



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #378

GPCA Newsletter

May 2018

Next Meeting: Monday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.

Open Forum: Join us and share your concerns about our community

GPCA General Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, except July & August, at the Granite Presbyterian Church. Everyone is invited to attend.

GPCA Adopts a Highway

GPCA has renewed our association with the Maryland State Highway Administration's Adopt-A-Highway program. The program covers only state roads which for the GPCA area means Maryland 125, Old Court Road, between the Patapsco River and Brice's Run.

SHA will post signs at those locations stating "This Highway has Been Adopted by GPCA" and provide us with hi-vis vests and two 4-foot by 4-foot SWAT (Stop Waste and Trash) signs to be used on cleanup days to alert drivers that volunteers are working in the area. SHA also provides trash bags and will pick up those bags during their normal business hours following the cleanup. In return we must perform four cleanups each year and watch their video which may be viewed by searching MDSHA Adopt-A-Highway Safety Video on YouTube.

Four cleanups sound like a lot but, our first annual community cleanup is complete and the remaining three will be dedicated only to that portion of Old Court Road maintained by the state and not in front of residences. Stay tuned for scheduling.

Thanks Oddfellows

The Baltimore Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) [lodge #57 \(10613 Old Court Rd\)](#) has given GPCA a much appreciated donation as well as providing beverages for the annual GPCA clean up. The generous \$250 contribution will be used to offset the cost of publishing our newsletters.

Thank you Lodge 57 for supporting the community and Don Hamilton for his coordination of the contributions. More information about the IOOF is available at the monthly meeting.

June 26, Gubernatorial Primary

The race is on for all state and local offices, from the Governor to the School Board. There is no incumbent candidate for County Executive so this year there'll be a changing of the guard in county government. To find out where to vote or what district you're in visit voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch or call the board of elections at 800-222-8683. Early voting runs June 14-21, 10 am to 8 pm at the Randallstown Community Center.

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From the President:

We had a glitch in our cleanup plans when dire weather predictions caused us to postpone on short notice and we apologize. The county and state do not permit their employees to work on the roadsides in inclement weather due to the increased risk of accidents on slick roadways. Our decision was made not to expose our volunteers to that same hazard. However, in the future, if you arrive at St. Alphonsus and there are no dumpsters and nowhere to sign in, assume the cleanup is cancelled for that day. A brown sofa bed, two light boxes, carpet padding, frames, and other debris were left on the parking lot and had to be loaded on a pickup (sofa beds are very heavy) and taken to the Hollins Ferry landfill in response to an alert from the church.

I'm writing this well before the April 28 cleanup, but know there are plenty of residents to thank including Carol Link for scheduling the dumpsters and coordinating everything (twice!), our volunteers who make the snacks, pick up the trash and those who patrol the area collecting the filled bags and making sure everyone is hydrated and has a hi-visibility vest. Special thanks this year to the International Order of Odd Fellows for providing water for the clean up crews and to FL Cooke and Sons for donating the use of 10 "Be Prepared to Stop" signs. This year we applied the "Clean Up & Green Up MD Grant we received from the MD Environmental Trust to pay for slow moving flagging setups to shield the Stirns Garage crew on Dogwood Rd. and Rashein Gibbs' Job Corps crew on Ridge Rd., two of our heaviest travelled roads.

The League of Women Voters is hosting a forum for 4th district school board candidates at the Randallstown Library on May 14 beginning at 7:00 PM. While it conflicts with our meeting date I strongly encourage you to attend and be informed about who will represent us on the board.

I'll close with this inter-species encounter Carl and I witnessed on a recent Sunday morning at our place. A fox was passing through our pasture and encountered our Percheron, Byrd, in its path. Not unusual, but the fox walked right up to this 1,500 pound horse, then dodged and darted all around her

like a pup as she trotted back and forth with it in turn. Wish our own species could get along as well!!

Enjoy this long awaited spring and Happy Mothers Day!

Cathy Wolfson, President GPCA

Special Thanks To:

Paul Dorsey for **printing** the Newsletter each month. **Collators:** Maribeth Diemer, Lisa Libowitz and Bob Teller. **Folders:** Eileen Ciechanowski, Sandy Fallin, Evalyn Garvin, Marty Kelly, Murf Moorefield, Kathy & Barbie Skullney, and Bobbie Stanfield.

Picnic Alert: Mark Your Calendar

Representatives of the GPCA have reserved the same pavilion as last year (site # 501 in the McKeldin Area) for the **2018 GPCA Picnic**. Mark **Saturday, October 6, 2018** on your calendar and plan to attend the annual festivity at Patapsco Valley State Park.

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Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC) Spring Brings Greater Patapsco Redbuds

Take a drive this springtime down Dogwood from Hollifield to Ridge Road, and you will be awe struck by the native redbuds that color the roadside forest. Stunning magenta blossoms appear along the bare branches before the green foliage emerges. This native tree makes its dazzling appearance, and then shyly recedes into the woodland margins until next spring. Anyone living along that stretch of road is aware of what redbuds are all about.

Cercis canadensis, commonly called Eastern Redbud, is a deciduous, understory tree with a rounded crown, multiple trunks, and grows about 20 feet tall.

What I like best about my beautiful Eastern Redbud is that it was a gift from our friends, Steve and Karen. Passing their house in the spring, I can see their grand old redbud in full bloom; a testimony to our friendship, our families, and our shared memories.

Redbuds are easy to transplant; they grow fast. We planted ours 15 years ago as a bare-root sapling. Now, it stands 15 feet tall with spreading branches.

A mature redbud puts out lots of seedlings, making it a perfect gift-giving tree. Dig up a small sapling with a generous root ball, place it in a container with soil, add some attractive mulch on top, and give it away. Give it to parents of college graduates. Give it to new parents. It will grow, reminding them of joys and accomplishments. How appropriate that the leaves of the redbud are heart shaped!

The only negative about the redbud is its name! “Redbud” is too banal. Magenta comes closer to capturing the stunning hue of this delicate blossom. The heart-shaped leaves remind me that honeybees love this tree! Pollinators benefit from the redbud as a source of nectar. Honeybees tap each blossom, storing the nectar to take back to the hive to convert into honey.

Trees such as the tulip, black locust, linden, blackgum, and redbud are among the major sources of nectar for honeybees in our area and deserve to be called the “giving trees” of the Greater Patapsco. But the most flamboyant of all these native trees is the Eastern Redbud.

Carol Link

Rain Gardens at April's Meeting

For our April meeting topic, Rain Gardens, we were fortunate to have Stan Kollar of Kollar Nurseries, Pylesville MD, as our speaker. A rain garden is an attractive and elegant method of reducing storm water runoff and promoting native species. Mr. Kollar showed a variety of rain gardens and some hardy, low maintenance native plants recommended for rain garden plantings.

A rain garden is a planted depression that allows rainwater to runoff from impervious surfaces, roofs, walkways, driveways, streets, and compacted lawns, and to be absorbed, thereby recharging groundwater instead of carrying sediment and pollution into nearby streams and bodies of water.

Rain gardens reduce storm water runoff by allowing rainwater to soak into the ground instead of running into streams and rivers. The rain garden improves water quality of nearby bodies of water by providing groundwater for plants instead of contributing to erosion and water pollution from storm water draining directly into storm drains, streams, and rivers. Rain gardens can and should be designed for specific soils and climates by using native trees, shrubs, perennials, especially flowering perennials to display the native beauty. The plants soak up excess water flowing into the rain garden. Native plants, suited to the specific soil, can simply be planted in a depression, or additional drainage may need to be added to create a soil absorption/filter system.

A rain garden can cut down the amount of pollution reaching streams by up to 30 percent. The plants—a selection of wetland edge vegetation, wildflowers, sedges, rushes, ferns, shrubs, and small trees—take up excess water flowing into the garden. Water filters through soil layers before entering the groundwater system. Deep plant roots create additional channels to filter into the ground.

In developed areas, storm water is directed into storm drains that can cause pollution and flooding. Redirected storm water is often warmer than the groundwater normally feeding a stream and can harm fish and other parts of aquatic ecosystems. Rain gardens capture the initial flow of storm water and reduce the accumulations of toxins flowing directly into natural waterways. (continued on page 4)

Rain Gardens at April's Meeting (continued)

Any shallow garden depression used to capture and retain rainwater within the garden without running off, can be considered a rain garden, especially if vegetation is maintained to promote its role in this function. Rain gardens are often located near a structure's roof drainpipes. Most rain gardens are designed to be an endpoint of drainage with a capacity to percolate all incoming water through a series of soil or gravel layers beneath the surface plantings. Special drains may be used to direct rainwater to an overflow location for heavier rain events. Rain gardens lessen the harmful effects of development, provide habitat for birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects; and contribute a benefit to the environment. The GPCA thanks Mr. Kollar for his helpful environmental presentation.

Denise Maranto

Rain Gardens' Redux

Thanks again to Stan Kollar, of Kollar Nurseries, in Pylesville MD, for promoting the idea and utility of rain gardens. Mr. Kollar provided the attendees with a list of lesser-known native plants that are suited for sun/shade rain gardens. Visit his website for the list and other information.
www.Kollarnursery.com

In our April issue, we posted information about rain gardens, which we present again, just in case you missed it last month.

The Bay-Wise Master Gardeners, in conjunction with Howard County, have installed a demonstration Rain Garden at the Alpha Ridge Landfill. For educational information and garden designs suitable for home landscapes. Also, check out these documents and presentations on the UMD extension website:

Maryland Rain Gardens (includes an illustrated how to 52-page booklet):

https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/articles/Rain_Gardens_Across_MD.pdf

How to certify your yard as "Bay Wise":

http://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/programs/baywise/Baywise_5pager_06_17_14_FINAL.pdf

MAY IS MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

LOOK TWICE SAVE A LIFE!

Membership Renewals

2018 Joint Renewals: Brown, Christopher and Jacqueline; Carr, Dick and Kimberly; Chellis, Charles and Paulette; Fowlkes, Debby and Stacey; Jones, Dave and Susan; Libowitz, Steve and Lisa; Link, Bill and Carol; Omlor, Charles and Mary; Osbourne, Scott and Margaret; Stesch, Paul and Nanette

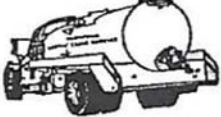
2018 Single Renewals: Farmer, Dorothy; Mayoral, Leo; Wilking, Lisa



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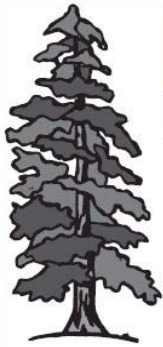
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