



GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #353

GPCA Newsletter

February 2016

Next Meeting: Monday, February 8th, 7:30 p.m.

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

Check us out on the web- www.gpcanet.net

State of the District and Election of New Officers and Director at January Meeting

We welcomed Councilman, Julian Jones as our speaker. Jones related a range of experiences he had settling into the job as our 4th District Councilman. He gave interesting insight into how the county government operates. Councilman Jones explained some of what he learned about developing relationships with constituents, business interests/land use advocates and the fiscal processes of County government.

Jones detailed the projects that he intends to focus on during the next year including but not limited to conditions in schools, dumping legislation/ including increase of fines to minimum of \$500, roads, property tax exemption, local open space fees/waivers, the continued development of Metro Center, Foundry Row and the re-development of the Mall all in Owings Mills.

Councilman Jones wrapped up by inviting everyone to attend Town Hall meetings, the Community picnic (put on by 4th District), the Smart Business event and encouraged everyone to sign up for the 4th District Newsletter at council4@baltimorecountymd.gov to stay in touch with what is going on in our area of Baltimore County.

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The election of officers and director was held. Cathy Wolfson, Nominating Committee chair introduced the nominees and also asked for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. The slate was as follows:

- Butch Oakman-President
- George Jones-Vice President
- Denise Maranto- Secretary
- Maribeth Diemer -Treasurer
- Marty Kelley- 3 year term Director.

The slate was elected with a unanimous vote. Congratulations to all our new Officers and our returning Director! Mr. Bob Teller, Hernwood resident and GPCA member, volunteered to attend the Small Water Action Plan meetings and report back to GPCA. Thanks, Bob.

Cathy Wolfson was appointed as representative to speak for GPCA at the Patapsco Glen Development hearing scheduled on January 22 . Ms. Wolfson will report back about the hearing at the February 8th GPCA meeting.

Editor's Corner

For the last twelve years, my husband and I have lived in the Granite area. We have found it to be a fascinating and friendly place to reside. I have served on the GPCA Board for five years and now I am taking a turn at yet another position within the GPCA organization as your editor.

I am looking forward to taking on the task of recording the history of Granite as it unfolds in the next year. With that in mind, I hope to hear from some of you who have been saving up your Granite stories. (Continued on page 2)

From the President

At January's meeting we hosted Councilman Julian Jones. Before he became our councilman on December 1, 2014 he was a Division Fire Chief for Anne Arundel County for which he was employed for more than 30 years.

He discussed with us the experiences in the first year in office, which included working with other council members, business owners and listening to the issues of community members. He outlined some important topics which are: Elimination of the Storm Water Remediation fee, the Dumping Legislation to increase the fine of at least a minimum of \$500, the Property tax Exemption, Operation Spring Clean, and the Road Resurfacing that happened on Granite and Hernwood Roads, Investment in District 4 Schools, New Police Capitan Gorman at Woodlawn Pct. #2, the closing of the Food Lion at Deer Park and his hosting of Town Hall meetings. GPCA would like to thank Councilman Julian Jones for speaking with us. We hope to have him back in the future.

GPCA members held the election at the general meeting and the following officers and director were voted in. (continued on page 2)

From The President (continued from Page 1)

President -Butch Oakman, Vice President -George Jones, Treasurer -Maribeth Diemer, Secretary -Denise Maranto, and Director -Marty Kelly. I look forward to working with everyone in 2016. Have a safe and warm winter!

Editor's Corner (continued from page 1)

If you are inclined to put pen to paper or fingers to the keyboard I will be happy to include your remembrances. You can find my email address on the back page. I am looking forward to hearing from you. *Marie Cignatta*

Come Join Us for Fun and Friendship

Want to meet some new friends? We are looking for volunteers for folding and collating the GPCA newsletter. Come join us on the first Tuesday of the month (except in July). We meet at the home of Marie Cignatta, editor from 9:00am to 11:30am. Call Marie (443-717-0208) if you are interested and want more information.

Biography for New GPCA Treasurer

Maribeth Diemer and her husband, Bob Teller, have lived in Granite (St. Paul Avenue) for 11 years. Maribeth is a certified public accountant and worked in public accounting for 7 years. She has worked for nonprofits for most of the rest of her career. Maribeth looks forward to her new role in the community as Treasurer of GPCA.

In Memorandum

The GPCA Board Members extend our deepest sympathy to Arlene Wilder and Family on the passing of their Husband and Father, David Wilder.

Membership News

Thanks for the support of your membership dues received from December 21, 2015- January 20, 2016. We appreciate the renewals of members! And we welcome new members. Members renewing include: Dan and Marcia Brown, Wayne Dell and Marty Kelley, Maribeth Diemer and Bob Teller, Franklin E. Warfield, Jan and Dale Brice. Memberships received after the 20th of January will be posted in the March newsletter. You can also use the form on the back of this newsletter to join. Membership questions? Contact me, Maribeth Diemer at 410-461-4988 or Maribeth-13@att.net If you're outside of our bulk mail delivery area and wish to receive the newsletter please mail your name, address and payment of \$6 to cover postage for an annual subscription of 11 issues (no July issue) to GPCA, PO Box 31, Woodstock, MD 21163. THANKS! Maribeth Diemer, Treasurer.

Frozen Sunset

Brenda Creighton

Winter in Maryland has many faces; from warm balmy days when you see men in shorts at the Wal-Mart to days of delayed openings and closed schools. Snow emergency is declared over many counties because there is a foot of snow and it is still falling. Then there are the epidemics of black ice that make people like me want to avoid walking around outside, let alone get in the car and drive somewhere. We have ice, snow, mud, or rock hard frozen ground and ice in all the water buckets for the animals outside. But the grass is still green in the afternoon sun as it drops below the leafless tree line. Winter does not come to stay In Maryland. It is a rollercoaster ride of mild weather to arctic experience, all in a week.

Winter sunsets usually create the most dramatic skies. With sherbet colored blazes of light against the grey purple haze of twilight. In the time of year that sunset shifts from just before 5 pm to just after 5, I walk to the house from the horse barn after bringing everyone in for dinner and a night in the stall with a pile of hay and a water bucket to follow their bit of sweet mix.

The sky is clear except that flaming edge to the west. Ducks are still scurrying around the yard, but the chickens have gone into their houses or found a roost in the barn. John has brought the alpacas into their pen for their dinner and so there is just this moment of settling in the quiet of night. It is remarkable because it is January and dry.

It is remarkable because of the juxtaposition of frozen everything all day, but there is still green grass. I have the luxury of not sliding around on mud even though I have the extra work of bringing out warm water from the house to make sure those chickens get enough to drink. But I like this so much more than wading through (continued on page 3)

Deadline for advertisements and articles is the 20th of the month prior to publication.

The March issue's deadline is February 20th!

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Frozen Sunset continued:

snow, or trying to figure out the agricultural consequences of balmy day after balmy day in December and January.

Somewhere in my mind is this thought that there needs to be so many freezing days for things to grow out again.

We have always had them, since I moved to Maryland in 1979, these oddly warm days followed by blizzards and ice storms. Remember in the 80's when they had energy conservation week in February and it could almost be guaranteed that week it would reach 80, but by Washington's birthday, we would have the holiday weekend from Hell that is when Hell froze over. A blizzard, an ice storm, sleet, snow, rain, It always happened that weekend...Until the year Langley had Lyme's disease and I had 20 kids or so here at the farm to help fund his treatment and we had a beautiful day.

Winter can be the bleakest time of year, with short daylight and cold temperatures. When we don't have snow, the landscape eventually is just brown and muddy. Dark mornings lead to overcast days and early sunset. When it is blistering cold and you have to be out in for a few hours every day it becomes miserable and exhausting. But there is no joy without sorrow. Those beautiful frozen sunsets behind naked branches of leafless trees over a field of green are a gift of beauty, a reward for being outside to see it. I can say I have survived another day, and be glad in it.

Brenda Creighton

A special thanks to Paul Dorsey who printed this issue. And to these volunteers who assembled the January issue for mailing: Marcia Brown, Gail Collins, Marty Kelley and Alice Kloetzil.

What's Happening in the Area**At the Howard County Conservancy:**

Feb. 13 Seeking Salamanders 10am Free

Feb. 18 All Who Wander Are Not Lost- a photographic journey with Kevin Loughlin 7pm \$

Feb. 26 The Power of Storytelling: Sharing Stories for a Stronger Community- 18 and older 2-6pm Workshop, 7-9pm Storytelling \$

Mar. 3 Bats, Birds, Butterflies & Bees: What Me Worry? 7pm free

More information? Phone: 410-465-8877

www.hcconservancy.org

At the Carrie Murray Nature Center:

Feb. 12: Couples Owl Prowl 6-9pm

More information? Phone: 410-396-0808

www.carriemurraynaturecenter.org

Wisdom from the Past:

Former GPCA newsletter editor Tom DeMay related this story in May of 1988 and I think it is still applicable today- see what you think.

One of my favorite stories is about a small village. It was fall, the weather and the crops had co-operated for a fantastic harvest. The townspeople decided to celebrate their good fortune with a party. Everyone was to bring a jug of their best homemade wine. For days before the celebration, townspeople would bring their jug of wine and pour it into the large wooden barrel in the center of the town square. One of the townspeople thought: "Since there were so many people bringing wine, no one would notice if he brought only water. It would be very easy. Just bring the water in a covered container and pour it into the large barrel. It would dilute the wine only slightly and no one would be the wiser."

The day of the celebration finally arrived. It was to begin with a toast of the wine which was contributed by the townspeople. When the spout was turned on to fill the glasses, only water came from the barrel. Every person had had the same idea! No one had brought wine for the celebration; each relied on the good will of others.

Are you bringing your jug of wine? Or are you diluting the wine of the community spirit by letting others bring wine for you?

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Pollination & Love

What has pollination got to do with love? Well, the biggest pollination event on earth takes place on February 14th, Valentine's Day!

Honeybee colonies from all over North America are shipped to California for the blossoming of the almond trees. It is the biggest pollination event because 800,000 acres of almond trees requiring 2 colonies per acre means 1.6 million colonies of honeybees are on site ready to work.

Alas, for the first time ever, this may be too tall an order to fill. Why? Because our hard working honeybee is struggling to survive.

So, where's the love on February 14th? What is knocking down our "Sweet" Valentine?

There's a mess of troubles too long to list so instead, here's a positive thought on how to show some love. Why not offer the honeybees here in our corner of the world a better diet? All they need is a few tasty carbohydrates (nectar) and some proteins (pollen) spread out over spring, summer and fall.

The idea is to plant trees and shrubs that will nourish the GPCA honeybees. Some plants give nectar, some give pollen and some give both! The bad, and very frustrating, news is that many of the plants sold in local nurseries give NOTHING to pollinators.

So here's a short list of trees and shrubs for you to plant this spring for the health of our local honeybee colonies.

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
 American Basswood/ Linden (*Tilia americana*)
 Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
 Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)
 Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
 Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*)
 Serviceberries
 Viburnum
 Raspberries, Blackberries, Blueberries of all kinds

The almond trees may be blooming in California but it is winter in Maryland just now and

we're thinking more about plowing the first snow than planting trees. But winter is the perfect time to plan; so plan to give back to the "Sweet Valentine" who furnishes the bounty of our table by providing some nutritious blossoms this spring.

Carol Link, Beekeeper, Master Gardener
 bee2blossom@gmail.com

(Editor's note: Carol Link is a GPCA member and will be contributing articles related to gardening and bees in upcoming issues of the newsletter.)



Happy Valentine's Day

Granite Presbyterian Church's Supper & Study

5-Week Soup Supper & Study: "Forgiveness"

WHEN: 5 Wednesday evenings: 5:30-6:45pm

DATES: Feb. 17, Feb. 24, Mar. 2, Mar. 9, Mar. 16

WHERE: Granite Presbyterian Church, 10637 Old Court Road, Granite

All in the community are invited to a 5-week study of "Forgiveness." A light meal of soup and salad will precede the program located in the social hall of the church. No advance registration is required. The program is free to the public.

For more information, contact Granite Presbyterian: 410-461-5746.

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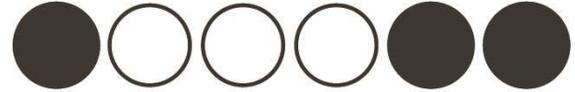
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Granite Presbyterian Church will be holding an Irish Music Vespers on Sunday, February 21 at 5pm. This event will feature the music of Rigadoo with Shawn Cassady. Granite Church is located at 10637 Old Court Rd. in Woodstock. For more information please contact Frank Owens at fjowens@hotmail.com.



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GPCA

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**YOUR COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER**

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:
Meeting - MONDAY, Feb. 8th: Our
Planning Board Representative
Spring Cleanup- SATURDAY April 9th

Please print **GPCA**
Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Yearly membership dues:
Joint - \$30 Individual - \$20

____ I'm new in the community.

**Mail completed application and check to:
GPCA, PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163**

GPCA Officers and Board of Directors

President: Butch Oakman 443-314-6415 oakelectric@comcast.net
Vice President: George Jones 410-655-8307 tessier100@hotmail.com
Secretary: Denise Maranto 443-695-5409 denise.maranto@gmail.com
Treasurer: Maribeth Diemer 410-461-4988 maribeth-13@att.net
Directors:
Marty Kelley 410-461-5605 martyingranite@live.com
Bruce Mezger 410-440-0000 bwmezger@gmail.com
Barbara Warnock 443-200-3353 barbarawarnock@comcast.net
Editor: Marie Cignatta 443-717-0208 mcig123@yahoo.com

GPCA ADVERTISING/ARTICLE/LETTER POLICY

GPCA reserves the right to accept or refuse advertising.
To place an ad: Send the ad copy by email as a pdf attachment where possible to the Editor by the 20th of the month prior to publishing. Include information on the size desired.
Payments for ads: Make check payable to GPCA and send to Editor, Marie Cignatta, 5 Morning Mist Court, Woodstock, MD 21163 prior to publication deadline. Checks should indicate ad size and months to be published.
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.
For articles and letters: These 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. GPCA reserves the right to accept, reject, edit, or hold for a subsequent newsletter any submission.