



T. P. P. O. A.
Turkey Point Property Owners Association
P.O. Box 56
Mayo, MD 21106

THE ISLAND TIMES



Waterfront Hunting Licenses

Now is the time for waterfront property owners to license their shoreline to prevent any unwanted hunting in front of their property. The application period began April 1st and ends June 1st. This is the only period in the year open exclusively to waterfront property owners.

Information on how to obtain a license from the Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Bureau can be found online at www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/riparian.html. For information by phone, call the Wildlife Bureau at **410-260-8540**.

Where a community owns more than one area of shoreline, the community can license all of its shoreline areas under one license. Individual waterfront property owners apply separately, but if there are a number of properties that are contiguous or adjacent to each other, owners can all apply under a single license. Addresses and signatures of each property owner are required along with tax ID information. Licenses are \$20 for one year and \$60 for three years.

Waterfowl hunting begins September 1st and lasts intermittently through March 31st.

Hunting can take place as close as 150 yards from occupied dwellings. If you want to prevent hunting in front of your property, the time to get started is now. That way you will be sure to have your request in place before the June 1st deadline.

Mosquito Reminder!

Warming weather means the return of mosquitoes. The Maryland Department of Agriculture will come again this year to help control mosquitoes by spraying weekly and also by treating wet areas that have been identified as mosquito-breeding places. These efforts will provide some relief. A further effort is needed by residents of Turkey Point Island to combat Asian Tiger mosquitoes. These are the small mosquitoes with black and white stripes that are pests all day, not just in the evening. They are the ones that will follow you into the house. They reside in **your** yard, or in your neighbor's yard, breeding in small water-holding containers. Something as small as a soda bottle cap can be a breeding place. Unlike salt marsh mosquitoes, which can travel for miles to find you, Asian Tigers have a range of only a couple hundred feet. Thus you and your nearest neighbors



can mount an effort to rid yourselves of this species. The way to control Asian Tiger mosquitoes is to eliminate all standing-water places where they can breed. Everyone needs to ensure that their yards are free of empty pails, open wheelbarrows, old tires, etc.—anyplace where water can stand for a few days and provide a home for the Asian Tigers. This also includes standing water in gutters and other places that are difficult or impossible to empty. For these there is a product, Mosquito Dunks, which is a safe and effective control for mosquito larvae. Birdbaths should be emptied every three or four days.

For questions of concerns about mosquitoes call **Charlie Rader at 410-798-0095** or contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture Mosquito Control Section at **410-841-5870**.

Turkey Point Day 2009 Moves to September

Mark your calendar on September 19th for Turkey Point Day!

In past years our community picnic has been celebrated in early June. The Board of Directors chose September this year in the hopes that more residents will be home from summer vacations than are home in June and thus able to attend. There is also the hope that Mother Nature will be kind and give us a pleasant weather day. The past several June dates have been either terribly hot or have had thunderstorms that drenched the partygoers, the tents and Cloud Field.

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Calendar of Events for 2009

May 20th

General Meeting

May 30th

Community Yard Sale

September 16th

General Meeting

September 19th

Turkey Point Day

October 21st & 22nd

Dumpster Days

October 31st

Halloween Party

November 18th

General Meeting

December 6th

Operation Santa

Turkey Point Property Owners Association General Meeting

WHEN:

**Wednesday
May 20, 2009**

WHERE:

**Kiwanis Club
Carrs Wharf Road**

TIME:

**6:00 - Social
Sample Turkey Point clothing
will be on hand**

**6:30 - Dinner
Pot Luck—Please bring a dish
to share!**

7:00 - Meeting

Shredder at South River High School May 16th

Identity theft is an increasingly frequent occurrence in these times of financial uncertainties. One of the best ways to prevent this crime from happening to you is to shred documents that contain vital personal information rather than merely tossing them in the trash. Those old bank statements, credit card bills and any other documents with account numbers or Social Security numbers can be shredded right here in Edgewater.

On Saturday, May 16 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. a shredder service will be available in the parking lot of South River High School on Central Avenue. This service is meant for citizens' personal papers only — not for businesses. Everyone is asked to limit the amount of paperwork they bring to four boxes of material. Your cooperation and adherence to these limits will be appreciated.

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Rain Gardening



A depression-type rain garden takes stormwater runoff from the street and uses it to feed and water the native plants.



Rain gardening has become one of the most popular trends in gardening in recent years. Using native plants ensures a beautiful, low maintenance garden, provides food and shelter for wildlife and helps the environment. Plants that evolve locally are not as dependent for survival on pesticides, fertilizers or other additives that make their way into local waterways and spawn poor water quality.

In general, a rain garden seems just like any beautifully landscaped garden consisting of bushes, perennials and trees. But the approach involves deliberate planning beyond that appearance. To create a rain garden, begin by digging up the designated area to a depth of about two feet. Then mix organic matter (like compost, shredded leaves or peat moss) in the dug-up soil to loosen and fertilize it. Add the enriched soil back to the dug-up area, tapering to a depression of about six inches deep at the middle of the garden. Water runoff in heavy rains fills this depression and the water gradually soaks into the ground.

During storms, a huge amount of water runoff can be seen flowing out of gutters, off roofs and down driveways. A rain garden can absorb a lot of this excess water that otherwise would build up and cause flooding, or carry pollutants into local streams and rivers as it washes away. It is a good idea to locate your rain garden next to hard surfaces like a driveway or even the street to reduce runoff. Or, to direct runoff from a downspout, you can bury pipe that carries water to the garden.

A rain garden can be built any time of the year when the soil can be dug up and trees and bushes planted. Like other types of gardening, it's easiest to do in the spring or fall.

Plan to put your rain garden in a sunny to partially sunny area, a minimum of 10 feet away from any building. It is best placed on a level piece of land or a very gentle slope. If on a slope, it should be oriented so that water will flow downward.

The Chesapeake Ecology Center has online information about rain gardens on their web site www.chesapeakeecologycenter.org and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation has a step-by-step building guide on their web site www.cbf.org (look under "take action" on this site). Also, the South River Federation has a free publication describing building rain gardens that will be available at the May TPPOA general meeting.

The rewards of a rain garden are many. Once established, it requires no mowing, fertilizing or regular watering. It usually needs just mulching and intermittent weeding. It will attract birds and beneficial insects. It will reduce (or eliminate) standing water in your yard, which in turn will reduce the mosquito population around your home. And, it will be beautiful to look at! If you're curious, take a walk to 1122 Paca Drive to see three depression-type rain gardens in operation. One is along the street, one is on the left side (as you face the house) and one is in the back yard nearest the marsh.

Locally native perennials, shrubs and trees that absorb large amounts of water but can also tolerate dry soil conditions are ideal for this type of garden. A "native" plant is one that occurs

naturally in the area where it is growing. In the first year after you build a rain garden you may need to water regularly. Once the plants take root such watering will not be necessary.

One of the best ways to choose plants for your garden is to walk around your neighborhood and see what plants your neighbors have had success in growing. Then check with any nursery for a listing of native plants. On Turkey Point Island Vinca is a hardy ground cover. Ivy will grow anywhere. Perennials could include Virginia bluebell, giant coneflowers, New England aster, Shasta Daisies, a variety of ferns and grasses and, of course, Black-eyed Susans. Inkberry, Mountain Laurel, Nandina and Coast or Swamp Azaleas have grown well here on our island. Tree choices could include Eastern Redbud, Flowering Dogwood, American Holly, Sweetbay Magnolia, Red or Sugar Maple, Willow Oak and River Birch. Any local nursery can help you decide which plants or trees are best for your particular location.

Whatever you choose and wherever you decide to put it, a rain garden will be a pleasure to look at and will help our local wildlife, rivers and bays. Gardening is a rewarding experience.

Did You Know That...

- ▲ After a rainfall, all Anne Arundel County beaches are under a no swimming/no direct water contact advisory for 48 hours, due to predicted high bacteria levels (*preemptive advisory*).
- ▲ You can get information about obtaining subsidized coupons for the government's converter box program (*if you have an analog-only TV*) by calling **1-888-388-2009** or online at www.dtv2009.gov.
- ▲ Information on financial aid for college students is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov or at www.collegeboard.com. Now is the time to plan for collage aid for September 2009.
- ▲ Candy corn first showed up in stores in the Midwest in 1900 and was created to honor America's hardworking farm families.
- ▲ You can put your phone on the federal do-not-call registry by calling **1-888-382-1222** or online at www.donotcall.gov.
- ▲ Turning off the tap when brushing your teeth can save as much as 10 gallons of water a day, a person. For a family of four, that is 14,600 gallons of water a year.
- ▲ The Maryland state boat, the Skipjack, was introduced to the Chesapeake Bay in the 1890s and was specifically designed for dredging oysters.

Be a Good Neighbor

As editor of *The Island Times* I often have neighbors come up to or call me and ask to have a particular activity that they deem careless or annoying mentioned as such in the newsletter. Usually people either wonder why in the world someone is doing such a thing or doubt that the perpetrator of whatever activity has a clue that it is less than OK with the neighbors. Below are listed several of these things that have been brought to my attention.

Street Parking— Consider visibility of traffic trying to get around your vehicle, boat trailer or motor home. This can be especially dangerous near intersections and on hills.

Corner Shrubs— Visibility at intersections and curves in the road is the responsibility of the property owner. Poor visibility is a danger for both vehicular and foot traffic.

Lawn Mowers & Leaf Blowers— Hours of operation is the key for these. The generally accepted rule for operation of power equipment in communities with noise ordinances is between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. on weekdays and after 9 a.m. on weekends and holidays. Not everyone lives on the same time schedule so a little consideration goes a long way.

Animals— Animals left outside, especially when their owners are not at home to be aware of a problem, is a frequent com-

plaint. If your dog is prone to barking, keeping him or her in during the early morning hours would be a thoughtful measure to consider. Remember too that it is an Anne Arundel County law (Article 12 Section 9-105 – Running at Large) that says that "at large" means off the property of an animal's owner and not leashed and not under the control of a responsible person.

Pocket Bikes & Gas-powered Scooters— These are not only noisy but are illegal on all public roadways. They are a danger to their riders and to other people and vehicles that travel around them. To legally drive a motor scooter on a public road (as are roads on Turkey Point Island), a driver must have a valid license or state moped operator's permit.

Trash & Recycling Containers— Most of us put our trash and recycling bags and containers at the street the evening before or early the morning of pick-up. This leaves many hours for birds, animals and wind to do damage, especially to overfilled containers. Lightweight boxes, plastic

bottles and newspapers seem to get away easily. Replacement or additional containers are available at the Recycling Office at 2662 Riva Road. Also, it is not necessary to use a yellow bin for recycling. Putting an "X" on any barrel makes it acceptable. Not overfilling will help the collection staff and will keep your yard (and your neighbor's) free of litter.

Community Yard Sale

Saturday, May 30th

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Contact the Sweeney's by May 27th at 301-205-0990 if you wish to have your property placed on the community map to be sure that all Yard Salers stop by your house.

Water by Need, Not by Date

Watering by need means giving plants and grass water *only* when they need it, not on a set schedule. And when they need it, make sure the soil is wet down to the plants' roots.

Many homeowners water daily with a hose, lawn sprinkler or have an automatic sprinkler system that waters daily. By watering frequently instead of infrequently and deeply, grass and other plants develop weak roots that leave the plant less able to withstand drought and disease.

Most plant experts say watering in the early morning (before 10 a.m.) is better than at night because moisture all night invites disease entry. Watering during the hot time of the day is wasteful because so much of the water is lost to evaporation.

Mulch can be a great help in holding

moisture. A 2- or 3-inch layer of mulch holds moisture in the soil and keeps the roots cool in hot dry weather. The roots of plants extend much further than you think so mulch as large an area as you can around each plant.



As with other plants, lawns should be watered only when they need it. Overwatering wastes water and can lead to disease. As a general rule, lawns need an inch of water per week, either from rain, sprinklers or a combination of the two.

It's not hard to figure how to deliver one inch of water to your yard. First, set five or six small cans on the lawn around the sprinkler. Run the sprinkler for 30 minutes. Measure the depth of

water in each can. Add the water depth in each can and divide by the number of cans to get an average. If that number is a half inch you know you need to water for twice as long (an hour) to get the desired one inch.

Clay soil does not absorb water well. If you have clay soil and water runs off instead of soaking in, divide your watering time into two or more periods, with a 30-minute break between waterings.

Closely cut grass requires more water than taller grass that shades the ground and minimizes evaporation. It's easy; just raise the blade on your mower.

In our area watering in summer is vital to keeping our landscape healthy and beautiful. It's when and how we water that makes the difference. We will all reap the rewards of thoughtful water management in our own yards.