



May and June 2016

## NEWSLETTER

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



### **Second Annual SOLARIZE Campaign Pre-Solar Workshop**

Saturday, May 21 at  
10:00am at the Central  
Rappahannock Library.  
This will familiarize  
homeowners with energy  
efficiency, cost-saving  
measures that they can take  
in their homes before  
installing solar.

### **Second Annual SOLARIZE Campaign, Solar Energy Information Session**

June 1, from 6:30pm -8 pm, at  
the Free-Lance Star, 616  
Amelia Street,  
Fredericksburg, for  
homeowners and businesses  
who want to install solar  
energy systems at reduced  
prices.

### **Memo From the Chair**

**By Linda C. Muller**

#### **Happy 100th Birthday National Park : 400+ Reasons to Celebrate**

I admit it. It was love at first sight in June 1980 when I first visited Shenandoah National Park. It was green, lush, and full of wild life. The bluish tint mountains looked beautiful in the distance. That summer I also visited Manassas National Battlefield Park as well as the many monuments on the National Mall. It was a fantastic summer vacation and left an indelible impression on me.

America's National Park System is celebrating 100 years of preserving and protecting our amazing wild places and historic sites. The National Parks Service was officially established on August 25, 1916. Sierra Club founder, naturalist and conservationist **John Muir** fought to protect the wild places he loved, and his writings convinced the U.S. government to protect Yosemite, Sequoia, Grand Canyon and Mt. Rainier as national parks. This year's Centennial celebration includes the 50+ National Parks as well as National Historic Districts, National Monuments, National Military Parks and even National Seashores (over 400+ parks in all!). The Sierra Club has joined in with the festivities and offers special listings of outings and events on the Sierra Club website:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/nps100>

**The Sierra Club Potomac Regional Outings** has special hiking and backpacking events in the VA, MD, and DC region to help celebrate the National Park Centennial. You can find the listings at the SCPRO website:

<http://sierrapotomac.org/events.htm>

## Rock the River Festival

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Old Mill Park, Fredericksburg,  
on June 4th,  
from noon to 6 pm.

## Rappahannock Group Fall Open House

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

Location: Central Library Theatre,  
in Fredericksburg

Guest Speakers: TBD

For members and friends in the Rappahannock Region who prefer to enjoy and celebrate National Parks closer to home, be sure to check out these three National Park Sites

1) **Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Fredericksburg, VA**

<https://www.nps.gov/FRSP/index.htm>

2) **George Washington Birthplace, Colonial Beach, VA**

<https://www.nps.gov/GEWA/index.htm>

3) **Prince William Forest Park, Dumfries VA**

<https://www.nps.gov/PRWI/index.htm>

For a complete listing of National Park Service Centennial Listings:

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/centennial/index.htm>

**National Park listings in Virginia:**

<https://www.nps.gov/state/va/index.htm>

**Calling All 4th Graders: "Every Kid In A Park"** : Just in time for Summer Vacation.

"Every Kid In A Park" is a special program runs through **August 2016** and provides free park passes to 4th Graders (and includes family too). Visit <https://www.everykidinapark.gov> for more information.

I encourage our membership and friends to visit and enjoy our National Parks this year (and every year). They are America's magnificent gift for each of us to enjoy today and to preserve for future generations. If you have a story or pic to share about your National Park visit, we'd love to share it. Amazing stories always welcomed! And yes, I will be visiting a National Park or two this summer.

Yours in Exploring, Enjoying and Protecting the Planet,

Linda C. Muller

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:paulachow132@gmail.com).

## **Conservation Chair Update**

**By Bill Johnson**

**Chapter Director:** Glen Besa retired after 20 years in the Sierra Club. Kate Addleson has become the new Director. A retirement Party in Richmond was held May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Coal Ash:** The Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) and the Virginia Riverkeepers are continuing to pursue the lawsuit against DEQ to prevent dumping coal ash water into the James River. Additionally, activists are being mobilized to prevent Dominion from being allowed by DEQ to leave coal ash in unlined pits at Possum Point, where they can cause significant harm to the local aquifer. Dewatering (dumping water into Quantico Creek) has already begun at Possum Point.

We have also been in contact with the King George County Board of Supervisor Chairperson, Ms. Ruby Brabo, about King George's use of coal ash as an alternative daily cover at the landfill. That coal ash comes from the Birchwood Coal Firing Co-Generation Plant in King George County. We have asked whether residents have been warned to have their wells tested for coal ash toxins, but have not yet received a response.

RGSC is supporting critical well testing for coal ash pollutants in Quantico Creek. We provided financial support from our tax-exempt foundation funds to Potomac Riverkeepers, a not-for-profit conservation organization, that is conducting well testing to track possible toxic pollutants from coal ash.

You might want to read the following 2 articles:

[http://www.richmond.com/business/article\\_a494fb4d-a458-58b7-8cb1-20a257353527.html](http://www.richmond.com/business/article_a494fb4d-a458-58b7-8cb1-20a257353527.html)

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2016/05/10/3776486/dominion-coal-ash-pit-raises-leaching-concerns/>

**Clean Power Plan (CPP):** The Supreme Court issued a temporary stay on EPA's implementation of the CPP. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit will consider briefs and arguments starting June 2, and has agreed to do so on an expedited schedule; a ruling is expected later this year. The Supreme Court has already upheld the EPA's authority to limit carbon pollution from power plants under the Clean Air Act. Virginia is one of the few states where both the Governor and Attorney General have committed to moving forward with the CPP. However, the Virginia legislature imposed a budget amendment that prevents the DEQ Air Board from using state funding to prepare or submit a compliance plan until the stay is released. However, other areas within DEQ, the Governor's

## 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.

### Japanese Beetles

Now is the time to plan this year's attack on these destructive pests, without pesticides! I have some native grape vines that these buggers love, so that's where the battle takes place. You need to determine which plants they are attracted to in your yard, and focus your efforts there. The key to controlling them is to be proactive each day. I put some water with a squirt of soap into a small bucket, and hold it under the grape leaves. Early in the day they seem too busy eating to pay much attention to me; but if they notice me, most beetles drop straight down to escape. Yes, right into the strategically placed bucket of soapy water, where they quickly drown. If they don't do their nose dive, I grab the leaf

office, or other Commonwealth Departments could work on it. The Virginia legislature approved a bill that would have required the governor to get the General Assembly's approval for any plan to implement the federal rule, but it was vetoed.

**Dominion Power:** Dominion recently made headlines for filing an amicus brief calling the Clean Power Plan's goals "feasible". However, their approach will cause a 60% increase in greenhouse gas emissions using a "rate-based" plan. Multiple environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, sent a letter to McAuliffe urging him to strictly interpret the Clean Power Plan's call for a 30 percent cut in carbon pollution by 2030, which would reject Dominion's position that new natural-gas-fired plants be excluded. Dominion's preference would set a limit on carbon dioxide emissions per megawatt hour of electricity produced, rather than the more environmentally-responsive approach that calls for a flat tonnage cap on total carbon dioxide emissions, called a "mass-based" plan. That approach would force Dominion to rely more heavily on solar, wind, and other cleaner technologies instead of coal and gas. Dominion is still trying to build another nuclear power plant at Lake Anna, despite its estimated \$19B cost and despite its location on a geological fault that saw a 5.8 Richter scale earthquake in 2011.

**Offshore Drilling:** BOEM issued its 5-year plan and removed the Atlantic from offshore drilling for the next 5 years. Our 2 Senators and Governor were in favor of allowing offshore drilling, despite the almost universal outcry against it. Their reaction to BOEM's decision was muted. There is still an issue about whether the Obama Administration will allow any offshore drilling in the Arctic and the Gulf of Mexico.

**Methane:** EPA has just released new regulations to try to control the release of methane gas from new pipelines and compressor stations. They will follow up those regulations with further regulations that address existing drilling operations. Methane gas is far more potent, as much as 80x, in causing global warming than CO<sub>2</sub>, but it dissipates in the atmosphere much quicker than CO<sub>2</sub>. Still, continuous emissions of methane will cause significant long-term damage to the climate.

**Massaponax Creek, Spotsylvania:** We have been contacted by a Spotsy resident about wet lands located near her house, and the impact County development plans are having on the area. Yards are eroding, standing water is pooling in back yards, wild life is diminishing, trees are being removed, and there is an oil film on the water. The County's development plan is to run a pipeline thru the area to develop a walking path. We have been discussing possible actions that homeowners can take and will continue to follow up with this issue.

**Pipelines:** A state historic preservation organization,

and shake them into the bucket. This requires a multi-year attack on those beetles, but if you do so, you eventually eliminate the pests. Get out there and win the war, safely!

### **Topic: Car Traveling Vacation**

If you're planning a trip far or near where you stay at motels en route, there's a great way to reduce your carbon footprint by this simple tip. Before your trip, prepare a bag of dining supplies- plates, bowls, cups, mugs, silverware, cloth napkins and a couple of dishtowels. They can be hardy plastic, Melamine or Corelle ware that is durable and lightweight. This bag does not take up much room and the environmental savings is tremendous. The breakfast bars at all the motels only offer polystyrene which we all know is horrific for the environment. Bring your bag of dining ware to breakfast. Most breakfast bars have a sink where you can rinse/wash the dishes right there, or just bring them back to your room to wash. This will take an extra 3 - 5 minutes of your time.

Preservation Virginia, is sounding the alarm over the potential threat posed by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and other proposed utility projects to a trio of sensitive assets in their paths – an early 19th-century archaeological site at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Nelson County, a community rooted in post-Civil War emancipation in Buckingham County, and a scenic crossing of the Rappahannock River near the Chesapeake Bay. Dominion continues to try to build the unnecessary pipeline, to lock residents into gas-fired electricity, rather than renewable energy sources.

The Sierra Club is pushing FERC to require a Programmatic Environmental Impact Study (PEIS) to consider the impact of all of the Pipelines proposed for Virginia and West Virginia, instead of simply looking at each pipeline individually. There has been no regional study of the combined impacts that all of this infrastructure will have on the region. Instead of a piecemeal review of each individual pipeline, the FERC should look at the big picture: consolidate reviews of all proposed. Such a study can more adequately assess the cumulative impacts these fracked gas pipelines will have on our communities and our environment.

**Solar Power:** Solarize is a renewable energy initiative that saves money through bulk purchasing with the help of the non-profit Local, Energy Alliance Program (LEAP). The Climate, Environment and Resilience (CLEAR) initiative is again bringing reduced cost solar power to Fredericksburg, Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George, and Caroline counties. The campaign runs from June 1 to July 31. There will be a solar energy information session from 6:30pm -8 pm on June 1 at the Free-Lance Star, 616 Amelia Street, Fredericksburg, for homeowners and businesses who want to install solar energy systems at reduced prices. Registration is required; to register click [here](#).

Their website is: <http://solarizeva.org/getting-started/fredericksburg-signup/>

This year there will be a Pre-Solar Workshop on Saturday, May 21 at 10:00am at the Central Rappahannock Library to familiarize homeowners with energy efficiency, cost-saving measures that they can take in their homes before installing solar. Registration is required; to register click [here](#).

**RGSC Interns:** RGSC has been working with the University of Mary Washington (UMW) Ecology Club to attract UMW students to join us as interns and learn about the Sierra Club. We are talking with 2 candidates and may soon welcome them aboard.

**Wind Power and Wildlife:** The developer of the Botetourt Wind Farm has filed a plan with DEQ that attempts to avoid bat deaths from wind turbine blades. The blades will not spin during the



## Reduce, Recycle, and Reuse - Cloth Napkins

Do you have a drawer with napkin rings and cloth napkins that never see the light of day? Instead of using paper napkins, take those cloth napkins out and use them. They won't take up much space in the washing machine and save many trees and water in the making of paper napkins. Use different color or patterned napkins for each family member and reuse them if they are not dirty. Use those napkin rings also to identify each family member. Cloth napkins will set a tone of not wasting our precious resources on this earth.

Do you visit antique or thrift shops? There are usually many different types of cloth napkins there that have probably never been used and are very reasonably priced. I remember my mother having "company" napkins and tablecloths that were used only for company. I believe my everyday life is very special and I celebrate it every day, and you should too.

times they are most likely to kill flying bats. Apex Clean Energy will turn the turbines off from dusk to dawn every year between May 15 and Nov. 15, when bats are foraging for food. But they could remain on when the wind is blowing faster than 15 mph or when the temperature dips below 38 degrees, conditions that keep the bats grounded. Follow the link below to the story:

[http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/botetourt\\_county/botetourt-wind-farm-developer-files-plan-seeks-to-avoid-bat/article\\_7bfa3d47-70ed-5d7a-8de5-2e32c468a96e.html](http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/botetourt_county/botetourt-wind-farm-developer-files-plan-seeks-to-avoid-bat/article_7bfa3d47-70ed-5d7a-8de5-2e32c468a96e.html)

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## 2016 LIVING GREEN AWARD RECIPIENTS

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by **Paula Chow**

Earth Day on the Rappahannock is the event when RGSC's annual Living Green Award is given to a local business or organization that demonstrates and habitually practices sustainable and environmentally friendly policies. There were two recipients for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Living Green Award, BLENHEIM ORGANIC GARDENS and KICKSHAW'S DOWNTOWN MARKET. Take time to check them out!

Becky and Lawrence Latané are the farmers and owners of Blenheim Organic Gardens. Their son, Cameron, also works the farm and sells the produce at Hurkamp Farmers Market, Fredericksburg. As a certified organic farm, Blenheim Organic Gardens is based on sustainable concepts that protect and promote biological diversity, wildlife habitat and open space while producing crops without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Blenheim Organic Gardens is part of Blenheim Farm which they placed under a conservation easement held by the VA Outdoors Foundation to protect the farm from future development. They placed additional adjacent farmland of Haywood Farm on a similar conservation easement which prohibits subdivision, development, and oil and gas drilling.

Blenheim Organic Gardens composts all vegetable waste from their farm and produce packing operations. They donate their seconds and blemished produce. And, of course, they recycle everything that can be recycled.

Blenheim Organic Gardens reports that their soil health and crop productivity appears to be improving year by year along with beneficial insect populations on the farm.

## **RGSC Executive Committee (ExCom) Member Contacts:**

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Member: Jody Lochmiller,  
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UMW Intern, Kendal McGuire

They have a loyal customer following but continue to be challenged with making a living wage. They obviously love what they do.

Lawrence Latané is a former Board member of the VA Association for Biological Farming, an advocacy group that promotes organic and sustainable agriculture. He has received the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Environmental Stewardship Award in 2009 for his work covering the Chesapeake Bay for the Richmond Times-Dispatch newspaper.

BLENHEIM ORGANIC GARDENS is located at 737 Pope's Creek Road, Washington's Birthplace, VA 22443, (804) 224-7039, [blenheimorganic@gmail.com](mailto:blenheimorganic@gmail.com)

Kathy Craddock is the owner of Kickshaws Downtown Market, a small local market located in downtown Fredericksburg. While she strives to offer all the products the community is looking for to support a natural and healthy lifestyle, her focus also is about supporting the environment.

Kickshaws opened their store with repurposed materials including screws, nails, wood studs, pallets and wire coils to create the majority of their shelving and displays, reducing their environmental impact. When they need a new display, they will typically use the parts from a display that they no longer use.

On a daily basis Kickshaws utilizes recycled and compostable materials for all disposable goods. All bakery boxes are made with 100% recycled paper. They try to shy away from use of small containers like sample cups and straws whenever possible. They are working to open a Kitchen, intending to engage a local industrial composting company, Waverly Virginia, to take all compostable materials. Their overall plan is to make connections with the City of Fredericksburg to make industrial composting available to all city businesses and residents.

Supporting local agriculture and the local community helps reduce the environmental impact of shipping national products. Kickshaws' store inventory focuses to maintain at least 40% local product and depending on the season, that average is much higher. Kickshaws stocks local produce, meat, eggs, honey, dry goods, beverages and more. These products have traveled no more than 90 miles to reach the store. Kickshaws offers a reusable container discount program for some of their products such as on-tap kombucha, soups, and broths.

Kickshaws offers a wide variety of classes focused on health and

## Meet our new intern!



We are happy to announce our newest intern, Ms. Kendal McGuire. She will be working with RGSC

on environmental research, developing reports on climate change in Virginia. Kendal is a senior at the University of Mary Washington, majoring in Environmental Science. She is a member of the Ecology Club and has volunteered with several environmental groups. She has worked at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival with Friends of the Rappahannock and helped plant over 60 trees with Tree Fredericksburg. She has volunteered with FloydFest the past 3 years on the Green Team helping keep the area clean and trash free. She currently works at Bistro Bethem, which won the RGSC's Living Green Award.

Please welcome her aboard!

self-sufficiency, from gardening & cooking, to health and referrals. They carry Southern Exchange Seeds, a local seed exchange in Mineral, Virginia with the benefit that these seeds have been testing in our zone for growth.

Kickshaws is committed to always maintain a focus not only on health but on supporting and helping the local and national environment.

KICKSHAW'S DOWNTOWN MARKET is located at 101 William Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401, (540) 374-2080, [kickshawsdowntown@gmail.com](mailto:kickshawsdowntown@gmail.com)

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## Earth Day Festival Always a Popular Event

by **Paula Chow**

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day festival caught a small rain shower, but the crowds still came. RGSC's booth had plenty of things to learn. But the most popular were the bird feeders to give away - 45 handmade, wooden, burnished with "RGSC" and ready to decorate if so desired. These were made and donated by Ruth and Mike Carlone; their neighbor and friend, Mike Stekam, helped make them, with Linda Muller helping to burnish RGSC's name. It came with bird seeds and instructions about feeding wildlife birds.

In the afternoon on the stage, a special certificate of appreciation for volunteer work and support was given to Ruth Carlone. Over the many years, Ruth has provided ongoing support year-round to RGSC in various ways. She is a "behind-the-scenes" worker bee and deserves serious recognition. For many of the events RGSC tables, Ruth's efforts have been donated in some way. The certificate is a small way to acknowledge RGSC's appreciation.

As usual, the RGSC booth had lots of information about the issues in our region. There was also a petition to Senators Kaine and Warner to oppose the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), both senators having voted in favor of this dangerous bill.

There were about 50 pledges that children wrote to hang on a tree. Some of the pledges were: "Pick up litter even if it isn't mine," "I won't wastewater," "I am going to compost," "I will always remind my mom to bring a bag when we go shopping."

There was another pledge which some adults and children signed on a paper plate - pledging to not waste food. The display demonstrated the effects of food waste with water and energy



## RGSC Email News Group send an email to sign-up

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[rappsierragroup@gmail.com](mailto:rappsierragroup@gmail.com)

## RGSC Mailing Address:

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RGSC  
P.O. Box 7972  
Fredericksburg, VA 22404

## OTHER ORGANIZATIONS/ LINKS

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Virginia Conservation Network  
[www.vcnva.org](http://www.vcnva.org)

Virginia League of Conservation  
Voters  
[www.valcv.org](http://www.valcv.org)

Southern Environmental Law  
Center  
[www.southernenvironment.org](http://www.southernenvironment.org)

Friends of the Rappahannock  
[www.riverfriends.org](http://www.riverfriends.org)

Tree Fredericksburg  
[www.treefredericksburg.org](http://www.treefredericksburg.org)



resources wasted and the methane generated.

The winner of the Second Annual Eco-Art Contest for Earth Day 2016 sponsored by RGSC was displayed at the booth. Gabrielle Terry received a the "Changing Landscapes Award" for her submitted art work which captures the smoggy view shed of Virginia's mountains. She entitled her entry "Looking Over the Smoggy Mountain."

As Gabi told us: "This is a photo I took in the summer of 2015 in the Appalachian Mountains. When I first looked at the scenic view on top of Mill Mountain, I thought that the haze was just fog, but when my friend who has an environmental science degree told me that it was smog and other pollutants, I could not believe it. The city that I once thought was so beautiful and clean is just as polluted as my home."

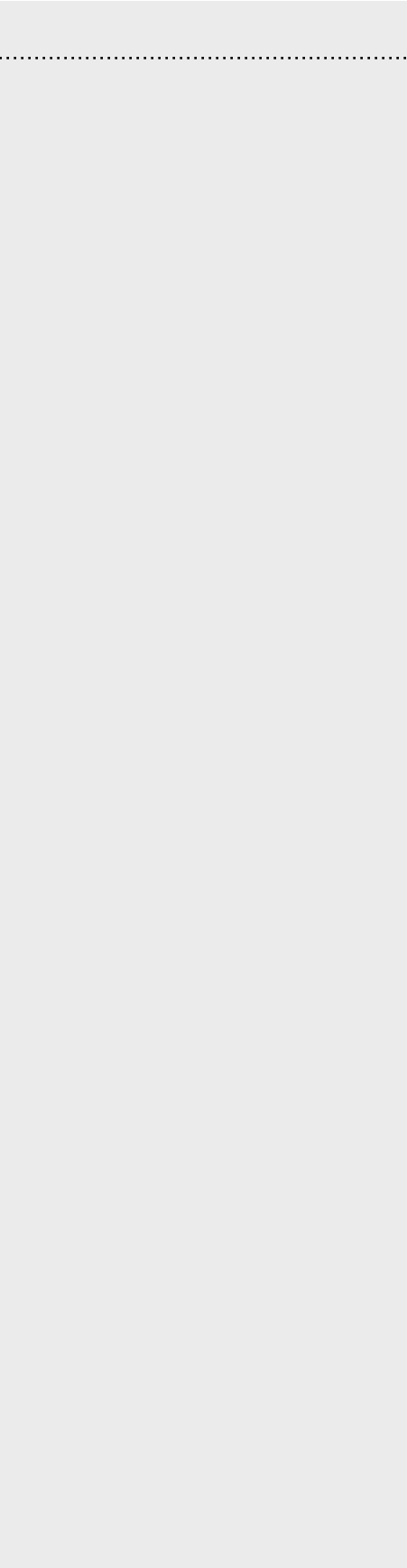
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## WIN A CHANCE FOR \$25 CASH

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### By Paula Chow

Reduce and Reuse! Sponsored by a grant from Keep VA Beautiful, RGSC is offering a chance to win \$25 in the month of June. When you bring your own reusable bags to shop at the Blenheim Organic Gardens booth at the Hurkamp Farmers Market on Saturdays during the month of June, you can enter your name each week for a chance to win \$25 cash. The goal is to eliminate any use of plastic bags, big or small. Too often shoppers will bring a large reusable bag and proceed to take a plastic bag in which to put the bulk produce, thereby cancelling



out the benefit. Hopefully, this will help shoppers think about their plastic bag use. Blenheim Organic Gardens was selected for this project as they were one of the 2016 Living Green Award recipients at the Earth Day festival this past April.