



GPCA

GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #356

GPCA Newsletter

May 2016

Next Meeting: Monday, May 9th, 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 at www.gpca.net

APRIL MEETING NOTES

April 11th's general meeting featuring Entrepreneur Night included six local businesses: Playtime Pastures, PCHS, Dr. Wilbur Kuo, Pahl's Farm, Spezzano-Paulino, LLC and ComForCare. **Jamie Condon** of **Playtime Pastures and A Snowball's Chance Tree Farm** spoke first. The Playtime Pastures' farm is located at 3113 Hernwood Road in Granite. Playtime Pastures has a Farm Camp for one week in July beginning July 11th and the first week in August. Kids aged 10 and under take part in farm chores such as feeding the animals and making their own lunches with farm produce. Playtime also has Farm Tours for pre-school aged children during the week for a small fee. Check the details out at www.playtimepastures.com. The Condon's tree farm, A Snowball's Chance located at 10760 Marriottsville Road, in Randallstown, MD has been producing Christmas trees since 2010. The tree farm is open beginning the day after Thanksgiving and all weekends from Thanksgiving till Christmas. They offer hand-trimmed and shaped trees, live wreaths and crafts. Dogs are welcome on a leash only. Check them out online at asnowballschancetreefarm.com or on Facebook for more information. (continued on page 2)

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CZMP Update

Currently, the Planning Board is conducting a series of work sessions in April to consider issues sequestered for further consideration. The public is welcome to attend and listen at these sessions, but no further testimony will be taken. On completion of the work sessions, the Planning board will submit their recommendations to the County Council. In June, the Council hearings will be held in each District.

The next Council Hearing is scheduled for June 9th, 2016 at 6:00pm at the New Town High School in Owing Mills, MD. As before, the sign in time is 5:00pm. If you wish to address the District 4 County Council members speaking time is limited to two minutes per speaker.

Cathy Wolfson

Editor's Corner

Thanks to everyone who came out for the annual GPCA clean-up. We filled four dumpsters and collected 15 tires for recycling by the County. The clean-up would not be a success without the hardworking volunteers as well as those folks who bring snacks, food and beverages for the volunteers. Special thanks to Carol Link, our Clean-up Chairperson.

Be sure and plan to attend our May 9th general meeting as we will have our local Delegates Ben Brooks, Adrienne Jones, Julian Jones and Dr. Jay Jalisi and perhaps our State Senator Delores Kelly (continued on page 3)

From The President

As we approach the summer months, it would be a good time stock up on boiled water, batteries, flameless candles, and 5 gallons of gas if you own a generator. Keeping a full gas grill tank is also a good idea. We all know, summer brings storms. Being prepared just makes sense. We never know when a storm is going to come along and take out our electricity. Use safe practice when operating a generator, and keep it as far away from your house as possible. NEVER operate a generator in a garage. It's not common practice, but a fire extinguisher should be placed within a safe distance when operating a generator. Use good common sense and safety precautions during any power outage.

We had a good turnout for the spring cleanup, despite the bad weather that day. I would like to thank every volunteer for their hard work and dedication. Thank you to Mathena Inc. for the use of a portable toilet. Special thanks goes out to Carol Link for the hard work she puts into organizing this event.

On June 9th at 6:00 pm there is a Council Hearing for District 4 @ New Town High School. On June 9th at 6:00 pm there is a Council Hearing for District 4 @ New Town High School. This is the continuing process for CZMP 2016. Anyone can attend and be heard on the issues that affects our area. Sign in is at 5:00 pm and you have exactly 2 minutes to present your case during the hearing. I hope to see everyone there to support our cause.

(Continued from page 1)

Dave Goldsmith, owner of **PCHS (PC Hardware and Software)** provides computer support for individuals and organizations. They also do web design. Mr. Goldsmith started the business 29 years ago and services both Mac and PC computers. He tries to be responsive with next day service when possible. If you have a problem with hardware or software give them a call. More information can be obtained from the PCHS website- www.pchs.net or call Mr. Goldsmith at 410-480-5256.

Dr. Wilber Kuo, M.D. is an internist/general practitioner who lives in the Granite area with admitting privileges at Carroll Hospital Center in Westminster. Dr. Kuo emphasized that he takes the time to listen and understand his patients needs. Dr. Kuo received his medical training at both John Hopkins and University of MD Medical Center. Dr. Kuo's wife, Margaret is his office manager. The office is located in Eldersburg at 5963 Exchange Drive #112. Dr. Kuo's practice accepts all major insurance plans. He can be reached at www.drkuomd.com or 443-280-5118 to make an appointment.

Pam Pahl and Jen Pahl-Early of Pahl's Farm and Pahl's Hogs sell home grown produce and their very own pork products at local Maryland farmer's markets including the largest farmer's market in MD. Pahl-Early said that they do not butcher their own hogs but have a local meat processing business to do that for them. 25 lbs. of pork sells for \$100. Pahl related that they sell their own poultry. Pahl's also offers CSAs otherwise known as Community Supported Agriculture in either a ½ share for 2 people at \$350 or a full share for 4 people at \$600. Pahl's Farm CSA has been in operation since 2006 and raises an incredible variety of farm grown vegetables and fruits. Check out their website at www.pahlsfarmmd.com or www.facebook.com/pahlsfarm for more information.

Bob Spezzano, President of Spezzano- Paulino Builders, LLC in business since 1986 specialize in custom building especially custom architectural work in older homes such as replacing old woodwork. Recently, he replaced all the wood framing of the stained glass windows at Granite Presbyterian Church. Spezzano-Paulino work in seven counties and all of their residential work has been in the MD area. He only works with insured contractors such as plumbers and electricians. Spezzano-Paulino also perform insurance work. They can be reached at arspezzano@hotmail.com or by phone at 410-461-6001.

Jeanette Young of ComForCare provides need services for seniors or folks recuperating from surgery who need

professional caregivers. They are licensed to care of people aged 18 years and older and have had clients as old as 106 years. They can take vitals, provide bathing services, provide medication reminders, drive clients to appointments and outings and provide companionship. The services can be provided for an hour or up to 24 hours a day. All care assistants are screened for drugs and go through background checks. Ms Young manages 100 staff members so there are always caregivers available. ComForCare works in Baltimore County, and Carroll County. ComForCare can be reached at www.ComForCare.com/Baltimore-Carroll or 410-922-6262.

Planning ahead, or not.

by Brenda Creighton

As April climbs into May, we have absolutely beautiful days with blue cloudless skies trimmed with tree branches barely showing green while the ground is covered with young green grass. The mud dries quickly from the few days of rain. We go from a little too cold to feel like spring, as in frost in the morning, to hot enough to be summer. Seventy degrees feels very hot on a day that started out with frost on the grass.

Seventy degrees in April makes people start asking about planting tomatoes. While I am not a garden expert, I know that morning frost will kill your tomato plants unless you are out there covering them every night. I follow the tradition of putting out tomato plants Preakness weekend. I believe that traditions exist for a reason, a habit based on experience. My garden has only lettuce and cabbages and broccoli right now. My peas are struggling to sprout and I think I planted the potatoes too deeply, but I remain hopeful.

This bright weather, cool to hot days, are my favorite time of year. And it comes upon us suddenly. Sometimes it does not stay. We get a backlash of cold weather, or we jump to miserably hot too soon in May. The weather is not settled, it is working its way into summer and moving away from winter. There is no straight line of change.

But we have a calendar to live by, a structure to remind us when it is really okay to put out spring garden plants and when it is time to direct sow summer squash. A schedule, a plan. Growing food is not really done by impulse, or hopeful expectations that the strangely warm days in April will prevent a last frost date in May. Yet, people will be foolish and buy plants from a green house and leave them outside and then complain that they lost all that "because of the weather."

How about because they were stupid? Where has personal accountability gone? Why is a person's individual inability to plan and discipline their selves the fault of some external force? Because you get a paycheck every week on Friday for 20 weeks
(Planning Ahead continued page 3)

Deadline for advertisements and articles is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Next deadline is May 20th!

(Planning Ahead continued from page 2) *does not mean that you will always get that paycheck on Friday every week the rest of your life. Somehow, people do not understand the ebb and flow of good fortune the same way they do not understand weather.*

I did not understand when I was a child how there were good years and bad years. But my grandmother who did a lot of canning every year when I spent summers at the farm because my mother had to work, would say, 'this is a good year for pears' or 'this is a good year for raspberries'. It seemed every year was a good year for applesauce, but then she had three or four kinds of apple trees to choose from, the early apples in June, followed by the other ones that came on in the fall. So there was always apple jelly and apple sauce and cooked apples at the table. But canning the other fruits, likes pears and peaches, had special years.

So while I am the perfect example of creative impulse (and John the example of control and management), I understand the concept of planning for the unexpected. I am impressed by the people who can live on a margin of their income knowing that every day will not be the same. You might think because I am responsible for the health and well-being of so many animals that I would understand how to plan ahead. I do know we need hay in the barn. But I am really a dilettante in self-governance for the future.

However, I have little patience for people who choose to be victims of their own impulses and then blame it on the economy or the people around them. And I have little acceptance of those do-gooders who criticize people sending their horses to auction because of money shortfalls, when they themselves spend no money on redeeming a horse. Is it somehow better to leave the horse in a barren paddock to starve to death? Or those who bemoan kill shelters for unwanted pets, if they have no house pets themselves. Resources are limited and at times and hard choices are made. Those criticisms sound like the "blah, blah, blah" of self-righteousness. But that is people judging people on how they are trying to bear up under a hard time, instead of helping out.

Once again, it is not a this or a that. If you at least try, at least have a plan, prepare for some unanticipated outcomes, bad things can still happen. But if you constantly 'carpe diem' with no forethought and no follow up responsibility, I am not going to feel bad for you when your tomato plants die from frostbite. Brenda Creighton

Follow GPCA on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Greater-Patapsco-Community-Association/411421142275406

What's Happening in the Area

At the **Howard County Conservancy:**

May 9 Transit of Mercury Viewing at Alpha Ridge Howard Astronomical League Observatory Mon. 7am–2:45 pm FREE

May 14 Hike to the Patapsco River with Conservancy Naturalists. No Pets. Sat. 10am– Noon FREE

May 26 Wine in the Garden/Beer in the Barn– enjoy craft beers and food from local restaurants and listen to bluegrass as you look over Silent Auction items. In event of rain, the event moves indoors to the Gudilsky Gallery \$45/person; \$55 after 5/15 5pm to 8pm

More Information? Call 410-465-8877

www.hcconservancy.org

At the **Carrie Murray Nature Center**

May 14 Nature Scavenger Hunt/What's in the Woods? Sat. 12pm – 2pm

May 14 Paint Night at CMNC Sat. 7pm -10pm

May 20 Full Moon Owl Prowl Fri. 7pm—9pm

June 4 Happy Trails to You! Sat. 12pm—2pm.

More Information? 410-396-0808

www.carriemurraynaturecenter.org

At the **Soldier's Delight Natural Environment Area (NEA)**

May 8 Children's Storytelling Hour Sun. 1 pm FREE

May 22 Children's Storytelling Hour Sun. 1 pm FREE

June 5 Children's Storytelling Hour Sun. 1 pm FREE

More Information? www.soldiersdelight.org/events

(**Editor's Corner** continued from page 1) addressing issues and answering your questions.

We also hope to hear from Arthur and Shirley Jackson of 9420 Dogwood Road who have requested zoning changes including a Special Exception from Baltimore County for the childcare business that they run out of their home. We hope you will attend and participate.

Everyone is welcome, as GPCA wants to hear from its area residents and members. GPCA can serve your needs more completely when you provide input and information. Hope to see you there!

To Everything There is a Season

"A time to plant and a time to take up that which is planted."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Before planting, take a good look at your yard. If you spot a spiny, dense shrub with red berries then you likely have Japanese Barberry. It is a commonly installed, cheap foundation shrub and is seriously noxious. If you see it, then you know for sure that it is time to "take up that which is planted"!

Those of us with homes in newer communities will find that the developers went for the fast and cheap approach to landscaping. No consideration was given to the fact that our properties are in close proximity to the wild and fragile Patapsco State Park. The calculation was on the cheapest deer resistant shrub to get into the ground. Well, it is true, Japanese Barberry is cheap and no wonder, even a bird (brain) can plant and propagate it! Berries from your Barberry shrubs are eaten by birds and the seeds are deposited in nearby woodland areas. Under natural conditions, birds are providing an invaluable service. The problem is, Barberry is thorny, ugly and invasion. But it's worse. Studies have confirmed that there are higher concentrations of deer tick populations in the soil where Japanese Barberry grow. Deer ticks are a vector for Lyme disease. So, if Japanese Barberry was there when you moved in, it is time to "take up that which is planted"!

Fortunately, there are plenty of native alternatives to replace Japanese Barberry. The problem is, none of the big box store garden centers sell them. But that can change with a nudge. One local non-profit nursery is Herring Run, operated by Blue Water Baltimore. There you can find plants specific to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Here are three suggestions:

1. Try Ilex glabra (Inkberry Holly) since it is an east coast evergreen with berries for the birds and other wildlife.
2. Also ask for, Ilex verticillata (Winterberry). It is a medium to large shrub with quilted green foliage and brilliant red berries.

Finally, a shrub for the deep shade – Lindera benzoin (Spicebush)

Truly, to everything there is a season. Enjoy springtime!

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

Special Thanks to Paul Dorsey for printing the newsletter and to Marty Kelley, Marcia Brown, Eileen Ciechanowski, Jackie Webster and Alice Kloetzli for folding and collating

Membership Report

Thanks for the support of your membership dues received from March 21 to April 20, 2016. We appreciate renewals and welcome our new members. The following have renewed: A. Scott Braglio, Sr, Andy and Lynn Kochis, Bill and Kathy Skullney, Butch Oakman and Mary Jean Schelle, Cathy Zmijewski, Charles and Jeanette Young, Charles and Mary Jo Mathena, Charles and Paulette Chellis, Charles and Rosanne Connelly, Christa C. Decker, Chuck and Diane Nemec, Dan and Gail Conaway, David and Susan Hartman, David and Susan Jones, Davie Gorrie, Ed and Dee Dee Smoot, George W. and Rhoda Jones, Iris Robinson, James Simmons, Jeff and Heather Follweiler, Joseph Tatarewicz, MD and Joyce Bedi, Lee and Pat Haddaway, Mark and Diana Smith, Melinda Hicks (new member), Michael Patton, Mike and Jean Berg, Patrick and Linda Allen, Paul Dorsey, Peter and Jessica Ameljanczyk, Rosemary Dorsey, Sharon Layne, Steven J. Shade and Sydney Smith, Steven Stirn, The Pahl Family, Wayne and Suzanne Deitz, Wilbert and Wanda Talley, William and Cindy Cox, William and Susan Fowler.

GPCA would also like to thank the members who have made generous contributions above their annual dues. Contributions to date total \$750. **GPCA needs your help.** Please take a moment and send in your annual dues. The newsletters go out to over 1,500 households. However, only 166 households have renewed their membership or become new members. The newsletter is GPCA's largest expense and we need everyone to share in the cost. **Thank**

PARADE ANYONE? If you are interested in making another stab at having a GPCA parade in conjunction with the annual GPCA picnic in Oct. give a Board member a call.

PERSONAL ADS:

For Sale: Single-wide mobile home in the Granite Mobile Home Park on Davis Ave. Includes 2 bed, 1 bath, living room, kitchen, screened-in porch and a nice shed. Call 410-504-4534 if interested.

Veterinary Assistant/Receptionist Needed:

Part-time position available at Randallstown Animal Hospital. Please fax resume to 410-521-6779 or email to randallstownvet@gmail.com if interested.

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HERNWOOD CONSTRUCTION

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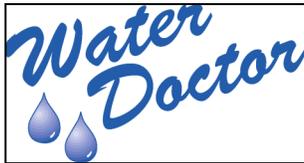
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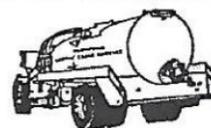
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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

Meeting - MONDAY, May 9th:

Delegates Adrienne Jones, Julian Jones, Ben Brooks
and Dr. Jay Jalisi will speak

CZMP 2016 District 4 Meeting-THURSDAY, June 9th at 6:00pm
at New Town High School, Owings Mills

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

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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.