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Weekly Watershed Announcements August 30, 2019

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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

Virginia releases final plan for Chesapeake Bay cleanup (Daily Press)



Virginia finally has its final Watershed Implementation Plan - an ambitious road map to further reduce pollution and clean up the Chesapeake Bay.

The plan was released Friday as part of a regional effort that began in 2010 and commits Virginia and other bay states to install anti-pollution measures by 2025 that will restore the country's largest estuary. This is Virginia's third and last cleanup plan under that effort.

To read the full article by Tamara Dietrich, click [here](#).

No-Discharge Zone for Chesapeake Under Consideration by DEQ (Eastern Shore Post)



Northampton County Administrator Charles Kolakowski reported Aug. 27 that the entire Chesapeake Bay could soon become a no-discharge zone under the Clean Water Act, a federal law that aims to reduce pollution in U.S. waters. That means ships would not be permitted to discharge untreated or treated sewage into the Chesapeake Bay.

It's one topic up for discussion by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, as determined by a study VDEQ did in consultation with Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Matthew Strickler. His report on the study was released Aug. 19. Gov. Ralph Northam called for the "environmental justice" study in an executive order he signed last year.

"Environmental justice communities - such as areas with large minority populations, those with lower incomes, and indigenous residents - are on the frontlines of climate and environmental change," he stated in a VDEQ press release April 16.

To read the full article by Stefanie Jackson, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Richmond CBLP Level 1 Training (September 10-11, 2019)



The Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) Certification is a voluntary, regional credential for professionals who design, install, and maintain sustainable landscapes and green infrastructure practices in the Bay watershed. We now have over 400 Level 1 certified CBLPs in our network within the Chesapeake Bay Region, with approximately 160 in Virginia. Level 1 is our baseline credential emphasizing proper management of green infrastructure practices; while Level 2 is design and installation credential focused on advanced green infrastructure concepts and practices. Candidates can attend trainings and take exams anywhere they are offered. Level 1 CBLPs with green infrastructure experience are qualified to apply for Level 2 certification.

Level 1 consists of one two-day class that combines classroom learning about conservation landscaping (native plants, natural communities, habitat, soils, Invasives management) and stormwater BMPs, with a field-based maintenance practicum. The class also covers BMP inspection and verification protocols. Level 1 candidates are required to study independently and pass a written examination at a later date.

Who should get certified? Level 1 candidates must have a degree, certificate, or certification in a related green infrastructure field, or have professional experience. Attending a CBLP Level 1 training provides continuing education and professional development for several existing certifications including: certified horticulturalists, arborists, urban nutrient managers, DEQ SWM and ESC inspectors/planners, certified designers (APLD, VSLD).

We offer discounts to organizations that host trainings or send 3 or more staff to a training. For more information, visit <http://cblpro.org> or contact: Beth Ginter, CBLP Coordinator, beth@cblpro.org.

Visit <http://cblpro.org/get-certified/> for information, and to apply for certification.

James River Regional Cleanup (September 14, 2019)



Join the James River Advisory Council as we come together as a community to clean up the James River watershed.

THE 20TH ANNUAL JAMES RIVER REGIONAL CLEANUP WILL BE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14.

Each year, hundreds of volunteers make the cleanup a success. They collect hundreds of bags of trash and recyclable materials. We invite you to be a part of this tremendous regional effort!

Registration is easy. Select from a list of official James River Regional Cleanup sites, complete the online registration and show up Saturday, September 14. Sign-in will begin at 8:30 a.m., and refreshments will be provided between noon and 1 p.m.

This annual event is open to individuals, families, groups, boaters and paddlers! Bring water and gloves and wear closed-toe shoes. For information and to register, visit JRAC-VA.ORG.

Virginia Environmental Assembly (October 12, 2019)



Presenting "Our Common Agenda - the 2020 Environmental Briefing Book"
- Available at <http://www.vcnva.org/our-common-agenda/>

-- Show cases the environmental community's collective state-level policy priorities in the coming year. Printed copies of the book will be available in October. Registration information coming soon. Organized by Virginia Conservation Network (VCN).

Save the Date: Middle James Roundtable Annual Meeting (October 17, 2019)



The Middle James Roundtable Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2019 at Victory Hall in Scottsville, VA from 12pm-4pm. This year's theme will be

**"Restore. Explore. Reconnect.
The River is Closer Than You Think"**

More information will be coming soon. Registrations will open on September 1.

**Save the Date: Virginia Association for Environmental
Education Annual Conference**
(February 26-28, 2020)

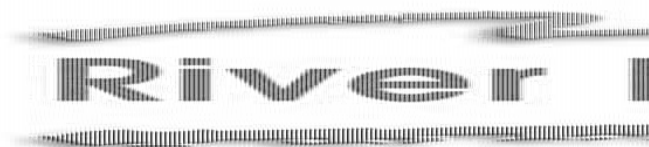


This year's conference theme "EE for EverybodEE" is a celebration and call to action to make environmental education accessible to everyone in the Commonwealth. Featuring workshops, networking, field trips and a day and a half of concurrent session VAAE 2020 promises to be our most exciting conference yet!

The 2020 Virginia Environmental Education Conference will be held at the Florence Elston Inn & Conference Center at Sweet Briar College in Amherst, Virginia from Wednesday, February 26th to Friday, February 28th.

For more information, go to <https://vaee.wildapricot.org/VAEE2020/>.

River Management Training Symposium
(May 12-15, 2020)



Presented by The River Management Society in partnership with Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Virginia Commonwealth University. Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Virginia's Scenic Rivers Program.

The Virginia Commonwealth University River Studies and Leadership Certificate program is proud to be co-hosting with the River Management Society and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation the [biennial RMS training symposium](#) against the backdrop of the 50th anniversary of Virginia's Scenic Rivers Program. Join your colleagues in river management training, best practice presentations, posters, information-packed field workshops and fascinating evening programs. The meeting will be held at the VCU Monroe campus. We invite you to submit your 2020 River Management Training Symposium: From Mountain Creeks to Metro Canals abstract by COB Monday, September 9, 2019. We welcome presentations and panels from river management professionals (e.g., managers, planners, academics, consultants, or students) that show how you, your organization, and/or the profession are protecting or enhancing river values. Come help us learn about innovations, creative approaches, successes, and visions for the future of sustainable river management!

Our objectives for this symposium are to:

1. Share current and cutting-edge research in the disciplines of river ecology, watershed science, recreation planning.
2. Connect river managers across geographic regions.
3. Spark interdisciplinary conversations.
4. Provide opportunities for attendees to sharpen skills, share accomplishments, investigate questions and build new alliances

We are seeking proposals that fit within one or more of these program broad thematic areas: 1. Mountain and Rural Rivers (Management Issues and Science): Applied research and management practice in applying ecological, biological, geomorphologic or social frameworks to river management especially in headwater areas. 2. Urban Rivers (Urban Renewal, Infrastructure, Issues and Economics): How rivers contribute to a community's identity and economic well-being. 3. Management Technology Tools: New technologies and how they are being used in transforming river management. 4. Policy and Practice (State and Federal River Management Legislation, Policies and Systems): The next river protection initiative - will it come from cities or states? Emerging policy or legislation that impacts how rivers are managed. 5. Partnerships and Community Building: Initiatives and successful models that join river management agencies, scientists, universities, advocacy groups and/or communities to support river projects and protection. 6. Water and River Corridor Trails: The relationship of trails to river management, resource protection, recreational use, and public support.

Call for Presentations

Propose a training workshop or presentation as a solo presenter or group or poster [HERE](#).

James River Association Upcoming Events



To learn more about these events and others, see <https://thejamesriver.org/> ("Upcoming Events" at the bottom of the page.) Organized by the James River Association.

- ++ Explore Turkey Island Creek -- September 7, 2019 - Richmond, VA
- ++ James River Regional Cleanup -- September 14, 2019 -- Lynchburg, Richmond, VA
- ++ Films on the Canal Walk -- September 18, 2019 - Richmond, VA
- ++ The Great Return of the Atlantic Sturgeon Canoe Paddle -- September 19, 2019 - Richmond, VA
- ++ The Great Return of the Atlantic Sturgeon Boat Tour -- September 20, 2019 - Richmond, VA
- ++ Stone's Throw Down -- September 21, 2019 - Richmond, VA

Grant Opportunities

DEQ Announces Up To \$1.5 Million To Address Pollution Projects In Virginia Watersheds



The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has announced up to \$1.5 million in federal funds for competitive grants to improve water quality in Virginia. The funds will be used to support best management practices (BMPs) to improve impaired waterbodies across the state. Grant awards can range from \$100,000 to \$400,000 and applications are due Oct. 31, 2019.

Recipients are expected to implement improvement projects with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved local implementation plans designed to prevent and control nonpoint source (NPS) pollution in watersheds, which can consist of streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs and groundwater. Improvement measures include the use of BMPs, such as retention ponds, fencing to prevent livestock access to streams and septic system repairs. "Grantees have implemented projects under the federal Clean Water Act's Section 319 for nearly 20 years and in more than 225 watersheds across the commonwealth," said DEQ Water Planning Division Director Jutta Schneider. "These partnerships have contributed to significant water quality improvements at the local level."

"DEQ is proud to once again offer grant funds to support these important projects," said DEQ Nonpoint Source Project Coordinator Lauren Linville. "This program helps existing partners and grantees continue their excellent work, while also offering opportunities for new partners and organizations to address key local water quality issues."

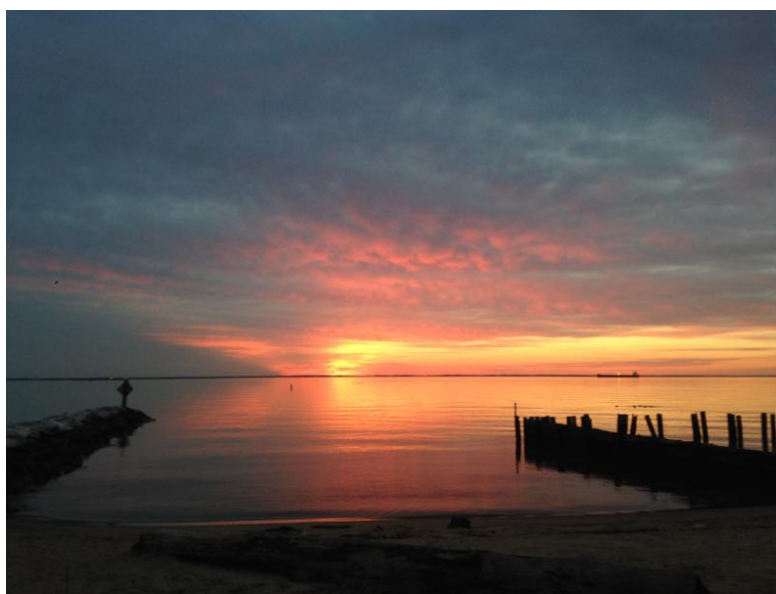
More details, including the application form, are available on the DEQ [website](#).

Background

DEQ has been working on implementing cleanup plans for local watersheds since 2001. Nonpoint source pollution is caused by rainfall or snow melt moving over and through the ground. Runoff carries away natural and human-made pollutants and deposits them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and groundwaters. With public participation, DEQ develops implementation plans for each impaired watershed and includes BMPs, such as excluding livestock from streams, repairing failing septic systems and planting vegetation buffers. For more information about NPS pollution and implementation priorities, visit DEQ's [website](#). Questions regarding this grant program may be directed to the [Nonpoint Source Grant Program](#).

Job Opportunities

Program Coordinator
(Sustainable Chesapeake)



Sustainable Chesapeake is hiring a Program Coordinator to support our work to build organizational and collaborative operations and programs to restore the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The position will provide support for regional partnerships, contract implementation, government grant administration, and executive-level assistance to the Executive Director and Board on business management, fundraising, communications, and administration. Interested applicants can learn more about the position and apply online at <https://susches.org/jobs/>. Deadline to apply is September 2, 2019.

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