



2015 Mid-Atlantic Volunteer Monitoring Conference
BRIDGING THE WATER QUALITY DATA GAP

August 6-8, 2015 Shenandoah University
Winchester, VA

MEET: Volunteer monitors, government officials, and others interested in protecting water quality from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia and beyond.

LEARN: Ways volunteers produce meaningful results to help make sound water quality decisions.

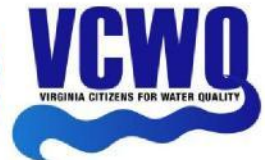
COLLABORATE: With and network among monitoring groups from other states and share ideas.

HELP BUILD: A unified, multi-state volunteer program never before seen in the Chesapeake Bay watershed!

HAVE FUN: Take a guided canoe trip down a portion of the Shenandoah River. Participate in a volunteer monitoring film festival. Attend hands-on water quality workshops, tour a state-of-the-art volunteer laboratory, and much more!

Conference Information at <http://goo.gl/u7i43n>

Register by July 23 at <https://www.elleevance.com/beventLive.aspx?EventID=NBI39336680>



2015 Mid-Atlantic Volunteer Monitoring Conference Agenda

August 6 (Thursday): Early Bird Event: Canoe/rafting expedition on the Shenandoah River- **\$35 fee required.**

August 7 (Friday): Conference Day 1

9 am to 11:30 am: Opening Ceremonies- Main Auditorium

9:00 am to 9:20 am	9:20 am to 10:00 am	10:00 am to 10:30 am	10:45 am to 11:15 am	11:15 am to 11:45 am
Welcome/Introduction	Panel: Bay State Volunteer Accomplishments	Mixer/Event Warm-Up	Keynote Speaker	Overview of Chesapeake Bay Coordination Grant
Shenandoah University and Friends of the Shenandoah River.	Volunteer monitoring accomplishments by state.	Groups decide who has the most unusual or funny monitoring story.	David Paylor, Director of Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.	What the grant will involve and the goals of the project

11:45 am to 12:45 pm: Lunch- Presentation about the Virginia Green Travel Program

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm: Concurrent Breakout Session 1

Virginia Citizens For Water Quality Track	Virginia Water Monitoring Council Track	Stormwater Track	Special Studies Track	Promoting Volunteerism Track
Chesapeake Bay Volunteer Monitoring Network	How Agencies Use Volunteer Data	Trash And Marine Debris: Keep It Curbed	Projects Spanning Across State Lines	Effective Ways To Get Your Message Across
First stakeholder meeting on the new Chesapeake Bay watershed wide volunteer monitoring. Take a collaborative role to develop this unique project.	Learn ways states and local governments can use volunteer water quality data to make more informed decisions and assessments of water quality	Trash in local waterways is a major issue in the Mid-Atlantic area. This session will cover why it is a serious problem and what is being done to keep trash out of our waterways.	To effect meaningful change in the Chesapeake Bay, it will require partnerships across state lines. Some partnership examples are covered in this session.	It is as important to share your monitoring results as it is to monitor. This session will cover various successful techniques to get an environmental message out to a larger audience.

2:45 pm to 4:15 pm: Concurrent Breakout Session 2

Volunteer Monitoring: The Next Generation	QA/QC: Making Volunteer Monitoring Professional	Volunteers Helping Localities Meet MS4 Goals	Habitat Restoration: Volunteer Examples	Volunteer Monitoring Success Stories:
Volunteer monitoring can begin at any age. This session will focus on projects done by high school students in the field of water quality and environmental monitoring.	Quality Assurance is needed for a strong monitoring project. The session will focus on the benefits of a strong QA program from volunteer and data user perspectives.	Many counties and cities have a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System or MS4 program. See some examples where volunteers have partnered to help meet these MS4 goals	Monitoring is not the only thing volunteers can do! This session will cover examples of volunteers restoring streams and other waterbodies using their hands and skills.	Become inspired by learning how volunteer groups overcame challenges or made a positive impact.

4:30 pm to 5:00 pm: Closing and prize raffle- Main Auditorium

5:00 pm to 7:30 pm: Dinner and Film Festival- Main Auditorium

August 8 (Saturday): Conference Day 2

Concurrent Session 3- 9 am to 10:30 am

Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Classroom 1	Classroom 2	Field Trip 1	Field Trip 2
<p>The Doctor Is In: Monitoring Equipment Workshop</p> <p>Bring your broken or ill-maintained monitoring equipment to see what is wrong and how it can be fixed. Learn simple techniques to keep equipment running in tip top order</p>	<p>Macroinvertebrate Field Identification</p> <p>Don't know the difference between mayfly and stonefly? Interested in benthic macroinvertebrates but don't know Latin? This workshop will teach newcomers and old hands on how to identify benthic macroinvertebrates using the Save Our Streams protocol.</p>	<p>Uploading And Using EPASTORET For Volunteer Data</p> <p>EPA maintains a nationwide database of water quality data. This two session workshop will cover how to retrieve data as well as upload volunteer data into this database.</p>	<p>Effective Communication Of Data To The Public</p> <p>Have a lot of data but it is flying over the heads of your audience? Learn strategies when communicating your results to the public and other organizations.</p>	<p>Build-A-Barrel Rain Barrels Workshop 1</p> <p>Interested having a rain barrel at home but no spend \$150 at a home improvement store? Wear your grubbies as this hands-on workshop will let users learn what goes into building a rain barrel and take it home afterwards.</p> <p>\$45 fee to cover materials</p>	<p>Friends Of The Shenandoah River Laboratory - Tour 1</p> <p>Tour one of the most advanced volunteer laboratories in Virginia. See how nutrients, bacteria, field measurements, and other tests are done</p> <p>This is the first tour offered.</p>	<p>Caving Expedition</p> <p>Visit a local cave to learn how Karst land affects water quality and how local caves played a role in American history. This is a two session field trip.</p>

Concurrent Session 4- 10:45 am to 12:15 pm

<p>Quality Assurance/ Study Design Workshop</p> <p>Learn about important parts of building a strong quality assurance program and strategies to plan a monitoring project that will meet the goals in an effective and efficient manner</p>	<p>Gas Shale Monitoring Workshop</p> <p>Gas shale drilling is an increasing occurrence in many Mid-Atlantic states. Learn some ways volunteers are monitoring waterways to keep a close eye on these operations and help protect the environment.</p>	<p>Uploading And Using EPA STORET For Volunteer Data-Continued</p> <p>Continuation of the EPA STORET database workshop</p>	<p>Organizing And Maintaining A Monitoring Program</p> <p>Learn from a volunteer group how to maintain a monitoring program over multiple years. Topics include how to retain volunteers and diversifying funds in a competitive environment</p>	<p>Build-A-Barrel Rain Barrel Workshop 2</p> <p>Second of two workshops available for people interested in building a rain barrel and take it home.</p> <p>\$45 fee to cover materials</p>	<p>Friends Of The Shenandoah River Laboratory -Tour 2</p> <p>Second tour offered by the Friends of the Shenandoah River of their laboratory</p>	<p>Caving Expedition -Continued</p> <p>Continuation of the earlier caving expedition</p>
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12:30 pm- Lunch/Conference Closing- Presentation on environmental education and fun ways to get children involved