

2015-2016 Watershed Educators Institute

The Watershed Educators Institute is a series of one and two day workshops offered from October 2015 through June 2016 for those desiring to be formally recognized as leaders in watershed education in the Commonwealth of Virginia. All 2016 classes are filled but you can register to be on the [waiting list](#).



Designing and Leading a MWEE for School Groups

Required workshop for anyone desiring to receive a Certificate of Recognition as a Watershed Educator Leader.

This workshop will provide a framework for developing effective Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) that result in specific student driven action projects. In the afternoon you will have a chance to begin planning your own seasonal or yearlong action project. Participants will receive CBFs *Guide to Creating a MWEE* and U.S. Fish and Wildlife's *Schoolyard Habitat Project Guide*.

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016

OR

Date: Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016

Location: Ivy Creek Education Bldg

Location: Heritage Center

Charlottesville

Pocahontas State Park

Fee: \$15

Fee: \$15



Assessing the Health of a Watershed – Part 1

What does the dissolved oxygen or pH level indicate about the health of a stream? What do macro invertebrates tell us about water quality? During this workshop you will come to understand the many facets that indicate the health of a watershed through chemical and biological assessment. Participants will receive the *Healthy Water, Healthy People Educator's Guide & Field Testing Manual*.

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2015

Location: Camp Albemarle, Charlottesville

Fee: \$15

Assessing the Health of a Watershed – Part 2

Are there ways to teach students about riparian zones, point and nonpoint source pollution, run off, impervious surfaces, and land use without boring lectures? You bet there are! Join us for a day of exploration and inquiry based activities. Participants who did not receive the *Healthy Water, Healthy People Educator's Guide* and *Field Testing Manual* in Part 1 will receive the set in this workshop.

Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Location: New Kent Forestry Center, Providence Forge

Fee: \$15



Introducing Watersheds

Come join us in the many engaging, hands on activities that can be used to help students understand what a watershed is and how human impacts play a role in the health of the watershed. Participants will receive Project WET's curriculum resource book, *Discover a Watershed: The Watershed Manager*.

Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Location: Rice Rivers Center, Charles City

Fee: \$15

Methods for Teaching Biological Assessment of Stream Health

Don't want all the students stomping around in the stream? Have special needs students that can't get in the stream? Learn some of the many other methods of biological assessment such as leaf packs, a stream table and a stream side portable pond. Participants will receive the *Leaf Pack Manual* from the Stroud Water Research Center.

Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Location: Triple C Camp, Charlottesville

Fee: \$15



Freshwater Wetlands Investigation

What makes freshwater wetlands unique? Learn how and why freshwater wetlands play such important roles in water quality and for living resources. Add some wetlands activities to your "toolbox" and spend some time exploring freshwater marshes on foot and by canoe. Participants will receive Project WET's curriculum resource book *The Wonders of Wetlands*.

Date: Friday, May 20, 2016

Location: New Kent Forestry Center, Providence Forge

Fee: \$15 and participants will need to bring a lunch.

Coastal Wetlands Investigation

Why are coastal wetlands considered the most endangered part of our ecosystem? Learn how and why wetlands play such important roles in water quality and for living resources. Learn to identify key species while spending time exploring salt and brackish marshes on a remote island in the Chesapeake Bay. This field course will be based at Port Isobel, an education facility owned and operated by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and located near Tangier Island in the middle of the Chesapeake. Attendees who will be certified will have priority registration.

Date: Monday and Tuesday, June 6 and 7, 2016

Location: Meet at Smith Point Marina for the boat to Port Isobel.

Overnight Lodging and meals will be provided.

Fee: \$30 (Must be received by April 15 to guarantee spot.)



To receive a Certificate of Recognition as a Watershed Leader for the Commonwealth of Virginia you must complete **five** workshops including the one required workshop. Otherwise, you may simply take some of the workshops to increase your personal skills and knowledge.

Coffee/Tea and lunch will be provided at all but one workshop.

Fees need to be received at least 2 weeks before the workshop unless otherwise noted. Checks should be made out to "VRUEC" and sent to DEQ, P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, VA 23218. Attn: Ann Regn.

To be added to the wait list: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WEIWait>

You will receive a confirmation email and a follow up email 7-10 days before the workshop(s).