

VCN NEWS



A PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA CONSERVATION NETWORK

WINTER 2002 VOL.IX NO. 3

Funding for Natural Resources

On January 8, the 2003 General Assembly will convene in Richmond. The budget will dominate the debate this session. The State faces a budget shortfall that will probably exceed two billion dollars.

Funding for natural resources has been cut again. A recent report commissioned by the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund shows just how deep the cuts are.

Natural Resource agencies, already historically underfunded, **have taken more than their share of the cut** in the current crisis. Even before the new cuts proposed on December 20:

- Natural Resources' share of the general fund budget has fallen from 1.27% in FY 2000 to .63% in FY 2004. This is a 48 percent decline.
- Total appropriations for natural resource agencies will decline 11 percent from the 2000 to 2004 budget.
- Total spending on natural resources is less than one percent of the state budget.
- **The natural resource agencies' decline is worse than any other secretarial area.**

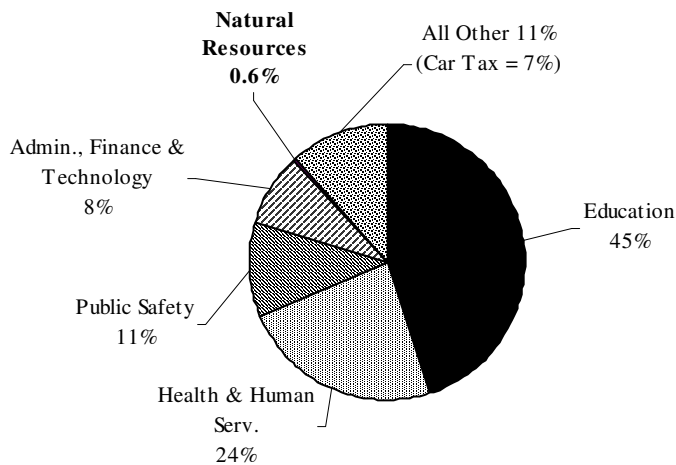
The report highlighted what these cuts mean.

Critical programs - including water quality monitoring, non-point source water pollution programs, watershed programs, and land conservation are not properly funded and long-term environmental health is placed in jeopardy.

A total of 4,318 stream miles are impaired yet DEQ only has funding to monitor 20% of all of Virginia's waterways.

Virginia is losing both farm and forest land at an alarming rate. At the current rate Virginia will develop more land in the next 25 years than in the previous 400. No money is budgeted for land conservation.

Natural Resources Share of FY 04 General Fund Budget



The report found that not only is Virginia's natural resources budget low compared to spending for other state programs, natural resource funding in Virginia is also low relative to that of other states.

The U.S. Census Bureau ranks Virginia dead last in state natural resource and parks spending. Virginia also ranks near the bottom compared to other states in the percentage of state spending to total state and local spending on the environment. Virginia spends about half the national average on natural resources and parks.

Continued on page 6

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Virginia Conservation Network Member Organizations

Virginia Conservation Network's mission is to protect the Commonwealth's air, lands and waters for the benefit of the people as guaranteed by the Virginia Constitution.

Founded as the Conservation Council of Virginia in 1969, the Network is comprised of organizations committed to protecting Virginia's natural resources. VCN is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization supported by membership dues and grants.

VCN is made up of 100 member organizations committed to protecting Virginia's natural resources. VCN facilitates greater effectiveness of all its member organizations by:

- Disseminating vital information through its newsletter, e-mail networks, website (www.vcnva.org), and issue papers, and alerts for citizen involvement.
- Coordinating legislative information during the General Assembly so that the environmental community can work together to achieve our common goals for the benefit of all Virginians.
- Tracking environmental legislation, development of regulations, and opportunities for the public to participate in the public decision-making process.
- Sponsoring the Virginia Environmental Assembly, environmental seminars and road shows so that community leaders can stay up-to-date on environmental issues important to their communities and our state.

Virginia Conservation Network
1001 East Broad St, Suite LL35 C
Richmond, VA 23219
804-644-0283
804-644-0286 (Fax)
ellenshepard@yahoo.com
www.vcnva.org

Albemarle Garden Club
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Alliance for Community Choice in Transportation
American Farmland Trust
American Lung Association of Virginia
Audubon Naturalist Society
Augusta Garden Club
Back Bay Restoration Foundation
BikeWalk Virginia
Blue Ridge Environmental Network
Boxwood Garden Club
Brunswick Garden Club
The Cabell Brand Center for International Poverty & Resource Studies
Cape Henry Audubon Society
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chesapeake Bay Foundation, York Chapter
Citizens Alliance to Save Huntley Meadows
Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore
Citizens for Fauquier County
Clarke County Citizens Council
Clean Water Action
Conservation Fund
Cowpasture River Preservation Society
Elizabeth River Project
Fairfax Audubon Society
Fauquier & Loudoun Garden Club
Friends of Bandy Field
Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront
Friends of Daniel's Run Park
Friends of the Powhatan Creek Watershed
Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah
Friends of the Rappahannock
Friends of the Rivers of Virginia
Friends of Sugarland Run
Garden Club of Fairfax
Garden Club of Norfolk
Garden Club of Virginia
George Washington's Fredericksburg Foundation
Goose Creek Association
Greater Richmond Environmental Action Trust
Hampton Roads Garden Club
Harborfront Garden Club
Hillside Garden Club
Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation
Hunting Creek Garden Club
Huntington Garden Club
James River Association
James River Garden Club
Last Great Waters Foundation
League of Conservation Voters-Education Fund
Leesburg Garden Club
Martinsville Garden Club

Mill Mountain Garden Club
The Nature Conservancy
National Wildlife Federation
Northern Neck Audubon Society
Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society
Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
Piedmont Environmental Council
Potomac Conservancy
Preservation Alliance of Virginia
Prince William Conservation Alliance
Prince William Natural Resources Council
Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection
Rappahannock Valley Garden Club
Richmond Audubon Society
Rockbridge Area Conservation Council
Scenic 340 Project
Scenic America
Scenic Virginia
Sierra Club, Battlefields Group
Sierra Club, Blue Ridge Group
Sierra Club, Chesapeake Bay Group
Sierra Club, Falls of the James
Sierra Club, Great Falls Group
Sierra Club, Mount Vernon
Sierra Club, New River Group
Sierra Club, Piedmont Group
Sierra Club, Roanoke River
Sierra Club, Thunder Ridge
Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter
Sierra Club, York River Group
Spotswood Garden Club
Southern Environmental Law Center
Southeastern Association for Virginia's Environment
Southeastern Rural Community Assistance Project
Synergy
Three Chopt Garden Club
Trust for Public Land
Tuckahoe Garden Club
UVA Recycling
Valley Conservation Council
VA Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Virginia Beach Audubon Society
Virginia Beach Garden Club
Virginia Bicycling Federation
Virginia Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Virginia Forest Watch
Virginia Housing and the Environment
Virginia League of Conservation Voters
Virginia Native Plant Society
Virginia Society of Ornithology
Virginia Trout Unlimited
Western Virginia Land Trust
Wildlife Center of Virginia
Williamsburg Land Conservancy
Williamsburg Garden Club

VCN YEAR IN REVIEW

As 2002 comes to a close, Virginia Conservation Network is now focused on an exciting 2003. In 2003 funding for natural resources, the continuing debate on sprawl and transportation reform, and water resources will be high on the agenda.

In addition to continuing its role in coordinating efforts by Virginia's conservation community on state legislation, VCN will build on the efforts of 2002 and concentrate on expanding its communications, outreach, and training at the state, regional, and local level.

Membership, Education, and Outreach Programs

Nine organizations joined VCN in 2002 (see page 4 for more details).

In April, VCN had a successful **annual meeting** in Culpeper, where member groups shared their successes and challenges.

In 2002, we continued to improve our website (www.vcnva.org) as a resource. We hope to make our website the place for individuals and organizations to go for environmental information.

In May, we launched **VCN E-News**. VCN E-News is a twice monthly email that includes current events, action alerts, and upcoming events.

This spring and summer, we sponsored four **capacity-building workshops** for local organizations in Harrisonburg, Warrenton, Roanoke, and Norfolk. The training sessions, "Environmental Campaigns that Win Victories and Strengthen Organizations", focused on techniques for planning campaigns that are effective, helps an organization set goals for strengthening their organization, and helps organizations design campaigns so that they systematically build their capacity. Representatives from 40 organizations participated in the four trainings.

In October, VCN sponsored the 2002 **Virginia Environmental Assembly (VEA)** where concerned citizens from all over the state shared up-to-date issue briefings and local and statewide strategies. Workshops focused on three main issues: water quantity, air quality, and wildlife protection. Over 50 exhibitors representing business, government, and the environment participated.

Legislative Programs

VCN lobby day and legislative reception were held on Monday, January 21, 2002. Secretary of Natural Resources Tayloe Murphy, Secretary of Transportation Whitt Clement, and Director of the Department of Environmental Quality Bob Burnley all discussed some of their priorities and challenges ahead. Following the morning briefings, participants visited their legislators. We wrapped up the afternoon with a debriefing session.

During session, we distributed legislative updates,

sent email action alerts, and maintained a website, www.vcnva.org, with up to the minute legislative information.

In November **Legislative White Papers** outlining the key issues for the 2003 General Assembly Session were prepared and posted on the VCN website.

The **December 7 Legislative Workshop** briefed members on priority issues. Delegate Viola Baskerville spoke to us about how to effectively communicate with legislators.

In November and December the League of Conservation Voters-Education Fund, VCN, and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters sponsored four **legislative forums**. The goal of the legislative forums was to build relationships with legislators and to brief legislators on natural resource funding needs, air quality, water quality, and land use and transportation issues. Twenty legislators attended these forums.

One of the most exciting VCN programs is the launch of the **Legislative Contact Teams (LCTs)**. This is a joint project between VCN and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters. We are working together to form LCTs in each legislative district across the state. Our goal is to identify 3 to 4 activists in each Senate and House district to serve as the LCT for that legislator. The project was launched in October and we already have over 80 people signed up to be on a LCT!

Go to www.vcnva.org to sign up. For additional information contact Ellen Shepard at ellenshepard@yahoo.com or 540-362-3538 or Lisa Guthrie at virlcv@aol.com or 804-225-1902 / fax: 804-225-1904.

Outreach to Policy Makers and Elected Officials

VCN submitted recommendations for a number of cabinet and department head and boards and commissions including Tayloe Murphy who was appointed Secretary of Natural Resources and Joe Maroon who was appointed to head the Department of Conservation and Recreation! Both are former VCN Board Members. VCN past president and current board member Kay Slaughter was appointed to the State Water Control Board. Other nominations we supported include Jerry McCarthy for the Commonwealth Transportation Board and Rupert Cutler for the Virginia Outdoors Foundation Board.

In 2003 we will continue to recommend good qualified people with an understanding and appreciation of natural resources for boards and commissions. Please let us know if you are interested.

In 2002, VCN carried the concerns of our member organizations to Virginia's policy makers. VCN met with Attorney General Jerry Kilgore, Secretary of Natural Resources Tayloe Murphy, Delegate Bill Howell, Commissioner of Transportation Philip Shucet, Secretary of Transportation Whitt Clement, Department of

New VCN Members in 2002

Virginia Conservation Network has over 100 member organizations. By working together we are much more successful in our efforts to preserve the past and protect the future of Virginia's Environment.

If your organization is interested in joining VCN, please contact Ellen Shepard at ellenshepard@yahoo.com or 540-362-3538.

Nine organizations joined VCN in 2002: Friends of Chesterfield Riverfront, Friends of Rockfish Watershed, George Washington's Fredericksburg Foundation, Hoffer Creek Wildlife Foundation, Prince William Conservation Alliance, Rural Nelson, Virginia Beach Garden Club, Virginia Health and Environment Project, and Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited.

Friends of Chesterfield Riverfront

The Friends mission statement is to lead, partner and unify the community for the Appomattox and James Rivers. Through the diversity in its membership and Board of Directors representation, Friends fosters positive relationships, partnerships and collaboration between a variety of individuals, businesses, industry and the county to enhance the natural resources and built environments associated with the rivers.

Contact: Janit Potter, P.O. Box 2158, Chesterfield, VA 23932, 804-796-6091, 804-744-8895, 804-796-6092 (fax), Email: riverfronts@earthlink.net, www.co.chesterfield.va.us/riverfront

Friends of Rockfish Watershed

FOR Watershed's purpose is to safeguard the health, scenic beauty and cultural heritage of the Rockfish River and its watershed which includes both surface and ground waters. FOR Watershed's methods for attaining its purpose include but are not limited to

- public education about watershed issues to instill a watershed ethic and
- scientific stream monitoring of the Rockfish River watershed

Contact: Diane Easley, P.O. Box 115, Lovingson, VA 22949, 434-296-1497, dianeeasley@forwatershed.org, Website: www.forwatershed.org

George Washington's Fredericksburg Foundation

The mission of George Washington's Fredericksburg Foundation is to enhance understanding of the lives, values and legacies of George Washington, Fielding and

Betty Washington Lewis and their family members. The Kenmore Association was formed in 1922 to save Kenmore, the home of Washington's sister. In 1996 the Association saved the 85 acre Rappahannock River-front "Ferry Farm" (boyhood home of George Washington) opposite downtown Fredericksburg, from commercial development. It also owns Accakeek Furnace, where Washington's father operated one of America's earliest iron ore mines. A comprehensive plan in 1999, resulted in re-chartering as George Washington's Fredericksburg Foundation. One theme of the Foundation's education programs is environmental conservation and stewardship.
Contact: Alma Withers, 1201 Washington Ave., Fredericksburg, VA 22401, 540-370-0732, 540-373-9678 (fax), email: withers@gwffoundation.org, www.kenmore.org

Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation Inc.

Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation is a grassroots organization incorporated in 1995 to protect from developers the last parcel of wilderness in the Hoffler Creek watershed. In 1997, HCWF entered into an agreement with the City of Portsmouth to establish, develop, and manage Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve, a 142-acre natural area on the shores of Hoffler Creek. The mission of the organization is to promote environmental stewardship through conservation, education, research, and passive recreation.

Contact: Randi Strutton, 505 Washington St., Suite 404, Portsmouth, VA 23704, 757-398-9151, randi@exis.net

Prince William Conservation Alliance

The Prince William Conservation Alliance works to enhance Prince William County's livability by preserving and restoring its environment through public education, grassroots and volunteer action, and public policy development.

Contact: Kim Hosen, 9116 Center Street, Manassas, VA 20110, 703-367-0069, khosen@pwconserve.org, www.pwconserve.org

Rural Nelson

The mission of Rural Nelson is to preserve and enhance the rural quality of life enjoyed by Nelson County residents by developing broad-based support for informed growth policies that:

- Support agricultural and forestal activities;
- Preserve our historic heritage and the integrity of our natural resource systems;

- Protect affordable housing opportunities for Nelson residents;
- Encourage commercial development and design appropriate to Nelson's rural character.

We believe that change in all these areas can take place in a way consistent with the intrinsic value of Nelson's rural character.

Contact: Al Weed or Kim Cash, P.O. Box 401, Lovingston, VA 22949, 434-263-5000, 434-263-8540 (fax), info@ruralnelson.org, www.ruralnelson.org

Virginia Beach Garden Club

The mission of the Virginia Beach Garden Club is to stimulate and encourage the knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs, to aid in the protection of native plants and birds, to encourage conservation of our natural resources, to promote civic planting and roadside historic gardens. The Virginia Beach Garden Club was organized in 1937 and joined the Garden Club of Virginia in 1953 and the Garden Club of America in 1977.

Contact: Martha Goodman, 8506 Oceanfront Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23451, 757-428-4487

Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited

We are 3,400 plus volunteers in 16 Trout Unlimited Chapters across the Commonwealth with one common goal: the conservation and enhancement of Virginia's cold water streams and fisheries. VCTU focuses its trout conservation efforts on several fronts. From local on-the-ground habitat protection to educating the next generation about the importance of clean water and cold-water fisheries. VCTU uses science as its key weapon in the fight to conserve, protect and restore Virginia's trout fisheries and their watersheds. Wherever you are in Virginia, there is a Trout Unlimited chapter nearby working to protect our cold water resources. We invite you to join us.

Why is trout conservation in Virginia so important?

Probably the most distinguishing features that separate trout species from other fishes is their need for cold, clean water and healthy ecosystems to survive. Trout species are frequently viewed as indicators of overall environmental health. Where reproducing trout populations are present generally indicates a healthy ecosystem and, in turn, the presence of other healthy populations of wildlife. Where trout have vanished, usually indicates a damaged ecosystem, and other wildlife that once shared it are likely suffering as well. In this way, trout set the standard for the overall health of an ecosystem – a standard that benefits all living things that share it, including humans.

Contact: Frank Deviney, 1204 Old Lynchburg Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903, 434-971-7683, deviney@virginia.edu, www.vctu.org

Virginia Health and Environment Project

By bringing a health perspective to environmental issues and an environmental perspective to health issues VaHEP works with concerned citizens to address pesticide and other environmental health concerns. The more we learn about the potential effects of pesticides in our daily environment the more necessary it becomes to their use. The Virginia Health & Environment Project is dedicated to promoting pesticide use reductions. Some campaign issues we are working on include: continued pressure on utility companies to provide chemical free management option for easements through private land; a healthy schools campaign to reduce pesticide use in and around schools; and assistance to communities that have discovered pesticide residues such as arsenic and lead in their soils.

VaHEP is committed not only to educating citizens about the need for a healthy environment but also working to establish local and state policies that will better protect children, and all residents from toxic exposures.

Contact: Julie Jones, P.O. Box 1434, Charlottesville, VA 22902, 434-242-6344, info@CleanVa.org,

Virginia Conservation Network is **the only statewide network of conservation**

organizations. VCN serves member organizations through:

- Citizen Lobby Days
- VCN Newsletter
- Email Alerts
- VCN Website
- Environmental Road Shows
- Virginia Environmental Assembly

Please consider a donation to VCN in the amount of \$50, \$100, \$250, or \$500.

Virginia Conservation Network,
1001 East Broad St., Suite LL35-C,
Richmond, VA 23219.

www.CleanVa.org

Potential Conservation Legislation for the 2003 Session

Continued from page 1

We need to let legislators know that the environment matters to voters.

- In June 2001, The League of Conservation Voters Education Fund polled 600 Virginia voters. 82 per cent of the respondents felt strongly that we should leave behind *a clean and healthy environment for our children and grandchildren.*
- In May of 2001, Trust for Public Lands, The Nature Conservancy, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation surveyed 750 voters. 97% of Virginia's voters believe protecting air and water quality should be a very important legislative priority.

We have a responsibility to pass on clean and healthy environment to future generations. The Virginia Constitution reads:

To the end that the people have clean air, pure water and the use and enjoyment for recreation of adequate public lands, waters and other natural resources, it shall be the policy of the Commonwealth to conserve, develop and utilize its natural resources, its public lands and its historical sites and buildings.

Further, it shall be the Commonwealth's policy to protect its atmosphere, lands and waters from pollution, impairment or destruction for the benefit, enjoyment and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth.

-Article XI, Virginia Constitution

Legislators face many difficult decisions but they need to consider that the natural resource agencies have already taken a much greater cut than other agencies.

We need to address this budget crisis today if we want to enjoy the health and economic benefits of clean air, safe water and abundant recreational resources tomorrow.

For additional details on the budget go to:
<http://www.dpb.state.va.us/budget/02-04/buddoc03/buddoc.htm>

To read the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund report go to www.vcnva.org

In addition to the budget here are other key issues before the General Assembly this Session.

Tipping Fee on Solid Waste

The tipping fee legislation which was seen as a potential source of revenue for natural resources may not be introduced this year.

Water Resources (Conservation Priority)

There is likely to be some legislation addressing a state water resources plan.

Contact:

-Patti Jackson, James River Association, 804-730-2898, pjackson@jamesriverassociation.org
-Kay Slaughter, Southern Environmental Law Center, 434-977-4090 kslaughter@selcva.org

Biosolids/Sludge (Conservation Priority)

The Commission on the Future of Virginia's Environment will be putting forward legislation to address biosolids. The legislation, sponsored by Sen. Bill Bolling, will expedite complaint procedures, grant local governments the power to enforce biosolids regulations, allow for special conditions in the Virginia Department of Health permit, establish financial assurance responsibility of applicators, initiate a certification program for applicators, and require nutrient management plans (addressing nitrogen only), prepared by state-certified planners, on all sites where biosolids are applied.

Contact:

-Jeff Corbin, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 804-780-1392, jcorbin@savethebay.org
-Kay Slaughter, Southern Environmental Law Center, 434-977-4090, kslaughter@selcva.org.

Transportation and Land Use (Conservation Priority)

Support an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance - Several legislators have expressed interest in APFO legislation that would allow localities to slow development until there is adequate public infrastructure in place. (Schools, roads, water, sewage, public safety, etc.) This would also be supported by the High Growth Coalition and certain local governments. Local authority to impose impact fees may also be introduced this session.

-Oppose any effort to erode local control of land use and development

-Support transit tax credits

-Support efforts to link transportation and land use and to shift funding from highways to transit

-Support efforts to increase freight transport by rail vs. additional highway construction and studies

-Support correlation of state agencies (such as VDOT) and local governments in planning

Contact:

-Trip Pollard or Kay Slaughter, Southern Environmental Law Center, (434) 977-4090, Fax: (434) 977-1483, Email: tpollard@selcva.org or kslaughter@selcva.org
-Jolly de Give, Piedmont Environmental Council, (540) 347-2334, Fax: (540) 349-9003, Email: jdegive@pecva.org
-Stewart Schwartz, Coalition for Smarter Growth, (202) 588-5570, Fax: (202) 588-5676, Email: email@smartergrowth.net

Air Quality

In the 2002 GA session Senator Mary Margaret Whipple introduced legislation (SB 389) that would increase state air quality monitoring by the Department of Environmental Quality. It requires DEQ to establish baseline data for cumulative impact analysis for future industry and power plants and to increase the number of ozone monitoring stations. It is unlikely that there will be any additional money for monitoring.

There are likely to be several pieces of legislation introduced that will be harmful to Virginia's air quality.

Contact: Dan Holmes. Piedmont Environmental Council, (540) 672-0141, dholmes@pecva.org

Enforcement

Legislation will likely be introduced that would allow DEQ to impose penalties unilaterally for violations of air and water quality to give DEQ the same power to impose penalties that they already have in waste management. By imposing a cap of about \$25,000, DEQ would be able to impose penalties without having to go the Attorney General's office or to court. EPA has similar powers with regard to its water program.

Tax Credits

We may need to work to preserve tax credits for land conservation, historic preservation, and enterprise zones.

Contact: Nikki Rovner The Nature Conservancy, Phone: 434/295-6106; Fax: 434/979-0370; nrovner@tnc.org

Forestry

Delegate Dillard, at the request of the Virginia Forest Watch, is introducing legislation to make Best Management Practices (BMPs) mandatory for silviculture. At this time, the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) only "recommends" that loggers use these precautions, which, if properly applied, prevent the pollution of Virginia's streams by sediment.

Contact:

Jerry Gray, Virginia Forest Watch, Phone: 276-926-4607, email: ggray@naxs.com

Legislative Contact Team Registration

Virginia Conservation Network and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters are working together to form Legislative Contact Teams (LCTs) in each legislative district across the state. We are recruiting activists who will volunteer to serve as the conservation contacts in their home districts. Training on effective lobbying techniques will be offered to all LCT participants. There will be opportunities throughout the year at regional meetings and in Richmond to meet with your Senator or Delegate.

Our goal is to identify 3 to 4 activists in each Senate and House district to serve as the LCT for that legislator. No lobby experience is needed – just a desire to influence public policy to benefit conservation. Materials will be provided and opportunities to learn how to be an effective lobbyist will be offered throughout the next year.

Conservation activists are always being asked to make phone calls or write letters to their elected officials to urge their support of or opposition to legislative proposals/ Often though activists are reluctant to take a more active, face-to-face role in citizen lobbying because they just aren't comfortable in that role. They worry about whether they understand the issues to be discussed even if they know what to speak with their legislators about. Sometimes they don't know how to navigate the protocol of making an appointment and gathering like-minded colleagues to accompany them on a visit. Legislators, however, want to hear from their constituents. They want to know that real voters in their districts stand behind the positions communicated from VALCV and other organizations.

Please be a part of this important effort to promote conservation advocacy throughout Virginia – sign up today to be on an LCT! Go to www.vcnva.org to sign up or fill out the following and return to Ellen or Lisa as soon as you can!

For additional information contact Ellen Shepard at ellenshepard@yahoo.com or 540-362-3538 or Lisa Guthrie at virlcv@aol.com or 804-225-1902 / fax: 804-225-1904.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____

**Go to www.vcnva.org
for updates during session.**

MARK YOUR

January

Wednesday, January 8

General Assembly Convenes

Saturday, January 11

Green Breakfast, Uncle Louie's Restaurant, Ward's Corner, 8:00 AM-10AM Norfolk, Virginia. Listen, Learn and Get Involved! Presentation will be about "The 2003 General Assembly and the Environment" RSVP required. Contact Christy Mills at cmills@cbf.org or 757.622.1964.

Monday, January 13 at 1:00

Richmond Budget Hearing

Richmond-General Assembly Building-House Room D in the General Assembly Building. Those wishing to speak may register no earlier than 12 noon the day of the hearing. Speakers will be taken in the order of registration. Speakers are asked to limit their comments to three minutes or less.

Wednesday, January 15

Preservation Day, Richmond

Let Virginia lawmakers know you care about historic preservation at the Preservation Alliance's Preservation Day, January 15. Then celebrate at our annual Legislative Reception that evening. Reservations Required! Contact the Alliance by email at pav@vapreservation.org or at 804-421-9800.

Thursday, January 16

Garden Club Lobby Day, contact Sallie Sebrell at 757-986-4666 or intothewoods@whro.net

Monday, January 20

VCN Lobby Day and Legislative Reception from 11:00AM-7:00PM at the John Marshall, 5th and Franklin Sts. Richmond (see next page to register)

Saturday, January 25

January's "Save the Bay Breakfast" 8:30 AM Listen, Learn and Get Involved! Presentation will be about "How You Can Work with the 2003 General Assembly to Be Part of the Effort to Protect the Environment!" RSVP required. Contact Christy Mills at cmills@cbf.org or 757.622.1964.

Saturday, January 25

Northern Virginia Transportation & Land Use Summit

Co Sponsored by:

Coalition for Smarter Growth ,Sierra Club ,Coalition for a Sensible Bridge, Audubon Naturalist Society, Options for Oakton, Piedmont Environmental Council

Virginia League of Conservation Voters and others..... Many people have asked, "What's next after the sales tax defeat?"

Join us to learn about initiatives in the region, discuss priority local issues and connect with local groups working on smart growth issues be they loss of open space, traffic, overcrowded schools, air pollution, water pollution, pedestrian safety, lack of bicycle facilities, or specific road or development projects.

Meet resource people, organized groups and concerned residents.

Who should come? Anyone interested in growth and/or transportation issues in your community. You will able to learn about the issues and ways to address them, meet great resources in your community and find out ways you can get involved.

Location: TBA

Date & Time: Saturday, January 25th (approximately 9am -1 pm)

For More Information or to sign your group up as a co-sponsor, contact Nicola Wood at:

nicola@smartergrowth.net or 202/588-5570 x 2#

February

Tuesday, February 4

General Assembly—Crossover Day

Saturday, February 22

General Assembly Adjourns

April

Wednesday, April 2 Veto Session

April 6-8

The 2003 Annual Bike Walk Conference will be at the Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel just across the river from Norfolk Waterside in Portsmouth Virginia. More than 100 representatives are expected from around the state, including planners, educators, advocates, MPOs, law enforcement, bicycling and walking clubs, and local advocates. The conference theme --"Making Connections"-- focuses on effective ways to connect the Commonwealth, both physically and conceptually, to promote better bike-ped amenities. Speakers will address state and local issues and offer national perspectives on topics ranging from education and fitness, coalition building, planning, safety, programs, case studies, legislation and more.

Registration for the event is \$95. Go to www.bikewalkvirginia.org for additional information.

CALENDARS

Give a Day for the Environment!
Citizens' Lobby Day and Legislative Reception
Sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Network

Monday, January 20 from 11:00AM-7:00PM
registration and coffee at 10:00
The John Marshall Hotel, 5th and Franklin Sts., Richmond

In order for you to see your Delegate and Senator you need to schedule an appointment in advance. This year we will be working through legislative contact teams to set up meetings with legislators. Contact Ellen Shepard at: 540-362-3538 or ellenshepard@yahoo.com or Lisa Guthrie at virlocv@aol.com or 804-225-1902 to sign up to be on a legislative contact team. Or go to www.vcnva.org.

Directions

From 64 Eastbound/ 95 Southbound:

Take Exit 75 towards 3rd St. Follow 3rd St. south six blocks to Franklin St. Turn left on Franklin St. (one way heading toward Capitol.) Drive two blocks. Turn Right on 5th Street (one way heading South.) Turn Left into Monument City Parking garage entrance. The hotel is on the corner of 5th & Franklin Streets. We are meeting in the Grand Ballroom.

From 64 Westbound/ 95 Northbound: Take the Downtown/5th Street exit. Follow 5th St. past the Coliseum. Pass Broad St. Stay on 5th Street. Cross Franklin. Turn Left into Monument City Parking garage entrance. The hotel is on the corner of 5th & Franklin Streets. We are meeting in the Grand Ballroom.

Please register for lobby day as soon as you can, so that we can do our best to coordinate this effort.

Sign me up for the VCN Legislative Day and the Legislative Reception.

_____ \$10 for Lobby Day (includes lunch)

_____ \$25 for Lobby Day and Legislative Reception (includes lunch and heavy hors d'oeuvres)

Name _____ Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Email _____ Phone () _____

My Senator is _____ My Delegate is _____

I can help coordinate the meeting with my legislators: _____

Clip and mail this form to:
Virginia Conservation Network 1001 East Broad Street, Suite LL35-C, Richmond, VA 23219

Virginia Conservation Network

1001 East Broad Street, Suite LL35-C
Richmond, VA 23219

804-644-0283
804-644-0286 FAX
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