

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **September 2013**. It is going out to over **1,585 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/2013/2013-09.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 six sections:

- Second Sunday Forum
- Baltimore Green Forum
- Earth Forum of Howard County – no forum again until Oct 2013
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Thanks to this month's editor, **Betty Wells**.

Don't forget the DC Green Festival Sep 21 – 22, 2013; Washington DC
www.greenfestivals.org/wdc/updates/ (see details below)

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, September 8,
6:30 pm–8:30 pm
In Organic We Trust (DVD)

What does "certified organic" mean? 78% of Americans eat some organic food, but is it all that it is supposed to be? Is it healthier for us or for the environment? Less than 1% of U.S. farmland is certified organic but many farmers who aren't 'certified' are doing a better job at taking care of the soil and producing healthy food. As industrial agriculture gets more and more involved in organics, will the meaning of 'organic' be compromised? We will watch the first part of the DVD and then have an interesting discussion, as usual.

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

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

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

The Baltimore Green Forum

Sunday, September 22
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: "Communes, Cohousing, and Intentional Communities – From the 60s to the Future"

For updated program info, contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com ,
410-667-4889, or check www.baltimoregreenforum.org

Earth Forum of Howard County

Sunday, October 20, 2013

2 - 4:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church,

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD.

The Earth Forum will return this October to begin its 2013-2014 series that is open to the public and is free. This Forum is a community forum of citizens who meet to learn, discuss, explore and form action groups to address vital issues, such as climate change, food production and distribution, clean water for sustainable living in the 21st century. Specific information will be posted at www.earthforumhc.org when it becomes available. For further information, contact earthforum@firstpreshc.org or call [410-730-3545](tel:410-730-3545).

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

NEW TOPICS THIS FALL:

Change By Degrees, <http://www.nwei.org/discussion-courses/addressing-climate-challenge/>

Peer Support Group, http://nipspeersupport.org/?page_id=108

Going Green At Home, <http://chears.org/gcan/discussion-circles/>

NWEI Discussion Guides: (CbyD) Change by Degrees: Addressing the Climate Challenge (HFC) Hungry for Change, (WOH) World of Health, (SSW) Sustainable Systems at Work; (RE) Reconnecting with Earth; (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 (PSG) Peer Support Group from National Institute on Peer Support

IMPORTANT NOTE: Effective Oct 1, 2012 NWEI discussion circle guides **went up to \$25 plus s/h** (except a few rare exceptions). They should be ordered directly from NWEI. For more info, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/order.php>

So far this year, we have started 11 circles (289 total circles since 2002!). Most recent topics have included Voluntary Simplicity, Moneyless Manifesto, Powering a Bright Future, and Peer Support Group **There are 6 circles in active formation, in Howard Co, Prince Georges County, Montgomery 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 fall. More will be added as plans become more certain.

Our circles have become so widespread that **we are now breaking them down by county**. Please scroll down to see what is starting up near where you live. **For more info**, you may contact Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org unless otherwise noted.

Frederick & Washington County

UU Church of Frederick (tbd) Contact Marney at marney@simplicity-matters.org for details

Carroll County

Westminster "Regroup" Contact CirclesCarroll@Simplicity-Matters.org to join the group for discussions and to watch videos. CS: Carole Flood

Howard County

***Columbia/Ellicott City** "Change by Degrees: Addressing the Climate Challenge" CS: Liz Feighner/Sue Kunkel, for more info email CCIHC.circles@gmail.com.

"Is Sustainability Still Possible" Circle, 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. **They are currently on Chapter 13.** 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>.

Climate Change Initiative of Howard County (CCIHC) Committee is actively pursuing other potential venues. Details to follow. Visit www.hococlimatechange.org or email CCIHC.circles@gmail.com.

Harford County

None currently scheduled to begin

Baltimore City/County

Baltimore "Matchmaker" Circle (tbd, as soon as we get a critical mass), CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Anne Arundel County

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

Prince Georges County

***Greenbelt, "Going Green at Home"**, A new discussion circle topic for residents of Springhill Lake/Franklin Park. Topics will include: * Use less energy * Food: eating lower on the food chain * Reduce Consumption *Reduce Your Garbage * Green Products in Your Home * Why Bother? Can One Individual Really Make a Difference? CS: Carolyn Lambright-Davis/Lore Rosenthal (looking for 8-12 people)

*** Greenbelt "Climate Change, from Local to Global"**, We are pilot testing a next six-week discussion circle that will include *Climate Science * Life-style Choices * Systemic Change * Policy & Strategic Alternatives * Envisioning a Positive Future * Where Do We Go From Here? CS: Lore Rosenthal (looking for 8-12 people)

***Greenbelt "Peer Support Group"**, 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 (looking for 8-12 people)

College Park/Hyattsville (tbd) Stay tuned, after three successful circles, another is bound to be starting soon! CS: Carol Nezzo

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

We are putting together circles for fall now. Topics being considered are HFC and CSL. Interested parties need to contact Marneyb@earthlink.net for more information.

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

***Silver Spring (Addressing Climate Change or Peer Support Group)** We are working with Marylanders for Climate Coordination and MC-OFA to tailor a circle to the interests of participants. CS: Lore Rosenthal

Washington, DC,

***Dupont Circle/Adams Morgan/Citizens Climate Lobby** SMEI is teaming up with the National Institute for Peer Support, Ecology, and the Citizens Climate Lobby to offer several discussion circles. This summer we studied the various components of the DC Sustainability Plan (<http://sustainable-dc.org>). Plans are in process for a follow up circle. 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.

"Circles List"/"Matchmaking"

This fall, 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

Thurs., Sept. 2, 5-8 pm, Bethesda Green Happy Hour, Support the Local Watershed, Bethesda, MD: Enjoy casual conversation and networking, meet and hear from people protecting the local watershed -- Friends of Cabin John Creek, Little Falls Watershed Alliance, and Rock Creek Conservancy -- and enjoy complimentary appetizers at the Courtyard by Marriott Chevy Chase, a LEED Gold certified hotel, 5520 Wisconsin Avenue, on the second floor patio, near the Friendship Heights Metro. Contribution: \$10 at the door; proceeds shared with local watershed groups. Contact Dave Heffernan, dvheffernan@gmail.com, [301-767-7222](tel:301-767-7222). More info and RSVP via [Bethesda Green Meetup](#).

Fri, Sept 6, Film Screening of Bidder 70, 7-9pm, Rockville, MD Come join the Green Sanctuary Committee of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville to watch this documentary of young people fed up with corporate control of their government, the story of the power of individual choices and their consequences. Bring your own brown bag dinner/snacks. Coffee and tea provided. FREE! Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For a map and directions - <http://www.uucr.org/directions.php> Film info: www.Bidder70film.com Questions: chbisnett@gmail.com,

Fri-Sat, Sept 6-7, The Heritage Harvest Festival, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Charlottesville, VA The premiere home arts festival on Monticello's West Lawn. www.heritageharvestfestival.com

Sat, Sept 7, Friends of Brookside Gardens Plant Sale, 10am-3pm, Wheaton, MD Sponsored by Friends of Brookside Gardens Outside the Visitors Center, Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton, MD 20902. Details: www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside.

Fri, Sep 6-8, Bicycle League Certified Instructor Annapolis Opportunity to become a League Certified Instructor Sept 6, 7, & 8. Many people feel that education is the key to becoming a strong, confident cyclists. Bike Salisbury has an opportunity for engaged local bicyclists to become a League Certified Instructor to help build a community of confident bicyclists. There are a limited number of seats available for the training and if you would like more information email Joe Piette. bikemd.org/page.php?id=281

Sat, Sept 7, Music To Your Gears! Food Truck Gathering & Concert, 3 – 9pm; Druid Park Lake (map) Free, all ages! Bicycle rides, food trucks, beer, and music! Presented by Bikemore, The Gathering, and Baltimore City Department of Rec & Parks (BCRP). Music from: -Soul Cannon (Hip Hop) -Greasy Hands (Funk-Rock-Soul) -Nelly's Echo (R&B-Soul) Bring your own bicycle to ride around the lake, or borrow one from BCRP. bikemore.net/

Sat, Sept 7, Baltimore Outdoor Sierrans- Elk Neck State Park Hike- hosted by John, 10am – 3pm, 4395 Turkey Point Rd North East, MD 21901.

Join the BOS for a moderate 6 mile hike at the amazing Elk Neck State Park. Please bring water, lunch and your camera for this hike, as well as weather gear in case it gets rainy. We will meet at the Ranger's station at Elk Neck State Park at 11am to caravan to the trail head to begin our hike. Elk Neck State Park 4395 Turkey Point Rd North East, MD 21901 Phone: 410-287-5333 Directions from Baltimore and points South: Take I-95 North to Exit 100. Take Exit 100 onto Rt. 272 South towards the town of North East. Follow Rt. 272 South for 14 miles into Elk Neck State Park. For those who wish to carpool, we will meet at Northwood Plaza (1552 Havenwood Rd, Baltimore, MD) in the empty lot across from the McDonald's and we will be leaving promptly at 9:30 am to get to the Park. Please RSVP to John at baltimoresierrans@gmail.com or call at 443-562-5277.

Sat, Sept 7, A Night of the Arts at Nature Art in the Park, 7pm – 10pm, Baltimore. Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park at 1901 Eagle Drive (off Windsor Mill Rd.) ([map](#)) Nature Art in the Park is hosting a "A Night of the Arts" The Event is free & open to all. Light refreshments. 7-9 Nature Art-Making activities 8:30-10. Nature Art Film Series on the lawn. There will be music and drumming and other merrymaking as well! Come join in community www.facebook.com/events/171664346350973/

Fri/Sat, Sept 9-10, Foundations Workshop: Dynamic Self-Governance, Become More Effective Together, 9 am - 5 pm, Bethesda, MD. Dynamic self-governance (aka sociocracy) is a cutting-edge way to run organizations. Learn how to get the best wisdom of the group, and at the same time streamline decision-making and get more done. The key innovation is a structural approach to improving communication, decision-making, and project management. For details and to register, go to <http://sociocracyconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/MD-DG-trainings-Sept-2013-final.pdf>.

Wed, Sept 11, Zero Waste Prince George's, 7 - 9 pm, College Park, MD Community Research invites you to the next Zero Waste Prince George's meeting for an update and continued discussion on moving the County towards increased waste reduction, recycling, composting, refurbishing and repurposing. For more information or to get on our mailing list, contact Suchitra Balachandran at cp_woods@yahoo.com. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers of the College Park City Hall, 4500 Knox Road.

Sun/Mon, Sept 11-12, Advanced Workshop: Dynamic Self-Governance, Become More Effective Together, 9 am - 5 pm, Bethesda, MD. Dynamic self-governance (aka sociocracy) is a cutting-edge way to run organizations. Learn how to get the best wisdom of the group, and at the same time streamline decision-making and get more done. The key innovation is a structural approach to improving communication, decision-making, and project management. For details and to register, go to <http://sociocracyconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/MD-DG-trainings-Sept-2013-final.pdf>

Thurs, Sept 12, Youth Birding League at Irvine Nature Center, 7-8 pm, Owings Mills, MD This naturalist-led series introduces youth to competitive and scientific birding opportunities. Learn easy identification techniques, how to bird on a team and visit new places month to month. Ages 10-15. \$10 members, \$20 non-members (covers entire school year of birding activities). For more information, contact Clare at [443-738-9220](tel:443-738-9220). Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org.

Fri, Sept 13, Audubon Urban Bird Watching Walk , 8 – 9:30am, Baltimore. 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! Audubon experts from Chesapeake Audubon Society will be on hand to answer questions about our feathered friends. If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email – we have plenty to share! There is no need to RSVP for this event, just arrive ready to explore! Patterson Park Audubon Center [410.558.2473](tel: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, Sept 13, Film Screening of Bidder 70, 7:30-9:30pm, Oakton, VA Come join the UUC of Fairfax to watch this documentary of young people fed up with corporate control of their government, the story of the power of individual choices and their consequences. Bring your own brown bag dinner/snacks. Coffee and tea provided. FREE! Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road.

Sat, Sept 14, Bicycle Commuter Workshop 10am – 1pm, Baltimore. Race Pace Bicycles - 1410 Key Highway, Baltimore, MD 21230 ([map](#)) The Bike Maryland Bike-Minded program will present a free Baltimore Bicycle Commuter Workshop. We thank Bikemore for co-hosting this workshop. The target audience for this class is someone who knows how to ride a bicycle, but doesn't yet feel comfortable riding in traffic. There will be 2 hours of class time followed by a 1-hour road ride to lock down all the skills you just learned! Space is limited, so please register here ONLY if you plan to attend. bikemd.org/page.php?id=281

Sat, Sept 14, Family Hike Howard County Conservancy, 10am, , Woodstock, MD Come out to the Howard County Conservancy and see our grasslands in all their flowering glory! Bring any and all ages. There will be age appropriate

trails that the Conservancy volunteer naturalists will use to lead you, your friends and family on a hike. **FREE**. For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, devon.kosisky@hcconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hcconservancy.org

Sat, Sept. 14 – Sun, Sept. 15 (first of six weekends), Home-Scale Permaculture Design Course, 10 am – 6 pm each day, Cromwell Valley Park, Towson, MD Learn ethical principles and practical skills for producing your own needs from local natural resources by mimicking natural ecosystems. Topics include energy efficient site planning for house, gardens, orchard, woodlot and wildlife habitat; farm animal forage systems; beneficial microclimate; urban strategies for food and energy production; sustainable community economics and food security. Earn your Permaculture Design Apprentice Certificate. Six Weekends. Sliding scale \$1,000 - \$1,200. For details and to register see <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/home-scale-permaculture-design-course>. For more information call [410-357-9523](tel:410-357-9523) or email education@heathcote.org.

Sat, Sep 14-30 MD Green Apple Days of Service- First Day, Baltimore. Green Apple Day of Service is a global initiative of the U.S. Green Building Council's Center for Green Schools to organize service projects at schools or in the surrounding neighborhoods. In Maryland we invite you to implement any project that will work for you in the time frame you choose, be it a few hours, an entire day, one week or over the course of the full two weeks. Get Involved! We're calling all teachers, parents, administrators, businesses, supporters and sponsors to join us in reaching our goal of 50 Green Apple Days of Service projects in Maryland. mygreenapple.org/ www.usgbcmd.org/mdgreenappledays

Sun, Sep 15 – 29, Day to Serve, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Day to Serve is a regional and interdenominational collaboration between MD, VA, WV, and DC. How can I get involved? **START:** Find an opportunity for service in your community. You could collect food for local food banks or gather your neighbors to clean up a park. Develop an idea for a service event and then register it here so others can find you to pitch in. **SERVE:** There will be hundreds of service events in the DC/MD/VA/WV area. Find an event in your area and volunteer to help out! **SHARE:** Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Pinterest. Subscribe to our YouTube channel. Get the word out to others! Register on the site to share your experiences with Day to Serve. www.daytoserve.org/

Sun, Sept 15, Kayaking with The Nature Conservancy, 8:30-11:00 am, Georgetown, Washington, DC. The MD/DC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is hosting a kayaking trip on the Potomac River, starting at the Key Bridge Boathouse in Georgetown in Washington, DC. Stephanie Flack, the Potomac River Project Director for the Conservancy, will lead the trip. The trip is \$35/person; refunds are not available. Space is limited. To RSVP, contact Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, 301-897-8570, ext. 204.

Sun, Sept 15, Larry's Ride – Register now or day of event from 7 to 9:30am, Baltimore County-Camp Milldale, MD. Enjoy the beautiful, scenic and challenging terrain at the Larry's Ride event. 21, 35, and 65 mile routes! Afterward, come back for music, free lunch, socializing and more. Registration: www.bikemd.org All proceeds support bicycle safety.

Sun, Sept 15, Home Energy Efficiency Workshop, 9:30-10:30am, Baltimore, MD Are you a homeowner? Chances are that professional weatherization could save you 15-35% in home heating costs. Interfaith Power & Light (www.mdipl.org) is teaming up with Retrofit Baltimore and Maryland Presbyterian Church, inviting neighborhood homeowners to a meeting on saving energy at home. Learn how you can save energy, create green jobs, and shrink your carbon footprint at the same time! We'll review the story of our electricity and reflect on our own responsibility as people of faith to consider the impact of our electricity use. Learn about easy steps you can take to save energy at home. Contact Chiquita Younger at programassociate@gwipl.org for more information. For a map and directions- <http://tinyurl.com/kn378cv>

Sun, Sept 15, Prince George's Sierra Club Environmental Forum, 3-5 pm, An informational exchange featuring environmental groups in Prince George's County to be held at the West Lanham Hills Volunteer Fire Department at 8501 Good Luck Road, Lanham-Seabrook, MD. Contact: Tom Dernoga (tedzones@verizon.net)

Mon, Sept 16, Reel and Meal at the New Deal Cafe, 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Greenbelt, MD. Join us as R&M turns 6 with a an optional (\$13.00) vegan buffet and free screening of "Bidder 70" - <http://www.bidder70film.com> - one of the most important environmental films of this generation and winner of 20 major film awards. Will Potter, <http://www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/>, author of *Green is the New Red*, will speak and lead a Q&A following the screening. For more information, contact Cam MacQueen at worldisvegan@aol.com and visit <http://www.newdealcafe.com/events/reelAndMeal>.

Mon, Sept 16, Plant Swap and New Plants Talk, 8 -9:30pm, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD Silver Spring Garden Club's monthly meeting. Open to all. Free. Annual club plant swap and talk by Gene Sumi of Homestead Gardens on New and Interesting Plants. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, Washington Gardener Magazine, [301-588-6894](tel:301-588-6894), WGardenermag@aol.com. Directions at www.brooksidegardens.org

Tues, Sept 17, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. *Fall Round-up "What Did You Do On Your Summer Vacation"?* Hear stories and experiences from local GCAN Volunteers and Activists who were involved in a variety of rallies, sit ins, direct actions, court cases. Get a preview of fall activities in the city-county-state-nation. For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234

Wed, Sept 18, Bulbs for All Seasons, 7:30-9:00pm, Takoma Park, MD Monthly meeting of the Takoma Horticultural Club. Merikay Smith, Montgomery County Master Gardener, will talk on the tremendous variety of bulbs available to plant for year-round blooms with an emphasis on native and deer resistant plants. She will be happy to answer all your bulb-related questions. Open to the public, Free. Historic Takoma, Inc., 7328 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD. Directions and details at www.takomahort.org

Wed, Sept 18, Monarchs & Mojitos at Irvine Nature Center, 6:30-9 pm, Owings Mills, MD. Learn about one of the most fascinating accomplishments of the insect world: the monarch butterfly's migration to Mexico. Learn how an animal with a brain the size of a grass seed can more than quadruple its lifespan in the fall and find its way from Maryland to Mexico. Includes light dinner and specialty drinks (21+ only). \$20 for members; \$30 for non-members. For more information, contact Clare at [443-738-9220](tel:443-738-9220). Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org.

Wed, Sept 18, Smart Growth and Economic Success - EPA Webinar, 3pm – 4pm, online. This webinar will explore how smart growth strategies at the regional, city, and neighborhood level can maximize economic advantages while creating attractive, healthy communities that help protect the environment. This webinar will feature EPA's report, Smart Growth and Economic Success: Benefits for Real Estate Developers, Investors, Businesses, and Local Government. Speakers from Lehigh Valley, PA, Champaign, IL, and Phoenix, AZ will then discuss how smart growth is helping their communities prosper. www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/webinars/index.html

Fri. Sept 20, Charity Social Hour, 6 -9 pm, Washington, DC. The "30s and 40s Going Out Group" from MeetUp.com is hosting a benefit event in honor of the MD/DC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. This mix-and-mingle event will be held at *The Gryphon*, which is near Dupont Circle, located on the Red Line on the Metro. There is a \$10 suggested donation at the door; 80% of the proceeds will go back to the Conservancy. For more information, contact Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, [301-897-8570 ext. 204](tel:301-897-8570). More information can be found at <http://goo.gl/j8gLMf>.

Fri, Sept 20, Bikemore Happy Hour, 5 – 8pm, Baltimore. Varies monthly ([map](#)) Bikemore is Baltimore's bicycle advocacy organization. www.facebook.com/bikemorebaltimore bikemore.net/

Sat, Sept 21 – 25, Climate Ride NYC-DC. Climate Ride NYC-DC is a grand cycling adventure that connects two of the nation's most important cities – New York and Washington, DC – by bicycle. From the exciting departure by ferry in Manhattan to the hero's welcome and rally at the steps of the US Capitol, the east-coast version of Climate Ride is more than a bike trip – it's an inspiring journey with 150 like-minded people who are united by their passion for sustainability, renewable energy, and bicycles - the ultimate carbon-free form of transportation. Evening programs and dynamic speakers combine with world-class riding to make this charitable event exciting, informative, and fun. www.climateride.org/events

Sat, Sept 21, Autumnal Equinox Celebration, 7-9 pm, Silver Spring, MD. Come celebrate the turning of the wheel as we honor this time of balance, abundance and transition. We'll participate in co-creating a group harvest mandala together outside, using natural materials. Bring a basket filled with things either found in the wild, your pantry, or garden....anything goes. \$15- \$20 suggested donation. For more information, contact Sky House Yoga. [\(240\) 398-3526](tel:240-398-3526). Directions and details at skyhouseyoga.com.

Sat, Sept 21, Draw the Line action. Draw the Line action to protect our communities from climate change and Keystone XL. Organizations big and small are joining in because it's so clear that the tar sands pose a direct risk to our climate, health and safety. act.350.org/event/draw_the_line/create/?akid=3466.942094.BVKWNI&rd=1&t=1

Sat, Sept 21, Urban Farm & Food Fair, 2pm – 5pm, Baltimore. Real Food Farm ([map](#)) The Third Annual Urban Farm & Food Fair. The Farm Alliance of Baltimore City, Slow Food Baltimore, and Real Food Farm are teaming up create a great event. It will feature a farmers market of urban farmers and will include a "Farm Olympics" for children of all ages, live music, and hands-on demos. www.realfoodfarm.org/

Sat and Sun, Sept 21-22, Green Festival, 10am-6pm on Sat., 11am to 5pm on Sun., Washington, DC. The Green Festival is a community event that features businesses, vendors, non-profits, and other eco-friendly groups that are focused on protecting the environment. At the Festival, there will be workshops, live entertainment, raffles and prizes, educational activities for kids, and more! For more information, contact Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, [301-897-8570 ext. 204](tel:301-897-8570). More information can be found at <http://goo.gl/rciOvk>.

Sun, Sept. 22, Trash to Treasure Tent Event at Irvine Nature Center, 9 am-2 pm, Owings Mills, MD. Looking for good bargains? Need to clean out your garage, attic or closets? Turn your "trash" into someone's treasure! Free to the public. \$20 to reserve a 10x10 sales space (you keep all proceeds from your sales). For more information, contact Clare at 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org.

Sun, Sept 22, Fall Equinox Twilight Hike and Campfires, 5 -9:30pm, Howard County Conservancy, Woodstock, MD Come out to the Conservancy's fire ring to enjoy good music, stories and s'mores while learning about the Fall Equinox. 5-7pm family program; 7:30-9:30pm adult campfire and music. **\$5/person, \$10/family.** For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, devon.kosisky@hconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hconservancy.org.

Sun, Sept 22, 10 am – 5 pm, The Mother Earth Harvest Moon Fair, Spoutwood Farm, Glen Rock, PA, rain or shine. A celebration of Spoutwood Farm's commitment to healthy living on healthy land, this revival of American's country fair traditions offers up good, old fashion family fun. It is a celebration of the harvest season's bounty and nature at its finest.

Wed, Sep 25 – 28, Natural Products Expo East, Baltimore Convention Center ([map](#)) It is New Hope Natural Media's, a division of Penton Media, Inc., mission to educate and inform consumers about healthier, more sustainable product choices that will enhance lifestyle and reduce the environmental footprint. New Hope Natural Media's intended results will be to transform, worldwide, people's thinking and choices about what they eat and how they live. www.expoeast.com/expoeast2013/Public/Content.aspx?ID=1042203

Thurs, Sept 26, Gardening 101-Session 1: Local Resources, 2-3pm, Wheaton, MD New Lecture Series: Gardening 101- Local Edition Whether you are new to the area, new to gardening or just looking to increase your local gardening knowledge, this lecture series is for you. Kathy Jentz, Editor/Publisher, Washington Gardener Magazine, will lead you through the basics and share the success secrets of veteran local gardeners. You'll learn from the experiences of others what to do and not to do to avoid costly mistakes in your own garden. Session 1: Local Resources Course number 213114 Thursday, Sept 20, 2-3pm Fee: \$18, FOBG: \$15; registration required Visitors Center Adult Classroom, Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton, MD 20902. Visit www.BrooksideLearning.org.

Fri, Sept. 27, Fall Family Night Hike & Campfire at Irvine Nature Center, 7-9 pm, Owings Mills, MD. Let's take a night hike to watch for bats, listen for owls and test our senses in the dark. We'll finish the hike with a campfire and s'mores. Suggested ages 5 up. Registration in advance is required. \$5 for members, \$10 non-members. For more information, contact Clare at 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org.

Fri, Sept 27, Youth Bird Watching, 8am – 10am, Baltimore; Patterson Park ([map](#)) Join us to collect data on this season's bird species in Patterson Park! Middle and high school students are welcome. No experience necessary. This program is free but registration is required. Call 410-588-2473 or email ppaudubon@gmail.com to register. Audubon educators will sign off service learning hours for this citizen science activity. pattersonpark.audubon.org/slides/youth-bird-watching

Fri, Sept 27, Baltimore Bike Party, 7 – 9:30pm, Baltimore. meet at the Washington Monument in Mt. Vernon Baltimore ([map](#)) Come ride and party through the great streets of Baltimore City with all your friends the last Friday of every month! We stay together as a group and follow a pre-determined route through the city. The wheels hit the road at 7:30. We usually ride until ~9:30 with 1 or 2 stops along the way. The ride is a slow pace (~6-10mph) designed to keep everyone of all biking abilities together! Revelry! Music! Lights! Costumes! Bells and air horns! Streamers and glitter! We are all here to have a good time. Have a friend(s) with a bike? Bring them along! Don't have any friends? Come make some! baltimorebikeparty.com/

Sat, Sept 28, Audubon Urban Bird Watching Walk, 8 – 9:30am, Baltimore. 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! 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/

Sun, Sept 29, Tour du Port - Register now or day of event from 7 to 9am, Canton Waterfront Park in Baltimore City. Travel through charming neighborhoods, historic port areas and beautiful parks. Choose between 14, 25, 40, 50, and 63 mile routes. All routes enter Fort McHenry and the #1 Aquarium Rest Stop. After the ride enjoy a celebration with free lunch, live music, exhibitors, free yoga and more! Registration: www.bikemd.org All proceeds support bicycle safety.

Sun, Sept 29, Forum: Restoration of the Lower Jordan River, 10 -11am, D.C. Gidon Bromberg, Israeli Director of Friends of the Earth Middle East, will discuss the organization's efforts to collaborate with Palestinian and Jordanian

partners to restore the lower Jordan River. Faith-based communities have strong symbolic associations to the Jordan River, but rarely is the contemporary reality of the river a point of discussion in their communities. Friends of the Earth Middle East is undertaking this campaign with the aim of bringing the reality of the Jordan River to the forefront of community discussion and encourage action-based community responses on this issue. For a map and directions http://www.stalbansdc.org/directions_parking.html

Sun, Sept 29, Interfaith Efforts to Clean the Jordan River, 5 -6pm, Falls Church, VA An environmental group co-lead by Jordanian, Israeli, and Palestinian directors -- Friends of the Earth Middle East -- has developed three "toolkits" for teaching about the Jordan River restoration effort in Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities. Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland Street.

Sun, Sept. 29, "Vanishing of the Bees", an environmental movie, 7 p.m., at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750 16th St., NW, Washington DC. The movie is sponsored by WES's Earth Ethics Committee. A brief discussion period will follow the film. For further information, you may contact Carol at kenrawie@erols.com

OCTOBER PREVIEW & BEYOND

Sat, Oct 5, Fall Festival, 11am-3pm, Howard County Conservancy, Woodstock, MD Visit the Conservancy to listen to blue grass music, watch blacksmiths ply their trade, and marvel at the history of this three-century-old farm. Goats, chickens, a terrapin turtle, and a red corn snake will fascinate the youngsters. Our resident Barred Owl will also visit with attendees. Food is available to purchase. **\$10 per car** – carpool with your neighbors! For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, devon.kosisky@hcconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hcconservancy.org.

Sat, Oct 12, Acorns A Go-Go Groovy Vegan Festival, 11 am - 6 pm, Greenbelt. FREE. Acorns A Go-Go Groovy Vegan Festival is happenin' in the Roosevelt Center, 131 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD -- rain or shine. Celebrate with vegan food, fabulous live music, vegan vendors - even an acorn expert will demonstrate how to turn acorns into flour then into vegan bread and cookies! It'll be outta sight!! To be a vendor or sponsor, contact Cam MacQueen at acorns.a.go.go@gmail.com. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Acornsagogo/561472760578951>

Sat, Oct 12, Creepy Creatures, 10 am, Howard County Conservancy, Woodstock, MD It's almost Halloween when all sorts of creepy, crawly, and maybe spooky animals are hanging about! Have a wicked good time seeing and learning about these warty, slimy, hairy, scaly, slithery animals with the Conservancy. **FREE.** For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, devon.kosisky@hcconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hcconservancy.org.

Thurs., Oct 17, Baltimore Outdoor Sierrans Social at Birroteca- hosted by Shel, 7:30-10:30PM, 1520 Clipper Rd Baltimore, MD 21211. Birroteca apparently is loosely translated to mean 'a good place to get some wine.' There's also some pretty good food and beer there, so come celebrate the start of fall with us in this cozy old millhouse near Clipper Mill! <http://www.bmorebirroteca.com/> Please rsvp to shel shelobel@hotmail.com. <https://www.facebook.com/Birroteca?fref=ts>

Fri, Oct 18 thru Sun Oct 20, Baltimore Outdoor Sierrans Cabin Trip Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Cabin Spend the weekend in a rustic Potomac Appalachian Trail Club cabin in a beautiful spot hiking (day hikes) and enjoying the fall colors with friends. These are hike-in (about 1/2 mile) cabins with bunks and cooking supplies (pots,pans,cups), and a woodstove and firepit , but no running water or electricity. Cost will be \$ 10-20 per person and you'll need to bring your own food, campstove, water (or a filtration device), sleeping bag . Location TBD, but likely off of Skyline Drive in Virginia. Space is limited. Please check your calendar and rsvp to shel - shelobel@hotmail.com.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS

Make the Pledge to switch to clean energy with **Groundswell**. Anyone who pays an electricity bill in DC or Maryland has the right to choose where their electricity comes from. Join a network of hundreds of organizations and thousands of families throughout Maryland and DC who are coming together to collectively purchase clean electricity.

From now until October 21st, Groundswell is collecting pledges from people throughout the region. After you make the pledge, we will contact you on October 22nd and let you know the price we were able to negotiate on your behalf. You will then have a period of time to enroll in the negotiated offer. Will you pledge to switch to clean energy? To make the pledge, visit: <http://groundswell.org/applycphomes> or email Michael Reed (michael.reed@groundswell.org) to learn more.

Sat and Sun all month. Farm to Freezer kitchen days. 1:45-6:30pm. Downtown Silver Spring, MD. Join us to prepare fresh, local surplus produce for the freezer. As Manna Food Center volunteers, you will wash, chop, cook and freeze local fresh produce. Product sales allow us to deep discount this healthy food to hunger relief agencies. To join, select a date on our calendar and click on Register Now! <http://conta.cc/15jT97y>. Dates added monthly. Cheryl Kollin, cheryl@fullplateventures.com 240-491-1958. More info: www.farmtofreezer.wordpress.com