



Catoctin News

Newsletter of the Catoctin Group serving
Carroll, Frederick and Washington Counties

Volume 5 Issue 2

Summer 2018

"There is no planet B"

By Christine Maccabee

In an address to Congress, President Macron spoke boldly and eloquently

The State visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to the U.S. in April was an encouraging sign for bilateral relations and the Earth's environment. When I learned of the visit, I was hopeful that he would speak for the need for our country to join with other nations to preserve the health of our planet Earth, and he did not disappoint.

In an address to Congress, President Macron, spoke boldly and eloquently, explaining the importance of us all to work together, for "in the long run we will have to face the same realities as we are citizens of the same planet; so we will have to work together to ensure the health of Earth's oceans, its critical biodiversity, preserving these things for our children and their children". He said he sees the U.S. pullout of the Paris Climate Agreement (signed by 176 nations in 2015) as a "short term family disagreement" and that he believes "it is the responsibility of lawmakers to ensure leaving our children a planet that is livable in 25 years." With those words, there was an immediate loud cheer from members of Congress, and a loud applause in my heart, for truth recognizes truth.

This amazingly intelligent and caring man spoke for most of us I am sure, for who does not care for the health of the oceans which are filled with plastic debris, killing aquatic life and seriously threatening the food supply; who does not care that the Polar ice caps are melting much faster than anyone thought, contributing to sea level rise and confusion in weather patterns; and who does not care that our rainforests are being clear cut,

destroying untold diversity of plant and animal habitat and the oxygen produced by the trees? I am sure our children care, as do Macron's children. He is speaking for all mankind.

President Macron continued his address to Congress, saying, "I believe we must transition to low carbon economies, because what is the meaning of life if our decisions, if our jobs, are destroying quality of life on our Earth? We must work together to create new jobs and new opportunities, so as we work to support our families we are also supporting our Earth".

As an example of the French commitment to creating a better environment, they reportedly plan to phase out all coal related jobs in the country within a few years. With President Trump in the oval office, the prospect of the U.S. following France's lead any time soon is not encouraging. Still, I want to thank President Macron for lifting my spirits with his positive environmental message. I pray that his wise leadership and earth ambassadorship will create, in the very near future, a ripple in our own country towards more intelligent choices, for there truly is "no planet B!" (At least not one that we have discovered yet).



Christine Maccabee is a Wildlife Habitat Naturalist and Native Plant specialist who is available for consultations. Write her at

songbirdschant@gmail.com

Pope Francis Urges Reduction in Fossil Fuel Use

By Lewis Sherman

Pope Francis met with some 50 oil executives and investors in the Vatican on June 9-10, 2018. The subject was the over dependence on fossil fuels for producing energy and the environmental damage this is causing. Acknowledging that enormous energy is needed to run the world, the Pope used the conference to urge the conversion to clean and sustainable energy sources. The Pope recalled his "Laudato Si" encyclical of three years ago, where he called for an energy policy that "aimed at averting disastrous climate changes that could compromise the well-being and future of the human family, and our common home." See "The Pope and the Environment" in the winter 2015 edition of the Catoctin Group Newsletter. https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce-authors/u1933/3Winter%202015_16.pdf

As in the encyclical, he told the conferees that each of us has a duty to all people, now and future generations, to transition to renewable energy sources, but it was clear that he placed the onus on them. The Pope spoke with a notable sense of urgency. He believes we must take action now, not later. He acknowledged the expertise of the people at the conference and appealed to them to lead the way to solving this crisis. The Pope

expressed his concern that world poverty is exacerbated by the lack of energy supplies and noted that ways must be found to provide all people with energy without damaging the environment.

Pope Francis is a strong supporter of the Paris Climate Accord and clearly believes that the world's environmental problems are largely man made. He was not happy when President Trump pulled the U.S. out of the agreement. Although some suggest the environment is not a religious issue, the Pope makes a strong case that abuse of our worldly home is a sin. Hopefully his continued persistence, will incentivize

reluctant Catholics to support and take action on his initiatives. Meanwhile, there is a growing environmental movement among Protestant Churches that is also concerned about the use of fossil fuels.

It appears that there were no commitments from conference attendees to heed his call, although some oil companies advertise pro-environment efforts that they are undertaking. Despite such efforts, however, the use of fossil fuels continues unabated, co2 levels in the atmosphere remain too high and the indicators of global warming are becoming increasingly worrisome.



Plate Garden

By David Barrow

Orchard Grove Elementary School teacher Mary Neely developed a plate garden at the school to teach the third graders what is required to grow and select vegetables for their diet. The Sierra Club—Catoctin group sponsored the development of the garden by covering the cost of top soil, tilling and adding compost, a nutrient material to the soil.

The garden was used to grow several types of vegetables in the early spring with the children being taught the proper way to plant, care for and harvest the vegetables. The importance of water, sunshine and temperature in gardening were emphasized, while observing the miracle of plant growth and development of edible food was an especially important part of their experience.



On June 7, 2018, the third grade held a festival where they harvested the vegetables, taking care to make sure the plants would continue providing vegetables throughout the summer. After the harvest, each student was given a cup full of the vegetables to try, including lettuces, arugula and radishes. More than half of the students liked the cup of salad so much, they asked for more. Approximately 130 students took part in the garden project in 2017 and 2018.

During the summer months, the teachers, custodial staff and parents maintain the garden and pick its fresh vegetables. It seemed to be a very successful learning experience for the students and well worth continuing.

BEWARE OF ALIENS FROM CHINA

By Lewis Sherman

Aliens from China, Vietnam and parts of India have arrived in Pennsylvania and probably will invade northeastern Maryland soon. Should you panic? Probably, but not as you would from a human invasion.

Identified as the spotted lanternfly – *Lycorma delicatula* – this critter arrived three years ago in Berks County, Pennsylvania on a load of stone. Entomologists in both Pennsylvania and Maryland fear it will arrive in Maryland very soon. They warn Marylanders to be ready for it and to report sightings to officials at the University of Maryland Agricultural Extension Service. Go to the Extension Service website: <https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/problems/spotted-lanternfly>

Unlike some invasive insects such as the Pine Bark Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer that attack only one plant species, the Lanternfly can decimate many vegetable and fruit crops as well as leave a slimy obnoxious mess on buildings, decks and patios. In an article entitled “Ruinous Lanternflies Posed to Mount Invasion from Pa.” in the March 1, 2018 Washington Post, Mary Kay Malinoski, a MD Extension Service entomologist, notes “if it (lanternfly) does here what it has done in Pennsylvania, people are going to go crazy”. This insect is that disgusting and destructive.



Notably, the lanternfly's preferred food is the Tree of Heaven – *Ailantus altissima* - also an alien invader from China. Long considered to be a particularly bothersome invasive, it is commonly found in urban and forest environments. Its flowers are attractive, but it has an unpleasant odor, the wood has little commercial value and it outcompetes native plants. If you have any of these trees on your property, it is an opportune time to dispose of them before they can play host to an even worse invader.

Officers/Committee Chairs

Chairman & Energy

Dan Andrews

Treasurer

Anthony Iacovelli

Secretary

Bob Law

Social Media

Amy Andrews

Outings

Harry George, Paul Walker

Membership

Patti Fredericks

Scholarship Chair

Lee Popkin

Political Chair

Kathleen Rall

Newsletter

Lew Sherman

Further Information

[http://](http://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/catocin-group)

[www.sierraclub.org/](http://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/catocin-group)

[maryland/catocin-](http://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/catocin-group)

[group](http://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/catocin-group)

The John Muir Scholarship

The John Muir Scholarship was created by the Sierra Club's Catocin Group in 2015 to support students who's goal is to pursue an environmental or conservation career. To date, our program has awarded almost ten thousand dollars to students in Frederick County assisting them with the financial burden of annual tuition costs.

Our mission is to inspire, encourage, and support the next generation of environmental leaders preparing them for a lifetime of protecting our environment. To connect and stay in touch or learn how you can support our program please follow us on Facebook by searching for the John Muir Scholarship in the Facebook search field. For questions on how to arrange for a representative to

come and speak about our scholarship program at one of your events, please contact us directly at the number below. For instructions on how to make a donation to our program, please visit our website by clicking on the link below.

Onward!

Lee S. Popkin

Director, John Muir Scholarship

PO Box 308

New Market, MD 21774

443.745.7637

<https://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/catocingroup>

