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Weekly Watershed Announcements July 26, 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

Underwater Grasses in the Bay Improve Despite Record Rain
(*The Daily Press*)



Last year's record rainfall throughout the Chesapeake Bay makes hard numbers hard to come by, but experts believe underwater grasses withstood the "onslaught" and even improved a bit.

If they're right, it means that seagrass acreage swelled by 4%, from nearly 105,000 acres in 2017 to 108,960 in 2018 - the highest recorded level to date.

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

Norfolk District, officials start James River dredging
(*WTKR.com*)



James River Federal Navigation Project engineers are emphasizing efforts to minimize shoaling effects and improve navigation along Central Virginia's winding watershed.

To read the full article by Julia Varnier, click [here](#).

Plastic As Art: Chesapeake Bay Recreated Entirely Out Of Straws

(Chesapeake Bay Magazine)



A map of the Chesapeake Bay as you've never seen it was on display at Baltimore's Artscape festival this past weekend.

The six-foot-by-ten-foot 3D relief map of the entire Bay is made of roughly 225,000 plastic straws, weighs 500 pounds, and is equipped with a stunning LED light display.

Artist Kasey Jones has been working with the National Aquarium on environmentally-inspired art installations for the past six Artscape festivals, held in the shadow of Baltimore's Penn Station and billed as the nation's largest free arts festival.

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

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, VS LD).

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.

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 VAEE 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/VAEE2020/>.

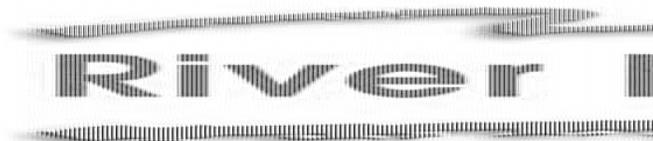
James River Association Upcoming Events



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

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



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

Job Opportunities

River Steward and Program Coordinator

(The Rivanna Conservation Alliance)



The Rivanna Conservation Alliance is seeking a part-time staff member to serve as a Rivanna River Steward and Program Coordinator. This position averages 20 hours per week and requires some day-to-day flexibility and occasional weekend availability. Pay starts at \$20/hour, depending on experience.

For more information, click [here](#) or visit <https://www.rivannariver.org/employment/>.

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