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The Buzz!

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

April 1 , 2014

Mid-Atlantic Farm-Based Education Network Update

April 7 - Fox Haven Farm and Learning Center, Jefferson, MD 9am - 3:30pm
Farm-Based Education: Building on Assets

Our first gathering at this beautiful farm just west of Frederick. Join educators on a tour of the grounds, an demonstration education session in the chestnut grove, and a talk by staff that discusses the diversification of programs and operations that makes this farm a success. Afternoon will include LUNCH, standards review and lesson development ideas.

Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rescheduled-fox-haven-fben-gathering-tickets-10771605161>

May 13 - Pennypack Farm & Education Center, Horsham, PA 9am -3:30pm

A dynamic host for this FBEN Gathering is an interesting model in partnerships and sustainability education. Observe a group in action as farm-based educators engage students in experiential agriculture education, participate in demonstration activities, and enjoy lively networking and productive discussion on topics of program development, management, and marketing! Visit the Pennypack Farm website at <http://www.pennypackfarm.org/>

Registration will be through PASA:

June 23-27 - National Ag in the Classroom National Conference,

Hersey, PA. FBE Information Session and First Gathering times TBA. [See separate announcement below!](#)

July 22-23 - Evergreen Heritage Center, Frostburg, MD

Farm-Based Education for Students and Teachers & Leopold Education Project

Open to FBE to share their programs and lessons with teachers!

Registration and details coming soon!

Nov. 7 - Rodale Institute, Kutztown, PA 9am - 3:30pm: **Second Annual Gathering!**
FBE Management: Internship Programs. Registration and details coming this summer!

Dec. 4 - Coverdale Farm, Wilmington, DE 9am - 3:30pm: **First Gathering!**
Thinking Beyond K-12: Diversification of FBE Programs on the Farm. Registration and details coming this summer!

Farm Commons Legal Guidance Madison, Wisconsin

A nice resource to help answer and guide you through legal questions for farm-based events, education, employees, interns. Plan to spend a few minutes exploring their site!

<http://farmcommons.org/>

Evergreen Heritage Center and Allegheny College Spring Workshops! Frostburg, MD

The Evergreen Heritage Center and Allegheny College of Maryland Continuing Education are pleased to announce a series of exciting weekend workshops: "**Evergreen Environmental Experiences**". Workshops will be held on select Saturdays this spring, with one workshop in the morning and one in the afternoon. All workshops will be held at the beautiful, historic Evergreen Heritage Center at 15603 Trimble Road NW Mount Savage, MD 21545.

Food from the Forest (C/S 329). Students in this workshop will explore the world of crops that thrive in the forest, learn what edible vegetation is hiding in our own backyards, and how to grow shiitake and oyster mushrooms at home. Offered: April 12, Saturday, (one session), 9am-noon **Total Course Cost: \$34**

Heirloom Crops (C/S 330). Students will discover the history and value of local heirloom crops, learn how to graft apples, and take home an heirloom plant to care for and grow. Offered: April 12, Saturday (one session), 1-4pm **Total Course Cost: \$34**

Growing Herbs (C/S 331). Participants in this class will learn how to grow and use herbs for your health and taste buds and have the opportunity to take home herbs to plant in a backyard garden. Offered: May 10, Saturday (one session), 9am-noon **Total Course Cost: \$34**

Eat the Rainbow (C/S 332). Don't just taste the rainbow...devour it. Discover why we should "eat the rainbow", where to buy local, and how to grow healthy foods at home. Participants will also take home "rainbow" recipes and seeds. Offered: May 10, Saturday (one session), 1-4pm **Total Course Cost: \$34**

Composting(C/S 333). Students in this class will learn the "what" and "why" of composting and how to brew "compost tea" to create fertilizer to use in gardens at home. Offered: June 14, Saturday (one session), 9am-noon **Total Course Cost: \$34**

Small Spaces Gardening(C/S 334). Have a small yard? Just room for a windowsill garden outside your apartment? Learn how to plant a garden in small spaces and extend your growing season. Take home a garden kit. Offered: June 14, Saturday (one session), 1-4pm **Total Course Cost: \$34**

There are discounts for registering for multiple workshops! Call 301-784-5341 for more information and to register. <http://www.evergreenheritagecenter.org>

Ag In The Classroom 2014 Conference! Hershey, PA

Coming **June 23 -27** to Hershey, the Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) provides educators a wealth of resources for integrating agriculture, nutrition and natural resource education into the K-12 curriculum! AITC programs improve student achievement by utilizing innovative, hands-on lessons that intrigue students while teaching core curriculum concepts in science, social studies, language arts, math and nutrition. The 2014 AITC Conference will showcase the best ideas and latest resources from across the country - ready for your classroom and farm! Early-bird registration ends April 15!

<https://www.agclassroom.org/conference2014/index.htm>

Peter Wentz Farmstead Lansdale, PA

From the events newsletter: **Sheep Shearing Day!** April 12th 10am - 3pm
Watch the farmers shear the sheep, then stay to learn more about typical spring activities on a colonial farm. For the children there will be colonial toys and games, scarecrow building, puppet shows, and a craft area. Highlights also include open-hearth cooking, farm tours, spinning, colonial music, weaving, and many other historical craft activities. All ages; \$2 per person suggested donation.

This is a wonderful resource for agricultural history of the Colonial Period, and they maintain a broad and active events calendar. Check out their website and events:

<http://www.peterwentzfarmsteadsociety.org>

Growing High Tunnel Spring Crops Newark, Worcester County, MD

At Pereyra Farm, participants will learn the basics of high tunnel systems to include: site preparation, set-up, pricing, types of crops that can be grown, and financial assistance programs available from USDA. A great workshop if you are looking into high tunnels for campus, educational farm, or season extension on your commercial farm.

Contact for more information: kjparmar@umes.edu

Green Eggs and Sand! Maryland DNR and Friends

The **Green Eggs and Sand** Tri-State Project is a collaboration between New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland Natural Resource educators to bring a wealth of information about horseshoe crabs,

including the award winning middle and high school science curriculum based on the horseshoe crab, to educators in the mid-Atlantic area. This full day workshop to be held August 6, 2014, will include a tour of a local medical facility that bleeds horseshoe crabs; a presentation by the state horseshoe crab biologist; possibly a Q & A with a local waterman; and a review of the curriculum. The workshop is free but a deposit check is required to hold a seat. Visit this link for the registration form: <http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/education/are/ges.asp>

Baltimore Ecosystem Study Teachers Institute **Cary Institute of Ecosystem Science**

BES is looking for dedicated middle and high school teachers from the Baltimore region to join an exciting year-long program that teams one science teacher and one teacher from another discipline (math, social studies, etc.) from the same institution. Professional development will take place June 23-27, 2014 and three days during the school year. For more information contact Bee Caplan at 410-455-1863 or caplanb@caryinstitute.org

Camp D.I.G. **Dickinson College Farm, Carlisle, PA**

D.I.G is an outdoor educational camp for youth rising into grades 4-6! Discover-Inquire-Grow will be offered at the Dickinson College Farm this summer at a cost of \$175 per session. Sessions will run Monday, June 16 - Friday, June 20 and Monday, June 23 - Friday, June 27 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Campers will gain a better understanding and appreciation of our local resources by participating in hands-on learning experiences connecting them to renewable energy, stream health, sustainable agriculture and culinary discoveries. The camp is designed to foster a love of the outdoors, sense of place, skills in nature journaling, eco-art and practical experience in farming and science.

For more information and to register see:
http://www3.dickinson.edu/centers/sustainability/content/D_I_G_Camp/

Crellin Elementary's Sunshine Farm! **Garrett County, MD**

Do you need anymore inspiration to start school farm? Check out Crellin Elementary School in Garrett County! Sunshine Farm is up and running with a wonderful photo album to share ideas and all the fun! Hats off to all the teachers, parents, community partners, and students who have made this school farm a model for the rest of the state. MAEF is so proud of them!

<http://garrettcountyschools.org/crellin/sunshine-farm>

Gardening Curriculum to Aligned to Common Core/NGSS **Life Lab**

Check out the work Life Lab has been doing as they connect their gardening and agriculture curriculum to Common Core and Next Gen Science Standards! They offer a creative and engaging (and large!) curriculum that Farm-Based and Classroom teachers will want to tap into. This link will take you to a nice webinar and content standards page - worth the look!

<http://www.lifelab.org/2013/12/content-standards/>

Beekeeping Class

Spoutwood Farm, Glen Rock PA

Spoutwood's Beekeeper in Residence and current CMBA President, Roger Williams, will host an Introduction to Beekeeping workshop series for kids and adults ages 9 and up. Each session will include instruction on the life and work of honeybees, the practice of beekeeping, and next steps for becoming a beekeeper. Class will conclude with open-hive time, during which you can experience our honeybees firsthand. No experience or gear required, only curiosity and enthusiasm!

Workshops run from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. on the following Saturdays: April 12th, April 26th, May 10th, May 24th, June 7th. The workshop fee is \$15 per individual. To encourage parents and children to learn together, we are offering a special rate of \$20 per family. For a more in-depth study, we invite you to register for all 5 sessions for a total of \$50.

Please see this site for more info and to register:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1wjxWLEwq02firKk_090AIJFw4BD1aDEc82OJgrkAd7o/viewform

Spoutwood Farm website: <http://www.spoutwood.com/>

Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation Happenings!

Ag Literacy Project 2014

This year's read aloud book is *What's In The Garden?* by Marianne Berkes. Volunteers readers are needed to visit schools and help spread the word about how agriculture is important in our daily lives. Check out the information flyer on the MAEF webpage!

2014-2015 Poster Contest

Students K-12 may participate in our annual contest to win a spot on our 2014-2015 calendar! Deadline for entries is **April 30**. Check out the information flyer on the MAEF webpage!

Scholarships for Teachers to Attend the 2014 AITC Annual Conference!

To encourage participation in the highly motivating national event, the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF) is offering scholarships to public and private school teachers in Maryland. The scholarship will reimburse Maryland teachers the early bird registration cost for attending the National AITC Conference in Hershey. See [2014 AITC Teacher Scholarships](#) for complete information!

Be sure check out the MAEF webpage at <http://www.maefonline.com>

A Prayer in Spring

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfill.

- Robert Frost

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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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