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Weekly Watershed Announcements May 12, 2017

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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

Bay Health Gained Slightly in 2016, Assessment Finds (Bay Journal)



The Chesapeake Bay's ecological health improved slightly last year, according to a new assessment, with three of the estuary's key fish populations in their best shape in decades.

For the fifth straight year, the Bay's condition in 2016 earned a C grade on the annual report card produced by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. The overall score - combining measures of water quality, habitat and fish abundance - ticked upward to 54 percent, a 1 percent gain over 2015.

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

From Sewer to Scenic: \$120 Million In Waste Treatment Plant Upgrades Have Made James, Chesapeake Bay Healthier

(Richmond Times-Dispatch)



James Golden, director of operations at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, was among the officials on hand to celebrate \$120 million in upgrades to the plant at Ancarrow's Landing over the past decade that, combined with sewage and stormwater pipes have helped transform the river from a liability into one of the city's chief assets.

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

VEE Awards More Than A Quarter Million Dollars For Projects Statewide

(NBC29.com)



The Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) today announced awards of \$277,500 to 14 organizations dedicated to protecting and improving the commonwealth's natural resources and environment.

When combined with matching funds, VEE has achieved more than \$80 million in environmental improvements statewide since it was founded in 1977.

For the full article and a list of the grant awardees, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

8th Annual Choose Clean Water Conference (May 23-24, 2017)



Charlottesville, VA – This conference focuses on ways the environmental community can collaborate and work as one. Issues related to agriculture, communications, climate change, diversity, equity and inclusion, and more will be discussed. Early Bird Registration Deadline: April 21, 2017. For more information and to register, see <http://chooscleanwater.org/our-conference/2017/>. Hosted by the Choose Clean Water Coalition.

Virginia Association of Wetland Professionals Annual Spring Meeting (May 25, 2017)



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond, VA – This event will focus on current research in environmental sciences, regulatory issues, stream restoration hurdles and permitting challenges. Presenters include representatives from state and federal agencies, as well as Virginia localities, consulting firms, and academic institutions. For more information, contact Brian Breissinger at Brian.Breissinger@timmons.com.

James River Rundown (June 24-25, 2017)



The James River Rundown is a series of canoe, kayak, and SUP races running through the heart of Virginia on the scenic James River. Competitors race through weather, natural features, and fatigue to reach the finish line at Goochland County's Tucker Park. The James River Association is organizing a two-day 120-mile race, 50-mile race, 25-mile race, and a 5-mile fun float this year.

Click [here](#) to register for the James River Rundown.

6th Annual VMI STEM Education Conference - Inspiring Teachers (October 3-4, 2017)



The VMI STEM Education Conference gathers educators and administrators who work with students in grades 3-8 across Virginia for professional development, enrichment, and fun.

Call for Presentations: <http://www.vmi.edu/about/center-for-leadership-and-ethics/conferences/stem/call-for-presentations/>

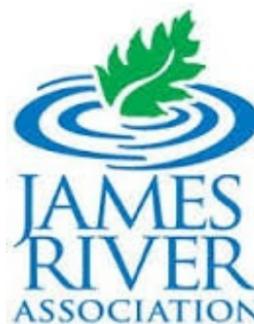
Virginia Environmental Education Conference
(October 10-12, 2017)



V.A.E.E. is proud to announce the 2017 Virginia Environmental Education Annual Conference October 10th, 11th & 12th, 2017 at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center in Front Royal, VA.

This year's conference will feature many exciting events including the annual member meeting for the Virginia Association for Environmental Education, as well as Keynote Speaker Dr. Peter Marra, author of the book *Cat Wars*. Wednesday will showcase an exciting array of hands-on concurrent sessions. Thursday, the final day of the conference, has been reserved for a great selection of field trips in the Front Royal area.

James River Association News
(May-July 2017)



++ **How Do You River? Paddle Series** - May to October, 2017 - Interpretative paddle trips will be offered on multiple dates at five different locations. For more information and to register, see <https://jrava.org/whats-happening/interpretive-paddle-series-2/>.

++ **27th Annual Westover Lawn Party** - June 3, 2017 (2-4pm) - Westover Plantation, Charles City, VA – This fundraiser for the JRA centers on family and educational activities, live entertainment, food and both a silent and live auction. For more information, see <https://jrava.org/whats-happening/westover-lawn-party/>.

++ **2017 James River Rundown** - June 24-25, 2017 - This series of canoe, kayak, and SUP races run through the heart of Virginia on the James River. This year's event will include a two-day 120 mile race, a 50 mile race, and a 5 mile float. For more information, see <http://www.jamesriverrundown.org/>.

++ **James River Splash & Dash** - July 15, 2017 - Richmond, VA - This 6K trail run or 1 mile walk includes a flat water tube across the James River. For more information and to register, see <http://www.jrsplashanddash.org/>.

Center for Watershed Protection Webcasts
(May-October, 2017)



For more information on all upcoming webcasts and to register, see <http://www.cwp.org/webcasts/>.

- ++ May 17, 2017 (1-2:30pm ET) - Nutrient Trading
- ++ June 21, 2017 (1-2:30 pm ET) - Making Urban Trees Count
- ++ September 13, 2017 (1-2:30pm ET) - Stream Restoration: Where Are We Now?
- ++ October 18, 2017 (1-2:30pm ET) - Bringing Better Site Design into the 21st Century

Grant Opportunities

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 to the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed.

See <http://vaswcd.org/vcap> for an overview or contact Bay coordinator Kevin Mclean at kevin.mclean@vaswcd.org for more information.

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