



# Branching Out

April 30, 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](http://www.vanaturally.com/tree)

## **TREE meetings:**

Tuesday, July 13, at 11:00, starting with our tour of the Omega Protein plant in Reedville, and our lunch/meeting to follow.

At our recent TREE meeting, it was decided that setting our meeting dates a year in advance would be most helpful to members.

The group settled on Tuesdays as usually a good day, so please mark your calendars for the coming TREE meeting dates:

October 12, 2010

January 11, 2011

April 12, 2011

## **Local Events:**

### Belle Isle State Park Mother's Day Programs

**Saturday, May 8**

**Mother's Day Canoe 2-4 pm**

**Sunday, May 9**

**Mother's Day Kayak 2-4 pm**

Hear about great animal mothers that live in the park while on this enjoyable paddle. Mothers are free when accompanied by one paying attendee. Due to space limitations, reservations are recommended. \$5 per person. Meet at the Camp Store for equipment.

### Music by the River

**Honeywind Bluegrass Boys 6-8 pm**

**May 8 at Belle Isle State Park**

The Honeywind Bluegrass Boys return to Belle Isle with a harmonious blend of bluegrass, country, and gospel favorites. Look for the white tent for crafts and games for the family. Concerts sponsored by area businesses and the Friends of Belle Isle. Picnic area- bring a blanket or chairs.

## **Other Events:**

### **Nature Journaling Class**

**May 16th, 1-4 pm, Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve** , Virginia Beach  
Join Rosanne Haaland to learn techniques for drawing wildlife and reflective writing. This four-session class will begin in May and continue with as-yet-to-be-determined dates in August, November, and February so that students may chronicle their experiences at Hoffler Creek through all four seasons. The class is geared towards beginners above the age of 15. Registration is \$20, \$10 for members. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required by Saturday, May 1st. 757-686-8684, [www.HofflerCreek.org](http://www.HofflerCreek.org)

### **Something Is Killing Our Bats - And It's In Virginia!**

#### ***June 1st, 6-7:30pm, Virginia Living Museum***

The mysterious White Nose Syndrome (WNS) that has killed hundreds of thousands of bats in the northeastern U.S. was confirmed in five counties in Virginia in spring 2009. Join U.S. Fish & Wildlife biologist Sumalee Hoskin at the Virginia Living Museum to explore what is known about WNS, the current status of WNS in our state, which bats are affected and what the spread of WNS may mean to Virginia's caves and other wildlife. VLM members \$5, non-members \$7, active VLM volunteers free. Call 757-595-9135 or register at [www.thevlm.org](http://www.thevlm.org) Virginia Living Museum, 524 J. Clyde Morris Blvd., Newport News, 757-595-1900

### **NOAA Marine Debris Art Contest K-8**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Marine Debris Program would like to know how marine debris impacts you and what you are doing about it. The winning artwork will be showcased in a 2011 planner that will help in raising awareness about the global problem of marine debris. Additionally, the winners will be featured on the Program's website and in their newsletter, reaching over 200,000 people each month!

#### Time Frame

June 1, 2010 - Deadline for postmark of completed entry form + artwork.

July 1, 2010 - Winners will be notified

Visit the web site for complete details:

<http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/outreach/artcontest.html>

## **Free Tools and other Cool Stuff**

The Virginia Office of Environmental Education maintains a [No Child Left Inside webpage](#) with helpful resources at:

<http://www.vanaturally.com/vanaturally/ncli/homepage.html>

Happy Earth Day! Here is the link to the Special Earth Day Edition of the [Virginia Naturally Newsletter](#):

[http://www.vanaturally.com/vanaturally/april\\_news10.html](http://www.vanaturally.com/vanaturally/april_news10.html)

If you have activities that are of interest to Virginia Naturally partners and subscribers, please email [Sheila.barnett@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Sheila.barnett@deq.virginia.gov) to add information to the Virginia Naturally Calendar of Events and the upcoming May - June Virginia Naturally Newsletter.

Don't forget citizens can be recognized for their volunteer efforts throughout April and May as part of [Stewardship Virginia](#):

<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/stewardship/index.shtml>

Check out the new poster display for you to use to educate your citizens about watersheds and help make litter cleanups more meaningful. Look under "What's NEW?" on the litter page:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/lprevention.html>

Additional resources for litter prevention program managers are also available from this website.

### [NASA Gives Kids Their Own Guide to Climate Change](#)

NASA's new Climate Kids Web site, targeting grades 4-6, de-mystifies global climate change science using simple illustrations, humor, interactivity, and age-appropriate language. The interactive Climate Time Machine shows how global changes affect our planet over time. Animated feature "Climate Tales" follows a quirky polar bear and monkey as they cope with climate change and humans. Games deliver fun and climate science concepts. Career role models give kids ideas to help build a greener future.

<http://climate.nasa.gov/kids>

### [PollinatorLIVE: A Distance Learning Adventure](#)

While pollinators may come in small sizes, they play a large and often undervalued role in the production of the food we eat, the health of flowering plants, and the future of wildlife. A decline in the numbers and health of pollinators over the last several years poses a significant threat to the integrity of biodiversity, to global food webs, and to human health. **PollinatorLIVE: A Distance Learning Adventure** will provide a series of live interactive Web casts,

Web seminars, and satellite field trips about pollinators, gardening, and conservation. All resources are free and geared toward grades 4. 8.

<http://pollinatorlive.pwnet.org>

### **Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood**

Just as more attention is being focused on the need to connect students to nature at a younger age, PLT has published a new curriculum guide and music CD to engage children ages three to six in outdoor exploration and play. Eleven field-tested, hands-on activities showcase over 130 "early childhood experiences" which integrate investigations of nature with art, literature, math, music, and movement. Early childhood educators and caregivers can obtain a copy of PLT's *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood* curriculum by attending a PLT professional development workshop in their area.

[http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21\\_21\\_259.html](http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_21_259.html)

### **Earth Day Network Water & Energy Lesson Plans**

Earth Day Network recently developed four lesson plans on the water-energy connection to help middle and high school teachers bring the topic into the classroom in support of EE Week's 2010 theme. Lesson topics include:

- The Connection Between Water and Energy Use: An Introduction
- Where Does Your Drinking Water Come From?
- Understanding the Energy Demand of Bottled Water
- Hidden Relationships: Energy Sources and Water Usage

Developed by and for educators, these interdisciplinary lessons are correlated to national content standards in science, language arts, social studies and math. Each activity may also be adapted for use with older or younger students. [Access the lesson plans](#)

[Editor's note: I know Earth Day has passed, but these are still good resources]

## **Jobs**

### **Lead Toddler Teacher in Nature and Arts Based Program**

Discovery Woods Learning Community is a nature and arts based early childhood program for children ages 1.5 - 7 years located in a residential setting on a four acre microfarm about 25 minutes from Washington, DC. We have a garden which we are working to make as sustainable as possible for the school, miniature Nigerian dairy goats and a flock of mixed breed heritage chickens, all of which are a core part of our curriculum. Our approach is inspired by expeditionary and inquiry-based learning, the teacher-researchers of Reggio Emilia, Italy, the beauty and fantasy of the Rudolf Steiner schools and the European "Forest" school movement, among others.

We are seeking a Lead Toddler Teacher to work with 4-7 children from 18 months-3 years old. Our program is small, collaborative, creative and authentic and thus, the person who joins us will have a true calling to work with toddlers and truly love being a part of the developmental breadth this age offers. The person will also be someone who loves the natural world, enjoys being outside in all types of weather and thrills at the idea of children who are active explorers and co-creators of their own learning experience - including getting muddy, studying bugs, splashing in puddles and rolling in sand. Our ideal candidate is available to start part time (3-4 mornings a week) on May 1. The position will gradually evolve, adding more days and hours to a FT position by no later than Jan, 2011 (and possibly sooner).

Job Type: Part Time permanent

Salary Detail: Salary is commensurate with experience.

Deadline: 4-30-2010

Organization: Discovery Woods Learning Community

Location: Tysons Corner, VA

Contact Person: Laura Champe Mitchell

Phone: 703-725-1823

E-Mail: [laura@xcapacity.com](mailto:laura@xcapacity.com)

Mailing Address: PO BOX 11145, McLean, VA 22102

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](mailto: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](mailto:faye.andrashko@va.nacdnet.net)