



Virginia Naturally Report for 2011

Business Plan Actions: To increase the number of partners; communicate regularly; develop regional networks; create online partner resources; increase stewardship by 10%; and promote professional development opportunities, grant funding and new EE resources.

Reporting period: January – November 30, 2011

New Partners:

76 organizations signed up as **new partners** during this calendar year. There are over **900** registered Virginia Naturally Partners. Please check the new map.

Website:

As of September 28, 2011 the Virginia Naturally website received **355,977** hits which averaged to more than **39,553** hits per month.

Newsletter – New Format:

7 electronic newsletters sent out to approximately 2,000 partners, formal and non-formal educators, and other subscribers.

Training:

Training was provided to **828** community educators (formal and non-formal) and **51** professional development and/or training workshops.

Conference:

117 people attended the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education & Virginia EE Conference in Williamsburg, VA, on October 7-9. 73 educators were from Virginia.

Classroom Grants:

Two rounds of Virginia Naturally **Classroom & Partner Grants** were awarded to **46 schools and organizations** for a total of **\$45,750** in grant funds.

Schools:

48 schools earned recognition as Virginia Naturally Schools for their efforts during the 2010-2011 school year. The applications for school year 2011 – 2012 are due May 1 – June 30 2012 and can be found at www.dgif.virginia.gov/education.

Stewardship Virginia:

Virginians participated in the 2011 Stewardship Virginia Campaign by registering **226** projects. There were **6,000** certificates of appreciation distributed to groups during this time, recognizing those who made a difference in their community. Volunteers participated in 170 waterway and community cleanups. Other projects included **13** riparian buffer plantings and habitat restoration projects, **22** educational programs and **8** invasive species control and trail work completed.

Virginia Office of Environmental Education Report:

Litter Prevention and Recycling Grant information:

In FY 2011 **308** (out of a possible 324) **local governments** were given non-competitive litter grants for [litter and recycling programs](#). **\$1,742,782** was awarded to the local governments which in turn matched these awards with **\$14,656,272** in cash and in-kind services resulting in a match of **840%**.

Project WET: 11 organizations throughout the state of Virginia have agreed to partner with DEQ/VOEE to host Project WET trainings. A map of the organizations can be viewed on the VaN website. Due to the release of the new K-12 curriculum guide, refresher facilitator trainings have been scheduled for after the new year. Once the refresher trainings have been completed the host organizations will schedule educator training workshops for the spring and summer of 2012.