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## Weekly Watershed Announcements May 24, 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](mailto:dur24@henrico.us).

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### In The News

#### EPA Letter To Bay States Spells Out Cleanup Expectations (*Bay Journal*)



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has high expectations for Bay cleanup efforts in the coming years.

Earlier this year, it sent states a 10-page letter outlining what agency officials believe must happen to deliver on the decades-old promise of restoring clear Chesapeake Bay water where underwater plants thrive, fish and shellfish have plenty of oxygen, and waterfowl can graze on abundant food.

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

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#### A New Virginia Naturally



As many may have noticed there has not been a Virginia Naturally E-News letter published since September. This newsletter was previously published by the Virginia Office of Environmental Education. Over the last six months the Virginia Association for Environmental Education (VAEE) was asked if the organization would be interested in continuing the efforts of Virginia Naturally. The May 2017 issue is the "relaunching" of the Virginia Naturally newsletter under its new publisher. To receive the newsletter contact [communication.vaaee@gmail.com](mailto:communication.vaaee@gmail.com).

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#### UVa Working To Protect Watershed (*NBC29.com*)



CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (WWIR) - The University of Virginia is making sure it does its part to protect our water.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and UVA led a walking tour of the Dell Tuesday, May 16. Dell is an 11 acre park where a stream runs through the center of university grounds.

UVA uses the space designed to help control storm water, improve water

quality and lessen the impacts of run off from the university to Meadow Creek.

"Our initial focus is really on the stewardship of our streams and so we want to improve Meadow Creek or on the other side of the watershed here - Morris Creek. So we want to improve those to the point that you're not afraid if you want to go down and wade in the stream that's there's something there that shouldn't be there," said Associate Director of Environmental Resources Jeffery Sittler.

The stream on university grounds ultimately leads to the Chesapeake Bay.

## 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.

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### 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](mailto:Brian.Breissinger@timmons.com).

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### 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.

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### Films On The Floodwall (September 13, 2017)



**Submit a film to be screened at Films on the Floodwall!** Films on the Floodwall is a free community film screening organized by the James River Advisory Council, James River Outdoor Coalition, and James River Association during James River Week in September. The event is held at Diversity Park in the James River Park System and films are projected onto the floodwall. Local filmmakers are encouraged to submit original films to be screened at the event.

[Click here](#) for more information about Films on the Floodwall.

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### 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/>

Attendee Registration: <http://www.vmi.edu/about/center-for-leadership-and-ethics/conferences/stem/registration/>

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

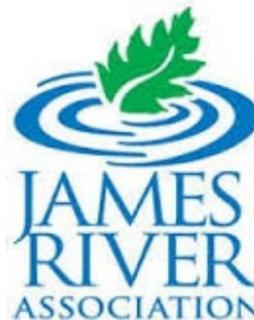


V.A.E.E. is proud to announce the 2017 Virginia Environmental Education Annual Conference October 10th, 11th & 12th, 2017 at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center in Front Royal, VA.

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.

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**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.jamesrivrundown.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/>.

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**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

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**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](mailto:kevin.mclean@vaswcd.org) for more information.

Middle James Roundtable | [dmr24@henrico.us](mailto:dmr24@henrico.us) | <http://www.mjrt.org>  
P.O. Box 90775  
Henrico, VA 23273

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