



GPCA

GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #398

GPCA Newsletter

March 2020

Next Meeting: Monday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.

Current Consumer Scams

Jeannine Robinson-Hurley, MPS Consumer Protection

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

GPCA's Annual Community Spring Cleanup Scheduled for April 4, 2020

Make the Granite Patapsco Area Sparkle

8-12 Saturday, April 4th St. Alphonsus' Church Parking Lot

March came early this year and the wind has blown trash all over the area. Come to the Parking Lot and unload your household bulk trash in the 4 dumpsters available. Volunteers will be on site to guide you to the dumpster to use.

Next, sign in, grab a snack, don your safety vest, pick up trash grabbers and bags – all provided. Pick a road and start cleaning! Volunteers will pick up trash along the road and leave the filled bags roadside for pick up.

Dumpster Restrictions: GPCA is fined by the county if any of the following materials are found in the dumpsters. Please heed these restrictions and respect the dumpster volunteers if they turn down waste.

- Hazardous materials such as chemicals, gasoline, flammable liquids, paint, propane tanks.
- Commercial construction waste.
- Tires will be collected at a separate spot to be designated that morning. Tires will NOT be collected at St. Als. Volunteers can leave tires by the side of the road.

Volunteers wear brightly colored long sleeved clothing, bring heavy duty waterproof gloves and sturdy soled footwear. Work in pairs of 2's. One will be a traffic spotter. Face oncoming traffic at all times. Park vehicles clear of the roadway. Leave filled trash bags along the side of the road but clear of traffic.

Safety first in all situations. Do your part and gather your neighbors, pick a road and start cleaning. Thank you

What's inside?

Feb meeting recap, Census...2 SWCC, In Our Neighborhood, Memberships...3,4 Ask Uncle Arthur, Our Advertisers, 5-7

Recap of February's Meeting

The Art of Healing with Tea and Stones

At our February meeting we took a pleasant break from the usual serious topics of environment, traffic, zoning, and county government to hear three of our members present stress free topics.

Murf Moorefield from Caldron Crafts spoke to us about the healing power of stones and about our own energy field.. Murf brought with her a dazzling display of jewelry made from various stones. Bill Skullney spoke to us about healing properties of teas, while Kathy Skullney served us samples (just the right size) of delicious teas from the Granite Rose Tea Parlour. Despite these fascinating and educational subjects, this was not a promotional event. There were no ads nor was anything for sale. All the activities were for fun and learning. We are lucky to have our very own experts who can give presentations like these.

The use of stones goes back through history. The Egyptians used lapis, which is blue, and malachite, which is green, in their jewelry, and black Kohl under their eyes to cut down on glare. Stones help align the energy field that each of us has around us. Earrings can give balance. A necklace can help the throat or heart. Waist beads can help pregnancy. Clear quartz in a crown makes the wearer a good ruler. Rose quartz (the love stone) in a necklace can bring love into your life, but first it teaches you to love yourself.

Tea is one of the healthiest drinks available. White tea is the least processed tea. It can be an expensive tea because it uses the delicate young leaves of the tea plant. "Island White Mango" tea was the white tea sampling. Island White Mango contains apple blossom and mango. It is slightly sweet and light, a delicious treat for those of us who have never tasted white tea. We also sampled Earl Grey Cream tea with a hint of natural vanilla; Ayurvedic Yoga herbal tea with an underlay of cinnamon and cloves; and a green tea with strawberry and peach.

Some healing attributes of teas: Herbal teas can fight depression, anxiety, colds, and flu. Oolong tea is good for high blood pressure. Teas have antioxidants which help the body fight damage from pollution. Black tea is good for the bones and heart. White tea has antiaging properties and protects the skin. Green

tea is one of the healthiest and increases brain function while reducing anxiety. Thank you Murf, Kathy, and Bill for a simply delightful and **healthy** evening!

-Denise Maranto

Stand Up and Be Counted – 2020 Census

Just the Facts:

- The U.S. Constitution mandates a count of the populations of states and territories every 10 years.
- There are 3 ways to complete the 2020 census.
Online Phone Paper Copy
- Under Title 13 of the U.S. Constitution, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about individuals, households or businesses to law enforcement agencies.
- The Census Bureau will never ask for your full social security number, bank account number or passwords.
- Responses are safe, secure, and protected. Responses can only be used to produce statistics.

Important Dates:

- Week of March 11, 2020 Census can begin to be completed online or by phone.
- March 12-20th: A postcard reminder to participate in the 2020 census will be mailed to your home.
- April 1, 2020 is Census Day – the official day of record for the 2020 census. (This is the 22nd U.S. Census.)
- May – July: Non-response follow up. Census workers will go door to door to ask for a response.

Why?

- Census guides federal monetary allocations to the states, particularly for grants supporting infrastructure and the social safety net.
- For every person who is not counted in the 2020 Census, Baltimore County loses roughly \$1800 per person, per year over the next 10 years.
- Census data is the basis for apportionment of Congress and State Legislatures.
- Baltimore County is growing in population. It has an estimated 847,000 residents which is up nearly 20% from 2010. Nearly a quarter or 25 percent of the population are anticipated to be seniors age 65 and older.

Help Maryland, Baltimore County and each of us get our fair share. Stand up and be counted.

Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC)

What is in there?

“What are you catching?” That is often what by-passers ask when they see anglers along our Patapsco River. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources recently stocked the river with thirteen hundred trout between the Daniels Dam and the route 70 bridge. Therefore, that is what is in there now - normal colored rainbow trout and golden rainbow trout. So likely, that is what anglers will be catching now and over the next few months. As the water warms this spring, the trout fishing will decline and while fishing for smallmouth bass (native of the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes), chubs and redbreast sunfish will improve. These species tolerate warmer water and successfully reproduce in the river. By July one can walk the riverbank and see smallmouth and sunfish in the water, but the trout will be gone. They will either be caught out by anglers or failing to find a cold-water sanctuary (like a spring seep), expiring from lethal temperatures (over about 74 degrees Fahrenheit for trout). The answer to “What is in there?” will change with temperature. As it will with other environmental and man-made factors. In the Granite area of the Patapsco River, the trout will be gone by July. Some may find refuge in small cool tributaries; we have one such tributary in our Granite Community Small Watershed Group sampling regime. Some portions of the Patapsco River, like its North Branch, have naturally reproducing brown trout populations, until recently, some even had native brook trout populations. Because the environmental factors were good, those portions of the stream maintained quality water that permits a year-round trout habitat.

“What is in there?” is a question that Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) trying to answer, since 1993. The MBSS uses strict protocols for assessing a stream’s biological life. The protocol samples a section of stream for benthic macroinvertebrates and fish. A biological index is assigned to each type (order) of organism and from that an Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) is established, one for benthic (basically “aquatic bugs”) and the other for fish. The higher the diversity of organisms,

the higher the index value. The more sensitive an organism is, the higher its value on the index. High quality waters rate with IBI of 4 or higher. We have a few high quality waters along the Patapsco River. If you are interested in changing out how local waters rate, see this interactive map and zoom in to area of interest: <https://geodata.md.gov/streamhealth/>.

Our GPCA Small Watershed Community Committee continues a monthly assessment for our local streams, to detect ‘what is in the flow’. We may consider doing a “what is in there” assessment using MBSS protocols. To get involved, come to one of our monthly meetings; contact Robert Teller for information on time and location.

-Andy Grosko, SWCC member

Town Hall Meeting:

4th District Town Hall Budget Meeting with County Executive Johnny Olszewski and Julian Jones:
Wednesday, March 11th, 6-8 pm Owings Mills High School, 124 South Tollgate Rd, Owings Mills 21117

In Our Neighborhood

Reflections from Offutt Ridge Farm

In Like a Lion

Yesterday morning I woke before the dawn light crept into the skyline around the farm. I sat in the end of the night’s dark and listened to the cooing of the mourning dove. The sound moved from one side of the house to the front of the house. I suppose there could have been more than one. I watched the tree line across the street as the dawn came up ahead of the sunrise. In theory, there is a half an hour of dawn before the sun crests over the edge of the planet.

I have no plans for the day. I just sit alone in the house while John is off on whatever morning thing he does. I can imagine homes with working parents and school age kids in that hectic morning mode. Getting up, getting dressed. Lunches packed, book bags packed, shoes on, and out to the car, on the way to school and work. There were a few years we did that, that hectic morning routine to get ready and go. Then I decided to homeschool. Mornings were slower,

quieter. Now my mornings are almost silent except for the cooing of the mourning dove.

The next morning there was wind. A lot of wind. In fact, I heard the wind at midnight, and then the rain. Now this morning I woke to the hum and howl of the wind flowing against the house and around the house. I wondered if out there in the dark, trees and branches had fallen across the roads to greet the early morning travelers. It is the end of February, and suddenly I realized this was March on its way.

In like a lion, out like a lamb. March begins in winter and ends in spring. A true month of transition. The saying has been around for over 300 years, and sometimes we reverse it. If the entering the month is mild then we expect the end of the month to be dramatic. Not based on any real fact. But people have opinions that arise from nothing more than supposition. We could have an entire month of active weather or a month of calm.

I remember March as the kite flying month. Not a possibility in today's gusting wind. The little stores in Danville would have boxes of kites near the cash register or in the candy aisle. The paper or plastic rolled around 2 sticks; you would also buy a roll of string. Usually it took two people to get a kite into the air. One person holding up the kite while the other would run into the wind, holding the string and hoping for lift. With experience you would use those white paper rings (binder hole reinforcements) used on torn notebook paper to support the string holes. This let you have a few more fails before the kite tore apart. And then there was the kite tail made from torn bed sheets. Does anyone fly kites anymore? Maybe at the beach. But we did not have a beach in downstate Illinois.

I have a great field across the street; maybe there should be a kite flying event. Imagine, a bright sunny March day with just enough breeze to raise a kite. With kids running (and falling) and someone a master of kite repair. The paper tears, the sticks break, but if you can patch it together a few times before you

get completely worn out, you might have that moment of joy.

-Brenda Creighton

Membership Renewals

Thank you renewing and new* members!

August, Ewald & Shirley; **Baldwin, Richard & Susan**; Beam, Chuck & Sandy; Boskin, Maureen; Brantley, John & Sue; Brice, Dale & Jan; **Brown, Jr., Otho & Dorothy**; Byrd III, Andy & Carol; **Cermak, Jamie & Beth**; Chellis, Charles & Paulette; Cohen, Austin; Cornish, Lee & Jackie; Cotter, Charlotte; Cotter, Keith; Dahl, Ken & Marilyn; Dixon, Maurice & Evelyn; Dorman, Kathy; Evans, Meredith & Ellen; Farmer, Dorothy; Follweiler, Jeff & Heather; Freeland, Ron & Betty; **Friend, Hilton & Margaret**; Geiman, Sue & Judy Downing; Goodmuth, Steven & Karen Koebel; Griscavage, Bob & Sharon Layne; Haddaway, Lee & Patricia; Hartman, Dwight; Heit, William & Joan D.; Higgs, Jim & Jean; Hocutt, Bob & Winona; Hoggard, Dorsey & Pat; Izydore, Chris & Melissa; **Jarvis, Harold & Jeanne**; **Jefferson, Samuel & Denise**; Jenkins, Joe & Kathy; **Jones, Julian & Sabrina**; Jones, Rhoda; Kahler, Bonnie; Hahn, Michael & Cindy; Kelley, Marty & Wayne Dell; King, Tom & Peggy; **Klos-Huber, Toni**; Kohler, Charlotte & Richard Ansen; Malick, Adrien & Patricia; Marszal, Mark & Dawn; Masemore, Bill; Mathena, Larry & Sarah; McDermott, Mark & Donna; McKnight, Barbara; Meekins, Angus & Betty; Merkle, Susan & Woody; Miceli, Carl & Patricia; Moorefield, "Murf" & Barbara Warnock; Murray, John & Gwen; Nueslein, Kate & Tony; Oakman, Butch & Mary Jean Scheile; Osborne, Scott & Margaret; Pahls, Pam & Family; Parker, Sandy & Melanie; Peters, Ron & Debbie; **Priest, Melanie**; Ramsey, MD Harold; Randall, Bill & Dawn; Regan, Troy & Kelly; Roche, Michele; Sassi, Lee; Shea, Colleen & Gregg Smith; Simmons, James & Carol; Smoot, Ed & Dee Dee; Stengler, Steven; **Stewart, Owen & Leslie**; Terry, Tanya & Lewis, Jr; Tersiguel, Fernand & Odette; Traylor, Pat & Charlotte Gianforte; Tuzynski, John & Laurie; Walden, Frank & Devi; Weber, Bob & Jennifer; Webster, Dennis & Jackie; Wilder, Arlene; Wolfson, Cathy & Carl; Wolinski, Doug & Stacy; Wright, Ralph & Brenda

* new members are in bold font and include folks that just moved into the area or a longtime resident that hasn't renewed in a while.

What a great initial response to the membership drive!

121 households have responded to date. Only 120 more to meet our goal. Thank You!

Christmas in June - Night of Peace (NOP)

Night of Peace receives the bulk of their donation between Thanksgiving and the New Year. This year GPCA is adding a twist. **We are asking members to bring their donations to the June 8, 2020 meeting.** NOP is very appreciative of GPCA members' generosity. Changing the date of our donations fills up supply cupboard and the storage space can handle the overflow. Won't you be a part of Christmas in June? A list of needed items will be printed next month.

If you'd like to do even more Night of Peace is sorely in need of volunteers willing to help with meals and stocking various items in the pantry. If you have a few hours a week to spare during their hours of operation of 4 pm and 8 pm your time will be put to good use. Please contact them at 410-922-4357, or info@nightofpeace.org, <http://www.nightofpeace.org/volunteerf> for more information.

-Cathy Wolfson

Blasts from the Past, from time to time, as space permits articles from past GPCA newsletters will be reprinted. Hope you enjoy.

Many people commented that they enjoyed reading the old articles. Tune into April's edition for more. I was unable to gather more articles in time for the printing deadline. Yes, your editor's brain went out of service and she forgot to produce the March issue until 5 days after the deadline. Thank you to the ever patient Paul Dorsey for rushing the printing of this issue.

Ask Uncle Arthur: Answering Your Local Inquiries

Uncle Arthur is an all knowing mythical person answering your questions about the GPCA past. I've reached out to several Uncle Arthurs in the area to answer questions sent to the editor's email.

Was the Woodstock Inn a post office for the area? No, the Post Office was located next to the train station under the same roof. The station was closed in xxx.

When does the cemetery date back to? There are many cemeteries in the area. St. Alphonsus, St Paul Methodist Church, 2 cemeteries are located by the Granite

Presbyterian Church; the church cemetery as well as a very old one at the back of the parking lot. The former Worthington Plantation property also has a cemetery thought to be the cemetery for the slaves who worked on the plantation. Uncle A is sure I'm missing some but some of you history buffs will let me know. Which cemetery are you interested in?

Who is the person behind "the boot" on Old Court Rd? Uncle A has been sworn to secrecy to never reveal the person who makes us all smile as we round the curve on Old Court Rd. Thank You!

If you have any questions for Uncle Arthur email Editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com or, via snail mail to the P.O. Box 31, Woodstock MD 21163.

- The Editor

Aggressive Driving and Illegal Truck Traffic - Dial #77

County Executive Olszewski is proposing that MD pass legislation this session for the installation of traffic cameras to monitor streets for unauthorized truck traffic like that plaguing the 2 lane ditched roads throughout our community. In the meantime, if you witness through tractor trailers traveling our roads call #77 to file a complaint with MD State Highway which is charged with Commercial Vehicle Enforcement. You may also call Baltimore County Traffic / Truck Enforcement at 410-887-1340. #77 may also be used to file complaints against any unsafe and or aggressive drivers. Pull over to call and if possible provide a vehicle description, location, license plate number, and direction of travel.

Please email your report and any traffic issues on Quaker Hill to Cathy Wolfson: oakknob@comcast.net

Cathy is continuing to compile a report as evidence to the Baltimore County Traffic Enforcement. Thank you Cathy.

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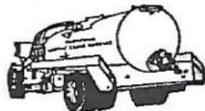
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**YOUR COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER**

*Spring Clean Granite and get rid of your
Bulk Household Trash See inside...*

UPCOMING MEETINGS SPEAKER TOPICS:

Mar 9th 7:30- Current Consumer Scams, Jeannine Robinson-Hurley, MPS Consumer Protection

April 13th 7:30 Green Burial proposal on Ridge Rd presentation by Berg Family Trust

**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**

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GPCA Officers and Board of Directors

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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 Treasurer and 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 publishing in a future newsletter.