

From: Patuxent Riverkeeper [info@paxriverkeeper.org]
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 3:36 PM
To: info@paxriverkeeper.org
Subject: December News and Events From Patuxent Riverkeeper



Patuxent River Center · 17412 Nottingham Road · Upper Marlboro, MD · 20772

Patuxent Riverkeeper News and Events

[Donate to PrK](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Greetings!

Here are some events and notes of interest to the Patuxent Riverkeeper community. Please let us know of any errors that should be corrected. We invite suggested additions to future advisory calendars. If you know of upcoming events that should be listed in these advisories, please let us know about them: info@paxriverkeeper.org.

Riverkeeper Center Update!

Nearly two years of planning and preparation and we will be open for business at Nottingham in the New Year! Local craftsman Matt Gifford has finished sanding and refinishing the wood floors, internet coverage is up and running with our computer networks being installed this month and phone numbers slated for change from the old ones sometime early in 2013. Our new patrol boat is also nearing completion of an engine refit with a launch likely in early 2013 all through the good graces of local Oakes Marine repair shop. Come on down and visit us! New address: Patuxent Riverkeeper Center; 17412 Nottingham Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

Last Call for Bonus Tax Credits!

Tax Credits... Get enhanced tax credit on your Maryland state taxes! Donate to support the Patuxent Water Trail. Donations totaling \$500 or more within the same taxable year are eligible for Community Investment Tax Credits worth an added 50% deduction from your state income tax bill. Our allotment of these credits expires in just a few weeks. Reserve yours early as we have a finite amount of tax credits the state will allow us to offer to our members! Can't afford \$500 this year? No problem, any of your donations in support of our work are appreciated and are fully deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Howard County Smart Growth



Earlier this month, Howard County Executive Ken Ullman exercised his Council veto powers for the first time since taking office. He chose to veto the recent County Council adoption of MD law SB-236 whose intent is to limit growth on septic systems and encourage future growth on waste water treatment service areas. The offending county legislation basically exempted anybody with zoning that would support future subdivision. The true aim of the state legislation is to protect farms and natural resource areas from the unrelenting fragmentation of rural lands and the march of sprawl by defending smart growth policies and

protecting water quality. Patuxent Riverkeeper and others were on hand at the Clark Farm in Ellicott City to support County Executive Ullman. The county now goes back to the drawing board.

Jug Bay Bids a Fond Farewell to Chris Swarth

Nearly 100 well-wishers assembled at the Jug Bay Wetland Sanctuary this month to give a warm send off to the Executive Director, Chris Swarth who after 23 years at the Sanctuary has accepted a teaching and research position in his native California. Chris was dubbed "King of the Turtles" during the goodbye party and he was a recipient of many warm anecdotes and tall tales. Under his administration the Sanctuary grew dramatically in size and scope to become a major hub for research, recreation and community on the Patuxent.



Fall/Winter Environmental Film Series

Patuxent Riverkeeper has teamed up with Maryland Sierra Club and Food and Water Watch to host a series of winter movies nights that will both keep you warm indoors and keep the fires burning year around for a cleaner environment.

Screenings will be held at Fairhaven School in Upper Marlboro (17900 Queen Anne Rd; Upper Marlboro, MD 20774)

Suggested donation of \$3 to cover sites fees.

- **Saturday January 12, 2013 Trashed**

In the new docu-feature TRASHED, a Blenheim Films production, produced and directed by British filmmaker Candida Brady (Madam and the Dying Swan), which has been selected to receive a Special Screening at the Cannes Film Festival this month, Irons sets out to discover the extent and effects of the global waste problem, as he travels around the world to beautiful destinations tainted by pollution. This is a meticulous, brave investigative journey that takes Irons (and us) from scepticism to sorrow and from horror to hope. Brady's narrative is vividly propelled by an original score created by Academy Award winning composer Vangelis.

- **Saturday February 9, 2013 Split Estate**

Imagine discovering that you don't own the mineral rights under your land, and that an energy company plans to drill for natural gas two hundred feet from your front door. Imagine having little recourse, other than accepting an unregulated industry in your backyard. Split Estate maps a tragedy in the making, as citizens in the path of a new drilling boom in the Rocky Mountain West struggle against the erosion of their civil liberties, their communities and their health.

- **Saturday March 16, 2013 Gasland**

A 2010 American documentary film written and directed by Josh Fox. The film focuses on communities in the United States impacted by natural gas drilling and, specifically, a method of horizontal drilling into shale formations known as slickwater fracking. The Last Mountain: The Last Mountain tells the story of the fight for Coal River Mountain in West Virginia, where community members and environmental activists are pitted against a coal company in the struggle to save one of the last large mountain ranges in the area from mountaintop removal.

- **Friday April 12, 2013 The Last Mountain**

The Last Mountain tells the story of the fight for Coal River Mountain in West Virginia, where community members and environmental activists are pitted against a coal company in the struggle to save one of the last large mountain ranges in the area from mountaintop removal.

Thai and Indonesia Visits

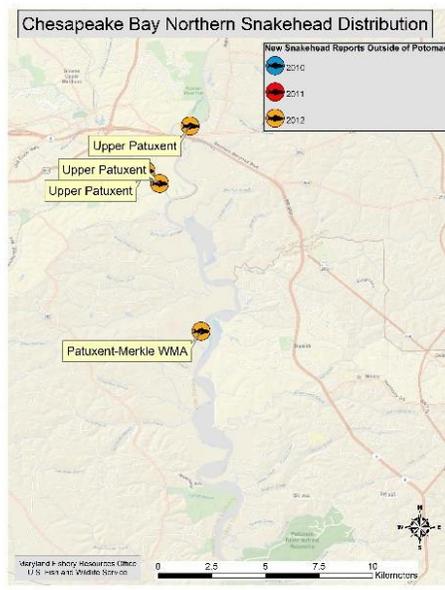
In October, Patuxent Riverkeeper along with World Resource Institute and Maryland Department of the Environment hosted a delegation of 12 Thai and Indonesian visitors at the new Riverkeeper Center in Nottingham to discuss the role of citizens in water quality protection. The foreign visitors also visited the tiny town of Eagle Harbor located on the Patuxent waterfront, checked crab pots, roamed the new Riverkeeper facility and marveled at the vistas as they discussed/debated the importance of citizen vigilance in creating a culture of strong water quality protection in their home countries.



Southern Maryland Natural Gas Hydraulic Fracturing Event Outcome

Nearly 100 people gathered at the Prince Frederick Library for the first public town meeting on natural gas fracking. Panelists representing The American Petroleum Institute, the US Geological Survey, Food and Water Watch plus Maryland State Delegate Shane Robinson (Montgomery County) were on hand to answer questions about what this controversial topic means for Southern Maryland. While there is a presently a state moratorium on fracking there seems to be general consensus that eventually this sort of mining might come to Maryland, and possibly Southern Maryland. There is Maryland General Assembly legislation proposed in the next session that would require full environmental impact studies and disclosure in the event fracking does come to Maryland. The public voice in Prince Frederick ranged from deep concern about the hazards to environment and human health to outright opposition. Patuxent Riverkeeper will continue to get the word out and raise awareness and knowledge of the risks, policy issues and ongoing status of this statewide dialogue.

Snakeheads Sighted in the Patuxent!



In September 2012, DNR Fisheries biologists sampled the Patuxent River and (surprise!) captured snakeheads. Capture sites were on the Western Branch and at Hills Bridge. Most likely, snakeheads are now everywhere. CBNERR Stewardship Coordinator Chris Snow says, "Three captures were made from a single sampling trip." Don Cowden, Assistant Director of DNR Fisheries Service, Chief of Inland Fisheries, says, "There were multiple captures this year (on the Patuxent)." There were confirmed reports during the spring and summer at Golden Beach and Eagle Harbor (near Benedict) and from a pond at Merkle WMA which has some tidal influence. In late September crews caught three while surveying some randomly chosen sites from Lyons Creek up to Route 4. The first one was confirmed last year below the dam at the Chesapeake Ranch Club in Mill Creek (southern Calvert County).

Annual Patuxent River Clean Up

The 2013 Annual Patuxent River Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday April 6th. A few sites are already scheduled with more to follow. If you are interested in leading a site or know of a location that needs a helping hand contact Lauren at Lauren@paxriverkeeper.org.

Save the Dates!

Local communities are busily planning their Annual Green Expos.

The Davidsonville Green Expo will take place on Saturday, March 16, 2013, 10 am - 2 pm at the Ruritan Community Center, 3358 Davidsonville Road, Davidsonville.

Calvert County Citizen's Green Team will hold their Green Expo on April 20, 2013, 10 am - 4 pm at Annmarie Gardens in Solomons.

Help us Help You and the Patuxent!

Donate and/or volunteer now to support the grassroots independent voice for water quality in Maryland's longest and deepest intrastate tributary. You can make a donation online and there are also three ways for you to save money while supporting your Patuxent Riverkeeper. Call (301-249-8200 x7) or email (info@paxriverkeeper.org) for more information on any of these exciting ways to help support this important work:

- **Bonus tax credits for cash...** Get enhanced tax credit! Donate to support the Patuxent Water Trail. Donations totaling \$500 or more within the same taxable year are eligible for Community Investment Tax Credits" worth an added 50% deduction from your state income tax bill. Reserve yours early as we have a finite amount of tax credits the State will allow us to offer to our members! Can't afford \$500 this year? No problem, any of your donations in support of our work are appreciated and are fully deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.
- **Tax deductions for boats...** Do tax breaks float your boat? Donate your floatable functioning boat to Patuxent Riverkeeper for a tax deduction for the full sales price. With boat sales sluggish due to an even more sluggish economy, many seeking to sell a boat are having a difficult time doing so. Donate it to Patuxent Riverkeeper instead so you can take advantage of

a tax deduction for the appraised value. We work with local Marinas and national boat brokers to recondition and resell these boats under favorable terms. Various criteria and conditions apply. Call us for more information.

- **Purchase cool products...** Visit the [Riverkeeper Online Store](#) to purchase gifts for grads, dads, or yourself. Products include maps, books, trips, rain barrels and more...



Sincerely,
Patuxent Riverkeeper

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to info@paxriverkeeper.org by info@paxriverkeeper.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).
Patuxent Riverkeeper | 18600 Queen Anne Road | Upper Marlboro | MD | 20774