



# The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Vol. 39, No. 4

P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035 November-December 2012



The Fourth Annual DACA Green Expo  
Saturday, March 16, 2013, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Ruritan Community Center  
3358 Davidsonville Road, Davidsonville

Each spring, in partnership with local businesses and environmental organizations, DACA hosts a Green Expo to increase awareness about environmental issues and highlight environmentally-friendly products, services and ideas. The Expo allows visitors to connect with local watershed groups, learn about energy-saving techniques, and hear about living more sustainably. This annual event features free children's activities, tree giveaways, green product vendors and more.

Yes, you've seen the notice in every issue of *Villager* and we intend to keep it on view. Follow the progress of our plans; then come out on March 16 to celebrate the **green** of Davidsonville! Exhibitors are already sending in their registrations.



*Come, ye thankful people, come!*

Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm  
Union Memorial United Methodist Church  
3328 Davidsonville Road, (Rte 424 near Mt Airy Road)

Four churches will get together on Wednesday evening, November 21, for a community Thanksgiving service. Union Memorial United Methodist Church invites the community and Davidsonville Methodist, Holy Family Catholic, and All Hallows Episcopal, to meet their neighbors and share a service with traditional hymns of thanks.

See page 12 of this *Villager* for a brief history of this charming church.

Everyone is welcome. Join your friends and neighbors for a community Thanksgiving Eve Service. Give thanks on Wednesday, and celebrate dinner and football on Thursday.

### DACA members and their contributions

Thanks to Bill and Ebbie Bickford, Joseph and Stacey Bonner, Mary Hoffman and Cliff Habig, George Picot and Jean Rock, and Steve and Debbie Williams, for their generous contributions to DACA in addition to renewing their memberships.

October 26, 2012

Dear DACA,  
Thank you for your generous contribution of \$500 to the Patuxent Riverkeeper. Your support makes possible our work to preserve and protect the Patuxent through advocacy, restoration, and education. We rely on our volunteers for our restoration work and we need volunteers in our office or in your home county. For more information on volunteering, contact

[Lauren@PaxRiverkeeper.org](mailto:Lauren@PaxRiverkeeper.org).

Please visit our website, [www.paxriverkeeper.org](http://www.paxriverkeeper.org) for the latest news. Hope to see you out on the river.

Thanks y'all! Fred [Tutman] PrK



Thank you for continuing to provide invaluable services to this community!  
MMH

September 14, 2012

To the Members of the Davidsonville  
Community Organization,

Thank you for the generosity shown to our congregation each year for the last three years at the holiday season. The monetary donations have gone to relieve the suffering of from ten to twenty-five families over the three year period. We have provided hot meals for homebound seniors; baskets of food for young and struggling families, in addition to baby clothing for a single parent family.

We give thanks for the organization's part in assisting us (the churches in the Davidsonville area) in alleviating some of the suffering in an area of great affluence.

The Faithful Followers of Christ  
Union Memorial UMC in Davidsonville  
Shalom,  
Pastor Paulette V. Jones

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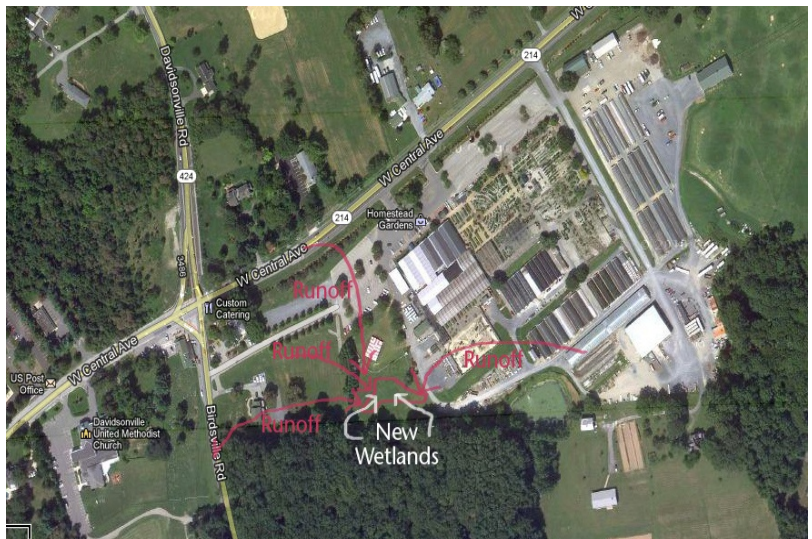
### South River Federation Wetlands Project at Homestead Gardens

On September 25, State Senator John Astle, County Executive John Leopold, with Brian Riddle and Laura Riddle, the owners of Homestead Gardens, dedicated and celebrated a \$100,000 wetlands project that will help slow runoff and prevent harmful nutrients from disrupting the natural balance in Beards Creek, a tributary of the South River.

Kirk Mantay of the South River Federation (SRF), project leader, said it took about a year to complete the wetlands. With initial funding of about \$15,000 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and SRF, he worked to secure about \$85,000 in construction grants. Then he worked closely with Keith Underwood, who designed and built the wetlands. Homestead Gardens provided in-kind labor, heavy equipment, plants at cost, wood chips and more.

Besides the eco-friendly aspect, Homestead's garden and landscape center now has a representation of what a wetlands looks like, with slopes, culverts, and rocks to slow water flow as well as a good drain field. A homeowner with problems with erosion or runoff can come to the Homestead site and see how it is done.

The problem at the site was that the area had once been used for grazing cattle and the slopes made all the



water rush down the hill into the woods on the southwest corner of the property. From there, the water ran into a tributary to Beards Creek. The neighbor to the south also got runoff. The trees in a small forest at the bottom of the slope became waterlogged.

The new wetland area slows that water so it can soak into the ground. It will keep the nutrients out of the creek because the water will be better filtered. It can help to prevent things like the algae mat that grew in Beards Creek in 2011.

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Clear Water Runs Off Living Soils, by Will Biddle

You would think that in the field of science, there would not be controversy. I am not referring to conflicts between Scientists (Darwinists) and fundamental Christians (Creationists), but to genuine, honest disagreement among scientists studying agriculture.

Scientists have pioneered genetic engineering which replaces a chromosome in a plant (e.g. soybeans) with a chromosome from another organism that is resistant to infestations from insects and fungus diseases. The resulting soybean plant is virtually identical to its soybean parents, but it carries the resistant gene. Animals can readily digest the engineered soybean.

The controversy comes from scientists who claim that the scientific community does not know enough about how digestive systems work to guarantee that future negative consequences will not result from eating these genetically altered hybrid soybeans. Proponents of such engineering argue that without genetic modification, farmers must use pesticides which linger in our environment and unarguably cause a significant rise in cancer rates.

When my wife and I visited the Botanical Gardens in Montreal, Canada, last summer, I was surprised to

discover that they grow the biggest, healthiest vegetables I have ever seen (Detroit beets five inches in diameter in July in the shortened summers of Montreal) with NO FERTILIZER, just compost. The Botanical Gardens use NO FERTILIZER to grow any of their plants, and yet people from all over the world visit these spectacular Botanical Gardens.



Cabbage as big as my foot!

A display explained that in a tablespoon of healthy, natural soil live over a million micro-organisms. Most of the 10,000 different species of micro-organisms in soil have never even been identified, much less studied. Use of chemical fertilizers greatly reduces the number of species of micro-organisms as well as the total number of micro-organisms in the soil. (Next page, please)

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**Living soil, (from previous page)**

Obviously controversy arises from a lack of knowledge, but big business interests are also at stake. Chemical fertilizer producers stand to lose big. Although the financial losses caused by the cessation of pesticide production may be balanced by the gains won from genetically modified crops, no corporations will see gains from farmers, gardeners, and lawn-lovers using compost instead of chemical fertilizers.

So I asked Shawn Stallings at Davidsonville Nursery about using fertilizer versus compost. "Yeah, all you need is Leaf Grow," was his reply. Not only was Shawn clearly aware of the negative effects of using fertilizer, he had already changed his own business practices and was selling another product which presumably does not damage the soil. I suspect that Mark VanLunen of Tilden Lawn Nursery and Homestead Gardens would concur with Shawn. I know they both sell Leaf-Grow.

Before World War II, typical farming practices enriched soil with manure from animals raised on the farm. Seventy years later, driven primarily by our government's agricultural policies, farming has become an industry of specialization: growing or raising one or two crops or animals. Effluent from massive animal feed lot operations is so toxic that if any of it gets back into the soil, people die from being exposed to strains of bacteria like E-coli 7, which didn't even exist here prior to World

War II. Meanwhile, crop farmers dump millions of pounds of fertilizer on soil, made barren over the last seventy years by constant applications of chemical fertilizer and lack of compost, to grow primary corn and soybeans which aren't even digestible by human beings.

Run-off from chemical fertilizer, along with a lot of other factors, kills our rivers and is now killing our oceans. Effluent from animal feed lots sits in containment ponds until it too runs off in a heavy storm and kills our rivers and oceans. Doesn't anybody see a problem and a solution here?  
*Will Biddle*




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**Check out Davidsonville’s winter cover crops!**

As you drive past the farms that make Davidsonville so attractive to residents, take a look to see what is growing there after the harvest. Corn, soybeans, and other seasonal crops are harvested by now and the fields are resting for the winter. When a harvested crop field is sprouting new green shoots, it was probably planted in a cover crop. Empty fields of bare earth are vulnerable to erosion from rain and the melting snows of winter. The water washes down the gullies and carries silt and leftover fertilizer into the streams that feed the tributaries of the Bay.

This can be minimized by planting cultivated fields in rye, barley or other crops, one of the most effective ways of preserving farm productivity and downstream waters. In Maryland, maximum benefits are obtained if cover crops were planted by October 1<sup>st</sup>, but later plantings still provide water and soil retention.

After corn or other crops are harvested, not all the fertilizer applied earlier in the year is used by the intended crops; some of it remains in upper soil layers. Cover crops, like rye, wheat or barley, take up this excess fertilizer and prevent it from leaching through the soil to enter downstream waters. Between March 1<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>

of the following year, the cover crop is plowed under and serves as a nutrient source for the spring planting of corn, soybeans, or other crops.


In Maryland, maximum benefits are achieved when cover crops are planted before October 1<sup>st</sup>, when nitrogen still remains close to the soil surface. One study indicates that seeding cover crops by October 1<sup>st</sup> reduces nitrogen losses by up to 45 percent. Planting as late as November 5<sup>th</sup> can still reduce nitrogen pollution by about 19 percent. Even if a cover crop like wheat is intended to be harvested and receives fertilizer treatment, it still protects the soil from winter erosion, although it provides no reduction in nitrogen. Both fertilized and unfertilized crops protect soil over the winter from erosive forces, which greatly benefits soil productivity and the aquatic environment.

On Davidsonville Road, the fields tended by Mark Scible and the Covingtons are lush with green winter cover.

Excerpted from *Cover Crop Factsheet* by Richard Klein, Community & Environmental Defense Services, web page: [ceds.org/audit](http://ceds.org/audit), 410-654-3021 • [Help@ceds.org](mailto:Help@ceds.org).

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Growth Action Network

DACA is a member of the Growth Action Network, a coalition formed in 2007 of individuals, homeowners associations, civic and environmental organizations, that monitors growth and development throughout Anne Arundel County. GAN involves citizens in County planning and advocacy so that all growth will enhance the quality of life now and in the future.

GAN does not charge dues from its members, but has been financed by contributions; now its treasury is almost empty. Kate Fox, a former DACA board member, came to DACA's November board meeting to seek a financial contribution to GAN.

Ann Fligsten is paid to serve as co-ordinator; she attends all the meetings of the County Council and other county deliberative bodies. Ann is also the second counsel with Russ Stevenson of Chesapeake Legal Alliance in the Comprehensive Re-zoning lawsuit by Harwood Civic Association and DACA, etc., against the County for disregarding the General Development Plan.

DACA's Executive Committee voted to contribute \$300 to Growth Action Network.

Among GAN's current issues are open space, landfills, surplus public land, schools to be built by land

developers, and updating Small Area Plans.

The Open Space bill was passed in September to permit active use on land zoned OS throughout the county. It was written by Council member Jamie Benoit specifically to allow Key School to place athletic fields and related construction on the Annapolis Roads Golf Course. Implementation of the bill was delayed to allow Zoning Director Larry Tom to prepare an overlay to protect steep slopes and wetlands now in Open Space. Another bill is being prepared by Council member Chris Trumbauer that would require such construction to be permitted only by Special Exception, which would require a public hearing.

As a result of the problems caused by the mis-managed Cunningham landfill in Crofton, GAN has formed a landfill task force to identify open, closed, and potential landfill sites and to develop the needs and policies necessary to manage them in an environmentally safe manner.

Regarding potential sale of surplus public land, GAN proposes to work to assure that any development is compatible with existing neighborhoods and the General Development Plan.

From DACA Minutes and GAN web site

Sandra M. Woelfel, CPA



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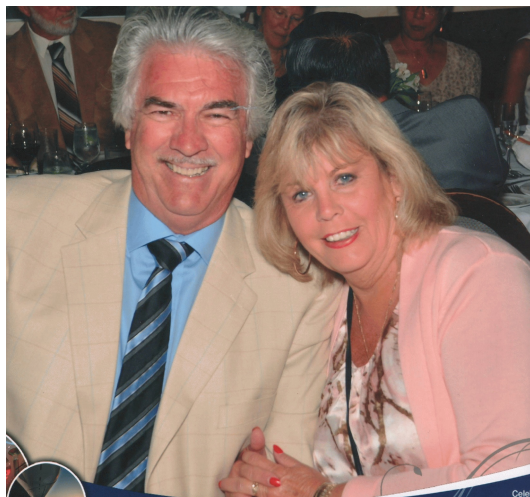
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**New County Law Allows  
Free Pet Adoptions to Promote Animals**

A new law that took effect in November allows Animal Control to offer free adoptions of cats, dogs, and other pets for special events such as adoption drives. The change helps market the wonderful animals available and also helps decrease the need for euthanasia at the shelter. Animal Control is located at 411 Maxwell Frye Road in Millersville. They open at 10:00 am Tuesday through Saturday. Contact Michael Wojtowycz at Anne Arundel County Animal Control for more information, 410-222-8900, or go to the web site at [www.aacounty.org](http://www.aacounty.org), click on Animal Control, then on Pet Adoption.



**Davidsonville Athletic Association news**

*If you would like to see your team's activities reported in the Villager, please send your notice to the editor via [daca-md.org](mailto:daca-md.org). Chris Asher sent this report.*

**Soccer, under eight years**

Special congratulations to our U8 tournament team coached by Pat Murray and John Keith. This team was assembled specifically for the Arundel Cup tournament that was played over the last couple of weeks. The team made it through qualifying rounds and through two weekends of playoffs before the championship game was played. Our team lost in the finals to Bowie 1-0 but they played their hearts out and deserve some special recognition considering they are six and seven years old!

Please give a pat on the back to these kids the next time you run into one of them: Chase Hallum, Jack Stamato, RJ Eubanks, Al Haji Shaw, Will Gervase, Ben Keith, Fiona Murray, Seth Dorr and Ty Bonzella

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If you would like more information regarding our activities, please call or email our Membership Chairman.







**2012 South River High School  
Holiday Craft Fair**  
**Saturday, November 17th**  
**9:00 am until 3:00 pm**  
**Benefits our**  
**Media Center Renovation Project**  
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**Sponsored by the South River High School Community Partnership**

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### West/Rhode Riverkeeper: Upward Trajectory *by Chris Trumbauer*

In 2005, West/Rhode Riverkeeper was founded by Bob Gallagher, with some money from his friends and colleagues. He set up a small organization to fight to keep pollution out of the West and Rhode Rivers. From those humble beginnings, West/Rhode Riverkeeper has grown and matured into a top-tier watershed organization in a very short time.

In addition to being the “eyes and ears” for the West and Rhode Rivers, we have been responsible for many tangible projects and programs to benefit these two Rivers. These include several major policy initiatives (e.g. Critical Area reform, dedicated local stormwater funding), a number of important restoration projects (e.g. Shady Cove, Galesville rain garden), our annual Report Card, and various stewardship and outreach efforts. All of these accomplishments have been possible because of the support of our members, donors, and private foundations such as the Keith Campbell Foundation and the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Now, thanks to new funding from the Chesapeake

Bay Funders Network (CBFN) and the Town Creek Foundation, we’re ready for the next big step, a new strategic planning process. Working with professional consultants, we will assess the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities of the organization to best determine our vision for the future. Since 2007, we have been operating under our five-year-old strategic plan designed for a much less mature organization. Since then, the world has changed, and our organization has changed. As we work to enhance our role in the community and set priorities for cleaning up our rivers, a new strategic plan to guide our work will ensure we are working efficiently and effectively.

West/Rhode Riverkeeper’s activities fall into four main categories: Advocacy, Enforcement, Restoration, and Outreach. Each of these four pillars is important to our mission. Prioritizing our existing efforts and deciding where to devote new energy is critical to our continued success. We plan to have a process where you—our members and supporters—can give input on what is most important to you. Help us become an even more effective organization!

In addition to the strategic planning process, funding from CBFN has enabled us to hire a part-time Fundraising Manager. I’m pleased to announce that Kate Mahood has been selected out of a pool of very talented applicants. Kate will be working on a contractual basis to help us update our fundraising plan and work with our supporters—both individuals and businesses. We really look forward to having her help!

I am also pleased to announce that Joe Ports, our former CCC member this past year, has accepted a position with us and is now West/Rhode Riverkeeper’s Restoration Coordinator. He will lead our water quality monitoring, Marylanders Grow Oysters effort, and many other conservation and restoration efforts. Joe’s hiring was made possible by the Town Creek Foundation, which recently awarded us a grant to support the Riverkeeper/Executive Director position, thereby freeing up some salary funds that we can use to hire Joe. Thanks to your support, we have developed into a regional leader in watershed and environmental issues. With these new additions, we are keeping our trajectory heading up and up. Now, we need to work hard to make sure the health indicators of the West and Rhode Rivers (and the Bay) are headed in the same direction.



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**New laws for mopeds and scooters**

New laws took effect October 1, 2012, to require all motor scooters and mopeds to be titled and insured, just like cars and motorcycles. Operators and passengers must wear motorcycle helmets and eye protection. Operators must possess a valid driver's license or a moped operator's permit.

They must follow the same rules of the road as bicycles. Keep as near to the right side of the roadway as possible, unless making a left turn, or if the right lane is a right-turn lane only. Scooters and mopeds are not allowed on roadways with speed limits greater than 50 miles per hour, and they may not exceed 30 miles per hour. They must stay in the bike lane or paved shoulder where it is available, not on the paved roadway. In addition they must obey traffic stop lights, stop signs, and yield to pedestrians.

Violations of the law carry a fine of \$90 and two points if they do not contribute to an accident. If they cause a crash, the fine is \$130 and three points.

**From the County Executive's newsletter:**

**Public Safety and Public Works Tackle Hurricane**

Our personnel performed admirably as Hurricane Sandy blew through, leaving in its wake downed trees and power lines. Our response was equally swift and very successful, with most of our roads re-opened less than 24 hours after the storm passed. Great job by our employees and volunteers.

**Nominations Sought for Hurricane Heroes**

Once again our citizens stepped up during an emergency and helped their neighbors. If you know someone who helped pump out a flooded basement for a senior citizen or just checked on you to make sure you were safe, please send an e-mail to [jleopold@aacounty.org](mailto:jleopold@aacounty.org) so I can personally thank them.

**Donate a Comfy Bed for a Dog or Cat**

Animal Control is seeking donations of Kuranda beds for dogs and cats. A large PVC dog bed is \$56, and two cat beds are \$59, or a cat tower is \$65. We always need your help to find loving forever homes. For more information, call 410-222-8900.

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**Union Memorial United Methodist Church Praises God for 145 Years**

In December 1992, Union Memorial United Methodist Church commemorated its 125<sup>th</sup> year. That brings it to 145 years in 2012.

Union Memorial had its formal beginning in 1867 under the pastorship of Reverend Washington Langford. The membership of Union Chapel consisted of former slaves who worshiped at Davidsonville Methodist Church, which was named Mount Wesley Chapel. Seven trustees purchased one and a half acres from Thomas Davidson for the sum of \$425 and named it Union Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1893, they built Union Chapel under the leadership of Rev. Richard P. Lawson. All of the construction work was done by the men and women of the church and the community. Union Chapel joined with Chews Chapel of Owensville to form the South River Charge. Shortly afterward, the members began referring to their church as Union.

In the 1900s, Union continued to develop as a congregation on the move. They acquired land for the cemetery. Camp meetings, revivals, group sings, and praying bands were the favorite religious activities. People walked to church or came on horseback or by horse-drawn buggy. In 1948, Mrs. Mary Owens organized the ushers and was the first president of the

Ushers' Board. As the original church aged it became too small for its growing congregation and fell into disrepair until it was demolished.

The present building was erected in 1953; the church's name was changed to Union Memorial and it was dedicated on the second Sunday of December 1953. Only nine years later, on December 9, 1962, the congregation celebrated the final payment with a Mortgage Burning Ceremony .

In 1986, the steeple was added to Union, donated by the Francis Proctor family in memory of their deceased son Francis Lester Proctor. This led to a complete remodeling and renovation of the interior of the church in 1988, during the ministry of the Reverend Charles W. Creek. The Proctor family also donated a piano.

During his tenure, Union Memorial continued its musical tradition with the Charles Creek Singers and the Gospel Choir. The Gospel Choir was one of the favorite performances at the Ruritan Club's community Christmas program, in which all four Davidsonville churches participated, from the 1980s through 2008.

Since 1995, the pastors of Union Memorial United Methodist Church have been women, starting with the Reverend Willie Mae Parker and currently, the Reverend Paulette Jones.

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**Hoffman Music Studio celebrates 25 years**

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Over the years, students from infants to adults have enjoyed private lessons and classes ranging from early childhood music—Kindermusik, Musikgarten, and pre-piano classes—appreciation and singing, to performing on piano, guitar, recorder, and voice, in composition, theory, and home school courses.

Mary believes that music education should be of high quality, noncompetitive, and available to students of all ages. Instructors should be dedicated and enthusiastic. She feels that knowledge of music is a gift and a pleasure that lasts a lifetime.

For information on current offerings, call the studio at 410-798-5181, or send an email to [mmhoffmusic@aol.com](mailto:mmhoffmusic@aol.com).



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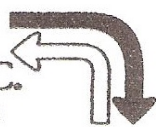
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Open to the public 9:00 am until 5:00 pm

Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays  
except on holidays and other special events.

The Sanctuary will be closed on Thanksgiving, November 22, and Friday, November 23. With deer hunting season upon us, it is necessary to cull the overpopulation of white-tailed deer. Managed deer hunts are held at Jug Bay and the Sanctuary will be closed on Friday, November 30, December 5, December 13, and December 21.

**Turkey Hike**, Saturday, November 24, 10:00-noon  
Spend your Saturday morning taking a hike around the Sanctuary to work off the feast. We'll make natural history observations along the way. Wear sturdy walking shoes and dress for the weather.

**Birdwalk**, Saturday, December 1, 8:00-11:00.  
Learn the skills of identifying birds by sight and sound. Binoculars and field guides are available to borrow. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. Not appropriate for children younger than 12.

Reservations and entrance fees are required for all events, unless noted. To register, call 410-741-9330 or e-mail to [programs@jugbay.org](mailto:programs@jugbay.org). Visit [www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org) for information, directions and updates to our schedule.

### Jug Bay Winter Waterbird Survey

Sixteen hardy souls braved the follow-up of Hurricane Sandy for their November 1, 2012, Winter Waterbird Survey between 7:30 and 10:00 am. After the storm, the day was partly cloudy to clear with no wind. The storm the previous day left a high tide, increased by the previous day's full moon. The boardwalk beyond the Observation Deck was under water at 7:30 am.

They counted 28 species, from one Rusty Blackbird to 1,068 Laughing Gulls. The highlight of the day was certainly the ten minute observation of a Sora Rail feeding along the River Pier.

Pied-billed Grebe 6	Double-crested Cormorant 4
Great Blue Heron 10	Canada Goose 256
Wood Duck 13	Mallard 47
American Black Duck 37	Gadwall 5
Green-winged Teal 18	Northern Pintail 22
Ring-necked Duck 25	Bufflehead 2
Ruddy Duck 2	Northern Harrier 2
Bald Eagle 5 + 1 immature	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-tailed Hawk
Sora 7	American Coot 22
Laughing Gull 1068	Ring-billed Gull 10
Herring Gull 7	Forster's Tern 12
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Swamp Sparrow 7	Rusty Blackbird 1



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**2012-2013 Londontowne Symphony Season**

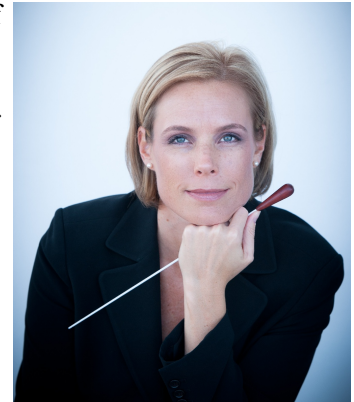
The LSO continues its season on Sunday, **December 2**, with “A Feast of Carols,” a joint program with the **Arundel Vocal Arts Society**, conductor, JoAnn Kulesa. This concert will begin at 3:00 pm at the Eastport Methodist Church, 926 Bay Ridge Avenue, Annapolis.

They will present Morten Lauridsen’s *Lux Aeterna*, Randol Bass’s *Feast of Carols* and Vaughn Williams’s *Fantasia on “Greensleeves.”* Lauridsen’s piece premiered in 1997, written in response to his mother’s final illness. Bass’s works have become standard fare for choral and orchestral groups. Vaughan Williams’s work is one of the most beloved holiday works for string ensemble. The program will be rounded out with Nigerian carols brought to the attention of choral music enthusiasts by some of this country’s most respected choruses and directors.

Tickets are \$20; each paying adult entitles one school-age child free admission. Tickets will be available at the door or in advance from a member of AVAS.

Anna Binneweg is the music director of the Londontowne Symphony Orchestra.

Please note the new web site address: [www.LSO-music.org](http://www.LSO-music.org). Look us up for additional information on our future concerts.



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