



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #413

GPCA Newsletter

January 2022

Next Meeting: Monday, January 10th, 7:00 P.M. – Virtually via Zoom

Topic: Diane Devers, Environmental Program Manager

Common invasive Plants: How to Limit to Limit Their Damage

GPCA General Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, except July and August

Everyone is invited to attend. During the pandemic meetings will be held virtually. Details to join the meetings will be communicated using email. Contact gpc21163@gmail.com to add your email address to the GPCA group.

View our Website at www.gpc.net

GPCA's January 10, 2022, Election of Officers and Directors

GPCA's annual election of officers and directors will be held, as required by our bylaws at our first general meeting of the new year. 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.

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate:

President – Cathy Wolfson

Vice President – Zulma Santiago

Treasurer – Maribeth Diemer

Secretary – Denise Maranto

Director – Butch Oakman for a 3-year term ending 2025

Note:

Director Maurice Dixon's 3-year term ends 2023

Director Lisa Charyszn's 3-year term ends 2024

Nomination of candidates will also be taken from the (virtual) floor on the evening of the election. Candidates must be members of GPCA for a minimum of 6 months immediately preceding the election. Per our By-Laws officers are elected for a 1-year term and directors for 3-year terms. The President may serve for 2 consecutive 1 year terms and may again become eligible for that office after a 1 year lapse. The lapse period applies to no other Executive Board members.

What's inside?

Thank you, The Year in Numbers...2 SWCC, Zoning update, In Our Neighborhood ...3-5 Local Advertisers...5-7

A BIG Thank You to Butch Oakman Outgoing President

Special thanks to Butch Oakman who began his term in 2020 and led us through the Covid necessitated transition to Zoom meetings. A lifelong resident of the area Butch's tenure was distinguished by a virtual Comprehensive Zoning Map Process, virtual Master Plan participation, virtual Patapsco Glen 2 and Patapsco Fields PUD Special Exception and Board of Appeal hearings, Ridge Road and Hernwood Road virtual solar facility Special Exception hearings, the Dogwood Road bridge replacement, overflow parking at Patapsco Valley Park trailheads, a natural burial cemetery bill and countless hours with state and local agencies tracking down other concerns raised by residents that disturb the peaceable enjoyment of their property. Butch is diligent and devoted to our and his community and his capable service has been greatly appreciated!

~Cathy Wolfson

GPCA; The Year in Numbers:

Profit and Loss:

Total Program Income:	\$7,666
Total Program Expense:	<u>(\$7,572)</u>
Net Program Income	<u>\$ 94</u>

Total Member Donations: \$1,130

(Not included in net income above)

Grants Awarded in 2021:

Keep Maryland Beautiful:	\$1,500
Patapsco Heritage Greenway:	<u>\$2,800</u>
Total Grant Awards:	<u>\$4,300</u>

(Not included in net income above)

Grant Expenditures in 2021: \$2,200

GPCA ended 2021 on a high note. Essentially the organization broke even while maintaining a healthy cash balance of approximately \$4,000 in the operating bank account and \$12,000 in a savings account. Approximately \$3,000 of the savings account cash is restricted to use by the terms of the

grant awards. The remainder is restricted by the Board of Directors. In 2020, because of the pandemic, operating expenses were abnormally low because the newsletter was not published and mailed for 6 of the 12 months.

The jump in paid memberships (see below) is one reason for GPCA's healthy operating bank balance. However, it is also because members donated monies above their annual dues amount. Thank you! Thank you! Thank YOU! The unrestricted contributions put GPCA in a strong financial position to move forward. When the unexpected happens GPCA has the resources to get through the situation.

The Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC) has been actively seeking grants to fund their monthly work collecting water samples from 4 area watersheds and then testing and analyzing those samples. The grant awards and member contributions restricted to use by the SWCC are used for the purchase of testing supplies, small equipment, and quarterly area clean ups other than the GPCA annual clean up event. The volunteer SWCC members fund the cost of participating in watershed seminar themselves so grant proceeds go directly towards watershed upkeep. Kudos to a team that work together seamlessly and are constantly looking for ways to keep our watershed areas green and clean!

Memberships:

	Households	
	2021	2020
Associate Membership	7	1
Single Membership	44	46
New Single Membership	12	5
New Joint Membership	20	16
Joint Membership	131	113
Total Memberships	<u>214</u>	<u>181</u>

Folks how can I put this more clearly than you ROCK! Household memberships bounced back from the pandemic low and beat the 2019 and prior years statistics. I realize there is nothing dorkier than

your GPCA treasurer/editor proudly beaming and celebrating every single membership that I enter the general ledger and deposit into our bank account. I'll own up to my financial nerdiness because renewing and new memberships mean folks care about the community and are listening. It means that: the volunteers on the Board, the volunteers going to hearings to make sure developments in our area are built responsibly; the volunteers that are committed participants in the community cleanups; the volunteers that chair committees and coordinate their activities; the volunteers that submit articles, edit, duplicate, fold, seal and mail the newsletter; the volunteers testing our watersheds monthly; the volunteers listening to residents that have noticed or have neighbors that are in dangerous county code violation and guiding them to the County resources to resolve the issues; the volunteers that coordinate email and social media blasts; know their **efforts are not in vain**. However, GPCA does need more residents to step up to actively participate in GPCA's mission. New blood will reduce the burn out of the current volunteers. Participation can be as little as an hour a month. Please consider helping your community. Contact me Maribeth-13@att.net.

Maribeth Diemer, Treasurer

SWCC: Introduction to January's Speaker

Diana Devers, Patapsco Heritage Greenway

My name is Diana Devers, and I am the Environmental Program Manager for the Patapsco Heritage Greenway. For the last five years, I have worked at the Irvine Nature Center in Owings Mills, starting in the Volunteer Coordinator /Environmental Educator Program, and then transitioning to Manager of Public Programs/Naturalist and Summer Camp Director. A native of Maryland, I have a B.A. in Biology from St. Mary's College of Maryland and an M.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Maryland, College Park's Department of Marine, Estuarine and Environmental Sciences where I completed my thesis: "The Effects of Hurricane Sandy on New Jersey's Atlantic Coastal Marshes Evaluated with Satellite Imagery." I have been an

Environmental educator for over ten years and completed several Maryland DNR courses including: Project Wild, Project Wet, and Project Learning Tree. I've conducted several large tree plantings as well as wetland reconstruction projects through Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, Irvine Nature Center, and SeaCamp, Inc. I am also a lifetime Girl Scout, outdoor enthusiast, sports lover, and rugby player. During the presentation, I will be discussing common Patapsco Valley invasive plant species, how to identify these species as well as their history, how to properly remove them, and native plant options to help with invasive species protection.

~Diana Devers, January Speaker

Land Use/Zoning Update:

As has been regularly covered in this newsletter, GPCA has participated in these development cases affecting our community, and the status is as follows:

Patapsco Glen II Development on Johnnycake Road – Johnnycake Road property owners James Webb and his wife filed a motion on December 12 with the Board of Appeals asking for Reconsideration of its confirmation of the Development Plan approval. This requires another public deliberation and written decision, not yet scheduled. There has been no written decision this far for the variances appeal.

Patapsco Fields PUD on Johnnycake Road –The public deliberation was held as scheduled virtually on November 23. There was very little actual deliberation before the Board unanimously agreed to affirm the PUD's approval. The written decision was issued on December 8, 2021, with 30 days for any further action.

Serenity Ridge Natural Burial Cemetery on Ridge Rd. - The proposed Plan is still processing through the County development approvals.

These and other cases/ issues in our area will be discussed at the January General Meeting, so please join us.

~Kathy Skullney, GPCA Zoning Chair

Baltimore County Redistricting:

The NAACP and other advocacy groups have filed a federal lawsuit challenging the Baltimore County Council's redistricting plan. In the court papers, the case is described as follows:

"This is an action, filed by Black citizens of Baltimore County and organizations promoting civil rights and election fairness, challenging as racially discriminatory and unlawful the 2021 Redistricting Plan ("the Plan") enacted by the Baltimore County Council to elect its members. 1 If allowed to take effect, this Plan will abridge and dilute the rights of Black voters and candidates in violation of Section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C. § 10301."

More information and a copy of the lawsuit can be found at www.marylandmatters.org.

~Kathy Skullney, GPCA Zoning Chair

In Our Neighborhood

Reflections from Offutt Ridge Farm

Why Don't Chickens Have Teeth?

I was amazed at how persistently the chickens and ducks finished off the pumpkins that different people had given me after Halloween. After a while there were only the stems as the birds just kept picking at the pumpkins. It is very hard to find things that chickens will not eat with excitement. I think part of it is that they are foraging animals, so eating grain and corn in a bowl is not really what they were designed to do. They are true omnivores, with virtually any kind of meat or vegetable matter readily consumed.

Michael Pollan in his 2006 book "Omnivore's Dilemma" wrote about how hard it is to be an omnivore with so many choices of what your food can be. Humans need to choose between alternative vs. processed and industrial vs. organic. Then we need to decide whether we pursue a vegetarian, vegan, paleo, Mediterranean, Atkins, or drive-through eating philosophy. Carnivores and herbivores are limited in what they consume, so they do not have so many decisions to make. Pollan even writes about the moral

implications of eating animals. Even vegetarians have different thoughts since Jainism and some Hindus and Sikhs do not eat root plants like potatoes and onions because it kills the whole plant.

Recently I had two baby chicks that were hatched out in the barn at the wrong time of year, with unreliable mothers. I reluctantly took them to the house and put a heat lamp over them so that they would survive. My friend Laura asked me if I needed to feed them soft food or something since, they had just been born. This got me to thinking about the question. As mammals, we need milk and then we transition through soft foods because our teeth physically break down the food. Chickens do not have to make this kind of progression because they are born with working internal "teeth." This is their gizzard.

The gizzard is a complex grinding organ that is much like an industrial mill. In fact, another term for it is a gastric mill. It contains grit, sand, or pebbles that grind up the food as the muscle flexes. Grinding mills in industry usually rotate to make things move around to be ground up. The gizzard somehow does this from the muscles tensing and relaxing. The lining of the gizzard is made up of an extremely tough, resilient, and yet flexible material called koilin. It is 90% protein and must be peeled from the gizzard since nobody could chew this material. When my daughter and I would process chickens, we would compete to see who found the most interesting thing in the gizzard. One time I found a stainless-steel screw that had all the threads worn off from being milled in the gizzard. Because of the gizzard, a baby chick after hatching can immediately eat pieces of grain that will be processed in its gizzard. Other animals that have gizzards include crocodiles and earthworms.

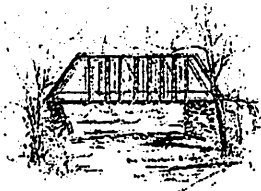
As I watch my chickens eat the stale bread and other kitchen scraps, I consider how complex something as simple as a chicken's digestive system is. The ability to eat everything and anything and be able to do it immediately after hatching is a wonder. With many animals like horses, the teeth are checked to determine whether it can keep eating to maintain its health. With chickens that cannot be done, since I have yet to figure out a way to check their gizzards.

~John Creighton

Granite Historical Society

GHS Speaker Series to Start in January 2022

John Brantley will kick off the new Granite Historical Society Speaker Series at 7PM on January 18th. The topic will be the Woodstock Bus Line (who knew?), the first transit or shuttle bus service in the history of Maryland. The bus line was operated by Walter Trail between 1916 and 1970 and made 4 round trips per day between the Woodstock College and Gwynn Oak Junction. To join our Zoom meeting a link will be provided on our website in January, or you can contact us at info@granitehistoricalsociety.org and we will include you on the invite list. We are very excited about adding the Speaker Series to our regular meeting agendas and having John start us off with this interesting topic - we hope you will be able to join us to kick off this activity.



~Erin Guarino, GHS Board Member

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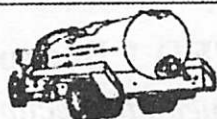
***May Each of You, Your Family
and Friends***

***Have a Happy, Safe
New Year's Celebration***

AND

***A Healthy, Joyful, Peace Filled
and Prosperous 2022!***

Thank you to each GPCA volunteer and paid member. Without your generosity of time and other resources our community wouldn't be as well-know, unique, clean, and green as we are.



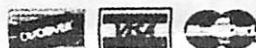
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GPCA Membership Form

We Need Your Voice!

Please Print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Yearly membership dues:

Family - \$30 Individual - \$20

(Associate memberships are available for folks outside the GPCA boundaries and organizations)

_____ I'm new in the community or, _____ Renewal

Please make checks payable to GPCA and note the year of membership in the memo line

Mail completed application form and check to:

GPCA, PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163 or,

drop off/mail to Maribeth Diemer, 10625 St Paul Ave, Woodstock MD 21163



GPCA

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Wishing you a happy and HEALTHY 2022!!

Join us January 10, 2022 at 7 pm via Zoom

Topic: Go Native in Your Own Backyard!

Guest Speaker Diane Devers

Patapsco Heritage Greenway

Environmental Program Manager

Annual GPCA Election - Not a member?

Join GPCA to vote!

Details about how to join the virtual calls will be sent to the GPCA email group. To be added to the group and receive the agenda and zoom call in link Email: gpc21163@gmail.com You can unsubscribe at any time.

*****ECRWSS**R-005

GPCA Objectives: 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. The Association will only become directly involved in matters which affect the safety and welfare of the community as a whole. This involvement will be directed at actions which violate existing laws or regulations or which will assist in implementing new laws or regulations to further and achieve our objectives.

GPCA ADVERTISING/ARTICLE/LETTER POLICY

GPCA reserves the right to accept, edit, or refuse advertising.

To place an ad: Send the ad copy by email as a pdf attachment to the Editor by the 20th of the month prior to publishing.

Payments for ads: Make check payable to GPCA and mail to GPCA, P.O. Box 31, Woodstock, MD 21163 prior to publication deadline. Checks must indicate ad size and months to be published. No payment received = no ad placement.

Rates and ad sizes: 1/8 page = \$15; 1/4 page = \$30; 1/2 page = \$50; full page = \$80. Personal ads up to one column inch = \$3 for GPCA members and \$5 for non-members. Ads should avoid excessive dark areas that do not copy well. Hard copy ads appear in black and white. For articles and letters: Submissions to the newsletter become the property of GPCA unless otherwise agreed upon. Deadline for these is the 20th of the month previous to publication. The submission of any ad or article to the GPCA means you agree GPCA reserves the rights to accept, reject, edit, or hold for future publication.

GPCA Officers and Board of Directors

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