

Bridging the Watershed

An Outreach Program of the Alice Ferguson Foundation in Partnership with the National Park Service and Area Schools



By The Way...



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Dear Teachers, Rangers, and BTW Afficionados,

The staff of Bridging the Watershed hope that you have all had a wonderful summer, and that the beginning of fall is a good one. And as strange as it sounds, here we are in the school year again! There are a whole lot of things happening in the BTW world, and we will do our best to keep you all up to date as things materialize. Happy fall, everyone!

Field Studies

As always, the [Bridging the Watershed Events Calender](#) is filling up fast. Visit our calender to start looking for free spaces in our calender, and then [Request a Field Study](#) by completing our online form. Get your choice of dates and parks by signing up now!

What's New at AFF

BTW Welcomes New Staff

The staff of Bridging the Watershed has expanded again! We are happy to welcome Corrie Maxwell to the team as an educator, and Kathy Dawiczuk as our YPP intern, helping to schedule programs. They have both hit the ground running, and we are all really excited to have them aboard.

Oktoberfest

Come out to Hard Bargain Farm on Saturday, October 10, for the 29th Annual Oktoberfest. Each fall, we open our gates to the public for a celebration of the season. Enjoy mouthwatering German food, authentic Bavarian dancing, and other "good times."

Savor delicious German food a la carte: bratwurst, potato salad, sauerkraut, and home made apple strudel.

Enjoy high-spirited, authentic performances of dances from Bavaria and Austria and join "Schuhplattler Alt-Washingtonia" on stage for audience-participation waltzes.

Shop for bargains and homemade delicacies at our country store in the gazebo.

Hop on the haywagon for a ride to the Potomac River.

Visit the animals in the barnyard.

Squeeze apple cider with an old fashioned cider press.

Bid on local art, crafts and food items at Silent and Live Auctions.

Stop at our membership table and learn about other Hard Bargain Adventures.

Most of all share the "Good Times" with friends at Hard Bargain Farm.

Classrooms to Parklands

National Public Lands Day

This past Saturday, September 26, was National Public Lands Day, with events happening across the country, a celebration of the wonderful heritage that is the nation's park system. The Bridging the Watershed team was at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens with 50 BTW students from four different schools. We participated in a larger event involving over 200 volunteers.

America's Best Idea

Ken Burns, the great documentarian who has covered American history in baseball, jazz and the Civil War, is tackling another one of America's classic inventions, the National parks. Premiering on PBS September 27th, this series will take you into all of the best known and best loved national parks, along with uncovering some hidden treasures, and trace the history of the parks service from its creation until today. Check your local listings for details.

For upcoming events in our area parks go to [National Park Service](#) and search for your park.

Student Action

Growing Native

Looking for a great way to get volunteer hours close to home? Bridging the Watershed is partnering with Growing Native, a program by the Potomac Conservancy to collect specific native tree seeds. Contact [Becca Fordham, Student Action Coordinator](#) for more information on how to get your class involved.

BTW Blog

Well, we are still not sure about the twittering, but BTW has entered the world of blogs! Check out [the BTW Blog](#) to learn more about field studies, take a look at our Youtube video from the Kenilworth event, learn about student action opportunities, and the events going on in the parks around the area. [Let us know](#) what you think, and what you would like to know about.

BTW All Stars

This is the debut of a new segment that focuses on the people who really make the Bridging the Watershed program possible; our teachers and rangers, without whom this partnership wouldn't work.

Suitland HS

Many of the schools that work with BTW have been amassing teams of trained teachers, and it is always great for us to be able to gain a more extensive look at a group of students. But never before has the BTW program had such enthusiastic response. Suitland has several teachers trained in our curriculum, but a couple of them are going to the next level with their participation, in an attempt to participate in all of the available modules with all of their sections of students. We have always said that our training gave teachers a lifetime pass, and our Suitland team is making us live up to our word on it. We happily invite you all to get the most out of this program, and to match the Suitland challenge. They are on pace for a record setting field study season. Will anyone else match their numbers?

This newsletter was produced by the Bridging the Watershed staff at the Alice Ferguson Foundation. Submissions and comments are always welcomed from all readers. Please send content or thoughts to [Will Sheppard](#)