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Weekly Watershed Announcements October 25, 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

James River receives "most coveted" international award for rivers, watersheds

(NBC12)



The James River has been selected as the 2019 Thiess International Riverprize winner at the International Riversymposium in Brisbane, Australia. The winner was chosen by the International River Foundation, which recognizes remarkable outcomes for rivers, river basins and their communities.

The James River Association submitted an application that discussed the restoration of the James River that went from being one of the nation's most polluted to be one that is considered the healthiest major tributary to the Chesapeake Bay.

"The James River Association has worked to improve the health of the James River since 1976, when the James was considered one of the most polluted rivers in the country. Winning the 2019 International Riverprize is a tremendous tribute to the progress that we have made together with the Commonwealth of Virginia and many public and private partners," said William H. Street, Chief Executive Officer of the James River Association. "Receiving this award strengthens our resolve to continue this comeback story, and we hope it will inspire everyone who lives, works and plays around the James River to jump in and help out so the James remains a vital asset for our communities and for future generations."

The Chicago River in Illinois and the Whangawehi Stream in New Zealand were the two other finalists.

Bay restoration to get \$32 million in matched grants

(Chesapeake Bay Magazine)



A significant influx of money is coming to the Chesapeake Bay, in the form of \$13 million in federal grants. And matched contributions will bring the total to almost \$32 million in clean water support.

The 47 grants come from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, and will go towards restoration and conservation efforts in all six Bay watershed states and Washington D.C. Funds will be used to engage farmers, homeowners, churches, buildings, and local governments to improve waterways.

To read the full article by Meg Walburn Viviano, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Farm Field Day (November 19, 2019)



Join the James River Association, VA Department of Forestry, Thomas Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation District and Conservation Services, Inc. to learn about managing invasive species, restoring hardwood tree buggers, live-stock exclusion fencing and rotational grazing, improving wildlife habitat and much more!

Registration is required and lunch is provided. To register, click [here](#).

Save the Date: Virginia Association for Environmental Education Annual Conference

(February 26-28, 2020)



VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

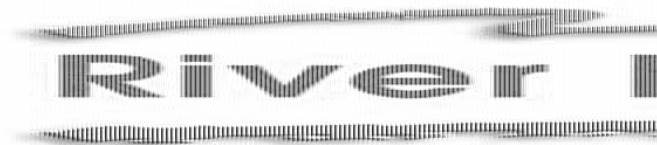
This year's conference theme "EE for EverybodEE" is a celebration and call to action to make environmental education accessible to everyone in the Commonwealth. Featuring workshops, networking, field trips and a day and a half of concurrent session VAAEE 2020 promises to be our most exciting conference 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://vaeewildapricot.org/VAAEE2020/>.

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](#).

https://rms.memberclicks.net/assets/Symposia/2020/RMS_Call4Presentations_0046.pdf

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

ground waters. 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](#).

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