

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
PRESS RELEASE
ATTENTION ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTERS AND CALENDAR EDITORS**

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PUBLIC INVITED TO 3rd ANNUAL RACHEL CARSON GREENWAY HIKES

SILVER SPRING, MD - The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) invites residents, organizations and anyone interested in nature to join Commissioners and staff in celebrating the Rachel Carson Greenway with a series of three environmentally-oriented, educational hikes along the 25-mile trail corridor, **Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m.**, rain or shine. Earlier this year, Commissioners approved the trail corridor plan that will connect the greenway's existing sections to form the county's longest continuous trail when completed. Hikes are scheduled simultaneously as follows:

- **Families and Kids Nature Fun Hike**, led by M-NCPPC Park Naturalist Betsy Taylor and Steve Findley. Begins at 10700 Colesville Road (US 29), at the Burnt Mills Dam, Silver Spring, hiking about one mile round-trip, north along Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park.
- **Underground Railroad History Hike**, led by M-NCPPC Historian Susan Soderberg. Begins at Woodlawn Manor Park, 16501 Norwood Road, Sandy Spring, continues nearly two miles along the Rural Legacy Trail portion of the Rachel Carson Greenway to the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House. Return transportation to Woodlawn will be available.
- **"The Sense of Wonder" Hike**, led by M-NCPPC Forest Ecologist/Botanist Carole Bergmann. Begins at Rachel Carson Conservation Park entrance, 22201 Zion Road, Olney, continues about two miles through one of the county's premier conservation areas.

Participants will hike along the Greenway's natural surface trails on uneven, sometimes rocky terrain and are encouraged to wear sturdy hiking shoes, dress in layers and carry a water bottle. The Families and Kids Nature Fun Hike is the shortest of the hikes and is suitable for fit children over the age of five years and their parents. To accommodate hikers and others at the end of the Underground Railroad History Hike, the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House will be open to the public for tours.

Maps for trails throughout Montgomery, the colorful event flyer that includes a map of the three event locations and other information are available online at www.montgomerytrails.org or by calling 301/495-4600.

Rachel Carson Historic Landmark - Open House

In addition, Rachel Carson's former home and historic landmark will be open to the public, courtesy of Cliff Hall and Diana Post in cooperation with the Rachel Carson Council, **Saturday, March 25, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**, 11701 Berwick Road, in the Quaint Acres area of Silver Spring, near the Families and Kids Nature Fun Hike. Visitors will enjoy: a presentation by Priscilla Coit Murphy, author of "What a Book Can Do: The Publication and Reception of *Silent Spring*", at 12 noon; a free musical performance by MAGPIE at 12:45 p.m.; a presentation of Ecosystem Gardening by Alan Kettler at 1:00 p.m.; and a presentation on "U.S. Environmental Quality 44 Years After the Publication of *Silent Spring*" by Rolf Halden, Ph.D., an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Organic refreshments will be reserved and this event is also free. For more information about the Rachel Carson Open House, contact Diana Post, 301/593-7507.

Rachel Carson, author of *The Sense of Wonder*, was a resident of Montgomery County when she wrote *Silent Spring*, a groundbreaking book that exposed the dangers to humans and the environment from indiscriminate use of DDT and related pesticides. Her home is a National Historic Landmark.

The Rachel Carson Greenway extends the former Northwest Branch Trail Corridor from the Prince George's County line north through Silver Spring, Ashton, Sandy Spring and the Rachel Carson Conservation Park in Olney, then on to the Patuxent River, spanning a total of 25 miles.

"Again this year, we're inviting hikers, walkers and nature lovers to participate in the three Rachel Carson Greenway hikes," noted Derick P. Berlage, Chairman, Montgomery County Planning Board. "Rachel Carson dedicated her life to helping people appreciate the wonders of nature. One of the best tributes we can give to Rachel Carson is to create and protect a greenway that celebrates the natural world."

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