



Branching Out

March 5, 2010

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia. www.vanaturally.com/tree

TREE meetings:

April 12, 11 to 1 at Deltaville Maritime Museum.

www.deltavilleva.com/museumpark/default.aspx

Facebook page:

TREE is now on Facebook! If you have a Facebook account, go onto Facebook and search for Three Rivers Environmental Educators (part of the name may work), then click "become a fan." You can also see the page at the following link. There is not much on it right now, but Laura plans to include postings from our newsletters and contributions from our members.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/TREE-Three-Rivers-Environmental-Educators/311927152701>

Local Events:

Gardening in the Northern Neck Symposium, March 27

Time: 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Location: Church of the Nazarene
57 Whisk Drive
White Stone, VA

Registration forms and course schedule available at www.nnmg.org February 22, 2010
or call (804) 580-5694 Registration deadline is March 19!

MWEE Capacity Building Workshop, April 17th, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA

Secondary teachers will participate in a one-day professional development and capacity building workshop to learn how to conduct their own Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences (MWEE's) for students at their schools. Activities will include how to plan a MWEE, site selection, pre- and post-trip activities, safety and organization, appropriate equipment, introduction to Chesapeake Bay flora and fauna, and environmentally responsible field trip practices. Come learn more about how to implement your own MWEE at your school. Registration is limited to 15.

For more information, contact Sarah McGuire at mcguire@vims.edu or 804-684-7878.

Other Events:

[Bay-Friendly Horse Farms](#)

March 13th, 9am-Noon, Creeds Ruritan Club, Virginia Beach

Horse owners can learn to manage their land, pasture, mud and manure for healthier horse and healthier water. Free and open to the public. Coffee and doughnuts provided. Pre-registration strongly encouraged. Contact Katie Sanford at 385-8602 or ksanford@vbgov.com.

[Sierra Club Green Building Tour](#)

March 16th, 12-2pm, Ernie Morgan Center, Norfolk

See solar energy, eco-gardens, sustainability & more in action! Refreshments provided. \$2 suggested donation. Contact Judy Hinch (816-8989) or Christy Fisher (520-730-9708) for details.

[A Journey Toward Excellence, March 31st from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., Dept. of Environmental Quality, Charlottesville, VA](#)

I'm sure you've asked yourself before, "How are we doing? Are we being effective?" This workshop will give you the opportunity to evaluate your program from many different aspects. You will leave with knowledge and tools that will help you critique and fine tune your program. But, "Just why should I go to another workshop when I can read about program evaluation?" First off, this workshop will be unlike any you've attended so far. You will literally be taking a journey on a path toward understanding how your program can obtain excellence. There won't be any of this sitting for hours in a chair stifling yawns. Second, you'll meet other environmental educators and learn how each of your programs approach evaluation. Space is limited, so please register soon with Page Hutchinson at Page.Hutchinson@deq.virginia.gov.

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

[20 Additional Words to Avoid in 2010](#)

Last issue we shared [6 Words Nonprofits Should Avoid in 2010](#) which lit a fire under our fellow language purists' behinds to contribute their own irksome, shudder-inspiring, jargon-filled terms and punctuation usages to include on the banned list.

Here are a couple of our favorite submissions:

"Can we please ban the **exclamation point** from all fundraising literature, too? No need to write like a happy Muppet."

– *Jude*

"My two least favorite words that should be banned forever? **Dovetail** and **springboard**. I don't think I need to explain any further."

– *Allison*

[Visit the Learning Center to find these and our other top 20 ideas \(and some dissenters to last week's terms\) >>](#)

[More Discussion of Words](#)

For you word-junkies, this website has dozens of words used in proposals, fund-raising, and other literature used by non-profits. Click on a word to read a discussion about how it should (and should not) be used for biggest impact, along with better words and phrases. [Jargon Finder](#) on the Communications Network website

A Socioeconomic Atlas for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and its Region -- This 2009 publication provides projected population densities, land use trends, recreation and tourism industry revenue and employment, and other information on social, economic, cultural, and governmental aspects of the Bay watershed. Prepared for the National Park Service by Jean McKendry of the University of Idaho. The Atlas is available online at www.chesapeakebay.net/content/publications/cbp_46698.pdf (a 40 MB file). For a CD-ROM copy, contact Greg Ogilvie at the NPS's Chesapeake Bay Office at (410) 260-2488 or greg_ogilvie@nps.gov.

NOAA's New Website -- Known as the **NOAA Climate Portal**, the site serves as a single point-of-entry for and expands access to NOAA's climate information, data, products and services. The site is designed to address the needs of five broadly-defined user groups: decision makers and policy leaders, scientists and applications oriented data users, educators, business users, and the public. NOAA requests feedback on how to improve the site. Highlights of the portal include an interactive "climate dashboard" that lets users see a range of constantly updating climate datasets (e.g., temperature, carbon dioxide concentration and sea level) over adjustable time scales and a new climate science magazine called ClimateWatch, featuring videos and articles of scientists discussing their recent climate research and topics, in addition to an array of data products and educational resources. The website is located at www.climate.gov.

New USGS Groundwater Studies -- The studies investigate what, when, and how contaminants may reach public-supply wells. All wells are not equally vulnerable to contamination because of differences in three factors: the general chemistry of the aquifer, groundwater age, and direct paths within aquifer systems that allow water and contaminants to reach a well. The USGS tracked the movement of contaminants in groundwater and in public-supply wells in four aquifers in California, Connecticut, Nebraska and Florida. The importance of each factor differs among the various aquifer settings, depending upon natural geology and local aquifer conditions, as well as human activities related to land use and well construction and operation. Findings in the four different aquifer systems can be applied to similar aquifer settings and wells throughout the Nation. Learn more about public-supply well vulnerability from USGS fact sheets and video podcast: <http://oh.water.usgs.gov/tanc/NAWQATANC.htm> .

New Cousteau Society program

The society is currently developing a participative science program for divers worldwide. By joining Cousteau Divers, recreational divers can become active agents of the study and preservation of the marine environment. For more information, visit www.cousteaudivers.org.

Using Appreciative Inquiry

This four-part series, written by Alexandra Peters, will take you through the three basic phases of Appreciative Inquiry. Appreciative Inquiry is an approach that will help your organization define its strengths, articulate its vision, and implement positive change. The series offers guidelines on how to integrate this approach into your grantseeking process. Click on the link provided above to read Part Two: The "Discovery" Phase of Appreciative Inquiry.

EE Week: Be Water and Energy Wise!

Register for National Environmental Education Week, April 11-17, 2010

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week), the nation's largest environmental education event, inspires environmental learning and stewardship among K-12 students. EE Week connects educators with environmental resources to promote K-12 students' understanding of the environment. EE Week is a program of the National Environmental Education Foundation.

When you register for EE Week, you will join a national network of educators dedicated to increasing the environmental literacy of K-12 students. You will also receive certificates of participation, free online resources, information on professional development and funding opportunities, and access to discounts on educational materials from Acorn Naturalists, Kilowatt Ours, and Nature-Watch just for EE Week participants. <http://eeweek.org/>

Grants, Volunteers, and Funding:

Grant Research

March 30th, 9am-Noon, Volunteer Hampton Roads

The key to winning grants is conducting good research. Learn what you need to have in place before you put pen to paper and understand the world of grantmakers. Explore best practices that will aid you in your search with the guidance of a local foundation representative. Contact 757-624-2400 or vevans@volunteerhr.org to register.

Jobs

Summer Programs Educator

The Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia, housed at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point, VA is searching for a highly motivated Summer Programs Educator. This person will be responsible for:

- Supporting the planning and implementation of the Reserve's five summer camp programs for students in 1st-8th grade, including one week-long overnight camp to the Eastern Shore.
- Working with other staff to check students in and out, prep supplies, transport gear and students, maintain aquariums
- Assisting with both lab and field programs including but not limited to canoe, vessel, and wading trips
- Supporting the Reserve's other education programs such as the Discovery Lab series and professional development for local teachers
- Receiving all necessary safety requirements for the position

This position is full time, some nights, holidays and weekend work required. The start date is early June through mid August. Please submit a cover letter and resume to Sarah McGuire, Education Coordinator, by March 31st if you are interested in applying for this position.

Sarah McGuire

mcguire@vims.edu

804-684-7878

P.O. Box 1346

Gloucester Point, VA 23062

Several Positions Available : Maymont Foundation

Accepting applications for the following positions:

Manager of Historical Interpretation and Tours

Environmental Educator

Environmental Education Intern

Special Events Assistant

<http://www.maymont.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=294>

Program Coordinator I

Description: EMBARQ - The World Resources Institute Center for Sustainable Transport is seeking a coordinator to provide administrative and programmatic support for its core program, reporting to the Operations Manager. The position is available immediately.

The EMBARQ global network catalyzes environmentally and financially sustainable transport solutions to improve quality of life in cities. Since 2002, the network has grown to include five Centers for Sustainable Transport, located in Mexico, Brazil, India, Turkey and the Andean Region, that work together with local transport authorities to reduce pollution, improve public health, and create safe, accessible and attractive urban public spaces. The network employs experts in fields ranging from architecture to air quality management; geography to journalism; and sociology to civil and transport engineering. For more information about EMBARQ, please visit

<http://www.embarq.org>. Apply online at <http://www.wri.org/jobs>

Job Type: Full Time permanent

Salary Detail: TBD

Deadline: 4-30-2010

Organization: [World Resources Institute](#)

Location: Washington,DC

Contact Person: Tonia Garnett

Phone: 202-729-7613

E-Mail: tgarnett@wri.org

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Want to be included on the TREE mailings? Contact faye.andrashko@va.nacdnet.net