



TREE

Three Rivers
Environmental
Educators

TREE weekly update January 23, 2009

TREE meetings:

A planning meeting is planned for February 12 at 12 noon at Los Portales restaurant in Warsaw. All are welcome to attend. Please let faye.andrashko@va.nacdn.net know if you are planning to attend so we will have enough tables.

Next meeting April 21, 11 am, at beautiful Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road, Montross VA. We will get a special tour of the mansion, and have a chance to walk the nature trails or go down to find shark's teeth on the fossil beach. Visit their website at www.stratfordhall.org

TREE member Wanda Atkins would like to organize a **field trip to the Najemoycreek Educational Center in Charles County, MD**. The public school system integrates environmental education into the school system via MD Standards of Learning at each grade level, including an overnight camp experience for all 5th graders. Contact Wanda at atkinsatty@msn.com

If anyone is interested, I have electronic files on developing green meetings. Let me know and I'll send you copies. charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov

Local Events:

January 29, Winter Warmers at Belle Isle State Park

Prescribed Burns in Natural Areas

Rebecca Wilson

Chesapeake Stewardship Specialist/Fire Leader, Department of Conservation and Recreation Department of Natural Heritage

Rebecca has led over 300 controlled burns in natural areas, including Hughlett Point, Dameron Marsh, and Rappahannock Valley NWP. She will explain why these burnings are necessary and show highlights of recent burns. Rebecca is a TREE member!

Join CBF for the Rally for Clean Water

January 26th, Richmond

Make sure everyone knows that residents from across the Commonwealth of Virginia with varying interests and backgrounds all support clean water. Join in the effort to make sure we protect our rivers, our streams and the Chesapeake Bay. *For more information - [click here](#)*

PLT Facilitator Training

January 28th-29th, New Kent Forestry Center

Virginia Project Learning Tree will hold its next Basic Facilitator Training on Jan. 28-29, 2009 at the New Kent Forestry Center. This training will enable you to lead Project Learning Tree workshops for the PLT PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide and Energy & Society Kits. The prerequisite for this training is previous participation in a full-day PLT PreK-8 Educator Workshop. Registration required. www.plt.org

Grow Local, Buy Local, Eat Local—Food for Thought

The Northern Neck Master Gardeners will present their annual Gardening the Northern Neck seminar on Saturday, March 21, 9 am to 3:30 pm at the Church of the Nazarene in White Stone. Morning and afternoon keynote speakers, breakout sessions, panel discussions, and a market place are planned. For more information and registration details call the Northumberland Extension office at (804) 580-5694 or e-mail kingdon@kaballero.com

Other Events:

VAM Conference 2009: It's a Natural!

March 21st-24th, The Founder's Inn, Virginia Beach

What could be more Natural than than building your professional career by adding new skills and increasing your knowledge of trends in the industry? Attend and do what comes Naturally - reach out and connect with professional contacts in the Virginia and DC museum community. ***For more information - click here***

Environment Virginia Conference

The 20th Annual Environment Virginia Conference will be held March 31 - April 2, 2009 at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. Go to www.environmentva.org

Register by Friday January 23rd, for the lowest rates on Environment Virginia 2009! http://www.environmentva.org/Register/register_include.asp

Great American Backyard Campout!

Start planning for the Great American Campout and join the National Wildlife Federation (NFW) for this event. **The official date is Saturday, June 27, 2009.** For more information go to:

<http://www.nwf.org/backyardcampout/index.cfm>

Belle Isle State Park will host a GABC event. Want to help or partner?

Contact charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov

NCLI: Restoring Nature to Early Childhood

April 28th-29th, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond

With the publication in 2005 of Richard Louv's provocative book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, a national dialogue among educators, parents, land use planners, architects and landscape designers, health professionals and conservationists has examined the critical relationship between direct exposure to nature and healthy childhood development. This symposium propels the dialogue forward: developmental psychologists will help us understand the physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and creative assets that young children gain through outdoor experiences, while design professionals and public policy shapers will share how direct, authentic experiences in nature can be created for children wherever they live, play, and learn.

For more information - [click here](#)

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuaries Podcasts

Ocean literacy, sea turtle restoration, historical ecology - these are just some of the podcasts you can download or view (for free!)! To view the extensive list visit their [website](#).

YouthXchange Training Kit on Responsible Consumption

This UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) training kit is a train-the-trainer tool that aims to promote sustainable consumption patterns among young consumers worldwide. <http://www.youthxchange.net/main/english-guide.asp>

Universe Awareness for Young Children

This Web site is part of the 2009 International Year of Astronomy outreach program using "the beauty and scale of the universe to inspire very young children in underprivileged environments." Site offers a wide variety of educational materials such as online activities, games, animations, films, and teachers' materials. <http://www.unawe.org/>

Virginia legislators consider ban on plastic shopping bags

Washington Post

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/21/AR2009012103538.html>

Another Reason to Get Outside

In the recent study, *The Cognitive Benefits of Interacting With Nature*, University of Michigan researchers, Marc G. Berman, John Jonides, and Stephen Kaplan, discuss the cognitive restorative benefits of a natural setting, rather than an urban setting. Their findings show that memory and attention improved 20 percent after an hour of interacting with nature.

<http://www.ns.umich.edu/htdocs/releases/story.php?...>

Tools with a Cost:

Understanding Sustainability - A Two-Week Unit for Social Studies

How do economics, history, and democracy relate to sustainability? Students in grades 9-12 learn to answer questions like these through engaging hands-on lessons in Facing the Future's new high school social studies unit, "Understanding Sustainability." Each lesson is aligned to National Council for the Social Studies' curriculum standards for easy classroom integration. Through real-world lessons, students come to understand such timely issues as: ecological footprint, sustainable civilizations, and media awareness.

<http://www.facingthefuture.org/Home/CurriculumDeta...>

Grants:

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants

Deadline: February 13th, 2009

The Lowe's Toolbox for Education offers grants to schools and parent/teacher groups across the United States. School projects should encourage parent involvement and build stronger community ties. Samples of funded projects include those that engage students with their school's surrounding environment. <http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/>

Jenny's Heroes Community Grant Program

Deadline: Open

Talk show host and philanthropist Jenny Jones will donate an additional \$1 million to continue her community grant program providing grants of up to \$25,000 each to fund projects that promise long-term community benefits. The program's focus is primarily in communities where fundraising can be difficult.

<http://www.jennysheroes.com/>

Virginia Announces Request for Proposal for 2009 AmeriCorps*State Programs

The Virginia Office on Volunteerism and Community Service is now accepting Request for Proposals for the 2009 AmeriCorps*State program year. Grants are available to public and nonprofit organizations that sponsor service programs throughout Virginia, including faith-based and community organizations, higher education institutions, and public agencies. These grants assist groups in recruiting, training and placing individuals, as AmeriCorps members, to meet critical community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

An optional pre-proposal conference will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at the Virginia Department of Social Services, 7 N. 8th St., Richmond, VA. This meeting will also be available via teleconference. If you would like to participate in this meeting via teleconference, you must RSVP no later than 5pm on Wednesday, February 4. For more information, or to RSVP, call (804) 726-7068 or (800) 638-3839.

Visit http://www.vaservice.org/go/national/ Americorps_rfp/ to download the 2009 AmeriCorps*State RFP, and review application procedures and pre-proposal conference details. **The deadline for sealed proposals is 5pm, March 12, 2009.**

National Endowment for the Humanities: Summer Seminars and Institutes

This program supports national faculty development programs in the humanities for K-12 and higher education teachers.

Purpose Prize for 60+

Nomination Deadline: March 5, 2009

The Purpose Prize provides five awards of \$100,000 each to people over the age of 60 who are working to address a major social problem in the U.S. or abroad. Self-nominations are accepted. <http://www.purposeprize.org/>

Funds for Grassroots Women's Projects

Open Meadows Foundation

The Open Meadows Foundation supports projects nationwide that are led by and benefit women and girls, particularly those from vulnerable communities. Specifically, the Foundation supports projects that are designed and implemented by women and girls; reflect the diversity of the community served by the project; promote building community power; and encourage racial, social, economic, and environmental justice. Priority is given to organizations that have limited financial access or have encountered obstacles in their search for funding. The Foundation provides grants of up to \$2,000 to cover start-up expenses or to support ongoing projects. The first application deadline for 2009 is February 15. Funding guidelines and application instructions are available on the Foundation's website.

Jobs

Green Jobs National Conference

February 4th-6th, Washington DC

The 2009 Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference offers a wide variety of workshops that will allow participants to explore new ideas and exchange best practices, focusing on how solutions to environmental challenges can be used to drive economic development and create successful and profitable businesses. *For more information - [click here](#)*

Editor's note: There is a free jobs expo on February 5. Details on the website above—click Green Jobs Expo.

Volunteer Opportunities

Don't have any this week, but keep this in mind. The value placed on volunteer hours in 2008 is \$19.72 an hour. At Belle Isle, our volunteer efforts were worth \$110,650!

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 jtritz@vt.edu

We need a name for these mailings. E-mail your suggestions to charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov