

Calendar of Fall Events

Second Sunday in Leakin Park, Oct. 11, 11AM-3PM - Windsor Mill at Eagle Drive, the steam trains will be running, a guided hike at 1:00, Carrie Murray Nature Center will be open as well as the Orianda House.

Native plant sale, Oct. 18, 12-4pm - fall is the best season for planting trees! Buy your trees at Herring Run Nursery, www.herringrun.org.

Rain Barrel Workshop, Oct. 21 & Nov. 18, 6:30-9:30pm - Build your own rain barrel or buy one ready to install. Save money on watering and save the environment by reducing runoff to the streams. RSVP to www.gwynnsfalls.net to reserve space. Let us know if you want us to bring the workshop to your neighborhood.

Tree Planting, Oct. 24, 9AM-1PM - plant over 150 trees to help Tree Baltimore make its goal of doubling the tree canopy in 30 years. Join other volunteers at Poly Western or City College High Schools. Go to www.herringrun.org for more information.

Environmental lecture/seminar series, 2 PM at UMBC Technology Research Center Building, Room 206, presented by Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education, <http://www.umbc.edu/cuere/seminarSeries.html>

Oct. 9 - Understanding the Energy and Environmental Affects of Vegetated Rooftops

Oct. 30 - Collaborative Resource Water Management in Multi jurisdictional watersheds

Dec. 11 - Achieving Sustainable Stormwater Management

Baltimore Bird Club Walk, Oct. 3rd @ 8:00 AM, Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Windsor Mill Road and Eagle Drive (1900 Eagle Drive, 21207). Leaders will be Paul and Elise Kreiss @ 410-367-8194.

Maryland Mountain Club, Oct. 14th—Reuben Dagold, an experienced hiker will lead a 7 1/2 mile hike through the Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. Call Reuben @ 410-486-8737 for specifics and registration.

Maryland Mountain Club, Nov. 4th—This 7 mile out-and-back hike will go from Winans Meadow in Leakin Park to Leon Day Park at a moderate pace. Call Reuben Dagold @ 410-486-8737 to register.

GFWA Annual Meeting, "Victories and Visions: Restoring the Gwynns Falls", Dec. 8, 7-9 PM, Kernan Hospital Conference Center.

Check www.gwynnsfalls.net for more information or updates.


GFWA now on www.facebook.com Friend us and help to spread the word to your friends. Share your experiences, stories, photos, news and video clips of watershed events.

Address Correction Requested

Gwynns Falls Watershed Assn.
1920 Eagle Drive
BALTIMORE, MD 21207
www.gwynnsfalls.net

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IN THE FLOW



Fall, 2009

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
for 2010
Donations are tax deductible

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.

Volunteer Events

Volunteers have worked on many projects this year designed to help protect and enhance the Gwynns Falls watershed and improve our quality of life. Projects include digging and planting rain gardens, building rain barrels, planting trees and shrubs, cleaning up trash, removing invasive plants or adopting-a-stream by walking the stream regularly and reporting problems.

Project Clean Stream in April brought out over 100 volunteers from seven communities who removed several tons of trash from our waters: students from CCBC Owings Mills Campus and Pikesville High School and volunteers from Pikesville/Owings Mills Rotary, residents of Villa Nova, Howard Park, Hanlon Park, Franklinton and Hunting Ridge communities, and Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay manages Project Clean Stream by promoting the event and providing the supplies.

A rain garden was constructed on Thomas Jefferson ES/MS School property with much support from teachers, students and parents, residents from the neighboring Hunting Ridge community and with the expertise and hard work of Rick Hobbs and staff

from Irvine Nature Center. All the students from 1st to 8th grade pitched in to dig, plant and mulch. The garden not only displays beautiful native plants, but performs a vital service. It is used to teach about the importance of catching runoff before it enters the storm water system, allowing it to soak into the ground and slowly recharge the stream. Funding was provided by Parks and People Foundation and the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Our new rain barrel workshops provide volunteers with the tools and supplies necessary for them to build their own rain barrels. Rain barrels store rain water from roofs for watering the garden, saving money on water and reducing runoff washing into the stream. Rain barrels are also available ready-built for purchase. The

workshops are scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of each month in Leakin Park. Let us know if we can conduct a workshop in your community. Contact us for more information or to RSVP for a workshop.

Crews from AmeriCorps National Conservation Corps and Civic Works helped us plant 50 trees along the Gwynns Falls in the Gwynn Oak Community. Watershed residents who want to protect their neighborhood streams have signed up for our Adopt-a-Stream Program. The program gives them the training and supplies to become the eyes on the stream. They agree to hold annual cleanups and walk the stream regularly to look for problems, which they report to city and county agencies. Contact us if you want to adopt your stream.



Support the GFWA by Shopping!

Go to <http://www.igive.com/GFWA> when shopping online for everyday or holiday goods and a portion of the proceeds will automatically go to the Gwynns Falls Watershed Assn.

Baltimore Water Alliance

Executive directors and board representatives from watershed organizations – Herring Run, Jones Falls, Gwynns Falls, Baltimore Harbor and the Harbor Waterkeeper – have met several times during the past several months to evaluate a strategic restructuring involving the five groups. The groups have reached consensus on the following:

Restructuring could benefit:

- Our capability to accomplish our common mission.
- Our chance to be heard and change public policy.
- Our ability to attract and retain quality staff.
- Our collective program effectiveness.
- Our administrative efficiency.
- Our capacity to lead.
- Our sustainability.
- Our true impact.

Nature Lessons Joan Marie Gebhardt

Nature lessons were offered this summer to children and adults in the Villa Nova community. Parents and their children were invited to tour a section of Villa Nova Park, observe and identify signs of wildlife, and learn about the Gwynns Falls stream.

Participants waded in the stream, measured the depth and speed of the flow of water, and made their own “boats” which were then raced to see which would travel downstream fastest. Living organisms in the water were observed and some were captured and identified. Lessons incorporated math, reading, science, and ecology, and were lots of fun!

The five organizations have signed a Good Faith Resolution to move forward toward the goal of evaluating restructuring to form a single organization, focused on water quality issues in the greater Baltimore metropolitan area. This consensus marks a major milestone for each organization, and reflects the commitment all have to improving water quality as well as quality of life in Baltimore.

The five organizations share common missions and program objectives. We believe that restructuring will serve our mutual goals and will allow us to speak with a collective voice as we work to improve water quality in Baltimore’s streams and the Harbor. Baltimore’s stream valleys, watersheds and the people, plants and animals who inhabit them will be the ultimate beneficiaries of a new, stronger organization. We view this move as an important step in making us more effective partners in the larger effort to restore the

Chesapeake Bay and improve the quality of life in greater Baltimore.

We’ve raised funds to hire a consultant who will help guide the five organizations in the evaluation, planning and strategic restructuring process. While the five organizations will participate in the process we acknowledge that each organization has the option to opt out of any final restructuring plan, based on the consultant’s report, input from its members, and the recommendations of its board.

Throughout the process, we’ve committed to meet with funding partners, update them on our process, and explore funding opportunities to support the launch of a restructured organization. With the help of a consultant who is well-versed in organizational development and restructuring, the evaluation and planning process is now underway.

Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things may get better. To the confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better.
--King Whitney Jr.

Because of the stream, Villa Nova Park is one of the important assets of the Villa Nova community. It is a beautiful area filled with a great variety of wild animals and plants. Neighbors and friends are encouraged to visit this lovely area.



Membership Since Last Issue

Contributing Donors

Ted Eucare, Jr.
Joan Gebhardt
Greater Homewood, Corp.,
Dave and Teri Hollander
Villa Nova Design

Household

Christina Halligan & Michael Epstein
John & Cara Enny
Amy and Craig Gold
Sheila Marie & Robert A. Lewis
Margaret Boyd Meyer
Frank Kober
John & Betty Blocher
Marcus & Ann Griswold

Individual

Victoria Dorf
Miriam Hardy
Lois Schmidt

Board of Directors

Dave Hollander-Interim President, Windsor Hills
Vice President-vacant
William Lyles-Treasurer, Howard Park
Albert Hess-Secretary, Pikesville/Owings Mills Rotary Club
Joan Marie Gebhardt, Villa Nova
Erik Jones Dickeyville
Marcus Griswold, Hunting Ridge
Ted Rosenberg, Dickeyville
Scott Pelton - Part-time Staff

We Want You!

The GFWA Board of Directors is looking for a few good people. Nominate a neighbor, friend or yourself to help the GFWA grow and prosper.

Community groups working to restore our watershed

Dickeyville Community
Dickeyville Elementary School
Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park
Gwynns Oak Community
Howard Park Community
Hunting Ridge Community
Irvine Nature Center
Mt. St. Joseph High School
Park School
Pikesville High School Interact Club
Pikesville/Owings Mills Rotary Club
Sudbrook Middle School
Thomas Jefferson ES/MS School
Villa Nova Community
Windsor Hill Neighbors

SAVE THE DATE — DECEMBER 8 — SAVE THE DATE

GFWA Annual Meeting

Victories and Visions: Preserving and Restoring the Gwynns Falls

We are asking community leaders to tell about us their projects and future plans to preserve and restore our watershed through displays and/or presentations

Join the Gwynns Falls Watershed Association for 2009!

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

(Make checks payable to: GFWA or pay online with PayPal)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION (IF ANY): _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (CHECK ONE):

- Individual (\$15.00)
- Household (\$25.00) List household members: _____
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