

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **June 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/ or as a PDF at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/events/2012/2012-06.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> Please start posting articles, thoughts, and questions there, to start some online dialogue. Consider it the SMEI "blog"!

We also have a Yahoogroup, 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:

- Report back from SMEI Open Forums
- Second Sunday Forum, Baltimore Green Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- July Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Please scroll down to Action Opportunities to learn more about two independently funded projects by our friends Keith Harrington and Julie Gabrielli. You can also read two excellent articles about the impact of discussion circles

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

REPORT BACK - SMEI OPEN FORUMS – APRIL 29 & MAY 6

As it was SMEI's 10th Anniversary, we felt it was a good time for a review and a new look forward. So we held two Open Forum events, on April 29th at Paint Branch UU and May 6th at Cedar Lane UU, with the idea of gathering past and present SMEI participants together to discuss what they felt has worked well and what they would envision for the future. We were extremely happy with the turnout (a full house at each venue) and thrilled by the high level of energetic response and creativity producing a wide range of new ideas. **Great thanks go out to everyone who participated in these events** – as well as all of you who have engaged with SMEI in any way over the last ten years. We are excited by the possibilities before us for the future!

Visit www.simplicity-matters.org for the full report on the two Open Forums.

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

The Second Sunday Forum in Bethesda will be on vacation until September. But if you would like to join in on a **fun trip to a local farm market on Sunday June 24th**, please contact Marney@simplicity-matters.org. We may be able to arrange time with one or more of the farmers if we have a sizeable group. Central Farm Market in Bethesda? Dupont Circle Farm Market? The group will decide. Hope to see you with us.

The Baltimore Green Forum

The Baltimore Green Forum

Sunday, June 24, 2012

4-6:30 pm

(the fourth Sunday of the month)

MD Presbyterian Church,

1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286

www.mpchurch.org/About.htm

Annual BGF Pot-luck Picnic and Wrap Up

For updated 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: (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 7 circles (273 total circles since 2002!). The topics have varied between Choices Common Security Club, World on the Edge, World of Health, and Hungry for Change **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 summer or fall 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

Kittamaqundi Community Church, Olivers Carriage House (CSC) CS: Florence Miller hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Location? (tbd) 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

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

Hungry for Change Discussion Circle, (will start as soon as there is a critical mass). 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

Takoma Park (CSC) CS: Bruce Baker, email lore@simplicity-matters.org, if interested.

Washington, DC,

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

Adams Morgan (CSC) CS: Laura Gubisch, 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 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 (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

Tues, May 29, Founding Farmers, 9 am, Potomac, MD. The green restaurant Founding Farmers would like some help in planting a green wall for their patio at their Potomac location. Founding Farmers focuses on serving sustainable and organic food, and their Potomac location is fully wind-powered. The project will be an "edible" green wall that is filled with herbs that the restaurant can use in appetizers, entrees, and even cocktails. The wall will be created by using a woolly pocket system, where all of the plants will be planted in pouches that hang from the wall. Food and refreshments will be provided to volunteers that attend. If you are interested, reach out to Leah Frankl at leah@vsag.com or on her cell phone at 301-938-4294.

Fri, June 1, Deadline - Going Enviral Greener Schools Video Challenge, Enviro-Solutions, a leading manufacturer of green cleaning chemicals, announced the start of Going Enviral Greener Schools Video Challenge 2012, a contest conducted at the company's Facebook page. The contest, which will be open to school children grades 7 through 12th throughout North America, invites participants to send in videos describing how they can make their schools greener and more sustainable. Voting for the winning video will begin on June 2 with the winner announced on July 15, 2012. The winning video will be selected by Facebook visitors as well as an in-house panel of judges. The winning student(s) will receive \$500 and their school will receive \$500 worth of Enviro-Solutions Green cleaning chemicals.

www.facebook.com/goenvirosolutions

Fri, June 1, 9am – 3pm, MAEOE Maryland Green Schools Youth Summit and 2012 Maryland Green Schools Award Ceremony, Sandy Point State Park FREE - Every School In Maryland is Invited! The ceremony honors schools that successfully fulfilled the areas which form the framework of the Maryland Green School Program: professional development, curricular integration, best management practices, community engagement, and celebration. Newly certified schools and centers will receive the Maryland Green Flag, a symbol of their continued commitment to the environment. In addition, schools will be recertified based on their continuing efforts. Since 1999, 398 or 18% of Maryland schools have achieved this significant honor. Entertainment will go on throughout the day at the Osprey Pavilion. "Go for the Green" Games are on the West Lawn by Cottontail Pavilion. Following a concluding address from Governor O'Malley (Invited) is a Dance to "Wake up America". For more information, please contact greenschools@maeoe.org.

www.maeoe.org/greenschools/Summit/2012%20Summit/2012youthsummithome.php

Sat, June 2, 9am – 12pm, CBF's 24th Annual Clean the Bay Day, Virginia Waterways Find the clean-up location nearest you and join the fun. Volunteer for Clean the Bay Day and show the world that an unhealthy Bay is not acceptable! Every year since 1989, thousands of volunteers of all ages have dedicated their time to clear debris from Virginia's urban, suburban, and rural shorelines and waterways. During the 2011 Clean the Bay Day alone, more than 6,500 volunteers removed more than 200,000 pounds of debris along more than 500 miles of shoreline.

www.cbf.org/clean

Sat, June 2, 9:00am – 10:30am, Audubon's Native Gardens, Volunteers! Flex your green thumbs while helping us maintain the native plant gardens as healthy habitats for Patterson Park's birds, bees, and butterflies. A great way to enjoy the outdoors with friends and family, or gain community service hours. All ages welcome! FREE! Meet at our pollinator garden, just west of the Boat Lake. For directions or info: ppaudubon@gmail.com or 410-558-2473.

<http://pattersonpark.audubon.org/>

Sat, June 2, 10am – 2pm, Baltimore Builds Expo: Restoring Value to Baltimore's Vacant Property, Westside Skills Center, 501 North Athol Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21229. FREE ADMISSION. Pre-Registration Required. Register Today! Call us at 410.396.4111. www.baltimorehousing.org/agenda_detail.aspx?id=108

Sat, June 2, National Trails Day, 10 am – 3 pm, Herring Park Run, Baltimore. You are invited to celebrate National Trails Day by exploring Herring run with a trail-hike, pirate treasure hunt filled with riddles, costumed volunteers, treasure chests, and eye patches. There will also be a nature picture scavenger hunt (bring your own camera). Free healthy food, games and sports and tee shirts for the first 100 that participate are available. Come, get outside, hike along the trail, and enjoy national trails day with a fun family event! 4700 Parkside Dr., Baltimore MD 21206.

Sat, June 2, 2:30pm (ceremony starts at 4pm) Prince George's Sierra Club Potluck Social and awarding of Maloney Environmental Service Award, Cosca Regional Park Shelter number 6, 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton, MD 20735
RSVP to Janis Oppelt, janiso@erols.com

Sat, June 2, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, 7:30-9:30 pm, Ellicott City, MD: Bring a vegan dish for the number in your party plus 10. Store bought is fine. Film screening of "Fat, Sick and Nearly Dead". RSVP by May 31 to Bonnie Sorak at firstsatvegan@yahoo.com. or call 410-465-0427 Children Welcome! Free but please bring your own picnic-ware to reduce waste.

Mon, June 4, Local Currency and the Baltimore BNote, 7 pm, Ellicott City, MD: Jeff Dicken, President of the Baltimore Green Currency Association, will talk about Baltimore's new local currency, the Baltimore BNote at the Miller Library - 9421 Frederick Rd. For more information or to RSVP, contact transitionhoco@gmail.com

Tues, June 5, Submission Deadline 2012 World Environment Day Contest, The Robinson Nature Center, 2012 World Environment Day Contest: Open for Submissions: 12/5/2011 - 6/5/2012, Winner Announced: 6/20/2012. Contest Description: Schools with Students Ages 4 -18: Share your environmental efforts on www.ProjectEarth.net and enter your project into the Project Earth 2012 World Environment Day Contest!
<http://www.projectearth.net/Competition/Details/0b755bf6-7839-488d-a414-562465c18af9>

Tues, June 5, 5:30pm – 8:30pm, 3rd Annual MD Dept. of Environment's Green Registry Awards, The Robinson Nature Center, GBI is hosting the 3rd Annual MD Dept. of Environment's Green Registry Awards! Maryland Lt. Governor Anthony Brown will be presenting! 5:30-8:30pm - Green Team & Marketing Training, Music, Food, Fun and Networking! Limited Attendance. RSVP. <http://marylandgreenregistry.eventbrite.com>

Tues, June 5, 6pm – 8pm, MD Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act (GGRA) Draft Plan Stakeholder Meeting, MD Department of the Environment, First Fl. - Aqua & Terra Conference Rooms, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21230. The public comment period for Maryland's climate change plan is now open and your opinions and ideas are needed. In 2009, Maryland Governor O'Malley and the Maryland General Assembly passed the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act of 2009. The law requires the State to develop and implement a plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 25 percent by 2020. Maryland is among the states most vulnerable to climate change. With the fourth longest tidal coastline, Maryland is the third most vulnerable state to sea level rise -- one of the major consequences of climate change. Rising sea levels, along with increased storm intensity could have devastating and far-reaching environmental and economic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and the quality of life Marylanders currently enjoy. www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Air/ClimateChange/Pages/Air/climatechange/index.aspx

Wed, June 6, 8am – 10am, LEED Implementation on Campus: Strategies from Higher Ed, Government, and Commercial Real Estate, USGCB MD Headquarters, 230 Schilling Circle, Suite 132, Hunt Valley, MD 21031 This webinar will address the unique opportunities and challenges of implementing LEED in a campus setting. Relying on an experienced group of practitioners, the session will address specific applications of LEED within government, commercial real estate and higher education settings. Strategies for identifying campuswide credits and mechanisms for having credits approved by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) will inform participants on best practices across a diverse landscape of campus types.
www.usgbcmd.org/Default.aspx?pagelD=917685&eventID=495430&EventViewMode=EventDetails

Wed, June 6, 4:30pm – 6:30pm, The AIA 2030 Commitment: What Does it Mean to You? AIA Baltimore Gallery: 11 1/2 West Chase Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 4:30 p.m. Reception with light refreshments; 5 – 6:30 p.m. Program; Members/\$15; Associates/\$5; Public/\$25; Students FREE with ID; 1.5 AIA/CES (HSW/SD); Kelly Pickard, Director, Building Science + Technology The American Institute of Architects (AIA), Lisa Ferretto, AIA, LEED AP + BD&C, Associate, Sustainability Coordinator, Thomas Casey, AIA, LEED AP, Senior Associate- Hord Coplan Macht, and David R. Hoffman, P.E., LEED AP, Senior Vice President, Gipe Associates, Inc. One way or another, all of us in the profession are going to be affected by the need to examine our role in creating the built environment and work toward achieving

carbon neutrality. To learn more about this important initiative, save the evening of June 6, 2012 for a 2-hour program which will include an explanation of the AIA 2030 Commitment and how it fits with the various other 2030 programs. Both the AIA Commitment process and case studies will be presented. This will be a joint effort program between the AIA Baltimore Continuing Education Committee and Committee on the Environment (COTE).

www.aiabalt.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=105

Wed, June 6, 6pm – 9pm, Bike Friendly Maryland Community Workshop Meeting, Salisbury University's Henson Science Hall Room HS 103 101 Camden Ave, Salisbury, MD Are you interested in making Salisbury or your business, university or community a more Bicycle Friendly place? Would you like to learn more about what it means to be a Bicycle Friendly business, university or community? Can't make it to Salisbury - contact Anna Kelso, anna@bikemd.org to schedule a workshop in your area. www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica/bicyclefriendlyblueprint/index.php

Wed, June 6, Interfaith Bridge Builders Awards, 6-9 pm, Washington, DC. Honoring Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb this year for his good work engaging diverse religious communities in environmental action. Catch up with the Interfaith Power & Light staff and enjoy fellowship with folks from the InterFaith Conference's eleven diverse faith communities at a reception including delicious heavy hors d'oeuvres and a silent and live auction. For more information, contact Ann Delorey, ann@ifcmw.org. Directions and details at www.ifcmw.org

Thurs, June 7, Introducing Farm to Freezer at Bethesda Green's Happy Hour, 5-8pm, Bethesda, MD: Seeking volunteers for a new Farm to Freezer project that will turn farmers' market bounty into healthy, locally grown meals for the hungry. Join us to learn more. Complimentary appetizers from Food Wine & Co. 7272 Wisconsin Ave. near Bethesda Metro. For more information, contact Cheryl Kollin, cheryl@fullplateventures.com, 240-491-1958. Details at <http://bit.ly/Jhvuvp>

Thurs, June 7, 5-7 pm, Bethesda Green Happy Hour @ Food Wine & Co., Bethesda, MD: Enjoy casual conversation and networking, hear about a new Farm to Freezer program to help feed the hungry, and enjoy complimentary appetizers at Food Wine & Co., 7272 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814. Contribution: \$10 at the door. Contact: Dave Heffernan, dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org, 301-767-7222. More info and RSVP via Bethesda Green Meetup.

Thurs, June 7 – 10, Green Roof Professional (GRP) Training, Washington DC With the National Capital Region providing a variety of incentives for green roof infrastructure, demand for Green Roof Professionals has never been greater! Now more than ever, it's time to get the designation that proves you're familiar with green roof benefits, design, implementation and technology. Join more than 500 accredited GRPs and distinguish yourself in the marketplace by adding this green building credential to your professional qualifications. The following courses are recommended training for GRP candidates preparing to write the accreditation exam.

www.greenroofs.org/resources/DC_GRP_Training_June_2012.html

Thurs, June 7, 8:30pm – 9:30pm, Discover the Night Sky, Irvine Nature Center. 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117 The most amazing thing you see all week just might be through a telescope. Bring your friends and family to this informal gathering at Irvine to explore and learn about the past, present and future of our night sky, and how it might be changed forever if we don't care to preserve it. Join hobby astronomer Alex Gorstan at sunset (weather permitting) at the Irvine for stories, lessons and observation. We will meet in front of the building 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. http://explorenature.org/index.php?option=com_jevents&task=month.calendar&Itemid=98&year=2012&month=06

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 or 443-738-9213. For registration and directions, go to www.ExploreNature.org.

Fri, June 8, "The Economics of Happiness," 7 pm, Festival Center in Washington DC: Join us for the documentary "The Economics of Happiness." We're co-sponsoring the event with the Servant Leadership School in hopes of challenging our local green leaders (you!) to restore your faith in humanity and believe that it is possible to build a better world. Going local is a powerful strategy to repair our fractured world -- our ecosystems, our societies, and ourselves. RSVP and get more info: <http://www.facebook.com/events/311330418944946> .1640 Columbia Rd. NW Washington DC 20009. Free.

Sat, June 9, 10am - 4pm, Solar & Green Home Expo, Bethesda, MD: Get the latest information about local services and incentives to green your home at this showcase event featuring expert home service and solar providers at Bethesda Green, 4825 Cordell Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814 (second floor above the Capital One Bank). FREE and open to the public. Contact: Dave Heffernan, dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org, 301-767-7222.

Sun, June 10,, 11:45 am, Forum - Environmental Ethics in Action: How we can each make a difference, Oliver's Carriage House, 5410 Leaf Treader Way, Columbia, MD 21044, 410-730-4855, Join Ned Tillman in a lively and interactive discussion of how we can each play an important role in restoring the health of our community by focusing on our own "backyards", our local lakes and habitats. Come learn how you can be a part of what Paul Hawken claims is the largest social movement of all time, and certainly one of the most important of OUR time! Ned is the chair of the Howard County Sustainability Board and the Howard County General Plan Task Force as well as serving on the boards of the Maryland Science Center and brings a broad perspective to this discussion.

Sun, June 10, 7am – 3pm, Tour dem Parks, Hon! Baltimore, MD The 10th annual Tour dem Parks, Hon! bike ride will be held on Sunday, June 10th, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and will travel a scenic route through Baltimore's parks and neighborhoods. Participants choose from 4 routes: 14 miles (the family ride on the Gwynn's Falls Trail), 25 miles, 35 miles, or a metric century (64 miles). The Tour is follo by a relaxed barbecue with live music.
<http://www.tourdemparks.org/>

Sun, June 10, 4-6pm, Washington Gardener Magazine's Garden Photo Exhibit Opening Reception Winning photographs from this year's Washington Gardener Magazine photo contest will be on display at Meadowlark through August 10. Light refreshments offered at reception. Free and open to the public. Reservations not required. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna, Virginia 22182

Tues, June 12, 1pm – 3pm, MD H2E Trailblazer hospital - Employee/Community Garden, Good Samaritan Hospital built an employee/community vegetable and herb garden on its campus. Maryland Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (MD H2E) presented Trailblazer Awards to five Maryland hospitals in November 2011 at a ceremony at the Environmental Excellence in Health Care conference. Each winner hosts an educational event highlighting their sustainable successes and showing how YOU can do it too! Attendance is open to all. However, priority will be given to hospital and health care employees when limitations occur. To register, send your name, title, facility name, e-mail, and phone to Englund@son.umaryland.edu.

Wed, June 13, Mt. Washington Energy Meeting, 7:30pm, Clayworks, 5707 Smith Ave, 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](tel:443-599-9748). Directions and details at www.retrofitbaltimore.org

Wed, June 13, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. John Lippert: "Slash Your Home's Energy Usage, Cut Your Energy Bill, and Help the Environment" For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Sat, June 16, 9:30am – 10:30am, 1st Annual 5K for the Bay, Quiet Waters Park join Chesapeake Bay supporters far and wide for the 1st Annual 5K for the Bay. Starting at 8:30 am, participants will enjoy a exceptional 3.1 mile run/walk along the South River in one of Annapolis' most beautiful parks. Registration is only \$30 (kids under 10 are free and leashed pets are welcome). You can register today and support of a cause we care deeply about--restoring our beloved Chesapeake Bay. www.cbtrust.org/site/c.miJPKXPCJnH/b.5368633/k.BDEA/Home.htm

Sat, June 16 10am, Washington Gardener Magazine's DC PLANT SWAP, Come with plants to swap or a snack to share if you are plant-less. Free and open to anyone to attend. At the H Street FreshFarm, Farmers Market in NE Washington, DC.

Sat, June 16, 11:30-1:30 (?) – Solar Gadget "Show & Tell", Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Greenbelt MD. Join the Greenbelt Common Security Club in the CHEARS.org Three Sisters Garden Outdoor Education Classroom to learn about various solar devices such as solar cooker, solar garden lamps, phone rechargers, etc. For more details, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Sat, June 16, 2012 9am–4:30pm, The Ward 7 Solar Coop / Dc Sun Is Hosting A:Green Living Crazy Fun Solar Stuff Renewable Energy Super Efficient Way-To-Save Big \$, Free Tech Show, HD Woodson Senior HS, 540 55th St NE DC 20019, Ward 7 Solar Coop, info@dcsolarflare.com, www.dcsolarflare.com

Mon, June 18, Panel: What's Recyclable in Montgomery County, 8-9:30 pm, Silver Spring, MD. A special opportunity at the Silver Spring Jewish Center to learn from Montgomery County staff about what's recyclable in the community. Staff members will provide a virtual tour of the local recycling center, give the ins and outs of the MoCo recycling program, and answer all of those nagging questions about what's recyclable in the community. For more information, contact Ellen Haber, ellenhaber@aol.com

Tues, June 19, 5% Day at Mount Washington Whole Foods, 8 am-9 pm, Baltimore, MD: Pick up a few goodies at Whole Foods in Mount Washington on June 19th and 5% of your purchase will support Baltimore Green Works free public programming. For more information, go to <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events/>

Wed, June 20, Sustainable Speaker Series presents Tom Wilber on Fracking!, 7 pm, Enoch Pratt, Central Branch, Baltimore, MD: Join us in welcoming the author of Under the Surface: Fracking, Fortunes, and the Fate of the Marcellus Shale, Tom Wilber. Wilber takes a journalistic view of the controversies surrounding hydraulic-fracking of the Marcellus Shale. For more information, go to <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events/>.

Thurs, June 21, DIY Native Bee Nest Site at Irvine Nature Center, 7 - 8:30 pm, Owings Mills, MD: Everyone knows why honeybees are amazing, but did you know there are many other native bees living in Maryland? These important parts of our landscape often go unnoticed. Come find out who they are and then create a place for these peaceful pollinators to find shelter! Materials provided. Ages 12 & up welcome. Free for members, \$10 for non-members. Details, registration and directions at www.ExploreNature.org.

Thurs/Fri, June 21 – 22, 2012 Climate Leadership Summit, American University in Washington, D.C The Climate Leadership Summit provides a unique opportunity to engage in discussion with key decision-makers at peer institutions and collaborate on ways to advance sustainability efforts on campuses across the country. This year's summit, being held June 21-22 at American University in Washington, D.C., will celebrate the first 5 years of the ACUPCC showcasing successes and milestones while also planning the future direction. [http://centerforgreenschools.org/utility-nav/blog/12-05-03/Center for Green Schools Opportunities 2012 Climate Leadership Summit.aspx](http://centerforgreenschools.org/utility-nav/blog/12-05-03/Center%20for%20Green%20Schools%20Opportunities%202012%20Climate%20Leadership%20Summit.aspx)

Fri, June 22, Great American Backyard Campout at Irvine Nature Center, 6:30 pm, Owings Mills, MD: Join the rest of America in this annual tradition promoted by the National Wildlife Federation! Pitch a tent at Irvine, head out for a night hike with us, do some stargazing, then enjoy a campfire snack before bed. In the morning, we'll listen to the sounds of the forest waking up and share a light breakfast. Pre-registration is required; Irvine provides a limited number of tents (please mention that you need one when registering). Please eat dinner before arriving promptly at 6 p.m. All ages. Details, registration and directions at www.ExploreNature.org.

Tues, June 26, 2012, Baltimore Green Drinks, Patio at Dick's in the Inner Harbor
www.greendrinks.org/index.php?country=USA&city=Baltimore/www.facebook.com/pages/Green-Drinks-Baltimore/

Tues, June 26, 4pm – 5pm, Baltimore City Sustainability Commission Meetings, Department of Planning, 8th Fl, 417 E. Fayette St. 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.
www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/OfficeofSustainability.aspx

Wed-Fri, June 27 – 29, School Sustainability Leaders' Summit, USGBC offices, Washington, D.C The Center for Green Schools at USGBC is now accepting applications to attend this summer's School Sustainability Leaders Summit from June 27-29. The Summit will be held at our offices in Washington, D.C. and is designed for school district or school system staff who are the point people for sustainability within their organization. [http://centerforgreenschools.org/utility-nav/blog/12-05-03/Center for Green Schools Opportunities Sustainability Summit.aspx](http://centerforgreenschools.org/utility-nav/blog/12-05-03/Center%20for%20Green%20Schools%20Opportunities%20Sustainability%20Summit.aspx)

Sat, June 30, Sounds of Hope Fundraiser for IPL, 7-10 pm, Washington, DC. The Potter's House in Adam's Morgan provides a family friendly, fun space for performers and charities to entertain and educate the community. Come support Interfaith Power & Light (MD.DC.NoVA), listen to singer/songwriter Patricia Morrison, and enjoy some home-cooked food. For more information, contact Josef Lorentz, programassociate@gwipl.org.

JULY PREVIEW & BEYOND

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/>.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS

Support Julie Gabrielli's Project to Fund a Local Video Project

"I Want America to Thrive" is a short film that tells stories that we don't get to see enough: real people doing great work in pursuit of their vision of a thriving future for America – and the world. It's being produced by local green architect, Julie Gabrielli. For details, go to <http://www.indiegogo.com/america-thrives> This is a crowdfunding site to raise money for production of the film and for five creative, community-building organizations.

Support the 99% Economy Scholar Fund

To build a 99% economy, we need to invest in a new generation of economic thinkers to challenge the old-economy paradigms. Unfortunately, little funding is available for new-economy scholars. Watch a short video to learn about CCAN Field Director, Keith Harrington's vision for a democratic-economy movement, and donate to his scholarship fund. Proceeds will support Keith's tuition at the New School for Social Research (MA in Economics 2014) and organizing efforts on campus to add new-economy courses to the curriculum. Learn and donate at: www.indiegogo.com/neweconomy.

Read two great articles in Yes! Magazine

SMEI participants in our Common Security Club/Resilience Circles are familiar with Boston organizer, Sarah Byrnes, who helps coordinate our circles through the Institute for Policy Studies. Read two of her recent articles in YES! Magazine online. The first features the Greenbelt Common Security Club. <http://www.yesmagazine.org/blogs/common-security-clubs/overturing-citizens-united-one-city-at-a-time> The second looks at the role of "Affinity Groups" (including discussion circles) <http://www.yesmagazine.org/blogs/common-security-clubs/how-small-grops-can-power-big-change>