

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **April 2014**. It is going out to over **1,505 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/2014/2014-04.pdf>.

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

We also have a 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 / May and Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Being that April is "Earth Month", the Community Events section is longer than usual! Hope you will find something to suit your fancy.

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, **Beth Lacey Gill**.

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, April 13
6:30–8:30 pm

"The Dinner" A Sustainable Farming Documentary <http://thedinnermovie.com/>

This documentary covers it all: composting; water collection; planting, watering, weeding and harvesting heirloom fruits and vegetables; care, feeding, and housing of Heritage chickens and turkeys; and much more. Christina Allen and her husband live on a working sustainable farm in Southern Maryland and are constantly turning 'problems and waste' into useful resources. Truly an inspiration!

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

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

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

EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY

Sunday, April 27, 2014
Luncheon at 2 PM, program at 3 PM
First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, Md. 20145 (Rt. 108 & Rt. 29)

Celebrate Earth Week and the Fifth Anniversary of the Earth Forum and enjoy the taste of spring by joining us for a fresh, delicious luncheon filled with springtime flavors, and prepared and served by Howard County chef Paul. Discover more about eating sustainably as Chef Paul introduces the meal and shares his tips for preparing and serving local, nutritious food. This Forum, which concludes the 2013-2014 series on "Food for Today and Tomorrow", will also recognize the people who have developed and supported the Forum for the past five years.

Directions, details and menu may be found at earthforumhc.org.

Advanced luncheon tickets are \$10.00 and may be purchased by contacting earthforum@firstpreshc.org or calling 410-750-1479.

THE BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

Sunday, April 27
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 Cost of Carbon: An update on critical Maryland climate campaigns and discussion about putting a price on carbon

Speaker: Megan Jenny, the Maryland Field Coordinator for Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN)

Description:

With its 3,200 miles of coastline, Maryland is one of the most vulnerable states in the U.S. to sea level rise and climate impacts. Given that, we should be leading the way in calling for strong solutions that move us towards stability, not for more polluting energy sources. CCAN uses grassroots action to call for the changes we need at the local, state, and national levels. Megan will give an update about the critical climate and energy campaigns happening now: both to pass bills in the General Assembly and to stop big polluters, like the proposed fracked gas export plant at Cove Point. She'll also lead a discussion about the environmental movement's views on putting a price on carbon as an important piece of the climate solution puzzle.

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; (GGH) Going Green at Home

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, three circles have already begun. Most recent topics have included Voluntary Simplicity, Choices for Sustainable Living, Sacred Economics, Hungry for Change, Ethics of Water Security, and Going Green at Home. **There are two circles starting this month in Northern Virginia and Greenbelt** 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.

Northern Virginia

*** The Northern Virginia Simplicity Matters will be starting a Voluntary Simplicity course in April.** Dates to be decided. Anyone interested can contact Helene Shore at Teachhss@aol.com for details. The discussion circle will take place in a private home in Vienna, Va.

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 wrapping up Chapter 34 and discussing whether they want to pick another book to read together.** 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 took place on Mon, March 31, 7-8:30 pm in a private home. **Session #2 will be on Mon, April 7, 7-8:30pm.** (we are still accepting additional participants)

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/qcan/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 the spring 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, Ecolocity, and the Citizens Climate Lobby to offer several discussion circles. This past 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.simplicitymatters.org/circles>, or email Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wed, April 2, Great Kids Farm Garden Summit, 10 am–1:30 pm, Baltimore, MD Free event for City Schools students in grades 2 to 6. Schools can send four students and one staff member. Students and teachers will attend workshops and receive materials to create a garden at their school. Transportation and lunch will be provided. Space is limited to the first 25 schools that register. For more information contact Bethany Mathie at bmathie@bcps.k12.md. tinyurl.com/2014GardenSummit

Wed, April 2, Dirty Energy Road Show, 7-9:15 pm, Greenbelt, MD Count the ways prevailing energy pollutes - learn new ways to resist them! The Dirty Energy Road Show examines the parallels of coal and nuclear power and connects them to other dangerous power sources, including fracking of natural gas. And it shows how front line Appalachian communities and organizations like Mountain Justice and RAMPS are fighting mines, slurry, dumps. Greenbelt Climate Action Network. Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Room 114. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/537786259668438/> or lore@simplicity-matters.org

Wed, April 2, DC Trainers Network April Skillshare: The Art of Debriefing, 7 pm, Washington, DC Often times, actions, projects and events occur without the critical moment of self and group reflection. April facilitators Noor Mir and Emil Rudicell will lead the group through the debriefing process. What does it mean to lead a thought provoking, safe discussion? For more information: <http://washingtonpeacecenter.org/node/11698>

Thurs, April 3, ACEEE-SEE Action Behavior Webinar Series, 4–5:30 pm During this webinar we will take a closer look at what we know about the energy savings from behavior based efficiency programs. Our speakers will answer these questions and more: - Can we reliably measure the savings from behavior based programs? - How can we measure how long savings last once the program stops? - What factors affect duration of savings? - Do the savings persist day-to-day in a relatively consistent manner? - What should a regulator consider regarding the "measure life" of home energy reports? www.ase.org/events/aceee-see-action-behavior-webinar-series

Thurs, April 3, The Fracking of America: Ethics and Impact, 6:30–8 pm, Baltimore MD Please join the Loyola Maryland Community for a lecture and Q&A with Sandra Steingraber. This is the same lecture that was supposed to be held during Ethics Week, but was rescheduled due to snow. Environmental writer Sandra Steingraber is a biologist, poet, and investigative reporter whom the Sierra Club has called "the new Rachel Carson." McGuire Hall at Loyola College. www.facebook.com/events/745649498788069/

Fri, April 4, Dr. Robert K. Musil at Barnes & Noble, 7 pm, Bethesda, MD Dr. Robert K. Musil, President of the Rachel Carson Council, Senior Fellow, Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, American University, and former CEO, Physicians for Social Responsibility presents a talk on the book Rachel Carson and Her Sisters: Extraordinary Women Who Have Shaped America's Environment. 4801 Bethesda Avenue. For further information contact Amelia K. Duroska, crm2750@bn.com.

Sat, April 5, 10 am – 4 pm, 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 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 is being held at a home in Potomac. Read more about the Pledge of Resistance here: http://act.credoaction.com/sign/kxl_pledge

Sat, April 5, 26th Annual Potomac River Watershed Clean-up, sponsored by Alice Ferguson Foundation, various locations, most are 9am-12noon. <http://fergusonfoundation.org/trash-free-potomac-watershed-initiative/potomac-river-watershed-cleanup/>

Sat, April 5, Project Green Stream, 9am – 12pm Register your site now for Project Clean Stream- lead a cleanup at your neighborhood park or stream. You can also choose another date as long as it falls within four weeks of the original. Baltimore City sites are coordinated through Blue Water Baltimore, so be sure to select us under "Coordinator Details" when you fill out your registration form! For questions, contact Debra at dlenik@bluewaterbaltimore.org. No phone calls, please. cleanstream.allianceforthebay.org/start-a-cleanup/

Sat, April 5, Project Clean Stream with BlueWater Baltimore, 9 am-12 pm, Baltimore, MD We'll be cleaning up trash along a portion of the Jones Falls River, just inside Robert E. Lee Park (6479 Falls Road). Gloves and trash bags will be provided by Bluewater Baltimore - we just need your help! Please bring water and we'll provide granola bars. This event is registered so City residents can receive a credit towards their Storm Water Fees on your water bill! To RSVP please contact meredithmemmer@gmail.com.

Sat, April 5, Nassawango Atlantic White Cedar Restoration, Snow Hill, MD Join the Aquarium Conservation Team (ACT!) and plant Atlantic white cedar seedlings. This tree species is considered rare in the state of Maryland. Nassawango Creek Preserve. aqua.org/care/conservation-initiatives/nassawango

April 5 & 6, Permaculture Design Course, 10 am-6 pm, Towson, MD Audit a 1-day class or weekend! \$75 /day. Weekend topics are Forest Gardening, Guild Design, Succession & Niche Analysis, Animals, Growing Grains & Legumes. Hands-on activities will include planting a forest garden, building a worm bin & Bokashi composting. Join us for a field trip to a local aquaculture project, & for our Saturday evening potluck & skill share. Sherwood House at Cromwell Valley Park, 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road. Register at <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/permaculture-design-course-weekend-5>

Sat, April 5, Howard County GreenFest, 10 am–4 pm, Columbia, MD An annual free family-friendly event to celebrate green initiatives. At the event will be a student-led forum from 1:30-2:30pm for Middle and High School Students. Students from area high schools will provide an overview of successful environmental projects at their schools and lessons learned. Projects include rain gardens, electronics recycling, and more. Students can connect and learn more in the networking reception that follows. Howard Community College. www.howardcountymd.gov/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=4294967857

Sat, April 5, Nature Art Site Survey, 1-3 pm, Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, MD Site survey for Nature Art installation for 2014 outdoor exhibit (First wave applications are due April 19). Meet at the parking lot at Windsor Mill Road and Eagle Drive, Baltimore, MD 21207. Trails can be rough in parts so wear sturdy shoes!
www.facebook.com/events/1421091748140220/

Sun, April 6, Bringing Jewish Values to Face the Climate Crisis, 2:30-6 pm, Chevy Chase, MD Come learn how you can use your Jewish values to help prevent climate change. The workshop fee is \$45. To register <https://theshalomcenter.org/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=10>

Mon, April 7, "Babes in the Woods" Mom/Baby Hike, 9:30 am, Woodstock, MD Join Howard County Conservancy 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! Hikes for very young babies and their parent/caregiver. 1 - 1 1/2 hour guided hike on our beautiful trails, story time, sensory and exploration, and sharing. \$10/child per session. For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, info@hconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hconservancy.org

Tues, April 8, Montgomery County Green Party Monthly Meeting, 7–9 p.m., Takoma Park, MD Come join fun folks work on serious issues as we support our three Green candidates and help a just, sustainable society become our reality. And join us on April 27 downtown DC at the Keystone Pipeline rally to fight climate change!! For more information, contact Mary Rooker, greentyrtle@gmail.com, 301-891-1288. Directions and details at montgomerycountygreenparty.org

Wed, April 9, 16, 23, Urban Farm Series, 6–9 pm, Baltimore, MD Starting a Small Intensive Commercial Farm for Local Markets Future Harvest-CASA, Real Food Farm, and the Farm Alliance of Baltimore City are once again teaming up to offer this 3-part series as part of the Future Harvest-CASA and University of Maryland Extension program on small-scale commercial production. This program also serves as part of a broader movement to reclaim vacant land in Baltimore City and put it to productive use. Registration required: \$15. www.realfoodfarm.org/get-educated/workshops-2-2/ 2640 St Paul Street.

Thurs, April 10, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, Demystifying Clean Green Energy, Silver Spring Civic Center One Veterans PI, Silver Spring, MD 20910 An expert assessment on the current state of the clean energy industry The closing of Clean Currents (a renewable energy provider) in late January has sent a ripple of concern and confusion throughout the community, leading to many questions about the future of green energy. This interactive panel discussion offers an opportunity to get answers, including what were the factors that precipitated Clean Currents' decision to close, the status of the clean energy market, and what renewable energy options are available for individual consumers and businesses. <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/demystifying-clean-green-energy-tickets-5772340225>

Thurs, April 10, Good Food Gathering: Eating Well, 7-9 pm, Baltimore, MD The Baltimore Food and Faith Project will hold a series of four Good Food Gatherings purposed to engage Baltimore-area faith communities around the way we think about and behave around food. Our first Gathering, on the topic of Eating Well, will feature Dr. Jennifer Ayres of Emory University and Elder C. W. Harris of Baltimore's Strength to Love II Farm. Flyer: <http://tinyurl.com/nma8ryy>. For info, contact Darriel Harris, dharris@jhsph.edu, 410-502-7578, www.jhusph.edu/clf/bffp

Fri, April 11, Distinguished Women in Environmental Health Sciences Symposium, 12–5pm, Baltimore, MD Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future Distinguished Women in Environmental Health Sciences The CLF Polly Walker Ecology Fund and the Department of Environmental Health Sciences Grand Rounds bring you an afternoon symposium Keynote: Robert K. Musil, PhD, MPH; Author, "Rachel Carson and Her Sisters: Extraordinary Women who have Shaped

America's Environment" www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/news-room/events/

Fri, April 11, Street Tree Planting for Greener City Neighborhoods, 9am – 1pm, Baltimore, MD Volunteer to help plant trees. 600 N. Rose St. Please register at baltimoretreetrust.org/ or contact Amanda at amanda@baltimoretreetrust.org

Fri, April 11, Nature-based Learning, Indoors and Out at Irvine Nature Center, 10 am-4 pm, Owings Mills, MD We will address ways to incorporate MD State Curriculum Standards through innovative activities in nature and with natural and recycled materials. No matter what the setting or population, educators will gain skills and strategies to create engaging nature-based lessons that align with science, language and literacy, physical fitness, and fine art standards in the MMSR. Participants will spend time outdoors, just like students at The Nature Preschool, so please dress for messy learning! 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

Sat, April 12, Backyard Chickens: Coop to Coop Tour, 10am-2pm, Woodstock, MD Do a self-guided driving tour of a wide variety of coop and run styles hosted by enthusiastic Howard County residents who work at living sustainably. Maps and locations available here. FREE! For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, info@hccconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hccconservancy.org

Sun, April 13, 4:30-6:00pm, Climate Change and Food Gardening, Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Rd. (near 34th St.), Mount Rainier, MD - the presentation will be led by Gordon Clark, MD Master Gardener, Master Composter, and Project Director of Montgomery Victory Gardens. <http://montgomeryvictorygardens.org/> We know climate change is happening - how do we as food gardeners prepare for it? The presentation will include both background on the issue and specific techniques for growing in all seasons of extreme weather, as well as for lessening your own garden's carbon footprint. As the climate changes, we must change too! Cost: \$5.00 at the door. Brought to you by the Mount Rainier Community Garden. Questions?? Please contact Mimi, 301-927-1720

Mon, April 14, Spring Bird Walk, 7:00-8:30 am, Montgomery County, MD The MD/DC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is organizing four bird walks this spring! The times and locations vary, and the dates are April 14, April 29, May 7, and May 12. For more information, contact Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, 301-897-8570 ext. 204. Details at <http://nature.ly/1nH4ZE6>.

Mon, April 14, 7-8 pm, Emmanuel United Methodist Church, "Capture the Wind" workshop, 10755 Scaggsville Road, Laurel, MD 20723 In partnership with Groundswell, a local nonprofit. Learn how easy and affordable it is to choose clean renewable power for your home just by switching your utility energy supplier. Anyone who pays an electricity bill in DC or Maryland has the power to choose where their electricity comes from and support 100% wind sourced power. Over 1600 households have joined Groundswell's Community Power Program for Homes and switched to a clean energy supplier at discounted group rates. Learn how you can save by joining the Spring 2014 group to access a lower price for clean energy. No obligation to join. <http://www.groundswell.org/programs/for-homes>. For more information and to RSVP, contact Liz at eumcgreenteam@gmail.com or 301-661-7087.

Mon, April 14, Jobs and Security, Pikas and Penguins: The Big Surprisingly Optimistic Story on Energy and the Environment, 7–8:30pm, Baltimore, MD Join Dr. Richard Alley, earth scientist, professor, and contributor to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), whose members shared the 2007 Nobel Prize with Al Gore, as he shares important knowledge regarding energy and the environment. For more information, please call 410-617-2545 or email advevents@loyola.edu. Loyola University MD McGuire Hall, Andrew White Student Center 4501 North Charles St. www.loyola.edu/joinus/grandseminar

Tues, April 15, Baltimore City Sustainability Commission Meetings, 4pm – 5pm, Baltimore MD The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability holds regular monthly meetings usually on the fourth Tuesday of every month. All meetings are open to the public. The Commission is made up of 21 members representing environmental groups, community organizations, labor unions, public health and environmental justice interests, and private industry. Department of Planning, 8th Fl, 417 E. Fayette St. www.baltimoresustainability.org/

Wed, April 16, The New Victory Garden: Combining Flowers & Veggies, 7:30 - 9 pm, Takoma Park, MD Joe Brunetti and Erin Clark of Smithsonian Gardens discuss the old-fashioned, heirloom garden flower-veggie combinations and how they are making a comeback today. 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. Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave.

Thu, April 17, Still Life in Hibernation, 7–9 pm, The Natural History Society of Maryland, Baltimore, MD This program is for people who have an interest in sketching natural objects. We meet on the third Thursday of each month to sketch specimens from our natural history collections as well as natural objects found by our volunteers and naturalists. The cost is FREE for members and \$5 for non-members. Please join us to practice your sketching skills and spend an enjoyable evening with other nature and art lovers. 6908 Belair Road. www.meetup.com/marylandnature/events/

Apr 18–26, Baltimore Green Week, Baltimore, MD The 11th Annual Baltimore Green Week, hosted by Baltimore Green Works, is a series of fun and engaging activities that offer a deeper glimpse into what it means to be "green". Open to the public, activities include tours, workshops, film screenings, and more. pick up a program guide at any Baltimore City recreation center, administrative building, or any Enoch Pratt Free Library. www.facebook.com/events/788840694466358/

Sat, Apr 19, Baltimore Trash Talk Bottle Exchange, Baltimore, MD BTT's 5¢ Bottle Exchange from Oct. 2013 was featured and the next Exchange was announced for Saturday, April 19th - just in time for Earth Day! Both events involve gathering data in support of a Maryland Bottle Bill. www.facebook.com/pages/Baltimore-Trash-Talk/119366028104360

Sat, April 19, A Training: Stopping the Keystone XL Pipeline!, 10:15 am - 2:45 pm, Washington, D.C. Join us as we train for a peaceful action (at the State Dept in D.C.) to stop the climate-wrecking KXL pipeline. Agenda includes legal, civil disobedience, role-playing, and more. For more info, see www.climatefirst.us, or contact Ted at tonwell@climatefirst.us. (301)589-7598.

Sat, April 19, How Green Is Your Home? Workshop, 11am–1pm, Baltimore, MD Come celebrate Baltimore Green Week with Retrofit Baltimore and Blue Water Baltimore! Join us in the heart of downtown Lauraville for an interactive workshop that will help you answer the question "How Green is Your Home?" You will leave this workshop empowered with the knowledge and resources to green your home inside and out! Hamilton-Lauraville Main Street Plaza 4500 Harford Rd. www.retrofitbaltimore.org/bgw_workshop

Mon, April 21, Easter Monday at the National Zoo, 10 am-4 pm, Washington, DC This "Washington family tradition" is fun for everyone, with food, live music, and activities like an Easter egg hunt! This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/activitiesandevents/celebrations/easter/>.

Mon, April 21, Baltimore Green Week Panel Discussion, 7-9 pm, Baltimore, MD In honor of Baltimore Green Week, the MD/DC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is hosting a panel discussion called, "Do you know where your water comes from?" The discussion will focus on Baltimore's drinking water and how both man-made and natural infrastructure keep our drinking water clean for everyone. For more information, contact Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, 301-897-8570 ext. 204. Details at <http://nature.ly/1eWobnZ>.

Mon, April 21 "Container Vegetable Gardens" Talk, 8 pm, Silver Spring, MD Horticulturist Carol Allen presents this talk for urban gardeners wanting to grow edibles in limited space. 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, Wgardenermag@aol.com. Details at: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/SilverSpringGardenClub/info>. Health Sciences Center Building, Room 222, Montgomery College TP/SS Campus.

Tues, April 22, GBCAN Collaborative - Training for Recreation Centers, 10 am – 12:30 pm, Baltimore, MD The training will focus on the importance of getting children outdoors exploring nearby nature in parks and open spaces on a regular basis. For more information: mary.hardcastle@baltimorecity.gov

Wed, April 23, Walk for Water, 11:30 am-2:30 pm, Washington, DC The U.S. Department of State, the World Wildlife Fund, and The Nature Conservancy are working together to organize a walk for water. This 6km walk represents the average distance women in developing nations have to travel to provide water for their families. For more information, contact Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, 301-897-8570 ext. 204.

Thurs, April 24, Breakfast to Benefit NeighborSpace of Baltimore County, 7:30–9:30 am, Lutherville-Timonium, MD Featured Presenter: Peter Harnik, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) Mr. Harnik is Director of TPL's Center for City Park Excellence, which conducts research into how parks provide economic, ecological and social value to their users. He is widely published and most recently authored Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities. Crowne Plaza Hotel 2004 Greenspring Drive, www.neighborspacebaltimorecounty.org

Thurs, April 24, A Bicycle Odyssey in Baltimore, 5pm – 9pm, Baltimore, MD Bikemore in partnership with Baltimore Green Works and Baltimore Green Week, We will lead a panel discussion with planners from the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, and they will be on hand to answer questions and present their plans for new bicycle infrastructure to be constructed in 2014. Bikemore will be there to collect your feedback and ideas for a better bicycling

city! The event is free, no RSVP needed, but only about 100 people can fit in Gold Bar at any given time.
www.facebook.com/events/300376356776927

Thurs, April 24, TreeKeepers 201: Advanced Tree Planting for Leadership Certification, 6:30 – 8:30pm, Baltimore, MD Baltimore Tree Trust. TreeKeepers Free Class on Tree Planting. Miller's Court Offices 2601 N. Howard St. Please register at baltimoretreetrust.org/ or contact Amanda at amanda@baltimoretreetrust.org

Fri, April 25, Maryland Offshore Wind Industry Turns One, 7:30am – 3:30pm, Salisbury, MD Join BEACON and The Business Network for MD Offshore Wind (BizMDOSW) for an update on public and private sector progress toward creating Maryland's Offshore Wind Industry. Topics covered included: Size, Scale and Opportunity of the Offshore Wind Industry Maximizing Local Content Manufacturing and Exporting Port Infrastructure Vessels Operations and Maintenance. Perdue Hall, Salisbury University, 1101 Camden Avenue. For a full agenda www.bizmdosw.org/

Fri, April 25, Baltimore Bike Party, 7–9:30 pm, Baltimore, MD 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!
baltimorebikeparty.com

Sat, April 26, BioBlitz, Howard County Living Farm Heritage (HCLFH) Museum Park in West Friendship, MD Celebrate Earth Day by learning to identify the plants and animals that live in Howard County. This survey will provide baseline data about the biodiversity of an area. For more information, contact Ann Coren at anncoren@hotmail.com. Details at <http://www.transitionhoco.org/committees/eco-landscaping/bioblitz>

Sat, Apr 26, Fort McHenry Field Day, Baltimore, MD Give a day for the Bay! Join the Aquarium Conservation Team (ACT!) for a debris cleanup and tree planting at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. It's the perfect way to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day, and to participate in Project Clean Stream! aqua.org/care/conservation-initiatives/fort-mchenry

Sat, April 26, Earth Day: Make A Difference!, 8am-1pm, Woodstock, MD Join the Conservancy for this annual day of service where participants will be planting trees, removing non-native invasive plants and cleaning up our streams. FREE! For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, info@hccconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hccconservancy.org

Sat, April 26, Street Tree Planting for Greener City Neighborhoods, 9am – 1pm, Baltimore, MD Baltimore Tree Trust. Arbor Day After, Street Tree Planting for Greener City Neighborhoods, Volunteer to help plant trees. 600 N. Rose St. Please register at baltimoretreetrust.org/ or contact Amanda at amanda@baltimoretreetrust.org

Sat, April 26, 2nd Annual DC NoVA MD Green School Summit - The Intersection of STEM and Sustainability, 9am-5pm, Cardozo Senior High School 1200 Clifton Street NW Washington, DC 20009. The U.S. Green Building Council – National Capital Region and Maryland Chapters. This unique event will once again bring together building professionals and K-12 school personnel to share best practices related to sustainable schools and will also serve as the culmination of the DC Green Schools Challenge. Student groups from across DC will be recognized for their work reducing energy consumption at their respective schools. www.usgbcncr.org/event/gss/

Sat, April 26, Baltimore Green Week - EcoFest, 11am – 5pm, Baltimore, MD The capstone event for this series is the EcoFest, a community celebration and outdoor festival. EcoFest is held each year in Druid Hill Park and is host to an all local line-up of musicians, food vendors, and nearly 100 local vendors and exhibitors who share our vision for a greener Baltimore. Attendees are also encouraged to take part in the free yoga classes, bike rides, kid's nature play space, and other workshops and activities throughout the day. baltimoregreenworks.com/events/ecofestival/

Sat, April 26, The Baltimore BNote at EcoFest, 11 am-5 pm, Druid Hill Park in Baltimore City Join the Directors and volunteers of the BNote, Baltimore's Local Currency, at the most eco-friendly Spring event in the City! We will be exchanging BNotes, giving out new directories and BNote buttons, and letting you in on our plans for this year's Second Series BNotes. For more information, contact Jeff Dicken at baltimoregreencurrency@gmail.com. Directions and details at <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events/ecofestival/>.

Sat, April 26, Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the 20th-Century World, 1–3 pm, Baltimore MD John McNeill, past president of American Society for Environmental History, is a Georgetown University professor of world history, environmental history, and international history. He is the author of "Mosquito Empires: Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean, 1620-1914", "The Human Web: A Bird's-eye View of World History" and "Something

New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the 20th-Century World." Peabody Room, Cathedral of the Incarnation, 4 E University Pkwy. Free parking and refreshments, www.historicbaltimore.org/program/bulletinboard.htm

Sun, Apr 27, 350.org Reject and Protect event, Washington, DC As he nears his final decision on Keystone XL, we will send a final, unmistakable message to President Obama to Reject the pipeline and Protect our land, water and climate. Together we sent 2 million comments against the pipeline, and now we must follow this up with action in the streets. Everyone is needed and everyone is welcome. act.350.org/signup/rejectandprotect

Sun, April 27, SpringFest at Irvine Nature Center, 11 am-4 pm, Owings Mills, MD Irvine's annual Earth Week event has a new name and will be better than ever! Activities will focus on the health and wellness of Mother Earth as well as our own. Be sure to come out for an educational and fun filled day. \$15 per child. Adults and children under 2 are free. For more information, contact Clare, NaldrettC@ExploreNature.org, 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org

Sun, April 27, Earth, Water, Faith Festival, 2-5 pm, Annapolis, MD Come celebrate the Environment at the Earth, Water, Faith Festival. Bring the whole family to enjoy interactive activities, t-shirt decorating, and environmental education. For more information contact 410-798-0590.

Sun, April 27, Paul Ehrlich speaking on Ethics, the Environment and Avoiding the Collapse of Civilization, 1:30 pm, Bethesda, MD. River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, 20817. Tickets \$20 until 4/18, then \$25. www.rruuc.org/social-justice/task-forces/environmental.

Sun, April 27, 6pm BEYOND COAL, documentary movie. Sponsored by MD Sierra Club, Scott and Dianne's House, 12712 Eldrid Place, Silver Spring, MD 20904. RSVP: MrScottPalmer@gmail.com or call Scott's cell phone at 619-245-8500.

Mon, April 28, Home School Day, 9am-12pm, Woodstock, MD Join Howard County Conservancy naturalists to discover the natural springtime visitors at the Conservancy! Meet Ranger, the Barred Owl, unearth insects and take home spring seeds. For more information, contact Devon Kosisky, info@hconservancy.org, 410-465-8877. Directions and details at www.hconservancy.org

Sat, April 29, Annual Dialogue Dinner-"The Environment: Think Green, Live Green," 7-9 pm, Rockville, MD. Come learn about the environment from Academicians and Intellectuals. You'll have a chance to network with Senators, delegates, intellectuals, academicians, and faith leaders RSVP: to rsvp@themarti.org.

MAY & BEYOND

Sat, May 3 & Sun, May 4: Final Permaculture Design Presentations & Certificate Awards (FREE!). Register at: <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/permaculture-design-course-presentations-1>

Sat/Sun, May 10 & May 11: Greenbelt Green Man Festival. Music, crafts, information, food, kids activities. <http://greenbeltgreenmanfestival.org/>

Sat, May 17, A Natural History of the Mid-Atlantic: Stories of Calvert County, Maryland All-Day BusTour, 8:45 a.m. to 6:15 p.m Hayden Mathews will lead this tour which will visit 4 sites in Calvert County: The Battle Creek Cypress Swamp; The Annmarie Sculpture Gardens; The Calvert Marine Museum; and the Flag Ponds Nature Center and Beach. The tour interweaves stories of natural and geological history, cultural history, art and outdoor sculpture, with touring a lovely light house, walking beneath majestic cypress trees, interacting with world class sculpture in an outdoor setting and fossil hunting on a lovely white sand beach. Cost: \$129 for Smithsonian Members; \$169 for general admission. Departs from Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C St., S.W. More info: www.bayhistory.net.

June 6-8, Nature Preschool Conference at Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD Join us for our 3rd annual Nature Preschool Conference! Discuss the latest ideas in nature based education, network with other child care professionals and organizations, and learn from the best. Teachers, educators, parents and anyone else who works with preschool aged children are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Clare, NaldrettC@ExploreNature.org, 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org

Fri. June 13 – Sun. July 13, Permaculture, Ecovillage & Arts Community Education (PEACE) Program, Freeland, MD Spend a month living in the beautiful wooded home of Heathcote. We are a permaculture and farming demonstration site and 49 year old intentional community in Freeland, MD. Work on our organic farm, take workshops on Permaculture, ecovillages, collaboration, mindfulness and more! Experience community living. Learn skills that you can use for the rest

of your life. Space is limited. Application deadline May 1, 2014. Sliding scale tuition \$1,500 - \$3,000 for full program. Or you can take individual weekend workshops. Contact Karen Stupski at 410-357-9523 or education@heathcote.org. See our website for details: <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/immersion>.

June 22-24, Citizens Climate Lobby 5th Annual Conference And Lobby Week, Washington, DC Please join us this June when activists from across the U.S. and the world gather for CCL's 5th annual conference. The conference will be limited to 700 attendees. We had 367 attendees at last year's conference, and we have doubled in size each year. Don't be left out! Want to help us bring climate solutions to the halls of Congress, learn effective skills, and meet fellow activists? Without federal legislation, we can't make lasting progress on climate change. Help us tip the scales. For more info, visit <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/2014-international-conference>.

Sept. 20-21, (1st weekend of 6-weekend course), Permaculture Design Course, 10 am – 6 pm, 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. Tuition is a sliding scale of \$1,000 - \$1,200. Early bird rate \$900 - \$1,100 if you register by August 15.. For more info contact: Karen Stupski, 410-357-9523, education@heathcote.org, details at <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/permaculture-design-course>.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS

SIGN UP FOR CLEAN ENERGY BY APRIL 16 - You have until April 16 to express your interest in being a part of Groundswell's Spring 2014 Group Clean Energy Purchase. On April 21, Groundswell will announce which energy supplier has been chosen and the negotiated price. You will then have until May 23 to sign up with the energy supplier. To express your interest (not a commitment) [fill in the form](#) and pick "Greenbelt Climate Action Network" from the drop down menu (or another organization close to you that you would like to support) <http://www.groundswell.org/programs/for-homes>

Fri, Apr 4, Green School Application Deadline The Maryland Green School Awards Program is a holistic, integrated approach to authentic learning that incorporates local environmental issue investigation and professional development with environmental best management practices and community stewardship. All Maryland schools pre K-12, public, charter and private are eligible. Applications are non-competitive and are accepted each year in the spring. Newly recognized Maryland Green Schools and Maryland Green Centers are announced in late spring. www.maeoe.org/greenschools/application/2014/index.php

Fri, Apr 11, Save the Bay Photo Contest Deadline Our 2014 Photo Contest is now open to both amateur and professional photographers. We want to see your vision of the Chesapeake watershed—from Pennsylvania to Virginia, from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Eastern Shore. All photos must include water from the Chesapeake Bay or river or stream within the Bay watershed. www.cbf.org/events/photo-contest

Fri, Apr 11, Nomination Deadline - Tawes and Coulter Awards for a Clean Environment The statewide environmental recognition program seeks to involve youth, adults and private and public organizations in the restoration and protection of Maryland's natural resources. Any individual, civic, community or non-profit entity that has demonstrated outstanding efforts to enhance Maryland's environment over a period of time or with a single project may be nominated. Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Maryland Petroleum Council co-sponsor this annual award. www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Marylander/CitizenParticipation/Pages/CitizensInfoCenter/citizen_participation/tawes_awards.aspx

Fri, Apr 18, Chesapeake Conservation Corps Volunteer Application Deadline The Trust is currently soliciting applications for the fourth year of its Chesapeake Conservation Corps program in partnership with the State of Maryland and Constellation Energy, the purpose of the Corps is two-fold: for stipend Volunteers to work with Host Organizations and communities throughout Maryland to implement on-the-ground restoration and energy conservation projects and to provide leadership and training opportunities for young adults pursuing environmental and conservation careers. For more information, please contact Tara Baker, 410-974-2941, ext 102. www.cbtrust.org/

Wed, Apr 23, One Park Scavenger Hunt Photo Contest Deadline Parks and People Foundation. Take six creative photos (your favorite park, a stenciled-storm drain, someone picking up trash in a park, a crab, a local stream, an oak tree) and upload them. Winners in the youth categories can win free pool and ice skating passes or a family membership to Port Discovery. parksandpeople.org/files/resources/2651_photo%20scavenger%20hunt.pdf

Wed, April 30, 5th annual Maryland Green Registry Leadership Awards Application Deadline. The application will be posted April 8th and is due April 30th. Leadership Award winners are recognized for achieving significant environmental results based on the type and size of their facility and operations. They also have a strong commitment to continual improvement of their environmental performance which they typically support through an active green team, the establishment of annual environmental goals, and the measurement of results. Get recognized for your hard work and inspire others by applying this year. Any questions? Contact Laura Armstrong at green.registry@maryland.gov, or 410-537-4119. www.mde.state.md.us/MarylandGreen/Pages/Home.aspx