

# CONSERVATION education

Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District

February 2018

Welcome to the 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.

## Calling all Shutterbugs...



The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is pleased to announce the 2018 VASWCD Photo Contest is open and ready to take submissions. The VASWCD is committed to conservation of natural

resources through stewardship and education programs and we want to see it through your eyes.

For our 2018 Photo Contest, we'd like you to take photos that showcase "Conservation Through the Seasons." Capture those vibrant moments and express what conservation looks like to you throughout the seasons! The contest is from Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>- Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and you can submit up to 10 photos.

For more information please check out our website <http://vaswcd.org/photocontest>.

To see photos entered in the 2017 VASWCD Photo Contest please check out the following link

**VASWCD Photos in a pdf form**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/18vKBBVBkW\\_IRMYctyc7AlQgcr4En0-O\\_/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18vKBBVBkW_IRMYctyc7AlQgcr4En0-O_/view?usp=sharing)

## For High Schoolers...

### Scholarships

Know a **graduating senior** interested in studying Conservation? The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Education Foundation together with the Virginia Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society award **4 \$1,000 scholarships** to eligible students.

Applications can be found on our website. **Deadline is March 1, 2018.**

### Conservation Camp

**Current 9-12 graders** are eligible to attend Youth Conservation Camp held at Virginia Tech. The Loudoun SWCD offers partial scholarships to two students. This lowers the cost of camp to \$150 for a week of active learning and fun. More information and applications can be found on our website.

Teachers...you KNOW which students would be perfect for the scholarships and camp opportunities. Please help them by passing along this information and directing them to our website!



## Loudoun SWCD

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[www.loudounsoilandwater.org](http://www.loudounsoilandwater.org)



## Charlotte DeMolay

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## Spotlight on Conservation Checkouts...

One of our new resources here at Loudoun SWCD are Conservation Checkouts. These further our goals of spreading Conservation Education in Loudoun County and give YOU the easy button.

Checkouts have all materials needed (unless noted) for you to do. Lesson plans, instructions or guides are included in the Checkout. They have also been mapped to Science SOLs but some contain supplemental ideas for cross-curricular activities.

Here's a closer look at a few of our Conservation Checkouts:

With **The World Beneath Your Feet** students begin thinking like scientists as they make observations about what is in a patch of their schoolyard. This Checkout is targeted for grades K, 1 & 2. It has supplies to take 1 class outside in a grassy area. The lesson takes about 20 minutes with an addition 10 minutes for setup and cleanup.



Included in the Checkout is a Lesson Plan, Observation Sheets, Clipboards, Investigation tools (rope, magnifier, bug box, tweezers, trowel, ruler, misters) for teams of 2-3, and thermometer.

We have several Checkouts for studying soil. These can be used indi-

vidually to supplement your lessons or checkout several an hold a Soil Study Fair with your whole grade level!

Discover what is above and below ground with our interactive **Soil Tunnel**. Students crawl through the tunnel and see soil from an underground perspective.

**Soil Tunnel** is designed for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. This checkout can be reserved for up to a week and needs an open area inside. Our staff will set up and take down the tunnel. It should not be moved during the checkout time.

**Soil Studies** is another 3<sup>rd</sup> grade lesson. Designed for one class at a time but the soil tubes can also be used as a station along with the Soil Tunnel.

Explore what comes from soil, what is soil and describing soil with your students. Each student creates their own soil tube to keep. For the Checkout, the lesson plan, visual aids and soil tube supplies are provided.



A final soil/plant study supplemental

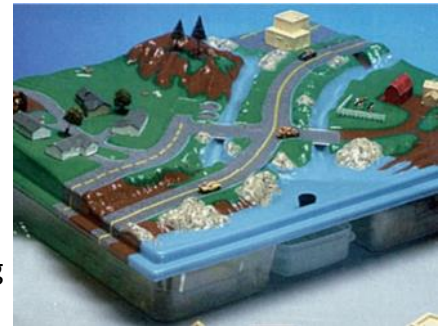
Checkout is **Dirt Buddies**. This checkout does not



have a lesson plan but has instructions and supplies to create a grassy haired Dirt Buddy. Great for grades K-3<sup>rd</sup>, this Checkout pairs well with soil, life cycle or plant studies.

For Middle or High School, we have an **Enviroscape Watershed Model** that can be checked out. This is a perfect comple-

ment to your MWEE activities. Trained Elementary teachers can also checkout the Enviroscape. We also can provide training for using the Enviroscape since you may have a model at your own school!



For additional Conservation Checkouts or Presentations that are done by our Staff, please contact our Education Specialist.

Got an idea for a Checkout?  
Have a lesson but not the resources?  
LET US KNOW!

We may be able to create a  
Conservation Checkout for you.

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# Resource Corner...

## All

- **Award**—President’s Innovation Award for Environmental Educators (<https://www.epa.gov/education/presidential-innovation-award-environmental-educators>)
- **Award**—President’s Environmental Youth Award (<https://www.epa.gov/education/presidents-environmental-youth-award>)
- **Conservation Art Project**—Parachutes for the Planet (<http://motherearthproject.org/parachutes/>)
- **Contest**—VASWCD Photo Contest (<http://vaswcd.org/photocontest>)
- **Grant**—Audubon Society of Northern Virginia for Conservation (<http://audubonva.org/conservation-grants/>) and Education (<http://audubonva.org/youth-education-grant/>)
- **Grant**—Captain Planet Foundation (<https://www.captainplanetfoundation.org/grants/>)
- **Grant**—NOAA B-Wet (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=299665>)
- **School Project Resources**—Bay Back Pack ([http://baybackpack.com/schoolyard\\_projects/](http://baybackpack.com/schoolyard_projects/))

“There is something of the marvelous in all things of nature.”  
— Aristotle

## Elementary School

- **Training**— AGI Stem Teacher Leadership Academy ([https://www.americangeosciences.org/sites/default/files/K5%20TLA%20\\_Flyer\\_Short\\_12518.pdf](https://www.americangeosciences.org/sites/default/files/K5%20TLA%20_Flyer_Short_12518.pdf))

## Middle School

- **Canoe Trips**—Chesapeake Bay Foundation (<http://www.cbf.org/join-us/education-program/field-programs/one-day/elisabeth-reed-carter-virginia-canoe-program.html>)
- **Forestry Camp**—Virginia Department of Forestry (<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/forestry/camp/index.htm>)
- **Training**—AGI Stem Teacher Leadership Academy ([https://www.americangeosciences.org/sites/default/files/MS%20TLA\\_Short\\_12618\\_0.pdf](https://www.americangeosciences.org/sites/default/files/MS%20TLA_Short_12618_0.pdf))

## High School

- **Canoe Trips**—Chesapeake Bay Foundation (<http://www.cbf.org/join-us/education-program/field-programs/one-day/elisabeth-reed-carter-virginia-canoe-program.html>)
- **Scholarship**—VASWCD Education Foundation (<http://www.loudounsoilandwater.com/2018/01/vaswcd-scholarships-available/>)
- **Student Competition**—Stockholm Junior Water Prize (<https://wef.org/resources/for-the-public/SJWP/>)
- **Summer Camp**—Virginia Department of Forestry (<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/forestry/camp/index.htm>)
- **Summer Camp**—VASWCD Conservation Camp (<http://www.loudounsoilandwater.com/2018/02/2017-vaswcd-youth-conservation-camp/>)

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**JOIN LOUDOUN SOIL AND  
WATER CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT IN CELEBRATING  
SOIL AND WATER  
STEWARDSHIP WEEK**

**April 29 – May 6, 2018**

**Education Materials**

This year the Loudoun SWCD in partnership with Loudoun County Public Schools will continue its special stewardship education program for local elementary and middle schools by providing printed educational materials. Educational materials include an **Activity booklet on, a Placemat/Activity Sheet, Bookmark and Poster.**

*Orders due March 15, 2018*

**Poster Contest**

As part of celebrating Soil and Water Stewardship Week, Loudoun SWCD is participating in the Poster Contest. Designing a poster and researching the theme can give you a voice in your community on important conservation issues! Posters capture people’s attention and tell important stories in a language that everyone can understand. They inspire, increase awareness, and encourage us to work together to protect our natural resources.



The Poster Contest is open to all Loudoun County public, private and homeschooled students in grades K—12.

*Posters due May 15, 2018*

For more information about the free Education Materials or the Poster Contest, please contact Charlotte DeMolay by email at [charlotte.demolay@lswcd.org](mailto:charlotte.demolay@lswcd.org).

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