

Spring, 2004

IN THE FLOW



NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS

1920 Eagle Drive BALTIMORE, MD 21207 443 429 3183
Email: Info@gwynnsfalls.net website: www.gwynnsfalls.net

Fundraiser – A Great Success

On a beautiful, unseasonably warm November afternoon the Gwynns Falls Watershed Association held the 1st Annual Wine, Cheese and Chocolate Benefit at the home of Dave and Terri Hollander in Windsor Hills. With a breathtaking view of the Gwynns Falls valley as a backdrop, those friends and supporters who attended were treated to an afternoon of taste treats, information sharing, artistic talents and lively conversation.

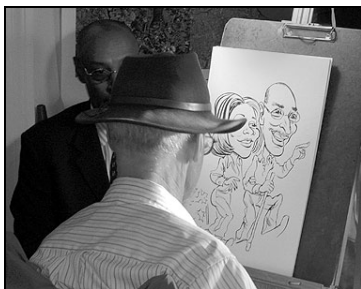
GFWA is indebted to many people who so generously gave of their time and expertise to make this event a success. For the wine tasting, Lee Boortz, a retired representative from Christian Brothers Winery, and his wife, Joanne, shared their expertise and time to chose, pour and discuss the qualities of an array of fine wines.

To compliment the wine, cheese and crackers, donated by Whole Foods Market, and amazing



Sen. Sarbanes and son Michael listen to Sidney Hollander

chocolates provided at a discount by local chocolatier Moores Candy were served. The artistic talent of Tom Chalkley, writer and Illustrator for the *City Paper*, provided great fun as he drew caricatures of guests and donated the revenue to the benefit. Tom also did the beautiful pen and ink



Chalkley caricatures



Guests enjoy wine and conversation

drawing of the Gwynns Falls for the invitation and donated the original sketch which was raffled off at the event. An array of other items included a day of fly fishing with Jim Gracie and *The Kenai Catastrophe*—a novel by Michael Barbour.

The financial success of the event was assured by the generous support of the “co-hosts” whose donations covered the upfront costs which allowed the GWFA to clear over \$2,500. The monies raised will help us pay for our administrative costs and to match funds for the grants under which we operate this volunteer organization.

We thank all who contributed in any way to the success of this benefit. Your interest in our organization is very gratifying. We plan to make this an annual

event and we hope that you will join us in the Fall of 2004 for the 2nd Annual Wine, Cheese and Chocolate Fundraiser to benefit the restoration of the Gwynns Fall watershed.

Calendar of Events

April 3, 9AM– 12PM, **Project Clean Stream** Wear your work clothes and boots to help clean-ups at several stream locations. To sign-up and for more details call 443-429-3183 or email info@gwynnsfalls.net.

April 3, 12PM – **Gwynns Falls Trail Council Annual Meeting and Dedication of the Benjamin Cardin Picnic Groove.** Location: Winans Meadow Trailhead on Franklinton Rd. RSVP 410-448-5663 ext 135 or www.gwynnsfallstrail.org

May 1 - **Stream Surveys and Training** Be our “eyes on the stream”. CWP staff will lead training and stream walk to assess physical characteristics of sections of the Maidens Choice and Scotts Level subwatersheds. For more details and to sign-up call 443 429 3183 or email info@gwynnsfalls.net

May 23 - **Joe Stewart’s “Save the Patapsco, Hon” Swim** to raise awareness of regional water quality issues. Proceeds are donated to local watershed organizations.

Apr. 12–May 12 - Joe’s **Patapsco Photo Exhibit** at Baltimore-gallery, 4519 Eastern Ave. For details call 410-767-1354 or email Jstewart@dat.state.md.us

Coming this spring- **GIS Training** Learn the basic Geographic Information System software skills to make field maps and better understand your watershed. No experience necessary. For more details and to reserve a spot call 443-429-3183 or email info@gwynnsfalls.net.

From the President, Scott Pelton

The Gwynns Falls Watershed Association ended 2003 with a record of solid growth and achievement.

The "Wine, Cheese and Chocolate" Fundraiser was very successful (see accompanying article). My sincere thanks many people who helped with this exciting event, especially Sharon Schueler, co-chair of the event committee and unfailing supporter, Pat Munoz from the River Network who inspired and guided us, Brian Watson who designed the eye-catching flier and invitation and Nancy Pelton who helped us pull-off the wonderful party and Dave and Terry Hollander, who graciously opened their home to the masses.

As I reported in Fall 2003 newsletter, Amber Widmayer came on board as our Watershed Program Manager in September 2003. She has been busy working with Center for Watershed Protection on the Watershed Partnership Program focusing on volunteer assessments of Scotts Level, Maidens Choice and the Upper Gwynns Falls watersheds. Please read the article in this newsletter about

the project.

The Gwynns Falls Management Study, a cooperative effort between Baltimore City and County, has just been released. It is a nine-month study on the "health" of the Gwynns Falls Watershed, from headwaters in Glyndon to the Middle Branch of Patapsco River. Make sure you read the article about this important and historic collaboration between the city and county.

As the year ended we said farewell to Emily Watson, our Volunteer Organizer. For the last 2 years Emily worked with community groups to organize stream cleanups, and tree plantings. She also setup the office, upgraded the office computer and put us on-line with our website. I will personally miss working with Emily and her helper Chloe. Emily is now a certified doula and is expecting a second child this summer. We send our best wishes to her.

There are also some important changes to our Board of Directors that I want to share with you. Two of our founding members, Dave Hollander and

Jill Wrigley, have found it necessary to leave the Board. They were the driving force behind the GFWA and though they are no longer able to serve on the Board, they will remain available as advisors and to assist with special projects.

I am pleased to announce that Tom Schueler is joining the board and will serve as Vice President. As many of you know, Tom founded Center for Watershed Protection in 1992 and he served as Executive Director until recently. Tom is now Director of Watershed Research and Practice. We are fortunate to have someone with Tom's background and knowledge to assist us in the further development of our organization.

As we look forward to Spring I ask that you keep in mind that we are a small group of volunteers who hope to make the watershed near where we live and work a better environment for future generations. Please give a few hours of your time once a month or so and help us accomplish our mission of leaving our part of the world in better shape than the way we found it.

Watershed Travelers by Sharon Schueler

Good news! Baltimore City middle school students are exploring the Gwynns Falls watershed. Thanks to a generous grant from N.O.A.A. and a committed partnership between Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks, Baltimore City Public Schools and Earth Force the Watershed Travelers program is moving along. Sixth graders from Dickey Hill Middle School and seventh graders from Westport Academy have been exploring streams in Baltimore City public parks. With lots of energy and enthusiasm these budding watershed stewards collect water quality data, sample for aquatic macroinvertebrates and conduct physical site and land use surveys. Classroom analysis of their data generates thoughtful questions and discussion regarding policies and practices that impact the "health" of their local watershed.

This spring each class of students will

take action. After researching various watershed issues each class selects one issue to address. These student driven



solutions recognize the complexity of small urban watersheds like the Gwynns Falls and the need for grassroots sustainable solutions. Watershed traveling includes both educational and recreational opportunities. Of course students hike along various stream reaches. Realizing the importance of touching heartstrings as well minds for fostering lifelong watershed stewardship and advocacy all these students get to play in this wonderful watershed. Enjoying beautiful balmy late spring/early summer weather students will fish and canoe at Middle Branch Park where the Gwynns Falls meets the Patapsco River. This watershed journey culminates with multi-school outdoor festivities at which action plans and personal watershed journeys are shared and celebrated.

Watershed Study Released by Steve Stewart, DEPRM

The Gwynns Falls Water Quality Management Plan is the first of many joint efforts by the County and the City to address water quality impairments in watersheds that cross jurisdictions. The Plan is a direct outgrowth of the Baltimore Watershed Agreement signed October 3, 2002. The Agreement pledged both Baltimore City and Baltimore County to adopt common environmental goals and to work cooperatively to meet those goals. The Agreement also pledges both jurisdictions to work with local environmental groups.

The goal of the planning effort is to provide a framework for restoration within the Gwynns Falls watershed. The assessment of pollutant sources and stream stability will provide the technical

data necessary to address restoration efforts throughout the watershed.

On March 4, 2004, an informational meeting was held and Kelly Brennan, a representative from the consulting firm Parson, Brinkerhoff, Quade & Douglas, presented an overview of the draft Baltimore City/Baltimore County Water Quality Management Plan. Comments and suggestions were solicited on the planning effort from the public. Amber Widmayer, from the Gwynns Falls Watershed Association, presented current efforts of a partnership plan between the Association and the Center for Watershed Protection to create a citizen based watershed restoration plan. Bill Stack of Baltimore City and Steve Stewart from Baltimore County concluded the presentations on the status of Capital Improvement Projects in the

Gwynns Falls watershed. Those in attendance reacted favorably to the presentations.

Over 100 potential restoration projects have been identified in the Gwynns Falls watershed and both Baltimore City and Baltimore County have restoration projects already in progress. Examples include the stream restoration project adjacent to Woodlawn High School completed in the fall of 2003 and the bioretention structure that is currently being built on the school grounds. The Woodlawn High School students are also preparing a herbaceous planting plan for the bioretention facility. Data from these projects will be used in classroom education.

The final version of the Gwynns Falls Watershed Water Quality Plan will be complete at the end of April, and a fol-

low-up public meeting is planned for mid-July.



Woodlawn H. S. project, before (above) and after (right)



Watershed Restoration Partnership by Amber Widmayer

In an effort to assess the work that needs to be done to restore the Gwynns Falls Watershed two interesting survey techniques are being employed using volunteers.

Recently, the GFWA in partnership with the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) has completed assessments in Scotts Level, Maidens Choice and Upper Gwynns sub watersheds. Two trainings were conducted in early March to train volunteers on in how to carry out CWP's recently developed Unified Sub watershed and Site Reconnaissance (USSR) method for evaluating the "watershed friendliness". These "windshield" sur-

veys, conducted from the comfort of a car, collect data of the upland neighborhoods. This data will be used to develop a restoration action plan for each of the sub watersheds. As a result of this plan, GFWA will have a prioritized list of restoration projects to be implemented as funding opportunities arise over the coming years. (Cont. next page)

On May 1st, GFWA and CWP will hold a training session on how to conduct the Unified Stream Assessment (USA) method similar to the "stream walk" survey techniques used in the GFWA Streamwatch program. Following the training and field work in Maidens

Choice and Scotts Level, volunteers who have participated in the USA training are encouraged to continue to use these techniques for evaluating their own local streams.

Based on the information gathered from these surveys, three projects will be designed and locations identified. In the late summer through fall of 2004, we will be looking for volunteers who are interested in helping GFWA with implementing the restoration projects. For more information on the Watershed Restoration Partnership, contact Amber Widmayer at 443 429 3183 or by email at ambergfwa@aol.com.

Gwynns Falls Watershed
Association
1920 Eagle Drive
BALTIMORE, MD 21207

www.gwynnsfalls.net

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
BALTIMORE, MD
PERMIT NO. 6313

Address Correction Requested

Funding provided in part by Chesapeake Bay Trust National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the following

Contributors/Members

FUNDRAISER CO-HOSTS

Christina Beltram & Michael McCormack
Douglas & Eloise Brown
Donna & Buddy Buscemi
The Calico Cat
David Carroll
William & Annie Gregg
Dave & Teri Hollander
Sidney Hollander
Kernan Hospital
Mr. & Mrs. William T. Lyles, Jr.
Pat Munoz
Michael J. Paul & Katherine E. Baer
Staff of Tetra Tech's Center for Ecological
Sciences in Owings Mills
Scott & Nancy Pelton
Rotary Club of Pikesville-Owings Mills
Michael Sarbanes & Jill Wrigley
Salsa Grill

Tom & Sharon Schueler
Wilhelm Park Community Association

DONORS

Tom Chalkley
Jim Gracie
Joe Stewart's "Save the Patapsco, Hon"
Swim

FRIENDS

Patricia Alt
Dr. Louis and B. Joan Cantori
Beverly Clevidence & Herbert Weiss
Robert & Mimi Dietrich
Victoria Dorf
William Eberhart
John & Frances Flanigan
Franklintown Community Association
Susan K Goering

Marsha Hairston
Tanya Field Hicks
Henry F. Hitchcock
Howard Park Civic Association
Mas & Carolyn Iwata
Ellen Maccumber Janes
Judy & Tom Jaudon
Tom Lamana
Steven X. Lee
Terry Lehr & Dan Fisher
Michael & Jennifer Lester
Joyce Currie Little
Robert & Louise MacDonald
Karen Makino
Alfred M. Marcus
G.R. Mitchell
Bob Moore
Elizabeth Nix
Ed & Jo Orser