

# CONSERVATION education

Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District

February 2020

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.



## Scholarship Opportunity!

Know a **graduating senior or college freshman currently or planning on** 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 awards four **\$1,000 scholarships** to eligible students. Find out more and download an application here: [www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/scholarships/](http://www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/scholarships/) **Deadline is Monday, March 2, 2020.**

## Conservation Camp

**Current 9th-12th 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. Application and more information can be found on our website.: [www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/conservation-camp](http://www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/conservation-camp)



## Inspire your students Imaginations...

...by entering our **Conservation Poster Contest**. All **Loudoun County public, private and homeschooled students grades K—12** are encouraged to enter. This year's theme is **"Where would we BEE without**

**Pollinators?"** Pollinators form the foundations of

a healthy and sustainable future for food and the environment, but in recent years, they have shown concerning signs of decline. Designing a poster and researching the theme can give students a voice in your community on important conservation issues! Participating in our poster contest helps increase awareness about our pollinators and encourages our community to work together to protect our natural resources.

Check out the **Flyer at the end of this newsletter** to find out contest rules and more detail, or by visiting our website: [www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/sws-poster-contest](http://www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/sws-poster-contest)

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### Loudoun SWCD

30 Catoctin Circle, SE., Suite 218  
Leesburg, VA 20175  
[www.loudounsoilandwater.org](http://www.loudounsoilandwater.org)



### Jennifer Venable

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## Loudoun SEAS...

The second annual Loudoun Student Environmental Action Showcase (SEAS) will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Heritage High School in Leesburg. The event is co-hosted by Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS), the Loudoun Environmental Education Alliance (LEEA), and the Northwest Virginia Regional GREENetwork. The event is open to all K-12 students in Loudoun County public, private and home schoolers as well as members of community-based youth organizations such as 4-H clubs and Scout troops.

Check out our [LOUDOUN SEAS flyer](#).

To learn more and **register**, go to:

[loudounnature.org/events/loudoun-seas](http://loudounnature.org/events/loudoun-seas)

**Student Registration:** Deadline is April 3rd by 5:00 p.m.

Participants are asked to bring a tri-fold tabletop display highlighting their environmental stewardship efforts. Other display formats will be considered as well.

**Community Partner Registration:** Deadline is April 3rd by 5:00 p.m. There is no cost to participate in this event.

For more information on SEAS, or if you are interested in serving as a volunteer or sponsor, please contact:

[SEAS@loudounnature.org](mailto:SEAS@loudounnature.org).



## Free Classroom Materials celebrating Soil & Water Stewardship Week..



The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is celebrating Soil and Water Stewardship week **April 26–May 3, 2020**. The 2020 Stewardship theme is **“Where would we BEE without pollinators?”**

Pollinators form the foundations of a healthy and sustainable future for food and the environment, but in recent years, they have shown concerning signs of decline. It's important that we work to help them prosper by enhancing native pollinator habitats and protecting against pollinator declines. 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 free printed educational materials. Educational materials include **an activity booklet, a placemat/activity sheet, bookmark and poster**. For additional information on **“Where would we BEE without pollinators?”** education resources and for downloadable resources and education materials, go to <http://www.nacdnet.org>.

**[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FREE MATERIALS](#)**

If you would like to observe Soil and Water Stewardship Week in your classroom and use these special materials (**FREE** of charge), please contact Jennifer Venable, Education Specialist, at the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District by email at [jennifer.venable@lswcd.org](mailto:jennifer.venable@lswcd.org). **When requesting an order, please send your name, your grade, school name, and number of materials needed. DEADLINE: March 13, 2020**

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Second Annual  
**LOUDOUN**  
**STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**ACTION SHOWCASE**

**Wednesday, April 22, 2020**

**5:30 - 8 PM**

**Heritage High School**

**Leesburg, Virginia**

### **STUDENTS**

share their work on reducing waste, conserving energy, improving water quality, preserving natural habitat and other sustainability-minded projects in their schools and communities. ALL K-12 students in Loudoun County representing public and private schools, homeschoolers and members of community-based youth organizations such as 4-H clubs and Scout troops are welcome to participate.

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

provide hands-on environmental Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) learning activities and discuss volunteer and career opportunities.

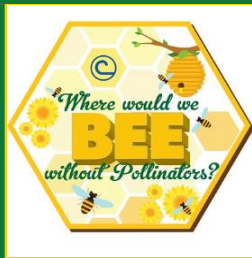
### **ATTENDEES**

students, parents, educators and community leaders will be able to network, build knowledge and gain ideas on how to further environmental education and stewardship in Loudoun County.

**To register or learn more please visit**  
**[Loudounnature.org](http://Loudounnature.org)**

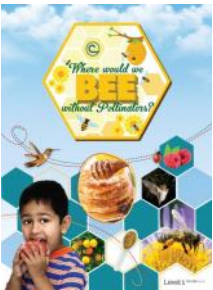
**The event is co-hosted by Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS), Loudoun Environmental Education Alliance (LEEA), and Northwest Virginia Regional GREENetwork.**

LEEA is a fiscally-sponsored project of the Virginia Association for Environmental Education, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit.



# 2020 Soil and Water Stewardship Week

## Activity Books

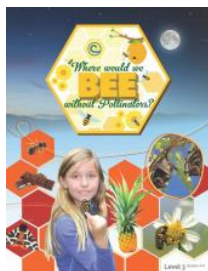


### Where would we BEE without Pollinators Level 1 (GR K-1) TOPICS:

- ~Realize that humans need food in order to live and grow and that a large portion of their food comes from plants.
- ~Gain an awareness of the dependence of plants upon pollination.
- ~Deduct which items utilized in their daily lives are dependent upon pollination.
- ~Explain the steps in animal pollination.
- ~Recognize that humans can have a positive impact their environment by making changes beneficial to pollinators.

### Where would we BEE without Pollinators Level 2 (GR 2-3) TOPICS:

- ~Understand that most plants depend on animals for pollination.
- ~Distinguish the connection between the physical properties of plants, pollen, pollinators and successful pollination.
- ~Realize the role pollination plays in plant reproduction.
- ~Appreciate the vital role pollinators play in their everyday lives.
- ~Recognize that changes made in the environment can affect the availability of resources for



### Where would we BEE without Pollinators Level 3 (GR 4-5) TOPICS:

- ~Observe that plants have external structures that serve various functions in both pollination and reproduction.
- ~Relate the role of pollinators to plants and the supply of food for human consumption.
- ~Differentiate between vertebrate/invertebrate, mammal/insect pollinators.
- ~Investigate the necessity of pollinators to their everyday lives.
- ~Comprehend that pollinators can survive only in environments in which their particular needs are met.
- ~Identify ways in which human activities impact the



### Where would we BEE without Pollinators Level 4 (GR 6 and up) TOPICS:

- ~Explain the connection between the specialized physical structures of both pollinators and the plants that are their food sources and successful pollination.
- ~Recognize the role of the sense receptors of pollinators to their choice of food.
- ~Grasp that pollinators are dependent on their environmental interactions both with other living organisms, including humans, and with nonliving factors that affect their access to resources.
- ~Identify the ways humans are dependent upon pollinators.
- ~Describe actions that can be taken to increase the pollinator population.

## Extras



### Where would we BEE without Pollinators Bookmark

Designed for students in all grades.



### Where would we BEE without Pollinators Placemat/Activity Sheet (GR 4 and up)

Fun activities based on pollinators. Double-sided 9" x 13".



### Where would we BEE without Pollinators Poster

Pollinators are important—morning, noon and night! They are important to the food we eat and the clothes we wear. SIZE: 24" x 32"

Please include your name, your grade, school name, and number of materials needed in your order.

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## 2020 SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK POSTER CONTEST

# Where would we BEE without Pollinators?

Pollinators form the foundations of a healthy and sustainable future for food and the environment, but in recent years, they have shown concerning signs of decline. It's important that we work to help them prosper by enhancing native pollinator habitats and protecting against pollinator declines. Designing a poster and researching the theme can give you a voice in your community on important conservation issues! Participating in our poster contest helps increase awareness about our pollinators and encourages our community 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.**

### CONTEST RULES

- Any media may be used, including paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper, or other materials.
- Posters must be hand drawn but can be any size. Originals or digital entries (photographs or scanned copies of the hand drawn posters in a JPEG format) can be submitted.
- All posters must be created by an individual student, rather than a team of students. Entry must be contestant's original creation and may not be traced from photographs or other artists' published works.
- The 2020 Stewardship theme "Where would we BEE without Pollinators?" **must** be included on the front side of each poster submission to be eligible for the national poster contest.
- Each entry **must** be submitted with an entry form to be eligible for judging. The form **must** be completed and signed by a parent or guardian. Please visit our website to download an entry form. [www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/swsw-poster-contest/](http://www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/swsw-poster-contest/)
- Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, NACD encourages each student to do their own work. (Note: Entries with student handwriting and coloring will score better than those designed, drawn, and colored by adult assistance.)
- Only the local contest sponsor (Loudoun SWCD) can submit entries to the state and only the state sponsor (VASWCD) can submit for the national contest.

### POSTER EVALUATION

- Conservation message (50 percent) (Poster uses correct theme)
- Visual effectiveness (30 percent)
- Originality (10 percent)
- Universal appeal (10 percent)

### PRIZES

Local awards and recognition will be given. Local winners in each category will be sent to the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. State winners will be eligible for NACD's National Poster Contest and prizes. **All poster entries should be sent to Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District. They may be dropped off at our office or sent via County Mail Stop 95. If in JPEG format, please email to [jennifer.venable@lswcd.org](mailto:jennifer.venable@lswcd.org).**

# Deadline May 15, 2020

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