

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **April 2013**. It is going out to more than **1,545 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/2013/2013-04.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
- May Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Being that this is "**Earth Day Month**", there are lot's of spring activities to choose from! Excuse the extra-long calendar, but we didn't want to leave any of them out.

Thanks to this month's editor, **Michael Hartman**.

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, April 14
6:30 pm–8:30 pm

Water Is Life!

What happens to our water after we flush or before we turn on the hose? Where does our drinking water come from? Why should we be careful about water use, anyway? We will watch a short video then share tips and resources on how we can conserve water and keep it clean. 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 or e-mail forum@simplicity-matters.org . Please include your phone number in your message.

EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY

Sunday, April 21

1:00 - 4:00 pm

**First Presbyterian Church,
9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD.**

“Environmental Leadership Awards and Recognition Luncheon; Earth Week Celebration”

Come, join the fun, honor outstanding community environmental leaders and enjoy lunch as the Earth Forum concludes the series for the spring. Any Earth Forum attendee may participate in recognizing environmental excellence by nominating an individual, group, or organization that provides outstanding environmental leadership in our community. You may download a nomination form from www.earthforumhc.org.

A tasty and nutritious luncheon will be prepared by Chef Craig. Tickets for the luncheon are \$8.00 and may be purchased by mailing a check, payable to First Presbyterian Church and sent to First Presbyterian Church, 9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, Md. REMEMBER, the luncheon begins at 1 p.m. and the main program at 2 p.m.

The Earth Forum is free and open to all. For further information, 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. The Forum series is 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, April 28

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

MD Presbyterian Church,

1105 Providence Road, Towson, MD 21286

www.mpchurch.org/About.htm

Topic: "Degrowth: Local and Global Answers to the Most Difficult Challenges for Sustainability"

Degrowth is a call for a radical break from traditional growth-based models of society, no matter if these models are "left" or "right", to invent new ways of living together in a true democracy, respectful of the values of equality and freedom. The approach is based on sharing and cooperation, with sufficiently moderate consumption so as to be sustainable.

The degrowth movement began in Europe 10 years ago. It brings a principle of vigorous discussion and full participatory engagement in creating new solutions to the fundamental structural problems of current civilization, on the political and economic level as well as individual. The premise is that even "green" or "socially just" capitalism in its current, growth-based form is not sustainable. Other popular green solutions of sustainable development and population stabilization at current levels are not sustainable as well. Degrowth includes solutions such as "frugal innovation," i.e. innovations that integrate limits, and First Nation/indigenous examples of cultures integrating limits.

Growth no longer guarantees us better material living conditions, increased equality, or more freedom. Growth in recent decades has in fact been accompanied by the significant widening of our society's inequalities. Founded on techno-scientific progress and infinite population increase, growth increases our dependence on the technological, our subjection to the "megamachine", and restricts freedom.

Degrowth may be the only means to restore the Chesapeake Bay and address our city/suburban/rural economic inequalities, two of the toughest challenges we face in Maryland.

Nancy Wallace, Maryland environmental activist, will present degrowth history and principles, and initiate discussion of applying degrowth in Maryland. Background info: http://montreal.degrowth.org/downloads/papers/G014_Schneider.pdf

For updated program info, contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 410-554-0006, 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 are two new circles scheduled for April, in Howard and Prince Georges Counties, 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

***Howard County Conservancy** (DSOP or MF), Tues, April 9-May 21, 6:30-8:00 pm, CS: Florence Miller, fam57@verizon.net <http://www.hococlimatechange.org/circles/upcoming-circles-1>

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

Kittamaquundi Community Church, Olivers Carriage House (CSC) March/April (tbd) 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

***College Park (VS)** A second group will start up on Thurs, April 18th. CS: Carol Nezzo Contact lore@simplicity-matters.org for details

College Park (SE) The winter circle just finished up and will continue with a new topic. First session TBA. CS: Carol Nezzo

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

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

SMEI Regional Coordinators:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tue, Apr 2, Green Building Institute Networking, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm, May vary with event.

1st Tuesdays GBI Networking. RSVP if you have time so we have enough food & drink for all. Call 443.733.1234 or email info@greenbuildinginstitute.org to get involved! "The mission of the Green Building Institute is to foster sustainable building, energy, land use practices and technologies for building professionals, businesses and communities." GBI is a 501c3 non-profit organization focused on education, collaboration and networking. We've been active in MD, DC & VA since 2005 and are expanding online resources for all. greenbuildingnetwork.groupsites.com/main/summary

Tue, Apr 2, Design Conversations, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm, 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/

Tue, Apr 2, Spring of Sustainability - First day, 7 pm – 8 pm, Internet Get the Tools You Need to Be Part of the Solution! Have you ever wished that green living was easier? Does it ever bother you that it seems to cost MORE to live sustainably? Do you want to "do the right thing" but wonder which choices REALLY are the right thing for the planet? Are you concerned about the world we're going to leave for our children and grandchildren? If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, join us for the Spring of Sustainability where many of the world's top pioneers and leaders in all areas of sustainability will answer those questions and many more. springofsustainability.com/sessions/2013/33

Wed, Apr 3, Second Nature Book Club Meeting, 6 pm - 7:30 pm, Shaw Library, 1630 7th St. NW, Washington, DC (near the Shaw Metro stop) 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.

Wed, Apr 3, "One for the Bay" Campaign Launch, 5 pm - 7 pm, Washington, DC The Nature Conservancy and the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) are partnering on the largest oyster restoration project in the whole Chesapeake Bay! Join staff members from both organizations on the first Wednesday of every month from April until October at the McCormick and Schmick's on K Street to learn more about the project and how you can help! For more information, contact: Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, 301-897-8570 ext. 204. Details at www.nature.org/oneforthebay

Wed, Apr 3, TransForm Baltimore City Council Hearing, 5 pm – 6 pm, City Hall - 4th Floor

TransForm Baltimore - A New Zoning Code for a Growing City. Baltimore City Department of Planning. We are very pleased to announce that City Council Bill 12-0152 -TransForm Baltimore, 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. www.rewritebaltimore.org/news_events.html

Thu, Apr 4, Bethesda Green Happy Hour @ Brickside, 5-8 pm, Bethesda, MD Celebrate Earth and Water. Enjoy casual conversation and networking, hear about water issues locally and worldwide and the

upcoming Reel Water Film Festival (June 15 in Bethesda), and enjoy complimentary appetizers and discount drinks at Brickside, a new restaurant just opened at 4866 Cordell Avenue in Bethesda. Contribution: \$10 at the door, to help support water issues. Contact: Dave Heffernan, dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org, 301-767-7222. More info and RSVP via Bethesda Green Meetup.

Thu, Apr 4, MD H2E Trailblazer Education program, 8 am – 12 noon, Greater Baltimore Medical Center Come to this half-day event featuring the 2012 MD H2E Trailblazers presenting on their award-winning sustainability initiatives! Breakout sessions will feature: Reducing Bulk Waste with NEW2U Program, MedStar Union Memorial Hospital, Constructing an Employee-Based Plot Garden, Sinai Hospital. Reducing Newborn Exposures to Pesticides with New Moms Pilot, University of Maryland Medical Center. Implementing an Energy Management Program, Deer's Head State Hospital. Committing to Healthy Food and Beverage Choices, Greater Baltimore Medical Center. The event will be followed by an optional tour of GBMC's kitchen and loading dock. Breakfast and lunch will be served. mdh2e.org/

Thu, Apr 4, Offshore Wind=Onshore Jobs: A Supply Chain Forum, 8:30 am – 5 pm, Douglass-Myers Maritime Park & Living Classrooms, Baltimore MD The Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act has passed and Maryland will be the first state in the nation to create a market for offshore wind energy. Now is the time for Maryland businesses to prepare for this new U.S. industry!!! This meeting will highlight the capabilities of companies required to support the offshore wind energy sector. Emphasis will be placed on the services and component manufacturing required to establish an offshore wind supply chain. It will provide information on employment, subcontractor, joint-venture, and/or strategic alliance opportunities. Presentations will describe services and/or products that companies will provide in the offshore wind energy industry, identify the type of firms and skill levels needed for sub-contractors and/or partners, experience required, and employee skill sets that will be needed. Participants will also discuss current opportunities in other synergistic renewable projects that require partners or subcontractors where firms can work together to build a track record today. www.bizmdosw.org/

Fri, Apr 5, Forks Over Knives, 7 pm - 9 pm, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Dr., Rockville MD 20850, (Founders Hall, Building 1) UUCR Green Sanctuary's Ethical Eating Project: Informed Choices presents the Friday Night Brown-Bag Movie Forks Over Knives. This film examines the profound claim that afflict most, if not all, of the so-called "diseases of affluence" that afflict us can be controlled, or even reversed by rejecting our present menu of animal-based and processed foods, based on the work of Dr. T. Colin Campbell and Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn. Their research led them to a startling conclusion: degenerative diseases like heart disease, type-2 diabetes, and even several forms of cancer, could almost always be prevented, and in many cases, reversed, by adopting a whole foods, plant-based diet. Bring your own brown bag dinner and join us to watch and discuss this important movie. Directions can be found at our website www.uucr.org Phone 301 762-7666.

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

Fri, Apr 6, Potomac River Cleanup, 9 am – 12 noon, various locations (see Web Site for Cleanup Sites in Virginia and Maryland) Celebrate 25 Years of Good Clean Fun! Join thousands of dedicated volunteers at hundreds of cleanup sites will work to restore the beauty and integrity of the region. There's no better time to get involved in some good clean fun than at the 25th anniversary of the Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Since 1989 the Alice Ferguson Foundation has removed over 6 million pounds of trash from the Potomac with the help of volunteers like you. This staggering amount of litter is a small portion of what is in our Watershed. Litter makes its way from our streets into our waterways, threatening our water quality, putting the health of our family at risk, and hurting the local economy. You can be part of the solution. Help us build clean lands, safe water, and healthy lives for the region by making this year

the largest cleanup event yet! For information on how to volunteer, lead a cleanup site, or sponsor the event visit www.PotomacCleanup.org or call 202-973-8203.

Sat, Apr. 6, Project Cleanstream with Irvine Nature Center, 9 am - 12 pm, Owings Mills, MD

Begun in the mid-1970s as the Jones Falls Watershed Cleanup, Project Clean Stream is an annual regional stream clean up engaging more than 1,000 Marylanders in cleaning up their watersheds and their communities. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay runs the event, and Irvine remains an active partner in both the planning and implementation of the event. For more information, call 443-738-9224. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org.

Sat, Apr 6, Project Clean Stream, 9 am – 12 noon, various locations in Maryland and Chesapeake Bay Region (See Web Site for cleanup locations)

Pick a Stream, Any Stream! Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay. Pull on your waders and gloves, grab a trash bag, and head out to your neighborhood stream as part of this wonderful annual stream cleanup event held across Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay region. In 2012, over 4,600 volunteers turned out at 214 clean-up sites and removed over 244,000 pounds of trash! We need volunteers to participate as site captains (coordinating a local cleanup site) as well as general helpers on the action day. All supplies, tools and gloves will be provided, but wear clothes and shoes that can get muddy (boots or waders if you've got 'em). To find a site near you, or to register a site or clean-up crew, contact Debra at Blue Water Baltimore at 410-254-1577x100 or volunteer@bluewaterbaltimore.org. www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/events/?event_id=386. You can also contact the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay at (410) 377-6270 allianceforthebay.org/pcs/home/

Sat, Apr 6, Community Farming Alliance, presents Growing Mushrooms on Wood, 12-3 pm, NW DC

Good Sense Farm's Zachari J. Curtis, will show you how to start and care for hardwood logs so that they produce gourmet, edible mushrooms. We'll be using powertools. Mini logs will be available for purchase. Slots: 15, Five more workshops to follow, April – June. <http://threepartharmonyfarm.org/>
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_y_-gvSW3OS2-cbchxJDaJAToJGG7GxzqrnYP4YblJY/viewform

Sun, Apr 7, Young Environmental Writers Workshop, 3 pm - 5 pm, Wheaton Regional Library, 11701 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton, MD 20902

Learn how to make a difference by writing about environmental issues. And earn SSL hours! Come to a free 2-hour workshop and learn from experienced environmentalists and environmental writers. Learn why we write about the environment and how this type of writing serves communities by informing the public. Then learn how to construct an effective environmental essay or news article. Students will write articles independently after the workshop. Articles written for this project will be published on the Conservation Montgomery website and in our online newsletter. Authors will receive by-line credit and SSL time for their articles and for our workshop. Looks good on a college application or resume. Each student should bring paper/pad and a pencil/pen to take notes and a passion for the outdoors and nature. OPTIONAL: Short nature walk through Wheaton Regional Park before the session begins. Please let us when you register if you are interested in the nature walk. REGISTRATION REQUIRED – Please send a note and your contact information to ConservationMontgomery@live.com by April 5th. For more information, call Caren Madsen at 240-793-4603. Turn your thoughts into wisdom...with science, accuracy and a love of nature as part of the experience.

Tue, 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 or (443) 722-0528, nwilliams550@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 10, Bicycle Friendly Business Workshop, 8:15 am – 10 am, Dawson's Market, Rockville Town Square, 225 N. Washington St., Rockville, MD 20850

This free event was made possible through Performance Bicycle and is designed to help businesses encourage and support their employees to commute to work by bicycle. Each year the League of American Bicyclists awards businesses that have

made significant strides in becoming a more bicycle friendly place to work. This high distinction can help employers set themselves apart by demonstrating their commitment to workplace wellness.
bikemd.org/page.php?id=538

Fri, Apr 12, "Where Do The Children Play": Film Screening and Conversation at Irvine Nature Center, 6:45 pm - 9 pm, Owings Mills, MD Join us for this inspirational one-hour documentary, "Where Do The Children Play?," that examines how restrictive play opportunities are impacting children's mental and physical health and development. A discussion with leading education experts will follow. Refreshments and a take-home goody bag for parents also provided. Presenters: Joan Almon, internationally renowned Director of Programs and founding Director of Alliance for Childhood; Pat Whitehead, Admissions Director of the Waldorf School of Baltimore; and Monica Wiedel-Lubinski, Director of The Nature Preschool at Irvine. Free! Call 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org.

Fri, Apr 12, Engineering Green 2013, 7:30 am – 4 pm, Engineering Society of Baltimore 11 West Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore, MD 21201 Engineering Green 2013 is an event for: civil engineers, landscape architects, property owners, developers and others interested in the engineering design of a sustainable site. This one day conference will showcase projects in the commercial and government sectors in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The day will include four sessions in which presenters will give an in-depth look at project design, implementation, and lessons learned. The event will also include a keynote address from a Stephen Benz, Partner and Director of Green Infrastructure at OLIN in Philadelphia, breakfast and lunch, and a chance to put your mind together with other professionals working in similar areas and dealing with similar issues to come up with practical solutions.
www.usgbcmd.org/engineering-green-2013

Fri, Apr 12, Audubon Urban Bird Watching Walk, 8 am – 9:30 am, Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of Patterson Park 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 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, Apr 13, Home-Scale Permaculture Design Course- Session 5, 8:30am – Sun, Apr 14, 5:30 pm, 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road, Baltimore, MD 21234 Permaculture, a term originated by Australian ecologists, Bill Mollison and David Holmgren, means permanent culture. Using both ancient and modern knowledge, this design methodology mimics universal patterns found in nature to create healthy human communities. Guided by ethical behavior, Permaculture is both theory and practice. It is a system of designing ecologically inspired landscapes that integrate food production with energy, shelter and water. Session 6: May 18-19, 2013: Forest Garden Installation, Final Design Presentations & Certificate Awards
www.heathcote.org/cms/content/home-scale-permaculture-design-course

Sat, Apr 13, Annual Membership Meeting for Anacostia Hours, 1 pm – 3 pm, Joe's Movement Emporium, 3308 Bunker Hill Road, Mount Rainier MD All users of Anacostia Hours - the local currency - are welcome, as is the general public. For more information, contact Nick Williams, nwilliams550@gmail.com, (443) 722-0528 (c) Watch for notices on www.anacostiahours.org

Sat, Apr 13, Atlantic White Cedar Tree Planting, 9 am - 20 pm, Snow Hill, MD Join the National Aquarium and The Nature Conservancy to restore Atlantic white cedar habitat on the Conservancy's Nassawango Creek Preserve. This tree planting is part of an ongoing restoration effort through the Aquarium's Wetland Nursery Program, an educational program involving local students of Worcester and Somerset Counties. For more information contact: Maria Harwood, conserve@aqua.org, 410-659-4236. Details at <http://goo.gl/C5Wu8>.

Sat, Apr 13, Cool Things About Box Turtles, 10 am - 11:30 am, Howard County Conservancy, MD

Come find out cool and amazing facts about this small forest gem we so often take for granted but is quickly disappearing from our landscape. FREE event! For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, devon.kosisky@hcconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hcconservancy.org

Sat, Apr 13, Activate Your Inner Citizen: Spring University, 9 am – 12:45 pm, Health and Human Sciences Building, Coppin State University, 2500 West North Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21216

Workshops and resources for Baltimore residents to learn the skills needed to manage a community association, and coordinate neighborhood improvement projects! This event is for any resident of Baltimore City interested in improving their neighborhood. All ages welcome.
www.cphabaltimore.org/university/

Sat, Apr 13, Howard County GreenFest 2013, 10 am – 4 pm, Howard Community College Burrill Galleria and Quad Green Communities: Get Up. Get Out. Get Green. Calling all vendors! Sign up early to reserve your space at GreenFest 2013. Spaces are assigned on a first come, first served basis so get your application in today. For more information and to submit an application, please contact: Alan Wilcom at awilcom@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-6433.
www.howardcountymd.gov/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=4294967857

Sat, April 13, Third Annual Bowie Green Expo, 1 pm – 4 pm, Kenhill Center 2614 Kenhill Drive Bowie MD 20715 Vendors or Non-Profits interested in participating download application or e-mail Us at BowieGreenExpo@verizon.net. Bowie Green Expo Hosted By Bowie Lions Club, City of Bowie Green Team, Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce www.bowiegreenexpo.org/

Mon, Apr 15, Companion & Succession Plantings (Crop Rotation), 8:00 pm, Brookside Gardens, Visitors Center/Education Building, 1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, Maryland Find out what edible plants naturally benefit by being planted together and what plants should never be neighbors. Also, learn about getting the most out of small space gardening by crop rotation and inter/succession planting. Our featured speaker is Elizabeth Olson, PG Master Gardener and MD Certified Horticulturist. Elizabeth writes the "EdibleHarvest" column for Washington Gardener Magazine. 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/>

Mon, Apr 15, The Nature Conservancy's Spring Bird Walks, 7 am, Hughes Hollow, MD (Future Walks on April 18, 27, 29) Join fellow bird enthusiasts to experience beautiful colors and songs. Learn from our experienced trip leaders about the tremendous journeys these small birds have made. Before you go, view our slideshow for a peek at some of the amazing birds you may spot on your walk. Space is limited so register today! For questions, contact Lauren Ludi at GetOutside@tnc.org.

Mon, Apr 15- Wed, Apr 17, NAA Green Conference, Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, 700 Aliceanna Street, Baltimore, MD 21202 NAA, National Apartment Association. For multifamily onsite professionals, this conference will provide real-case, best-case practices from communities that have discovered powerful ROI through the steps that they have taken, including saving money on energy and satisfying their environmental-conscious resident base. For suppliers, this conference creates opportunities for them to share with industry professionals the ways that their products and services can affordably enable such practices to occur, as well as them sharing the strategies that they see in their clients' efforts. For developers and rehabilitators, the conference's content will advise on the process needed to design and build new communities that meet these objectives, as well as industry professionals who have guided the retro-fit steps that were taken to help improve the efficiency of their properties.
www.naahq.org/green/conference/Pages/default.aspx

Mon, Apr 15 – Tue, Apr 16, Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference, Bethesda MD Colleges and universities are incubators of innovation, tackling the biggest challenges of society through creative means. The 2013 Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference provides the setting to learn, share and explore how campuses are using their passion for innovation to develop technologies, infrastructure, programs and curricula that address the world's most pressing sustainability challenges.
www.sustainability.umd.edu/content/community/SSCC.php

Tue, Apr 16, Master Naturalist Course Ends, Irvine Nature Center 1201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117 Irvine is proud to host University of Maryland Extension's Maryland Master Naturalist Course. This 13-session course will engage citizens as stewards of Maryland's natural ecosystems through science-based education and volunteer service in their communities. Tuesdays and Saturdays, February 26 through April 16 (except March 30) 6 – 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturdays \$250 www.MasterNaturalist.umd.edu

Tue, Apr 16-Sat, Apr 20, SOLAR 2013, All day, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21210 SOLAR 2013 is the annual National Solar Conference of the American Solar Energy Society. Come join us to learn how mainstream renewable energy technologies are saving money for small and large businesses, homeowners and utility companies. We'll look at passive solar architecture, policy initiatives that can streamline permitting and financing, and explore the road forward as renewable installations double annually. This year a special session will examine the relationship between extreme weather events and renewable energy, and with special guests from Germany we'll explore what the US can learn from the German revolution in renewable energy. Saturday, April 20th, the EXPO is open to the public for \$10. Full conference discounts for students and partners that help us promote the conference. Register and learn more at <http://www.ases.org/solar2013>

Tues, Apr 16, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. Dr Jim Driscoll, Ph.D., M.B.A., Executive Director of the National Institute for Peer Support will speak about "Peer Support Networks". For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Tue, Apr 16 – Thu, 18, Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference, Washington DC This year's theme is Let's Get to Work: Climate Change, Infrastructure and Innovation. We know that climate change is no longer a possibility, it's a reality. Hurricane Sandy and the drought of 2012 showed America what climate change could do to our communities, economy and environment. www.greenjobsconference.org/

Wed, Apr 17, Ben Morrison and His Azaleas Talk, 7:30 pm – 9 pm, Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park, MD This meeting is jointly sponsored by the Takoma Horticultural Club and Historic Takoma Inc. It will feature the ardent azalea aficionado William (Bill) Miller III, speaking on "Ben Morrison and his Azaleas." The Glenn Dale azaleas, which are a feature of city parks and gardens in Takoma Park, were developed by the first director of the National Arboretum, Benjamin Y. Morrison. Beginning in the late '20s, he worked more than twenty-five years to achieve a group of winter-hardy azaleas with large, colorful flowers, suitable for the Washington, DC region. Eventually the program included 454 hybrids. They are probably the best known and most popular feature of the Arboretum today. Morrison lived nearby on Piney Branch Road and shared his hybrids with many Takoma Park friends. 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.

Thu, Apr 18, The Nature Conservancy's Spring Bird Walks, 7 am, Carderock Recreation Area, MD (Future Walks on April 27, 29) Join fellow bird enthusiasts to experience beautiful colors and songs. Learn from our experienced trip leaders about the tremendous journeys these small birds have made. Before you go, view our slideshow for a peek at some of the amazing birds you may spot on your walk. Space is limited so register today! For questions, contact Lauren Ludi at GetOutside@tnc.org.

Thu, Apr 18, Art of Stewardship Art Show and Reception, 6 pm, Howard County Conservancy, MD Juried Art Show, Reception, Auction with Rebecca Hoffberger, Greg Mort, Anne Raver. \$10/\$12 at the door. For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, devon.kosisky@hcconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hcconservancy.org

Thu, Apr 18, USGBC MD Spring Fling Network, 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm, Pratt Street Ale House, 206 W Pratt Street, Baltimore 21201 In the spirit of Spring, celebrate green building with some good cheer and membership joining discount! USGBC MD Members, treat your friends to an 20% discount on annual

membership if they join at the Spring Fling Network.

www.usgbcmd.org/calendar?eventId=649993&EventViewMode=EventDetails

Thurs, Apr 18, Baltimore TimeBank, potluck dinner and open meeting, 7:00 p.m. The Baltimore Ethical Society, 306 West Franklin Street, Suite 102, Baltimore, MD contact: info@letsbmore.org, <http://letsbmore.org/>

Fri, Apr 19 (Also on April 20 and 21), H2OLY WATERS Eco film festival, 6 pm refreshments, 7 pm film Maryland Presbyterian Church, 1105 Providence Road, Towson, MD 21286 "Water for Enjoyment" (3 films) More details at www.mpchurch.org

Fri, Apr 19, Druid Hill Park Passport Launch/10th annual Baltimore Green Week Kick Off, 5:30 pm – 8 pm, Rawlings Conservatory Druid Hill Park Baltimore Baltimore Green Map is celebrating the launch of its Druid Hill Park Passport with a party. This event is co-hosted by Friends of Druid Hill Park and Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks. It is a kick-off event for the 10th annual Baltimore Green Week. Come get your passport and Druid Hill Park Green Map, then use it to discover and explore the park. rsvp@baltogreenmap.org. Donation requested at the door. baltogreenmap.org/

APRIL 20- APRIL 27 – BALTIMORE GREEN WEEK (scroll down to very bottom for full listing)

Sat, Apr 20, Kale-A-Rama Vegan Festival, 11 am – 5 pm, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD Kale-A-Rama is patterned after the Gilroy Garlic Festival in California. It will be a celebration of KALE with an emphasis on veganism, going green, and having fun! The "feel" of the festival will be somewhere between Burning Man, Woodstock, and your local vegan festival - in other words, anything goes, especially if it somehow relates to kale! Kale-A-Rama will take place at 131 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770, a beautiful public square where many "green" events and gatherings are held. Would you like to be an exhibitor? Contact kale.a.rama.2013@gmail.com!
<http://www.facebook.com/events/223950371063084/>

Sat, Apr 20, Baltimore City's Annual Spring Cleanup, 9am – 1pm Communities are encouraged to "Clean up Baltimore" by clearing debris in their neighborhoods. Department of Public Works Director Alfred H. Foxx reminds citizens that registration for the cleanup begins January 22, 2013. "This is an opportunity for citizens to join together and keep Baltimore City clean," says Foxx. "Clean streets and clean neighborhoods mean a cleaner Baltimore for everyone." Community representatives should call 311 starting January 22, 2013 to register and confirm their designated pick-up point. Sidewalks, gutters, storm drains, yards and alleys all need care. Remember to keep trash out of storm drains while cleaning up. www.healthyharborbaltimore.org/how-to-get-involved/upcoming-events/106/baltimore-city-annual-spring-cleanup

Sat, Apr 20, EarthSave Baltimore Veg Dinner Ed Series, 6 pm - 9 pm, 10210 S. Dolfield Rd, Owings Mills Vegan potluck & Dana Simpler, MD, speaking on how a plant based diet can help us lose weight, get off medications, and deal with common health problems. Please bring a dish made without animal products that will serve 8, plus a \$5 donation (members \$2). Or with prior notice, enjoy dinner without bringing food for \$12 donation. Call 410-252-3043, write Baltimore@earthsave.org, or go to <http://earthsavebaltimore.org/>.

Sat, Apr 20 (Also on Apr 21), H2OLY WATERS Eco film festival, 6 pm refreshments, 7 pm film Maryland Presbyterian Church, 1105 Providence Road, Towson, MD 21286 "Water for Thirst" (4 films) More details at www.mpchurch.org

Sat, Apr 20, Earth Day: Make a Difference!, 8 am – 1 pm, Howard County Conservancy, MD Join us for a day of service to the earth! 8am- Bird Walk with Howard County Bird Club; 9am to 1pm- Tree planting, invasive species removal and other service projects; 11:30am-12:30pm- Children's Earth Day craft activity. FREE event! For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, devon.kosisky@hccconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hccconservancy.org

Sat, Apr 20, Wildlife Gardening Workshop, 10 am - 12 pm, Southeast Anchor Branch Library 3601 Eastern Avenue Welcome, gardeners! Free & open to the public! Audubon experts share practical tips and scientific support for gardening with native plants outside urban homes. Leave with resources to beautify your outdoor space and attract birds, butterflies, and other beneficial wildlife, including one free native plant for the first 20 registrants of each workshop! Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-BIRD (2473) ppaudubon@gmail.com, pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Sat, Apr 21, H2OLY WATERS Eco film festival, 6 pm refreshments, 7 pm film Maryland Presbyterian Church, 1105 Providence Road, Towson, MD 21286 "Water for the Chesapeake" (3 films) More details at www.mpchurch.org

Sun, Apr 21, George Washington Parkway Classic Race, 8 am - 1 pm, Alexandria, VA Support nature during Earth Month by participating in this race! The Nature Conservancy can offer you the chance to get VIP treatment the day of! For more information, contact Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, 301-897-8570 ext. 204. Details at www.nature.org/rundc.

Sun, Apr 21, Treehugger 5K & Family Fun 1K, 9 am - 11 am, Irvine Nature Center Owings Mills, MD Hug it out at the 1st annual Treehugger 5K encouraging healthy lifestyles and a healthy environment. This fast, fun and green event provides a great opportunity for you and your family to enjoy our earth's natural environment. Support our environmental education mission, enjoy the beautiful Caves Valley region and spread a little environmental love this Earth Day! All proceeds benefit Irvine Nature Center. \$20 per 5K runner, or \$20 per 1K family. Call 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org.

Sun, Apr. 21, Kids Unplugged: An Earth Day Celebration for Families at Irvine Nature Center, 11 am – 4 pm, Irvine Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117 Kids Unplugged, Irvine's "get outside" initiative, encourages children and their families to literally "unplug" from video games, television and other forms of electronics to participate in activities focused on Mother Earth and the great outdoors. Sack races, bingo, eco-art, miniature golf, toy swap, rock climbing wall (members only), Zumbatomic® and children's yoga. \$15 per child. Adults and children under 2 years old are free. Call 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org.

Mon, Apr 22 4 p.m., (RESCHEDULED FROM Mar 6 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/>

Mon, Apr 22, "One for the Bay" event with Baltimore Green Week, 5 pm - 7 pm, Baltimore, MD As part of Baltimore Green Week, The Nature Conservancy will host a second "One for the Bay" social hour in April for people to have the chance to meet staff from the Conservancy and the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP). Learn more about the largest oyster restoration project in the entire Chesapeake Bay! For more information, contact: Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, 301-897-8570 ext. 204. Details at www.nature.org/oneforthebay

Mon, Apr 22, Historic Home and Energy Efficiency Meeting, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm; Roland Park Branch Library, 5108 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210 Are you ready for the hot, humid days of summer? You can learn more about upgrading the energy efficiency of your home and maintaining its historical character with Retrofit Baltimore and Baltimore Heritage! A program of the local nonprofit Civic Works, Retrofit Baltimore provides 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, maintaining a home's historical integrity and how Retrofit Baltimore and Baltimore Heritage can help you through every step of the process. Baltimore Heritage www.retrofitbaltimore.org/ www.baltimoreheritage.org/

Mon, Apr 22, EARTH DAY, everywhere In Spring 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day as a way to “force this issue onto the national agenda.” 20 million Americans demonstrated in different U.S. cities, and it worked! In December 1970, Congress authorized the creation of a new federal agency to tackle environmental issues, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
www.epa.gov/earthday/history.htm www.earthday.org/

Tues, Apr 23, AIA COTE Monthly Meeting, 6 Pm – 7 Pm, Varies - Owl Bar, 1 East Chase Street, Mount Vernon, 21201 The Committee on the Environment was formed to promote the benefits of environmentally-conscious design and construction within the building professions and the community at large. We are involved in a number of projects, some in partnership with community organizations, to promote a healthier, more sustainable environment in the Baltimore region. We are planning inspiring and educational events for architects and associates in the coming year. We hold monthly meetings, and welcome your participation. New members are always welcome, but please contact Carri Beer, AIA cbeer@brennanarch.com, to be included on the committee list-serve.
www.aiabalt.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=50

Wed, Apr 24, Civic Works and the Green Economy, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Goucher College To celebrate 20 years of service to Baltimore’s communities, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. hosts “Civic Works and the Green Economy.” 5:30 p.m. – VIP Reception at The Athenaeum, 7:30 p.m. – Program at Kraushaar Auditorium Tickets are on sale now at www.missiontix.com! VIP Reception and Program Reserved Seating – \$250, Program General Admission – \$40 Please contact us at kwommack@civicworks.com or 410-366-8633. www.civicworks.com/events/robert-f-kennedy-jr-event/

Thurs, Apr 25, Baltimore Green Drinks/Network Green, 6pm – 9pm; Varies, 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. blui@baltimoregreencareers.org, GreenPartyforaPurpose.Org

Fri, Apr 26, First Day - Permaculture Design Course, 9 am – 5 pm; Club 125, Roosevelt Center, 125 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD and Farm-Scale Forest Garden Demonstration, 3507 Enterprise Road, Bowie, MD Permaculture Design Course: Chesapeake Forest Gardens. Dive deep into permaculture design - Become inspired and empowered to design food forests and edible landscapes at home for yourself and your community! April 26-28 (3 days) May 25-26 (2 days) June 22-23 (2 days) October 11-13 (3 days) November 9-10 (2 days) two locations: Club 125, Roosevelt Center, 125 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770 AND Farm-Scale Forest Garden Demonstration, 3507 Enterprise Road, Bowie, MD 20721 In this twelve-day course over the span of eight months (April through November), you will dive deeply into the vision and practice of creating wholesome, dynamic, and resilient edible ecosystems using temperate deciduous forests as models. www.cheers.org/viewStory.php?id=89

Sat, April 27, The Nature Conservancy’s Spring Bird Walks, 8 am, Fraser Preserve, VA (Future Walk on April 29) Join fellow bird enthusiasts to experience beautiful colors and songs. Learn from our experienced trip leaders about the tremendous journeys these small birds have made. Before you go, view our slideshow for a peek at some of the amazing birds you may spot on your walk. Space is limited so register today! For questions, contact Lauren Ludi at GetOutside@tnc.org.

Sat, April 27, Booking Signing with The Nature Conservancy’s CEO Mark Tercek, 1 p,m - 3 pm, Washington, DC The CEO of The Nature Conservancy, Mark Tercek, has written a book called Nature’s Fortune: How Business and Society Thrive by Investing in Nature. He will be signing copies at Politics & Prose in DC, and all proceeds of the book will go to The Nature Conservancy. For more information, visit <http://www.politics-prose.com/event/book/mark-r-tercek-natures-fortune-why-saving-environment-smartest-investment-we-can-make>.

Saturday, April 27, Adult Fishing Class, 9:30am, Howard County Conservancy, MD Attend our Adult Angler Education workshop at the Conservancy and learn everything you need to know to be able to

teach your child. Find out what kind of fishing gear is least likely to tangle, how to tie some simple knots, the best kind of bait to use, and some easy casting techniques. Ages 18 and older. \$10/person. For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, devon.kosisky@hconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hconservancy.org

Sat, Apr 27, The Baltimore BNote presents Localize It! at EcoFest, 11 am – 5 pm, Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, MD Join The BNote planning team, local chili chefs, and homebrewers for a celebration of local ingenuity and sustainability. Pick up some BNotes and support your local economy, while benefitting BGCA and Baltimore Green Works at the same time! For more information, contact Jeff Dicken at baltimoregreencurrency@gmail.com or 410-929-3382. Directions and details at www.baltimoregreencurrency.org .

Sat, Apr 27, Audubon Urban Bird Watching Walk, 8 am - 9:30 am, Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of Patterson Park Bring the family to Patterson Park 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 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, Apr 27, Compost Bin And Rain Barrel Truckload Sale, 9 am - 3 pm, auxiliary parking lot of "the avenue" at White Marsh, 8125 Honeygo Boulevard Baltimore County will host a joint compost bin and rain barrel truckload sale. The parking lot is located behind the AMC Theaters and across Town Center Drive. rain or shine. Compost bins and rain barrels will be sold on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. The compost bin for sale is once again The Earth Machine™, made from recycled plastic with an 80-gallon capacity, easy snap together assembly, and a ten-year warranty. The rain barrel for sale is once again the System Rain Barrel. The System Rain Barrel is made from recycled plastic with a 55-gallon capacity, a mosquito mesh to keep bugs and debris out, and a five-year warranty. It also comes with installation instructions, spigot, screws, and an overflow hose. www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/publicworks/recycling/composting/binsale.html

Mon, Apr 29, The Nature Conservancy's Spring Bird Walk, 7 am, Roosevelt Island Join fellow bird enthusiasts to experience beautiful colors and songs. Learn from our experienced trip leaders about the tremendous journeys these small birds have made. Before you go, view our slideshow for a peek at some of the amazing birds you may spot on your walk. Space is limited so register today! For questions, contact Lauren Ludi at GetOutside@tnc.org.

April 29, Baltimore Bicycling Club's Instructional Ride Series, 10:30am – 11:30am; Loch Raven Room on the second floor of the University Union at Towson University This series is offered to anyone over 16 years of age interested in learning the basic skills of cycling, including doing minor road repairs and improving as a rider. We want to help people new to our sport find a comfortable riding level and develop so they can at least ride on the BBC casual rides by the end of the series. Experienced riders who are new to club riding can meet other BBC members and learn about group riding. The ride series will cover both road and recreational trail riding. And we do have something for faster riders. At the orientation, we will demonstrate cycling skills and techniques, discuss bicycles, equipment and clothing, and answer any questions about the program. We will watch a short, informative video on cycling safety and bike handling. If you bring your bicycle to the orientation, we can check it out for you and show you how to do a pre-ride bike check. bikemd.org/page.php?id=281

MAY PREVIEW & BEYOND

Wed, May 1, The Nature Conservancy's Spring Bird Walks, 7 am, Pennyfield Lock, MD Join fellow bird enthusiasts to experience beautiful colors and songs. Learn from our experienced trip leaders about the tremendous journeys these small birds have made. Before you go, view our slideshow for a peek at

some of the amazing birds you may spot on your walk. Space is limited so register today! For questions, contact Lauren Ludi at GetOutside@tnc.org.

Wed, May 8, The Nature Conservancy's Spring Bird Walks, 6 am, Thompson Wildlife Management Area, VA Join fellow bird enthusiasts to experience beautiful colors and songs. Learn from our experienced trip leaders about the tremendous journeys these small birds have made. Before you go, view our slideshow for a peek at some of the amazing birds you may spot on your walk. Space is limited so register today! For questions, contact Lauren Ludi at GetOutside@tnc.org.

Sat, May 18, Cohousing Bus Tour, 8:30 am - 6:30 pm, Private home border DC/Silver Spring, MD Join a group of folks for a tour of cohousing communities in the Washington, DC region. These naturally sustainable communities incorporate a "sharing economy" into the social fabric of the community. For more information: kori@MidAtlanticCohousing.org; 703.596.2646; details: www.MidAtlanticCohousing.org. Click on the bus!

Sun, May 19, Bike Maryland RecRide/ Bike Jam, 8 am, Baltimore, MD Recreational bicycle ride with choice of 12 or 30 mile routes through Charm City's parks, gardens and neighborhoods starting off at Patterson Park. Free t-shirt with registration! Stay afterwards to enjoy Bike Jam & Health Expo. For more information, contact Carol at carol@bikemd.org or Mary at mary@bikemd.org. Registration and details at: <http://bikemd.org/page.php?id=545>

Tue, May 21, The Nature Conservancy's Spring Bird Walks, 7 am, Riley's Lock, MD Join fellow bird enthusiasts to experience beautiful colors and songs. Learn from our experienced trip leaders about the tremendous journeys these small birds have made. Before you go, view our slideshow for a peek at some of the amazing birds you may spot on your walk. Space is limited so register today! For questions, contact Lauren Ludi at GetOutside@tnc.org.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES AND TIDBITS

Real Food Farm Volunteer Days – April 6 (Wednesdays or Fridays)

Real Food Farm 2801 St. Lo Drive Baltimore, MD 21213, extends an open invitation to all volunteers to come by any Wednesday or Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. No need to RSVP, just show up with a water bottle, close-toed shoes, and work clothes. www.realfoodfarm.org/get-involved/volunteer/

Interface Biophilic Design Deadline - Mon, Apr 1

Inspired by the benefits biophilia brings, we have launched a competition to find designs for original, undeveloped projects that incorporate biophilia in the most innovative and exciting ways. If you have a vision that incorporates biophilic principles and their benefits into the design of interior or urban spaces, send us your renderings and illustrations by 1st April 2013 together with a description of up to 150 words. The public can vote through our social media channels to 15th April 2013 to determine the finalists – which will then be judged by an Interface appointed panel. www.interfacereconnect.com/

MAEOE Green Schools Application Deadline - Mon, Apr 1

Maryland Green Schools Applying or Re-certifying in 2013? Application Deadline April 1, 2013! www.maeoe.org/

People & Planet Awards - Nomination Deadline - Thu, Apr 4

Green America is proud to launch the fourth cycle of our People & Planet Awards, rewarding green businesses nationwide for their contributions to a just and sustainable economy. We've designed this spring's batch of awards to honor green businesses that take extraordinary steps for a sustainable food system ... and we need your help. Tell us why your favorite small, green business should win. You may nominate any green business you wish, but your nomination must tell us BOTH how your choice is a general sustainability leader AND how your choice is advancing a local, organic, and GMO-free food system. www.greenamerica.org/green-business-people-and-planet-award/index-nominating-form.cfm

Baltimore Farmers Markets Open, underneath the Jones Falls Expressway at Holliday & Saratoga streets - Sun, Apr 7

The Baltimore Farmers' Market & Bazaar will reopen from April 7, 2013 through December 22, 2013. While strolling through Maryland's largest producers-only market, shoppers can revel at the sight of a vast quantity of foods, including crisp fruits and vegetables, poultry, seafood, beef, pork, lamb, bison, goat, rabbit, fresh baked goods, flavorful herbs and organically raised and produced milk, yogurt, butter, eggs and cheese products. Additionally, dozens of food vendors add spice to the market with multicultural cuisine. Vegan items are sold as well. The bazaar offers shoppers a variety of unique crafts and collectibles including jewelry, handbags, hair accessories, clothing, rugs, pottery and wooden items, stained glass and photographs. www.bop.org/index.cfm?page=events&id=3

Maryland Green Registry Leadership Awards Application Opens - Tue, Apr 9

Maryland Green Registry Leadership Awards are presented annually to organizations that demonstrate a strong commitment to sustainable practices, measurable results and continual improvement. The Leadership Awards application period will run from April 9 through April 30, 2013. The award winners will be announced at the Annual Membership and Awards Event on June 11, 2013. mde.maryland.gov/marylandgreen/Pages/2010LeadershipWinners.aspx

Last day to submit - Save the Bay Photo Contest - Fri, Apr 12

Open to both amateur and professional photographers - seeking photographs illustrating 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. Official judging will be conducted by a panel of CBF employees who will judge entries on subject matter, composition, focus, lighting, uniqueness, and impact. The public will also be able to vote online for their favorite photo in the Viewers' Choice Gallery. www.cbf.org/events/photo-contest

National Award for Smart Growth Achievement Application Deadline - Fri, Apr 12

Through the National Award for Smart Growth Achievement, EPA recognizes and supports communities that use innovative policies and strategies to strengthen their economies, provide housing and transportation choices, develop in ways that bring benefits to a wide range of residents, and protect the environment. Smart growth development practices support national environmental goals by preserving open spaces and parkland and protecting critical habitat; improving transportation choices, including walking, bicycling, and transit, which reduces emissions from automobiles; promoting brownfield redevelopment; and reducing impervious surfaces, which improves water quality. www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards.htm

GEF Green In Action Awards Submission Deadline - Tue, Apr 30

In 2013, Green In Action Awards will be granted to inspiring projects based on GEF's sustainability themes. Winners are those schools, classrooms or youth groups who have demonstrated their commitment, creativity, or passion for sustainability in their application. Great application materials include photos, videos, essays, or artwork describing your environmental project, weigh-in, activity, community service project, or green team program! There are so many ways to participate and make a difference so show us how YOU are a champion for sustainability! Submissions will be reviewed and assessed relative to its creativity, educational value, and potential for sustainability and replication. Prizes! Winners receive \$250 for their class! They will also be featured in national news and have their application materials (such as videos, photographs and scanned artwork) shared on the National Green Week site. www.greeneducationfoundation.org/green-energy-challenge-menu/how-to-participate-gec/contests/green-in-action-awards.html

Last Day GEF National Green Week - Tue, Apr 30

National Green Week is an annual event that empowers schools to engage in sustainability focused lessons, projects or activities between February 4 and the end of Earth Month (April). Participating districts, schools, classrooms or youth groups choose a week, then select from GEF's sustainability focused programs to be their 'green theme.' Each theme provides 5 day standards- based lesson sets,

activities, recommended reading, sustainability tips, contests, and more! This year, National Green Week kicks off February 4-8 but you can choose any week from Feb. 4 through April 30 to participate. Participate for the whole week, a day, or just one lesson or activity. Schools and groups are encouraged to take this opportunity to spend time with students discussing sustainability topics and exploring ways they can make a difference. www.greeneducationfoundation.org/greenweek.html

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). 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_qCNqQhmcf5T2k0GWpvybQ

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 Tim DeChristopher called "Bidder 70" It's just over 6 minutes. <http://sistereden.com/videos-3/>

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/>

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>

BALTIMORE GREEN WEEK – FULL LISTING

BALTIMORE GREEN WEEK: SATURDAY

APRIL 20, 2013, baltimoregreenworks.com/events/baltimore-green-week/

- 9AM-2PM, Canoe Trip, Middle Branch Park: For more information and to RSVP, contact Molly Gallant at molly.gallant@baltimorecity.gov or 443-984-4058.
- 9AM-12PM (TENTATIVE), Planting/Maintaining Trees and Tree Giveaway, Frederick Douglass High School: For more information and to sign up as a volunteer, contact Debra Lenik at dlenik@bluewaterbaltimore.org or 410-254-1577 x100.
- 9-11AM, Nature Hike, Cylburn Arboretum: For information and to RSVP, contact Glenda Weber at glenda.weber@baltimorecity.gov.
- 11AM-1PM, Aquaponics Open House, Cylburn Arboretum Greenhouses: For information contact Laura Genella at lgenello@jhsph.edu.
- 12-1PM, Home Energy Efficiency: Saving Money Creating Green Jobs, Roland Park Library: Contact: Ben Legow, 410-929-6084, blegow@retrofitbaltimore.org www.retrofitbaltimore.org.
- 12:30-4PM, Who Wants to Be An Urban Farmer? Real Food Farm: Register at: www.realfoodfarm.org. Contact: realfoodfarm@civicworks.com.

BALTIMORE GREEN WEEK: SUNDAY

APRIL 21, 2013, baltimoregreenworks.com/events/baltimore-green-week/

- 8:15AM-5PM, "Sustainable Simcha" Limmud, Johns Hopkins University: For information and to register, www.limmudbaltimore.com/about-limmud/mission/.
- 10AM, Walk and Talk at Federal Hill Park with local author Ned Tillman. RSVP appreciated but not required to info@TheChesapeakeWatershed.com
- 10AM-12PM, Bare Root Tree Pilot Planting, Howard P. Rawlings Conservatory in Druid Hill Park: For more information and to RSVP, contact Charles Murphy at charles.murphy@baltimorecity.gov or 410-458-7888.
- 3-4PM, Unrelated Business Income Tax: The Hidden Tax of Tax-Exempt Organizations, University of Baltimore Business Center: Please call 410-837-5830 or email pkhandhar@ubalt.edu
- 3-5PM Friends of Maryland's Olmsted Parks and Landscapes Open Space Forum, Baltimore's Emerald Necklace Connecting People & Places, The Amphitheater in the Morgan State University Engineering Building:

BALTIMORE GREEN WEEK: MONDAY

APRIL 22, 2013, baltimoregreenworks.com/events/baltimore-green-week/

- 6:30AM, Pedal to Druid Hill Park, Meet at 200 E. North Avenue:
- 7-8AM, Bicycle Tour of Druid Hill Park, Meet at the Statue of Christopher Columbus: For more information and to RSVP contact Molly Gallant at molly.gallant@baltimorecity.gov or 443-984-4058.
- 5-7PM, One for the Bay Mix-and-Mingle, McCormick and Schmick's: Visit www.nature.org/onefortheybay for more information.

- 5:30-7:30PM, Green Schools & Building Tour at Morgan State University: Space is limited, please RSVP at hcmgreenbuildingtour.eventbrite.com/.
- 6-7:30PM, The Institute for Integrative Health presents Domestic Detox: Free event, but reservations are required: bit.ly/HomeDetox. For questions contact, events@tiih.org, 443-681-7605.
- 6-9PM, Empowerment through Shared Community Spaces at the D Center; 16 W North Ave., Baltimore, MD Neighborhood Design Center Presents, Design Works: Power in Dirt presents, Adopt a City-Owned Vacant Lot:

BALTIMORE GREEN WEEK: TUESDAY

APRIL 23, 2013, baltimoregreenworks.com/events/baltimore-green-week/

- 11:30AM-1PM, Lunchtime Bicycle Ride, War Memorial Plaza: For information / RSVP contact Molly Gallant molly.gallant@baltimorecity.gov or 443-984-4058.
- 5:30-6:30PM, Benefit Corporations and Benefit LLCs, University of Baltimore School of Law: Please call 410-837-5830 or email pkhandhar@ubalt.edu
- 4:30PM Downtown Street Tree Planting, Parking lot at the American Brewery Building:
- 6-8PM, Baltimore City's Office of Sustainability Presents Town Hall Meeting & Celebration, Humanim at the American Brewery Building: Registration is free but space is limited, so RSVP at bmoresustainabilitycommission.eventbrite.com/

BALTIMORE GREEN WEEK: WEDNESDAY

APRIL 24, 2013, baltimoregreenworks.com/events/baltimore-green-week/

- 6:30AM, Pedal to Patterson Park, Meet at 200 E. North Avenue:
- 7-8AM, Bicycle Tour of Patterson Park, Meet at the Corner of Baltimore Street and Patterson Park Avenue: For more information and to RSVP contact Molly Gallant at molly.gallant@baltimorecity.gov or 443-984-4058.
- 12-1PM, From Your Kitchen to Their Pantry: Please call 410-837-5830 or email pkhandhar@ubalt.edu
- 6-8PM, Storm Drain Stencil Training, Patterson Park Public Charter School: RSVP to stencilshare@bluewaterbaltimore.org or call 410-254-1577 X 109. For more information www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/events/?event_id=416 .

BALTIMORE GREEN WEEK: THURSDAY

APRIL 25, 2013, baltimoregreenworks.com/events/baltimore-green-week/

- 9-10AM, Gentle Hike in Gwynns Falls /Leakin Park, Meet at Winans Meadow: Gentle walks are held every Thursday from 9-10AM, weather permitting. To register and more information contact Heide Grundmann at hgrundot@aol.com or 410-945-0586.
- 11:30AM-1PM, Lunchtime Bicycle Ride, Meet at War Memorial Plaza: For more information and to RSVP contact Molly Gallant at molly.gallant@baltimorecity.gov or 443-984-4058.
- 12-1:30PM, Turning Cabbage into Cash: How to sell non-prepared/unprocessed foods at non-brick and mortar places in Baltimore City and County, University of Baltimore Business Center: Please call 410-837-5830 or email pkhandhar@ubalt.edu
- 5:30-9PM, Greater Baltimore Children and Nature Conference, Baltimore Recreation and Parks Headquarters:RSVP to Mary Hardcastle @ mary.hardcastle@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-7020 Register at.
- 6-9PM, Sustainable Speaker Series presents Michael Klare, author of The Race for What's Left: The Global Scramble for the World's Last Resources, Enoch Pratt Free Library Central Branch: baltimoregreenworks.com/events/sustainable-speaker-series/

BALTIMORE GREEN WEEK: FRIDAY

APRIL 26, 2013, baltimoregreenworks.com/events/baltimore-green-week/

- 6:30AM, Pedal to Federal Hill, Meet at 200 E. North Avenue:
- 7-8AM, Bicycle Tour of Federal Hill and Riverside Parks, Meet at the Warren Street Entrance of Federal Hill Park: For more information and to RSVP, contact Molly Gallant at molly.gallant@baltimorecity.gov or 443-984-4058.
- 2PM Civilization Systems LLC, 300 S. Collington Ave. Baltimore, MD 21231:

- 7PM-2AM, Baltimore Bike Party, Mount Vernon Park: For information and updates, www.facebook.com/BaltimoreBikeParty www.baltimorebikeparty.com .

BALTIMORE GREEN WEEK: SATURDAY

APRIL 27, 2013, baltimoregreenworks.com/events/baltimore-green-week/

- 9-1PM, Prettyboy Day: A Celebration of our Reservoir and Watershed Lands,
- 9AM-12PM, Planting/Maintaining Trees and Tree Giveaway, City College Campus: FREE Trees (for your yard) will be given away on site. For more information and to sign up as a volunteer, contact Debra Lenik at dlenik@bluewaterbaltimore.org or 410-254-1577 x100.
- 10-11:30AM, Introduction to Identifying Trees, Howard P. Rawlings Conservatory at Druid Hill Park: For more information and RSVP, contact Glenda glenda.weber@baltimorecity.gov.
- 11:30AM--5PM, 10th Annual EcoFest in Druid Hill Park Near the Howard P. Rawlings Conservatory, Baltimore, MD EcoFest is an outdoor festival with live music, a local beer and wine garden, nearly a hundred exhibitors offering local products and services for the home, garden, and business. For a full schedule of events happening at the EcoFest, baltimoregreenworks.com/events/ecofestival/