation. http://www.evolver.net/group/evolver_baltimore and on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/#!/event.php?eid=127249560684497>

Mon., May 16, George Washington's Gardens hosted by the Silver Spring Garden Club, 8–9:30 pm, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD. Dean Norton, director of horticulture at Mount Vernon, will speak on the gardens' landscape design and unusual plants, and the innovative agricultural techniques employed by Washington. Monthly meeting of the Silver Spring Garden Club. Doors open at 7:30 pm. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact SSGC President Kathy Jentz, Laserblast@aol.com. Directions and details at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SilverSpringGardenClub/>.

Tues, May 17, 4-8:30 pm; See The Green @ CHAI; Weinberg Park Heights Jewish Community Center, Baltimore MD Enjoy a catered professional networking session. Join guided tours of the new CHAI building on Park Heights Avenue. Attend the designation of the LEED Silver Award to CHAI. Hear a focused panel discussion on energy efficiency and cost savings discussing: new construction/LEED certification or existing building management/operations & maintenance. Questions? Contact Aleeza Oshry at aoshry@pearlstonecenter.org or 410-429-4400, ext. 204. <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1483564381>

Tues., May 17, 7-9 pm, Greenbelt Community Center, Multipurpose Room. "ICC Mitigation Project at BARC". A group of environmental engineers working on diverse projects at BARC (Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, which comprises ~75% of Beaverdam Creek Watershed) to help mitigate environmental impacts of the ICC will discuss the various options. ICC=Intercounty Connector. This is a great opportunity to learn what is going on in our back yard and to provide public feedback on those activities. Seating will be limited, so RSVP to michel.cavigelli@yahoo.com if interested in attending. More details forthcoming.

Wed, May 18, Sustainable Speaker Series, 7 pm, Baltimore: Sandra Steingraber, once called "a poet with a knife," blends precise science with lyrical memoir. In Living Downstream she spoke as a biologist and cancer survivor; in Having Faith she spoke as an ecologist and expectant mother, viewing her own body as a habitat. Now she speaks as the scientist mother of two young children. Lecture will be followed by a book sale and signing. For more information and directions, visit www.baltimoregreenworks.com.

Fri, May 20, Bike-to-Work Day, This year marks the 14th annual event in the Baltimore region and features local events at: •Anne Arundel Co/Annapolis •Baltimore City - Various "pit-stop" locations throughout the city •Baltimore County - Courthouse Square (400 Washington Ave, Towson) •Carroll County - Westminster •Harford County - Government Center (220 S. Main St, Bel Air) •Howard County - The Mall in Columbia (by Sears Service Center, 10300 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia) <http://www.baltometro.org/commuter-options/b2w-day-events>

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

Sat, May 21, Offshore Wind Strategy Workshop – Prince George's County, 10:15 am–1:15 pm, Oxon Hill/Camp Springs: Public discussion and workshop to develop grassroots strategies for promoting offshore wind energy legislation in Prince George's county between summer 2011 and the 2012 general assembly. Keith Harrington, CCAN, 240-396-1985, keith@chesapeakeclimate.org. RSVP to <http://bit.ly/m9fDG0>.

Sat, May 21, 10 am, Family Hike Onsite with a Conservancy Naturalist: Enjoy an easy, beautiful walk in the meadows and woods and along stream banks of the Conservancy. No predetermined theme: the walk is one of discovery and surprises! Open to all who are interested, especially those who have not walked Conservancy trails before. In case of rain, check website www.hcconservancy.org. FREE.

Sat, May 21, Offshore Wind Strategy Workshop – Charles County, 3:15– 6:15 pm, La Plata, MD: Public discussion and workshop to develop grassroots strategies for promoting offshore wind energy legislation in Charles County between summer 2011 and the 2012 general assembly. Keith Harrington, CCAN, 240-396-1985, keith@chesapeakeclimate.org. RSVP to <http://bit.ly/ioffRI>.

Sat, May 21, Create an Edible Landscape: Free Workshop and Garden Installation, 10 am–2 pm, Baltimore: Control stormwater runoff, grow your own food, and protect the Chesapeake Bay! Learn how to design and install an edible landscape using permaculture methods. Sponsored by the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. RSVP by May 14, 2011 to pjceglia@gmail.com. For more permaculture workshops, see <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/upcoming-workshops>.

Sun, May 22, Offshore Wind Strategy Workshop – Montgomery County, 1:15– 4:15 pm, Bethesda, Cedar Lane: Public discussion and workshop to develop grassroots strategies for promoting offshore wind energy legislation in

Montgomery County between summer 2011 and the 2012 general assembly. Keith Harrington, CCAN, 240-396-1985, keith@chesapeakeclimate.org. RSVP to <http://bit.ly/kXj9ma>.

Sun, May 22, Offshore Wind Strategy Workshop – Baltimore, 3:15–6:15 pm, Baltimore (Charles Village or Hampden): Public discussion and workshop to develop grassroots strategies for promoting offshore wind energy legislation in Baltimore city and county between summer 2011 and the 2012 general assembly. Keith Harrington, CCAN, 240-396-1985, keith@chesapeakeclimate.org. RSVP to <http://bit.ly/mPY5IG>.

Sun, May 22, Gardening in the Footsteps of Rachel Carson, 2:30 pm, Carderock Springs clubhouse, 8200 Hamilton Spring Road. Dr. Diana Post, president of the Rachel Carson Council, will speak on gardening without pesticides. Next year is the 50th anniversary of Carson's amazing book Silent Spring. Free of charge but donations to the above council would be appreciated. For more information contact dianekarlik@verizon.net.

Tues, May 24, 4pm; Baltimore City Sustainability Commission Meetings; Department of Planning boardroom, 417 E. Fayette St. 8th Flr, The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability holds regular monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month. All meetings are open to the public. *This month, residents are especially encouraged to attend.* Rumor has it that wine and cheese will be served!

<http://www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/OfficeofSustainability.aspx>

Thurs, May 26, 5–8 pm, Wine in the Garden Event. Join us for our 5th annual celebration of spring in the John L. Clark Honors Garden. Stroll through our three-acre native plant garden, enjoy fine wine and food and the sound of bluegrass music. Proceeds benefit our environmental education programs. Rain or shine! \$40 in advance, \$50 after 5/20. www.hcconservancy.org

Tues, May 31, Maryland Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, White Oak Library. Wildflowers in Focus. Melanie Choukas-Bradley (author) and Tina Thieme Brown (botanical artist) will describe the creative process from field work to finished article and art for their Wildflower in Focus column, which has graced the pages of MNPS publications for years. As each wildflower is shown and discussed, they will invite input from the audience about their favorite places to see the plants. For more information and directions go to www.mdflora.org.

JUNE PREVIEW & BEYOND

Sat., June 4, Create an Edible Landscape: Free Workshop and Garden Installation, 10 am– 2 pm, Baltimore, MD: Control stormwater runoff, grow your own food, and protect the Chesapeake Bay! Learn how to design and install an edible landscape using permaculture methods. Sponsored by the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. RSVP by May 28 to pjceglia@gmail.com. For more permaculture workshops, see <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/upcoming-workshops>.

Sun, June 12, Annual Capital Pride Street Festival, 11 am–6 pm, Washington, DC: Join Compassion Over Killing at this popular festival! Help us distribute pro-veg literature and lots of animal-friendly snacks. Volunteers needed for two-hour tabling shifts. For more information contact COK at info@cok.net or at 301-891-2458. Directions and details found here!

Wed., June 15, Media Training, 5–7 pm, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD. Learn new ways to reach out to the media—how to run media events/press conferences, and how to write press advisories and releases. We will also share best practices for various media mediums. For more information, contact Dannielle Lipinski, dlipinski@mdlcv.org, 410-280-9855 ex 203. Directions and details at <https://www.thedatabank.com/dpg/288/mtglistproc.asp?formid=meetfund&caleventid=19421>.

Sat, Sept. 10 – Sun, Sept. 11 (first of six weekends), Home-Scale Permaculture Design Course, 8:30 am–5:30 pm, Freeland, MD: Learn ethical principles and practical skills for producing your own needs from local natural resources by mimicking natural ecosystems. Topics include energy-efficient site planning for house, gardens, orchard, woodlot and wildlife habitat; farm animal forage systems; beneficial microclimate; urban strategies for food and energy production; sustainable community economics and food security. Earn your Permaculture Design Apprentice Certificate. Six weekends. Sliding scale \$900– \$1,100. Early bird discount \$100. For details see <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/home-scale-permaculture-design-course>. For more information call 410-357-9523 or email education@heathcote.org.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS

Bike Maryland, a non-profit organization, is seeking an experienced event coordinator. For details please visit: <http://bikemd.org/page.php?id=165>.

Do Something Reel film festival, sponsored by Whole Foods: One month, 6 films, 70 cities. Documentaries on people making a difference – from vanishing bees to the national school lunch program. <http://www.dosomethingreel.com/>

DONATE: May 13-17, East Coast Climate Ride; New York City to Washington, DC. Climate Ride is a non-profit organization that puts on fully supported, charitable bike rides to support sustainable solutions and environmental causes. One of the primary recipients this year is www.350.org For more info: <http://www.climateride.org/rides/new-york-dc/>

EDITORS NOTE: to donate, click below. SMEI is particularly endorsing Lillian Becker, Thomas Howe, and Kristin Schulz. Lill needs a little more help to reach her minimum donation level.
<http://climateride.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.donate>

July 4–15, Help Build an Orphanage in Nepal, Kathmandu Valley, Nepal: Two-week natural building workshop in the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal, just outside of Kathmandu, building with local materials, including waste bottles. You will live on the site - farmland in a small valley - in comfortable tents, be fed tasty Nepali meals and offered weekend excursions and a few nights playing in Kathmandu. The workshop cost is \$1000, including all aspects outlined above (not including casual spending money, weekend excursions [beyond making arrangements] or nights in Kathmandu).

This workshop will be led by Bill Hutchins, founder of www.heliconworks.com, an American architect who has recently led two similar events in the Kathmandu Valley. For a sense of the work there, please see Bill's blog/reflections on his trip to Nepal this past March at <http://heliconworks.blogspot.com/2011/04/making-place-in-nepal.html>. If interested, please email Bill at bill@heliconworks.com.

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