



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #371

GPCA Newsletter

October 2017

Next Meeting: Monday, October 9, 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.

October Meeting Speaker Ned Tillman talks about Saving the Places We Love

Visit us on the Web at www.GPCA.net

October 9 General Meeting

Saving the Places We Love

Join us at the next General Meeting Oct 9 when we welcome award-winning environmental author Ned Tillman as he talks about environmental issues, particularly how to combat storm water runoff as individuals and as a group. Ned is a geologist, and a lifelong resident of Maryland. We are lucky to have him as a neighbor, as he lives in Columbia and is active with the Nature Conservancy and Howard County groups. He is familiar with the history and geology of our area and aware of our local concerns.

I was talking with some neighbors recently who have grown up here in the GPCA area. They were describing places that important to them as children, and looking forward to visiting those areas again during our annual picnic. Have you found that you have a favorite place here in the Patapsco Watershed? Are you interested in ways that we can preserve our beautiful back yard?

Ned has published two books: *The Chesapeake Watershed*, and *Saving the Places You Love*. He has a captivating writing style, interweaving geology, and history with his personal experiences. His deep connection to nature shines through each page, while his knowledge of geology and environmentalism will focus on the small as well as large things you can do to help preserve our area.

If you want to find out more about Ned before the meeting, look for his books and visit his Website <https://savingtheplaces.com/>

Murf Moorefield.

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Bob Teller - Chair Website & Email Communications

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Mark Your Calendar!

Stream Cleanup

What: Dogwood Run Stream Cleanup

When: November 5, 9 a.m. to Noon

Where: 7919 Dogwood Road, (look for orange cones along the road, park behind the barn.)

The GPCA Small Watershed Action Plan (SWAP) committee has organized a cleanup of Dogwood Run. Join us in the cleanup and make a difference in the water quality of the Patapsco River.

To signup, or for more information contact:

Pamela Patrick, 410-924-8998

pampatrick@rocketmail.com

From the President:

Counting my blessings this month for all we don't have, like hurricanes, power outages, mud, and fires. Traffic and speeding are a hot topic for our area. Some of you may have seen the "DRIVE LIKE YOUR KIDS LIVE HERE" signs posted in other neighborhoods; now GPCA joins the movement. These bright 18" x 24" red signs with bold white letters will be available for \$10, including the wire stakes, at any GPCA meeting, or you can give me a call and we can arrange pickup or delivery. Post one on your lawn and alert drivers they're driving through a community, not an interstate!

Our communications director, Bob Teller, has been working diligently on converting the GPCA Website to new software. After implemented, our hope is the new site will include online membership renewal and links to lots of useful information. Bob has enlisted the aid of some tech savvy GPCA members who are helping him iron-out some wrinkles, and we're looking forward to a Website that will prove to be a useful resource for all residents. Thanks Bob!

Recently I heard for the first time, and from a longtime resident who has the perspective to know, that we live in a 50 years and older community. At first I thought, wait a minute, Granite has open space and the Patapsco State Park, it's a great place for families! Then I recalled how, as I drive back and forth to work through Granite, how often I've witnessed the vicious

cycle of homes purchased by young couples, followed soon by toys in the yard and then, by the time the children reach school age, there's a FOR SALE sign in the lawn. It's frustrating to live in a county with a long history of first-rate education but, year after year, our local schools fall well below the county average. On August 29, Interim Superintendent Verletta White addressed a roomful of residents and community leaders at Randallstown Library and outlined her plan for improving school performance. A product of the county school system, she attended Woodmoor Elementary through Woodlawn High School and Towson University, and began her career as an elementary school teacher in county schools. Ms. White knows Baltimore County! She emphasized three key strategies for improving schools: literacy, discipline, and recruitment of high quality teachers. So, how can those of us 50 and older cultivate better academic performance in our schools? On Wednesday October 11 at 7:00 p.m., the Northwest Area Education Council of Baltimore County will hear public testimony on the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Capital Pre-Budget at New Town High School. Reach out and speak to your local school principal and ask what facility improvements they need to make their schools more productive. Find more information at: <https://www.bcps.org/budget/FY14/public-participation.html>

Be safe, Cathy Wolfson, President

GPCA Membership Renewals and New Members

Joint Memberships

Bragg, Dr. Guy and Gladys

Garcia, Joel and Andrea

George and Rhoda Jones

Giles, Donnell and Ella

New Joint Membership

Farnsworth, Joshua S and Brandy Iskin

Tyler, Bruce and Daye

Single Membership

Snyder, Charles

Henry, Merlowe

Charyszyn, Lisa

Hays, Leigh

Shelter in Place and ATV Concern at September Meeting

Baltimore County Police Officer Kristie Makowiecki was our guest at the September meeting, and spoke about shelter in place procedures. Recently, there was an incident in Granite when residents were asked to stay inside, and those returning home were asked to wait. This was for the safety of everyone until the incident was quietly resolved. The police requested cooperation from citizens for the safety of all. Of course, it is better to be safe than sorry when there is a threat. *Shelter in place* means finding a safe location indoors and staying there until you receive an “all clear” or orders to evacuate. You may be asked to shelter in place because of an active shooter, tornado, chemical, or other hazard.

In finding a safe location, does the door lock? Does it open in or out? Is there furniture nearby that you can use to barricade the door? Can you close and/or block the windows? Think what you might need (food, water, medication) if the shelter in place lasts many hours. In an active shooter situation, hide or barricade yourself. Lock the door. Test the lock. Wait in the safest possible location. If necessary, move something in front of the door to ensure it cannot be forced open. Turn off all lights. Silence all phones. Wait for further instructions. Do not open the door until instructed by responding authorities.

In a severe weather event, such as a tornado, the rule of thumb is to put as many walls between you and the outdoors as possible and head to the lowest floor possible. The basement is an ideal location.

In addition to Officer Makowiecki, two representatives from the Wright Flyers attended to discuss ATV damage to the Hernwood Landfill, crop destruction, startling of animals, and illegal riding on roads and private property. Residents are asked to report these violations to the police or the Department of Natural Resources.

ATVs and off highway vehicles (OHVs) are not allowed in Patapsco Valley State Park EVER. If you see ATVs or OHVs in a MD State Park, call Natural Resources Police at 800-825-7275 or 410-260-8888. If you see them on county owned property, please call 911.

GPCA Watershed News and Information

Fall Planting

Fall is the perfect time to add native plants to your landscape. Whether it is native grasses, flowers, or trees, they will provide shelter and food for animals and help prevent erosion. Planting in the fall allows the plant to put its energy into root development instead of new growth because the plant is going into dormancy. The plants also have less stress and demand for water during the cooler months.

Native plants also require little care and are cost effective. After their initial establishment, they require no watering, and they never need fertilizing. Most native plants are perennials; you only have to buy them once, and they return year after year. You have to buy annuals and replant every year.

Before you invest in plants, do a little research to know the soil type, moisture, and the amount of sunlight of your site. Put the right plant in the right place. Also, look for a variety of plants that bloom throughout the year and provide pollinators with a food source from spring through fall and possibly the winter too.

For more information about native plants, visit the Maryland Native Plant Society Website <https://mdflora.org/publications/nurses.html>, or the University of Maryland Extension site at <https://extension.umd.edu/riparianbuffers/suppliers-plants-and-seeds>.

The first planned GPCA Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC) event will be a stream cleanup of Dogwood Run near the intersection of Dogwood Rd and Hollifield Rd, scheduled for Sunday, November 5, at 9am. Please contact Bob Teller at gpc21163@gmail.com for more details or to signup.

Please look for this column each month to learn how you can help reduce stormwater runoff. Everyone is welcome to join SWCC.

Anna Schrad, SWCC Member

Community News

From the Randallstown Library

October is an exciting month at the Randallstown branch library. We are celebrating our golden anniversary in style during the week of October 16 through the 20th. Come by the library to see a display of historic Randallstown photographs, share with us a memory of the library, and enter to win an all-new Kindle Fire HD 8 tablet. Do you have any photos of the Randallstown branch library? Old or new, bring them by and we will copy them and include them on our display. We will end our week of anniversary activities with an after-hours concert on Friday, October 20 with the masters of jazz, Definite Friends.

Check our Adult flyer online for information on programs for job seekers and our popular computer classes.

Our after school programs for children and teens continue. **Visionary Explorers** lead students to create original art with artists from the American Visionary Art Museum on Oct 4, 11, and 18 at 4:30 PM; Girls Breaking Barriers hosts **CodeStars** on Saturdays, Oct 7, 14, and 21 at 11:00 AM, leading teens to create everything from dresses to apps with computer code. The Children and Teens flyer includes information on our annual and always popular children's Halloween Party with a trick or treat parade, Teen Read Week's **Unleash Your Story** party, **Professor Mike's Magic and Science Show** and lots more.

Don't forget that all branches of the Baltimore County Public Library are closed on Monday, October 11 for Columbus Day. You can always check out all the programs at <http://www.bcpl.info/events/dates-lines-randallstown>.

Lori Hensch, Baltimore County Public Library

11th Annual Bull & Oyster Roast, Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #13294, at St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Parish, 10800 Old Court Rd, Woodstock, MD 21163. Saturday, November 18, 2017 5:30pm to 9:30pm, \$45 per person. For tickets, call Ed Pelsinsky: (410) 313 8808 or epelsinsky1@verizon.net.

Charting Patapsco's History

From GPCA Newsletter, Issue #108, March 10, 1995

By Tom DeMay

As you may know, Granite has recently [sic] been accepted into the National Register of Historic Places. If this sparks your historical curiosity, here is a place to look for more information.

*There is a terrific book called *The Patapsco: Baltimore's River of History*. Published in 1990, it covers the activities surrounding the Patapsco River from the earliest settlements through the current day. Included are personalities such as the Ellicotts, Benjamin Banneker, John Wilkes Booth, and Charles Carroll, as well as businesses like the B&O Railroad, the Daniels Company, the Waltersville Quarry, and the Elkridge Furnace.*

There are tales of Indians, settlers, entrepreneurs, Civil War soldiers, and businessmen. Much of the book talks about the mills built alongside the river to take advantage of free waterpower to turn the mill machinery.

One chapter that I found particularly interesting explained the more violent nature of the river. There have been several devastating floods that changed the river valley and its inhabitants forever.

Several pages are devoted to the Granite/Woodstock Area, including the Woodstock College. Here's a sample taken from the book:

"The sleepy village of Woodstock was revived in 1866 when the Society of Jesus, commonly known as the Jesuits, purchased 243 acres of land on the north side of the Patapsco. On September 26, 1869, Woodstock College, or the College of the Sacred Heart, as it was formally dedicated, opened its doors as the first permanent scholasticate, or house of studies, for the Society of Jesus in North America. Although located in the township of Granite, the institution derived its name from the village across the river which served as its post office."

During the first phase of construction, 9 acres of woodland were cleared. The main building, in the shape of an "I", was made of gray-brown granite, cut and hauled from nearby Fox Quarry and then placed by hand. The 1.25 million bricks for the partition walls

were burned on the premises. The main building of 3 stories with a dormer type roof, housed classrooms, 298 student rooms, an auditorium, an infirmary, 43 small chapels to accommodate 80 priests for daily Mass, dining rooms, offices, and guest parlors.

As the college grew, the main building was expanded. The east wing and the chapel were added in 1924 and the two towers and the west wing in 1925. The science building was erected in 1927, and the O'Rourke Library, which contained 130,000 volumes, including a priceless collection of rare books and manuscripts from the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries, was built in 1929. The College property expanded to 687 acres and eventually became a self-contained community...."

Maryland's Ice Cream Trail

You may well argue that Maryland is the nation's premier ice cream state. Undeniably, Maryland is both first and foremost in American ice cream. First because in 1744, Maryland's proprietary governor, Thomas Bladen, reportedly served the first ice cream in the New World. Foremost because one of the world's largest ice cream plants is located in Laurel, just north of Washington, DC.

"Our ice cream plant in Laurel, Maryland made 114,904 million liters of ice cream in 2015," said Liz Caselli-Michael, Manager of Corporate Communications for Nestlé Corporate Affairs. "We presently produce 141 products made up of Haagen-Dazs pints and bars, Skinny Cow bars and sandwiches, Nestlé DIBs, Nestlé Drumstick, and Nestlé Outshine water ice bars."

To showcase Maryland's ice cream heritage, the state has inaugurated the "Maryland's Best Ice Cream Trail". Now in its fifth year, the Trail links nine Maryland dairies that produce and sell their ice cream directly to consumers. The trail stretches from Ocean City west to the mountains of Washington County and focuses on creameries producing small-batch, craft-made ice cream. Often, the creameries use milk from their own cows or locally produced milk and local fruits.

For more information, visit
www.MarylandsBest.net.

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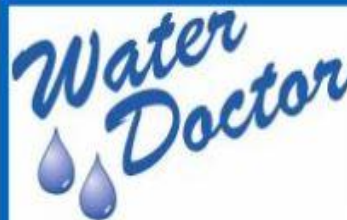
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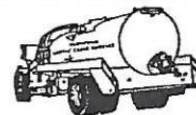
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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

General Meeting – October 9, 2017

Halloween – October 31

GPCA Stream Cleanup – November 5

GPCA Membership Application

Please Print 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

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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 GPCA, P.O. Box 31, Woodstock, MD 21163 **prior to publication deadline.** Checks should 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.

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.