

Update

May 2000

CALENDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

May 31, 2000: 2nd Annual Anacostia River PRIDE Day: Cleanup of west shore neighborhood. 9am-2pm. For more info call Cherie Schultz at 301-984-1908/ext. 120.

ARBC Buzzards Point Project

In the coming year, ARBC is planning to support the construction of a series of demonstration projects in the South Capital St./Buzzards Point area to address the problem of "non-point source" toxic pollution in storm water runoff. Non-point source toxic pollution refers to the trace amounts of chemicals left on our roadways, parking areas, lawns, and other surfaces by the operation of motorized vehicles and other everyday human activities. When it rains, these chemicals are carried by rain water into our storm sewers, and then into our streams and rivers. Non-point source pollution is believed to be one of the major contributors of toxic chemicals to the Anacostia River and its tributaries.

One means of addressing toxic non-point source pollution is the construction of bioretention areas, more commonly referred to as "rain gardens". Rain gardens provide a relatively simple, low-cost method of filtering storm water runoff to remove trace amounts of toxic chemicals. Rain gardens are shallowly depressed landscaped areas underlain by sandy soil which are designed to capture a portion of the storm water runoff from a property. When it rains, runoff flows into the rain garden and soaks down through the layers of mulch and soil, and then, depending on soil conditions, continues soaking through the ground to replenish ground water, or is collected by an under drain

system connected to a storm sewer. Toxic chemicals are filtered out of the storm water by the mulch and soil, and a portion of these chemicals are actually transformed into harmless compounds over time by friendly bacteria. A rain garden can enhance the appearance of a property, since it is typically landscaped and can be planted with attractive vegetation. In cases where there are regulatory requirements to treat storm water runoff, rain gardens may save a business money, by providing a lower cost alternative to more standard best management practices such as sand filters.

As a part of its Buzzard Point Project, ARBC is planning to assist several members in the construction of rain gardens on or adjacent to their properties. These sites will serve as demonstrations projects to educate other businesses how they can implement non-point source reduction measures on their own properties. The Buzzard Point Project will be carried out with cooperation and assistance from the DC Environmental Health Administration, the DC Department of Public Works, and the DC Water and Sewer Authority.

ARBC Incorporates as Nonprofit

ARBC formally incorporated as a non-profit organization in the District of Columbia on March 10, 2000. The organization was formed in 1997 by a group of businesses in and around the District of Columbia who were concerned about the Anacostia River. ARBC focuses on education efforts to help businesses and citizens prevent pollution from toxic chemicals. It also undertakes a wide variety of projects to restore and protect the river's shoreline and tributaries, and serves as a clearinghouse to link environmental projects with volunteered business resources. ARBC projects have included

- ❑ Co-sponsorship, along with the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Businesses for the Bay, of a free Pollution Prevention (P2) workshop.
- ❑ Public awareness campaign, “A Cleaner Anacostia – Make It Happen”, including colorful posters displayed on Metrobuses and in Metrorail stations.
- ❑ Annual Anacostia River PRIDE Day cleanups (Partnership to Raise Awareness about Illegal Dumping and Enforcement).
- ❑ ARBC “Adopt-A-Stream” program, sponsoring cleanups and riparian buffer zone plantings at the Watts Branch tributary

ARBC is now embarking on a new membership drive. ARBC members may attend the organization’s bimonthly meetings, receive the ARBC newsletter, and participate in ARBC projects. Protecting and restoring the Anacostia River not only benefits the environment, but also enhances

- community and economic development opportunities. Joining ARBC can provide businesses with the following additional benefits:
- ❑ Opportunities to keep abreast of environmental issues which could affect your business.
 - ❑ Information on what other companies are doing in terms of environmental projects and image.
 - ❑ Public recognition for your business’s contributions to protecting the river, through publicity in press releases, newsletters, posters, and other printed material.
 - ❑ Opportunities to interact with government regulatory agencies in a constructive, cooperative manner.

For more information, visit the ARBC website at **Error! Bookmark not defined.** . Fill out and mail in the attached ARBC Membership Form today!

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ANACOSTIA RIVER BUSINESS COALITION UPDATE

c/o Washington Gas
 1100 H Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20080

ARBC Update!

What is ARBC and how can you participate?