

# Soil and Water With Kids

Volume 5 Issue 1

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Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District

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## Fieldtrips and Community Resources

Are you ready to do something different with your class this year? Prince William County offers countless opportunities for fieldtrips, extra-credit activities, and resources for your classroom from local and state agencies.

To get the most from your field trip you need to spend less time on the bus and more time seeing, touching, and doing. Pick a park and organize science and history stations. Leesylvania State Park, Prince William Forest Park, and the Manassas Battlefield are good sites for both types of stations. The Occoquan National Wildlife Refuge is an excellent natural site to visit any time of year. To visit local historic sites, start at Leesylvania State Park for the history hike, visit the Weems-Botts Museum in Dumfries to

learn how people lived, go on to the Brentsville Courthouse for county history, or finish at the Manassas Battlefield Stone House. Manassas City and the town of Occoquan also have historic sites and museums open to the public. Any of these sites could be a fieldtrip in itself.

The water treatment plant and the sewage treatment plants are very interesting and informative. You see how the water is treated before it goes into the pipes or back into the river. Pond studies or stream monitoring at a local stream can be a walking field trip for some schools, making this an extra bonus. Always check with your principal before taking a walking field trip.



If you're interested in seeing farm animals or a working farm, there are many options. For Kindergarten through second grade the PWC Animal Shelter farm or the Old Mine Ranch in Dumfries are very child friendly. For Grades 3 and older, Dutchland Dairy Farm and Windy Knoll Beef Farm are available. Contact the Conservation District to schedule tours of these farms.

Other County Government sites available include the your local fire station, and Ben Lomond Manor House. In the future Rippon Lodge, a colonial home in Woodbridge recently purchased by the County, will be open to the public.

Sites to focus on ecology and the environment include the County landfill, rivers and streams, parks, refuges, farms, and your schoolyard.

Look at all options for fieldtrips early in the year. You might find a local site that can accomplish your objectives, and in the process, gain an hour or more of hands-on time for your students.

Students can gain extra credit by attending some of the events listed on Page 2.

### Teacher Workshops

The following teacher workshops will present varied activities related to specific Virginia Standards of Learning. Posters, support materials, and even videos (AG in the Classroom) will be distributed to participants.

September 20 - 4:00-7:00 p.m. **Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom** teacher's workshop. Grades K-8. Leesylvania State Park Visitor Center. Free.

November 6 - 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.: **Your Backyard Classroom - Leesylvania State Park.** New SOL correlated activities to use

during your field trip to Leesylvania State Park in Woodbridge. All grade levels. Call the park to register. (703) 670-0372 .

**Properties of Soil:** Available at your school, at your convenience. Call Nancy at the Conservation District to schedule. (703) 361-1710

**Watersheds and Water Resources:** Available at your school, at your convenience. Call Nancy at the Conservation District to schedule. (703) 361-1710

## A Note From Nancy

Teachers are always looking for free and inexpensive materials to supplement the resources available through the school library. All videos, CD-ROMs, and other resources in the Conservation District's Education Library are available on free loan to teachers within the District. Class sets of some booklets are available. Our library also includes slide programs, audio cassettes, and puppets.

The Conservation District video library has over 80 videos on topics from agriculture to wetlands. I look for informative, entertaining videos that relate directly to Virginia SOLs.

Grade specific brochures describing District conservation education programs, special events, and the resource correlation to the Virginia SOLs will be in the mail soon. If you do not receive this brochure, call me at 703 361-1710. Be sure to file this brochure where you can find it, or tape it inside the cover of your plan book. I will also be sending a list of videos available and descriptions to each school librarian. These listings should replace pages in the "Soil and Water Conservation Education" binder which should be in the teacher resource library of each elementary school. This binder can be found on the Science Resource shelf in middle and high schools.

## Videos available on loan from The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District



To borrow items, call 703 361-1710 or e-mail your request to [nancyfinucan@pwsacd.org](mailto:nancyfinucan@pwsacd.org). County teachers will receive items via courier.

**"Science Court: Water Cycle"** 1997 Tom Snyder Productions. A pipe company is taken to court for leaky pipes and damages caused by dripping water from the pipes. Grades 4-6. 30 min.

**"Dancing With the Earth"** 1993 Split Image Productions. The Banana Slug String Band sing environmental songs including "Dirt Made My Lunch," "Decomposition," and "Tidepool Boogie." Elementary. 40 min.

**"Farmyard Friends"** 1997 National Geographic EDventures. Meet some familiar domestic farmyard friends and their not-so-familiar wild relatives. Elementary. 46 min.

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## Things to Do, Places to Go, & People to See

**September 22** - 10:00 a.m. Powell's Creek Discovery Day (stream cleanup). Help pick up debris and litter from Powell's Creek, one of Prince William County's natural wonders. Learn about this important habitat and how we all affect it. Call Nancy at (703)361-1710.

**September 20** - 4:00-7:00 p.m. Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom teacher's workshop. Activities directly support SOLs K-8 grade. Nancy at (703) 361-1710 to register. Free.

**September 27- October 7** - State Fair of Virginia in Richmond.

**October 7** - Watershed Exploration Trail. 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Leesylvania State Park. Learn about watersheds, streams, the Potomac, and wildlife at this natural resource festival. Parking Fee \$3. Call 703 792-6819 for information.

**October 15-21:** Natural Resources Conservation Week. "Habitat for Life." K-5 Poster Contest. Posters due Oct. 25. Call Nancy at (703) 361-1710

**October 24** - Farm Field Day for fourth grade students at Prince William County Fairgrounds. 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Registration required.

**November 6** - Your Backyard Classroom Teacher Workshop. 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Leesylvania State Park. Learn how to get the most from the facilities at Leesylvania State Park. Call the park to register. (703) 670-0372.

Help Keep our Natural Areas for Nature!



Ecology Clubs, Scout Troops, and 4-H: Get recognition for your stream clean-ups with an Adopt-A-Stream sign. Call Nancy to find out more.