



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Robert F. McDonnell  
Governor

September 12, 2012

Dear Fellow Virginians:

I am honored to be launching the 2012 Stewardship Virginia fall campaign to run September 1 through October 31, 2012. Stewardship Virginia is a campaign to encourage volunteers to participate in a specific group of tangible projects that will contribute to conserving Virginia's landscapes, improving water quality, providing for improved recreational opportunities, and enhancing fisheries and wildlife.

Citizens, businesses and service groups across the Commonwealth are encouraged to become involved by adopting streams, planting buffers, improving wildlife habitat, and participating in educational and recreational programs.

Virginia's natural resource agencies and others will participate in these efforts, and I will thank participants with personal certificates of appreciation. Given your commitment to wise stewardship, I am asking you to identify and undertake one or more projects and to register your event or activity with Stewardship Virginia so we can recognize your contribution to improving the environment. Or, if you prefer, volunteer for one of the projects sponsored by our natural resource agencies. You can find a list of them at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/stewardship](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/stewardship).

Virginia's landscapes and waterways are important for their ecological value, scenic beauty and recreational opportunities. If you or your organization would like to participate in Stewardship Virginia, complete the attached registration form and mail or fax it to the address listed. You can also register your event on-line at the above website.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is once again taking a leadership role in this campaign. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Bonnie Phillips with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation at (804) 786-5056 or toll free at 1-877-42WATER.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert F. McDonnell".

Robert F. McDonnell

**RECEIVED**

OCT 01 2012

11:00 AM

Attachment

Patrick Henry Building • 1111 East Broad Street • Richmond, Virginia 23219  
(804) 786-2211 • TTY (800) 828-1120  
[www.governor.virginia.gov](http://www.governor.virginia.gov)

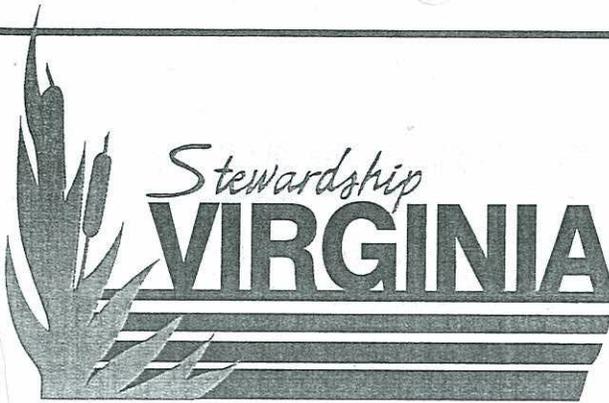
Attachment 14-A

## Stewardship Virginia

April 1 - May 31

September 1 - October 31

*Building a Better Outdoors -  
Today, Tomorrow... Every Day*



Stewardship Virginia is a statewide initiative held twice annually to help citizens with projects that enhance and conserve Virginia's natural and cultural resources. Its focus is on projects that:

- Enhance water quality.
- Control invasive species.
- Improve recreational resources.
- Preserve historic and cultural resources.
- Conserve natural heritage resources.
- Educate people about recreational, historical, cultural, wildlife, forest and water resources.
- Improve wildlife habitat and tree cover.

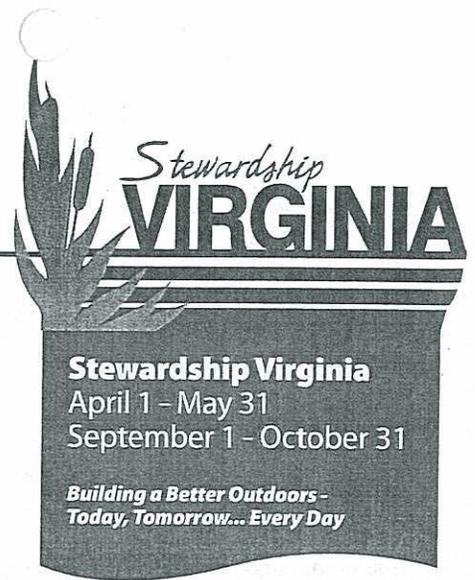
### Interested? Then get involved!

Get the word out about Stewardship Virginia by mentioning it in your newsletter, posting fliers on bulletin boards or promoting it with paychecks and organizational mailings. Businesses can grant employees time off to help with an event. Business can also contribute directly to the campaign to help defray the costs of promotional material.

### Stewardship Virginia ... as simple as 1, 2, 3

1. Plan and conduct a volunteer project or event or join an existing one. Our resource guide makes it easy to get great ideas about projects and where to go to get started. Come up with your own projects or call the project coordinator for ideas and guidance.
2. Complete a registration form and send it in. Your event will be added to our website, ensuring greater exposure.
3. Give volunteers a big "thank you" by handing out certificates signed by Gov. Bob McDonnell. These will be sent to you after receiving your registration.

For more information on participation or contributing to Stewardship Virginia, call toll-free 1-877-42-WATER. In Richmond call 804-786-5056 or email: [bonnie.phillips@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:bonnie.phillips@dcr.virginia.gov).



entangled in discarded fishing line, and many fish die in old nets drifting free with the tides. Some trash sinks and is eventually covered by sediment, but plastics do not disintegrate and can float or remain suspended in the water. Thus a single piece of plastic litter might be a problem for hundreds of years. It's up to each of us to keep Virginia's rivers, streams, lakes and bays clean. Help remove litter in and along Virginia's waterways and roadways by supporting or organizing a local cleanup project. Anti-litter activities help local businesses, civic groups, watershed associations, churches, schools, scouts and others step into stewardship. Here are some organizations that can help:



- Adopt a Stream,  
[www.dcr.virginia.gov/stormwater\\_management/adopt.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/stormwater_management/adopt.shtml)
- Adopt a Highway,  
[www.virginiadot.org/programs/prog-aah-default.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/prog-aah-default.asp)
- International Coastal Cleanup,  
[www.oceanconservancy.org/icc](http://www.oceanconservancy.org/icc)

### Invasive Species

Get rid of "the weeds." Curb the attack of invasive exotic plant species on our landscape. Learn which ones live nearby and what you can do to stop them from spreading. Getting rid of "the weeds" can be a great project for landowners, youth groups, conservation organizations and others. Here are ways to get started.

- *Citizen's Guide for the Control of Invasive Plants in Wetland and Riparian Areas* is available at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's website.
- Visit [www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural\\_heritage/invspinfo.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspinfo.shtml) for a list of the state's invasive species and management information.

### Improve Recreational Resources

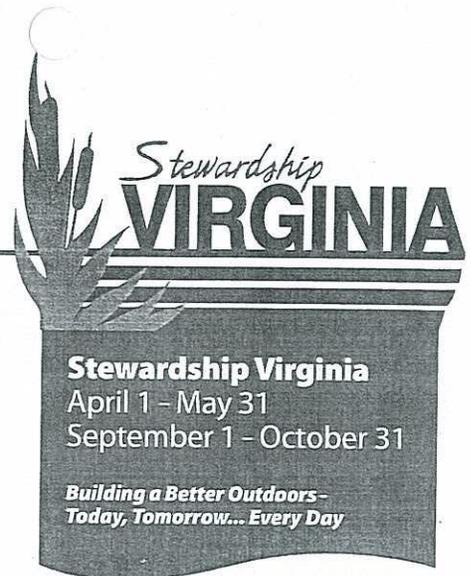
Trail projects - Trails offer transportation alternatives, connect communities, parks and neighborhoods, and provide serene places for families to get away from traffic, noise and pollution. Trails provide a valuable wilderness experience and teach children the importance of natural resources conservation. Whether it's hiking, biking or horseback riding, trails are great places to enjoy the outdoors. For information on trail building and maintenance opportunities, visit DCR's website at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/volnteer.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/volnteer.shtml).

### Preserve Historic and Cultural Resources

Virginians enjoy a wealth of history. Learn and share interesting facts while working on a project. Conduct a cultural heritage project such as a collection of oral histories. Volunteer to help spruce up a historic house or museum or help record an archaeological site. For information on ways to get involved in historic preservation and archeology, visit [www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov).

For educational resources, including exhibits, teaching kits, and lesson plans, visit [www.dhr.virginia.gov/educ/edu1.htm](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/educ/edu1.htm).

# REGISTER AN EVENT



Event date(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Description of event \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Location of event \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated hours worked \_\_\_\_\_

How many certificates do you need? \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address to send certificates \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is this event open to the public?     Yes     No

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know if you want more information on:

- Other volunteer opportunities.
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation news.

Fax to: 804-371-0315 or send to:  
**Stewardship Virginia Campaign**  
203 Governor Street, Room 406  
Richmond, VA 23219