

Film Takeaways: Alone in the Wilderness

The Chestertown Environmental Committee concluded the 2016 [First Thursday Environmental Series](#) with a presentation of *Alone in the Wilderness*, a film about a man who built a self-sufficient homestead.

- 1. Great season and I hope we can look forward to next season. Great job!*
- 2. Great film—thank you. More nature films. Keep up the great work.*
- 3. Amazing, inspiring. Leaves me speechless and wanting to grow and build things and be self-sufficient.*
- 4. Great movie! It would be great to continue to continue the environment and wilderness series of films and presentations.*
- 5. Wow! A good Iowa boy's amazing legacy. What an adventure. The biggest crowd laugh was his stew with "everything but the kitchen sponge!" THANKS!*
- 6. Great!!*
- 7. Great presentation. I however am too much of a wuss for that life.*
- 8. The resourcefulness and talent of one man with determination.*
- 9. So good of Dick to think of filming his adventure in 1968! This was better than anything on HDTV!*
- 10. FABULOUS! Please keep doing this!*
- 11. I enjoyed the scenery and especially watching him build things. Very interesting.*
- 12. Sharp contrast to our lives and a reminder of what we have*

given up for our own comforts.

13. Wow! Crazy carpentry skills. I would have to live somewhere where no log cabin would be required.

14. Love the series! I will think about suggestions for next year.

15. "Alone in the Wilderness" is a great example of what one can accomplish and a great closer for the year. Looking forward to seeing more in 2017.

Film Takeaways: The Power of Community

The Chestertown Environmental Committee screened *The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*, about how the nation responded to its oil embargo of the 1990s by conserving energy and switching from conventional agriculture to permaculture.

1. Chestertown needs community gardens! Also places for raising chickens.

2. A nice, positive story about a country forced to adapt to a world without oil. I'm going to order worms soon. —F

3. Very interesting, eye-opening, and scary. Makes you start to think differently.

4. Great show and a better trip for everyone who can go. —RAM

5. More bicycle trails—to connect community center and businesses.

6. Our best economic effort is Farmers' Markets and CSAs! We need to encourage more.

7. Plant more trees!

8. We need to get back to town composting!

9. Permaculture training revitalized Cuban cities, increased public health, and restored the environment while helping local

economies.

10. Work with nature! Accomplish more!

Film Takeaways: Passive House Revolution

The Chestertown Environmental Committee screened *Passive House Revolution* about maximizing energy efficiency in home construction and remodeling.

1. Since most of us won't be building a solar house, it would be great to talk about and share ideas about ways to decrease our everyday energy use in the houses we already live in currently.

2. Hopeful future using "passive house" ideas.

3. Great movie; thanks! How about a moratorium on new house starts; upgrade/replace houses and stop taking the land from nature.

4. Maryland has very good energy codes. We should be sure that they are being enforced to the full spirit of the codes.

5. Solar panel awnings in parking areas (covered parking in some open lots).

6. Let's have a consultant come and talk about costs and process so folks here have a real-action grasp (at Washington College?).

7. I think educating would be a great first step towards applying these concepts. So many people, myself included, don't realize how much better and more efficient they could be. Maybe we could write something informational in the newspaper.

8. We should see an update to building cost to encourage passive design.

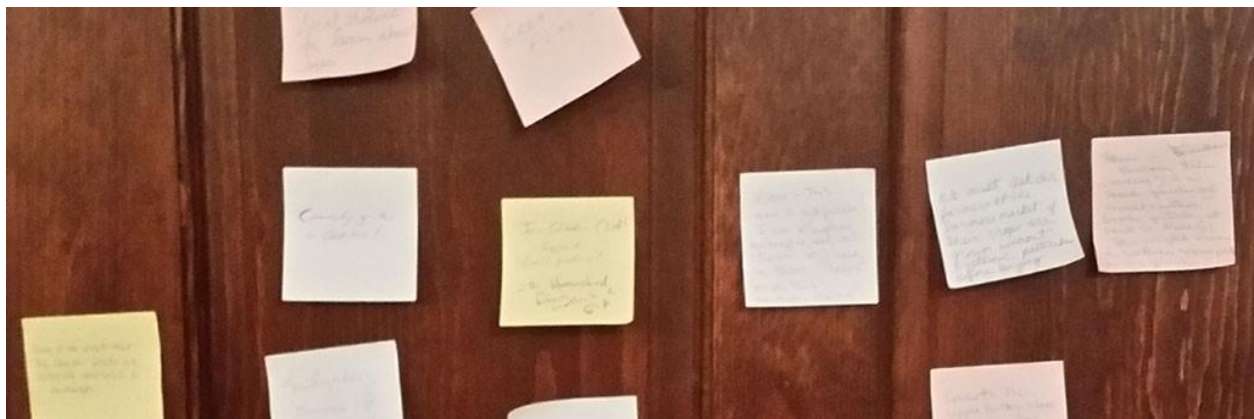
9. Delmarva Power energy audits.

10. A nice straightforward documentary on amazing improvements in home energy. Thanks! — F.

11. Leadership from town, county, and state to consider passive housing — low income housing.
12. Urge business and building owners to rethink insulation and energy needs.
13. Film did not deal with H2O condensation in high levels of insulation. Differing types of windows make a difference.
14. Strategic matrix of most cost efficient first steps.
15. Energy consultant to retrofit our homes.
16. Solar hot water in all public buildings.
17. We have a particular challenge with historic houses in the area. But we have an advantage of smaller homes.
18. Conventional buildings silently exacerbate climate change. The team at Kent County Planning, Housing & Zoning might encourage more rigorous construction standards for our community.

Vanishing of the Bees

The Chestertown Environmental Committee screened *Vanishing of the Bees* as the fourth event in its 2016 [First Thursday Environmental Series](#).



After watching *Vanishing of the Bees*, audience members left parting thoughts on post-it notes to share with the community.

Film Takeaways

About the Film

1. Wow—this was a gut punch! I am attempting beekeeping here in C-town. Will hang in there. Thanks for all this awareness raising.
2. Enlightening serious info served with humor.
3. Like the canaries in coal mines, our bees are warning us of this enormous challenging crisis!! Buzzzzzz!
4. Ack! Chinese “blend” honey?!
5. We have a real “mass” of people here in Kent who are committed not only to bees but “the defense of food” and a healthy lifestyle—encouraging to have this series.
6. From NJ for evening—great movie, will recommend to Gloucester County Nature Club Program.
7. Great film!
8. Excellent movie; informative, thought-provoking, inspiring. I will definitely plant for pollinators and have bees.

Education

1. Barbara Ellis is a local gardening expert/author. She might have a lecture appropriate to our group?
2. Field trips for local students to learn about bees.
3. Some of the plants that we consider weeds are actually beneficial to pollinators.

Individual Actions

1. Buy native plants for pollinators from [Adkins Arboretum nursery](#) from May-October!
2. Come to the [Upper Eastern Shore Beekeeping Association](#),

second Wednesday of the month at the Kent Library in Chestertown

3. Join [Colchester Farm CSA](#) in Galena! Or [Homestead Farms CSA](#) in Millington! Support local produce!

4. Less lawn, more color, more bees!

5. Planting clover versus grass? Any problem with zoning in Chestertown?

6. Start a bee hive.

7. We must ask our farmers at the Farmers' Market if their crops are grown without systemic pesticides before buying.

Community Actions

1. [Bee City USA](#) certification for Chestertown!

2. Can we make the rails to trails pathway an edible community garden?

3. Community gardens in Chestertown!

4. Plant pollinator corridors under power lines—turn an eyesore into an asset!

5. How can we give homeowners incentive to replace lawn with stormwater-reducing pollinator plantings?

Dirt! The Movie

The Chestertown Environmental Committee partnered with [Colchester Farm](#) to screen *Dirt! The Movie* as the third event in its 2016 [First Thursday Environmental Series](#).



Community members gathered to watch Dirt! The Movie in Sumner Hall.

Film Takeaways

About the Film

1. I learned what I already knew that man has been destroying the earth. I wish the local farmers were here to watch this.
2. Joyous! Scary! Compelling! Funny!
3. OMG! *Everyone* needs to see this movie! Now!!! Thank you for my opportunity to see it.
4. Enjoyed this sobering film, will look for the book, too.
5. Precious gems are not as precious as Dirt!
6. A great film that everyone should see.
7. Good film! Good message!
8. Terrific and important!
9. I discovered during my shamanic training that trees and plants communicate and know of our presence—I was happy to learn

that science has traced this phenomenon to the mycelium network. – [Bonnie Keating](#)

Education

1. Get this movie to all the schools!
2. Fabulous movie—we must share over and over again. Please. To schools.
3. All kids should know how to grow things.
4. How can we get more local food in our schools?

Energy

1. Conserve energy!
2. Which distant landscapes are destroyed for Chestertown to get its electricity?

Composting

1. I need to learn how to compost. Good dirt!
2. “Promote Global Worming!” Join the citizens of the world to save the earth’s skin.
3. Can local restaurants and Washington College lead the way with composting in town?
4. Compost at public events! Earth Day, Tea Party, and Downrigging. Stop throwing away soil fertility!

Community Advocacy and Ideas

1. Join a CSA!
2. Great movie! How about an environmental book club?
3. Why aren’t there more community gardens in Chestertown?!
4. Agroforestry for rails to trails, supporting local food and ecotourism!
5. How does the current farming practice help or hinder the soil?

(the no till + plant cover crop + then use herbicide + GMO plants)
6. How does vertical urban farming fit in?

The Clean Bin Project Film Takeaways

The Chestertown Environmental Committee screened *The Clean Bin Project* as the final event in its 2017 [First Thursday Environmental Series](#).

1. Inspirational and fun.
2. In the Mediterranean we saw so much plastic sheeting from plastic greenhouses.
3. Water bottles are everywhere.
4. I've been reusing bags and wraps for six years and most of my family and friends think I'm crazy. 90% of my clothes are used. I sooo get this!! Wondering now what to add next!
5. Good. Thought provoking. How to overcome the American packaging industry? It seems overwhelming.
6. Another great example of American waste.
7. We can all: garden more! Shop farmers' markets, share resources.
8. Do I really want that?
9. I refuse to support cafés and restaurants that use Styrofoam.

10. Always bring re-usable vessels, cups, Tupperware, etc.
Thank you!!
11. The Quayside Village model provides an example of how achievable zero waste is.
12. Certified compostable bags are made with petroleum?!
13. Need bulk goods in town.
14. Where to recycle other than #1 and #2 plastics?
15. Get stores on board.
16. If only every human could watch this film.
17. Great choice of a timely film.
18. It inspires me to challenge myself now and this upcoming year to further reduce my own waste.
19. Just a wonderful topic for today. This movie has motivated me to try harder to reuse and reduce. Thanks.

Bag It Film Takeaways

The Chestertown Environmental Committee screened *Bag It* its 2017 [First Thursday Environmental Series](#).

1. Let's go further than straws.

2. There's too much disconnect to *common sense*.
3. People are not too lazy to act. Our wastes are disgusting.
4. Don't overlook the auto industry's waste.
5. After watching *Bag It* I realize I have to totally change my shopping habits and be hyper aware of the results of my purchases.
6. I especially liked the part about recycling being the last resort!
—David
7. Wow! “Bag it!” Stunning, horrible, astounding, sobering.
Thanks for all your efforts. —Sue
8. *Trashed* and *Bag It* in one week is more than a thinking creature can take. Changing the paradigm that we have grown into is a greater challenge than getting here in the first place.
9. Let's make Chestertown's Tea Party and Earth Day and Harry Potter Festival zero waste events: start by incentivizing food vendors to use only compostable food packaging and dishware, and gradually make it a requirement. If San Francisco can do it, so can Chestertown.
10. Composting is a crucial component of increasing community activism on waste reduction.

The Chestertown Environmental Committee screened *Garbage Warrior* in its 2017 [First Thursday Environmental Series](#).

1. All the films you show are educational. Thank you.
2. Very inspiring. At the same time I worry about current EPA direction. Hope there is a way here to heal the earth!
3. I like the new time for the movie, thanks.
4. Definitely an entertaining film—kind of a kooky guy—that’s about a very serious thing—resilience and survival.
5. Would love to have known exactly how to build the houses.
6. Wonderful movie! Persistence is paramount! Hope more people see this and rectify state and local governments!
7. Age of survival! Must be innovative for positive change.
8. Really interesting.
9. *Persistence is vital to effect change!* A champion leader is necessary.
10. Building an Earthship would be a great community project! One self-sustaining building would be really cool to have and could provide a great attraction for the town.
11. Subdivisions are dinosaurs—we need new thinking of every aspect of housing.

12. The documentary showed the possibility of using trash that's usually thrown away as building materials. Maybe Chestertown could empower people with this idea? (Start small?)

13. Compelling use of thermal mass, passive solar design, and an indictment of the regulations that lull us into wasteful complacency.

14. How can Chestertown commit to constructing energy efficient buildings?

15. We must plan for community resilience *before* disaster.

Blue Gold: World Water Wars

The Chestertown Environmental Committee screened *Blue Gold: World Water Wars* as the ninth event in its 2016 **First Thursday Environmental Series**.

Film Takeaways

About the Film



Community members gathered to watch *Blue Gold: World Water Wars* in Sumner Hall.

1. Is there an update on the status of water in the US?
2. Clean water must be made affordable but *free water* is a

death sentence for the poor.

3. Eye-opening about groundwater waste.

4. Great film for raising awareness but it misunderstands the need to reduce waste from all areas.

5. Sound system needs clearing up. Too dull monotones. [We reported the issue, thanks!]

Food Production

1. Local food, appropriate crops: replenished groundwater and a healthy Chester River.

2. Farm use to grow corn is exorbitant. It illustrates corporate greed without soul.

3. Excellent movie. How about more culture/agriculture? Are Monsanto and others controlling all the corn, etc.?

4. Grow food not lawns.

Community Advocacy and Ideas

1. How can we avoid bottled water in town? Possible to implement refillable water bottle stations at Tea Party?

2. Public drinking fountains with refillable water bottle stations in town

3. What redundancies does Chestertown have if our groundwater is compromised?

4. Can we incentivize metal or slate roofing for potable rainwater catchment in town?

5. Build resiliency into our landscapes

6. Support local food and habitats

7. Start *here*: local outreach to ensure water access in our community

8. How can we keep control of our own water?

9. How can we make our community more sustainable with our water with farms and the rivers?
10. The part at the end during the credits that gives more ideas about actual action steps could be highlighted with a handout or (better yet) by email!

Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story

The Chestertown Environmental Committee screened *Just Eat It* as the first event in its [2016 Shore Homesteading Series](#).

Film Takeaways

About the Film

1. I guess you have to get over any germaphobia—chicken from a dumpster?
2. If they saved/rescued \$20,000 of food in six months, where did all that go? They could not have eaten it all, but they did not show themselves giving it to a pantry...
3. Eye opening. The peril of modern technology and being spoiled to believe we should have access to it all.
4. A great follow up to the water waste shown in [Blue Gold](#).
5. The film suggested that we can continue to rely on processed foods heavy in refined sugars and preservatives. We need to prioritize local food. And produce less trash in doing so.

Education

1. Children in the schools should see *Just Eat It*.
2. Have our local farmers seen this film? Responsible agriculture.
3. Do you know about [unsung.org](#)? It's based in Baltimore—

recycles food.

4. “Hungry Harvest” shown on “Maryland Farm and Harvest,” ugly fruits and veggies.

Promoting Food Access through Gleaning

1. Which states have stores similar to Quest?

2. We could have a group of dumpster divers as a food waste protest group.

3. How do we get food from waste areas to feed animals when they are far apart?

4. [Homestead Farms](#)—the CSA in Millington—gleans veggies for the Maryland Food Bank. They would appreciate help.

Composting

1. Do any local restaurants/businesses compost food waste? How can we incentivize composting?

Community Advocacy and Ideas

1. Help! What can we do?

2. Grow your own when viable!

3. What are the laws pertaining to serving size in retirement homes, hospitals, etc.?

4. Could Chestertown ever have a community garden?

5. The town needs to find some land to use for public food gardens.

6. Produce year round. Learn to cook only what is in season!!

7. How can we empower people like ourselves to start making these changes in the community?