

Hickory Hillside* Hive!

January 2025 Report to the Village of Hickory Ridge

“Office Hours”

As the Hickory Ridge representative to the Columbia Council and therefore a member of the CA Board of Directors, I am responsible for policy (along with my nine colleagues) while the village manager, Laura, and her staff handle the day-to-day operations of the village, as CA staff does for CA as a whole.

I can be reached by contacting the village office at 410-730-7327 or by emailing me at Skye.Anderson@CA-Board.Org and I am happy to meet with you. A good place to meet is Mad City Coffee at Hickory Ridge Road and Cedar Lane. I also meet with people at the Wilde Lake Starbucks three to four times a week.

Meetings

[CA Board meetings](#) – agendas, board packets, meeting videos. The CA Board meeting was held at 7 pm on 23 January. Registration for [Resident Speakout](#) is always due COB the day before. Meetings are in person and streamed in real time as well as taped. We voted to accept the [strategic plan](#) for the next four years, and discussed the operating and capital budget. The meeting can be viewed [here](#).

Events

16 Jan – the CA board and senior staff held a stakeholder event with village managers, board chairs and vice chairs. Laura and I were there for Hickory Ridge.

22 Jan – I attended the Climate Change and Sustainability Advisory Committee, one of about 10 committees. I wrote about each of them last year but if you are interested, I can give you more information on becoming involved. And anyone is welcome at any meeting.

23 Jan – I attended the Risk Management Committee meeting.

Looking Ahead to February

CA Board meetings will be held on 13 and 27 February. And the Board Operations Committee will meet on 24 February to set the agendas for the next quarter.

Weed Warrior training will be held in March and April. I am including the current issue of our Weeders Digest for your enjoyment.

Remember, We are **all** Hickory Ridge!

*Hickory Hillside Hive: *Hickory* for Hickory Ridge Village, *Hillside* because CA Headquarters is located on Hillside Street (near Stevens Forest Road and Broken Land Parkway), and *Hive* – because we are all one, together!

The Weeder's Digest

January 2025, Volume 37



Published by



You Can Get There From Here.

Warrior's Corner

Watering Sprayers on Wheels Now Available to Borrow!

Exciting news! CA has purchased three 14-gallon watering tanks that have wheels for Weed Warriors to borrow to bring water to their Adopt a Spots! We hope to combat the struggles that many of you had last summer with those brutal droughts. Email us if you're interested in borrowing one! Supply is limited so we would like them returned within a week (ideally a few days).



New Adopt a Spot Form is Available!

Since our switch from Google to Microsoft, we've had to change our Adopt a Spot form as well. Here is the new [form](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=LnvVeU0b7UmsAlgiFAjK9JE3UOnwEh1IkM7SFCdukORUMTJKSVRGVFBTQ0YwSUZPNUZTRDJZUTc2SC4u&route=shorturl) for anyone who is interested in Adopting a Spot!

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=LnvVeU0b7UmsAlgiFAjK9JE3UOnwEh1IkM7SFCdukORUMTJKSVRGVFBTQ0YwSUZPNUZTRDJZUTc2SC4u&route=shorturl>



Weed Concept of the Month

Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

- Imported by USDA in 1916 for breeding disease resistant plums
- Multiple genotypes – ‘Bradford’ cultivar popular
- Large, sharp thorns, may be absent on young plants
- Unpleasant “dead-fish” like odor in flower
- Produces small, pear-like fruit and hundreds of seedlings
- Aggressively spreads and forms impenetrable thickets
- Aggressively resprouts from cutting
- Difficult to kill
- Requires herbicide – basal bark, hack-n-squirt, or foliar
- Spread by birds





Native Look-a-like



Sweet crabapple

(Malus coronaria)



Invasive

Callery pear

(Pyrus calleryana)

CA's Corner

We Have a New Email!

The Sustainability team can now be reached at Sustainability@columbiaassociation.org ! Please use this instead of the Open Space Resource Requests one.



CA is Looking for a New Watershed Manager!

CA is looking for a new Watershed Manager! Below is a summary of the description, as well as the link to apply. Please feel free to pass this along to any interested parties!

Application can be found [here](#)!

Summary:

Reports to the Sustainability Manager with overall responsibility for implementing the Watershed Management Plan and for developing and administering a watershed management program for the community of Columbia, MD. This position is also responsible for supporting water quality monitoring, sediment management in the main lakes and resident engagement programming, while also assisting other divisions and departments within CA on watershed policy compliance. Broad advisory support for managing stormwater runoff, the design and construction of bioretention facilities, pond rehabilitation, and stream ecology monitoring. Position is also responsible for review, analysis, recommendations and testimony on State and local legislation affecting watershed issues in Columbia and CA.

Essential functions:

- Must have a Maryland Class C license and the ability to comply with Columbia Association's driving requirements
- Able to visually inspect (with or without corrective lenses) conditions of grounds, lakes, streams, ponds and other watershed areas
- Must have basic practical understanding of construction standards
- Ability to conduct field (hands-on) sampling/assessment/surveying
- Must have basic knowledge and understanding of watershed characteristics, identify potential solutions and facilitate project implementation.
- Possess basic knowledge and understanding of county and state regulations, policies and requirements
- Must have basic knowledge and understanding of best management practices that will lead to a more environmentally sustainable department
- Works outside under any kind of weather conditions
- Able to purchase major items, equipment, materials and consulting services at reasonable cost and within CA purchasing guidelines
- Communicate effectively both verbally and in writing to senior team leaders and community members

- Ability to develop and assist in the management of capital and operating budgets, controlling expenditures in accordance with the approved budget

Minimum Qualifications:

- 10-15 years of professional experience in aquatic ecology, watershed management, stormwater management, and/or water quality
- Demonstrated verbal and written communication skills
- Proven ability to effectively deal with the public and provide customer service
- Maryland driver's license (Class C)

A Note about Injuries and Emergency Situations

CA cares about both injuries that may occur during events and the volunteers trying to provide assistance. Our first aid kits provide basic coverage including bandages and gauze for minor cuts and abrasions. **Should a more serious incident occur, including emergencies, please seek professional help on site to ensure that proper care is given (i.e. call 911).** Additionally, Danielle Tyeryar (danielle.tyeryar@columbiaassociation.org) and Natalie Yee (natalie.yee@columbiaassociation.org) should be notified.

We are incredibly grateful for the caution you show when out in Open Space. Thank you for the care you put towards the environment and to one another.

Volunteer Tickets

CA provides raffle tickets to Certified Weed Warriors as a reward for volunteering. CA will keep the “coupon” side, and Certified Weed Warriors will receive the “ticket” side. When rewarding a volunteer, the certified Weed Warrior must sign and date the back of the ticket. One ticket per volunteer per event. Certified Weed Warriors must submit their volunteer sign in sheets through our new form or email to Sustainability@columbiaassociation.org. Ticket holders can redeem a free plant at larger events (Volunteer Appreciation Night, plant swaps, etc.) When volunteers redeem their tickets, staff will be tracking event dates and volunteer

numbers. The number of tickets for any given event should correspond to the number of volunteers.

If you are interested in handing out coupons for volunteers helping with one of your events, please send a request to CA at Sustainability@columbiaassociation.org.



Call for Submissions



CA always welcomes input for the Weeder's Digest! If you would like to have your event advertised, or if you would like to submit a written piece or photo for Warrior's Corner or Weed of the Month, please send your submission to Sustainability@columbiaassociation.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Weed Warrior Event Submission Link

For easy access to submit the details about your Weed Warrior event!

<https://form.jotform.com/220886084589168>

Past Weed Warrior Volumes

Under construction! This link still works for volumes up until February 2024:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Kda7oGVGMoR1tDnbG_rzTiykngzfUw3W?usp=sharing

HCC's Corner

The Part We Can Play in Landscaping

Our hearts go out to the victims of the California wildfires. With these recent events, we should all look at our own neighborhoods, parks, and businesses. While our developers, planners and even politicians are considering stormwater issues more attentively, we should also be looking at the impacts of prolonged drought and wildfires. While construction materials and building placement can have a big impact on resisting fire damage, the landscaping choices we make also have a big impact.

Low-growing native plants retain a lot more moisture than the widespread use of exotic or invasive species. Native species typically have deep roots which allow them to stay moist and more fire-resistant than shallow-rooted species. Therefore, not only will these deep-rooted species resist fire, but they will also recover faster from brush clearing and proscribed burns.

While keeping larger vegetation further from structures, it is important to note that hardwoods like oaks, poplar, cherries, and maples can help slow the spread of flaming embers from conifers and trees that have resinous sap that burn rapidly even if moist. Hardwoods also have value in their old needles for mulch and weed suppression.

Shallow-rooted lawn grasses dry out rapidly and can spread fire quickly. Their use should be limited to play spaces where uniform texture and height are required for safe running and ball-moving activities. In other areas, deep-rooted native grasses can help restrict the spread of fire from lawns and playing spaces.

Already folks in California like those across the southern states are planning on how to rebuild to better withstand the impacts of natural disasters like fires and floods. We have a part to play in our landscaping here in Columbia as well.

-Bob

Stay Connected with HCC



nursery.

If anyone would like to receive our monthly Sustainability newsletter, please contact our editor at bgreen@howardcc.edu.

Howard Community College welcomes all county residents to walk along our paths and enjoy the native plants and wildlife we try to promote. Weed Warriors are welcome to go off the paths to collect seeds, and we always like to host WW “Pull and Plant” projects that our students and staff can join in on. We will also provide homes for unwanted native plants in our

Upcoming Events

This is an opportunity to promote your activities! Feel free to submit your upcoming events to Sustainability@columbiaassociation.org.

February 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 LR Trashy Hours 9 AM - 10 AM Phelps Luck Neighborhood Center	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1

- **2/16: LR CARES Trashy Hours**
 - 9 AM – 10 AM
 - Meet at Phelps Luck Neighborhood Center (5355 Phelps Luck Drive)

March 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 LR Trashy Hours 9 AM - 10 AM Jeffer's Hill Neighborhood Center	17	18	19	20	21	22 Patriot Pond Pull and Plant
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Notes				

- **3/16: LR Trashy Hours**
 - 9 AM – 10 AM
 - Meet at Jeffer’s Hill Neighborhood Center (6031 Tamar Drive)
- **3/22: Patriot Pond Pull and Plant**
 - More details to come

April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5 Columbia Cleans Day
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 ~Setting Sun Trail Pull and Plant ~Greenfest
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 ~WW Training Part 1 - Classroom ~CA Elections ~WL Earth Day ~OM Earth Day
27 Snowy Reach Pull and Plant 9 AM - 11 AM	28	29	30	1	2	3

- **4/5 Columbia Cleans Day**
 - Varies per village. More details to come
- **4/12: Setting Sun Trail Pull and Plant**
 - Contact Paul Rader for more info: prader91@gmail.com
- **4/12: HCC's Greenfest**
 - 10 AM – 3 PM
 - Howard Community College

Howard County 2025 GreenFest

Save The Date!

Saturday, April 12 • 10:00am – 3:00pm
Howard Community College, Academic Commons
HCGreenfest.org

Native Plant Sale, Food trucks,
Green Vendors, Bike Corral,
Giveaways & MORE!



**Calvin Ball
County Executive**



- **4/26: Weed Warrior Training Part 1 – Classroom**
 - 9 AM – 12 PM
 - Sign up: Sustainability@columbiaassociation.org
 - More details to come
- **4/26: CA Elections**
 - Varies per village
 - [Columbia Elections 101 - Columbia Association](#)
- **4/26: Wilde Lake Earth Day Festival**
 - More details to come
- **4/26: Oakland Mills Earth Day Celebration**
 - More details to come
- **4/27: Snowy Reach Pull and Plant**
 - 9 AM – 11 AM
 - Contact wildelakecares@gmail.com for more information

May 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 WW Training Part 2 - Field
4 Rouse Rock Pull and Plant 9 AM - 11 AM	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Faulkner Ridge Pull and Plant 9 AM - 11 AM	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Bryant Woods Pull and Plant 9 AM - 11 AM	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- **5/3 Weed Warrior Training Part 2 – Field**
 - 9 AM – 12 PM
 - Sign up: Sustainability@columbiaassociation.org
 - More details to come
- **5/4: Rouse Rock Pull and Plant**
 - 9 AM – 11 AM
 - Contact wildelakecares@gmail.com for more information
- **5/11: Faulkner Ridge Pull and Plant**
 - 9 AM – 11 AM
 - Contact wildelakecares@gmail.com for more information
- **5/18: Bryant Woods Pull and Plant**
 - 9 AM – 11 AM
 - Contact wildelakecares@gmail.com for more information

Local Environmental Groups

To learn about Adopt-a-Spot and other Weed Warrior events taking place in your area, check out your local CA Village environmental groups:

- Harpers Choice CARES:
 - Email: harpers.choice.cares@gmail.com
 - Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HarpersChoiceCARES/>
- Hickory Ridge Watershed Advisory Committee:
 - Website: <https://hickoryridgevillage.org/village-board/board-committees/>
 - Email: dwessner@yahoo.com
- Kings Contrivance CARES:
 - Email: kcvillegecares@gmail.com
- Long Reach CARES:
 - Facebook page: <https://m.facebook.com/LRCARES/>
 - Email: WAC@longreach.org ; cares@longreach.org



Cotton Mill Adopt a Spot

- Oakland Mills Yards Alive!
 - Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1356333938095073/>
 - Email: yardsaliveom@gmail.com
- Owen Brown CARES:
 - Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/396047025235322/>
 - Google group: owenbrowncares@googlegroups.com
- River Hill Watershed Committee:
 - Email: rhwatershed@yahoo.com
 - Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WatershedCommittee/>
- Wilde Lake CARES:
 - Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WildeLakeCARES>
 - Register for e-newsletter: <https://forms.gle/Zy1FRK1qNU1hS2PC7>
 - Email: wildelakecares@gmail.com



The Chewy Award, photograph by Victoria Van Hyning