



News Release

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For Immediate Release

Find Out How Our Streams Connect and Sustain Us at the 11th Annual Family Stream Day

Purcellville, VA--Join us for the 11th annual Family Stream Day event on Saturday, October 13, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the Chapman DeMary Trail in Purcellville, Virginia. Family Stream Day's fun and interactive outdoor environmental education activities teach students and their parents about our Loudoun County streams and the plants and animals that these streams and streamside habitats support. Co-sponsored by the Loudoun Watershed Watch and the Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance (LEESA), Family Stream Day is held in October to pay local tribute to World Water Monitoring Day and the Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. It is the only event of its kind in Loudoun.

During this free event, students and families will enjoy interactive, hands-on activities that teach about our local watersheds, the plants and animals that live in these rich habitats, ways to test stream water quality, how we benefit from and impact our streams, and more. Kids will receive a reusable tote bag and a Family Stream Day "Passport" to have stamped at each of the stations after they participate in the activities. The stations, led by several local organizations, will be in the main outdoor classroom area of the Chapman DeMary Trail which is located behind the medical building at 205 East Hirst Road. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

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At 1:00 p.m. on the day of the event, winners of the annual Family Stream Day Poster, Poem, and Photography Contest will be announced and awarded prizes donated by the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District. The theme of this year's contest, which was open to students throughout Loudoun County, is "Celebrate Water: County Streams Connect and Sustain Us."

In addition to the outside exhibits and activities, you can walk the one-mile Chapman DeMary Trail, which runs along a portion of the Catoctin Creek and is located in what is considered to be the last stand of old forest growth in the Town of Purcellville. While you hike, you can learn about various plants, birds, butterfly waystations, riparian buffers, and more through signs and brochures developed by Loudoun Valley High School students. The Chapman DeMary Trail is a student-designed and maintained nature trail that is part of a sustainable education partnership among Loudoun Valley High School, the Nature Generation (formerly the Newton Marasco Foundation), the Piedmont Environmental Council, and the Town of Purcellville. Learn more about the Chapman DeMary Trail at www.NatGen.org.

Family Stream Day will be held rain or shine with activities moved inside Loudoun Valley High School in the event of inclement weather. For more information about Family Stream Day and the annual Poster, Poem, Photography and Essay Contest, visit www.loudounwatershedwatch.org.

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Background Information

About Family Stream Day

This annual event tips our local hat to World Water Monitoring Day (September 18) and commemorates 38 years of the Clean Water Act and watershed awareness. It is being planned and organized by several County organizations including: Loudoun Watershed Watch, Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance, Loudoun County Department of General Services, Loudoun Water, Loudoun County Department of Building & Development, Piedmont Environmental Council, Audubon Naturalist Society, Loudoun County Master Gardeners, Claude Moore Park, the Nature Generation (formerly the Newton Marasco Foundation), and many more.

About Loudoun Watershed Watch

Formed in 2000, Loudoun Watershed Watch's (LWW) primary goal is to monitor and protect water resources in Loudoun County by raising local students' and others' awareness of Loudoun's water resources and engage them in meaningful, hands-on water science activities. LWW has been working in three areas: compiling and examining existing water quality data; designing a comprehensive surface water monitoring program covering all significant streams in the county; and implementing a public outreach program to raise citizen awareness and involvement in local water quality. LWW hopes its reports and initiatives will encourage citizens and elected officials to take actions that support environmental stewardship that benefits our local waters. For more information, or to find out how you can get involved with Loudoun Watershed Watch, go to www.loudounwatershedwatch.org.

About the Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance

The Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance (LESA) was formed in 2007 as a voluntary coalition of individuals from Loudoun non-profits, schools, governments and corporations who shared a desire to promote environmental awareness and learning through resource sharing, environmental education, and offering meaningful outdoor experiences and stewardship projects in Loudoun. LESA is a neutral and objective source of information related to environmental opportunities in Loudoun County and enthusiastically supports the 'No Child/No Family Left Inside' initiatives started by noted author and outdoor educator, Richard Louv. LESA members provide programs, sites, and learning resources for children and adults that encourage family exploration and appreciation of the natural wonders that lie within Loudoun County and adjacent areas. For more information, or to find out how you can get involved with the Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance, go to www.loudounnature.org.