

The Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc.
January 1, 2014

The Buzz!

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

Happy New Year 2014! Welcome to The Buzz! Year Four!

I can't believe we've been sending out **The Buzz** for four years! Thank you for sending *me* your agriculture news and events to share with our growing e-news subscriber list of educators, farmers, policy-makers, students, agencies, organizations, and schools. Send your agriculture education news and events to peppig@maefonline.com. And don't forget to Pass It On!

May you have a Very Happy and Blessed New Year!

Maryland Farm Bureau Scholarships Announced!

The Maryland Farm Bureau will offer ten \$2,000.00 scholarships to Maryland high school seniors who re starting college in the fall of 2014 or full time college students at any community college or four-year institution. Applicants or their parents/guardians MUST be members of Maryland Farm Bureau. Seven of the scholarships will be offered to agricultural curriculum majors and three scholarships will be offered to non-agricultural or agricultural curriculum majors.
[2014 Farm Bureau Scholarships](#)

National Farm to Cafeteria 2014!

Austin, Texas

We'd love to have Maryland well-represented in Austin Texas, April 15 - 18 at the National Farm to Cafeteria Conference! We are happy to announce that the National Farm-Based Education Network (Sheburne Farms) and the Mid-Atlantic Farm-Based Education Network (MAEF/MDA) will be presenting! Scholarship are available for this inspiring Farm to School Conference!

From the website:

"The National Farm to Cafeteria Conference: Powering Up will convene a diverse group of stakeholders from across the farm to cafeteria movement-more than 1,000 food service professionals, farmers, educators, youth leaders, policy makers, advocates, state/federal agency professionals, entrepreneurs, public health professionals and others-working to source local food for institutional cafeterias and foster a culture of food and agricultural literacy across America."

Registration information: <http://farmtocafeteriaconference.org/7/registration/>

Conference website: <http://farmtocafeteriaconference.org/7/>

Fox Haven Farm Winter Workshops!

Jefferson, MD

Join your friends and neighbors in Jefferson, MD for a great day out at Fox Haven Farm and Learning Center to attend their winter speakers series! Three great sessions in January include:

Building Wildlife Habitat in Your Backyard, Jan. 12:

<http://www.foxhavenlearningcenter.org/content/building-wildlife-habitat-your-backyard>

CREP Talk (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program), Jan. 26:

<http://www.foxhavenlearningcenter.org/content/crep-presentation-discussion>

American Chestnut Talk, Feb. 9 (Great choice for teachers interested in establishing a chestnut stand on their school campus!)

<http://www.foxhavenlearningcenter.org/content/american-chestnut-and-blight>

The DuPont Challenge

Secondary Ed Essay Competition

The 2013 DuPont Challenge is a competition for 7-12 grade students to research and write a science essay on one of four categories: Food, Energy, Environment, and Innovation. The deadline for submission is January 31, 2014.

<http://thechallenge.dupont.com>

Job Opening: Ag Education Manager

National Colonial Farm, Accokeek Foundation

The Agriculture Education Manager, in close collaboration with the Ecosystem Farm Manager and other staff, will be responsible for educating youth and other members of the community around organic vegetable production at the Ecosystem Farm, as well as providing support for programs centered on the heritage breed livestock, heirloom vegetables, and the historical and cultural connections to food that are a part of interpretation at the National Colonial Farm and the Museum Garden. Target audiences will include both adults and youth from the Capital region, with particular focus on Prince George's County and Southern Maryland. Programs will include curriculum-based field trips, internships, themed tours, and pre-arranged workdays. Other activities may include cooking demonstrations, outreach to schools, and events that further the conversation on sustainability and food.

For full position description, salary, and application deadline see:

<http://accokeekfoundation.org/now-hiring-agriculture-education-manager/>

Christopher Columbus Awards

Middle School STEM

The Christopher Columbus Awards for Middle School Students is a community-based STEM program. Students work in teams of three to four, with an adult coach, to identify a problem in their community and apply the scientific method to create an innovative solution to that problem. The deadline for submission is February 3, 2014.

<http://www.christophercolumbusawards.com>

Cultivating Joy and Wonder: Early Childhood Education

Shelburne Farms

Available for educators online is Shelburne Farms (VT) newest food and environment curriculum "Cultivating Joy and Wonder: Educating for Sustainability in Early Childhood Through Nature, Food, and Community." Free pdf downloads are available in sections via -

<http://www.shelburnefarms.org/learn/resources/cultivating-joy-wonder-educating-for-sustainability-in-early-childhood-through>

Mid-Atlantic Farm-Based Educators 2014

Gatherings and Professional Development for 2014:

Feb. 19 - Delaware Women in Agriculture Conference, Dover, DE, 3-5pm Pre-Conference Information Session and Q&A

Mar. 3 - Fox Haven Farm, Jefferson, MD 9am - 3:30pm: **First Gathering!**
Farm-Based Education: Curriculum and Collaboration

Mar. 12 - Montpelier Farms, Upper Marlboro, MD, 9am - 3:30pm: **Second Annual Gathering!**
FBE Management: Students to Stats

Mar. 26 - Maryland Ag Resource Center, Cockeysville, MD, 9am - 3:30: **First Gathering!**
Farm-Based Education: Curriculum and Collaboration

June 23-27 - National Ag in the Classroom National Conference, Hersey, PA. FBE Information Session and First Gathering times TBA.

Nov. 7 - Rodale Institute, Kutztown, PA 9am - 3:30am: **Second Annual Gathering!**
FBE Management: Internship Programs

Request for Farmer-Teacher Teams:

After a great first year for the regional group Mid-Atlantic Farm-Based Educators Network, we have a good snapshot of farmer-to-educator needs across the state. To facilitate our growth as a professional group we want to promote active collaborations with school systems to produce curriculum that is relevant and meaningful to students and their families. We'll be forming regional watershed/foodshed teams of teachers and farmers to create the Chesapeake Food, Farm, Bay Curriculum, a multi-year farm-to-school partnership to design and implement what we hope will be many great educational and fun experiences on the farm!

Let me know (peppig@maefonline.com) if you would like to participate in a multi-year collaborative farmer-teacher team project! Jump in if you already have a farm-to-school partnership or if you are in need of partners from either the school or farm community.

Find out more about the Mid-Atlantic Network by visiting <http://www.farmbasededucation.org/> Check out the many events the National FBEN has posted (including ours!) and join FOR FREE! You must also join our regional group to receive announcements pertaining to Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, and West Virginia!

Women in Agriculture Regional Conference

Dover, Delaware

February 19 (Pre-Conference) and February 20 (Conference), 2014! A great mid-winter conference to meet up, network, and learn about all the opportunities for women in agriculture! <http://www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag/annual-conference>

Botanical Gardens and Arboretums in Winter

Don't let winter keep you and your students indoors! Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania have dozens of public and private gardens open throughout the winter season, many with educators who can facilitate outdoor winter-themed horticulture and botanical activities - all designed to create appreciation and understanding for the unique beauty and biological processes happening in a garden come winter.

Brookside Gardens, Montgomery County, MD - <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/>

Longwood Gardens, Kennet Square, PA - <http://longwoodgardens.org/>

Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore, MD - <http://cylburn.org/>

London Town Gardens, Edgewater, MD -

<http://www.historiclondontown.com/index.php/horticulture>

Adkins Arboretum, Ridgely, MD - <http://www.adkinsarboretum.org/>

Rawlings Conservatory & Gardens, Baltimore, MD - <http://www.rawlingsconservatory.org/>

MAEOE Conference Now Open for Registration!

Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education

Registration is now open for the 29th Annual MAEOE Environmental Education Conference ***Make Connections - Take Action!*** Meeting in Ocean City, MD February 6-9, 2014 this excellent conference attracts nearly 600 participants from the Chesapeake Bay region! You are sure to connect with extraordinary ideas, lessons and actions to incorporate into your work with PreK-12 students and the community. Now open - Early Bird Registration November 1, 2013 - January 5, 2014.

Late Registration begins January 19, 2014. Be sure to check out the Thursday Professional Development Institute, Friday Workshops, and all Conference details in the Conference Registration Guide: www.maeoe.org/conference/2014

Lab Teacher Needed for Southern MD!

MAEF

A regional position is open for an experienced educator to serve as on-board teacher for the mobile science lab program at Maryland Ag Ed Foundation. Mobile labs are sent to schools throughout the state for week-long visits providing agricultural and aquatic education for grades K - 5. May be 3-12 weeks per school year depending on location of lab and instructor. Preferably a candidate with an elementary teaching degree and classroom experience. Good classroom management skills essential. An agricultural background is a plus!

Call or email Diana Tyler at 410-939-9030 / dtyler@maefonline.com

Constellations

Yes, that's Orion over there,
the three studs of the belt
clearly lined up just off the horizon.

And if you turn around you can see
Gemini, very visible tonight,
the twins looking off into space as usual.

That cluster a little higher in the sky
is Cassiopeia sitting in her astral chair
if I'm not mistaken.

And directly overhead,
isn't that Virginia Woolf
slipping along the River Ouse

in her inflatable canoe?
See the wide-brimmed hat and there,
the outline of the paddle, raised and dripping stars?

- Billy Collins