

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **March 2010**. It is going out to over **1,895 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 Yahoo group, called "DCMetroSimplifiers," with about 269 members, if you want to be involved during the month in an "interactive dialogue." You can subscribe from our "Online Convos" tab of our website or directly at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/online>

For our friends in Baltimore, there is also a Yahoo Group called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities and about 92 members. You can also subscribe from our "Online Convos" tab of our website or directly at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/online>

This announcement is organized into five sections:

- Second Sunday Forum, Baltimore Green Forum, Howard County Earth Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- April Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Have you been wondering what is happening in **Northern Virginia**? A group of volunteers in Vienna is organizing to offer discussion circles. More details below in the **Discussion Circle Update**.

Visit our **newly updated website**, <http://www.simplicity-matters.org>. Thanks to **Lena Rotenberg**, our webmaster, for all of her hard work.

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

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, March 14, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm

It's just that simple!

A presentation by Judy Tiger,

DC-based home and office organizer www.just-that-simple.net

What does it mean to be organized and why does it matter to our professional, personal, and family lives? How is it connected to being green? How do we get started if busy and faced with too many things and too much paper? Join Judy Tiger as she shares tips & observations gleaned from more than three years running Just That Simple, a DC-based home and office organizing business.

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.

April forum, on 4/11: Hayden Mathews of River Stories <http://bayhistory.net/>

HOWARD COUNTY EARTH FORUM

**Sunday, March 21, Earth Forum of Howard County
First Presbyterian, Columbia, MD. 3:00–5:30 pm**

Howard County Earth Forum presents “**Food for Howard County and the World: How to Eat Locally and More Sustainably**”

The Forum will feature a panel of food authorities speaking on many facets of growing, buying, eating and benefiting from local food. Several small group discussion/action groups will follow.

Refreshments provided. Free and open to the community.

At the First Presbyterian of Howard County, 9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia. Sign-up and directions at church office 410-730-3545, ex.10 or

<http://www.firstpreshc.org/Care/EarthForum/tabid/47845/Default.aspx?tx=10> Come, join us.

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

**Sunday, March 28, 4:30-6:30 pm.
MD Presbyterian Church
1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286**

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

In 2010 the Baltimore Green Forum is hosting a series of talks on topics relevant to the Transition Town movement with the goal of supporting the development of Transition Initiatives in the Baltimore area.

Universe Story: A New Story for our Times presented by Rebecca Ruggles and Gina Cawley. The afternoon will include a short presentation, a 15 minute video, interactive exercises and discussion. The speakers will provide additional resources on the topic.

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.

FREE to attend, but donations to Maryland Presbyterian Church are greatly appreciated. For more program info, contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 301-345-2234

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

NWEI Discussion Guides: (SSW) Sustainable Systems at Work; (RE) Reconnecting with Earth; (GW) Global

Warming: Changing CO2urse; (CSL) Choices for Sustainable Living; (DSOP) Discovering a Sense of Place; (HCHP) Healthy Children-Healthy Planet; (MF) Menu for the Future; (VS) Voluntary Simplicity. **Other guides:** (LBP) "Simplicity Lessons" by Linda Breen Pierce; (LCD) "Low Carbon Diet" by David Gershon; (YMOYL) Your Money or Your Life.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Discussion circle books now cost \$20 plus s/h (except SSW, which cost \$35). They should be ordered directly from NWEI. For more info, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/order.php>

We ended the year with a total of 27 circles (224 in total since 2002!). So far, we have started 5 circles and have 4 more circles scheduled for March-- see those with an asterick (*) below, that are open to the public.

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.

VIRGINIA

Vienna, VA (SSW) We are beginning our new discussion circle on **Sunday February 28th**. We will be discussing the new NWEI book on "Sustainable Systems at Work". It will be held on Sundays from 2:00 to 3:30. Anyone interested is invited to call Helene Shore at 703-861-6638 or email at Teachhss@aol.com. This group will meet in Vienna VA, at Blueberry Hill Cohousing Community in a private residence.

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

Channing UU Congregation, Ellicott City (GW), **Intro Mtg: Feb 28, First Session: TBD**, CS: Dot Rockstroh, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Oakland Mills Meeting House (HCHP) **Intro Mtg: Mar 3, First Session: TBD**, CS: Tracy Manning, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Howard County College (GW), **Intro Mtg: TBD**, CS: Margo Duesterhaus, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Kittamaqundi Church (GW), **Intro Mtg: TBD**, CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Howard County Conservancy (GW), **Intro Mtg: TBD**, CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Snowden Overlook (GW), **Intro Mtg: TBD**, CS: Judy Burt, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

"Matchmaker" Circle (CSL), **Intro Mtg: TBD** CS: Lore Rosenthal, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

"Matchmaker" Circle (VS), **Intro Mtg: TBD** CS: Lore Rosenthal, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

"Matchmaker" Circle (GW), **Intro Mtg: TBD** CS: Lore Rosenthal, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

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 "Matchmaker" Circle (CSL), CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Baltimore, Light Street Presbyterian (SSW), CS: Retta Barkley

Baltimore Ethical Society (tbd), CS: Karen Elliott

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

PG County

***Greenbelt Climate Action Network (CSL)** Intro: **Tues, Mar 2**, First Session: **Tues., Mar 16** CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Paint Branch UU Church (VS), CS: Raman Pathik
Paint Branch UU Church (MF), CS: Mary Rooker
Mt. Rainier (VS), CS: Joe Robbins

Montgomery County

Bethesda (RE) I am Still looking for people to join me (Marney) in discussing the new Reconnecting with Earth. Please contact marney@simplicity-matters.org.

***Bethesda (VS) Cedar Lane UU Church** <http://www.cedarlane.org/> **Intro Thurs March 4**, meeting bi-weekly starting **Thurs. March 18**. There is still room! Contact Marney@simplicity-matters.org.

Washington, DC

***Capital Simplicity: Capitol Hill home of Leonardo Neher, Tuesday, March 16, 414 4th St., SE** (short walk from Capitol South & Eastern Market metro stations), 7-8:30 PM, Topic: "A Sense of Place," session 1 of the Discussion Course "Discovering a Sense of Place," focusing on knowing, protecting, and taking responsibility for our geographic area. RSVP required. Contact Pope Barrow, 202-546-3933 & mpb56054@yahoo.com.

Washington, DC, Join the folks of the **Washington Buddhist Peace Fellowship** to discuss diet, climate change and how our spiritual practices relate to and illuminate these issues. Please see our web site www.wbpf.org for more information (events calendar). 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 winter, 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)** www.hococlimatechange.org

Montgomery Co.: CirclesMontgomery@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Prince Georges Co.: CirclesPG@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal)

Washington DC: CirclesDC@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Elsewhere in Maryland or Jefferson Co., WV: Circles@simplicity-matters.org or 301-432-8721 (Lena Rotenberg)

For a list of our **most popular NWEI-published discussion topics**, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/volunteers/forms/7guides.pdf>

If you are **starting your own circle** and would like to have your blurb posted here and on our website, please email it to Lena@simplicity-matters.org

For more info. about our discussion circles, visit our Discussion Circles page, <http://www.simplicitymatters.org/circles>, or email Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

March Events

Mon, Mar 1, Creating a Green Patio...and more!, 6:30-8 pm, SE Anchor Library, Baltimore, MD

There's a simple way to help the Chesapeake Bay while planning your backyard or driveway. Pervious pavers and surfaces offer the simplicity of a patio yet offer a way to reduce storm water run off. Come hear about options for your backyard or driveway from a panel of speakers that will present their experiences with pervious pavers and surfaces. For more information, contact Amanda Smit, asmit@prattlibrary.org, 443-984-3904 or Jenny Michalak at 410-370-6482 or jmichalak@southeastcdc.org. Directions and details at <http://www.prattlibrary.org/locations/southeast/>.

Tues, Mar 2, Canton and Highlandtown Green-Working, 5:30-7:30 pm, The Laughing Pint, Baltimore, MD

This is a neighborhood led gathering. Canton and Highlandtown neighborhoods are teaming up to host a monthly networking event for those interested in greening in our communities. We'll meet the 1st Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm at either The Laughing Pint in Highlandtown or Yellow Dog Tavern in Canton. For more information, contact Amanda Stavelly, astavelly@gmail.com, 2409971267. Directions at <http://www.laughingpint.com/> or <http://yellowdogtavern.biz/>.

Tues, Mar 2, Neighbors of Northwest Branch, program meeting, 7:30-9:15pm, White Oak Library, 11701

New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD (just north of the interchange with US 29, Colesville Rd.). Speaker will be Rob Gibbs of Montgomery County's Dept. of Parks and Planning. Topic will be Wildlife Found in the Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park. All are welcome at no charge. For more information contact John Fay, 301-946-5599, or jhfay@verizon.net; or visit www.neighborsnwb.org.

Wed, Mar 3, Smart Energy Now Town Hall, 7 to 8:30PM – Glen Burnie, MD.

Get smart about your energy costs. Learn what you and the state should do to make energy cleaner, more affordable and more reliable. Featuring a panel of expert speakers including Delegate Beidle and representatives from the Maryland Energy Administration, Green Building Institute and the Alliance for Global Warming Solutions. Contact Keith Harrington, keith@chesapeakeclimate.org, 240-396-1985. RSVP online: www.chesapeakeclimate.org/smartenergy.

Wed-Thurs, Sat, Mar 3-4, 6:30 - 9 pm, Mar 6, 9 am to 1 pm, Tree Planting Class, Washington DC

Learn to plant trees with Casey Trees, evening sessions at Casey Trees office, 1123 11th Street NW, Saturday session is field work at site TBA. Free. Register at ww.caseytrees.org Carol Herwig, cherwig@caseytrees.org, 202-349-1907

Thurs, Mar 4, Compassion Over Killing Benefit at The Vegetable Garden, 11:00 a.m-10:00 p.m, Rockville, MD

Join us at The Vegetable Garden's monthly COK benefit day. Dine in or order take-out and 10% of your bill will be automatically donated to COK. For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net/events.

Thurs, Mar 4, Leafleting with COK and dinner at the Vegetable Garden, 5:30-6:30 pm, Washington, DC

COK will be leafleting at the Tenleytown Metro station before heading to The Vegetable Garden. Help us distribute pro-vegetarian literature and educate the public about the many benefits of a vegetarian diet. For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net/events

Fri, Mar 5, Birdwalk with The Nature Conservancy, 9 -11 am, Hughes Hollow WMA, Montg. Cty, MD

Join us for our first birdwalk of the spring migration season at beautiful Hughes Hollow. No experience necessary! For more information or to sign up, contact Cari Longman, clongman@tnc.org, 301-897-8570.

Sat, Mar 6, Schoolyard Greening Workshops, 9 am – 2 pm, Balt, MD.

Learn how to turn your schoolyard into an engaging educational green space, and meet other Baltimore City educators who are doing the same. RSVP to sandy.robson@parksandpeople.org. Free for all Baltimore City Public School teachers and students, suggested donation \$5 for others. Held at Great Kids Farm, 6601 Baltimore National Pike, 21228

Sat, Mar 6, BASIC VEGETABLE GARDENING, 10am – 12pm, Balt, MD.

Grow it, Eat it! Come learn how to start and maintain a successful vegetable garden at the Waverly Branch Library, 400 E 33rd St, 21218. Win a new copy of either Carrots Love Tomatoes or Roses Love Garlic! FREE, no registration required. For more information, please contact: Sarah Krones, sarah.krones@parksandpeople.org, 410-448-5663x114.

Sat, Mar 6, Tree Baltimore Tree Stewardship workshop, 10 am – noon, Balt, MD. Joseph Lee Park Fieldhouse, 6200 E. Pratt St. <http://playspacefinder.kaboom.org/playspaces/15635-joseph-e-lee-park> This workshop focuses on planting trees and maintenance. Contact Anne Draddy at (410) 396-7900 or treebaltimore@baltimorecity.gov
<http://www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/RecreationandParks/TreeBaltimore.aspx>

Sat, Mar 6, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Ellicott City, MD 21042 (near Centennial Park) Please bring a vegan (NO animal products) dish to share (store bought is fine) for the number in your party plus 8. Bring your own reusable picnic-ware. There will be iced tea and filtered water to drink. Invite friends and the merely curious. Kids welcome! Please RSVP via e-mail to bssorak@yahoo.com or call 410-465-0427

Sun, Mar 7, Smart Energy Now Town Hall, 12:30 – 2PM – Baltimore, MD Get smart about your energy costs. Learn what you and the state should to make energy cleaner, more affordable and more reliable. Featuring a panel of expert speakers including Maryland Assembly Delegates Conway and Matthias and representatives from the Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge and Environment Maryland. Contact Shea Kinser, skinser@environmentmaryland.org. RSVP online: www.chesapeakeclimate.org/smartenergy.

Sun, Mar 7, Smart Energy Now Town Hall, 3 – 5:00PM – Salisbury, MD Get smart about your energy costs. Learn what you and the state should to make energy cleaner, more affordable and more reliable. Featuring a panel of expert speakers including Maryland Assembly Delegates Conway and Matthias and representatives from Home Energy Solutions, and the Sierra Club. Contact Alana Wase, alana.wase@mdsierra.org. RSVP online: www.chesapeakeclimate.org/smartenergy.

Sun, Mar 7, Be Debt Free & Consciously Create Personal Wealth, 1 - 5pm, Eldersburg, MD. Come to the Masonic Freedom Lodge, 2253 Liberty Rd, Eldersburg, MD 21784 (5 miles above Randallstown) and join the Debtguru, John Moore for a fabulous workshop to create a plan to be debt free in 1-2 yrs, pay off your mortgage in 4-5 yrs and begin to create personal wealth. You receive an 18 page workbook-bring calculator and your bills (strictly for your personal use to create your plan) -- Tuition: Voluntary- at the end-- pay what it was worth to you. Iris Sauber, Center Conscious Living, 410-318-8877, reviris@ccccl.org (please put debtfreeworkshop in subject line) or visit: <http://www.ccccl.org> for more info. PLEASE RSVP so we will have adequate materials.

Mon, Mar 8, Growshop Lecture Series on Community Organization, 5:30-8 pm, Baltimore, MD. Lane Victorson, Faculty Field Instructor from Univ. of Maryland School of Social Work will speak on community organization. Event is located at Civic Works, 2701 St. Lo Dr., Baltimore, MD 21213 and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Christina Nutile, bgw@baltimoregreenworks.com, 410-952-0334. For detailed information visit www.baltimoregreenworks.com/events.

Mon, Mar 8, Recycling 2.0, 6-8 pm, Dundalk, MD Think Green, Be Green discussion series sponsored by Southeast Community Development Corporation and Dundalk Renaissance, Dundalk High School, Room 106 For more information please contact Jenny Michalak, Volunteer Maryland Coordinator for the SECDC at jmichalak@southeastcdc.org, 410-370-6482 or 410-342-3234 or go to <http://www.southeastcdc.org> .

Tues, Mar 9, COK Benefit Day at Sticky Fingers Bakery, 7:00 am-8:00 pm, Washington, DC. Want to satisfy your sweet tooth and help us help animals at the same time? Join us for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert and a portion of your bill will be automatically donated towards our efforts to help farmed animals. For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net/events

Wed, Mar 10, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:30 pm, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd. Topic: video "Renewal": An Interfaith Call to Action. RENEWAL is the first feature-length documentary film to capture the vitality and diversity of today's religious-environmental activists. From within their Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Muslim traditions, Americans are becoming caretakers of the Earth. For more info, contact lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234

Thurs, Mar 11, Planning Your Garden for Three Season Growing, 6:30-7:30 pm, Baltimore Contained, Baltimore, MD. Get answers to your questions and focus your upcoming decisions on all things garden. For more information, contact Anne Fleshman, baltimorecontained@gmail.com, 4107327717. Directions at www.baltimorecontained.com.

Sun, Mar 14, Leafleting at the St. Patrick's Day Parade, 11:00 am-12:00 pm, Washington, DC. COK will be leafleting before the 39th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown D.C. We'll be handing out literature and educating parade-goers on how to transition to a more compassionate diet and educate the public about the many benefits of a vegetarian diet. For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net/events

Tues, Mar 16, Introduction to Going Green, 7:00-9:00 pm, Germantown, 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

Wed, Mar 17, Maryland Native Plant Society Baltimore Chapter meeting, 7 pm. Preserving Biodiversity-How Pollinators Benefit. Speaker: Randy Phoebus of the Native Grasslands Conservancy. Irvine Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Rd., Owings Mills, MD 21117. More information: Contact billmorgante@verizon.net.

Thurs, Mar 18, Urban Forest Effects Model Inventory Report, 6:30 - 9 pm, Washington DC. Casey Trees, using the US Forest Service's UFORE model, returned to 200 DC sites this summer to remeasure, reassess a sampling of DC trees. Program is at 1123 11th St. NW. Free. Register at www.caseytrees.org Carol Herwig, cherwig@caseytrees.org, 202-349-1907, www.caseytrees.org

Fri, Mar 19, 2nd Annual Ecoball, 7-11 pm, Baltimore, MD. Guests will enjoy live music by the *Mooks*, free and local food prepared *Top Chef style*, beer and wine--all while supporting BGW's year-round free and low-cost programming. Event is \$75, \$40 with valid student ID, and being held at the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park and Museum, 1417 Thames Street, Baltimore 21231. For more information, contact Christina Nutile, bgw@baltimoregreenworks.com, 410-952-0334. Visit www.baltimoregreenworks.com/ecoball for more details.

Sat, Mar 20, Gardening Workshop, 2-4pm, Baltimore City, MD. Free workshop to develop organic gardening skills. Participants will have the option of working their own plot or using the large communal garden. Topics covered include: soil preparation, planting seeds, weeding, watering, composting, harvesting etc. Located at a community garden at 1100 Forrest St, between Biddle St. and Chase St. Directions and details at <http://freeschool.redemmas.org/content/gardening-workshop>. For more information, contact Scott Berzofsky, scottberzofsky@gmail.com.

Sat, Mar 20 Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium, Alexandria, VA
This profound inquiry into the bold vision of bringing forth and environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and social just human presence on Earth uses lecture, video clips, group exercises, and reflection to help you create your own role in this vision. For more information, contact Susan Trout, btsias@aol.com, (703) 706-5333. Directions and details at www.awakeningthedreamer.org

Sat, Mar 20, Cohousing: Growing Smart Communities, 8:30am-6:30pm University of Maryland School of Architecture, College Park, MD. One day conference! Zev Paiss keynote "Peak Community" and Stan Sersen EnviroCenter & Green Building Institute on sustainability. More programs on permaculture, dynamic governance, meal programs, workshare! Tracks for newbies and Professionals. Contact: Ann Zabaldo, ann@MidAtlanticCohousing.org, 202 291 7892. Directions and details at: www.MidAtlanticCohousing.org

Sat, Mar 20, COK Benefit at Java Green, 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Washington, DC. Support COK while enjoying delicious cruelty-free fare and socializing with other activists! Please join us at the monthly Java Green funding day on the third Saturday of every month, when a portion of your bill will benefit COK. For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net/events

Sun, Mar 21, Spring Equinox Service, 5 PM, Bethesda, MD, River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation's building, Directions at www.ruuuc.org. Is balance a still point we can find in the continual momentum of belonging to life on Earth? Please, bring finger food &/or drinks to share. All over age 10 welcome. Helen Popenoe 301/229-0549

Sun, Mar 21, Environmental Landscaping, 1:00-3:00 pm, Westminster, MD Learn how to plan a design that works effectively with natural site layout and, at the same time, assists with the heating and cooling needs of the structure. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Sun, Mar 21, "Fresh" movie showing with farmer Joel Salatin and director Ana Joanes, 6:00 pm, Annapolis, MD

The movie "Fresh" (about local food) will be shown at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis on Sunday, March 21. There are 2 screenings, with a limit of 250 for each--and the first one has sold out. "Fresh" is a "documentary that celebrates the farmers, thinkers, and business people across America who are re-inventing our food system." This is a ticketed event; to order tickets for the 6:00 show, go to <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/96841> Ticket holders can visit the vendor fair before the show (it will be closed afterward the 6:00 show). Parking will be VERY tight so please car pool.

To read more about it, see <http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/omkara/2010/jan/22/time-get-fresh-annapolis/>

Mon, Mar 22, Sustainability for 2010, 6 – 7:30pm. Think Green, Be Green discussion series sponsored by Southeast Community Development Corporation and Dundalk Renaissance. Location to come. For more information please contact Jenny Michalak, Volunteer Maryland Coordinator for the SECD at jmichalak@southeastcdc.org, 410-370-6482 or 410-342-3234. For more information please go to http://www.southeastcdc.org/index.cfm?go=events.showEventDetails&catid=12&event_ID=430.

Mar 22 - 27, HERS Training for Energy Auditing, 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Jessup, MD This class includes a thorough review of basic energy concepts, hands on field experience with blower door and duct blaster, and instruction on performing a complete home energy rating using REM/Rate energy modeling software. This course is designed to prepare students to conduct a field rating, blower door and duct leakage test in the presence of a trainer on Day 5, and to sit for the optional RESNET National HERS Rater Exam offered on Day 6. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Wed, Mar 24, Rain Barrels and Raingardens, 7:00-9:00 pm, Germantown, MD Learn how to use rain barrel systems to transport rainfall from your roof and store it for use in landscape irrigation and outdoor water features. The class will also cover how to build and maintain a rain garden filled with soil and plants designed to infiltrate rainwater and attract butterflies and birds. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Thurs, Mar 25, Tree Summit, 8 am to 4 pm, Washington DC. A look at the state of DC's urban tree canopy and strategies to increase it. Washington Council of Governments, 777 North Capitol Street NE. \$40 includes lunch and morning and afternoon break service. Register at www.caseytrees.org Carol Herwig, cherwig@caseytrees.org, 202-349-1907, www.caseytrees.org

Sat. Mar 27, A slide lecture: An Eco-History of the Harper's Ferry Region. 3:30 to 4:30 PM at the Fairfax UU Church in Oakton, VA. Join Hayden Mathews of EcoStewards Alliance and River Stories for an illustrated talk on four very special sites near Harpers Ferry, WV that will afford you new eyes with which to view regional eco-history. Tickets \$20 Adult; \$10 children with discounts for early bird reservations. Reservation cut-off date is 24 March. Go to www.bayhistory.net or email Hayden Mathews at riverstories@comcast.net for more detailed information.

Tues, Mar 30, Maryland Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting, 7:30pm. White Oak Library. Vernal pools are temporary wetlands found in many stream valleys and upland forests. These special places are critical breeding grounds for many of our amphibians such as wood frogs and marbled salamanders. Karyn Molines will discuss the hydrological characteristics and plant communities of vernal pools and key facets of amphibian life cycles that require vernal pools. Location: Large meeting room. For more information and directions go to www.mdflora.org

Wed, Mar 31, Treescape Design Workshop, Washington DC. DC homeowners can get tree design and species help for their yards, including siting for maximum benefits. Participants receive a free tree. At 1123 11th Street NW. Free. Register at www.caseytrees.org. Carol Herwig, cherwig@caseytrees.org, 202-349-1907

Wed, Mar 31, Home Energy Audits, 7:00-9:00 pm, Germantown, MD Learn what questions to ask to effectively select an auditor and to get the most out of their services. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

APRIL PREVIEW & BEYOND

Fri, Apr 2 – 7TH ANNUAL ECOFEST REGISTRATIONS DUE – REGISTER TODAY!

Location and Time TBA EcoFest is a one day festival celebrating the advent of Baltimore Green Week. Thousands of visitors come out to hear live local music, learn yoga, take a bike ride and visit with local green vendors and exhibitors. For more information on how you can participate, go to www.baltimoregreenworks.com/events/ecofestival/

Sat, Apr 3, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Ellicott City, MD 21042 (near Centennial Park) Please bring a vegan (NO animal products) dish to share (store bought is fine) for the number in your party plus 8. Bring your own reusable picnic-ware. There will be iced tea and filtered water to drink. Invite friends and the merely curious. Kids welcome! Please RSVP via e-mail to bssorak@yahoo.com or call 410-465-0427

Wed, Apr 7, Will Your Tree Survive Snowmageddon? Workshop, 6:30-9PM, Washington DC. Record snows in February did major damage to some trees in the Washington, D.C. area. How do you assess your trees for damage? What types of damage may your trees be susceptible to going forward? Learn about reading the body language of trees, what types of damage can be fixed and what ones cannot, what risks any existing damage pose, and what the “big melt” may mean for your trees. 1123 11th Street NW, Event is free, pre-registration is required. Contact 202-833-4010 or go to website www.caseytrees.org to register, directions or detailed info.

Sat. Apr 10, An Eco-History Car Tour of the Harper’s Ferry Region. 8:30 to 5PM beginning at the Point of Rocks, MARC Station, MD. Bring your car and join Hayden Mathews of EcoStewards Alliance and River Stories for an in depth tour of four very special sites near Harpers Ferry, WV that will open new doors of appreciation for the Piedmont. Tickets \$40 Adult; \$15 Children with discounts for early bird reservations and special discount for combo with lecture. Reservation cut-off date is 03 April. Go to www.bayhistory.net or email Hayden Mathews at riverstories@comcast.net for more detailed information.

Sat, Apr 10, BASIC VEGETABLE GARDENING, 10am – 12pm, Balt, MD. Grow it, Eat it! Come learn how to start and maintain a successful vegetable garden at the Waverly Branch Library, 400 E 33rd St, 21218. Win a new copy of either Carrots Love Tomatoes or Roses Love Garlic! FREE, no registration required. For more information, please contact: Sarah Kroner, sarah.kroner@parksandpeople.org, 410-448-5663x114.

Sat, Apr 10, Ecological Home Design Workshop, 9am - 6pm, Takoma Park, MD. Explore the full creative process to create an ecologically responsive home (or addition). This workshop is held at a home built following these practices. For more information, contact bill@HeliconWorks.com, or visit www.HeliconWorks.com

Sun, Apr 18, Earth Forum of Howard County, 3- 5:30 pm, Columbia, MD

Sat, Apr 24, Community Book & Yard Sale, 8am-2pm, Eldersburg, MD.

We have hundreds of gently used books, cds and movies as well as household items to sell. ALL are welcome (many of the books have a spiritual flavor) at the Masonic Freedom Lodge, 2253 Liberty Rd. Eldersburg, MD 21784 (5 miles above Randallstown) Need info: Iris 410-318-8877, visit <http://www.ccccl.org> Sponsored by Center for Conscious Living. We are a 501C3 spiritual community, supporting personal and global transformation and peace, this is our annual fundraiser. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sat, Apr 24, Earth Day Anacostia River Cleanup & Celebration, 8:30 am - 2:00 pm, 30+ cleanup sites in DC and MD Join the Anacostia Watershed Society as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and help clean up the Anacostia River! Volunteers will be participating in a massive trash cleanup at 30+ sites along the shores of the Anacostia River in the District of Columbia and several upstream tributaries in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties in Maryland. An Earth Day Celebration will follow the morning cleanup at Seafarers

Yacht Club in DC featuring free food, music and presentations by government officials. For volunteer registration and more information, visit: www.anacostiaaws.org.

Sat, May 8, An Eco-History Tour of Calvert County, MD. 8:00 to 6:00 PM beginning/ending at Oakton High School and the Vienna Metro Station (Orange Line). Join EcoStewards Alliance and River Stories on a 55 passenger A/C bus w/ lavatory for an eye-opening day trip to the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Calvert Marine Museum, and Flag Ponds Beach. This will be the last time ESA offers this very popular trip. Tickets \$85 Adult; \$45 children with discounts for early bird reservation. Go to www.bayhistory.net or email Hayden Mathews at riverstories@comcast.net for more detailed information.

Sat. May 22, The Maryland Heartland Sustainable Living Fair, Carroll County Farm Museum 500 S. Center St. Westminster, Md. 21157, 9am to 4pm. Promotes eco-friendly lifestyles, viz: renewable energy, green building, organic foods, sustainable living products and more. Contact Dan Andrews, 410-857-4129, dooze@qis.net, Cost is very reasonable and please visit: sustainablelivingmd.org

Action Opportunities and Tidbits

REDUCE UNWANTED CATALOGS THRU CATALOG CHOICE

Imagine the trees, energy, and waste saved if everyone in your neighborhood stopped receiving unwanted mail. Show your community how easy it is to reduce waste with Catalog Choice. <http://www.catalogchoice.org/> Post our 8.5"x11" flyer in your local coffee shop, workplace, school, or anywhere there's a community message board. http://docs.catalogchoice.org/catalog_choice_poster.pdf

We'd love to see where our flyer's displayed. Find the perfect spot, take a photo, and send it in an email to post@catalogchoice.posterous.com with any message to share with Catalog Choice members. It will be posted on our new community blog.