



Issue #381

GPCA Newsletter

September 2018

Next Meeting: Monday, September 10, 7:30 p.m.

Stream Watch Training with the Patapsco Heritage Greenway

GPCA General Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, except July & August, at the Granite Presbyterian Church. Everyone is invited to attend.

View our Website at www.gpca.net

From the President:

Please join us at our annual picnic, October 6 at Patapsco State Park. We had a wonderful afternoon last year and welcome all of you, whether you're GPCA members or not. The pavilion offers plenty of cover, so the event will be held rain or shine. Our picnic's been an annual event for more than 30 years, but last year so few children attended that the moon bounce, synonymous with GPCA picnics for so long, went largely unused. And, the cakewalk attracted so few "walkers" that we gave cakes away. So, in a break with a long and memorable tradition, this picnic will go on without the moon bounce or the cakewalk.

The good news is that the park has a nearby playground, plenty of room to ride bikes and go for a hike, so we hope we'll see you and your children and grandchildren there! The annual Odd Fellows Crab Feast follows on Sunday, October 7, and will benefit GPCA. Please come out to support GPCA. Meet the Odd Fellows and satisfy your curiosity.

On a more serious note, the lack of children at the picnic reflects on a crisis in the neighborhood: fewer and fewer young families. Understandably, families who want their children to attend public schools are choosing to live in school districts, particularly elementary school districts, where students consistently meet or exceed grade level expectations. Standardized test scores bear out that Winfield, Hernwood, or Dogwood Elementary are not at that level. Mobility rates at these schools for the 2016-2017 school year were 39.8 percent, 33.1 percent, and 30.5 percent respectively. That means, in Winfield's case, that nearly 40 of every 100 students either didn't start or didn't finish at Winfield. At a school with an enrollment of more than 600, that's 240 students transferring in or out in one year! An incredible challenge for teachers and students. A conundrum for us: We enjoy a safe community with beautiful open spaces, shopping, dining, and other services convenient to Baltimore and Howard counties, but cannot or do not support our public schools with our children's attendance. At least this year we do have the opportunity to vote for our voice on the county school board. Our District 4 candidates, Makeda Scott and Kathleen White, have made the commitment to advocate for our schools. Now, it's up to us to vote on November 6. Don't be surprised to see them, or another candidate or two at the picnic!

I look forward to seeing you at our September 10 general meeting where Hannah Zinnert of the Greenway Heritage Trust will provide Stream Watcher training to monitor area streams. This presentation is a result of the efforts of our Small Watershed Community Committee, which has been developing great strategies for us to be better stewards of our natural resources. Warm regards, Cathy Wolfson, President GPCA

What's inside?

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Neighborhood Notes

Newsletter's New Editorial Address

Please note that the *GPCA Newsletter* has a new editorial address. To contact the Newsletter editor, please use this email address:

EditorGPCANewsletter@gmail.com

Special Thanks To:

Paul Dorsey for **printing** the Newsletter each month.

Folders & Collators: Wayne Dell, Maribeth Diemer, Evalyn Garvin, Marty Kelley, and Robert Teller

Membership Renewals

Please keep the renewals and new memberships coming. We need your voice and vote. Only paid members have the right to vote on issues brought to GPCA and the organization's response. Many thanks to the renewing and new members for your support!

2018 New Joint Membership: Shuman, Sandy & Laurel

Future GPCA Meetings

October 8: Baltimore County Executive Candidates John Olszewski (D) and Al Redmer (R)

November 12: Supporting US Government Retiree's Perspective (to be confirmed)

December 10: GPCA Holiday Party – support Night of Peace

What speakers or topics would you like to see addressed at the GPCA meetings? Email your suggestions or concerns to: GPCA Communications: gpc21163@gmail.com or any board member.

For Sale, All Excellent Condition

- Woman's Trek 100 Navigator 21 speed cruising bike, 14-inch aluminum frame, blue/silver, \$75.
- Men's Trek 100 Navigator 21 speed cruising bike, 18.5-inch aluminum frame, blue/silver, \$75.
- Nags Head Hammocks swing with free standing metal frame, fabric seat, \$75.

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*Friendship, Love & Truth: Look No Farther Than
Your Own Backyard*

Focusing on the Odd Fellows

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) started in Baltimore in 1819. Thomas Wildey, an Odd Fellow from England, sought to share the values of Odd Fellowship in America. He put an ad in the paper calling on members of the English order to meet and institute the first American Odd Fellows Lodge.

The meeting took place on April 26, 1819, at the Seven Stars Tavern in Baltimore. Now in our 200th year, Odd Fellowship is alive and well across the world and here in Granite!

Shiloh Lodge #111 laid the cornerstone for Odd Fellowship in Granite in 1888 with their building at 10613 Old Court Road. This building remains a home to Odd Fellowship. Since the early 1990s, it has been the home to Baltimore City Lodge #57, where we continue to help those in need.

Odd Fellowship strives to elevate the character of mankind by visiting the sick, relieving the distressed, burying the dead, and educating the orphan. Baltimore City Lodge #57 donates more than \$30,000 each year to people in need, educational scholarships, and local and national charities.

Every year Baltimore City Lodge #57 hosts a crab feast fundraiser and donates 100 percent of the profits to a chosen charity. This year, the lodge chose the GPCA as its recipient. Please join us on Sunday, October 7 at 1pm to support the GPCA! Get your tickets before they sell out! For more information:

[Facebook.com/baltimorecitylodge57/](https://www.facebook.com/baltimorecitylodge57/)

To find out more about Odd Fellowship, you are welcome to join us at the lodge hall to enjoy refreshments at 7:00 P.M. before any meeting. We meet the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M., September through June.

In Friendship, Love, and Truth,

Laurel Shuman, Vice Grand
Brianna Shuman, Public Relations

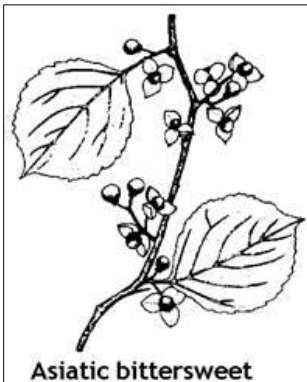
The costs of publishing the GPCA Newsletter are partially funded by the IOOF lodge #57's donations, totaling \$250 year to date.

Small Watershed Community Committee (SWCC)

Dealing with Asian Bittersweet

This aggressive, invasive vine (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is easiest to spot in the fall when their 2-inch, round leaves drop and reveal clusters of three bright orange petals surrounding a scarlet berry. Arranged down the length of the vine, they create a tempting decoration for autumn holidays. Native to eastern Asia, it was introduced in the U.S. as an ornamental form of erosion control in 1860.

Birds eat the sweet berries and disperse the seeds; they readily germinate and root. An extremely vigorous vine, Asian bittersweet also spreads by its roots, both over and under the ground. It thrives on forest edges where it enjoys abundant sunlight and climbs into the treetops. The vines greatly reduce the light the host requires for photosynthesis while simultaneously strangling the tree with multiple winding woody vines that can be as big as your arm.



All control methods require constant monitoring due to bittersweet's proliferation by birds. Hand pulling is most effective for younger vines. The horizontally growing orange roots confirm you are pulling up Asian bittersweet. Pruning heavier vines relieves their

host trees, but as they sprout from cut growth, chemical control is advised to assure non-proliferation. Because of their easily re-rooting habit vines with roots attached should be bagged and discarded.

Take a look at your trees' trunks and tops. If you see evidence of these vines, your trees will greatly appreciate liberation from this pervasive invasive. If you must have their admittedly beautiful berry laden branches for fall decorations, many craft stores offer artificial garlands that can grace the table year after year without burdening the ecosystem!

Cathy Wolfson

Watershed Water Quality Monitoring

The Small Watershed Action Project (SWAP)/SWCC is eager to get involved in monitoring stream water quality. This is a significant undertaking and commitment that will generate hard data to monitor and trend our area watershed health. The data is also the type of information that can be used to predict the probable impact of zoning and land-use changes, infrastructure projects, etc.

For monitoring data to be credible to county and state entities, we must develop and maintain a formalized program that includes policies, procedures, quality assurance plan, training, and standardized reporting methods. This is the "work" commitment. Then there is the "dollar" commitment for equipment and supplies needed to start and maintain the monitoring program.

I have gathered and reviewed many written resources and considered several options to meet our desired objective. At present, I think developing our program in conjunction with the Chesapeake Monitoring Coop (CMC) is a very good option. That organization helps groups like ours get up and running and maintain standards so that the data collected is accurate, useful, and readily available to governments and other organizations

Even with the support of CMC, a lot of discussions, decisions, research, writing, editing, and followup tasks must be done. This is not something one person can do and realistically create a viable program and process. Success must start with a small team of dedicated people for the research, development, implementation, and maintenance processes. After the program has structure and established methods, we can begin to bring in others to grow and maintain it.

I'm looking for a few individuals to create and develop this program with me. As always, I will respect your time and commitments to make the best and most efficient use of your efforts. A successful watershed water quality monitoring program can be a great tool for our community and the GPCA to preserve and enhance our natural surroundings. Please consider joining me in this exciting endeavor.

Bob Teller, rteller@verizon.net

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC

Saturday October 6, 2018

Patapsco State Park

McKeldin Area - Shelter 501

2:00 – 6:00 PM

Join your friends and neighbors
for an afternoon of food and fun.

Playground, hiking, biking and Frisbee golf at the park

GPCA will supply:

Hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls, condiments

Iced tea/lemonade/coffee

Ice, paper products and utensils

Music & 50/50

You bring:

A potluck dish or a dessert to share.

BYOB

Lawn chair if desired (picnic tables on site)

Park entry fee \$3 / person

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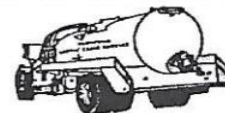
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Baltimore City Lodge #57
7th Annual

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Sunday, October 7 1-4 pm

Menu:

All You Can Eat Crabs*
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Tickets:

\$40 in advance
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All Proceeds Support



*Crab cakes will be provided in place of crabs upon request *in advance*, NOT at the door



*No carryout bags. Extra crabs may be sold for charity at the end of the event



GPCA

P.O. Box 31
Granite, MD 21163

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

Labor Day – September 3, 2018
Rosh Hashanah begins – September 9
Yom Kippur begins – September 18
Autumn begins – September 22

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

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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. 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 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 submission for a future newsletter.