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## Weekly Watershed Announcements July 12, 2019

### In This Issue

[In The News](#)

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](mailto:dur24@henrico.us).

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### In the News

#### DEQ Announces \$88,000 in Grants for Citizen Monitoring (Department of Environmental Quality)



The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has authorized \$88,000 in competitive grants to support citizen volunteer water quality monitoring in Virginia. The grants can be used to purchase monitoring equipment, perform laboratory services, and fund related expenses. Grant awards can range from less than \$1,000 to \$11,000 and applications are due Aug. 30, 2019.

"In our latest report, over 3,600 stream miles, 41.5 square miles of estuaries, and nearly 30,000 acres of lakes were monitored by volunteer groups," according to Water Planning Division Director Jutta Schneider. "Their contributions are important and help the agency evaluate water quality on a wider area than ever before."

"Many citizen groups operate on budgets less than \$5,000 a year," said Quality Assurance Officer James Beckley. "This grant program helps these volunteer-based groups continue their water quality monitoring mission."

"The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay has been operating the RiverTrends Volunteer Monitoring Program for over 30 years and is dependent on grant funding to continue," said Liz Chudoba Water Quality Program Director. "The current DEQ grant helps us support 72 active monitoring sites throughout Virginia."

Applications are due by Aug. 30. More details, including the application form, are available on the [DEQ website](#).

#### James could be first bay river to get more protections against harmful algae (Daily Press)



Algae are simple aquatic plants - but when they grow willy-nilly into a slimy expanse, they can pack an outsize punch. On Sunday, for instance, Mississippi announced it had closed all its 21 beaches because of widespread toxic blue-green algal blooms.

Such blooms pose a health risk to life in the water and on land. Health effects in humans are rare, but there's evidence algal toxins can cause ills ranging from rashes, nausea, diarrhea and vomiting to liver and possibly brain damage.

There's also alarming evidence from an experiment earlier this year in Florida that the same toxin found in blue-green algae polluting the St. Lucie River was also drifting through the air - meaning it could be inhaled. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the occurrence of harmful algal blooms

may be on the rise.

As municipalities and states grapple with how to deal with that prospect, Virginia's State Water Control Board has taken what it considers a landmark step by approving revised water quality standards intended to curb blooms in the tidal James River.

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

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### Continued high river flows having mixed impacts on Bay and its resources

*(Bay Journal)*



The downpours that soaked 2018 have spilled into this year, with three of the first five months reporting higher-than-normal freshwater flows into the Chesapeake. That will likely mean worse-than-normal oxygen conditions in the Bay. Scientists are predicting the fourth largest summertime dead zone in the last two decades.

Still, the often record-setting rains that commenced a year ago have not been a total washout for the estuary.

To read the full article by Karl Blankenship, click [here](#).

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### Hopewell's revival strategy recognizes that all roads lead to the rivers

*(Bay Journal)*



Nestled in the crook of the James and Appomattox rivers, the small Virginia city of Hopewell has for more than a century been synonymous with industry and pollution. But recently, ambitious efforts to address stormwater runoff and reconnect residents to nature are rewriting that familiar story.

"I feel like Hopewell is on the cusp of returning to its former glory," said Ann Jurczyk, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Virginia director of advocacy and outreach. "It's got a bad rap because of all the chemical plants that are there, and there's some legacy sediment issues that are horrible, but I feel like it's poised to rebound."

To read the full article by Sarah Vogelsong, click [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

### 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. Watch for information on the theme and speakers that will be coming soon. Registrations will open on September 1.

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### 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 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/VAAE2020/>.

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**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.

- ++ Invasive Species Removal - July 22, 2019 - Chapel Island, Richmond, VA
- ++ James River Rx: Connect to Nature - July 24, 2019 - Chapel Island, Richmond, VA
- ++ Explore Powhatan Creek - August 5, 2019 - Williamsburg, VA
- ++ Explore Hopewell Riverfront by Canoe - August 9, 2019 - Hopewell, VA
- ++ 4th Annual Paddle Cup - August 10, 2019 - Richmond, VA

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