



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

**Issue #396**

**GPCA Newsletter**

**January 2020**

**Next Meeting: Monday, Jan 13, 7:30 p.m.**

**Annual Election of officers and directors**

**Ms. Rodgers of Baltimore County Administrative Office**

*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](http://www.gpca.net)*

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

May 2020 bring each of you and your families good health, joy and prosperity!

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GPCA's annual election of officers and directors will be held, as required by our bylaws at our first general meeting of the new year which falls on January 13, 2020. The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate:

- President – Butch Oakman
- Vice President – Vacant
- Treasurer – Maribeth Diemer
- Secretary – Denise Maranto
- Director - Maurice Dixon – 3 year term ending January 2023
- Director – Rhoda Jones - Remainder of 3 year term ending January 2022 served by late Director George Jones

Nomination of candidates will also be taken from the floor on the evening of the election. Candidates must be members of GPCA for a minimum of 6 months immediately preceding the election. Per our bylaws officers are elected for a 1 year term and directors for 3 year terms. Murf Moorfield's term as director doesn't expire until 2021. The President may serve for 2 consecutive 1 year terms and may again become eligible after a 1 year lapse. The lapse period applies to no other Executive Board members.

Please let us know if you're interested in serving as an office or director or have any questions about the process.

Cathy Wolfson, Nominating Committee Chair

410-245-8708/oakknob@comcast.net

Kathy Skullney, Nominating Committee Member

410-465-9116 / ksskullney@verizon.net

### **What's inside?**

SWCC update, Dec meeting recap, In Our Neighborhood ...3,4    Our Advertisers, 5 -7

## From the Small Watershed Community Committee SWCC Milestones

Three GPCA members attended the Maryland Water Monitoring Conference on Dec 16, 2019, where there was a lot of talk about the importance of citizen science and volunteer water monitoring.

Volunteer water quality monitoring is key for up-to-date knowledge about changing water health and conditions, as well as to increase community engagement and investment in streams. Stream monitoring efforts are necessary for prioritization of conservation and restoration efforts.

A survey of citizen water quality monitoring groups, done by the Virginia Dept of Environmental Quality, found that volunteers save the government huge amounts of money. They estimated that over \$3.25 million is spent each year by volunteers in Virginia through volunteered time, out-of-pocket expenses, and analysis costs. Thus, it pays for local governments to provide grants to citizens doing monitoring.

Major water quality concerns mentioned during the conference are microplastics, estrogen disruptors, personal care product contaminants, nitrogen from agriculture, road salt runoff, and phosphates from car wash runoff.

There are many adverse impacts to surface and groundwater from road deicing salts. Many streams in Baltimore County are considered "impaired by elevated chloride", according to studies done by the Maryland Geological Survey. Median chloride concentrations in groundwater in the Maryland Piedmont have risen from 6 to 202 mg/L in 40+ years. Salinity impacts fish and plants and causes the leaching of metals. Groundwater can serve as a year-round reservoir for chloride. Chloride corrodes pipes, thinning the walls of pipes, and releases

radionucleotides from geology into ground water, causing increased radon emissions.

*-Laurie Donnelly, SWCC*

## December Meeting Recap:

We had fun at our well attended holiday party, where tables were filled with homemade and catered festive dishes and desserts like cocktail meatballs, assorted mini sandwiches, pecan pie, and coffee chocolate brownies. At this end of the year celebration, we recognized members who have made outstanding contributions. Our beloved George Jones was recognized with applause as the diligent director whose warm presence is greatly missed along with his wisdom and help as a friend and board member. The membership gave Cathy Wolfson, our former president, a holiday wreath and basket of cheer, which included a gift certificate to the Granite Rose Tea Parlour. Cathy's passion is to serve and preserve our beautiful rural community with constant vigilance and communication with neighbors and government officials. She did not miss a beat recently, even with a broken leg.

The GPCA officers and board members were recognized, also: Butch Oakman, Vice President and Acting President, who stepped up without hesitation when Cathy Wolfson had to leave the position, Denise Maranto, Secretary, Maribeth Diemer, who has two jobs as GPCA Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, Maurice Dixon and Murf Moorefield, hardworking directors, active in the community. Thanks, also, to Marty Kelley for chairing the newsletter folding committee, to Carol Link for chairing the cleanup committee, to Bob Teller for founding and heading the Small Watershed Community Committee, and Kathy Skullney for expert leadership as chair of the zoning committee. The back hallway of the Granite Presbyterian Church meeting room was filled with members' donations for the Night of Peace Family Shelter. Thanks to everyone who brought a dish and a donation to our holiday party!

*-Denise Maranto, Secretary*

## In Our Neighborhood

We sadly mark the passing of longtime GPCA member and community volunteer Roberta “Bobbie” Stanfield on December 21, 2019.

Bobbie was active in GPCA in several capacities including Citizens on Patrol with her daughter and a regular attendee at the monthly GPCA newsletter committee meetings helping to collate, fold and sort the 1,584 newsletters prior to mailing. She was always one of the first to pay her annual dues accompanied with a note of thanks to the GPCA board and committee members.

Bobbie will be sorely missed and warmly remembered by all of us who had the pleasure to know and work with her. She thought one of her greatest achievements in life was raising her 3 daughters. Our sincere condolences are extended to her three daughters Stacy Wolinski, Lauren Bennett and Nancy Weizman and their families.

### **GPCA means Granite People Care A lot**

Thanks to all of you who generously donated paper towels, toilet paper, diapers, trash bags, dish soap, detergent, hand sanitizer, sandwich bags, Fabuloso, disinfectant wipes, feminine hygiene products, tissues, blankets, washcloths, baby wipes, pillowcases, bleach and assorted food items to **Night of Peace Family Shelter**. The items were delivered on December 21 and were greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate to Night of Peace but were unable to bring an item to our meetings please visit [www.nightofpeace.org](http://www.nightofpeace.org) or call 410-922-4357 or email [info@nightofpeace.org](mailto:info@nightofpeace.org). Donations are welcome year round!

### **Thanks to Renewing and New Members:**

Blecha, Kevin and Kristie Korwek; Mathena, Joan; Reitz, Dennis and Cathy; Wolinski, Doug and Stacy who rounded out the 2019 membership roster.

**2019 membership roundup:** The 2019 membership goal was an ambitious one - 40% of the approximately 1,600 households within the GPCA boundaries as voting members. We ended the year with 13% of the households paying dues and therefore voting members. The 2019 member percentage is in line with the 2018 percentage but it would be great to have more active members in a CZMP year. Good news is that there were 27 new members in 2019 compared to just 7 in 2018. Welcome!

**2019 Preliminary \$ and Cents:** The preliminary 2019 bottom line is an operating deficit of (\$265) offset by \$880 contributed by 16 members in addition to their 2019 dues. That puts us in the black by \$618. GPCA has been awarded grants and those monies were used to purchase promotional banners and SWCC supplies. The net grant proceeds are not included in the \$618 noted above.

**2020 Membership Campaign:** The February or March newsletter will include a letter highlighting the 2019 GPCA accomplishments as well as a request to join or renew your GPCA 2020 membership. Unless a household paid twice in 2019 (or prepaid their 2020 dues) the dues checks were considered 2019 paid members regardless of what month they were received. The 2020 membership drive starts the voting household membership numbers at zero. An envelope will be included in the February newsletter as a convenience to mail in your 2020 dues. At the moment GPCA cannot accept payment by PayPal or similar applications. Remember the 2020 CZMP census will need input from GPCA only paid memberships can vote.

**We Need You, your voice and your vote.  
Please join or renew your GPCA  
membership in February or March 2020.  
Thank you!**

## Reflections from Offutt Ridge Farm

Then one foggy Christmas Eve...

It was December. On a Monday morning, I sat up on the edge of the bed, and contemplated actually getting up. I see the haze outside, a foggy morning. Foggy means damp. The upside is that it is not freezing, but the downside is trying to get motivated on a misty moisty morning. Dark and dreary is just not suitable weather to have an 'up and at'em' attitude.

The music for 'Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer' kept floating around in my head. Memories of Christmas programs at Elmwood Elementary come forward in my mental haze of the morning. I had been a skinny little kid that did acrobatics. I loved all the songs of Christmas. We made snowflakes and ornaments with construction paper. Bells from egg carton sections. The smell of tempera paint comes to mind with the memory of "then one foggy Christmas eve..."

However, Christmas Eve 2019 was just two weeks away. We had not yet taken our picture for this year's Christmas card. The hay bale Santa is not complete and I do not have the reindeer headband for Minty. So many things to do and absolutely no energy to do them with.

I do sit and think about it though. Sometimes organizing thoughts and arranging a process helps things along.

After that foggy morning, I woke to a morning with snow lightly dusting the farm. One day to the next things change. The snow did not last and the rain came for a few days. Eventually I got the reindeer antlers and I ended up reworking the Santa. Discovering how I should have done it to begin with. I am just too old to appreciate learning curves. But there you have it; you always learn by doing. So, if we do one again I will paint and hot glue the face in the house and attach it to the bale in the end. We did not want to waste the hay by covering it with spray paint. Just kind of goes against the grain when it takes so much effort and time to bring in hay. Even though we had a bonus

year of hay, still no reason to waste 800 pounds of forage.

Eventually I got to some of the holiday traditions of sugar cookies, toffee, fudge, and date nut bread. And wrapping presents. I move so slowly it is only one thing a day.

We approach the end of the darkest part of the year but by Christmas, the day will have begun to lengthen. Barely noticeable because it is only a few seconds a day. Right now, I enjoy the end of the day, the dark evening with the woodstove burning. Quiet in the house. The barns have been closed, the horses in stalls overnight. For other people, I think there is the hurry and rush of the holiday season. Of parties and shopping after work. Every minute is filled trying to reach the deadline with everything done. "Work expands to fill the time allowed." (Parkinson's Law) So even if you, by chance, get everything done you will think of more to do.

On cold dark evenings, what better place to be than in a comfortable chair reflecting on thoughts and memories with a fire burning? A time to rest and remember and recharge for the New Year. Or maybe just the next day.

*-Brenda Creighton*

## Free Tax Preparation VITA:

**Cash Campaign of Maryland** is a coalition that includes VITA sites that offer free tax preparation services.

Once again the Randallstown Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library System will host a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program site to prepare 2019 individual and family tax returns. The volunteers preparing the income taxes are trained and certified by the IRS. Free tax preparation is available to individuals or families with low or moderate income about \$56,000; or are disabled; or a senior citizen; or English is a second language. The program will open at the end of January. More information is available by calling the Randallstown library after January 15<sup>th</sup> (410) 887-0770.

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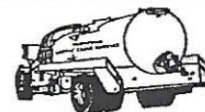
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## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS SPEAKER TOPICS:**

Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 7:30 - 2020 Annual Election; Ms  
Rodgers Baltimore Co Administration  
Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 7:30 – Green Burial on Ridge Rd  
presentation by Berg Family Trust  
Mar 9<sup>th</sup> – Attorney General's Office

### **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**

**President:** Open

**Acting President:** Butch Oakman 443-314-6415  
[oakelectric@comcast.net](mailto:oakelectric@comcast.net)

**Vice President:** Butch Oakman

**Secretary:** Denise Maranto 410-790-7131  
[denise.maranto@gmail.com](mailto:denise.maranto@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Maribeth Diemer 410-461-4988  
[maribeth-13@att.net](mailto:maribeth-13@att.net)

**Directors:**

Director: Open

Maurice Dixon, 410-393-4025, [mauricedixon714@gmail.com](mailto:mauricedixon714@gmail.com)  
Murf Morefield [caldron@verizon.net](mailto:caldron@verizon.net) 410 960-3236

**Editor:** Maribeth Diemer [editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:editorgpcanewsletter@gmail.com)

### **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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.