



In this  
Newsletter...

**WELCOME  
BACK  
TEACHERS!**

## 2022 Poster Contest

The 2022 Poster Contest, "Healthy Soil, Healthy Life" is underway. This contest is open to students in grades K-12. Posters are due October 3. **New this year:** Students in Grades 7-12 can submit a digital poster or hand-drawn poster. Students in K-6 can only submit a hand-drawn poster. Click on this link to view rules, past winning posters, learn about prizes and download an entry form:

<https://www.peterfranciscoswcd.org/poster-contest>



Lillian McConkey, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Student at Cumberland High School has won first place for the poster contest at the local, state and national level for two years in a row! Lillian won \$50 at the local level, \$100 at the state level and \$200 at the national level for a total of \$350. Congratulations Lillian!

# Conservation Educator of the Year



Josh Fleenor, Ag Teacher at Cumberland High School, was chosen by Peter Francisco SWCD as 2021 Conservation Educator of the Year. The District forwarded his information to the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and he was chosen Conservation Educator of the Year at the state level out of 47 Conservation Districts. Congratulations Mr. Fleenor! To view the article in THE FARMVILLE HERALD, click this link: [Fleenor named Conservation Educator of the Year - Farmville | Farmville \(farmvilleherald.com\)](https://www.farmvilleherald.com)

## Pre-school and Primary School

### Preschool Earth Day



Students at Buckingham Pre-School learned about frogs and salamanders and did a leap frog relay as part of their Earth Day celebration. The District also set up the soil tunnel and students made soil babies. SOL: K.6, K.7

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Day



2<sup>nd</sup> Graders at Buckingham Primary enjoyed a field day organized by PFSWCD. Stations included soil tunnel/soil babies, Incredible Journey, Leap Frog Relay, Pollinators, Wildlife, and Scavenger Hunt. SOL: Science 2.1, 2.3, 2.5, 3.7, 3.6

## Elementary School

### Fourth Grade Science Field Day



Fourth grade students at Cumberland Elementary had a science field day coordinate by PFSWCD last spring. Students learned about electricity, agricultural products of Virginia, wildlife, trees, rocks & minerals, and pollinators. The District teamed up with Cooperate Extension, Dominion Power, Department of Wildlife Resources, and Bear Creek Lake State Park for the field day. (SOL: Science 4.2, 4.3, 4.8, VS.2b)

## Middle School

### Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE)

Sixth graders in Buckingham and Cumberland received Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences throughout the year. Sixth grade science teachers taught about the James River and Chesapeake Bay watershed during the school year. The District teamed up with Buckingham and Cumberland Cooperative Extension and James River/Bear Creek Lake State Parks to provide hands-on activities and learning experiences which include macroinvertebrate studies from leaf litter collected at each park, water quality monitoring from the James River and Bear Creek Lake, mapping out our watershed, an Enviroscape demonstration, and a hike. To see photos and learn more about MWEE's, click on the following link: <https://www.peterfranciscoswcd.org/mwee>



### After-School Programs with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant



The District partnered with both Buckingham and Cumberland Middle Schools to provide weekly after-school programs as part of each school's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant. Students learned about water and soil, rocks and minerals, water and their bodies, states of matter, recycling and a host of other subjects related to the environment. Below are pictures for some of the programs:



## High School

### Field trips with Chesapeake Bay Foundation

The District sponsored 2 field trips with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for Envirothon Team Members, Ecology students, and Environmental Science students at Buckingham County High School. Students boarded a 40-foot boat out of Newport News and raked oysters, performed water quality monitoring, and trawled for fish among other activities. The second field trip went out of Hopewell. Students learned about the kepone crisis, performed water quality monitoring and trawled for fish in addition to other activities. (SOL Bio.6, Bio.8). The District has three fall Chesapeake Bay Foundation Field Trips lined up. One is scheduled at the Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach for Thursday, September 15, 2022 (max 30 students). Students will explore the Lynnhaven River and Chesapeake Bay by boat, pull up crab pots, trawl for fish and perform water quality monitoring. The 2<sup>nd</sup> trip is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2022 out of Hopewell, Virginia (max 28 students). Again, students will board a 40-foot boat do all the activities above exploring the James River. The 3<sup>rd</sup> trip is a local canoe paddle on Monday, October 10, 2022 (max 26 students). Students will paddle the James River and perform water quality monitoring. If you would like your students to participate in any of these events, contact me at [elise.corbin@vaswcd.org](mailto:elise.corbin@vaswcd.org) We have to save dates with Chesapeake Bay Foundation in the spring, so I don't have any particular class assigned for any of these trips yet. This will be first-come, first serve. (Will consider middle school students for these field trips as well).



## 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.

Both Buckingham and Cumberland High Schools have participated for the last several years. Cumberland won first place at the 2022 Area V Competition and Buckingham won 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Area V Competition. Both teams went on to compete at the state level.



Cumberland Team  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners  
Pictured from left to right:  
Patricia Murrill, Celeste  
Mitchell, Mark Tuttle, Austin  
Cox, Cole Dalton and Coach  
Joshua Fleenor.



Buckingham Team  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winners  
(Left to right): Vernon  
Wilkerson, Aaron Trent  
(Team Captain), Brandon  
Johnson, Aaron Martin,  
Coach Andrew Schmitt,  
Elizabeth Grant, Aamon  
Harkins

We are currently forming teams for the Envirothon . Mr. Andy Schmitt serves as coach for Buckingham County High School. Mr. Josh Fleenor serves as coach for Cumberland County High School. Please encourage students to see the appropriate coach to participate in this year's team.

### *Want to get involved?*

*An Envirothon Training is scheduled for Saturday, November 19, 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.*

*High School teachers and students from Buckingham and Cumberland who are interested in participating on an Envirothon Team are welcome to attend CBF field trips.*

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

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## [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. Our programs always have a hands-on component to make learning fun for the students. To see SOL-related programs we offer by grade, visit our website: [Programs | peterfranciscoswcd \(peterfranciscoswcd.org\)](#) Remember, we can tailor a program to meet your needs. Also, 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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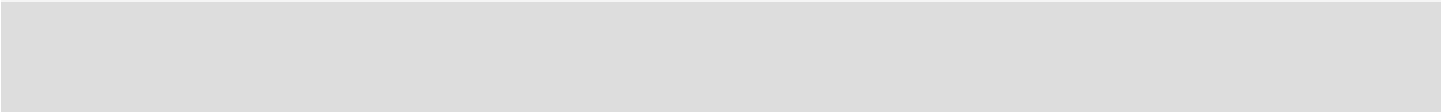
## Questions & Comments

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.