

Wild & Scenic Film Fest

March 19, 2016, from 8 AM to 12 PM

Paragon Village 12

51 Towne Centre Blvd,
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22407

Rappahannock Group Fall Open House

Wednesday September 7, 2016,
from 7-8:30PM

Location: Central Library Theatre,
in Fredericksburg

Guest Speakers: TBD

Lead is an insidious neurotoxin toxin that is not safe at any level. Lead has an especially deleterious impact on babies and children. The Flint water catastrophe has generated national and international headlines, and the residents of Flint continue to struggle and work with local, state, and national agencies to help clean up and correct. The long term health impact from the lead exposure is incalculable.

Dominion's Possum Point Toxic Coal Ash Ponds: "Seep & Release" in Fresh Water Sources

The Possum Point Power Station is located in Quantico, VA. Up until 2003, Possum Point operated as a coal fired plant and has 5 coal ash ponds, four of which are unlined. Pond D is a partially lined pond and can hold over a billion gallons of toxic ash waste and water.

In 2014 Potomac Riverkeeper Network discovered that all five ponds at Possum Point were seeping directly into Quantico Creek or leaching coal ash waste into local groundwater.

Because of new EPA regulations, Dominion is required to properly dispose of the coal ash. Instead of removing the coal ash and depositing the coal ash in a lined landfill, Dominion Power was granted a discharge permit by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. That permit allows Dominion to dump tens of millions of gallons of toxic coal ash waste pond water directly into Quantico Creek, where it will flow into the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. Hundreds of citizens, along with local and state representatives strongly opposed the permit. It is being challenged in several lawsuits with the hope that the permit will be rescinded.

Coal Ash: Toxic/Heavy Metals EPA 2010 Draft Report

In 2010 EPA issued a draft report titled "Human and Ecological Risk Assessment of Coal Combustion Wastes". The report included a review of the toxic content of coal ash, finding that it contains **lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, selenium, boron, and other toxic chemicals.**

The report also stated: "The Coal Combustion Waste (CCW) risk assessment suggests that the management of CCW in unlined landfills and unlined surface impoundments may present risks to human health and the environment."

Physicians for Social Responsibility issued a memo on the

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Earth Day - RGSC is one of the several organizations (or individuals) volunteering with the City of Fredericksburg Dept. of Parks & Recreation to plan the annual Earth Day on the Rappahannock every April. The planning meetings are chaired by Linda Bailey who coordinates the ever growing Earth Day event. Meetings are held once a month on a Friday at 9:00am beginning in October through April at Eileen's Cafe and Bakery on Caroline Street in Fredericksburg. Volunteers need not commit to major amounts of time, rather, whatever capacity a volunteer can serve will be helpful. If you are interested in helping out for even a few hours, contact Paula Chow at paulachow132@gmail.com and enter "Earth Day" on the subject line.

Fracking - Anyone interested in helping to educate residents of Caroline County about FRACKING, contact Paula Chow - paulachow132@gmail.com.

impacts the coal ash, stating "The toxic substances found in coal ash can inflict grave damage to the human body and the environment. These substances have been shown to escape from some coal ash disposal sites, contaminating the air, land, surface waters, and/or underground aquifers that feed drinking water wells."

The Common Denominator: Citizens Must Act

The common thread that runs through Flint and Possum Point is citizens deserve clean, safe, healthy water. We may be given assurances that permits are properly adhered to, that all the "i's" are dotted and the "t's" are crossed in the paperwork, and everything is "ok". But that is not always the case. When circumstances and evidence show otherwise, citizens *must* take action. This is the case now in Flint, MI, and Possum Point, Prince William County, Virginia.

References and Resources:

Potomac Riverkeepers Network, Possum Point Coal Ash

<http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/possum-point>

EPA 2010 Coal Combustion Waste Draft Report, <http://earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/library/reports/epa-coal-combustion-waste-risk-assessment.pdf>

Physicians for Social Responsibility,

<http://www.psr.org/assets/pdfs/coal-ash-toxics-damaging-to-human-health.pdf>

Sierra Club-Coal Ash, <http://content.sierraclub.org/coal/disposal-ash-waste>

Flint Water Study, <http://flintwaterstudy.org>

Yours in enjoying, exploring and protecting the planet.

Linda C. Muller

Tips

Topic: Restaurant leftovers (doggie bag)

Stash wide mouth glass jars with their lids in reusable wine bottle carrier bags in the car. When you go to a restaurant where you know you won't finish the meal, bring this bag in with you to take home the leftovers. The glass is protected from breaking with the dividers of the bag, the lids ensure no leakage, plastic containers can contain BPA and there is nothing to toss in the landfill.

Freezing food

Some food does really well when frozen, such as oranges, lemons, limes, bananas, and avocados. These citrus fruits are almost the same when you take them out as when you put them in. If you need zest, scrape the skin while frozen, and return them back to the freezer. Bananas can be frozen in their skins. Avocados can be skinned, de-pitted, and frozen.

Conservation Chair Update

By Bill Johnson

Fracking: Ms. Ruby Brabo was reelected to the King George County Board of Supervisors (BOS) and was then elected as the Board Chairperson. That is good news for trying to get fracking Zoning Regulations and Comprehensive Plan changes for King George County. A bill was introduced into the Virginia legislature (Senate Bill 776) to allow companies to declare that fracking chemicals they use are “trade secrets”, and so exempt them from Freedom of Information Act requests, except under limited emergency conditions. That bill was shelved for this year, but it is clearly on the fracking industry’s wish list, and so might be resurrected again.

Coal Ash: Dominion Power was given a permit by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to dump toxic coal ash water into Quantico Creek and into the Potomac River. That poisoned water goes right past Stafford County and into the Chesapeake Bay. Coal ash water contains many, many toxins, including arsenic, mercury, lead, selenium, boron, cadmium, salt bromides, nitrogen, and phosphorus, along with a host of other heavy metals and poisons. Dominion previously dumped 33.7 million gallons of toxic coal ash water in 2015 from Possum Point, initially denying it. Dominion later admitted that they had done it after the Potomac Riverkeepers Network proved it was true. DEQ supposedly knew about those and other discharges. See the article dated 2/8/16 in InsideNoVa: http://www.insidenova.com/headlines/exclusive-dominion-released-millions-of-gallons-of-coal-ash-water/article_02a2700e-ce8b-11e5-9370-aff33f0f4afb.html.

On February 9, 2016, the Prince William County (PWC) Board of Supervisors (BOS) invited DEQ to make a presentation about that permit at a BOS meeting. The link to that presentation is here:

[http://eservice.pwcgov.org/documents/bocs/agendas/2016/0209/5-A\(1\).pdf](http://eservice.pwcgov.org/documents/bocs/agendas/2016/0209/5-A(1).pdf)

The Mayor of Quantico sent a representative to the BOS meeting, asking them to take action to oppose the permit. RGSC spoke against the permit, citing multiple toxins contained in the water. The presentation was followed by Virginia Riverkeepers and the Virginia Fisheries Commission who are adamantly opposed to dumping the toxic water into Quantico Creek because of its impact on the commercial fishing industry. There are rockfish spawning grounds, commercial blue catfish and American Shad fisheries all nearby. In a closed session afterwards, the PWC BOS set aside \$100,000 to sue DEW to try and get the permit rescinded. See the following article on Fredericksburg.com on this. http://www.fredericksburg.com/news/va_md_dc/river-association-challenges-utility-s-coal-ash-permit/article_4d6572eb-7d91-5382-8356-861e888c9342.html#user-

RGSC Board Member

Contacts:

Chair: Linda C. Muller,
lcmuller@mindspring.com

Vice Chair, Bill Johnson,
billatthelake@comcast.net

Program Chair: Paula Chow,
paulachow132@gmail.com

Treasurer: Diana Johnson,
dianaatthelake@comcast.net

Secretary/UMW Intern, currently
seeking a candidate

Membership & Board Member:
Michael Johnson,
johnson2000m@aol.com

Webmaster & Board Member:
Doug Ferguson,
dougferg@verizon.net

Conservation Chair: Bill Johnson,
billatthelake@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor: Bill Johnson,
billatthelake@comcast.net

Email Coordinator:

[comment-area](#)

That is the second lawsuit filed against DEQ for issuing permits to allow Dominion to dump coal ash water into Virginia waterways. The Southern Environmental Law Center is suing DEQ to stop a similar toxic water release into the James River.

Maryland Governor has sent questions to the VA DEQ and may also get involved in a lawsuit to stop the permit, as the Potomac River is their water.

Recycling: Stafford and Fredericksburg now pay haulers \$12.50 per ton to take recyclables away from the landfill. This is a direct result of the downturn in the value of recyclables plus the implementation of Single-stream recycling.

Lobbying Day: RGSC attended lobbying day

Earth Day Art Open Call: RGSC met with Professor DiBella, UMW Art Department, to talk about our 2nd Annual Open Call for Environmentally-Aware Art for Earth Day 2016. Our flyer was approved by UMW and delivered to the art department for distribution to art students.

Solar Schools Initiative: The Stafford School Board postponed a meeting in January to discuss the Solar Schools Initiative and it has not been rescheduled.

Clean Power Plan (CPP): The Supreme Court has issued a stay on EPA's implementation of the CPP. Governor McAuliffe has agreed to proceed with state-wide implementation plans. The death of Justice Scalia will have some impact on the ultimate decision. If the Court is deadlocked at 4-4, then whatever the lower court's ruling is, will stand. This complicates the promises made at the Paris Climate Talks, regarding reducing CO2 emissions.

Mountain Valley Pipeline: The Forest Service rejected Dominion Power's proposed route through the National Forests. They are resubmitting a new route that will impact more homes and farms.

100th Anniversary of National Park Service: The Sierra Club is participating with the Forest Service in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Park Service.

Chapter Director: Glen Besa is retiring after 20 years in the Sierra Club. Kate Addleson has been selected as the new Director.

Senator Kaine: RGSC and the League of Conservation Voters met with Senator Kaine's aide, Joe Montano in Manassas on February 17th, to discuss Coal Ash, the Clean Power Plan, and Offshore Drilling. Nothing was changed, but it was a friendly exchange of thoughts.

Offshore Drilling: BOEM will soon issue its 5-year plan and there is a glimmer of hope that the Atlantic will be declared off-limits

RGSC Email News Group send an email to sign-up

rappsierragroup@gmail.com

RGSC Mailing Address:

RGSC
P.O. Box 7972
Fredericksburg, VA 22404

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS/ LINKS

Virginia Conservation Network
www.vcnva.org

Virginia League of Conservation
Voters
www.valcv.org

Southern Environmental Law
Center
www.southernenvironment.org

Friends of the Rappahannock
www.riverfriends.org

Tree Fredericksburg
www.treefredericksburg.org

for offshore drilling. It is only a glimmer, as our 2 Senators and our Governor are in favor of allowing it, despite the almost universal outcry against it.

Dominion Power: Dominion has been caught dumping toxic coal ash into our waterways and DEQ issued a permit to allow it, after the fact. Dominion also spilled 13,500 gallons of oil similar to home-heating oil into the Potomac. They initially denied it, but after it was proven to be a direct consequence of a transformer failure at Dominion's Crystal City substation in Arlington, they admitted it. The oil spill coated 8 miles of the Potomac River, leaving over 60 birds covered in oil. In total, the spill killed 29 birds and 2 mammals, as well as fish. 34 additional birds, mainly Canadian geese, were taken to a facility in Delaware to be cleaned and treated. So far, DEQ issued a notice of violation and, believe it or not, DEQ will negotiate with Dominion to set a fine. See the link below for some of the images and their attribution:

https://drive.google.com/a/chesapeakeclimate.org/folderview?id=0B3HUMqHPYqhTRHBjb01UQnV3d00&usp=drive_web&ddrp=1#

Program Chair Update

By Paula Chow

EARTH DAY ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK CELEBRATES ITS 13TH ANNIVERSARY

Mother Nature's living creatures are celebrating Earth Day on the Rappahannock at Old Mill Park on Saturday, April 23rd from 11:00am to 4:00pm (rain date is April 30th). This is the thirteenth anniversary of the festival organized by Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation's Nature Education Coordinator Linda Bailey. She has brought together a volunteer committee who works to bring in new vendors called exhibitors as well as returning vendors, food vendors, music, awards and entertainment.

The festival is a certified "Green Event" whereby all recyclables are collected and weighed, food vendors are required to avoid polystyrene, plastic containers, plastic straws and selling bottled water. A water station is centered in the middle of the festival. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles but there will also be paper cups and free sterilized used water bottles to use and take away. Water stations for pets will

be available around the festival.

RGSC is a presenter and spends many volunteer hours helping toward this successful festival. The Living Green Award is presented annually at this festival by RGSC to a business or organization in the membership catchment area that has demonstrated environmental stewardship. Anyone can nominate a business or organization for this award. There is an application for the nomination and Sierra Club members can help the community discover environmentally friendly and progressive businesses and organizations. (See article on Living Green Award this issue.)

RGSC is also coordinating the recruitment of high school students to be judges of the display booths for three categories - Most Hands-On, Most Creative and Best Educational Idea.

RGSC's display booth this year will feature the 2nd Annual Student Art Invitational. RGSC has invited student artists from UMW to submit original art for the April 23, 2016 Earth Day Event at Old Mill Park. The theme of submissions is Renewable Energy and Climate Change. Credit will be given to the artist at RGSC events and posters may be made of the images for use within nationwide Sierra Club chapters. Four monetary awards will be made: Changing Landscapes, Rising Seas, Wildlife at Risk, and Climate Change Is Real.

The festival is family friendly with a diversity of exhibits, activities, presentations, educational booths and encouragement to just enjoy the setting. There will be ongoing live music, a variety of food trucks, raffles for a kayak and many other great prizes, live animals, Zumba demonstration, awards and so much more. This festival has become one of the region's most popular free events. Visit the website at www.earthdayfred.com.

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

NOMINATE A LIVING GREEN AWARD BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION FOR 2016

RGSC created the Living Green Award in 2010 to recognize businesses and organizations that have taken steps and acted to help the earth and environment. The award of a certificate is presented at the Annual Earth Day on the Rappahannock festival every April.

Who is eligible? Any business or organization in Caroline, Culpeper, King George, Orange, Stafford, Spotsylvania, and Westmorland Counties, and the city of Fredericksburg that has taken independent steps to help the planet through living green actions.

Who may nominate a business? Nominations may be submitted by the public, employees, or the owners themselves. RGSC encourages its members to find potential nominees to publicize the community of environmental stewards.

The nominee documents examples of their environmental stewardship and the measurable results which could include cost savings and the impact on the employees and workplace as well as the environment. The Executive Committee reviews the nominees' applications by March 31 each year to select the year's award winner(s).

The names of all businesses and organizations that are awarded are published in our newsletter, website and on our Facebook page with our endorsement to patronize and support these local businesses and organizations that take steps toward "Living Green." The details of the accomplishments of the winner of the Living Green Award are published on RGSC's website.

The past Living Green Award winners with the year awarded:

2015	Aikido Fredericksburg
2014	UMW Greenhouse & Stafford Printing
2013	Marstel Day & Walnut Hill Farms
2012	Harvest Market
2011	Bistro Bethem & Foode
2010	Ten Thousand Villages & Hyperion Espresso

There are probably many businesses and organizations that promote environmental stewardship in their policy and practices and you patronize them. They need recognition for their efforts and we want to know who they are. Help us find nominees.