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GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC

Issue # 430

GPCA Newsletter

October 2023



GPCA General Meeting

Monday, **October 9**, 7:00 PM

@

Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church

10637 Old Court Road

Guest Speaker:

Officer Kristie Makowiecki

and

the Woodlawn Precinct Community Outreach Team

The topics of concern as generally expressed by our members as most important are:

- Traffic (obviously) and the challenge of qualifying for controls
- Oversized trucks following GPS & then jamming our small roads
- Roadwork impacts
- Difficulties typical to our rural area : offroad bikes, vehicles, gunfire, illegal hunting, dumping

Be sure to join us to connect with our local Baltimore Co. Police Precinct.

.....
IMPORTANT NOTE!: GPCA Annual PICNIC date has changed to October 21! Historic Nike Missile Site & CAP Headquarters – 1pm til 5pm, Hernwood Road. Details below.
.....

Upcoming Meetings:

November 13 – Lt. Col. Brenda A. Reed, Maryland Civil Air Patrol, Granite Cadet Squadron (Youth Program)

December 11 - GPCA Holiday Celebration
.....

From Last General Meeting

9/11: One 1st Responder's Experience & Aftermath

Our Guest Speaker at the September meeting was Lauren Schuler, First Responder Retired FBI Special Agent, Lauren Schuler shared her courageous and inspirational story regarding the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and deployment to the Pentagon. While performing her duties, she and other First Responders were exposed to toxic fumes that caused horrific health problems. Lauren's bravery and heroic recovery continues daily. A list of resources was shared to support those affected by the long-term impact of 9/11.

~ Kathy Skullney

President's Note



October Greetings fellow Members, Friends and Neighbors.

As the temperature cools and the days fade, how lovely to see Fall colors emerge. And we seem to be having an acorn bumper crop! For the first time in over 20 years, our certified Wye Oak has more acorns than the squirrels can grab. We hope all your oaks are doing that well, too.

We continue to focus and emphasize our place in Baltimore County, and how to protect and enhance our community through the programs and services the County provides. One of the most important connections/resources for community safety and well-being is our local Baltimore County Police, located at the Woodlawn Station Precinct. We are very pleased to have their Community Outreach Team join us.

As always, we are committed to providing a good forum to address the larger

community concerns of our members and neighbors; and we can never say it enough: our guiding belief is that we are all part of the same community and the more ways we can all get together, the more voices we have, the better! Staying informed and engaged is one of our greatest strengths.

Please join with us on October 9th!

~ Kathy Skullney, GPCA President

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ksskullney@verizon.net

From the Editor's Desk



I have always harbored a special admiration for bamboo. Patches of green bamboo groves dotted the countryside where I grew up. I loved the crisp bright green color of the bamboo leaves in the Spring and I was always enchanted by the graceful swaying of the bamboo canes in the gentle breeze. Because of its grace, strength and indomitable growing power, bamboo is often featured in Chinese ancient paintings and poems as its character exemplified the great virtues of a noble gentleman in Chinese culture.

Sadly, upon being transplanted in North America, bamboo's firm and indomitable growth characteristics have earned it the notorious label as "Invasive" species. As a fellow transplant myself, I do declare my love of bamboo has not been diminished by its tainted reputation on our shores.



Members of the GPCA Small Watershed Committee (SWCC) organized an invasive bamboo clearing on October 1st. Patrik and I joined the effort on early Sunday morning. We happily (ahem, those who had to carry and load the cumbersome bamboo canes may disagree!) took a truckload of my beloved bamboo canes home. The secret of controlling bamboo growth is to remove the shoots and thin the canes regularly. Bamboo has a wide range of potential uses in our daily lives. Bamboo shoots are edible (not all species, just ask panda bears), bamboo leaves are used in many ways in Asian cuisine. Bamboo canes can be made into cups, holders, fences, garden stakes, and furniture. Bamboo pulp can be processed to make paper and textiles for clothing. I look forward to using these bamboo canes for my climbing

cucumber and bean plants in my vegetable garden next year.

A portion of the bamboo canes we cleared out are left at the pull-out area opposite Edrich Saw Mill. Please feel free to take them home and use them before the County pick them up. I hope you will also grow to appreciate bamboo and admire its grace and strength and make good use of its indomitable growth.

~ Ru-ching Hsia
Editor, GPCA Newsletter



GPCA By-Laws direct us to hold annual elections at our January general meeting. To be eligible to serve on the Executive Board candidates must be members of GPCA for a minimum of 6 months immediately preceding the election.

Officers are elected for a one year term. The president may serve for 2 consecutive one year terms and may again become eligible after a one year lapse. Directors serve for 3 year terms and may again become eligible after a one year lapse. This election cycle Director Lisa Charzsyn's 3 year term expires creating a vacancy for that office. There are no term limits for other officers.

Current Officers and Directors:

President – **Kathy Skullney** – 1st year term expires January 2024

Vice President – **Butch Oakman**, term expires January 2024, no term limit

Secretary – **Pam Brock**, term expires January 2024, no term limit

Treasurer – **Cathy Wolfson**, term expires January 2024, no term limit

Director – **Lisa Charzsyn**, 3 year term expires January 2024

Director – **Zulma Santiago**, 3 year term expires January 2025

Director – **Ralph Wright**, 3 year term expires January 2026

What's the commitment? In addition to attending GPCA's General Meetings on the 2nds Monday September to June the Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm via Zoom. All Officers and Directors shall contribute impartially to decisions of the board and support the objectives of GPCA which per our By-Laws are:

“To preserve and enhance the tranquility and beauty of our rural environment and to encourage orderly and positive growth of the community within the framework of prescribed regulations and laws. The Association shall provide a forum for all residents to express their concerns and interests and shall attempt to provide informative and interesting programs that will keep members informed and better able to address any of their concerns or problems. The Association's objective is also to foster a spirit of community among the residents.”

Nominations of candidates are being taken at this time and will continue until the election when nominations will be taken from the floor (even the virtual floor). If you're interested in serving on the board, would like to nominate a candidate or have any questions about the process please contact me, Cathy Wolfson, Nominating Committee Chair at 410-245-8708 or oakknob@comcast.net. Not ready to make the commitment but want to be involved? Consider serving on the Nominating Committee, we need 2 volunteers!

~ Cathy Wolfson
Chair, Nominating Committee
Treasurer

GPCA Annual Picnic

October 21st 1 - 5 PM

Maryland Wing CAP Headquarters & Nike Missile Historic Site



We heartily invite all our members, neighbors and friends! We have access to one of the on-site buildings for sheltered seating, and other facility necessities. Bring a dish to share, outdoor chairs, and any other fun picnic “stuff” you’d like to share (but please, we are not able to accommodate pets). We will provide grilled meats and all necessary accessories, including ice. There will be games

and guided tours of the very special historic site of famous NIKE Missiles.

Don't miss this great event!

~ Kathy Skullney

What's happening in your HOA, along your roads or near you?

Let your community know!

~ Kathy Skullney

Lanternflies - An Alternate View

[FOR THE LOVE OF INSECTS](#)

STOP SQUISHING SPOTTED
LANTERNFLIES

[SEPTEMBER 14, 2023](#)

[NANCY LAWSON](#)

humanegardner.com



Spotted lanternfly, Photo: Lawrence Barringer,
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, bugwood.org

They're not the monsters they were once made out to be, and stepping on them isn't effective. So why are people still unleashing their fury on spotted lanternflies, and what should we be doing instead?

Spotted lanternflies have not lived up to their foreshadowed reputation. In early 2022, Penn State published an [article dispelling the myths](#) that had grown up around them, advising readers that lanternflies rarely kill trees. In August, researchers there published results showing that so far, the [insects have not caused nearly as much damage to hardwood trees](#) as once feared. " ... [I]n a natural setting where the insects are constantly on the move," they wrote, "we would not expect significant negative impacts on forest or ornamental trees."

Other entomologists and ecologists have admitted as much too, yet in a recent [New York Times piece](#), they still defended their mass-squishing campaigns. Cornell University entomologist Daniel Gilrein noted there was scant evidence that stomping would reduce populations in any significant way, wrote *Times* reporter Claire Fahy, "but he noted that the communal effort 'helps

engage the public' and leads people to feel 'somewhat empowered.' ”

Check out the whole article and decide for yourself.

~Laurie Donnelly

Community Events

Community Updates & Reminder

Woodstock Job Corps

As of October 1, Equus Workforce Solutions has taken over management of the Woodstock Job Corps. Stay tuned for more information.

St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus 16th Annual Bull and Oyster Roast - Nov. 11, 5:30-9:00, fees

Serenity Ridge Community Introduction and Gathering - Oct. 20-22

Reminder!! – Baltimore County Plastic Bag Ban begins November 1st

Reusable bags will be handed out at the General Meeting, and are available from the County.

Serenity Ridge Natural Burial Cemetery & Arboretum Wildflower Planting and Invasive Plant Removal



June 10th, 2023

Back in June, several members of the Greater Patapsco Community Association (GPCA) and broader Baltimore County community assisted with an environmental stewardship event in partnership with Patapsco Heritage Greenway and Serenity Ridge Natural Burial Cemetery and Arboretum. The natural burial cemetery is the first of its kind in the state and opened in December. It is located in Windsor Mill, a neighborhood of the GPCA.

Together, 18 volunteers contributed a total of 54 hours on Saturday, June 10th. Participants assisted with two projects: 1) installing a native wildflower garden at the front of the cemetery for families to cut fresh flowers for graves of loved ones, and 2) removal of invasive plants farther back on the property along the entrance to new trailheads for visitors.



The cemetery is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm. With help from volunteers, this family-owned natural burial site hopes to be a place where community members can enjoy the tranquility of its 80+ acres through rolling meadows, woods, wildflower gardens, and hiking trails.

Getting to this point was not an easy task, as volunteers can attest from the June 10th event. Removing invasive plants is a challenge. These species overwhelm habitat and take over native species. While individual plants may be easy to pull and uproot, the collective number of plants is a task for an army. With the dedication of volunteers, slowly but surely we will provide more sunlight, space, and habitat for native plants to thrive.

The soil where the group installed the wildflower garden was riddled with rocks and gravel, likely remnants from former uses of the site. Thanks to Bob Teller and his gas-powered tiller, we were able to soften the earth in preparation for seed. After clearing weeds, rocks, and turning over as much of the first layer of soil as possible, volunteers spread a mix of native wildflower seed and covered the seed with compost and straw to promote growth and prevent seed from blowing away. The garden was watered a couple days later with the help of mother nature.

Patapsco Heritage Greenway staff recently visited Serenity Ridge to check on these projects. As with all invasive species, they require constant management and mitigation. Much to our surprise, the wildflower garden is flourishing (See picture on the top of this article)!. All who attended the initial event were skeptical if the seed would be able to take root in such compact soil, but nature prevailed. Our sincere thanks to everyone involved in this effort on a very hot, summer day!

PHG will be assisting with more stewardship efforts at Serenity Ridge this upcoming fall and spring. You can find a list of volunteer opportunities, to include events at Serenity Ridge, on the Patapsco Heritage Greenway [website calendar](#) or [Eventbrite page](#).

To view all photos from the June 10th event, visit [this link](#).

~ Rachel Pierson
Community Programs Coordinator
Patapsco Heritage Greenway
www.patapsco.org
410-696-1328 ext. 4



IN CONCERT, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023, 7 p.m.

The **Baltimore Mandolin Orchestra** (BMO) will be performing a variety of music in concert at St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Catholic Church, 10800 Old Court Rd, Woodstock, MD 21163. A free-will offering will be taken. The aim of the original BMO, as stated in the program for one of its first concerts back in 1925, was “to play the best Mandolin Music and further the cause of fretted instruments.” Present members of the ensemble strive to uphold that goal to this day. Come and enjoy a different concert!



Granite Historical Society Fall Hike

The Granite Historical Society is planning a Fall Hike on **Sunday, October 22nd**. We will meet in the parking lot of the Granite Presbyterian Church at **1PM**. We've applied for permission with DNR to park cars inside the access gate at Alberton Rd and then we'll walk along the Alberton Road Trail to the Daniels Dam, a distance of about a mile and a half. This is the last remaining dam on the Main Falls of the Patapsco. Along the way we'll visit the Upton house, a really neat historic stone and frame house built by Joshua Upton in 1851. We'll also visit the ruins and graveyard of St Stanislaus Church, a mission church established by the Woodstock College Jesuits in the 1870s. Unfortunately, the church was struck by lightning and burned in 1926 and never replaced.

As always, if you are interested please RSVP by email to info@granitehistoricalsociety.org or to John Brantley at treasurer@granitehistoricalsociety.org. Alternatively, express your interest to one of the GHS officers.

John Brantley
GHS Treasurer



Serenity Ridge Natural Burial Cemetery and Arboretum

Weekend Dedication-

Friday October 20 - Sunday October 22

Friday October 20 - Tours and Religious leaders representing multiple religions to sanctify and bless the property

Saturday October 21 - Tours; Local and Regional politicians, Representatives from the Cemetery Oversight committee, Representatives from Baltimore County Recreation and Parks to speak about Serenity Ridge and its enhancements to Baltimore County; Also Non-Profits to set up booths and Tree plantings

Sunday October 22 - Tours; Green Burial Association of Maryland to hold its fall meeting

Much more at

www.serenityridgemd.com



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16th Annual Bull & Oyster Roast

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At St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Parish, 10800 Old Court Rd, Woodstock, MD 21163.

**Saturday
November 11, 2023
5:30pm to 9:00pm**

\$65 per person

2 for \$130/Savings: Table 8 for \$480

Bull Roast PayPal is now live:

<http://www.kofc13294.org/fundraiser.html>

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Ed Pelsinsky: (410) 313 8808 or epelsinsky1@verizon.net

Chris Timberlake: (443) 473-4816 or jctimbersnake9@gmail.com



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From the Pit

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Turkey Breast
Pit-Ham

Raw Bar

Oysters

Buffet

Hand-breaded Fried Oysters
Maryland Crab Soup
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Dessert

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