

## CALENDAR

### Special Events

Mar. 5 Interviewing Skills Workshop  
@ NRDC, 1200 New York Ave. NW, #400

### EcoHours in 2009

6 p.m. at Penn Quarter Teaism  
Corner of 8th Street NW and D Street NW

Jan. Wednesday, January 28

Feb. Tuesday, February 16

Mar. Tuesday, March 17

Apr. Tuesday, April 21

May Tuesday, May 19

Not enough events for you? Be sure to sign up for our listserv to get information on upcoming events and join one of our new Eco-mmunities, with groups like Eco-Moms and Eco-Outings.

Get the latest event info at:  
[www.ecowomen.org](http://www.ecowomen.org)

## SUBSCRIBE TO OUR LISTSERVS

### 1. DC EcoWomen List

Notifies women about our upcoming events (e.g. EcoHour) and distributes resources related to these events and the organization.

### 2. EcoWomen Community List

Enables women to share information about jobs, events, articles and volunteer opportunities with an environmental focus, as well as housing classifieds.

There is no cross-posting between these lists.

To join one or both lists, visit  
[www.ecowomen.org](http://www.ecowomen.org).

## EcoWomen Show Love for the Potomac



EcoWomen members lazily drift down the Potomac during the August tubing trip.

Photo courtesy of Crystal Leonhardt

It's where the District ends and Virginia begins, where litter reminds you that you're still in the city and where sunsets can make you forget. And this year, it was where DC EcoWomen came together for two Potomac-tastic events.

Our first rendezvous with the Potomac was a day of good, clean tubing fun. On a Saturday morning in August, 12 ambitious EcoWomen dragged themselves out of bed long before the Diner opened for brunch, and by 8:30 a.m., they were out of the city and headed for the river.

"It was a bit chilly in the morning, but as the weatherman predicted, it quickly became an absolutely gorgeous day, and the company made it perfect," said EcoWomen Executive Board Member and Special Events Coordinator Gina Mathias.

Participants—which included some male colleagues, friends and companions—put in up-river and floated past the historic town of Harpers Ferry, at the confluence of the Potomac and the Shenandoah, where West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia come together. Their two-hour trip included scenery that dropped the jaw, rapids that varied from class I to class III and conversation that sparked new eco-relationships.

"The best part of the day was sitting on some rocks, enjoying lunch with all the people who came out and getting to know them," Gina said.

Our second Potomac outing came on a crisp fall day in September. After meeting at the Lincoln Memorial, the group joined other D.C. community members to pick up garbage around the National Monuments and the Tidal Basin in honor of the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup Day.

EcoWomen Executive Board Member and Special Events Coordinator Sarah Clem organized the cleanup, which drew a small, but formidable, group of women who devoted three hours to improving their watershed and enjoying one another's company.

"I felt like we had an opportunity to get to know each other," Sarah said. "At the end of the day we'd all had fun and contributed to a great cause."

**Fun is good, have some with EcoWomen: Keep an eye out for messages from our brand-new Eco-mmunities, which are serving up fun on a regular basis.**

## Bidding for the Environment

If you give them paddles, they will bid. That was the lesson learned at the third annual EcoWomen EcoAuction in June. Hosted at RFD (Regional Food & Drink) in ChinaTown, the event surpassed its own fundraising goal, providing DC EcoWomen with the revenue to continue our success in bringing women in the environmental field together. Thankfully, the bidders were less concerned with learning lessons and more concerned with getting their paddles in the air to win CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) shares, Zipcar memberships and full-body massages.

For five dollars, bidders got admission to the event and a paddle, allowing them to participate in both a silent auction and a live auction. The auction, like most EcoWomen fundraisers, welcomed both men and women.

Companies and organizations—from M.O.M.S. grocery store to Bedrock Billiards—donated more than 30 eco-friendly products, gift certificates and services to EcoWomen for auction. Products up for grabs ranged from sun dresses by Patagonia to a gallon of VOC-free paint to tickets to the Caps' hockey games. Services included knitting lessons, home eco-audits and a nature adventure on the Potomac.

"I have known EcoWomen for a number of years and was happy to attend this year's auction for what is such an important organization in the Washington, D.C. area," said attendee Michael Gale of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. "I am honored that the EcoWomen accepted me into their world of empowerment."

"Our audience seemed to be having a great time," said EcoWomen Executive Board Member Kelly Rand, who emceed the live auction. "It was fun to see people swarm the silent auction table to check on their bids when we announced that it would be closing soon."

The cherry on top was that bidders enjoyed RFD's happy-hour drink specials right up until the final item was auctioned off—which happened to be two \$500 vouchers for an EarthWatch expedition.

To quote Kelly, "The night was a huge success."

**If you missed this year's EcoAuction, don't worry—it's an annual event! Keep an eye on the EcoWomen listserv, so you'll know when to start dusting off your paddle.**

## EcoHour Speaker Round-Up

July 2008

**Diane MacEachern**  
Author, *Big Green Purse*



Diane MacEachern opened the July EcoHour by asking every woman there to take out her wallet and hold it up. Then, the well-known environmental speaker and author explained how women's wallets can have an impact on the world. Stressing buying less over buying "green," Ms. MacEachern advised EcoWomen to shop in their closets first, and then look to Freecycle and Craig's List. The current green craze is not a fad, she said. It's our new way of life.

September 2008

**Harriet Tregoning**  
Director, Office of Planning, Washington, D.C.



After a month off, EcoHour resumed in September with commentary from D.C. planner Harriet Tregoning on the city's "Clark Kent identity." She discussed the hidden super-hero quality of the District, which may appear to be lagging in green initiative but has passed some of the country's most aggressive green building legislation. A former engineer who calls herself an "accidental planner," Ms. Tregoning also shared the story of how she got her job with D.C.'s Office of Planning by way of a ticked off government H.R. employee.

October 2008

**Kathleen Hogan**  
Director, Climate Protection Partnerships Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



In October, the director of the EPA's Climate Protection Partnerships Division talked to EcoWomen about working on a problem that "will likely see me through my career." Kathleen Hogan discussed programs like ENERGY STAR and Climate Leaders and the strides they've made through a systematic approach of continual testing and reaffirmation. "You want to spend your time in as effective a way as possible," she said, "so be thoughtful about what tool you use to solve what problem."

November 2008

**Francesca Grifo**  
Senior Scientist and Director, Science Integrity Program, Union of Concerned Scientists



"Women need to have someone who tells them it's OK to love science," Francesca Grifo says—and in November, she was that someone for EcoWomen. A senior scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists, Ms. Grifo admitted that she had to put in time at several "bastions of male insanity" before finding herself in the compassionate work environment of UCS. As she watched less qualified men get promoted ahead of her, she survived on practicality and humor: "I breast-fed in front of my male colleagues."

*EcoHours feature female leaders of the environmental movement and are generally held on the third Tuesday of the month (except for August and December) at 6 p.m. at Teasim in Penn Quarter. To be notified about upcoming EcoHours and other events, sign up for the DC EcoWomen listserv at [www.ecowomen.org](http://www.ecowomen.org).*