

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **June 2011**. It is going out to over **1,925 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/2011/2011-06.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
- July Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Many of you might enjoy reading Bill McKibben's recent Op Ed from the Washington Post http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-link-between-climate-change-and-joplin-tornadoes-never/2011/05/23/AFrVC49G_story.html

Our very own Susan Belchamber will be speaking in Greenbelt on June 8th. Details below!

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

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, June 5,

6:00 pm–8:30 pm *note earlier date and time!*

Video, "Waste Land" <http://wastelandmovie.com/>

This beautifully filmed, award-winning documentary takes place in the world's largest garbage dump in Rio de Janeiro. "Waste Land" is about recycling, but is also a story of human dignity and innovation. It is just as much about the transformative powers of art as it is about social and environmental justice. Simply unforgettable.

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.

The Bethesda Forum will be on hiatus until September.

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, June 12, 2011 (*please note special date*)

4-6:30 pm

MD Presbyterian Church

1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286

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

End-of-programing-year celebration: **Zero Waste Picnic!** (details: TBA)

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

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

Northern Virginia Simplicity Matters Sunday Forum

(fourth Sunday of each month)

Sunday, June 26, 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 8 circles (251 in total since 2002!). **There are 5 circles scheduled**, four 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 Northern 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 participated 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** came 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

Columbia, Lester Brown’s “Plan B, 4.0”, dates “tbd”, CS: Ted Schmeckpepper, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

***Columbia (location TBD)** (MF), **Wednesdays, June 15 - ??** CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

***Kittamaqundi Church** (VS), **Wednesdays, July 6**, CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Panera Bread “regroup” (WOH), summer 2011 CS: Sydney Wallace, 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

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

Prince Georges County

***Greenbelt, Wednesdays**, Intro Meeting was May 25, First Session is **June 1**, Topic: **"We Can Save Energy"**, looking for 2-3 more people, CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

***Greenbelt, Wednesdays** Intro Meeting was May 25, First Session is **June 8**, Topic : **"Voluntary Simplicity"**, looking for 2-3 more people, CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

***Greenbelt, Wednesdays** Intro Meeting was May 25, First Session is **June 15**, Topic: **"Common Security Club"**, looking for 2-3 more people, 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

No circles currently starting. Contact Marney at marney@simplicity-matters.org for more information.

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 summer, 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.simplicymatters.org/circles> , or email Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thurs., June 2, 5-8 pm, Bethesda Green Happy Hour @ the Courtyard by Marriott Chevy Chase, MD. Enjoy casual conversation and networking, complimentary appetizers, remarks from Mark Bergel, Ph.D., Founder, Executive Director, A Wider Circle. Rain or shine on the patio, Courtyard Chevy Chase, a LEED Gold certified hotel, 5520 Wisconsin Avenue, near the Friendship Heights Metro. Donation: \$10. Contact: Dave Heffernan, dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org, 301-767-7222. RSVP via Bethesda Green Meetup.

Thurs, June 2, Leafleting prior to COK Benefit at Vegetable Garden, 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 -- 10% of all proceeds will be donated to help us help animals. For more information contact COK at info@cok.net or at 301-891-2458.

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 piceglia@gmail.com. For more permaculture workshops, see <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/upcoming-workshops>.

Sat, June 4, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM (time change due to child's baseball game) Ellicott City, MD 21042 Near Centennial Park, 21042 Please bring a vegan dish to share (store bought is fine) for the number in your party plus 8. Please RSVP via e-mail by Wednesday June 1st. 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. Contact Bonnie Sorak at bssorak@yahoo.com or 410-465-0427

Sun, June 5, ECORIDE and ECOFAIR, 8am-3pm Reisterstown, MD. Bike ride and post-ride celebration to support Kayam Farm at Pearlstone, a community farm. For more information contact Rachel Siegal, rsiegal@pearlstonecenter.org, 410-429-4400. All details on www.ecobikeride.org .

Sun, June 5, Make Your Own Worm Bin, 12:30-2 pm, Owings Mills, MD. Are you tired of throwing away old food scraps? Do you want environmentally safe fertilizer for your plants? In the program for families at Irvine Nature Center, we'll learn how worms turn old food into fresh, healthy soil and fertilizer. Each family will make their own worm bin to take home. Irvine will provide all supplies -- even the worms! For more information, contact Courtney at 443-738-9224. \$25. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org.

Tues, June 7, Shavuot Learning Celebration, 8pm Service, Washington, DC. Led by Tikkun Leil Shabbat, 9pm-2am and beyond Learn with Etz Chayim at Church of the Holy City (16th St NW and Corcoran St). Etz Chayim in partnership with Tikkun Leil Shabbat, DC Beit Midrash, and Kayam Farm will be hosting a late-night Shavuot learning celebration on everything from Jewish urban planning to yoga and meditation, classic Torah study and a nighttime nature walk. Etz Chayim DC is a local collective aimed at channeling our power toward food and environmental justice work, inspired by Jewish tradition and practice. Questions or to get involved, email us at: laura.bellows@gmail.com

Tues, June 7, Green Building Institute and Maryland Green Registry's Annual Membership & Awards Event, 6:30-8:30pm, Maryland. Join us at the next Green Building Institute monthly networking at the Enviro Center as we welcome the Maryland Green Registry for its annual membership and awards event. We will be joined by MDE Secretary Robert Summers to recognize the 2011 Leadership Award winners. Green Building Institute members and Maryland Green Registry companies can network and exchange information on environmental services that can help organizations reach their next environmental goal, so bring your business cards! RSVP: <http://doodle.com/x4423vrgh59n2pps>

Wed, June 8, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. "Spiral Dynamics". Guest Speaker, Susan Belchamber will give us a brief overview of Spiral Dynamics. We will then discuss how this relates to recent changes in the "environmental movement". Are we entering an era where individuals and organizations are learning to collaborate and work together? How will this impact on our future sustainability? For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Thurs, June 9, Public Meeting to Save Nick's Organic Farm, 7pm, Potomac, MD. Meeting location: Potomac Community Center, 1315 Falls Rd., Potomac, MD 20854. Nick's Farm is one of the only organic (non-GMO) seed farms in our entire region and we need to convince Montgomery County to not turn it into soccer fields! Join a large group of your neighbors determined to support this 30-year organic farm and help it become a learning center for local food and farming! Get the whole story and more information at www.savenicksorganicfarm.org

Thurs, June 9, Feed-in and leafleting before 'Glee' concert, Washington, DC. The popular 'Glee' cast is performing live at the Verizon Center on June 9! Join Compassion Over Killing as we hand out free samples of delicious mock-meat and educate young concert-goers about the many benefits of making animal-friendly food choices. In addition to food samples, we will also be handing out a variety of pro-vegetarian literature. For more information contact COK at info@cok.net or at 301-891-2458.

Sat, June 11, Awakening the Dreamer, 8:30am-12:30pm, Severna Park, MD. Join us for this inspiring event at Unity by the Bay, 836 Ritchie Highway, Suite 18, Severna Park, MD 21146. Awakening the Dreamer - Changing the Dream is 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. RSVP: to Lynn Gardner, lynnrgardner@gmail.com or Mary Batson, mbatson@gmail.com. Website: www.awakeninthedreamer.org

Sat, June 11, Wonder Walk, 10am, Howard County, MD. The Howard County Conservancy will host "Photograph Nature: A Family Effort." It's easy to point a camera and take a picture. But did you ever wonder how the pros get such great shots? What do you look for? There are some really good principles to remember that will get you photos you will love to look at. Bring your digital camera and walk with photographer Natalie Brewer, of Weeds and Wildlife Photography, to capture beautiful images of landscapes, plants, and animals. Rain or Shine. FREE. www.hcconservancy.org

Sat., June 11 My Organic Market (MOM's) Second Annual E-Cycling Event 11am-7pm All MOM's Locations. This is the perfect time to clean out the closet and recycle old and unused computer parts and electronics! The electronics will be repurposed or recycled through Capitol Asset Recycling of Beltsville, MD. Representatives from Capitol will be on site to help collect recyclables and answer any questions you may have about the repurposing or recycling process! Please note that we will be collecting electronics all day 9am-9pm if you can't make it during the festivities. <http://www.caprecycling.com/> For locations go to <http://www.momsorganicmarket.com>

Sat-Sun, June 11-12, BNote Exchange at HonFest, Noon-5:00pm, Baltimore, MD. Baltimore Green Currency Assoc. will be running a BNote information table and will offer exchanges of dollars into BNotes at a Baltimore institution: HonFest (on The Avenue in Hampden). The BNote is now in circulation and accepted by over 70 businesses in the Baltimore area, supporting local, independent business and helping to increase the resilience and sustainability of Baltimore's communities. For more information, contact Jeff Dicken, baltimoregreencurrency@gmail.com, 410.900.0673. Directions and details at www.baltimoregreencurrency.org

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.

Sun, June 12, Speaking Out for Creation, 2-5 pm, Arlington, VA Greater Washington Interfaith Power & Light, in partnership with the Northern Virginia Climate Action Network, presents an interfaith workshop on environmental advocacy, just a few blocks from the Clarendon metro. Hear how Beth Norcross, of Wesley Theological Seminary and the Green Seminaries Initiative, draws strength from her faith in undertaking environmental advocacy. Learn about several opportunities right here in our own communities to fight climate pollution. And practice concrete skills that congregational green teams will need to become effective climate activists. A suggested donation of \$5 at the door will benefit Interfaith Power & Light. RSVP: joelle@gwipl.org. Metro and driving directions at <http://www.stcharleschurch.org/map.php>.

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=meetedfund&caleventid=19421>.

Thurs, June 16, Creating Cohousing, 6:30-8:30 pm. Meet the Kathryn McCamant & Charles Durrett, the architects who brought cohousing to the US. Come learn how cohousing is the ultimate expression of sustainability. Author book signing at the end of event. VERY LIMITED SEATING. Info & to RSVP: abigail@cohousingcollaborative.com, 703.663.3911. Private residence. Address upon RSVP <http://cohousingco.com/book-signings.cfm>

Thurs-Sat, June 16-18, Cohousing Bus Tours. Full day and 1/2 day tours of local cohousing communities. Rural, suburban and urban. Easiest way to learn about cohousing. In conjunction with national cohousing conference in DC! (You do not have to attend the conference to join a bus tour.) Fee varies depending on bus tour length. Info and to register: <http://conference.cohousing.org/2011/tours>.

Fri-Sun, June 17-19, National Cohousing Conference, Washington, DC. Three days of workshops, discussions, networking, presentations by top movers n' shakers in cohousing! Fee varies: one day to full three day conference packages. Pre-conference intensive workshops available, too. Info and to register: <http://www.cohousing.org>. Click on the Conference Button!

Sat, June 18, "Take Your Children Fishing", 10am, Howard County, MD. The Howard County Conservancy will host this outing at Lost Lake, Patapsco River, Great Father's Day weekend activity! No experience necessary - learn how to teach your kids to fish - and help them do it! Children of all ability levels, aged 6 to 15, are welcome. Lost Lake" is a restricted fishing area. Adults between the ages of 16 and 64 may help their children fish, but may not fish themselves. Led by Martha Shaum of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Woody Merkle from the Conservancy.

Participants will meet at Patapsco State Park's Lost Lake. \$5 fee per child for bait and use of rod and reel. Advance registration required - by June 16 firm. In case of rain, check website. www.hcconservancy.org

Sun, June 19, Baltimore Pride Festival, Baltimore, MD. Join Compassion Over Killing at Baltimore Pride 2011, an annual celebration that draws thousands of people to the streets! Help us to educate festival goers about the many benefits of vegetarian eating, distribute powerful pro-veg literature, and hand out hundreds of Primal Strips- a huge hit at last year's festival! We need volunteers to table in 2 hour shifts. For more information contact COK at info@cok.net or at 301-891-2458.

Sun, June 19, Father's Day Snack with the Animals, 1-2 pm, Owings Mills, MD. Looking for the perfect way to spend Father's Day? Bring your dad to observe animal feeding time at Irvine Nature Center. Find out what our resident animals like to munch on, see some critters enjoy a tasty meal and even share a tasty treat with dad! Good for all ages. \$10. For more information, contact Courtney at 443-738-9224. \$25. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org.

Mon, June 20, Rose Car Tips and Tricks Talk hosted by the Silver Spring Garden Club, 8:00-9:30pm, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD. David Kinderdine, local rosarian and rose care expert, shares the best roses for our region and how to ensure their success. Monthly meeting of the Silver Spring Garden Club. Doors open at 7:30pm. 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, June 21, "Vanishing of the Bees" Film Screening, 7-9pm, Baltimore, MD. Please join us for the first event of the Baltimore Food & Faith Project's 2011 Annual Summer Film Series. We will be showing the fascinating and thought-provoking documentary which examines the alarming disappearance of honeybees and the greater meaning it holds about the relationship between mankind and mother earth. We will enjoy some locally grown popcorn as we watch the film, and afterwards, we will discuss as a group how we can help bring back our bees. This event will be held at Stony Run Friends Meeting House, 5116 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD. No cost or reservation required. For more information, contact Angela Smith, angsmith@jhsph.edu or (410) 502-5069. Flyer with more details: <http://www.jhsph.edu/clf/events/>

Sat, June 25, 10 am - 4 pm, "Solar Bethesda", Bethesda, MD. A FREE Solar Expo at Bethesda Green, 4825 Cordell Avenue, 2nd Floor of the Capital One Bank at the corner of Woodmont and Cordell. Curious about solar? Ready to learn more? Meet local solar companies, get info on costs, benefits, rebates and more. Contact: Dave Heffernan, dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org, 301-767-7222.

Sat, June 25, EarthSave Baltimore Vegan Dinner & Educ Series, 6-9 pm, Owings Mills, MD. EarthSave will feature a vegan potluck & screening of "Peace Pilgrim: An American Sage Who Walked Her Talk at 10210 S. Dolfield Rd. Please bring a dish made without animal products that will serve 5-8, plus a \$5 donation (members \$2). Or with 1-day notice enjoy dinner without bringing food for \$12 donation. Call 410-252-3043, write Baltimore@earthsave.org, or go to <http://earthsavebaltimore.org/>

Sat, June 25, Getting Started in Beekeeping, 9 am-4 pm, Owings Mills, MD. Honeybees are fascinating to watch and beekeeping is a great family activity. This program for adults will cover all the basics on starting a thriving honeybee hive including necessary equipment, year-round management, swarm control, diseases and extracting honey. Great for beginners or anyone interested in honey bees. This course at Irvine Nature Center is led by master beekeeper and nature photographer Steve McDaniel. \$40. For more information, contact Courtney at 443-738-9224. \$25. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org.

Sat-Sun, June 25-26, EcoFest celebrates at the Roots Festival, 10am, Baltimore, MD. Baltimore Green Works' EcoFest helps to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Alternative ROOTS, a non-profit working to encourage and empower communities through by supporting local activism and the arts rooted in a particular place. The festival will take place on the "Highway to Nowhere" (Franklin Street and Calhoun Street.) For more information, visit www.baltimoregreenworks.com/events or e-mail bgw@baltimoregreenworks.com.

Tues, June 28, Maryland Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, White Oak Library. Ferns in the Natural Landscape with Carl Taylor. For more information and directions go to www.mdflora.org.

Wed, June 29, Bird Walk at Phoenix Pond, 8:30-9:30am, Phoenix, MD. Join Irvine Nature Center for an early morning bird walk along the Torrey C. Brown (formerly NCR) Trail to search for and learn about local summer birds. Bring your binoculars; Irvine has extra if needed. We will meet at the Phoenix Pond parking lot. This course is led by Rob Mardiney. Free! For more information, contact Courtney at 443-738-9224. \$25. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org.

Thurs, June 30, CCIHC Movie Night: GASLAND, 7:00-9:00pm, Ellicott City, MD. Award winning documentary, GASLAND, by Josh Fox is about the environmental and health hazards of fracking. The movie will be shown at a private home so space is limited. RSVP to reserve your spot and get directions. For more information or to RSVP, contact Margo Duesterhaus, margommd@gmail.com, 301-996-3837. Details at www.hococlimatechange.org

JULY AND BEYOND

Sat, July 2, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM, Ellicott City, MD 21042 Near Centennial Park, 21042
Please bring a vegan dish to share (store bought is fine) for the number in your party plus 8. Please RSVP via e-mail by Wednesday, June 30th. We'll fire up the grill for those that want to throw on some veggie burgers or kebabs, etc. 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. Contact Bonnie Sorak at bssorak@yahoo.com or 410-465-0427

Thurs, July 21- Sunday, July 24. Women's Retreat: Touching the Sacred Feminine Within... and Without. Led by Mare Cromwell. Claymont Center, Charles Town, WV. Come, women who run with the wolves or aspire to... Come homemakers, homeowners, homebodies and others. Come play, dance, paint toenails, connect with the Earth and discover a deeper Feminine power within you. Sliding Scale \$375 - \$495. marecrom@gmail.com. <http://wp.me/poMW8-n9>

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

Two Job Openings listed at Bike Maryland: Bike Awareness Ambassador - 12 hours per week and Tour du Port Event Coordinator/Fund-raiser. Learn more here: <http://bikemd.org/page.php?id=165> .

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>.