



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #376

GPCA Newsletter

March 2018

Next Meeting: Monday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.

Bill Rees, retired BGE Forester, will discuss Meadow Management

GPCA General Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, except July & August, at the

Visit us on the Web at www.GPCA.net

2018 Election of Officers and Directors at February 12 Meeting

GPCA's annual elections, held at our February meeting, resulted in the following slate of officers:.

President – Cathy Wolfson

Vice President – George Jones

Treasurer – Maribeth Diemer

Secretary – Denise Maranto

Director — (Carol) Murf Moorefield – Term expires January 2021.

Many thanks to outgoing Director, Barb Warnock, and all of the folks who willingly give their time to serve our community. We appreciate your service.

GPCA's Annual Community Cleanup Scheduled for April 7

Join your friends and neighbors on Saturday April 7, from 8:00 a.m. until noon, for our annual community cleanup. Become a part of this positive community event. Meet at the St. Alphonsus Church parking lot; GPCA will provide the necessary safety vests and trash bags for each area team. Baltimore County will provide dumpsters.\

Put together a team of friends or people from your home owners' association or neighborhood and give a couple hours to keeping our hills and valleys beautiful.

Please remember no hazardous or flammable materials; no paints or oils; no electronics (computer equipment, TVs, VCRs, phones, stereos, phones etc.) and no fridges or air conditioners. Place all metal items in a designated container, and tires found on roadsides will be collected separately.

We thank **Keep Maryland Beautiful**, the **Maryland Environmental Trust**, and the **Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development** for their assistance.

Thanks for your support, Carol Link, GPCA Cleanup coordinator, linkgang87@gmail.com.



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From the President:

This election year offers an opportunity to elect a district representative to the Board of Education who will be accountable for our 4th District's students who are not meeting academic expectations in the county's Southwest and Northwest school districts. To understand how our local schools are performing, visit reportcard.msde.maryland.gov, where you can click on the school tab and select any school from the state or county dropdown list and see their scores on standardized tests and view statistics ranging from enrollment to teacher qualifications. Data is provided from the 2011 to 2016-2017 school years.

*Here's some data from the site for the 2016-2017 school year for Winfield Elementary in the Southwest district that serves approximately half of the GPCA membership area. **Did you know:***

- *17.6 percent and 13.5 percent of 5th graders met standardized test expectations for reading and math respectively, or HALF the overall county rate of 34.4 percent and 30.3 percent.*
- *Winfield Elementary had a 39.8 percent mobility rate; nearly 40 percent of the 445 students attending Winfield in 2016-2017 entered the school after the start of the school year or withdrew before the end of the year. Student mobility throughout the county that year was 21.3 percent; nearly half of Winfield's rate. Studies conclude that higher mobility rates and homelessness contribute to lower reading and math abilities and those students have higher rates of learning disabilities and fewer exceed expectations on standardized tests. Quick turnarounds of student records and matching curricula have been found to reduce these negative impacts on transient students.*
- *Public school teachers are classified as Standard Professional OR Advanced Professionals. The Standard Professional Certificate requires 3 years of satisfactory, professional school-related experience plus 6 hours of acceptable credit and a professional development plan for the Advanced Professional Certificate. Advanced Professional Certificate requires verification of 3 years of full-time professional school-related experience, 6 semester hours of acceptable credit; and a Master's degree,*

or a minimum of 36 semester hours of post baccalaureate course work that must include at least 21 hours of graduate credit. At Winfield Elementary 57.7 percent of teachers were certified as Standard and 26.9 percent were certified Professional. For the county overall, 26.4 percent were standard and 62 percent were advanced professionals. Why is a school struggling to meet standardized test expectations underserved by more than 50 percent of the overall county rate of teachers certified as Advanced Professional?

- *A 2014 Baltimore County Public Schools Long Term Planning report projects elementary school enrollment in the area of the Southwest district roughly between Relay/Catonsville and Security Boulevard will require 1,040 additional seats. But in those schools north of that line to Liberty Road, which includes Winfield, it projects 417 empty seats. One may conclude that parents are locating in school districts where academic expectations are met.*

An elected school board member who knows our community can be just the advocate our local schools need. And we can do this...VOTE! Primary June 26, 2018 - General Nov. 6, 2018.

Cathy Wolfson, President, 410-245-8708

March Meeting to Focus on BGE's New Approach to Managing Vegetation on Right-of-Ways

Bill Rees, a retired BGE forester, will join us at our March meeting to explain the Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program in the BGE right-of-ways throughout Maryland's state parks, including Patapsco Valley. Mr. Rees spearheaded this program, and eventually had BGE adopt it throughout the parks. IVM has proven to be good for the environment and very cost effective for BGE.

IVM involves selective spraying of invasive plants and encouraging the native "seed bank", already present in the soil, to reclaim the area with native flora. Research shows that managed right-of-ways under power lines has provided a much needed meadowland that benefits a wide variety of birds, pollinators, and

other wildlife, as well as providing better stormwater management. Native plants will attract and support wildlife that need meadowlands and prairie habitat. For example, as a child I would wake in the mornings to the sound of “*Bob-white!*” Those quail and other field nesting birds are now missing from the neighborhood because the meadow where they lived became a housing development. IVM will give our avian neighbors a place to live!

Bring your curiosity and your questions to the meeting on Monday, March 12 at 7:30 PM, to find out more about this program. Meanwhile, if you want to learn more about meadowlands stop by our neighbor, the Howard County Conservancy to see how they preserve 232 acres of meadowlands in their Mt Pleasant facility. You can also check out the Native Grasslands Conservancy in Upper Marlboro (<https://nativegrasslands.org/>) or like their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/nativegrasslands>. Another great resource is John Greenlee’s *The American Meadow Garden* (2009).

Our suburban backyards can play a role in preserving habitat and species. And, with a meadow garden, you will have a reason not to mow your lawn!

Murf Moorefield

Special Thanks To:

Paul Dorsey for printing the Newsletter each month.

Collators of the February issue: Maribeth Diemer, Bob Teller, Phill and Erin Guarino, Jan Lalomia, and Students Sophia Guarino, Grace Lalomia, and Nicole Liu, earning their Community Service Credits.

Folders: Eileen Ciechanowski, Kathryn Dorman, Sandy Fallin, Evalyn Garvin, Murf Moorefield, and Bobbie Stanfield.

With heartfelt sadness, the Board and members of GPCA offer our sincere condolences to the families of three GPCA community members for the passing of their loved ones. May they rest in peace.

Curtis Collins, Old Court Road
Jim Glanville, Dogwood Road
Marie Rayburn, Dogwood Road

Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC)

Pool Party Time!

I know what you are thinking, "It's only March! It's too cold for a pool party." However, I'm not talking about the bikini and sunblock kind of pool party; I'm talking about *vernal* pools, temporary bodies of water.

Vernal means spring. Vernal pools are temporary bodies of water that appear in the spring as a result of snow melt and spring rains in addition to reduced evaporation and uptake of water by trees. As the trees become more active and the days become longer and warmer, these giant puddles dry up. This is key to their function. Predatory fish cannot inhabit vernal pools. As a result, the pools make the perfect site for some amphibians such as wood frogs and salamanders to lay their eggs and for their young to safely develop.

Find vernal pools in floodplains, depressions in the woods, and agricultural fields. Now is a great time to take a hike and find signs of amphibians you can see and hear in the vernal pools. Last year, we had a near 80°F day at the end of February, and the wood frogs had a pool party! From a distance, it sounded like ducks, but it was the wood frogs having a good time in the seasonal pools. Within a week, we could see masses of gelatinous frog eggs in the same locations. Luckily, frogs make their own version of antifreeze to survive the cold bursts that March often brings.

It is important for vernal pools to exist and stay clean and viable as they are the only place for many amphibians to rear their offspring. As with any adventure in nature, please leave only footprints and take only pictures.

By Anna Schrad, SWCC

Next SWCC Meeting March 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Membership Renewals

January 1 through February 20, 2018

Berg, Mike and Jean
Bonds, J. Kevin and Mauk, Scott
Booker, Joe and Sharon
Chenoweth, George
Collins, Richard and Gail
Conaway, Dan and Gail
Connelly, Charles and Rosanne
Cookson, John and Donna
Costello, Barbara
Cotter, Charlotte
Cotter, Keith
Cox, Jr., Thomas
Dahl, Ken and Marilyn
DeRamus, Jim and Lisa
Dixon, Patricia (Beth)
Dressler, Charles
Fallin, Cassandra
Follweiler, Jeff and Heather
Ford, Roland and Sharon
Freeland, Ron and Betty
Geiman, Sue E and Judy Downing
Geppert, Carl and Wendy
Grzanna, Carmelita
Higgs, Jim and Jean
Hisky, Mike and Brigitte
Izydore, Chris and Melissa
Jenkins, Joe and Kathy
Jones, George and Rhoda
Joseph, Kerith, MD & Dawn Montague
Kahler, Bonnie
Kahn, Michael and Cindy
Kurnas, Alice V
Lalomia, Kurt and Jan
Leach, Jeffery and Jacqueline
Litzau, Denise
Malick, Adrien and Patricia
Mallory, T.J. and Irvina
Maranto, Denise
Maranto, Vincent and Victoria
Masemore, Bill
McAllister, Bob and Amy
McGovern, Tom and Maggie
McKnight, Barbara
Meekins, Angus and Betty
Meekins, Steve and Sue
Miceli, Carl and Patricia
Moorefield, Carol and Barbara Warnock
Murray, John and Gwen
Murray, Terilynn

Nueslein, Kate and Tony
Oakman, Butch and Mary Jean Scheile
Ortel, Todd and Stacy
Parker, Sandy (Eugene) and Melanie
Peles, Paul and Barbara
Peters, Ron and Debbie
Pfeiffer, Bob and Judi
Plowman, Gary and Nicole
Redd, Sam and Lydia McCargo-
Regan, Troy and Kelly
Roach, Patricia
Roche, Michele
Sassi, Leggio Joseph
Schaefer, Wayne and Bethany
Scheurer, David and Ann Marie Galloway
Shea, Colleen and Gregg Smith
Smoot, Ed and Dee Dee
Stanfield, Bobbie
Stirn, Steven
Tersiguel, Fernand and Odette
Traylor, Pat and Gianforte, Charlotte
Vito, Carol
Wade, Robert and Carolyn
Wallace, Ronald and Nancy
Warden, John and Marjorie
Webster, Dennis and Jackie
Welsko, Mark and Karen
Wilder, Walter and Courtney
Wolfson, Cathy and Carl
Wolinski, Doug and Stacy

S.O.S. – Save Our Stars!

We notice, more and more, how bright the city lights are on our sky. This brightness extends many miles and it seems to deplete the stars in our night sky. This is light pollution. Unlike many other forms of pollution, light pollution is reversible and each one of us can make a difference! The Dark Sky Initiative sets guidelines for developed areas within national parks, state parks, forested lands, and rural areas. GPCA includes rural areas, forested lands, and borders on a portion of Patapsco Valley State Park.

To meet these guidelines, developers, builders, and homeowners should use appropriate lighting that does not contribute to light pollution or “light trespass”--your light fixtures throwing light onto
(Continued next page)

(Stars continued)

neighboring properties. We can all minimize the impact of light pollution and light trespass. Many affordable light “cut-off” fixtures have a shield so the fixture does not throw light beyond a defined limit. .

A few things to consider and implement:

- Save energy and money by turning off non-essential outdoor lighting when no one is outdoors
- Install motion lights at your entry doors to limit the amount of time lights stay on.
- Illuminate your flag with a solar fixture that mounts at the top of the flagpole and shines down.
- Aim lighting at the ground. Use down-lighting only; no up-lighting.

By Stacy Brian, Registered Architect; Member, US Green Building Council

Your Turn to Air Your Road Grievances

Our February meeting brought out many of our neighbors with concerns about their small, one-lane roads. We are preparing a program in the spring in which we hope to have representatives from Baltimore County Roads come to us to hear our concerns. In preparation, **we are calling for you to express your concerns about the roads in the GPCA area.** Please contact Murf Moorefield at caldron@verizon.net.



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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

Daylight Savings Time begins -- March 11, 2018

St. Patrick's Day -- March 17

Palm Sunday -- March 25

Good Friday/Passover Begins -- March 30

GPCA

Membership Application

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

☐ I'm new in the community.

Mail completed application and check to:
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GPCA Officers and Board of Directors

President: Cathy Wolfson 410-245-8708, oakknob@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:

Butch Oakman 443-314-6415 oakelectric@comcast.net

Murf Morefield cauldron@verizon.net

Jackie Webster: 410-258-1985, daisyweb@msn.com

Editor: Reed Hellman editorgpcanewsletter@yahoo.com

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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. 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.