

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **September 2011**. It is going out to over **1929 people**.

If you do not want to receive this once-a-month email in the future, simply hit "reply" and ask to be removed. **If you have recently asked to be removed, apologies if you need to ask us again. (We are using a slightly older version of our database this month.)**

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/2011/2011-09.pdf>.

We also have a Yahoo group, 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 Yahoo Group 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
- October Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Several SMEI-er's were involved this month with the **Tar Sands Action**, <http://www.tarsandsaction.org/>. Please read Rebecca Ruggles note under "Action Opportunities". Don't forget the "**Moving Planet**" Day on September 24th (below). One event is currently scheduled by CCAN in Annapolis, but more events may be added later. SMEI Baltimore will also be "tabling" at **Sister Miriam MacGillis'** talk on Sept. 21 (below). Let us know if you would like to help out.

Thanks to this month's editor, **Betty Wells**. Betty went "above and beyond the call of duty" in compiling this announcement, in the middle of a power outage! Thanks Betty!

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, September 11,
6:00 pm–8:30 pm *note earlier time!*
Video, "The Economics of Happiness"
<http://www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org/>

This amazing film doesn't just talk about globalization and the consolidation of corporate power. It highlights the people all over the world resisting those policies and demanding

change. Communities are coming together to re-build more human-scale economies based on the strategy of 'going local'. Since this is sure to inspire lively discussion, we are starting 1/2 hour early.

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.

October Forum 10/9/11: The High Cost of Our Discount Culture

EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY

NO EARTH FORUM FOR SEPTEMBER, SEE A PREVIEW FOR OCTOBER

Sunday, October 16, 2011
Earth Forum of Howard County
2-4:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045

Come to the first Earth Forum of the new 2011-2012 monthly series. Environmental organizations, County agencies, and faith communities meet for civil discussion and to deeper understanding of climate change, care of the natural world, and developing sustainable communities.

The Forum is free and open to all.

Directions and details at <http://www.earthforumhc.org> .
Contact: earthforum@firstpreshc.org

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

The Baltimore Green Forum
Sunday, September 25, 2011
4-6:30 pm
(the fourth Sunday of the month)
MD Presbyterian Church,
1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286
<http://www.mpchurch.org/About.htm>

This month's featured topic: **The Organic Opportunity**

This film that tells the story of the first county in the United States to promote local organic agriculture as economic development. Beginning with tax rebates to farmers who transition from monoculture to diverse organic agriculture, on to mandating the purchase of local organic food by county institutions and an Organic Homestead program offering no-cost loans to encourage farmers to relocate in the county and begin farming organically. The Organic Opportunity looks at these developments in depth offering anyone interested in economic development and healthy local food a model for change in their communities.

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

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

SIMPLICITY MATTERS OF NoVa FORUM

(fourth Sunday of each month)

Sunday, September 25, 7:00 pm–8:30 pm

The **September 25th forum** TBA. Details to follow.

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

Where: in a private home in Vienna, VA

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

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, (CSC) Common Security Club.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Discussion circle books now cost \$21 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 13 circles (256 in total since 2002!). **There are 5 circles scheduled this month. 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 fall (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. 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, with a potluck celebration in June. We 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

***Common Security Club**, fall 2011, Intro: **TBD** CS: Dot Rockstroh/Ruth Alice White,

hococlimatechange@gmail.com

***Oakland Mills Interfaith** (DSOP), Intro: **Wed, Sept 21** (until Nov 16) CS: Florence Miller,

hococlimatechange@gmail.com

***Oakland Mills Interfaith** (RE), Intro: **Thurs, Sept 29** (until Nov 17), CS: Florence Miller,

hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Laurel, (VS), **Winter 2012**, CS: Liz Feighner,

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, Towson Area (CSC), CS: Katie Browne

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

Baltimore, Canton Area (tbd), CS: Sarah Grannemann, contact lore@simplicity-matters.org

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

Prince Georges County

***Greenbelt, "World on the Edge"** Intro Mtg: **Sept 7**, First Session; **Oct 5**, CS: Marj Donn, Contact: Lore,

lore@simplicity-matters.org

***Greenbelt, "Common Security Club"**, Intro Meeting: **TBD**, First Session; **TBD**, CS: Lore Rosenthal,

lore@simplicity-matters.org

Bowie, St. Matthews Church (WOH) CS: Elizabeth Buckner

College Park (WOH) CS: Janice Oppelt (contact Lore Rosenthal for details)

Paint Branch UU Church (VS), Intro: **Oct 8**, First Session: **Oct 15** CS: Raman Pathik

Paint Branch UU Church (CSC), CS: Marj Donn

Montgomery County

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

Takoma Park (CSC) CS: Bruce Baker

Rockville/Bethesda (Geneva Presbyterian Church) (GW) CS: Rosie Perthel, Contact Marney at marney@simplicity-matters.org

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 Fall, 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

September 11, 2011-Nomination Deadline – National Green Pages Fave Green business. Do you have a favorite green business from our National Green Pages™ that you'd like to see honored for its commitment to social and environmental responsibility? Reward them by nominating them to win Green America's 2011 People's Choice Award for Green Business of the Year. We'll hold an online vote at the end of next month to choose this year's winner from the top ten nominees. In mid-November, at our San Francisco Green Festival, we'll award the seventh annual People's Choice Award to the business you choose.

http://www.greenamerica.org/greenbusiness/peopleschoice/index_form.cfm

September Events

Sat, Sept 3, Back to the Garden Seminars, 10 to 1pm, Behnke Nurseries in Beltsville, MD. The seminars are presented by Washington Gardener Magazine and Behnke Nurseries. This is a morning of free workshops to get gardeners back into the growing frame of mind and ready for the fall busy season. Attend one or two or stay for all. No need to RSVP. Seminars include Edibles for the Fall Season, Using Native Plants in Your Flower Bed, and more. For more information, Kathy Jentz, Washington Gardener Magazine, 301-588-6894. Wgardenermag@aol.com. Directions and details at <http://behnkes.com/website/>.

Sat, Sept 3, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, 4 to 7 PM, Ellicott City, MD Special event this month hosted at the <http://www.ohashiatsu-md.org/>. Pool is open. Screening of "Forks Over Knives". Bring a vegan dish for the number in your party plus 10. Store bought is fine. Sorry, adults only this time. Free. RSVP by Sept. 1st to Bonnie Sorak at firstsatvegan@yahoo.com.

Sat, Sep 3, Rally to stop the Keystone XL Pipeline! Noon, Lafayette Park, in front of the White House. Peaceful rally asking President Obama to oppose "the largest carbon bomb in North America". Bring a reusable water bottle and a black t-shirt for our aerial artwork of a human pipeline. Free pizza! RSVP at : <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=137276899698667> Contact Jessica Eckdish for info on how you can help or for rally logistics: jessica.eckdish@sierraclub.com (202) 675-7918

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.

Sat, Sept. 10, Fertile Ground—Local Farm Tour and Lunch, 12:30–3 pm, Poolesville, MD: Join us for the second of a three-part series called, "On the Farm, Around the Table: Connecting Food, Farmers, and Community in Three Meals" hosted by Bethesda Green and Full Plate Ventures. Location: Rocklands Farm, 14525 Montevideo Rd, Poolesville, MD 20837. Free shuttle from Bethesda. Cost: \$35 includes lunch, tour, and farm market. Space is limited. For more details and to register, go to <http://bit.ly/pqZPDk>.

Sat, Sept 10, The Howard County Conservancy hosts a FREE WONDER WALK: 10 am – Beautiful Bugs of the Meadows, Forest, and Streams Insects are the predominant life form on earth - one half of all animals on earth! From the toxic monarch butterfly to parasitic paper wasps, cryptic ambush bugs to showy milkweed bugs, come and explore the Conservancy's meadows and stream edges with Dr. Michael Raupp, Entomologist, University of MD Extension. If raining, program will be indoors. FREE www.hcconservancy.org

Sat, Sept 10, Purchasing Renewable Energy Workshop, 10 am–12 Noon, College Park, MD: At this FREE workshop, Dr. Ross Salawitch from the University of MD and Michael Heintz from the MD Department of Energy will answer questions like the following: What is "clean" (or renewable) energy, who sells it, and how much does it cost? How can we get clean energy into our homes? Is it dependable? Several renewable-energy vendors also will be present. Location: City Hall Council Chambers, 2nd floor, 4500 Knox Rd., 20740. For more information and to register, email evitale@collegeparkmd.gov.

Sat, Sept 10, Cohousing 101: Intro to Community Living, 3-5 p.m., Silver Spring, MD Learn the core concepts of how to start, build and live in a cohousing community, More info call Ann: 703 663 3911. RSVP abigail@cohousingcollaborative.com Address of private home sent upon RSVP:

Sun, Sept 11, Last day Green: The color and the cause and Second Lives; The Textile Museum. 10am-5pm; Washington DC: 2320 S Street, NW Many cultures traditionally associate the color green with nature and its attributes, including life, fertility, and rebirth. In recent years, green has become the symbolic color of environmentalism. This exhibition celebrates green both as a color and a cause, exploring the techniques people have devised to create green textiles, the meanings this color has held in cultures across time and place, and the ways that contemporary artists and designers are responding to concerns about the environment. <http://www.textilemuseum.org/green/>

Tues, Sept 13, Get Plugged In Wind Power for Home Presentation, 6-9pm, Mt. Rainier, MD Joe's Movement Emporium is proud to be wind powered and wants to spread the clean energy effect! Come to the studio at 3309 Bunker Hill Rd. in Mount Rainier for a free informative presentation and opportunity to sign up for wind power at your home. Free T-shirts for everyone who brings their electricity bill!
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/event.php?eid=240020566040070>

Tues, Sept 13: Adopt-A-Stream training, 6:30-8:30pm, 3545 Belair Rd, Baltimore, MD Calling all citizen watchdogs! Become a trained stream steward and help us identify and report issues such as illegal dumping, sanitary sewer overflows, and more. For more information, contact Debra Lenik, dlenik@bluewaterbaltimore.org, 410-254-1577x100. Directions and details at www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/events.

Wed, Sept 14, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. "What does our Current Debt Crisis have to do with Climate Change?" What does a balanced budget have to do with climate change? In this interactive session, we will examine the Contract for the American Dream <http://contract.rebuildthedream.com/> and discuss how this will impact on the climate change movement. Co-sponsored by MoveOn. For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Wed, Sept 14, Climate Truth Webinar, 12pm-1pm, MD & DC Learn how the mid-Atlantic is being directly affected by global climate change issues from local environmental, health, and policy experts. This free webinar is open to anyone interested; simply rsvp to gogreen@cleancurrents.com with subject line: "Climate Truth Webinar – count me in". <http://www.facebook.com/#!/event.php?eid=268880669788680>

Wed, Sept 14, Annapolis Green Drinks, 5-8pm Quiet Waters Park, MD. Clean Currents sponsors this month's Annapolis Green Drinks. The theme is "Education Makes Good Green Neighbors". Join us for drinks, mingling, and information about supporting clean energy. Bring a copy of your electricity bill for a free T-shirt and chance to sign up on the spot! <http://www.annapolisgreen.com/>

Sept 16-24, Green Building Institute 2011 Certification Series: The Permaculture Project; 7761 Waterloo Road, Jessup, Maryland Permaculture Design Certificate. Wayne Weiseman, The Permaculture Project.
<http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/pages/courses/permacultureproject.html#register>

Sat, Sept. 17, International Coastal Clean-up, 9AM to Noon, Savage, MD, Howard County. As part of a worldwide effort this day, we will clean trash from tributaries of the Little Patuxent River. Please bring gloves and drinks and snacks as needed. No cost to participate and free t-shirts for the first 20 people. Contact Sue Muller to sign up at smuller@howardcountymd.gov or 410 313-4697. We will also search for reptiles & amphibians as part of the ongoing MD Amphibian & Reptile Atlas.

Sat, Sept 17, International Coastal Cleanup, 9am-1pm, Baltimore, MD This annual stream and shore cleanup needs volunteers like you to help remove trash in our waterways. Sites are available across the region, so please don't hesitate to call even if you're not located in Baltimore. For more information, contact Debra Lenik, dlenik@bluewaterbaltimore.org, 410-254-1577x100. Directions and details at www.bluewaterbaltimore.org.

Sat, Sept 17, Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom Workshop, 9 am-4 pm, Owings Mills, MD This interactive workshop emphasizes the need for children to have consistent time outdoors with an interested and caring adult. We'll discuss some of the common barriers to preschool and elementary children's ability to create positive connections with the natural world, and show what parents and educators can do to counteract them. Discover engaging and practical hands-on ideas that can be infused throughout all areas of the curriculum to support the nature-child connection. Lunch is provided. \$60. Meets at Irvine Nature Center. To register and for more information, contact Tara Hild at Dimensions at 402-467-6112 ext. 101 or info@dimensions.org.

Sat, Sept 17, Sun Oct 2, Sun Oct 23, Fall Nursery Sales @ Herring Run Nursery, 12-4pm, Baltimore, MD: The Herring Run Nursery is home to one of Baltimore city's largest selections of native trees, shrubs, and vines. Our staff can help you select what's right for your yard. For more information, contact Darin Crew, dcrew@bluewaterbaltimore.org, 410-254-1577x104. Directions and details at www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/herring-run-nursery.

Sat, Sept 17, Greenbelt Blues Festival, 12 noon-11 pm, Greenbelt, MD Spend the day in “Old Greenbelt” and experience life in our “simple town”. Blues of all styles, Acoustic to Electric, Traditional to Modern. The 8th annual Greenbelt Blues Festival will be held in historic Roosevelt Center and at the New Deal Cafe. This FREE music festival features outstanding bands playing Blues of all styles: Acoustic to Electric, Traditional to Modern. For more information contact Terri Rutledge, terri362@verizon.net or New Deal Cafe (301) 474 5642. Visit the web site for directions and list of performers. <http://www.greenbeltbluesfestival.org/>

Sat, Sep 17, “Evening in the Park” 5 to 8 pm Cromwell Valley Park. Gunpowder Falls Conservancy event with music and silent auction to fund protection of the Gunpowder watershed. cost:\$65 for non-members. Details at www.gunpowderfalls.org.

Sun, Sept 18, Energy Crossroads documentary, 7 PM, Washington, DC. At The Washington Ethical Society, 7750 16th Street NW, Washington DC 20012, less than 1 mile from the Silver Spring Metro station or take the S4 practically to the door. Plenty of on-street parking, too.) <http://www.energyxroads.com/about.html> Small Donation accepted. Refreshments Served - discussion following showing. Contact: Linda Silversmith, (lindas@capaccess.org / 301-641-9508)

Mon, Sept. 19, Savor Local Flavor—Dinner with Chef Tony, 7 –10 pm, Bethesda, MD: Join us for the third of a three-part educational and gastronomic series called, “On the Farm, Around the Table: Connecting Food, Farmers, and Community in Three Meals” sponsored by Bethesda Green and Full Plate Ventures. Location: 4926 St. Elmo Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814. Cost: \$60 includes a four-course dinner featuring seafood and a complimentary glass of wine. Space is limited to 40 people and reservations are required. For more details and to register, go to <http://bit.ly/pqZPDk>.

Mon, Sept 19, Plant Swap and Moon Gardens Talk, 8-9:30pm, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD Silver Spring Garden Club's monthly meeting. Open to all. Free. A plant swap and then Gene Sumi will talk on Moon Gardens: Nighttime Experience. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, Washington Gardener Magazine, 301-588-6894, Wgardenermag@aol.com. Directions and details at www.brooksidegardens.org

Mon, Sept 19, CSBA Green Mondays, 6-9 pm, Baltimore, MD Join Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance (CSBA) for September Green Mondays with a guest speaker Jeff Dicken, BNote. Learn how Baltimore Green Currency Association works to help create an alternative economy that will strengthen local business, create jobs, encourage the formation of local supply chains, and support communities underserved by traditional economic structures. Enjoy light fare and network with CSBA and Buy Local members. For more information, contact Ida Cheinman, ida@substance1511.com. More details and registration at <http://www.csballiance.org/pages/monthlymeeting.html>.

Mon, Sept 19, “Reel & Meal and the New Deal, 6:30/7:00-9:00 pm, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD The 2008 film **Unnatural Causes**. There is an optional vegan meal starting at 6:30 pm. This documentary explores the alarming economic, racial and social differences in people's health in the U.S. We spend more than twice what other rich countries spend on average per person on medical care. Yet we have among the worst health outcomes of any industrialized nation and the greatest health inequities.

Tues, Sept. 20, Taking Back the Budget Debate - Fund Our Communities Town Hall Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Silver Spring. Help fix the PRIORITIES CRISIS in Washington and Annapolis! Hear about real, progressive solutions and how to organize for them. Speakers include Rep. Donna Edwards, State Senator Roger Manno, economist Heather Boushey, and others. Silver Spring Civic Center, One Veterans' Plaza, Silver Spring. Sponsor: MD Coalition Fund Our Communities, Bring the War Dollars Home. Email info@ourfunds.org More at www.OurFunds.org.

Wed Sept 21, 7pm, McGuire Hall, Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD Laying the Foundations of an Ecological Future: New Cosmology; New Perspectives Address by Sr. Miriam MacGillis, Co-founder Genesis Farm Introduction by Rev. Brian Linnane, S.J. , President, Loyola University Maryland Sr. Miriam MacGillis will discuss the connections between the health of Earth and of human communities within particular bioregions. She will address the basic issues of our time in concert with all people of good will, learning together how to become part of creating that health, both inwardly and outwardly. A member of the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell, New Jersey, Sr. MacGillis is the director and co-founder of **Genesis Farm**, a sustainable farm that

serves as a learning center for living in harmony with the natural world. For her work, Sr. MacGillis has received the Thomas Berry Award and been named one of the world's top 15 green religious leaders by Grist magazine. Questions contact Loyola Sustainability Coordinator at 410-617-2431. www.loyola.edu/gogreen
NOTE: contact lore@simplicity-matters.org to help out at a table that night.

Wed, Sept 21, Garden Insects, 7:30-9pm, Takoma Park, MD Monthly meeting of the Takoma Horticultural Club, Presentation by Dr. Michael Raupp, Professor of Entymology, Univ MD, on garden insects. Open to the public, Free. Directions and details at www.takomahort.org

Wed, Sept 21, 7 p.m., Sustainable Speaker Series present, McKay Jenkins, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD McKay Jenkins, author, educator and cancer survivor takes a clear-eyed look at the ways everyday things may be making us sick, and how we can protect ourselves by making wiser, healthier choices in his new book, What's Gotten Into Us: Staying Healthy in a Toxic World. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/bgwsustspkrs>

Wed, Sept 21, BGW - Sustainable Speaker Series presents, McKay Jenkins Enoch, 7 p.m.; Baltimore, MD. (Pratt Free Library, Central Branch, 400 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD) McKay Jenkins, author, educator and cancer survivor takes a clear-eyed look at the ways everyday things may be making us sick, and how we can protect ourselves by making wiser, healthier choices in his new book, What's Gotten Into Us: Staying Healthy in a Toxic World. <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events/sustainable-speaker-series/10-mckay-jenkins/?submit=View+Past+Event>.

Thur, Sept 22 - Nov 17, Maryland Master Naturalist Course; 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m, Owings Mills, MD at the Irvine Nature Center 11201 Garrison Forest Road. In conjunction with the University of Maryland Extension, Irvine is offering a 9-session, 48-hour course for anyone who wants to learn and share knowledge of Maryland's natural world. The course includes class time, outdoor field trips and hands-on experiences covering the plants, wildlife, ecology and environmental issues of the Maryland Piedmont. To maintain their Master Naturalist Certification, participants need to volunteer 40 hours of approved service within a year of training. For more details and a course application, visit www.MasterNaturalist.umd.edu

Fri, Sept 23, Fall Family Night Hike and Campfire at Irvine, 6:30-8:30 pm. Owings Mills, MD Let's take a night hike to look for nocturnal animals, listen for owls 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 Irvine members, \$10 non-members. For more information, visit www.explorenature.org or call 443-738-9224.

Fri, Sept 23 - Oct 2, U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon; National Mall's West Potomac Park Washington, D.C. 20 collegiate teams design, build, and operate solar-powered houses that are cost-effective, energy-efficient, and attractive. The winner of the competition is the team that best blends affordability, consumer appeal, and design excellence with optimal energy production and maximum efficiency. <http://www.solardecathlon.gov/>

Sat, Sept 24, MOVING PLANET (International Climate Action Day). <http://www.moving-planet.org/> Events will be scheduled all over the world (in all 188 countries?) on this day. Check out the website for an event near you. At least one event scheduled in Annapolis (see below), but more may be added later.

Sat, Sept 24, Junior Naturalists at Irvine, 9 am-12 pm, Owings Mills, MD Spend your Saturday morning exploring nature. Junior naturalists get out on the trails and take part in fun-filled activities including nature games, crafts, stories, puppet shows and animal encounters. This program is part of a series (10/15, 11/19), but can be purchased separately. Children should wear nature-friendly clothing. Ages 6-9. \$15 for Irvine members, \$25 non-members (per class). For more information, visit www.explorenature.org or call 443-738-9224.

Sat, Sept 24, Orange & Black at Irvine, 11 am-12 pm or 2-3 pm, Owings Mills, MD One of the most prolific journeys in the world is happening now. The oriole-colored monarch butterfly is migrating to its winter habitat. With this program, you'll tag your own monarch and become a citizen scientist for Project Monarch Watch! Make sure to pre-register, since this is a small group, and then meet us at the Gazebo Overlook. All ages. \$5 for Irvine members, \$15 non-members. For more information, visit www.explorenature.org or call 443-738-9224.

Sat, Sept 24, The Maryland Native Plant Society's annual conference, La Plata , MD A Delightful Land: Sweet Brookes, Marshes, and a Greatness of Trees, at the College of Southern Maryland Conference Center in La Plata. There are wonderful speakers and field trips lined up, plus a social event Saturday evening., and more field trips on Sunday. Registrations can be made on the web site <http://www.mdflora.org/events.html?eventId=292321&EventViewMode=EventDetails>

Sat, Sept 24, Larry's Ride and Run, Baltimore County, MD, A Premier Baltimore County Bicycle Tour! Pump up those tires and lace up those sneakers, Larry's Ride and Run is back for its second year and will be held at Spring Meadow Farms. Larry's Ride and Run continues to honor avid biker Larry Bensky who tragically lost his life while biking in 2010. All proceeds support bike advocacy. Event includes 15, 35 & 63 mile bike routes and a 3.6 mile run that travels through scenic Baltimore County. Following the bike rides and run, celebration activities include lunch and music. All friends and family are welcome to attend, participate and enjoy the day! REGISTER AT www.bikemd.org

Sat, Sept 24, 4th Annual Trash Bash, 12-5pm, Nick's Fish House, Baltimore, MD Join us for our annual fundraiser featuring delicious seafood and cocktails, boat tours of the Harbor, live music, silent auction, and more. \$50 adults and \$7 kids. For more information, contact Debra Lenik, dlenik@bluewaterbaltimore.org, 410-254-1577x100. Directions and details at www.bluewaterbaltimore.org.

Sat, Sep 24, "Moving Planet" 11AM - 1PM at the Annapolis Statehouse a rally supporting the transition from fossil fuels. Sponsored by 350.org, CCAN and numerous other organizations including Sierra Club. For information: www.moving-planet.org/events/annapolis/547

Sat, Sept 24, EarthSave Baltimore Veg Dinner Ed Series, 6-9 pm, at 10210 S. Dolfield Rd. in Owings Mills, will feature a vegan potluck & viewing of "Oprah Show on Emotional & Compulsive Eating, with author Geneen Roth". 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/>.

Tues, Sept 27, Q&A Proposals Meeting for the 9th Annual Baltimore Green Week, 6:30 p.m., Clipper Mill, Baltimore, MD Are you interested in participating in the 9th Annual Baltimore Green Week but your not sure how or what to do? Do you share our vision for a greener Baltimore? Community members (students, teachers, gov't, business and organizational leaders, activists, et al) are encouraged to join us as we explore past project successes and brainstorm projects for 2012! To RSVP, contact bgw@baltimoregreenworks.com (subject line: BGWeek Q & A) or call 410-952-0334.

Fri, Sept 30 - Sun Oct 2, Maryland Sierra Club Jamboree, Friday evening to Sunday noon Camp Roundmeadow, Catocin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD, a week-end of family events, environmental workshops, hikes with nature experts, speakers (including Sierra Club national executive director Michael Brune. contact Laurel Imlay 301.277.7111, details and registration at www.marylandsierraclub.org

Action Opportunities and Tidbits

Rebecca Ruggles writes: Last week in DC, I was arrested as part of Bill McKibben's national Tar Sands Action of civil disobedience www.tarsandsaction.org . It was a life-changing experience and I urge you to join! The Tar Sands Action continues through September 3rd. More people are needed! This well organized, peaceful, non-violent effort asks Obama not to issue a permit for the Keystone XL pipeline, which would carry the dirtiest and most carbon-producing oil ever. You can: join one of the daily protests and be arrested; OR sign up to provide support; OR call the White House 202-456-1111 and state: "I want President Obama not to allow this pipeline to be built."

Lore Rosenthal adds: Sorry this announcement is coming out late, so the last day of action ended on Saturday, Sept 3rd. It is not too late to call the President. You can also follow this campaign at <http://www.tarsandsaction.org/next-steps/> . The following NINE SMEI-er were arrested: Rebecca Ruggles, Lore Rosenthal, Laura Gubisch, Jaime Scharff, Keith Harrington, Geoff Stack, Marjorie Gray, Jamie Phillips, Lolly Gaines. Please let us know of others!

D.C. Foodshed Map: Ecocity D.C. has created a resource for anyone in the D.C. Metro region interested in investigating sustainable food resources around their area. The DC Foodshed Map, (<http://www.ecocity.org/dcfoodshedmap>) lists farmers' markets, community gardens, local farms, sustainable restaurants, food justice organizations, grocery co-ops, and other resources within 100 miles of downtown Washington D.C. Based in Google Maps, the map is simple to use. Users can also suggest new entries or updates to current ones using forms on Ecocity's website.

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>.

OCTOBER PREVIEW and BEYOND

Sat, Oct 1, Excursion: Soldiers Delight Environmental Area, 10 am-12 pm, Owings Mills, MD The nearly 2,000-acre Soldiers Delight Natural Environment area in Baltimore County is one of the best examples of a serpentine barren on the East Coast. Join the team from Irvine to explore this unique ecosystem and learn about the rare plants, the animals and the human history associated with the park, including the endangered fringed gentian wildflower. This course is led by Rob Mardiney. Free for Irvine members, \$10 non-members. For more information, visit www.explorenature.org or call 443-738-9224.

Sat, Oct 1: Ricky Myers Day of Service, 8am-1pm, Clifton Park, Baltimore, MD Help Blue Water Baltimore plant trees in Clifton Park as part of this annual service project. Groups and families welcome! For more information, contact Debra Lenik, dlenik@bluewaterbaltimore.org, 410-254-1577x100. Directions and details at www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/events.

Sat Oct 1, 11am to 3 pm – The Howard County Conservancy hosts its Annual FALL FESTIVAL! Mt. Pleasant Farm Join us as we fire up the blacksmith shop, tour the old farm buildings, enjoy local artisans, music, crafts and farm animals in celebration of fall at Mt. Pleasant Farm. Live Music, Food available, farm produce for sale, hay rides and pony rides. \$10 per car. If raining, check website. www.hcconservancy.org

Sun, Oct 9, TOUR DU PORT, Baltimore City, A Super Cool Bicycling Event! At the Tour du Port you will experience Baltimore's historic neighborhoods, waterfront areas and beautiful parks in a way that can't be experienced from the seat of your car! Tour du Port is a superb way to intimately tour Baltimore. Routes: 13 to a new 65 ride! This fully supported tour includes lunch, refreshments at rest stops and a post-ride celebration with live music at Tour's end. All proceeds go to Bike Maryland – your bicycling advocates. REGISTER AT www.bikemd.org

Mon, Oct 10, Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium 1-5:30 pm, Arlington, VA The Symposium is a profound inquiry into a bold vision: to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just human presence on Earth. It will be held at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington. \$20 registration fee. For more information, contact Mary Pike, marypike@cox.net. Directions and details at www.awakeningthedreamer.org

Sun, Oct 30, Talk: An Eco-History of the Potomac River Valley) 10:30 to 11:30 AM, Potomac Conservancy's Lock House 8, Cabin John, MD. Regional guide and eco-historian, Hayden Mathews, will present an entertaining and informative one-hour talk on the Eco-History of the Potomac River Valley which weaves fun, facts and local lore into a tapestry of time, terrain, climate and regional ecology. This talk will explore the ways in which the land has shaped us and the regional biotic community (including humans) and, in turn, have shaped the land. Free and Family Friendly. Contact Hayden Mathews at riverstories@comcast.net or visit the following websites: The Potomac Conservancy (<http://www.potomac.org/site/>) or River Stories (<http://bayhistory.net/site/>)