

**From:** Patuxent Riverkeeper [info@paxriverkeeper.org]  
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**To:** info@paxriverkeeper.org  
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Patuxent  
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Patuxent River Center · 17412 Nottingham Road · Upper Marlboro, MD · 20772

## Patuxent Riverkeeper News and Events

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### 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](mailto:info@paxriverkeeper.org).

### New Office Progress



The new office is starting to take shape, over the past several weeks, PrK staff and volunteers have been hard at work. Old wallpaper was removed, paint has started going on the walls and some minor repairs addressed. Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, our new landlord, has been busy as well. They have been finishing up the new handicap-accessible bathrooms and installing central air conditioning. We still have a lot of work to do, but are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you to the amazing volunteers who have come out to help, Tyler Topping, Danielle Puth, Will Biddle, Bea Puryear, Sean and John

Healy. If you are interested in helping out give us a call (301) 249-8200 x7. We also still have tax credits to sell (1.5 times the usual tax deduction!) if you would like to make a financial donation towards the new office and visitor's center.

### Patuxent Riverkeeper to Present at Black Environmental Thought II Conference

September 21, 2012 at the Cowles Auditorium Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. The second national Black Environmental thought and practice conference invites scholars, activists, farmers, artists, gardeners, environmentalists and outdoor enthusiasts across the African diaspora to engage in translocal and transnational dialogues about environmental justice. The conference aims to provide a space where participants can bridge theory and practice while creating ethically responsible collaborative partnerships. More information:

<http://blackenviromthought.wix.com/bet2#!>

### Learn to Repair a Wooden Boat

The Miss Katie is a classic wooden punt of the sort that used to be commonplace on the Patuxent. Gone are the days. The craftsmanship needed to build and maintain these beautiful work horse boats is fast disappearing. This boat, on loan from the Calvert Marine Museum needs a new bottom and master carpenter and boat builder Gary Steiwing will teach up to 5 lucky learners how to do it. Patuxent Riverkeeper is hosting a series of 3 evening classes to remove the old hull and fashion a



custom replacement under Gary's the experienced direction and one on one mentorship. At the end of the series, we'll launch the boat and see if your workmanship will float! There will be a \$60 materials and tutorial fee for each learner. Register before September 30th at: [info@paxriverkeeper.org](mailto:info@paxriverkeeper.org).



### New Kayak Dock Opens at Wooton's Landing

The newly installed canoe dock at Wootons Landing Wetland Park is now ready for boat launching. Prospective users must call the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary Office in order to get the gate combination 410-741-9330. Drivers can go through the gate, drive down to the river's edge, offload the boat(s), and then drive their vehicle back to the upper parking lot during your time on the river.

[www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org)

### Kayak Rentals Still Available

The best time to get on the River is upon us. Enjoy the cooler weather, upcoming fall foliage and some quality time with a friend, fur not required. We are outfitting trips on the Patuxent, contact us at [info@paxriverkeeper.org](mailto:info@paxriverkeeper.org) for reservations or more information.



### Prince George's County Rural Tier

Prince Georgians: This spring the General Assembly passed SB 236, The Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012. This bill had the support of most environmental organizations because it seeks to curb sprawl and reduce nitrogen pollution from septic systems into the Chesapeake Bay.

The Prince George's Planning Department of M-NCPPC has prepared several mapping options to implement the bill as required at the local level. The maps are accompanied by a Subdivision Bill that restricts new subdivisions in certain areas to four lots.

Staff's recommendation can be found on the Planning Department's web site here:

<http://www.pgplanning.org/Projects/SGA2012.htm>

The Planning Department is recommending that the strictest interpretation of SB 236 be taken so that the intent of the state bill is fully implemented: no more than four lots in new subdivisions and a map that reflects that this restriction would apply across the Rural Tier (Mapping Option A). Pressure from the development community is being brought to bear to raise the limit to seven lots (almost doubling the total number of lots allowed under the bill) and limiting the area where this restriction will apply. If successful, this change would continue the practice of sprawling homes on septic systems instead of concentrating new growth in areas that have sewer infrastructure. Sprawl would continue, and the septic legislation would be ineffectual in curbing sprawl growth. At stake is the economic consequence of growth that puts infrastructure in the places most expensive to do so. Sprawl creates public debt and causes community hardships.

We must speak out to support the Planning Department's position and defeat any attempts to expand more lots in the Rural Tier.

It is imperative that you call and write your County Council representative. Also please plan to testify at the public hearing on this matter scheduled for September 13, 2012!

### New Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy is Now Recruiting

The Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy (HoCoWSA) Advisory Committee is recruiting volunteers for the first class of Watershed Stewards in Howard County. Applications are due Sept. 12, 2012. Watershed Stewards will learn how to design and build projects that reduce the amount of storm water runoff that flows from rooftops, roads, driveways and parking lots into streams and rivers in Howard County. Storm water runoff can carry sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, bacteria, oil and grease, trash, pesticides and metals that pollute the Chesapeake Bay. Information about HoCoWSA and the application are available at [www.cwp.org/our-work/training/watershed-stewards-](http://www.cwp.org/our-work/training/watershed-stewards-)

**academy.** For more information contact Barbara Schmeckpeper, 410-381-5279, or Sylvia Huestis at : [howardwsa@gmail.com](mailto:howardwsa@gmail.com).

### Clean Water Act 40th Anniversary Paddle & Rally

Saturday, September 15th from 11am - 3pm  
Georgetown Waterfront Park (3100 K St NW)

A celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act at the Georgetown Waterfront Park organized by Chesapeake Waterkeepers. The entire family is invited to participate in our morning paddle on the Potomac River at 11 am followed by a series of clean water advocate speakers and local Waterkeepers at 12 noon, highlighting progress made with this landmark legislation and envisioning a hopeful future for the next 40 years. This is a unique opportunity to paddle right alongside your local Riverkeepers. The rally will culminate with a river clean up starting at 1:30 pm. Potomac Riverkeeper is looking for volunteers to help out! Please email [volunteer@potomacriverkeeper.org](mailto:volunteer@potomacriverkeeper.org).



### Earth Friendly Workshops, Fall 2012

#### Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Lothian, Maryland

**\$25 per person per workshop. \$60 for all 3 workshops. Lunch is included.**

Sponsored by: Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary; Friends of Jug Bay; Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, MD; and the Watershed Stewards Academy of Anne Arundel County. Registration deadline: Sept. 5. Mail your check, made payable to Friends of Jug Bay, with your name, phone, and e-mail address to: 1361 Wrighton Rd, Lothian, MD 20711. For directions to the workshops, go to: [www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org).

#### Creating a Butterfly Garden

**Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012; 10:00 am- 3:00 pm**

**Leader: Karyn Molines, Chief of Calvert County Natural Resources; past president of Maryland Native Plant Society**

Would you like to attract butterflies to your property? Learn how to create a complete butterfly habitat, including host plants of specific butterflies, as well as the best nectar-providing flowers. On a tour through the Sanctuary's butterfly garden, spot some local butterflies and examples of plants that are essential to butterflies. A meadow hike will complement the program if time permits. Meet at the Plummer House.

#### Making Your House More Sustainable

**Saturday, Sept. 29, 2012; 10:00 am- 3:00 pm**

**Leader: Karen Mullin, Environmental Consultant, Willow Oak Group LLC**

**Native Plant Sale and Composting Demonstration 3:00 - 5:00 pm**

Improve your quality of life while also helping the environment. On a tour inside and outside the Plummer House--our "Demonstration in Sustainability"--you'll learn some of the ways to reduce your carbon footprint and increase your home's value. From installing pervious paving stones to using an energy audit kit, participants will experience hands-on demonstrations and receive tips on how to make small, medium, and large investments in creating a more sustainable home.

#### Improving Wildlife Habitat in Your Backyard

**Saturday Oct. 27, 2012; 10:00 am- 3:00 pm**

**Leader: Paula Becker- Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Biologist**

Make your backyard an attractive place for wildlife. You will learn how to read your local habitat for the wildlife you may already have and to improve your yard for birds, herps, and insect pollinators. With fall and winter upon us we'll explore habitats that are important to wildlife in these seasons and discuss how to prepare for spring. Take home this useful knowledge!

### Patuxent River Appreciation Days

Saturday, October 6 and Sunday, October 7, 2012

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Maryland

Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD) is a festival, which creates awareness, recognition, and promotion of the economic, social, recreational, cultural and historical impact of the tributaries and environs of the Patuxent River and the basin through which it flows. Visit [www.pradinc.org](http://www.pradinc.org) for more

information and a full schedule of events.

### Pasture Party for Land Conservation

Saturday, October 6th, 2012 - 11 AM to 3 PM

Location: P.A. Bowen Farmstead

15701 Dr. Bowen Road, Village of Aquasco, Brandywine, MD 20613

Welcome a new-fashioned, pasture-based farm! Join us for an afternoon of rural FUN while you learn about initiatives to conserve and renew our natural and cultural heritage.

Activities Include:

Live Music by "The Swampy Bottom Boys" and Special Guests!

Taste of Local-Potluck starts at 12 Noon

Hoops and stilts for kid fun

Nature scavenger hunt starts at 1 PM

Sustainable Door prizes

"Prettiest Cow" Contest!

Old Jar Flea Market/Farmer's Market & Local Artisans /Red Bud Trees

"What is it?" collection of farm and home items from the past

Antique tractors and cars

Birds of prey/Pottery Making /Silent Auction

Scarecrow Stuffing ... And more FUN

Sponsored By: The Black Swamp Creek Land Trust Inc., MD Organic Food and Farming Association, Prince George's Soil Conservation District, The Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust and The Patuxent Riverkeeper. Agency and organizational representatives will be on hand to answer questions you may have about voluntary land conservation methods. For more information contact Joanne at [blackswamp@me.com](mailto:blackswamp@me.com). The event is FREE. Donations are encouraged. See you there!

### Invest in Rivers, Invest in River Watchdogs

This is a huge and challenging year for Patuxent Riverkeeper. New offices, new Board members, fresh river improvement initiatives and fresh challenges. Our eighth year of empowering river communities, building a bigger choir and responding to citizen calls for help in seven counties. Your contributions make it all possible. Your membership dues and occasional donations help keep gas in the boats, enforcement actions going forward, the phones ringing and the wheels turning in scores of unsung deeds to help keep the business of protecting one Maryland's most important waterways on the front burner for citizens, legislators and policy makers. Our vigilant presence and our independent voice helps make the Patuxent a scary place for polluters and wonderful place for all who love her now and into the future. Please donate to support this cause. 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](mailto: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...

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