

Governor Martin O'Malley's  
**Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature**

Joseph P. Gill, Chair  
Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D., Chair  
State Superintendent of Schools, Maryland State Department of Education

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**October 22, 2014 – Quarterly Partnership Meeting**

held at the Alice Ferguson Foundation, Potomac Watershed Study Center  
at [Hardbargain Farm](#), 2001 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, Maryland 20607

**Agenda**

- 10:00 – 10:10 Welcome, introductions, overview – *Frank Dawson, DNR*
- 10:10 – 10:25 **Overview of AFF's new Living Building** – *Lori Arguelles, Executive Director, AFF*
- 10:25 – 10:35 **Baltimore Wilderness Initiative** – *Genevieve LaRouche, Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chesapeake Bay Field Office*  
This new effort is bringing together planners, natural resources professionals, and educators alike, to connect more citizens to green space, with sustainability, resiliency to climate change, and education among its goals. What are opportunities for collaboration among this group and the Partnership to get more people outdoors?
- 10:35 – 11:15 **Sustainable Schools Interactive Discussion** – *facilitated*  
With increased awareness of sustainable practices and their importance to the environment and our well-being, Maryland is seeing a swell in interest and new initiatives among schools. In addition, a number of state, regional, and national mandates are calling on schools to do more "greening." Participants will work in small groups to brainstorm ideas to answer the question, **"What can the Partnership for Children In Nature do to advance sustainability in schools in Maryland?"** Discussion questions will address curriculum connections, teacher training, engaging families and communities, tying into community efforts, tracking behavior change, and more. ***Come prepared to collaborate! See background material provided.***
- 11:15 – 11:25 **Announcements**
- 11:25 – 12:00 **Facility Tour** – led by AFF staff  
Learn about the new Potomac Watershed Study Center, a Living Building (net-zero water, net-zero energy, zero-waste and carbon-neutral facility) and how it is being used to help educate its student visitors.
- 12:00 **Adjourn General Meeting** – next meeting January 2015!
- The Maryland Partnership for Children In Nature meets quarterly in January, April, July and October. April and October meetings include Leadership Team meetings. Dates and locations for 2015 will be set soon.*
- 12:00 – 2:00 **Leadership Team and Steering Committee reconvenes**  
*discussion on Transition recommendations*
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***Thank you to the Alice Ferguson Foundation for hosting us today!***

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## Upcoming events/ dates:

*[more to be added soon]*

### October

- **10** – “[Explore and Restore your Schoolshed](#)” **streams educator training**, secondary, Jug Bay, Lothian, MD.
- **12** – **Growing Up WILD** workshop at Robinson Nature Center, Columbia. [More information, here.](#)
- **15** – [National Geographic](#) **FREE online course for educators**, thru 12/17. Water: The Essential Resource.
- **22** – **Maryland Partnership for Children In Nature quarterly meeting**, Accokeek, MD.

### November

- **6** – **Nature Play Spaces Workshop**, at Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD. [Register here.](#)
- **7** – AFF’s [9th Annual Potomac Watershed Trash Summit](#), at Univ. of MD College Park.
- **11** – [Eco-Schools USA Webinar, NWF: Dashboard: Goals, Metrics, Success!](#) [Register here.](#)
- **13** – **State Environmental Education Briefing**, at CBF’s Merrill Center, Annapolis.
- **25** – Harford County Public Schools environmental literacy in-service day.
- Oct 15-Dec 17 – [National Geographic](#) **FREE online course for educators**. Water: The Essential Resource.

### December

- **5** – AFF’s [Bridging the Watershed 101 Training/Workshop for Teachers](#), at Jefferson Memorial, DC.
- Oct 15-Dec 17 – [National Geographic](#) **FREE online course for educators**. Water: The Essential Resource.

### January

- **17** – **Project WILD, Project WET, and Project Learning Tree Facilitator Workshop**, at Robinson Nature Center, Columbia. [Info here](#); [register here.](#)
- **27** – [Eco-Schools USA Webinar, NWF: Pathways to Sustainability.](#)
- **Maryland Partnership for Children In Nature quarterly meeting**, date/location TBA.

**Looking for some outdoor fun all year long?** Check out [Maryland State Parks’ online calendar](#) of activities and events.