



The Woodlands of GHI

By Kathy Jarva

Greenbelt and GHI are known for our woods, and that's how we like it! But the woods need care and understanding, like all living things. The City of Greenbelt has placed much of their wooded land into a Forest Preserve. GHI has placed much of our wooded land into a Forest Conservation Management Agreement (FCMA). The FCMA is between GHI (owner of the land) and the County and State (tax authorities of the land). Locally, when the term Preserve is used, it generally refers to the City-owned woods. In GHI, we tend to refer to our own wooded areas as simply "the Woodlands."

The GHI Woodlands Committee looks after the GHI Woodlands, under the auspices of the GHI Board of Directors (BOD) and with the help of the GHI Director of Maintenance. The Woodlands Committee comprises interested GHI member volunteers approved by the BOD. The Committee sponsors regular events related to the Woodlands.

All members of GHI are welcome to attend the Committee meetings (third Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m. in the GHI Administration Building). You could also join the Friends of the Woodlands Committee, folks who volunteer to help on specific tasks or who adopt an area of our Woodlands to steward.

The GHI Woodlands Committee tends the Woodlands as directed by the FCMA. That FCMA dictates various management practices we must follow. In return, the County and State give GHI big tax breaks on the relevant acreage, thus saving money for all

GHI members.

Fighting non-native invasive vegetation is a major task of the Woodlands Committee, as is trail maintenance and community education.

The Committee is also trying to locate the boundary lines between the City and GHI within the wooded areas and especially along the many woodland trails.

The GHI Woodlands are managed for the benefit of the community: for improved air quality, for erosion abatement, and for recreational use. The GHI trails are minimally maintained for able-bodied individuals to walk or hike in a safe, natural environment without undue impediments. The Committee removes large logs, keep vegetation from encroaching on the trails and provide some stream crossings. The trails are not intended to be accessible to wheeled devices.

If you have suggestions or requests regarding the GHI Woodlands, please come to a meeting! We always want feedback and appreciate the opportunity to share Woodland interests. If you prefer, you may contact George Bachman, Director of Maintenance at GHI.

You may access a map of the GHI Woodlands from the Woodlands Committee page on the GHI website, www.ghi.coop/content/woodlands-committee. The Woodlands Committee updates this map with new trail names, landmarks and recognition of the boundaries between the City Forest Preserve and the GHI Woodlands. Agendas and minutes of Woodlands Committee meetings, and other information are also available at that website.

Enjoy and be kind to the GHI Woodlands - and to all woods everywhere!



Photo credit: Kathy Jarva

2016/2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' OFFICERS

Steve Skolnik
President

sdskolnik@gmail.com
301-503-0815

Stefan Brodd
Vice Pres.

s.brodd@verizon.net
301-474-3183

Chuck Hess
Treasurer

Chuckhess1040@cpa.com
301-474-3670

Ed James
Secretary

edward.james@gmail.com
301-345-8479

STAY CONNECTED



Subscribe to our weekly e-Newsletter for the most up-to-date information!
Visit www.ghi.coop and click on "I Want To...Subscribe to GHI E-News"

Why Should You Clean Up Pet Waste?

By Kris White

It's the Law. In Prince George's County, it's against the law to leave pet waste on public and private property with a fine up to \$250. GHI's Handbook also requires members to keep their yards free of pet waste and to pick up after their pets in other members' yards, in common areas, and on sidewalks. According to the State of Maryland Department of the Environment, studies indicate that roughly 40 percent of Americans do not pick up their dog's waste.



Pet Waste Doesn't Biodegrade Like Wild Animal Poop. Pet waste does not biodegrade quickly like wild animal waste. Because of the sheer number of pets in neighborhoods and in local parks, this hardy waste accumulates quickly.

Dog Poop Contains Harmful Bacteria and Parasites. Some of the human diseases transmitted by dog poop include tapeworms, Cyclospora, Campylobacteriosis, Salmonellosis, and E. coli. For people with weakened immune systems, E. coli infection can result in death. Dog poop can be harmful to other dogs as well.

Dog Waste Pollutes Groundwater and Water Bodies. Bacteria in dog waste can harm water quality in creeks and rivers. It can alter the ecosystems of these stream corridors. According to the MD Dept. of the Environment, "bacteria from pet waste accounts for 24% of the bacteria polluting urban and suburban waterways." Humans who come in contact with creek water can also face health hazards. Don't let your pets defecate within 200 feet of a water body.

Prevent Injuries. People can be badly injured by slipping on dog poop. A few years ago, a member slipped on dog poop and broke her ankle.

What Should You Do?

- Bring multiple biodegradable bags each time you walk your dog.
- Always pick up every poop with a biodegradable bag. Throw the bag away, or flush the poop down the toilet so it can undergo wastewater treatment.
- Watch for dog poop in your yard. Pick it up and throw it out right away!

Talk to your friends and neighbors about picking up their dog's poop!

Take the Scoop the Poop pledge at: <http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/marylander/outreach/pages/scoop%20the%20poop.aspx>

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at the GHI Administration Offices on Hamilton Place, and are open to all GHI members. Dates are subject to change.

May		
2	7:30 pm	Annual Candidates Forum <i>(City Council Chambers)</i>
3	7:00 pm	Addition Maintenance Program Task Force
4	11:00 am	Storm Water Management Task Force
4	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
5	--	OFFICE CLOSED
9	7:30 pm	Legislative and Government Affairs Cmte
9	7:00 pm	Pre-Purchase Orientation
9	7:30 pm	Solar Task Force
10	7:30 pm	Architectural Review Committee
11	7:30 pm	GHI Annual Membership Meeting
12	7 am - 10 am	GHI Elections - Board Room
12	5 pm - 8 pm	GHI Elections - Board Room
16	7:30 pm	Companion Animal Committee
17	7:00 pm	Woodlands Committee
18	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
19	--	OFFICE CLOSED
22	7:00 pm	Communications Committee
22	7:00 pm	Pre-Purchase Orientation
24	7:00 pm	Buildings Committee

Call 301-474-6011 for emergency maintenance outside of normal hours or when GHI is closed.

Member Announcements

Help Choose GHI Leadership!

On Tuesday May 2 at 7:30 p.m., the Nominations & Elections Committee will host the GHI Candidates Forum at the City Council Chambers. Come to ask questions of the candidates for the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee! If you can't attend in person, check the Greenbelt city website for a video.

On Thursday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m., the GHI Annual Meeting will be held at the Community Center. Come to hear discussions on the issues, hear speeches from candidates, and make an informed decision! Voting will begin after the meeting and continue on Friday, May 12 at the GHI Office. Members may vote whether or not they can attend the meeting.