



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #404

GPCA Newsletter

February 2021

**Next Meeting: Guest Speaker Dr. Aaron Shapiro, Executive Director,
Patapsco Heritage Greenway Topic: Synergies with GPCA**

Monday, February 8, 7:30 p.m. – Virtually via Zoom

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

Everyone is invited to attend. During the pandemic meetings will be held virtually. Details to join the meetings will be communicated using email. Contact gpc21163@gmail.com to add your email address to the GPCA group.

**GPCA'S ANNUAL CLEAN UP Saturday APRIL 10TH SEE INSIDE (Page 6) FOR MORE DETAILS
EVENT MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM THE MARYLAND ENVIROMENTAL TRUST**



Protecting Land Forever

Summary of January's Zoom Guest Speaker

GPCA welcomed Officer Kristie Makowiecki, Our Community Liaison Officer from Baltimore County Police at our January meeting. Officer Makowiecki started the meeting by reporting the GPCA area had low crime statistics. The most common crimes were theft from cars and houses left unlocked. There has been no gang activity reported by State Park Rangers in the GPCA area.

Members reported recent violations and disturbances in the GPCA area. Rices Lane residents are experiencing illegal off road riders on their residential street and on adjoining fields which are private property. Laws regarding legal riding of off road vehicles is laid out in Baltimore County Codes and is prohibited between the hours of 8 pm and 7 am. Baltimore County Police can be called for these violations. Another disturbance is occurring at Diamond Ridge Family Park at 7700 Dogwood Road. Two or three cars are parked there regularly between 6 pm and midnight after the park is closed. This is trespassing and vehicles are subject to towing. A larger issue concerns double and triple parking in NO PARKING zones outside of Patapsco State Park in the GPCA area as well as questionable activities in the park. Visitors are bringing grills to camp out all day where there are no restroom facilities and dumping charcoal and other substances in the river. The NO PARKING areas are clearly marked and parking in these spots creates a safety hazard. Since the parking issue occurs outside the park, citizens can call the Baltimore County Non-Emergency number to report these violations (410-887-2222). Issues occurring inside the park must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources Police (410-356-7060). We are thankful to Officer Makowiecki for her helpful and informative talk.

What's inside?

SWCC, In Our Neighborhood...2 Memberships, SWCC chart...3-5 Clean Up ... 6 Advertisers...5,7

Small Watershed Community Committee

SWCC: What We Measure and Why We Measure It

From the outset SWCC had to consider a full range of factors when deciding what parameters in the water samples to measure. Each parameter had to meet a series of criteria to determine its usefulness to the community. Here are some of the criteria used to determine parameters:

- Is the parameter important to know? What does it tell us?
- Do other entities measure it so we can compare results and look at historical data?
- What testing methods for “X” parameter are within our budget? Can we learn to do it in a reliable, consistent and accurate way? Are we getting “scientific level” data or a “pass/fail” level only good for discussion?
- How long does each test take? Can we do it without a “real laboratory”?
- Are the test processes exposing the volunteers, environment and disposal method to hazards?

Sample analysis has to balance many factors while producing meaningful testing results to share with high level of confidence. SWCC members are always working to improve our methods, equipment and practices. Join the April 12th GPCA Zoom Meeting for a presentation of SWCC’s testing process and results to date. For a preview check out the chart on page 4. Thank you Laurie Donnelly for creating it.

~Bob Teller

In Our Neighborhood

Reflections from Offutt Ridge Farm Winterscapes

Winter seems to have very drab and colorless sights. Everything is brown and the trees are mostly stripped down to their skeletons. There are a few pine and spruce trees that do not change, but for the most part, trees look barren. However, we all would agree that the dreariness of winter does make us really appreciate when spring comes, the leaves pop out, and the first flowers break through the ground.

However, there are scenes in the winter that are exciting. Such as the morning after a treacherous ice storm and all of the trees are shimmering crystals in the early morning light. If you try to take a photo of it you can never capture how wonderful it really looks. Of course, a snowfall and all the white blanketing are impressive as long as the snow does not come in too many inches or stay too long.

If you look at the moonrise in the other seasons, you usually cannot see it. The moon comes over the horizon, but you really can’t see the moon or appreciate its light until it clears the tree line. In the winter, through the naked trees, you are able to see the true horizon with the moon rising over the ground’s edge. This view of a full moon through the stripped branches of the trees is eerily beautiful. There are a number of theories about the “moon illusion”, where the moon appears to be larger at the horizon than in the sky. Regardless, we cannot really enjoy this apparent enlarged moon in the other seasons.

With the leaves cleared out of our sight, all of a sudden we can see our neighbors’ houses and we are reminded that we do have some neighbors that we only are aware of in the winter. Maybe we realize that our neighbor now has a new deck or a new fence.

There are many mornings where the temperature falls below freezing overnight and is above freezing during the day. The result is a layer of white frost on the ground. As the sun comes out (if it does), the frost disappears in different patterns. If a building provides shade, the ground frost will take on the shape of the building. Where tree branches make shade, the ground will show stripes of frost where the sun is not hitting. Even though it did not rain the night before the melting frost from the rooftops creates dripping water from all of the buildings.

Between the tree leaves and the tall vegetation we usually cannot see our stream for most of the year. In the winter, somehow, all of a sudden, there it is. There are days when I look down and think that there is some kind of plastic sheet or something that has blown into the stream area. Then I realize that it is just

the way the winter sun is dancing on the water. The combination of winter sun and stream visibility cannot happen the rest of the year.

It is kind of a “simple pleasure of life” thing when we recognize there are certain sceneries that we see in winter that we cannot enjoy at other times of year. Part of it is an attitude- are we looking for what we cannot see, or what we can see? Are we disillusioned because we don't see green and flowers, or are we trying to see what is out there and how it can provide a simple pleasure? Enjoy the winterscapes while they last.

~John Creighton

Membership Information

Send GPCA Your Valentine... Renew or Join

Thank You Members!! We have 65 renewals and new members as of Jan 24th. At this time in 2020 there were only 38 households that were paid members. The membership drive will be part of the March issue. Please keep the memberships coming. Ask your friends and neighbors to join GPCA.

Memberships can be sent to the Woodstock PO Box or mailed to my home. Membership form is on page 7. Please contact me if you have questions about membership. Maribeth Diemer: Maribeth-13@att.net;

2021 Renewing or New Memberships:

August, Ewald and Shirley; Bender, Alice; Berg, Mike and Jean; Boehm, Susan; Bogan, Shane & Marianne Myrtle; Bounds, Jim; Brooks, Benjamin and Theresa; Chellis, Charles and Paulette; Chenoweth, George; Chesnutt, Greg and Ella; Collins, Richard and Gail; Conaway, JD and Melissa; Cotter, Charlotte; Cotter, Keith; Cutler, Dee; Diemer, Maribeth and Robert Teller; Dixon, Maurice and Evelyn; Dressler, Charles; Easley, Janet & Jeffrey Shultz; Ensor, Maurice & Linda; Ewell, Craig and Patrice; Fallin, Cassandra; Farmer, Jim (George), Jr and Kevin; Fields, Mette & Richie; France, Thomas and Denise; Freeland, Ron and Betty; Gamber, Robert; Geiman, Sue and Judy Downing; Germain, Pamela; Giles, Donnell and Ella; Goodmuth, Steven and Karen Koelbel; Harrison, Morgan; Hoggard, Dorsey and Pat; Jordan, Fred & Ann-Eliese; Kahler, Bonnie;

Kelley, Marty and Wayne Dell; Klos-Huber, Toni; Libis, Claude and Anne; Linsenmeyer, Joe and Meghan; Malick, Adrien and Patricia; Maranto, Denise; Maranto, Vincent and Victoria; McGovern, Tom; Miceli, Carl and Patricia; Moorefield, Carol and Barbara Warnock; Murray, Terilynn; Nueslein, Kate and Tony; Osborne, Scott and Margaret; Patterson, Judith Anne; Phillips, Scott and Valerie; Randolph, MD Junus and Gayle Jordon; Regan, Troy and Kelly; Ruxton, Beth Anne; Santiago Ortiz, Zulma; Simmons, James and Carol; Slomski, Skip and Linda; Tatarewicz, MD Joseph & Joyce Bedi; Thomas, Deborah; Wade, Robert and Carolyn; Walker, MD. Lawrence & Candice; Warfield, Frank; Wilder, Arlene; Wolfson, Cathy and Carl; Wright, Ralph and Brenda; Wynegar, Jr; David & Roni Marie Rinehart

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FREE ESTIMATES

Did you know that the SWCC's activities are funded entirely by member contributions and grants? Kudos to the group for finding and applying for grants. Kudos to you for sending monies above the annual dues.

What we Measure	Why we measure it	What affects the measured result
Nitrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmful to infants and young livestock. Nitrates can dangerously reduce the amount of oxygen in the blood of infants under six months old and may also harm the unborn. Excessive algae growth Decreased respiration efficiency in fish and aquatic invertebrates, causing a decrease in animal and plant diversity Contamination of shallow groundwater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Septic systems Animal waste Fertilizers
Ortho phosphates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phosphates cause excessive algae growth (algal blooms), which destroys other life forms and produces harmful toxins Human illnesses (skin irritation, sore throat, nausea, stomach cramps, liver damage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Septic systems Animal waste Fertilizers Soil erosion in areas lacking sufficient vegetation to hold the soil in place during strong winds and heavy rain From the atmosphere (from cars and other sources)
pH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water with extremely high or low pH is deadly. A pH below 4 or above 10 will kill most fish and very few animals can tolerate waters with a pH below 3 or above 11. Even moderately acidic waters (low pH) may reduce the hatching success of fish eggs, irritate fish and aquatic insect gills and damage membranes. A change in the pH of water can alter the behavior of other chemicals in the water. The altered water chemistry may affect aquatic plants and animals. For example, ammonia is relatively harmless to fish in water that is neutral or acidic. But as the water becomes more basic (the pH increases) ammonia becomes increasingly toxic. Heavy metals such as cadmium, lead and chromium dissolve more easily in more acidic water (lower pH). This is important because many heavy metals also become much more toxic when dissolved in water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acid rain (the main contributors to acid rain are sulfuric acid, produced by coal burning industries, and nitric acid, produced by automobile engines. Industrial pollutants Mining may expose rocks to rain water and produce acidic runoff. Mining drainage can therefore introduce acids into streams. If the stream is poorly buffered the pH may quickly reach toxic levels Water containing many aquatic plants may have raised pH values on summer afternoons because of plant photosynthesis. Granite-like rock, dense conifer forests, and acidic soil can cause relatively acidic waters. Snow melt may lower pH values.
Salinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excess salts can be toxic to freshwater plants and animal Can make water unsafe for drinking, irrigation, and watering livestock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road de-icing Land development Clearing vegetation Agriculture Irrigation Leaking pipes, pools, septic tanks
Total Dissolved Solids		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inorganic compounds that are found in water such as salts, heavy metals and some traces of organic compounds that are dissolved in water.
Conductivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If conductivity is much greater than two times the hardness, it may indicate the presence of contaminants such as sodium, chloride, nitrate, or sulfate, which may occur naturally or be influenced by human activity. Changes in conductivity over time may indicate changing water quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural minerals and human-made dissolved substances in the water.

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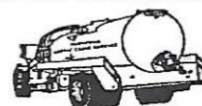
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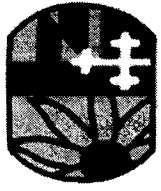
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GPCA's Annual Community Clean-Up

Saturday April 10th, 2021

8 am to 12 noon

**St. Alphonsus Church parking lot
(strictly drive through this year)**

An event to benefit the community

while observing necessary COVID precautions

(masks and social distancing necessary)

- Join friends and neighbors for our annual roadside clean-up
- This year we will offer drive through sign up
- GPCA will provide safety vests and trash bags via drive through
- 4 dumpsters will be on site for your spring cleaning use
(you will be responsible for unloading your own household trash)

Remember

- no hazardous or flammable materials, no paints or oil, no fridges or air conditioners
- no electronics (computer equipment, TVs, VCRs, phones etc.)
- no brush/yard waste (recycled separately by the county)
- tires will be collected at the pull out location on Old Court Road
- Please return your safety vest for proper laundering and reuse!

Volunteer a couple hours to keep our rolling hills beautiful.
(Certificates for students needing service hours available upon request).

Thanks for your support and stay safe,

Carol Link,

GPCA Clean Up coordinator
443-554-0306 or email linkgang87@gmail.com



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Please Print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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

_____ I'm new in the community or, _____ Renewal

Please make checks payable to GPCA and note the year of membership in the memo line

Mail completed application form and check to:

**GPCA, PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163 or,
drop off/mail to Maribeth Diemer, 10625 St Paul Ave, Woodstock MD 21163**



P.O. Box 31 Granite, MD

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Congratulations AND thank you to GPCA's two new board members Zulma Santiago Ortiz, Vice President and Lisa Charyszyn, Director

Inside Scoop:

April 9, 2021 Community CLEAN UP

Mark Your Calendars!!

COVID-19 Safety Practices Followed

UPCOMING VIRTUAL MEETINGS SPEAKERS:

February 8 @ 7:30 Aaron Shapiro,

Executive Director Patapsco Heritage

Greenway. Topic: Synergies with GPCA

March 8 @7:30 Life on the Farm Jen and Pam Pahl

April 12 @ 7:30 Small Watershed Committee

Topic: Why we measure what we measure.

Details about how to join the virtual calls will be sent to the GPCA email group. To be added to the group and receive the agenda and zoom call in link

Email: gpc21163@gmail.com

You can unsubscribe at any time.

GPCA Officers and Board of Directors

President: Butch Oakman, 443-314-6415

oakelectric@comcast.net

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zoom49@msn.com

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denise.maranto@gmail.com

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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 Editor by the 20th 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 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 for future publication.