

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **March 2014**. It is going out to over **1,525 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/2014/2014-03.pdf>.

In case you are not aware, **SMEI is now on Facebook! Please "like" us:** <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Simplicity-Matters-Earth-Institute/130611396993657> Please start posting articles, thoughts, and questions there, to start some online dialogue. Consider it the SMEI "blog"!

We also have a Yahooogroup, called "DCMetroSimplifiers," with about 265 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 91 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
- Earth Forum of Howard County
- Baltimore Green Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

STILL LOOKING FOR A WEBMASTER: Person(s) proficient in Dreamweaver or similar software to monthly update SMEI website. Candidates should have their own computer and software, ability to convert Word documents into clickable PDFs, and good editing and proofreading skills. **If we don't identify a webmaster soon, we may have to discontinue our website. Please contact Lena Rotenberg, LenaRR@gmail.com or [301-432-8721](tel:301-432-8721)**

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

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

We are on hiatus but will return in April.

Marney@simplicity-matters.org

EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY

Sunday, March 16, 2014, 2 p.m.
Earth Forum of Howard County
First Presbyterian Church of Howard County, Columbia, MD

"Why Garden: Successful and Sustainable Gardening in a Changing Climate"
with Dr. Sara Via, Dept. of Biology, University of Maryland and gardeners of Howard County.

Welcome the arrival of spring and the perfect plan for your garden. Learn practical techniques for successful gardening in our new and challenging environment as Dr. Via shows how gardeners can be an important part of the climate change solution while creating peaceful and restorative landscapes and growing healthy food.

Then visit the Forum's spring garden faire of displays and creative learning stations, to expand your gardening experience, and answer your gardening questions.

Tasty refreshments will complement the program, See www.earthforumhc.org. Free and open to all. Contact us at earthforum@firstpreshc.org or call 410-750-1479.

SAVE THE DATE: Sun., April 27, 2014, Earth Forum at 2 p.m.
Join us for an inside-outside Garden Party to celebrate the Earth and the 5th anniversary of Earth Forum.

THE BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

Sunday, March 23
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: What Johns Hopkins University is Doing to Set an Example for Sustainability

Speaker: Ed Kirk, CEM, LEED AP. Mr. Kirk is Energy Engineer at the Johns Hopkins University

Description:

Energy reduction initiatives: conservation, efficiency and renewables; Water use reduction: rainwater use, reusing black water; Waste reduction, recycling and composting; Sustainable purchasing, investing, teaching, and operations; Sustainable partnerships with local design consultants, BGE, USGBC, etc.; Every job is a green job, awareness initiatives; Faculty, staff and student engagement; Behavior change; Uncompromising standards; Eliminating the reasons for "no" and getting to "yes"; What has worked so far;

To ask any questions about our programs or to get updated program info:

- * Send email to baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com,
- * Call Sam Hopkins at 410-554-0006,
- * or check www.baltimoregreenforum.org .

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

NEW TOPICS LAST 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://cheers.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>

From Jan to Dec 2013, we started 13 circles (291 total circles since 2002!). In 2014, two circles have already begun. Most recent topics have included Sacred Economics, The Ethics of Water Security, Hungry for Change, and Peer Support Group. **There is one circle starting this month in Prince George's County** marked below with an asterick (*). **Many more are in active formation.**

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

Western Howard County "Change by Degrees: Addressing the Climate Challenge" CS: Liz Feighner/Sue Kunkel, for more info email hococlimatechange.circles@gmail.com

Town Center/Manor House/Oliver Carriage House "Change by Degrees: Addressing the Climate Challenge" CS: Florence Miller, for more info email hococlimatechange.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, 2013 and continuing (slowly) through the end of the year and in to 2014. **They are currently on Chapter 34.** 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>.

HoCo Climate Change Circles Committee is actively pursuing other potential venues. Details to follow. Visit <http://www.hococlimatechange.org/circles/upcoming-circles-1> or email hococlimatechange.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

No new circles starting at present.

Prince Georges County

***Greenbelt, "Going Green at Home"**, Intro Meeting was Feb 24. **First Session will take place on Mon, March 31, 7-8:30 pm in a private home.** (looking for 4 more people)

A new discussion circle topic for residents of Springhill Lake/Franklin Park. Open to all. 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 <http://chears.org/gcan/discussion-circles/going-green-with-gcan/>

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 6 more people) <http://chears.org/gcan/discussion-circles/climate-change-local-to-global/>

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/Beth Leamond (looking for 5 more people) <http://chears.org/gcan/discussion-circles/>

Paint Branch UU Church (VS), Will start as soon as there is a critical mass. CS: Raman Pathik

Montgomery County

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

Takoma Park (Peer Support Group) CS: Jerry Governman, email lore@simplicity-matters.org, if interested.

Takoma Park (Common Security Club) 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.

Dupont Circle/Columbia Heights (Sacred Economics) CS: Laura Gubisch. 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.simplicymatters.org/circles> , or email Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sun, Mar 2, 10am-4 pm, Civil Disobedience Training, Potomac, MD

Looking to fight the good fight? Then consider joining a group of activists who are currently preparing to participate in a local Sit-in, all part of the **Pledge of Resistance to the Keystone XL Pipeline**. If President Obama approves the KXL pipeline, we will commit planned and peaceful acts of civil disobedience at a target in downtown Silver Spring. If you are interested in learning more, please email Kristin Cook at kristingamzoncook@gmail.com. A training and information meeting was held on Sun, March 2 at a home in Potomac. Another one will be scheduled soon. Read more about the Pledge of Resistance here: http://act.credoaction.com/sign/kxl_pledge

Tues, Mar 4, Rooftop Urban Agriculture Course, 9:00am – 12:30pm; DC

Rooftop urban agriculture has the potential to significantly increase food production in cities by taking advantage of underutilized spaces. This half-day course presents innovative applications of green roof and wall technologies that are

being used to implement productive rooftop farming initiatives. Case studies drawn from North America's most successful projects are used to illustrate best practices for the design, operation, and maintenance of rooftop farms.
www.cvent.com/events/introduction-to-rooftop-urban-agriculture-br-washington-dc/event-summary-63e2c20ed2654758a81b45941a2cdf81.aspx

Tues, Mar 4, Chesapeake Bay Draft Watershed Agreement, 3pm – 8pm; St John's College Mellon Hall, **Annapolis, MD** Please Join DNR Secretary Joe Gill, MDE Secretary Bob Summers and agency staff for Maryland's Open House on The new Chesapeake Bay Draft Watershed Agreement This is an exciting opportunity for all citizens and stakeholders to learn more about the agreement and offer ideas and comments. Your feedback is important to us! Public Comment Period Open until **Mar 17** www.dnr.state.md.us/ccs/CBWatershedAgreement_Draft.asp

Fri, Mar 7, Pioneer Grant Program Deadline, 5pm. The Chesapeake Bay Trust Pioneer Grant Program supports projects that will result in increased efficiency in water quality improvements in local streams, rivers, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. This program will support projects that are designed to accelerate the rate of nutrient, sediment, and/or toxic load reductions in the Chesapeake Bay. Who can apply: Non-profit organizations, higher educational institutions, soil/water conservation districts, local governments, and more. How much can be awarded: \$5,001 - \$100,000. The Pioneer program will be open once every other year www.cbtrust.org

Sat, Mar 8, "Foodify" Ourselves and Our Community, 1:00-3:00 pm, Columbia, MD

You are invited to a discussion and tasting of delicious gluten-free foods! Learn about gluten-free foods, healthy eating, and ideas to prepare healthy meals while enjoying samples of the food. Sponsored by Transition Howard County and the Columbia Community Exchange (Howard County Time Bank). For more information and to register: <http://www.transitionhoco.org/committees/food>

Fri, Mar 7 and Sat, Mar 8, Baltimore Community ToolBank Rain Garden Construction Day, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Baltimore, MD Let about rain garden construction in a hands-on way! Help the [ToolBank](http://www.toolbank.org) transforming its lawn into a thriving rain garden that will provide habitat for birds, butterflies, bees, and other native wildlife, an environmental education site for local students, a helpful demonstration site for local activists and landowners, and a welcoming gathering place for Baltimore's non-profit community. For more information, contact Baltimore.Outreach@ToolBank.org RSVP to Magdalena Nowosadko at Baltimore.Outreach@ToolBank.org. Details can be found at <http://www.parksandpeople.org/events/calendar/>

Sat, Mar 8, Permaculture Design Course, 10am – Sun, Mar 9, 6pm; Baltimore, MD. Sherwood House at Cromwell Valley Park, 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road, Baltimore, MD 21234 Mar. 8-9: Renewable Energy, Natural Building. Weekend topics are Water Harvesting, Nutrient Recycling, Soil & Gardening - Practice site analysis, make an A-frame level, construct a swale, build a hugelculter bed, create a Water Budget, visit an urban edible landscape; enjoy a Saturday evening potluck & skill share. Future classes: Apr. 5-6: Grains, Aquaculture, Forest Gardening, Guilds, Animals May 3-4: Forest Garden Installation, Final Design Presentations & Certificate Awards www.heathcote.org/cms/ Audit a one-day class or weekend of our current Spring 2014 course. Participate in classroom sessions, hands-on activities, and our Saturday evening potluck dinner and skill share. \$75/day. <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/permaculture-design-course>

Sat, Mar 8, Frog Eggs & Foraging, 12pm - 2:30pm, Silver Spring, MD. Look for the first signs of spring and learn to id early season salad greens along the NW Branch with naturalist & wild foods instructor Matt Cohen. For more info see: www.mattshabitats.com/naturewalks. Fee is \$25.

Sat, Mar 8, Catholic Social Justice Convocation, 8:00 am-4:00pm, Baltimore, MD. Join the 35th Annual Archdiocesan Social Ministry Convocation. Throughout the day, you can enjoy workshops ranging from creating a world of hope to food justice. Three workshops will be offered in Spanish. Registration is \$10. Lunch is provided for those who pre-register. To register contact Rosemary Thompson at RMThompson@missionhelpers.org or Msgr. Bill Burke at wburke@archbalt.org.

Sat, Mar 8, Hike to the River: Searching for Signs of Spring, 10am-12pm, Woodstock, MD

Search for signs of spring on our annual hike from the farmhouse to the Patapsco River...across the fields and into the State Park. A moderate hike accompanied by Conservancy naturalists. FREE! For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, info@hconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hconservancy.org

Sun, Mar 9, Documentary, "Coal Country", 7 PM, 7338 Baltimore Ave, Suite 103, College Park, MD 20740 The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club invites you to a showing of the documentary "Coal County". Coal County tells the compelling story of modern coal mining, sometimes called mountain top removal (MTR), through the daily activities of working miners as well as those battling the coal companies in Appalachia. See <http://coalcountrythemovie.com/> for more

information and to view the movie trailer. Rich Reis, MD Sierra Club Energy Chair, will give a very brief presentation on the downstream impacts of coal in terms of its effects on the air and water of our communities not far from coal-fired power plants. The presentation will also cover issues of ash disposal and global climate change. Cost: Free / optional donation. It is on the 2nd story of the College Park Shopping Center. From Route 1 / Baltimore Avenue, turn west on Knox Road to the parking lot BEHIND the shopping center on your left. Park at a non-metered space; we will have parking passes for your car in the parking lot (between 6:45 and 7) or inside. You can directly enter onto the 2nd story from the parking lot.

Sun, Mar 9, Green Baltimore! An Eco Event Expo. 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Baltimore, MD

Who says you can't have your cake and save the planet? Learn how to turn any event into an event that makes a difference by making smart, sustainable choices. Meet vendors, learn tips, eat food! FREE to the public. The Vollmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Avenue. For more information, call [410.396.4860](tel:410.396.4860).

Mon, Mar 10, "Old Seed Houses and Plant Nurseries in the Mid-Atlantic" Talk, 8:00pm, Health Sciences Center Building, Room 222, Montgomery College TP/SS Campus, Silver Spring, MD.

John Peter Thompson presents research and stories about the local pre-Civil War plant trade in our region. This fascinating history will surely be eye-opening and inspiring. Hosted by the Silver Spring Garden Club. FREE and open to anyone who would like to attend. Doors open at 7:30pm. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, Washington Gardener Magazine, [301-588-6894](tel:301-588-6894), WGardenermag@aol.com. Details at: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/SilverSpringGardenClub/info>

Mon, Mar 10, Parenting Center Workshop: Parenting in a Warming World -- A Climate Change Workshop for Families, 10:00 am- 12:00 pm, Washington, DC.

Join facilitators Joelle Novey, the Director of Interfaith Power & Light, and Julie Hantman for a parenting workshop on Parenting in a Warming World -- A Climate Change Workshop for Families. Learn simple, practical strategies for your family to live sustainably at home and beyond. Kids will engage in age-appropriate environmental-themed activities while parents hear from local experts about how to get involved and how to help our children cultivate an optimistic and pro-active environmental outlook as they grow. To register for the program visit: <http://tinyurl.com/kjvd48l>

Tues, Mar 11, Montgomery County Green Party Monthly Meeting, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Takoma Park, MD

Allison Basile, founder of our local Metro-area DC Time Bank, speaks on this key approach to building an alternate, people-centered economy. Time banking creates communities of generosity and mutual aid where everyone's time is valued equally – come learn how to exchange include car rides, child and pet care, gardening, business plan help, and music, language, and art lessons or help seniors live independently. For more information, contact Mary Rooker, greenyrtle@gmail.com, [301-891-1288](tel:301-891-1288). Directions and details at mocogp.org. Most importantly, get ready to plant some trees and get dirty as you volunteer with Parks & People! Street parking is available. Volunteers should meet on the paved area near the playground. Email Valerie Rupp to RSVP or for more information. www.parksandpeople.org/events/calendar/details/951/2013-12-07/

Thurs, Mar 13, , Documentary, "Coal Country", 6 PM, Baltimore, MD.

Sierra Club Maryland is sponsoring a showing of the film "Coal Country" (www.coalcountrythemovie.com) at the Enoch Pratt Central Library, Wheeler Auditorium, at 400 Cathedral St. in Baltimore Maryland.. Following the screening of the 84-minute, award-winning film, attendees may take part in a conversation about how citizens can organize to regulate and return coal-fired power plants in Greater Baltimore. "Coal Country" tells the dramatic struggle around the use of coal, which provides over half the electricity in America. The film won the West Virginia Film of the Year award in 2009.. Directions/info re: location: http://calendar.prattlibrary.org/central_library_799#.Uw0Vf3mprwl . For more information, contact Seth Bush, seth.bush@sierraclub.org

Thurs, Mar 13, Launch Party for the Environmental Film Festival, 7:30-9:30 pm, Washington, DC

The Nature Conservancy is sponsoring the Environmental Film Festival's Launch Party this year! Attendees will have the chance to meet Conservancy and Festival staff, enjoy light refreshments, enter in silent auctions, and more! For more information, contact Kate Arion at karion@tnc.org or [301-897-8570](tel:301-897-8570) ext. 204. Details at: <http://nature.ly/1fyAbPZ>

Thurs, Mar 13, The Art of Stewardship Juried Art Show Opening Reception and Talk, 6pm, Woodstock, MD

Come to the Howard County Conservancy's Gudelsky Gallery for a presentation by the artists, followed by ample time to browse the exhibit and speak to the artists. All artwork is available for sale. A large portion of the proceeds benefits the Conservancy's educational programming. \$10/person in advance. For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, info@hcconservancy.org, [410-465-8877](tel:410-465-8877). Directions and details at www.hcconservancy.org.

Fri, Mar 14, Year of the Green Sheep: Office Hours, 9:00am- 5:00pm, Washington, DC. Join Interfaith Power & Light's director, Joelle, for green team leader 1-on-1 support office hours. Email Elizabeth at program@gwipl.org to book a time with Joelle now.

Sat, Mar 15 and Sat, Mar 22, Beekeeping Basics at Irvine Nature Center, 9 am-4 pm, Owings Mills, MD. This 2-session course will cover everything you need in order to have thriving bees from the start, including equipment, honey bee biology, dealing with stings, year-round management, swarm control, diseases and honey extracting. Great for beginning and intermediate beekeepers, or anyone generally interested in honey bees. Individuals \$50, Couples \$75. For more information, contact Clare, NaldrettC@ExploreNature.org, 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org

Sun, Mar 16 , Hike Gunpowder State Park, 9am - 12pm, Kingsville, MD. Meet in the parking lot of Gunpowder Lodge (10092 Belair Rd, Kingsville, MD 21087) at 10am (or carpool from Common Ground Coffee Shop, 819 W 36th St Baltimore, MD 21211, in Hampden, at 9am). We'll hike a 5 miles loop along with Wildlands trail where no bikes are permitted, but four-legged friends are welcome. http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/pdfs/GFSP_big2.pdf We can stop in for food at the lodge after if folks would like. Or, bring snacks and definitely water. Please RSVP to Meredith at meredithmemmer@gmail.com

Mar 17 – 23, Fix a Leak Week Nationwide, more than 1 trillion gallons of water leak from U.S. homes each year. That's why WaterSense reminds Americans to check their plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems each year during Fix a Leak Week. www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/fix_a_leak.html

Tues, Mar 18-30, Environmental Film Festival; Washington DC (map) The Environmental Film Festival seeks to advance public understanding of the environment through the power of film. It has become one of the world's largest and most influential showcases of environmental film and a major collaborative cultural event. Films are screened at partnering museums, embassies, libraries, universities and local theaters. Selected to provide fresh perspectives on global environmental issues, most films are accompanied by discussions with filmmakers, environmental experts and special guests, including national decision makers and thought leaders, and are free to the public. www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org/

Thurs, Mar 19, Frogs & Groggs at Irvine Nature Center, 6:30-9 pm, Owings Mills, MD. Join your friends at Irvine Nature Center to investigate the fantastic world of frogs. Simple as they may seem, each different species of frog has developed a unique way to compete for food, space, and, most of all, mates. Plus, learn how frogs are teaching us about environmental health and the global race to keep amphibians afloat. Presentation by Steven Mickletz. Drinks and dinner included. 21+ only. \$20 for members; \$30 for non-members. For more information, contact Clare, NaldrettC@ExploreNature.org, 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org

Wed, Mar 19, Unlocking Nature's Puzzle: How Plants and Animals Depend on One Another for Survival, 7:30 - 9:00pm, Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park, MD. This meeting is sponsored by the Takoma Horticultural. We've heard a lot about pollination, the plight of honeybees, and Monarch butterflies lately, but what about other ways that humans, plants, and animals are connected and impact each other? How do plants, ants, fungi, and so many other things connect with each other? Using puzzle-solving as a metaphor, Alonso Abugattas will unlock other less-familiar dependencies and intricacies in nature all around us in his. FREE and open to the public. Doors open at 7, talk starts at 7:30 p.m. Please bring a snack to share. As usual, the Club will provide beverages. Wear a recycled name tag and save a tree. More details at: www.takomahort.org.

Thurs, Mar 20, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, workshop organized by the Chesapeake Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility called "Climate Change and Health". [Location TBD] Sara Via will talk on "The science of climate change", and Dr. Cindy Parker, JHU Public Health will talk on "Public health effects of climate change". Then there will be several breakout discussion groups. <http://www.psr.org/chapters/chesapeake/>

Fri, Mar 21, Film Screening: A Will for the Woods, 7:30 pm-9:30 pm, Washington, DC.

St. Columba's Church is hosting a film screening. "A Will for the Woods" is about a musician, folk dancer, and psychiatrist Clark Wang, who is battling lymphoma while facing a potentially imminent need for funeral plans. Determined that his last act will not harm the environment and may even help protect it, Clark has discovered the movement to further sustainable funerals that conserve natural areas. Afterward, the filmmaking team will take part in a discussion with the audience.

Sat, Mar 22, World Water Day: Oceans & Watersheds, 1:30-3:00 pm, Washington, DC

In honor of World Water Day, the Environmental Film Festival will host a screening of several short films that focus on water issues affecting the Chesapeake Bay. A panel discussion will follow, moderated by [Dr. Elizabeth Gray](#), executive director of the Maryland/DC chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and the Conservancy's [Chesapeake Bay Program Director, Mark Bryer](#), will also participate in the panel discussion.

For more information, contact Kate Arion at karion@tnc.org or 301-897-8570 ext. 204. Details at: <http://nature.ly/1fyAbPZ>

Mon, Mar 24 & 31, "Babes in the Woods" Mom/Baby Hike, 9:30am, Woodstock, MD Join our Naturalist and Education Assistant, [Stephanie Holzman](#), to get reacquainted with nature and introduce the joy of being outside to your little one, plus get some exercise! \$10/child per session. For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, info@hconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hconservancy.org.

Tues, Mar 25, Spring Naturalist Training at Irvine Nature Center, 6-8:30 pm, Owings Mills, MD. Become a volunteer naturalist at Irvine! This 3-session course will teach you how to lead educational trips for school groups. We'll cover field trip themes, natural history, trail activities and teaching techniques. No experience necessary – just bring enthusiasm for working with kids! All dates: Tuesday, Mar 25, 6 – 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Mar 27, 6 – 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, Mar 29, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$30 deposit refunded at conclusion of season. For more information, contact Clare, NaldrettC@ExploreNature.org, 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org

Wed, Mar 26 & April 2, "Stories Under the Sycamore", 9:30am, Woodstock, MD A hike for the new walking toddlers and the little ones in rugged strollers with our Naturalist and Education Assistant, [Stephanie Holzman](#). We will make use of the trails, pathways and gardens near the farmhouse and historic buildings for this 50 minute to 1 1/2 hour short stroll. \$10/child per session. For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, info@hconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hconservancy.org.

Fri, Mar 28, Baltimore Bike Party, 7:00pm – 9:30pm. 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! We are all here to have a good time. baltimorebikeparty.com/

Sat, Mar 29, 5K for the Bay; Quiet Waters Park Road, Annapolis, MD (map). Come run or walk to support the Chesapeake Bay and enjoy great music, local food and drink, and great giveaways! Dogs on leashes and children in strollers are welcome. Interested in having your co-workers, friends or family run as a team? Contact Kristin Foringer for information on group discounts. We expect this event to sell out with more than 500 runners so register today! www.cbtrust.org/

Sat, Mar 29, Spring Ephemerals, 10am - 12:30pm, Carderock, MD. See the beginning of the amazing spring wildflower show along the Potomac River and learn about edibility and other uses of the plants with naturalist & wild foods instructor Matt Cohen. For more info see: www.mattshabitats.com/naturewalks. Fee is \$25.

Sat, Mar 29, Farring-Baybrook Park Tree Planting. Join the National Aquarium in partnership with Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks and TreeBaltimore as we clean up Farring-Baybrook Park, one of the largest open spaces in Baltimore City and a large part of the Masonville Cove watershed! We will be removing debris and invasive species, as well as planting native trees. aqua.org/care/conservation-initiatives/masonville-cove

Sat, Mar 29, EarthSave Baltimore Veg Dinner Educational Series, 6-9 pm, at 10210 S. Dolfield Rd. in Owings Mills, will feature a vegan potluck screening of "Genetic Roulette" about the health risks tied to genetically engineered foods. Please bring a dish made without animal products that will serve 8, plus a \$5 donation (members \$2). Or with prior notice, enjoy dinner without bringing food for \$15 donation. Call 410-252-3043, write Baltimore@earthsave.org, or go to <http://earthsavebaltimore.org/>.

Sun, Mar 30, TreeKeepers 102: Science of Trees, 2pm – 4pm; Miller's Court Offices, 2601 N. Howard St., Baltimore, MD 21218 Free. Baltimore Tree Trust. For more information contact Amanda Cunningham at amanda@baltimoretreetrust.org, baltimoretreetrust.org/

Sun, Mar 30, Walk the Talk: An Interfaith Response to Polluted Runoff, 2:00-4:00pm, Baltimore City, MD. This FREE forum is designed to help Baltimore City congregations find the technical, grant writing and organizational support they need to embark on construction projects that will address polluted runoff while reducing their stormwater utility fees through green project installations. This work will be done in partnership with [Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake](#) and [Blue Water Baltimore](#). St. Matthew Catholic Church 5401 Loch Raven Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21239. To pre-register contact: Bonnie Sorak at bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org or 443-799-0349; for more information http://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/blue_water_congregations.

Mon, Mar 31, Planning Your Outdoor Classroom at Irvine Nature Center, 10 am-4 pm, Owings Mills, MD. How do you go about creating an enriching outdoor setting with limited time, space and resources? Join the Nature Preschool staff at Irvine as we share the triumphs (and harrumphs) of designing and building an outdoor classroom. Participants will discover interactive elements of effective natural learning environments and ways to get started! Qualifies for 6 MSDE

credit hours. \$75 per participant. For more information, contact Clare, NaldrettC@ExploreNature.org, 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS

Check out the latest 3-minute video from Lori Hill of Sister Eden which shares tips **about how to get rid of junk mail, why going green doesn't have to cost more money and the importance of buying fair trade.**

<http://sistereden.com/ask-sister-eden-saving-money-buying-sweaters/> For more tips and videos about living the green life, visit www.SisterEden.com

Want an entertaining and clear speaker on climate change to motivate your discussion circle or green team? As professor of ecology and a member of the Climate Reality Leadership Corps, Sara Via presents in simple terms the latest evidence that climate change is real, that it is affecting Marylanders now, and that it is caused by human activities. Sara's talk illustrates the increasing effects of climate change on weather, human health, agriculture and water security, using regional, national and global examples. There is still time to prevent the worst effects of climate change. Sara can help you energize your team and get them ready to take action. **Contact** Dr. Sara Via, svia@umd.edu, to discuss a talk (references available).

Got a film for Interfaith Power & Light's Film Library?

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA) is requesting films for our Film Library. Do you have an environmental film that you've already screened and would like to make available to hundreds of congregations? If so, contact Karen Leu, karen@gwipl.org, 202-709-7641. We'd especially love Bidder 70, Chasing Ice, Gasland 2, Food Inc, or King Corn. Check out our existing film library here: <http://gwipl.org/learn/film-library/>

Join the Keystone XL Pledge of Resistance/Civil Disobedience Training: Looking to fight the good fight? Then consider joining a group of activists who are currently preparing to participate in 2 local Sit-Ins, all part of the Pledge of Resistance to the Keystone XL Pipeline. If President Obama approves the KXL pipeline, we will commit planned and peaceful acts of civil disobedience at a target in downtown Silver Spring. If you are interested in learning more, please email Kristin Cook at kristingamazoncook@gmail.com or Carla Tevelow at perlpubl@gmail.com. We are planning more trainings over the next three months. Read more about the Pledge of Resistance and sign up for a specific sit-in location here: <http://nokxl.org/>

Write a letter opposing Fast Track Authority for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP): Congress is about to sign off on a massive pro-corporate trade deal that would invalidate our environmental protection laws, as well as health and worker protections. It would empower corporations to directly sue governments over laws and policies that they claim reduce their profits. We should know the details of what's in this pact and our national legislators should know. Write to your senators and your representative to ask them to oppose the Fast Track Authority that would turn it over to President Obama with no Congressional - or citizen - input. And, from what's been leaked about the TPP, you can also ask them to oppose the TPP itself. **For possible statements to include in a letter**, email: marjmdonn@verizon.net. More info from 350.org is here: <http://campaigns.350.org/petitions/say-no-to-corporate-power-grabs-reject-the-trans-pacific-partnership>

Follow all of the bills in the Maryland Legislature through the LCV "Hot Lists"

From January to April is the time of the Maryland General Assembly. There are many bills that may be of interest to us, such as Fracking, Renewable Portfolio Standard, Bag Bills, Community Renewable Energy. Maryland LCV (League of Conservation Voters) staff tracks environmental legislation as it quickly moves through the legislative session, and we want to pass that timely information on to you. You can access this weekly list here: <http://www.mdldcv.org/> If you want to receive an electronic copy of the weekly hotlist, please email info@mdldcv.org to start receiving emails. You can also look up particular bills at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/>.

Support Renewable Integration: Balance Power Systems is a company of engineers addressing needs instead of return on investment. We are non-profit and develop enabling products to make renewables more cost competitive and achieve economies of scale. Our goals are to create awareness of electricity cost drivers and motivate investment in load shifting technologies that will better accommodate variable generation. We are electricity suppliers in the MD BGE/PEPCO service territories. Your enrollment will enable us to develop the products needed to achieve a sustainable future and your feedback will enable us to coordinate our effort with other sustainability initiatives. See www.BalancePowerSystems.com or contact Joe Criscione at jcriscione@BalancePowerSystems.com or [301 801 8932](tel:3018018932)