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Weekly Watershed Announcements April 24, 2020

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Thank you for your continued support of the Middle James Roundtable (MJRT)!

If you have information that you would like shared in the MJRT weekly announcements, please send it to dur24@henrico.us.

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In the News

Celebrating 50th Earth Day During Pandemic

(Bay Weekly)



In 1969, a massive California oil spill devastated wildlife and an Ohio river literally caught fire. One year later, in 1970, 20 million Americans observed the first Earth Day. The public support pushed Congress to adopt legislation regarding clean air, clean water, toxic substances, endangered species, Federal land policy, occupational safety and surface mining, for a start.

By Earth Day's 40th anniversary in 2010, hundreds of millions joined events in 192 countries. For the 50th anniversary this year, the Earth Day Network had hoped to mobilize one billion people. When COVID-19 became a global pandemic, Earth Day shifted from marching in the streets to virtual activism.

The environmental movement isn't limited to April 22. Earth Day has expanded to the point that April is now known as Earth Month. In truth, the key message behind the global celebration is that learning, advocacy, and individual actions should take place 365 days of the year. So how can you take part locally while keeping your distance?

To read the full article by Warren Lee Brown, click [here](#).

More Cancelled and Postponed Events due to COVID-19



++ Canceled: Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board Meeting
- April meeting -- <https://TownHall.virginia.gov/ViewMeeting.cfm?MeetingID=30692>

++ Postponed: Virginia Household Drinking Water Clinics -- All clinics scheduled through June 10, 2020 have been postponed. For more information about this program, see <https://www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu/events.php> or email wellwater@vt.edu. Offered by Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Department of Biological Systems Engineering at Virginia Tech.

++ Virginia Department of Environmental Quality -
<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/>

-- Canceled: Public Meetings and Public Hearings; State Water Control Board Spring Meeting

-- Suspended: DEQ Field Work

-- Public Comment Period Extended: Virginia True Corporation - Comments due: April 3, 2020

++ Virginia Department of Health, Waterborne Hazards Control -- <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-epidemiology/waterborne-hazards-control/>

-- Limited Response: Response to waterborne hazard reports will be limited. To report fish kills or other dead animals in or near the water contact Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) at 1-800-468-8893.

++ Alliance for the Chesapeake

Bay -- <https://www.allianceforthebay.org/2020/03/project-clean-stream-update/>

-- Postponed: Project Clean Stream - Rescheduled: September 11, 2020

VRA/SWANA Conference Postponed



New Dates: October 27-30, 2020
Location: Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront

The VRA Board has been monitoring the spread of COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) in Virginia, along with the concerns of our members and sponsors. The Board has conferred with our SWANA colleagues and agree that the best decision is to postpone the annual conference.

We are working together with SWANA to finalize the details for the rescheduled conference and we are now able to provide you with the new dates. Thank you for your patience as we took a measured approach to this decision.
Hotel Reservations:

Please cancel your individual reservations booked directly with the hotel as soon as possible. Neither VRA nor the hotel may cancel your reservation without your knowledge so it is very important that you do this immediately. VRA will not be responsible for any fees incurred due to not cancelling your hotel reservation.

VRA Board Elections:
The situation with the COVID-19 that caused us to postpone the 2020 conference also impacts the VRA Board Elections that were scheduled during the conference. The Board is determining how we will handle governance matters in the interim, and we will send out an election update as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events

James River Buffer Program (February-April and November-December)



This is a program that is carried out jointly between the Virginia Department of Forestry and the James River Association. Hoping to spread the word and help people manage non-point source pollution within the James River Watershed through a riparian buffer installation program which has very flexible guidelines.

To find out more, click here [James River Buffer Program](#).

Job Opportunities

Staff Scientist (James River Association)



The James River Association is seeking a Staff Scientist. The Staff Scientist is a key member of JRA's Advocacy Program, and acts as the lead staff person collecting, interpreting and translating scientific information to support JRA's policy agenda and broader advocacy work. JRA's Advocacy team develops strategies to address threats to river health utilizing a range of advocacy, science and legal tools as needed. This position will report to the JRA's Senior Advocacy Manager/Riverkeeper.

For more information, and to apply go to <https://thejamesriver.org/about-the-james-river-association/employment/>.

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