

Bridging the Watershed

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



word around the watershed is...



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Bridging the Watershed

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Ferguson Foundation Feature

Get Out and Clean Up!

March 31 and April 1 mark the 19th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Visit http://www.hardbargainfarm.org/trash_initiative/rc_sites.html to find a site near you – or near your school for your students. This is a wonderful way to complete the service component of the BTW program. Last year's haul of almost 232 tons included more than 13 tons of recyclables, 889 tires, 11 shopping carts, eight car bumpers, three bed frames, two recliners, \$50 in foreign currency, and, yes, even the proverbial kitchen sink. Let us know what YOU find this year for the May issue of the BTW e-newsletter!

Think Field Studies

Field Study Calendar Filling Up

Thank you to all the teachers who have already submitted a request for a field study for the spring season. The first few have been a blast so far. If you have not yet scheduled, please visit http://www.bridgingthewatershed.org/schedule_fieldstudy.php to send us a request. The dates are filling up quickly! Can't find a date that works? Start looking at your fall calendar. You'll have the best shot at getting your 1st or 2nd choice dates by requesting them 6-8 weeks (or more!) in advance.



Teacher Training

Summer Institutes Are Around the Corner!

Have you attended a one-day workshop, but still haven't made it to an institute yet? Or, did you attend an institute and would like to share the fun with other teachers at your school? Please share these dates with your colleagues, and check out our website for full details and applications. http://www.bridgingthewatershed.org/ec_summer_inst.html
It'll be a great summer!

2007 Summer Institute Dates

June 25 – 26: Manassas National Battlefield Park

July 28 – 29: Prince William Forest Park

July 9 – 20: Greater Washington, D.C., National Parks and Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center

July 23 – 27: Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and Monocacy National Battlefield Park

August 28: Loudoun County Teachers at Harpers Ferry for Water Power training

Fun For Students

Lights, Camera, Action.....! Video Contest

Bridging the Watershed students are invited to submit short videos that help other students understand how to prepare for a BTW field study. Please share the "prepare for your field study" section of the student booklet with budding filmmakers. The winning submission will be added to the BTW website for use by students headed out to a field study. Submissions should be less than 2 minutes long, cover all the major topics found at http://www.bridgingthewatershed.org/prepare_fieldstudy.html, and be appropriate for high school students' viewing. The preferred format is a digital .AVI file, but others may be acceptable. Send submissions and technical questions to Laura Gillespie at this address: lgillespie@fergusonfoundation.org.

Write On! - Seeking Creative 9th Graders

For the 3rd year in a row, Environmental Concern is inviting students to join their "Write On! Wetlands Challenge 2007" international competition. The goal is to create a children's book about wetlands, for kids by kids. Writing on the theme "Uncovering Hidden Wetland Treasures," students in grades 7-9 are asked to submit 16 pages of writing, with 20 to 80 words on a page. The story should express all the hidden treasures of wetlands, and why they are so valuable. If you have some creative 9th graders who might like to submit a manuscript, email Jodi Carr at youth.edu@wetland.org for a flyer and complete details! Hurry, the deadline for submissions is April 1, 2007.

Help Re-Green DC, While Re-Greening Your Wallet!

On every field study, we find at least one student who just seems at home in the outdoors. If you think you can identify a few of those students in your classes, please pass along this announcement! Casey Trees is looking for District of Columbia high school students ages 16 and up to work outdoors this summer caring for D.C.'s trees. Interns will get to know their city's environment as they reach out to all wards and communities. They will learn to identify, inventory, mulch, water and weed D.C.'s trees while also gaining professional skills. The internship runs from June 16 through July 28, 2007, and interns will earn a \$1,750 stipend. For an application and more information, contact Buffie Brownstein at 202-833-4010 x-107 or email Bbrownstein@caseytrees.org. Applications must be returned to Casey Trees no later than Friday, April 13, 2007.



Classroom Extras

Discount on Science Classroom Supplies

Are you interested in picking up more equipment for your science lab? LaMotte produces all of the chemistry kits that Bridging the Watershed uses in the *Watershed Watchdogs* module, and they are a company local to Maryland! In honor of the Governor's declaration that April is EE month, the LaMotte Company is offering 15% discounts on all LaMotte environmental monitoring and education products for Maryland schools, nonprofits, residents, and state agencies. When placing your order, you MUST tell the customer service representative that you qualify for the Maryland education month discount. The discount will be effective from March 1 to April 30, 2007. Visit www.lamotte.com.

Enviomapper for Water

Enviomapper for Water (<http://map8.epa.gov/enviomapper/>) is a GIS based application that allows users to visualize and display geographic water information, including a wealth of information stored in EPA's databases (e.g. Water Quality Standards, Impaired Waters/TMDLs, Waterbody Assessments, Water Quality Monitoring, and Point Source Information). Check it out!

Service Projects

Volunteer Opportunities at the National Mall!

There are two opportunities to volunteer and be a part of the 2007 National Cherry Blossom Festival, one of the biggest events at the National Mall and Memorial Parks each year! Volunteers who work at least two shifts get to keep a long-sleeved festival t-shirt!
Contact: Ed Petru at 202-245-4709 or e-mail NAMA_volunteers@nps.gov

* **Information Center** - Work in shifts of 3.5 hours with 2 other volunteers to distribute information and answer visitors' questions. Training and festival information will be provided to volunteers at the beginning of each shift. Must be 18 years or older.

When: Saturday, March 31 through Sunday, April 15. 10am – 7pm daily, rain or shine.



* **Recycling** – Work in shifts of 3.5 hours with a large group of volunteers to staff recycling stations and encourage visitors to recycle their beverage containers. Volunteers may also rove the Tidal Basin gathering full bags and depositing them at containment areas, or collecting recyclables from visitors. ALL AGES may volunteer!

When: March 31, April 1, 7, 8, 14 & 15. 10am – 7pm daily, rain or shine.

Local Park Looking for Students to Study Natural Resources

At Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, there are three exciting opportunities for students to help create and maintain biological field research projects.

Contact: Kate Bucco at 202-426-6905 or e-mail Kate_Bucco@nps.gov.

* **Frog Count** – Participate in the 9th year of a 10-year study on frog species richness at KAG. This requires one hour of in-class training on auditory frog identification, and 30 minutes of field time at the park.

* **Snake Head Fish Study** – Create and maintain a 10-year study of the impact of snake head fish on pond life at KAG. Requirements are to examine initial study results with a ranger, then conduct a baseline study and visit the park at least twice a year afterward to monitor changes.

* **Sedimentation of Canoe Launch** – Create and maintain a 5-year study of sediment levels at KAG's canoe launch. At least one field visit per year is needed.

We Love Our Work!

Just as a reminder that learning outside is FUN, here are a few photos of BTW staff doing what we love best - working in National Parks! Feel free to giggle at us being silly on the job.



Becca and Matt say "Cheese!" in front of the Lincoln Memorial during a rare sunny and dry day for BTW on the National Mall.



The educators stand in the middle of the road at Great Falls as Mine Run overflows its banks in November '06.



Anna and Jeanne test out their new neoprene chest waders, meant to keep everyone warm and dry during Herring Highway field studies.



Anna giggles as Matt uses a heavy storm as means for fixing his hair.



Becca couldn't resist the opportunity to jump into a photo that's a favorite of students - standing in the bread line at the FDR Memorial on the Mall.



Always keeping safety first, Matt was good and wore his boots into Rock Creek... getting them off was another story. Thanks, Ranger Maggie!