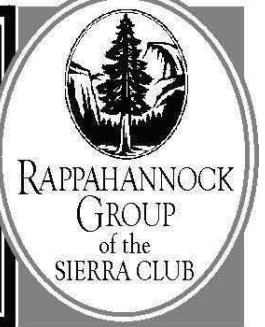


APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2014

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Serving the Residents of
Culpeper, Orange, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Fredericksburg,
Caroline, King George



EARTH DAY 2014

Earth Day On the Rappahannock

Saturday April 12, 2014
Old Mill Park, Fredericksburg
11 am to 3 pm FREE
(Rain date April 19th)

Organized by the Fredericksburg Department of Parks and Recreation. RGSC is a co-sponsor of this annual family event. Environmental educational activities, food and fun! RGSC booth volunteers always appreciated. Contact Linda: lcmuller(at)mindspring.com or Paula paulachow(at)gmail.com See related article on front page for more info.

RGSC FILM SCREENING "CHASING ICE"

Thursday April 17, 2014
7-9pm (doors open at 6:30)
Central Rappahannock Library
1201 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg

Award winning-visually stunning documentary film on the impacts of climate change. National Geographic photographer James Balog illustrates climate change with time-lapsed records of glacial retreat. Seeing IS believing. Free and open to the public. Light refreshments served. Bring a friend! For more information contact:
Linda : lcmuller(at)mindspring.com



EARTH DAY ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK

By Paula Chow

Climate change is upon us and perhaps this may be the perfect opportunity to make yet one more commitment to take action. Come to Earth Day on the Rappahannock at Old Mill Park on Saturday, April 12th from 11:00am to 3:00pm (rain date is April 19th). This is **the 11th anniversary** of the festival organized by Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation's Nature Education Coordinator Linda Bailey. Rappahannock Group is a co-sponsor of the event.

This will be the second year the Earth Day Festival is applying for a "Green Event" certification. The festival and all of its participants must meet certain standards, ie., minimal brochures and handouts, all beverages must be sold in recyclable or biodegradable containers (including aluminum, plastic and glass), no polystyrene, no straws and more. This year's theme is "Don't Treat Soil Like Dirt" and exhibitors are encouraged to work the theme into their displays. Rappahannock Group will also present a "Living Green" award to a local business and/or organization that demonstrates a commitment "green" practices.

Fredericksburg Mayor Greenlaw will open the event with a brief presentation. This is also the second year of awarding a prize for best display booths, one in each category of non-profit/private and commercial.

The first Earth Day was held across the country on April 22, 1970 as an action to increase awareness about pollution and other environmental concerns. In December 1970, in response to the public's demand for cleaner air, water and land, President Nixon created the Environmental Protection Agency. (cont pg 2)

Cont - Earth Day by P. Chow

Today, the public continues to step up and turn their concerns about the planet into action.

Many individuals often feel overwhelmed with attempts to change their habits or to implement a greener practice into their lives. The Earth Day festival provides a culture rich setting with simple and quick hands on activities, ideas, presentations, information and education for every attendee young, middle-aged or senior. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and come away with another idea on how to protect nature.

Environmental stewardship is easy and can be made simple by just taking on one new commitment at a time. But the key is a commitment to doing it. Your efforts can multiply by influencing others. So bring some friends along with your family to the Earth Day festival on April 12th and make a difference.

Connect with Rappahannock Group Sierra Club



RAPPAHANNOCK GROUP
SIERRA CLUB

“Like” US On FACEBOOK!

RGSC Website

<http://virginia.sierraclub.org/rg/>

RGSC Email News Group sign-up

rappsierragroup@gmail.com

Mailing Address

RGSC

P.O. Box 7972

Fredericksburg, VA 22404

Earth Day-Every Day-IYOBY* (*in your own backyard)

I remember my first Earth Day "celebration". It was April 22, 1970, and I was a 7th grader at John H. Springman Jr. High. Our home room teacher, Mr. Adelman, didn't offer any plans or events for the special day. We gazed out of the classroom window with envy as we watched another class conduct a litter pick up in the school courtyard. It was a beautiful spring day and I remember wanting to be outside (and away from the confines of the classroom) "I'll have to plan something next year.", Mr. Adelman promised.

We didn't know on that first Earth Day over 40 years ago that care and concern for our planet's ecosystems and natural resources would encompass more than one day of the year. And while a whole world view of protecting the planet seems daunting-it's as simple as starting in your own "backyard". "Backyard" could include your neighborhood, community, city, or county. In other words, where you live, work and play. We all pay special attention to environmental matters that can impact our quality of life. Whether its ensuring clean air, clean water, a healthy food supply, maintaining open green spaces, or preserving and protecting delicate ecosystems, locally engaged citizens can make a difference in their own "backyard".

Over recent months, local citizens have engaged in community dialogue and debate on pressing issues such as waste incineration, uranium mining, hydraulic fracturing (fracking), and more recently land applications of biosolids (a.k.a. sludge). It is important to remain engaged in these local issues as they can impact quality of life.

I hope you can join fellow RGSC members and friends at this year's 11th annual Earth Day Festival celebrated along the Rappahannock River at Old Mill Park, Fredericksburg. Ms. Linda Bailey of the Fredericksburg Department of Parks and Recreation is credited with organizing another family friendly and educational event. RGSC is a co-sponsor and RGSC Program Chair Paula Chow, who wears several hats, deserves a round of KUDOS for her co-organizing efforts. We are also excited to offer a free screening of "Chasing Ice" on April 17, 2014. Join Us!

Yours in Exploring, Enjoying and Protecting the Planet(IYOBY)

Linda C. Muller
Chair, Rappahannock Group

RecycleMania

by **Katie Armstrong**
(UMW Student/RGSC Intern)

The Ecology Club at the University of Mary Washington is one of several on-campus organizations that promote environmental sustainability. Members attend trash hikes along the Rappahannock River, work on community gardening, and participate in promoting RecycleMania, a national recycling event. Weekly meetings keep students engaged and focused on working towards a more sustainable future.

A greenhouse made of recycled 2 liter bottles is the focal point of the on-campus community garden that the Ecology Club has been working on since this past fall. Ecology Club has made sure to involve the wider student body in the process, by working on construction of the greenhouse during school wide events. The garden, with the help of the greenhouse, will hopefully be able to provide fresh produce to students in the coming months.

RecycleMania is an eight week competition aimed at promoting sustainability on colleges across the country, running through February and March. During this period, recycling from campus receptacles is collected, weighed, and tallied. According to the most recent data, the University of Mary Washington was ranked first among 311 colleges in per capita recycling for the 2014 competition. This is a vast improvement from finishing 233rd in 2011 and then 18th in 2012. This success reflects the huge strides that the University has made in recent years in regards to sustainability.



RGSC Programs/Co-sponsored Events

Saturday April 12, 11:00 am - 3 pm (rain date April 19)

Earth Day On the Rappahannock (RGSC co-sponsor)

Old Mill Park, Fredericksburg Contact Paula paulachow132(at)gmail.com or Linda: lcmuller(at)mindspring.com FREE

Thursday April 17 7 pm to 9 pm doors open at 6:30

Film Screening: "Chasing Ice" (RGSC Program)

Central Rappahannock Library 1201 Caroline St. Fredericksburg
FREE film is approx 75 minutes

SAVE THE DATES

June 14, 2014 Annual RGSC Members & Friends Potluck Pick-up and Picnic
Alum Spring Park. @ **11 am-1 pm**

Thursday September 11, 2014 RGSC Annual Fall Open House 7-9pm

Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, 308 Hanover-enter @ Charlotte Street.

September 26-28th VA Chapter Sierra Club Annual Gathering

RGSC In The Community-Events

(RGSC tabling @ events)

Thursday April 17 Earth Day at Ft. A.P. Hill-Caroline County

RGSC supports this annual Earth Day event at Fort A.P. Hill. This is a special day for area students and teachers to explore Ft. A.P. Hill and enjoy educational booths and displays

Thursday April 24 GEICO Earth Day-Eco Week-Stafford County

RGSC is supporting GEICO's ECO-Week event in Stafford County.

Saturday May 17 Fork It Over Festival-Fredericksburg

Downtown Greens-annual fundraiser/sale. A Community Garden Fair-free and open to the public. More info: <http://downtowngreens.org/>

Saturday June 7 Green Paddle Event-Old Mill Park Fredericksburg

1pm. Sponsored by the American Canoe Association. Learn to Stand Up Paddle (SUP) kayak, canoe or compete in races for all ages. More info: <http://www.americancanoe.org/>

Outings

There are many outings offered via SCPRO- Sierra Club's Potomac Outings Program. Please contact the SCPRO website for listings:

<http://www.sierrapotomac.org/>

Additional Hiking/Outings Non Sierra Club:

Northern Virginia Hiking Club:

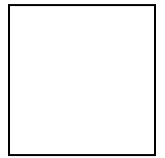
<http://www.nvhc.com/>

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club:

<http://www.patc.net/PublicView/>

**Rappahannock Group of the Sierra
Club**

**PO Box 7972
Fredericksburg, VA 22402**



**Earth Day On the
Rappahannock!
April 12 2014**

**"Chasing Ice"
April 17, 2014
see pg 1 for details**

**Walnut Hill Farm, LLC
449 Kellogg Mill Road
Falmouth, VA 22406**

<http://walnuthillfarmva.com/site/>

**2013 RGSC's Green Living
Award**