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## Weekly Watershed Announcements July 27, 2018

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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](mailto:dur24@henrico.us).

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### In The News

#### **Environmentalists claim measure will set back Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts**

*(13 news now)*



Law makers are discussing a measure that environmentalists worry will set back restoration efforts in the Chesapeake Bay.

The bill amendment, part of H.R. 6147, the Interior, Environment, Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2019, prevents the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from using federal funds to enforce the six watershed states to follow pollution reduction goals as part of the 2010 Clean Water Blueprint. The amendment passed the House 213-202 on July 18.

"These waterways are very important to me and my family and many of the people that I know and to see that progress reverse would be tragic," said Hampton Roads Grassroots Manager for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Council said that after the six watershed states surrounding the Chesapeake Bay joined the Clean Water Blueprint in 2010, restoration efforts made a lot of progress.

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

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**Operation Plastic Pollution Purge**  
*(Chesapeake Bay Magazine)*



As people become more aware of the problem with plastics piling up on land and water, a new campaign asks boaters to help clean the plastic litter up. Operation Plastic Pollution Purge has a simple goal: bring home more plastic than you left the dock with. Bay Bulletin's Cheryl Costello rides along with the director of the Annapolis Sailing School, who's been picking up plastic all over town.

To view the video, click [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

### **2018 Virginia Environmental Assembly** (September 7-8, 2018)



*We are excited to announce that registration for the 2018 Virginia Environmental Assembly is now open! Bringing together conservation leaders from across Virginia, the Environmental Assembly provides a forum for discussion on key environmental issues facing the Commonwealth. Each year, this conference is hosted in a different region of the state to highlight Virginia's distinct natural resources. We're excited to partner this year with William & Mary Sustainability to host the event in Williamsburg.*

*The weekend will feature the work of local organizations - including Preservation Virginia, James River Association, and Chesapeake Bay Foundation - to protect the historic and scenic value of the region, especially as we approach Phase III of the Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Plan. Topics to be covered include sea level rise, environmental justice, pipelines, Chesapeake Bay cleanup, and more!*

Virginia Environmental Assembly  
William & Mary School of Education | Williamsburg, VA  
Friday, September 7 - Saturday, September 8  
Tickets \$40 (price includes field trips) | [Register today!](#)  
Questions? Contact [admin@vcnva.org](mailto:admin@vcnva.org)

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### **VMI 2018 STEM Education Conference** (October 2-3, 2018)



Attendee registration and presentation proposals are now open for the 7th Annual 2018 VMI STEM Conference. For Attendee Registration, click [here](#). For Presentation Proposals, click [here](#).

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### **2018 Chesapeake Watershed Forum** (November 2-4, 2018)



The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's 13th Annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum (held November 2-4, 2018 in Shepherdstown, WV) is a watershed-wide event reaching over 400 restoration and protection practitioners annual to inspire and empower local action towards clean water.

We do this by sharing successful tools and techniques, building the capacity of local organizations and governments, building partnerships, educating new initiatives, networking amongst each other, and celebrating our successes.

This year's theme, "Connecting Our Communities: Celebrating Diverse and Innovative Partnerships" was chosen so that we may celebrate the many diverse partnerships that have proven successful in the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. We are especially interested in engaging, interactive learning sessions that highlight innovative partnerships, leading to success. Each track will incorporate one or more sessions that demonstrate partnering success.

For more information, click [here](#).

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### **Teachers on the Estuary (TOTE)** (Various dates and locations)

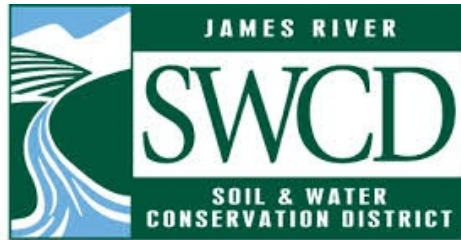


This research and field-based training program aims to improve teachers' understanding of the environment using local research. The program also promotes the stewardship of watersheds and estuaries. TOTE workshops are a minimum of 15 contact hours, giving teachers the opportunity to: Explore coastal habitats and conduct field investigations; Interact with local scientists and experienced coastal educators; Integrate local and national monitoring data into the classroom; and Learn hands-on field activities highlighting the Estuaries 101 curriculum. Hosted by the National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

For more information, including dates, see <https://coast.noaa.gov/estuaries/teachers-on-the-estuary/>.

## Job Opportunities

### James River SWCD Employment Opportunities



**We work with the people who work the land.**

The Conservation Specialist is a full-time position and provides technical services related to soil and water conservation, within the counties of Prince George and Chesterfield. This position is under the supervision of the James River Soil & Water Conservation District District Administrator and Board of Directors. The conservation specialist provides support for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) Cost-Share and Tax Credit Program; they assist District, DCR and NRCS personnel with conservation farm and nutrient management planning; assisting with the equipment rental program; and assisting with district tours, exhibits and special projects. This position is based in the JRSWCD Prince George County Office (6380 Scott Memorial Park).

For the complete job description and link to the application visit <http://www.jamesriverswcd.org/>  
Please submit the completed application and a cover letter to [bmorning@princegeorgecountyva.gov](mailto:bmorning@princegeorgecountyva.gov).

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### Tri-County City SWCD Employment Opportunities



**Administrative Professional** - Open until filled -- Fredericksburg, VA --For more information and to apply, visits [http://tccswcd.org/?page\\_id=1215](http://tccswcd.org/?page_id=1215).

**Education Coordinator** -- Open until filled -- Fredericksburg, VA --For more information and to apply, visit: [http://tccswcd.org/?page\\_id=1215](http://tccswcd.org/?page_id=1215).

## Grant Opportunities

**Mini Environmental Education Grant**  
*Chesapeake Bay Trust)*





Funds are available to schools, organizations, and agencies to support educating students about their local environment and how they can become stewards and have an impact in their community. The program funds up to \$5,000 for Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) projects. Funds can cover field trips, fieldwork, transportation, substitute fees, supplies for student projects, etc. Deadline is August 2, 2018 and January 10, 2019. For more information, see <https://cbtrust.org/grants/environmental-education-mini/>.

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### **Virginia Conservation Assistance Program** (Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts)



This program provides incentive payments for several Best Management Practices such as rain gardens, cisterns, green roofs, and conservation landscaping. This program is now available in all soil and water district localities in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

See <http://vasw.cd.org/vcap> for an overview or contact VCAP Coordinator Kevin Mclean at [kevin.mclean@vasw.cd.org](mailto:kevin.mclean@vasw.cd.org) for more information.

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