

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **February 2013**. It is going out to more than **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/2013/2013-02.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 seven sections:

- Second Sunday Forum
- Earth Forum of Howard County
- Baltimore Green Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- March Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

We hope everyone will come out on **February 17th to support the "Climate Legacy Action" in DC.** <http://act.350.org/signup/presidentsday>. Details below. This promises to be an enormous rally. We need you there!

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

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM * New Location! Must RSVP for Directions *

Sunday, February 10, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm

The Consuming Society (following up on our discussion at last month's forum)

Led by Karen and Jamie Scharff

Annie Leonard in The Story of Stuff <http://www.storyofstuff.com/> presents a critical vision of our consumer-based economy, following products from the extraction of materials to final disposal. We will watch the short (20 minute) video and then have our usual rousing discussion. If you have seen the film and formed opinions, please come and share them! If you haven't yet seen it, please join us and see what everyone's talking about.

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, February 17
2 - 4:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church,
9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD.

“Predicting Extreme Weather Events”

Dr. Wayne Higgins, Director of the NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center (CPC), will show stunning illustrations to describe how new techniques have improved hurricane/snow storm tracking. At this fourth session in the “Water for Tomorrow” Earth Forum series, Dr. Higgins will highlight the recent successes the CPC has had with providing timely information to the public about water-related extreme weather.

Enjoy refreshments at 3 pm and browse the exhibits. Free and open to all.

Information at www.earthforumhc.org. Contact earthforum@firstpreshc.org or call **410-730-3545**.

The Earth Forum of Howard County is a community forum of citizens who meet to learn, discuss, explore and form action groups to address vital issues of climate change and care of the natural world. We seek beneficial ways of preserving and using its valuable resources carefully and equitably, and explore options for sustainable living in the 21st Century. Location: Sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Howard County in partnership with other faith communities, related county government agencies, climate change and sustainable living activists.

THE BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

**Sunday, February 24,
4 pm - 5:30 pm,
MD Presbyterian Church,
1105 Providence Road, Towson, MD
www.mpchurch.org/About.htm**

Topic: Good Stewards of Land and Sea?

What does it mean to say that we must be good Stewards of Land and Sea? Dan Smith will be suggesting that we may need to take this admonition to a whole new level—to consider ourselves as the possible co-creators, with a nod to our ancient wisdom. This may be difficult for most of us to imagine—but come to the forum and just give it a try.

Dan is the author of BestPossibleWorld.com and is active on the Open Minds Forum. People from the Baltimore/Timonium area might even think of this as a Grace and Green initiative. For more information contact Dan Smith: danthroopsmith@gmail.com or 443-799-7201.

For updated program info, contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 301-345-2234, or check www.baltimoregreenforum.org .

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>

We ended 2012 having started 12 circles. So far this year, we have started 2 circles (280 total circles since 2002!). Most recent topics have included Voluntary Simplicity, Hungry for Change, Choices for Sustainable Living, Common Security Club, World on the Edge, World of Health, Menu for the Future,, and Sacred Economics. **There are two new circles scheduled for Feb, both in Howard County, marked with an asterisk (*)**

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

* **Oakland Manor** (PBF) Feb 2-Feb 9, CS: Florence Miller, fam57@verizon.net

* **Oakland Manor** (CSL) Feb 16-Mar 23, CS: Florence Miller, fam57@verizon.net

Kittamaquidi Community Church, Olivers Carriage House (CSC) March/April (tbd) CS: Florence Miller
hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Howard County Conservancy (DSOP or MF), May 2013, CS: Florence Miller
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

Anne Arundel County

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, Severna Park, MD (tbd), CS: Retta Barkley

Prince Georges County

Greenbelt (WOE, VS, CSC, SE) 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

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.

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

Rockville (GW) CS: Michal Freedman

Washington, DC

Dupont Circle/Adams Morgan (CSC) CS: Rob Thomason, Laura Gubisch, Jaclyn Stallard, email lore@simplicity-matters.org, if interested.

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

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

"Circles List"/"Matchmaking"

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

We have transitioned to a regional structure for the state. Please use the emails below for more information about circles starting in your county.

SMEI Regional Coordinators:

Baltimore City/Baltimore Co.: CirclesBalto@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal)

Carroll Co.: CirclesCarroll@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Frederick & Washington Co.: CirclesFredWashCo@simplicity-matters.org (Lena Rotenberg)

Howard Co.: CirclesHoCo@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal).

See also **Climate Change Initiative of Howard County** (CCIHC) www.hococlimatechange.org

Montgomery Co.: CirclesMontgomery@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Prince Georges Co.: CirclesPG@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal)

Washington DC: CirclesDC@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Elsewhere in Maryland or Jefferson Co., WV: Circles@simplicity-matters.org or 301-432-8721 (Lena Rotenberg)

For a list of our **most popular NWEI-published discussion topics**, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/volunteers/forms/7guides.pdf>

If you are **starting your own circle** and would like to have your blurb posted here and on our website, please email it to Lena@simplicity-matters.org

For more info. about our discussion circles, visit our Discussion Circles page, <http://www.simplicitymatters.org/circles>, or email Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sat, Feb 2, Baltimore Green Fest, 12 Noon–4 pm, Baltimore, MD

Come and learn how local nonprofits and businesses are working to create a greener, more sustainable Baltimore through interactive workshops. Sample delicious food from local restaurants, and don't forget to bring your bike for a road safety bike ride with Bikemore. There will be crafts and activities for kids, raffle prizes, and more. Event sponsored by Civic Works' Retrofit Baltimore. Location: The Mt. Washington School, 1801 Sulgrave Ave, 21209. www.retrofitbaltimore.org/calendar

Sat, Feb 2, 8th Annual Seed Exchange Hosted by *Washington Gardener Magazine*, 12:30–4 pm, Annandale, VA

Speakers, catalog swap table, rare seeds, etc. All are welcome—even if you have no seeds to trade! \$15 fee. Location: Green Spring Gardens. Registration is required and details can be found at: www.washingtongardener.blogspot.com or contact Kathy Jentz at 301-588-6894 or WGardenermag@aol.com. Directions at www.brooksidegardens.com.

Sun, Feb 3 (first of five sessions, thru April 21), All Natural Methods & Practices of Honeybee Stewardship Workshop, Baltimore, MD

Cost for five-sessions is \$100 with full registration and payment. Student discount of \$50 with valid student ID presented at sign-in desk at first session. Location: Baltimore Free Farm Sustainability Center, 3510 Ash Street, Baltimore, MD 21211. For more information, go to <http://www.baltimorefreefarm.org/>,

Tues, Feb 5, Green Building Institute Networking, 5:30–8:30 pm

The mission of the Green Building Institute is to foster sustainable building, energy, land use practices and technologies for building professionals, businesses and communities. If you have time, we have enough food and drink for all. To RSVP and get involved, call 443.733.1234 or email info@greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Tues, Feb 5, Design Conversations, 6–8:30pm, Baltimore, MD

A group of volunteers loosely curates this monthly series of events (first Tuesdays) that focus on rotating topics that are timely and engaging. Free. Cash bar, AV hookup available for spontaneous presentations! Location: Windup Space, 10 W North Ave., Baltimore. For more information: dcenterbaltimore.tumblr.com, [twitter.com/#!/dcenterbmore](https://twitter.com/dcenterbmore), facebook.com/groups/dcenterbaltimore, and www.dcenterbaltimore.com/.

Tues, Feb 5, Practice Greenhealth Webinar, 2–3pm

Investing in Energy Efficiency: An Introduction to The Green Revolving Fund—a growing trend in the field of sustainability, which serves as a financing mechanism that helps institutions reduce operating expenses and greenhouse gas emissions, while creating regenerating funds for future projects. For more information, go to <http://practicegreenhealth.org/webinars/administration-finance-series-investing-energy-efficiency-introduction-green-revolving-fund>.

Thurs, Feb 7, 14 and 28, Preschool Programs: A Long Winter's Nap, Birdie Valentine and Winter Wonderland, 10 am, Woodstock, MD

Come to the Howard County Conservancy with master naturalist and retired kindergarten teacher Caroline Kosisky. All three programs include a craft, activity and story. Parents must remain with child during program. \$5 per child. For more information, contact Tabby Fique at tabby.fique@hcconservancy.org or 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hcconservancy.org.

Thurs, Feb 7, Bluebirds & Blue Martinis at Irvine Nature Center, 6:30–9:30 pm, Owings Mills, MD

Join us for some cerulean-colored fun and frivolity! Learn about bluebirds, their ecology and behaviors, and find out what will encourage these plump, yet active, little thrushes to visit your home and garden. Beverages, cocktails and a simple dinner will be served. Presentation by Katharine Patterson. 21+ only. \$20 per person. For more information, contact Clare at NaldrettC@ExploreNature.org or 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org.

Thurs, Feb 7–Sun, Feb 10, Annual Conference of Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education: Understanding the Natural World, Ocean City

Location: Princess Royale. For more information, go to www.maeoe.org/conference/2013/index.php.

Fri, Feb 8, Screening of the Film The End of the Line (82 minutes), 7–9:00 pm, Rockville MD

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville's Green Sanctuary Team is hosting this documentary film screening about the global implications of ocean overfishing. Filmed across the world and featuring top scientists, indigenous fishermen and fisheries enforcement officials. For more information about the film: <http://endoftheline.com/film/>. Screening location: UUCR's Founders Hall, Building 1, 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville MD 20850. Map and directions at <http://www.uucr.org/directions.php>. Coffee and tea will be provided, bring your own brown bag dinner/snack if you wish. Contact chbisnett@gmail.org if you have any questions!

Fri, Feb 8, Audubon Urban Bird Watching Walk, 8–9:30 am, Baltimore, MD

Learn about the many birds that reside in Patterson Park in the winter! Audubon experts from Chesapeake Audubon Society will be on hand to answer questions about our feathered friends. If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email. No need to RSVP, just arrive ready to explore! Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of Patterson Park. For more information, call Audubon Center at 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. Bird walks occur rain or shine on the second Friday (in collaboration with Chesapeake Audubon Society) and the last Saturday of each month. pattersonpark.audubon.org/.

Friday February 8th, Saturday February 9th OR Sunday February 10th, Getting Out of Your Own Way Workshop for Women with Ginny Robertson, 10 am – 5pm, Lutherville, MD.

One day workshop. You choose the day you want to attend. For more info or to register go to www.GinnyRobertson.com and click on Upcoming Events FEB. Pay at the end of the workshop based on the value you receive and your ability to pay.

Tuesday, February 8th, 5:30-7:30 pm, Power Hour Plus: Networking Naturally. Baltimore, MD

Ginny Roberston helps you learn how to transform “cocktail chatter” into meaningful opportunities and to be more at ease the next time you walk into a room of strangers.

Notre Dame of Maryland, 4701 N. Charles St. \$15. Please register here:

<http://www.rsvpbook.com/powerhourplus>

Sat, Feb 9, Amazing Reptiles and Amphibians, 10 am, Woodstock, MD

Come to the Howard County Conservancy to see presenter Ray Bosmans and his collection of live reptiles and amphibians. Learn their habits, amazing adaptations and interesting stories. FREE EVENT.

For more information, contact Devon Kosisky at devon.kosisky@hconservancy.org or 410-465-8877,

Directions and details at www.hconservancy.org.

Sat, Feb 9, Maple Magic at Irvine Nature Center, 1–2:30 pm, Owings Mills, MD

Join Irvine's naturalists in a quest to make delicious maple syrup. Learn how to identify maple trees, properly tap a tree to collect its sugary sap, and convert the sticky fluid into syrup using Irvine's enormous evaporator. It's the perfect way to follow up a great pancake breakfast! All ages. \$10 per person. For more information, contact Clare, NaldrettC@ExploreNature.org, 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org. Also occurs on Feb 10, Feb 16 and Feb 17.

Sat, Feb 9, Activate Your Inner Citizen: GREENING University, 9 am–12:30 pm, Baltimore

Workshops and resources detailing the best practices for gardening and managing open spaces, led by Baltimore's premier gardening experts! This event is for novice & experienced gardeners, community leaders and community professionals. \$1 to \$3 donation requested. Co-sponsored by CPHA, Parks & People Foundation, Baltimore Green Space, and University of Maryland Extension. Location: Levering Hall, Johns Hopkins University Homewood Campus 3400 North Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21218. For workshops included, go to

www.cphabaltimore.org/ayic-greening-university/.

Sun, Feb 10, Give Up Wasting Energy for Lent and Thereafter! Christ Congregational Church, 12 Noon–1:30 pm, Silver Spring, MD

Come to this Sierra Club presentation to learn how to get quick energy savings and prioritize follow-up actions for the best return on investment. Hear about first-hand experiences with solar power. Get information on incentive programs, rebates, and tax credits. Lunch and child care provided! Location: Colesville Road and Brewster Ave, Silver Spring, MD. Register by sending email to jconklinjr@verizon.net with the subject line “Give Up Wasting Energy.” Please specify the total number in your group and how many children will need child care. Call Jim Conklin at 301-587-6210.

Tues, Feb 12, Baltimore Green Works' Sustainable Speaker Series with Wenonah Hauter, author of *Foodopoly: The Battle over the Future of Food and Farming in America*, 7–9:30 pm, Baltimore, MD

Wenonah Hauter is executive director of Food & Water Watch, a watchdog organization focused on corporate and government accountability as it relates to food, water, and fishing. She also runs an organic family farm in northern Virginia that provides healthy vegetables to more than 500 families in the Washington, DC area as part of the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Location: Enoch Pratt Free Library, Central Branch 400 Cathedral Street, Baltimore 21201. For more information, go to <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events/sustainable-speaker-series/>.

Wed, Feb 13, The Next Generation of Transit: the Key to Montgomery's Green Future, 6:00-8:00 pm, Silver Spring, MD Join the Coalition for Smarter Growth, the Montgomery County Sierra Club, and partners for a panel and discussion about the critical need to invest in transit in Montgomery County to

improve our quality of life, protect our open spaces, and do our part in stopping climate change. Confirmed panelists: Geoff Anderson, CEO of Smart Growth America and Councilmember Roger Berliner. For more information, contact Kelly Blynn, kelly@smartergrowth.net, (202) 675-0016 x127. Directions and details at www.smartergrowth.net/events.

Weds, Feb 13, Irvine Woodland Walks, 11:30 am–12:15 pm, Owings Mills, MD

Join us for a stroll through the woods and see how it transitions from winter to spring. During each walk, we'll focus on a different part of what makes the forest a special and magical place to explore and how we can help keep it that way! This is a great way for new members or those thinking of membership to find out what Irvine is all about. Come dressed for the weather! Pre-k – 1st grade (with adult, siblings welcome). Every other Wednesday, January 30 through March 27. Location: Irvine Nature Center. 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Free for members, \$10 non-members. For more information, go to www.explorenature.org/.

Sat , February 16, TEDxManhattan Official Local Viewing Party, 10 am–6pm, Bethesda, MD

Free, live webcast of “Changing the Way We Eat,” speakers with ideas worth sharing—featuring local social entrepreneur, Cheryl Kollin, presenting Farm to Freezer. Location: Bethesda Green, 4825 Cordell Ave. Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814. For more information, contact Ellen Pechman, ellenpechman@gmail.com. Directions and details to RSVP at: <http://www.meetup.com/greenhome-113/events/93061882/>

Sun, Feb 17, 12 noon, Climate Legacy Action in DC Washington DC President Obama will decide whether to build the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, which will carry 800,000 barrels a day for export. President Obama has just 4 years left to provide the leadership we need to stop climate change that is causing extreme weather like Hurricane Sandy, and Keystone XL is the biggest test of whether he's up for the job. On Presidents Day weekend, we'll be taking to the streets of Washington DC with thousands to form a massive human pipeline, and to tell the President that we expect leadership on climate change, beginning with a rejection of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. act.350.org/signup/presidentsday

Mon, Feb 18, Garden Design Talk, 8 pm (doors open at 7:30 pm), Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD

The Silver Spring Garden Club hosts “Finding Your Own Garden Style” by landscape designer Elin Haaga. Most current garden magazines represent just one kind of garden design, but there are many other options. This event is FREE and open to the public. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz at 301-588-6894 or [WGardenermag@aol.com](mailto:Wgardenermag@aol.com). Directions and details at www.brooksidegardens.com.

Tues, Feb 19, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 103, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. Susan Stewart presents on “Varying Leadership Styles and Roles”. This presentation is good for any volunteer or non-profit organization. For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Wed, Feb 20, Secrets of Scandinavian Sustainable City Planning, 8:00am – 9:30am; Bethesda Green 4825 Cordell Ave Bethesda, MD 20814

Scandinavia has long been recognized as a global leader in sustainability. Save the price of a plane ticket as urban planning expert Chris Jakubiak, AICP, takes us on a fact finding tour of sustainable communities in Malmo, Sweden and Copenhagen, Denmark - right from the comfort and warmth of Bethesda Green. An overview of current development plans in Scandinavia based on the success of previous developments up to this point; techniques, best practices and innovations being used to transform old industrial areas in to modern, sustainable, livable communities. www.eventbrite.com/event/4077957280/efblike

Wed, Feb 20, Trees for the Urban Garden, 7:30 pm, Takoma Park, MD

Our speaker is Kevin Conrad, Curator, Woody Landscape Plant Germplasm Repository at the U.S. National Arboretum. Kevin is responsible for the conservation of woody landscape plants of diverse wild-origin. He manages a repository for the long-term preservation of seeds and clonal material. Hosted by the Takoma Horticultural Club. This event is FREE and open to the public. Location: Historic Takoma at

7328 Carroll Ave. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz at 301-588-6894 or Wgardenermag@aol.com. Directions and details at www.takomahort.org.

Thu, Feb 21, Hearing on TransForm Baltimore: A New Zoning Code for a Growing City, 5 pm, Morgan State University

City Council Bill 12-0152 -TransForm Baltimore, was introduced to the City Council on October 22, 2012. For text and maps related to this code, go to <http://www.rewritebaltimore.org/index.html>. At this site, you can also check for additional planning commission information sessions or hearings at different locations.

Fri, Feb 22, Audubon Tiny Tots Safari, 12:30–1:30 pm, Baltimore, MD

Tiny Tots (aged 2–3 years) is an early childhood environmental education program where kids make a craft, play games, and read a story. This month, Audubon wonders, did you hatch from an egg? Come learn which animals lay eggs and discover the variety of beautiful eggs in our world! Location: Meet at the picnic tables on the northeast shore of the Boat Lake in Patterson Park. \$5 suggested donation per child, with an adult. Patterson Park Audubon Center 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com.

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

Fri, Feb 22, 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! Our wheels hit the road at 7:30, and we usually ride until ~9:30 with 1 or 2 stops along the way. One of our goals is to build a positive bond between cyclists and other citizens of Baltimore. We are all about having a good time and building the cycling community! Location: meet at the Washington Monument in Mt. Vernon Baltimore. For more information, go to baltimorebikeparty.com/.

Sat, Feb 23, RootingDC, Wilson High School, 9:30 am–4:30 pm, Washington, DC

A free, all-day gardening forum that aims to provide education about urban food production and consumption, to cultivate health and preserve the environment through workshops, hands-on demonstrations, round-table discussions and an information fair. Location: 3950 Chesapeake St. NW, two blocks from Tenleytown Metro. To register and for more details, go to www.RootingDC.org.

Sat, Feb 23, Audubon Urban Bird Watching Walk, 8–9:30 am, Baltimore, MD

Learn about the many birds that reside in Patterson Park in the winter! Audubon experts from Chesapeake Audubon Society will be on hand to answer questions about our feathered friends. If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email. No need to RSVP, just arrive ready to explore! Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of Patterson Park. For more information, call Audubon Center at 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. Bird walks occur rain or shine on the second Friday (in collaboration with Chesapeake Audubon Society) and the last Saturday of each month. pattersonpark.audubon.org/.

Sat, Feb 23, 4th Annual B'More Healthy Expo, 10 am–5 pm, Baltimore, MD

The “must-go, must-see, must-be there” health and wellness event in Maryland! Offers something for everyone of every age, including health screenings, family activities, interactive exhibits, three stages of live entertainment, safety and injury prevention, and more! The expo showcases actions one can take and choices they can make to be more healthy. Location: Baltimore Convention Center For more information, go to www.bmorehealthyexpo.com/.

Sat, Feb 23, Audubon Tiny Tots Safari, 10–11 am, Baltimore, MD

Tiny Tots (aged 2–3 years) is an early childhood environmental education program where kids make a craft, play games, and read a story. This month, Audubon wonders, did you hatch from an egg? Come learn which animals lay eggs and discover the variety of beautiful eggs in our world! Location: Meet at the picnic tables on the northeast shore of the Boat Lake in Patterson Park. \$5 suggested donation per child, with an adult. For more information, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410.558.2473, <http://pattersonpark.audubon.org/>, or ppaudubon@gmail.com.

Sat, Feb 23, EarthSave Baltimore Veg Dinner Ed Series, 6-9 pm, 10210 S. Dolfield Rd., Owings Mills, MD will feature a vegan potluck & viewing of “Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home”.

Please bring a dish made without animal products that will serve 8, plus a \$5 donation (members \$2). Or with 1-day notice enjoy dinner without bringing food for \$12 donation. Call [410-252-3043](tel:410-252-3043), write Baltimore@earthsave.org, or go to <http://earthsavebaltimore.org/>.

Sun, Feb 24, Unlikely Friendships: Remarkable Animal Stories, 3 pm, Woodstock, MD

Come join the Howard County Conservancy and author Jennifer Holland as she takes you behind the scenes of her *New York Times* best seller. \$10/family. For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, devon.kosisky@hconservancy.org, 410-465-8877, Directions and details at www.hconservancy.org.

Tues, Feb 26–April 13, Master Naturalist Course, Owings Mills, MD

This 13-session course will engage citizens as stewards of Maryland's natural ecosystems through science-based education and volunteer service in their communities (Feb 26 through April 16 from 6–9 pm on Tuesdays and 9 am–4 pm on Saturdays). It's a big commitment, for a big result for the environment and our children. Location: Irvine Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. \$250. For details or to register, go to www.MasterNaturalist.umd.edu.

Tues, Feb 26, Baltimore Commission on Sustainability Regular Monthly Meeting, 4–5 pm, Baltimore, MD

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. Location: Department of Planning, 8th Fl, 417 E. Fayette St. Baltimore MD. For more information, go to www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/OfficeofSustainability.aspx.

Wed, Feb 27, 16th Annual Bike Maryland Bicycle Symposium, 8:30 am–4:30 pm, Annapolis, MD

Free event to learn from advocates, planners, legislators and more about innovative bicycle initiatives in Maryland! Everyone is invited to this exciting educational event. For more information and to RSVP, go to www.bikemd.org.

Weds, Feb 27, Irvine Woodland Walks, 11:30 am–12:15 pm, Owings Mills, MD

Join us for a stroll through the woods and see how it transitions from winter to spring. During each walk, we'll focus on a different part of what makes the forest a special and magical place to explore and how we can help keep it that way! This is a great way for new members or those thinking of membership to find out what Irvine is all about. Come dressed for the weather! Pre-k – 1st grade (with adult, siblings welcome). Every other Wednesday, January 30 through March 27. Location: Irvine Nature Center. 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Free for members, \$10 non-members. For more information, go to www.explorenature.org/.

Thurs, Feb 28, Network Green/ Baltimore Green Drinks, 6–9 pm, Baltimore, MD

Join this monthly, informal, relaxed networking and happy hour specifically targeting anyone who is interested in the environment. It is our local chapter of the international group Green Drinks. All proceeds benefit Civic Works' Green Projects. Location: The Dogwood, 911 W. 36th Street, Baltimore MD. For more information, bliu@baltimoregreencareers.org and GreenPartyforaPurpose.Org.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES AND TIDBITS

Mon–Fri, Feb 4–8, National Green Week Kick-Off

Green Education Foundation's (GEF) annual event that empowers schools to engage in sustainability focused lessons, projects or activities. Project runs between February 4 and April 30, and participating districts, schools, classrooms or youth groups can choose *any* week between to participate, then select from GEF's sustainability focused programs to be their 'green theme. Participate for the whole week, a day, or just one lesson or activity. For more details, go to www.greeneducationfoundation.org/greenweek.html

February 7-14th, Discounted EcoBall Tickets on Sale (limited), Baltimore, MD

EcoBall showcases the talents of student chefs from Stratford University using locally grown and produced ingredients. Along side our celebrity judges, guests will vote on these culinary treats followed by a little friendly competition at the silent auction table and on the dance floor! For more information, go to <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/ecoball/>

Fri, Feb 8, Deadline for Submitting Baltimore Carbon Challenge Application

City of Baltimore, USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) and Engineered Wood Association (APA) are challenging designers to create a new urban row house design while considering the impact that building materials have on the environment. Fossil fuel use and climate change are important environmental issues facing our nation today. The common denominator for these concerns is greenhouse gases that are emitted into the atmosphere when fossil fuels, such as oil and coal, are burned for energy or when organic materials decay. While most people are aware that North American forests help to address climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, less well known is the fact that wood products continue to store carbon, thus keeping it out of the atmosphere indefinitely. www.apawood.org/CarbonChallenge/Baltimore/.

Thurs, Feb 14--Valentine's Day, Find Fair Trade chocolate Near You!

Since 90 percent of the world's cocoa is grown on small family farms of 12 acres or less, Fair Trade cocoa is directly improving the standard of living for farmers in the poorest regions of the world. To find out a location to purchase it, go to www.greenamerica.org/programs/fairtrade/products/chocolate.cfm.

Fri, Feb 15, 2013 Water-Smart Landscape Photo Contest Deadline

Submit your photo(s) today! Participation is easy and open to the public. Multiple submissions are welcome and photos can depict landscapes from any time of the year (or even past years). Photos of landscapes that depict water-smart landscaping principles in an attractive way will be featured in the Water-Smart Landscape Photo Gallery next spring (with submitter credit). For more information, go to www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor/photocontest.html.

Thurs, Feb 28, Entry Deadline for the 2013 Green Apple Awards

These awards are given to projects that demonstrate sustainability and green endeavors in the built environment. Entry is free and anyone with environmentally-friendly projects in the building and construction sector (either private or local authority) can submit an entry. Projects that have made a positive impact on the built environment in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, preserving heritage, urban design and civil engineering, and related fields are all eligible for entry. For more information, go to premierconstructionnews.com/2012/10/25/the-green-apple-awards-2013-call-for-entries/.

Friday, March 1st, Deadline: Submitting Baltimore Green Week Program Guide Artwork

Local green businesses and organizations are encouraged to participate in the 10th Anniversary of Baltimore Green Week this April. If you are interested in having an advertisement in this year's program guide, please submit your artwork by March 1st. Click here for more information:

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

MARCH PREVIEW AND BEYOND

Sun, March 3, Temple Emanuel's Global Mitzvah Talent Show, 4 pm, Kensington, MD

Join us for a rousing evening of amateur acts. Proceeds benefit the Global Mitzvah Project, which provides direct support to sustainable, self-help projects in impoverished communities around the world. Ticket Prices \$10/adult or \$25/family at the door. Location: 10101 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895. For more information, contact Diane Raphael, 301-942-2000, frontdesk@templeemanuelmd.org, <http://www.templeemanuelmd.org>.

Thurs, March 7, Volunteer Naturalist Training at Irvine Nature Center, 8:30 am–12:30 pm, Owings Mills, MD

This five-session course will teach you how to lead educational field trips for school groups. We'll cover themes, natural history, trailside activities and teaching techniques. No experience necessary--just bring enthusiasm for nature and working with kids. The perfect way for retired teachers to stay active and a great way to fulfill Master Naturalist certification hours! Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 7 through 21, 9:30 am–12:30 pm. Contact Courtney Sagal at 443-738-9224 for information.

Saturday & Sunday, March 16th & 17th, 12th Annual CCBC Women's Expo & Conference, 10am – 5pm, Catonsville, MD Vendor Spaces Still Available. www.WomensExpoMd.com

Wed and Thurs, Mar 20 and 21, Joel Salatin of Polyface Farms Presents Two-Day, Live-Streaming Workshop, Baltimore, MD

Verge Permaculture presents a live-stream format of Joel Salatin (featured in Food, Inc. and The Omnivore's Dilemma) at Carrie Murray Nature Center. The workshop is based on two of Salatin's books: *So You Want to Be a Farmer?* on day one and *Pastured Poultry Profits* on day two. For more details, go to <http://carriemurraynaturecenter.org/>.