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GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC

Issue # 435

GPCA Newsletter

March 2024



Monday, March 11, 2024, 7:00 PM

@

Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church

10637 Old Court Road

GETTING YOUR GARDEN READY FOR SPRING

Guest Speaker:

Paul Beares, Master Gardener

This presentation provides guidance on sustainable gardening best practices for the Spring season. We all can benefit from tips on what gardening tasks to do in the Spring, and how and when to do them. This will include a full range of gardening – vegetables, perennials and native plants, along with design and continuing care recommendations.

Be sure to join us!

.....

Upcoming Meetings:

April 8 – Liberty Road Volunteer Fire Company

May 13 - Protecting Yourself Online

June – Plant Swap and Wood Carving (including chainsaw)

.....



President's Note



Almost Spring!

Fellow Members, Friends and Neighbors,

The daffodils are poking up, the snow drops are in full bloom and buds are everywhere – and bluebirds have reappeared! Spring is clearly on the way. And we are once again reminded of what a beautiful, natural community we are so fortunate to have. If you were able to join us for the February meeting, you would have seen amazing data and pictures underscoring some of the most important aspects of our area related to our watersheds.

The year's important issues are already underway, with the CZMP Planning Board hearings on proposed land use changes having been completed in February (see our District 4 report below). We will continue pursuing issues brought forward by our members and neighbors, especially traffic and infrastructure. We remain committed to providing a good forum to address the larger community concerns of our members and neighbors to gain consensus and make our voices heard. As always, please share your concerns and priorities as part of the GPCA community.

We are small, but together we are mighty: 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.

Meanwhile.....Spring is nearly here, so be sure to join us March 11th!

~ Kathy Skullney, GPCA President

443-838-0861

ksskullney@verizon.net

Last Month

February General Meeting

STREAM HEALTH and WATER QUALITY REPORT CARD: SWCC

Guest speaker(s): David Scheurer and Committee members

Members and attendees were treated to an extraordinary presentation in February documenting all the very particular and technical work of our Small Watershed Conservation Committee from 2019 to 2023. Every month they monitored the areas related to Dogwood Run, Bens Run, Granite Run, and Brices Run. This includes sampling, testing, observations, and whatever other means are required to gather essential data for knowing the continuing health of our streams and to pinpoint concerns. The presentation included Power Point, displays, and even a bucket of little stream critters! The chart below shows their 5 year results. Look for the entire scope of the Report on the GPCA website, posted soon.

Water Quality Parameters (Average Value – 2019 to 2023) ¹							
Sample Locations							
	Temperature (°F)	pH (units)	Salinity (ppt)	Nitrate (mg/L)	Phosphate (mg/L)	Bacteria (colonies)	Benthic (score)
Bens Run	70.8	7.94	0.19	1.03	0.02	183	8.5
Brice Run	70.7	7.60	0.17	1.70	0.10	269	12.0
Dogwood Run	70.8	8.11	0.35	0.57	0.03	129	8.5
Granite Branch	68.1	7.65	0.12	1.34	0.03	170	9.0
Normal Range	(<68)	(6.5-8.5)	(<0.25)	(<2.5)	(<0.05)	(<200)	(>8)
Sample Size	91	47	47	47	47	16	2
¹ Temperature – Daily water temperature average during summer period (6/1/21 – 8/31/21) ² Bacteria: Average measured cell counts after 48hr incubation period (5/22 – 9/23) ³ Benthic: Average of Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 sample periods							

~ Kathy Skullney



2024 GPCA Membership Campaign

You've done it again! Memberships have been coming in from all of you who value GPCA's commitment to "preserve and protect our rural character". To date we are up 15% over last year. That's welcome confirmation that you



value the efforts of our Small Watershed Conservation, Newsletter, Clean Up, Zoning and other Committees.

Many of you kindly added "something extra" to your dues to help us support our commitment to our residents. Thanks to all of you for your generosity.

Our campaign lasts throughout the year, so it's never too late to join GPCA. You now have the option of joining online or just click on the QR code at left. We are only a community association because of neighbors like you!

*~ Cathy Wolfson
Treasurer/Membership Chair*

2024 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP)



As was fully discussed at the GPCA February General Meeting, only one petition, Issue #4-011, was filed for zoning change in the GPCA area. This petition by Braglio Farms, et al. requests changing the legal use on 3.6+ acres of the 28.4 acres (misrepresented as 9.8 acres) Braglio property at the corner of Marriottsville and Hernwood Roads from agriculture to Business Local (BL). BL zoning is the required designation for a wide range of potentially very large commercial activities. The Baltimore County zoning regulations state that RC property cannot be changed from agricultural use to non-agricultural use unless public water and sewer are scheduled for the site. It is well established that this will not happen in the GPCA area. Furthermore, the existing RC zone allows the full range of every possible legal agricultural use.

Thus, by unanimous membership vote, GPCA opposed Issue #4-011, both in a written statement and orally by Kathleen Skullney, President, at the Planning Board hearing on February 20 at New Town High School.

The Planning Department was present at all the hearings and will take into account all the public input presented while formulating their recommendations to the Planning Board during the month of March. The Planning board then works through the issues of all 7 Districts in April to

present its recommendations to the Baltimore County Council for its hearings in June.

~ Kathy Skullney



CAP/ PHG Open House at Nike Site - March 23



PHG and Maryland Civil Air Patrol are hosting an Open House at the Granite Nike Missile Site on Saturday, March 23rd from 1:00-4:15pm. They have extended an invitation to GPCA to participate and to all the members and neighbors in the GPCA area to attend!

There will have tables set up for partner organizations inside the main CAP building, including one for GPCA to host and participate in every way. Folks can arrive on site, check-in and register inside CAP building, then walk around to tables inside hosted by various partner organizations. A video presentation about the history of the site – PHG Nike Missile Site short video-including remarkable historic footage, will be held inside one of the adjoining classrooms. MSgt (Ret.) Tom Reed will then be conducting guided tours of the site, including underground! (45 mins @ 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 3:30pm).

Invitations have been extended to other partners from the community, to include a few elected officials, US Senators and Reps, Maryland Historical Trust, Preservation Maryland, Granite Historical Society, and hopefully the Granite Cadet Squadron will give a demonstration. Since this is the first official open house at the Nike Site, it is hoped that this will be large and very well attended! Next open house in line is May 26, so check it out this month, and you will get to come again.

As many know, GPCA held its Annual Picnic at the Site last year and got a wonderful preview – truly an amazing piece of history to have in our very own neighborhood.

~ Kathy Skullney

Street Design of Old Court Road



Baltimore County Public Works Department has announced a District 4 Community project for the complete streets design of a 3.28-mile segment of Old Court Road, extending from Liberty Road to Reisterstown Road. This segment of Old Court Road is a vital corridor connecting Liberty Road to Reisterstown Road. The stated goal is to transform it into a “complete street”, accommodating all modes of transportation—driving, walking or rolling, biking, or using public transit —as a balanced and inclusive environment for everyone.

Input Matters: Community concerns and insights must be integrated into the project, particularly transportation concerns from all perspectives, including those who use cars, walk, bike, or take public transit. This will help to identify areas of opportunity and address any potential challenges. In an effort to ensure community engagement, DPW has developed a survey related to this project. It can be found at this link: <https://forms.office.com/g/kB9PsQ8ddj>

The project manager is Mitchell Phillips, DPW Planner II, at 410-887-3557, mphillips3@baltimorecountymd.gov.

~ Kathy Skullney



GPCA's Annual Community Clean-Up Saturday April 13th, 2024

8 am to 12 noon

St. Alphonsus Church

Lower parking lot

Fun:

- Join friends and neighbors to keep our country roads beautiful
- GPCA will provide safety vests to borrow as well as trash bags
- Bring your own work gloves

Free:

- 4 large containers will be on site for your household “spring cleaning” use (please understand that you are responsible for unloading your own vehicles)

Remember:

- no hazardous or flammable materials
- no paints or oil
- no fridges or air conditioners
- no electronics (computer equipment, TVs, phones etc.)
- no brush/yard waste (recycled separately by the county)
- tires will be collected at the pull out on Old Court Road

(Let me know in advance if Certificates are needed for student service hours)

Thank you for your support!

, ~ **Carol Link**

GPCA Clean Up Coordinator

443-554-0306 or email linkgang87@gmail.com



Updated Newsletter Advertising Policy

The 'Newsletter Committee' has had several discussions regarding an updated Newsletter Policy and Charging Guidelines. The details have been finalized and the updated policy is provided below. If you have any questions, contact Cathy Wolfson (oakknob@comcast.net) or send a note to the Newsletter Editor (editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com) to ensure they are properly received and captured.

We thank all who continue to support GPCA and hope you will continue to enjoy our upcoming issues. Comments are certainly always welcome and should you like to help out with the digital production of the newsletter we will gladly accept whatever you may be able to do. Feel free to contact the editor or any of the GPCA Board members with your comments or interests.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING POLICY

To place an ad: Email a copy of the advertisement to our Editor at editorgpcanewsletter@gpca.net by the 20th of the month prior to publishing.

Include desired month(s) of publication and ad size. Please direct any questions regarding formatting to the Editor.

Format: All ads must be submitted in jpeg or png format. Ads submitted as a pdf will not be edited and may not appear as clear images in the newsletter. Adobe offers a free online tool to convert pdf files to jpeg format. Search “adobe free pdf to jpeg converter” for more information.

NOTE: Ads can include hyperlinks and QR codes (must be provided) on request

Rates and ad sizes:

	Monthly	Yearly * (10 issues)
375 pixels x 500 pixels (1/4 page print size)	\$35.00	\$330.00
750 pixels x 500 pixels (1/2 page print size)	\$50.00	\$480.00
700 pixels x 1,000 pixels (full page print size)	\$80.00	\$780.00

* Yearly 10 issues run September to June and include year-round listing on GPCA website.

Payment for ads: On acceptance of ad by Editor check should be made payable to GPCA and mailed to GPCA, P.O. Box 31, Woodstock, MD 21163.

Payment must be received prior to publication. Payment must indicate ad size and month(s) to be published. No payment received = no ad placement.

Contact Cathy Wolfson, Treasurer at 410-245-8708 or oakknob@comcast.net for payment questions. Please put GPCA Advertising in the subject line.

Legal: All submissions to the newsletter become the property of GPCA unless otherwise agreed upon. GPCA reserves the rights to accept, reject, edit, or hold submitted ads, articles and or letters for future publication.

~ **Bill Skullney**

~ **Ru-ching Hsia**

~ **Cathy Wolfson**

The Woodstock College Mission Churches

When the Jesuits opened Woodstock College in 1869, one of their missions was to help establish Catholic parishes in the area. At the upcoming annual



meeting of the Granite Historical Society, John Brantley will give a presentation on the early history of these “mission churches”, namely St Joseph Church in Sykesville, St Michael in Poplar Springs, St Stanislaus in Alberton, Holy Family Church in Harrisonville and, of course, our own St Alphonsus. The meeting will take place at 7PM on Tuesday, March 19th at Granite Presbyterian Church. Everyone is invited to attend.

~ John Brantley



Mark Your Calendar!

Historic Home Tour Open House

The Granite Historical Society is pleased to announce an Open House on Sunday, May, 19th 2024 for the farmhouse and former laundry for Woodstock College. The home is currently occupied by Brigitte and Michael Hisky under the Maryland Resident Curatorship Program. The Hisky's have graciously agreed to open their home to interested visitors on May 19. The history of the home, historic photographs, and the challenges of living as a Curator for a home registered in the Maryland Historic Trust will be discussed by the Hiskys during this time. Ample parking at the site will be available. Further details will be forthcoming in the April and May GPCA Newsletters as well as the GHS website <https://granitehistoricalsociety.org/>.

~ Roy Danz
GHS President

How to Solve an Eating Problem



Many New Year's resolutions revolve around eating - reflecting our renewed efforts to lose weight, eat healthier, or try new foods. Dan Rodricks' January 6th, 2024, Baltimore Sun commentary advocates for 2024 as the year to eat Chesapeake Bay catfish. Specifically, that everyone should make a monthly meal of blue catfish to take a bite out of the population of this disruptive invasive species.

Blue catfish are not native to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Rather, they

are native to the Ohio and Mississippi River watersheds. Nevertheless, in the 1970's Virginia state fisheries stocked 300,000 blue catfish into their James' River with a desire to introduce a new sportfish. Fast forward 50 years, and we can see the unintended consequences of that "successful introduction."

The introduced blue catfish population has expanded beyond the freshwater James River into brackish water of nearly all of Maryland's tidal rivers. These same rivers are the key breeding grounds of Maryland's state fish, the Striped Bass (aka Rockfish). Blue catfish are now widespread, numerous and grow large (often 15-40 lbs.), they eat just about anything that fits into their mouths. Stomach analysis of the introduced blue catfish revealed over 80 species of fish and invertebrates in their diets. Commonly their consumption included white perch, river herring, and blue crabs! So, there is an eating problem, and it gets even worst...

At the 2023 Maryland Water Monitoring Conference, a Maryland DNR biologist described trawling on a Maryland Eastern Shore tributary and incidentally capturing a school of several hundred small blue catfish under surface spawning stripers. Stomach analysis of those catfish discovered they were stuffed with striped bass eggs. So, it appears the blue catfish's high populations in prime striped bass spawning grounds are a threat – their ravenous appetites could greatly reduce young of year striped bass by consuming eggs before they even hatch. Add this to other known environmental stresses on the bay's striped bass (poor water quality, urbanization of waterways, overfishing), and one can see why reducing the blue catfish population is a good idea. Another study found that blue catfish and spawning sturgeon in the James River both prefer the same ecological niche. To date, only adult sturgeons have been captured there, no young sturgeons have been found there. The study suggests that blue catfish are feeding on sturgeon eggs or young.

Governor Wes Moore requested federal funding to reduce the population of Maryland's gluttonous blue catfish. The federal overseers denied his request.

So maybe Mr. Rodricks is right – let's begin a new habit - eat blue catfish regularly in 2024 and help our native species and our watermen.

~ Andy Grosko

GPCA Small Watershed Conservation Committee

Around the Neighborhood

What's happening in your HOA? What's going on around the neighborhood, along the roads or near you?

Let your community know!



Woodstock Job Corps Tutoring Note

In last month's newsletter we announced that the Woodstock Job Corps was officially opening its local/community tutoring program. We offer this announcement again for those that may be interested in helping out. Please contact Yolanda Diop, Business Community Liaison at diop.yolanda@jobcorps.org with name, preferred contact info, tutoring subject matter and when you are available.

~ Bill Skullney



Saturday, March 16, 2024

5:30pm—8:30pm

St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Church Hall
10800 Old Court Rd, Woodstock, MD

Cost: \$25 per Adult or \$60 per Family with children under 18

Tickets: <http://www.kofc13294.org/StPatsPage.html> or

Walt Chahanovich wbchahanovich@yahoo.com 410-750-

7799



Saturday, March 23, 2024

\$6.00 3-cubic feet bag

\$6.00 BLACK 2-cubic feet bag

\$4.50 2-cubic feet bag

FREE DELIVERY!

Note: 15 bag minimum and 8-mile radius

Small order pick-up: Saturday, March 23, 2024, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Order Online @ <http://www.kofc13294.org/mulch.html> or

Ed Pelsinsky: epelsinsky1@verizon.net 410-313-8808

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