Greetings!

Happy New Year to the Patuxent Riverkeeper Community! We have a number of exciting events to share, and if you know of upcoming events that should be listed in upcoming advisories, please let us know about them at: info@paxriverkeeper.org.

Sincerely,
Patuxent Riverkeeper

January 16, 2014, 12 PM ~ How Can We Create a More Diverse Bay Movement? Speaker: Patuxent Riverkeeper, Fred Tutman

The black experience in America includes an environmental context—one with particular social expectations, access to nature, educational sub-text, and a sense of place that includes a rich heritage with nature. Is the Chesapeake Bay preservation movement identified purely as a nature-loving movement, or is it just as committed to creating environmental fairness and equality? Fred Tutman, the Nation’s only African-American Riverkeeper, will share his ideas and view on how to create an unstoppable and more inclusive preservation movement.

LOCATION: C-1 Conference Room, Tawes State Office Building, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis MD

January 28, 2014 ~ Prince Frederick MD
Public Forum on the Proposed Cove Point Liquefaction Project
The League of Women Voters of Calvert County will host a public forum to discuss the proposed Cove Point Liquefaction Project on Tuesday, January 28 from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at St. John Vianney Family Life Center, 105 Vianney Lane in Prince Frederick, MD. All interested residents are encouraged to attend. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information call 410.586.2276. The forum is in response to concerns raised by citizens of Calvert County regarding Dominion Cove Point's application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to add natural gas liquefaction and exportation capabilities to its existing Cove Point location on the Chesapeake Bay in Lusby, MD.

A balanced panel of experts including environmentalists, Dominion Cove Point representatives and gas and energy consultants will attend. Some of the topics to be covered include: How the expansion will impact the environment, the economy, safety and traffic in Calvert County. Panel members will present information and then address questions from the audience. Founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government; works to increase understanding of major policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women. The local league in Calvert County began in 1966 and currently has 87 members.

Note: An 8 minute video about Cove Point and its fracked-gas story can be found here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjJ3e8Dpa08

June 6-12 2014 ~ Sojourn to Sacredness: A United Methodist Women's Ecojustice Journey. Registration now open!

* Explore the ecologies and meet the people who intimately know and love the Patuxent river.
* Search biblical foundations that help us be attentive to and better care for creation.

Cost: $200 (scholarships available upon request). Spaces available: 10.

Who can apply? United Methodist women from those counties thru which the Patuxent River flows including Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince Georges, Calvert County, Charles County, St. Mary's County, Anne Arundel County.

On this sojourn you will:
* Explore with us the history, ecology and the concerns of the Patuxent River from its headwater to the Chesapeake Bay via kayak, van rides, short hikes and outdoor camping under the stars.
* Pray, find time for nature-filled silence, meditate and experience God.
* Learn from those who can help us understand the historical, ecological, political and economic policies that have influenced the river and the peoples it's sustained.
* Learn about the causes and effects, cautions and actions the river and its communities need in order to slow the effects of global warming.
* Go home ready to present to others some of the actions we need to undertake in order to transform ourselves for the sake of standing in solidarity with that which is beautiful.

For more information: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org
Contact: Kathleen Stone, Office of Environmental & Economic Justice kstone@unitedmethodistwomen.org
or Janis Rosheuve, I Office of Racial Justice jrosheuvel@unitedmethodistwomen.org

Note: We will teach you how to paddle, but you must be willing to be in a life jacket on a river in your own kayak. You must also be excited to camp and sleep in a tent. This is an unplugged event-meaning there will be no electronic devices (except cameras), including phones. We will have a phone on board for emergencies. This is a program of United Methodist Women from the Office of Environmental and Economic Justice. Its goal is to learn the specific ecological causes and effects of global warming and empower us to be more effective educators and organizers for the sake of the earth and her people.

Legacy Leadership Environmental Institute

Now in its 6th year, The Legacy Leadership Environmental Institute* (LLEI) holds 8 weeks of classes and field trips on Thursdays, Feb 6 to March 27, 2014, 9 am to 3:45 pm. For more information and sample curriculum go to http://www.howardllie.com

Sign up NOW for a Phenomenal Opportunity in the New Year!
* Join others who care about the environment
* Meet experts in the field
* Volunteer your time

Make a difference in 2014!

* Earth system scientists from NASA and local universities and agencies
* Global climate change
* Regional environmental issues and policies
* Sustainability in the Chesapeake Bay and Howard County
* Non-positional leadership skills

Ages:18+
Fee: $100
Location: Howard County Extension, 3300 North Ridge Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21043
Carpool to NASA Goddard Space Flight Center for two-day field trip.

This non-credit course is co-sponsored by the Legacy Leadership Institute for the Environment and Howard Community College. To register online, go to http://www.hccexpress.net
Congratulations and Farewell:

With both sadness and warm wishes we bid a farewell in the New Year to Lauren Webster who has served as Restoration and Volunteer coordinator for eight years here at Patuxent Riverkeeper. Lauren’s service both to the river and to our organization has been incalculable. Her detailed understanding of the river and the communities we serve has been extraordinary and will be hard to replace. As a key organizer of the Patuxent Annual Cleanups, the Patuxent Sojourns, The Patuxent Rightness and the Patuxent Water Trail Lauren has always given 100% and far more hours and commitment than the organization could ever compensate her for. Lauren left Patuxent Riverkeeper at the end of 2013 in order to pursue new work opportunities and fresh career horizons with her heart as ever set on the Patuxent River. Join us in wishing her bon voyage and happy water trails.

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday April 12, 2014 THE ANNUAL PATUXENT RIVER CLEANUP

The Annual Patuxent River Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday April 12, 2014. If you are interested in leading a site or know of a location that needs a helping hand contact Fred@paxriverkeeper.org

ANNUAL TEEN RIVER SOJOURN DATES ANNOUNCED!

The 2014 Teen River Sojourn hosted by the Jug Bay Wetland Sanctuary will be held July 14-18 & July 28-August 1 2014. Stay tuned for registration links when these become available.