

WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Dear Members & Friends,

Thank you so much for all your membership responses in support of Goose Creek Association. Soon after the New Year, we received an additional gift of a very substantial donation from the estate of Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Whitehouse. Many of our members fondly recall Mrs. Whitehouse's stewardship of GCA from its founding. We are so grateful for this wonderful gift and all your donations that will help support GCA's stewardship efforts.

This will be our third spring of planting riparian buffers with the assistance of students and volunteers along the banks and wetlands of Goose Creek on local landowner's property. It will be our 14th year of stream monitoring and testing for e-coli in the creek. And,

since we have successfully completed three historic districts in the last decade, we are continuing to focus on preserving the integrity of these important historic roads and cultural resources, while seeking to establish new districts in Loudoun County. With the generous support of our membership, we will continue to promote a culture of conservation within our community to protect the future of this area of the Piedmont.

On Friday, March 6, we are showing the environmental movie, Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch (see at right). In this stunningly beautiful documentary, you will learn the good, the bad, and the ugly about plastic in our world today. Please, come join us and see this intriguing film. We look forward to seeing you there. Wishing you a happy 2015!

GCA movie screening partners:



SAVE THE DATE

Our Annual Members Party will be held at John and Julie Coles' home, The Oaks, in The Plains on Friday, April 10. Invitations will be mailed in March.

Sending out an SOS to the world

PLASTIC PARADISE

THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH

GOOSE CREEK ASSOCIATION Provided and Sponsored by Land Trust of Virginia VIRGINIA LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS EDUCATION FUND

Friday, March 6, 2015, at 7:00 pm
Doors open at 6:30 pm

FREE STAINLESS STEEL WATER BOTTLES FOR THE FIRST 10 ATTENDEES

The Hill School
Sheila C. Johnson Performing Arts Center
130 S. Madison Street
Middleburg, VA 20117

Come join us at The Hill School and see an intriguing environmental movie with free refreshments. RSVP's encouraged at info@goosecreek.org.

This is GCA's third year screening environmental films at The Hill School. This year's documentary is "Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch" about the permanence of plastic in our lives and water. A recent study shows that there are an estimated 270,000 tons of plastic floating in the world's ocean. Where does it come from? Where does it go? What does it do? Come join us to see this intriguing documentary about the permanence of plastic in our lives and in our water. We'll be looking for you on March 6! Thanks for coming!

RIVERSIDE CLEANUP REPORT

Last fall, an intrepid group of volunteers helped clean up a stretch of the Goose Creek along the stream banks on Foxcroft Road. The day was crystal clear, the waters swift and deep, and we enjoyed our endeavor afterwards with some cold refreshments. Led in a kayak by Fritz Reuter, the crew picked up over six large bags of trash and many tires, wheels and hubcaps. Keeping the water clean is important to us so let us know of any particular stretches of the Goose Creek that could use some assistance with clean up.



Volunteer Carey Crane and Cleanup Leader, Fritz Reuter, relaxing after the clean-up along beautiful Goose Creek.



Volunteers, Beth O'Quinn and GCA Board Member, Louise Green picking up litter along the Goose Creek.



EARTH DAY LOUDOUN 2014 - GCA's booth at Earth Day Loudoun had plenty of macroinvertebrates (insects) for everyone to look at.

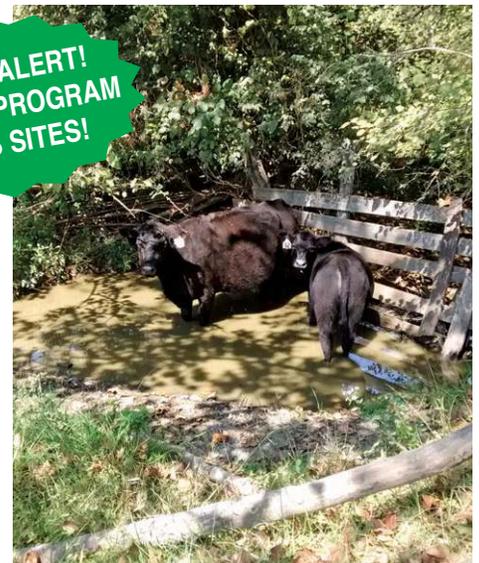
GOOSE CREEK CHALLENGE UPDATE

The Goose Creek Challenge has a goal for 2015: to plant 2000 trees and shrubs in our watershed. The watershed consists of the main stream, and small tributaries and wet lands which are the precious source of many of our small streams. We made this goal in the past two years, but need to find another appropriate site or two immediately. The planting season is March and April.

What consists of an appropriate site? It should be a location where cattle need to be fenced out of a stream in order to preserve the stream banks from erosion, to keep dangerous e-coli pollution from the stream, and protect the Chesapeake Bay from nitrates and phosphorous which cause dead zones. Commercial horse facilities may also qualify.

If you have installed fencing to keep out cattle and need trees to enhance the riparian buffer, or you want to fence now, and plant trees this spring, you may qualify through your local Soil and Water District. The Goose Creek Association has funds to assist with the tree costs and we locate and manage local students and other volunteers to do the planting. It is a community project and students can earn "Community Service Credits." Please contact Marcia Woolman, Chair, at 540-253-5545 for more information.

**ACTION ALERT!
THE GCC PROGRAM
NEEDS SITES!**



HISTORIC ROADWAYS DISTRICT UPDATE

Goose Creek Association continues to work as a member of the Rural Roads Committee of the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition to improve maintenance on the 300+ miles of unpaved, rural roads in western Loudoun. In addition to raising awareness of the importance of these lovely historic roads to the County's agricultural and tourism economies, the Subcommittee has strengthened local and state legislators' understanding and support for the roads. Work continues to increase funding for proper maintenance and to assist the Virginia Department of Transportation in its identification of recurring roadway problem areas in need of repair.



New stream monitor, Kaylen Kilfeather and her Dad, stream monitoring on a beautiful fall day.



Newly certified stream monitor Christian Bongard and student volunteers checking monitoring results.

WATER QUALITY UPDATE

We have trained and certified several new monitors this year. They will be monitoring North Goose Creek in Loudoun County for macroinvertebrates, e-coli and turbidity. We are so happy they have joined our monitoring program.

We have received generous grants from Dolphin Quest and the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Advisory Committee License Plate Fund. These grants are pivotal in helping us expand and further implement our important work safeguarding the Goose Creek watershed. With our stream monitoring data we are able to communicate the status of the creek and its environs to our constituents, government agencies and legislators, which is crucial to our stewardship mission.



A great blue heron seeking solitude at a quite spot on the water.



GCA is grateful for our SPONSORS:

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FEEDS. FASHIONS. FINDS

Yes! I want to support the Goose Creek Association!

We thank you for supporting our organization as we work to preserve and protect our natural resources, historic heritage and rural quality of life in the Goose Creek Watershed. Please don't forget to include your e-mail address so that we can send you alerts and our newsletter.

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

- Goose Creek Watershed (\$2,000+)
- Little River (\$1,000+)
- Cromwell's Run (\$500+)
- Bollings Branch (\$100+)
- Hungry Run (\$200+)
- Chattins Run (\$40+)
- Jeffries Branch (up to \$39)
- Please check here if you want your gift to remain anonymous

Please make check payable to the Goose Creek Association, P.O. Box 1178, Middleburg, VA 20118.
For more information or to volunteer, please call 540-687-3073, e-mail: info@goosecreek.org
or visit www.goosecreek.org. GCA is a 501(c)(3) organization.

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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GOOSE CREEK



ASSOCIATION

P O Box 1178
Middleburg, VA 20118

BOARD APPRECIATION



Lori Keenan McGuinness, GCA Fauquier Chair presenting Marcia with her gift from the GCA Board for her outstanding work.

we have her on the board! You can check out Marcia's recent column in Middleburg Life at Middleburglife.com about beavers and how they are restoring wetlands all over the country! These animals bring back wetlands in a unique way and are important to water quality.



Beavers help to trap and store sediment that enhances the water quality of streams.

Marcia Woolman, Goose Creek Board Member and Goose Creek Challenge Chair, received a gift of a print by artist, Cathy Zimmerman, from the board this fall in recognition of all Marcia's hard work. She is very busy with our successful GCC tree planting program as well as monitoring Goose Creek for e-coli and turbidity. Marcia is a wonder! We are so thankful

ANNUAL MEETING 2014

Nicole Hamilton, President of Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, spoke at our Annual Meeting last June about the plight of monarch butterflies. Their decline is precipitous and Nicole suggests planting milkweed in our gardens and setting up monarch stations to help them in their struggle to survive. If you would like to learn more about what you can do to help the monarchs please visit: <http://www.loudounwildlife.org/>.



(L-R) Emily Southgate, Nicole Hamilton, Kristin Knodt, and Patty Callahan, GCA Board Member.