



**Issue #389**

**GPCA Newsletter**

**May 2019**

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

**Guest Speaker:** Sarah Smith, Randallstown branch of Baltimore County Public Library and what's new in digital and print media, downloadable books, and summer activities.

*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)*

## **Be a Part of GPCA's Annual Community Cleanups**

### ***Join this Positive Community Event***

Join your friends and neighbors on Saturday, April 27, and June 15, 2019, for the annual GPCA Community Cleanups. Put together a team of friends from your HOA or neighborhood and give a couple hours to keeping our hills and valleys beautiful. Meet us at the St. Alphonsus Church parking lot.

### **Annual Roadside Cleanup Set for Saturday April 27, 2019 8:00 AM**

Many of you shared considerable disappointment with the report that Baltimore County suspended providing dumpsters for community cleanups. But, we have found another way. Our district's county maintenance crews will pick up the debris we collect from our central collection site on Monday.

**Very important restriction:** Only roadside trash can be accepted and collected on this date. We will NOT have dumpsters for household trash! Do not leave any household trash at any collection site.

Meet at the St. Alphonsus Church parking lot at 8:00 A.M. Please sign in. GPCA will provide safety vests and trash bags for each area team. Please review all Safety Requirements and Actions. Safety is the number one concern! Refreshments will be provided. Teams in trucks will collect bagged debris and take it to our central collection site, for pick up by the county's crew. Tires found on roadsides will be collected separately.

### **Annual Household Trash/Junk Collection Set for Saturday, June 15, 2019**

There will be two dumpsters available for resident household trash on this date. Roadside cleanup teams will be needed along Old Court Rd to cleanup any trash missed during the April cleanup, as well.

GPCA petitioned the County to provide two dumpsters for our community for household trash and junk. Remember only non-hazardous waste is accepted (no paint, gas, rechargeable batteries, florescent bulbs, chemicals, tires, electronics, TV's, etc.). Note: The GPCA reserves the right to limit or refuse the types and quantity of trash dumped from any individual or family.

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## From the Small Watershed Community Committee

### Floating Treatment Wetlands

We have become accustomed to seeing storm water retention ponds as part of new developments or retrofitted to abate water runoff from problem areas. Our impervious land uses create this need. Retention ponds are intended to slow peak flow rates and reduce pollutants and sediment before entering streams or storm water sewer systems.

Although current systems do reduce these problems, more effective methods are needed. In the past 10 years, the “Floating Treatment Wetland” (FTW) has become a topic of interest and under evaluation for improving retention ponds.

An FTW consists of: a tethered artificial raft that floats on the pond surface. Made of non-toxic materials (usual plastic foams and pipes), it contains media planted with selected native aquatic plants with roots that grow well below the water surface.

FTWs can be visually pleasing and provide some habitat. But more importantly, current studies indicate that FTWs increase the trapping of sediments and reduce nitrites, phosphorus, and other metals before the water exits open ponds. The positive actions are attributed to the physical presence of plant roots, slowing flow and the vast varieties of biological action on root surfaces (biofilms).

While the FTW is not a set and forget system, as it requires some monitoring and annual maintenance; it is something worth considering and investigating further as it could improve effectiveness of currently existing ponds. And, that would help protect our watersheds.

Source: “*Recommendations of the Expert Panel to Define Removal Rates for Floating Treatment Wetlands in Existing Wet Ponds*” WQGIT, September 12, 2016

Bob Teller

## Upcoming GPCA Meetings

**June 10:** Baltimore County Stream Monitoring.

**July & August** - No general meetings

**September 9** 2020 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process. Speaker: Wally Lippencott, Baltimore County Dept. of Planning, Northern Sector Coordinator

## Membership News

We need your voice and vote to bring new initiatives to the community as well as Baltimore County. Only paid members have the right to vote for Board Members and GPCA’s position on community issues such as re-zoning.

Our 2019 goal is to have 40 percent of the 1,600 households within the GPCA boundaries as members. The GPCA community has met 7 percent of that goal. So far, 16 new households have submitted dues. The 2019 membership form is on the back page of this issue. Many thanks to the renewing and new members for your interest in our community. As of April 20, 2019 GPCA, has a total of 85 renewing members and 16 new members.

**Renewing Joint Members:** Allen, Patrick and Linda; Berghmans, Andre and Mary; Conaway, JD and Melissa; Cornish, Lee and Jackie; Cox, Jr, William and Cindy; De Boer, Melanie and Dana Weant; Deitz, Wayne and Suzanne; Ensor, Maurice and Linda; Farmer, Jim; Kevin; Featherstone, William and Charlene; Haddaway, Lee and Patricia; Harrigan, Dean and Mamie’ Heit, William and Joan Da Silva; Janoskie, Toney and Tammy; Jenkins, Joe and Kathy; Kahn, Michael and Cindy; Libowitz, Steven and Lisa; Malinovsky, Peter and Elizabeth L.; McDermott, Mark and Donna; Naylor, Alan and Brenda Logue; Pahl, Pam and Family; Regan, Troy and Kelly; Tatarewicz, MD Joseph and Joyce Bedi

**New Joint Members:** Ackman, Rich and Karen; Cullison, Gary

**Renewing Single Members:** Jones, George

## Solar Energy at April Meeting

Our guest speaker at the April meeting was Kerri Neary from Summit Ridge Energy. Ms. Neary spoke to us about the commercial solar installations at Old Court and Dogwood.

The land at these sites received a special zoning exception for solar installations in January of 2018, and will provide 525 homes with partial low cost, renewable, clean energy. The site will be quiet and there will be year-round ground cover plantings throughout, including plantings for pollinators. These internal plantings will prevent runoff and erosion.

A fence will surround the area. In addition there will be trees and shrubs that will line the perimeter outside the fence, blocking the panels from view. Consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and Baltimore County concluded there would be no adverse impact on the environment. Formal wetland delineation was completed and forest conservation areas avoided.

The Old Court location consists of about 63 acres and the solar project takes up 10 acres. The Dogwood Road location is 25 acres and the solar project takes up 6 acres. The solar farms at Old Court and Dogwood will be operational at the end of July, 2019.

Your subscription to these solar arrays allows you the utility bill benefits of solar without having to place panels on your rooftop, and enables more clean energy to come online in Maryland, helping the state reach its clean energy goals and creating jobs and local tax revenue in the process. If you subscribe, you will receive a 5 percent discount off your BGE monthly bill. To subscribe, go online to <https://neighborhoodsun.solar/shared-solar-c/>. You must have a FICO score of 680 or more to subscribe. Many thanks to Kerri Neary for this helpful and informative presentation.

Denise Maranto



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# GPCA

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## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

May Day – May 1, 2019  
Holocaust Remembrance Day – May 2  
Ramadan begins – May 5  
Armed Forces Day – May 18  
Memorial Day – May 27

### 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:** Cathy Wolfson 410-245-8708,  
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**Editor:** Reed Hellman [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. Include information on the size desired.**

**Payments for ads:** Make check payable to GPCA and send 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 submission for a future newsletter.