

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **February 2012**. It is going out to over **1,650** 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/2012/2012-02.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 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, Howard County Earth Forum, and Baltimore Green Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- March Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

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

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

There will be NO SECOND SUNDAY FORUM in Bethesda in February

March 11th Forum: the video *GrowthBusters*

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

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

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

EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY

Sunday, February 19, 2012
Earth Forum of Howard County
2–4:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD.

What's Next for Green Buildings?

Peter Doo, a sustainable building innovator and leading LEEDS architect, will reveal what is on the horizon for green buildings and LEEDS building certification. He will examine the impact of buildings and what is next in the quest to build more environmentally integrated communities

Afternoon includes emphasis/action discussions groups, including one led by Mr. Doo.

The Earth Forum is free and open to all. Directions and details at www.earthforumhc.org. Contact the Forum by calling the church at 410-730-3545 or emailing earthforum@firstpreshc.org

MARCH FORUM: Showcase of Environmental Education in Howard County

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

The Baltimore Green Forum
Sunday, February 26, 2012
4-6:30 pm
(the fourth Sunday of the month)
MD Presbyterian Church,
1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286
www.mpchurch.org/About.htm

The Great Taboo Topics Among "Greens": Overpopulation and Economic Growth

Sam Hopkins will give an overview of recent films, little known activist groups, and writers who have nevertheless dared to address these taboo subjects. He will also report on his experience that he and his closest colleagues have had meeting with religious organizations to seek their help in achieving the huge paradigm shift that is needed.

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

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 2 circles (268 in total since 2002!). **There are NO new circles scheduled this month.**

Below, you will also see listed some of the "potential" circles in the works for later this winter (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.

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

Location? (MF) CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Location? (CSC) CS: Florence Miller/Dot Rockstroh, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Location? (WOH) CS: Judy Burt, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Location? (tbd) CS: Robin Seabolt, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Acupuncture Associates, Columbia (WOH), CS: Laura Mueller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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, 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 (CSC) CS: Lore Rosenthal (will start as soon as there is a critical mass)

Paint Branch UU Church (VS), Will start as soon as there is a critical mass. CS: Raman Pathik

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

College Park (WOH) CS: Janice Oppelt

Montgomery County

Bethesda We are putting together a discussion circle using the newest guide on food titled "Hungry for Change: Food, Ethics and Sustainability". It will take place in a private house, starting in March. Dates TBD. Contact Marney at marney@simplicity-matters.org to be included in planning. And if you would like to start one elsewhere, also please contact Marney.

Washington, DC,

Dupont Circle (CSC) CS: Rob Thomason, email lore@simplicity-matters.org, if interested.

Washington, DC, Join the folks of the **Washington Buddhist Peace Fellowship** to discuss diet, climate change and how our spiritual practices relate to and illuminate these issues. Please see our web site www.wbpf.org for more information (events calendar). Contact person: Bill Jenkins, worldofmuse@aol.com, (301) 699-8704

Tenleytown or on Red Line (All Topics). There is interest but we need more people. If you are interested in joining a discussion group please let me know. Marney@simplicity-matters.org, (301) 652-0492

"Circles List"/"Matchmaking"

This winter, SMEI will continue "matching" and/or "pointing" people into circles. In neighborhoods where circles are already forming, we will point you in the direction of a circle nearby. In those areas where there is not a circle already being planned, we will "match" people into home-based groups.

We have transitioned to a regional structure for the state. Please 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

Every Sunday, The Virtues Program, from 10:30am-11:30am--Gatherings held at Masonic Freedom Lodge, 2253 Liberty Rd, Eldersburg 21784 The Center for Conscious Living (CCCCL) has incorporated the wonderful 52 virtues into the SUNDAY FUNDAY SCHOOL for children ages 4 +. The virtues are (as the creator of them says on her website) "*sparking a global revolution of kindness, justice, and integrity in more than 95 countries through its facilitators.*" The program provides a strong foundation for a child's future success. **Children of adults who attend our adult service attend for free. For others, the fee is \$10 per week.** We invite you to visit us and see the program in action or call if you have questions. **You can call Iris [410-318-8877](tel:410-318-8877) or Susi [410-363-2263](tel:410-363-2263).** You can also visit our website; www.ccccl.org or the virtues website: www.virtuesproject.org.

Thurs., Feb. 2, 5-8 pm, Bethesda Green Happy Hour @ Doubletree Hotel Wine Bar, Bethesda, MD: Enjoy casual conversation and networking, hear about the Bethesda Green Business Incubator, and enjoy complimentary appetizers at the Doubletree Lobby Wine Bar, 8120 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814. Contribution requested at the door. Contact: Dave Heffernan, dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org, 301-767-7222. More info and RSVP via Bethesda Green Meetup.

Thurs, Feb 2, 4:30pm to 7:00pm, Certified Maryland Green School Leader Training, Baltimore County Public Schools, 9611 Pulaski Park Drive, Suite 307 Middle River, MD The newest addition to the Maryland Green School Program - the Maryland Green School Leader Network is designed to create a statewide team of Green School mentors whose relationships and services provided will lead to more schools actively engaged in the pursuit of Maryland Green School certification. FREE! Space is limited, Please RSVP: greenschools@maeoe.org

Sat, Feb 4, Film: Bag it: Is Your Life Too Plastic? 7:30pm, Washington, DC. Join the Washington Ethical Society (7750 16th Street NW) for a movie and discussion about how plastics affect our waterways, oceans, and even our bodies. \$5 donation requested, refreshments provided, free bag for each attendee! RSVP and more info: contact Sue Jacobson, earthethics@verizon.net.

Sat, Feb 4, Washington Gardener Magazine SEED Exchange, 12:30 to 4 pm, Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria, VA. Seed Exchange attendees trade seeds, exchange planting tips, hear expert speakers, and collect goody bags full of gardening treats. Nominal fee to attend. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, 301-588-6894, WGardenermag@aol.com. Directions at www.greenspring.org and details at www.WashingtonGardener.com.

Sat, Feb 4, 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm, Tricky Trees Safari. Learning to identify trees is fun, but once the leaves are gone for the season, it's tricky! Join us for an informal family safari to identify trees and their importance to birds in the park. Free, all ages welcome. Please register in advance. Call 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. For more information, see pattersonpark.audubon.org.

Sun, Feb 5, Canal Stewards at the River Center at Lock 8, 10 am to 12 Noon, Cabin John. Join Potomac Conservancy for a volunteer cleanup day at the River Center at Lock 8! This is an all-ages event, free of charge, and no registration is necessary. For more information, contact Anne Sundermann at Sundermann@potomac.org or (301) 608-1188 ext. 208. Directions and details at <http://www.potomac.org>.

Sat, Feb 4, and Sun, Feb 5, Smart Meter Information Weekend, Gaithersburg and Silver Spring. MDDigital electric meters with wireless radio-frequency transmitters are starting to replace our analog meters. Learn more about these new meters, concerns about them, and mitigation strategies. See event details and registration information in this online document: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qSvuTA1mi2oo64s5FX4d6j2_b3_XFsC1GuulVgtaLto/edit?hl=en_US.

Sun, Feb 5, A Day Of Silence: Our Experience With John Of God At La Casa, Brazil, 9 am-3:45 p.m. Bethesda As an expression of gratitude for our recent 2 week experience we would like to share this

information on the possibilities of alleviating the suffering of your loved ones. Program includes prayer and meditation, two educational films, a free vegetarian lunch, and speakers' presentation with Q&A. Sessions close at certain times, please inquire. RSVP: Durga; shantiyoga2@earthlink.net; 301 654 4899. 4217 & 4209 East West Hwy Bethesda MD 20814. Red Line accessible, J-2 bus, Parking available out front or by B-CC high school.

Mon, Feb 6, 6 pm to 9pm, Chesapeake Sustainable Building Alliance Green Mondays. Meet up in informal environment on the first Mondays of every month. For more, see <http://www.csballiance.org/pages/monthlymeeting.html>.

Mon, Feb 6, 7 pm to 8 pm, New UU Ministry for Earth Curriculum, online webinar. To help insure your success with the new experiential curriculum focused on interdependence and personal behavior ('Our Place in the Web of Life'), this facilitation-coaching webinar is being offered with the curriculum developers Pamela Sparr and Mark Hicks. For more information, visit <http://www.uuministryforearth.org/EJ-Curriculum>.

Mon thru Fri, Feb 6 - 10, National Green Schools Week 2012, National Green Week empowers students to be leaders of their own sustainability campaigns. This year, the largest waste reduction campaign kicks off February 6 - 10, 2012 but you can chose any week from Feb.6- April 22 (Earth Day) to participate. This FREE program provides resources to help schools spotlight sustainability education and conservation. Participate for the whole week, one day, or just one lesson or activity. http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=57&Itemid=223

Tues, Feb 7, Design Conversations, 6 pm to 8:30 pm, Baltimore. Monthly series of events—always on the first Tuesday of the month—focuses on rotating topics that are timely and engaging. Free and always held at the Windup Space, 10 W North Ave @ Charles Street. For more information, please visit www.dcenterbaltimore.com.

Tues, Feb 7, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Green Building Institute Green Building Network Meeting, Jessup. The general public is always warmly invited to these meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of every month, except for holidays, at the Enviro Center. Location: Green Building Institute 7761 Waterloo Road. For further information, see <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/GBN.html>.

Tues, Feb 7, 1 pm to 2:30 pm, How to Keep Profits Growing on Green Jobs & Prevent Them from Bleeding Red. The growing green building market (both commercial and residential) will bring many changes to the construction industry, including new risks that construction project owners, contractors, subcontractors, designers and engineers must be prepared for. Attend this 90-minute webinar to learn how you can circumvent the new risks that green building presents by gaining valuable insights on green construction standards and law, key legal issues, and tips for contract drafting. Go to <https://www.registrationheadquarters.com/events/?e17bb4951fd0498cae7c49fce71d29a3a>.

Thurs, Feb 9, 6 to 8 pm, Documentary & Discussion Sponsored by Clean Currents, Rockville. Clean Currents employees, our Green Neighborhood Challenge participants, and members of the community are gathering at Clean Currents' office to view and reflect on the award-winning documentary, [Kilowatt Ours](#). Free pizza and snacks provided. RSVP required. Location is metro-accessible: 155 Gibbs St., 4th Floor. RSVP: Kristin Schulz kschulz@cleancurrents.com, 301-754-0430 ext. 716.

Thurs, Feb 9, Roland Park Energy Meeting, 7pm, The Bolton Street Synagogue, Baltimore, MD, Retrofit Baltimore, a project of the non-profit Civic Works, provides you with information about upgrading your home's energy efficiency. Join your neighbors and learn about how you can improve your home's comfort and reduce your energy bills by up to 40%, while minimizing your environmental impact and creating jobs for underserved Baltimore residents. For more information, please contact Jeremy Weiss, jweiss@retrofitbaltimore.org, 443-599-9748. Directions and details at www.retrofitbaltimore.org

Thurs thru Sun, Feb 9-12,2012 MAEOE Annual Conference (Md Assn of Environmental and Outdoor Education), Clarion Fountainebleau Resort, Ocean City, MD Fulfilling Environmental Education's Promise: Authentic Learning & Real World Impact.
<http://www.maeoe.org/conference/2012/index.php>

Fri, Feb 10, 1 to 4 pm, Interfaith Leadership on the Environment, Annapolis. This forum at the Philip Merrill Environmental Center includes speakers Bishop Eugene Sutton, Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, Dr. Beth McGee and Senator Bernie Fowler. The forum will address not only the faith imperative to cherish and care for creation but also practical ways that congregations can take action. More details at:
<http://www.chesapeakecovenant.org/>.

Sat, Feb 11, 10 am, The Howard County Conservancy's free wonder talk: Squirmy Wormy Worms That Work: Kitchen Garbage to Top Soil, Columbia. Barb Schmeckpeper, Ph.D., Howard County Master Gardener and environmental volunteer, talks to kids of all ages about how worms work miracles with their little bodies—and shows attendees how to create a successful worm bin. Email Barb to get a list of materials needed. Free. Call 410-465-8877 and for more information, see www.hcconservancy.org.

Sat, Feb 11, 5 to 9 pm, Annapolis Green Film Fest, Annapolis. Several films will be screened, with the feature film being *Energy on Trial*, a film by Gary Jobson. A brief panel discussion about the issues in the films will follow the screenings. The audience will then be welcome to attend a reception in the auditorium lobby. For more information, contact filmfest@annapolisgreen.com. [Directions](#) and [event details](#).

Tues, Feb 14, 9 am to 3 pm, Primary Election Day-Off Camp. No school? Spend the day exploring the stream, searching under logs and learning about animal habitats. Children will take part in fun-filled activities including trail walks, games, crafts and animal encounters. Kids should wear nature-friendly clothing and bring a lunch. Ages 6 to 10. \$50 members, \$60 non-members (after-care available until 5 pm for an additional fee). The phone number to register for all Irvine Nature Center programs is 443-738-9224.

Tues, Feb 14, Last Day to Get 2 for 1 EcoBall Ticket Discount! Baltimore, MD Baltimore Green Works hosts the 4th Annual EcoBall Gala on Friday, March 16th, 7-11 p.m. Local culinary students compete in a Top Chef style food competition using local ingredients where you get to be the judge! Live band and gratis beer and wine. Purchase your tickets today at <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/ecoball/>

Wed, Feb 15, 12 pm to 1 pm, Where to Get Money for Your Energy Efficiency Project, online webinar. Special Guest Speaker: Steve Moritz of All Facilities Energy Group. Join us for a new webinar series every other Wednesday The first half of the webinar series will cover new enhancements to FirstEnergy's PA Act 129 Programs, where you can learn all about the cash incentives available for your commercial or industrial energy efficiency projects. In the second half, we will have a guest speaker present on a variety of educational energy efficiency topics. For more information:
<http://actevarsvp.com/event/a0kF0000000xLLr>.

Wed, Feb 15, 12 to 12:30 pm, How to Renew with Clean Currents, at your computer. Are you currently a Clean Currents customer for wind-powered electricity? If so, you should note that the renewal process is different this year. To remain a customer, you'll have to take action at the end of your contract. Learn more during this brief webinar. Optional RSVP: gogreen@cleancurrents.com or call 301-7540-0430 ext. 3. Login details [here](#).

Wed, Feb 15, Cromwell Valley Bird Walk with Irvine Nature Center, 8:30-9:30 am, Towson, MD. Start your morning with a pleasant walk along the trails of Cromwell Valley Park in search of our winter resident birds. Bring binoculars (Irvine has extra if needed) and see what new birds have moved in from up north. This walk is led by Rob Mardiney. Free! For more information, contact Courtney, SagalC@ExploreNature.org, 443-738-9224. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org

Thurs, Feb 16: Adopt-A-Stream Workshop, 6-8pm Towson Library, 320 York Rd, Towson, MD Citizen watchdogs wanted to adopt local streams! This training will cover the detection and reporting of

watershed impacts and pollution. For details on the program, please visit www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/aas. To register, contact Debra at volunteer@bluewaterbaltimore.org or [410-254-1577 x100](tel:410-254-1577).

Thurs, Feb 16, 3 to 4 pm, Conference Call: Creation Care Teaching Institute. Training from the Evangelical Environmental Network covers the biblical basis of creation care, an introduction to environmental issues, and much more. E-mail support@creationcare.org for more information or for previous calls and resources.

Fri, Feb 17, Stargazing at Irvine Nature Center, 7:30-9:30 pm, Owings Mills, MD.

No need to brush up on your knowledge of the night sky to impress your valentine: our naturalist will point out constellations, planets, and other heavenly bodies. Enjoy music, light refreshments, spiced hot cider and wine in the exhibit hall then take a short guided walk out to the meadow to do a little stargazing. No date needed to attend! Must be 21 or older. \$5 for members, \$15 non-members. For more information, contact Courtney, SagalC@ExploreNature.org, [443-738-9224](tel:443-738-9224). Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org

Fri, Feb 17 or Sat, Feb 25, 10 am to 11 am, Tiny Tots Safari: I dig worms! At this early childhood environmental education program, kids will make a craft, play a game, and read a story. This month, we will find out together about wiggly, squiggly worms. Please register in advance. Ages 2 to 5, \$5 per child suggested donation, program takes place at the Pagoda. Call 410.558.2473 or email ppaudubon@gmail.com. For more information, see www.pattersonpark.audubon.

Sat, Feb 18, 9 am to 12 pm, Junior Naturalists! Take part in fun-filled activities including trail walks, nature games, stories, puppet shows, animal encounters and more. This program is part of a series (12/17, 1/21) but can be purchased individually. Ages 6 to 9. \$15 members, \$30 non-members To register for Irvine Nature Center programs, call 443-738-9224.

Sat, Feb 18, Maple Magic at Irvine Nature Center, 1-2:30 pm, Owings Mills, MD.

There's magic in our trees! Walk through Irvine's woods in a quest to make delicious maple syrup. Learn how to identify maple trees, properly tap a tree to collect its sugary sap, and convert the sticky fluid into syrup using Irvine's enormous evaporator. It's the perfect way to follow up a great pancake breakfast! All ages. Other dates include Sun, Feb 19, Sat, Feb 25 and Sun, Feb 26. Free for Irvine members, \$10 for non-members. For more information, contact Courtney, SagalC@ExploreNature.org, [443-738-9224](tel:443-738-9224). Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org

Mon, Feb 20, 8 pm to 9:30 pm, Gardening Talk: Walks Through Four Plant Collectors' Gardens, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton. Silver Spring Garden Club's monthly meeting. Open to all. Free. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, *Washington Gardener Magazine*, 301-588-6894, WGardenermag@aol.com. Directions at www.brooksidegardens.org.

**Weekly Wednesday Workdays at Herring Run Nursery, 6131 Hillen Rd, Baltimore, MD
Feb 22nd and 29th, 9am-1pm** (and every Wednesday through August 22nd)

Come join our nursery staff for some weekly plant maintenance. Activities include weeding, repotting, fertilizing, moving and sorting plants, and other odds and ends that keep our stock healthy and happy for restoration projects across Baltimore. RSVP required! Contact Debra at volunteer@bluewaterbaltimore.org or [410-254-1577 x100](tel:410-254-1577).

Wed, Feb 22, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Bike Maryland's 15th Annual Maryland State Bicycle Symposium, Annapolis.

The Annual Maryland State Bicycle Symposium hosted by Bike Maryland is a free day-long event with more than 10 presentations on biking, transportation, and infrastructure in the Mid-Atlantic area. For more information and to register, go to <http://bikemd.org/page.php?id=441>. Location: Miller Senate Building in the President's Conference Center, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Weds., Feb 22, 12 pm to 1:30 pm, Online Workshop: Improve Your Local Economy with a Sustainable Energy Plan. Ron Horstman and Wayne Snider are back with an expanded version of their educational training session that describes how municipalities can increase their economy through sustainable energy planning. Hosted by Sustainable Cities Exchange. Contact Sierra Dall at 303.554.1833. Free.

Thurs, Feb 23, 6 pm, Green Beats: A Social Mixer for a Better Baltimore. Are you passionate about making Baltimore a more sustainable city? Do you want the opportunity to mix with other like-minded Baltimoreans? Join Civic Works' Green Projects for our new series. Dance and chat it up with all of Baltimore's sustainability minded movers and shakers. \$5 to \$20 donation encouraged. Must be at least 21 to attend. Location: The Red Maple, 930 N. Charles St. Baltimore MD. RSVP: www.GreenPartyforaPurpose.org

Sat., Feb. 25, 10 am - 2 pm, Fields of Green Internship Fair, Bethesda, MD: Learn about and apply for a diverse array of internship opportunities in the green business sector. Bethesda Green, 4825 Cordell Ave., Second Floor above the Capital One Bank, Bethesda, MD 20814. Contact: Dave Heffernan, dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org, 301-767-7222, www.bethesdagreen.org.

Sat, Feb 25, 8 am to 9:30 am, Urban Bird Watching at Patterson Park Audubon Center. Bring the family to Patterson Park to learn about birds that visit Maryland in the winter! Audubon's conservation director leads the walk in search of feathered friends. If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email; we have plenty to share! No need to RSVP, just arrive ready to explore! Free, all ages welcome. Call 410.558.2473, email ppaudubon@gmail.com, or visit <http://pattersonpark.audubon.org/>.

Sat, Feb 25, 1 pm, Film: "Bag It: Is Your Life too Plastic?" followed by discussion, College Park. Join "everyman" Jeb Berrier as he goes on a journey to unravel the role, often environmentally negative, that plastic plays in our lives. Discussion will include information about the state and local "bag bills." Free but registration required. Email janiso@erols.com. Sponsored by the College Park Committee for a Better Environment (CBE) and the Prince George's County Sierra Club.

Sat, Feb 25, Listening, Hearing, and Living Series: Rhythms of Care Journey of the Universe, 10:15 am to 2:15 pm, Washington, DC. Join Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, directors of the Forum on Religion and Ecology, at the National Cathedral as they explore the dynamic intersection of wisdom, science, and the monastic way. Whatever your life stage, faith tradition, or perspective, you will be welcome! Purchase tickets: <http://www.nationalcathedral.org/events/COR20120225.shtml>.

Sun, Feb 26, 10 am to 12 Noon, Canal Stewards at Fletcher's Cove, NW Washington, DC. Join the Potomac Conservancy for its monthly cleanup day at the Boathouse at Fletcher's Cove in Northwest DC! This event is free, open to all ages, and no registration is necessary. For more information, contact Anne Sundermann at Sundermann@potomac.org or (301) 608-1188 ext. 208. Directions and details at <http://www.potomac.org>.

Sun, Feb 26, 4 pm, Howard County Conservancy: Growing Up Wild with 173 Meadow and Woodland "Pets." Author Twig George will recount stories of growing up with her mother, Jean Craighead George, and a wonderful menagerie that filled her with an appreciation of wildlife that continues to this day. Twig's mother—92 and still writing--would weave daily adventures into her award-winning books for children. Twig will also tell some of the stories behind her own books, and open the discussion up to questions from the audience. \$10/family \$12 after Feb. 23. Call 410-465-8877 or visit www.hcconservancy.org.

Sun, Feb 26, 1 pm to 4 pm, Tour Day of the National Agricultural Library, Beltsville. *Washington Gardener Magazine* is hosting a tour day of the National Agricultural Library for local garden clubs and select guests. The tour will include a behind-the-scenes look at the library's special collections, including actual specimens brought back by USDA explorers to vintage seed catalogs. Contact Kathy Jentz at WGardenermag@aol.com.

Thurs, Feb 23, Time: 8:30 am to 4 pm, Greater Baltimore Children and Nature Collaborative conference, Baltimore. Leaders across the sectors of education, health, business, faith and the arts will discuss and attend workshops about connecting youth to nature in local parks, schoolyards, and community greenspaces. Location: Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21209. Free but registration required. Additional information is available at <http://gbcan.grouppsite.com/main/summary> or by contacting Mike Dorsey, GBCAN Coordinator, Parks & People Foundation, (410) 448-5663 ext. 124.

Tues, Feb 28, 7:30 pm, Montgomery Co. Maryland Native Plant Meeting, Kensington: 2012 is the MNPS Year of the Oak, and this month Cris Fleming will continue her series of tree identification workshops with a focus on oaks. She will bring specimens of twigs, bark, and fruits to help participants learn different techniques of identifying oaks in winter. Please bring a hand lens if you have one and any book that gives information about trees and shrubs without the leaves. Location: Kensington Library. For more information and directions go to <http://mdflora.org/>.

MARCH PREVIEW & BEYOND

Sat, March 3, 7 pm, Alternative Technologies, Monkton. Mark Fisher designs, manufactures and sells small-scale alternative technologies through his catalog, Blueprint for Sustainable Living. These include a manual, and bicycle powered, grain/seed/nut mill, a vegetable oil press, a water pump, to name a few. Through his efforts with the Harvest Chapel Mission, he assists subsistence farmers in Africa improve their lives with these affordable inventions. For more information contact Karen Stupski, education@heathcote.org, 410-357-9523.

Tues, March 6, or Wed, March 7, Take a Trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show. *Washington Gardener Magazine* will host two trips from the DC area. One will depart from Behnke Nurseries in Beltsville, MD on Tuesday, March 6 and the other from downtown Silver Spring, MD on Wednesday, March 7. Unique aspects to the *Washington Gardener Magazine* tours are the showing of garden DVDs onboard the coach, goody bags stuffed with fun items, and a rousing "Ask Dr Chlorophyll" Q&A session. To register today, contact Kathy Jentz at WGardenermag@aol.com.

Fri, Mar 9-Sun, March 11, Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center, Reisterstown, MD. "Shmittah (The Sabbatical Year) and Society", an inspirational Shabbaton filled with learning, celebration and groundbreaking Jewish thought. For info: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=4tuxmucab&oeidk=a07e5fr6cdua79f497d&oseq>

Sun, March 11, 6 pm to 8:30 pm (Note Early Start Time!), DVD Night: GrowthBusters. This provocative documentary tackles the three lethal taboos that threaten our civilization: those against discussing overpopulation, overconsumption, and the nonsensical idea that economic growth itself is a net benefit even in rich countries and can and must continue forever. Film examines the beliefs, attitudes and propaganda causing us to ignore evidence that perpetual growth is not possible or even desirable. Location: A private home in Bethesda. Free and open to all but RSVP required: Call Marney at (301) 652-0492 or e-mail forum@simplicity-matters.org. Please include your phone number in your message.

Saturday, March 17, Marianne Williamson sponsored by Be The Change Events, 9:00-5:00pm, College Park, MD Marianne Williamson will speak for 4 hours along with Steve Sisgold and music by Bob Sima. The cost is \$79 - \$119 per person. The event is at UMUC, 3501 University Blvd East, Hyattsville, MD 20783. Contact Janice Rosenzowg [443-465-4392](tel:443-465-4392), heavenisathome@gmail.com or www.BeTheChangeEvents.com

Sun, Mar 18, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, Showcase of Environmental Education in Howard County at Earth Forum of Howard Co., Columbia. See environmental projects, displays and demonstrations highlighting student achievement and innovation. Hear details of Maryland's new environmental literacy

curriculum. Free and open to all. E-mail earthforum@firstpreshc.org or call 410-730-3545. Directions at www.earthforumhc.org.

March 23, 24, 25 or May 18, 19, 20 or September 7, 8, 9, Edmonston, MD. A new intensive weekend certificate course in urban agriculture, offered by Prince George's Community College & ECO City Farms. All-inclusive fee of \$525. This 22-hour hands-on certificate course will provide you with sustainable strategies required to plan and design an intensive food-production system, based on your needs, goals, and resources, and suited to your own individual urban space. It includes five core modules: starting your farm, composting 101, hoophouse design and construction, intro to urban livestock, harvest, processing and marketing. To register, go to www.pgcc.edu/owllink and select tab for Workforce Development & Cont. Ed. For more information, contact Info@ecocityfarms.org, 301-288-1125.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS

Thurs, Feb 2, Wind Works 4 Maryland Legislator Call-in Day. Governor O'Malley just introduced the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2012. Help us get thousands of calls to Maryland legislators in support of the legislation on February 2! Mark your calendar now, sign up and we'll be in touch with calling info by February 1! For more information, contact Keith Harrington, keith@chesapeakeclimate.org, 240-396-1985. Click here to sign up: <http://bit.ly/A7gcfT>.

Tues, Feb 6, 5:45 pm to 7:45 pm, Pro-Bike Lobby Night 2012! Annapolis. Join Bike Maryland at Pro-Bike Lobby Night. Here's an opportunity for you to discuss the importance of bicycling with your state legislator. We will guide you through the process of making your voice, in support of bicycling, heard! Location: **House Office Building, 6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401.** Space is limited, register today at <http://bikemd.org/page.php?id=445>.

Tues, Feb 14, 12 pm to 3 pm (approx), MD Offshore Wind Energy Act, Senate Hearing, Washington, DC. Show your support for wind in person! Please come to the hearing and help us fill the finance hearing room with blue offshore wind t-shirts. Location: Miller Senate Office Bldng, 3 East Wing. Let's make sure we're a bigger presence. To RSVP, contact Keith Harrington at keith@chesapeakeclimate.org or 240-396-1985.

Weds, Feb 22, Maryland Student Climate Coalition (MSCC) Rally for Offshore Wind, Annapolis. Students from all over Maryland will take Annapolis by storm for a rally and lobby day for offshore wind to let the Maryland General Assembly know exactly how students and higher education feel about offshore wind! Email megan@chesapeakeclimate.org.

Mon, Feb 27, Lobby Night for the Environment, Annapolis. For more information, contact Josh.Tulkin@sierraclub.org or Chris.Hill@sierraclub.org or call 301-277-7111. See <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/>.

Mon, March 26, Lobby Night for the Environment, Annapolis. For more information, contact Josh.Tulkin@sierraclub.org or Chris.Hill@sierraclub.org or call 301-277-7111. See <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/>.