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GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC

Issue # 425 GPCA Newsletter March 2023

GPCA General Meeting
Monday, March 13, 7:00 PM
@
Social Hall, Granite Presbyterian Church
10637 Old Court Road

Code Enforcement: How the Standards for Our Community are Maintained and Improved

Speakers: Code Enforcement Officer Dave Kirby – 4th District Lead Inspector Baltimore County PAI, Code Enforcement

The goal of Code Enforcement is to enforce the Baltimore County Codes and Baltimore County Zoning Regulations for the rightful benefit of each community. The codes and regulations are inclusive and cover many violations. Enforcement includes responding to 18,000+ complaints each year, as well as offering community enforcement sweeps. These are drive-through reviews of neighborhoods where the team looks for egregious visible violations which can be easily corrected. Enforcement results in correction notices, citations and possible fines during this process for various code and zoning violations. Code Enforcement also offers a rat control program among other programs in assisting your neighborhood.

Upcoming Programs – Good stuff!

April - Make Your Own Fruit Wine – Ken Jordan

May - Western District and 4th District Planning Department – overview

and CZ MP with Daphne Daly, 4th District Lead Planner and Joe Wiley, Ag/Rural Resource Planner (Northern Dist.)

June – Plant Swap, Baltimore Co. Department of Public Works (tentative)

Programs for/by our younger members: 4H, Scouts, Civil Air Patrol Cadets

(Reminder: no general meetings in July or August)

From Last General Meeting

A great follow-up to our January meeting on local bees and honey!

Guest Speakers: Peggy Cummings and Betty Walke – Baltimore City Master Gardeners shared their expertise and a great slide presentation on How to Design Pollinator Gardens. It included very helpful information on invasive species and encouraged Members to use native plants to as a source to promote pollinators. A handout was provided on How to Design a Pollinator Garden. The Baltimore City Masters Gardeners and The University of Maryland Extension were provided as resources for questions regarding pollination. The complete presentation can be viewed on the GPCA website, under "What We Do" menu, then selecting "GPCA Speaker Series."

GPCA's Annual Community Clean-Up

Saturday April 1st, 2023

8 am to 12 noon

St. Alphonsus Church

parking lot

- 4 dumpsters will be on site for your spring cleaning use
- Join with friends and neighbors for our annual roadside clean-up
- GPCA will provide safety vests and trash bags
- 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, phones etc.)
- no brush/yard waste (recycled separately by the county)
- tires will be collected at the pull out on Old Court Road

- Remember to return your safety vest for proper laundering and reuse!
(Certificates available for students needing service hours.)

Be sure to wear your GPCA t-shirts!
Thanks for your support,

~ Carol Link,
GPCA Clean Up Coordinator
443-554-0306 linkgang87@gmail.com

From the Editors' Desk

March is Women's History Month. So a big salute is in order to all the ladies in the GPCA leadership and the "folders' club", and to those who are committee members and volunteers for their enthusiasm and dedication to ensure a cleaner and safer environment for our community. GO, GIRLS!

Our GPCA membership campaign is still going strong. For those of you who have not decided, yet, to join us, here are the top 10 reasons that YOU should become a member of GPCA:

1. It costs only $20 per year, $1.7 a month, 38 cents a week, 5.5 cents a day to be an individual member;
2. For less than the price of a dinner out ($30 for family membership), you will have your street cleaned twice a year and the watershed monitored every month;
3. With no additional fee, colored digital newsletters will be delivered to you 10 times a year to keep you informed of local news and events;
4. You will receive the most up to date information about developments in your neighborhood so you won't be surprised when you find a

nuclear powerplant is going to be built next door!

5. You will have a direct channel to voice your concerns to your local representatives and other government officials;
6. You will indirectly support charity organizations in our neighborhood;
7. You will support our local businesses and agricultural producers to reduce dependence on fossil fuels;
8. You will be contributing to the environmental conservation of our area;
9. You will have the opportunity to meet and know many of your lovely neighbors during monthly general meetings, semi-annual cleanups, picnics, etc.
10. You will be able to tell all your friends that you live in the friendliest, cleanest and greenest neighborhood on Earth.

Let us know what are other good reasons to support the GPCA.

Enjoy the Spring!

~ Ru-ching Hsia

President's Note

March Greetings fellow Members, Friends and Neighbors. Buds are peeking out, days are longer and spring clearly is on the way – hopefully with little or no serious weather disruption. And we are well underway in providing a wealth of information so important to our environmental region, we focus on how to preserve, support and share what we all treasure about it. Our last two general meetings covered bees, pollinators, and the special gardens that keep them coming – in time for spring. Our upcoming meetings will cover Baltimore County's Code Enforcement as a critical piece of community protection, the Planning Department as essential for our future, and even Public Works for our unique infrastructure. But never without a bit of fun – don't miss winemaking in April!

Two GPCA notes: first, we are very pleased to announce that Pamela Brock has accepted the nomination for the Secretary position. Her election will be confirmed at the March general meeting. Welcome, Pam! And second, as for combined general meetings – we are not yet able to have effective, combined in-person and virtual meetings, but are committed to making it happen as quickly as possible. Stay tuned!

We are all part of the same community and as we know well throughout our history, the more ways we can all get together, the better!

Memberships are easy – renewals and new - at www.gpca.net/membership-renewal-sign-up/ and your voice is important. Come join us. Staying informed and engaged is one of our greatest strengths.

~ Kathy Skullney, GPCA President

443-838-0861

ksskullney@verizon.net

2023 Membership Campaign

Many thanks to the 253 community and associate members who have joined GPCA this year! Our online membership is gaining ground and just over 40% of you are taking advantage of this convenience. Whatever your preference we deeply appreciate your support of our commitment to preserve our countryside and monitor the environment we all share.

To the many of you who included something "extra" to support GPCA we are extremely grateful; donations to date are over $2,500!!

If you ever have questions about your membership please don't hesitate to contact me.

~ Cathy Wolfson, Treasurer

410-245-8708

oakknob@comcast.net

About Our Neighborhood

District 4 BUDGET TOWN HALL MEETING

Wednesday, March 29th

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Randallstown Community Center

3505 Resource Drive, Randallstown, MD 21133

Councilman Julian Jones and
Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski.

This will be a forum for a public discussion focused on FY2024 budget priorities and ensure that Community members have the opportunity to provide input into the budget planning process.

In addition, this year Baltimore County will offer residents opportunities prior to town hall meetings to engage directly with key Department leaders to learn about available resources and to ask individual questions. This Community Cabinet Open Houses will begin 30 minutes prior to the start of the budget town hall meeting @ **6:00 PM.**

Legislative Update from Senator Benjamin Brooks

It has been a productive month in Annapolis! My partnerships with constituents, District 10 small businesses, community activists, and my fellow legislators have allowed me to spearhead a number of fantastic bills. I am happy to report that my legislation to streamline property tax credits for Veterans and assist the trades by updating HVACR license requirements have passed out of the Senate and are now in the House. I also had hearings on two bills (SB 400 and 488) to accommodate those with disabilities in our State. SB 400 would require closed captioning during certain motion picture showings and SB 488 would conduct a study on an electronic voting system, benefitting the blind and service members who are serving overseas. Financial literacy is also a very important issue to me and I recently testified before the committee on how a stand-alone elective course would benefit high school students. Additionally, the Senatorial Scholarships are now open for prospective college students in District 10.

We still have about a month left in the 2023 session and I will continue to work hard on legislation that helps our district and its constituents!

Reach me at **Benjamin.brooks@senate.md.us** or give my staff a call at 410-841-3606.

~ Benjamin Brooks

THANK YOU!

Once again, I could count on the "Folders", to assist in getting the newly elected President's letter to the Membership, requesting the remittance of dues.

Thank you for your time, as I know we all have busy lives: *Gail and Richard Collins, Wayne Dell, Sandy Fallin, Evalyn Garvin, Zulma Santiago, and Arlene Wilder*.

The friendships I have made within GPCA have been so special. Thank you, all.

~ Marty Kelley

TURKEY TIME

Just past sunrise for the past two mornings Carl and I've been mesmerized by the wild turkey toms and hens strolling through our lower pasture. Our count through binoculars is 5 mature toms, 3 jakes (immature males) and 8-10 hens. The mature toms strut close together impressing each other and the hens. The bigger hens hang close to them while the younger gals scratch and peck for grubs and seeds nearby. The jakes look on wistfully as the big toms puff out their chests, fan their tails and drag their wings. When sufficiently stimulated their heads and necks turn solid white! Over the next couple of weeks, we'll hear the toms gobbling to attract their mates (hence the gobbler moniker). Once mated the hens will lay a dozen eggs more or less in a depression on the ground and their poults will hatch in about 28 days. The fight for survival starts when the eggs are laid as they are easy prey for raccoons, possums, foxes, snakes, and raptors. After two weeks the poult's survival rate increases significantly as they learn to fly and can roost in trees with the adults at night. Keep an eye and ear out for them in open fields and pastures in the early mornings and late evenings over the next few weeks. Their population has increased significantly in our area; a reward for our efforts to preserve their habitat!

~ CathyWolfson

Small Watershed Conservation Committee

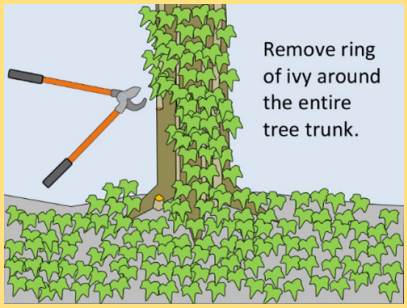
Don’t Let Vines Kill Our Trees!

Aggressive invasive vines are damaging our native tree canopy, contributing to climate change. Vines compete with the tree they grow on for sunlight, water, and nutrients. After encircling a towering tree to reach the sunlight, the vine branches out and shades the tree’s own foliage. Vines also add weight to the tree, causing broken and damaged limbs and trunks.

Start looking and you will see them everywhere - **English Ivy**, **Oriental Bittersweet,** and **Porcelain Berry** are common in our area. This time of year, you will be able to easily spot the English Ivy because it is evergreen and will really stand out as you view a wooded area when there is very little green. So this is a good time to prune to keep it from engulfing a tree.

To kill the vines on a tree, you will need a pruner, a lopper for thicker vines, and possibly a hand saw for very thick vines. Wear gloves! Don’t attempt to pull vines out of trees as they might bring weakened branches down on your head.

As illustrated here, cut the vines from near the ground and again about waist high above the ground, going all the way around the trunk. It is best to bag the cut segments so they don’t re-root.



English ivy plants can engulf a tree trunk, weakening it over time, leaving the tree susceptible to pests, disease, and wind damage as well as poor foliage growth. Ivy spreads by seeds eaten by birds, and new plants grow easily from cuttings left on the ground, so be sure to bag the cut pieces.

© Judy Fulton

© Judy Fulton

Oriental Bittersweet , also known as Asian Bittersweet, strangles the tree and breaks branches due to the weight. Stems can reach 4 inches in diameter. It spreads by seeds eaten by birds.

© Bill Johnson

© Judy Fulton

Porcelain berry plant is a deciduous, woody vine that resembles grape. It spreads by seeds eaten by birds and other small animals.

© Judy Fulton

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Talk to any SWCC member if you spot vine-covered trees in the area. We are planning to do some vine removal soon, so we'll add it to our list.

Below are some extra readings if you would like to learn more about invasive plants:

"Invasive Plants of the Patapsco Watershed", a presentation given by Diana Devers, Environmental Program Manager of the Patapsco Heritage Greenway at the GPCA general meeting in 2021.

"Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas; Field Guide", a > 200 page guide providing information on 92 aquatic and terrestrial invasive species threatening our region, guidance on control methods, discussion of the effects of climate change on invasive plants, explanations and maps of ecoregions and physiographic provinces, and suggestions for native plant alternatives.

~ Laurie Donnelly

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Community Events

Quaker Hill 4H Club

The club was started in 2017 as the Woodstock Equine 4H club and later changed its name in 2023 to the Quaker Hill 4H club. The club participates in 4H horse-related state competitions, attends local shows, and volunteers with local equine rescues. You do not need a horse to participate in the club.

The club meets on the first Sunday of every month from 2:00-4:00 pm, off Davis Ave in Woodstock, Maryland. Membership is open to ages 5-18

If parents or youth would like to know more about the club or if they are interested in attending a meeting please email: woodstockequine4h@gmail.com for complete details!

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Saturday, March 18, 2023
5:30pm—8:30pm
St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Church Hall
10800 Old Court Rd, Woodstock, MD

Cost: $25 per Adult or $60 per Family with children under 18

Includes:
Corned Beef Dinner w/Dessert, Light Snacks, Drinks
Games of Chance *50/50* *Game wheels*
Music by DJ

Tickets:
Byron Arnold byron.arnold@adesigngroup.com 443-745-0115
Chris Jermann cjermann@verizon.net
Walt Chahanovich wbchahanovich@yahoo.com

Sponsored by the St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus

Net proceeds go towards charities supported by this council including Lazarus Caucus, a men's homeless shelter in Catonsville, MD

Mulch Madness

Saturday March 25, 2023
Shredded Hardwood Mulch

3-cubic feet bag - $ 6.00

Black, 2-cubic feet bag-$6.00

2-cubic feet bag $4.50

FREE DELIVERY!
15 bag minimum and 8-mile radius

Small order pick-up: Saturday, March 25, 2023, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

****

Mulch sales support community needs, including Westside Homeless Shelter.;

For MORE INFORMATION **and** ORDERING FORM

CPR Class

12:00 PM, Sunday
April 30, 2023
@ Granite Presbyterian Church

10637 Old Court Rd, Woodstock

Community members are invited to attend a training class in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator (CPR/AED). A Stop-the-Bleed first aid module will also be included.

You must pre-register to attend class. Please, no walk-ins.

To register by phone : please contact the GPC Office at **410 461-5746** (if no answer please leave a message with name and contact information so that a confirmation call can be returned)
To register by email: send a to ***CPR_AED2019@aol.com***.
Cost: $60 per person.

The course is taught by representatives of Baltimore County Fire & Medical Training Inc. American Heart Association Certification cards will be issued upon successful completion of the course. The cards are good for 2 years.

Join us and learn valuable life-saving skills!

Dedication Concert of St. Alphonsus Rodriguez'

New Three-Manual Rodgers Organ, Model 351D

7:00 p.m., Friday, May 5, 2023
@ St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Catholic Church
10800 Old Court Rd, Woodstock, MD

Free and open to the public. Light refreshments will follow the concert.

Russell J. Weismann, D.M.A, will be in concert for the dedication of the newly installed Rodgers organ at St. Alphonsus Rodriguez.
Mr. Weismann is an emerging young artist whose achievements in performance and academic spheres have earned him international acclaim among audiences and intellectuals alike. He has performed recitals across the United States, as well as in Europe, Central America, Asia, and Africa.

“Weismann's performance, sprinkled with engaging comments from the stage and illustrations of some of the instrument's stops, put this clearly fine instrument through its paces..." -The Washington Post

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