



Welcome to The Buzz! This edition is jammed packed with your submissions – I believe the biggest Buzz yet! Thanks again to Sam Droege, USGA/USDA Wild Bee Lab in Beltsville, MD for the poetry at the end of every newsletter. “Poetry is at the soul of one who watches bees.”

Disney’s Planet Challenge (*NIFA*)

Announcing grant funding for 3rd through 8th grade public school classrooms to execute projects to benefit the environment! Disney's Planet Challenge is offering a Double Your Impact match offer for hands-on environmental project(s) submitted by 3rd through 8th grade teachers requesting up to \$650 in materials. If you are a full-time 3rd through 8th grade teacher at a public school, you can qualify for this funding! There are two easy steps to qualify for this funding:

- 1.) First, log in to or set up your teacher’s account on DonorsChoose.org:
www.donorschoose.org/teacher
- 2.) Once you’re logged in, submit one or more hands-on project requests focused on benefiting the environment including up to \$650 in materials each. Projects must engage students directly in benefitting the environment through water conservation and watershed protection, recycling, composting, restoring/creating community gardens, etc.

Deadline is Jan. 20.

Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Annual Conference!

This year’s annual conference “Fulfilling Environmental Education’s Promise: Authentic Learning and Real World Impact” will be held Feb. 9-12, 2012 at the Clarion Fountainebleau Resort in Ocean City, Maryland. Registration is now open! Visit the MAEOE Conference website <http://www.maeoe.org/conference/2012/index.php> for registration and materials!

Muhammad Ali Center Peace Garden Grant *(NGA)*

To be eligible for the 2011 Muhammad Ali Center Peace Garden, your school or organization must plan to garden in 2012 with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18. Schools within the United States must have a student body eligible for 50% or more reduced or free lunches. This is a global initiative; all International countries and territories are eligible to apply. The selection of winners is based on the demonstrated relationship between the garden program and peace studies, and nutrition and hunger issues. Grants of \$500 are available for award. See KidsGardening website for info:

<http://www.kidsgardening.org/grants/muhammad-ali-center-peace-garden-grant-0>

Grow It, Eat It - Basic Vegetable Gardening *(EMNC)*

From the first shovelful of soil to a delicious harvest, the Harford County Master Gardeners will help beginning gardeners get the best results. This Basic Gardening class is an introduction to gardening and will provide information on site preparation, raised beds, composting, starting seeds, transplanting seeds, fertilizing gardens, and pest management. The class will be held at **Eden Mill Nature Center** on Saturday, March 3rd from 10 AM to 1 PM. Participants are encouraged to bring a bag lunch and a drink. The cost is \$5 per non-member and pre-registration is required by calling the University of Md Extension Office at 410-638-3255 or email your information to GrowitRegister2012@gmail.com

Annie's Project!

Annie's Project is coming to the Lower Eastern Shore! This is a great opportunity for people and managers who have been looking for the farm management schooling pertaining to farm information. Encouraged to attend are those who have an interest in farm/agriculture management as well as those individuals already managing their operation. Take advantage of our local speakers and networking opportunities that will be attending. Registration and informational flyer is attached. Any questions, please feel free to contact Jessie Renshaw, 410-632-1972 or email jrenshaw@umd.edu for registration forms, flyers & press releases!

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 (fee and registration requirements). Please contact FORESTJD46@yahoo.com for more information or see www.marylandforestryboards.org (NRCC).

Project NOAH (*NOAA*)

Smart phones and citizen scientists? This is too cool! Project Noah is an online and mobile location-based application that encourages people to reconnect with nature by documenting local wildlife. The tool harnesses the power of smart phones to collect ecological data and help preserve global biodiversity. I was thinking how cool would this format be if you were to ask students to document insect life in and around the farm, garden or campus. This would lead into great activities and discussion about IPM (integrated pest management) and entomology in agriculture. A class project could be modeled on Project NOAH for your community and to share with citizen science networks.

www.projectnoah.org

Captain Planet Foundation Grants (*NOAA*)

The Captain Planet Foundation provides grants to school and community groups to support hands-on environmental projects for youth in grades K-12. The objective of the foundation is to encourage innovative programs that empower youth to work individually and collectively to solve environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. The deadlines for application are January 15, May 31, and September 30, 2012.

<http://captainplanetfoundation.org/apply-for-grants>

Earthwatch Educator Fellowships (*NAAEE*)

Fellowships are available to sponsor participation in International and U.S. Earthwatch Conservation Expeditions. The Earthwatch Institute and its partners offer a number of Educator Fellowships every year to elementary, middle, and high school educators and administrators. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, but those received after February 13, 2012 are subject to fewer projects and more limited funding.

www.earthwatch.org/aboutus/education/edopp

Sustainability Education Resources

Shelburne Farms' Sustainable Schools Project offers resources designed to help schools use sustainability as an integrating context for curriculum, community partnerships, and campus practices. Resources include the Education for Sustainability Starter Kit, a professional development tool that helps prepare educators and schools to start using sustainability as an integrating theme and to catalyze school change with efficient use of existing resources, through a series of self-guided learning opportunities; Healthy Neighborhoods/Healthy Kids Guide, a civic engagement and service-learning framework that can be used across K-12 grade levels as well as community settings; and more. These resources and much more are available as free downloads from the website.

www.sustainableschoolsproject.org

Job Opening: Community Garden Manager

Bullis School, an independent school in Potomac, MD with 650 students in grades 3-12, is seeking a capable part-time gardener with a passion for growing vegetables and involving students in Bullis's innovative community garden, currently comprising 1,500 sf of growing area in 6 raised beds with built-in irrigation. 10-15 hours per week on school days, late February through mid-December, plus winter planning and seed ordering time. Requires experience in organic gardening/farming, a strong back, ability to work well with teachers and students, and a strong intolerance of weeds. Offering approximately \$20/hour based on experience. Please e-mail resume and cover letter to Todd McCreight, business officer, at mccreight@bullis.org.

Get Your STEM On! Solar Decathlon 2011 Video Inspires Young Engineers (MAEF)

Every two years the Solar Decathlon is sponsored by the U.S Department of Energy. It was a great experience for students to head to the D.C. Mall this past summer and check out these amazing designs and structures, with opportunity to talk to collegiate teams and professors – and best of all – that University of Maryland **WON** this international event! There are shining ideas for every science and tech teacher to be found on the DOE Solar Decathlon website <http://www.solardecathlon.gov/about.html> and lots of inspiration for students of sustainability design and function in agricultural architecture!

Call for Resources! Green School Ag Workshop @ MAEOE (MAEF)

For Buzz members who coordinate or manage educational programs in school-based agriculture & natural resources, or provide schools with agriculture-based services - would like the Green School audience to know about you? Please contact me! I am putting together resource packages for attendees at the MAEOE conference attending our Integrating Agriculture Education into Green School Curriculum in February and would love to share your work with them. Programs, brochures, small gifts and fun stuff all welcomed! peppig@maefonline.com Yes, we love the little furry cows, Mary! Do you have a herd of fifty?

Orchard Grants 2012 (PASA)

The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) and Dreyer's Fruit Bars are planting orchards across the country in a collaborative program called Communities Take Root (CTR). Through this exciting program, communities compete in a nation-wide vote to win a complete community orchard. FTPF orchards are a wonderful way for communities to grow fresh fruit, beautify neighborhoods, strengthen relationships, and build community food security—all through the

simple act of planting fruit trees. They are now inviting applications for 2012. The first 100 qualified applicants will be in the running to win a free orchard, including orchard design, arborist expertise, and a fun community planting event. And, orchard recipients also receive a free community workshop on planting, pruning and caring for fruit trees. As well, every organization that participates in this year's program will receive 3 fruit trees, tree guards, and myco-paks to ensure soil health—all free as a thank you gift from FTPF. Please go to www.ftpf.org for more information.

Teaching Tolerance: Food Deserts – Causes, Consequences, Solutions

The Southern Poverty Law Center, a nationally acclaimed diversity and equity organization, produces curriculum for social studies, policy, agriculture and social justice through the Teaching Tolerance project. Understanding issues of food distribution and access, health and nutrition and food sovereignty are key to food system studies. This lesson is a powerful example of how to do this – check it out. Abundant links to USDA, related curriculum, resources and extensions. TT is a powerful resource for anyone who employs critical thinking and issues investigation in social studies, social sciences, leadership and

<http://www.tolerance.org/activity/food-deserts-causes-consequences-and-solutions>

Job Opportunity - Maryland Virginia Milk Producer's Cooperative

MVMPC has an entry level inspector position available for the south eastern or south central PA regions. This is a great opportunity for a young responsible, personable, motivated college graduate with experience in agriculture. Please share this notice with anyone you feel may have the aptitude for and interest in working in this field. Interested folks should contact Bob Cooksey at bcooksey@mdvamilk.com

Irrigation (*Thanks, Sam!*)

If there's any elegance in life

it's in the way that water runs

THE BUZZ - Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation
January 18, 2012

from sky to spring and spring to field,
from field to field just for the fun

of it, or for the fullness of it
—a glut of needless elegance,
the thoughtless pooling up of pools
along the drive, the maintenance

of balance at the edges of
the pools, and of the field I suppose,
though that is a different kind of balance,
one that I maintain, in rows.

And speaking of balance, I lost mine today
in the earlier rain, leaning to weed
the carrots. I went down wet and empty-
handed, inelegant as need.

- Nathaniel Perry