



Virginia Living Museum Volunteer Views

Spring Edition

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

March '11— May '11

757-534-7428

From the Director

By: Shandran Thornburgh

Greetings to all our wonderful volunteers this Spring! Many thanks are in order for the multitude of things that you do for us. With your help we have had several successful events lately: Wine Festival, Reptile Weekend, and most recently, “Bat Days.” These events have really brought in the crowds – Wine Festival raised \$64,800, Reptile Weekend was the biggest one ever, and Bat Days saw a total of 3,212 guests on Saturday and Sunday combined. Our volunteers really do make the museum run more smoothly, so I always like for you to know how grateful we are! We hope you are enjoying your time spent with us.



If special events are appealing to you, you may be interested in knowing about a few upcoming dates. Saturday, March 26th, the museum is holding it’s Member Appreciation Day to mark our seven year anniversary in the new building! We are also having our annual Plant Sale on April 16, 17 and 23rd. Yet another special event is Earth Day on April 16, with special activities galore, all with an eco-friendly focus! We would love to have your help if you are interested!

As you may be aware, last year, the museum applied for re-accreditation with the American Association of Museums. If you are not aware, once we are re-accredited, we will be one of only 12 institutions in the U.S. that are both Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and AAM accredited. “Why do we want to be accredited?” you may ask. It’s pretty simple – this accreditation holds us to a higher standard and makes us a leader in our industry. It is a nationally recognized seal of approval for excellence in museum operations. Further, it signifies a museum’s fulfillment of mission and obligation to its public. Having this accreditation can be a valuable tool in lobbying local and state governments for support.

While AZA focused more on the care of the animals, AAM will be looking more at the Educational side of things. There will be a committee of several museum peers from across the country that will evaluate the museum and its operations. There are two core questions they will be answering: 1) How well does the museum achieve its stated mission and goals? And 2) How well does the museum’s performance meet

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.

high standards and best practices for museums?

The site visit will happen this Spring – be on the lookout for notification. The site visit committee will look specifically at the following areas:

Public Trust & Accountability, Mission, Planning, & Assessing Achievement, Code of Ethics, Leadership & Organizational Structure, Collections Stewardship, Education & Interpretation, Financial Stability, Facilities & Risk Management (Safety)

The Interpreter Self-Evaluation is a great tool for our exhibit interpreters to prepare and be ready for the site visit committee! Additional copies of this form are on the counter, so if you have not already done one (many of you have!), please complete it after you have reflected on your volunteer performance, and place it in my mailbox.

National Volunteer Appreciation Week is coming!
April 10 – 16, 2011

This is the week we set aside each year to “spoil” our volunteers. To show our appreciation and just how much volunteers mean to us all, each department sponsors treats for a day that week, and sets up in the Volunteer Services Office. We have some wonderful things planned and hope to see you that week!



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
March 15 (Tues)	6:00-9:00pm	Interpreter Training: -WoD -Piedmont Mtns. -Living Green/Garden
March 24(Thurs)	6:00-7:30pm	Changing Exhibit: <u>Bats</u>
March 24(Thurs)	6:00-8:00pm	Intrepreter Training: -Touch Tank
April 4(Mon)	6:00-8:30pm	Orientation
April 5(Tues)	6:00-7:30pm	Seminar: <u>Spice Secrets</u> <u>Exciting Tales from your Kitchen Cupboard</u>
April 12 (Tues)	5:30-7:30pm	Interpreter Training: -Touch Tank
April 26 (Tues)	6:00-9:00pm	Interpreter Training: -Coastal Plains - Trail
April 27 (Wed)	5:30-7:30pm	It's Showtime
May 3 (Tues)	6:00-7:30pm	Seminar: <u>Coyotes Are Here!</u>
May 16 (Mon)	6:00-8:30pm	Orientation
May 19 (Thurs)	6:00-8:00pm	Interpreter Training: -Touch Tank -Living Green
May 25 (Wed)	4:00-5:00pm	Classroom Assistant
	5:30-6:30pm	Live Butterfly House
May 26 (Thurs)	5:30-6:30pm	Butterfly Maze
June 7 (Tues)	6:00-7:30pm	Seminar: <u>Extreme Life styles</u>
June 13 (Mon)	5:30-8:30pm	Interpreter Training: -Touch Tank -VAU -Pied. Mtns. -Trail -Butterfly Maze

Kudos

From the Guestbook:

- Feb. 2011: Several Bacchus patrons commented on how professional and polite the volunteers were.
- Jan. 20, 2011: The volunteers were so happy and fun. It was a great day.



A Good Job:

- All of the wonderful volunteers who came and helped out at the Bacchus Wine Festival, Reptile Weekend, and Bat Days. All the events were huge successes. They couldn't be done without your generous help and support.



Congratulations

Wendy Nelson for winning several photography awards from the *Virginia Wildlife Magazine*. Her photos are featured in the March 2011 edition. Shandran has left her copy out in the volunteer office so that anyone who is interested may take a look. Wendy's prizes and categories are:

- First Place: Scenic Seasons
- Honorable Mention: The Sporting Life
- Honorable Mention: Marvelous Mammals
- Third Place: Birds of a Feather



MileStones December 2010-February 2011

100 Hours

Bonnie Baffer
Amanda Crossett
John Curry
John Doyle
Josh Ham
Jo Hester
Kelly Kershaw
Travis Land
Jennifer Lu
Amber McCall
AJ Milheim
Larry Roesen
Frank Ruiz
Britt Sorensen



250 Hours

Chris Garrity
Amanda Ginos
Kathy Terry

500 Hours

Tony Gabriele
Johanna Hahn

750 Hours

CoCo Cary
Larry Gonzalez

1,000Hours

Luanna Elliot

1,500 Hours

Karen Berger
Pam Courtney

2,000 Hours

Leo Doyon

3500 Hours

Jan Weinert

4,500 Hours

Christine Dimock

5,500 Hours

Larry Riddick



Happy Birthday

March

DOB	Name	DOB	Name	DOB	Name
6	Maryann Vaughn	13	Shannon Peck	5	David He
7	Mary Dolores Ciraulo	13	Tatiana Sprock	6	Jane Pak
7	Donna Bell	14	Kim Becker	8	Marilyn Burney
8	Hannah Black	14	Skye Moore	8	Emili Finn
11	Chris Garrity	15	Bob Jones	9	Amanda Crossett
11	Andrea Svendsen	16	Roseann Carlson	9	Angela Roden-Reynolds
12	Joe Domday	16	Adam Newland	10	Christian Quinn
15	Penny Larson	16	Toni Oliveri	10	Lena Jones
18	Rob Peaks	16	John Hoagland	10	Christiana Hoff
18	Jennifer Hudnall	18	Rashad Ricks	11	Paula Reichardt
18	Kenny Rogers	18	Harrol Brauer IV	13	Steven Quist
24	Jan Weinert	20	Ian Bailey	14	Kelly Hayes
24	Meggie Nelson	21	Eli Francis	15	Sarah Clark
24	Stephanie Neary	21	Jonathan Richardson	17	Jonnie Hargrove
25	Mike Whitley	24	Sheila Bishop	17	Kathy Terry
28	Ryan Shepard	28	Becky Griggs	18	Brian Bishop
29	Cheyenne Smith	28	Josh Ham	18	Ashton Stoecker
30	Joe Ruckert	29	Robin Chan	18	Jamie Alexander
		30	Elizabeth Brooks	19	Larry Wade
		30	Beth Stanzione	19	Linda Forbes
		30	Robert Casey-Rutland	19	Evelyn Baumgardner
		30	Carter Casey-Rutland	20	Sydney Bishop
				20	Susan Carstensen
				22	Charleen O'Brien
				24	Ken Haggard
				25	Laurie Thornburgh
				26	Pam Camblin
				26	Leanna Cooper
				26	Chardonnay King
				28	Larry Gonzalez
				30	Rachel Freidt
				31	Bob Ciraulo



April

DOB	Name
4	Michelle Turnquist
5	Stuart Shelton
6	Melissa Quist
7	Raven Dodson
8	Brenton Hypes
9	Lyn Cote
10	Vicky Lippolis
10	Catherine Kmetz

May

DOB	Name
2	Brad Halcums
3	Jaquan Outlaw
3	Emily Wiggans
5	Thomas Gillen
5	Kevin Lu



Seminars

Seminar Information

Seminars are geared towards Ages 18+

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

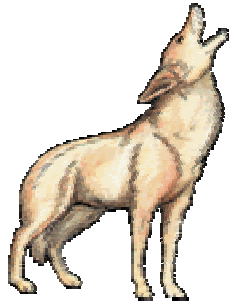
Cost: \$5 Members; \$7 Non-Members. Active volunteers are free but you must register by calling Reservations Coordinator at 757-595-9135.

May 3, 2011

Coyotes Are Here!

Bo Baker

There here and they're not going away! You have probably read recent newspaper accounts about incidents involving coyotes in Tidewater. In this seminar we'll take a closer look at coyote lifestyles to better understand some of the adaptations that allow these large canines to successfully compete with local wildlife.



June 7, 2011

Extreme Lifestyles

Dan Summers

Welcome to the world of the extremophiles, organisms that thrive in what most people would consider impossible habitats. From boiling hot springs and sulfuric acid caves to deep ocean trenches under incredible pressure these unusual organisms have adaptations that may help us in our search for alien life on other worlds.



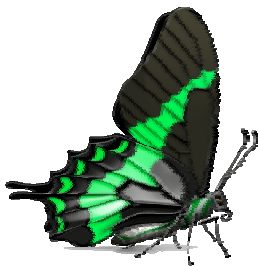
**July, 2011
No Seminar**

August 2, 2011

Butterfly Basics

Judy Molnar

Discover the characteristics of butterflies and their relatives, their life cycles and the magic of metamorphosis. Get the latest tips on butterfly gardening and learn about the common native species that are showing up in the Museum's gardens and your own backyard. (THIS IS NOT VOLUNTEER TRAINING FOR THE LIVE BUTTERFLY HOUSE.)



4 Eco-Seals You Can Trust

There are almost 100 different eco-labels in the United States—but some are doled out using mysterious criteria, while others are based on just a few factors and may be given to a product that harms the environment in other ways. Here are ones our experts say are trustworthy guides.

EcoLogo: The product is ecologically light-footed according to an independent analysis of the items "life cycle," from raw materials to its disposal as waste.

Green Seal: As with EcoLogo, a stringent life-cycle analysis shows the product does little damage to the environment..

USDA Organic: Produce was grown without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides.

Energy Star: An appliance meets the energy efficiency guidelines jointly developed by the EPA and Department of Energy.



www.prevention.com

what's Going On Here?

New Weekend Vol. Staff Member:

Claire McLeod

Claire graduated with her bachelor's in Marine Science and minor in English from Coastal Carolina University in May 2010. While there she did most of her undergraduate research with sharks. She also volunteered at the South Carolina Coastal Animal Rescue and Education Sanctuary (S.C. C.A.R.E.S.) in Georgetown, South Carolina, which houses exotic and non-releasable wildlife such as wolves, foxes, deer, wild boars, horses, parrots, and snakes, among many others. In her spare time she enjoys reading, knitting, and gaming, and has recently taken up studying martial arts.



Earth Day 2011: A Billion Acts of Green®



In recognition of the power of millions of individual actions, Earth Day 2011 will be organized around A Billion Acts of Green®. Personal, organizational and corporate pledges to live and act sustainably. At over 45 million actions to date, A Billion Acts of Green® campaign – the largest environmental service campaign in the world – is steadily building commitments by individuals, corporations, and governments in honor of Earth Day. A Billion Acts of Green® inspires and rewards both simple individual acts and larger organizational initiatives that further the goal of measurably reducing carbon emissions and supporting sustainability. The goal is to register one billion actions in advance of the Earth Summit in Rio in 2012. A Billion Acts of Green® website quantifies acts of green through an easy-to-use online registration tool. A Billion Acts of Green® demonstrates the kind of environmental impact that can be made when millions of people, corporations and organizations make commitments, both small and large, to better their environment.

<http://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2011>