

VA Department of Conservation and Recreation

Outreach and Education Programs



Overview

DCR Programs



- Soil and Water
- Natural Heritage
- State Parks

Soil and Water Adopt-A-Stream



Soil and Water Storm Drain Stenciling

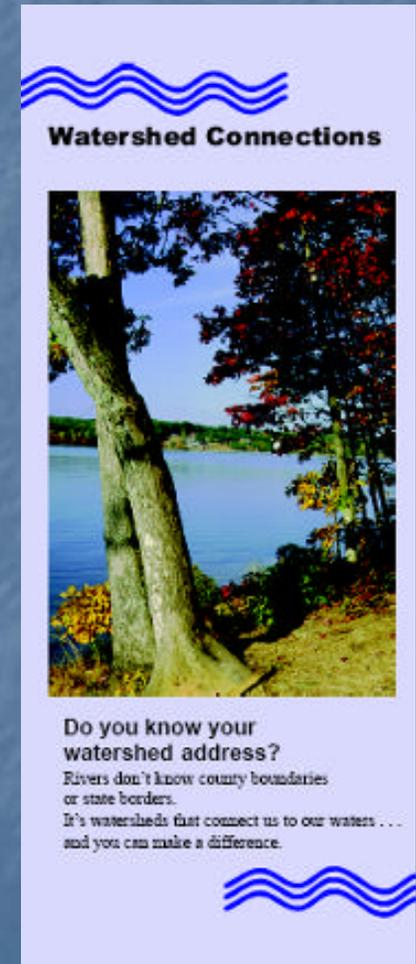
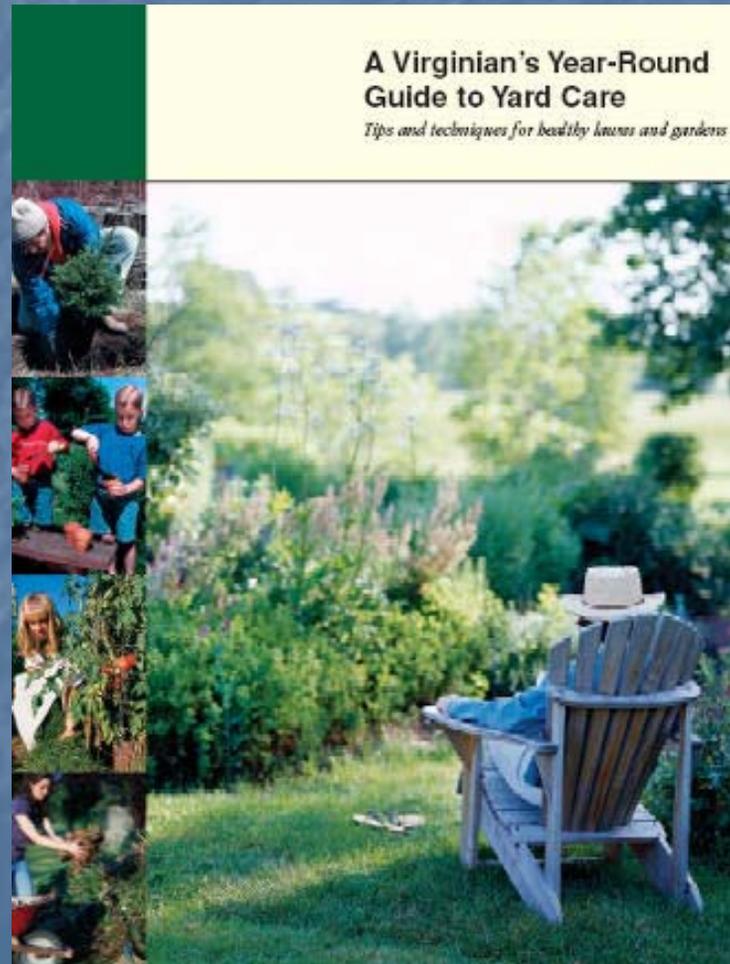


Soil and Water Stewardship Projects



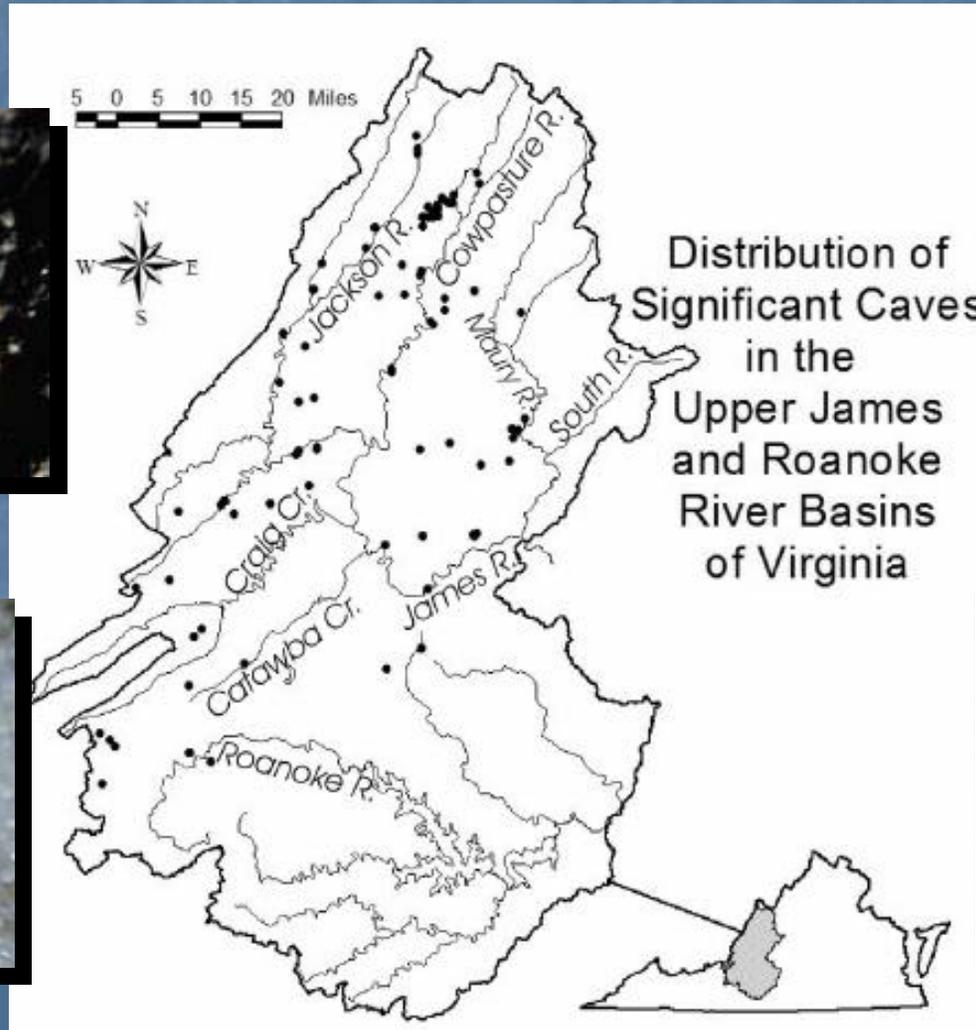
Soil and Water Tools

- Watershed model
- Online resources
- Brochures



Natural Heritage

Karst in Upper Roanoke Basin



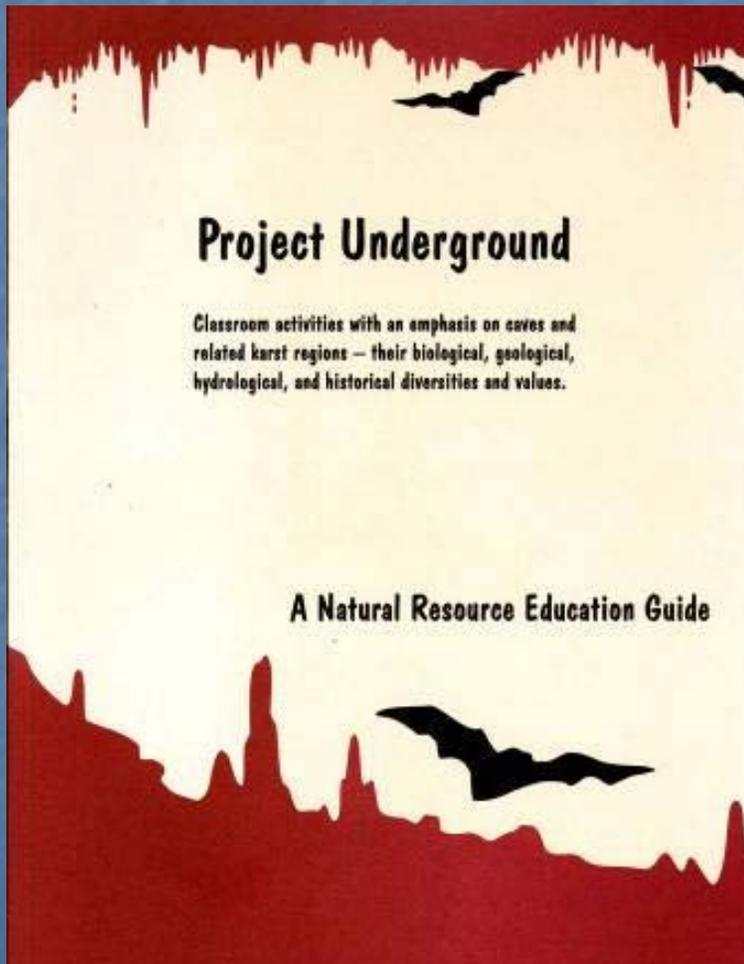
Natural Heritage Activities

- Conferences and seminars
- Field trips
- Karst workshop series



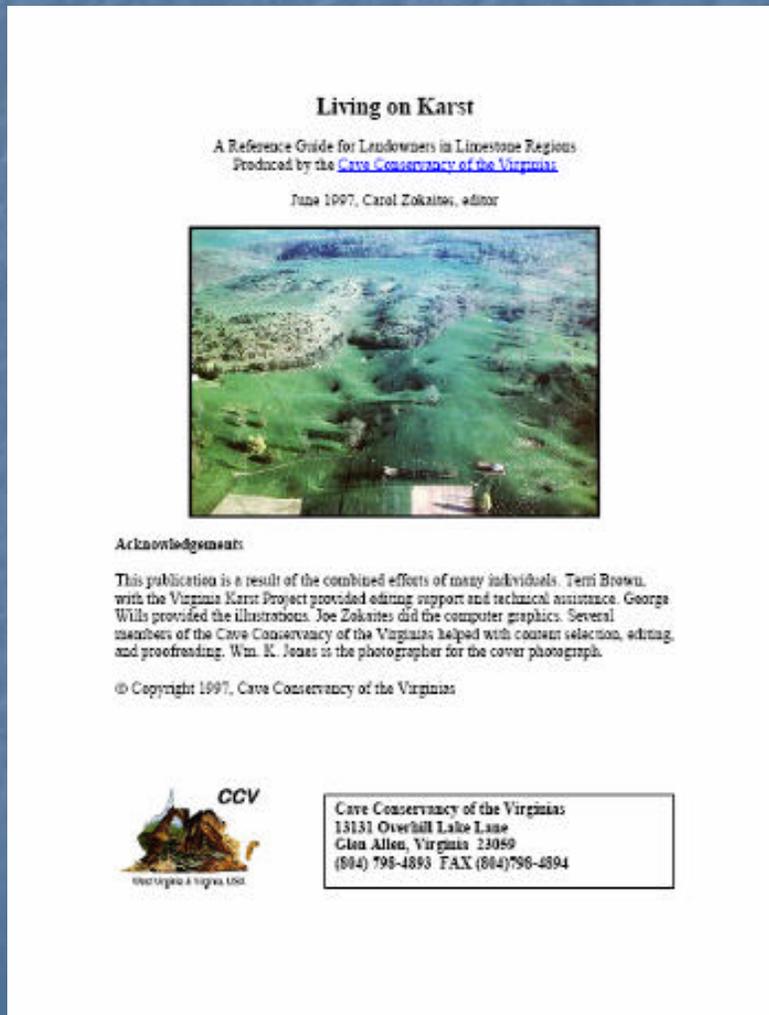
Natural Heritage Project Underground

- Classroom materials
- Teacher training workshops
- Science standards



Natural Heritage Tools

- Online resources
- Brochures
- Presentations



State Parks

Roanoke River Watershed



- Staunton River Battlefield
- Staunton River
- Occoneechee
- Fairy Stone
- Smith Mountain Lake

State Parks

Schools – SOLs

- Field trips
- Classroom programming
- Teacher training



State Parks Youth Conservation Corps

- 3-week overnight program
- Youth 14 - 17 years
- Projects, programs and outdoor adventures



State Parks

Youth Service Corps

- Day program
- At-risk or court involved youth
- Projects, programs and outdoor adventures

State Parks

Youth Development Corps

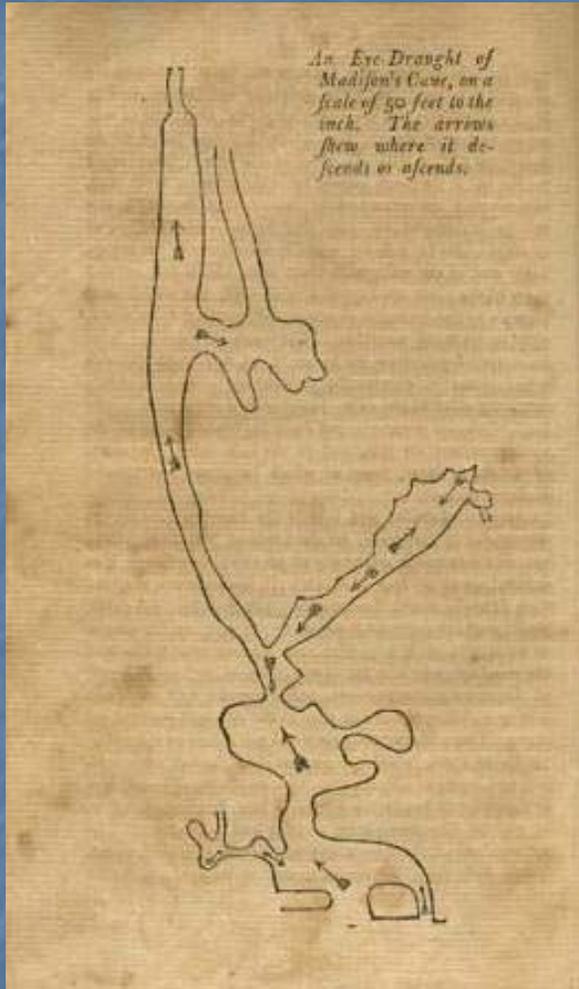
- Weekend work project
- Group of youth and leaders



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Caves of Virginia

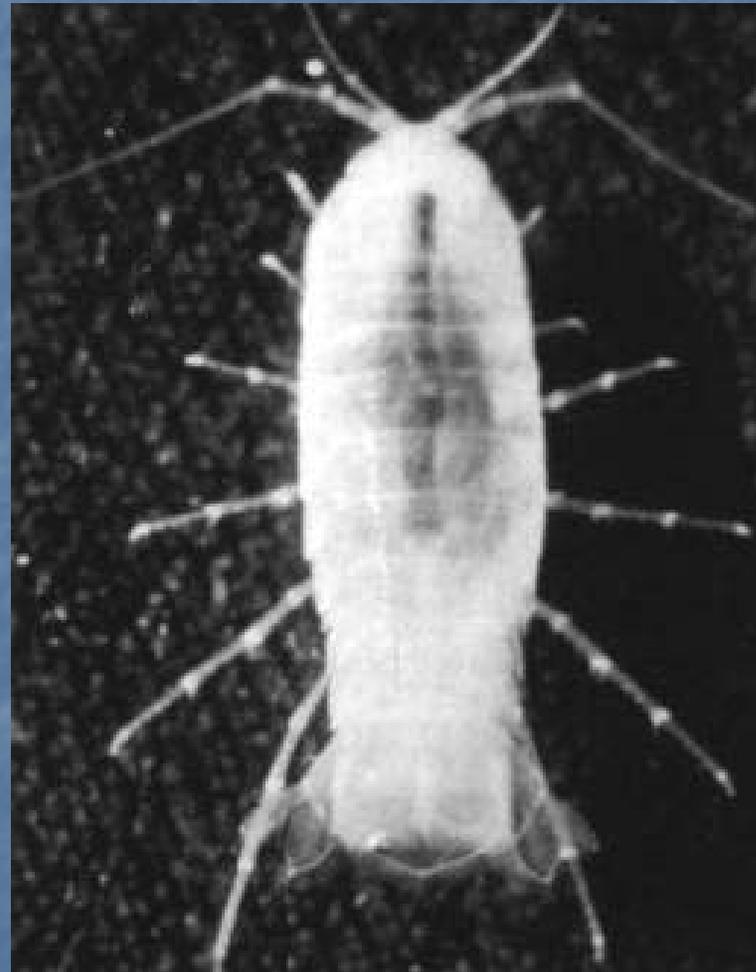


Thomas Jefferson's map of Madison's Cave, Augusta County, Virginia. ca. 1781

- More than 4300 known caves in Virginia
- Longest cave is 23 miles long
- Deepest cave is 1250 feet deep
- The longest caves are found in southwest Virginia and in Bath and Highland Counties
- Caves in the Shenandoah Valley and along the I-81 corridor are characterized by less vertical relief and expansive karst aquifers
- Virginia caves are noted for their biodiversity

Biodiversity in Karst

- Animals have developed highly specialized adaptations to survive underground.
- Karst aquifers provide important habitat for many rare, threatened, or endangered animals.
- At least 8 bat species use Virginia's cave habitat
- Many cave species are known from only one or a few caves.



Antrolana lira – Madisons
Cave Isopod

**The Virginia Cave Board
is
a Governor appointed
citizens board
dedicated to the
conservation of
Virginia's many caves.**



- Advises the Commonwealth on cave and karst issues.
- Maintains list of significant caves

Virginia DCR Karst Program

- Works to protect cave and karst resources
- Est. 1994; funded primarily by Clean Water Act (EPA Section 319 funds)
- Three tiered approach:
 - Education and Outreach (Project Underground, conferences and seminars, public presentations)
 - Data Development (karst feature mapping, dye tracing, biological inventory)
 - Technical Assistance (project review, consulting)

***VA Karst Program
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