

# Teacher's Conservation Corner

*John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District*

## Forestry and Youth Conservation Camps

The John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District is seeking applicants for two fantastic conservation oriented camps this summer.

The first is the Holiday Lake Forestry Camp scheduled for June 15-20 at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center near Appomattox, Virginia. This camp is for students ages 13-16 who have an interest in forestry and natural resources. The cost to attend is \$85 for the week. Holiday Lake Forestry Camp is ideal for students to explore and experience activities in forestry and wildlife related careers and to experience hands on learning about natural resource conservation.



Students net fish during an electroshocking demonstration at Youth Conservation Camp. Photo courtesy VASWCD.

Students must be nominated for this camp by an adult such as a teacher, scout, church, or other youth group leader, or a natural resource professional. Nomination forms are available at <http://dof.virginia.gov/forestry/camp/>. Nominations close on April 1.

The second camp is the Youth Conservation Camp which will be held July 12-18 on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. This camp is for students in grades 9-12. Students who graduate in May/June are also eligible to attend this camp. Students will learn about fisheries, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and agricultural best management practices. Field

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Students at Holiday Lake Forestry Camp test their skills in the Lumberjack Field Day. Photo courtesy VA Dept. of Forestry.

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## Camps (Continued)

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trips include visits to Claytor Lake State Park, Kentland Farm, the Cascades waterfall, and a canoe trip down the New River. The camp is free for the top two applicants from Fauquier County and \$550 for applicants beyond the

top two (last year only one application was received from Fauquier County). To apply for the Youth Conservation Camp, contact the John Marshall SWCD to get an application.

Transportation to and from the

camps is the responsibility of the campers. For more information on either camp, call the John Marshall SWCD at 540-347-3120 x3 or email: johnmarshall.swcd@vaswcd.org.

## Still Time for Soil Studies

Some schools will study soils in late winter or spring. We still have a good supply of materials for those of you who want the Soil Tube program which is geared for Third Grade students. We've already visited several schools and made over 200 tubes this school year.

In addition to soil tubes, the District also has soil sieves. Students can place a dry soil sample in the top compartment and shake it to

their hearts content and observe the different size soil particles that filter thru the screens in each compartment. The District has five sets of these sieves to lend out to schools.

If you have yet to study soils or you want to give your students a review before the SOLs, contact us using the information found on the previous page of this newsletter.



Soil sieves can be used to separate out different sized particles of soil.

## Chesapeake Bay 101

The Chesapeake Bay Program offers a number of great resources on their website. These resources include a library of short (~2 minute) videos that give an over-

view on topics of concern for the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. These "Bay 101" videos are available at: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/>

[discover/bay101](http://discover/bay101). Some of the topics that the videos cover are sediment, bay grasses, blue crabs, stormwater runoff, algae blooms, and population growth.

## Plastic Paradise Documentary

Goose Creek Association will be showing the documentary "Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch" on Friday, March 6 from 7-8 PM at The Hill School's

Sheila C. Johnson Performing Arts Center (130 S. Madison St, Middleburg, VA). All students and teachers are welcome to attend this informative documentary.

For more info, visit: <http://www.goosecreek.org/2015/01/31/save-date-environmental-movie-night/>.

