



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009 SCIENCE AND MATH BY INQUIRY NEWS

EVENTS

Our **spring workshops** begin February 7 at Sweet Briar:
Check our website www.sxi.sbc.edu for the latest information.

Virginia's Underdog Wetlands: Conserving Vernal Pools & Related Wetland Habitats

Host: Virginia Vernal Pools Program (Mike Hayslett and Sweet Briar College)

Day: Friday April 3rd, 2009

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Sweet Briar College Conference Center

Two hours of classroom instruction followed by 3 hours of field investigations into natural, impacted and created wetlands. Classroom session will be held in SBC Conference Center's Wales Lounge and the field component at a nearby location in Amherst County. Transportation to the latter will be by college van and car caravan. Participants should dress accordingly for the afternoon outing (warm/dry outerwear, rubber knee boots are advised; bring your camera and field notebook). Participants will receive certificates indicating instructional hours for continuing education credit. There is no cost to qualifying registrants, but **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

To Register Contact:

David Ruble <dnruble@deq.virginia.gov>

Virginia Office of Environmental Education

Department of Environmental Quality

PO Box 1105, 629 E. Main Street, Richmond, VA 23218-1105

804-698-4039 804-698-4533 fax www.deq.virginia.gov/education

The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge

Siemens is encouraging middle school students across the United States to kick off 2009 by “going green” and implementing environmental change in their local communities. The website for this entirely web-based challenge, www.wecanchange.com, is host to lots of kid-friendly activities such as virtual interactive labs, an eco-footprint game, an environmental IQ quiz, online journals, video clips—plus many more resources for both students and adult advisers.

Teams of two to three students in sixth through eighth grade, under the mentorship of a teacher or adult supervisor, will identify an environmental issue in their community, research the issue

using scientific investigation, and create a replicable green solution using web-based curriculum tools powered by Discovery Education.

Submissions will be accepted through March 15, 2009. A total of 51 teams representing each state and the District of Columbia will be selected as state finalists, and an additional 50 teams will be eligible for honorable mention awards. Three of the state finalist teams will be selected as national finalists, and one of those will be named the inaugural grand prize winner. State finalist and national finalist teams will be announced in spring 2009.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Forensics in the Classroom

Check out the curriculum units, come up with some improvements, then complete the survey. This survey will be your application for a \$1,000 Educational Grant given directly to you, the teacher, for use in your science classroom. truTV will award one grant per year.

http://www.trutv.com/forensics_curriculum/grant.html

Toshiba America Foundation

Toshiba offers grants for projects designed by K-12 classroom teachers to improve the quality of science and math education. Grant requests of more than \$5,000 are reviewed twice a year. Deadlines February 1 and August 1.

<http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/home/default.jsp>

The America Honda Foundation

makes grants of \$10,000 to \$100,000 to K-12 schools, colleges, universities and trade schools that benefit youth and scientific education. The foundation seeks programs with the following characteristics: scientific, dreamful (imaginative), creative, humanistic, youthful, innovative, and forward thinking. Deadline March 15.

<http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf>

Got an idea for a grant? We can help you write the proposal. Contact project assistant Jessica Griffith at jgriffith@sbc.edu.

Final Thoughts

"A right answer is good for solving a single problem, but a good process is useful for many problems."

From "Critical Issues in Education" 6th edition by J. L. Nelson, S. B. Palonsky, and M. R. McCarthy

And don't forget to fill out the ISS survey any time you work with Arlene. It's important for our ongoing funding from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=SvmTP_2b2t0QOxQ5ZRBU4CPg_3d_3d

For more information about our programs, go to www.sxi.sbc.edu



State Council of
Higher Education for Virginia