

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **March 2013**. **Sorry it is a few days late this month.** It is going out to more than **1,550 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/2013/2013-03.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
- April Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Please be sure to scroll down to the bottom for "**Action Opps & Tidbits**". There are quite a lot of them, sent in by our loyal readers.

Thanks to this month's editor, **Beth Lacey Gill**. (Beth got her part in on time, it was the distribution that was held up.)

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, March 10,

6:30 pm–8:30 pm
What Can We Do to Pare Down on Plastic?

Plastic is everywhere and it is hard to keep it out of our lives. It is what our food often comes wrapped in. We build with it, drink from it, eat on it, play with it. But plastics draw on dwindling fossil fuels, leach harmful chemicals, litter landscapes, and destroy marine life. We will watch a couple of short videos and then share tips and resources on how to cut down on the amount of plastic that comes into our homes. Come and join the conversation!

Our events are always free and open to all. Please join us!

Where: In a private home in Bethesda, within walking distance of the Medical Center metro (Red Line), close to I-495 and Wisconsin Avenue.

To RSVP (required): Call Marney at [\(301\) 652-0492](tel:3016520492) or e-mail forum@simplicity-matters.org . Please include your phone number in your message.

EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY

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

“Congressman Elijah E. Cummings: Shaping Effective U.S. Environmental Laws”

Elijah E. Cummings, U.S Representative for Maryland’s 7th Congressional District, brings the inside story of water, renewable energy, and advanced transportation legislation that challenges the U.S Congress this year. He will also highlight his work and the legislation he has sponsored for restoring the eco-system, bringing clean water to the Chesapeake Bay, and for conserving water in the United States.

A discussion period, led by Congressman Cummings, will follow his presentation.

Refreshments will be served following the program. The Earth Forum is free and open to all.

To register on line, (strongly encouraged) see the March 17 Earth Forum announcement at www.earthforumhc.org. For further information, contact earthforum@firstpreshc.org. or call [410-730-3545](tel:4107303545). **Information** at www.earthforumhc.org. Contact earthforum@firstpreshc.org or call [410-730-3545](tel:4107303545).

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.

SAVE THE DATE: Sun., April 21

Sun., April 21, Earth Forum of Howard County, 2 – 4:30 pm, Columbia, Md. Join this celebration of Earth Week with outdoor/indoor activities, information booths and games.

THE BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

Sunday, March 24

Presentation: 4 - 5:30 pm, Breakout Sessions: 5:30 - 6:30pm

MD Presbyterian Church,

1105 Providence Road, Towson, MD

www.mpchurch.org/About.htm

Topic: What Every Environmentalist Should Know about Howard and Elisabeth Odum and "A Prosperous Way Down"

The late Howard T. Odum received the equivalent the Nobel Prize in bioscience and was a holistic thinker whom environmentalists in particular should appreciate. His pioneering work in applying systems theory to ecology and analysing energy flows in particular gives us environmentalists a new understanding of why it has been so difficult for humans to practice conservation and sustainability.

Dr. Odum and his second wife, Elisabeth, together wrote "A Prosperous Way Down." Elisabeth is also a systems ecologist. Dr. Odum died soon after publication. The book was written especially for those who care about the long term survival of human civilization. The book provides a much more scientific basis than most of us have ever been given to help us make the case for fundamental changes in human society. These are changes that will allow humans to adapt to a future with much reduced energy supplies.

We will have the privilege of learning about the Odums and this book from their grandson, Dr. Elliott Campbell. Elliott is a recent recipient of a doctoral degree from University of Maryland in Ecology and now serves as a Faculty Research Assistant at UMD. He is the grandchild of Elisabeth Odum and step-grandchild of Howard T. Odum. Elliott's father is also a systems ecologist.

Elliott is among the group of ecologists who have recently revived attention to this book within their profession. See the website, www.prosperouswaydown.com. It was created in 2012. And Elliott is a contributor to it.

For more information about this event please contact Elliott at ecamp88@umd.edu or 401 212 6735.

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 3 circles (281 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 is one new circle scheduled for March, 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

***Emmanuel United Methodist Church, North Laurel** (PBF) March 17 & 24, 5:45-7:00 pm, CS: Liz Feighner, eumcgreenteam@gmail.com.

Oakland Manor (CSL) rescheduled, TBA, CS: Florence Miller, fam57@verizon.net

Kittamaqundi 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

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

College Park (VS and SE/CSC) Still working out the details. CS: Carol Nezzo, Sam Williams

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) details "tbd" CS: Michal Freedman

Washington, DC,

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

Citizens Climate Lobby (GW) details "tbd" CS: Clem Dinsmore, Bruce Parker

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

Mon, Mar 4, Maryland Progressive Summit, 4:30 - 8:00 pm, Annapolis, MD

Come learn about important legislation from Delegates and Senators across Maryland. Issues include Economic Justice, Fair Elections And Democracy, Justice For All / Civil Rights, Clean Energy And Environmental Protection, Public Health And Safety. When you RSVP, please let us know your legislative district or where you live. Ways and Means Committee Room (1st Floor, Room 131). House Office Building, Bladen St. and College Ave. For more information and to RSVP, please contact: kate@progressivemaryland.org or mikehersh2007@gmail.com. <http://progressiveneighborsmd.org/>

Tues, Mar 5, Design Conversations, 6–8:30pm, Windup Space, 10 W North Ave Baltimore MD

The Design Conversations are a monthly series of events loosely curated by a group of volunteers, focusing on rotating topics that are timely and engaging. These events are always free, always at the Windup Space, and now on the first TUESDAY of every month! Design Conversations are encouraged by the generous support of D:center Baltimore and Baltimore Community Foundation. Cash bar, AV hookup available for spontaneous presentations! dcenterbaltimore.tumblr.com; twitter.com/#!/dcenterbmore; facebook.com/groups/dcenterbaltimore; www.dcenterbaltimore.com/

Wed, Mar 6, "One for the Bay" Campaign Launch, 5 pm - Close, Washington, DC

The Nature Conservancy and the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) will launch the "One for the Bay" Campaign, which will support these organizations' work on largest oyster restoration project in the Chesapeake Bay. To help raise awareness about this incredible project, McCormick and Schmick's has become the exclusive restaurant partner of the campaign and will host a "One for the Bay" social hour with Conservancy and ORP staff on the first Wednesday of every month from March to October. For more information, contact: Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, [301-897-8570 ext. 204](tel:301-897-8570) Details at <http://www.nature.org/oneforthebay>

Wed, Mar 6, North Baltimore Spring Energy Meeting, 7– 8pm, Govans Presbyterian Church 5828 York Rd, Baltimore, MD

It's spring in Baltimore! And as the last of the snows melt away and the flowers bloom, we need to start thinking about preparing for the summer's heat. By retrofitting your home, you can help keep the higher temperatures and humid air out, and keep it feeling like spring all year round. Join us at Govans Presbyterian Church, where we'll discuss the year round benefits of home energy upgrades, and share your own concerns about how the changing seasons will affect your home. Retrofit Baltimore, a project of the non-profit Civic Works. www.retrofitbaltimore.org/

Thurs, Mar 7, TransForm Baltimore Hearing, 5pm, Baltimore, MD

We are very pleased to announce that City Council Bill 12-0152 -TransForm Baltimore- A New Zoning Code for a Growing City, was introduced to the City Council on October 22, 2012. This bill includes both the text and maps of the new zoning code. Electronic copies of the text and maps, and important background information, can be found at the TransForm Baltimore website. We encourage you to review this bill and/or maps, and invite you to attend a planning commission information session or hearing. PLEASE NOTE, formal hearings will begin one hour after the start time listed below. * Hearings subject to change; please check website to confirm details. CITY COUNCIL HEARING April 3, 2013, 5pm, City Hall - 4th Fl. We will also be accepting written testimony at ZoningCode@baltimorecity.gov or by mail to 417

E. Fayette St. 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. [\(410\) 396-5173](tel:4103965173).
www.rewritebaltimore.org/news_events.html

Thurs, Mar 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.

Thurs, Mar 7, Bethesda Green Happy Hour @ BlackFinn, 5-8 pm, Bethesda, MD

Enjoy casual conversation and networking, hear from and join in a conversation with Bethesda Green Executive Director Dave Feldman about the organization's future plans, and enjoy complimentary appetizers at BlackFinn, 4901 Fairmont Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814. Contribution: \$5 at the door. Contact: Dave Heffernan, dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org, 301-767-7222. More info and RSVP via Bethesda Green Meetup.

Thurs, Mar 7, Sustainable Speaker Series, 6pm, Baltimore, MD

Kara Newman, author of *The Secret Financial Life of Food*, conquers with wit and humor the story behind the agricultural commodities including the rise and fall of pork belly futures, the "wealthy butter and egg men", and, of course, the Demon rum and grain futures. Located at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD. Click here for more information:

<http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events/sustainable-speaker-series/16-kara-newman/?submit=View+Past+Event>

Thurs, Mar 7, Baltimore TreeKeepers Class 101 - Trees & Baltimore, , 6 – 9pm, Baltimore, MD

Baltimore TreeKeepers classes teach residents about healthy trees for a healthy city. Join and get straight answers about urban trees and how to care for them. TreeKeepers is a city-wide tree stewardship program starting this spring and open to anyone interested in Baltimore's trees. TreeKeepers promotes healthy trees by educating residents and increasing their role in the care of the City's trees. Through this training, citizens can become tree advocates and share the responsibility to plant and care for trees in their neighborhood and throughout the City. Next Class: 102 - Science of Trees, Sat., March 16th.
www.baltimoretreetrust.org/. Vollmer Center, Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Ave 21209.

Fri, Mar 8, Audubon Urban Bird Watching Walk, 8-9:30am, Baltimore, MD

Bring the family to 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 – we have plenty to share! There is no need to RSVP for this event, just arrive ready to explore! Patterson Park Audubon Center [410.558.2473](tel:4105582473) 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, Mar 9, Walking the Woods Symposium, Greenbelt, MD

The City of Greenbelt is hosting a day long symposium on the care and stewardship of remnant woods. Joined by distinguished guest speakers from University of Maryland's Plant Science and Landscape Architecture Department, Forestry for the Bay, and Forested, learn about the urban ecosystem and how to bridge awareness into stewardship. greenbelt.patch.com/blog_posts/walking-the-woods-symposium-march-9th-at-greenbelt-community-center

Sat, Mar 9, Geocaching: A High Tech Hike, 10am, Howard County Conservancy, MD

Come as a family to participate in this fun exciting "scavenger hunt", looking for nature's bounty in the woods with a handheld GPS unit. Please register in advance to guarantee the use of our GPS units. For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, devon.kosisky@hconservancy.org, [410-465-8877](tel:4104658877). Directions and details at www.hconservancy.org

Sat, Mar 9, Jerome Golder nature photographer, 12–2pm, Carrie Murray Nature Center, Baltimore, MD Come join nature photographer Jerome Golder for an afternoon of photography discussions, pointers, and advice. Jerome will display some of his works and let you know how to capture the best shots. No pets please. Cost: \$4/adults, \$2/children 5 and under.
www.carriemurraynaturecenter.org/events/#mar9

Tues, March 12, 6:30-8:30 pm, David Cobb, a leader and the spokesperson for *Move To Amend*, a national coalition fighting “Corporate Personhood,” explains how to use ‘ALL the tools in the toolbox’ to effect systemic change. This is an important event and we are lucky he will be in town!
First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, 12 W. Franklin St., on the corner of Franklin & Charles Streets
Free of Charge. Free street parking, or \$4 parking lot across the street.

Mar 12-24, Environmental Film Festival, Washington, DC

The Environmental Film Festival seeks to advance public understanding of the environment through the power of film. Founded in 1993, it has become one of the world’s largest and most influential showcases of environmental film and a major collaborative cultural event. Documentaries, narratives, animations and shorts are shown, as well as archival, experimental and children’s films at venues throughout the city; screened at partnering museums, embassies, libraries, universities and local theaters. Selected to provide fresh perspectives on global environmental issues, most Festival films are accompanied by discussions with filmmakers, environmental experts and special guests, including national decision makers and thought leaders, and are free to the public. www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org/

Wed, Mar 13, Rally for a Fracking Moratorium Now!, 10:30am-12pm, Annapolis, MD

Marylanders from across the state will converge in Annapolis for the biggest rally yet to demand protections against the dangers of fracking here. If you come to Annapolis only one day this legislative session to take action on fracking, we hope you’ll make it March 13th. We deserve legal protections against drilling now, while the state investigates the risks of drilling to our air, water, and climate. On 3/13 we’ll stand tall as a movement in Annapolis and demand that 2013 be the year that the General Assembly finally takes action. Megan Jenny, Field Coordinator: megan@chesapeakeclimate.org, 240-396-1993.
RSVP at www.chesapeakeclimate.org

Thurs, Mar 14, A Community of Gardeners Film Screening, 6-8pm, Washington, DC

Join filmmaker Cintia Cabib for a screening and discussion of the one-hour documentary “A Community of Gardeners.” The film explores the vital role of seven community gardens in Washington, D.C. and shows how these green spaces are changing people’s lives, their communities and their environment. Doors open 6 p.m., screening begins at 6:30 p.m. Free but pre-registration required. U.S. Botanic Garden, 100 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20001. www.usbg.gov/events/2012/12/18/community-gardeners-film-screening-and-discussion

Thurs, Mar 14, Parks & People: Grow It, Eat It, Sell It –Workshop, 6:30– 8:45pm, Baltimore, MD

Expert gardeners and specialists from across the state are teaming up for a 2-part series to teach you proven ways to successfully grow your own food and sell it too. Complete this two-part series and receive a Certificate in Urban Agriculture from the University of Maryland Extension. Part 1 -March 14, Introduction and Garden Design, March 21, Soils and Compost, March 28, Veggies and herbs, April 4, Making the most of your Garden, April 11, Planting crops and garden maintenance, April 18, Pests/IPM; Part 2 - Dates and times to be offered evenings in Fall 2013- to be announced. John Eager Howard (JEH) Recreation Center, 2100 Brookfield Ave., Baltimore, MD 21217
www.parksandpeople.org/events/calendar/details/768/2013-03-14/

Thurs, Mar 14, Spring Weatherization & Historic Tax Credit Workshop, 7-8 pm, Baltimore, MD

Discover how you can drastically lower your energy use and save money on utility bills while eliminating uncomfortable drafts and decreasing your home’s impact on the environment by combining historic tax credits with weatherization in your historic house. Our free 1-hour workshops explain how to combine a home energy retrofit and city and state historic tax credits. These programs can help you save money on your heating bills and receive a tax credit on the cost of your upcoming home maintenance and

rehabilitation projects! Many neighborhoods— Roland Park, Mt. Washington, Guilford, Hampden, Union Square, Hollins Market, Pigtown, Ridgely's Delight – are located within historic districts and are eligible for the state historic tax credit program. a project of Civic Works. Neighborhood Design Center 1401 Hollins Street, Baltimore, MD. www.retrofitbaltimore.org/

Fri, Mar 15, An Evening with James Prosek, 6:30-9 pm, Washington, DC

The DC Environmental Film Festival and The Nature Conservancy will co-sponsor *An Evening with James Prosek*, who is an artist, writer, and naturalist who was [featured in the Conservancy's national magazine](#) last year. The event will be held at the National Academy of Sciences Auditorium, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, and though the event is free, people still need to register at <http://jamesprosek.eventbrite.com/#> For more information, contact: Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, 301-897-8570 ext. 204 Details at <http://www.cpnas.org/events/2013-environmental-film.html>

Mar 16-17, Home-Scale Permaculture Design Course- Session 4: Renewable Energy, Natural Building, Baltimore, MD

Permaculture, a term originated by Australian ecologists, 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, it is both theory and practice; a system of designing ecologically inspired landscapes that integrate food production with energy, shelter and water. Session 5: Apr. 13-14: Grains, Aquaculture, Forest Gardening, Guilds, Animals; Session 6: May 18-19: Forest Garden Installation, Final Presentations & Awards www.heathcote.org/cms/content/home-scale-permaculture-design-course. 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road, Baltimore, MD

Sat, Mar 16, 4th Annual Davidsonville Green Expo, 10am – 2pm

Each spring, in partnership with local businesses and environmental organizations, DACA hosts a Green Expo to increase awareness about environmental issues and highlight environmentally-friendly products, services and ideas. The Expo allows visitors to connect with local watershed groups, learn about energy-saving techniques, and hear about living more sustainably. This annual event features free children's activities, tree giveaways, green product vendors and more. Ruritan Community Center, 3358 Davidsonville Road. Save the date and plan to attend this family friendly, educational and fun event! www.daca-md.org/green-expo

Sat, Mar 16, Baltimore TreeKeepers Class 102 - Science of Trees, 12pm – 3pm, Baltimore, MD

Baltimore TreeKeepers classes teach residents about healthy trees for a healthy city. Join TreeKeepers and get straight answers about urban trees and how to care for them. TreeKeepers is a city-wide tree stewardship program starting this spring and open to anyone interested in Baltimore's trees. TreeKeepers promotes healthy trees by educating residents and increasing their role in the care of the City's trees. Through this training, citizens can become tree advocates and share the responsibility to plant and care for trees in their neighborhood and throughout the City. Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Ave 21209. www.baltimoretreetrust.org/

Sat, Mar 16, Project WET 2.0 Training for Naturalists and Educators, 9am-3:30pm, Howard County Conservancy, MD

Training includes breakfast, workshop materials and Project WET 2.0 Activity and Curriculum Guide. For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, devon.kosisky@hconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hconservancy.org

Sat, Mar 16, Family Hike with Conservancy Naturalists, 10am, Howard County Conservancy, MD

Come explore over 4 miles of hiking trails and 232 acres of grassland, woodland, stream and many other types of habitat. For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, devon.kosisky@hconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hconservancy.org.

Mar 16-17, 12th Annual CCBC Women's Expo & Conference, 10am – 5pm, Catonsville, MD

Vendor Spaces Still Available. www.WomensExpoMd.com

Mon, Mar 18, World Premiere of the film *Potomac: The River Runs Through Us*, 6:30-9 pm, Washington, DC

The Nature Conservancy and the DC Environmental Film Festival will host the world premiere of *Potomac: The River Runs Through Us*, and a screening of *Chattahoochee: From Water War to Water Vision*, followed by a panel discussion that will be moderated by the Conservancy's very own [Potomac River Director, Stephanie Flack](#). The event is free and will be hosted at the Sidwell Friends School, 3825 Wisconsin Avenue, NW. For more information, contact: Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, 301-897-8570 ext. 204 Details at <http://www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org/films/show/987>

Mon, Mar 18, I Have Elephants In My Garden, So What's Your Problem?, 8pm, Brookside Gardens, Visitors Center/Education Building, 1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, MD

Don't start whining about moles, voles or even deer in your garden. I have elephants tracking up the grass. MY cats weigh over 300 pounds. And where do they sit?...Come learn about the challenges of Zoo horticulture and take away some practical techniques and tips that work for gardeners who don't have elephants in their garden...or 500,000 guests a year, either. Our speaker, Marie Mims Butler, took a degree from NC State University involving floriculture and landscape design. Her teaching experience in vocational horticulture and in Japanese flower arranging, a little State Department diplomacy, and the expense of four private tuitions served to land Marie Mims Butler in the Virginia Zoo. Sixteen years later, she is the Landscape Coordinator for this 53-acre, beautifully landscaped zoo in Norfolk, VA. She shares her earth-friendly practices with over 400 wild animals and even more wild children and adults.

This talk is hosted by the Silver Spring Garden Club. Doors open at 7:30pm. This event is Free. It is open to the public. For directions: <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/>

Tues, Mar 19, Environmental Community Benefit Program Webinar, 1pm – 2pm

As the U.S. health care system grapples with health care reform mandates to increase quality and to reduce costs, prevention and wellness become part of the long-term strategy. Non-biological factors unrelated to medical care, such as environmental risk factors, are determinants of population health and also need to be addressed in the over-all strategy. Recognizing a direct link between environmental risk factors and population health, health care organizations have an opportunity to expand their internal sustainability, green team work into the community through community benefit and community building programs. www.mhei.org/promotions/W13.03.19a.pdf

Tues, Mar 19, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive.

Dr. Elliott Campbell (grandson of Betty Odum) presents on "Peak Energy: A 'Prosperous' Way Down?". A Prosperous Way Down, published in 2001 by H.T. and Betty Odum, provides a blue print for transitioning from a society incompatible with a declining energy base to one that can cope with, adapt to, and ultimately make energy descent prosperous. This talk outlines these prescriptions and provides some ideas on how we can work towards the paradigm shift necessary for these ideas to take hold in society. For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Wed, March 20, Everything you need to know about Sustainable DC, 6 – 8pm, Bethesda, MD

In April 2012, District of Columbia Mayor Vincent Gray released his "Vision for a Sustainable DC" with the goal of making the District the healthiest, greenest, most livable city in the nation by 2032. Following up on Mayor Gray's vision is his full sustainability plan for the city, called "Sustainable DC." The plan, released in January 2013, discusses challenges the city faces including jobs, health, equity, and the environment and solutions for addressing those challenges in the categories of the built environment, energy, food, nature, transportation, waste, and water. Doo Consulting is proud to present Dan Guilbeault, Policy Analyst at the District Department of the Environment and a project lead for the Sustainable DC initiative. Bethesda Green 4825 Cordell Ave Bethesda, MD 20814 sustainable.dc.gov/www.bethesdagreen.org/Calendar/tabid/178/Default.aspx

Wed, March 20, Mount Washington Energy Meeting & Cooperative Purchasing Information Session, 6:30 – 7:30pm, Baltimore, MD

Want to learn more about upgrading the energy efficiency of your home but don't know where to start? Well you're in luck! Retrofit Baltimore, a program of the local nonprofit Civic Works, provides Baltimore

homeowners with accurate information on home energy retrofits and even connects you with quality contractors to make the retrofit process as seamless as possible. This information session will clear up the common misconceptions regarding home energy retrofits, cover the benefits and financial incentives of having an energy retrofit performed on your home, and how Retrofit Baltimore can help you through every step of the process. We will also be discussing our new initiative, cooperative purchasing, which will make these investments even more affordable. Baltimore Clayworks 5707 Smith Ave, Baltimore, MD.
www.retrofitbaltimore.org/

Wed, Mar 20, Spring Vegetable Gardening Talk, 7:30 - 9pm, Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park, MD

Hosted by the Takoma Horticultural Club. Erica Smith will speak on "Spring Vegetable Gardening." She'll talk about growing vegetables in often-unpredictable spring weather, some plants and varieties for spring and summer that may be new to experienced growers, and what gardeners can do to make it all happen. Erica is the lead vegetable gardener for the Montgomery County Master Gardener's Derwood Demonstration Garden, and runs the University of Maryland Extension's Grow It, Eat It blog. FREE and open to the public. Doors open at 7, talk starts at 7:30 p.m. Please bring a snack to share. As usual, the Club will provide beverages. Wear a recycled name tag and save a tree.
More details at: www.takomahort.org.

Mar 20-21, Build a Successful, Beyond-Organic, Small Farm Business, Baltimore, MD

Hosted as a benefit by the Friends of Carrie Murray Nature Center, two days of live-streaming workshops by Joel Salatin of Polyface Farms by Verge Permaculture -- a Calgary, Alberta-based education and demonstration center dedicated to sustainable food security through permaculture. Joel Salatin has three generations of family farming history, a lifetime's experience in entrepreneurial small farming, and growing international acclaim to back him up, Joel demonstrates conclusively that the dream of a profitable, healthy and sustainable, beyond-organic small farm enterprise is quite achievable. Cost: \$15 one day; \$30 both days, including continental breakfast, lunch and snacks. Scholarships are available if needed.
[\(410\) 396-0808](tel:4103960808), www.carriemurraynaturecenter.org/

Thurs, Mar 21, Panel Discussion: *Ok, I've Watched the Film. Now What?*, 7-9pm, Washington, DC

We will explore the ways we can use film to inspire action through a panel discussion that will be moderated by American University's environmental film professor Chris Palmer and will include The Nature Conservancy's [Stephanie Flack](#) along with other environmentalists and film experts. The event is free and will be held at American University, Center for Environmental Filmmaking, Wechsler Theater, Mary Graydon Center, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. For more information, contact: Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, [301-897-8570 ext. 204](tel:3018978570) Details at: <http://www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org/films/show/1026>

Mar 22-24, Sense of Place: Learning to Read Our Landscapes, 9am-1pm, Howard County Conservancy, MD

With acclaimed ecologist Tom Wessels- Lectures, talks and hikes. Demonstrating that all environmental problems have their source in a disregard for the laws of sustainability that is based on the myth of progress, he concludes with an impassioned argument for cultural change. For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, devon.kosisky@hcconservancy.org, [410-465-8877](tel:4104658877). Directions and details at www.hcconservancy.org

Fri, Mar 22, 5th Annual EcoBall, a *Top Chef* style Celebration for the Eco-Minded, 7-11pm, 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! Located at the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park and Museum, 1417 Thames Street, Baltimore, MD 21231. Click the link for more information: <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/ecoball/>

Sat, Mar 23, Beyond Fossil Fuels: Energy Solutions for You and Your Community, 9am - noon, Howard Community College, Columbia, MD.

Find out how you and your community can benefit from energy efficiency and clean energy sources, including solar, geothermal, wind and more. Hear local energy experts from environmental groups, government and the green business community explain how to make the switch to sustainable energy today for our homes, businesses, and institutions. For more information or to register: <http://www.transitionhoco.org/committees/energy>

Sat, Mar 23, Tree Planting, 9am – 1pm, Baltimore, MD

Help plant big street trees in a city neighborhood that really needs and wants them. Rain date is the Sunday following the Saturday date. We start the event with a Street Tree Planting Class a very important and necessary part of your volunteer service. Getting the tree off to a good start by planting it correctly makes all the difference in its growth and survival. Gloves and tools provided. Please dress appropriately for outdoor work and bring your own drinking water, strong back, and good heart! Meet at the Prince of Peace Church, 600 N. Linwood Ave. 21205 amanda@baltimoretreetrust.org. Please register at www.baltimoretreetrust.org/

Sat, Mar 23, State of the Bay Lecture & Green Building Tour, 10am – 12pm, Annapolis, MD

Learn about the current state of the Bay and the forecast for its future and how you can make a difference in the health of this beautiful, fragile waterway. Tour CBF's environmentally sustainable headquarters building and find out why it is one of the world's most energy-efficient buildings. Get a firsthand look at how CBF incorporated natural elements into a fully functional workplace which has minimal impact on its Bay- and creek-front surroundings. You are welcome to walk the grounds and enjoy the beautiful natural scenery on your own after the formal tour. CBF's Philip Merrill Environmental Center, 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, MD 2140. www.cbf.org/events/calendar/event-calendar-backup

Tues, Mar 26, Baltimore City Sustainability Commission Meetings, 4pm – 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

Wed, Mar 27, Pathways to Green Jobs and Careers in Natural Resources, 3pm – 4pm

Explore how school greening efforts can be connected with exploration of green jobs and careers in natural resources and environmental sciences. www.epa.gov/schools/webinars.html#3-27-13

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

NetworkGreen has now merged with the one and only Baltimore Green Drinks! Baltimore Green Drinks is a monthly, informal, relaxed networking and happy hour specifically targeting anyone who is interested in the environment. It is our local chapter of an international group Green Drinks. All proceeds benefit Civic Works' Green Projects. bliu@baltimoregreencareers.org, GreenPartyforaPurpose.Org

Fri, Mar 29, Baltimore Bike Party, 7:00pm – 9:30pm, Baltimore, MD

Come ride and party through the great streets of Baltimore City with all your friends the last Friday of every month! We are here to, above all, ride our bikes! We stay together as a group and follow a pre-determined route through the city. 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! We are all here to have a good time. Have a friend(s) with a bike? Bring them along! Don't have any friends? Come make some! We are all about having a good time and building the cycling community! meet at the Washington Monument in Mt. Vernon Baltimore. baltimorebikeparty.com/

Sat, Mar 30, Audubon Urban Bird Watching Walk, 8:00am – 9:30am, Baltimore, MD

Bring the family to 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, email us – we have plenty to share! No need to RSV,P just arrive ready to explore! Patterson Park Audubon Center, [410.558.2473](tel:410.558.2473), ppaudubon@gmail.com. Rain or

shine second Friday & last Saturday of month. Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of Patterson Park. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES AND TIDBITS

JOIN MD-SUN

If you've ever been interested in going solar or want to support more renewables in MD, join the MD SUN email list! We post periodic updates about solar in Maryland and information on how you can help support renewable energy in the state. Postings will include info about inspiring solar projects, exchanging practical information, as well as legislative updates on bills in the Maryland Legislature (January through April). In order to pursue additional solar projects in Maryland, we will need legislation to make this possible. A bill was just introduced this month, called Community Energy-Generating Facilities - Pilot Program. Go to the MD Legislative Website and type in SB0699 or HB1128 to learn more. mgaleg.maryland.gov/ Click here www.tinyurl.com/MDSUNSignUp to sign up for MD-SUN or contact David Brosch, davidcbrosch@comcast.net, or Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org, for more information. You can choose between frequent or occasional updates.

SIGN THE KEYSTONE XL PLEDGE OF RESISTANCE

President Obama and his administration are moving toward approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline. If tens of thousands of people stand up as President Obama mulls his final decision, we can convince the White House that it will be politically unfeasible to go forward. I just signed the Keystone XL Pledge of resistance - committing to participate in civil disobedience if President Obama approves Keystone XL. If you are also committed to stopping Keystone XL, read the call to action, and consider making the pledge, too: http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/kxl_pledge/?r_by=55679-858585-yi3pgKx&rc=confemail Or for the "faint of heart" you can sign the Sierra Club version instead! http://action.sierraclub.org/site/R?i=5_qCNqQhmcF5T2k0GWpvbQ

FUND A PBS PROGRAM ON CLIMATE CHANGE (from Betsy Johnson)

A friend of mine plays bridge with someone who has just launched a Kickstarter project to fund a new episode in the PBS series Journey To Planet Earth. The episode investigates the link between extreme weather events, climate change, and threats to national security. Here's a link that will explain everything: <http://kck.st/ZDEShx> The way Kickstarter works is that you can make a pledge of any amount to help fund an effort that you think is important. If this project interests you, please consider supporting it. You can also pass it along to friends who might be interested.

SMART PHONE APP: "Show of Hands" (from David Abraham)

If you are a smart-phone user and have the APP called "show of hands", <http://www.showofhands.mobi/> please vote. "Show of Hands", a smart-phone polling app, asked "Keystone XL; Block it or Build it?" With 8878 responses, 72% are for building it, Dems are 59% for Blocking and Repubs are 94% for Building it. Independents are 29% for blocking it, and in MD 31% are for Blocking and 69% for Building it.

CHECK OUT YOUTUBE VIDEO FROM OUR FRIEND LORI HILL

Lori Hill was active in Baltimore discussion circles and was publicity coordinator for Baltimore Green Forum for several years. She has a new company called Sister Eden. Check out the latest Sister Eden video about their experience at the Forward On Climate rally! It's just over 4 minutes. <http://sistereden.com/what-next/>

READ "GLOBAL WARMING's SIX AMERICAS – 2012 Update (Full Report or Highlights)

This study from Yale classifies Americans based on their view of global warming: Alarmed, Concerned, Cautious, Disengaged, Doubtful, and Dismissive. **93 percent** of the *Alarmed*, **92 percent** of the *Concerned*, **74 percent** of the *Cautious*, and **73 percent** of the *Disengaged* say that global warming is affecting weather in the United States. Majorities of these groups also say that global warming made several extreme weather and natural disasters in 2011 worse, including the drought in Texas and Oklahoma, floods in the Mississippi River Valley, and record high temperatures across much of the U.S.

By contrast, **90 percent** of the *Dismissive* and **66 percent** of the *Doubtful* say that global warming is not affecting the weather in the U.S.

<http://environment.yale.edu/climate/publications/Six-Americas-March-2012/>

Tues Mar 5, Thur Mar 7, Fri Mar 8, 1:00 pm – attend hearings on Solar and Fracking

This week, hearings are scheduled to hear testimony on upcoming bills on Solar (SB0699 (Tues) /HB1128 (Thurs) and Fracking (HB 337 & HB1274)(Fri). Be prepared to stay all afternoon. For more info about the bills and the hearings, visit <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/>

Mon, Mar 11, First day to submit - Save the Bay Photo Contest

This year's contest is open to both amateur and professional photographers. We are seeking photographs that illustrate the positive aspects of the Bay and its rivers and streams. We want to see your vision of the Bay region—from Pennsylvania to Virginia, from the Shenandoah Mountains to the Eastern Shore. Images depicting people, wildlife, recreation, and farms within the watershed will all be considered. All photos must include water from the Chesapeake Bay or a river, stream, creek, or other body of water inside the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Entries must be submitted by April 12, 2013.

www.cbf.org/events/photo-contest

Mar 18 – 24, Fix a Leak Week 2013

More than 1 trillion gallons of water are lost annually nationwide due to easy-to-fix leaks both inside and outside American homes. EPA has declared March 18 through 24, 2013, the fifth annual Fix a Leak Week—a time to find and fix leaks to stop wasting water. Fixing household leaks not only saves water, but it can reduce water bills by an average of 10 percent. WaterSense partners are joining the effort by reminding Americans to check, twist, and replace fixtures in their bathrooms, kitchens, and even outdoors to ensure they aren't wasting this precious resource. www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/fix_a_leak.html

Sat, Mar 23, Earth Hour 2012! 8:30pm – 9:30pm

Switch off the lights and celebrate your action for the planet with the world! www.earthhour.org/

Sun, Mar 31, Green School Makeover Competition Entry Deadline

K-12 schools across the country are invited to enter the Green School Makeover Competition. a chance to win \$75,000 in funding, along with Global Green USA's technical assistance in seeing the plans through to completion. for the competition rules, and more about greening schools.

globalgreen.org/greenschoolmakeover

SUPPORT PERMACULTURE IMMERSION PROGRAM AT HEATHCOTE

We are excited about a new education program that we are planning to run this June. We are calling it our Community Immersion Internship program. The pilot program is modeled on a program at GaiaYoga Community in Hawaii. Participants will be immersed in community living while gaining skills in permaculture, cooperative group processes, and personal transformation work. They will engage in 20 hours per week of hands-on learning while doing farming and carpentry projects under the supervision of experienced Heathcoters. In addition, they'll take 2-3 workshops every week on topics such as consensus, Zegg Forum, Nonviolent communication, shadow work, Five Element Acupuncture, and permaculture. A provisional member, Mary Hall, will be coordinating this program. We have raised 2/3 of a stipend in the form of a matching grant that would support Mary's work developing this program and others at Heathcote for 2013. We are writing you to see if you'd like to support our goal of raising another \$1,033. You can donate online using a credit card by clicking this link:

<http://heathcote.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=090ad93f515533469ef5f8490&id=56cbe512b2&e=53e0b06e4c>

APRIL PREVIEW AND BEYOND

Mon, Apr 1, 10th Anniversary EcoFest Vendor Application Deadline, Baltimore, MD

Join other eco-minded vendors and exhibitors as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Baltimore Green Week at it's culminating event, the EcoFest! EcoFest hosts nearly 100 EcoVendors, a children in nature

play space, bike rides around the reservoir, guided nature hikes, free workshops throughout the day, and so much more. Be a part of this year as we showcase what resources, services, and products are available in and around Baltimore City! Located in Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, MD. Click here for more information: <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events/ecofestival/>

Wed, Apr 3, Second Nature Book Club Meeting, 6- 7:30pm at the Shaw Library at 1630 7th Stm NW, WDC

Washington Gardener Magazine Book Club is **Second Nature: A Gardener's Education** by Michael Pollan. The room allows food and drink and you may bring your dinner and/or snacks to share. The book club meetings are FREE and open to anyone who would like to attend. Please RSVP to "WG Book Club" at WashingtonGardener@rcn.com.

Sat, Apr 6, The Nature Conservancy & Casey Trees Tree Planting, Washington DC

On April 6th, join other community volunteers to plant trees at the Congressional Cemetery (near the Potomac Avenue Metro stop on the blue and orange lines). If you would like to volunteer on behalf of The Nature Conservancy, make sure to mark yourself as "TNC" when you register here:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5410663440?access=TNC#> It's first come, first serve for registration, so sign up early! Volunteers will meet at 9am. If you have any questions, please email Kate Arion at karion@tnc.org

Tues, Apr 9, Fund Raiser for Anacostia Hours, 11 am - 11 pm, Franklin's Restaurant, Brewery and General Store, 5121 Baltimore Avenue (Rt. 1), Hyattsville

20% of your purchases in the restaurant and general store will support the local currency movement in the Route 1 corridor. Mention Anacostia Hours when you pay the bill. Come in the evening, meet members of Anacostia Hours, enjoy good food and drink, and learn more about this citizens' initiative for local economic self-reliance. Take-out orders and sales from the general store will also be credited to Anacostia Hours. For more information contact Nick Williams, [\(301\) 277-5318](tel:(301)277-5318) or [\(443\) 722-0528](tel:(443)722-0528), nwilliams550@gmail.com

Wed, Mar 6, 4 p.m., (RESCHEDULED TO Mon, Apr 22 due to pending inclement weather) "The Fracking of Rachel Carson: Silent Spring in an Age of Environmental Crisis", author talk at UMBC, Albin O. Kuhn Library, 7th Floor, 1000 Hilltop Cir, Baltimore, MD 21250. Noted environmental author Sandra Steingraber, Environmental Studies and Sciences Department, Ithaca College. Event info - <http://artscalendar.umbc.edu/2012/04/18/the-fracking-of-rachel-carson-silent-spring-in-an-age-of-environmental-crisis/>

Directions and Parking Info - <http://about.umbc.edu/visitors-guide/directions/>