



# Up and Down the Patapsco Valley

*The Friends of the Patapsco Valley and Heritage Greenway, Inc*  
P.O. Box 96, Ellicott City, MD 21041  
410-480-0824

Winter 2008

## Annual Meeting Set

*By John Slater*

We will be having our annual meeting on Thursday, January 31st, 2008 at the Clementine Peterson Girl Scout Activity Center in Elkridge at 7:30 PM. Snow date is one week later. The subject matter of the meeting will be Trails and Greenways.

David Dionne will be our featured speaker. As you will see from Dave's bio he is very well qualified to give us an update on Trails and Greenways. Dave is the chairman of the Board of Trustees for the East Coast Greenway Alliance and he is a major reason the B & A Trail in Anne Arundel County is so very successful. Plus he is a wonderful speaker!

David was selected to be the first Park Superintendent of the Baltimore & Annapolis Trail Park in 1987 and developed a park operations plan that included many innovative volunteer initiatives, trail operations practices and policies, and community building programs. Since 1987 Anne Arundel County has expanded its trail program to include several new trail projects that have been recognized nationally and internationally as models for trail operation and safety.

In 1997 David was asked to be a member of the White House Millennium Council's Green Ribbon Panel on trails where he helped set up the Millennium Trails Program. In 1999 he became a member of the National Endowment for the Arts' Committee for Art on Millennium Trails. From 2001 until 2005 David was the Chairman of the National Board of Trustees for the East Coast Greenway Alliance, a non-profit corporation linking local trail projects between Maine and Florida into a continuous 2600-mile route. The East Coast

Greenway will connect the major urban centers along the East Coast into an urban version of the Appalachian Trail. In 2005 David was appointed by Governor Robert Ehrlich, Jr. to be the Chairman of the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee where he continues to serve.



## Directions to Camp Ilchester/Clementine Peterson Activity Center:

5042 Ilchester Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043

FROM ELLICOTT CITY. Take Route 29 South towards Columbia/Washington D.C. Then exit on Route 103 East, left at light on top of bridge, you are on Route 103 eastbound (aka Montgomery Rd), travel 2.7 miles. After several lights and Bonnie Branch Road, turn left onto Ilchester Road (at a stop light). Travel one mile to the property entrance on the left.

FROM CATONSVILLE, Take Interstate I-195 East towards the airport, get off at Route 1 South. Proceed through Elkridge on Route 1 to a traffic light at Montgomery Road, turn right, follow Montgomery Road to Landing Road (about 2 miles), turn right and go to the end, turn left onto Ilchester Road, 1/2 mile to camp on the right.

(From Montgomery RD, it is one mile on Ilchester Road, on the left. From Landing Rd it is .5 miles on Ilchester Rd on the right)

## Wingate, Betts and Farragut to Join Board

*By John Slater*

**Lisa Wingate, Teddy Betts and Paul Farragut** have agreed to serve on the **Board of Directors**. They have been nominated to join our "Class of 2010" at our Annual Meeting, January 31, 2008.

Lisa Wingate is an expert in historic preservation tax credits, lives in an historic house in Ellicott City which is with in walking distance of the Patapsco River and has much experience in historic preservation planning. Teddy Betts is a special education teacher who lives in Worthington on the Howard County side of the Patapsco. He hikes the Patapsco State Park, is an artist and has been a force for cleanup of the Patapsco and it's tributaries. Paul Farragut is the Past President of the Friends of the Patapsco State Park, a former member of the Howard County Council and a former Executive Director of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC).

They will join existing board members Kit Valentine, Bob Annesley and John Slater to round out the "Class of 2010". Other members to remain on the Board are Ben Ebersole, Jon Posner, Cam MacLachian, Lee Moser, Lucy McKean, Steve Schreiner, Robert Schulze, Charles Wagandt, Paul Marzine, Jim Hade, Ed Orser and Jim Apgar.

## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:*

As we begin our eighth year as an organization, I would like to thank your Executive Board for their continuing outstanding work. They have helped in countless ways to "lighten the load" on me and have been instrumental in providing the leadership necessary to protect and preserve the Patapsco River, Valley and State Park. Our organization continues to mature and is recognized as a helpful organization within the State of Maryland and both Baltimore and Howard Counties. As an organization we have identified most of the environmental and preservation challenges facing us in the Valley. We have developed the necessary relationships with governmental agencies and community associations to solve several of our major challenges. We are now working on areas which are less serious problems. For example, over this past year we helped cleanup two major dumping sites within the Park from previous eras. Both sites were adjacent to the Patapsco River and contained large volumes of metal objects ( 55 gal drums, car bodies, old appliances and water heaters, etc ) as well as literally hundreds of old tires. Now that these areas have been cleaned up we are working on removing the trash and debris from our smaller streams. This past year we organized 30 cleanups and removed over 35 tons of bulk items, trash and debris from the Patapsco watershed. Presently, we are developing a Stream Watch Program which provides us and the appropriate governmental agencies with periodic citizen input on what is happening along our streams so that quicker corrective actions can be taken.

In addition to our efforts to protect the Valley, we have continued our efforts to tell the Valley's interesting story. Our current initiative is an updated website with much more emphasis on the Valley's history. Most of the material that will be on the website was developed from our efforts to create the historical panels on display at the Howard County Tourism Office and the Avalon Visitor Center in the Patapsco State Park. Material was also used from the book we commissioned on the Valley's history and from the material we developed for the Grist Mill Trail interpretive signage. Ultimately, we want to then link anyone interested in specific aspects of the Valley's history to other sites for more detailed information and pictures. We are also developing a Patapsco Heritage Trail map which will not only provide trail information along its route from Ellicott City to the BWI Airport, but will be another way of identifying historical sites along the way.

Our membership base continues to expand. The strength of our organization comes from our membership. I would ask each of you to encourage a friend or neighbor to join with us in our efforts to protect the Valley and tell its interesting story.

*Kit Valentine*

## PHG Sponsors Tree Planting Along the Grist Mill Trail

After 3 cold November mornings of help from 74 energetic volunteers and state park staff, we were able to plant 50 new five-foot trees along the Grist Mill Trail. These trees now reside in the Orange Grove Area of Patapsco State Park in Baltimore County. We planted a variety of native trees, including: ten pin oaks, 15 sugar maples, 15 tulip poplars and 10 river birch trees. These new trees are only a few hundred feet from the Patapsco River. Many of our volunteers even named the trees they helped to plant! Tree plantings are a lot of work and coordination, but are definitely worth it! Several individuals and groups came out to help, including PHG members; college students from Howard Community College, Towson State and University of Maryland; St. Timothy's Church members; Girl Scouts & families from Troop 2097; Catonsville High School teacher, Boy Scouts & families from Packs 432 and 495, Patapsco State Park Volunteer Mounted Patrol; and many other volunteers who want to preserve and protect the Patapsco River Valley!

We also want to thank those partners who provided grants and other donations for this tree planting, including: Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection & Resource Management, Patapsco Valley State Park John Slater & Associates, and Chesapeake Bay Trust. Visit <http://patapscofriend.myphotoalbum.com>, which features our volunteers in action, as well as close-ups of the native trees planted along the Grist Mill Trail.



Jim and Susan Hade are regular volunteers at PHG environmental events, as well as this year's tree planting along the Grist Mill Trail in Patapsco State Park

## 2007 Garlic Mustard Challenge Boasts Record Breaking Year

This year, over 100 participants joined in for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Garlic Mustard Challenge sponsored by the Friends of the Patapsco Heritage Greenway and Patapsco State Park. Nineteen teams signed up to remove over one ton of the invasive garlic mustard weed from areas throughout the Avalon & Glen Artney areas of Patapsco State Park, making this a record-breaking year. After the pulling event, volunteers are treated to live music, scavenger hunt, games, prizes and the opportunity to explore several environmental displays, such as rain barrel demonstration, invasive plants, park and nature artifacts and a storm water management runoff model for kids. Scales and Tales demonstrations were also on hand, as well as bird watching and history experts to answer questions from participants.

Now in its eight year, the Garlic Mustard Challenge continues to attract more volunteers. The volume of invasive garlic mustard in Patapsco State Park is diminishing in several areas. If the current trend continues, we may just have to target another similar invasive plant when we have pulled out all the garlic mustard! This year's first place winners include:

Most Pounds Pulled (610.5 pounds) - "UMBC Earth Stewards" – 15 students and faculty from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.



John Slater presents first place team award to UMBC Earth Stewards removing 610.5 pounds of garlic mustard from Patapsco State Park

Most pounds pulled per person (417.4 pounds/person) – "The Schwensilders" – this 5 person team included Brian, Rose and Schexsnayder of Arbutus and Van Wensil and Hanum Wensil-Strow, of Hanover and Mike Fox.

Bill McMillion of Elkridge won first place in the Amateur Chef Challenge with his "Garlic Mustard Stuffing" dish.

To date, 8,755 pounds of garlic mustard has been removed as a result of this event held annually on the first Sunday of May. For more information about the annual Garlic Mustard Challenge, e-mail [patapscofriend@comcast.net](mailto:patapscofriend@comcast.net), call 410-480-0824, or visit [www.patapscoheritagegreenway.org/garlic07/index.html](http://www.patapscoheritagegreenway.org/garlic07/index.html).

## Villain of the Valley Poster Contest Winner



The 2007 winner of the Villain of the Valley Poster contest is Eiryn Griest-Schwarzman, a 9-year old student from Phelps Luck Elementary School. She chose a \$50 gift certificate from Toys R Us as her first prize. In addition, Eiryn won 2 free computers (courtesy of the Lazarus Foundation—a local group that recycles old computer parts into brand new computers) for her school as part of her prize.

## 2007 Clean-ups Remove Over 35 Tons

During 2007, our members and other volunteer friends were responsible for removing over 35 tons of trash throughout the Patapsco River Valley area. Thirty separate PVHG-sponsored clean-ups were conducted based on past recon and stream watch reports of problem areas. Clean-ups were conducted in Cooper's Run, Deep Run, Herbert Run, Miller Branch, Patapsco River, Sawmill Branch, Soapstone Branch, Sucker Branch and Tiber Hudson Branch. Our volunteers groups include: boy and girl scout troops, church groups, community and civic groups, college students, public school students and hundreds of individuals who came out just to help make a difference! Thanks to our 696 volunteers, approximately 71,272 pounds of trash was removed.



We especially want to thank those partners who provided grants and other donated materials for these clean-ups. Our partners include: Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection & Resource Management, Patapsco Valley State Park, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Baltimore County Highways Division, Howard County Highways Division, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Ellicott City Restoration Foundation and Rotary Club of Catonsville. Visit <http://patapscofriend.mypphotoalbum.com>, which features our volunteers in action.

Member Teddy Betts collects beaver gnawed tree limbs in his walks along the Patapsco River and streams. He transformed several of these into beautiful walking sticks and donated them to our organization. At each event, one individual is given one of these walking sticks in appreciation of their exceptional contribution for the environmental day's event

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**Books for Sale**  
 You don't have a copy of our book: *The Patapsco River Valley: Cradle of the Industrial Revolution in Maryland* yet? You can purchase a copy of this beautifully illustrated book at a reduced price of only \$21 including tax for members. It can be purchased during regular office hours at the office of the Oella Company, 803 Oella Ave. 410-465-1700. What a great gift for anyone.  
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## Patapsco Heritage Greenway Tentative 2008 Calendar of Events

(Please check our website for updates  
or call 410-480-0824 to confirm events)

**Saturday, January 26** - 9:30 am – 12:30 - Stream Clean up TBA .  
Event will be rescheduled in the event of inclement weather or extreme cold weather conditions.

**Thursday, January 31** - 7- 8:45 p.m.- Annual Meeting - Ilchester Girl Scout Conference Center in Ellicott City. Guest speaker: Dave Dionne (snow date: February 7)

**Wednesday, February TBA** – 10 am – 2 pm – Student Service Volunteer Fair at Howard Community College – Columbia.

**Saturday, March 8** – 10 am – 1 pm. .Stream cleanup TBA

**Saturday, March - 22** - 10 am – 1 pm. Stream cleanup TBA

**Friday, March 28** – 6:30 –7:30 pm. Project Clean Stream Team Captains Meeting (for get supplies & instructions for cleanup on April 5). Meet in Howard County Tourism Office, 8267 Main Street, Side Entrance, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

**Saturday, April 5** – 9 am – 12 pm **PROJECT CLEAN STREAM**

Large volunteer event for various streams throughout Patapsco Valley area: Herbert Run, Miller Branch, Cooper Branch, Tiber Hudson River, Deep Run Branch, Bonnie Branch, etc. For meeting locations, call 410-480-0824 or e-mail patapscofriend@comcast.net.

**Sunday, April 6**– 1-5 pm (Baltimore County Scouts Clean Up Day). Various streams along Herbert Run

**Thursday, April TBA** – 12:30 – 2 pm Environmental Exhibit at Howard Community College - Columbia, Maryland.

**Monday, April 21** – Stream cleanup along Elkridge Furnace Road/ Ridge Road – Deep Run with Elkridge Landing Middle School students as part of student service learning project. (RAIN DATE: Wed., April 23)

**Saturday, April 26** – 9 am – 12 pm – Stream cleanup TBA

**Sunday, May 4** – 1 – 5 pm. Patapsco State Park, Avalon and Glen Artney Areas

**Garlic Mustard Challenge** -(popular annual family-oriented event. Join the challenge with hundreds of other volunteers removing the invasive garlic mustard plant from the park. After two hours of pulling, enjoy live music, old fashioned picnic games, environmental displays. Prizes for all volunteers. Taste testing of garlic mustard side dishes by amateur chefs and view posters created by local area school-age children.

**Sunday, May 4** – 3-4 pm. Patapsco State Park, Avalon and Glen Artney Areas

Villain of the Valley Poster contest. Kids submit your poster showing why invasive garlic mustard is hurting the Patapsco Valley area. \$50 gift certificate from Toys R Us or \$100 savings bond for first prize. Two computers donated to their public school or non-profit of their choice.

**Sunday, May 4** – 3-4 pm. Patapsco State Park, Avalon and Glen

Artney Areas

Garlic Mustard Chef Cook-off. Adults and kid chefs submit their recipe and dish using the garlic mustard herb. Winners receive gift certificate from local area fine restaurants. After judging, other Garlic Mustard participants may sample the dishes.

**Saturday, May 24** – 9 am – 12 pm – Stream cleanup TBA.

**Saturday, June 7** – 9 am – 12 pm National River Clean Up Week. Patapsco River in historic Ellicott City/Oella. Meeting location: off Oella Avenue near the bridge across from the Trolley Stop Restaurant (just past the bridge over the Patapsco River that separates Baltimore and Howard counties. We will be cleaning up riverbanks on both sides of the river. Please park in public parking lot A next to the Trolley Stop Restaurant. For directions, please go to <http://www.ellicottcity.net/tourism/parking>. Betsy McMillion, Stream Clean-up Captain.

**Saturday, June TBA** – 9 am – 12 pm – Stream cleanup TBA.

**Saturday, August TBA** - 9 am – 12 pm. Stream cleanup TBA.

**Saturday, September 27** - 9 am – 12 pm. National Public Lands Day. Site along Patapsco River TBA.

**Saturday, October 6** - 9 am – 12 pm. Stream cleanup TBA

**Saturday, October 11** - 9 am – 12 pm. Stream cleanup TBA.

**Saturday, October 25** - 9 am – 12 pm. Stream cleanup TBA.

**Saturday, November 15** - 9 am – 12 pm. RAIN OR SHINE !!!!!!!  
Tree planting along Deep Run in Arbutus. Meeting location to be announced. Betsy McMillion, Tree Planting Captain.

**Saturday, November 22** - 9 am – 12 pm. Stream cleanup TBA

NOTE: Additional stream cleanup dates and locations may be scheduled depending on group requests, number of available volunteers and compatible dates and times. Call 410-480-0824 day of event to make sure clean-up has not been cancelled. To see photos of past volunteers in action, visit <http://patapscofriend.myphotoalbum.com>. If you would like to join hundreds of other volunteers in cleaning up the Patapsco Valley area, please call 410-480-0824 or e-mail patapscofriend@comcast.net.

**FPVHG Board Meetings** are usually held bi-monthly (except in summer) on a Thursday from 4-6PM at the Howard County Tourism Office. Check the website or call for date each month.

### OTHER PARTNER ORGANIZATION EVENTS:

**Patapsco State Park** – <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/patapscovolunteer.html>

**Catonsville Rails to Trails** – <http://home.comcast.net/~crtl/>

### New Trail Map in Development

By Lucy McKean

Charles Wagandt and Lucy McKean met with Thomas Rabenhorst, Director of Instructional Cartography at UMBC, for the purpose of creating a trail map suitable for use by both hikers and cyclists. The plan is to illustrate to users of the Grist Mill Trail how to travel from Ellicott City to the BWI Trail (circling the airport) which in turn connects with the B&A Trail (leading to Annapolis).

## Recons Help Protect the Valley

The 2007 stream watch recon team members include Kit Valentine, Steve Schreiner, Cam MacLachlan, Jim Apgar, Betsy McMillion and Lee Moser. These team members walked hundreds of miles throughout the Patapsco Valley area investigating watersheds for documentation and uncovering potential problem areas. Due to major grant funding from Baltimore County, the greatest emphasis was placed on Baltimore County watershed areas. Some of their investigations revealed:

Thistle Branch in Catonsville. The Thistle sub-watershed overall is in pretty good shape. The recommendations made to Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection & Resource Management include: (1) educating the Rollingwood community on how to reduce nutrients from entering the stream. (2) additional storm water control measures between Edmondson Avenue and Frederick Road to reduce relatively small-scale erosion problems south of Frederick Road, and (3) cleaning of the culverts at Frederick Road in the vicinity of the pumping station to prevent extensive flooding in the event of a major storm (this action was recently completed by Baltimore County crews).

Miller Branch in Oella. In an area of Patapsco State Park, uphill from Union Dam, the team uncovered an old garbage dump. Neighbors told us that Rockhaven Road, prior to being acquired by the state park, was accessible by the public and used as a local dump area prior to the county landfill being established. This "dump site" and car bodies are on slopes which drain into the Patapsco River. Three separate cleanups were conducted to remove most of the heavy junk and debris by volunteers, with the support of park staff. A final clean-up is planned for April 2008.

Herbert Run in Halethorpe. In a popular bird-watching area off of the west end of Hollins Ferry Road, Lee Moser, Stream Watch Volunteer, uncovered a massive amount of junk, debris and several hundred tires. Three separate group stream clean-ups were conducted in this area removing over 11,000 pounds of junk and trash. Working with the Maryland Department of Environment, Patapsco State Park officials and Baltimore County's Department of Public Works, a contractor will clean up the remainder of the tires and other trash along this area of Herbert Run as part of the water main capital project in this area. By our request, a video surveillance camera was installed by Baltimore County's Traffic Engineering on the cul de sac of Hollins Ferry Road to deter further illegal dumping along the road.

Deep Run in Elkridge. Along Race and Ridge Roads (roads along the bike trail connecting Elkridge to the BWI bike trail), our recon team uncovered a large

amount of litter and junk. Two separate group clean-ups were conducted removing over 5,000 pounds of trash. Race Road is occasionally flooded from Deep Run during heavy storms and an easily accessible area for illegal dumping. Continuous monitoring and annual clean-ups will be scheduled for this area.

## WANTED – A FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS

The Friends of the Patapsco Valley & Heritage Greenway are searching for volunteers for the stream watch program for the Patapsco River Valley. Adult volunteers and families are needed that live, work or "play" close to streams that flow into the Patapsco River, especially in Baltimore County. Volunteers are needed as cleaners, walkers or watchers for a short stretch of a stream.

**CLEANER** – volunteers remove trash from their adopted section in and around their "section" of the stream on a quarterly basis. Cleanups can be on an individual basis or arranged for a group cleanup with other volunteers.

**WALKER** – volunteers regularly walk their "section" of the stream and twice a year complete forms to collect information on the health of the stream and stream bank (visible wildlife, erosion, trash, or other environmental concerns).

**WATCHER** – volunteers that are both cleaners and walkers of their "section" of the stream and collect specific information on any damage, pollution and/or potential restoration opportunities observed within the stream or stream bank.

For more information, contact Betsy McMillion at 410-480-0824, e-mail [patapscofriend@comcast.net](mailto:patapscofriend@comcast.net) or visit [www.patapscoheritagegreenway.org](http://www.patapscoheritagegreenway.org).

## Charles Wagandt Wins Preservation Maryland Top Award

On November 16, 2007, surrounded by friends, family and supporters, Charles Wagandt was honored with the **President's Award** offered by **Preservation Maryland!** The award was presented at the Preservation Maryland Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony which was held at the Maryland Club in downtown Baltimore. His nomination was organized by Lisa Wingate, an incoming FPVHG board member. Charles is the founding President and a continuing board member of FPVHG. He has served on the board of other local preservation groups and was also recognized for his work in preserving the unique character of the historic mill village of Oella.

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Check Out Our Website!  
[www.friendsofpatapsco.org](http://www.friendsofpatapsco.org)

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## Wagandt Wins Award (cont.)

### President's Award:

Established in 2002, this award recognizes outstanding leadership and commitment to preserving Maryland's rich and diverse heritage. It represents Preservation Maryland's highest honor. Charles joins many distinguished Marylanders and projects in receiving this award.

### President's Award Recipients

- 2001 Senator Barbara A. Hoffman
- 2002 Comptroller William Donald Schaefer
- 2003 West Side Revitalization
- 2004 Hippodrome Theatre, France-Merrick Performing Arts Center
- 2005 B & O Roundhouse Restoration
- 2006 United State Senator Paul S. Sarbanes
- 2007 Charles Wagandt**

**Congratulations Charles!**

## New Web Page Design

By Steve Schreiner

We are grateful and fortunate to work with Leslie Darlington ([www.ddezine.net](http://www.ddezine.net)) who generously donated her time and talent to develop a new web page for the Friends ([www.friendsofpatapsco.org](http://www.friendsofpatapsco.org)). The overall design should be ready to go online sometime in January 2008. John Slater and I worked with Leslie to develop the overall idea of the design with input from other board members. Our goal was to create a more useful and accessible site that can be easily updated and showcase our organization and its accomplishments. We also wanted to include more graphical elements to make the site more pleasing to the eye and show some of the wonderful art, photography, and historical architecture of the Patapsco Valley. Thanks you to Steve Stannard who donated the artwork for the banner and to Jim Hade for his development of our new PHG logo. Although the basic framework is complete, we will be continuously working on additional sections to update the environmental, cultural and historical features of the page and welcome any suggestions for these elements and other links to include. Please send any comments, corrections or suggestions to Steve at [sschreiner@comcast.net](mailto:sschreiner@comcast.net).

