

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **October 2012**. It is going out to over **1,580 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/2012/2012-10.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 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>.

Lisa Ferretto also puts together an excellent Baltimore Green Events Listing at <http://greeneventsaltimore.com/>

This announcement is organized into five sections:

- 1) Second Sunday Forum, Earth Forum of Howard County, Baltimore Green Forum
- 2) Discussion Circle Update
- 3) Community Events
- 4) November Preview & Beyond
- 5) Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Please note that NWEI has some new discussion guides, prices have gone up to \$25 (plus S/H) and SMEI offers a few other topics beyond the NWEI materials. (Scroll down to the discussion circle update)

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

***THIRD* SUNDAY FORUM (note temporary change of day)**

Sun., Oct 21, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm

A Community of Gardeners, documentary produced by Cintia Cabib

Vegetables, fruits, flowers and herbs are grown in community gardens throughout D.C. by people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities. This timely and locally produced documentary shows how gardening has helped create community where none existed. And it shows how community gardens sustain us all in so many ways. It also traces the history of community gardens in the U.S. from the late 19th century to the current renaissance.

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](tel:3016520492) or e-mail forum@simplicity-matters.org . Please include your phone number in your message.

Earth Forum of Howard County

Sunday, October 21, 2012, 2-4:45 PM

First Presbyterian Church of Howard County, Columbia, MD

“Quality Water for Life”

Water, once thought to be available in unlimited supply, has become a topic for urgent attention. Why is water increasingly polluted, restricted and expensive? How can we provide essential, high quality, life-sustaining water for ourselves and future generations?

These questions are the focus of the first in the “Water for Tomorrow” 2012-2013 Earth Forum series on Sunday, Oct 21. The October Forum will open with Chesapeake Bay Foundation representative, Brian Wessner presenting the Chesapeake Bay Blueprint for increasing water quality. Co-presenter Jim Caldwell, Howard County Storm Water Manager, will explain the Howard County model for the coming transformation in water use, conservation and clean up in the County. He will detail how each of us are important in improving water, from rooftop to drive way. Mr. Caldwell will also lead a question and answer session from 3:45 – 4:45 PM.

Held at First Presbyterian Church, 9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD. Free. Refreshments provided. Open to all. For more information, E-mail earthforum@firstpreshc.org or call church at [410-730-3545](tel:4107303545). Details and directions at www.earthforumhc.org.

November Earth Forum - Sun., Nov. 18, “Food, Water, Life” (scroll down to November Preview for more details)

The Baltimore Green Forum

The Baltimore Green Forum

Sunday, October 28, 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 (tentative): Jen Brock-Cancellieri of MDLCV on Elections

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

November Baltimore Green Forum (tentative) – Sun, Nov 25, Will Chandler on Climate Change

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 by Lester Brown, (SE) Sacred Economics by Charles Eisenstein

IMPORTANT NOTE: Effective Oct 1, 2012 NWEI discussion circle guides went up to \$25 plus s/h (except a few rare exceptions). 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 for Sustainable Living, Common Security Club, World on the Edge, World of Health, and Hungry for Change **There are five new circles scheduled this month, two in Howard County, three in Prince Georges County, all marked with an asterisk (*)**

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

* **Sandy Spring Friends** (VS) First Session: Sun, Oct 14, 10:10 am, CS: Charlie Goedeke, tooldude@me.com

* **Columbia Jewish Center** (MF) Intro Meeting: Wed, Oct 24, 7:30 pm, CS: Bonnie Sorak, goecsa@yahoo.com

Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Laurel, (VS or CSL), dates "tbd" CS: Liz Feighner, eumcgreenteam@gmail.com

Kittamaqundi Community Church, Olivers Carriage House (CSC) Oct/Nov (tbd) CS: Florence Miller

hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Robinson Nature Center (tbd) CS: Peggy Clark, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Harpers Choice Village Center (tbd), CS: Susie Jordan, 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 "Matchmaker" Circle (tbd, as soon as we get a critical mass), CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Prince Georges County

* **Greenbelt** (SE) **Intro Meeting, Tues, Oct 9, 7 pm** CS: Lore Rosenthal

* **Greenbelt** (CSC) **Intro Meeting, Tues, Oct 9, 7 pm** CS: Lore Rosenthal

* **Greenbelt** (WOE) **Intro Meeting, Wed, Oct 10, 1 pm** CS: Lore Rosenthal

College Park (VS or MF) Fall 2012 (tbd) CS: Carol Nezzo/Mary Jane Boatman, mjb180@comcast.net

Mt. Rainier (CSC) Fall 2012 (tbd) CS: Sam Williams, concisewilliams@gmail.com

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

Montgomery County

Choices for Sustainable Living This newly revised discussion circle has several of us eager to put together a group. Our own Lena Rotenberg had a hand in developing it. We probably will start in January, so contact Marneyb@earthlink.net to be included.

Hungry for Change: Food, Ethics and Sustainability Discussion Circle, (will start as soon as there is a critical mass). A six-week discussion circle using the Northwest Earth Institute's curriculum. 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.simplicitematters.org/circles>, or email Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tues, Oct 2, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, (*new location*) Greenbelt Community Church, "Population & Climate Change" *EDITOR's NOTE: sorry, this announcement is going out too late for you to attend.*

View an early draft of the presentation at <http://www.aosc.umd.edu/~ekalnay/Population-WCRP-Kalnay3.pdf>

For more info (for an updated/complete draft), contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Wed, Oct 3, Environmental Education for Everyone: 'K through Grey' Resources, 2 – 3 pm, Washington, DC: EPA's Office of Environmental Education (OEE), has a wealth of information on educational resources that educators can

use off the shelf in formal school classrooms and informal educational settings, or in development of a larger curriculum. OEE has programs for students of all ages - "K through Grey" - and will walk you through all of these great resources available on the OEE website. www.epa.gov/schools/webinars.html

Wed, Oct 3, Evening with the Stars of Energy Efficiency Awards Dinner, 7 – 10 pm, Washington, DC:

The 2012 Evening with the Stars of Energy Efficiency Awards Dinner is especially meaningful, as it will be the 20th commemoration of these prestigious awards, and also will celebrate the Alliance's 35th anniversary. Founded in 1993, the Evening with the Stars of Energy Efficiency Awards Dinner recognizes deserving individuals, organizations, companies, learning institutions and government programs that have demonstrated a significant and tangible commitment to the cause of energy efficiency both in the United States and abroad. Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, Washington, D.C. ase.org/dinner

Thurs, Oct 4, Managing Energy in Educational Facilities, 12 – 1 pm, Washington, DC: Join us for our Potomac Edison Trade Ally educational webinars on select Thursdays.. The first half of the webinar series will cover the new enhancements to the Potomac Edison energy efficiency incentive programs, where you can learn all about the cash incentives available for your commercial or industrial energy efficiency projects. In the second half, we will have a guest speaker present on a variety of educational energy efficiency topics. energysaveMD@saic.com. www.energysaveMD.com

Thurs, Oct 4, Local Gardening 102,, 2-3 pm, Wheaton, MD: So you have been gardening for a few years, but still feel like there are some holes in your gardening knowledge and you are frustrated by a few obstacles? This class is for you. We'll take it to the next level and talk about local gardening challenges like poor landscape drainage, gardening on a slope, dealing with deer, planting in clay soil, etc. We'll examine case studies of local gardeners who have conquered these common garden challenges. More details: <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/xperience.shtm>
Attention all homeowners, green advocates, and smart investors! The

Sat/Sun, Oct 6/7, 22nd Annual Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Tour of Solar & Green Homes, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This fall, green enthusiasts like you have the unique opportunity to view more than 70 energy-efficient homes throughout D.C., Maryland and Virginia. *Tour Guides available for \$5 at our distributors or the guide can be downloaded for free at <http://solartour.org/download.html>. *NOTE: Friends of SMEI are involved in tours in Greenbelt, University Park, and Howard County. Be sure to check them out! Howard County Green Homes Now!*
<http://www.transitionhoco.org/committees/energy>

Sat, Oct 6, 3 pm, Research on Climate Change, University Park, MD. Church of the Brethren will be one of 65 solar and green building sites open to the public from 11-5 and will demonstrate how a community solar project can be an alternative to individual home solar installations. At 3 pm Ross Salawitch one of members of University Park Community Solar LLC and a climate scientist at the University of Maryland will present his research on climate change. The church is located at 4413 Tuckerman St and Baltimore Ave (Route 1) about a mile South of the UMD campus.

Oct 6-7; Home-Scale Permaculture Design Course- Session 2, 8:30am - 5:30pm, Baltimore, MD: Permaculture, a term originated by Australian ecologists, Bill Mollison and David Holmgren, means permanent culture. Using both ancient and modern knowledge, this design methodology mimics universal patterns found in nature to create healthy human communities. Guided by ethical behavior, Permaculture is both theory and practice. It is a system of designing ecologically inspired landscapes that integrate food production with energy, shelter and water. 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road, Baltimore, MD 21234. www.heathcote.org/cms/content/home-scale-permaculture-design-course

Sat, Oct 6, Civic Works' 10th Annual Day of Service, 7:45 am – 1:00 pm, Baltimore, MD: Join us for volunteer projects throughout Northeast Baltimore City. We'll be planting trees, fixing up schools, creating community gardens, helping people reduce energy use, and more! The Day of Service celebrates the life of Ricky Myers and will be held rain or shine. Civic Works, Clifton Mansion 2701 St. Lo Drive in Clifton Park. To register as an individual or group, contact us at volunteer@civicworks.com or 410-366-8533. www.civicworks.com/events/day_of_service/volunteers/

Sat, Oct 6, Volunteer with Audubon's garden team, 9 – 10:30 am, Baltimore, 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. This month, we are preparing to expand our wetland garden and installing a new fence. 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/

Sat, Oct 6, Seed Saving Workshop, Noon, Washington, DC: Knowledge Commons DC will be holding a Seed Saving workshop at the Neighborhood Farm Initiative's Fort Totten DC location. The workshop will be run by Kathy Jentz, who is editor and publisher of Washington Gardener Magazine! A life-long gardener, Kathy believes that growing plants should

be stress-free and enjoyable. Her philosophy is inspiration over perspiration. Please register here: <http://c.knowledgecommonsdc.org/classes/seed-saving/>. Do so quickly because spots will fill up fast!

Sun, Oct 7, Takoma Hort Club Annual Bulb Sale, 10 am – 5 pm, Takoma Park, MD: The Takoma Horticultural Club (THC) is participating in the 31st Annual Takoma Park Street Festival by hosting a booth (near Carroll and Tulip) where you can find all your spring bulbs. This is the club's only fundraiser for the year, so please come out, and bring your neighbors and friends! The festival will have live bands on three stages, over 200 artists and crafters, community groups, food vendors, and much more. Members of the Takoma Horticultural Club get a 10% discount on all bulb purchases. You are welcome to renew or join the club at the Fair. The membership fee is \$12 for the rest of this year. Rain or Shine Directions and details at www.takomafestival.com.

Oct 8 – 10, 2012 Watershed and Stormwater Conference, Baltimore, MD: At the Center for Watershed Protection (Center), we want everybody to know that an integrated watershed approach is the key to ensuring a future of fresh, clean water, healthy natural resources. Since 1992, the Center worked in numerous communities to provide practical solutions for responsible land and water management, with the goals of providing sound scientific research, advancing state-of-the-art practices, ensuring practitioners have the right tools, and promoting widespread implementation of the most effective watershed management techniques. Baltimore Marriott Waterfront 700 Aliceanna St. Baltimore, MD 21202. www.cwp2012event.awsps.org/

Tues, Oct 9, 6:30-9:00 pm, Green Drinks DC at DC Reynolds, Featuring Adrienne and Paul Kmiotek from, Fat Worm Compost! DC Reynolds, 3628 Georgia Ave. NW www.fatwormcompost.com.

Wed, Oct 10, Sandy Wiggins: The Alice Ferguson Foundation Watershed Study Center, 6 – 8pm, Washington, DC: Sandy Wiggins, renowned local green building advocate, will discuss the closest local Living Building Challenge project, the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Potomac Watershed Study Center in Accokeek, MD which is set to begin construction this fall. The Living Building Challenge issued by the International Living Futures Institute (<https://ilbi.org>) defines the most advanced measure of sustainability in the built environment possible today and acts to diminish the gap between current limits and ideal solutions. University of District of Columbia 4200 Connecticut Ave, NW Building 41 Room A03. Washington, DC 20008. dclbcc.eventbrite.com/

Thurs, Oct 11 Bethesda Green Gala @ 2000 Tower Oaks Blvd, 6-9 pm, Rockville, MD: Enjoy an evening of inspiration, celebration, and community recognition of local green champions. Open bar with local beer and wine, heavy hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, and presentation of the Bethesda Magazine Green Award Winners. Fund-raising event at the Platinum LEED certified Tower Building, 2000 Tower Oaks Blvd, Rockville, MD. Tickets: \$100. Contact: Dave Heffernan, dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org, 301-767-7222. More info at www.bethesdagreen.org.

Thurs, Oct 11, 10th Annual Baltimore Green Week Request for Proposal Q&A, 2012; 6 – 8pm, Baltimore, MD: Are you thinking about presenting a lecture, tour, film screening, art show, workshop, or hands-on project during Baltimore Green Week 2013? Have you downloaded the 2013 Request for Proposal but aren't sure how to get started putting your ideas into action? Nature walk? Panel discussion? Art exhibit? If it connects, inspires or informs people around sustainable living, we're interested in hearing from you! BGW staff will be on hand to brainstorm, talk about past program successes, and answer any questions you may have about participating and the proposal submission process. Proposals are due November 20, 2012. If you are interested in joining the Q&A, please, RSVP to bgw@baltimoregreenworks.com. baltimoregreenworks.com/

Thurs, Oct 11, Home Energy Workshop, 7:00-9:00 pm, Baltimore, MD: Are you a homeowner? Chances are that professional weatherization could save you 15-35% in home heating costs! Interfaith Power & Light is teaming up with St. Pius X's Environmental Stewardship Group to teach you how you can save energy, create green jobs, and shrink your carbon footprint. We'll reflect on our own responsibility as people of faith to consider the impact of our electricity use. For more info, contact Josef, program@gwipl.org. At St. Pius X, 6428 York Rd., Baltimore.

Fri, Oct 12, Audubon Urban Bird Watching, 8:00 – 9:30am, Baltimore, MD: Meet at fountain in northwest corner of park. Bring the family to Patterson Park to learn about birds that arrive in Maryland in the fall! Chesapeake Audubon Society will lead the walk and answer questions about our feathered friends. If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email – we have plenty to share! There is no need to RSVP for this free event, just arrive ready to explore! Patterson Park Audubon Center 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Fri, Oct 12, Valley Planning Council 50th Anniversary Celebration, 6 – 8pm Baltimore, MD: Join the VPC as we celebrate 50 years of land preservation in Baltimore county. Be one of the first to see a spectacular new film about Baltimore County's rural valleys and how the work of the VPC has influenced and inspired professional planners, scholars, and teachers internationally. The film has breathtaking shots of the valleys and is a testament to the

accomplishments of VPC and its members over the last 50 years. The work that the VPC performs benefits thousands of Maryland's recreational and commuter bicyclists through their support of smart growth practices and the preservation of uncongested rural roadways. Baltimore, Carroll and Harford Counties have some of the most beautiful rural and agricultural areas in the region, making this area one of the best cycling destinations in the United States. Baltimore Museum of Art, 10 Art Museum Drive. www.thevpc.org/events/vpc-50th-anniversary-celebration/

Fri, Oct 12, Bikemore Homebrew Bike Tour, 7 – 11pm, Baltimore, MD: Sample delicious homebrewed beer, ride your bike, and support Bikemore! Four of Baltimore's best homebrewers--in Woodberry, Remington, Charles Village and Lake Montebello--will welcome guests into their homes and serve you delicious homebrewed beer! You'll receive samples of each brewer's beer along the route, along with hors d'oeuvres specially matched to the beer. Then, at the 4th and final house, the party begins! The tour begins at 7 pm and will wind through Woodberry, Remington, Charles Village, and end at a private home near Lake Montebello around 11 pm--guests are invited to stay until 1 am.

Sat, Oct 13, 10 am-5 pm – CHEARS/Stone Soup 9th Annual Harvest Festival, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Details at: <http://www.chears.org/ical/viewAbstract.php?id=417>

Oct 13 – 14, Irvine's annual fall harvest festival – PumpkinFest!, Owings Mills, MD: PumpkinFest is a fun event for families and communities to celebrate the delights of autumn. Each October, hundreds of families gather at Irvine to enjoy a wholesome day of music, food and fun. For more information about PumpkinFest, contact Courtney Sagal at 443-738-9224. If you would like to volunteer to help, contact Carin Smith at 443-738-9232. Irvine Nature Center 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. explorenature.org/experience-irvine/pumpkinfest

Sat, Oct 13, Valley Planning Council Farm Fair, 8 am – noon, Baltimore, MD: Join us as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Valleys Planning Council with a country farm fair. Morning competitions will take place from 8am-noon. The work that the VPC performs benefits thousands of Maryland's recreational and commuter bicyclists through their support of smart growth practices and the preservation of uncongested rural roadways. Baltimore, Carroll and Harford Counties have some of the most beautiful rural and agricultural areas in the region, making this area one of the best cycling destinations in the United States. www.thevpc.org/alert/coming-soon-vpc-farm-fair-October-13-2012/

Sat, Oct 13, 2012 Green School Summit: Building Environments for Better Learning, 8:00am – 5:30pm, Washington, DC: The National Capital Region Chapter and Maryland Chapter are pleased to present the 2012 Green School Summit: Building Environments for Better Learning on Oct 13 at American University. This summit aims to bring building professionals and public and private school or school system employees together for a day of sharing best practices related to sustainable schools. American University, Mary Graydon Center, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016. usgbcncr.org/_events/details/434

Sat, Oct 13, McElderry Park Trees for Public Health, 9am – 1pm, Baltimore, MD: McElderry Park Trees for Public Health. Join us in planting street trees in a neighborhood that needs them. Oct 13th and 27th 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Meet at 200 N. Lakewood Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224. Gloves and tools provided. Bring drinking water and snack. More info contact Amanda Cunningham at ahc819@gmail.com

Sun, Oct 14, Bike Tour: NW Baltimore, 10am – 12pm, Baltimore, MD: AIA in partnership with the Jewish Museum of Maryland, Baltimore Heritage is offering two free tours of Jewish landmarks: Baltimore by Bike offers a two-hour ride past historic synagogues from Eutaw Place to Druid Hill Park and Park Heights Avenue. FREE. www.aiabalt.com

Sun, Oct 14, Home Energy Workshop, 3:00-4:30 pm, Bethesda, MD: Are you a homeowner? Chances are that professional weatherization could save you 15-35% in home heating costs! Interfaith Power & Light is teaming up with Groundswell, Bethesda Jewish Congregation, and Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church to teach you how you can save energy, create green jobs, and shrink your carbon footprint. We'll reflect on our own responsibility as people of faith to consider the impact of our electricity use. For more info, contact Josef, program@gwipl.org. At Bethesda Jewish Congregation, 6601 Bradley Blvd, Bethesda.

Sun, Oct 14, Nature Art Workshop, Baltimore, MD: Nature Art in the park - The Nature of Change is the second annual summer-long series of exhibitions, workshops & other family-friendly Nature Art Events in an ongoing collaborative project bringing together site-specific works built from natural materials, in the forests of Baltimore City's Parks. Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park 1920 Eagle Drive Baltimore MD 21207. natureartinthepark.wordpress.com/

Mon, Oct 15, Mon, 6:30 buffet (\$13), 7:00 pm film (free), Reel & Meal at the New Deal, "Koch Brothers Exposed". New Deal Café, Greenbelt, MD. <http://www.newdealcafe.com/events/reelAndMeal/>

Mon, Oct 15, Mid-Atlantic Alternatives to Invasive Garden Choices, 8pm, Wheaton, MD: Silver Spring Garden Club meeting at Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD with featured talk on Mid-Atlantic Alternatives to Invasive Garden Choices by John Peter Thompson. Free and Open to the Public.

Wed, Oct 17, Why Environmental Health in School Matters, 2pm – 3pm: Healthy school environments play an important role in the health and academic success of children. Children spend 90 percent of their time indoors, and much of that time is spent in school. Unhealthy school environments can affect attendance, concentration, and performance, as well as lead to expensive, time-consuming cleanup and remediation activities. Join our webinar to learn more about what schools can do to better address environmental health in schools. We will also introduce EPA's new voluntary School Environmental Health: Development and Implementation Guidelines for States. www.epa.gov/schools/webinars.html

Sat, Oct 20, Patterson Park Family Bike Party, 9:30am – 11:30am, Baltimore, MD: Join the Baltimore Family Bike Party for a fall ride on quiet streets around historic Patterson Park. We'll meet at the entrance by the Marble Fountain, ride along Gough and Bank Streets playing spooky tunes, and end with a chance to explore the Patterson Park Pagoda or hang-out at the Patterson Park Playgrounds. Marble Fountain at Patterson Park, South Patterson Park & Lombard Street.

Sat, Oct. 20, 2 p.m.: Climate Reality Project Presentation at Miller Library. Learn the facts of the climate crisis and the links between climate change and the extreme weather. The Climate Reality Project focuses on engaging the public in conversation about how to solve the climate crisis. Presenter Florence Miller is a health educator/gerontologist involved in environmental advocacy and a member of CCIHC.

Sun, Oct 21, Nature Art in the Park Closing / Harvest Eco Festival, Baltimore, MD: Nature of Change is the second annual summer-long series of exhibitions, workshops & other family-friendly Nature Art Events in an ongoing collaborative project bringing together site-specific works built from natural materials, in the forests of Baltimore City's Parks. Gwynns Falls/ Leakin Park 1920 Eagle Drive Baltimore MD 21207. natureartinthepark.wordpress.com/

Tues, Oct 23, 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. Baltimore MD. www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/OfficeofSustainability.aspx

Tues, Oct 23, Getting to Zero: Sustainability and Carbon Neutral Building, 6 – 8pm, Baltimore, MD: Part of 2012 Baltimore Architecture Month. FREE. 1.5 AIA/CES credits. One of the most elusive goals in the sustainability movement is carbon-neutrality: the effort to design and construct buildings, neighborhoods and cities that do not produce additional net carbon emissions in creation or operation. The challenges in achieving carbon-neutrality are multi-faceted, and these panelists, as accomplished architects, student leaders, policymakers, builders and activists, will bring diverse perspectives to the discussion. AIA Baltimore Committee on the Environment. Case[werks], 1501 St. Paul Street, Suite 116, Station North Arts District, 21202. www.aiabalt.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=114#Zero

Oct 24 – 25, Baltimore Ecosystem Study Meeting, Open House & Celebration, Baltimore, MD: All Day Wednesday; Half Day Thursday And: Community Open House and Annual Greening Celebration (in partnership with Parks & People Foundation). Cylburn Arboretum. www.beslter.org/bes_am_asp_2012/bes_am_reg_intro.html

Thurs, Oct 25, Civic Works' Network: Green, 6pm – 9pm, Baltimore MD: 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 networking series, Network: Green! Grab an organic drink and chat it up with all of Baltimore's sustainability minded movers and shakers. Encouraged donation of \$5-\$20. All proceeds from events benefit Civic Works' Green Projects. For more information, please contact eallen@baltimoregreencareers.org or visit GreenPartyforaPurpose.Org

Oct 26 – 27, TEDx Mid Atlantic, 10am-6pm, Washington, DC: BE FEARLESS When we stop worrying about what might go wrong, we discover what is truly possible. We celebrate the stories of the people who weren't afraid to fail, who overcame the odds, and persisted when the outlook was bleak. We'll embark on a journey — filled with stories, songs, and lessons-learned – and the inspiration of those who have demonstrated what is possible when we set aside our fears, act boldly and urgently, and learn from our mistakes. Sidney Harman Hall 610 F St., NW Washington, DC. tedxmidatlantic.com/

Fri, Oct 26, Audubon Tiny Tots Safari, 10:30 – 11:30am, Baltimore, MD: Camouflage! · Meet at the picnic tables on the northeast shore of the Boat Lake. Tiny Tots is an early childhood environmental education program where kids make

a craft, play a game, and read a story. This month, we will see how animals blend in with their environment, and how camouflage is important for predators and prey! Please register at least 2 days before the program. Ages 2-5 with an adult. \$5 suggested donation per child. Patterson Park Audubon Center 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Fri, Oct 26, Baltimore Bike Party, 7 – 9:30 pm, Baltimore, MD: Come ride and party through the great streets of Baltimore City with all your friends the last Friday of every month! Ride! We are here to, above all, ride our bikes! We stay together as a group and follow a pre-determined route through the city. We meet at 7pm on the last Friday of the month at the Washington Monument in Mt. Vernon. The wheels hit the road at 7:30. We usually ride until ~9:30 with 1 or 2 stops along the way. The ride is a slow pace (~6-10mph) designed to keep everyone of all biking abilities together! meet at the Washington Monument in Mt. Vernon Baltimore. baltimorebikeparty.com/

Sat, Oct 27, DC Coop Day, 9 am-4 pm, Washington, DC: Explore the dynamic potential of cooperatives to open economic and community opportunities for a broad range of area residents. Workshop sessions will range from “Coops 101” to specialized sessions on coop “incubators,” food coops, coop banks, alternative energy coops, and more. Film screenings and educational resources will be available. University of the District of Columbia, Building 41, A-03. 4200 Connecticut Avenue NW 20008 (Van Ness/UDC Red Line Metro stop). Learn more and register for the FREE conference at <http://coopdc.org>. For inquiries, contact info@coopdc.org or Calvin Lewis, 202-274-7163.

Sat, Oct 27, Audubon Urban bird watching & Tiny Tots Safari, 8 – 11am, Baltimore, MD: Bring the family to Patterson Park to learn about birds that arrive in Maryland in the fall! Audubon’s conservation director will lead the walk and answer questions about our feathered friends. If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email – we have plenty to share! Tiny Tots is an early childhood environmental education program where kids make a craft, play a game, and read a story. This month, we will discover what it’s like to be an owl hunting at night. Please register at least 2 days before the program. Ages 2-5 with an adult. \$5 suggested donation per child. Patterson Park Audubon Center 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Sat, Oct 27, McElderry Park Trees for Public Health, 9am – 1pm, Baltimore, MD: Join us in planting street trees in a neighborhood that needs them. Oct 13th and 27th 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Meet at 200 N. Lakewood Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224. Gloves and tools provided. Bring drinking water and snack. 200 N. Lakewood Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224. More info contact Amanda Cunningham at ahc819@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER PREVIEW & BEYOND

Thurs, Nov 8, Sustaining Nature in an Urbanizing Landscape, Laurel, MD: The Maryland Department of Natural Resources and its partners, the Baltimore-Washington Partners for Forest Stewardship, is hosting its 4th Annual Workshop at the Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor’s Center. We have some great speakers lined up, including our nationally renowned Keynote Speaker, Governor Parris N. Glendening, who will be joined by the Maryland Department of Planning Secretary Richard E. Hall. Explore how nature, growth and the built environment can coexist in ways that benefit us all. Join us in this conversation with national, state and local leaders in Smart Growth and Regional Planning. Learn how members of the Baltimore-Washington community are working to sustain nature in this urbanizing landscape. Registration (\$25) and information is at: <http://sustainingnature.eventbrite.com>.

Sun, Nov 18, “Food, Water, Life”, at The Earth Forum of Howard County, presented by Dr. Joseph T. Spence, 2– 4:45 PM at First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, MD. Dr. Spence, Director of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, USDA, will explain how agricultural research is addressing water problems related to climate change, health, and population growth while providing a sustainable, safe, and nutritious food supply. Held at First Presbyterian Church, 9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD. Free. Refreshments provided. Open to all. E-mail earthforum@firstpreshc.org or call [410-730-3545](tel:410-730-3545). Details and directions at www.earthforumhc.org.

Sun, Nov 18 "Do the Math" 350.org event tour - DC event TBD - save the date. It’s simple math: we can burn 565 more gigatons of carbon and stay below 2°C of warming — anything more than that risks catastrophe for life on earth. The only problem? Fossil fuel corporations now have 2,795 gigatons in their reserves, five times the safe amount. And they’re planning to burn it all — unless we rise up to stop them. This November, Bill McKibben and 350.org are hitting the road to build the movement that will change the terrifying math of the climate crisis. <http://math.350.org/?akid=2197.250699.vJz8GT&rd=1&t=1>

Tues, Nov 20, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, (*new day*) Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. Brother Henry and Lore Rosenthal, presenting “The Great Turning 2012”. What do various

environmental groups say about the Mayan and Hopi Prophecies of Dec 21, 2012? Will this date usher in a new era for good?. For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS

Oct 1-15 – Join NWEI’s Eco-Challenge. For details, visit <http://www.ecochallenge.org/>