



Catoctin News

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

Volume 4 Issue 1

Spring 2017

Don't Dump, Donate

BY LEW SHERMAN

... it is all about reuse and keeping good "stuff" out of landfills and the environment.

We live in a throwaway society and we are very wasteful. When we tire of an item, it often goes to the dump, the side of a road, in a waterway, or numerous other places that altogether clutter our lives and landscape. American's relative affluence makes this possible through the purchase of cheap durable goods from every corner of the earth. Never have we had so much and it has become an enormous disposal problem.

The Frederick Zero Waste Alliance, Waste Not Carroll and other groups associated with them have thoroughly studied and made recommendations, over the past few years, for the disposal of trash and recyclable material (plastic, paper, etc), but often do not mention disposables that are not necessarily trash, i.e. durable goods that are not wanted by the owner, but could be reused. Clothing and accessories, linens, housewares, appliances, furniture, jewelry, electronics and electronic media, books, toys, holiday decorations, storage supplies, lawn and garden equipment, tools, hardware, building supplies, automotive parts and supplies, and sports equipment, are the major categories of goods routinely disposed of in the trash even though much of it still has value. Some of it is new.

Fortunately, many organizations, both non-profit and for profit, have developed niche businesses, collecting and selling this merchandise. Churches, community service organizations, military support groups, charities supporting foreign needs and schools are among the many entities seeking donations of your used

and new treasures that they can sell to the economically disadvantaged or people seeking a bargain. Profits go to charities. Antique shops and for-profit thrift stores also seek used items for which they will pay a modest price. Most of these entities prefer goods that are clean, undamaged and in working order, but a few will do some cleaning and repairing. In some areas, there are charities that will accept dirty and damaged clothing for recycling of the fibers. Others seek donations of aluminum,

brass and copper to sell to recyclers. Still others accept used and/or broken electronics to repair for resale or to extract valuable metals.

Organizations In the Catoctin Group area that accept donations, include the Salvation Army,

Goodwill Industries, Habitat for Humanity Restore Store, various military charities, Lions Clubs (eyewear), The Frederick Rescue Mission (primarily used clothing) and a number of church thrift stores. The Freecycle Network (freecycle.org) a non-profit group, offers a free merchandise give/receive service in neighborhoods and towns across the country; it is all about reuse and keeping good "stuff" out of landfills and the environment. In warm weather, churches and charities accept all types of home and shop items for their yard sales.

Donating is saving mountains of useable materials and merchandise from going to landfills or the environment, helping the less fortunate acquire durables that they could not otherwise afford and assisting charities in funding their good works; a win-win for everyone.

So, **don't dump, donate.**



The Trump Effect

BY Harry George



I've been attending the Catoctin Group monthly meetings for about four years. They're held the first Saturday of every month from 10 am to 12 noon at one of the local Frederick or Carroll County libraries, with the specific location posted on our website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/catoctin-group>. All are welcome! As with most volunteer organizations, there's a small core group of folks who attend and actively participate on a regular basis, and attendance doesn't vary much outside those "regulars". In our case, it was about 8–10 attendees.

Starting with our December 2016 meeting, there were 4-5 new faces. In January and February 2017, attendance jumped to 20-25. Why the sudden surge? Almost to a person, when they introduced themselves, they indicated concern over the impact of the Trump presidency as it relates to environmental issues, and decided it was time to become more active in their support and protection of the environment. This pattern, which I hope continues, is being mirrored throughout the country on a variety of other issues and topics, whether it's concern about access to health care, or restrictions on visitor/immigrant access to the U.S., to name a few. Citizens are negatively reacting to our new President and his early initiatives, and are taking action.

Unfortunately, there is good reason for concern and increased activism. On February 17 the U.S. Senate confirmed Scott Pruitt as head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As Attorney General for Oklahoma, Mr. Pruitt filed 14 lawsuits against the EPA, including challenging regulations that limited carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants. He is quoted as saying of the EPA, "what

they do is a disgrace". Incredibly, Mr. Pruitt openly questions the scientific basis linking human activity to climate change, one of the gravest threats to the future of the earth. Recently, the Trump administration announced the EPA budget would be cut by one third. This is not the kind of thinking or pullback we can afford at the country's primary protector of our air, water and physical landscape.

It doesn't end there. Congress is looking to "modernize" the Endangered Species Act, which, by the way, passed Congress with unanimous consent in 1973, the genesis being to save our national symbol, the bald eagle. Other Congressional initiatives such as easing restrictions on logging and mining in our national forests are also being promoted, as well as a host of other changes and rollbacks to environmental laws and regulations. In a party line vote, Congress confirmed former Texas

Governor Rick Perry to head the Department of Energy, the Department Perry once said should be abolished, and the Department that is key to the exploitation of fossil fuels. Should I continue?

I am reminded of Neil Young's 1970s lyrics from *After the Gold Rush*: "Look at Mother Nature on the run," except its 2017, and so much of the progress in environmental stewardship since the 1970s is now under attack, and like Mother Nature, is profoundly threatened. We don't have to accept what's happening at the National level. We have a voice. We have a vote, and we need to be heard. Like the new faces at our Catoctin Group monthly meetings, become active on environmental issues that affect our health, our community and our future. Come to our meetings. Contact your elected officials — local, state, and national, and let your voice be heard. Please!



My Plate Garden

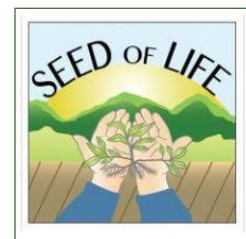
VERONICA POKLEMBIA

The Catoctin Group is currently supporting a garden project with Seed of Life, a non-profit, at Orchard Grove Elementary School in Frederick County. The Group made a \$1000 contribution to the project in 2016 and will offer some hands on assistance this spring. The garden is used by all grade levels to provide hands-on education in relation to subjects such as science, nutrition and math, with an integrated curriculum guide for each teacher's use. The garden provides a great opportunity for students to become more aware of how the environment effects our life and health, since a basic need for all is food! Students



engage in planting, attending, and harvesting the garden. The food collected is donated to needy families in the community, creating the opportunity for students to experience the importance of supporting others. There will be an opportunity soon for members of the Catoctin Group to help with spring clean-up and planting, working along with students and teachers on this worthwhile project. We should have a specific date soon.

The children, with help of adult supervision, planted radishes in the fall. The bounty was small although the kids were thrilled to reap what they had sown. Incorporation of math, science and reading skills into the effort was well-received. Students were instructed on the requirements for spacing of the seeds. Then they made seed mats with paper towels, flour and water (for the "glue") and created awesome designs! Student advisors now hope to connect with the Sierra Club for weeding and preparing the garden for our spring planting. Sierra Club volunteers will provide a great connection to the overall learning experience including environmental stewardship, teamwork, self-reliance, serving those in need and, of course, gardening skills. Currently the project only involves third grade students, but the goal is to expand to other grade levels assuring that ultimately the whole school is involved.



On another note, the class spread milkweed seeds by the school's sediment pond to provide Monarch Butterfly food! It is all about promoting gardening at the school and making a difference in the community. Student leaders eagerly look forward to getting their My Plate Garden growing at the school and visiting the incredible My Plate Garden at the Great Frederick Fair.

Officers/Committee Chairs

Chairman & Energy

Dan Andrews

Treasurer

Anthony Iacovelli

Secretary & Outreach/Social Media

Amy Andrews

Conservation

Anthony Iacovelli

Invasive Plant Removal Stewardship

Carolyn Puckett

Outings

Anthony Iacovelli

Harry George

Membership

Patti Fredericks

Newsletter

Lew Sherman

Further Information

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

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE CATOCTIN GROUP AREA

— CARROLL COUNTY—

Carroll County Compost Bin & Rain Barrel Sale

Saturday, April 22 — 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Carroll County Office Building
225 N. Center Street, Westminster, Maryland
Composter Bin: \$50; Rain Barrel: \$60

— FREDERICK COUNTY—

2nd Annual Middletown Green Expo

Saturday, April 29 — 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Middletown Memorial Park

A fun-filled day! Educational Exhibits, Recreational
Bike Rides, Vendors, Crafts, Music & More!
Contact Middletown Municipal Center
301.371.6171

Email cunangst@ci.middletown.md.us

People's Climate March in Washington DC

Saturday, April 29

Bus will be leave from the Frederick area.

Details to be announced.

Contact David Barrow: dbar57@gmail.com

Composting Summit Frederick County

Monday, May 22 — 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Fox Haven Farm & Learning Center
3630 Poffenberger Road, Jefferson

Ruritan Yard Sale & Fund Raiser

Saturday, July 15

Ruritan Hall, 8101 Crum Road
Walkersville, Maryland
(Corner of Route 26 & Crum Road)

"Before the Flood"

1st Showing Saturday, April 8 — 2:30 pm

Thurmont Regional Library
Moser Road, Thurmont, Maryland

*Leonardo DiCaprio documentary about the many
problems our planet and its life forms endure because
of pollution. DiCaprio has dedicated his life to
speaking out for healthy changes we can make to
protect our water, land and air.*

2nd Showing Saturday, May 20 — 2:00 pm

Thurmont Main Street Center
11 Main Street, Thurmont, Maryland
Admission: Free for both showings

Stream Clean-up and Water Testing

Saturday, April 8 — 2:30 pm
Community Park, Thurmont, Maryland

— WASHINGTON COUNTY —

9th Annual Boonsboro Green Fest

Saturday, May 13 — 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Beautiful Shafer Park

— GARRETT COUNTY —

Natural Resources Career Camp

Sunday, July 23 - Saturday, 29
Hickory Environmental Education Center
Available to high school students interested
in natural resources or the environment.

*Great, low-cost opportunity to attend a one-
week career camp in Garrett County. Camp offers
a co-ed opportunity to learn from industry \
professionals and develop contacts that could
lead to future employment.*

*Students have an option to earn
college credits at Allegheny
College of Maryland. Each
Maryland County usually sends
two students every summer. The
Carroll County*

*Forestry Board pays \$450 tuition
fee for Carroll County attendees. Students are
responsible for \$125 activity fee.*

Carroll County — 410.848.9290

Other county forestry boards may also cover
tuition. For more information, see

<http://www.marylandforestryboards.org/nrcc.cfm>.



Executive Committee/General Meeting

Saturday, April 1
10:00 am-12:00 pm

Thurmont Regional Library

76 E. Moser Road
Thurmont, Maryland



Executive Committee/General Meetings
*traditionally are held the first Saturday
of every month. Locations vary.
Everyone is welcome to attend
— members and non-members alike.*

Contact Dan Andrews: dooze@qis.net