

Celebrate Earth Day
April 22

MD Environment

Maryland Department of the Environment

April 1998

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Maryland To Restore Wetlands

by Tony Abar

When the first Europeans settled Maryland, the landscape was covered with approximately twice the wetland area that exists today. In fact, some estimates place our wetland losses at more than 70 percent of the original wetland acreage. Throughout Maryland's history, wetlands have been drained and filled to satisfy society's need to expand. Since the 1940s, explosive growth and intensive land use has reduced Maryland's wetlands by approximately 60,000 acres.

Today, the value of Maryland's wetlands and the important functions that they serve are generally recognized and appreciated. Wetlands protect water quality, reduce flooding, provide critical habitat for many fish and wildlife species and add diversity

and aesthetics to the environment. Yet, as with most valuable natural resources, federal, state and local regulations are still needed to protect and preserve these resources. Under the current Maryland wetland regulations, which has a "no net loss" goal, wetland losses are to be avoided wherever possible and unavoidable losses are to be offset through the creation of wetlands to compensate for permitted losses.

In May 1997, Governor Glendening established a new goal for the state's wetlands program when he announced an initiative to restore 60,000 acres of tidal and nontidal wetlands. With his announcement, the Governor moved the state's wetlands management goal from "no net loss" to one of "net gain."

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Wetland Steering committee member Bill Street of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

National Low Emission Vehicle Program Announced

by Ron Lipinski

Maryland has joined a voluntary national agreement with several other Northeast states, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and American and international car manufacturers to require the sale of cleaner-burning vehicles throughout the country. The new vehicles emit nearly 70 percent less hydrocarbons and 50 percent less nitrogen oxides, the principal air pollutants that form ozone, than vehicles now in showrooms. The agreement also will reduce air emissions from most sport utility vehicles, minivans and pickup trucks. The added cost will be less than \$100 per vehicle.

Because the federal Clean Air Act prevents EPA from tightening emission standards from vehicles until 2004, the voluntary agreement will help achieve cleaner air in Maryland and around the country at least five years ahead of schedule. Maryland and other Northeast states have been

working hard for years to get the manufacturers to produce cleaner vehicles to reduce the ground-level ozone problems that we experience every summer. With this agreement, the cleaner cars will start to be sold in Maryland and other Northeast states in 1999 and nationwide by 2001.

Ground-level ozone, a component of

smog, causes coughing and throat irritation, lowers resistance to disease and intensifies heart and lung disease. Especially sensitive are children, the elderly and the more than 600,000 Marylanders that suffer from respiratory problems. It is estimated that air pollution causes 1/4 of the Chesapeake Bay's pollution problems.

Electric Vehicle Road Race to Visit Annapolis

by Tim Shepherd

On May 13, Maryland's Sandy Point State Park will be visited by more than 50 noiseless, non-polluting electric, solar and hybrid vehicles racing to the nation's capital to promote the development and use of practical, ecologically sound electric and solar transportation. Organized

by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) the Tour de Sol is a national road rally for electric, solar and hybrid vehicles that begins in New York City and ends in Washington, D.C. The Tour de Sol also provides other alternative fuels (i.e., compressed natural gas and biodiesel) the opportunity to promote the latest advances in their technology.

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Smart Growth Update

National Recognition for Maryland's Smart Growth Programs

Maryland's Growth and Neighborhood Conservation initiative is gaining national recognition and praise. In just the past six weeks, the program has been formally recognized by the World Wildlife Fund and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It also has been praised in articles about the high costs of suburban sprawl that have appeared in the *Detroit Free Press* and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

On January 30, World Wildlife Fund formally recognized the Smart Growth initiative as a "Gift to the Earth" as part of the international organization's "Living Planet Campaign." In quarter-page advertisements that appeared in both the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, World Wildlife Fund praised the Smart Growth initiative, the new Rural Legacy Program, and the \$200 million Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, a federal-state partnership program designed to reduce nutrient pollution and conserve farmland in Maryland over the next 15 years.

"Under the leadership of Governor Parris Glendening, Maryland has initiated strong action to protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed from the threats of suburban sprawl and agricultural runoff," World Wildlife Fund states in its advertisements, which were part of a campaign designed to highlight the struggle to protect the world's most outstanding wildlife and wild places as we enter a new century.

On February 27, Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, came to Annapolis to present Governor Glendening with the National Trust's President's Award "for his model leadership in preserving the economic vitality of the state's older cities and towns against the ravages of wasteful, sprawling development."

Moe said that, "Under Governor Glendening's leadership, Maryland is blazing new trails by enacting community friendly policies ... [that] bring new vitality to existing communities and curb the loss of pristine open

space."

In a February 22 article in the *Detroit Free Press*, Keith Schneider, executive director of the Michigan Land Use Institute, called Maryland's Smart Growth initiative "the most promising new tool for managing growth in a generation."

"It's no longer good enough for Michigan lawmakers to say they don't know how to respond," Schneider wrote. "Maryland has shown the way."

In a front-page series that prodded local officials to do more to combat sprawl, The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* used sidebar stories about efforts in Maryland and Portland, Oregon, as examples of reforms the Midwestern states could copy.

"Maryland's Smart Growth law didn't go as far as Glendening had hoped. But it went much further than most states, including Missouri and Illinois," the *Post-Dispatch* wrote. "Maryland's experience provides a textbook case of how advocates of growth management can prevail over arguments for unfettered development."

Designing for Livable Communities Workshop

The debate is an engaging one -- how should local building codes and subdivision regulations be revised to be more supportive of the kinds of development practices associated with smart growth and effective revitalization? Attendees at a February 27 workshop, sponsored by the Patapsco/Back River Tributary Team, entitled *Designing for Livable Communities and Healthier Watersheds: Rewriting the Rules*, were provided with a range of perspectives on once popular roadway and community designs that are being replaced by more innovative, neo-traditional approaches. Typical of neo-traditional designs are narrower community streets, incorporation of public gathering places, clustering of housing units, and co-location of different types of development (i.e. commercial, residential, transit and employment centers).

These newer approaches to community design can be integrated

with best management practices implemented to achieve a reduction in environmental impacts over more typical development practices (e.g. elimination of "curb and gutter" in favor of stormwater drainage systems that take advantage of natural swales in the landscape). But many local rules that govern development have been in place for years, if not decades. These rules, which may have made sense at one time, are now being collectively challenged by those who believe there should be more flexible ways to regulate development. During the workshop, successful Maryland case studies were presented along with examples of the extensive nature of the local review process. Participants even got to try their hand at designing a new community that had to include innovative site design, address environmental concerns, and still maintain marketing objectives. The Patapsco/Back River Tributary Team hosts were encouraged to find ways to foster wider discussions on these and related smart growth issues of importance throughout Maryland.

Incorporating the Warfield Complex into the Town of Sykesville

Sykesville, a town of approximately 3,200 in the southeast corner of Carroll County, will host a planning charrette during the third week in April with a goal to reunite the formerly state-owned Warfield Property with the historic residential and commercial village core through a new comprehensive Master Plan. The Warfield Complex contains approximately 130 acres and more than a dozen historic buildings designed in the 1890s. The creative challenge arises from seeking not only the best possible use of the property, but in unifying the complex to the existing town center.

A consultant team of design professionals will facilitate the charrette, which will result in an updated Master Plan for both the town and the redeveloped Warfield site. This project has the potential to serve as a model for the implementation of the Smart Growth Initiative. Charrette criteria will be focussing on meeting Smart Growth goals while solving site-specific challenges Sykesville and its consultant team is inviting interested design, planning, preservation, development, or related professionals to bring their energy and ideas and participate in the charrette. For more information, please contact Barbara Lilly at (410) 795-8959.



John Czajkowski, Senior Agriculture Engineer, Anne Arundel County Soil Conservation District, (center) describes a wetland created on the Harrell Spruill farm to MDE Secretary Jane Nishida and members of the Maryland Wetlands Restoration Committee.

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Maryland's Wetland Restoration

This past fall, the Chesapeake Executive Council, which is made up of the governors of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, the mayor of the District of Columbia, the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, followed Maryland's lead and agreed to set a "net gain" goal for wetlands throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Although a large part of Maryland is within the Chesapeake Bay drainage area, the state's wetlands restoration initiative will not be limited to the Bay watershed. Rather, restoration efforts will be statewide, including the Maryland coastal bays watershed, has experienced significant wetland losses.

State agencies will maximize support for the wetlands restoration initiative by surveying state properties for opportunities to create wetlands; and wherever appropriate sites are identified, wetlands creation projects will be incorporated in construction plans. Federal and local government agencies will be encouraged to undertake similar efforts.

Much of the success of the wetlands restoration initiative will depend on the willingness of landowners, including businesses, conservancies, and individuals, to participate in the effort. If the goal is to be reached, many of the wetlands to be created must be located on private land.

Several state and federal agencies administer programs that provide

assistance to landowners for wetlands restoration. These programs vary in their provisions as to eligible lands and landowners, type and level of available assistance (technical or financial), and cost-sharing requirements. A number of private organizations also provide technical or financial assistance to landowners to promote the creation of wetlands. The Maryland departments of the Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture are currently compiling information on public and private assistance available for wetlands creation projects.

MDE also is developing a program to acknowledge the many organizations and individuals whose wetland creation projects are going unrecognized. This program also will serve as a clearinghouse so that others may learn from successful efforts

If you are interested in creating a wetland, we would like to hear from you. MDE has established a "network" with other state and federal agencies that will respond to your inquiries, determine the feasibility of establishing a wetland on your property and identify additional potential assistance. Individuals, organizations, and businesses who are interested in undertaking a wetlands creation project, who may provide technical or financial assistance, or who have recently completed a project, are urged to contact Tony Abar, (410) 631-8059, Wetlands Restoration Initiative, 2500 Broening Highway, Baltimore, MD 21224.

Wetlands Restoration Steering Committee Appointed

by Tony Abar

Governor Parris N. Glendening has appointed a 26-member committee of business, agricultural, environmental and government leaders to guide the state's efforts to restore approximately 60,000 acres of Maryland's lost wetlands. By identifying areas suitable for wetland creation or restoration projects, working with landowners on innovative funding options and launching an all-out effort to educate the public this diverse group will help preserve and restore these important natural resources.

The committee also will assist state government in the development of a wetlands conservation plan, identify priority protection and restoration areas, provide guidance and technical support for wetlands projects and recommend incentives for wetland creation.

"I am confident that the collective expertise of this steering committee will help us to restore our precious wetlands so that we can once again reap the benefits of these important environmental resources," Governor Glendening said.

Members of the steering committee include: Mary Jones Abrams, Esq., Maryland Office of Planning, Baltimore; Charles B. Adams, Maryland State Highway Administration, Baltimore; Robert Agee, Chaney Enterprises, Waldorf; Carin Bisland, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Chesapeake Bay Program Office; David G. Burke, Department of Natural Resources, Annapolis; David A. C. Carroll, Baltimore; William B. Crowley, Upper Marlboro; Leon Donaldson, Morgan State University, Pikesville; Robert Dwyer, Ph. D., Environmental Resources Management, Baltimore; Erin Fitzsimmons, Esq., Committee Chair, Ocean City; Frances Flanigan, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Baltimore; Ernest D. Fuchs, Easton; Joseph R. Geraci, VMD, Baltimore; Keith A. Harris, Baltimore District Army Corps of Engineer; The Honorable David Hartley, Mayor of North Beach; Lynne C. Hoot, Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Edgewater; Robert G. Hoyt, Esq., Assistant Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment, Baltimore; The Honorable Don B. Hughes, Maryland House of Delegates, Salisbury; Gustav E. Jackson, Ph.D., African American Environmentalists Association, Shadyside; Lawrence R. Liebesman, Esq., Linowes and Blocher LLP, Silver Spring; Carter B. McCamy, Environmental Quality Resources Inc., Gaithersburg; Gail Webb Owings, Kent County Planning and Zoning Administration, Chestertown; The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Maryland State Senate, Annapolis; John C. Rhoderick Maryland Department of Agriculture, Annapolis; William H. Street, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Annapolis; and V. Paul Zanecki, Esq., Greenbelt.

The Maryland Department of the Environment acts as liaison staff for the committee. For more information contact Tony Abar at (410) 631- 8059.



Tawes Award For A Clean Environment

Individuals and organizations are encouraged to submit nominations for the 1998 Tawes Award For A Clean Environment, co-sponsored by the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland Petroleum Council. Anyone who has worked to enhance or protect Maryland's natural resources and environment is eligible to enter. Activities may involve conservation, ecology, recycling, education

projects, pollution prevention, or environmental emergency response. Awards are divided into two categories: youth and adult. Winners will receive a donation to their favorite non-profit and a certificate of appreciation presented at an early spring awards luncheon.

The entry form is easy to fill out and can be requested by calling the Maryland Department of the Environment at (410) 631-3012 or the Maryland Petroleum Council at (410) 269-1850.

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Cash-For-Clippers Update

Turn in that old gas-guzzling, emissions spewing lawn mowers for bucks back toward the purchase of a new, electric, rechargeable or push mulching lawn mower. Earn \$50 toward the electric and rechargeable types or \$15 toward the push lawn mowers. Keep your grass green and trim while keeping those summer skies blue and crystal clean! Local dates and times of exchange events are listed below. For more information contact MDE at (410) 631-3240 and ask for a Cash-For-Clippers representative.

Anne Arundel County Heritage Office Complex,
April 18, 9am-3pm
(410)222-7951

Baltimore County-Oregon Ridge Park, April 18, 9am-2pm
(410)887-2000

Howard County Landfill 2350 Marriotsville Rd.
April 25, 8am-5pm
(410)313-6444

Frederick County 9031 Reichs Ford Road,
April 25, 7am-3pm
(301)694-1848

Baltimore City Poly High School
May 2, 9am-2pm
(410)396-5918

Harford County Waste Disposal Scarborough
May 2, 10am -2pm
(410)638-3636

Montgomery County Solid Waste Station-Shady Grove Road
May 3, 10am-2pm
(301)217-2770

Prince George's County Friendly High School,
Ft. Washington
May 3, 8am-3pm
(301)883-5045

Baltimore City 6101 Bowleys Lane
May 9, 9am-2pm

Patapsco Heritage Greenway's Nature and History Hike, Saturdays-Sundays, April-June, Ellicott City - Experience hands-on, sensory learning while you walk into the history and ecology of the Patapsco Valley State Park. Learn about Native American and local history as well as the interrelationship of the river, trees and wildlife. Perfect for families and youth groups. (410) 480-0822 for more information and directions. **COST: \$2 per person**

Piscataway Waste Water Treatment Plant Cleanup, April 4, 9 a.m. - noon. - Sponsored by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. For more information contact Don Jacobs at (301) 206-7415. **FREE EVENT.**

Gwynns Falls Tree Planting - Thursday, April 16, 11:30 a.m - 2:00 p.m - Kids from the Gwynns Falls Police Athletic League (PAL) Center and volunteer community members will be planting trees and cleaning up the stream. Sponsors include Chesapeake Bay Program, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Gwynns Falls Watershed Association, Parks and People and Baltimore Civic Works. For more information contact Joanna Boettinger, (410) 267-5756. **FREE EVENT.**

Fort Detrick Earth Day Celebration - Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18 - 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Frederick - Kick-off begins at 9 a.m. with a 5K run. Environmental, education displays, dirty sock contest, Scales and Tales animal exhibit, fishing derby, sample backyard wildlife habitat and a creative recycling contest. Call Betty Boyland at Fort Detrick for more details at (301) 619-2033. **FREE EVENT.**

Pennsylvania's 1998 Water Snapshot, April 17 - 26 - Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection this unique short-term water monitoring event is in search of volunteer groups to sample Pennsylvania water based on testing parameters developed especially for this event. Contact Diane Wilson at (717) 787-3730 for more information. **FREE EVENT**

Governor's Riparian Stream Buffer Planting - Saturday, April 18 - Sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources, volunteers are needed to help plant trees to protect or shorelines. Contact Jeff Horan (410) 836-4551. **FREE EVENT.**

Anne Arundel County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, Cash-For Clippers Campaign and Compost Bin Give-A-Way, Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Anne Arundel County Waste Management Services, Recycling Division and Girl Scout Troop #718 sponsor this event to help you with your spring cleaning! Contact Carol Taylor at (410) 222-7951 for more information. The Heritage Office Complex, 2662 Riva Road in Annapolis will be the site for this **FREE EVENT.**

Anne Arundel County Compost Bin Give-A-Way and Exhibits, Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Sponsored by Anne Arundel County Waste Management Services, Recycling Division and Cadette Scout Troop # 1401. Enjoy environmental exhibits, Quiet Waters Park, and get your free compost bin. Contact Jennifer Peterson at (410) 222-7967 for more information. Quiet Waters Park is located on 600 Quiet Waters Park Road in Annapolis. **FREE EVENT.**

Annual Gunpowder Falls State Park - Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Baltimore County - Several cleanup, planting and improvement projects for volunteers to participate in several locations throughout this large state park. Excellent opportunity for students to earn service learning credits.

The Jerusalem Mill location will need volunteers for a Millrace pruning, roadside cleanup and heavy debris removal.

The Days Cove location needs volunteers for a shoreline cleanup, river cleanup by canoe and trail maintenance.

The Hammerman Area location needs volunteer help with tree and trail maintenance, trail mulching, and installation of post and rail fence.

The North Point location is planning a tern nesting project, shoreline cleanup and a Haul Road cleanup.

The White Hall Shop location needs

volunteers to help cleanup Bunker Hill Road. Volunteers should wear long pants, hiking or work boots and gloves. Refreshments provided, bring your own bag lunch. Pre-register by calling Park Headquarters at (410) 592-2897. For additional information contact Suzi Wong at (410) 969-0141. **FREE EVENT.**

Patterson Park Tree Planting - Saturday, April 18, and Wednesday, April 22, Baltimore City - Sponsored by the Parks and People Foundation Community Forestry Division, Canton Middle School student's will be planting 75 trees to help our environment. For more information contact: Patricia Pyle, (410) 396-0712. **FREE EVENT**

Community Conservation Conference - Saturday, April 18, Towson - Strengthening Communities: Commitment and Re-commitment. 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 at Towson University. An annual opportunity for community leaders to talk about issues of importance to established communities, networking opportunities, resource guide, displays, etc. Panel discussion moderated by Stan Stovall, Channel 2 News, on how to bring community, government and businesses together for cooperative problem solving. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Community Conservation Action Group and Baltimore County Government. For more information contact Brent Flinckinger at (410) 887- 3480. **\$10 conference fee, \$10 for an optional lunch.**

Anne Arundel County Earth Day Celebration - Saturday - Sunday, April 18 - 19, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Quiet Waters Park - Annual Earth Day celebration with games, exhibits, entertainment, boat rentals, yard sale, pony and train rides, refreshments. Sierra Club 5K run planned for Sunday, April 19. Contact Park Ranger Lisa Shore at Quiet Waters Park, (410) 222-1777. **Small fee for some activities and refreshments.**

Bat Box Building, Weems Creek Conservancy, Wednesday April 22, 10 a.m. - The Weems Creek Conservancy in Annapolis will be building and installing bat boxes throughout their community to encourage mos-

MD Environment Earth Day Calendar 1998 (continued)

quito-eating bats to take up residence. Contact Elizabeth McWethy at (410) 266-6944 for more information. **FREEEVENT.**

Salisbury State University's Earth Day 1998, Wednesday, April 22, Noon - 4:30 p.m., Salisbury - Speakers addressing Maryland's most important environmental topics, vendors and environmental displays. Members of Maryland's General Assembly will be available to discuss the latest environmental legislation. For more information and directions contact Jeannie Haddaway or Jen Swingle at (410) 548-4757. **FREE EVENT.**

Renew America's 1998 National Town Meeting Global Warming: Local Solutions, Wednesday, April 22, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Video Conference with national downlink sites to discuss how ecological design principles, environmental technology tools and other constructive actions in our communities can work together to affect climate change. Contact Dale Baxter, Maryland Energy Administration at (410) 974-3751 for more information. Seating is limited.

Garrett Park Cleanup and Bay Brook Park Cleanup, Wednesday, April 22, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Garrett Park (Second Street and E. Patapsco Avenue in South Baltimore) and Bay Brook Park (Church Street in South Baltimore)
- Two cleanups at the same time! Sponsored by the South Baltimore/Northern Anne Arundel County Community Environmental Partnership. Wear appropriate work clothes. Refreshments will be available. For more information contact the Partnership Office at (410)354-0352. **FREE EVENT.**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Tree Planting - Friday, April 24, Baltimore City - Parks and People Foundation street tree planting with International Paper, Inc. For more information contact Patricia Pyle at (410) 396-0712. **FREE EVENT**

BayScapes Planting, Saturday, April 25, 9:30 a.m. - noon, Easton - The United States Postal Service and

the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay have teamed up to plant a BayScape garden at the Easton Postal Service Processing and Distribution Facility at 29060 Air Park Drive in Easton. Wear comfortable clothes (boots, long pants and hats.) This is a rain or shine event. Register by April 17 by calling Pickering Creek Environmental Center at (410) 822-4903. **FREE EVENT**

Arundel Sand and Gravel Open House, Saturday, April 25, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Havre de Grace - This event promises to be a ROCK'N Good Time for the entire family! Quarry and tugboat tours, displays, childrens entertainment and lots of food. Weather permitting a rock blast is scheduled for 3 p.m. Learn how Maryland's sand and gravel industry works. RSVP with Pat Wright at (410) 939-9225 or (410) 575-6587. This is a rain or shine event. **FREE EVENT.**

Delmarva Birding Weekend, April 24-26, Various locations throughout the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland - Celebrate the migration of hundreds of warblers, shorebirds, waterfowl and many nesting birds. Guided and self-guided opportunities by canoe, boat or on foot. Explore the back bays of Assateague Island or the cypress swamps of the Pocomoke River. Registration required. For more information and to register call 1-800-852-0335 or check out the web site at <skipjack.net/le_shore/birdingweekend/programs> **ADMISSION FEE.**

Community Block Party - Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Bay Brook Park (Church Street in South Baltimore) - Sponsored by the South Baltimore/Northern Anne Arundel County Community Environmental Partnership. Fun, games, food and environmental education for the Community. Contact the Partnership Office at (410)354-0352. **FREE COMMUNITYEVENT**

Herring Run Festival and Walkathon, April 25, Baltimore City - Both events sponsored by the Herring Run Watershed Association. The walkathon to raise money for the watershed association begins at 8:30 a.m. Routes along the stream range from 1.5 to 4 miles with "discovery stops" to learn more about the various

threats to the watershed. The festival begins at 11 a.m. with food, drink, environmental exhibits, kids games, and non-stop entertainment. For more information about either event contact the HRWA at (410) 254-1577. **FREE EVENT.**

Greenbelt Earth Day Celebration - Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Schrom Hills Park - 6915 Hanover Parkway in Greenbelt. - Community yard sale, live animal show, petting corral, composting demo, music, bird/stream/plant education walks, tree plantings and prizes! For more information call (301) 474-8308. **FREEEVENT.**

Pickering Creek Environmental Spring Tree Planting - Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay plant trees, learn about tree buffers and then take a canoe expedition in Pickering Creek. Please bring a bag lunch, change of clothes and a pair of wading shoes. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Excellent opportunity to earn high school service learning credits. For more information or to register call (410) 727-FISH, M-F, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. **NON-MEMBER FEE - \$32.00**

Earthworks Festival - Sunday, April 26, Noon - 5 p.m., Bear Branch Nature Center, Westminster - Sponsored by the Carroll County Bureau of Environmental Services, Carroll County Board of Environmental Affairs, and Department of Recreation and Parks, Earthworks provides community members with an opportunity to enjoy hands-on learning activities, videos, puppet shows, nature hikes, short lectures on recycling, composting, protecting streams and wetlands and tree planting and pruning. Exhibits, educational booths and pamphlets available. For more information contact Nathalie Schein at (410) 840-8932 or (410) 848-2517. **FREEEVENT.**

Urban Environmental Issues Day, Saturday, May 2, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Arlington Elementary School, West Rogers Avenue. Environmental Education for the urban community. Conference /Workshop. Sponsored by the Northwest Baltimore Corporation. For more information call (410) 542-6610. **FREEEVENT.**

Spring Cleaning?

Get Rid of Those Old Tires Free!

The Maryland Department of the Environment and Maryland Environmental Service will sponsor a Scrap Tire Amnesty Day on Saturday, April 25. This "free" day allows residents to dispose of up to ten scrap tires free of charge at a designated location within their county. Each participating county will be permitted to accept up to 75,000 tons which is equivalent to 7,500 passenger tires. Community groups that wish to participate are required to register with their county prior to April 25. Support for Tire Amnesty Day is provided by the Scrap Tire Fund which generates funds through a one dollar recycling fee assessed on each new tire purchase.

Participating counties include:

Allegany
Calvert
Caroline
Carroll
Charles
Dorchester
Frederick
Garrett
Kent
Queen Anne's
St. Mary's
Somerset
Talbot
Wicomico
Worcester.

For more information, contact MDE's Scrap Tire section at (410) 631-3315 or your local recycling coordinator.

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Tour de Sol Visits Annapolis May 13

gies.

Electric-powered vehicles are not a new concept. In the early 1900s, more than 50 manufacturers were building electric-powered vehicles. By the late 1930s, gasoline-powered vehicles had crowded electric vehicles out of the market. It took the energy crisis of the 1970s with its gasoline shortages and warnings of our country's dependence on foreign oil to bring attention back to electric vehicles. In 1989, NESEA organized the first American Tour de Sol.

Now in its tenth year, the event boasts an even more major car company entries than ever before, demonstrating just how far the industry has come in 10 short years. Entries for this year's event are broken up into five different categories including a production category, commuter category, hybrid category, solar commuter category and one person category. Some of the vehicles to be included at the event



1996 Tour de Sol competitors give tours and answer questions.

will be the General Motors EV1, the world's first production electric vehicle, and the Toyota Prius, the world's first production hybrid vehicle. Hybrid vehicles are powered by two different methods, usually electric

motors and a fossil-fuel engine.

The Tour de Sol is more than just a road race, it is a traveling fair that is both educational and entertaining for people of all ages. There will be ten events held between New York and

Washington, D.C. offering an unparalleled opportunity to demonstrate and market electric vehicles and other advanced technology vehicles to both businesses and the general public. People will have the opportunity to see solar and electric vehicles as well as other alternative fuel vehicles in motion, to look under the hood, and have a chance to talk to one of the many experts in attendance.

The Maryland Department of the Environment is proud to be both a sponsor and organizer of the event in Maryland on May 13. Most vehicles participating in the road rally will arrive at Sandy Point State Park from 11 a.m. to noon. Activities are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the event is free to people of all ages. Stop by and take part in this special event.

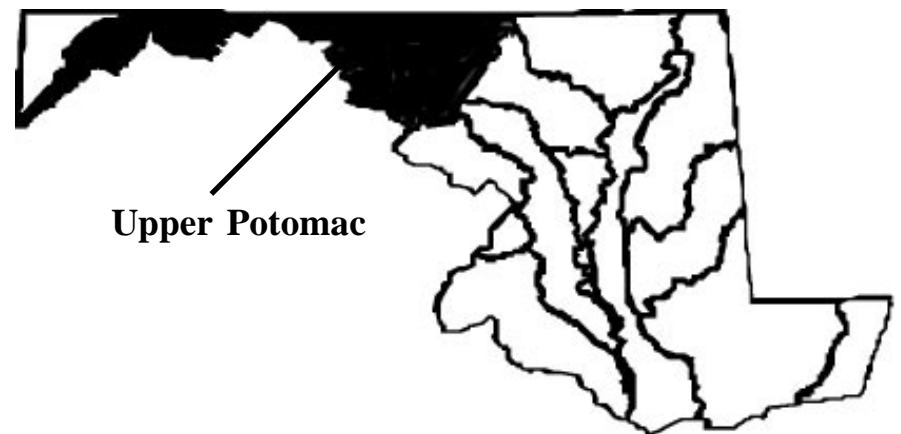
Please call Ms. Fran Stierstorfer at (410) 631-3012 for more information.

Upper Potomac Tributary Team Works to Reduce Nutrients

by Richard Douglas, Upper Potomac Tributary Team Coordinator

The Upper Potomac Tributary Team has been in place for more than two years helping to reduce nutrients entering the rivers and streams in Western Maryland, the Upper Potomac River, and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. The team's role includes advising state and local governments on nutrient reduction programs and policies, in particular related to agriculture, wastewater treatment plants, resource protection and urban development practices. The team, one of ten across Maryland has approximately 30 members appointed by the Governor that represent local government, agriculture, business, environmental organizations, citizens and other interests. The Upper Potomac Tributary Basin covers half of Garrett County to the west, half of Carroll County to the east, and all of Allegany, Washington, and Frederick Counties. Thomas Miller, Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, serves as the current team chair, while Elmer Weibley, Washington Soil Conservation District, serves as the current team vice-chair.

Members of the team not only act as policy advisors but also are involved in education and outreach efforts in the watershed. For example, the team held an erosion and sediment control workshop for Western Maryland developers and contractors in November in Cumberland. The Developed Land Workgroup, one of four team workgroups, concluded that many sediment pollution problems result from a lack of education, and decided to organize this workshop. Alison Rice and Craig Hartsock of Allegany County spearheaded the effort, developing the agenda and identifying speakers. The agenda was organized to encourage the 75 workshop attendees to voice their opinions and ask questions. The morning session, facilitated by Team Chair Thomas Miller and Phil Favero of the University of Maryland, included an overview of the state erosion and sediment control program and local permit procedures, plan requirements, a developer's viewpoint and stormwater management considerations. Team members facilitated table discussions during lunch on erosion and sediment control-related topics, and the workshop concluded with a "green card" certification course, given by Rick



Trickett of MDE.

"I felt the workshop was a success. Several attendees asked for more workshops in the future," said Alison Rice, an Allegany County planner who helped to organize the day's events. "Many of the contractors attending the workshop received their green card for the very first time and admitted that they didn't realize that it was a requirement in Maryland.

"Everyone learned something at the workshop," said Mr. Craig Hartsock, district manager of the Allegany Soil Conservation District "The workshop was an important first step in educating contractors and developers in Western Maryland on the Tributary Strategies process and the importance

of controlling non-point source runoff from construction sites. I was very impressed with the attitude and concern for the environment that was exhibited by the contractors and developers in attendance."

The Upper Potomac Tributary Team meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center in Keedysville. All meetings are open to the public, and visitors are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

For more information on the Upper Potomac Tributary Team, contact Richard Douglas, team coordinator, at (410) 260-8727.

Is There Asbestos In Maryland Schools?

By Mardel Knight

Back in the 1940s asbestos was touted as the miracle fiber. By the mid-1960s it was used in building construction throughout the nation as insulation, ceiling tiles and fire-proofing. By the late-1960s science had proven it was hazardous to our health. Yet, it is a product that is still found in many of Maryland's public buildings, including schools, because removing it is more hazardous than leaving the cancer-causing particles undisturbed. But thanks to a little used public reporting requirement, Maryland parents can find out more about their child's school environment by reviewing the school's asbestos management plan.

Federal regulations, known as AHERA (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act) that went into effect in 1987 requires all schools, both public and private, with the exception of for-profit schools, to have their buildings federally inspected for asbestos-containing materials and to develop a plan to manage any pre-existing asbestos. In Maryland the covered schools are those that have any grades from preschool through grade 12,

including church-exempt schools. All schools were required to have this work finished by July 1989. If a school opened after this date, the inspection had to be completed before the school opened.

The AHERA regulations did NOT require schools to

remove any asbestos except in certain circumstances, but AHERA does require that the asbestos is kept in good condition. The asbestos must be checked every six months for any changes in condition and the schools must be reinspected every three years. This information, including the results of any samples, is part of the asbestos management plan.

Each school is required to send its asbestos management plan to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for review for technical deficiencies. Schools are then re-

quired to correct any deficiencies that are found. MDE also has a compliance inspector who randomly inspects schools for compliance with AHERA regulations and may issue notices of

noncompliance to schools that have not followed the regulatory requirements.

The central administrative office for a school board has a copy of the plans for all of its schools. Each individual school in the district has a copy of its management plan in the school office. These plans are available for parents, staff, teachers, and the public to review at no charge during business hours. Schools may require a request in writing, which must be honored by the school within five working days. The plan at the central office is available for inspection during business hours without a prior request. The school board or individual school

may charge a reasonable fee for any copies.

Every year the school is required to notify parents, staff and teachers about the management plan and where it is located. This annual notification must be completed even if the school has not removed any asbestos or made any other changes. The annual requirement also ensures that any new parents, staff or teachers are appropriately notified. The notification is usually made at the beginning of the school year via the first school newsletter, registration packets, or other school communication tool.

The most important part of the management plan is the name, phone number and address of the designated contact person for the school or school district. This person has the special training needed to guarantee that schools are following the AHERA regulations and can help you with any questions that you have about the school's management plan.

For assistance in finding contact information for your child's school, contact Mardel Knight or a member of MDE's Asbestos and Industrial Hygiene program at (410) 631-3801.

Every year the school is required to notify parents, staff and teachers about the asbestos management plan and where it is located.

Rubble Landfill Third Party Checkers

by Ed Dexter

Maryland's rubble landfills are now required to have a "third-party checker" visually inspect every load of waste disposed of at a unlined rubble landfill as part of a unique checks and balances system created by last September's new rubble landfill regulations. These third-party checkers are independent, not part of the chain-of-command at the landfill and have no other responsibilities other than to inspect waste to ensure conformance with regulations and to protect against dumping of inappropriate materials that may harm the environment.

Some landfill operators use engineers from commercial consulting companies as third-party checkers; others are using county health department personnel; and some of the counties, which already require commercial facilities to have a county checker on board, are allowing landfill-operator paid employees to

fulfill MDE's requirements.

In general, the duties of the third-party checker are to examine waste as it is received and insure that the waste is free of unacceptable waste, to inform the landfill operator when unacceptable waste is observed and to advise MDE of the occurrence and of the fate of the unacceptable waste. The checker is available to help the landfill operator comply with the landfill's Refuse Disposal Permit, to act as an extra set of eyes for MDE's Solid Waste Program inspectors and to document whether or not unacceptable waste is properly managed. Waste loads that will be rejected include loads observed to contain more than a small amount of unacceptable waste which can be separated out of the load, unacceptable waste which is practically inseparable from the acceptable materials and waste which cannot be readily visually identified.

Since the program began January 20, MDE has received numerous

reports from third-party checkers at landfills around Maryland. Third-party checkers have identified furniture and bags of household waste that they suspect have been tossed into rolloff containers at construction sites while sites are unattended. They also have removed

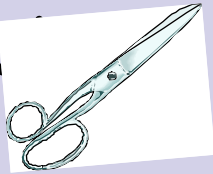
containers of weed killer, pesticides, joint compound and even a 55-gallon drum of "tar," which otherwise could have threatened groundwater resources.

Questions concerning this program can be directed to the Solid Waste Program at (410) 631-3424.

**Did you know that....
Maryland's Scrap Tire Program has achieved its FY98
goal and cleaned up 1.5 million tires?**



Clip-N-Save



Things To Do Today For The Environment



Clip-N-Save!

Conserve Water

- Install low-flow faucets and fix any leaks promptly.
- Take short showers and don't let water run while washing dishes or brushing teeth.
- Use trigger nozzles for washing your car.

Save Energy

- Turn off lights, TV, and stereo when leaving a room.
- Minimize trips to your refrigerator-- especially in summer. When you need something from the fridge, make it quick. A full freezer is more energy efficient than an empty one.
- Insulate your home and your hot-water heater.

Take Care Of The Air You Breathe

- Avoid unnecessary driving and idling -- steer clear of drive-throughs. Walk, bike and use public transportation.
- Don't let indoor air pollutants from aerosol sprays, new carpeting, and dry-cleaned items build up in your home. Keep your home well ventilated and grow house plants for cleaner indoor air.
- Don't pollute your neighborhood air with fumes from charcoal fluid, power mowers and other gasoline-powered machines. Consider using non-polluting alternatives such as metal-cylinder charcoal starters, electric mowers and hand tools.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- REDUCE waste. Avoid disposable items. Don't buy over packaged or non-recyclable goods.
- REUSE what you can. Grocery bags, magazines and plastic containers can be given away or reused. Yard wastes and kitchen scraps -- except for meat products - can be composted.
- RECYCLE. Call 1-800-I-RECYCLE for the number of your local recycling coordinator.

Protect Your Streams & Waterways

- Avoid overuse of chemical fertilizers.
- Plant trees, bushes, grass, and ground cover on your property to minimize runoff.
- Don't dump oil, trash or chemicals on the ground or down storm drains.

Beware of Toxics in the Home

- Use alternatives to heavy-duty toxics for

household chores.

- Dispose of toxic household wastes properly.
- Recycle oil and other automotive fluids. Call 1-800-473-2925 for the location of your nearest oil recycling depot.

Get Involved

- Report suspected pollution problems to the appropriate authority. Call (410) 974-3551
- Participate in a local restoration or cleanup project.
- Become active in the planning and zoning process in your community -- your voice does make a difference.

Spread the Word

- Let your elected officials know which environmental issues are of concern to you.
- Tell your family and friends how they can help.
- Encourage stores and restaurants to stock recyclables, avoid plastic foam products and practice safe disposal methods.

Find Out More

- Read up on environmental issues of special interest to you. Call (410) 631-3003 for information on environmental topics.
- Visit the power plant, water treatment facility or landfill serving your community.
- Learn some new ways you can help the environment: for example, ways you can foster wildlife, wetlands and trees.

Earth Day is April 22. Plan to involve your family in pollution prevention activities every day.



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