



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #394

GPCA Newsletter

November 2019

**Next Meeting: Monday, Nov 11, 7:30 p.m.**

Guest Speaker Ed Johnson, co-author of Patapsco State Park. Books available for purchase \$22. All proceeds will benefit the "Friends of the Park" nonprofit.

*GPCA General Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, except July & August, at the Granite Presbyterian Church, 10637 Old Court Rd., Woodstock, MD 21163. Everyone is invited to attend. View our Website at [www.gpca.net](http://www.gpca.net)*

**GPCA Small Watershed Community Committee's (SWCC)**

**3rd CLEANUP – Mardella Run – King's Point**

**Sat, Nov 16, 2019 from 9 – Noon.**

**Meet and Park: 9700 Block of Marriottsville Rd. Randallstown, MD 21133**

**SPECIAL NOTE: There are 2 Marriottsville Roads!!!**

Use Hernwood Elementary School as your landmark – this is where the two Marriottsville Roads meet in a "Y". If coming from the direction of Granite Rd. turn to the right before you completely pass the school yard. If coming from the direction of Liberty Road make a very hard left at the intersection of the two Marriottsville Rds.

***Remember this cleanup is In & Along an Active Stream!***



**BE PREPARED & SAFETY FIRST!**



**Before We Start, we'll gather briefly for announcements**

**You'll need the following equipment:**

- Boots – waterproof suggested
- Eye protection strongly suggested
- Long Pants, & Long Sleeve Shirt

**Things you might also like to have:**

- Hat
- Insect Spray
- "Grabber" or a small garden rake to reach litter might be helpful
- Water bottle

**We will supply:**

- Trash bags
- Safety Vest
- Latex gloves
- Some light snacks and beverages

**Safety:**

- All Children MUST be accompanied by parent or guardian

**What's inside?**

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### From the Small Watershed Community Committee **SWCC Milestones**

I'm very happy to announce that the committee has been awarded a Mini-Grant by the Patapsco Heritage Greenway. This was a highly competitive application process for organizations that work with and/or support the mission of PHG. Dave Scheurer, Maribeth Diemer and I worked through the application requirements. The grant requires match funds and regular reporting and will help with the cost of testing supplies and acquiring cleanup event signage. I'm so proud of the SWCC and GPCA. And a hardy thankyou goes to the PHG for recognizing our efforts.

Secondly, please note the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual late fall stream cleanup is scheduled for Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM to 12 PM. Details are posted on page 1.

Finally, we have finished our second-round of stream water quality monitoring testing (done every 4 weeks). We are compiling the data for further review and analysis. Remember that a series of tests over time must be completed to spot trends and overall stream health. But preliminary indicators are positive. See you at the cleanup!

*-Bob Teller, Chairman SWCC*

### **RC6 Zoning Classification in the Patapsco-Granite Area October Meeting**

Our guest speaker for October was Dr. Joe Tatarewicz, retired professor of History from UMBC. Dr. Tatarewicz spoke to us about the origin of the RC6 zoning classification in our area. RC6 is a major accomplishment for GPCA thanks to Dr. Tatarewicz's efforts. His representation of the Association enabled the RC6 zoning designation to be legislated into Patapsco Granite Community Area Plan. Large areas in our vicinity used to be agricultural, and many still are.

The RC or Rural Conservation zoning designations aim to preserve the rural, historical character of our area. RC2 is the Agricultural

designation, allowing only one house per 50 acres. RC5 is the next relevant rural conservation designation, allowing one house per five acres, although some acres count more than others. Sienna Way is an example of RC5 zoning. RC6 aims to combine the best elements of RC2 and RC5, encouraging developers to cluster housing in such a way that large swaths of land are conserved. RC6 aims to preserve and protect forests, streams, wetlands, scenic views, unique rural and traditional historic character, with only the type of development that allows and promotes these special characteristics. RC6 zoning plays a major part in our Patapsco Granite Area Community Plan, which in turn is legislatively part of the Baltimore County Master Plan, and in turn part of Maryland State law.

Baltimore County does not have municipalities, as other counties do. Therefore, the County Council asked that Baltimore County communities develop community plans to describe needs and to control growth. Baltimore County entities helped with the plan, along with community members, farmers, lawyers, and developers. The Baltimore County Council voted the plan into law as part of the Baltimore County Master Plan. It took about two years to develop our community plan, which was voted into law in 1994. Our area comprises about 12,000 square acres or 19 square miles. Before and after the vote, there was political pressure and developer pressure to make changes. It takes vigilance today to make sure the integrity of the community plan is maintained against outside influences. Information on the Patapsco Granite Area Community Plan and zoning (including relevant neighborhood zoning at My Neighborhood) is online at [www.baltimorecountymd.gov](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov). Other sources of information are the Maryland Planning Finder, the US Geological Survey, and the Maryland Real Property Database (SDAT). Many thanks to Dr. Tatarewicz for his help in developing our community plan and presenting us with an interesting and educational history of RC6 in our area

*-Denise Maranto, Secretary*

## In Our Neighborhood

We sadly mark the passing of GPCA Director George Jones on September 29, 2019. For the past 8 years George was a constant presence at our meetings. His greatest quality was that he always showed up. When his knee hurt, when the weather was dicey, when he could have been bowling, he kept his commitment to serve the board and membership. He always showed up and stepped up whenever we asked; getting folks signed in or selling GPCA t-shirts at our meetings and events. His extensive experience as the owner of a downtown 7-11, concessions at BWI and as a real estate agent helped guide us through many business decisions. He could be counted on.

Most memorable of all though was George's fulfilment of the wish from the Night of Peace Family Shelter for a Santa Claus at their annual Christmas dinner. Dressed in full Santa suit right down to his soft white fake beard George arrived ringing his bell and chanting his ho-ho-hos. The children clambered off and on his aching knees the whole evening, but George hugged them, held them and posed for picture after memory making picture taken by the parents and staff.

George will be sorely missed manning his corner of the GPCA meeting room every month. It will be a big space to fill and he will always be fondly and warmly remembered by all of us who had the pleasure to know him and work with him. Our sincere condolences are extended to his wife Rhoda, his children and their families.

*Submitted by Cathy Wolfson*

## Thanks to Renewing and New Members:

Deitz, Terry and Donna; Gamber, Robert E.; Geppert, Carl and Wendy; Kohler, Charlotte and Ansen, Richard; Litzau, Denise; Sherrill, Ronald and Kathleen; Young, Charles and Jeannette

The 2019 membership goal is an ambitious one. The Association wants to have 40 percent of the

1,600 households within the GPCA boundaries as voting members. Your voice is needed. Represent! Sign up or renew your membership today. Thank you!

## We Need You!

With November comes the season of giving thanks. Please become one of the most thanked team in the Association by helping with the monthly collating, folding and sealing of the newsletter. Additional volunteers are always welcome (and needed) the first Tuesday of each month. The monthly time commitment is on average 3 hours from 9:30 to 12:30. Please call Marty Kelley: 410 461-5605 for more details.

If you know of a business who would be interested in supporting our community by printing and collating the GPCA newsletter, please email the editor: [editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com)

GPCA would happily help defray the cost by paying the business the equivalent of our monthly maintenance fee.

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## Reflections from Offutt Ridge Farm

I guess it takes until the frost date in Maryland to start having the real October show up. Mornings start out at 40 degrees, clear skies of beautiful blue with no wisps of white, and the day slowly warms. A hoodie morning turns in to a shirt sleeve mid-day and then as twilight falls suddenly into dark, it is chilly again. That cloudless sky leaves room for frost to form. It may or may not, leaving us to be caught out with the potted plants still outside and then wilted unexpectedly the next day. This year though I am not playing tag with the frost date. I had John move the planters up onto the porch so I could find room for them in the windowsills around the house and on the sunroom shelves.

Oh yes, one day was dreary, pretending that rain was coming, and it may have sprinkled in the night. But nothing noteworthy, like filling the empty things that sit around outside for the ducks to come and drink from. The month of September had been dry. I felt bad for the porch chickens, the ones that come up in the afternoon to see if I am going to throw any scraps out to them. I felt the need to pour water into some bowls for them too. I reminded myself of my Grandma Van Zandt who would cut cardboard milk cartons in half and pour canned milk and wet cat food into these trough-like containers and feed the random cats that hung around the farm and the garage. I spent a lot of summer days on my stomach trying to reach the kittens under the blue spruce, eventually getting bit by one and spent days soaking that finger in a glass of saltwater to make it feel better.

I was using the plastic containers that so many things come in these days, like deli lunch meat or carry out. Breaking up bread and pouring sour milk or leftovers gone bad into the "chicken dishes."

I stand on the porch and watch the chickens and sometimes the muscovies come up to see what is left for them. I can look out to the back field that has turned fresh green since it was mowed in September. Did it rain once? The new grass

coming up is bright green beyond the hedge rows now orange to brown. Devil's tail has died off and the barberry turning a rainbow of yellow orange and red. A golden pathway leading to the back field. Crowned by the still green but fading tree line under blue sky.

We have a massive amount of hay in the barn. The summer was pretty consistent with its rain habit. Unlike many years when the drought hits in July and the lawns around us brown out from their consistent landscape companies that should probably just take the month off when it does not rain. This year we got twice as many rounders as the year before, and it is not like the year before was a bad hay year either. Once again the ebb and flow of life. I remember 20 years ago when we looked at the property, then vacant, but there was hay in the barn. And that felt like a promise to me. Yet there was a year when hay was scarce and I paid \$7 a bale to have it brought in from western Md. With that, I have warned other horse owners to not sell off their hay when they bring in first cutting because you do not know what the rest of the season will bring, and hay does not go bad stored in the barn.

I don't get past the back porch much these days with the progressive weakening of my body. But it as if I have been training for this period of life through all the years of injury and rehab and surgical repair. I have spent four summers in the house the past four years. There is a certain rhythm to this adjustment. I don't like it a whole lot, but like I said it is a conditioning exercise of refocusing and find what it is that you can do and using the tools I have acquired over time. I find myself doing beadwork and embroidery and some decorative painting. Bringing my childhood into my present as these are all things I learned way back then.

Fall is a time of transformation, of the trees letting go of this year's growth and resting up to come back out next year. Not every tree makes it through the winter. The storms, the ice, take their toll on the old branches. Tree tops break under the ice. The changeover as the world continues to turn.

It is really October. There is routine to our year, garden goes quiet, hay is in the barn, the



calendar goes to print, and I start planning Christmas presents. From Halloween to Thanksgiving to Christmas. The days steadily get shorter as the year comes to a close.

*-Brenda Creighton*

## Collection of Donations for Night of Peace Family Shelter

Once again, we are collecting items for Night of Peace, family shelter located at Salem Methodist Church on Windsor Mill Rd. The shelter provides overnight housing including meals, showers and a laundry facility for homeless families with children throughout the year. GPCA is collecting the requested items below for Night of Peace at our **November 11 and December 9** general meeting. Please contact Cathy Wolfson at 410-245-8708 or [oakknob@comcast.net](mailto:oakknob@comcast.net) if you have any questions. If you would prefer to donate directly please call Night of Peace at 410-922-4357 for hours when they can accept donations. For more information about Night of Peace, the services they offer and donation options please visit <http://www.nightofpeace.org/our-services>

Requested items to be collected at our Nov 11<sup>th</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup> meetings:

- Charm Cards (rechargeable public transportation cards) [www.mtacharmcard.com](http://www.mtacharmcard.com)
- Non-dairy creamer
- Zip-lock Sandwich bags
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Hand sanitizer, hand soap
- Bleach
- Fabuloso, liquid cleaner
- Laundry detergent (powder)
- Gloves (vinyl)

*(Continued on page 6)*

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(Continued from page 5)

Requested items to be collected at our Nov 11<sup>th</sup> and Dec 9th meetings:

- Diapers (especially size 4/5)
- Baby wipes
- Wash cloths
- Bath towels
- Plastic totes/tubs for guests to store their clothes
- Laundry detergent
- Disinfectant wipes
- 45-gallon trash bags
- Twin bed sheets (cover and fitted)
- Comforters / Blankets

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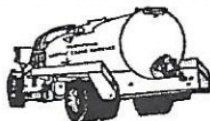
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### Thanksgiving inquiries:

- When was the last time you drew a hand turkey?
- Where do you stand on the Black Friday creep into Thanksgiving?
- What's your perspective of the first Thanksgiving story as an adult vs the grade school version?
- What is the largest family Thanksgiving dinner you attended?
- What's your favorite Thanksgiving tradition? We host Thanksgiving and I like to ask everyone to gather before dinner and say one thing they were thankful for that year. My 6-year niece: I'm thankful that Mom didn't find out about something and puppies."

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## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### UPCOMING MEETINGS SPEAKER TOPICS:

Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 7:30 – Ed Johnson , co-author  
of Patapsco State Parks. Books will be available  
for sale @ \$22. All proceeds benefit the Park system  
Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 7:30 - Holiday Party!  
Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 7:30 - 2020 Census (to be confirmed)  
Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 7:30 – Balto Co Police (to be  
confirmed)  
Mar 9<sup>th</sup> – State Attorney’s Office

### **GPCA Membership Application We Need Your Voice!**

**Please Print:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

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

\_\_\_ I'm new in the community or \_\_\_ Renewal

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

### **GPCA Officers and Board of Directors**

**President:** Open

**Acting President:** Butch Oakman 443-314-6415  
[oakelectric@comcast.net](mailto:oakelectric@comcast.net)

**Vice President:** Butch Oakman

**Secretary:** Denise Maranto 410-790-7131  
[denise.maranto@gmail.com](mailto:denise.maranto@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Maribeth Diemer 410-461-4988  
[maribeth-13@att.net](mailto:maribeth-13@att.net)

**Directors:**

Director: Open

Maurice Dixon, 410-393-4025, [mauricedixon714@gmail.com](mailto:mauricedixon714@gmail.com)  
Murf Morefield [caldron@verizon.net](mailto:caldron@verizon.net) 410 960-3236

**Editor:** Maribeth Diemer [editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com)

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**Rates and ad sizes:** 1/8 page = \$15; 1/4 page = \$30; 1/2 page =  
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