

From: [Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation](#)
To: [Larrimore, Ashley](#)
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The Buzz!

An Educator's Newsletter for Events, Opportunities, Grants, and More!

Mid-Winter in Maryland

Lots going on despite the cold! Farm shows, ag conferences, how-to workshops, landscaping and horticulture events! Be sure to get your tickets now for 2015 Philadelphia Flower Show! Every weekend is packed with beautiful things to see and wonderful places to go! Get your Green On!

Two mobile ag lab teachers needed for South-Central Maryland (Howard/Prince Georges) and Western Maryland (Garrett/Allegheny/Washington)! Please call or email Diana with your interest! 410-939-9030 dyler@maefonline.com

Mid-Atlantic Farm-Based Education Network Update

Coverdale Farm Farm-Based Educators Gathering, Wilmington, DE
Design for Diversity: Opening Our Educational Farms for New Audiences
Thursday, February 12, 2015

Note to Maryland/DC Farm-Based Educators: We will not have a 2014-2015 round of FBE gatherings in Maryland this year while the Maryland Chesapeake Food, Farms, and Bay FBE Writing Team meets throughout the winter to produce your curriculum on-farm education guide! Stay tuned for training opportunities and the release of the guide later in 2015!

Chesapeake Food, Farms, and Bay Farm-Based Curriculum Project Meetings!

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 - Caroline Culinary Center, Caroline County, MD

Wednesday, February 25, 2015 - National Colonial Farm/Accokey Fdn., Accokeek, MD

Wednesday, March 25, 2015 - Fifth meeting of the CFFB

Wednesday, April 29, 2015 - Sixth and Final meeting of the CFFB

Contact Peggy Eppig at peppig@maefonline.com for more information about the Mid-Atlantic Farm-Based Education Network!



2015 Mid-Atlantic Women in Agriculture Conference

February 12-13, Dover Downs, DE

A winter favorite, the Women in Ag Conference is a great time and place to build networks, meet new friends, and be inspired with new ideas and in-depth discussion on agricultural business and opportunity.

<http://www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag/2015-conference>

"Environmental Challenges: Backyard and Beyond" Workshop

Baltimore County Forestry Board

Ever wonder why The Baltimore Zoo was named Druid Hill? Did you know that it has everything to do with trees? Join the Baltimore County Forestry Board volunteers for the March 7th workshop, "Environmental Challenges - Backyard and Beyond" that includes a guided tree tour on the campus of the third oldest Zoo in the country. Included in the tree tour are rare, notable, state and city champion trees. We have 5 major speakers on current topics and lunch. See <http://extension.umd.edu/news/events/sat-2015-03-07-0900-environmental-challenges-backyard-and-beyond>

Contact Glenn Ferenschak sciencegf@msn.com f
or an electronic brochure!

AFRI Grants Announced

USDA

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) announces a series of 8 grant programs for 2015 to include funding for Science for Climate Change, Childhood Obesity, Bioenergy, and Water.

<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri.html>

Fruit Guys Community Fund 2015 Grants!

Grants in amounts ranging from \$2,000-\$5,000 will be awarded in Spring 2015. Projects to be considered should help farms and/or orchards operate more sustainably, both environmentally and economically, as well as strengthen community outreach. There are location restrictions so please check the webpage carefully: <https://docs.google.com/a/fruitguys.com/forms/d/15bTDxxhCfe3IKzE-YNfrqp02sZIEouVpCS9nY6W-HJ0/viewform>

Farm to School Webinar Series

USDA

From January through May, 2015, the USDA Farm to School Program will host webinars every two weeks to help you build your farm to school toolkit. Join us for tips and insights on topics like building a team, menu planning, program sustainability, and more!

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/videos-and-webinars>

The 99th Annual Pennsylvania Farm Show!

January 10 - 17, 2015! The Granddaddy of **all** Farm Shows is one year shy of 100! This amazing event goes on all week and is - wait for it - FREE! Teachers taking their classes may want to check out the pre-trip lesson plans available online! <http://www.farmshow.state.pa.us/default.aspx>

Amazing App List!

University of Florida

Here's another down-the-rabbit-hole list for smart phone tech folks to help students and researchers in the field. My favorites are the Citizen Science apps! Woohoo!

<http://brunalab.org/apps/>

EE Grants

EPA

Under the Environmental Education Grants Program, EPA seeks grant proposals from eligible applicants to support environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment. Applications are due Feb. 2!

<http://www2.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>

Cedar Tree Foundation

This private foundation funds non-profit programs in environmental education, sustainable agriculture, and environmental health. They accept letters of inquiry only and make grants on a rotational basis.

<http://www.cedartreefound.org/>

The Common Grants Application

This is a online one-stop-shop for grant makers and grant applicants. Public, community, family, and corporate grantors post their RFPs (for a small fee) while grant applicants can use a universal form and utilize a complete management system including submission and feedback (completely

free!).

<http://www.commongrantapplication.com/index.php>

Peter Wentz Farmstead 2015

Landsdale, PA

Be sure to visit this historic farm in Montgomery County, PA this year for a program or event in agricultural history during the Revolutionary Era. "Winter Chores" on Jan 17th explores smoking meat in the smokehouse and heating the farmhouse with wood. Living history ag educators dress in period clothing and are 'in character' for a step back in time!

<http://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/8320>

2015 MAEOE Conference

Registration is open for the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators Conference in Ocean City, MD. This is a great conference for classroom teachers, outdoor educators, farm-based educators, and networking! For more information please visit:

<http://maeoe.org/conference/>

Chesapeake Green Horticulture Symposium 2015

Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association

A full immersion experience in horticulture practice and industry that include the nursery grower, greenhouse grower, landscape contractor, retail garden center, interiorscaper, and horticultural management. A must-attend for plant science students and early career horticulturalists to build their networks!

<http://www.mnlaonline.org/content.asp?contentid=78>

Cultivate the Chesapeake 2015

Future Harvest Annual Conference

The annual annual conference of Maryland's premier sustainable agriculture community! January 15-17 at the College Park Marriot Hotel and Conference Center, College Park, MD.

<http://www.futureharvestcasa.org/conference/2015-conference-registration>

Position Opening" Farm-Based Educator

Maryland Ag Resource Council, Cockeysville, MD

Maryland Ag Resource Council in Cockeysville, MD seeks a dynamic, self-motivated, focused leader to help develop and teach agricultural education field studies to students, teachers, and the general public.

Responsibilities include:

- Working with the Programs Manager to develop engaging programming designed to connect people with agriculture in a...
ll its varied forms.
- Serve as the lead educator to present programs to a variety of audiences.
- Upkeep and maintenance of program/project materials, facilities (may include live animals)
- Assist with other organizational efforts as assigned

This part-time (20 hrs/week) position requires actively working and teaching outdoors in natural surroundings under various outdoor environmental conditions as well as in the classroom. Weekly schedules would be dependent on program bookings, and will require working on some weekends. Schedule flexibility is a must!

Education & Skills Required:

Bachelor's Degree (preferred) in agricultural science, environmental science, environmental studies, natural sciences, science education, elementary/secondary education, natural resources management related field OR equivalent level of work experience in the indicated fields, along with:

- * Experience teaching and/or working with children and/or adolescents
- * Excellence in coordinating group dynamics
- * Creative and open mind
- * Currently certified in adult First Aid and CPR (strongly preferred)
- * Subject to criminal background/fingerprinting check due to working with children
- * Subject to credit check
- * Comfort in working in natural, outdoor settings
- * Highly organized with excellent planning and communication skills, proficient with technology, works and collaborates well with others

For more information contact Bronwyn@marylandagriculture.org

Farming for the Future Conference 2015

Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture

The premier sustainable agriculture conference in the nation!
February 4-7, 2015 at the PennStater Conference Center, State College, PA

<http://www.pasafarming.org/>

Feeding the Birds

I wanted them to come. Wanted cardinals,
jays, a goldfinch- that yellow most of all.

I bought binoculars, Birds of New Jersey,
learned to recognize the mourning doves,

the black spots they shared, how they got
their name. My husband began to look

out the window each morning, shouted for me
when they came, bought a birdbath because

he'd learned that birds get thirsty. Our children
laughed at us as they raced out of the house,

but I liked all this learning. Then I learned
about grackles. I told myself I did not mind them;

their iridescent blue heads were beautiful.
I did not know they would take over, scare

the other birds away, that I would admit
they were ugly, buy seed they won't eat.

Now the empty suet feeder sways like a hanged
man on the branch where the grackles

had perched, and I watch from the window.
I could not choose my children this way.

- Susan Rothbard

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The Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc. strives to promote the understanding and appreciation of the importance of agriculture in our daily lives. MAEF is a 501(c)3 non-profit, non-governmental organization established in 1989.

The Buzz is a free e-news service to all educators K-12 through post-secondary. This newsletter is open for reader contributions for agricultural and natural resources events, grant announcements, job openings. The Buzz is sent twice monthly, on the 1st and 15th, throughout the school year and only on the 1st, June to August. Please email events to peppig@maefonline.com. Include correct contact information!



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http://www.maefonline.com/ag_tag_maryland_agricultural_education.html

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