

CONSERVATION education

Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District

August 2017

Welcome to the new Conservation Education Newsletter from the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District. This quarterly publication will keep you up to date on Conservation education news from our District.



I am...

Charlotte DeMolay, the new Education Specialist for Loudoun SWCD. I joined the District this May after moving from Texas.

I am originally from North Carolina where I completed a BFA

at UNC-Greensboro. After moving to Texas in 1996, I began teaching art for non-profit organizations, private schools and in my own studio classroom.

I have long been an avid gardener, hiker and camper. Over the years my passion for the environment and conservation practices led me to complete a Masters in City and Regional Planning with an emphasis on Sustainable Development in 2012.

After graduation, I began teaching sustainable living and an appreciation of nature to preschoolers through retirees with the City of Plano's Sustainability and Environmental Education Department.

My husband and I have three children and one grandchild. Our oldest daughter (and the grandchild) are still in Texas, our son is in college in Florida and our youngest daughter is a high school junior here in Virginia.

What is...

a Soil and Water Conservation District?

The mission of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and its Foundation is to **provide and promote leadership in the conservation of natural resources through stewardship and education programs.**

What does this have to do with your classroom?

One of Loudoun SWCD directives is to increase Environmental Stewardship through outreach and education. We want to **partner with teachers** and other education professionals to strengthen **conservation education** in Loudoun County.

What does this mean for you and your students?

- Classroom **presentations** on a variety of conservation subjects
- **Conservation Checkouts**—Lessons and materials available to borrow
- **Training** classes
- **Grants** for conservation education and projects
- Assistance for **Envirothon** coaches
- **Scholarships** for students interested in conservation subjects

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Loudoun SWCD

30 Catoctin Circle, SE., Suite H
Leesburg, VA 20175

www.loudounsoilandwater.org



Charlotte DeMolay

Education Specialist
571.918.4530 ext. 109

charlotte.demolay@lswcd.org

Grant Opportunities...

Loudoun SWCD Mini-grant: We offer a limited number of mini-grants of up to \$500 to Loudoun County teachers. The Mini-Grants are intended for projects that integrate soil & water conservation into any curriculum. Deadline will be in early November. Please contact Charlotte DeMolay for more information.

Annie's School Garden Grants: Grants for edible school gardens (growing fruits, vegetables, herbs, grains, etc) located in the US. Deadline December 5th. Visit <http://www.annies.com/doing-more/grants-for-gardens>.

Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee Grants: Grants provided by the sale of the special Chesapeake Bay License Plates. Deadline October 1st. Visit <http://dls.virginia.gov/commissions/cbr.htm?x=ags>.

PLT GreenWorks! Grant: Project Learning Tree offers GreenWorks! grants up to \$1,000 to schools and youth organizations for environmental service-learning projects that link classroom learning to the real world. To be eligible, applicants must have attended a PLT workshop, either in-person or online. Deadline September 30th. Visit <https://www.plt.org/resources/greenworks-grants/>.

Virginia Environmental Endowment: Provides matching grants. Deadline December 1st. Visit <http://www.vee.org/grant-programs-application/general-grants/>

Whole Foods School Gardens: Grant for an edible school garden. Deadline October 31st. Visit <https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/schools/programs/school-garden-grant-program>

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in."

~Rachel Carson

High School Teachers...

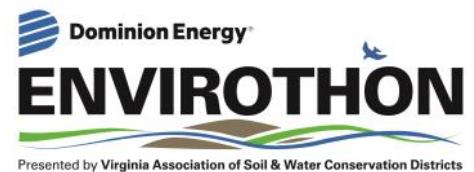
Want an opportunity to engage your students in a meaningful and competitive way? Consider creating an **Envirothon team!**

What is the Envirothon?

The Virginia Envirothon is a team based natural resources competition for high school students. Students who participate learn stewardship and management concepts and work to solve real world environmental problems. The program is field-oriented, community based and gives students an opportunity to work with natural resource professionals.

Who makes up a team and what do they do?

Students work in teams of five. Throughout the school year students prepare to compete at the local level, qualify to then compete at the area level and the top three teams from the six Soil & Water Conservation District areas in the state compete to be the State Winner. These teams of high school students are tested on their knowledge of natural resources- soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics and a current environmental issue. Students visit five "in-the-field" test stations where written and hands-on problem solving is required along with an oral presentation formulating a strategy to address a specific environmental issue they've been presented with. The event is competitive but education is the bottom line.



Contact our office for more information.

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Loudoun SWCD Conservation Lessons

The following are Presentations or Conservation Checkouts that can be scheduled or reserved through our Education Specialist. Grades suggested are based on Virginia Science Standards of Learning correlations. We can present the lessons to other grades or groups.

Email Charlotte DeMolay at Charlotte.demolay@lswcd.org or call 571.918.4530 ext. 109 for information about SOL requirements, presentations lengths and more.

Freddy the Fish



Grades K, 1—Presentation

This is a fun and highly participatory activity to discuss how humans affect life processes and water quality. Each student is able to participate with their own 'stream' and 'fish.'

The 3 R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Grades K, 1 & 2—Presentation

The 3 R's is a fun program to teach about Reducing, Reusing and Recycling. The lesson is integrated into Recycling Relay, an interactive game that involves each student in the deciding how items should be disposed.

The World Beneath Your Feet



Grades K, 1 & 2—Conservation Checkout

Students begin thinking like scientists as they make observations about what is in a patch of their schoolyard. This Conservation Checkout includes a Lesson Plan, Investigation tools (rope, magnifier, bug box, tweezers, trowel, ruler, misters) for teams of 2-3, and thermometer. Grade 2 will also have Observation Sheets.

Dirt Buddies

Grades K, 1, 2, 3—Conservation Checkout

Grown your own grassy-haired dirt buddy! This is a fun classroom activity that explores observing change over time as grass grows on the dirt buddy heads. All supplies and instructions are included for this Conservation Checkout.



Soil Tunnel

Grade 3—Conservation Checkout



Discover what is above and below ground with our interactive soil tunnel. Loudoun SWCD staff will set up the soil tunnel for your school to use for one week. This pairs well with Soil Studies and Dirt Buddies

Middle School Teachers
Currently the bulk of our Presentations and Conservation Checkouts are for Elementary. Do you have a conservation topic or idea you'd like us to support? I'd love to hear from you!

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Soil Studies



Grade 3—Presentation or Conservation Checkout

Explore what comes from soil, what is soil and describing soil with your students. Each student creates their own soil tube to keep. This is a great lesson to pair with the Soil Tunnel.

This can be a Presentation or a Conservation Checkout. For the Checkout, the lesson plan, visual aids and supplies are provided.

Stream the Movie Skit



Grades 3 & 4—Presentation

Stream the Movie is an interactive skit that demonstrates the connectivity of water systems and human activity. Acts I and II teach the concept of an ecosystem through the plant life and animal life in and around the stream. Acts III and IV show the effect of human activity and pollution as well as how it can be corrected. Complete with quick costumes and roles for every student (and the teacher!) this is a fun activity to incorporate into your Living Systems lesson.

Enviroscape Watershed Model

Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6 (can be adapted for older grades—Presentation (Checkout available for grades 6 & up)



The EnviroScape Watershed is an interactive table-top model used to demonstrate watersheds and the human impact on water quality. Students participate in contaminating the watershed through non-toxic ‘pollutants’ and create a rainstorm to illustrate the movement of water and pollutants through the watershed.

Jeopardy - Conservation, Waste Management or Water



Grades 4-6—Presentation

Bring the popular game show into your classroom with an educational twist. This exciting, fast-paced game works best for a class but can be used for large groups such as class vs. class. There are several versions of the game that cover different topics and SOLs.

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