



Virginia Living Museum Volunteer Views

Fall Edition

Virginia Living Museum – 524 J. Clyde Morris Blvd.

Newport News, VA 23601

Sept. — Nov. 2008

757.534.7428

Our Mission

The purpose of the Virginia Living Museum shall be to stimulate knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of the biological and physical world, and to develop an understanding of its relationship to the environment of the planet and the universe beyond. This shall be accomplished by providing a variety of living interpretive exhibits and education programs for the public, students, and educators that encourage a commitment to the protection and conservation of our natural world and its delicately balanced components.

Looking for a great gift idea? Look no further!

Adopt an animal in honor of someone special!

With our new “Adopt a Wild Thing” Gift Program, you can be a friend to the animals. A couple examples of how these gifts can be used are as follows: 1) The staff and volunteers chipped in for Adopting the Woodchuck for Gloria Moore as a going away gift. 2) Juanita Slack needed a gag gift for someone for their 80th birthday....she “adopted” a skunk, and the proceeds bought a bag of skunk chow in honor of the recipient! It’s a win/win situation!

Please contact the Development Office if you have any questions. They will be glad to help you!

Quote of the month

“One of the things I keep learning is that the secret to being happy is doing things for other people.”
~Dick Gregory, Comedian & Civil Rights Activist

The Virginia Living Museum Volunteer Newsletter is published by the VLM Volunteer office, Ms. Shandran Thornburgh, Director. It is issued quarterly in March, June, Sept. and Dec.

From the Director

By: Shandran Thornburgh

As we draw closer to the AZA Accreditation process, I want to take this time to make you aware of some of the things the Accreditation Committee will be asking. Everyone should read and be familiar with the answers to these questions! When the time comes, we will be sending out a complete list of Q/A for everyone including staff. Happy reading!

What does AZA stand for? *Association of Zoos and Aquariums*

Why is the VLM seeking AZA accreditation? *Because it reflects the highest standards in the Zoo and Aquarium field, and this will help move us in to the forefront of our profession.*

Code RED represents an emergency for *Human Medical.*

What is the procedure for a lost child?

If the child can't find his/her parents: Take the lost child "under your wing," and stay in the area the child was found for 5 minutes to allow parents to return for the child. If the parents have not returned after 5 minutes, take the child to the Front Desk. The staff will make the appropriate announcement.

If the parents can't find the child: Notify the front desk about a parent/teacher missing a particular child. Include name, age, description, etc. If you are able to, please help in the search for the missing child. The Front desk will be responsible for notifying maintenance/admin/ education staff as necessary to help track down the missing child or to notify police if we suspect a child has been abducted.

What should you do in the event of a fire alarm?

Help clear your area of visitors (if applicable), directing them to the nearest Fire Exit. After visitors are cleared out of your area, you then head towards the nearest Fire Exit yourself.

Code AIRPORT represents an emergency for a *suspicious/abandoned package.* (Con't on page 2)

From the Guestbook

Grandin, FL: one of the best for learning and for a child friendly environment. Friendly and knowledgeable volunteers.

Plymouth, MA: What a wonderful place. Thank you Tede!

On 7/29/08 visitors from Newport News wrote: Love the information on the bees. The volunteer gave us lots of info. Thanks!

From Emporia, VA: very impressed with everything – staff were excellent – will tell our friends.

From Virginia Beach: Thank you to Mr. David Bonnewell for his attention to our students at Rivers Bend Academy. He was so patient and kind to bring us around and explain the outdoor exhibits.

From the Director, cont'd

Who owns the VLM? *We are a non-profit corporation with a Board of Trustees.*

First aid kits are kept where? *Education Office, Animal Room, Visitor Services Office, Volunteer Services Office and 2 on the Trail.*

Why do you volunteer for the VLM? *Each volunteer should be able to tell the Accreditation Committee their own reasons!*

This is just the tip of the iceberg! You will be hearing lots more about the accreditation process. More questions/answers will be posted in the near future. Please stay “in the know” and be responsible for reading all the information provided to you during the accreditation process.

In other news around the museum, we have put in several recycling bins. Take a look, and use them!

Wildlife Rehabilitation Classes

Classes will be provided by the Wildlife Center of Virginia starting in January 2009 at the Virginia Living Museum. There will be a fee for these classes but VLM Volunteers will receive a discount. For additional information contact the Wildlife Center at 540-942-9453 or outreach@wildlifecenter.org. More information will be in the next newsletter in December.

YEAR OF THE FROG TRIVIA

Answers

1. Yes.
2. Southern hemisphere: Gold Frog
Northern Hemisphere: Eleutherodactylus Iberia (no common name yet, from Cuba)
3. The Goliath Frog
4. An army, and a knot.

Wild Music: Sounds & Songs of Life

October 4 through December 31, 2008



Whales compose, bullfrogs chorus, songbirds greet the dawn, and people everywhere sing and dance. What do we all have in common? "Wild Music" explores evidence for the biological origins of music through highly interactive exhibits and exceptional sound experiences. With its multicultural content and attention to accessibility, "Wild Music" appeals to diverse, intergenerational audiences.

Experience the sounds and songs of life. How do animals make sound? Investigate unique sounds from birds, mammals and insects, and how they have influenced music. How does sound work? Play with vibrations and frequencies, and test your hearing. Build your own soundscape, explore and contribute to a map of sounds, and learn what makes up a soundscape. Learn about current study of sound and how the natural world influences musicians. It's a must-see, must-do, must-HEAR experience!

"Wild Music: Sounds & Songs of Life" is a production of the Science Museum of Minnesota, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and the Association of Science-Technology Centers. Major funding comes from the National Science Foundation, with additional support from Harman International Industries, Inc. and NEC Foundation of America.

Check out the exhibit and its inter-actives at: <http://www.wildmusic.org/>

The exhibit is included in the normal price of admission. Adults \$15.00, children (3-12) \$12.00, 2 and under free. Members are FREE.



Volunteer Recognition Night

Monday, October 27, 2008

6:30—8:30 pm.

Mark your calendar

for a great evening when the volunteers are recognized for their achievements and milestones; and we get together for an evening of festivities. This year, we have a Jungle Theme...Tarzan costume optional!

Happy Birthday

September

DOB	Name
09-01	Connie Poland
09-01	Elyse Devereux
09-02	Ursula Mecking
09-02	Andrew Stein
09-02	Vickie Vaughan
09-02	Nick Shun
09-03	Sarah Margaret Edwards
09-03	Winston Davis
09-03	Peter Carmines
09-04	Karlton Rebenstorf
09-04	Dillan Dodson
09-06	Fred Alford
09-07	Chris Hall
09-09	Suzie Helderman
09-09	Emily Rawls
09-10	Justin Newby
09-10	Danielle Eckel
09-11	Debra Oakley
09-13	Shannon Redmond
09-15	Ann Tice
09-17	Patty Riddick
09-17	Maria Stanley
09-18	Debbie Cornier
09-18	Stephanie Hurd
09-21	Justin Mallory
09-21	Belle Wood
09-21	Melissa Musser
09-22	Alex Fochtman
09-22	Allison Curran
09-25	Jordan Lu
09-29	Curtis Dotson



October

DOB	Name
10-01	Elaine Whittaker
10-02	Barbara Boyer
10-02	Nelda Knobloch
10-02	Bobbie Wiesen
10-06	Bettie Jo Scarpa
10-07	Adam Chappell
10-09	Ralph Brake
10-09	Camelia Hahn
10-09	Sarah Kleinhample
10-09	Annabel Koman
10-13	Juanita Slack
10-15	Darrell Wood
10-17	Melody Stein
10-17	Bill Davidson
10-20	Jerri Bastian
10-20	Michael Warnock
10-23	Joyce Bennett
10-23	Abbey Gilbert
10-23	Sierra Smith
10-24	Amber Macrino
10-25	Jim Buckingham
10-25	David Bonnewell
10-25	Chris Chance
10-25	Caitlin Edwards
10-26	Christina Slakey
10-28	Cary Ragland
10-28	Stephanie Quist
10-30	Virginia Gall
10-30	Erick Sola
10-31	Margaret Cubberly
10-31	Sheila Kerr-Jones



November

DOB	Name
11-01	Ian Edwards
11-02	Barbara Coleman
11-03	Tede Johnson
11-06	Angela Kephart
11-06	Ray Baldwin
11-07	Ryan Roehrman
11-08	Patrick Devereux
11-09	Wilma Lawrence
11-10	Ros HaLevi
11-14	Christiana Tambone
11-16	Coco Cary
11-19	Adam Vrooman
11-20	Renee Brochon
11-20	Yvonne Mack
11-21	Barbara Howell
11-23	Nancy Waterman
11-23	Ashley Johnson
11-24	Julia Kleinhample
11-25	Courtney Daniel
11-26	Christopher Fisher
11-28	Karen Stein
11-30	Bill Hahn
11-30	Amanda Campbell
11-30	Jackie Tiedemann



Training Dates

Orientation covers policies and procedures, including the Volunteer Manual. All volunteers must attend this session once. If you have not already attended, even if you have volunteered for a while, you will still need to attend! Choose one of these dates:

Sept. 25 (Thursday) from 6-9pm

Nov. 17 (Monday) from 6-9pm

Exhibit Training Sessions:

Critter College Session 2 (pre-requisites: Critter College 1 and minimum of 12 conducted programs): Wed. October 1 from 6-9pm

Wild Music (changing exhibits gallery): Wed. October 1 from 6-9pm

Telescope Training: TBA but please let Volunteer Services Staff know that you are interested!

Our latest Volunteer Services Administrative Assistant

(Rebecca Murphy was promoted to Volunteer Coordinator)

She is Nora Marien. She has been a volunteer in animal care since June of 2007. She has a Bachelor's in Fine Arts from Old Dominion and additional studies at Norfolk State and Thomas Nelson. She has been a vet assistant at Animal Medical Care Center in Yorktown and been on the account staff at Clancy & Theys Construction Company. We welcome her to our volunteer services team.

Volunteer Seminars

September 2

Snakes Alive – Robin Delk

From the Garden of Eden to ‘Snakes on a Plane’ and the Indiana Jones movies, snakes have acquired an undeserved bad reputation. Get the real story on these fascinating but misunderstood creatures, and safely meet a variety of live snakes, benign and venomous.



October 7

Creatures of the Night - Rock Moeslein

Lots of animals begin their “day” when we turn out the lights. Explore the nocturnal lifestyles of opossums, owls and less commonly seen critters that “work the night shift.” Learn more about the amazing adaptations that make it possible for them to locate food, shelter and each other in the dark.



November 11

Impact! Rocks From Space and the Things They Can Do – Kelly Herbst

Have you ever seen a shooting star? Did you wonder what it was, or where it came from, or where it was going? Learn the answers to these questions and more as we investigate rocks from space! We’ll even help you learn how to spot a meteorite, both on the ground and in the sky!



December – NO SEMINAR

Another Feather in Our Cap

The Virginia Living Museum is a certified Virginia Green attraction committed to minimizing its environmental impacts by preventing pollution wherever feasible in its operations. For more information about the Commonwealth's Virginia Green program go to the website:



www.VirginiaGreenTravel.org

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/virginiagreen>

YEAR OF THE FROG TRIVIA

1. Do frogs hibernate?
2. What is the smallest frog species?
3. What is the largest frog species?
4. What do you call a group of frogs?



Milestones

June – August 2008



100 hours

Melanie Bonner
Nikki Freeman
Abbey Gilbert
Wayne Howard
Stephanie Hurd
Matthew Inge
Sarah Kendrick
Holly Kopecky
Amber Macrino
Nora Marien
Nicholas Meier
Kim Mui
Justin Newby
Laurenzo Page
Heidi Pankratz
Jackie Roquemore
Anna Shelton
Morgan Wallace
Judith Williams
Darrell Wood
Jonathan Wynne

Violet Hahn
Chris Hall
Janice Levy

500 Hours

Melody Stein

1000 Hours

Caye Gerald

1500 Hours

Sue Gray Al-Salam

2000 Hours

Juanita Slack

2500 Hours

Mike McDonald
Chip Wasson

3000 Hours

Ben Goldman

250 Hours

Christopher Allen-Shinn
Ray Baldwin
Sarah Margaret Edwards
Larry Gonzales
Camelia Hahn

3500 Hours

Art Whittaker

It's Easy Being Green

Being responsible stewards helps our earth help us. Going green doesn't have to be difficult. There are simple ways that you can improve the environment!

- Wash full loads of laundry to get the most out of water and energy use.
- Line dry when you can!
- Use unbleached coffee filters
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets!
- Plant a tree – here's why!

*A single tree can absorb close to 50 pounds of carbon dioxide and produces enough oxygen to sustain 2 adults.

*Trees absorb other pollutants as well – sulfur dioxide from coal burning plants, nitrous oxide from vehicle exhaust and particulate pollutants from burning fuel, such as diesel.

*Urban areas that are well planted with trees have up to 60 less particulate pollution.

*Trees reduce noise pollution by absorbing sound.

Excerpts from: *Easy Green Living* by Renée Loux.
Look for more Green Tips in the next Volunteer Newsletter!