

## Spring 2011 Environmental Educators Leadership Program Recognized Educators and Environmental Education Leaders

The [Environmental Educators Leadership Program](#) (EELP) develops and enhances the professional skills and abilities of Virginia educators for the protection of the environment. This program can serve as a roadmap for developing skills needed to teach about the environment.

Educators receiving recognition have completed a comprehensive self-assessment and submitted a portfolio of trainings completed and presentations delivered.



**Gwen Pearson**

### **Chesapeake Bay Foundation Recognized as a Water Educator**

Gwen Pearson graduated from Virginia Tech with a BS in Biology, and then completed graduate work at Radford University with a secondary teaching certification. She has been working with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for the past 10 years, first as Asst. Manager of the Virginia Canoe Program, then Manager, and now is the Bay Foundation's General Manager for its four Virginia Education Programs.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has 15 Education programs in Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, and educates approximately 35,000 students every year, and 300 teachers, with issues regarding water quality, the importance of learning outdoors, fisheries, and land use.



**Robin Jensen**

### **Virginia Museum of Natural History Recognized as a Water and Forest Educator**

Robin Jensen has been getting lost in the woods and exploring the natural world since she was a child. After growing up in the Ozark Mountains, she graduated from Hendrix College with a degree in Biology. She spent a few years as a wildlife biological technician for the Student Conservation Association, Gateway National Recreation Area, and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge before moving to Martinsville, Virginia in 2005. Since then, she has been sharing her environmental and outdoor experiences as an educator at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

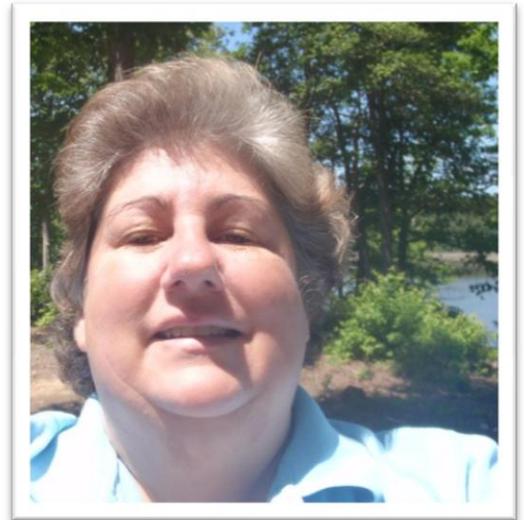
As the museum's Youth Education coordinator, Robin develops and leads programs at the museum, in school classrooms, at after-school sites, for summer camps, and at local and state parks. She also runs the Youth Volunteer program at the museum, and has coordinated Earth Day at VMNH events. She currently volunteers for the Friends of Wilson Park group, the Family Nature Club of Martinsville-Henry County, and her daughter's Girl Scout troop.

## **Charlene Talcott**

### **Belle Isle State Park Recognized as a Water Education Leader**

Charlene Talcott is a Chief Ranger Interpreter at Belle Isle State Park in Lancaster, Virginia. She earned her undergraduate degree in history and social studies education at College of William and Mary, and her graduate degree in colonial history at Virginia Commonwealth University. While working as a living history interpreter she observed how the actions of people hundreds of years ago affect the environment today.

These observations, along with marrying into a family active in conservation and environmental concerns, led her to volunteer with environmental education and eventually make this calling her career. She is advisor for the Northern Neck Chapter of the Master Naturalists, an American Canoe Association paddling instructor, and facilitator for Project Learning Tree, Project WET, Project WILD, Project Underground, and Your Backyard Classroom.



## **Pat Calvert**

### **James River Association Recognized as a Water Education Leader**

Pat Calvert began as James River Association's *Upper James Riverkeeper* in April 2011. As such, Calvert serves as the eyes, ears and voice of the James River and its tributaries and headwaters located upstream of Richmond. This is not new territory to the Riverkeeper: He had prior served for more than 13 years as an on-the-water educator and manager of the Virginia Watershed Education Program of Chesapeake Bay Foundation, focusing on the non-tidal freshwater James River and its tributaries.

Mr. Calvert earned his bachelor's in environmental science from Auburn University and has worked in the nonprofit environmental education community sector for his entire professional career. Calvert is a 2005 graduate of the Virginia Natural Resource Leadership

Institute and has served on the board of directors of Rivanna Conservation Society. He is an avid fisherman and advocate for healthy waterways.

The Upper James Riverkeeper serves the entire Upper & Middle James watershed including the communities of Lynchburg, Charlottesville, Lexington, Buena Vista and Covington. Major tributaries include the Rivanna, Jackson, Tye, Hardware, Cowpasture and Maury Rivers.

## **Dan Waxman**

### **George Mason University Recognized as a Water and Forest Education Leader**

Dan Waxman recently completed his Master of Public Administration at George Mason University. He completed his BA in Environmental Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He currently works as a Project Manager for Auxiliary Enterprises and as Professional and Alumni Development Manager for Student Media at George Mason University.

