

Autumn, 2008

IN THE FLOW



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1920 Eagle Drive
Email: Info@gwynnsfalls.net

Baltimore, MD 21207
website: www.gwynnsfalls.net

443-429-3183

The Gwynns Falls Watershed Association, a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the Gwynns Falls as a community resource, is supported by grants, memberships and contributions.

Annual Meeting —October 19

It has been an exciting and productive year since the GFWA began rebuilding the organization and our programs. We had a successful cleanup that was taped and broadcast by WMPT for the "Chesapeake Bay Week" campaign. We worked with watershed communities to clean up their local stream sections for the Project Clean Stream Program. Partnering with school groups and community groups, we have planned several tree plantings and stream cleanups. (See the Calendar of Events for more information.) Joining forces with other local watershed associations, we have become active members of the Baltimore Water Alliance to work on the problems stormwater, sewage and trash and collaborate on administration and fundraising functions.

As we continue to plan for the future, we invite you to join us for our 10th Annual Meeting. It will be held at the new Irvine Nature Center located in the beautiful Caves Valley in Owings Mills. As the keynote speaker, Tom Pelton will speak on "Managing Baltimore's Urban Storm Water: How the city can make its waterfront more attractive and reduce pollution into the Chesapeake Bay."

Come early and walk the grounds. There will be guided tours of the "green" building from 6:00 to 7:00 by the Irvine staff. Refreshments will be available at 6:30. The program be-

gins 7 PM, and will include highlights of GFWA programs, Irvine Nature Center projects and programs and a short business meeting to elect new GFWA officers and board members.

Tom Pelton is senior writer at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. For more than a decade, he was a reporter for *The Baltimore Sun*, winning several awards for his nature writing and investigative reporting. The Society of Environmental Journalists in 2005 and 2006 named him one of the best environmental beat reporters in America. He's also won awards for best environmental reporting from the Maryland, D.C., Delaware Press Association (in 2005) and the Associated Press (in 2006). The *Baltimore City Paper* in 2008 described him as a "rising star."

Before coming to the *Sun* in 1997, he wrote for *The Boston Globe*, *Harvard Magazine*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Washington Post* and other publications. He has a master's degree in English from the University of Chicago, and graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University. He's taught journalism at Georgetown University, and been a guest lecturer on environmental reporting at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Tom lives in the Evergreen neighborhood of Baltimore with his wife and two daughters.

Upcoming Projects Volunteers Welcome

There are several projects scheduled for this fall. Volunteers are welcome to help out.

On October 18, 9:30-12:30, Students from Park School, Dickeyhill School and neighbors from the Gwynn Oak community will plant trees in a section of Gwynns Falls Park near Purnell Drive and Gwynn Oak Avenue. Park School students will provide refreshments and lunch. Trees and mulch will be supplied by Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks.

On October 25, 9:00-12:00, the Villa Nova Community Association will plant trees in along the Gwynns Falls in Villa Nova Park at 3820 Buckingham Road. Trees, tools and supplies will be provided by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

On October 8, 9:00-12:00, students from St. Pauls School will do a stream cleanup in the Gwynns Falls near the Old Court Metro station. Gloves and bags will be provided.

For directions to Irvine Nature Center see www.explorenature.org.

Community Groups Join Forces for a Successful Stream Clean-Up

By Albert Hess

On a sunny morning in early spring, forty-one volunteers gathered to conduct a clean-up at the Gwynns Trail, Milford Mill Park. The Scotts Level Branch of the Gwynns Falls flows through this lightly used park located near the intersection of Milford Mill and Scotts Level in Pikesville. With assistance from the Gwynns Falls Watershed Association, members and friends of the Villa Nova Community Association, Rotary Club of Pikesville-Owings Mills and Pikesville High Interact

Club joined forces to remove trash from about a mile of the stream, stream bank and about 50 to 100 feet of mostly wooded, buffer area. WMPT-TV, Baltimore's public television station, was also took part of the activities. They taped the project as part of their "Chesapeake Bay Week Volunteer-a-thon", which was broadcast on April 28, 2008.

The site captain welcomed the volunteers and kicked-off the clean-up by going over procedures and precautions before dividing volunteers into small groups with assigned locations. Enthusiastic and efficient volunteers gave the park a much needed cleaning. The effort concluded after three hours with amazing results. Fifty large bags of trash weighing an estimated 1250 pounds along with a variety of bulk items were collected. Interesting items found included

a bike, toilet, 7 tires, lawn furniture and a large rusted outfall pipe. Following the clean-up, it was a pleasure to walk the one mile looped trail in the park and view the stream and buffer area without the unsightly litter of bottles, cigarette butts, cans and plastic bags.

The annual clean-up is part of the statewide watershed effort, Project Clean Stream, coordinated by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. On the first Saturday in April, watershed groups recruit volunteers and help organize clean-ups to reduce stream pollution, improve the habitat for wildlife and beautify the area. Site captains at each location receive training, informational hand-outs, materials (garbage bags, gloves and a sign) and forms documenting results.

If you are interested in volunteering at a future stream clean-up or would like to organize a clean-up in your neighborhood, please contact the Gwynns Falls Watershed Association at 443-429-3183 or info@gwynnsfalls.net.

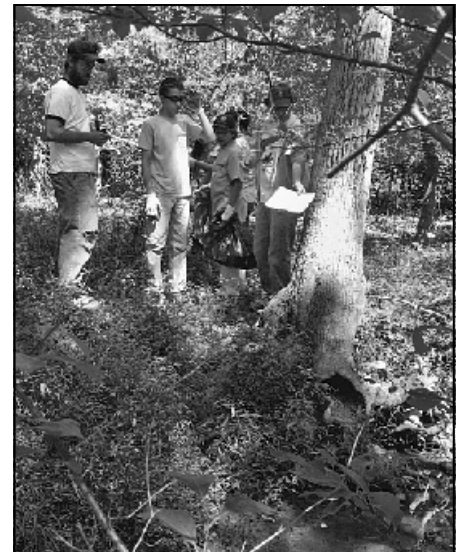


Outreach and Education Program

On August 20, Albert Hess and Dave Hollander presented a workshop on Gwynns Falls stream qual-



ity issues to campers from the Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore's Pearlstone Farm. After a classroom/lab session at the Jewish Community Center where the campers and staff members assessed water quality from a nearby stream, the campers hiked to a nearby tributary of the Gwynns Falls for a field survey of stormwater mitigation structures and an introduction to the riparian environment. Organizations in the Gwynns Falls watershed are invited to contact GFWA to arrange for similar events in their communities.



2008 Maryland Bottle Bill submitted by Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association

By the 1960's, the use of refillable bottles had completely died out, and no-deposit cans and bottles took over. This led to an increase in beverage container litter, as well as solid landfill waste.

On February 9, 2007, Maryland House Bill, named Environment-Recycling-Bottle Deposits, Returns, and Refunds, was introduced in the Maryland House of Delegates. Known generically as "The Bottle Bill", it is similar to the laws already in effect in 11 other states that require a deposit to be made when you purchase bottled water, soft drinks, and alcohol.

Unfortunately, the 2007 bill didn't make it out of committee in Annapolis. However, for the 2008 legislative session a different approach is being taken to establish a Bottle Bill in Maryland. HB509 and SB336 are calling for a Task Force to Study Required Deposits on Returnable Beverage Containers. It's expected that taking a baseline approach will increase the likelihood of a "Bottle Bill" in Maryland being passed in the future.

The Bill's lead sponsor is Delegate Pete Hammen, and supported by such organizations as Citizens

Using Resources Better, BHWA, League of Conservation Voters, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Environment Maryland.

Why do we need a bottle bill?

Curbside recycling alone is not stopping the littering of beverage containers. More than 16 billion glass, aluminum, and plastic containers have already been land-filled, incinerated, or littered so far this year in the US alone. States such as Michigan, who have a bottle bill, statistically have far less litter, which means less clean up costs, less blight in our neighborhoods, and less toxins in our water. During a stream survey in Baltimore it was found that 53% of the floating trash was comprised of beverage containers.

How does it work? Every beer or soda container must have a minimum refund value. Deposits begin with the distributor, and are refunded to the customer when the empty container is returned. The proposed deposit is 5 cents, with the option to later create an amendment to coincide with inflation. Each county would have one redemption center, with the hopes that some retailers would have their own operations as well. Containers are sorted and counted at the redemption center, then collected by the



distributor for recycling. Those containers that are discarded by the consumer are often recovered from solid waste and returned for refunds by someone else.

What are the benefits? Bottle bills not only reduce beverage container litter, but conserve natural resources through recycling, and reducing the amount of waste going into landfills. The deposits are 100% refundable and provide a financial incentive to recycle. The refund centers create jobs, and deposit systems are funded by producers and consumers, as opposed to recycling which is funded by government and taxpayers. Most importantly, less trash will be in our neighborhoods, our streets, and our Harbor.

Join the Gwynns Falls Watershed Association for 2008!

COMPLETE AND RETURN TO: 1920 EAGLE DRIVE, BALTIMORE, MD 21207-7353

(Make checks payable to: *GFWA*)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION (IF ANY): _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (CHECK ONE):

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- Household (\$25.00) List household members: _____
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GFWA Calendar of Events

Saturday, Sep 20, 1-4 PM Tree Stewards Workshop - Carrie Murray Nature Center, 1901 Ridgetop Road-21207

Sunday Sep 21, 8-2 PM - Jones Falls Rally for the River, 2008

MondaySep 22, 7-9 PM GFWA BOD Meeting - GFWA Office, 1920 Eagle Drive, 21207

Friday Sep 26, 12-4 PM Herring Run Watershed Center Grand Opening and Open House - HRWA, 3545 Belair Road

Saturday Sep 27 9-12 PM National Public Lands Day Workday - Winans Meadow, 4500 Franklinton Road

Wednesday Oct 8 9am GFWA Stream Cleanup - Gwynns Falls at Old Court Road

Saturday Oct 11 12-3 PM Windsor Hills Conservation Trail Celebrates 10th Anniversary - Windsor Hills Conservation Trailhead where Clifton Road dead ends on Fairfax Road, right below the Westchester apartments.

Saturday Oct 18 9am GFWA Tree planting - Purnell Drive, east of Gwynn Oak Ave.

4-8 PM Baltimore Harbor Trash Bash 2008 - Nick's Fish House, 2600 Insulator Drive, Baltimore, MD 21230

Sunday Oct 19 6-9 PM GFWA Annual Meeting. - Invine Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Saturday Oct 25 9-12 AM GFWA Tree planting. - Villa Nova Park, 3819 Buckingham Road

Monday Oct 27 7-9 PM GFWA BOD Meeting - GFWA office, 1920 Eagle Drive, 21207

Monday Nov 17 7-9 PM GFWA Board Meeting - GFWA office, 1920 Eagle Drive, 21207

Address Correction Requested

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Association
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