



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #418

GPCA Newsletter

June 2022

Next Meeting: Monday, June 13th, 7:00 P.M. In person

Social Mixer, Plant Swap, Bring a Dish to Share

GPCA General Meetings and the Newsletter will pause for the months of July and August. The General Meeting will resume on **September 12th**. Sign up at www.gpca.net or email GPCA21163@gmail.com to receive details of the upcoming meeting and the digital Newsletter.

What's inside?

From the GPCA President	p2
Important Election Dates	p2
About our Neighborhood	p2-3
Small Watershed Conservation Report	p3-5
Granite Historical Society Spring Hike	p5
Quaker Cemetery Restoration	p5
Local Business Advertisements	p6-7



Some Summer Activities in our Neighborhood

Summer Concerts, 6/16, 7/21/ 8/18, 6:30 PM
Turf Valley Town Square

Baltimore Wine & Food Festival, 6/25 12 PM
Timonium Fairgrounds

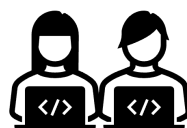
Pollinator Fest, 06/26, Sun, 10 AM to 1 PM
Mt. Pleasant, Howard County Conservancy

Stargazing, 7/16, 8 to 10 PM
Soldiers Delight Visitor Center

MD Summerfest 8/27 11 AM to 6 PM
Carroll County Farm Museum

Maryland State Fair, 8/25 - 9/11
Timonium Fairgrounds

From the Editors' Desk



It seems summer has crept in stealthily while we were still enjoying spring. This will be the last issue of the printed GPCA Newsletter before we take a two-month pause and get ready to kick off in full digital format in September. We are hoping to give the GPCA website a make-over too so people can access all community related information and have the GPCA newsletter 24/7 at their fingertips. More importantly, we wish to enable open communication on the GPCA website so people can leave comments and feedback. Thanks to a lot of hard work by members of the Small Watershed Conservation Committee, we are happy to learn that the streams in our area received a thumbs-up in the groups first annual report card. Thanks to John Brantley who showed us the beauty of the Patapsco River and the rich history deeply embedded in the area during the recent Granite Historical Society spring hike. Have a magnificent summer and enjoy the nature surrounding our region. And please come celebrate the arrival of the summer on June 13th! Dig up some overgrown flower patch or bring your extra seedlings and share some food and cheers.

~ Editorial Team

EditorGPCANewsletter@gmail.com

From the GPCA President



After only 2 years and 4 months, we are excited to invite you to join us LIVE and in person at our June general meeting, June 13th at 7 pm, in the lower level of the Granite Presbyterian Church, 10637 Old Court Road! The evening kicks off with a plant swap. Feel free to bring your non-invasive plants to share with attendees. Not sure, check <https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/Invasive-Plant-List-March-2020.pdf> A table will be set up near the door to leave and/or take your choice of plants. Labeling your donations will be helpful. No guest speaker this time, just a brief business meeting followed by open forum and socializing. Transitioning to the digital newsletter saves GPCA the considerable expense of paper and postage. Come share your suggestions for how these savings can be reinvested in our community. Paid speakers? Scholarships? Sponsor annual paper shredding day? Share your thoughts at our June meeting. Not a member? New to the neighborhood? NO problem! We welcome everyone to enjoy this GPCA reunion! Please consider bringing a light snack to share.

Have you seen what's happening at Security Square Mall? The blight that was Bennigans and IHOP are gone at last making way for a Chick-Fil-A to open in the fall! A welcome first step in revitalizing the 48-year old 90 acre commercial site. County planners will initiate a community engagement process for input to consider how the \$20 million revitalization commitment the state and county have made should be used. Stay tuned.

Thanks to all the hands that kept us informed for 30+ years via paper newsletters. As we transition from paper to digital, please keep in touch. We are only a click away! Enjoy a pleasant and peaceful summer in Granite. Meet you back here online in August.

~Cathy Wolfson, President

Contact GPCA treasurer, Maribeth Diemer @ 410-461-4988 or by email (maribeth-13@att.net) if you would like to have a printed copy of GPCA Newsletter mailed to you starting September. GPCA will assess whether an additional printing and postage charge is necessary depending on the number of requests.

Important Primary Election Date



For all voting information, go to www.elections.maryland.gov. Below are some important dates:

Primary Election Day -----07/19/2022
 Last Day to Register -----07/28/2022
 Early Primary Voting -----07/07/2022 to 07/14/2022
 Request Mailed or Faxed Ballot--Before 07/12/2022
 Request Electronic Ballots -----Before 07/15/2022

About Our Neighborhood



Ridge Road Vehicle Storage Violation

Did you know that Baltimore County Code Section 428.1 -Vehicle storage on residential lots states:

- A. An inoperative motor vehicle may not be stored outside on a residential lot.
- B. An unlicensed motor vehicle may not be stored outside on a residential lot except under the following conditions:
 1. Outside storage (i.e., not within a fully enclosed structure) for a period not exceeding 15 days, unless extended by the Zoning Commissioner, in any calendar year is permitted for no more than one such vehicle per dwelling unit per year.
 2. The vehicle may not be stored in a front or side yard unless placed in a driveway or other off-street parking area, and the vehicle may not be stored in a rear yard unless placed at least eight feet from any property line.
 3. The owner of the vehicle must reside on the lot upon which the vehicle is stored.
 4. The vehicle may not be used or dismantled for parts

Properties in the 3000 block of Ridge Road and 7500 block of Dogwood Road have recently received citations from Baltimore County Code enforcement for open dumping and storage of inoperative and/or unlicensed vehicles on their property. Cost of violating? \$200-\$1,000 per day for each violation. Who cares? Your neighbors care about the impact on their property value, their right to a clean environment and the peaceful enjoyment of their property.

Attention all Horse Riders!

Please clean up after your horse! When riding by private residences be mindful of where your horse poops. The Baltimore Co, MD Code of Ordinances § 12-3-106- Animal Waste (Article 12, Subtitle 3 Sec 106) States:

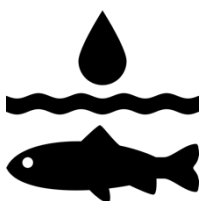
The owner of an animal shall remove excreta deposited by the animal on public byways, recreational areas, or private property.

Dealing with the back end “exhaust” of an animal is no fun for the rider or home owner where the deposit is made. That being said, the homeowners do not want to deal with the poop. Folks step in it; mow over it and track it into their home. The Code does not distinguish between horses and other domestic animals pooping on private property. You may not be able to clean it up the instant it happens but please come back and take care of it. Thank You!

Hazardous Waste Storage on Windsor Mill Road

At the request of Senator Kelley and Speaker Adrienne A. Jones, the Maryland Department of the Environment Land and Materials Administration has scheduled an informational meeting and public hearing that will take place at 7 p.m. on June 2, 2022, at Dogwood Elementary School, 7215 Dogwood Road, Baltimore MD 21244, concerning the renewal of a permit allowing Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) to continue to operate a Controlled Hazardous Substance (CHS) facility at 7210 Windsor Mill Road, Baltimore MD 21226, in the 10th Legislative District. If you are unable to attend, you can send written comments to Ms. Kaley Laleker, Director, Land and Materials Administration, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 610, Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1719. **The deadline to submit a written comment is June 7, 2022.**

See the [full notice](#) on the GPCA website.

Small Watershed Conservation Committee (SWCC) – Annual Report Card

One of the main goals of the SWCC is to understand the water quality of the streams within the GPCA area. Since the streams within our area feed into the larger Patapsco River and then ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay, what happens within each small stream and even on

your property, affects the health and vitality of our water resources and this in turn affects our quality of life.

The SWCC developed a volunteer sampling program to establish a baseline for the water quality of our streams and to monitor for changes. Controlling new development has been a concern of the GPCA and one of the main benefits of the SWCC program would be the ability to identify problem streams, monitor and document the impact of development within the GPCA area, and be alert for changes.

The sampling program now has over 2 years of water quality data at 4 strategic locations that capture runoff from a large portion of the land area within the GPCA and represent a range of land-use, development, and watershed size characteristics.

At each site, teams of volunteers have collected and processed water samples roughly once a month and also recorded other environmental variables. From the water samples, we determined **temperature, salinity, pH, orthophosphate and nitrate concentrations**. We choose these variables because they are important indicators of water quality and together give a reasonable overall picture of stream health.



Water Temperature – Exerts a major influence on biological activity and growth and will stress organisms at higher temperatures.



Salinity – Excess salts can be toxic to freshwater plants and animals and make water unsafe for drinking, irrigation, and watering livestock.



pH – Water extremely acidic or basic is deadly to aquatic organisms and changes in pH can alter the behavior of other chemicals in the water.



Orthophosphate and Nitrate – Are essential plant nutrients but high concentrations can result in the overgrowth of algae in streams.

The data obtained so far indicates that the overall health of the streams is good. We'll need to compare our results to biological stream survey data and other state monitoring efforts to determine the overall health of the streams. Land-use, sediment, river discharge and watershed characteristics, may offer additional clues to the observed results. Detailed information will be provided on the GPCA website and in follow up newsletters for each sample location, so stay tuned.

Average Water Temperature (Fahrenheit)					
Location	Year 1	Year 2	Change	Trend	Grade
Bens Run	49.8	52.2	+13%	⬆️	✓
Brice Run	50.5	52.9	+13%	⬆️	✓
Dogwood Run	50.2	52.7	+14%	⬆️	✓
Granite Run	50.0	52.5	+14%	⬆️	✓
Normal Range (0-68); High (>68)					

Results – Values measured were very good and some of the lowest for the area which is good for cold water species like trout. Future high-resolution sampling will provide information during the critical summer period where temperatures reach their maximum. There was an increase in average temperature across all the streams between years.

Average Salinity (ppt)					
Location	Year 1	Year 2	Change	Trend	Grade
Bens Run	0.18	0.20	+11%	⬆️	✓
Brice Run	0.16	0.17	+06%	↔️	✓
Dogwood Run	0.34	0.39	+15%	⬆️	Elevated
Granite Run	0.12	0.12	+0%	↔️	✓
Normal Range (0-0.25); Elevated (>0.25); High (>0.5)					

Results – Most of the values were in the good range except for periods of runoff during the winter months which caused high levels due to road salt. Dogwood Run also has elevated salinity values year-round and is twice that of the other sites and may be indicative of a chronic problem. Additional investigation will be necessary to determine potential impacts.

Through the program, the GPCA now has a robust baseline for the 4 sample locations and associated watersheds. We can use this baseline to monitor for changes and to track the impacts of recent developments or future restoration efforts. Data from the program has already been used in testimony and documents related to variances on new development, in

redefining the GPCA boundary line and identifying potential problem areas within our watersheds.

We are also using the results to secure additional grant funding to expand the program. An example includes the incorporation of high-resolution temperature probes to monitor temperature profiles of the locations over the summer period, a key determinant of habitat suitability for trout.

Average pH (units)					
Location	Year 1	Year 2	Change	Trend	Grade
Bens Run	8.0	8.0	+0%	↔️	✓
Brice Run	7.7	7.7	+0%	↔️	✓
Dogwood Run	8.3	8.1	-2%	↔️	✓
Granite Run	7.7	7.7	+0%	↔️	✓
Normal Range (6.5-8.5); High (>8.5); Low (<6.5)					

Results – Values were in the normal range and were relatively consistent across all the stream locations. No year-to-year trends were evident.

Orthophosphate (mg/L)					
Location	Year 1	Year 2	Change	Trend	Grade
Bens Run	0.02	0.04	+100%	⬆️	✓
Brice Run	0.07	0.12	+71%	⬆️	High
Dogwood Run	0.05	0.05	+0%	↔️	Elevated
Granite Run	0.07	0.05	-29%	⬇️	Elevated
Normal Range (0-0.05); Elevated (>0.05); High (>0.1)					

Results – Values for this parameter were elevated for a number of the sites and were increasing with time. Brice Run had over twice the concentration as the other locations and agricultural land-use is thought to be a contributor to the higher values.

Nitrate (mg/L)					
Location	Year 1	Year 2	Change	Trend	Grade
Bens Run	1.98	0.84	-58%	⬇️	✓
Brice Run	2.21	1.62	-27%	⬇️	✓
Dogwood Run	1.06	0.38	-64%	⬇️	✓
Granite Run	2.14	1.10	-49%	⬇️	✓
Normal Range (0-2.5); Elevated (>2.5); High (>3.7)					

Results – All values are in the normal range for the sample locations and are decreasing with time. As with orthophosphate, Brice Run had the highest overall values and is another indication of an agricultural source since both are components of fertilizer.

In the future we also hope to include bacterial sampling to monitor for water quality impairments and to conduct biological stream sampling to determine stream health and how this relates to what we are seeing in the water quality samples.

This sampling program is only possible through the dedication of my fellow SWCC members which include Austin Cohen, Laurie Donnelly, Andy Grosko, James Raistrick, Robert Reisdorf, Robert Teller, Carl Wolfson and Cathy Wolfson who together have put in over 500 volunteer hours since the start of the program.

Many thanks also go out to our partners at the [Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability](#) for providing comparison water quality samples and equipment and to the GPCA, [Patapsco Heritage Greenway](#) and Keep Maryland Beautiful Citizen Stewardship who have provided funding to sustain the program through the purchase of equipment, reagents and testing materials.

~David Scheurer, SWCC member

GHS Spring Hike Survived the Weather



RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY. That childhood ditty kept running through my mind for the two days before the GHS Spring Hike planned for Saturday, May 14th. For two days, the rain pelted and the forecast for Saturday looked even worse – nothing but thunderstorms in the offering. Luckily, on Saturday morning the forecast brightened and we were rewarded with an overcast, but otherwise pleasant day. There was actually an upside to all of the rain – Brice's Run, where our hike began at its intersection with Wright's Mill Road, was full. In my opinion, Brice's Run is the most appealing stream in all of Granite – wide, very rocky, gently inclined, characterized by some rather deep pools – a stream at its best after a lot of rain.

Our destination was the Dorsey Railroad Tunnel, a mile or so upriver from the intersection of Brice's Run with the Patapsco. Our hiking group was 22 strong, including 4 members of the **Patapsco Heritage Greenway**. After descending to the river along Brice's Run, we followed a state park trail along the northern

valley ridge which affords great views of the Patapsco and train tracks below. The Dorsey Tunnel was constructed in 1906 as part of the 3rd alignment of the B&O tracks between Daniels (then Alberton) and Woodstock. Readers are invited to visit www.granitehistoricalsociety.org to view some photos of our hike and to read a story entitled "How the B&O Railroad Came to Woodstock", a brief history which I put together as background material for our hikers. A special thanks to members Mike and Cindy Kahn for allowing us to park on their property thus giving us easy access to the start of our hike.

-John Brantley, GHS Treasurer-

Quaker Hill Cemetery Restoration

Last fall, The Granite Historical Society secured funding from the Patapsco Heritage Greenway to clean-up and landscape a Quaker family cemetery on Wrights Mill Road. Initial clean-up and reseeded of the site was completed by the end of October. Earlier this Spring, further stabilization of site was undertaken with the re-positioning of a wrought iron gate that was advancing down the embankment towards Wrights Mill Road. This gate is the only remaining portion of the fence that once fronted the cemetery.

With the help of Carl Wolfson, and the property owner, Frank Geiman, the gate was lifted from its precarious position while a new, more stable foundation for its placement further up the hillside was created. Then, using Carl's loader and operating skill, the gate was carefully placed at its new location. (Color photos of the before and after condition of the gate can be viewed online at <https://granitehistoricalsociety.org/?p=598>.)

Work has also begun on planting native ground covers on the embankment to control erosion and stabilize the bank. Thanks to Carol Link for help on this project which is ongoing. The Granite Historical Society hopes to obtain a grant from the Heritage Fund, a cooperative effort of Preservation Maryland and the Maryland Historical Trust, in the fall to re-establish the wrought iron fence at the front of the cemetery that been missing for decades. Stay tuned for an update on this effort and how you may be able to assist in this project.

~ Roy Danz, GHS Vice President

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GPCA

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NEW FOR 2022 JOIN ONLINE @ www.GPCA.net

Attend our meeting **June 13, 2022 @ 7 PM, In Person**

Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church

10637 Old Court Road

Social Mixer, Plant Swap, Bring a Snack

Details about how to join the virtual call 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 Objectives: To preserve and enhance the tranquility and beauty of our rural environment and to encourage orderly and positive growth of the community within the framework of prescribed regulations and laws. The Association shall provide a forum for all residents to express their concerns and interests and shall attempt to provide informative and interesting programs that will keep members informed and better able to address any of their concerns or problems. The Association's objective is also to foster a spirit of community among the residents. The Association will only become directly involved in matters which affect the safety and welfare of the community as a whole. This involvement will be directed at actions which violate existing laws or regulations or which will assist in implementing new laws or regulations to further and achieve our objectives.

105th Woodstock Festival



St Alphonsus Rodriguez
Catholic Church
10800 Old Court Road

Family Style Fried Chicken & Ham Dinner

Adult \$20; Children \$10

August 13 (Sat), 3-7 PM, Mass @ 7 PM
August 14 (Sun), 1-5 PM, Mass @ Noon

Fun for Entire Family
Chance Wheels, Country Store,
Raffle, Silent auctions
Indoor Yard sale

For more details, <http://stalchurch.org>

GPCA OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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