



MARCH-APRIL 2009 SCIENCE AND MATH BY INQUIRY NEWS

EVENTS

VIRGINIA'S UNDERDOG WETLANDS

Conserving Vernal Pools & Related Wetland Habitats

Friday, April 3, 2009

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

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 Pam Simpson at psimpson@sbc.edu OR

David Ruble <dnruble@deq.virginia.gov>

EXPLORE ENGINEERING AT SWEET BRIAR

A Weekend Event for High School Girls

April 17-18, 2009

Engineers use their imagination and analytical skills to invent, design and create things that matter. Did you know that engineers save more lives than doctors? By dreaming up creative and practical solutions, engineers are changing the world everyday. Sweet Briar College welcomes high school girls (current sophomores, juniors and seniors) who want to learn about the exciting opportunities in engineering. Other than a small refundable deposit, the event is free of charge, including meals. To download and print the brochure, visit www.sxi.sbc.edu

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS WEEK APRIL 12-18: BE WATER WISE

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) is the largest organized environmental education event in the United States. EE Week increases the educational impact of Earth Day by creating a full week of educational preparation, learning, and activities in K-12 classrooms, nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums. By participating in EE Week, you encourage your students to make a difference in their schools, homes, and communities. Visit www.eeweek.org for teacher resources, and register to receive free certificates of participation for your students.

Our **SUMMER COURSES** begin June 22 at Sweet Briar:

Stay tuned to www.sxi.sbc.edu in the next week for course descriptions and brochures.

OPPORTUNITIES

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Awardees are recognized for their contributions to teaching and learning and their ability to help students make progress in mathematics and science. In addition to honoring individual achievement, the goal of the award program is to exemplify the highest standards of mathematics and science teaching. Nominate yourself or a colleague:

<http://www.paemst.org/controllers/home.cfc?method=view>

The Live Monarch Foundation Educator Outreach Program provides funding for teachers throughout the United States to enroll in the National Campaign to bring monarch butterflies into the classroom. This program provides education and materials to strengthen the monarch's 3,000-mile migratory route within North America by creating self-sustaining butterfly gardens and refuges. Materials will be provided for each participant to raise a virtual butterfly and start a real butterfly garden with professional instruction on each level of its maintenance and care. <http://www.lmf-educator-award.com/index.html>

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
Deadline August 1.

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

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

FINAL THOUGHTS

What are the barriers to doing hands-on, inquiry-based activities in your classroom? During a recent discussion with some teachers, the first item mentioned was "cost". Did you know that Sweet Briar has a whole closet, and a few cabinets, full of non-consumable supplies that you can borrow to help implement activities? Do you need 10,000 washers, 20 plastic beakers, Brock microscopes, a heat lamp, sets of spring scales, or more? We probably have it available - and along with the supplies, you get activity ideas and help with management in your classroom. Just contact Arlene for more information.

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