

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **May 2009**. It is going out to over **1,770 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 262 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 89 members. You can also subscribe from our homepage.

This announcement is organized into five sections:

- Second Sunday Forum & Baltimore Green Forum & SMEI Annual Picnic
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- June/July Preview
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Lots of outdoor workshops this month, permaculture, urban gardening, composting, rain gardens. Check them out!

Also, don't **miss our SMEI Annual Picnic on June 14th**.

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

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, May 10, 6:30- 8:30 pm

Rachel's Carson's Silent Spring (DVD)

On Mothers' Day we honor this remarkable woman, who is truly the mother of our modern environmental movement. Rachel Carson was a biologist for the federal government when she first noted the effects of the unregulated use of pesticides and herbicides, especially DDT. When she published Silent Spring in 1963 she was viciously attacked by the chemical companies, but her warning sparked a revolution in environmental policy. The first Earth Day took place seven years later.

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

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

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

Sunday, May 31, 4:30-6:30 pm

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: Experience in Nature, by Mary Hardcastle & Kari Smith, Parks & People

(more details to follow, check our website, below)

MD Presbyterian Church, 1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286

<http://www.mpchurch.org/directions.htm>

A monthly educational forum on climate and environmental issues open to the public, free of charge featuring speakers or videos, always with discussion and fellowship. For questions, to co-sponsor, or to RSVP, contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 301-345-2234

Co-sponsored by Simplicity Matters Earth Institute, Green City Baltimore, Hooked on Nature, Network of Spiritual Progressives in MD, Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network, Baltimore Climate Action Network, MD League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, Inc., Parks & People, and the Baltimore Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Help us publicize this event! Download and post a flier (PDF) in your workplace or neighborhood! Go to <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/forums/baltimore.php>

SMEI ANNUAL PICNIC

Sun, June 14, ANNUAL STATEWIDE SIMPLE PICNIC, 1 to 5 pm, Boonsboro, MD (at the Appalachian Trail, South Mountain, between Frederick and Boonsboro) Washington Monument State Park, Fort Necessity Shelter.

Organize a carpool with friends or family and enjoy a day out in the mountains, a pot luck lunch shared with friends, and entertainment for children ages 3-8 provided by Gumption the [green] Dragon.

Rain or shine. The shelter is wheelchair accessible.

More information forthcoming at www.simplicity-matters.org/events/

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

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.

IMPORTANT NOTE: From January 1st onwards, discussion circle books will cost \$20 plus s/h. They should be ordered directly from NWEI. For more info, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/order.php>

We have started 20 circles so far in 2009 (217 in total since 2002!)

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

None currently scheduled to begin

Carroll County

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

Howard County

Thurs, May 28 7 – 8:30 PM, Columbia, Oliver's Carriage House, (GW) First Session, Kittamaqundi. 5401 Leaf Treader Way. Sessions will continue each Thursday, ending on June 25. Open to the public. Register with F.Miller at 410-531-2303.

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

Harford County

None currently scheduled to begin

Baltimore City/County

Baltimore region (DSOP, GW, MF, CSL) As soon as we have 8-12 people who can agree on a night of the week, we will get started. Contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Baltimore Ethical Society (tbd), CS: Karen Elliott

Baltimore (tbd) CS: Sister Gabriel

Baltimore, Private home in NE Balto (tbd) CS: Dana Shaw

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

Parkton/CSA (MF) CS: Rich Louis

PG County

Greenbelt Climate Action Network (VS, GW, or MF) New circle starting in May. CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Mt. Rainier (VS), CS: Joe Robbins

Crofton/Bowie (tbd) CS: Greg Jones

Progressive Cheverly (tbd), Fall 2009 CS: Kathleen Turczyn

Accokeek (MF) spring circle, Intro meeting: TBD. CS: Linsey Shelton

Montgomery County

EDE, MF and CSL discussion groups on-going, but if you are interested in any of our topics or would like to start one in your neighborhood, contact Marney, Marney@simplicity-matters.org, 301 652-0492

St. Mary's County

Leonardtown, (MF) Ongoing, but if you are interested in joining another group contact Christina Allen at allensarticles@earthlink.net. 301-862-3421

Washington, DC

Washington, DC, Friends Meeting House, Tuesday May 12, 2111 Florida Ave., NW (Dupont Circle Metro), 7:30 PM, Topic: Mindful Consumption. We will be discussing ideas found in the following: Mindfully Green: A Personal and Spiritual Guide to Whole Earth Thinking by Stephanie Kaza, January 2009 Shambhala Sun, "The Green Path" and The World We Have: A Buddhist Approach to Peace and Ecology by Thich Nhat Hahn. Meeting every other month, open to newcomers. Sponsored by WBPF.org Contact person : Bill Jenkins, worldofmuse@aol.com, (301) 699-8704

Washington, DC, Home of Leonardo Neher, 414 4th St., SE (near both Capitol South & Eastern Market metro stations), Thurs, May 7,

7:30-9:30 PM, Topic: "Living Simply on Earth," session 5 of the Discussion Course on Voluntary Simplicity (Northwest Earth Institute 2008). Open to newcomers. RSVP required. Contact Pope Barrow, 202-546-3933 & mpb56054@yahoo.com.

"Circles List"/"Matchmaking"

This spring, SMEI will continue "matching" and/or "pointing" people into circles. In neighborhoods where circles are already forming, we will point you in the direction of a circle nearby. In those areas where there is not a circle already being planned, we will "match" people into home-based groups.

We are in the process of transitioning to a regional structure for the state. Please start using 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)

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 **all of our NWEI-published discussion topics**, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/volunteers/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.simplicity-matters.org/circles/index.php>, or email Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thurs, Ongoing, Spanish Conversation Group, 7:30 - 8:30 pm, Greenbelt, MD

Join us for an hour of Spanish conversation in a relaxed, supportive environment. Language level is intermediate or higher. For more information, contact Barbara Logan, barbara.logan6@gmail.com, (301) 747-1979. Directions and details at <http://www.newdealcafe.com>

Fri, May 1, Eco/Justice Cafe, 6-10 pm, Washington DC

Hang out with friends and network with DC Environmental and Social Justice organizations. Featuring music, poetry, open mic, good food, good beer, good people, good cheer, good information ...and good karma. Location: UDC Firebird Inn, Building 39, B-Level, 4200 Connecticut Avenue NW, 20008. For more information: jfl@udc.edu or call 202 545 0869. Directions and details at <http://www.dcsf.org/metnet.html>.

Sat, May 2, DC Government's Next Organic Gardening & Lawn Care Workshop: "Container & Rooftop Gardens" 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Twin Oaks Gardens, Corner of 14th and Taylor, NW

Learn about alternative ways to garden, particularly in an urban setting when tiny yards and excess pavement prevail. The DDOE/DPR Organic Gardening & Lawn Care 2009 Workshop Series is to inform gardeners about the judicious use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers (IPM) and will also address Stormwater Management and Sustainability topics. They will be held the first Saturday of every month, from 10-12 p.m. in a variety of places – including DPR facilities and RiverSmart Homes sites.

Free garden tool bags to all who RSVP! Contact: kelly.melsted@dc.gov or (202) 671-0350 This gardening series is designed to help DC residents garden more sustainably. Questions? (202) 671-0350

Sat, May 2, Maryland Native Plant Society Field Trip, 10am - 2pm, Carderock Recreation Area Woodlands and Tow Path

This is a wonderful time to get out to see lots of spring wildflowers at this natural gem just

outside the beltway. This popular recreational area which includes a rock climbing wall is wedged between the C & O Canal and the Potomac River, and the wildflowers, wildlife, and blooming trees are abundant now. For more information and directions contact trip leader Marney Bruce, 301 652-0492 or marney@simplicity-matters.org.

Sat, May 2, Raised Bed Construction Workshop, Community Greening Resource Network Activity.
http://www.parksandpeople.org/programs_great_parks_greening_CGRN.html

Sat May 2 and 9, Great Reskilling: Composting - A Family Project, 10 am-12 pm, Washington DC
Compost is nature's way of building fertility. Learn how to put this natural process to work using a few simple techniques and basic tools specifically geared to an urban setting in a workshop led by Ed Bruske. Cost: \$20 for 2 weeks; 18 and under free, Seniors over 55 - 1/2 off; Residents of Pleasant Plains - 1/2 off. Service Coupons accepted. Location: Emergence Garden & Sustainability Center, 733 Euclid Street NW. For more information: sylvia@ecacollective.org or call Sylvia Robinson 202 462 2285. Directions and details: <http://ecolocity.ning.com>.

Sat, May 2, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM, Ellicott City, MD 21042
For vegans, vegetarians or the just curious. Please bring a vegan (no animal products) dish to share (store bought is fine) for the number in your party plus 8. Please RSVP via e-mail. There will be iced tea and filtered water to drink. Kids welcome! To RSVP and for directions contact Bonnie Sorak bsorak@juno.com or 410-465-0427. Please bring your own reusable picnic-ware and feel free to wash up here - or we will have basic table service available (for a small fee), If we don't receive more than 6 responses then we will cancel the gathering.

Sat, May 2, PEACE MEAL: Searching for Wisdom In India, 1 -3 pm, 4217 East West Hwy Bethesda, MD 20814
Honest, open and funny story of a pilgrimage to India, and experiments with prayer, chanting, ashram life, meditation, community living and social justice in that sacred and beautiful land. Program opens with interfaith prayers and songs, followed by talk accompanied by hot, homemade vegetarian meal. All welcome, there is NO CHARGE for this event. For more information, contact Durga: shantiyoga2@earthlink.net; 301 654 4899 www.schooloflife.org

Sat, May 2, The AMP Creeks Council's Trees For Milo Program at the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Spring Farm Festival, 11:00-4:00 pm, Accokeek, MD
The AMP Creeks Council's Trees for Milo program provides free potted local tree seedlings to whoever wants them. Please come by our table at the top of the hill for a tree, and to learn more about the work we do. For more information, contact Kelly Canavan, planesawdust@hotmail.com, 301-237-5040. Directions and details at <http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/sff.html>.

Sat - Sun, May 2 - 3, Birdfest: Volunteer and Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with The Nature Conservancy, 10am-4pm, The National Zoo, Washington, D.C.
Birdfest at the National Zoo is a Weekend Family Festival celebrating International Migratory Bird Day, and includes fun family games and educational activities for all ages. **The Nature Conservancy** will be on hand as a festival's exhibitor and is looking for **volunteers** to help educate kids and people about International Migratory Bird day and bird conservation in general! For more information on volunteering, please contact Andrew Wiesike for more details at 301-897-8570, or awiesike@tnc.org.

Sun, May 3, Audubon Naturalist Society Nature Fair, 11am - 5pm, Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase. Join us for this fun-filled family event! You'll find hands-on nature activities, local arts and crafts, food and drink, and live entertainment. For directions and more information go to <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/default.asp?page=568>.

Sun, May 3, Wheel of the Year Mayfest, at 5 PM, Bethesda, MD. Upstairs at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation's bldg. Directions at www.RRUUC.org. We meet with gratitude for the sustainability of Earth, in the time of flowering, to dance the Maypole dance of life. Please, bring snacks/drinks and your own cup. Helen Popenoe, 301/229-0549

Sun May 3, Great Reskilling: Square Foot Gardening for All Ages, 2:30-4:30 pm, Washington DC
Bring the family out to learn to build raised garden beds in ECAC's Intergenerational Arts and Education Program. EcolocityDC's Sarah Murphy will offer the second day of this two-day workshop demonstrating how to build and plant produce in four square feet of space. Location: Emergence Garden & Sustainability Center, 733

Euclid Street NW. For more information: sylvia@ecacollective.org or call Sylvia Robinson 202 462 2285. Directions and details: <http://ecolocity.ning.com>. Suggested donation \$10, 18 and under free.

Sun, May 3, 10am – 4pm, Green Fair, Reservoir Hill

Community Greening Resource Network Activity. Help plant trees and flowers and clean up a park in the morning for live music and food in the afternoon! Contact Christiana for more info at cusenza@reservoirhill.net, 410-225-7547. http://www.parksandpeople.org/programs_great_parks_greening_CGRN.html

Sun, May 3, First Annual Eco Ride, Pearlstone Center in Reisterstown, Maryland.

The Eco Ride is a bicycling event / a supported 6, 18, 30 and 60 mile ride, with a kids trike/hike event as well. The event is designed to raise money and awareness of the Kayam Farm (located at Pearlstone Center). It is also designed to promote sustainability and a greener Maryland! The farm hopes to reconnect people with their food and with the earth, inspiring social and ecological responsibility in the Jewish community, greater Baltimore, and beyond. Kayam Farm's 5 acres include organically grown vegetables, culinary & medicinal herbs, fruit trees, vineyards, berries & asparagus, grains, and a greenhouse.

<http://www.pearlstonecenter.org/bikeride.html>

Mon, May 4, 6 –8 pm, CSBA Monthly Happy Hour & Green Discussion, Location Varies, Baltimore

First Monday of Month, Check the CSBA, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance, website for updates, 410-342-1482 or email info@csballiance.org www.csballiance.org/pages/cal.html

Mon, May 4, USGBC Get a Jump on LEED 2009, 5:30pm-8pm, Baltimore, MD. Learn about the implementation timeline for LEED 2009 and a summary of the changes. \$12 for members, \$15 for nonmembers and \$20 at the door – Cash or check only. For more information: <http://usgbcbbaltimore.eventbrite.com> and www.usgbcmaryland.org.

Tues, May 5, "Your EcoBlueprint: Three Keys to Transform Your Life and Work," 12-1:15 pm (your telephone) The first session of a 4-week teleclass that will help you discover how meeting your own needs for community, creativity, celebration, and self-growth is also good for the earth. For details and course outline, visit www.GOforChange.com and click on the link at the top. Any questions, contact julie@goforchange.com

Tues, May 5, Clean and Sustainable Energy for Your Home and Business, 7 - 9 pm, Silver Spring, MD

Come and learn from the experts who will present an exciting range of renewable energy options for your home or business. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Tues, May 5, EcocityDC First Tuesday: Food & Farming, 7-9 pm, Washington DC

Urban agriculture is critical to reducing our carbon footprint, localizing production and developing food security. We'll begin to shape our policy covering agricultural education, technology, production, distribution and marketing. Location: Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW. For more information, contact Larry Chang, ecolocitydc@gmail.com, 202 545 0869. Directions and details at <http://ecolocity.ning.com>

Wed, May 6, Clean and Sustainable Energy for Your Home and Business, 7 - 9 pm, Washington, DC

Come and learn from the experts who will present an exciting range of renewable energy options for your home or business. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Wed, May 6, Sustainable Building Management, 6:45 pm - 9:00 pm, Jessup, MD

This panel presentation by facility managers and engineers from Northrop Grumman and AtSite will help building owners and managers learn from real world case studies how to implement energy efficient methods and procedures to lower operating costs while reducing the carbon footprint of the building. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Thurs, May 7, Mission Possible - A Jewish Sustainability Conference: The Rules and Tools for Going Green

(Natural Step Framework) Registration and Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. Conference begins at 8:30 a.m. Pearlstone Retreat and Conference Center 5425 Mt. Gilead Road, Reisterstown www.pearlstonecenter.org
Cost: \$50* *Includes breakfast, lunch, snacks and evening reception.

Registration Deadline: April 23, 2009 www.associated.org/sustainability to register! Sponsorships Opportunities still available.

Thurs, May 7, Water Management, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Westminster, MD

This class will teach you how to efficiently utilize harvested water for your home and business through smart irrigation planning, water efficient fixtures and sustainable landscape practices. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Fri, May 8, 2:00 pm, Retrofitting Suburbia: Case Studies of Sustainable Redevelopment UMBC, Technology Research Center 102, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Room 206, Baltimore, MD

CUERE: Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education Spring 2009 Seminar Series. Ellen Dunham-Jones, College of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology. Free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Visitor parking passes for the TRC lot may be purchased for \$4.00 in the CUERE office in TRC 102/105 shortly before seminar. <http://www.umbc.edu/cuere/seminarSeries.html>

Fri, Sat & Sun, May 8-10, Greenbelt Green Man Festival, 7:00-9:30 (Fri), 10:00-9:00 (Sat), 10:00-5:00 (Sun), Greenbelt, MD. Green Man is an ancient symbol for the Spirit of Nature. Live music, children's activities, arts and crafts, nature based ceremonies, workshops, films, etc. For more information contact joan@cheers.org, 301-775-5368. Directions and details at www.greenbeltgreenmanfestival.org .

Sat, May 9, Water, 8:30-3:30 pm, Freeland, MD

Permaculture offers many simple, effective, and environmentally sound strategies for managing water. Learn how to manage storm water, catch rooftop water, and recycle greywater. Sliding scale \$60-\$100. For more information contact Karen Stupski at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523. Details at <http://www.heathcote.org/oneday.shtml>.

Sat, May 9, Silver Spring Garden Club's Garden Mart, 9:00am-1:00pm, Wheaton, MD

The Silver Spring Garden Club's annual Garden Mart plant sale is for bargain-seekers and plant-lovers. Come early for best pick of annuals, perennials, shrubs, herbs, houseplants, wildflowers, and much more. This event is rain or shine. Fee: \$0/Free. Pre-registration is not required. Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton MD. For more information: www.brooksidegardens.org or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SilverSpringGardenClub/>.

Sat, May 9, Composting Workshop

Community Greening Resource Network Activity.

http://www.parksandpeople.org/programs_great_parks_greening_CGRN.html

Sat, May 9 and 16, "Your EcoBlueprint: Three Keys to Transform Your Life and Work," 1 - 4 p.m., Waldorf School of Baltimore Music Room (4801 Tamarind Road, 21209) Two-session workshop to map our your own greening plan, from vision, to strategies, to tools. Includes informational talks and lots of hands-on with worksheets and small group discussions. Special rate for SMEI readers. To register, contact julie@goforchange.com or 410-530-0389.

Sun, May 10, Soil and Nutrient Recycling, 8:30-3:30 pm, Freeland, MD

Building healthy soil and creating complete nutrient cycles are essential to Permaculture. Learn how to improve your soil naturally, how to build a compost pile, and how to recycle humanure. Sliding scale \$60-\$100. For more information contact Karen Stupski at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523. Details at <http://www.heathcote.org/oneday.shtml>.

Tues, May 12, Catch the Rain and Be a Better Steward of the Chesapeake Bay, 7 - 9 pm, Silver Spring, MD

Learn what steps you can take at your home or business, such as rain gardens and rain barrels, to catch the rain and reduce storm water run-off. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Tues, May 12, Introduction to Going Green, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Bethesda, MD

This stimulating presentation will offer a regenerative approach to building design and a practical pathway to creating a green economy. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Tues May 12, EcolocityDC 2nd Tuesday: Transition meeting, 7-9 pm, Washington DC

Continuing the Transition conversation to address the challenges of peak oil, climate change and economic collapse. Participants will be invited to collaborate in formulating plans to reduce oil dependency and build local resilience. Residents of DC and surrounding communities are welcome. Location: Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW. For more information: ecolocitydc@gmail.com or call 202 545 0869. Directions and details: <http://ecolocity.ning.com>.

Tues, May 12, Rain Barrel Construction Workshop, Parks & People

Community Greening Resource Network Activity.

http://www.parksandpeople.org/programs_great_parks_greening_CGRN.html

Wed, May 13, Catch the Rain and Be a Better Steward of the Chesapeake Bay, 7- 9 pm, Washington, MD

Learn what steps you can take at your home or business, such as rain gardens and rain barrels, to catch the rain and reduce storm water run-off. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Wed, May 13, 'Greening, Meaning, and Authentic Change. A Fulfilling Life that's Also Good for the Earth', 6:30 - 8:30 PM, Towson, MD.

Presented by **Julie E. Gabrielli, NCARB, LEED**, founder of www.GOforChange.com, a movement that helps ordinary people contribute to the sustainability of the planet in powerful, life-changing ways. Followed by a brief open meeting of www.baltimoreclimate.org. Refreshments. Free. Towson branch, Baltimore County Public Library: Questions: mail [at] baltimoreclimate.org or 410-812-1447 *Join us afterwards for drinks or eats to continue the conversation at a nearby eatery.* www.baltimoreclimate.org/content/1/2/195.html#julie

Wed, May 13, "Agenda for a New Economy" 7:30 pm - in Adelphi MD. Part II of program on David Korten's, author of "the Great Turning". David Korten wrote an article for TIKKUN magazine, "AN ECONOMY FOR THE 21st CENTURY", available at www.tikkun.org/article.php/20090226000943808. His new book is "Agenda for a New Economy - From Phantom Wealth to Real Wealth". We'll continue discussing Korten's vision which is locally based, community oriented and devoted to a better life for all, and watch parts of an online video of a talk he gave. At Paint Branch UU Church, 3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi, Maryland 20783 sponsored by the Network of Spiritual Progressives in MD, www.nspmaryland.org

Thur, May 14, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Getting to Carbon Neutral by 2050: Changing the way we build and operate. Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center; 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

Join the U.S. Green Building Council and colleagues from the federal government in a daylong exchange of ideas on how to meet the goals of sustainability in buildings and communities. Topics will include: leveraging recent opportunities from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to achieve environmental goals, implementing technical solutions to meet the energy efficiency goals set out in Energy Independence and Security Act and updates on LEED and other USGBC activities. The event is open to employees of all federal agencies, non-governmental organizations and the general public. Federal employees \$150 / General attendees Price: \$250 <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1967>

Thur, May 14, 7:30 p.m. The Business Case for Smart Growth, Park and Planning Headquarters, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Montgomery County 2009 Growing Smarter Speaker Series. Speaker: Lee Sobel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Lee Sobel, a development and finance analyst with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, focuses on policy, technical assistance and outreach on development that achieves smart growth goals. Sobel has conducted financial analyses of development patterns and presents to builders and government agencies about why compact development is lucrative as well as environmentally sound. Prior to joining EPA, Sobel was a senior associate at CB Richard Ellis' investment property group, selling shopping centers and retail property throughout Florida. The author of "Greyfields Into Goldfields" and contributing author of "This Is Smart Growth." Sobel has a law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and is a resident of Maryland.

http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/research/growth_policy/speaker_series/speaker_series_2009.shtm

Fri, May 15, Michael Pollan, Politics & Prose, Washington, DC

(no additional details, see May 16 for some info on topic)

Fri, May 15, Bike to Work Day, Between 7:00 and 8:30 a.m. bicycle commuters will gather at locations throughout the Baltimore region, including: Anne Arundel Co/Annapolis - City Dock, Annapolis / Baltimore City - War Memorial Plaza at City Hall (100 N. Holliday St.) / Baltimore County - Courthouse Square (400 Washington Ave, Towson) / Carroll County - Westminster / Harford County - Government Center (220 S. Main St, Bel Air) / Howard County - The Mall in Columbia by Sears Service Center (10300 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia)
<http://www.baltometro.org/content/view/258/230/>

Sat, May 16, Bird Festival, Irvine Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Rd

Community Greening Resource Network Activity.

http://www.parksandpeople.org/programs_great_parks_greening_CGRN.html

Sat, May 16, Michael Pollan, Talks about his most recent book "In Defense of Food"

Enoch Pratt Central Library, Baltimore, MD 7pm (free)

RSVP ASAP: <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events/sustainable-speaker-series/>

Pollan proposes a new answer to the question of what we should eat that comes down to seven simple but liberating words: "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants." He shows us how we can start making thoughtful food choices that will enrich our lives, enlarge our sense of what it means to be healthy, and bring pleasure back to eating.

There is also a slow food cocktail reception prior (\$35), featuring Baltimore chefs who participated in the "Eat in Season" restaurant challenge <http://www.slowfoodbaltimore.org/>

Sat, May 16, Spring Cohousing Bus Tour, 9a-6p. starting in NW Washington, DC.

Join others on a day long bus tour of six cohousing communities in the DC area. Learn how these innovative communities are reducing the carbon footprint of housing while increasing sustainability. To register, further info & details: www.MidAtlanticCohousing.org or call or email Ann 202 291 7892 zabaldo@earthlink.net

Sat, May 16, Annual Social and Potluck Picnic, 12pm, Howard County.

Please join us for a picnic at the Howard County Conservancy to socialize with other members and enjoy our natural treasures. Bring a dish to share, a picnic blanket and meet at noon near the parking lot at 10520 Old Frederick Rd. Woodstock, MD. We may hike after the picnic. Contact Brigitte, 240-506-8976, bfzaidan@gmail.com

Sat, May 16, Principles of Permaculture, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Jessup, MD

This workshop will focus on fundamental permaculture ethics, principle and strategies to live more sustainably in your home, neighborhood or community. Participants will leave the workshop energized and with ideas that can be implemented in their home or community. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Sun, May 17 – Sun May 24, Community Work Action Week, 6 - 12 pm, Freeland, MD

The Community Work Action is an opportunity to experience sustainable community living through working, playing, and learning together. Work on Permaculture projects while learning how to build community. Heart donations welcome. For more information contact Karen Stupski at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523. Details at <http://www.heathcote.org/workaction.shtml>.

Sun, May 17, Green Your Diet Workshop, 2:00-3:30 pm, Owings Mills, MD.

Eating green means much more than eating organic or local. Learn how and why plant-based meals are better for the earth than American meat-based meals, and even better than organic/local meat. \$40 per person or 2/\$75. Reg deadline May 13. To register, Mark Rifkin, Registered Dietitian at 410-764-8343 or preventive_nutrition@verizon.net

Sun, May 17, Rain Garden and Composting Workshop, 2:30 - 5:30 p.m., Silver Spring, MD

Attend an afternoon of rain gardening and worm composting! Learn what rain gardens are, how they are maintained and why we need more. Participate in some garden maintenance, too. Then, find out more about

composting indoors with worms! For more information and location, contact susanne.wiggins@montgomerycountymd.gov or 240-777-6461.

Sun, May 17, Baltimore Bike Jam, Paterson Park, Baltimore, MD

Casual riders to bike enthusiasts can participate in the RecRide. Food, Beer, & Live Music entertains the crowd as they cruise through the Bike and Health Expo. Kids play in fun activities and earn a free bike helmets at the Kids' Pavilion <http://www.bikejam.org/>

Tues May 19, EcolocityDC 3rd Tuesday Film: The Next Industrial Revolution, 7-9:30 pm, Washington DC

A new 55 minute film, produced by Earthome Productions to communicate the work and vision of architect William McDonough and chemist Dr. Michael Braungart, two leaders in a growing movement to transform the relationship between commerce and nature. McDonough and Braungart work with corporations with over half a trillion dollars in annual sales, companies like Ford and Nike, to redesign buildings, processes, and products to work according to nature's rules. Location: Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW. For more information: ecolocitydc@gmail.com or call 202 545 0869. Directions and details: <http://ecolocity.ning.com>. Brief discussion follows. Suggested donation: \$5.

Tues, May 19, Buying or Renovating Your Home the Green Way, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Bethesda, MD

Eco-Broker certified real estate professionals, home energy auditors and lenders will help you understand how you can buy a green home. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Thurs, May 21, How to be Green (Part Two), 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Charlotte Hall, MD

Solar hot water and electric for your home. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Thurs, May 21, Reducing Your Carbon Footprint & Rain Barrel Rodeo, Irvine Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Rd & Herring Run, Community Greening Resource Network Activity.

http://www.parksandpeople.org/programs_great_parks_greening_CGRN.html

Sat, May 23, 9 AM to 5 PM, Maryland Heartland Sustainable Living Fair, Carroll County Farm Museum, Westminster,

This community event has been organized by local residents who are interested in promoting environmental awareness and the development of a sustainable economy in Central Maryland. Education seminars, informational booths, and much more. Ages 17 to 59 - \$5 | Ages 16 and younger - FREE | Seniors, Students, Bicyclists - \$3 <http://www.sustainablelivingmd.org/>

Tues, May 26, Clean and Sustainable Energy for Your Home and Business, 7 - 9 pm, Bethesda, MD

Come and learn from the experts who will present an exciting range of renewable energy options for your home or business. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Tues May 26, EcolocityDC 4th Tuesday: Community Building: Organizing & Networking, 7-9:30 pm, Washington DC

Join us as we get to know and learn from each other, to develop trust, respect and affinities. We'll use a number of tools and techniques to engage and involve everyone in a supportive and safe space. Bring a friend, anyone who is open to taking action and shaping the future which may not be all gloom and doom, if we make the right choices. Location: Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW. For more information: ecolocitydc@gmail.com or call 202 545 0869. Information: <http://ecolocity.ning.com>.

Sister Miriam MacGillis (GenesisFarm.org) "Hope is in the Details: Reclaiming our Food and our Health" Wed. May 27 at 7pm (suggested donation: \$5) Towson Presbyterian Church 400 W. Chesapeake Ave. Towson, MD

(no other details available yet)

Thurs, May 28, Wine In The Garden To Benefit Environmental Education Programs, 5-8 p.m, The Conservancy, 10520 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock, Maryland 21163 Guests of the Howard County Conservancy third annual Wine in the Garden party will enjoy wine and foods from a variety of local establishment while listening to bluegrass music in the Conservancy's three-acre native plant garden.

The garden features native plants and garden elements named in honor or memory of loved ones. Call 410-465-8877 to reserve a ticket. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$45 at the garden gate.

Tues, May 30, Landscaping with Native, 10:00-11:30, Washington, DC

Cheval Force Opp, owner of Garden Tours, will discuss why native plants make practical sense for every type of gardener and garden. She will present pictures and lists of her favorite native plants, and will explain the best place to use them in your garden, be it large or small, sunny or shady, wet or dry. Presented by the Historical Society of Washington (HSW), DC Urban Gardeners, and *Washington Gardener Magazine*. The talks all take place at the HSW auditorium, 801 K Street NW, Washington, DC.

They are FREE and open to the general public. Directions and details at <http://www.historydc.org/>

LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE and JULY

Tues, June 2, EcolocityDC First Tuesday: Food & Farming-How To Organize a Food Buying Club, 7-9 pm, DC

Learn how to begin and operate a food-buying club, where, how to buy, when to shop. The benefits are tremendous: it builds community, increases food quality, encourages healthy eating habits, introduces you to new foods and recipes and saves time and money from going to the store. Presenter is Yvette Mohammad who has run a food-buying club in NE DC for 2 1/2 years. Location: Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW. For more information, contact Gerri Williams, williard2738@gmail.com. Directions and details at <http://ecolocity.ning.com>

Sat, June 6, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM, Ellicott City, MD 21042

For vegans, vegetarians or the just curious. Please bring a vegan (no animal products) dish to share (store bought is fine) for the number in your party plus 8. Please RSVP via e-mail. There will be iced tea and filtered water to drink. Kids welcome! To RSVP and for directions contact Bonnie Sorak bsorak@juno.com or 410-465-0427. Please bring your own reusable picnic-ware and feel free to wash up here - or we will have basic table service available (for a small fee), If we don't receive more then 6 responses then we will cancel the gathering.

Sat, June 6, Mid-Atlantic Food Systems and Annual Garden Design, 8:30am-3:30 pm, Freeland, MD

This workshop explores how we can create a sustainable regional food economy, including growing vegetables for our own consumption. Learn how to design an annual vegetable garden as well as strategies for growing food in urban areas. Sliding scale \$60-\$100. For more information contact Karen Stupski at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523. Details at <http://www.heathcote.org/oneday.shtml>.

Sat, June 6, The Time Line Game, 1-5pm, Washington, DC.

If you're considering actually BUILDING an intentional community this is a resource designed for non professionals to learn about the development "game." You will leave with an overall sense of what the art of developing both the physical and social community looks like. Fee \$15.00 to defray expenses. For information and to register at our Meet Up site: <http://www.meetup.com/Washington-DC-Area-Cohousing/> EMAIL: zabaldo@earthlink.net; CALL Ann Zabaldo at 202 291 7892; This event will be held in a private home. Directions sent upon registering. Sponsored by Mid Atlantic Cohousing 501c3.

Sun, June 7, Sustainable Culture, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm, Freeland, MD

What would a sustainable culture look like? This workshop explores social, economic, and personal aspects of sustainability. We will examine the problems with the existing social and economic systems and explore strategies for creating a more sustainable, peaceful, and equitable culture. Sliding scale \$60-\$100. For more information contact Karen Stupski at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523. Details at <http://www.heathcote.org/oneday.shtml>.

Sat, June 13, Dinner and Contra Dance to Benefit EcoStewards Alliance 5:00 to 9:30PM, Lovettsville, VA.

We will have dinner, wine from nearby Hiddencroft Vineyards followed by Contra Dancing in the barn. **(Not to worry all dances will be taught!)** Cost is \$25/person which includes dinner, 1 beer or soda and dessert plus the dancing. Wine is extra. Please email Maureenesa@gmail.com or visit <http://www.ecostewardsalliance.org/> for more info.

Sun, June 14, All Our Relations Sacred Gardening Workshop, 10:00am-5:00pm, Blueberry Gardens, Ashton (north of Olney), MD. Earth Mother is calling us to heal ourselves and our relationship to

nature. Our gardens are where we can start to cultivate this healing. Come learn about wiser worldviews and practices that will encourage 'deeper' gardening approaches that honor nature energies... focus on personal and planetary well-being... plus *have some fun.* ;-) Sliding Scale. Led by Mare Cromwell, Sacred Gardening specialist, author and apprentice to Cherokee Medicine Woman. To register: www.sacreddogllc.com
<<http://www.sacreddogllc.com/>>

Sat, June 27, Sustainable Energy Strategies, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm, Freeland, MD

Permaculture offers practical strategies for addressing the problems of peak oil and climate change. Learn about renewable energy systems, energy conservation, and appropriate technology. Sliding scale \$60-\$100. For more information contact Karen Stupski at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523. Details at <http://www.heathcote.org/oneday.shtml>.

Sun, June 28, Green Building and Community Design, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm, Freeland, MD

This workshop will cover energy efficient building design, techniques for building with natural materials, and strategies for designing sustainable communities ranging in size from small ecovillages to cities. Includes a tour of Heathcote Community's new strawbale residence. Sliding scale \$60-\$100. For more information contact Karen Stupski at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523. Details at <http://www.heathcote.org/oneday.shtml>.

July 6 - 10, 2009, 7th International Conference on the Environment and Sustainable Development, to be held in Havana, CUBA

[Anyone who has seen the movie "The Power of Community" should be aware of the strides Cuba took back in the 1990's to address peak oil . . .and developed sustainable urban gardening practices throughout the county.] There is an extended research tour available pre, during, and post conference, July 3 - 12, 2009, organized by Eco Cuba Exchange, and we strongly encourage your participation.
<http://www.globalexchange.org/countries/americas/cuba/sustainable/index.html>

Fri, July 17 to Sunday, August 2, Freeland, MD.

Permaculture is an ethical and holistic design system for building a sustainable culture. It offers practical ways to meet basic human needs for water, food, waste recycling, energy, shelter, and social connection without harming the environment. Earn your Permaculture design certificate with Dancing Green. Tuition \$1500 (includes camping and meals). For more information contact Karen Stupski at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523. Details at <http://www.heathcote.org/immersive.shtml>.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS

Job Announcement: Seeking **experienced** event coordinator for One Less Car's Tour du Port. 10-20 hrs./week. Contact carol@onelesscar.org Fundraising, volunteer recruitment, professional communication and marketing skills needed.

Job Announcement: Program Coordinator for the Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge

The Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge (BNEC) will be a 9-month pilot program in 6-8 Baltimore communities designed to raise awareness, reduce residential energy use, stimulate demand for energy conservation services, and learn lessons on how to motivate behavior change related to reducing residential energy use. BNEC has the potential to be a national model of community mobilization, social marketing, and verifiable energy use. For the full job description and application details please visit here:
<http://www.sustainablebusiness.com/index.cfm/go/greendreamjobs.display/id/3047317>

Accepting applications on a rolling basis through May 8th. To Apply: Please send a resume and cover letter describing why you are qualified for this position and why you are passionate about helping this start-up initiative grow and succeed to Sarah Zaleski at sarah.zaleski@baltimorecity.gov. No phone calls please.

The **Maryland Pesticide Network**, a coalition of 25 organizations concerned about pesticide injury, including the Sierra Club MD chapter, published a booklet for the general public on pesticides, alternatives, precautions, and resources. It is especially beneficial for parents, teachers, and workers whose occupations involve pesticide use. We are **offering the booklet FREE to organizations** to help us distribute them. It is available in English and in Spanish. These are great resources for tabling events, etc. A free down-loadable pdf of the English guide is available on our website:

<http://www.mdpestnet.org/resource/mpnPubsPublic.html>

Individual Carbon Counter Website: www.salamanderpoints.com Salamander Points count your daily carbon emissions, so you can change your decisions to PREVENT carbon obesity. Check the site for lesson plans, a blog, hints and tips, and to learn how to become even more "Carbon Sexy!"

New company: Waste Neutral. Keith Lasoya is picking up food waste from restaurants and catered events etc, and hauling the food waste to a farm in Carroll County where it is turned and mixed with other good stuff and turned again and again... <http://wasteneutralgroup.com/>