

Virginia's Water Resources

A Tool for Teachers

Information and activities for teachers to support interdisciplinary and problem-based teaching about watersheds, water quality, stewardship, and management issues.

Jeremy M. Lloyd

Assistant Professor of
Science Education,
Longwood University

Kathleen M. Register

Executive Director, Clean
Virginia Waterways

Kevin R. Bopp

Illustrations and
graphic design



These materials have been developed through a grant from the Virginia Environmental Endowment. Through a cooperative agreement with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Environmental Education and the Virginia Department of Education, they are available to all teachers in Virginia.

DEDICATION

This curriculum packet is dedicated to Virginia's teachers who are committed to providing meaningful Bay or stream experiences to all students.

Disclaimer

No responsibility is implied or taken for anyone who sustains injuries as a result of using the materials or ideas, or performing the procedures described in this book. Adult supervision is required when students are working on science activities and projects, as well as when students are on field trips. Use proper equipment and take all safety precautions. Use extra care with chemicals, hazardous chemicals, and when around water bodies. Follow all instructions that come with field test kits.

Possessing Animals

Virginia has regulations that restrict the number of wild, nongame fish, reptiles, amphibians, or aquatic invertebrates a person may possess. Basically, you can take (capture and keep live) up to 5 of any one species of reptile or amphibian. Any more than five, you need a permit. Once in captivity for 40 days the animal may not be returned to the wild. Any animal purchased from a supply house (such as tadpoles) may never ever be released. It is recommended that no wild animal be brought into the classroom for more than a day. Instead, the school grounds can be converted into a habitat and the animals allowed to come and go as they please. Also, it is illegal to possess threatened and endangered species unless you have a special permit. The goal of these regulations is to protect the populations of nongame species. In addition, there are fishing, hunting, and trapping regulations for game species. It is important for all teachers to know the law. To learn about current regulations, call your local office of the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF), or visit the DGIF website (www.dgif.state.va.us/fishing) and select "Virginia Freshwater Fishing Regulations," and then "Nongame Fish, Reptile, Amphibian, and Aquatic Invertebrate Regulations."

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Jeremy M. Lloyd is Assistant Professor of Science Education at Longwood University. He holds a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of East Anglia in England and a Ph.D. in Education from Virginia Commonwealth University. Since 2000, Dr. Lloyd has taught a Physical Science course for pre-service elementary teachers at Longwood University. He also is responsible for elementary and secondary science teaching methods. Before coming to Longwood, Dr. Lloyd was a high school science teacher for sixteen years, including nine years in Chesterfield County, Virginia.

Kathleen M. Register is executive director of Clean Virginia Waterways, and Adjunct Instructor of Biology at Longwood University. She holds a masters degree in environmental resources and policy from George Mason University. Ms. Register is co-author of *Estuary Volunteer Monitoring: A Methods Manual* published in 2000 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water. She co-directs the Appomattox River Water Quality Monitoring Program, has served as chair of the Virginia Water Monitoring Council, and is a frequent speaker at water quality workshops and seminars.

Clean Virginia Waterways, affiliated with Longwood University's Department of Natural Sciences, is a statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the cleanliness and quality of Virginia's waterways by promoting citizen stewardship.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Kevin R. Bopp, a graphic designer from Richmond, received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Longwood University in 2003 with a concentration in graphic design. Mr. Bopp has served as an intern for Longwood University's public relations department, the Longwood Center for The Visual Arts, and Clean Virginia Waterways. Through these internships, he designed and helped produce various printed pieces such as the alumni magazine, invitations, a variety of brochures for art exhibitions, and these curriculum materials. After pursuing a graduate degree in communication design, Mr. Bopp plans a career in graphic design.

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