



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #405

GPCA Newsletter

March 2021

Next Meeting: Guest Speaker Jen and Pam Pahl

Topic: Life on the Farm

Monday, March 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.
View our Website at www.gpca.net*

February Meeting Summary: Aaron Shapiro, Executive Director of the Heritage Greenway

GPCA welcomed Aaron Shapiro, new Executive Director of the Patapsco Heritage Greenway (PHG) at our February meeting. Mr. Shapiro is a historian with business experience and expertise in forming cultural, environmental, and historical partnerships. He intends for PHG and GPCA to further partner on shared goals and new objectives. It is timely now that The Granite Historic District and adjoining areas are within the expanded boundaries of the Patapsco Heritage Greenway. Patapsco Heritage Greenway, the nonprofit managing organization of the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area, is dedicated to preserving, protecting, interpreting, and restoring the environment, history, and culture of Maryland's most dramatic river valley for the enjoyment of all. The Patapsco Heritage Greenway mission, through their organization and with the many partners it supports, aims for the public to better appreciate the significance of the valley's heritage, understand its history, and enjoy the many experiences it offers. PHG, according to a management plan outlined by the state and county, promotes proposals that enhance preservation, encourage stewardship of natural resources, and promote heritage tourism. PHG administers the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area and holds a variety of environmental and history based programs throughout the year. The management plan can be read on the PHG website.

One of the functions of PHG is to allot mini-grants for organizations that follow its mission, perhaps promoting regional arts and tourism or planting of native trees. For smaller events, such as stream cleanups, sponsorships are awarded.. An expert staff is available for technical support. The opportunities to help with PHG's stewardship are numerous. Examples include participating in stream watching, stream cleaning, storm drain marking, tree giveaways, and educational programs provided throughout the year. PHG would like GPCA members to join virtually in "Patapsco Days" at PHG in March. Information about the many cultural, historical, and environmental topics is on the PHG website (patapsco.org). Plans include a Birding Webinar and a Community Oral History Workshop. Check out "Patapsco Days." There is something for everyone to learn about or celebrate. Mr. Shapiro can be reached at: Aaron Shapiro, Executive Director, 3748 Old Columbia Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21043. Email: director@patapsco.org. Phone: 410-696-1328. The PHG email is www.patapsco.org. Facebook: Patapsco Valley Heritage Area. Twitter@ Patapsco Valley. Instagram: Patapsco Valley Heritage. We are thankful to Mr. Shapiro for his interesting and helpful presentation and we look forward to virtual participation in "Patapsco Days."

What's inside?

2030 Masterplan, SWCC rocks ...2 In Our Neighborhood, Zoning, Members ...3,4 Granite Historical Society, Local Advertisers...5-7

Baltimore County Master Plan 2030

Our county Charter requires the Baltimore County Council to adopt a Master Plan every ten years to guide development, protect the environment and generate a strong economy throughout the county. The Master Plan is **NOT** regulatory and serves only as an advisory guide for county agencies, the County Executive and County Council through the current decade.

County planners will be evaluating previously adopted community plans for relevance including our own Patapsco Granite Community Plan which was adopted in 1998 and applies to the area roughly bounded by the Patapsco River, Johnnycake, Windsor Mill and Marriottsville Roads. The Patapsco/Granite Area Community Plan may be found on our website at <http://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/Planning/communityplans/patapscograniteplan.pdf> Much has changed within those boundaries since adoption of the plan by the County Council in 1998. Today we have RC-6 zoning, multiple solar facilities, the Woodlands golf course and Johnnycake Road is under intense development. We strongly encourage you to attend our May 10 general meeting when the county's western district planners will familiarize us with the Master Plan process and how we can participate in revising our plan to reflect our community's vision of 2030 that will continue to fulfill GPCA's mission to preserve our rural environment.

~ Cathy Wolfson 410-245-8708

Small Watershed Community Committee

SWCC: Hey, Go Crawl Under a Rock...

How does one assess the 'quality of life' within a stream? Picking up underwater rocks that form stream riffles are a good place to start and look for aquatic macroinvertebrates

Fly fishing anglers, naturalists and our GPCA SWCC team members gain insight to the health of a stream by picking up and examining the rocks from stream riffles. A variety of aquatic insects and other stream life make their retreats on the undersides and the edges of these rocks. Some fasten themselves to the rock and build a case of sand and tiny pebbles

around their larval-stage bodies. Others use silk threads to form nets and collect their food. Many others simply cling to the rock using adaptations of their body forms.

Let us identify a few Orders of aquatic insects common to our local streams and learn something about what they indicate about water quality. The insect order, Trichoptera (caddisflies) are one of the largest groups of aquatic insects. They adapt for stream (lotic) life; in their larval stages, some species produce silk to make protective cases, to spin food nets and to anchor themselves. Many species of caddisflies are moderately tolerant to degraded water quality and are a consistent food source for aquatic life in our streams. You'll find their sand and pebble cases firmly attached to riffle rocks, often many on a single rock. Examine their cases and you may only see a small head and 6 legs exposed. Local streams are habitats for caddisflies with bright green larval bodies within their cases. Caddisflies mature from an egg to larvae to pupae and then into an adult, winged form. Winged adults emerge from stream bottom to surface in evening "fly hatches". They form an air bubble to rise from the stream bottom and quickly flutter from the stream surface in an attempt to avoid hungry fish. They may live a month or so as adults before depositing their eggs into the stream.

Mayflies (Ephemeroptera) and Stoneflies (Plecoptera) are two Orders of insects very sensitive to water quality. Mayfly species that live in stream riffles have flattened bodies and strong, flatten legs. Flip over a stream rock and hold the underside up to expose these mayflies. You may see them quickly crawling back to the other side of the rock. Look carefully as they are small, ranging from less than 1/8 inch to maybe 3/8 inch. Mayflies have three (3) long tails which helps us to distinguish them from stoneflies, which have only two (2) tails, are generally longer and more slender bodies than mayflies. Stoneflies in our local streams can be up to an inch or longer. Our Patapsco Valley are also home to winter stoneflies. Winged adults emerge from the water during December, January and February. You may see them walking on streamside snow; they are less than 1/2" long, black, narrow-bodies with wings laid flat across

the back of their bodies. In the warmer months, winter stonefly nymphs dig deep into the stream bottoms in a quest for cooler sanctuaries. A number of factors defines “quality” water for winter stoneflies: cooler, clean, clear, and well oxygenated water. Generally, the presence of stoneflies and mayflies indicate higher quality water. That said, they are just one indicator of water quality. In the near future, our GPCA SWCC group will begin such sampling and record what we find. In the meanwhile, you can always turn over a stream rock for another perspective of nature.

~Andy Grosko

In Our Neighborhood

Remembering:

Joanne Souris Dietz Our dear, dear friend, neighbor, and so much more, Joanne Souris Dietz passed away on February 10, 2021. Joanne was a long-time, highly respected Baltimore County official, married to Austin Dietz (of Granite!), Baltimore County Fire Chief, and they lived at the corner of Davis Avenue and Wrights Mill Road for nearly 30 years. From there, Joanne formed a deep relationship with our community and a lasting commitment to it. She became President of the fully revived GPCA in 1987 and helped set us firmly on our road forward. Without GPCA, we would not have known Joanne as we did, and her spirit remains with us. The GPCA community extend our deepest condolences to all of the Dietzs who are members and supporters of GPCA.

Virginia Brantly Stanfield 03/06/1932-02/18/2021 Beloved wife of the late Edward Fite Stanfield, Jr; Devoted mother of Sally Fite Stanfield and Edward Brantly Stanfield and loving grandmother of Edward Andrew Stanfield. Ed Stanfield noted that his mother’s wish was to be reunited and dancing with her husband, Edward Fite Stanfield, Jr (d 2006) on their 66th wedding anniversary on February 19th. She was there with time to spare. The GPCA community extend our deepest condolences to all of the Stanfields who are longtime members and supporters of GPCA.

Reflections from Offutt Ridge Farm Two Kinds Of.....

We have many waterers for poultry and horses at our farm and very few are heated. So, one of the winter problems is frozen water. Usually if it warms up during the day to above freezing The waterer vessels will not ice up. So, I consider there are only two kinds of temperatures at the farm – above freezing and below freezing.

I have one dog that is a very bad dog. The white dog is the bad one and the black one is the good one. Grif often goes out to one of the two roads that border our property. People often stop out of concern to make sure that he is safe. Usually, he rewards them by barking at them or even growling and snapping at them when they try to assist him. However, there seem to be two kinds of drivers- those who are very considerate and cautious, and then those who are hell bent on getting to where they are going. Some of them are driving huge trucks, like fuel trucks or vehicles that need a long stopping distance. Other drivers are cutting through the area and driving extremely fast. At night there are many times I hear screeching tires and go out to find that someone has hit a deer. They are upset and feel bad, but if you are driving 60 miles per hour on a winding rural road at night there is not much you can do to avoid hitting a deer on the road.

There seems to be two kinds of litter people- those that throw it out, and those that pick it up. My neighbor Joyce has walked the roads picking up trash. Every year the GPCA does its annual cleanup and finds a seemingly endless supply of trash. Why is it that on highways businesses or groups have to “adopt” a section of the road to clean it up? The huge littering fines do not curtail people from throwing out trash. If a section of the highway needs to be adopted, does that mean that there are litterers who have abandoned the road like abandoning a child?

When you deal with big companies as consumers there are two kinds of paper mail. For bills and important notifications, they are “bad” and we are all encouraged to go “paperless.” Recently I agreed to go paperless for Verizon billing, but I keep getting sales mailings to try to upsell me to some new Verizon

product. Apparently marketing/sales mailings are “good paper.” Hard to understand.

We live in a digital world. There are two kinds of occupants - digital indigenous and digital immigrants. Digital immigrants are those that grew up in an analog world and then had to adjust to the digital world. The digital indigenous were born into a digital world and never knew otherwise. Recently we were trying to explain to a 12 year old on the farm how to change a lightbulb. We became aware that clockwise and counterclockwise do not mean anything anymore. My neighbor Liana explained that now we need to say “lefty loosey” and “righty tighty” to direct which way to screw or unscrew objects.

A senior member of the Maryland Cooperative Extension once explained to me that there are only two kinds of farmers- those that farm FOR money, and those that farm WITH money. I will not reveal which kind of farmer I am. *~John Creighton*

Membership Information

Be Part of the March Madness: Renew or Join GPCA

Thank You Members!! We have 91 renewals and new members as of Feb 20th compared to 45 at this time in 2020. Yippee! There is much appreciation for each of you that submitted your 2021 dues and also included a contribution. A big shout out for your generosity. Donations monies go into a GPCA unrestricted contributions fund. The GPCA board has approved using those funds to restock the SWCC supplies and replace failing temperature probes and other small equipment. Another shout out to those of you who not only submitted 2021 dues but also included their 2020 dues that were missed. You guys are truly supporters of GPCA paying it backward! GPCA dues only cover the operating costs of the organization.

Please continue to make the treasurer beam and submit your memberships. A membership reminder letter will be part of the April issue. Nudge your friends and neighbors to join GPCA. Memberships can be sent to the Woodstock PO Box or mailed to my home. The membership form is on page 7. Contact me if you have questions. Maribeth-13@att.net;

Local Zoning Update

There are a number of current, significant development and land use activities occurring in our community and surrounding areas about which we all need to remain informed. The projects are as follows:

- King Memorial Park on Dogwood Road has been approved to apply for a permit from Baltimore Co. Dept. of Permits, Approvals & Inspections to build a new mausoleum (1500 sq. ft.) on site.

- Randallstown Islamic Center on Rices Lane must submit a development plan for approval before a building permit is issued for a 2 story classroom and gym building (4000 sq. ft.) on site.

- The solar facility proposed for 2316 Ridge Road (about 10 acres for panels on 95 acre parcel) has been reviewed by Baltimore Co. Development Review Committee and has been accepted as a minor commercial structure; a Special Exception hearing is set for 3/16/2021, 1:30 pm.

- Another solar facility proposal for our area at 2938 Hernwood Road (about 11 acres on 89 acre parcel) has been submitted for Special Exception, but no hearing date yet.

- a Special Exception request for a gas station and 7-11 to replace the Golden Dragon Inn on Liberty Road had a hearing on 2/09/2021, with significant opposition from the community, and joined by GPCA, with no decision as yet.

- a Special Exception request for an expanded assisted living facility at 9917 Liberty Road had a hearing on 2/16/2021, with significant opposition from Hernwood Heights residents, joined by a GPCA member, too soon for a decision yet.

More specific information can be found through Baltimore County Department of Permits, Approvals, and Inspections (PAI), Baltimore County Department of Planning, and Baltimore County Office of Administrative Hearings.

For zoning review and enforcement related to ongoing activities and/or property conditions, call 410-887-3391 for review inquiry or 410-887-3351 to file a complaint. Alternatively, visit: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Contact/permitszoning> And/or:

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/permits/codeenforcement>.
~Kathy Skullney

Granite Historical Society

PO Box 43; Granite, MD 21163

Hey all! For some it has been awhile since you last heard from us; for others, this will serve as an introduction to us; and to all we extend a solicitation to hear from you. The Granite Historical Society (GHS), an organization founded in 1989, exists to preserve, promote and research the rich heritage of the Granite area. Our current board consists of President - Bill Skullney, Vice President - Roy Danz, Secretary - Emma Lehman, Treasurer - John Brantley, Directors – Paul Dorsey, Jim Farmer, Marty Kelley, Wayne Dell, Bob Teller, and Erin Guarino. As with the GPCA and the rest of the world, we have been challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, we are undertaking a number of activities that we hope will be of interest to many in the Granite area. We thought it would be a good time to reach out via the newsletter and let you know some of our current ideas and projects.

In 2018 and 2019 we conducted ‘History Hikes’ to Fox Rock Quarry and Putney’s Bridge. We had planned one in 2020 but had to cancel due to the virus. We are hoping to resume the hikes this year and are currently looking at an upcoming date and location. Look to next month’s article in the newsletter regarding the particulars. Thanks to the efforts of our Secretary Emma Lehman, we have undertaken a major overhaul of our website (www.granitehistoricalsociety.org) and it now includes some of the materials or references to materials that we have accumulated over the years. This includes a number of videos of the interviews we have conducted over the past years which detail aspects of our heritage. As some may be aware, the Patapsco Heritage Greenway (PHG) (<https://patapsco.org/>) project has recently expanded its boundaries to include much of the Granite Historic District. This new status gives us better access to resources and to partner in achieving some of our goals. The GHS is looking to regularly interact with the PHG to achieve an active and

mutually beneficial relationship. Other areas include assisting the Civil Air Patrol in the restoration of the former Nike Missile Site and the continued preservation and archiving of our historic records. We’d love to hear from you if you have any historic materials relative to our local history.

Finally, this year we are also looking to make our community more aware of some of the GHS activities and, hopefully, to generate greater interest. If you have any suggestions or thoughts, would like to become involved, or are interested in becoming a member, feel free to contact any of the board, let us know via our email info@granitehistoricalsociety.org, or send us a note. Thanks for your attention and we hope to hear from you!
~ Bill Skullney

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Mail completed application form and check to:

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drop off/mail to Maribeth Diemer, 10625 St Paul Ave, Woodstock MD 21163



GPCA

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Inside Scoop:

New solar facilities proposed for
Ridge and Hernwood Roads

UPCOMING VIRTUAL MEETINGS SPEAKERS:

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.

May 10 @ 7:30 Western Sector County Planners

2030 Master Plan / Patapsco Granite Comm. Plan

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 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 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.

GPCA Officers and Board of Directors

President: Butch Oakman
443-314-6415 oakelectric@comcast.net
Vice President: Zulma Santiago Ortiz
410 750-7279 zoom49@msn.com
Secretary: Denise Maranto
410-790-7131 denise.maranto@gmail.com
Treasurer: Maribeth Diemer
410-461-4988 maribeth-13@att.net
Directors
Rhoda Jones
jonesrhoda@ymail.com
Maurice Dixon
410-393-4025 mauricedixon714@gmail.com
Lisa Charyszyn
443-763-0850 Lcharyszyn@gmail.com
Editor: editorgpcnewsletter@gmail.com
Communications: gpc21163@gmail.com