



Branching Out

May 28, 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:

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

Mark your calendars for the coming TREE meeting dates:

October 12, 2010

January 11, 2011

April 12, 2011

Local Events:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS TO DISCUSS NORTHERN NECK NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY

The National Park Service will hold five public meetings to discuss the Northern Neck National Heritage Area Feasibility Study. The study, authorized by the United States Congress, will help determine whether the Northern Neck area could be considered for potential congressional designation as a National Heritage Area. Public meetings will take place May 24-26, with one meeting in each of the five counties of the Northern Neck, as defined by the study legislation. The schedule is as follows:

King George County: *Monday May 24, 3:00 PM in the Revercomb Administration Building, 10459 Courthouse Drive, King George County, Virginia.*

Westmoreland County: *Tuesday May 25, 3:00 PM in the A.T. Johnson Alumni Museum Auditorium, 18849 King's Highway, Montross, Virginia.*

Richmond County: *Tuesday May 25, 7:00 PM in the Richmond County Courthouse, Public Meeting Room, 101 Court Circle, Warsaw, Virginia.*

Northumberland County: *Wednesday May 26, 3:00 PM in the Northumberland County Public Library, 7204 Northumberland Highway, Heathsville, Virginia.*

Lancaster County: *Wednesday May 26, 7:00 PM at the Belle Isle State Park, Belle Isle Visitor Center, 1632 Belle Isle Road, Lancaster, Virginia.*

The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for citizens to learn about and comment on the Northern Neck National Heritage Area Feasibility Study which will determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a national heritage area.

More information at: [Northern Neck Study Public Meeting Press Release May 2010.pdf\(25KB\)](#)

Other Events:

Education

June 9th, 8-9:30am, Christopher Newport University

Virginia Secretary of Education Gerard Robinson will speak on Wednesday, June 9, at the first Regional Education Summit produced by the LEAD Hampton Roads Class of 2010 and organized in conjunction with the Hampton Roads Partnership.

To Register:

http://events.hamptonroadschamber.com/sbaweb/events/events.asp?&id=1&wpid=-101&cale_id=1256&details=true&newsession=TRUE&sid=275502026

HRGBC June Learning Series

Greening the Virginia State Government

***June 22nd, noon-1pm, Clark Nexsen Conference Room
6160 Kempsville Circle, Norfolk, VA 23502***

Our June speaker will be Sue Rowland, legislative consultant for the Virginia Chapters of the USGBC Legislative Coalition (VCLC).

Please visit the events calendar at www.hrgbc.org for more details

June 19: Tour of Wildlife-Friendly Farms and Fields

Saturday, June 19, 2010

9 am-3 pm

Tour meets at 8:45 a.m. Rappahannock Library on Rt. 522/211

[Get directions to this event](http://www.rappahannocklibrary.org/info.html) at <http://www.rappahannocklibrary.org/info.html>

Join PEC for an eye-opening tour of four wildlife-friendly farms: Jones Nature Preserve, Laurel Hill Preserve, Sunnyside Organic Farm, and Rock Ford Farm. Wildlife experts will be at each site describing what you see, how to implement some of these measure on your own, where to get technical help, and what the approximate costs are. Tour stops will also include handouts and plant lists. Learn how to attract bobwhite quail, plant a prairie, encourage butterflies and bees, construct wetland for waterfowl, and create a beautiful and healthy place for wildlife.

This event will take place rain or shine. Cost is \$15 for a bus and box lunch package (registration and pre-payment required : send check to Piedmont Environmental Council, ATTN: Sabrina Dohm, 45 Horner St., Warrenton VA 20186). For those who are unable to take the full tour, you may pre-register to meet us at one or more of the tour locations. Limited parking will be available for this option so please let us know in advance if you will be attending.

To reserve a spot on the tour, please call Sabrina Dohm at (540) 347-2334 or email sdohm@pecva.org before June 12.

For more information and a map of the tour, view the [tour brochure \(PDF\)](#) at http://www.pecva.org/anx/download/3041/trifold_wildlife_tour.pdf

American Museum of Natural History Seminars on Science - Summer 2010

The American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) is offering eleven online Seminars on Science courses over two sessions this summer. Seminars on Science enables teachers from around the globe to connect with educators, researchers and AMNH collections without ever leaving home. Courses include: *The Solar System, Water, Environmental Science, Evolution, Earth: Inside and Out, The Ocean System, Genetics* and many more. Graduate credit is available. [Learn more](#)

Learn How to Care for Virginia's Injured Wildlife

The Wildlife Center of Virginia offers classes for citizens that are interested in learning how to assist wild animals that need help. The introductory classes will also cover wildlife rehabilitation and the permitting process. For more information, including class descriptions and costs, visit the [Wildlife Center of Virginia's website](#).

Chesapeake Classrooms

June, July, and August 2010

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is offering 5-day immersion courses in DC, MD, PA, and VA throughout the summer. Each session is \$150 per person. Visit the website at www.cfb.org/chesapeakeclassrooms.

Field Biology for Educators

BIOL 4501/7510, Section 4 (4cr @ undergraduate or graduate level)

Instructor: Bronwyn Bleakley, Smith College

Dates: June 14 – July 9

University of Virginia's Mountain Lake Biological Station (Pembroke, VA)

The Mountain Lake Biological Station is a field research and teaching facility located in the deciduous hardwood forest of the Appalachian Mountains of southwestern Virginia. The astonishing diversity of the region and MLBS provides an extraordinary setting to integrate research experience with strategies and tools for effective science education.

- Experience hands-on, active and problem-based learning in conservation, evolution, ecology, and genetics
- Study local animals, plants and their interactions
- Develop survey and identification skills for local wildlife
- Conduct field and lab experiments that may be used within a classroom

- Create a teaching portfolio to facilitate field research by your students, develop and utilize wildlife habitats, integrate field and lab studies, fulfill state and national teaching standards, and assess student outcomes
- Write a short grant to apply for external funding to support wildlife education at your school

For additional information go to <http://mlbs.org/courses.html> or email mbls@virginia.edu or bbleakle@smith.edu.

Agriculture in the Classroom – National Conference

June 24 – 26 Baltimore

Marriott Renaissance Harborplace Hotel

This conference is for all educators and curriculum developers. Experience hands-on workshops and a “Share Your Best” resource fair. Go to: <http://www.aitc2010.com/>.

Virginia Maritime Heritage Eco-Heritage Project

June and August

CS Volunteer Educator Training Workshop

Free, 14 hours teacher credit

June 26 – 27, August 14 - 15

The Watermen’s Museum in Yorktown, in partnership with the Maritime Museum Education Consortium, is conducting educational training workshops for the cultural studies program "Virginia Maritime Heritage" (VMH). This free 14 hour, multidisciplinary workshop will train educators to conduct comparative cultural history and natural science components focused on Virginia Indian Studies, Exploration, Pirates, and Colonial Maritime History. The workshop also includes Project Aquatic Wild, Virginia Indian Maritime Heritage Curriculum, and NCLOS Special Needs Educator training. Details are available at www.watermens.org.

For more information contact Michael Steen at Msteen1781@cox.net or (757) 887-2641.

Mary Baldwin College Offers Environment Based Learning Courses

Summer 2010

June 28 – July 2 – Math in the Garden (ED617)

July 12 – 16 The Intersection of Life and Land (IN634)

August 2 – 6 Natural Research: Using the Environment for Student-Driven Investigations (ED618)

For more information or to register, go to: www.mbc.edu/eb/ or contact Dr. Tamra Willis, Graduate Teacher Education Program, Mary Baldwin College at twillis@mbc.edu or (540) 887-7135.

Project Learning Tree Facilitator Training

Virginia Project Learning Tree is offering facilitator training on July 13-15 at the Virginia Department of Forestry’s New Kent Forestry Center located at 11301

Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, VA 23140. The prerequisite for facilitator training is previous participation in a full-day PLT PreK-8 Educator Workshop. All newly trained facilitators are expected to lead or co-facilitate at least one PLT workshop within 18 months of being trained. There is a \$40 registration fee which covers all meals, lodging, and materials. You must attend all of Tuesday and until 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday to receive facilitator certification. The Early Childhood Experiences Session on Wednesday evening and Secondary Module sessions on Thursday are optional.

Wildlife in the Bay Watershed Academy

July 12 – 16

Spaces are still available in the VRUEC Wildlife in the Bay Watershed Academy hosted by the Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries. The Academy will be held at the Chickahominy Wildlife management Area in Charles City County from 8:30-4:00 each day. Teachers will learn field investigation techniques used to monitor wildlife populations near their school. The Academy is free, teachers will receive guides and materials needed to monitor wildlife populations. Graduate credit is available for a fee. Register on line at www.vanaturally.com/bayacademy.html

No Child Left on the Shore Eco-Heritage Project

EE Volunteer Educator Training Workshop

Free, 14 hours teacher credit

July 24 - 25

The Watermen's Museum in Yorktown in partnership with the Schooner Alliance is conducting educational training workshops for the environmental science program "No Child Left on the Shore" (NCLOS). This free 14 hour, multidisciplinary workshop will train educators to conduct scientific method based comparative sampling on the shore of the York River and in the main channel on the Schooner Alliance. The workshop also includes Project Aquatic Wild, and NCLOS Special Needs Educator training.

Details are available at www.watermens.org For more information contact Michael Steen at Msteen1781@cox.net or (757) 887-2641.

Looking Back to a Sustainable Future

2010 Virginia Naturally EE Conference

Sept. 15th-16th, James Madison's Montpelier, Orange County, VA

The 2010 Environmental Education Conference will be held September 15 - 16 at James Madison's Montpelier in Orange, Virginia. The theme is Looking Back to a Sustainable Future. The website will be available shortly. A link to the conference webpage will be posted in the "What's New" section of the Virginia Naturally homepage at www.vanaturally.com.

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

Virginia Naturally Newsletter

The 2010 Environmental Education Conference will be held September 15 - 16 at James Madison's Montpelier in Orange, Virginia. The theme is Looking Back to a Sustainable Future. The website will be available shortly. A link to the conference webpage will be posted in the "What's New" section of the Virginia Naturally homepage at www.vanaturally.com.

Check out the new and improved Calendar of Events. The new calendar will allow Virginia Naturally Partners to add their events to the calendar. The calendar has a maps feature which shows viewers where the events are being held.

Enjoy the May-June edition of the Virginia Naturally newsletter. It is full of information about grants that can support environmental education, upcoming events, and professional development opportunities.

Here is the website that will take you to the Virginia Naturally newsletter:
http://www.vanaturally.com/vanaturally/mayjune10_news.html

Nature-themed Children's eBooks from Sylvan Dell

Sylvan Dell Publishing is offering EE Weeks friends and partners **free**, unlimited access to 50 children's eBooks in English and Spanish. The nature-themed eBooks, covering a variety of topics, from the changing seasons to the wildlife around us, are ideal for use on a projector screen or whiteboard in the classroom or for large school groups visiting a nature center. In addition to the eBooks, teaching activities, interactive quizzes and alignment with state learning standards are available online. All of the books are also available in [paperback and hardcover](#). [Access the eBooks](#)

May is American Wetlands Month

This month marks the 20th anniversary of American Wetlands Month, a time when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its partners recognize the importance of wetlands. This year, the focus will be on coastal wetlands. The website offers history and information about wetlands, as well as several educational resources that detail the importance of wetlands and how to become involved in conservation. [Learn more](#)

National Wildlife Federation Special Report: Oil Spill

In a Special Report on the April 20 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the National Wildlife Federation provides information for students on the spill and the delicate coastal ecosystems at risk and links to an interactive map that allows students to track the oil spill as it spreads. The special report also includes experts' answers to kids' questions and additional information on wetlands. [Learn more](#)

PollinatorLIVE: A Distance Learning Adventure

While pollinators may come in small sizes, they play a critical

role in the production of the food we eat, the future of our wildlife and the health of flowering plants. PollinatorLIVE: A Distance Learning Adventure will provide teachers and students with a fun, informative and interactive way to learn about pollinators. Teachers will be able to use pollinators as a resource to meet science standards, get students involved in citizen science and become knowledgeable, engaged and active conservationists. Join PollinatorLIVE for a series of live, interactive webcasts, webinars and satellite field trips focused on pollinators, gardening and conservation. [Learn more](#)

Planet Connect TV

[Planet Connect](#), a component of [Classroom Earth](#), is an online social network where high school students can learn about current environmental issues, funding opportunities, green colleges and environmental careers. Students can also share and exchange ideas about how they are playing a critical role in solving today's environmental issues. Planet Connect TV features popular and entertaining eco videos for and by teens. [Learn more](#)

Educators Guide to Marine Debris: Southeast and Gulf of Mexico

This educator's guide is a collection of activities and lesson plans to teach about the harmful effects of marine litter. Although it is written especially for the Southeast and the Gulf of Mexico, the activities are relevant to Virginia's waterways. This guide is similar to *Pollution Solutions*, but offers some variations. To download the *Educators Guide to Marine Debris: Southeast and Gulf of Mexico*; visit this website: <http://www.cosee-se.org/marinedebris.php>. To view the *Pollution Solutions* activities, go to: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/education/polsol.html>. Additional litter resources are available on the DEQ litter page by going to: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/lprevention.html>.

New PestWise Web Site on epa.gov

EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs has a new Web site on non-regulatory programs for reducing pesticide risk through environmental stewardship - partnerships, grants, and education. The site, PestWise: Partnerships for Environmental Innovation in Pest Management, has information for industry professionals, growers, school teachers, and anyone interested in learning more about responsible pest management to reduce pesticide risk. It also contains information on grants available to support projects that demonstrate the effectiveness of Integrated Pest Management and biopesticides. The PestWise site spotlights the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program, the Agency's partnership program dedicated to reducing pesticide risk where people live, work, play, and farm. The site also features information on the Strategic Agricultural Initiative, IPM in Schools Program, Biopesticide Demonstration Grant Program, and other grant programs.

The new site may be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov/pestwise>.

Cool Science

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute is a wealth of information for adults and children interested in science. The science database has resources available for teaching a variety of scientific topics. Children can get ideas for science fairs or experiments that they can do at home. Students can ask scientists questions. Go to: <http://www.hhmi.org/coolscience/index.html>.

Volunteer Opportunities and Easy Ways to Help

Chesapeake Foundation's Clean the Bay Day Activities

June 5

Twenty-Six organizations in Virginia have registered events with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as part of Clean the Bay Day. Go to <http://www.cbf.org/Page.aspx?pid=1697>.

Vote for Tree Planting in Virginia's State Parks

Website opens May 25.

Odwalla will be giving away \$200,000 to plant trees in State Parks across the nation. Last year Virginia finished second only to Michigan and we received \$23,577 for trees for our parks.

The Odwalla Plant a Tree Program is in its 3rd year, and in 2010 will be available to all 50 States. The program allows a person to "vote" for which state they want trees to be planted in, and each "vote" = \$1 for your state parks to be used to plant trees.

HOW: A person can visit www.odwalla.com/plantatree and choose which state they want to vote for. No purchase necessary.

I hope on May 25th we can count on your vote for every email address you have and please pass the work on to friends and family.

Virginia State Parks THANK YOU!

Keep Virginia Beautiful Information

From Mike Baum, Executive Director of Keep Virginia Beautiful

Hello!

I just wanted to pass along some great news about Keep Virginia Beautiful (KVB). As you know, we have been working hard at KVB to get our name out and hope that people will want to get involved with our organization. On Earth Day, we successfully launched our first phase of our website and now have a Facebook page, with over 1,300 fans!

KVB is relying on grass-roots efforts to get people interested and committed to

keeping VA beautiful. We need people like you to help us spread the word about our cause. We hope that you will let your friends and family know how easy it is to initially support us by becoming a fan on Facebook. You can do this by simply going to our Facebook page and clicking that you "Like" KVB. To further spread the word you can suggest to your friends on Facebook to also "Like" KVB. In order to check out the site on Facebook, you do have to be a member of Facebook, which is both free and very easy to join. If not, you can still enjoy the website and encourage others to see what we are all about.

See what all the buzz is about:

www.keepvirginiabeautiful.org

<http://www.facebook.com/KeepVirginiaBeautiful>

Thank you so much for your support and we hope that you will join us in our efforts to Keep Virginia Beautiful! Have a great day!

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