



Virginia Living Museum Volunteer Views

Winter Edition

Virginia Living Museum – 524 J. Clyde Morris Blvd. Newport News, VA 23601

Dec. '10— Feb. '11

757-534-7428

From the Director

By: Shandran Thornburgh

More honors for volunteers! What you do for us is truly amazing, and we are ever grateful for your help. From Classroom Assistants, to Planetarium Ushers, Observatory, Animal Programmers, Exhibit Interpreters, Animal Care, Aquariums, Herpetology, Horticulture, Maintenance and the Gift Shop! We could not open our doors and provide the service that we do without you.

All your work has not gone unnoticed! At the annual Golden Paw dinner recently, the museum's volunteer corps were rewarded by the Board of Trustees as one of the Golden Paw recipients this year. Former Board President Joe Witt was the other honoree. He was recognized for his efforts to successfully conclude the Opportunity Fund, another amazing accomplishment. And done as a volunteer I might add! The Golden Paw honors those that have made significant contributions to the museum in the past year.

It's easy to see why our volunteer corps was honored this year. We are the fourth largest volunteer program on the Peninsula, following Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and Sentara Hospital in Williamsburg. Last year alone, our 400+ volunteers gave 40,026 1/4 hours of service in support of the museum. Tede Johnson, the recipient of the first ever AAMV Volunteer of the Year award, was chosen to represent the volunteers at this prestigious dinner and accept the award on behalf of all volunteers. But she was not alone! Cardinal Club members were also invited, as significant supporters of the museum. New this year, the Cardinal Club is made up of volunteers who have been with the museum for 20 or more years, OR have 5,000 or more hours. There were 9 "inductees" at the Volunteer Recognition dinner in October. Congratulations to Kim Becker, Jim Buckingham, Claire Hubbard, Tede Johnson, Bob Jones, Nelda Knobloch, Naida Nelson (at the time she was in Intensive Care), Larry Riddick, and Larry Sacks.

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.

All volunteers were invited to attend the dedication of a bronze Bobcat statue two days following the Volunteer Recognition dinner. This dedication ceremony commemorated the honor of receiving the Golden Paw. The festivities included a letter read from the Senators office, a few words by our Executive Director, Page Hayhurst and ended with punch and cookies. Now, there is a permanent reminder to all volunteers and the public of the deep appreciation the museum has for its volunteers. If you have not had the chance to go by the bobcat exhibit and see the statue, please include it on your next visit!

In November, our own Tede Johnson was named one of the "Ten Who Care" by WAVY TV 10. This regional awards ceremony recognized citizens from Virginia Beach to Williamsburg for their contributions to making our society more enriched with their outstanding volunteer service. Congratulations to Tede!

For more information, visit wavy.com and search for "10 Who Care" where you can read about all 10 recipients.



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.

Training and Activities Schedule

Date	Time	Activity
Dec. 8 (Wed)	7:00-9:00pm	Holiday Party
Dec. 16 (Thurs)	5:00-7:00pm	Interpreter Training Touch Tank
Dec. 24 (Fri)	Christmas Eve	(MUSEUM CLOSED)
Dec. 25 (Sat)	Christmas	(MUSEUM CLOSED)
Jan. 1 (Sat)	New Years Day	(MUSEUM CLOSED)
Jan. 4 (Tues)	6:00-7:30pm	Seminar <u>Tundra, Deserts, and Jungles-Oh My!</u>
Jan. 11(Tues)	6:00-8:30pm	Orientation
Jan. 13 (Thurs)	6:00-7:30pm	Changing Exhibit <u>Bats</u>
Jan. 24 (Mon)	6:00-9:00pm	Interpreter Training: Coastal Plain Trail VAU
Feb. 1 (Tues)	6:00-7:30pm	Seminar <u>Martian Geology</u>
Feb. 19, 20, 21		Reptile Weekend
Feb. 22 (Tues)	6:00-8:00pm	Intrepreter Training: Touch Tank
Feb. 24 (Thurs)	6:00-8:00pm	It's Showtime (How to be an Exhibit Interpreter)
Feb. 28 (Mon)	6:00-8:30pm	Orientation
March 1(Tues)	6:00-7:30pm	Seminar <u>Molding and Casting Animal Tracks</u>



Kudos

A Good Job:

- As you may know, after 175 hours of service, volunteers will earn a free pass to the museum to give to a friend. Passes are also awarded each 175 hours following, with a cap of two per calendar year. If you would prefer, you may donate your earned free pass to the "pass bank" so that someone less fortunate may visit the museum. We often have volunteers who are kind enough to do this. A BIG "Thank You" is in order for the following volunteers who did this in this past quarter: Elyse and Patrick Devereux, Lou Scarpa, and Bob Jones. A great show of teamwork!



MileStones June - August

100 Hours

Morgan Blalock
Robin Chan
Rosalie Chiaiese
Jeff Clayton Jr.
Becky Griggs
Jeanne Jasinski
Jameel Jones
Lena Jones
Betty King
Chardonnay King
Skye Moore
Natalie O'Brien
Rashad Ricks
Martin Salgado-Flores
Tyler Sanders



Brendan Scarborough
Cheyenne Smith
John Svendsen
Nick Visalden
Zac West
Emily Wolford

250 Hours

Donna Bell
Rebecca Bruhwel
Rich Burney
Jonnie Hargrove
Pam McGrath
Stuart Shelton

500 Hours

Brian Bishop
Susan Carstensen

Nora Marien
Shannon Peck

1000 Hours

Vickie Vaughan

2,000 Hours

Sheila Kerr-Jones

3500 Hours

Elaine Whittaker

4,000 Hours

Virginia Gall

4,500 Hours

Joe Domday

5,000 Hours

Kim Becker

12,500 Hours

Tede Johnson

Happy Birthday

December

DOB	Name
1	Mike McDonald
2	Art Whittaker
2	Carol Stoecker
4	Renee Napolitano
5	Frank Ruiz
5	Melody DeBerry
7	Carrie Brothers
8	Susan Murdock
11	Kayla Murchison



12	Zach Reid
16	Al Allen
16	Zach Choi
18	Diane Rubin
19	Jennifer Lu
20	Dan Toothman
21	Perry Bavera
21	Christina Proffitt
22	Belicia DeBose
23	Sarah Russ
25	Betty King
26	Tarek Barger
26	Amber Warren
27	Fred Sawyer
28	Larry Roesen

January

DOB	Name
1	Mary Best
1	Hank Scheele
1	Lindsay Harold
1	Rayshawn Brickhouse
3	Polly Goity
4	Emma Hepworth
4	Shaunee Beussink
7	Johanna Hahn
11	Zac West
18	Clyde Keller
19	Peggy Whitney
20	Tyler Sanders
21	Helen Bates
22	Quinn Kinser

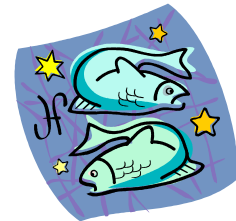


22	Sydney Clewis
23	Nancy Finn
24	Deanna Cortis
27	Melissa Wilson
28	Martin Salgado-Flores
29	Mary Lou Bains



February

DOB	Name
1	Maria Gartsman
2	Charlotte Boudreau
3	Christine Blackman
4	Jordan Conrad-Burton
4	John Doyle
5	Casey Oakley
6	Andrew Hodges
11	Kelly Kershaw
12	Cindy Foss
13	Felisa Conrad-Burton
13	Brittany Redmond
13	Loren Hepp
14	Catherine Goodson
14	Amanda Poeppelmeyer
15	John Burton
15	Amanda Durig
16	Stacie Gillen
17	Bianca Mower



19	Chris Kephart
20	Ambre Graham
22	Andrew Cohen
22	June Fabert
23	Tori Jackson
24	Jordan Small
25	Allison Popernack
26	Maia Conrad
27	Becky George

Seminars

Seminar Information

Seminars are geared towards Ages 18+

Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m. (1st Tuesday of the Month, generally)

Cost: \$5 Members; \$7 Non-Members. Active volunteers are free but you must register by calling Reservations Coordinator at 757-595-9135.

January 4, 2011

Tundra, Deserts, and Jungles – Oh My!

Betsy Wolin

Take an armchair trip to some of the world's most interesting terrestrial biomes. While we compare and contrast the climates, geography, and soils of deserts, rainforests, deciduous forests, and tundra we'll also discover fascinating and unusual adaptations that plants and animals have evolved that allow them to thrive in these diverse and often challenging habitats.

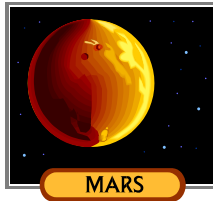


February 1, 2011

Martian Geology

John Wright

How much can you learn about a planet without actually going there? Actually, quite a lot! In this session VLM staff astronomer John Wright will discuss the history of Mars, likely places to explore and how hard or easy it might be to find life on another world. In fact, we might already have...or not!



March 1, 2011

Molding and Casting Animal Tracks

Lisa Wright

Attention nature enthusiasts, teachers and Master Naturalists. Learn how to make lasting three-dimensional records of animal tracks during this demonstration of basic molding and casting techniques. This seminar will also include an introduction to the process of making latex rubber molds.

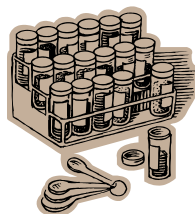


April 5, 2011

Spice Secrets: Exciting tales from your kitchen cupboard

Susan Summers

Many common spices we cook with today have been used throughout the years for a wide variety of different purposes. Did you know that in addition to flavoring food, some spices have been also used as preservatives, medicine, aphrodisiacs and even money? Discover more about the fascinating history of spices and even sample a few.



Use the 3R's-and Then Some-To Eliminate Trash

Excerpt from planetgreen.com

Here are some tips for personally moving toward a zero-waste life, adding a few R's to the usual 3 with some help from Lotus Live.

Refuse: Simply don't buy stuff that is over packaged. Many companies are working to reduce their packaging, changing from plastics to papers and cards that are recyclable, eliminating waste. Refuse to buy bottled water or coffee in paper cups when you can carry your own refillable. With food, make your own stuff from scratch instead of buying all that prepackaged stuff, you will save money and eat healthier.

Rot: Compost what is left over, turning it in into valuable nutrients.

Refill: In Ontario Canada, 88% of beer bottles are returned to the beer store, washed and refilled; just south of the border in the USA, the number drops to under 5%. But it is available if you look, and those vendors that will refill should get your business. Buy milk in refillable glass bottles and it actually tastes better.

Repair: Fix and mend things rather than replacing them. This often means buying better stuff in the first place, that will last longer, paying a little more for solid quality, but over time it will cost less.

Return: Some things, like computers, don't have that long a life span as the technologies evolve. But you can buy from manufacturers like Dell and now Apple who have developed some producer responsibility and take back what they sell for proper recycling or refurbishment.

Repurpose: If you are handy, a lot of things can be put to different uses than they were originally intended. CD cases become picture frames; Old tea cups become bangles, Fridge parts have been turned into storage. Also, you can give things a new purpose in life by selling or giving them away through sales, donations, swaps and even on eBay.



What's Going On Here?

Celebration of Life: Naida Nelson

On December 1, 2010 there was a wonderful celebration of life in honor of Naida Nelson who passed away on Nov. 20, 2010 at 83 years old. She was an amazing individual who in only 13 years accumulated over 9,500 hours. She was fully dedicated to the museum and loved to come to visit even on her days off. Almost 100 family, and friends came out to the celebration. Family members, friends, staff, and volunteers shared beloved memories. Often



the stories made the whole group laugh and chuckle. Naida made us all so happy and could make anyone smile. She will truly be missed. Her memory will live on at the museum; a place she loved and came to consider its staff and volunteers as a second family.

Changing Exhibit January 15 to May 8, 2011:

Masters of the Night: *The True Story of Bats*

Blind, blood-sucking, squeaky creatures that get tangled in your hair. Who wants to see an exhibit on BATS?! Visitors of Masters of the Night: The True Story of Bats soon find these beliefs to be myths that have held fast throughout the years. This new exhibit by Evergreen Exhibitions dispels popular misconceptions about bats, describes their ecological importance and gives visitors an appreciation of the true wonders of the bat world. Step into a gothic portal to see bat art folklore and mythic representations. Try on a huge pair of bat ears. Discover how bats use a form of sonar called echolocation to search for food. Visit a bat nursery to help a mother find her baby.

Match bats with their favorite foods. Examine life-size bat models. Also, make sure to see the companion program "Beyond the Night" in the Abbitt Planetarium.



**MASTERS OF THE
NIGHT**
The True Story of Bats