



# Catoctin News

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

Volume 5 Issue 3

Fall 2018

## Multi-faith Alliance of Climate Stewards

by Mike Koob & Barb Trader

The Multi-faith Alliance of Climate Stewards (MACS) of Frederick County is comprised of individuals and faith communities who are called to act on climate concerns. As people of faith, it is our moral duty to learn more and act in ways that responsibly care for our beautiful planet, its inhabitants, and each other. MACS was born out of this shared belief, the desire to act locally, and the realization that opening our work to all people of faith as participants expands our impact and strengthens our community.


Since our inception in the fall of 2017, members from several faith traditions have worked in solidarity to build MACS' presence and impact, including Quaker, Catholic, Methodist, Jewish, Unitarian Universalist, Islam, and more. We welcome anyone (regardless of formal congregation affiliation) who shares our commitment. MACS is led by a steering committee and is building a growing list of supporters to take part in events and actions. We have mounted a public education campaign through a series of films, shared information with the public during the Frederick "In the Street Festival" and are elevating the topic

of climate awareness and action during "Climate in the Pulpits" weekend October 5-7 2018. Our partners, Interfaith Power and Light and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, co-sponsor this annual campaign and all congregations are invited to participate ([ipldmv.org/climatepulpits](http://ipldmv.org/climatepulpits)).

In 2019, we plan to expand public education and direct action throughout Frederick County and in collaboration with partners like the Sierra Club.

Our mission is to act locally on our moral duty to future generations by protecting the earth and its inhabitants from harmful impacts of climate change.

We hope to activate the people in each of our faith communities to dial up their understanding, concern, and climate mitigation actions.



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To Learn More and become a part of Multi-faith Alliance of Climate Stewards - Frederick County, please email [Macsfrederickcounty@yahoo.com](mailto:Macsfrederickcounty@yahoo.com) and "like" us on Facebook.

## What Goes Up Must Come Down

by Christine Maccabee

*When the rain comes down, it comes down on everyone. No matter if you're rich or poor. No matter if you're great or small. When the rain comes down, it comes down on us all.*

(from a contemporary children's song)

Many gardening friends, both professionals and serious hobbyists, have expressed frustration about the quantity of cold rain this year. All during spring's 1 1/2 month cold rainy spell I kept saying "What goes up must come down". I would say it to people I met at the Food Lion or CVS, sometimes explaining my concerns

about the changing weather patterns. The earth's natural air conditioning system is disappearing as the glaciers, polar ice caps, and Greenland's white ice shield melt; and melting three times faster than expected. Some scientists were saying this as early as 2005. Once the ice melts, we will experience hotter weather, increasing

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# Late Blooming Native Wildflowers

On the Wild Side by Christine Maccabee

*Some grow inside my garden gate, some beyond it wild and free.  
Some are small and some are early, while some come later  
growing taller. Blooming flowers great and small,  
all Nature's Glory Manifest.*

from *Wildflowers* by Barbara Heart

By now you likely have seen the beautiful flowers of Golden Rod along highways and back roads that have not been mowed. This is the beginning of the final amazing showing of wild flower blooms before cold weather arrives. The yellow flowers of the wild Evening Primrose have been blooming since July, serving pollinators very well. They are growing profusely on both sides of the RR tracks through Thurmont especially on the Boundary Avenue side. The beauty of this is that no one planted them there. They are volunteers!

These late blooming, tall, sometimes gangly plants, are by far the most misunderstood wild natives, and yet, critically important elements in a healthy eco-system. Without their late season nectar and pollen, bees would perish during the winter, seriously impacting a variety of colorful butterflies, moths and hummingbirds.

You may have seen the pinkish purple flower clusters of Joe-Pye Weed. Although it grows best in wet areas, even marshlands, it can be seen along roadsides. Unfortunately roadside mowing often destroys this show. Folklore tells us that an Indian, Joe Pye, used this plant to cure fevers and aided early American colonists when treating an outbreak of Typhus. Many wild plants have such herbal remedy qualities if used properly, such as Boneset which also is blooming now. Early herbal doctors used it to help set bones and it can be made into a tea to treat colds, coughs, and constipation.

Soon to bloom on my property, are the amazingly tall and graceful woodland sunflowers, though I have seen a smaller variety blooming already along the roads. Unlike the common striped sunflowers which can win prizes for their size at county fairs, these plants have multiple 1"-2" flowers along the stems, which bees feed upon. Then, after tiny seeds develop on each flower stem, small birds such as Gold Finch, feed on them, loading up on nutrients for the winter.

There are many plants I would like to write about here, but space is limited. At least let me invite you to travel down the length of Woodside Drive in Thurmont and marvel at all the wild aster beginning to bloom. They will be flowering all through September into October.

One of the highest callings we have is to protect the earth's biological and botanical diversity. To have dominion over creation does not mean to usurp, pollute and mow it until earth is uninhabitable. It means to take responsibility for it. Many people are heeding this high calling, which gives me hope. Won't you

volunteer some of your property for the botanical volunteers just waiting to serve our important pollinators? As we become servants of all by preserving and creating essential eco-systems, we will be preserving our own health and future. Have we any choice?



Goldenrod Drawing James Prix



Magic of Life Butterfly House  
Joe Pye Weed Butterfly magnet

(from page 1)

increasing wildfire activity, drought and higher sea levels.

As the melting occurs, massive amounts of water flows into the ocean and evaporates into the atmosphere. This is simple science which even my 12 year old grandson understands. Meanwhile, global atmospheric levels of CO2 and methane remain high due to our life styles, industrial pollution, burning of fossil fuel and myriad other factors. Did you know, for example, that mowing acre upon acre of grass on large estates is one of the greatest contributors to CO2 pollution? Are you aware that large beef and pork farms contribute heavily to methane production? Do you comprehend the vast number of toxic pollution sources there are around the world, such as overflowing coal waste holding ponds, vast ocean fields of plastic litter and poorly contained landfills?

Even if many people seem not to care, many of us do and are working towards positive change, such as promotion of alternative energy use, conservation and lifestyle changes. Still, when the rain comes down, it affects us all, and it is not getting any better. According to studies made at the University of PA, future hurricanes will be qualitatively different than in the past, and possibly worse. Due to more moisture in the atmosphere and disruption of climate patterns,

hurricanes are moving more slowly and lingering longer over larger areas as hurricane Florence demonstrated. Future hurricanes could result in 200 mph winds or greater accompanied by much heavier rain. Recent hurricanes, such as Irma, generated 185 mph winds in the Virgin Islands, and Patricia reached 200 mph. These are winds far beyond a category 5 storm. Experts suggest there should be a category 6.

In June, 2018, Pope Frances, a forceful advocate of caring for Creation, invited leading oil executives to a conference at the Vatican. To those CEOs, he said we must do better, and though "Civilization requires energy, energy must not destroy civilization". He encouraged innovation and I am sure he also encouraged living more conservatively as he did in his

2015 Encyclical "Laudato Si". Other Christian churches are sending a similar message (see "Multi-faith Alliance of Climate Stewards" in this Newsletter).

Yes, as the rains continue to fall on us all, as the winds get stronger, as sea levels rise, and fires and drought increase, we must be more environmentally inventive and conservative in order to survive. As for me, I will persist in growing my own food and herbs, support local farmers, provide habitat for wildlife and mow less.

I will also vote.



## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ENVIRONMENTAL ENDORSEES

### Do You Know that 15 Million Environmentalists Don't Vote? The EnviroVoter Project is Working to Change that Across the U.S.

Why do we campaign for our environmental endorsees here in the Catoctin Group area? Our endorsees are allowed to use our endorsement logo on their literature and to refer to the Sierra Club endorsement in their public addresses,

#### BUT THEY NEED OUR SUPPORT ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL IN MANY WAYS.

Some of us can donate money, but most of us can more easily donate a few hours to knock on doors, make phone calls, write postcards, or distribute green ballots. Then, next year, when our champions are in office, they may listen more readily to our issues, respond more quickly to our concerns about air and water quality, waste management, change. They will remember our help, so



LET'S HELP THEM GET ELECTED!

Contact Kathleen Rall, to volunteer: [treeople@aol.com](mailto:treeople@aol.com), 817-681-4447



# If Rocks Could Talk

By Lee S. Popkin

Founding Director, John Muir Scholarship

On a recent Saturday afternoon in August, with my trusty dog Louie by my side, I did a short six-mile hike on our way to the Washington Monument State Park. Hiking the Appalachian Trail can be a surreal experience, especially when you are just about the only one on the trail. On this day, we crossed paths with only a couple of hikers. The air was still and the woods were quiet, except for the distant roar of thunder as a storm was just off to our Northwest. Occasionally you could hear a breeze wind its way through the leaves of the trees providing us with a split second of relief from the humidity. A graceful fawn trotted past us jumping over a few fallen trees, looking back only to get a glimpse of Louie. It's easy to lose yourself on the trail and let your mind wonder.

Making our way through the woods, I wondered what it may have been like on this same trail on August 2, 1492, one day before the discovery of the new world. Probably not a trail at all, or maybe an ancient Indian trail built by the Shawnee or Saponi tribes. And what if the lichen covered rocks that lay just off the trail and bared witness to everything that happened there for



thousands of years could tell us a few stories. What stories would they tell?

Maybe they'd tell us about the red wolf pack that lived on the mountain ridge and passed over the trail as they hunted. And maybe they'd tell us, how at dusk, you could hear their chilling howls as the moon rose above the ridge line. Maybe the bear who dened nearby, and would frequently pass by the same rock with her cubs in tow every morning on their way looking for huckleberries. The solitary cougar who would hang out in the old American Elm that grew nearby keeping an eye out for his dinner and on the wolves, that outnumbered him. Or the story of millions of passenger pigeons who would roost right on the trail during a high mast beechnut summer.

Louie and I arrived at the Washington Monument that sits on top of the ridge. Once there you could face west through the clearing and see out into the valley below and over the western portion of Maryland and parts of West Virginia. Our footprint was obvious. Mostly farms with a few houses dotted throughout the landscape. I looked back east to the woods and I wondered ... what have we lost?

## Foot Note

Native Americans arrived more than 13,000 years ago and some anthropologists believe when they arrived there were already natives living on the continent.<sup>i</sup> However, while researching for this essay, I learned that the Native American as an environmental steward is a false narrative. Anthropologists now debate the true impact Native Americans had on the land scape. Author Charles Mann writes in his book, "1491" that the continent "held ninety to 112 million people, more than lived in Europe at the time—and Indians had transformed vast swaths of landscape to meet their agricultural needs".<sup>ii</sup> It is thought that the Western Prairie is really the making of Native Americans and that to restore these prairies as pristine wilderness would be challenging if not impossible because we may not ever know what the environment was like 13,000 years ago.

<sup>i</sup>Native Americans arrived to find natives already there, fossil poo shows; Page, Lewis, July 13, 2012, [https://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/07/13/clovis\\_not\\_first\\_says\\_paisley\\_caves\\_excrement/](https://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/07/13/clovis_not_first_says_paisley_caves_excrement/)

<sup>ii</sup>The Pristine Myth, Atlantic, Bacon, Katie; Charles C. Mann, the author of "1491," talks about the thriving and sophisticated Indian landscape of the pre-Columbus Americas; <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2002/03/the-pristine-myth/303062/>

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### Further Information

<http://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/catoctin-group>

## CATOCTIN GROUP SPONSORED HIKES



Harpers Ferry National Park Service  
Photo Gallery

**Saturday October 27 at 9:00 am**, the Catoctin Group of the Sierra Club plans a hike at **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**. Hikers can meet on the north side of the Frederick County park-and-ride on route 340 West, Mt Zion Road exit, to carpool and minimize any park admissions fees. Otherwise, participants who wish to travel directly to the National Park should meet at the Visitors Center inside the park at 9:30. The Murphy-Chambers Farm Trail contains segments totaling 2.9 miles long and can be considered moderate. Most of the hike travels along a tree line around the Murphy-Chambers farm field. You will be able to see the renovated Murphy House,

the foundation of the John Brown Fort, civil war earthworks, and an overview of the Bull Falls rapids on the Shenandoah River.

Hike leader is Mark Gregory ([madgor2@gmail.com](mailto:madgor2@gmail.com))

### Interested Hikers ...

Preview all available hikes and pre-register for upcoming hikes on the Sierra Club website under Calendar at

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

# STOP

## Mountaineer Gas Pipeline



Eastern Panhandle Protectors

Please join  
**Eastern Panhandle Protectors**

at the  
Public Service Commission Hearing  
October 24, 6:30 pm  
Rally before the hearing at 5:00 pm  
The Frank Arts Center, Shepherd University  
2600 University Drive, Shepherdstown WV

This is a chance for members of the community to let our voices be heard about the extension of the Mountaineer Gas Pipeline into Jefferson County. This pipeline would serve only one customer we know of in Jefferson County - the highly polluting Rockwool insulation factory. Let's not let them go any further with their poison pipeline! Show up and make your voice heard!

**Vote—November 6!**

## Campaign Opportunities October—November

**Sunday, October 14 \* 12 noon**

### SCCG Day of Action

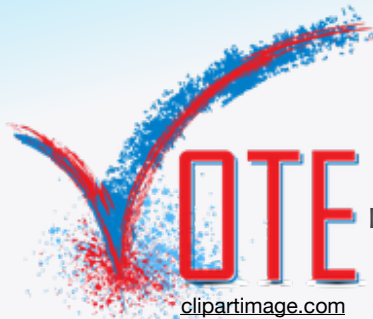
1170 W. Patrick Street, Frederick  
Canvass, probably in Braddock Heights, or  
phone bank, for Ron Young, Ken Kerr, and Kai  
Hagen. Bring your phone and laptop, if possible.

<https://bit.ly/2NjMGml>

**Saturday, October 20 \* 12 noon**

### Postcard Party at Kathleen Rall's

501 Arnoldtown Road, Jefferson  
Cards also can be delivered to you.



**October 25-November 1**

### Early Voting

(Frederick, Middletown,  
Urbana, Thurmont)  
Distribute green ballots at the polls.

**November 2-5**

### GOTV—Get Out The Vote!

Distribute green ballots door-to-door.

**November 6 \* 7:00 am - 8:00 pm**

Distribute green ballots,  
hold signs, at polls.