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).

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.

To Learn More and become a part of Multi-faith Alliance of Climate Stewards - Frederick County, please email 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
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?

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

Goldenrod Drawing James Prix

Magic of Life Butterfly House
Joe Pye Weed Butterfly magnet
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.

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
doors, make phone calls, write postcards, or
champions are in office, they may listen
our concerns about air and water
smarter development, climate
our help, so

us can more easily donate a few hours to knock on
distribute green ballots. Then, next year, when our
more readily to our issues, respond more quickly to
quality, waste management,

change. They will remember

LET’S HELP THEM GET ELECTED!

Contact Kathleen Rall, to volunteer: treeople@aol.com, 817-681-4447

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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 denned 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. 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.” 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.

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Chairman & Energy
Dan Andrews
Treasurer
Betty Law
Secretary
Bob Law
Social Media
Amy Andrews
Outings
Harry George, Paul Walker, Mark Gregory

Membership
Patti Fredericks
Scholarship Chairman
Lee Popkin
Political Chair
Kathleen Rall
Newsletter
Lew Sherman
Further Information
http://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/catoctin-group
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)

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STOP
Mountaineer Gas Pipeline

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!

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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.

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.

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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