

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 16, 2017

For More Information

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**Anne Arundel County Environmental Groups Launch GreenGive,
a 24-hour Online Giving Day, Set for Monday-Tuesday, June 12-13**

Eleven Anne Arundel County environmental nonprofits are collaborating on a new, 24-hour online fundraising initiative, called **GreenGive**, designed to both raise funds and expand residents' and businesses' engagement with local environmental organizations, issues, projects and actions. It's the first time multiple environmental nonprofits have collaborated on such an event.

GreenGive is scheduled to start on Monday, June 12, at 5 p.m. and run through Tuesday, June 13, at 5 p.m.

A **GreenGive Live** Kick-off Party is scheduled for Monday, June 12, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Historic London Town & Gardens in Edgewater. Registration is requested:

<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/WatershedsStewardsAcademy/GreenGiveLive.html>

"Anne Arundel County is blessed with an abundance of magnificent natural wonders," said County Executive Steve Schuh. "Events like the GreenGive help ensure we can keep our County beautiful."

The **GreenGive** Partners are:

Annapolis Green	annapolisgreen.com
Back Creek Conservancy	backcreekconservancy.org
Friends of Anne Arundel County Trails	friendsofaatrails.org
Our Creeks and Conservancy	sites.google.com/view/ourcreeksandconservancy
St. Luke's Restoration of Nature Project	stlukeseastport.org/environmental-ministry
Spa Creek Conservancy	spacreek.net
Scenic Rivers Land Trust	srlt.org
Severn River Association	severnriver.org
South River Federation	southriverfederation.net
Watershed Stewards Academy	aawsa.org
West/Rhode Riverkeeper	westrholderiverkeeper.org

In the lead up to **GreenGive**, the 11 **GreenGive** Partners will be mobilizing their constituents through email and social media to become *a force for the greener good in Anne Arundel County* by learning more about each of the 11 organizations. Supporters will then be encouraged to **Pick 2!** organizations to donate to during **GreenGive**. More details about **GreenGive** Partners and their organizations, registration for the Kick-off Party, and how to donate (with special thanks to WhatsUp?TIX for assistance in managing donations) is available at greengive.annapolisgreen.com.

“We are challenging our supporters to recognize that the more we work together and the more we give, the more we will accomplish,” Suzanne Kilby Etgen, executive director of the Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy, and a lead coordinator of **GreenGive** said. “Real change requires a true collective effort. We want our community members to become fully engaged in the great programs underway in Anne Arundel County to restore local waterways, ensure clean water, protect trails and lands, and establish Anne Arundel County as an exemplary urban watershed. We will be encouraging constituents to broaden their interests and become more engaged in all of our work.”

During **GreenGive**, the 11 organizations will be promoting projects and initiatives on which they have collaborated.

An excellent example is the 1,000-ft. stormwater-stream bed restoration project currently underway on five acres of land behind St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Eastport. The idea for the project started with parishioners Betsy Love and Alice Hall in 2013. Love, an active member of the Severn River Association, joined and became trained by the Watershed Stewards Academy to become better equipped to lead the project. The restoration project, slated for completion this year, received \$1.2 million in funding from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Back Creek Conservancy, and a consortium of donors. (For more, see chesapeakequarterly.net/V16N1/main3)

As Love said in describing her project to *Chesapeake Quarterly*, “Stormwater management alone is such a big problem, everyone needs to get involved.” That’s who GreenGive aims to involve as well – everyone.

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Photo - Left to right: Kate Fritz and Suzanne Martin, South River Federation; Nina Fisher, Scenic Rivers Land Trust; Jack Keene, Friends of Anne Arundel County Trails; Suzanne Etgen, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy; Amy Clements, Spa Creek Conservancy; Elvia Thompson, Annapolis Green; Rev. Johnny Calhoun, Our Creeks & Conservancy; Rev. Diana Carroll, St Luke's Episcopal Church