



Patapsco Heritage Greenway | June/July 2021 Newsletter

**YOU**  
can help us  
to keep...

the wheels turning



good things flowing



moving forward



charting the future



**RENEW**  
Your Membership  
**TODAY!**

Our FY22 membership campaign continues!  
Become a part of the PHG community.



## Summer in the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area

Summer has officially arrived along with warmer temperatures and the eventual waning of the hum of cicadas. In the midst

of the pandemic last summer, many of us discovered new outdoor opportunities close to home. And the PVHA offers them aplenty for visitors near and far. We hope you find time to get outside and enjoy all of the recreational and cultural opportunities offered by our PVHA partners. Whether your journey leads you to explore waterways and trails in [Patapsco Valley State Park](#) or at [Howard County Conservancy](#), a summer concert at the [Lurman Woodland Theater](#) or [Frederick Road Fridays](#), an opportunity to learn a bit of history and experience the land at [Banneker Historical Park and Museum](#) or a chance to dine at a neighborhood restaurant with family and friends, we hope that this summer allows you to reconnect with experiences that sustain us and make the Patapsco Valley a wonderful place to visit, live, work and play. Get out and explore!



## Environmental Program Updates

### Farewell to Hannah Zinnert

After five years with PHG leading our environmental program, Hannah Zinnert is headed to graduate school at Auburn University. We are sad to see Hannah depart but appreciate all that she has done to grow the program, engage volunteers and educate the public. We wish her all

the best as she embarks on this next stage in her career. Our current environmental program coordinator, DJ Scheckelhoff, is helping plan our upcoming environmental programs and events. Stay tuned for an announcement

**JOIN**  
**or**  
**RENEW**  
**your**  
**membership**  
**TODAY!**

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short in our  
ongoing  
PATAPSCO  
SHORTS  
video series.

Stay tuned for  
an upcoming  
short exploring  
Trail Etiquette.



about our new permanent environmental program manager.

### **Spring 2021 Season**

Thank you to everyone for supporting PHG's Spring 2021 stewardship season. Together with over 200 volunteers, we managed to remove almost 9,000 pounds of trash, 13 acres of invasive plants, and plant 80 native trees in the Patapsco watershed. We appreciate everyone hanging with us as we adapted to the circumstances and modified our procedures. We've learned a good deal that will help us streamline future events as we return to a more normal environment this summer and fall.

### **Howard County PREP Grant**

Our \$35,788 PREP grant through the Howard County Office of Community Sustainability will be fully funded for FY22. This is a new grant—funds are generated from the county plastic bag fee—and will allow us to continue our water quality monitoring program and hire someone to lead this effort in the coming year. Thanks to our current CBT CCC intern, Abri Segal, for doing heavy lifting on this application and for launching the water quality monitoring program this year. Abri will be with us through July before heading to graduate school.

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## **Patapsco Regional Greenway Update**

PHG is pleased to report that our state delegation secured \$1.25 million in funding for the Elkridge to Guinness Open Gate Brewery trail connection. We appreciate the support from the state delegation and know that this is a vital first step in increasing recreational trail access in this section of the PVHA and ultimately across the entirety of the Patapsco Valley. For more information on the event and plans, click [here](#).

On the other end of the Valley, Baltimore Metro Council hosted a public meeting on May 27 regarding the planned Sykesville to McKeldin section of the Patapsco Regional Greenway. The meeting highlighted some of the design challenges that exist both within the state park as well as transportation, access and vehicle-pedestrian issues of running the Greenway into Sykesville. Video of the meeting is available [here](#) and you can also separately [view](#) the story map and other information discussed during the meeting.

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**Participate in PHG's Water Quality  
Monitoring Program**



Looking for a fun way to get outdoors? Come cool off by the river and check out our water quality monitoring program! Over the past few months, we have been collecting chemical and biological water quality data at eight sites through the Patapsco watershed. We monitor for bacteria, temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, nitrite, phosphate, water clarity. Water quality data helps us assess the health of our streams and identify areas of concern within our watershed. Remember that you can help control the health of our streams! One way you can take action is through picking up your pet waste. Pet

waste increases levels of bacteria in our streams and also increases nitrites and phosphates (which deplete oxygen from aquatic life). Stay tuned in the coming months to see all the data we've collected so far. If hanging out by the river and collecting water quality data sounds fun to you, email Abri at [phgintern@patapsco.org](mailto:phgintern@patapsco.org) to get involved! We have several volunteer events scheduled for July.

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## Best Depiction of the Patapsco River Award

PHG is a proud supporter of Howard County Arts Council's Paint It! event. We are pleased to announce that the prize for the best depiction of the Patapsco River goes to: Kathleen Gray Farthing's *Rush*. Our award committee was particularly taken with the artist's ability to capture both a sense of calm combined



with the forcefulness and energy of the Patapsco River. The painting invites the viewer into a lush space that captures nature's power and solitude. One imagines the RUSH of the river as part of a multi-sensory experience. You can visit the Paint It Exhibit in person or virtually at the [Howard County Arts Center](#).

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## Pride Month in the PVHA

As Pride Month draws to a close, there's a lot to reflect on regarding LGBTQ+ history. The Patapsco River Valley, and the nation, have been the backdrop to legal discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community. However, the region has also seen the growth of advocacy and activism for the equitable treatment of all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. For example, Benjamin Banneker, who some historians believe was gay, leveraged his education and personal connections to advocate for equality for all to Thomas Jefferson in 1791. In the 1940s/50s, author Robert Lindner advocated for the decriminalization of homosexuality from his Catonsville home. In 1975, Howard County became the first county in Maryland to include sexual orientation as a protected class from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. Ranging from individual efforts, to broader structural changes, the Patapsco Valley has worked to

also become a place of healing for the LGBTQ+ community.

To learn more about the incredibly multi-faceted history of the LGBTQ+ community, check out [this collection of incredible stories](#) compiled by the editors of JSTOR. For more information on LGBTQ+ history and sites in Maryland, read Preservation Maryland and Maryland Historical Trust's recent [LGBTQ Historic Context Study](#).

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**For upcoming event updates, connect to PHG social media.**

**[PATAPSCO HERITAGE GREENWAY, Inc.](#)**

*"Advancing the interests of the Patapsco Valley and all who share it."*

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