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Weekly Watershed Announcements June 22, 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.

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In The News

Report card: Healthy fisheries and aquatic grasses fuel Chesapeake Bay recovery

(Daily Press)



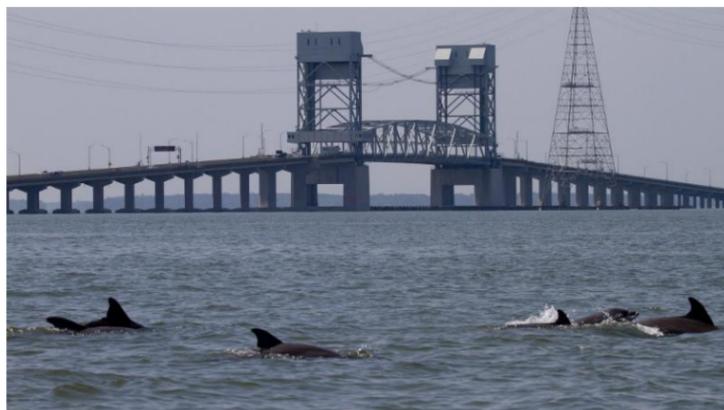
Booming aquatic grasses and bellwether fisheries are driving sustained progress in Chesapeake Bay health, which experts say is finally showing "significant" overall improvement.

The 2017 Chesapeake Bay Report Card issued by Virginia and Maryland rates the estuary a C for the third straight year as recovery holds steady or improves in five of seven indicators, the James River nails a B- for the first time and the fisheries index scores its first-ever A+.

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

The Chesapeake Bay hasn't been this healthy in 33 year, scientists say

(Washington Post)



For the first time in the 33 years that scientists have assessed the health of the Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary showed improvement in every region, a likely sign that a massive federal cleanup plan is working.

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

Everyone can benefit from soil, water conservation districts

(The Tidewater News)



The state's 47 soil and water conservation districts will use \$7.2 million this fiscal year to help Virginians implement conservation practices.

The districts began in 1935 when Congress ordered the U.S. Department of Agriculture to create the Soil Conservation Service. Since then, dozens of cost-share programs have been developed to assist farmers in protecting their

soil. Many of them are administered by the state's soil and water districts.

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

Upcoming Events

James River Association Events

June 25, 2018



More information about these events is available at <https://jrava.org/> (see "Upcoming Events").

++ June 25, 2018 -- Invasive Species Removal at Chapel Island - Richmond, VA

++ June 25, 2018 -- Hike and Paddle Richmond's Riverfront - Richmond, VA

Well Water Testing Clinic

(Virginia Cooperative Extension)



What's in YOUR water? Did you know that private water supplies like wells and springs are unregulated? It is the responsibility of the homeowner to regularly test water quality, maintain the water system, and address any problems. Affordable, confidential water testing and education will be offered through many Virginia Cooperative Extension offices. To find out who to contact for your locality, visit <http://www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu/events.php>.

Water samples collected by participating homeowners will be analyzed for 14 parameters, including bacteria, metals, nitrate and hardness at a cost of \$55. Results and water system care and maintenance information will be shared at an information meeting. All information is kept strictly confidential and results are reported only to the homeowner.

For more information about the Virginia Household Water Quality Program, as well as many resources relevant to private water systems, please visit www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu. For information on meeting dates and how to register, click [here](#).

Rain Barrel Workshops

(June 28, 2018)



Join Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District for its Spring 2018 Rain Barrel Workshops.

June 28, 2018 at the Henrico Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive. To register for this workshop, click [here](#).

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

Rain Barrel Workshops

(Multiple dates)



Join James River Soil and Water Conservation District and Chesterfield Environmental Engineering for our Annual Rain Barrel Workshops. Create a customizable Rain Barrel to help keep your garden green all summer long. Conservation starts in your own backyard!

Click here for more information and to register:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/james-river-s-wcd-17107705488>

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](#).

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](#).

Job Opportunities

Manager of Environmental & Outdoor Education (Maymont Foundation)



Maymont foundation is seeking a full-time Manager of Environmental and Outdoor Education. For more information on this position and to apply, click [here](#).

Grant Opportunities

VEE James River Grant Program (Virginia Environmental Endowment)

Virginia Environmental Endowment

The Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) recently launched the new James River Water Quality Improvement Grant Program.

We have posted on the VEE website a host of documents that describe the details of the new grant program including a fact sheet which lists the initial funding priorities, the solicitation notice, and the application process. They can be found at:

<http://www.vee.org/grant-programs-application/james-river-water-quality-improvement-program/>

The first applications are due no later than June 15. Grant decisions will be announced in October.

Please take a look at the website and let us know if you have any questions. We would also appreciate it if you pass this along to others who you think may be interested in knowing about the program.

I think you will find that the VEE James River Program reflects a thoughtful and strategic approach that we hope will help to accelerate water quality improvements in the River.

For more information, please contact jrw.qip@vee.org

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://vaswcd.org/vcap> for an overview or contact VCAP Coordinator Kevin Mclean at kevin.mclean@vaswcd.org for more information.

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