

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **May 2013**. It is going out to more than **1,565 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/2013/2013-05.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 - no forum again until Oct 2013
- Baltimore Green Forum – on the 3rd Sunday this month!
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- June Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Check out the new circle starting in Howard County. They are trying out an online approach called GoodReads. All are welcome, regardless of where you live.

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

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, May 12

6:30 pm–8:30 pm

Urban & Suburban Meadows: Bringing Meadowsclaping to Big and Small Spaces
By author and photographer Catherine Zimmerman.

What's wrong with the extensive planting of non-native grass lawns across America? Before manicured lawns, with their chemicals, mowers, and blowers, there were ecological meadows, with their butterflies, birds, and bees. Catherine Zimmerman's Urban & Suburban Meadows reintroduces readers to the beauty and biodiversity of the meadow and reminds them of the intricate connections between wildlife and native plant communities that serve as both food source and habitat.

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

The Earth Forum of Howard County is on "hiatus" until October 2013.

The Earth Forum is free and open to all. For further information, contact www.earthforumhc.org, 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, May 19 (please note this is the THIRD SUNDAY, rather than the usual FOURTH SUNDAY of the month)

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: "The Benefits and Challenges of Using the Legal System for Environmental Advocacy"

Speaker: Tina Meyers, Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper and Environmental Attorney with Blue Water Baltimore

Ms. Meyers will also speak generally about her work as both an environmental attorney and as a Waterkeeper working in the Chesapeake region.

In particular, she will discuss the various legal and regulatory tools available to citizens for making real change in their local waterways and communities. She will discuss several success stories of where utilizing these tools resulted in significant decreases in water pollution and why the use of these tools is critical to cleaning up our waterways.

She will also discuss several of the challenges faced by citizen groups when confronting polluters with legal enforcement, including exorbitant financial costs, political backlash, public relations issues, and pressure from government agencies and other citizen groups. Lastly, she will discuss potential solutions to some of these challenges.

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 5 circles (283 total circles since 2002!). Most recent topics have included Voluntary Simplicity, Common Security Club, Hungry for Change, Powering a Bright Future, Sacred Economics, and The Future by Al Gore. **There are 4 new circles scheduled for May, in Howard Co, Prince Georges County, and Washington, DC, marked with an asterisk (*)**

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

****Sun, May 19, "Is Sustainability Still Possible" Circle starting, online (from home)**

The Transition Movement group on Goodreads.com will engage in discussion circle of the book "State of the World 2013: Is Sustainability Still Possible?", starting on May 19 and continuing (slowly) through the end of the year. You do not need to be available on Sundays, as you can progress at your own pace. For more info see <http://www.transitionhoco.org/goodreads-transition-movement>.

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

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** (SE) The winter circle is reconvening on **Thurs. May 2 at 7:15pm in a private home.**

This will be an Intro Meeting to set the dates for the rest of the semester. CS: Carol Nezzo [Email lore@simplicity-matters.org to join or get the dates once they are set.]

College Park (VS) A second group will start up on soon. They are recruiting a few more people in order to get started. CS: Carol Nezzo Contact lore@simplicity-matters.org for details

***Greenbelt “Peer Support Group” Introductory Meeting is Mon, May 13, 7-9 pm.** Greenbelt Community Center, Room 114. This six-week circle for people interested in climate and sustainability will teach the basic tools of peer support, give participants the opportunity to benefit from the process and empower participants to provide support to themselves and others on an ongoing basis after the circle. Dr. Jim Driscoll will come out the first session to model the process. The circle will then continue on it's own for 4 sessions. Jim will return the sixth session to lead the wrap up. 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 soon, 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/Citizens Climate Lobby** (tbd) SMEI is teaming up with the Friends Quaker Meeting and the Citizens Climate Lobby to offer a discussion circle. Topic is "tbd". The **Intro Meeting will take place on Tues, May 14, 7:30-9 pm at 2111 Florida Ave., NW**. Participants will choose the topic and set the dates for the rest of the sessions. CS: Jim Driscoll Email lore@simplicity-matters.org, if interested.

Tenleytown or on Red Line (All Topics). There is interest but we need more people. If you are interested in joining a discussion group please let me know. Marney@simplicity-matters.org, (301) 652-0492

We have just learned of a new group in DC also starting circles. Visit www.janyocommunity.com or <http://thejanyocommunity.wordpress.com/course/> to learn more.

Washington, DC, Join the folks of the **Washington Buddhist Peace Fellowship** to discuss diet, climate change and how our spiritual practices relate to and illuminate these issues. Please see our web site www.wbpf.org for more information (events calendar). Contact person: Bill Jenkins, worldofmuse@aol.com, (301) 699-8704

"Circles List"/"Matchmaking"

This 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

Wed, May 1, The Nature Conservancy's Spring Bird Walks, 7am, 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 1, National Bike Challenge - First Day The Challenge runs through September 30, 2013. We encourage you to sign up and join the existing Bike Maryland team. Click the "Join" button and become a new user and then join a team and write "Bike Maryland". The National Bike Challenge joins more than 50,000 Americans as we unite to ride more than 20 million miles in communities nationwide. Challenge yourself with this free, online program that encourages biking for transportation, fitness and recreation. Join the movement today and every month you'll be eligible to win great raffle prizes! The more you bike, the better your chance of winning. www.endomondo.com/campaign/national/

Wed, May 1, May Day A celebration of rebirth and International Workers' Day. www.theholidayspot.com/mayday/history.htm www.iww.org/en/history/library/misc/origins_of_mayday

Wed, May 1, "One for the Bay" Social Hour, 5pm - 8pm, Washington, DC. On the first Wednesday of every month from April until October, McCormick and Schmick's on K Street in DC is hosting a social hour in honor of The Nature Conservancy and the Oyster Recovery Partnership. These two organizations are working on the largest oyster restoration project on the Chesapeake Bay, creating a reef of over 350 acres and planting over 2 billion baby oysters! For more information, contact: Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, 301-897-8570 ext. 204. Details at www.nature.org/oneforthebay

Wed, May 1, Activate Your Inner Citizen Briefing, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, War Memorial Hall, Baltimore, MD CPHA will be holding an Activate Your Inner Citizen briefing on building healthy neighborhoods. Sponsored by the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD). The evening will start out with an opportunity to explore informational displays on health initiatives going on in our communities, and then move on to a panel discussion led by WBAL's Jayne Miller on how these initiatives can improve the health of our neighborhoods. www.cphabaltimore.org/calendar/

Thu, May 2, A Living Building? 8am – 9:30am, Natural Capital 4825 Cordell Ave Bethesda, MD 20814 Gaddy House, a 2,000 square foot house in Clarksville, Maryland, is seeking a LEED Homes Platinum rating under the LEED v4 Pilot, a Passive House certification and a Living Building Challenge certification. In addition to the difficulties inherent in each of the certifications, some of the demands of each of the systems conflict with the requirements of others. This presentation will focus on the Living Building Challenge, what it is and how the design of this house aligns with the various requirements of the Challenge. Many lessons can be expanded to address similar project goals for larger buildings. www.bethesdagreen.org/

Thu, May 2, Bethesda Green First Thursday Happy Hour, 5pm – 8pm, Bethesda, MD Join us for casual conversation and social networking. This month we'll hear from an expert about greening your home and making it more energy efficient. Meet on the second floor of Caddies, 4922 Cordell Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814. Complimentary appetizers and gift card raffle courtesy of Caddies. Donation at the door: \$5. Contact Dave Heffernan for more information, dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org, 301-767-7222.

Thu, May 2, Audubon Maryland-DC: Wing into Spring, 6pm – 9pm, Boordy Vineyards Wine, Hors d'oeuvres, Chocolate, Door Prizes, Live Birds, Native Gardening Experts and More. Tickets: \$75 per person, (\$45 of each ticket is tax-deductible). Advanced ticket purchase required. If you have any questions, would like information on becoming an event sponsor, or to purchase tickets by phone, please call 410-558-2473. Wing into Spring benefits Audubon's work to restore the natural ecosystems of Maryland and the District of Columbia, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. md.audubon.org/wing-spring-2013

Fri/Sat, May 3, 11am – May 4, 8pm, Flower Mart, Mt. Vernon plaza around the Washington Monument. Baltimore, MD Over 100 vendors will sell their wares or display information about their causes to the public. A tremendous array of flowers, plants, accessories, arts and crafts, non-profit literature and wellness services will be available. In addition, we have arranged a colorful palette of varied entertainment for your enjoyment on two stages, including rock and roll and country bands, vocalists and several kinds of dancing, some with audience participation! On the West Park will host a special Children's Camp from noon to 5PM. Kids will be able to make origami animals, Mother's Day cards and more, plus the Urban Pirates will hold storytime. www.flowermart.org/

Fri, May 3, 22nd Annual May Day Fairie Festival, 12noon – 6pm, (continuing Sat, May 4 and Sun, May 5.) Spoutwood Farm, 4255 Pierceville Rd. Glen Rock, PA Spoutwood Farm is proud to present the The Fairie Festival. Join over 15,000 visitors from the US and from across the ocean during our three day revelry! Please see www.spoutwood.org for details

Fri, May 3, 1000 Friends of MD Fundraiser, 5pm – 8pm, The Chesapeake Restaurant 1701 N Charles Street, Baltimore, MD Sneak peek before the restaurant opens and support 1000 Friends of MD! www.friendsofmd.org/

Fri, May 3, We Won on Wind Victory Party, 5:30pm - 8pm, College Park, MD Join the Maryland Climate Coalition as we host the We Won on Wind Victory Party! We will acknowledge some of the various people, organizations, and congregations that made this win possible and talk about next steps on implementation with guests like Mirinda Jackson, Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Compliance Manager for Prince George's County (invited) and others. To rsvp: <http://wewonwindparty.eventbrite.com/> For more information, please contact Vidal Hines, vidal.hines@sierraclub.org, (301) 277-7111

Sat, May 4, Audubon's Youth Bird Watching & Volunteer team, 8am – 10:30am, Patterson Park, Baltimore, MD Audubon's Youth Bird Watching · Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of Patterson Park · Free · Middle school and high school students only Young scientists, join Patterson Park Audubon Center in seasonal observation and data collection of the bird species that visit our urban park. Middle and high school students are welcome. Spring is a great time to find migratory birds on their way north! Will we see all 184 recorded species for Patterson Park? Join us to find out. No bird watching experience necessary! Audubon will supply binoculars and data collection materials. Please register in advance.

* 9 – 10:30 am: Volunteer with Audubon's habitat team · Meet at the Audubon wetland garden, uphill and northwest of the boat lake in Patterson Park · Free · All ages. Flex your green thumbs while tending Audubon's habitat gardens in Patterson Park. We need volunteers to finish the wetland garden expansion, remove weeds, build a fence, and keep it a healthy habitat for Baltimore's birds and insects. Bring a friend! We're happy to sign community service hours for helpful students. There is no need to RSVP for this event. Patterson Park Audubon Center 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Sat, May 4, FREE WORKSHOP: Make the Right Choice, How to Select Products that Will Save You Energy and Money, Community Forklift, 2:00pm-3:00pm, 4671 Tanglewood Drive, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781 Ever wonder how efficient your energy efficient purchases really are? Join us this weekend and learn from the expert! John Lippert, chair of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability. Understanding the various programs and labels available to help you select energy-efficient appliances and electronics. We will cover ENERGY STAR, EPEAT, TopTen USA Program, Consumer Reports, EnergyGuide Label, and Lighting Facts. We'll go over the strengths and weaknesses of the various options. <http://www.facebook.com/events/327798294016417/>

Sat/Sun, May 4, 5pm – May 5, 1pm, Homebrew Bike Tour (Spring), Baltimore, MD This tour will hit Reservoir Hill, Woodberry, Remington, and Station North. And we're doing it again in Summer and Fall! www.bikemore.net/events-calendar/

Sun, May 5, Food for Soul Workshop, 1pm - 4pm, Montgomery Village, MD Join the International Cultural Center for an educational workshop on food consciousness, with multiple faith perspectives. RSVP and more info: Samia Haque at samia@theicc.net or 240-396-5350

Sun, May 5, Discussion on MD General Assembly, 2:30pm, Silver Spring Civic Center, One Veteran's Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910 Progressive Maryland and Progressive Neighbors, along with Senators Raskin and Montgomery and Delegates Hixson, Mizeur, Gutierrez and Carr, will offer an analysis of what went wrong and right at the MD General Assembly this year.

Sun, May 5, 5pm, What Then Must We Do? Straight Talk about the Next American Revolution, author talk by Gar Alperovitz at Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave NW Washington, District Of Columbia. Free. Info www.politics-prose.com/event/book/gar-alperovitz-what-then-must-we-do-straight-talk-about-next-american-revolution

Tue, May 7, Design Conversations, 6pm – 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, May 8, The Nature Conservancy's Spring Bird Walks, 6am, 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.

Wed, May 8, 2013, GBI/MAEOE introduction to an existing homes best practices, Enviro Center (GBI Office), Jessup, MD GBI and MAEOE are teaming up to create a unique and wonderful existing homes and community best practices program that will work through the school systems and ultimately help fund environmental curricula in the schools and at the same time get the existing homes and community involved in creating a greener and healthier built environment. Join us either for a morning, before work, session, or an after work session to find out what it is all about and how you can help. greenbuildingnetwork.groupsie.com/calendar/event/2013/5/8/368866

Wed, May 8, Spring of Sustainability, 7pm – 8pm - Continues (online) 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

Thu, May 9, CSI's Monthly Meeting: Green Construction Aspects, 4:30pm – 8:30pm, The Admiral Fell Inn, 888 South Broadway, Baltimore, MD Green Construction Aspects of ASHRAE 189.1 Standard for the Design of High-performance, Green Buildings www.csibaltimore.org/index_files/Page298.htm

Thu, May 9, Multi-Family Intel Session #1: Incentives & Financing, 4:30pm – 7:30pm, Union Mill, 1500 Union Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21211 The first in a series of 3! The program will focus on issues facing developers, architects, builders, contractors and anyone associated with Multi-Family housing, affordable and market-rate. The program will be followed by a happy hour so you can meet others involved in Multi-Family Housing and discuss the program! For more information, please look at: www.usgbcmd.org/calendar?eventId=654073&EventViewMode=EventDetails

Fri, May 10, Audubon Urban Bird Watching Walk, 8am – 9:30am, Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of Patterson Park, Baltimore, MD 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/

Fri, May 10, Smithsonian GardenFest, 11am – 7pm, National Mall in Washington, DC. The annual event takes place in coordination with National Public Gardens Day. Activities include composting demos, plant art crafts, a container contest, and much more. It is free to attend and open to the public. Kathy Jentz, Editor/Publisher of Washington Gardener Magazine, will be a presenter and have a seed matching activity table. Event details are posted here: <http://gardens.si.edu/whats-happening/garden-fest.html>.

Fri, May 10, 15th Annual Treasure the Chesapeake Celebration, 7pm – 10pm, Annapolis Marriott Waterfront Want to party for a good cause? Then mark your calendar for an evening of fantastic fare, open bar, music and dancing, casino games, a Silent Auction and much more-all to support a very good cause: Chesapeake Bay restoration and education. Registration is open! Interested in being a sponsor? www.cbtrust.org/site/c.miJPKXPCJnH/b.5368633/k.BDEA/Home.htm

Sat/Sun, May 11 – 12, 9th Annual Green Man Festival, Roosevelt Center in Historic Greenbelt Join us, rain or shine, for two days of music, vendors, crafts, environmental awareness, food, and fun in beautiful downtown! The 9th Annual Green Man Festival is a celebration of Greenbelt's commitment to preserve its acres of forests and to extend the urban tree canopy by planting more native fruiting trees. Festival activities will reconnect us to the folklore of ancient civilizations through science, art, music and myth by featuring many local artists, musicians and performers from Maryland as well as other parts of the country. www.greenbeltgreenmanfestival.org/

Sat/Sun, May 11 – 12, Solar & Wind Expo, MD State Fair, 2200 York Road, Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093 www.TheSolarAndWindExpo.com, info@TheSolarAndWindExpo.com, 410-439-1577. www.marylandstatefair.com/index.cfm?page=calendar&event_id=387

Sat, May 11, World Fair trade Day WFTD WFTD is the largest Fair Trade event of the year in N. America, and events take place May 4-19 in 2013. Around 100,000 people attend hundreds of celebrations to promote Fair Trade and campaign for trade justice together with farmers & artisans. WFTD itself falls on May 11. www.fairtraderesource.org/wftd/

Sat, May 11, Tree Planting, Meet at the Prince of Peace Church, 9am – 1pm, 600 N. Linwood Ave. Baltimore, MD 21205 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! For more information, contact Amanda Cunningham at amanda@baltimoretreetrust.org. Please register at www.baltimoretreetrust.org/

Sat, May 11, GardenMart, 9am - 1pm, Brookside Gardens Wheaton, MD The annual Silver Spring Garden Club GardenMart benefit plant sale held at Brookside Gardens features locally sourced and grown plants including unique varieties of tomatoes, peppers, and herbs. The club also sells special selections of native plants, deer-resistant plants, and shade-loving plants. The sale benefits the club's educational activities. For more information, contact: Kathy Jentz, SSGC President, Laserblast@aol.com, 301-588-6894. Directions and details at www.brooksidegardens.org

Sat, May 11, Solar & Green Home Expo, 10am – 3pm, Bethesda, MD The expo offers visitors an information-packed showcase event featuring many green home expert services and solar providers. This is a free community event with topic-focused seminars held throughout the day. Hosted by Bethesda Green, 4825 Cordell Ave., Bethesda, MD, second floor above the Capital One Bank branch. Contact Sharon D'Emidio for more information, sharon@bethesdagreen.org, 240-396-2440 x-105, www.bethesdagreen.org.

Sat, May 11, Mothers' Day Special, 10am, Howard County Conservancy, MD Come out and visit the Howard County Conservancy for our Mothers Day Special! Take a tour with our garden club and enjoy

tea and scones at our historic farmhouse! \$ For more information, please contact Devon Kosisky, devon.kosisky@hconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hconservancy.org

Tue, May 14, Financial Rewards for Energy Efficient Design, 5pm – 7:30pm, Gaudreau, Inc. 810 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230 Learn about the BGE Smart Energy Savers Program® and the 179D Energy Tax Deduction

* 5pm Registration/ Reception

* 5:30pm BGE's Smart Energy Savers Program® presented by ICF International

* 6:30pm 179D Tax Deduction presented by alliantgroup. We architects incorporate sustainable design principles into our projects, designing buildings that are healthier and better than ever, and that strive for energy efficiency whether or not we are obtaining LEED certification. As a community we promote the design aspects as well as the energy savings. But how many of us are aware of some of the financial incentives that are available right now? aiabalt.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=159

Wed, May 15, 8th Annual Wide Angle Youth Media Festival, 3pm – 7:30pm, The Creative Alliance Emily Rothschild Gallery 3134 Eastern Ave., Baltimore MD 21224 The 8th Annual Wide Angle Youth Media Festival gives voice to over 200 youth from over 40 schools and 10 after school programs in Baltimore City by providing a forum that showcases their creativity and perspectives at diverse venues throughout Baltimore City. Works in this year's festival are comprised of individual and group projects featuring photography and film. These works all challenge negative stereotypes of young people in Baltimore. The festival's opening night will take place on May 15, 2013 at the Creative Alliance from 5:00-8:00 PM. Wide Angle Youth Media will also be offering free art activities to groups and the public from 3-5 PM. wideanglemedia.org/programs/youth-media-festival/

Fri, May 17, Bike to Work Day, Baltimore region and across the nation Sponsored by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council. This year marks the 16th annual event in the Baltimore region and will feature events at locations around the region. baltometro.org/bicycle/bike-to-work-day Choose from one of the many stations located around the City of Baltimore! Stations are open at 7AM and most will remain open until 9:30 am offering coffee, lite breakfast and bike repairs. www.bmorebikes.com/bike-to-work-registration/

Fri, May 17, Bikemore Happy Hour, 5pm – 8pm, Location varies monthly Bikemore is Baltimore's bicycle advocacy organization. www.facebook.com/bikemorebaltimore . bikemore.net/

Fri, May 17 - Sat, May 18, Spring Family Campout at Irvine Nature Center, 6pm – 9am, Owings Mills, MD Experience a night under the stars! Pitch a tent at Irvine, head out for a night hike with us, do some stargazing, then enjoy a campfire snack before bed. In the morning, we'll listen to the sounds of the forest waking up and share a light breakfast. \$40 for non-member families of 4+. For more information, contact Clare, NaldrettC@ExploreNature.org, 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org

Sat/Sun, May 18, 8:30am – May 19, 5:30pm, Home-Scale Permaculture Design Course- Session 6, 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, May 18, Baltimore Family Bike Party, 9:30am – 11:30am, Location varies Monthly A safe and fun bike ride for kids and families inspired by Kidical Mass and the Baltimore Bike Party. Our rides are short and comfortable for young children on two-wheeled bikes (sorry, no training wheels on this ride) or adults with children in trailers or bike seats. If you're looking for advice on how to get the whole family rolling, take a look at our Guide to Baltimore Family Biking for some helpful links and tips. baltimorefamilybikeparty.wordpress.com/

Sat, May 18, Project WILD/WILD Aquatic Workshop at Irvine Nature Center, 9:30 am – 4pm, Owings Mills, MD Project Wild and WILD Aquatic are wildlife focused conservation education programs for K-12 educators and their students. Project WILD activities can be used to teach basic skills in science, social studies, language arts, math, art, music and physical education. This workshop is ideal for teachers in grades 2-6. Free. For more information, contact Clare, NaldrettC@ExploreNature.org, 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org

Sat, May 18, May Day Eco-Fair, 10am – 5pm, The Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville MD Outdoor eco-fair. Music by the Bald Mountain Band, Spice, and Angelique Henle. Activities include a Maypole and drum circle. There will be booths with environmental groups and vendors, and a variety of eco-friendly products and services or original art or crafts with a fairy theme. (If interested in Vendor spaces (10'x12') for \$50, please go to www.towsonuuc.org (scroll down to info on Fair) or contact rawc@towsonuuc.org.

Sat, May 18, Cohousing Bus Tour, 8:30am - 6:30pm, 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!

Sat, May 18, Congregational Training: How to Speak to Climate Change Doubters, 9:00am to 12:00 pm, UU Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd., Oakton VA 22124 Kevin Coyle, Vice President for Education and Training at the National Wildlife Federation, is who Al Gore turned to to develop the training program for more than 3,000 activists to deliver the Inconvenient Truth presentations across the U.S. We want to invite climate change activists from our congregations to this special three-hour training to learn how to respond to the doubters and to confidently speak and present climate change to our communities. The training covers, a) climate 101, the simple science basics, b) a review of current projections on the real consequences of climate change for the planet and people now and in the future, c) local DC-area implications and d) some discussion and practice around responding to common assertions by climate change skeptics. This is an important effort by an impressive trainer. It's a way to multiply and strengthen our voices by developing confident and articulate advocates. People will come away from the training with basic power points, resources, and ideas about how to communicate with neighbors, friends, doubters about climate change and steps to back away from climate chaos. For information: Rev. Rasmussen, UUCF Minister for Social Justice, krasmussen@uucf.org, 703-281-4230, www.uucf.org

May 18-May 23, Occupy our Homes, Wall Street Accountability, Week of Action. Rally on Mon, May 20 1pm, Freedom Plaza, Washington, DC
<http://start2.occupyyourhomes.org/partnerships/wall-street-accountability-week-of-action>

Sun, May 19, Bike Maryland RecRide/ Bike Jam, Boat Lake in the center of Patterson Park, Baltimore, MD The Bike Maryland RecRide will start and finish at the incredibly exciting BikeJam event in Patterson Park, Baltimore! Two scenic RecRide bicycle tours give you a close-up view of beautiful Charm City on May 19th. The Lolly Pop Ride: approximately 12 Miles; The Parks Ride: approximately 30 miles Join the celebration at the end of the RecRide - stay in Patterson Park and celebrate as BikeJam 2013 plays host to Pro Bicycle Championships. International caliber pro-racers and local racers compete for cash and prizes all day. Enjoy food vendors, beer, live music and the super-fast BikeJam 2013 pro bicycle races! Enjoy the fun at the Bike and Health Expo. Bike Maryland will host a youth bicycle safety rodeo in the afternoon. Proceeds support Bike Maryland! bikemd.org/page.php?id=545

Sun, May 19, Annual Farm Open House and pot luck, 11am - 4pm. Licking Creek Bend Farm in Needmore, PA The farm is about 2 hours from the DC area. Join our customers, CSA members and friends, meet our amazing staff, tour the farm, see our new and old equipment, plant, harvest, plant or pick your Christmas tree (bring a plastic luggage tag to mark your tree). Bring a veggie pot luck, drinks or dessert, swim in the creek, and enjoy a day in the country. Please bring your own plates, silverware and

cups. No packaged junk food, soda and styrofoam please. The address of the farm is 928 Donahoe Lane, Needmore, PA. For additional information contact us at esiegel2@iqc.org. For more on our farm visit our web site: www.lickingcreekbendfarm.com.

Mon, May 20, Eat Your Roses: Edible Flowers, 8pm, Brookside Gardens, Visitors Center/Education Building, 1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton Maryland Find out what edible flowers you can cultivate to add a bit of color and flavor to your cooking. Our featured speaker is author Denise Schreiber. 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/Wed/Thurs, May 21-23, "Stop The Frack Attack" People's Forum, Washington, DC
<http://www.stopthefrackattack.org/join-the-stop-the-frack-attacks-peoples-forum-in-dc-on-may-22nd/>

Tue, May 21, The Nature Conservancy's Spring Bird Walks, 7am, 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.

Tues, May 21, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. Wilfred Candler, Ph.D will speak about "How Serious Is Global Warming in 2013?" For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Wed, May 22, Annual Legislative Wrap-Up from the 2013 MD General Assembly, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, 6711 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300, Columbia, MD 21046 USGBC MD event. The program will include information on: Legislative overview and "green" opportunities arising from the 2013 MD General Assembly session; LEED and the Federal Government from the DOD to the GSA and the impact on Maryland; New SWM Maintenance Fee programs and what it is going to cost your business; Impact and implications of the Baltimore City School bill. This will be a great green networking opportunity! We will have light fare, beer/wine, Plenty of free parking available in adjacent lot.
www.usgbcmd.org/calendar?eventId=677539&EventViewMode=EventDetails

Thu, May 23, 7th Annual Wine in the Garden, 5pm – 8pm, Howard County Conservancy, MD. Enjoy wine and foods from a variety of local restaurants and caterers while listening to bluegrass music in the Conservancy's three-acre native plant garden. Browse our large silent auction filled with unique items such as artwork, getaways and more! \$ For more information, please contact Allison Anderson, wine@hconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hconservancy.org/wine-in-the-garden-2013.html

Thu, May 23, Film Screening: Renewal, 7pm - 8:30pm, Leesburg, VA Join Unitarian Universalist Church of Loudoun for a screening of Renewal to witness the vitality and diversity of today's religious-environmental activists. Directions at <http://www.uuloudoun.org/>

Fri, May 24, Audubon Tiny Tots, 10:30am – 11:30am, Meet at the picnic tables on the northeastern shore of the Boat Lake in Patterson Park, Baltimore, MD \$5 suggested donation per child, with an adult · Ages 2-5. Tiny Tots is an early childhood environmental education program where kids make a craft, play games, and read a story. Discover local plants and animals that thrive in Baltimore's waters. Please register at least 2 days before the program. Patterson Park Audubon Center. 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Sat, May 25, Audubon's Urban Bird Watching & Tiny Tots, 8am – 11am, Patterson Park, Baltimore, MD

* 8am – 9:30am; Audubon Urban Bird Watching Walk; Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of Patterson Park (map). 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! Bird walks occur rain or shine on the second Friday (in collaboration with Chesapeake Audubon Society) and the last Saturday of each month. * 10am – 11am; Audubon Tiny Tots, Meet at the picnic tables on the northeastern shore of the Boat Lake in Patterson Park (map). \$5 suggested donation per child, with an adult · Ages 2-5. Tiny Tots is an early childhood environmental education program where kids make a craft, play games, and read a story. Discover local plants and animals that thrive in Baltimore's waters. Please register at least 2 days before the program. Patterson Park Audubon Center. 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Sat, May 25, March Against Monsanto, 2 pm, Lafayette Square, Washington, DC
<http://www.facebook.com/events/549711221729682/> <http://march-against-monsanto.com/>

Tue, May 28, Baltimore City Sustainability Commission Meetings, 4pm – 5pm, Department of Planning, 8th Fl, 417 E. Fayette St. Baltimore MD The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability holds regular monthly meetings usually on the fourth Tuesday of every month. All meetings are open to the public. The Commission is made up of 21 members representing environmental groups, community organizations, labor unions, public health and environmental justice interests, and private industry. www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/OfficeofSustainability.aspx

Tue, May 28, AIA COTE Monthly Meeting, 6pm – 7pm, 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, May 29, Bringing Climate Change Closer to Home, 3pm – 4pm,(online webinar) An overview of USDA climate change educational resources. www.epa.gov/schools/webinars.html#3-27-13

Thu, May 30, 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, www.greenpartyforapurpose.org/

Fri, May 31, MAEOE Maryland Green School Youth Summit, Sandy Point, MD The Youth Summit is a Celebration that includes the Maryland Green Schools Award Ceremony, the Environmental Literacy Bazaar and Youth Leadership activities. Fee for students: \$2 each to defer the costs of this event. Chaperones and teachers: free. Each school is allowed to bring 25 students to the Youth Summit. Certifying and recertifying Maryland Green Schools and Centers will be recognized for their achievements. If your school is considering applying to become a Maryland Green School, you may attend this event. Please contact greenschools@maeoe.org with questions. www.maeoe.org/

JUNE PREVIEW & BEYOND

Fri, June 7-8, Nature Preschool Conference at Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD. Join us for the second annual conference to address the unique benefits and challenges of nature-based curriculum in early childhood programs. Presenters include internationally acclaimed educator Erin Kenny of Cedarsong Nature School, who will give the keynote address and a workshop. Pricing varies, \$55-\$160. For more information, contact Clare, NaldrettC@ExploreNature.org, 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org

Wed, June 12, Sustainable Energy Coalition - in cooperation with Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Caucuses - will host the 16th annual Congressional Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency EXPO + Forum. at the U.S. House Cannon House Office Building – Caucus Room, Independence Avenue and New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC

9:30 am - 4:30 pm (exhibits open for viewing)

11:30 am – presentations by Members of Congress (to be announced)

9:30 - 4:30 pm – Administration, exhibitor speakers (to be announced)

The EXPO is free, open to the public, and no RSVPs are required. Info www.eesi.org/expo2013

June 16 - 22, Walk for our Grandchildren to dramatize the climate disruption caused by fossil fuels, and support change starting with rejection of the Keystone XL Pipeline. The Walk starts on June 16, 2013 near Camp David in the Maryland Mountains, and over seven days, proceeds 63 miles, arriving at the White House on Saturday, June 22. During the Walk communities along the way will organize supporting activities in parks, churches, town halls, theaters and at other venues. Info - www.2013walkforourgrandchildren.org/ Walk schedule - www.2013walkforourgrandchildren.org/Walk.html

June 23-25, Citizens Climate Lobby 2013 Conference in DC

Register <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/2013-international-conference-registration-form>

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES AND TIDBITS

FRI, MAY 31, GEF WATER AUDIT RAFFLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Conducting a water audit of your home or school is a great way to understand how much water you use (and possibly waste!) every day. You'll also identify areas in need of improvements. Prizes: \$250 to purchase science/math supplies for the school plus 500 reusable water bottles for the school! Also, the winning teacher will receive complimentary enrollment in GEF Institute's online course called Water and Sustainability (valued at \$125!). One winner will be chosen.

www.greeneducationfoundation.org/sustainable-water-challenge/how-to-participate/437-water-audit-raffle.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.

WHEN YOU'RE IN A HOLE, STOP DIGGING. DAY OF ACTION, MAY 2013

Sign up here, details to follow . . . <http://act.350.org/signup/may-day-of-action/>

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.

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>