

# The Buzz!

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

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**February 1, 2014**

## Mid-Atlantic Farm-Based Education Network Update

**Important Date Change!** The Montpelier Farms Second Annual Gathering has been rescheduled to Tuesday March 11 (original date was March 12) - please make note and see full description below!

**Feb. 19**

### **Delaware Women in Agriculture Conference**

Dover, DE, 3-5pm Pre-Conference Information Session and Q&A. [See separate announcement below](#)

**Mar. 3 - Fox Haven Farm, Jefferson, MD 9am - 3:30pm: *First Gathering!***

### ***Farm-Based Education: Curriculum and Collaboration***

Join us at Fox Haven Farm and Learning Center in Jefferson, MD for a full day of farm-based educator professional development! Take a tour of this beautiful working educational farm near Frederick. Participate in a model lesson about the American chestnut at the farm's own experimental plot. Learn about diversification of programs and opportunities that make this such a unique model educational site! The afternoon will include training in curriculum standards and designing K-12 lessons to use with students visiting your farm, Farm-to-School, and much more!

**Registration now open!**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fox-haven-fben-gathering-tickets-10147691017>

**Mar. 11 - Montpelier Farms, Upper Marlboro, MD, 9am - 3:30pm: *Second Annual Gathering!***  
***FBE Management: Students to Stats***

Join us for our Second Annual Gathering of the Mid-Atlantic Farm-Based Education Network at Montpelier Farms in Upper Marlboro, MD! Take a tour and learn how this working farm incorporates agricultural education through dedicated programs and events, farmer's market, and as a fun destination for families. Share engaging lessons and ideas for K-12 on-farm education, and learn how to keep program records and logs that contain useful information for growing future capacity. We'll review any standards updates and how Maryland's Environmental Literacy initiative is advancing farm-based education! **Registration now open!**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/montpelier-farms-fben-gathering-tickets-10147887605>

**Mar. 26 - Maryland Ag Resource Center, Cockeyville, MD, 9am - 3:30: *First Gathering!***

### ***Farm-Based Education: Curriculum and Collaboration***

Join us at the Maryland Ag Resource Center (MARC) in Cockeyville, MD for a full day of farm-based educator professional development. Take a tour of the grounds, meet the educators, and share experiences and ideas that make on-farm agriculture education so much fun! Presentations

by experienced farm-based educators will help lay a path for understanding and negotiating the challenges of working with larger school systems. The afternoon will include training in curriculum standards and designing K-12 lessons to use with students visiting your farm, Farm-to-School, and much more! **Registration now open!**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maryland-ag-resource-council-fben-gathering-tickets-9247833519>

**June 23-27 - National Ag in the Classroom National Conference,**  
Hersey, PA. FBE Information Session and First Gathering times TBA. See separate announcement below!

**Nov. 7 - Rodale Institute,** Kutztown, PA 9am - 3:30pm: **Second Annual Gathering!**  
FBE Management: Internship Programs  
More information coming this spring!

**Dec. 4 - Coverdale Farm,** (tentative date), Wilmington, DE 9am - 3:30pm: **First Gathering!**  
Thinking Beyond K-12: Diversification of FBE Programs on the Farm  
More information coming this spring!

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## Longwood Graduate Program Symposium 2014

Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA

"From Tie-Dye to Wi-Fi: Envisioning the Next Generation in Leadership of Public Horticulture" is the theme for this year's Graduate Symposium at Longwood Gardens. Join horticulture students, garden managers, horticulture educators, and stakeholders in public horticulture for another great event! Speakers, agenda, and registration can be found at:

<http://www.ag.udel.edu/longwoodgrad/symposium/2014/index.html>

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## Tree-Mendous Maryland 2014!

Maryland Forest Service

The State of Maryland's TREE-MENDOUS program provides high-quality, native trees and shrubs available at reasonable prices for plantings on public lands. The trees may be planted in places such as community open spaces, school grounds, government facilities, and rights-of-way. They may not be planted at private residences

Think Green Schools Projects!

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/tremendous/ordertrees.asp>

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## **2014 Maryland Sheep Breeders Scholarships**

MD Sheep Breeders Association

In conjunction with the *Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival* the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association is offering two scholarships in the amount of \$500 each to students who have been accepted or are in the process of applying for continuing education at a college or university, a technical or vocational school. All academic majors will be considered, but priority will be to agricultural majors and to those applicants who are members or whose families are members of the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association. For more information please see:

[MSBA 2014 Scholarships](#)

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## **2014 Urban Youth Garden Grant**

Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation

The Urban Youth Garden Grants are designed to assist students and teachers to increase the awareness of and appreciation for agriculture in the lives of urban students through hands-on gardening and classroom activities that meet MSDE's State Curriculum. By implementing MAEF's mission, this project offers students direct experience with growing, harvesting and preparing fresh foods while learning plant requirements, growing conditions, nutrition and wellness. Deadline for application is March 10, 2014! See flyer for more information:

[2014 MAEF Garden Grant Application](#)

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## **Presentation: American Chestnut and the Blight**

Fox Haven Farm and Learning Center, Jefferson, MD

Join friends, neighbors, farmers, and foresters for an afternoon presentation on the American Chestnut tree and the historic blight that nearly wiped it out! On February 9, 1:30 - 3:30pm learn how science and landowners are collaborating to bring this champion of the Eastern forests back. If weather permits, the group will take a hike through the Fox Haven Chestnut Orchard with speaker Robert Strasser! Contact Fox Haven Farm and Learning Center for registration information:

[info@foxhavenlearningcenter.com](mailto:info@foxhavenlearningcenter.com)

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## **2014 Delaware Women in Ag Conference!**

February 19th (Pre-Conference) and Feb. 20th, 2014

The Mid-Atlantic Women in Agriculture initiative has gained unforeseen momentum in the last five years through programs such as Annie's Project, Annie's Project II: Managing for Today and Tomorrow, and a multi-state Women in Agriculture Conference, local farm tours and social media. The program delivers risk and farm management training to women in Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey through a variety of learning environments and incorporates education in the risk areas of: human, legal, marketing, financial. Join us in Dover as Women in Ag from NJ, PA, DE, MD, and VA gather for an informative and informational conference!

<http://extension.umd.edu/womeninag>

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## **Montpelier Farms Announces Spring Farm Tours 2014**

Upper Marlboro, MD

Teachers in and around Prince Georges County MD are encouraged to take their classes to the farm for some springtime learning and fun! Check out the great program Samantha has in store for you! See information attached: [Montpelier Farms Spring Tours 2014](#)

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## **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! 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>

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## **2014 National Ag In The Classroom Conference!**

### **Hershey, PA**

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!

This is the conference for you if you are:

- Educators of all grade levels
- AITC program staff
- School administrators
- STEM educators
- Informal educators (to include farm-based educators!)
- AITC volunteer/board members
- Higher education staff/professors
- Commodity/agricultural producers
- Curriculum and content specialists
- High school agriculture educators

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

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## In the Wind

If you walk the same path every day through the woods  
clearing the way in your coming and going  
you know when branches have fallen. Each branch downed  
has a trace of the wind of descent vibrating through it.

In the time between coming and going,  
in the rain of branches from the understory,

you can read the night, the wind, the lack of it,  
what has happened back to happening.

The forest is sloughing dead to make room for the sun.  
And you, bent there to gather branches,

have always been walking  
the dark woods children hurry through

to get where they are going-  
yet the forest is the coming and the going.

- Lee Sharkey