

**Subject:** August 2020 Conservation Education Newsletter

## Peter Francisco SWCD Conservation Education Newsletter



### **In this Newsletter...**

WELCOME BACK  
TEACHERS!

## **Virtual Conservation Education Programs**

The District has worked all summer to record its most popular SOL-related conservation education programs and upload them to our website. Lesson plans and suggested activities are included for each program as well. The District is willing to make up activity kits when feasible for distribution to your students if you choose to use a virtual program as part of your online teaching. Check out the programs we offer at the link below. Please contact Elise Corbin by email ([elise.corbin@vaswcd.org](mailto:elise.corbin@vaswcd.org)) to work out the details for activity kits.

<https://www.peterfranciscoswcd.org/virtual-education-programs>

## **2020 Poster Contest**

The 2020 Poster Contest, "Where Would We BEE without Pollinators?" is underway. This contest is open to students in grades K-12. Posters are due October 1. Click on this link to view rules, past winning posters, learn about prizes and download an entry form: <https://www.peterfranciscoswcd.org/poster-contest>

## SOL-related Program Photos (2019-20 school year)



Pumpkin Painting with Buckingham School Students



Macroinvertebrate Lab with Buckingham Middle School Students



Pollinator Programs at Cumberland Elementary School (left) and Buckingham Preschool (right)



7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students at Cumberland County Middle School learn about soil food web trophic levels by playing a go-fish style card game

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant

The District has been pleased to partner with Buckingham Elementary School and Cumberland Elementary and Middle Schools to provide after school programs funded by this grant for the 2019-20 school year and look forward to partnering again this year.

## Envirothon

Envirothon, sponsored by Dominion Energy, is a hands-on environmental problem-solving competition for high school students. Teams are tested in 5 areas:

- A current environmental issue with an in-field test and oral presentation
- Aquatics
- Forestry
- Soils
- Wildlife

Teams consist of at least 5 members in grades 9-12. They compete at local and regional competitions. Winners compete at the state level, and winners at the state level compete nationally/internationally.

A Virginia team won first place at the 2019 National/International Envirothon Competition. Congratulations Jamestown High School! The 2020 events were cancelled due to COVID.

Both Buckingham and Cumberland High Schools have participated for the last several years.

*Members of the Buckingham team for 2019 were: Caleb Walter, Enoch Matthews, Connor Bohannon. Foster Smith, Cole Bohanon  
Alternates: Resa Smith and Sean Bowen  
Coach: Andrew J. Schmitt*

*Congratulations to the Buckingham Team for placing 3rd at the Area V Competition and advancing to the state competition.*

*Members of the Cumberland team for 2019 were:  
Anaya McClinton, Julie Westbrook, Dawn Helton, Geneva Curtain, Matthew Dunlop  
Alternates: Caitlin Hartley and Bryan Mancilla  
Coach: Trae Shidell*

We are currently forming teams for the Envirothon . Mr. Andy Schmitt serves as coach for Buckingham County High School. Mr. Trae Shidell has served as coach for Cumberland County High School for the past few years, but may be stepping down this year. If you are interested in coaching a Cumberland team, please contact me. More information can be found on the District's website at: <https://www.peterfranciscoswcd.org/envirothon>

### *Want to get involved?*

***An Envirothon Training is scheduled for Saturday, November 21, at Graves Mountain Lodge. Students will comb the creek in search of macroinvertebrates, learn about wildlife, study soils, take a hike in the woods to learn about forestry and learn more about this year's special topic on conservation. Contact the District if you are interested in attending. The District will pay for training costs.***

***For additional information, contact Elise Corbin at [elise.corbin@vaswcd.org](mailto:elise.corbin@vaswcd.org) or call 434-983-7923.***

**[Free SOL-based Environmental Programs](#)**



*The District would like to thank you for investing in our youth and support your educational efforts by offering **free** SOL-based environmental programs in Buckingham and Cumberland Counties. These programs can be online or in-person when schools physically open again. Our programs always have a hands-on component to make learning fun for the students. If you want a field day with several stations for an entire grade level, we will be happy to coordinate with Buckingham and Cumberland Cooperative Extension Offices, Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginia State Parks and Virginia Department of Forestry to make it happen in the school yard or at a local State Park. The District also has a wealth of conservation education resources available for teachers to check out and use for their classrooms. For more information on the programs and resources we offer, visit our website at [www.peterfranciscoswcd.org](http://www.peterfranciscoswcd.org)*

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## Questions & Comments

Want a program, have an idea, suggestion, or comment? We're always looking for feedback on how we can better support you.

Email Peter Francisco SWCD Conservation Education Coordinator, Elise Corbin, at [elise.corbin@vaswcd.org](mailto:elise.corbin@vaswcd.org) or call 434-983-7923.

Virginia's Envirothon program and Peter Francisco's educational programs are also supported through the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund.

Proceeds from the sale of the Bay license plates help citizens keep the bay healthy by restoring wetlands, planting buffers around waterways, promoting marine life restoration, decreasing pollution and providing educational programs like Envirothon. To purchase a Bay license plate

visit: <http://www.dmv.state.va.us/vehicles/#splates/info.asp?idnm=CB>

The Peter Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs or marital status.

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