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The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Volume 36, No. 6

P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

March-April 2010

DACA PRESENTS

**Free
native tree
seedlings,
and shopping
bags!**

**Kids
activities!**

Food vendors !

FIRST ANNUAL GREEN EXPO



Expo features local environmental agencies and nonprofits, and local and regional businesses who offer green products or services

Exhibitors: AA County Recycling, AA County Forestry Board, Watershed Stewards Academy, Rainscaping Campaign, Baywise Master Gardeners, South River Federation, Patuxent Riverkeeper, AA County Rec and Parks, Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association, Alliance for Sustainable Communities, Clean Currents, BGE PeakRewards, Terralogos, Global Baskets, Energy Solutions LLC, Thomas R. Owens Comfort Systems, Sunnyside Solar, Furbish Company, Tilden Lawn Nursery, Severn Grove Ecological Design, Good Earth Gardeners, Homestead Gardens, Davidsonville Nursery, Screen Designs, Davidsonville Market

**FREE ADMISSION
SATURDAY, MARCH 20
1-4 PM
DAVIDSONVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Native plants
and \$60
Rainbarrels
for sale!**

DACA members and their contributions

Many thanks to Carol McKechnie, Bev and Joe Bray, and Jan and Herb Sheppard for their contributions to DACA in addition to renewing their memberships.

Many thanks to Greg Wheat for his contribution to DACA in addition to renewing his Cabinetmaker ad in the Villager. Please patronize our advertisers.

I like the paper edition. You do a wonderful job. Thank you for all your time and tender loving care with the Villager. J. H.

From Davidsonville United Methodist Church

Dear DACA members: ...We want you to know that we sincerely appreciate the gift. We were able to help four families with gift cards at Christmas.



Your organization is a wonderful service to the Davidsonville community, and we find the Villager an informative and interesting newsletter. Pamela Matousek, Secretary

Snow Samaritans

The Villager knows of only a few of the many good Samaritans who helped their neighbors get out from under the February snows. All of us lost about a week to being housebound or unable to complete the chores we had planned. Villager wants to acknowledge and publicly thank Don Riddle and his employee George Sweeney who responded within an hour of a desperate plea for help to clear a private lane, long and curvy and deeply covered, even putting it before one of Homestead Gardens' properties which also needed clearing. Thanks also to Corby Lawrence and his employees Derrick and Joe who plowed driveways on Meredith Lane, and to Tom Brown who answered a call very promptly. So much snow required multiple plowings, and it took a village to clean it up.

Davidsonville is a wonderful collection of caring people in wonderful communities and I am proud to live here. Gail



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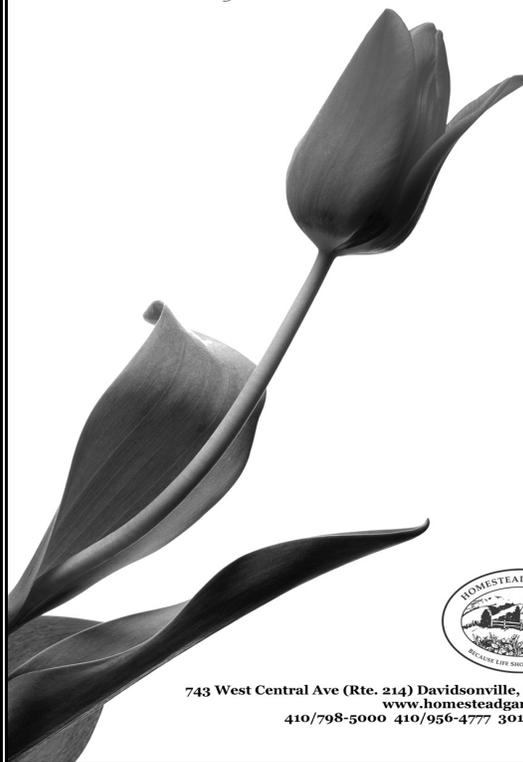
Service Bay Hours Monday thru Friday 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Saturday 7:00 am to 1:00 pm



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Skip the spring fertilizer

While many of us think spring is the best time to start fertilizing our lawns, fall is actually the time of year when cool season grasses benefit most from fertilization. Heavy spring rains wash fertilizers off our lawns and into local waterways, where they can fuel the growth of algae that harms fish and blue crabs.

You can replace traditional springtime fertilizing with "grasscycling," or leaving leftover grass clippings on your lawn after mowing. Grass clippings are a natural fertilizer that can reduce 25 to 50 percent of your lawn's nitrogen needs. Leaving grass clippings on your lawn also reduces bags needed to collect yard waste.

If you must fertilize, follow these tips to keep it Bay-friendly:

- * Have your soil tested to determine how much fertilizer your lawn actually needs (if any at all) and the best time to apply it. Also, identifying your grass will help you understand how to properly care for it. For example, many cool season grasses, such as tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass, do best with a light fertilizer application in early fall.

- * Follow manufacturer guidelines and apply only the amount of fertilizer that you need. Twice the product will not make your lawn twice as green!

- * Keep fertilizer off hard surfaces like walkways, driveways and streets, where it will easily wash into storm drains and streams. If fertilizer falls on these hard surfaces, sweep it onto the lawn or scoop it up for later use.

- * Do not apply fertilizer to swales or other drainage areas on your lawn.

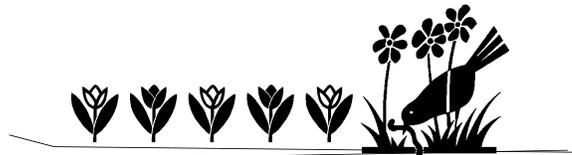
- * Never apply fertilizer to dormant lawns or on frozen ground.

- * Do not use fertilizer as a de-icer.

- * If you use a professional lawn care service, consider using one that follows the Chesapeake Club standards for fertilizer application (available in the Richmond, Hampton Roads and Washington, D.C. metro areas).

- * Consider organic fertilizers, which typically release nutrients more slowly than synthetic fertilizers.

From "Help the Bay in Your Backyard" produced by Chesapeake Bay Program Office.





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DACA sent the following letter to State Senator Ed Reilly

and to Delegate Bob Costa, February 23.

Dear Senator Reilly and Delegate Costa:
Members of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association ask that you defend the Maryland Stormwater Act of 2007, which is under fire by the development lobby. Stormwater runoff is one of the most significant sources of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay and the rivers and streams that flow into it. If we do not take drastic steps to improve water quality in our rivers and the bay, we will see a reduced quality of life in the long run. As water quality degrades, we will see our local fisheries industry continue to decline or perhaps to die out, a decline in the tourism industries will decline, and the water will not be safe for our citizens to use for recreation. The requirements in this law will go a long way toward reducing the pollution load entering Chesapeake Bay.

The requirements of the Maryland Stormwater Act of 2007 as it stands right now allow enough flexibility to let developers use a variety of stormwater management techniques depending on the site. Throughout the state of Maryland there are many knowledgeable professionals to advise developers on the variety of stormwater management practices that meet the requirements of the law, and can assist developers in selecting the most appropriate method(s) for a development. As a result of this legislation we will be encouraging a new green business area in environmental site design for firms and contractors.

In addition, data shows that implementing the practices required by the law will be less costly to build as well as to maintain in the long run. At Summerset, a nationally renowned residential development built in Prince Georges County in 1990, the developer saved money by installing rain gardens rather than building a stormwater pond. Not only do the rain gardens filter and treat more than 80 percent of the water from the development, Prince Georges County has not been saddled with the long-term costs of maintaining a stormwater pond.

Unfortunately, for years we have managed stormwater runoff by making it disappear, leading to the physical and chemical degradation of our stream valleys where the stormwater runoff is disposed of, rather than managing the stormwater, and treating it to remove the pollutants it carries. At some point stormwater ponds were required, to manage the runoff, but they have proven to be ineffective at treating stormwater pollution, are maintenance intensive, and have overall high life-cycle costs that are passed on to counties and municipalities. The stormwater management practices required by the Maryland Stormwater Act of 2007 regulations have lower life-cycle costs, and allow for the treatment of stormwater runoff. Please defend the Maryland Stormwater Act of 2007 so we can start making a difference in the quality of water in our waterways, and protecting one of our most valuable natural and recreational resources.
Sincerely, Will Biddle



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Maryland Senatorial Scholarships

State Senator Ed Reilly, District 33, is now accepting Scholarship applications. To be eligible, students must be District 33 residents and attend an in-state school (except for special 'unique major' circumstances). Students attending certain private career schools may also apply.

Applicants must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form by March 1, 2010. Completed applications and the appropriate transcripts must be received by April 15, 2010. Mail to: Senator Edward R. Reilly

Room 321, James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Applications and instructions are available at www.bigedreilly.com, or applicants may call Senator Reilly at 410- 841-3568. Additional information is available on the Maryland Higher Education Commission web site, www.mhec.state.md.us.

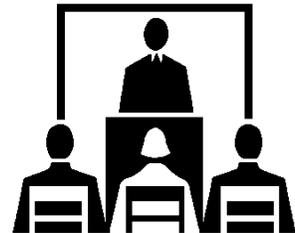
Senator Reilly, who is a member of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, strongly encourages all eligible students to apply.

Since this news item reached the Villager after the submission deadline, contact Senator Reilly to learn if your application can be accepted.

Planning for 2010-2011

It's March and DACA's annual meeting is only three months away, scheduled for Thursday, June 3.

We will seek volunteers to serve on the Executive Committee as well as candidates for the positions of the officers. The Executive Committee term to expire in June 2010 is now held by Kate Fox, Don Opedal, Harlan Ray, and Jerry Walker. All are eligible to continue to serve. The current officers are also eligible to serve another term. The Executive Committee are now planning the annual meeting and eagerly invites DACA members to suggest potential speakers and/or brief presentations for the meeting. Call any officer or committee member, or send an email to gailenright1@verizon.net.



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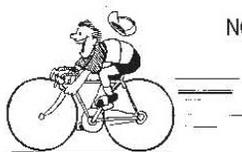
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What you can do to help improve the health of the Bay with these ten simple steps

*** RECYCLE**

The average American discards 1.5 TONS of garbage a year. Recycle just one aluminum can and save enough energy to power a TV for 3 hours. Recycle half of everything you throw out and... well, you do the math.

www.mdrecycles.org/local.asp

*** PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET**

You wouldn't bathe with it. Why swim with it (or eat fish that do)? Check out this web site:

www.marc.org/environment/Water/pet_waste.htm

*** DRIVE LESS**

Carpool. Combine Trips. Use public transit. Stay at home and read a good book. www.mtmaryland.com

*** USE LESS WATER**

Turn it off while brushing. Run only full loads of dishes and clothes. Cut your shower time by five minutes, save 10 to 12 gallons of water and get that "five more minutes" of sleep you've always wanted!

www.wateruseitwisely.com

*** CONSERVE ENERGY**

Use low energy light bulbs. Turn off or unplug appliances not in use. Install an adjustable thermostat. Then, kick back and watch your savings pile up. (An average family spends \$1,900 a year on energy bills!) www.energy.state.md.us

*** DISPOSE OF CHEMICALS PROPERLY**

Motor oil. Paint. Cleaning Fluids. Ugh! Find out how at your local government website.

www.mdrecycles.org/local.asp

*** EAT FOODS GROWN LOCALLY**

Feed your family healthier, better tasting food, support local farmers, and reduce pollution from transport -- most foods travel 1,300 miles before arriving on our plates. http://www.mda.state.md.us/md_products/farmers_market_dir.php

*** FREQUENT A CARWASH**

Your driveway is a first class, non-stop ticket to the Bay for dirt, soap and chemicals.

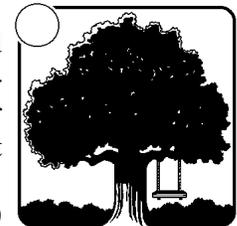
*** BE PICKY ABOUT PAPER**

Use recycled or unbleached paper products. Better for the Bay, better for your family, not to mention all those trees! Speaking of which...

*** PLANT A TREE**

Clean the air. Cool the earth (and your home). Provide habitat for wildlife. Get a \$25 coupon and register the trees you plant at www.trees.maryland.gov.

(More on page 7)



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Going Above and Beyond

*** Practice Bay Friendly Lawn Care**

Make your lawn greener. Stay away from fertilizer, mulch your clippings and leave your grass taller when you mow. www.dnr.maryland.gov/ed/landscape.html

*** Create a Raingarden**

With a little planning you can turn your garden into a natural sponge, using plants to soak up nutrients which are good for them, but bad for streams, rivers and the Bay. www.rainscaping.org

*** Use a Rain Barrel**

Use it before you lose it! Use a rain barrel to collect water for watering plants, washing your car or topping off a swimming pool. It's free and keeps pollutants out of our waterways. www.dnr.state.md.us/ed/rainbarrel.html

*** Practice Greenscaping**

Add a little green to your flower garden. Use native plants, cut out the pesticides and choose pavers or gravel that allow water to soak through instead of solid materials that cannot be penetrated for your walkways. www.chesapeakelandscape.org



Bunny lunch at the Ruritan Club

March 27, 11:00 a.m.

The Davidsonville Ruritan Foundation will host a luncheon with the Easter Bunny from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 on Saturday, March 27, at the Davidsonville Ruritan Community Center, 3358 Davidsonville Road (Rte #424) in Davidsonville. The lunch menu consists of a hot dog, drink, and cookies, and guests will receive a treat bag, craft activities and a photo with the Easter Bunny in a frame they will create themselves. Children aged 12 and under will enjoy the Easter egg hunt! Don't forget to bring your basket!

The cost for the luncheon and all activities is \$5.00 per person of any age, including parents if they plan to eat lunch. If necessary, the raindate is April 3. For additional information, call 410-798-4598 or log on to www.davidsonvilleruritan.org.

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Community Crime Prevention Grants

The Anne Arundel County Police Department is seeking interested 501c3 non-profit organizations to participate in the Community Crime Prevention Summit on March 25, 2010. The summit will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Maryland Police and Corrections Training Commission (MPCTC) in Sykesville and will provide educational and networking opportunities for community advocates. Information and technical assistance will also be available concerning potential grant funding for eligible non-profit organizations.

The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP), the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives and the MPTCT have partnered to bring this opportunity to Maryland's communities. The grant offering, through the GOCCP's Community Crime Prevention Grant, provides for up to \$5,000 for

youth activities, citizens on patrol and physical improvements, such as lighting or graffiti removal. Grants may also be awarded for any other initiative or program that promotes crime prevention in the community.

Grant applicants must demonstrate a developing or established working relationship with the Anne Arundel County Police Department. Begin your relationship with the police department today! Contact the Community Relations Division at (410) 222-SAFE.

Help for Davidsonville Wildlife Sanctuary

The South River Federation was awarded a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust for enhancing the property and cleaning the water from the Davidsonville Wildlife Sanctuary.



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**Maryland Day at Shady Side Museum
Sunday, March 21, 2010**

Come for a free tour of the historic Capt. Salem Avery Museum, 1418 E.W. Shady Side Road, and join us for afternoon tea. The free house tour will include a presentation by costumed docents on the history of tea and a demonstration of proper tea service. These tours will begin at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The Museum will hold two Mother Daughter Tea at 1:00 p.m. and at 3:00 pm for a fee of \$10 for a parent accompanied by one child. Other family members may join for \$2 per person. A variety of teas, hot chocolate, sweets and tea sandwiches will be offered. Guests will be served in beautiful tea cups from Mrs. Avery's collection.

The tea is part of a program organized by the Four Rivers Heritage Area with special events at a number of sites in Annapolis and South County. Maryland Day commemorates the day weary English colonists disembarked from the ships The Ark and The Dove at St. Clement's Island in southern Maryland and celebrated their safe arrival in the new world with a service of thanksgiving. In 1916 the Maryland General Assembly authorized Maryland Day as a legal holiday devoted to Maryland history.

Registration is limited, and prepaid reservations must be made by calling the Museum office at 410-867-4486. The Museum and its office are closed for the winter, so please leave a message and someone will return your call.

The Shady Side Rural Heritage Society has partnered with two Captain's Circle sponsors, BayVue Consulting, Inc., and Greenstreet Gardens in sponsoring its 2010 events.

Going Postal

At the end of 2009 the U.S. Postal Service relieved small rural post offices from the duty of handling bulk mail, thus depriving them of the income it generates, and requiring bulk mailers to go to bigger post offices. The *Villager* must be mailed from the Eastport branch of the Annapolis post office. Mailing the last issue required two 12-mile trips to Eastport to a crowded, snow-lined parking lot, instead of one two mile trip to Davidsonville, and included two 45-minute sessions of instruction from the helpful bulk mail manager in Eastport, because every post office has its own set of rules and discretion under the federal umbrella.

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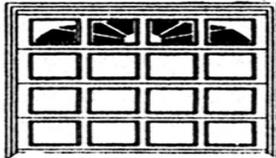
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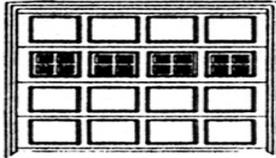
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Where is the best site for another cell tower?

Residents around the intersection of Governors Bridge Road and Patuxent River Road were notified of an application by T-Mobile Northeast, LLC, for a special exception to the present RA zoning on the southeast corner of the intersection. T-Mobile wishes to rent a portion of the property owned by Steve Flury to erect a cell phone tower.

DACA member Jeffrey Bishop wrote to ask DACA what is the civic association's position on the matter. Delia Bauckham-Ruoff attended the Executive Committee's March meeting to express her opposition to the cell tower and to seek DACA's help.

Given the apparent need for additional coverage, evident by "no service" on cell phone screens and dropped phone calls, the Executive Committee discussed various options. Rather than flatly oppose construction of the cell tower, which can be obtrusive and ugly in the eye of the beholder, the committee chose to suggest a different location.

Kate Fox visited the Office of Planning and Zoning to review T-Mobile's plan in their application. Research on cell towers and coverage in the area revealed that what T-Mobile reports on their website in terms of coverage and what they put in their application are quite different. She also learned that ultimately T-Mobile could win a case in federal court to

put the cell tower on the Flury property if the county denies it, so the best idea may be to try to convince T-Mobile to locate their tower elsewhere, such as in Davidsonville Park.

DACA President Will Biddle will testify at the public hearing on the application to the effect that siting the tower at Davidsonville park would enable it to serve this insufficiently served area, would provide rental income to the county, and it would not be so intrusive in the view of the nearest neighbors.



The Marlborough Hunt Club cordially invites you to the 36th Annual Running of the Marlborough Hunt Races at Roedown

3856 Wayson Road, Davidsonville
 SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2010
 Gates open 10:00 a.m.

First race starts at noon
 General admission \$20.00 per car plus \$5.00 per person (children under six admitted free). Pre-sale parking and admission for six, \$35. Make your check payable to Marlborough Hunt Races at Roedown and mail it to P.O. Box 277, Upper Marlborough, MD 20773.

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What's brewing at Riva Trace?

Pastor Keith Hammer of Riva Trace Baptist Church attended the March meeting of DACA's Executive Committee and thanked DACA for the \$250 contribution in December. He then presented a 15 minute slide show of some of the charitable community service work RTBC does throughout the county: food bank, renovating homes for the needy, cash donations, hosting a shelter for the homeless. He said church members built a nature trail at Davidsonville Park and the church shares its playing fields with Davidsonville Athletic Association.

The church hopes to build a "Life Station" for young people to gather to learn life skills, get tutoring, play games, and hang out with suitable role models. The footprint of the building is 15,363 square feet and would include a concert hall with 324 seats, stage and backstage, dressing/green room, and offices and meeting rooms. The kitchen area contains a cafeteria, catering, walk-in pantry, cooler, and freezer rooms, and space for packaging for the food bank patrons.

They are looking at various properties around the county on which to locate the new facility; they may have to sell a portion of their Central Avenue site to finance it. If they wish to build it on the Central Avenue property they would need a zoning change from RA to Residential/Limited Commercial. Pastor Hammer brought copies of the draft plat which locates the building at the east side of their property on Central Avenue near the house next door, with a new entrance drive from Central Avenue and additional parking spaces on the site.



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Does your pet look like you?

Anne Arundel County's Department of Recreation and Parks is sponsoring a pet/owner look-alike contest and invites all pet owners to participate. At DACA's Green Week Expo on March 20, the Department of Recreation and Parks will have a photographer ready to take pictures of you and your pet to enter the contest. Contestants will be in six categories – dog, cat, and other – in two owner age groups: 12 years and under, and 13 years and above.



You can submit your own photos to the web site at www.aacounty.org/recparks for entry in the contest by April 1. Judging and awards will be Sunday, May 2, at 10:00 a.m. at Quiet Waters Park and will include the top ten entries in each category. The first, second, and third prize winners in each category will receive a prize. Two Grand Champions, one from each owner age group, will be crowned. All finalists will receive a gift bag.

The contest is sponsored by the County Executive's office, the County's Animal Welfare Council, the Friends of Quiet Waters Park, the SPCA of Annapolis, Pets on Wheels, Anne Arundel County Animal Control, and many private businesses.



Bring your pet to the Green Expo on March 20, submit your picture and go to Quiet Waters on May 2 for a fun-filled morning with other pet owners.

Quiz the County Executive

March 30, 2010

South River High School in the cafeteria

6:00 until 8:30 p.m.

John Leopold and members of his cabinet will be there to meet individually with citizens to discuss county issues. Face-to-face meetings will take place on a first come/first serve basis.

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Keeping an eye on the ground – water, that is

The Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association (CEPA) will continue to provide oversight of the groundwater monitoring by Waste Management, Inc. at the site of the former PST rubble landfill off Sands Road in Harwood. CEPA was awarded a grant by Anne Arundel county to cover expenses involved in this work. The landfill may be the last and largest unlined landfill on the east coast. The current owner will provide groundwater monitoring for contaminants and dispersion of leachate for at least five years after the closing of the

landfill. After Waste Management's obligation is completed CEPA will continue to monitor the site to verify the amount of leakage from the unlined landfill leaching from its contents into the groundwater and then eventually to the tributaries and the Bay. This grant sets a precedent in the state as it is the first instance where an independent nonprofit organization has been tasked with monitoring the environmental impact of a landfill.

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Forestry for the Bay tells how woodlands protect the Bay

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* Create Habitat for Fish and Wildlife: Woods provide food, shelter, nesting sites and safe migration paths for the both land and aquatic animals.

* Woodlands in the watershed have disappeared at 100 acres a day to development since the mid 1980's.

* There are currently 900,000 private family forest owners that own nearly 80% of the total Chesapeake forests. The majority of these landowners own less than 25 acres.

Christopher J. Grizzell
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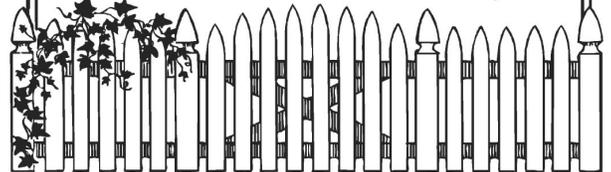
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If you own a patch of woods and would like to improve your woodland management techniques, do this.

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay will host a workshop at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater. Registration is only \$10 for an all day event, from 9:45 am until 3:00, including lunch.

During the morning you will learn about the changing forest landscape in Maryland; opportunities, programs and resources you can use for your woods; plant invaders; and a new web-based conservation assessment and mapping tool. After lunch you will take a field tour of SERC's woodlands from 1:00 until 3:00 and see forest succession and ecology, invasive/exotic plant control methods, and wildlife habitat management.

For more information call Craig Highfield at 410-267-5723 (Forestry for the Bay) or send him an email to chighfield@chesapeakebay.net. The deadline for registration is April 12.

How do the woods serve us?

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- * Control flooding: Woodlands act as "sponges" by capturing precipitation and slowing its flow, thereby reducing the volume of surface run-off entering the streams.
- * Improve Air Quality: Trees help remove air pollutants in the atmosphere that are released by cars, industry, farming, construction, etc.
- * Create Habitat for Fish and Wildlife: Woods provide food, shelter, nesting sites and safe migration paths for the both land and aquatic animals.
- * Improve quality of life and encourage recreation: Woods offer us places in which to reflect and experience natural beauty and provides outdoor recreation opportunities.
- * Provide an Income: Wood can provide a continuous source of income through sustainable harvesting of timber and other forest products.



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For more information check out the web site at www.aacofarmersmarket.com, or contact Brenda Conti at 410-349-0317 or write to her by email at Theherbaltouchusa@earthlink.net.



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The *Villager* is published at least six times each year. We invite your written and signed contributions of letters, articles, and community notices.

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Your comments, your interests?