

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **October 2011**. It is going out to over **1,725** 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/](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/announcements/) or as a PDF at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/events/2011/2011-10.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 YahooGroup called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities and about 95 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, Earth Forum of Howard County, Baltimore Green Forum, Northern Virginia Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- November Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

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

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## **SECOND SUNDAY FORUM**

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**Sun., Oct 9, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm**

### **The High Cost of Our Discount Culture**

Does low price stimulate a brisk free market? Or does our deep-rooted need for bargains fuel something more insidious? This should be a thought-provoking topic for simplifiers! Join us for a fascinating discussion based on Ellen Ruppel Shell's book *Cheap: The High Cost of Discount Culture*. No advance reading required.

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](mailto:forum@simplicity-matters.org). Please include your phone number in your message.

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## **THE EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY**

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**Sun., Oct. 16, 2– 4:30 pm**

### **The Perils and Possibilities of Hydrofracking: Where is Maryland headed?**

First Presbyterian Church of Howard County  
9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045

The senior policy advisor for the Maryland Department of the Environment, Brigid Kenney, will explain the hydrofracking process proposed to extract natural gas in the Marcellus Shale (a deep underground formation from NY to PA, OH, MD, WV and VA). Ms. Kenney will present up-to-the-minute information on the work of the Governor's Advisory Commission that will make recommendations to protect Marylanders' public health, safety, and natural resources. Free and open to all.

Program begins at 2 pm, refreshments are served at 3 pm and Emphasis/Action workshops run from 3:30–4:30 pm. Additional information and directions at [www.earthforumhc.org](http://www.earthforumhc.org) or call the church office at 410-730-3545.

**SAVE THE DATE: Sun., Nov 20: Local Food and Healthy Living**

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## **BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM**

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### **The Baltimore Green Forum**

**Sunday, October 23, 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: **Socially Responsible Investing and Community Investing**  
**(details to follow)**

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](http://www.baltimoregreenforum.org) OR <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/forums/baltimore> or contact [baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com), 301-345-2234.

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## **SIMPLICITY MATTERS OF NoVa FORUM**

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(fourth Sunday of each month)

**Sunday, October 23, 7:00 pm–8:30 pm**

The **October 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.

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## DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

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**NWEI Discussion Guides:** (WOH) World of Health, (SSW) Sustainable Systems at Work; (RE) Reconnecting with Earth; (GW) Global Warming: Changing CO2urse; (CSL) Choices for Sustainable Living; (DSOP) Discovering a Sense of Place; (HCHP) Healthy Children-Healthy Planet; (MF) Menu for the Future; (VS) Voluntary Simplicity. Other guides: (LBP) "Simplicity Lessons" by Linda Breen Pierce; (LCD) "Low Carbon Diet" by David Gershon; (YMOYL) Your Money or Your Life, (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 19 circles** (262 in total since 2002!). **There are 3 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](mailto: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. Donations of washable fabric, leftovers from projects, drapes, old tablecloths etcs 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](mailto:Teachhss@aol.com).

### Frederick & Washington County

**UU Church of Frederick** (tbd) Contact Marney at [marney@simplicity-matters.org](mailto: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

\***Oakland Mills Interfaith** (RE), First Session: **Thurs, Sept 29** (until Nov 17), CS: Florence Miller, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

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

**Robinson Nature Center** (tbd) CS: Sue Muller, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

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

**Emmanuel United Methodist Church**, Laurel, (VS), Winter 2012, CS: Liz Feighner, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Integrated Therapies, Ellicott City** (WOH), CS: Laura Mueller, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

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

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

**Snowden Overlook** (tbd), CS: Judy Burt, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

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

**Climate Change Initiative of Howard County** (CCIHC) Committee is actively pursuing other potential venues. Details to follow. Visit [www.hococlimatechange.org](http://www.hococlimatechange.org) or email [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:helene.murtha@yahoo.com)

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

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

### **Prince Georges County**

\***Paint Branch UU Church** (VS), Intro: **Oct 15**, First Session: **Oct 22** CS: Raman Pathik

\***Greenbelt, "Common Security Club/Resilience Circle"**, Intro Meeting: **Oct 12**, First Session; **Oct 26**, CS: Lore Rosenthal, [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org)

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

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

### **Montgomery County**

**Takoma Park** (CSC) CS: Bruce Baker

No other circles currently starting. Contact Marney at [marney@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:marney@simplicity-matters.org) for more information about future circles.

### **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](http://www.wbpf.org) for more information (events calendar). Contact person: Bill Jenkins, [worldofmuse@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:CirclesBalto@simplicity-matters.org) (Lore Rosenthal)

**Carroll Co.:** [CirclesCarroll@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesCarroll@simplicity-matters.org) (Marney Bruce)

**Frederick & Washington Co.:** [CirclesFredWashCo@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesFredWashCo@simplicity-matters.org) (Lena Rotenberg)

**Howard Co.:** [CirclesHoCo@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesHoCo@simplicity-matters.org) (Lore Rosenthal).

See also **Climate Change Initiative of Howard County** (CCIHC) [www.hococlimatechange.org](http://www.hococlimatechange.org)

**Montgomery Co.:** [CirclesMontgomery@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesMontgomery@simplicity-matters.org) (Marney Bruce)

**Prince Georges Co.:** [CirclesPG@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesPG@simplicity-matters.org) (Lore Rosenthal)

**Washington DC:** [CirclesDC@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesDC@simplicity-matters.org) (Marney Bruce)

**Elsewhere in Maryland or Jefferson Co., WV:** [Circles@simplicity-matters.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org)

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

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**Sat., Oct. 1, 10 am–5 pm, 7th Annual Mother Earth Hands-On Harvest Fair, Spoutwood Farm, Glen Rock:** Among the many fun fall activities there will be a Parade of Garden Vegetables. Join adults and children as we march and dance in our finest vegetable garden costumes. A prize will be given to all persons costumed and joining in the parade. You can also join in the fun by playing your own hand-made percussion instrument! Using objects found in nature, as well as repurposed materials, we will be creating some very cool drums and rattles. Workshop is free, scheduled at various times during the fair. For more information, contact [Spoutwood@comcast.net](mailto:Spoutwood@comcast.net) or check the website: [www.spoutwood.org](http://www.spoutwood.org).

**Sat., Oct. 1, 11 am–3 pm, Howard County Conservancy 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 at [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Sat., Oct. 1, 9 am–1 pm, NDC Launches Energy Saturday in Waverly:** National Design Center (NDC) is kicking off its energy savers program. Residents will learn do-it-yourself (DIY) methods for weatherizing their homes and can sign up for the Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge and Civic Works' Project Light Bulb Free Home Energy Upgrade. Free event includes lunch. If you are a resident of these neighborhoods and would like to participate, contact Ben Jakubowski at 410-233-9686 x105. For more information, see [http://www.ndc-md.org/html/news\\_events.htm](http://www.ndc-md.org/html/news_events.htm).

**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](mailto:dlenik@bluewaterbaltimore.org), 410-254-1577x100. Directions and details at [www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/events](http://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/events).

**Sat., Oct. 1, and Sun., Oct. 2, 11 a.m.–5 p.m, Solar Foundation's 21st Tour of Solar Homes & Buildings in Washington, D.C. and in Western Maryland.** For details about the events and about where to get the 48-page Solar Tour Guide, go to <http://solartour.org/guides.html>.

**Sun., Oct. 2, 10 am–5 pm, Takoma Horticultural Club (THC) Annual Bulb Sale at TP Street Fair, Takoma Park:** THC is hosting a booth (near Carroll and Tulip) where you can find all your spring bulbs—our only fundraiser for the year. Rain or shine! (We have a tent, and bulbs don't mind getting wet.) Bulbs make great gifts, and extras can be bought for easy indoor forcing to brighten those grey winter days. THC members get a 10 percent discount on all purchases (cash or checks only). For more information and membership details, contact Kathy Jentz, [laserblast@aol.com](mailto:laserblast@aol.com), 301-588-6894. Directions and details about the street festival at [www.takomafestival.com](http://www.takomafestival.com).

**Sun., Oct. 2, 12–4 pm, Fall Sale Retail Sales at the Herring Run Nursery, Baltimore:** 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](mailto:dcrew@bluewaterbaltimore.org), 410-254-1577x104. Directions and details at [www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/herring-run-nursery](http://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/herring-run-nursery)

**Mon., Oct. 3, 6 pm– 9 pm, Chesapeake Sustainable Building Alliance (CSBA) Green Monday, Baltimore: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Meet 27, 127 West 27th Street, Baltimore, MD 21217, 410-585-8121, Plenty of street parking** Register online by noon on Monday, October 3rd: \$20 member / \$30 non-member (or pay at the door: \$30 member / \$40 non-member) Guest Speaker: Casey Willson. Casey Willson is the Retail Industry Manager at the Lead Center of the Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network at the University of Maryland in College Park. He will give an introductory presentation, and then there will be an open forum to talk about "The State of Small Business and Sustainability in Maryland." For more details on this monthly event, go to the following website: <http://www.csballiance.org/pages/monthlymeeting.html>.

**Tues., Oct. 4, 8:30 am–1:30 pm, Driving Energy Efficiency as the Next Big Thing, Washington, D.C.** Join the Alliance to Save Energy's fall Summit on the Hill. Can energy efficiency really make an impact? Is our government investing enough in it? Join us as General Services Administrator Martha Johnson and Assistant Secretary of the Navy Jackalynne Pfannenstiel outline their aggressive energy efficiency plans and demonstrate the impact efficiency is having on energy use reduction in their departments. Location: Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Room G-50, Washington, D.C. For more information and to register, contact [aferrari@ase.org](mailto:aferrari@ase.org).

**Wed Oct 5, Lecture: St. Francis of Assisi and the Environment Today, 7:30-9:00 pm, Rockville, MD**  
"Out of the Birdbath and Into the World: Making the Legacy of St. Francis of Assisi Relevant in Our Personal Lives and Society" presented by the Earth Community with Father Jacek Orzechowski. Father Jacek will show how "retrieving the

full legacy of St. Francis and freeing it from over-sentimentalized aspects of Franciscan tradition can help us engage in the New Evangelization... profoundly grounded in Christ and deeply relevant to our personal and communal lives". He will focus on the moral imperative to embrace a more simple lifestyle, emphasis on the common good, and what Pope John called "ecological conversion". This vision includes solidarity with the poor and becoming instruments in healing God's earth. St. Raphael's Catholic Church; Falls and Dunster Roads. Sylvia Diss, [dissent@comcast.net](mailto:dissent@comcast.net), 301-424-3229

**Thur Oct 6, Film: PIPE DREAMS premiere screening & discussion, 6-7 pm, Washington, DC**

PIPE DREAMS (USA, 2011, 40 min.) explores the controversy surrounding the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada's tar sands through America's heartland -- Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas -- to the Gulf Coast. Narrated by Daryl Hannah. Directed by Leslie Iwerks. Capitol Visitor Center Theater; First St. NE and East Capitol St. NE. To RSVP for this event please email [MackeyK@nwf.org](mailto:MackeyK@nwf.org), Jenny Kordick, [KordickJ@nwf.org](mailto:KordickJ@nwf.org), 202-797-6607.

**Thurs., Oct. 6, 6 pm, Chef Demonstration and Taste of the Local Harvest at the Howard County Conservancy.**

Sample food locally grown. Watch Chef Dan Wecker, Elkridge Furnace Inn, prepare four-course specialties. Meet the local farmers, Nora Crist of Clark's Farm and Dave Liker of Gorman Farm, hear their stories, and celebrate progress toward our Farmstead Preservation Fund goal. Fee of \$35 (\$10 is tax deductible) per person includes food, local cider and a sample of Secret Stash Harvest Ale 2011 (Flying Dog). Wine and locally brewed beer available at cash bar. Proceeds will go to the Farmstead Preservation Fund to support ongoing farmstead preservation work. **Space is limited and registration is required by Mon., Oct. 3.** For more information, go to [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org) or call 410-465-8877.

**Fri, Oct 7, 10am-2 pm – Keystone XL Pipeline State Department Hearings and Rally, Washington, DC.**

<http://www.tarsandsaction.org/keystone-xl-state-department-hearings/#more-1501>

**Sat., Oct. 8, 6 pm; Farm Fest: A Fundraiser for 1000 Friends of Maryland, Reisterstown:** Help us in our efforts to

keep farmers farming, and be a part of this fun-filled fall festival! For more information, go to <http://friendsofmd.org/>. Tickets are \$25 for individual, \$40 for two, and kids are free. Send checks, made to "1000 Friends of Maryland," to 1209 Calvert Street, Baltimore 21202 Questions? Call [410-385-2910](tel:410-385-2910)

**Sat., Oct. 8, 10 am, Howard County Conservancy's "Wonder Talk: Creepy Creatures: Bats, Toads, Worms, Spiders, Snakes."** Come and meet all sorts of the creepy, maybe spooky, animals that are hanging about! While having a wide-eyed, fun experience, you'll learn about these wharty, slimy, hairy, scaly, slithery animals from Shannon Davis, Oregon Ridge Nature Center's naturalist, and former grounds manager at the Conservancy. She will bring live animals for you to meet! Indoor program. FREE. [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org)

**Sat., Oct. 8, 8 am–10 am, Native Plant Gardens, Baltimore:** Audubon has three native plant gardens in Patterson Park (Baltimore City) that provide food and shelter for native birds, bees, and butterflies. We hold a monthly garden team (all volunteers) session to weed and mulch, but October is special. It's when we have hundreds of new native flowers, shrubs, and grasses that need to be planted! Come spend a morning outside with us, and help us help the animals in the park! [www.facebook.com/PattersonParkAudubonCenter](http://www.facebook.com/PattersonParkAudubonCenter). To RSVP, reply on FB or at [ppaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ppaudubon@gmail.com) or at [410.558.2473](tel:410.558.2473).

**Sat, Oct 8, Appalachian Restoration Through Reforestation, 7-9 pm, Reston, VA**

Oakbrook's Stewards of Creation will host a presentation by Patrick Angel, Ph.D., science and core team member of the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI). Learn about the impact of mountain top removal coal mining and how ARRI is working to reclaim coal mined lands. The evening presentation will be followed with light refreshments. Oakbrook Church 1700 Reston Parkway Reston, VA 20194  
Karin Slawinski, [huggart@earthlink.net](mailto:huggart@earthlink.net)

**Sat. and Sun., Oct 8-9, Pumpkinfest, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD.**

Celebrate the fall harvest at Irvine during our annual family festival -- PumpkinFest! The two-day event will be filled with crafts, games, activities and fun for all ages. Pick your own pumpkin, build a scarecrow, perform in a drum circle and get into the spirit of the season. All ages. \$10 per child. For information, call [443-738-9200](tel:443-738-9200) or visit [www.ExploreNature.org](http://www.ExploreNature.org).

**Sun., Oct. 9, 7 am–2 pm, Bicycle Tour du Port, Baltimore.** This is a premier bicycle event, which promotes a terrific cause and lets participants intimately tour Baltimore. All proceeds support a cause that we all support--bicycle safety and advocacy! Thousands of riders starting at the Canton Waterfront Park at the Korean War Memorial will kick off the 18th Annual ride. For more information and to register, see <http://bikemd.org/page.php?id=398>.

**Mon., Oct., 10, 1 pm–5:30 pm, Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium, Arlington, VA.** This symposium is a profound inquiry into a bold vision: to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just human presence on Earth. Location: Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington. \$20 registration fee. For more information, contact Mary Pike, [marypike@cox.net](mailto:marypike@cox.net). Directions and details at [www.awakeningthedreamer.org](http://www.awakeningthedreamer.org).

**Sat. Oct. 15, 12 Noon– 4 pm, Critterpalooza, Baltimore:** Free nature-themed community event. Families will have the opportunity to interact with live animals, view museum collections, and participate in hands-on nature activities and crafts. For more information, contact The Natural History Society of Maryland, [nhs@marylandnature.org](mailto:nhs@marylandnature.org), 410-882-5376. Directions and details at <http://www.marylandnature.org/critterpalooza>.

**Sat., Oct. 15, 10 am, Howard County Conservancy's Family Hike on Site 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. FREE. If raining, check website: [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Sun., Oct 16, Family Nature Hike, 11-11:45 a.m., Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD.**

Join our naturalists for a walk to see what's happening out on the trails! We'll base our day on what seems to be happening outside--will the birds be flying or perching? Will the deer be hiding or grazing? Find out! Ages 4 & up. Free. For information, call [443-738-9200](tel:443-738-9200) or visit [www.ExploreNature.org](http://www.ExploreNature.org).

**Mon., Oct. 17, 7 pm–10 pm, *Wicked Bugs*—Book Talk and Signing with Author Amy Stewart, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton:** Join the Silver Spring Garden Club and Amy Stewart as she shares a darkly comical look at the sinister side of our relationship with the insect world taken from her latest New York Times bestseller. *Wicked Bugs* is a mixture of history, science, murder, and intrigue that begins--but doesn't end--in your own backyard. Prior to the talk, Amy's book will be on sale at Brookside's gift shop. She will be signing the book before and after the talk. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, [laserblast@aol.com](mailto:laserblast@aol.com), 301-588-6894. Directions and details at [www.brooksidegardens.org](http://www.brooksidegardens.org).

**Wed., Oct. 19, 7 pm, Baltimore Maryland Native Plant Society Meeting, Baltimore:** Speaker Darin Crew will discuss Blue Water Baltimore's mission. Prior to presentation, a tour of the Herring Run Nursery starts at 6 pm. Plants can be purchased between the tour and the presentation. You can also get there by 5:30 to purchase plants. Location: 6131 Hillen Rd., Baltimore 21239. For more information and directions go to the Chapters tab at <http://mdflora.org>.

**Sat., October 22, Excursion: Exploring Wind Cave with Irvine Nature Center, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Pequea, PA.** Join us on a subterranean voyage through the Wind Caves. After a short but rocky half-mile hike, participants will walk, climb and crawl through the two miles of passageways within the caves. Learn about the geology and natural history of caves. We will meet at the site, and directions will be provided at registration. This course is led by Rob Mardiney. Ages 12 & up. \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members. For information, call [443-738-9200](tel:443-738-9200) or visit [www.ExploreNature.org](http://www.ExploreNature.org).

**Sun., Oct. 23, 12–4 pm, Fall Sale Retail Sales at the Herring Run Nursery, Baltimore:** 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](mailto:dcrew@bluewaterbaltimore.org), 410-254-1577x104. Directions and details at [www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/herring-run-nursery](http://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/herring-run-nursery).

**Sun., Oct. 23, Come and Experience Local, Sustainable, Kosher Cuisine, 5 pm–7 pm, Reisterstown:** Featuring "Top Chef: Las Vegas" competitor Chef Jesse Sandlin, previously of Vino Rosina, Charleston Group and Abacrombie Fine Foods. \$36 per person; \$70 per couple. Includes five-course seasonal menu featuring our farm fresh produce, wine pairings and an interactive cooking demonstration. Location: Kayam Farm at Pearlstone, 5425 Mt. Gilead Rd, Reisterstown 21136. Register by October 13 by contacting Rachel Siegal at Pearlstone Center at [rsiegal@pearlstonecenter.org](mailto:rsiegal@pearlstonecenter.org) or 410-429-4400 x225.

**Mon., Oct. 24, 7 p.m., Screening of the Film, *The Journey of the Universe*, Arlington, VA:** Acclaimed author and evolutionary philosopher Brian Swimme narrates this grand film about our role as humans in this awe-inspiring universe. For more information, visit [www.journeyoftheuniverse.org](http://www.journeyoftheuniverse.org). Location: George Mason University auditorium of the Arlington campus, 3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22201.

**Mon, Oct 24, 7 pm, Screening of the Film, *Ingredients*, to Celebrate Food Day 2011, Bethesda:** Following the film, we'll discuss ways to meet our community's various food needs in local, healthy and sustainable ways. There is no culture in the world that spends less on food and more on medicine than the United States. For the first time in history, our children's generation is expected to have a shorter lifespan than our own. The quality, taste and nutritional value of the

food we eat have dropped sharply over the last 50 years. Location: The Church in Bethesda, 5033 Wilson Lane, Bethesda. To RSVP and for information on other events, go to <http://foodday.org/>.

**Tues, Oct 25, 7 pm, Montgomery Co. Maryland Native Plant Meeting, Kensington:** Forest protection activist and author, Joan Maloof, will speak about her travels to the Eastern old-growth forests for her newest book, *Among the Ancients: Adventures in the Eastern Old Growth Forests*. Location: Kensington Library, Kensington. For more information and directions go to <http://mdflora.org/>.

**Fri., Oct. 28, 6 pm–9:30 pm, Audubon Naturalist Society Annual Meeting, Chevy Chase:** “Looking Back & Forward at Our Region’s Water,” a lively talk by longtime environmental reporter and renowned author Tom Horton at **Woodend Sanctuary**. For more information and directions go to the Special Events tab at <http://www.anshome.org/>.

**Sat., Oct. 29, 9 am–12 Noon, Community Tree Planting, Baltimore.** Join Blue Water Baltimore, Parks & People Foundation, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and TreeBaltimore as we plant more than 250 trees on the campuses of three city schools. We can make a difference in increasing the tree canopy—and you can receive a free tree! Location: 2700 Seamon Ave. For more information, contact Debra Lenik, [dlenik@bluewaterbaltimore.org](mailto:dlenik@bluewaterbaltimore.org) or call 410-254-1577 x100. For directions and details, go to [www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/events](http://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/events). Groups and families welcome!

**Sat., Oct. 29, TEDxMidAtlantic 2011; Washington, DC.** TED conferences bring together the world’s leading thinkers and doers for a series of talks, presentations and performances. TED events have been called “The ultimate brain spa,” “Davos for optimists” and “A journey into the future, in the company of those creating it.” What can you expect to see? Speakers at TED events, who are some of the world’s most fascinating, innovative and influential individuals, are challenged to give “the talk of their life” in 18 minutes or less. It’s a conversation that will change your life. Location: Sidney Harman Hall. For more information, see <http://tedxmidatlantic.eventbrite.com>.

**Sat., Oct 29, NDC Launches Energy Saturdays in Harwood:** National Design Center (NDC) is kicking off its energy savers program. Residents will learn do-it-yourself (DIY) methods for weatherizing their homes and can sign up for the Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge and Civic Works' Project Light Bulb Free Home Energy Upgrade. Free event includes lunch. If you are a resident of these neighborhoods and would like to participate, contact Ben Jakubowski at 410-233-9686 x105. For more information, see [http://www.ndc-md.org/html/news\\_events.htm](http://www.ndc-md.org/html/news_events.htm).

**Sun., Oct. 30, 10:30 am–11:30 AM, Eco-History of the Potomac River Valley, Cabin John:** Regional guide and eco-historian, Hayden Mathews, will present an entertaining and informative one-hour talk that weaves fun, facts and local lore into a tapestry of time, terrain, climate and regional ecology. He 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. Location: Potomac Conservancy’s Lock House 8, Cabin John. Contact Hayden Mathews at [riverstories@comcast.net](mailto:riverstories@comcast.net) or The Potomac Conservancy (<http://www.potomac.org/site/>) or River Stories (<http://bayhistory.net/site/>).

**Sun, Oct 30, Home Energy Workshop, 2-4 pm, Washington, DC** Join Greater Washington Interfaith Power & Light to learn how you can save energy, help create green jobs, and shrink your carbon footprint at the same time! We'll reflect on our own responsibility to consider the impact of our electricity use. And you'll have a chance to learn about Weatherize DC (<http://www.weatherizedc.org/>), an organization that is working to help homeowners save energy and create good green jobs at the same time. A suggested donation of \$5 at the door will benefit the work of Greater Washington Interfaith Power & Light, which helps local congregations of all traditions to save energy, go green, and respond to climate change ([www.gwipl.org](http://www.gwipl.org)). Tifereth Israel Congregation, 7701 16th St NW at Juniper St. To RSVP: email Joelle Novey at [joelle@gwipl.org](mailto:joelle@gwipl.org)

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## NOVEMBER PREVIEW & BEYOND

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**Tues., Nov. 1, 6 pm, Sustainable Speaker Series presents Josh Fox and *Gasland*, Baltimore.** Join us for a screening of this award-winning film followed by a conversation with the filmmaker, Josh Fox. Get a close look at Halliburton-developed drilling technology, hydraulic fracking and its effects on our land and our health. Location: Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral Street. For more information, visit <http://baltimoregreenworks.com> or email [bgw@baltimoregreenworks.com](mailto:bgw@baltimoregreenworks.com).

**Thursday, Nov. 3, 7 pm, Healthy Food in our Schools with Anthony Geraci at the Howard County Conservancy.** Our speaker is the director of food and nutrition for the Baltimore City School System and a nationwide childhood nutrition consultant whom the White House tapped for first lady Michelle Obama’s efforts in combating childhood obesity. This inspiring and energizing speaker, committed to providing fresh and local foods to our school children, will answer



questions like the following: What are our kids eating today? What's happening to them as a result? How can we introduce and support healthy eating habits and menus? What does it take to change school cafeterias and home lunch boxes? Charge is \$5/family, all students free. For more information, go to [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Sat., Nov. 12, 9 am–1 pm, Energy Saturday, Abell:** National Design Center (NDC) is kicking off its energy savers program. Residents will learn do-it-yourself (DIY) methods for weatherizing their homes and can sign up for the Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge and Civic Works' Project Light Bulb Free Home Energy Upgrade. Free event includes lunch. If you are a resident of these neighborhoods and would like to participate, contact Ben Jakubowski at 410-233-9686 x105. For more information, see [http://www.ndc-md.org/html/news\\_events.htm](http://www.ndc-md.org/html/news_events.htm).

**Weds., Nov. 16, 7 pm–9 pm, Rumi: Walking the Path of Love, location to be announced, either Finksburg or Eldersburg:** Four-week mini-class about the mysticism and feelings evoked from reading Rumi's poetry—not just about the poetry. Fee is 60 for class, includes workbook. Contact Iris at 410-318-8877 or check [www.ccccl.org](http://www.ccccl.org).

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### **ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS**

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**Veriditas Books announces the release of *Invitation to Wonder: A Journey through the Seasons* by Elizabeth Ayres.** Available 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>.

**Sat., Oct. 15, Last Day for Clean Currents Donation for Offshore Wind.** Clean Currents will donate to Chesapeake Climate Action Network's (CCAN's) Marylanders for Offshore Wind campaign for every CCAN supporter that signs up for wind power at home. With just one click you can double your support for wind! Clean Currents offers two types of Green-e Energy Certified wind power: Neighborhood Wind (from wind farms located within the mid-Atlantic region) and National Wind RECs (wind credits from national wind farms bundled with your local electricity to offset the carbon emissions). Pricing is competitive with your local utility rates. For more information, see <http://www.cleancurrents.com/index.php/ccan-and-clean-currents>.

**Tues, Oct. 18, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm, Adopt-A-Stream Training, Baltimore:** 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. Location: Loyola University, 4501 N Charles St. For more information, contact Debra Lenik, [dlenik@bluewaterbaltimore.org](mailto:dlenik@bluewaterbaltimore.org), 410-254-1577x100. Directions and details at [www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/events](http://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/events).