

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for August 2008. It is going out to over 1,590 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/

We also have a YahooGroup, called "DCMetroSimplifiers," with about 254 members, if you want to be involved during the month in an "interactive dialogue." You can subscribe from our homepage, www.simplicity-matters.org.

For our friends in Baltimore, there is also a new YahooGroup called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities and about 83 members. You can also subscribe from our homepage.

The announcement is organized into six sections:

- 1.) Community Event Summary
- 2.) Second Sunday Forum & Baltimore Green Forum
- 3.) Discussion Circle Update
- 4.) Community Events
- 5.) September Preview
- 6.) Action Opportunities & Tidbit

Things have slowed down a bit for the month of August but there are still some great events to look forward to. Make sure to get some rest before things get busy again in September.

Thanks to this month's editor, **Nicole Killion**.

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: None! We're taking a break until September. Have a wonderful summer,

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: None! We are also taking a break until September. More info to follow in the September SMEI Announcement.

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

Please note the following abbreviations for Northwest Earth Institute guides: (CO2) Global Warming; Changing CO2urse; (CSL) Choices for Sustainable Living; (DSOP) Discovering a Sense of Place; (EDE) Exploring Deep Ecology; (HCHP) Healthy Children-Healthy Planet; (GiC) Globalization and Its Critics; (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.

We have started 21 circles so far in 2008 (179 in total since 2002!) All but four of them have been completed:

Frederick, Ten Thousand Joys (CO2), CS: Hillary Banachowski

Howard County "Matchmaker" (CO2), CS: Lore Rosenthal

Greenbelt (MF) #1 CS: Lore Rosenthal

Greenbelt (MF) #2 CS: Lore Rosenthal

Plans have become so numerous 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

Frederick, Middletown (CSL) fall circle. Intro meeting Tues., 9/16, 7-9. CS: Susan Kelican, skelican1@comcast.net

Frederick, Common Market (MF) fall circle, Intro meeting, Wed. 9/24, 7-8:30. Circle meetings will begin 10/15. CS: Zoe Brittain / Lena Rotenberg, Lena@simplicity-matters.org

Frederick (HCHP) fall circle, Intro meeting, Mon. 10/6, 7-8:30 at the Common Market, subsequent meetings in downtown Frederick, details TBD. CS: Erin Kline, emkline@verizon.net

Plans underway, no dates set:

Frederick, UUCF (MF) fall circle, Intro meeting TBD. CS: Sandi Smith-Gill

Shepherdstown, fall circle, topic TBD. CS: Rob Glenn

Carroll County

Westminster "Regroup" (tbd), CS: Carol Flood

Howard County

Howard County Circle using the NWEI's "Global Warming: Changing CO2urse" (CO2). Introductory meeting Thurs. September 4, 7:30pm in the meeting room in the Howard County Central Library, 10375 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia, MD 21044. The group will meet bi-weekly (every other Thursday) for 5 sessions, probably in the homes of group members. This group is sponsored by the Climate Change Initiative of Howard County (www.hococlimatechange.org). Please rsvp to let us know if you can attend or to ask questions- actiononclimatechange@gmail.com or call 443-803-8546. Please indicate that you are inquiring about the Central Library meeting on 9/4.

Howard County, Climate Change Initiative of Howard County Committee is actively pursuing 15 potential venues. Details to follow. Visit www.hococlimatechange.org or email hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Harford County

Deer Creek Friends Meeting (tbd), CS: Jill Sostrin

Baltimore City/County

Baltimore, St. Vincent De Paul (CO2), CS: Sylvia Eastman

Baltimore, SW Baltimore (tbd), CS: Patsy Allen

Baltimore, Old Otterbein UMC (tbd), CS: June Risely

Parkton (HCHP) CS: Rich Louis

Baltimore, Memorial Episcopal Church (VS), CS: Rebecca Ruggles
Gunpowder Friends Meeting (tbd), CS: Linda Davis

PG County

Accokeek (MF) fall circle, Intro meeting TBD. CS: Linsey Shelton
Adelphi, Paint Branch UU Church (VS), Intro Meeting: TBD. CS: Raman Pathik
Carbon Neutrality Project, Greenbelt (LCD) CS: Steve Kane sr.kane@verizon.net
Greenbelt (tbd) CS: Lore Rosenthal

Montgomery County

Active plans are underway to get circles started this fall in the **Bethesda/Rockville** area. The first gathering took place on July 24th, but two more are planned for August. Come to one of these get-togethers to meet other like-minded people who are interested in discussion circles and help us plan for the fall. The first meeting in August was at Marney's house in Bethesda on August 3rd. To be notified of the date of the gathering in late August (or have an input in selecting the date), contact marney@simplicity-matters.org or call 301 652-0492.

"Global Warming: Changing CO2urse" circle tentatively starting **September 9 and continuing weekly for 6 weeks at Seekers Church, 276 Carroll St NW Washington DC 20012**. (There may be an intro meeting a week or two before.) Seekers Church is less than 1 block from the Takoma Park Metro. The group will meet from **7:45 to 9:30pm**. For the regular group meetings beginning Sept 9, there is an option to come early for a simple meal served at 7pm for a small donation. All are welcome! To get more information or to sign up, email ActionOnClimateChange@gmail.com and indicate you are inquiring about the discussion group at Seekers in Takoma Park .

Silver Spring, UU Congregation of Silver Spring (CO2), details: TBD. CS: Paula Cote
Bethesda, Cabin John (TBD) CS: Marney Bruce
Silver Spring "Regroup", private home, (TBD) CS: Camille Freeman

Washington, DC

Washington, DC, Washington Ethical Society (MF), CS: WES staff
Washington, DC (MF), CS: Harold Stone

Sign Language Circle (discussion of "Sustainability" and/or "Earth-based Spirituality", in American Sign Language) CS: Roberta Merrill, location: TBD

"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. Current "matchmaker" neighborhoods include:

Howard County "Matchmaker" (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Baltimore "Matchmaker" (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org
Rockville/Bethesda "Matchmaker" (Topic: TBD) CS: Marney Bruce, marney@simplicity-matters.org
Silver Spring/Takoma Park "Matchmaker" (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal lore@simplicity-matters.org
Greenbelt "Matchmaker" (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal lore@simplicity-matters.org
NW DC "Matchmaker" (Topic: TBD) CS: Marney Bruce, marney@simplicity-matters.org
Frederick Co and Washington Co "Matchmaker" (Topic: TBD) CS: Lena Rotenberg, lena@simplicity-matters.org

For a list of **all of our NWEI-published discussion topics**, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/text-based/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 Frequently Asked Questions page, www.simplicity-matters.org/faq.htm, or email Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sat. Aug. 2, "Why is COMMUNITY the Secret Ingredient to a Long and Happy Life?" 11:30a-3:30p, Vienna, VA. Workshop with Betsy Morris. Includes tour of a cohousing community. Fee: \$20.00 to defray expenses. Brown Bag lunch. Register: Meetup.com In the search box enter: Clarksburg Cohousing. Or call Ann 703 663 3911

Mon, Aug 4, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance's Green Gathering, 6-8 p.m., Baltimore, MD. at Earth Alley, 3602 Elm Ave., Baltimore, MD 21211. Come out and hear about sustainable retailing. Please contact Jenny Michalak at 410-370-6482. More information can be found at www.csballiance.org or by calling 410-342-1482. Directions can be found at <http://www.earthalley.com/index.cfm> .

Sun. Aug 10 & Sat. Aug. 23, Clarksburg Cohousing, 3-5pm. Clarksburg, MD. Hammer Hill project is seeking "50+somethings & wiser" to co-create this green and sustainable cohousing community in the lovely, historic town of Clarksburg, MD. Orientations & Site Tours ongoing. FREE Details: Meetup.com In the search box enter: Clarksburg Cohousing. Or call Ann 703 663 3911

Mon, Aug 11, Spoutwood Farm Mother Earth Harvest Festival Program Deadline. The information is due at 9a.m. at Spoutwood Farm, 4225 Pirceville Rd., Glen Rock, PA 17327. The Spoutwood Farm Harvest Festival will be held Oct. 5, 2008. The farm requests potential vendors submit information by August 11 to be included in the program. Please contact Rob Wood at (717) 235-6610. More information can be found at <http://www.spoutwood.com/mehf.html> . Directions can be found at <http://www.spoutwood.com/mehf.html> .

Mon, Aug 11, Eco-Tones "House Concert", 7-9pm, Greenbelt, MD. See the Eco-Tones (Jimmy Sferes and Jennifer White) "environmentally friendly" performers <http://www.sferesandwhite.com> in a "hybrid" house concert at New Deal Cafe. All the proceeds go directly to the performers. Suggested donation is \$15.00 per person. The New Deal Cafe, 113 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD, in the Roosevelt Center, also offers Mediterranean and Middle Eastern food. Contact Michael Hartman at SMEIMichael@aol.com

Sun. Aug. 17, Tour of Washington DC Area Cohousing Community for "50+somethings & wiser", 4-5pm. FREE Register: Meetup.com In the search box enter: Clarksburg Cohousing. Or call Ann 703 663 3911

Fri, Aug 22, Sustainable Community Suppers, 7-9 pm, Dayton, MD. Fourth Friday, vegetarian potluck, discussion, sharing and speakers to support environmentally conscious living. Location: 5085 Green Bridge Rd, Dayton, MD. For more information & to RSVP, contact Karen at 410-489-6651 or sustainablecommunitysuppers@gmail.com. For directions, go to www.edenvalleycenter.org.

Sat, Aug 23, Irvine Nature Center Native Plant Seminar/Sale, 9:30am-4:30pm, 11201 Garrison Forest Rd, Owings Mills. You're invited to our 17th Annual Native Plant Seminar & Sale. The seminar features three dynamic speakers as well as post-seminar workshops. Throughout the day our Native Plant Sale, featuring thirteen native nurseries, is open to the general public. Location: our brand new "green" facility. Seminar fee is \$70, members \$60 (workshops \$25). www.explorenature.org. Contact Julie Shumway, 410-484-2413 x 25 or shumwayj@explorenature.org. Downloadable registration form and directions at <http://www.explorenature.org/experience-irvine/special-events/native-plant-seminar-sale.html>

Sun, Aug 24, 100-Mile Meal Potluck at Blueberry Hill Co-Housing Community, 5:30-7:30pm, Vienna, VA. Join EcoStewards Alliance to Celebrate Local Food! 9701 Farmside Place, Vienna, VA (Right behind Potomac Vegetable Farms). What do we mean by "100-Mile Meal?" This means that the dish you bring to this potluck dinner should have as many ingredients as possible grown, produced or harvested within 100 miles of your

home. We leave it up to you how strict you want to be with yourself in this regard. Your dish should be enough to feed four adults. RSVP to Maureen Becker at MaureenESA@Gmail.com. There is a suggested minimum donation of \$2 per adult (12 and up), all ages are invited. More info go to: <http://www.ecostewardsalliance.org>.

Tues, Aug 26, Maryland Native Plant Society monthly meeting, 7:30pm, large meeting room White Oak Library. A Year of Botanical Exploration in Maryland and Vicinity. For more information and directions go to www.mdflora.org

Through **October 13 'One Planet - Ours! Sustainability for the 22nd Century' at the US Botanic Garden**, on the National Mall across from the U.S. Capitol. Our summer exhibition this year will focus on sustainability - not only how it applies to gardens and the landscape, but also how each of us and our communities can live for tomorrow, as well as for today. Come on down and enjoy some of the many workshops or browse the extensive ongoing exhibits. For more information go to <http://www.usbg.gov/index.cfm>

Looking ahead to September

Fri, Sept. 12, Irvine Nature Center Grand Opening Gala, 6-11pm, Owings Mills, MD

Get an exclusive look at Irvine's new facility. Adults-only "Green Chic" event featuring the Jody Westerlund Band, local/organic food, & a fun casual atmosphere to introduce our building to friends old & new. Tickets \$125. Contact Julie, shumwayj@explorenature.org, 410-484-2413. Details: www.ExploreNature.org

Sat, Sept. 13th, "Not Home Alone: Creating Community for the 50+ Set.", 2-4:30 pm Workshop by Dene Peterson, founder and developer of ElderSpirit Cohousing. Fee: \$35.00 to defray expenses. Details: Meetup.com In the search box enter: Clarksburg Cohousing. Or call Ann 703 663 3911

Sat & Sun, Sept. 13 & 14, Irvine Nature Center Grand Opening Weekend, Owings Mills, MD. Sat. 10am-4pm, Sun. Noon-4pm. Be among the first to experience Baltimore's newest community attraction! During Irvine's FREE weekend-long family-friendly festival you can hike the trails, explore new exhibits, & so much more. Contact Julie, shumwayj@explorenature.org, 410-484-2413. Details: www.ExploreNature.org

Register for the **Maryland Native Plant Society Fall Conference**. Registrations for the Fall Conference, September 20-21, at Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, MD are now being accepted. This year we will focus on the western shores of the Chesapeake, from the brackish tidal wetlands to the riparian forests of the Patuxent River. Look for more information and the conference registration on www.mdflora.org.

Wed, Sept 24, Legislative Preview and Reception, 6:30-8:30pm, Baltimore, MD. Join us for a networking reception and discussion of upcoming environmental legislation for the 2009 General Assembly Session. Presentations begin at 7:30pm. Where: Kelley Lecture Hall, Hoffberger Science Building (look for MDLCVEF signs), Goucher College (1021 Dulaney Valley Road, Baltimore, MD 21204-2794). For more information or to RSVP contact Jen Brock-Cancellieri at 410-280-9855 ext. 202 or email jbrock@mdlcv.org

Mon, Sep 29, Awakening Minds Bimonthly Book Group, 7:30 pm, Clarksville, MD. Focuses on ecology, social change and green living. "In Defense of Food" by Michael Pollan. Great Sage Restaurant, 5809 Clarksville Square Drive, Clarksville, MD 21029. For information contact Anastasia, 443-535-0212, info@nestnaturalhome.com.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS

Baltimore's Sunday Streets kicks-off this spring! It's an incredible FREE weekly program that promotes community interaction, a healthy environment, an increase in public health, a positive impact on everyone's emotional, physical health and the health of our planet, and much more. Closed roads give way to a festival atmosphere where walkers, cyclists, dog walkers, roller-skaters, joggers ... of all

ages, races and economic backgrounds have a great time together! **We need your input and help (outreach, design, fundraising, etc.) to make this happen!** Contact Carol @ CarolSilldorff@comcast.net to learn more!

Schedule a home energy audit today; reduce your carbon footprint, and start saving money on the rising cost of energy. For more information, contact Pascale Maslin, pascale@epower3.com, 202-557-9200. Details at www.epower3.com.