



Leopold Education Project Workshop for Teachers! (MAEF)

This nationally acclaimed environmental literacy curriculum is based upon the work of conservationist-farmer-professor Aldo Leopold, particularly through his transformational essay collection *A Sand County Almanac*. The spring curriculum workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 9am – 3pm at Swan Harbor Farm in Havre de Grace, Maryland. Cost for participants is \$30 to include lunch, all curriculum materials and a copy of *ASCA*. Call or email me to register peppig@maefonline.com. This workshop is also available for groups, schools and centers around the state. Just give a holler!

2012 Urban Youth Garden Grants (MAEF)

MAEF is proud to announce the 2012 Urban Youth Garden Grants program is under way. The goal of this project is to increase the awareness of and appreciation for agriculture in the lives of urban students through hands-on and gardening activities. All elementary and secondary teachers and youth educators are eligible. Two types of grants are available. The first grant for New Gardens is up to \$500. The second grant for existing gardens is up to \$250. Deadline for application is March 9, 2012. An application can be found as an attachment to this newsletter.

Maryland FFA Middle School Agricultural Knowledge Bowl Event! (MAEF)

Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation will again sponsor MD FFA Middle School Agricultural Knowledge Bowl this year on Monday, June 26, 2012 at the Maritime Institute, Linthicum, MD during the FFA Convention. The time for this event is 1:45 in the Bridge Room. Awards for the event are provided by the FFA Alumni. First Place Team: \$75, Second Place Team: \$ 50 Third Place Team: \$25 Items for Quiz Bowl will be taken from 6th-8th Social Studies and Science AG related curriculum. Example: Eli Whitney invented the _____. Teams can also prepare by going the www.agday/education/fun_facts.php to include “Fun Facts: About the Food We Eat” and “AG Day Facts: Flora, Fauna, & Food for Thought”. Or visit www.maefonline.com/resources.php and play some games! Also you can use the book *Seed, Soil and Sun*. Complete rules for MD FFA Middle School Agricultural Knowledge Bowl Event can be found as an attachment to this newsletter. To register your team, contact Charles Gummer at charlesgummer@verizon.net or 410-960-2979.

University of Illinois Extension Web Resource

Using the Scoop It! Format for web-based magazines and resource guides, UIExt has created a very useful web page for school ag and food systems educators! <http://www.scoop.it/t/school-gardening-resources>

Discover the Forest Website! (*Children in Nature Network*)

The release of the new *Lorax* (Universal Pictures) based on the original Dr. Seuss story and film is sure to create some great conversation among families and in classrooms. Visit this great website to find out where and how to enjoy your local forest. Check out the Partners page and see if there's anyone you recognize! Lots of great resources, a huge network, and best of all – lots of great activities and things to do!

<http://www.discovertheforest.org>

Job Opening: Sustainable Agriculture Specialist/Field Office Director (*ATTRA*)

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is seeking a Director for our Northeast Regional Office. NCAT is a private non-profit organization that works to foster and promote sustainable technologies and systems, especially for the benefit of economically disadvantaged individuals and communities. This is a great opportunity for a motivated, enthusiastic individual to increase NCAT's visibility in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. The director must be experienced and skilled at building and developing relationships particularly with small farmers and sustainable agriculture organizations. You must be prepared to promote NCAT's projects and services throughout the Northeast. The position will be based at NCAT's office in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

http://ncat.org/jobs.php#pa_dir_2012

"How to Be a Farmer-Advocate - Beyond the Farm Bill" (*Future Harvest*)

(I realize this has passed BUT the podcast is up! The Boss said it is well worth the listen!)

The panel discussion held at the Future Harvest CASA Annual Conference and moderated by public radio host Marc Steiner, will be broadcast next week on The Marc Steiner Show. For listeners on the Eastern Shore: It will air Wednesday, January 25 at 9 a.m. after Morning Edition on WSDL 90.7 FM, and at 6 p.m. after All Things Considered on WSCL 89.5 FM. It will then be rebroadcast Sunday, January 29 at 8 p.m. on WSDL 90.7 FM and at 10 p.m. on WSCL 89.5 FM. For listeners in the greater Baltimore area: It will air Thursday, January 26 from 5-6 p.m. on WEAA 88.9 FM. To listen online from anywhere: Go to www.weaa.org on Thursday, January 26 at 5 p.m. A podcast will be available to stream or download that evening at www.ondelmarva.org

Natural Resources Career Camp (*Maryland Forestry Board*)

High school students are invited to attend a seven day conference for intense instruction and lots of fun at the 2012 NRCC to be held Sunday, July 22 through Saturday, July 28 in western Maryland at the Hickory Environmental Education Center in Garrett County. Students will learn through experience, field techniques in applied forestry, urban forestry, watershed ecology and much more! College credit is available for a fee with registration requirements. For more information please contact FORESTJD46@yahoo.com or see www.marylandforestryboards.org

National Audubon Society Together Green Leadership Fellowship (*NAS*)

The program will offer forty (40) \$10,000 fellowships in 2012! NAS is looking for leaders who want to learn across disciplines and work with others to achieve results and engage new audiences in conservation. TogetherGreen Fellows should have strong leadership skills, an interest in designing and completing a Conservation Action Project, and a shared passion for learning, achieving results, and empowering others. TogetherGreen Fellows will come from a variety of backgrounds, including the arts, education, communication, policy, science, research, and business. One of the goals of our program is to support projects that engage audiences traditionally underrepresented in the conservation movement. Applications are due March 5, 2012. All application materials can be found online at www.togethergreen.org/fellows Fellowship awards will be announced in May 2012.

PBS American Experience: Surviving the Dust Bowl

In a time of extreme and prolonged weather events that affect our food systems in many parts of the country, teaching about the Dust Bowl is not only relevant but critical. The American Experience is a long-running Public Television Series that compliments the on-air films with rich educator materials. Check out "Surviving the Dust Bowl" and their other excellent resources.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/dustbowl/>

Agriculture in the Classroom (*AITC*)

As the number of children living on farms and ranches decreases, it becomes more important than ever those students learn about our food and fiber systems through classroom curriculum. The "Ag in the Classroom" program offers teachers educational materials to integrate into their classroom lessons.

<http://www.agclassroom.org>

Greater Baltimore Children and Nature Gears Up For February Conference! *(P&P)*

GBCAN's 2012 Conference is right around the corner! This year's event will take place on February 23 at Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore. Last year's conference was a smashing success welcoming over 200 participants. Over 20 workshops were presented and some, like the presentation on family nature clubs, led to great new opportunities for children to experience nature. This year's conference promises more great ideas and practical advice for those interested in forging stronger bonds between children and nature. The conference will bring together adult and youth leaders across the sectors of education, health, business, faith and the arts for a discussion and workshops about connecting youth to nature in local parks, schoolyards, community green spaces and beyond. The 2012 GBCAN Conference is free and open to the public; however, advanced registration is required.

<http://www.parksandpeople.org/play/greater-baltimore-children-and/2012-gbcan-conference/>

Washington Youth Summit on the Environment *(George Mason University)*

George Mason University hosts the annual Washington Youth Summit on the Environment, June 24-29, 2012 in Washington, D.C., a leadership opportunity for promising youth in the areas of environmental science, conservation, and sustainability. Teachers nominate current sophomores and juniors who get special access to the Smithsonian National Zoo, National Geographic Society, and George Mason facility and researchers. <http://wyse.gmu.edu>

Teacher Development Workshop *(UMES)*

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore will offer the annual Teacher Development Workshop for grades 6–12, July 15–July 28, 2012 in Princess Anne, Maryland. Funding for this program comes from a CREST grant and aims to provide marine science research and educational opportunities to under-represented populations. <http://www.umes.edu/CREST/Default.aspx?id=33372>

Google Science Fair *(NOAA)*

Google, in partnership with CERN, National Geographic, LEGO, and Scientific American, offers the second annual Google Science Fair, an international competition which encourages students between the ages of 13 to 18 to ask questions and perform science experiments to answer those questions. The deadline for submission is April 1, 2012. <http://www.google.com/events/sciencefair/>

Thanks again, Sam (Wild Bee Lab, Beltsville) for the wonderful poetry submission to The Buzz!

Whereof the Gift Is Small

Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey

And short the season, first rubythroat
in the fading lilacs, alyssum in bloom,
a honeybee bumbling in the bleeding heart
on my gelding's grave while beetles swarm
him underground. Wet feet, wet cuffs,
little flecks of buttercup on my sneaker toes,
blueets, violets crowding out the tufts
of rich new grass the horses nose
and nibble like sleepwalkers held fast—
brittle beauty—might this be the last?

- Maxine Kumin