

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **September 2009**. It is going out to over **1,820 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 269 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 92 members. You can also subscribe from our homepage.

This announcement is organized into four sections:

- Second Sunday Forum and Baltimore Green Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- October Preview

BIG NEWS!! The Northwest Earth Institute is pleased to announce their newest discussion guide topic "**Sustainable Systems at Work**".

http://www.nwei.org/discussion_courses/course-offerings/sustainable-systems-at-work-2

This circle is designed to engage employees in organizational sustainability initiatives. More information about local circles piloting this new topic will be available in October.

After a much needed summer break, our **Second Sunday Forum** in Bethesda will resume on September 13 and our **Baltimore Green Forum** will begin again on October 25. Our friends at the **Greenbelt Climate Action Network** will resume their monthly series on September 9 and the **Howard County Earth Forum** will "debut" on September 20. Details below for all . .

Thanks to this month's editor, **Janis Oppelt**.

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sun., Sept. 13, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm
Social and Financial Capital
With Chris and Susan Belchamber

What is physical, natural and social capital? Join us for the kick off of the fall series of forums with this provocative and inspiring discussion. Our monetary system forms the foundation of our lives, extending into matters of social justice, civil rights and even the environment. Chris and Susan will have some specific ideas for improving your personal resilience and sustainability, as well as the strength and depth of your local community. Even when monetary uncertainties are mounting, there are still things we can do!

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.

October's forum will be on the third Sunday to avoid the Green Festival. Topic: Sustainable Systems at Work

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

The Baltimore Green Forum takes place on the fourth Sunday of the month at the MD Presbyterian Church, 1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286
<http://www.mpchurch.org/directions.htm>.

NO MEETING IN SEPTEMBER, DUE TO YOM KIPPUR. WE WILL START UP ON OCT 25, details forth-coming

Current co-sponsors include: Simplicity Matters Earth Institute, Transition Baltimore, 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 Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club.

If you would like to suggest topics, or become a co-sponsoring organization, contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 301-345-2234

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

(SSW) Sustainable Systems at Work; (GW) Global Warming: Changing CO2urse; (CSL) Choices for Sustainable Living; (DSOP) Discovering a Sense of Place; (EDE) Exploring Deep Ecology; (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.

IMPORTANT NOTE: As of Jan. 2009, discussion circle books now 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 21 circles so far in 2009 (218 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

Snowden Overlook (GW), Intro Meeting: Sept 1, First Session: TBD, CS: Judy Burt, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Howard County College (GW), CS: Debby Luquette, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Channing UU Congregation, Ellicott City (GW), CS: Dot Rockstroh, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
UU Congregation of Columbia (GW), CS: Sally Ann Cooper, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
UU Congregation of Columbia (VS, MF, CSL?) Several discussion circles set to start this fall, thru SMEI (not part of CCIHC) CS: Robin Hessey, , lore@simplicity-matters.org
Green Building Institute, Jessup, MD (MF), CS: Margo Duesterhaus, lore@simplicity-matters.org
Private Home (VS), CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org
Private Home (CSL) CS: Hank Grabowski, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Howard County, Climate Change Initiative of Howard County (CCIHC) 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, Private home in Belair-Harford Rd area, CS: Susan D'Arcy

This Voluntary Simplicity group will meet on Monday night, every other week in the Belair-Harford Road area with two members from the west side. The first meeting will be September 28, 7:30 PM at my house, 31 Stewarton Court, 21236. People may call me at 410-419-4817. Proposed meeting nights are Sept 28, Oct 12, Oct 26, Nov 9, Nov 23 and Dec 7, but we can be flexible and will decide at the first meeting. contact: sd_arcy@hotmail.com

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. There seems to be a lot of interest in CSL for the fall. Contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Baltimore Ethical Society (tbd), CS: Karen Elliott

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

Crofton/Bowie (CSL) Intro Meeting: Sept 7, First Session: tbd, CS: Gregg Jones, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Greenbelt Climate Action Network (CSL or SSW) New circle starting in October. CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Mt. Rainier (VS), CS: Joe Robbins

Montgomery County

There are a lot of regroups going on in the area, especially Silver Spring. So if you are interested in joining a discussion group please let me know.

Marney@simplicity-matters.org, 301 652-0492

St. Mary's County

Leonardtown, (DSOP) starts on Sept. 22nd from 7-8:30 pm at the Good Earth Natural Foods Store in Leonardtown. It is booked up already. A waiting list is being made for a possible second course, if needed, later. People can contact Elizabeth Ayres epa@creativewritingcenter.com

Washington, DC

Washington, DC, Friends Meeting House, Tuesday Sept 22, 2111 Florida Ave., NW (Dupont Circle Metro), 7:30 PM, Topic: Mindful Consumption, Climate Change, and the effect of eating meat on the environment will be discussed- all are welcome to bring their perspective. Meeting every other month, open to newcomers. Sponsored by WBPF.org Contact person : Bill Jenkins, worldofmuse@aol.com, (301) 699-8704

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

"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 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

Tues., Sept. 1, Plant Sale at Lauraville Market, 4 pm to 8 pm. Join the Herring Run Nursery at the lot across from the Safeway on Harford Rd. (4500 Harford Rd. 21214) with other vendors selling locally grown food, native plants, and more. Order a rain barrel as well. If you are looking for a specific plant, email Darin at herringrun.org or call 410-254-1577 x104.

Tues, Sept 1, EcolocityDC First Tuesday: Food & Farming, 7-9 pm, Washington DC

Urban agriculture is critical to reducing our carbon footprint, localizing production and developing food security. All foodies and food activists, particularly those from emerging Transition groups, are invited to attend so we can collaborate and come up with a coherent regional plan. 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., Sept. 2, Design Conversations, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Baltimore, MD.

First Wednesdays of each month at The Windup Space, 12 W. North Ave. organized by members of the Design center group; topics, speakers and content varies per month. Cash bar available. For more info contact Fred Scharmen at sevensixfive@gmail.com or Eric Leshinsky, leshmail@yahoo.com

Thurs., Sept. 3, USGBC See the Green: Behind the Scenes Construction Tour Healthcare for the Homeless, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Baltimore, MD. Hard-hat tour of the soon-to-be completed clinic and offices. LEED checklist will be reviewed. For more information on the U.S. Green Building Council: <http://www.usgbc.org/>.

Thurs., Sept. 3, Webinar: C&NN Leadership Series: Tools & Resources for Reaching Parents and Families, 3 pm to 4 pm. Greater Baltimore Children and Nature Collaborative (<http://gbcan.org/>) is holding its first leadership webinar presenting three innovative strategies for connecting nature with parents and families. Learn to use these tools and resources to help parents and families in your community. Dial-in number: 877-336-1274 (toll-free), guest code: 379-3357. <http://gbcan.groupsite.com/>

Sat., Sept. 5, Peace Meal: Understanding Peace in the Cuban Context, 1 pm, Bethesda MD. Minister Counselor of Cuba Dr. Alberto Prieto presents "Understanding Peace in the Cuban Context" followed by film screening "The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil." Interfaith prayers and songs and a hot vegetarian lunch. RSVP to Durga at shantiyoga2@earthlink.net. *Location:* 4209 East West Hwy, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. 301-654-4899 x9. *Metro:* red-line to Bethesda. Bus J2 Edgevale stop. No charge for this monthly event.

Sat, Sept 5, Potomac Potlatch, 11 am-3 pm, Washington DC

Trade your cast-offs - Buy and sell seeds, seedlings, plants and produce - Market your services, home-made goods - Meet your neighbors - Bring a dish to share - Make ice cream. Transactions will be negotiated in Potomacs, our new local currency on par with federal dollars. Location: Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW. Table registration \$5 - Reservations ecolocitydc@gmail.com or call 202 545 0869. Directions and details at <http://ecolocity.ning.com>

Tues., Sept. 8, Season Extension Workshop, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Baltimore, MD. Learn practical information about using greenhouses and hoopouses to extend your growing season. Presented by Bryan Butler, Carroll County Cooperative Extension agent. Free for CGRN members and \$4 for non-members. For more information, contact Sarah Krones, community.greening@parksandpeople.org, 410.448.5663x114. Directions to 802 S Caroline St. and other details at www.parksandpeople.org/programs_great_parks_greening_CGRN.html.

Tues, Sept 8, EcolocityDC 2nd Tuesday: Invitation to Transition, 7-9 pm, Washington DC

Introduction to Transition will 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://www.ecolocity.ning.com>.

Wed, Sept 9, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Pesticides and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Project, Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center 5425 Mt. Gilead Road Reisterstown, MD The third annual meeting is designed to bring together Project members and friends to share recent research and monitoring data, progress achieved by the Project's five working groups and to further collaborate on meeting Project goals. http://www.jhsph.edu/clf/PDF_Files/events/MPN-ChesInvite09-3.pdf

Wed, Sept 9, 4 pm, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: A Webinar for Small Businesses and Nonprofits, This webinar is co-hosted by Green For All, Tides Center, Association for Enterprise Opportunity, and Green America. Green For All's Capital Access Program (CAP) is pleased to announce the release of its premiere publication – "The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: A Guide for Small Businesses and Nonprofits." This guide is intended to educate and direct businesses and nonprofits on opportunities to access funding and support from the Recovery Act. We will be hosting a webinar on September 9, 2009 at 4pm EDT. Our goal is to highlight emerging opportunities to leverage stimulus dollars, and to offer examples of best practices from across the country. <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/300670154>

Wed., Sept 9, Adopt a Stream Workshop, 6 pm to 7:30 pm, Baltimore. Learn how to properly identify problems such as sewer breaks and illicit discharges, who to contact to report such problems, and planning and promoting community events such as stream clean-ups and tree plantings. *Location:* Herring Run Watershed Center, 3545 Belair Rd. Drinks, snacks, and plenty of lively conversation will be provided. Workshop space is limited to 20 volunteers, so please sign up soon! To register, please contact Ashley Traut at 410-254-1577 or atraut@herringrun.org.

Wed, Sept 9, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7 pm, Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd., Greenbelt, MD "Federal Climate Change Bill Needs to be Stronger!" Susan Stewart, a local activist from CCAN/1Sky will update us about the upcoming climate change legislation and how we can help move it thru the Senate. We will also give an overview of the year's programming schedule and have time for local announcements. Contact: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org , 301-345-2234.

Thurs., Sept. 10, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Urban Composting in Trashcans, Baltimore. Join Rebecca Lemos from City Blossoms to learn how to effectively, safely, and cleanly compost your food scraps, either in your

backyard or garden. Free for CGRN members, \$4 for non-members. Bring your chair, hat, and questions. Downtown Farm Co-op (Participation Park), 1100 Forrest St. Contact Sarah Kronos at 410-448-5663x114 or community.greening@parksandpeople.org for more info.

Thurs., Sept. 10, Fresh—a film by Ana Sofia Joanes, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Baltimore. Local food bazaar followed by film and panel discussion with local farmers and local food experts. *Location:* Creative Alliance at the Patterson 3134 Eastern Avenue. For more information and tickets: www.creativealliance.org.

Thurs., Sept. 10, How to Effectively Advocate and Fundraise Online With Limited Staff and Resources, 9 am to 1 pm, Annapolis, MD. This is a FREE training hosted by the Maryland League of Conservation Voters Education Fund. Participants will share their experiences and learn from expert trainers how to effectively raise money, engage the public in advocacy and education campaigns, and build their organizations online with limited staff and resources. Learn more and register at www.marylandconservation.org.

Fri, Sept 11, Green the Block - National Service Day, A new campaign, Green the Block, to educate and mobilize low-income communities and communities of color to ensure a voice and stake in the clean-energy economy. President Obama has called upon all Americans to participate in our nation's recovery and renewal by serving in our communities on National Service Day, as part of the United We Serve initiative. Green The Block is proud to stand in solidarity with the President and United We Serve. We call upon you to participate in the 9.11.09 Green the Block National Service Day. <http://www.greentheblock.net/>

Sat, Sept 12, 10am, Carrie's Gardening Tips for September, Valley View Farms, 11305 York Rd, Cockeysville, MD 21030 Preparing for fall with mums, bulbs and pansies! Other tips to share with autumn colors in mind. Contact Carrie Engel at 410-527-0700 or carrie@valleyviewfarms.com.

Sun., Sept. 13, Organic Cooking Classes at Kayam Farm, Reisterstown, MD. Learn healthy cooking techniques using delicious farm fresh produce. Classes meet on the farm and are taught by Richele Henry, certified holistic health counselor. \$30 for the first class, \$20 for each additional class. *Location:* 5425 Mt Gilead Road, Reisterstown 21136
E-mail Becca@pearlstonecenter.org to sign up or for more information.

Sun., Sept. 13, Solar Water Heating Systems, 1 pm to 3 pm, Westminster, MD. Overview of system functions and the various systems available, including size and cost variation. The class will also explore rebates and incentives now available. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Mon., Sept. 14, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance (CSBA) Monthly Meeting/Green Gathering, 6 pm to 8 pm, Baltimore. Join CSBA for their kick-off meeting of the upcoming year at Gertrude's Restaurant at the Baltimore Museum of Art featuring keynote speaker chef John Shields, local wine, great food and networking. \$20 members, \$30 non members. For more information and to register by Fri., Sept. 11, go to www.csballiance.org.

Mon., Sept. 14, Environmental Landscaping, 7 pm to 9 pm, Silver Spring, MD. How to combine design, beauty and sustainability in landscape design. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Mon., Sept. 14, Saving With Solar, 7 pm to 9 pm, Annapolis, MD. How to use solar electric and hot water systems in your home or office. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Tue., Sept. 15, Panel (local experts) presentation concerning dam removal on the Patapsco River, 7:15 pm. *Location:* Howard County Recreation and Parks Headquarters, 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia. *Directions:* From Broken Land Parkway, take Snowden River Parkway east. At the third light, turn right onto Oakland Mills Road. Just before the railroad crossing, turn right into the parking lot. Contact: Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, kenclark7@comcast.net.

Tues., Sept. 15, Green Tax Benefits, 7 pm to 9 pm, Baltimore. How to make green improvements more affordable. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 733-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Tues., Sept. 15, Water Management, 7 pm to 9 pm, Washington, DC. How to preserve our precious resource and restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Tues, Sept 15, EcocityDC 3rd Tuesday Film: TBA, 7-9 pm, Washington DC

Location: Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW. For more information: ecocitydc@gmail.com or call 202 545 0869. Directions and details: <http://www.ecocity.ning.com>. Brief discussion follows. Suggested donation: \$5.

Tues/Thurs, Sept 15, 17, Workshop and Public hearing on MD Energy Deal, Baltimore, MD The Maryland Public Service Commission has responded favorably to our call for a public hearing in which Maryland citizens can voice their concerns about the proposed deal between Constellation Energy Group and Electricite de France (EdF). This deal would help pave the way for construction of the proposed Calvert Cliffs-3 nuclear reactor on the Chesapeake Bay. Now is your chance to directly take part in the decision-making on Maryland's energy future. And we encourage every Marylander to do so. Haven't spoken at a public hearing before? No problem. The Chesapeake Safe Energy Coalition is organizing a "Make a Statement" workshop to help you prepare. <http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dHdiLWE5OE5nX0FZVTdzNjFROWVFTUE6MA>

Wed., Sept 16, Potluck Dinner and MD Geology Slide Show, 6:30 to 9 pm, Baltimore County, MD. Social hour till 7:30. Meet at Oregon Ridge Nature Center, 13555 Beaver Dam Road. For more information contact Joyce at 410-254-7240.

Wed., Sept. 16, Green Building Design, 7 pm to 9 pm, Leesburg, MD. How to design 21st century structures. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Weds., Sept. 16, Indoor Air Quality, 7 pm to 9 pm, Bethesda, MD. How to improve your health by improving your indoor environment. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Thurs., Sept. 17, Composting at Home, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Charlotte Hall, MD. Learn how to make compost and what to do with it when it's done. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Thurs., Sept. 17, Energy-Efficient Lighting, 7 pm to 9 pm, Jessup, MD. How to lower your utility bill and your carbon footprint. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Thurs., Sept. 17, Introduction to Going Green, 7 pm to 9 pm, Gaithersburg, MD. Be part of an exciting presentation and dialogue with one of the nation's leading practitioners of green buildings. 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.

Thurs., Sept. 17, Green Interior Design, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Rosslyn, VA. How to use sustainable and environmentally friendly materials in your building. See these techniques firsthand in a unique tour of the KGD offices, hosted by senior personnel of this environmentally-forward architecture firm. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Thurs, Sept 17, 6pm – 8pm, Rain Barrel Roll Out, Herring Run Park, 6131 Hillen Rd, Baltimore, MD 21239
Using a rain barrel may save the average homeowner up to 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months! Participants learn every aspect of rain barrel construction and installation, and build their very own rain barrel!

Please contact Ashley Traut at 410-254-1577 or atraut@herringrun.org to register for this workshop or to arrange a workshop in your neighborhood. Carpe aqua!

Sat., Sept. 19, Raising Winter Greens, 2:30 pm to 4 pm, Washington, DC. Farmer Brett Grohsgal on growing greens in winter. Free. Open to the general public. Presented by the Historical Society of Washington (HSW), DC Urban Gardeners, and *Washington Gardener Magazine*. Location: Lecture hall of the Historical Society of DC 801 K Street NW Washington, DC. For more information, contact: Washington Gardener Magazine Wgardenermag@aol.com. Directions at www.historydc.org,

Sat., Sept. 19, Free Solar Seminar, 3 pm to 4 pm, Towson, MD. Learn how to fire the electric company and produce your own clean energy with solar. Seminars held at bluehouse, 872 Kenilworth Dr., Towson MD. Please RSVP to mssiccontact@marylandsolarsolutions.com, 443-218-2620. Directions and details at www.marylandsolarsolutions.com.

Sat., Sept. 19, 5 pm, "Concert in the Barn" with Andrew McKnight, Lovettsville, VA. EcoStewards Alliance's Autumn Fundraiser, great food and drink, dinner by Andy's, cash bar, silent auction items, variety and value. *Location:* 12208 Axline. Visit Andrew's web site www.andrewmcknight.net to learn about this award winning local singer/songwriter, guitarist, and poet. For more information: www.Ecostewardsalliance.org. *Questions:* email Maureenesa@gmail.com or call 571-323-2386.

Sun, Sept 20, Howard County Earth Forum 3-5 pm, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, MD. Details forthcoming. <http://hococlimatechange.org/content/1/1/34.html>

Sun., Sept. 20, Wheel of the Year Fall Equinox Service, 5 pm, River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Bethesda, MD. Positive energy is a sparkling, continually renewing jewel of light. It pulsates within us for the darkening days to come. Please bring snacks and your own cup. Contact Helen Popenoe at 301-229-0549. Directions at www.RRUUC.org, upstairs in the Fireside Room.

Sun., Sept. 20, Building Community with Purpose, Part 3, 4 pm to 6 pm, Falls Church, VA. Event may be held in private home. Call or write for directions. We are building a sustainable, green cohousing community for 'boomers and beyond' in this small-scale "green" city just 10 minutes from DC. Discussing potential site including pro-forma budget. Contact Ann Zabaldo at 703-663-3911 or zabaldo@earthlink.net. For more information: <http://www.meetup.com/Washington-DC-Area-Cohousing/>.

Mon., Sept. 21, Geothermal Energy, 7 pm to 9 pm, Annapolis, MD. How to use the earth to heat and cool your home or office. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Mon., Sept. 21, Solar Energy, 7 pm to 9 pm, Silver Spring, MD. How to use solar electric and hot water systems in your home or office. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Tues., Sept. 22, Free Solar Seminar, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Towson MD. Learn how to fire the electric company and produce your own clean energy with solar. Seminars held at bluehouse, 872 Kenilworth Dr. Please RSVP to mssiccontact@marylandsolarsolutions.com, 443-218-2620. Directions and details at www.marylandsolarsolutions.com.

Tues., Sept. 22, Environmental Landscaping, 7 pm to 9 pm, Baltimore, MD. How to combine design, beauty and sustainability in landscape design. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Tues., Sept. 22, Green Tax Benefits, 7 pm to 9 pm, Washington, DC. How to make green improvements more affordable. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Tues, Sept 22, EcolocityDC 4th Tuesday: Community Building Community: Organizing & Networking, 7-9 pm, Washington DC While it is necessary to organize and network towards our shared goals, a vibrant community is built one relationship at a time. Let us not lose sight of this basic human function. 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://www.ecolocity.ning.com>.

Wed., Sept. 23, How Baltimore is Becoming a Model for the National Farm-to-School Movement, 6 pm to 7:30 pm, Towson, MD. Join Tony Geraci, Food Director for Baltimore Public Schools and Greg Strella, Farm Manager. Location: Towson Library, 320 York Rd 21204 with conversation continuing at a local eatery. Parking: \$1 with validated ticket in adjacent parking bldg. Optional RSVP to mail@baltimoreclimate.org. Optional \$5 donation. Sponsored by www.baltimoreclimate.org and <http://environment.meetup.com/280>.

Wed., Sept. 23, Energy Efficient Lighting, 7 pm to 9 pm, Leesburg, MD. How to lower your utility bill and your carbon footprint. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Wed., Sept. 23, Home Energy Audits, 7 pm to 9 pm, Bethesda, MD. How to lower your energy bills and increase comfort. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Wed., Sept. 23, Understanding Green Building Certifications, 7 pm to 9 pm, Westminster, MD. This class will de-mystify the process by exploring the interrelated components that make up a green building as defined by the leading certification systems. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Thurs., Sept. 24, Green Building Design, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Rosslyn, VA. How to design 21st century structures. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Thurs., Sept. 24, Solar Energy, 7 pm to 9 pm, Jessup, MD. How to use solar electric and hot water systems in your home and office. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Fri., Sept 26 and Sat., Sept. 27, Maryland Native Plant Society Annual Conference, The Catoctin Mountains: Maryland's Blue Ridge Glade Valley Church of the Brethren, Walkersville, MD (Frederick County). Our annual fall conference starts Sat. morning with a series of speakers, followed by afternoon and Sun. field trips throughout the region. Plus a Sat. night dinner and social! For more information, go to www.mdflora.org.

Sat., Sept. 26, Principles of Permaculture, 10 am to 12 Noon, Woodstock, MD. This workshop will focus on fundamental permaculture ethics, principles and strategies to live more sustainably in your home, neighborhood or community. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Sat., Sept. 26, EarthSave Baltimore Veg Dinner Ed Series, 6 pm to 9 pm, Baltimore. A special vegan dinner at Yabba Pot Café will feature a talk on "The Vegan Monologues" by author Ben Shaberman. The \$12 admission fee includes three selections plus rice. *Location:* 2433 St. Paul Street, Charles Village. Call 410-252-3043, write Baltimore@earthsave.org, or go to <http://earthsavebaltimore.org/>.

Sat., Sept. 26, Sweat Lodge and Teaching, Dayton, MD. Rev. LaKotahsie Frazier of southwest Virginia will lead the event, which includes a ceremony (begins at 8:30 am), teaching (begins 11 am), and lodge (begins at 12:30 pm). Potluck dinner follows. Monetary exchange requested. Rev. LaKotahsie Frazier will also be available for private consultations. This will be her last visit to Maryland this year. Dayton is six miles west of Columbia, MD. For more information, contact Robert Fireovid (301-982-0257; bob.fireovid@verizon.net).

Sat, Sept 26, 10am-12pm, CGRN Volunteer Work Day, Butterfly Garden, 2100 block of Madison Ave, 21217 Celebrate National Public Lands Day by having a good time outside in this community garden! Volunteer

Work Days occur on the fourth Saturday of every month March – October, 10am-12pm. Open to every one of all ages. All tools, materials, and refreshments provided. Contact Sarah Kronos at 410-448-5663x114 or community.greening@parksandpeople.org for more info.

Sat/Sun, Sept 26 – 27, Maryland Green Home and Living Show, Baltimore MD

Maryland's Comprehensive Green Show presented by the Home Builders Association of Maryland and the Maryland Green Building Council. This event promises to bring motivated consumers together with cutting edge green technology, products, design and experts. The exhibition will feature a strong emphasis on consumer education with three seminar rooms offering over thirty concurrent sessions, two demonstration stages, plus over 100,000 square feet of exhibits. Media partners include WBAL TV, The Baltimore Sun, and Urbanite Magazine. If you've got green, this is the show for you! <http://www.homebuilders.org/page/greenshow/>

Tues, Sept. 29, Maryland Native Plant Society monthly meeting, 7:30 pm. White Oak Library. "Habitat Value of Natives: More than Fashionable Flowers"—a panel discussion with regionally and nationally known experts who will compare cultivars of native plants with native species and review how these plants relate to the natural communities around us. Audience participation and questions encouraged! *Location:* Large meeting room. For more information and directions go to www.mdflora.org

Tues., Sept. 29, Environmental Landscaping, 7 pm to 9 pm, Washington, DC. How to combine design, beauty and sustainability in landscape design. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Tues., Sept. 29, Solar Energy, 7 pm to 9 pm, Baltimore, MD. How to use solar electric and hot water systems in your home and office. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Tues. Sept. 29, *Birding on Two Wheels*, 9 am to 12 pm. Join The Nature Conservancy and volunteer naturalist Wendy Paulson as we bike the Anacostia River Trail—a 12.5-mile loop starting and ending at Maine Avenue Fish Market. We'll stop at various points along the trail to bird watch and enjoy the scenery. For more information, contact Kristin Bramell at kbramell@tnc.org or 301-897-8570 x227.

Tues, Sept 29, EcolocityDC 5th Tuesday Special Guest: TBA, 7-9 pm, Washington DC

Location: Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW. For more information: ecolocitydc@gmail.com or call 202 545 0869. Directions and details: <http://www.ecolocity.ning.com>.

Wed., Sept. 30, Green Tax Benefits, 7 pm to 9 pm, Bethesda, MD. Making green improvements more affordable. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Wed., Sept. 30, Indoor Air Quality, 7 pm to 9 pm, Leesburg, MD. How to improve your health by improving your indoor environment. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

October Events

Thurs. Oct. 1, Presentation on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by local author Ned Tillman, 7 pm. Gain a greater sense of place for our home, including natural history, personal narrative, and call to action. *Location:* Howard County Recreation and Parks Headquarters, 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia. From Broken Land Parkway, take Snowden River Parkway east. At the third light, turn right onto Oakland Mills Road. Just before the railroad crossing, turn right into the parking lot. *Contact:* Brigitte, 240-506-8976, bfzaidan@safe-mail.net.

Thurs., Oct. 1 to Sat., Oct. 3, Bethesda Green Grand Open House and Ribbon-cutting Ceremony, Bethesda, MD. Join us to find out more about this collaboration of residents, businesses and government that promotes an environmental ethic and sustainable living practices. *Location:* 4825 Cordell Avenue (Second floor of the Chevy Chase Bank Building). For more information: <http://bethesdagreen.org/>.

Fri., Oct. 2 to Sun, Oct. 4, Maryland Sierra Club Jamboree, Crownsville, MD. Don't miss this fun-filled weekend with environmental workshops, hikes, live music and good company! Accommodations include dormitory cabins and camping. *Location:* Elks Camp Barrett, 1001 Chesterfield Road. Tickets, including food

and accommodations, are: \$75 Regular, \$50 Student, Low Income, Worker, \$10 Children, 5 and under are free. Also pay separately for Sat. night event. For more information: www.maryland.sierraclub.org or call 301-277-7111.

Sat, Oct 3, 12- 4 p.m., Howard County Conservancy's Fall Festival

Visitors at the Howard County Conservancy's Fall Festival will enjoy a working blacksmith shop, pony rides, children's activities, food concessions, historic tours and live music. The Howard County Conservancy, a non profit organization, is the county's only nature center and is located three and a half miles west of Route 29 on Route 99 (Old Frederick Road). Fall festival hours: 12 to 4 p.m. \$10 per car. For more information, call 410 465-8877 or visit www.hcconservancy.org

Sun. Oct. 4, 16th Annual Tour du Port—Premier Bicycling Event, Baltimore, MD. Join thousands of riders at Baltimore's Canton Waterfront Park. Routes range from 12 to 50 miles. Supported tour includes lunch, refreshments at rest stops, map, SAG and a post-ride celebration with live music at the end. All fees go directly to advancing the programs and advocacy efforts of One Less Car. For more information and to register: <http://onelesscar.org/page.php?id=156>.

Sun., Oct. 4, Book Group Discussion, 3 pm to 5 pm, Tyson's Corner area, VA. Discuss the book "Senior Cohousing" by Charles Durrette with an eye to building a sustainable, green cohousing community for 50+ in Northern VA area. *Location:* Meeting Room A at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043. For more information: Ann Zabaldo, 703 663 3911; zabaldo@earthlink.net; and <http://www.meetup.com/Washington-DC-Area-Cohousing/>.

Sat/Sun, Oct 10/11 – DC Green Festival, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-6. A joint project of Global Exchange and Green America. You'll enjoy more than 125 renowned speakers and 350 green businesses (start your holiday shopping now!), great how-to workshops, green films, a Fair Trade pavilion, yoga classes, organic beer, delicious organic cuisine and live music. Find out about DC environmental initiatives; and learn how neighbors, community nonprofits and city departments are working together to make their cities healthier places to live. **[EDITORS NOTE:** Sat at 4 pm, local panel of Transition DC and Transition MD (Baltimore, Takoma). Come cheer them on!] <http://www.greenfestivals.org/washington-dc/>

Mon., Oct. 12, Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium, 1 pm to 5:30 pm, Arlington, VA. The symposium assists in building a movement of awake, committed people working for an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, socially just human presence on earth. For more information contact Mary Pike at marypike@cox.net or 703-960-0577. Details at www.awakeningthedreamer.org.

Sat. Oct 24 - www.350.org - On October 24, we will stand together as one planet and call for a fair global climate treaty. United by a common call to action, we'll make it clear: the world needs an international plan that meets the latest science and gets us back to safety. Visit the 350.org website to find local events in your area.

Action Opportunities and Tidbits

Feel free to send us a tidbit you think should be included here!