

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **May 2012**. It is going out to over **1,570 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/2012/2012-05.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 May 6 SMEI Open Forums  
    Second Sunday Forum, Baltimore Green Forum  
    Discussion Circle Update  
    Community Events  
    June Preview & Beyond  
    Action Opportunities & Tidbits

We hope you will **join SMEI on May 6 for a special "Open Forum."** Details below.

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

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**SMEI OPEN FORUM – MAY 6**  
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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 May 6 (from 4–6 pm)**. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information.

**Location:** Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, Maryland  
20814-4099

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**SECOND SUNDAY FORUM**  
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**Sun, May 13**

**6:00-8:30 pm (Note start time!)**

**Video: The End of Suburbia**

Suburbia and all it promised after World War II became the American Dream. But as we enter the 21st century, serious questions are beginning to emerge about the sustainability of this way of life. This video explores the American Way of Life and its prospects as the planet approaches a critical era. As energy prices skyrocket, how will the populations of suburbia react to the end of the dream? Join in on the conversation!

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 Baltimore Green Forum**

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**The Baltimore Green Forum**

**Sunday, May 27, 2012**

**4-6:30 pm**

(the fourth Sunday of the month)

MD Presbyterian Church,

1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286

[www.mpchurch.org/About.htm](http://www.mpchurch.org/About.htm)

**TOPIC: "TBA" (Co-housing and Intentional Communities)**

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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**DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE**

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**NWEI Discussion Guides:** (PBF) Powering a Bright Future, (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/Resilience Circle, (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 6 circles** (272 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, Prince Georges County, and Baltimore.**

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](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org) unless otherwise noted.

### **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](mailto:CirclesCarroll@Simplicity-Matters.org) to join the group for discussions and to watch videos. CS: Carole Flood

### **Howard County**

**\*Kittamaquindi Community Church, Olivers Carriage House (CSC) POSTPONED FROM MAY 2, Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm** CS: Florence Miller [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

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

**Location? (tbd)** CS: Robin Seabolt, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

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

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

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

**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**

**\* New Circle forming (PBF, GW, CSC?)**, depending on who signs up at the May 5<sup>th</sup> event at the Roland Park Ciclovía. Contact [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org)

**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**

**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

**\*Bowie, St. Matthews Church (DSOP)** May 16, June 20, then on hold until September. Open to public. CS: Jeanne McWilliamson, [jemcwilliamson@gmail.com](mailto:jemcwilliamson@gmail.com), 301-651-4811.

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.nwei.org/discussion_courses/course-offerings/hungry-for-change-food-ethics-and-sustainability)

**\* New Circle forming (PBF, GW, CSC?)**, depending on who signs up at the May 5<sup>th</sup> event at Dickerson Coal Powered Plant. Contact [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org)

### **Washington, DC,**

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

**We have just learned of a new group in DC also starting circles.** Visit [www.janyocommunity.com](http://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](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 spring, 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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**Tues., May 1, 7 am, Spring Bird Walk with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Battle Creek, MD:** Grab your binoculars and join fellow birders for great sights and sounds throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Learn from our experienced trip leader, Tim Boucher, TNC scientist, 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! Register online at [www.nature.org/Marylanddcbirdwalks](http://www.nature.org/Marylanddcbirdwalks).

### **Tues., May 1, 6:30–8:30 pm, GBI Green Building Network Meeting, Jessup:**

These meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month, except for holidays. Location: Green Building Institute, Enviro Center, 7761 Waterloo Road, Jessup, MD. For more information, email [Leslye@greenbuildinginstitute.org](mailto:Leslye@greenbuildinginstitute.org) or check [www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/GBN.html](http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/GBN.html).

**Tues, May 1, 7-9 pm BloomScreen and Citizens Climate Lobby present: The Last Mountain.** Ever wonder where DC gets most of its electricity? Join BloomBars and Citizens Climate Lobby for a film that looks at coal energy and controversial methods of coal mining. The Last Mountain (2011, 95 min) (trailer: <http://tinyurl.com/last-mtn-trailer> ) focuses on the devastating effects of mountaintop removal in West Virginia and the David vs. Goliath battle of local residents against the power of Big Coal mining corporations. <http://www.facebook.com/CitizensClimateDC?ref=ts>

### **Friday, May 4, The Last Mountain - Free Documentary Screening and Q&A with West Virginia activists. 7:00 pm. Columbia, MD.**

Come and witness the devastating effects of mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia and the efforts to save Coal River Mountain. Homewood Suites by Hilton, 8320 Benson Dr. in Columbia. For more info or to register contact [ginnYROBERTSON@comcast.net](mailto:ginnYROBERTSON@comcast.net) or [410-252-2703](tel:410-252-2703). Pre-registration nice but not necessary.

**Sat. May 5, Climate Impacts Day--a global day of action and a time to “connect the dots.”** On that day, we (organized by [www.350.org](http://www.350.org)) will issue a wake-up call, and connect the dots between climate change and extreme weather. Protest, educate, document and volunteer along with thousands of people around the world to support the communities on the front lines of the climate crisis. To learn more and check for a local event, go to [www.climatedots.org/](http://www.climatedots.org/). Here are some of the events we know about, where SMEI volunteers are involved:

**College Park**, 9:45 am - [http://act.climatedots.org/event/impacts\\_en/2176/](http://act.climatedots.org/event/impacts_en/2176/)

**Columbia/Clarksville**, 10 am - [http://act.climatedots.org/event/impacts\\_en/2591/](http://act.climatedots.org/event/impacts_en/2591/)

**Baltimore**, 12 noon, as part of the Roland Park Ciclovía - [http://act.climatedots.org/event/impacts\\_en/2921/](http://act.climatedots.org/event/impacts_en/2921/)

**Dickerson** (Montgomery County), 1 pm - [http://act.climatedots.org/event/impacts\\_en/3001/](http://act.climatedots.org/event/impacts_en/3001/)

**Washington, DC**, 2:30 pm - [http://act.climatedots.org/event/impacts\\_en/2166/](http://act.climatedots.org/event/impacts_en/2166/)

**Sat., May 5, 10 am, Solar Energy in Your Home Workshop, College Park:** Join three industry experts to learn about purchasing and maintaining your own photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, benefiting from available federal and state incentives, and signing up for a company-owned solar panel installation (a low- or no-cost option). Location: College Park City Hall, Council Chambers, 2nd floor, 4500 Knox Road, College Park, 20740. Cost is free but registration is requested. To RSVP, contact Elisa Vitale at [evitale@collegeparkmd.gov](mailto:evitale@collegeparkmd.gov) or 240-487-3538.

**Sat., May 5, 8 am–2 pm, Feathers in Flight/A Birding Seminar, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills:** Irvine's second annual bird seminar, Feathers in Flight, is a great opportunity for beginning, intermediate and advanced birders to increase their knowledge and skills. Topics include migration, water birds, the MD-DC Breeding Bird Atlas, Lights-Out Baltimore and more. \$40 members, \$50 non-members. For more information, contact [CourtneySagal@ExploreNature.org](mailto:CourtneySagal@ExploreNature.org) or 443-738-9224. Registration and directions at [www.ExploreNature.org](http://www.ExploreNature.org).

**Sat., May 5, 7:30–9:30 PM, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, Ellicott City:** Screening of the movie "Locavore." Bring a vegan dish for the number in your party plus 10. Store bought is fine. RSVP by May 3 to Bonnie Sorak at [firstsatvegan@yahoo.com](mailto:firstsatvegan@yahoo.com) Free but please bring your own tableware and wash up here or make a plate fee contribution. Children welcome.

**Sat., May 5, 3–5 pm, Screening of movie “In Transition 2.0,” Ellicott City:** This new movie captures inspiring stories of transition initiatives around the world, where people respond to climate change and peak oil with creative solutions and engaged optimism. For more information, contact [transitionhoco@gmail.com](mailto:transitionhoco@gmail.com) or check [http://act.climatedots.org/event/impacts\\_en/2373/signup/?no\\_redirect=1#](http://act.climatedots.org/event/impacts_en/2373/signup/?no_redirect=1#). RSVPs required.

**Sat., May 5, 9–10:30 am, Audubon’s Native Gardens, Baltimore:** Flex your green thumbs while helping Patterson Park Audubon care for its native plant gardens. We need volunteers to make sure they remain healthy habitats for the park’s birds, bees, and butterflies. Community service hours are available. For directions or questions: [ppaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ppaudubon@gmail.com) or 410.558.2473. [pattersonpark.audubon.org](http://pattersonpark.audubon.org).

**Sat, May 5, The Last Mountain - Free Documentary Screening and Q&A with West Virginia activists. 7:00 pm. Lutherville, MD.**

Come and witness the devastating effects of mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia and the efforts to save Coal River Mountain. Home of Ginny & Don Robertson, 517 Talbott Ave., in Lutherville. For more info or to register contact [ginnYROBERTSON@comcast.net](mailto:ginnYROBERTSON@comcast.net) or [410-252-2703](tel:410-252-2703). Pre-registration nice but not necessary.

**Sun., May 6, 1–3 pm, Upcycling: Making the Most of Spring Cleaning, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills:** Whether you love do-it-yourself projects or are new to creative crafts, you will love learning tips on how to reuse common household items. Some supplies provided. A list of ingredients to bring will be provided when you register. \$5 for members, \$15 non-members. Find a use for those old jeans! For more information, contact [CourtneySagal@ExploreNature.org](mailto:CourtneySagal@ExploreNature.org) or 443-738-9224. Registration and directions at [www.ExploreNature.org](http://www.ExploreNature.org)

**Sun, May 6, 3 pm, Natural History Society of Maryland Open House/Housewarming Party, Baltimore.** We'll have some of our natural history collections on display, and you'll get to meet others who are interested in nature. Visit our meetup site for details and directions: [www.meetup.com/marylandnature](http://www.meetup.com/marylandnature) or <http://www.meetup.com/marylandnature/events/59756092/> (6908 Belair Road 21206)

**Sun, May 6, 5pm, Baltimore City Featured in Nationally Acclaimed PBS Series “Earth: The Operator’s Manual – ENERGY QUEST USA”, Maryland Public Television MPT. FREE on PBS!** Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Alice Kennedy, Sustainability Coordinator Office of Sustainability, former Program Coordinator Baltimore Energy Challenge, and the residents of Baltimore Energy Challenge neighborhoods. The airing of this nationally acclaimed PBS documentary series that features Baltimore City’s Neighborhood Energy Challenge as one of six successful community strategies selected from throughout the nation. In Baltimore, Maryland, the City’s Office of Sustainability and Baltimore Community

Foundation launched a Neighborhood Energy Challenge with surprising results: low-income Park Heights' homeowners conserved more energy on average than residents of Roland Park, saving as much as \$1,300 a year through simple measures like changing light bulbs, caulking, and reducing water use. The message is an important one - helping residents of Baltimore save money, save energy, and build stronger communities.

<http://earththeoperatorsmanual.com/main-video/communities-taking-control-of-their-energy-future>

CONTACT: Alice Kennedy, [alice.kennedy@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:alice.kennedy@baltimorecity.gov) or 410-396-4556 [www.baltimoresustainability.org](http://www.baltimoresustainability.org)

**Sun, May 6, The Last Mountain - Free Documentary Screening and Q&A with West Virginia activists. 7:00 pm. Woodlawn, MD.**

Come and witness the devastating effects of mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia and the efforts to save Coal River Mountain. Woodlawn Library, 1811 Woodlawn Dr. (Baltimore County off of Security Blvd.). For more info or to register contact [ginnyrobertson@comcast.net](mailto:ginnyrobertson@comcast.net) or [410-252-2703](tel:410-252-2703). Pre-registration nice but not necessary.

**Sun, May 6, The Last Mountain - Free Documentary Screening and Q&A with West Virginia activists. 7:00 pm. Lutherville, MD.**

Come and witness the devastating effects of mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia and the efforts to save Coal River Mountain. Home of Ginny & Don Robertson, 517 Talbott Ave., in Lutherville. For more info or to register contact [ginnyrobertson@comcast.net](mailto:ginnyrobertson@comcast.net) or [410-252-2703](tel:410-252-2703). Pre-registration nice but not necessary.

**Mon, May 7, 7 pm - presentation by Gar Alperovitz, co-founder of the Democracy Collaborative.** Learn more about new models of "cooperatives", such as the Evergreen Cooperative, <http://www.evergreencoop.com/> <http://www.redemmas.org/2640/> OR <http://occupybmore.org/event/emerging-new-economy-may-7th-2640-w-gar-alperovitz-jamie-raskin-daphne-wysham>

**Weds., May 9, 6 am, Spring Bird Walk with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Thompson WMA, Front Royal, VA:**

Grab your binoculars and join fellow birders for great sights and sounds throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Learn from our experienced trip leader, Tim Boucher, TNC scientist, 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! Register online at [www.nature.org/Marylanddbirdwalks](http://www.nature.org/Marylanddbirdwalks).

**Thurs, May 10, 6:00pm – 7:45pm, Green Building Tour (Southern Maryland): Evergreen Elementary School, 43765 Evergreen Way, California, MD 20619** Over the coming months, the Southern Maryland Branch of USGBC MD (Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's counties) will be conducting local tours of LEED Certified and cool green buildings. These tours begin at Evergreen Elementary School awarded LEED Gold in October 2010. Evergreen is truly a "teaching tool" whose green components are visible and integrated into the curriculum.

[www.usgbcmd.org/Default.aspx?pageId=917685&eventId=480894&EventViewMode=EventDetails](http://www.usgbcmd.org/Default.aspx?pageId=917685&eventId=480894&EventViewMode=EventDetails)

**Thurs., May 10, 8:15–9:15 pm, Discover the Night Sky, Owings Mills:** Join hobby astronomer Alex Gorstan at sunset (weather permitting) for stories, lessons and observation. We will meet in front of the Irvine Nature Center, and walk down the access road to the meadows. We suggest bringing a flashlight and dressing warmly. Feel free to bring your own telescope or binoculars as well! This is an informal program, so feel free to stay for 5 minutes or until the telescope is packed away. Free! For more information, contact [CourtneySagal@ExploreNature.org](mailto:CourtneySagal@ExploreNature.org) or 443-738-9224. Registration and directions at [www.ExploreNature.org](http://www.ExploreNature.org).

**Fri, May 11, 9:30 am - iMatter - Flood the Court Room** - support a group of high school students who are suing the Federal Government. They say our atmosphere is part of the National Trust and the government should protect future generations against climate change. <http://www.imattermarch.org/#!lawsuit>

**Fri., May 11, 8:30 am–4:30 pm, Baltimore Neighborhoods and History, Baltimore:** This conference seeks to cultivate and promote the rich history of Baltimore City. Neighborhoods play a complex role in Baltimore's past and present and illustrate the struggles and rewards of building a sense of community within an urban space. Program features two panel discussions and two presentations on recent work that preserves and commemorates the complicated history of Baltimore. Speakers include local academics, representatives from city organizations for heritage and preservation, community activists, and more. Location: Maryland Historical Society, 201 W. Monument Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. For more information: [www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaId=227647](http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaId=227647).

**Fri., May 11–Sun., May 13, The Solar & Wind Expo 2012, Timonium:** The place to learn how to migrate and upgrade your old systems to cleaner, more earth friendly and renewable energy systems. NOW is the time to increase the amount of electricity being generated from alternative zero pollution or low-pollution technology sources, including solar, wind, hydro-power, geothermal. Location: Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD 21093-3175: For more information: [www.solarandwindexpo.com/](http://www.solarandwindexpo.com/).

**Sat., May 12, 10 am, Wonder Walk: Mother's Day Special, Woodstock, MD:** Mothers might be happy to go off to a spa or take a relaxing hike on the Conservancy's trails while fathers, grandparents, or other relatives bring kids to this creative event offered by master gardener Lisa Baum. The children will use flowers and plants to create beautiful bouquets and cards with which to surprise their moms on Mother's Day. Free. For more information: [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Sat., May 12, 9 am–1 pm, GardenMart Plant Sale, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton:** The Silver Spring Garden Club hosts the annual GardenMart plant sale. Heirloom edibles, natives, colorful annuals, and much more! Rain or shine. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, 301-588-6894 or [WGardenermag@aol.com](mailto:WGardenermag@aol.com). For directions: [www.brooksidegardens.com](http://www.brooksidegardens.com).

**Sat/Sun, May 12-13 – Greenbelt Green Man Festival, all day!** <http://www.greenbeltgreenmanfestival.org/>

**Sun., May 13, 2–3 pm, Green Pizza Party, Owings Mills:** Learn to organically grow the fresh ingredients for pizza sauce in unconventional containers like cans and bottles! Each family plants their pizza garden to take home. Supplies provided. All ages. Free for members, \$10 non-members. Location: Irvine Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. For more details, call 443-738-9230 or 443-738-9224, or visit [www.explorenature.org/](http://www.explorenature.org/).

**Weds., May 16, Maryland Native Plant Society Meeting, Greater Baltimore Chapter, 7–9 pm, Owings Mills:** Free lecture on native orchids. Location: Irvine Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. For more information: [www.mdflora.org/](http://www.mdflora.org/).

**Weds., May 16, 7:30 am, Spring Bird Walk with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), C & O Canal Pennyfield Lock, Potomac:** Grab your binoculars and join fellow birders for great sights and sounds throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Learn from our experienced trip leader, Jim Nelson, 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! Register online at [www.nature.org/Marylanddcbirdwalks](http://www.nature.org/Marylanddcbirdwalks).

**Thurs., May 17, MD Recycling Network Conference, Developing Your 20/20 Vision Keeping a Sharp Eye on Recycling Opportunities in 2012 and Beyond, Linthicum:** Join us at the Maritime Institute for the only event in the Maryland designed exclusively for recycling professionals. For more information and to register: [www.marylandrecyclingnetwork.org/news-events/event/2012-annual-conference](http://www.marylandrecyclingnetwork.org/news-events/event/2012-annual-conference).

**Thurs., May 17, 2:30–4:30, Environmental Health Network, Baltimore:** Join our newly forming network of professionals and stakeholders, meeting monthly to address the human health impact of toxic chemicals, environmental pollution, pesticides, and contamination of our food and water. For more information, contact [rebeccaruggles@verizon.net](mailto:rebeccaruggles@verizon.net).

**Thurs., May 17, 2–3pm Greening the Supply Chain: How to Avoid Greenwashing When Buying Green, online webinar:** Hear from two experts in the field how not only to buy “green” but also how to market products as “green” to avoid being duped. For more information: [www.prolibraries.com/pgh/?select=webinar\\_register&conferenceID=1](http://www.prolibraries.com/pgh/?select=webinar_register&conferenceID=1).

**Fri., May 18, 6–9 pm, Treasure the Chesapeake Celebration! Annapolis:** Party for a good cause— Chesapeake Bay restoration and education. Register for an evening of fantastic fare, open bar, music and dancing, casino games, a silent auction, and much more. \$100 per ticket. Sponsorships are also available. Location: Annapolis Marriott Waterfront. For more information: [www.cbtrust.org/site/c.miJPKXPCJnH/b.5368633/k.BDEA/Home.htm](http://www.cbtrust.org/site/c.miJPKXPCJnH/b.5368633/k.BDEA/Home.htm).

**Fri., May 18, Bike to Work Day, Baltimore region and across the nation:** This year marks the 15th annual event in the Baltimore region and will feature events at locations around the region. Up-to-date details will be posted in the Bike Ped Beacon e-newsletter and on our Facebook page! Sign-up today at [www.baltometro.org/commuter-options/bike-to-work-day](http://www.baltometro.org/commuter-options/bike-to-work-day).

**Sat., May 19, 9 am–12 Noon, Nature Exploration for Junior Naturalists (ages 6–9), Owings Mills:** Spend Saturday mornings exploring nature and take part in fun-filled activities including trail walks, nature games, stories, puppet shows, animal encounters and more. Location: Irvine Nature Center 11201 Garrison Forest Road, 21117. Wear nature-friendly clothing. \$15 members, \$30 non-members. For more details, please call 443-738-9230 or 443-738-9224 or check [www.explorenature.org/](http://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](mailto:ann@MidAtlanticCohousing.org) or 202.291.7892. For directions and details, go to [www.MidAtlanticCohousing.org](http://www.MidAtlanticCohousing.org).

**Sun., May 20, Check-in from 7:15–8 am, ride starts at 8 am sharp. Bike Maryland RecRide, Baltimore:** Registration is limited to 500 cyclists, who will start and finish at the incredibly exciting BikeJam event in Patterson Park—the site for the Pro Bicycle Championships. International caliber pro-racers and local racers compete for cash and prizes all day. Enjoy food vendors, beer, kid's activities, live music and the super-fast BikeJam pro bicycle races! Enjoy the fun at the Bike and Health Expo. To register and for more information: <http://bikemd.org/page.php?id=472>.

**Sun., May 20, 1–5 pm, Nature Art in the Park, Gwynns Falls/ Leakin Park, Baltimore:** Walk along a woodland trail loop to explore this unique free outdoor exhibit of nature art created by area artists. If you're inspired, create your own nature art in outdoor workshops. Location: 1901 Eagle Drive, Baltimore 21207. For more information: [www.NatureArtInThePark.org](http://www.NatureArtInThePark.org) or call Doug at 410-598-8409 or Heide at 410-945-0586.

**Mon., May 21, 8 pm (doors open at 7:30 pm), Yoga Stretched for Gardeners, Wheaton:** The Silver Spring Garden Club and Lauren Rubenstein present this event, which is free and open to the public. Please bring a snack to share. For directions to location, Brookside Gardens, go to [www.brooksidegardens.com](http://www.brooksidegardens.com). For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, 301-588-6894 or [WGardenermag@aol.com](mailto:WGardenermag@aol.com).

**Tues., May 22, 4 pm–5 pm, Baltimore City Sustainability Commission Meetings, Baltimore:** Regular monthly meetings, all open to the public, are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of every month. The Commission is made up of 21 members representing environmental groups, community organizations, labor unions, public health and environmental justice interests, and private industry. Location: Department of Planning, 8th Fl, 417 E. Fayette St. For more information: [www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/OfficeofSustainability.aspx](http://www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/OfficeofSustainability.aspx).

**Thurs., May 24, 5–8 pm, Wine in the Garden Event, Woodstock, MD:** Join us as we enjoy fine wine and food and celebrate spring in the three-acre John L. Clark Honors Garden. Proceeds support the Conservancy's environmental education programs. Rain or shine. \$40; \$50 after May 20. For more information and to register, go to [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Thurs., May 24, 11:30 am–12:30 pm, Audubon's Tiny Tots (ages 2–5): May Flowers, Baltimore:** Tiny Tots is an early childhood environmental education program where kids make a craft, play a game, and read a story. Let's hike through Patterson Park Audubon Center to see how many colors we can find. We'll learn how flowers give tasty treats to insects. Please register in advance. \$5 suggested donation per child. For directions and registration: [ppaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ppaudubon@gmail.com), 410.558.2473, or <http://pattersonpark.audubon.org/>.

**Fri., May 25, 7–9 pm, Spring Family Night Hike & Campfire, Owings Mills:** Let's take a night hike at Irvine Nature Center and look for nocturnal animals, listen for frog calls and test our senses in the dark. We'll finish the hike with a campfire and s'mores. Ages 7 and up (with adult). Free for members, \$10 non-members. For more information, contact [Courtneyagal@ExploreNature.org](mailto:Courtneyagal@ExploreNature.org) or 443-738-9224. For registration and directions, go to [www.ExploreNature.org](http://www.ExploreNature.org).

**Fri., May 25, 5–9 pm, Open Walls Baltimore Grand Finale in Station North Arts & Entertainment District, Baltimore:** The finest and most widely recognized street artists from around the world mounted an outdoor exhibition of extraordinary murals to enliven public spaces, stimulate community revitalization and national dialogue, and attract visitors and investors. More than 20 additional murals have been installed in time for a final, free celebration. Location: E Oliver Street & Barclay Street. For more information: <http://www.openwallsbaltimore.com/#Lecture-Series-and-Events>

**Sat., May 26, 8–9:30 am, Learn About Spring Birds, Baltimore:** Bring the family to Patterson Park to learn about birds that visit Maryland in the spring! Audubon's conservation director will lead the walk in search of feathered friends. If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email – we have plenty to share! For directions, questions, or more information: [ppaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ppaudubon@gmail.com) or 410.558.2473 and [pattersonpark.audubon.org](http://pattersonpark.audubon.org).

**Sat., May 26, 10–11:30 am, Audubon's Tiny Tots (ages 2–5): May Flowers, Baltimore:** Tiny Tots is an early childhood environmental education program where kids make a craft, play a game, and read a story. Let's hike through the park to see how many colors we can find. We'll learn how flowers give tasty treats to insects. Please register in advance. Fee: \$5 suggested donation per child. For directions and registration: [ppaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ppaudubon@gmail.com), 410.558.2473 and [pattersonpark.audubon.org](http://pattersonpark.audubon.org).



**Mon., May 28, 10 am–4 pm, Last Day of Nature-Themed Quilt Exhibit, Baltimore:** Quilters will present quilts inspired by the grounds of the arboretum. Quilts will be for sale and a percentage of the sales will help support the grounds and educational programs for the public. Location: Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore. See <http://cylburnassociation.org/>.

**Thurs., May 31, 8 am–2 pm, Designing for Eco-Dollars Workshop, Annapolis:** 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. Location: Loews Hotel. For more information: [www.mainstreetsannapolis.org](http://www.mainstreetsannapolis.org).

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## **JUNE PREVIEW & BEYOND**

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**Fri. June 8 and Sat., June 9, Nature Preschool Conference, Owings Mills:** At the Irvine Nature Center, preschool educators and administrators will connect to discover and share activities, insight and best practices. Topics include nature-based curriculum and program development, meaningful live animal lessons indoors and out, creative arts and nature activities, and the role of natural play spaces and encounters in nature. Presenters include highly acclaimed author and educator David Sobel, who will give the keynote address and a workshop. Overnight camping permitted. Full seminar \$125, Keynote only \$25. For more information, contact Monica, [Monica@ExploreNature.org](mailto:Monica@ExploreNature.org) or 443-738-9213. For registration and directions, go to [www.ExploreNature.org](http://www.ExploreNature.org).

**Fri., July 27 at 9 am–Sat., July 29, 8:30 pm, "Awakening Imagination for Transformation," Rockville:** Evolve Chesapeake | Chesapeake Creation Spirituality Community presents the 6th annual Gathering of Creation Spirituality Communities, featuring keynotes by R/Evolutionary Theologian, Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox, along with transformative workshops and the Cosmic Celebration "Dancing with Dragons." Location: Rockville Unitarian Universalist Church, 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. 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: <https://www.facebook.com/events/225054520924081/>.

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## **ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS**

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**As a follow up to the 99% Spring trainings in April,** visit this website and participate in hundreds of "direct actions" throughout the region. <http://actions.the99spring.com/actions>. Some of the national days are May 3 Verizon shareholder meeting, May 5 Connect the Dots, May 9 Bank of American Shareholder meeting, North Carolina, May 24 Sallie Mae Shareholder meeting, Delaware, June 1 Walmart Shareholder meeting, Arkansas

**DONATE: The NYC-DC Climate Ride, May 19 – 23, 2012.** . crosses cities, farm land, and some of the most beautiful places here on the East Coast. Climate Ride is a non-profit organization that organizes fully supported, charitable bike rides to support sustainable solutions, bike advocacy and environmental causes. You have two events to choose from: Climate Ride NYC-DC or Climate Ride California. Climate Riders register for \$75 and then fundraise a minimum of \$2400 in order to participate in one of the all-inclusive 5-day events. [www.climateride.org/about/about-climate-ride/](http://www.climateride.org/about/about-climate-ride/)

**Fri., May 25, is the deadline for submissions for the Maryland Green Registry Clean Commute Contest.** Last year, Maryland Green Registry reported reducing over 2.4 million miles of vehicle travel through alternative employee commute options and efficient business travel. To recognize these efforts, we are offering this contest in partnership with Clean Air Partners. Winners will be announced June 5 at the Maryland Green Registry Membership and Awards Event at the Robinson Nature Center in Columbia, MD. For more information, go to <http://mde.maryland.gov/marylandgreen/Pages/CleanCommuteContest.aspx>.