

Greater Patapsco Community Association  
General Meeting  
April 13, 2009

The meeting was opened by President, Ralph Wright at 7:40pm.

Secretary Cathy Wolfson read the March 9, 2009 general meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Those present were asked if there were any objections to recording the proceedings to aid in the transcription of the minutes. Hearing none, the meeting was recorded.

There were 30 members in attendance.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Beginning Balance Mar 9, 2009	\$3,974.09
Income	3,136.00
Disbursements	( 224.39)
Ending Balance April 13, 2009	<u>\$6,885.70</u>
Balance in Savings	\$5,529.28

GPCA MD Dept. of Assessment and Taxation Personal Property Return was filed on April 6, 2009.

Financial Report was unanimously accepted.

No old business was discussed.

### **New Business**

Ralph recognized Peter Malinovsky of Granite Road. Peter reported that his vehicle as well as that of a neighbor had been vandalized during the night of April 9. The police were called but could not locate the perpetrators. Peter recommended that vehicles be parked as far from roadside as possible to discourage such incidents.

Ralph recognized Dale Feidler who noted that a young lady should be thanked who he has seen regularly policing for litter along Offutt Road near Granite Road.

Cathy noted that a Public Input Meeting addressing the Rural Areas Amendment to the Master Plan would be held on 05/19/2009 at St. Thomas Church in Owings

Mills. The current Master Plan expires in 2010. It is time to begin considering how our community may look in 2020.

## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

Rob Dyke, Area Manager of the northern area of Patapsco Valley State Park gave an overview of the park which included it's geography, good neighbor policy and activities.

Patapsco Valley State Park is a 20,000 acre, 32 mile long park predominantly comprised of the Patapsco River valleys and runs from the Morgan Run natural environmental area in Carroll County through Howard and Baltimore counties before terminating near Hammonds Ferry Road in Anne Arundel. Outside of the river valleys, Soldiers Delight natural environmental area is also part of the Patapsco Park system.

The McKeldin area is served by 5 year round personnel and hires additional staff for the summer. Activities include hiking and horseback riding trails, and a challenging frisbee golf course. Picnic shelters are available for rent and a campground is located near the rapids. The park system is implementing a no alcohol policy after November of 2009 except by permit in the larger picnic shelters. Currently alcohol is permitted inside the shelters and in the campground only.

ATVs (all terrain vehicles) are prohitod within the park system boundaries. ATVs are banned because their tracks leave a wider footprint which degradates trails with excessive erosion. Further, the noise created by ATVs is incompatible with the natural experience sought by the majority of park visitors. Anyone witnessing ATV activity within the park is encouraged to call 1-800-825-PARK (7275) or 911.

This year the park system will be marking park boundaries with white signs and yellow stripes on trees. Trail users as well as homeowners, whose property borders the park may notice this activity.

Mr. Dyke noted that bordering homeowners commonly access the park through backyard trails. While these "rogue trails" seem harmless, they are strongly discouraged because they foster the spread of invasive plant species and lead non resident park users to private lands .

All park locations are open 7 days a week from 9am to sunset. The park offers a wide range of activities and interpretive programs including monthly stargazing on the night of the new moon at Soldiers Delight.

The 2009 calender of events and more information regarding the park are available in the current issue of the park newsletter *The Patapsco Tributaries* online at:

[http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/spring\\_summer\\_2009\\_tributary\\_pub.pdf](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/spring_summer_2009_tributary_pub.pdf)

Contact information for the park is:

Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Patapsco Valley State Park  
8020 Baltimore National Pike  
Phone: 410-461-5005  
Fax: 410-418-9750  
Email: park-patapsco@dnr.state.md.us

Our next speaker was ~~Kerry~~Kerry~~Kerry~~Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plants Specialist for the MD Dept of Natural Resources (DNR) who informed the group about the virulent spread of wavyleaf basketgrass (WLBG).



Drawing by Rachel Wolfson

As a recently introduced grass species, *Oplismenus hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius* has the potential to become an aggressive invader of mid-Atlantic forests. Wavyleaf basketgrass was first detected in the Patapsco River State Park in 1996. Since its detection in 1996 it now densely covers 200 acres and is scattered throughout as much as 1000 acres in the park and last year it was found in Little Paint Branch Park in Prince Georges county. Previously unknown in the US it was confirmed by scientists at the Smithsonian Institute as a subspecies of a tropical plant. It is thought that it may have originated as an discarded exotic househanging basket plant at the Hernwood Landfill—, but the results of ongoing genetic work will provide more information about its origin.

WLBG is a shade tolerant, low-lying, trailing perennial grass, branching and rooting at nodes along creeping stems like strawberries. The leaf blades are flat, about ½ to 1" wide and between 1½ and 4" long, deep green with rippling waves across the grass. They have elongated pointed tips. The leaf sheaths and stems are distinguished by ¼" long hairs. It blooms from mid-September well into November, on very long awns (extended pointed tips) which produce a sticky substance that allows the grass seed to adhere to anything passing by and so become widely dispersed.

**If you walk, run, bicycle, horseback ride or pass through a patch of this grass anytime between late August and late November, the seeds will stick to your pants,**

**boots and vehicle and can be moved to new uninvaded locations. Please take precautions during that time of year.**

WLBG can be removed successfully by hand weeding or by treating with 1-2% glyphosate such as Roundup™.

We are at GROUND ZERO for this invasion. Kerrie will be organizing a WLBG “weed pull” in late summer. Stay tuned for details on how GPCA can participate in this event.

More information may be found at:

[http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/wl\\_basketgrass.asp](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/wl_basketgrass.asp)

For questions or comments, or if you have seen this grass or have it on your property, please contact:

Kerrie Kyde  
Habitat Ecologist/ Invasive Plant Specialist MD DNR  
kkyde@dnr.state.md.us  
301/948-8243

Ralph asked for further comments. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting which was seconded and accepted. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.