

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **April 2012**. It is going out to over **1,585 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/2012/2012-04.pdf>.

In case you are not aware, **SMEI is now on Facebook! Please "like" us.**
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Simplicity-Matters-Earth-Institute/130611396993657>

We also have a Yahooogroup, called "DCMetroSimplifiers," with about 270 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 six sections:

- Invitation to April 29 and May 6 SMEI Open Forums
- Second Sunday Forum, Howard County Earth Forum, Baltimore Green Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- May Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

April is "Earth Month" (in honor of Earth Day on April 22), so there is a lot going on! We especially hope you will **join SMEI on April 29 or May 6 for our special "Open Forums"**. Details below.

Thanks to this month's editor, **Beth Lacey Gill**.

SMEI OPEN FORUMS – APRIL 29 & MAY 6

Join us at an up-coming SMEI *Open Forum!*

Spring is a time of renewal and envisioning what we want to grow, in our gardens and in our lives -- and we want to hear about ***what matters to you!*** Since you're reading this newsletter, chances are you've been to a SMEI Discussion Circle, a Forum, a Common Security Club, and/or have a real interest in Sustainability issues. We sincerely want your input about short and long term goals for SMEI to be of real service to this community. Plus we want to meet up and have fun! ***Please join us on April 29th or May 6th (from 4-6pm).*** Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information. To make the travel distance easier for everyone, we are offering two locations:

April 29th: Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
3215 Powder Mill Road
Adelphi, Maryland 20783-1097

May 6th: Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
9601 Cedar Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-4099

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, April 8, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm

Designing a Great Neighborhood. Witness the birth of a state-of-the-art green neighborhood in this documentary where future residents participate in the design of their own neighborhood, the Wild Sage Cohousing Community, a zero-emissions residential development. With a strong emphasis on solar energy, energy-efficient technology and adjusting occupant behavior, these impressive new homes function without the use of fossil fuels. More than 400 people with low and middle incomes live in this community, many as first-time homeowners. Please join us to continue the discussion on how to build a sustainable community.

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, April 15, 2012

2-4:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, Md. 21045

Delegate James E. Malone, Jr., Vice Chair of Maryland’s State Environmental Matters Committee, Insights into 2012 Environmental Legislation: The impact of fracking, off-shore wind development and the revitalization of the Chesapeake Bay were hotly debated environmental issues before the Maryland legislature this year. What really happened in Annapolis and why? How will it affect us? Hear the inside story from Delegate Malone who will:

- * Summarize environmental legislation enacted by 2012 Maryland Legislature
- * Highlight transportation legislation, including electric cars, charging stations and mass transit in Maryland, as chair the Motor Vehicles & Transportation Subcommittee
- * Project the environmental legislation which will come before the 2013 session.
- * Discuss questions with participants following his presentation

The afternoon will also include refreshments and emphasis-action discussion groups and a prelude to the upcoming Earth Week (April 16-22) with an Eventide Vespers, “Voices of the Earth” at 4:30 PM in the outdoor chapel. Free and open to all.

For updated program info, visit our website, www.earthforumhc, contact earthforum@firstpreshc.org, or call 410-430-3545.

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

The Baltimore Green Forum

Sunday, April 22, 2012

4-6:30 pm

(the fourth Sunday of the month)

MD Presbyterian Church,

1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286

www.mpchurch.org/About.htm

TOPIC: “TBA”

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: (HFC) Hungry for Change, (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, (WOE) World on the Edge

IMPORTANT NOTE: Starting in April NWEI discussion circle guides are going up to \$23 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 4 circles (270 total circles since 2002!). The topics have varied between Choices for Sustainable Living, Common Security Club, World on the Edge, and Voluntary Simplicity **There are four or five new circles scheduled this month, marked with an asterisk (*). Scroll down to Howard Co, Montgomery County, and DC.**

Below, you will also see listed some of the "potential" circles in the works for later this spring (or later in the year) More will be added as plans become more certain.

Our circles have become so widespread that **we are now breaking them down by county**. Please scroll down to see what is starting up near where you live. **For more info**, you may contact Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org unless otherwise noted.

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

***Historic Oakland (HFC) April 5-May 24, Thursdays, 7:00-8:30** CS: Florence Miller, [_More information: http://www.hococlimatechange.org/circles/upcoming-circles-1](http://www.hococlimatechange.org/circles/upcoming-circles-1)

***Private Home, Laurel, MD (WOH) April 30-June 18, Mondays from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.** For more information, email amonjan@verizon.net.

***Kittamaquindi Community Church, Olivers Carriage House (CSC) May 2-June 6, Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm** CS: Florence Miller hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Eden Valley (tbd) CS: Bette Hoover hococlimatechange@gmail.com

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

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

Robinson Nature Center (tbd) CS: Meagan Leatherbury, 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

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) Will start as soon as there is a critical mass. CS: Lore Rosenthal

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

Paint Branch UU Church (CSC), Will start as soon as there is a critical mass CS: Marj Donn

College Park (WOH) CS: Janice Oppelt

Montgomery County

***Beginning in April, Hungry for Change Discussion Circle**, Private Home in Bethesda, MD. A six-week discussion circle using the Northwest Earth Institute's curriculum, **Hungry for Change: Food, Ethics and Sustainability**. Contact Marney marneyb@earthlink.net (301) 652-0492 for more information. Learn more about this curriculum at http://www.nwei.org/discussion_courses/course-offerings/hungry-for-change-food-ethics-and-sustainability

Washington, DC,

***Unity of Washington, DC** (VS) CS: Kim Davis, Margie Lidoff, just started on March 26, may be room for a few more. If interested, contact the Unity office at 202 543-1414.

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

We have just learned of a new group in DC also starting circles. Visit www.janyocommunity.com or <http://thejanyocommunity.wordpress.com/course/> to learn more.

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

Sun, Apr 1, Washington Ethical Society, "Growthbusters, Hooked on Growth," 7pm

Award winning documentary questioning the wisdom for economic and population growth. Sponsor: Earth Ethics Committee of the Washington Ethical Society. Contact Rich Reis, 301-384-0540 or reis@verizon.net.

Mon, Apr 2, Volunteer with Audubon's garden team, 9:00 – 10:30 am, Patterson Park, MD

Flex your green thumbs while helping us take care of native plant gardens in Patterson Park. We need volunteers to make sure they remain healthy habitats for the park's birds, bees, and butterflies. Practice gardening techniques, learn identification skills, and spend a nice morning outdoors with friends and family. We're happy to sign off community service hours for helpful students. Patterson Park Audubon Center 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. pattersonpark.audubon.org

Mon, Apr 2, John Boecker lecture: Integrative and Green Design for Schools, 6-9 pm, Baltimore, MD

Join USGBC-MD for an insightful discussion about the use of integrative design processes for creating healthy and high performance schools. John Boecker is a LEED Fellow and serves as a founding partner in 7group, an internationally recognized multi-disciplinary consulting firm focused on green and regenerative development. His architectural design work has been recognized with over 40 awards. For more information, contact Mary Pulcinella, mpulcinella@usgbcmd.org, 443-416-5848. Directions and details at <http://bit.ly/JohnBoeckerApril2012> .

Mon, Apr 2, CSBA Green Mondays, 6 – 9pm, Baltimore, MD

CSBA: Chesapeake Sustainable Building Alliance. Green Mondays are first Mondays of every month! www.csballiance.org/pages/monthlymeeting.html

Mon, Apr 2, Marylanders' Circle of Support for Offshore Wind (Rally), 7-9 pm, Annapolis, MD

Join us in Annapolis on April 2nd as Marylanders unite in support of renewable energy in the form of offshore wind turbines! It will take hundreds of Maryland families to band together to encircle the State House in Annapolis with glowing pinwheels in encouragement of passing the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2012. For more information, contact Tanvi Gadhia, Baltimore Clean Energy Organizer, tgadhia@mdlcv.org, 410.419.5664. To register online, and to sign up for a bus or rideshare: <http://marylandoffshorewind.org>

Mon, Apr 2, 7:30 pm, New meetup group on Sacred Economics, Vienna, VA.

A radical new look at our current economics, the power of corporations, and the possibilities of gift economics. Check out the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEZkQv25uEs> First meeting is this Mon, 4/2, 7:30, at The Freeheart Meeting Place, 548 Windover Ave, Vienna, VA. It will be a chance to meet others interested in Sacred Economics, and discuss the basic concepts. If you can't make it, please sign up at <http://meetup.com/Sacred-Economics> for future events.

Tues, Apr 3 - Sun, May 6, Green Passport DC, Various locations in Washington, DC

Game that rewards customers of local green businesses in DC. For more information, contact gogreen@cleancurrents.com (301) 754-0430. Details at <http://cleancurrents.com/index.php/your-community/greenpassportdc>

Tues, Apr 3, Design Conversations, 6 – 8:30pm, Baltimore, MD

The Design Conversations are a monthly series of events loosely curated by a group of volunteers, focusing on rotating topics that are timely and engaging. These events are always free, always at the Windup Space, and now on the first Tuesday of every month! Design Conversations are encouraged by the generous support of

D:center Baltimore and Baltimore Community Foundation. Cash bar, AV hookup available for spontaneous presentations! www.dcenterbaltimore.com/

Tue, Apr 3, GBI Green Building Network Meeting, 6:30 – 8:30pm, Jessup, MD

The general public is always warmly invited to GBN meetings. They are held on the first Tuesday of every month, except for holidays, at the Enviro Center. GBN meetings and activities will be announced through GBI e-newsletters and on the GBI web site. Green Building Institute, 7761 Waterloo Road, Jessup, MD. For further information, or to submit an event, please email Leslye@greenbuildinginstitute.org. www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/GBN.html

Wed, Apr 4, Vegetative Roof and Storm Water Management System Design Seminar, Linthicum, MD

Join the most knowledgeable experts in the field of roof top storm water management and vegetated roof system design. Learn the latest information on soil selection and plant varieties for successful plantings, along with how to select the best roofing components. Register today! Contact Sherry Bowser, ACP, LLC, 410-737-2100; sherry@acpllc.com.

Wed. Apr 4, 6:30–8:00 pm, Chuck Collins Speaking on his book "99 to 1: How Wealth Inequality Is Wrecking the World and What We Can Do about It" at Busboys & Poets, 2021 14th Street NW, Washington, DC. Chuck Collins is a founder of Resilience Circles (<http://localcircles.org>) which is a discussion circle SMEI has offered in Greenbelt, Takoma Park, Baltimore, and Howard County. Chuck is also the director of the Institute for Policy Studies' Program on Inequality and the Common Good. www.ips-dc.org/inequality. Van Jones of Rebuild the Dream has called this book "...the primer for the 99 percent movement..."

April 9-15, 99% SPRING, Nationwide Events will be planned around the state and around the country (**20 so far in our region, SMEI Members involved with trainings in Columbia, Greenbelt, and College Park**). These will be evening and weekend trainings focusing on (1) The story of our economy: how we got here, who's responsible, what a different future could look like, and what we can do about it, (2) The history of non-violent direct action, and (3) Getting into action on our own campaigns to win change. <http://the99spring.com/>

Tue, Apr 10, 7pm, Green Building Institute's Youth ECo monthly meeting, ENVIRO CENTER, 7761 Waterloo Rd., Jessup, MD

Actual HD video creation with www.ourtask.org ! Join us to learn how, get involved & take action! Focus on video & outreach, snack & beverages! Focus is on filming outreach efforts for a rain garden installation/educational program at River Hill High School and an edible garden located on the UMBC campus by the main dining facility. Educators & students interested in sustainability projects are encouraged to attend. FREE with rsvp to 443.733.1234 info@greenbuildinginstitute.org

Wed, April 11, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. "Local Updates". Various guests will update us on recent MD legislation (Wind, Solar, Fracking, Bag Bill) as well as Keystone XL Pipeline, the Occupy Movement, Citizens United, Clean Currents, etc. For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Sat, Apr 14 – Alice Ferguson 24th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, various locations throughout the region (PG Co-19, Montgo-80, DC-41) http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/trash_initiative/trash_cleanup.shtml

Sat, April 14 – Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Project Clean Stream, 121 locations throughout the state <http://allianceforthebay.org/pcs/home/>

Sat, Apr 14, HCM's 3rd annual Project Clean Stream, 9am – 12pm, Baltimore, MD

The HCM (Hord Coplan Macht) team will be cleaning up the trail from Sisson Street to Falls Road and the area around the viewing platform over the Jones Falls. In addition to picking up trash, we are adding to the excitement with INVASIVES REMOVAL!! Bring your significant other. Bring your kids. Bring your friends. We are coordinating our efforts with the Friends of Stony Run, so that the entire stream and trail will be covered! Please rsvp to Julie, JHiggins@hcm2.com. www.hcm2.com

Sat, Apr 14 WONDER WALK: Hike to the River: Signs of Spring, 10 am, Howard County Conservancy With Conservancy naturalists, Woody Merkle & John Cookson. FREE Moderate difficulty walk at the

Conservancy across meadows, hillsides, and woods down to the Patapsco River with naturalists Woody Merkle and John Cookson. Look for signs of Spring! In case of rain, check website. FREE. www.hcconservancy.org.

Sat, Apr 14, Howard County GreenFest, 10am – 4pm, Howard Community College Galleria
Saving the Environment One Yard at a Time <http://countyofhowardmd.us/GreenFest.htm>

Sat, Apr 14, Earth Day Is Every Day- Loving our Planet~Loving Ourselves, 1-4 pm, Silver Spring, MD
Earth Day is every day because we are inextricably linked to this amazing, life sustaining planet, and the ways in which we love, or do not love ,ourselves are mirrored in the reflection of our blue planet home. Join us for a day of self nurturing and exercises to help us re-connect with the Earth. Led by Hillary Banachowski <http://sacredroots.shutterfly.com/> . \$25-\$45 sliding scale donation.903 Gist Avenue, Silver Spring, MD. Call Sky House Yoga to register 240-398-3526. <http://www.skyhouseyoga.com> .

Sat, April 14, Bowie Green Expo, 1pm – 4pm, Kenhill Center

Our world is changing and it is leading us to rethink how we live, work, and socialize. We need to live a greener lifestyle for ourselves and our future generations. Bowie Green Expo is dedicated to helping us all lead a greener life. We look forward to seeing you there. www.bowiegreenexpo.org/

Sat, Apr 14, 2:30pm – 4:30pm, Grow It, Eat It, Irvine Nature Center 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

This beginner course, “Container Vegetable Gardening – Healthy Harvests from Small Spaces,” is led by the Maryland Master Gardeners. Free for members, \$10 non-members. Please call 443-738-9230 for more details or 443-738-9224. www.explorenature.org/

Apr 16–17, 7th Annual Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference, University of MD

The path to sustainability is a journey. But what does it mean to move beyond the low-hanging fruit to create transformational change? How can we manage the tension between sustainability performance and campus growth? The Conference brings together attendees who are working to answer these, and many more questions. www.sustainability.umd.edu/content/community/sscc.php

Mon, Apr 16, Spring Bird Walks with The Nature Conservancy, 7:30 am, Hughes Hollow, MD

Grab your binoculars and join fellow birders for great sights and sounds throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Learn from our experienced trip leaders about the tremendous journeys these small birds have made and enjoy their beautiful colors and songs as they stop to “bulk up” for the rest of their trip. Led by Jim Nelson. Beginners welcome! Register online at www.nature.org/Marylanddcbirdwalks/!

Mon, Apr 16, Speaking the Language of Flowers, Brookside Gardens, 8:00 pm Wheaton, MD

The Silver Spring Garden Club host a talk: Speaking the Language of Flowers by author Amy Brecount White. Free and open to the public. Please bring a snack to share. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, 301-588-6894, WGardenermag@aol.com. Directions at www.brooksidegardens.com.

Tues, Apr 17, BGW Sustainable Speaker Series, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Central Branch

Justin Martin, former staff writer for Fortune magazine and the author of Greenspan: The Man Behind Money and Nader: Crusader, Spoiler, Icon joins Baltimore Green Works’ Sustainable Speaker Series to discuss Frederick Law Olmsted in Martin’s new book, Genius of Place: The Life of Frederick Law Olmsted. While Olmsted is best remembered for his landscape architecture, from New York’s Central Park to Stanford University’s campus, he was also an early voice for the environment. Free and open to the public. <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events/sustainable-speaker-series/>

Wed, Apr 18, Carnivorous Plants, Takoma Park Community Center, 7:30pm, Takoma Park, MD

Carnivorous Plants presented by Michael Szesze. Hosted by the Takoma Horticultural Club. Free and open to the public. Please bring a snack to share. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, 301-588-6894, WGardenermag@aol.com. Directions and details at www.takomahort.org .

Thurs, Apr 19, Art of Stewardship Event: Everything Round - Juried Art Show, Reception, Awards, Auction, 6 pm , Howard County Conservancy Meet the artists of The Art of Stewardship Art Show and join guests and patrons for a Wine and Cheese Reception at the Gudelsky Gallery. Judges internationally acclaimed artist Greg Mort, Founder & Director of American Visionary Art Museum Rebecca Hoffberger, and N.Y. Times

contributor and author of Deep in the Green Anne Raver will speak to their choices of winning art selected. The winning artists will talk about their pieces and how they are inspired by nature, in life and in art. \$10; \$12 after April 17. To register visit www.hcconservancy.org.

Fri, April 20, What are the bees telling us?, 7:30 – 8:30pm, Baltimore, MD

Waldorf Upper School / Yellowwood Community Center; 4801 Yellowwood Ave, Baltimore, MD 21209. Free lecture. For information and to register, call [410-367-6808](tel:410-367-6808)

Apr 21 – 28, 9th Annual Baltimore Green Week (BGW), Baltimore, MD

Each April, as Earth Day nears, BGW hosts Baltimore Green Week, a week-long series of programs focused on promoting environmental awareness and best sustainable practices in and around Baltimore. In an effort to highlight local resources, BGW partners with local businesses, organizations, and individuals who work to provide earth friendly and sustainable products and services to our community.

<http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events/baltimore-green-week/>

Sat, Apr 21, BGW Ecofest, Druid Hill Park, Baltimore MD

Baltimore Green Week kicks off with a community celebration & outdoor festival, EcoFest. EcoFest is held each year in Druid Hill Park and is host to an all local line-up of musicians, food vendors, and nearly 100 local vendors and exhibitors who share our vision for a greener Baltimore. Attendees are also encouraged to take part in the free yoga classes, bike rides, kid's nature play space and other workshops and activities throughout the day. <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events/baltimore-green-week/>

Sat, Apr 21, What are the bees telling us?, 9am – 3pm, Baltimore, MD

Waldorf Upper School / Yellowwood Community Center; 4801 Yellowwood Ave, Baltimore, MD 21209 ([map](#)) Workshop with Gunther Hauk, renowned Biodynamic beekeeper & former Waldorf teacher. 9am - 12:30pm. Cost: \$48 adults/ \$38 students (pre-register or pay at door) Mini Bee Festival, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Talk in person with Mr. Hauk & shop with bee-related vendors; free / open to the public. For information/register, call [410-367-6808](tel:410-367-6808).

Sat, Apr 21, Earth Day: Make a Difference, 8am to 1pm, Howard County Conservancy J

Join us for a day of service to the earth at the Howard County Conservancy. Service projects include stream cleanup and invasive plant removal. Children's craft at 11:30, Bird walk at 8 am with Scott Burglund and Mike Kerwin, Howard County Bird Club. In case of rain, check website. FREE. www.hcconservancy.org

Sat, Apr 21, Green Rush Scavenger Hunt, 2:30-5:30 pm, Dupont Circle, Washington, DC

Eco-savenger hunt, teams complete challenges for great prizes. For more information, contact gogreen@cleancurrents.com, (301) 754-0430. Details and Directions at http://livegreen.net/?option=com_content&view=article&id=238&access=page&city=DC

Sun, Apr 22, GW Parkway Classic 10 mile and 5K races, 8 a.m., Alexandria, VA

The Earth Day Pacer's GW Parkway Classic 10-Mile Race selected The Nature Conservancy as its environmental charity this year. For more information about running in the race, fundraising, or volunteering for the event, please contact Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, 301-897-8570 ext. 204. See <http://www.nature.org/rundc> for details!

Sun, Apr 22, Kids Unplugged at Irvine Nature Center, 11am-4pm, Owings Mills, MD

Kids Unplugged, Irvine's "get outside" initiative, encourages children and their families to literally "unplug" from video games, television and other forms of electronics to participate in activities focused on Mother Earth. At Irvine, children can: make recycled crafts; throw seed "bombs"; play green games; take nature hikes and do other 'active' challenges; participate in sack races and animal bingo for prizes; meet the Plastic Bag Monster. It's a great way for families to celebrate Earth Day together. Bring a picnic lunch and make a day of it! \$10 per child. Free for adults and children under 2 years old. <http://explorenature.org/experience-irvine/kids-unplugged>

Sun, Apr 22, Designing for Eco-Dollars: Building a Sustainable Business Environment and Economy, 8am – 2pm, Annapolis, MD

National Trust for Historic Preservation, AIA Maryland– The American Institute of Architects, & Annapolis Economic Development Corporation. On Thursday, March 22, attend two panel discussions designed to address key concerns of small businesses in today's marketplace: economics and energy efficiency. At noon,

explore issues related to rehabilitation, community development, and commercial revitalization during a luncheon presentation by Donovan Rypkema, a distinguished historic preservationist and economist. Cost: \$45/workshop and luncheon; \$35/luncheon only www.aiamd.org/March_22_Workshop_Registration_Form.pdf

Tue, Apr 24, Baltimore City Sustainability Commission Meetings, 4 – 5pm, Baltimore, MD

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability holds regular monthly meetings usually on the fourth Tuesday of every month. All meetings are open to the public. The Commission is made up of 21 members representing environmental groups, community organizations, labor unions, public health and environmental justice interests, and private industry. Department of Planning, 8th Fl, 417 E. Fayette St.
www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/OfficeofSustainability.aspx

Tues, Apr 24, 7-8:30, "Living with Climate Change" with NASA Astro-physicist Dr. James Lochner, PhD. St. Vincent de Paul Church, 120 North Front Street, Baltimore, MD (next to the main post office on the corner of Fayette and Fallsway), in the church, light refreshments. For more information, contact Sylvia Eastman at seastman@cavtel.net, or 410-323-2258.

Thurs, Apr 26, GREEN BEATS-A Social Mixer for a Better Baltimore, 6 – 8pm, Baltimore, MD

Presented by Civic Works' Green Projects. 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, Green Beats! Dress to impress, grab a Sustainability-tini, shake your bon bon on the dance floor, and chat it up with all of Baltimore's sustainability minded movers and shakers. \$5-\$20 Donation encouraged; 21 and older. The Red Maple, 930 N. Charles St. RSVP: www.GreenPartyforaPurpose.org

Fri, Apr 27, Sustainability Films, Active Solutions. 6-8:30 pm, Washington, DC

Practical and interactive - a film festival "with a difference"! Eight mini-documentaries, selected for their national and global perspectives, on the imperative to sustain, reclaim and preserve food and water resources. After the screening, join in a discussion with a panel of experts in environmental law, business, activism and more to generate real-world solutions together. No registration required. Light refreshments provided. University of the District of Columbia UDC Fine Arts Theater - 4200 Connecticut Avenue NW (UDC-Van Ness Metro) FREE <http://www.udc.edu/causes/usas.htm> or contact Christopher Bradshaw, phone: 301-768-51641 email: chris@dreamingoutloud.net

Fri, Apr 27, International Urban Sustainability Summit With Will Allen, 8am–4:30pm, Washington, DC

Daylong experience featuring leading specialists, panelists, exhibitors and a mini-film festival centered on the themes of food and water reclamation. Keynote speakers: Will Allen, pioneering urban farmer and founder of Growing Power, Inc. and Jonathan Lanciani, president of Organica Sustainable Water, a cutting-edge water reclamation technology. University of the District of Columbia UDC Fine Arts Theater - 4200 Connecticut Avenue NW (UDC-Van Ness Metro) FREE Registration required at <http://www.udc.edu/causes/usas.htm> . Contact: Christopher Bradshaw, phone: 301-768-51641 email: chris@dreamingoutloud.net

Sat, Apr 28, Restoration and Renovation Fair, Baltimore, MD

Preservation Maryland; Maryland Historical Society 201 West Monument Street, Baltimore
<http://preservationmaryland.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/save-the-date-card-20121.jpg>

Sat, Apr 28, Audubon Center Bird Watching, Tiny Tots and Children's Day Events, 8am – 2pm, Patterson Park, MD

8:00 – 9:30 am; Urban Bird Watching Walk with Audubon; 10:00 – 11:00 am: Audubon's Tiny Tots: Fabulous Frogs; 11:00 am – 2:00 pm: Día del Niño Children's Day A Bilingual Family Event; [410.558.2473](tel:410.558.2473) or ppaudubon@gmail.com. pattersonpark.audubon.org

Sat, Apr 28 and Sun, Apr 29, Hoophouse Demonstration with Will Allen, Beltsville, MD.

The pioneering urban farmer will conduct an on-farm demonstration on hoophouse construction and use. Hoophouses are inexpensive, low-tech greenhouses that allow for vegetables to be grown year-round, increasing farmers' output and improving land use. \$150 for both days. Saturday (8:00am-5:00pm) and Sunday (9:00am-1:15pm). UDC's Muirkirk Farm, 12001 Old Baltimore Pike. Register at <http://www.udc.edu/causes/usas.htm>. Contact: Christopher Bradshaw, phone: 301-768-51641 email: chris@dreamingoutloud.net

Sat, Apr 28 and Sun, Apr 29, Bird-A-Thon Weekend Celebration at Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD

Join us all weekend for a variety of free, kid-friendly, bird related programs to celebrate the start of Irvine's annual fundraising event, Bird-a-Thon! Programs are 45-minutes each and will include information on how your family can get involved in Bird-a-Thon. All ages with adult. For information or directions, call 443-738-9200 or visit www.ExploreNature.org.

Sun, Apr 29, Pacer's 4th Annual Earth Day 5K, 8:00 a.m., Silver Spring, MD

Join us for Pacers' 4th Annual Earth Day 5K to benefit The Nature Conservancy's work in the Chesapeake Bay and around the world. For more information, contact Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, 301-897-8570 ext. 204. Directions and details at <http://www.nature.org/earthday5k>

MAY PREVIEW & BEYOND

Sat. May 5 – “Connect the Dots” with 350.org - SAVE THE DATE Local events will be posted at www.climatedots.org/ soon! (Howard County is already planning two events). Events, visuals, videos of the places in the world already suffering damage from climate change. Also Connect the Dots to renewal energy and other project making a difference in solving climate change. Bill McKibben says: Anyone and everyone can participate in this day. Many of us do not live in Oklahoma, the Philippines, or Ethiopia -- places deeply affected by climate impacts. For those of us not in directly-impacted communities, there are countless ways to stand in solidarity with those on the front-lines of the climate crisis: some people will be giving presentations in their communities about how to connect the dots. Others will do projects to demonstrate what sorts of climate impacts we can expect if the crisis is left unchecked. And here in the US, it's particularly important that we make the connections clear to our elected officials

Sat, May 9, Feathers in Flight, A Birding Seminar at Irvine Nature Center, 8am-2pm, Owings Mills, MD

Join Irvine for its second annual birding seminar. This is a great opportunity for beginner, intermediate and advanced birders to increase their knowledge and skills. \$50 for seminar, \$40 for members. For information or directions, call 443-738-9200 or visit www.ExploreNature.org.

Sat, May 19, Mid Atlantic Cohousing Annual Bus Tour, 9 am-6 pm, Washington, DC Beep! Beep! Tour 5 cohousing communities and see how to create green, sustainable living at up close and personal via intentional neighborhood design. For more information, contact Ann Zabaldo, ann@MidAtlanticCohousing.org, 202.291.7892 Directions and details at www.MidAtlanticCohousing.org

Spring Bird Walks with The Nature Conservancy Grab your binoculars and join fellow birders for great sights and sounds throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Learn from our experienced trip leaders about the tremendous journeys these small birds have made and enjoy their beautiful colors and songs as they stop to “bulk up” for the rest of their trip. Beginners welcome! View the schedule below and then register online at www.nature.org/Marylandcbirdwalks! **Tues, May 1, 7:00 a.m.** >> Battle Creek, MD (led by Tim Boucher, Nature Conservancy Scientist) **Wed, May 9, 6:00 a.m.** >> Thompson WMA, Front Royal, VA (led by Tim Boucher) **Wed, May 16, 7:30 a.m.** >> C & O Canal Pennyfield Lock, Potomac, MD (led by Jim Nelson)

Fri-Sat, June 8-9, Nature Preschool Conference at Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD. This 2-day conference with multiple workshops intends to help teachers learn how to introduce youngsters to the environment, and will make our educators and parents more ready to help children achieve our areas' new green standards. David Sobel, environmental educator and author, will be the keynote speaker. Full seminar = \$125. Keynote with David Sobel only = \$25. To register for get more information, visit www.ExploreNature.org.

July 27-29, when Evolve Chesapeake | Chesapeake Creation Spirituality Community presents the 6th annual Gathering of Creation Spirituality Communities, "Awakening Imagination for Transformation," in Rockville, MD.

Featuring keynotes by R/Evolutionary Theologian, Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox, along with transformative workshops and the Cosmic Celebration "Dancing with Dragons," the gathering will conclude with a Sunday morning visit to the Martin Luther King Memorial and an afternoon festival hosted by Evolve in Annapolis. Please bookmark the event page - more information coming soon! <https://www.facebook.com/events/225054520924081/>

Action Opportunities and Tidbits

Join a Local Green Drinks group: <http://www.greendrinks.org/MD/list>

From what we can tell, there are Green Drinks groups meeting in Annapolis, Baltimore, Bethesda, Bowie, Columbia, Easton, Frederick, Gaithersburg, Hagerstown, Ocean City, Rockville, Salisbury, Silver Spring, Timonium, Wheaton, and Washington DC!. Here are a few:

Gaithersburg: <http://www.meetup.com/Gaithersburg-Green-Drinks/> or

<http://www.greendrinks.org/MD/Gaithersburg> (NEW! none scheduled yet)

Timonium <http://www.greendrinks.org/MD/Timonium> (April 19)

Annapolis <http://www.annapolisgreen.com/greendrinks.html> or <http://www.greendrinks.org/MD/Annapolis> (April 12)

Baltimore <http://www.greendrinks.org/MD/Baltimore> (April 24)

DC: <http://www.greendrinks.org/DC/Washington,%20DC> (none scheduled, on hiatus?)

Send Your Coffee Beans to CCAN. If passed, the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2012 will result in a wind farm off of Maryland's coast that will bring health and jobs benefits to state. And the bill specifies that the average Marylander would have to pay no more than the price of a cup of coffee (about 2 dollars) a month on their energy bills to make it happen! Please click here to help us remind our legislators what a great deal wind is with a one-of-a-kind petition!

http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/423/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content_item_KEY=11072

Prince George's County is seeking legislation (HB898) to strengthen their incentives for investment inside-the-Beltway and near transit.

Yet the huge Konterra development located at I-95 and the Intercounty Connector is pushing to allow the money to be diverted to their outside-the-Beltway project. They are seeking amendments to allow the company to tap millions in tax subsidies, diverting that money from existing communities in Prince George's that need investment. Take Action! Email County Executive Baker and your state legislators telling them you oppose using HB 898 to subsidize Konterra. Let them know you want to keep economic development incentives where they belong – in inside-the-Beltway communities and at our rail transit stations where extra help is needed to spur private investment. Tell them you oppose using HB 898 in a way that would divert funds from these critical needs. For more information contact Coalition for Smarter Growth action@smartergrowth.net and , read the related article in The Examiner.

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/local/maryland/2012/02/massive-planned-development-tries-get-prince-georges-tax-breaks/305741>