



IN THE FLOW

Fall 2003

P.O. BOX 47250

BALTIMORE, MD

443 429 3183

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 26

Rotary Club of Pikesville-Owings Mills will be sponsoring the planting of native trees, bushes and flowers along the stream bank in Gwynns Falls Handicapped Trail Park. The park is located off Milford Mill Road near Scotts Level Rd. Is. If you have any questions, contact Albert Hess at pikomrotary@yahoo.com or 410-484-0135. The planting will start at 9:00 am.

November 2

Save the Patapsco, Hon III Party. 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at 3212 Avon Ave. Patapsco River photo cards will be on display for guests to take home in exchange for donations to our urban watershed associations! Call Joe Stewart at 410-243-4418 for more details.

November 8

State of the Waters Conference, sponsored by Baltimore County's DEPRM office. Goucher College. Call (410) 887-4488 or email deprm@co.ba.md.us for more information.

Continued on page 2

Calendar of Events-Continued from page 1

November 9

Join us for an open house Wine, Cheese & Chocolate Benefit to support the Gwynns Falls Watershed Association! 3:00 pm to 6:00

From the President

We are pleased to announce our new "Gwynns Falls Watershed Restoration Partnership Program" (see accompanying article), funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Working in partnership with the Center for Watershed Protection is especially exciting. CWP is well known for its nationally recognized watershed studies and stream monitoring programs. They provide small watershed groups like us with the technical resources and training we need to assess, monitor, protect and restore the Gwynns Falls streams.

With this funding we were able to hire a part-time Watershed Program Manager. After a compressed application process, an excellent PM was hired. I would be remiss if I did not thank Tom Schueler from CWP. Tom's help was invaluable throughout the process from program development to proposal to interviews. We look forward to working with Tom and the other outstanding folks at CWP.

We welcome Amber Widmayer as the new Program Manager. We were fortunate to hire someone with Amber's skills and background. She comes to us from Maryland Department of Natural Resources, where as a natural resource planner she worked with the Resource Planning unit to plan for MD's public lands. Previous roles include Service-Learning Coordinator at the UMBC's Shriver Center and as an intern with the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission. She is now ready to make a difference at the local watershed level.

To supplement the program work, Amber will be working with the GFWA Fundraising Committee to secure additional funding. The goal is to evolve the WPM position into an Executive Director within a year. Amber is eagerly learning about programs and projects going on in the Gwynns Falls and other Baltimore watersheds. Please contact her at the office or introduce yourself at events. Let her know what you are doing and how we can work together.

Wine and cheese, of course--wine and chocolate, why not? Thrill your taste buds at our "Wine, Cheese and Chocolate Benefit" Open House. Mark you calendar for November 9 and come to Dave and Teri Hollander's lovely Windsor Hills home overlooking the Gwynns Falls. Wine tasting is featured.

Continued on page 2

From the President-Continued from page 2

pm at 2518 Talbot Road,
Baltimore MD 21216. Go to
www.gwynnsfalls.net or call
443-429-3183 to buy tickets
or for more information.

Early February

GFWA Annual Meeting. More
information will be coming in
January.

Items for the silent auction include a day of trout fishing with Jim Gracie and an original Tom Chalkley drawing of the Gwynns Falls. Tom will also be on hand to draw caricatures. I would like to thank those who made a donation to help offset the costs. "Co-hosts" listed elsewhere in the newsletter have made it possible to hold such an event.

We anticipate 2004 with a renewed spirit. The partnership with CWP and a new program manager afford us the opportunity to expand our work and develop into a professional organization that will have the resources, staff and technical knowledge to protect and restore our waterways for future generations.

Scott Pelton

Treasurer Needed

GFWA is still searching for a treasurer to join our board of directors. Experience is not necessary but would be beneficial. Please call 443-429-3183 if you can help!

Foot Notes From the Gwynns Falls Trail

Summer 2003 began with the completion of Phase II of the trail, which is the section from Leon Day Park to Carroll Park Golf Course at Washington Boulevard. On June 15th, 2003 the Phase II grand opening and 'Tour du Park' were celebrated by over 150 enthusiastic trail users. The Gwynns Falls Trail staff stayed busy all summer providing programming for over 6,000 visitors. Watershed related programming included freshwater stream ecology, canoeing at Middle Branch Park, introductory watershed hikes, stream clean-ups and invasive plant removals. Public school elementary and middle school students participated in environmental education field trips. Local summer camps took advantage of the wonderful outdoor recreational opportunities by canoeing, biking and hiking in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park and Middle Branch Park. A variety of local and national service programs performed invaluable stewardship projects that particularly benefited the riparian buffers of Dead Run and sections of the Gwynns Falls. The Adopt-A-Trail program led to improved maintenance of side trails. These dedicated volunteer trail stewards installed water bars, mulched trails and in some situations completed minor trail realignments, all in order to reduce soil erosion.

For more information on the Gwynns Falls Trail call (410) 396-0440 or go online to www.gwynnsfallstrail.org.

-submitted by Sharon Schueler, Trail Naturalist

Gwynns Falls Watershed Restoration Partnership Program

As of September, Amber Widmayer was hired as the Program Manager of the Gwynns Falls Watershed Association through a grant funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Amber will work with the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) to develop a watershed restoration plan for the Gwynns Falls watershed. In addition to increasing the capacity of the GFWA through seeking funding and increasing its visibility, the program manager will work with volunteers and CWP staff to identify, prioritize and implement watershed restoration projects. Using GIS mapping and the Center's stream monitoring techniques, three on-site stormwater retrofit, restoration, and pollution prevention projects will be completed by the end of the grant year. These projects will serve as the templates for projects that can be implemented by core volunteers and future GFWA staff.



REGIONAL WATERSHED HIGHLIGHTS

BALTIMORE CITY

Baltimore City Storm Sewer Watershed 263 Restoration and Demonstration Project is a combined effort to conduct urban watershed forestry restoration research and demonstration projects within this 900-acre area that is made up of 10 Southwest Baltimore neighborhoods. The project's goals are the following:

- Prepare and implement an innovative urban watershed restoration plan;
- Implement demonstration projects to affect environmental, community health and quality of life outcomes;
- Focus on nonstructural, low impact development restoration techniques to create pervious surfaces;
- Improve resource management outcomes by better coordinating existing public expenditures.

The project is a partnership between Baltimore City (Department of Public Works-Water Quality Section, Recreation & Parks, Planning, and Public Schools), MD DNR Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Parks & People Foundation, watershed community organizations, USFS, and the Chesapeake Bay Program.

BALTIMORE COUNTY

Baltimore County DEPRM has been busy during August and September conducting "Listening Sessions" in conjunction with its Watershed Action Planning Process. The county held three "listening session" in Baltimore's western, northern and eastern regions in order to gain public input on watershed related concerns throughout the county. In addition to providing information on the Baltimore Watershed Agreement from 2002, Frances H. Flanigan facilitated discussion among session participants by posing the following four questions:

- 1) What are the biggest water quality issues in your region?
- 2) How successful has your organization been in working with the county to address these issues?
- 3) What do you see to be the biggest challenges to improving City/County cooperation?
- 4) Where do you think dollars can be most effectively spent to address any of the problems that concern you?

The information gathered during the sessions will be presented at the First Annual State of the Waters Conference on November 8th. See Calendar of Events for more details.

Join the Gwynns Falls Watershed Association for 2003-2004!

COMPLETE AND RETURN TO: P.O. BOX 47250, BALTIMORE, MD 21244-7250

(Make checks payable to: *Gwynns Falls Watershed Association*)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION: _____

EMAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (CHECK ONE):

- Individual (\$15.00)
- Household (\$25.00) List household members: _____
- Non-profit Organizations (\$25.00) Name of organization: _____
- Business Sponsor (\$100.00) Name of business: _____

I'D LIKE TO HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING GFWA ACTIVITIES:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research/advocacy on water quality issues | <input type="checkbox"/> organizing local stream restoration projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring my local stream | <input type="checkbox"/> regular water quality monitoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community outreach and publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> organizational management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stream-based education/recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |

A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE...

for our Wine, Cheese and Chocolate Open House Co-Hosts!

- Tetra Tech's Center for Ecological Sciences
- Whole Foods, Fells Point
- The Calico Cat
- Outward Bound
- Salsa Grill
- Dave & Teri Hollander
- Michael & Barbara Anne Powell
- Pat Munoz
- Tom & Sharon Schueler
- Scott & Nancy Pelton
- Louise Pringle & Annie Gregg
- Mr. & Mrs. William T. Lyles, Jr.
- Buddy & Donna Buscemi
- Sidney Hollander
- Rotary Club of Pikesville-Owings Mills
- Douglas & Eloise Brown
- Alysia & Mark Perry
- Christina Beltram & Michael McCormack

MOVE ADDRESS BELOW FOLD

Gwynns Falls Watershed Association
P.O. Box 47250
Baltimore, MD 21244-7250

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