

Join a Group: Get Access to Useful Info, Increase Your Voice and Make Every Day Earth Day

If you have a passion for the environment, love the outdoors, forests, mountains, beaches, parks, wildlife, camping, clean air and clean water but wonder what you can do to help keep what we have and make it a bit better, consider joining one of the many environmental organizations available in our country. Yes, most of them require dues for membership, love donations, and need volunteers for cleanups and other physical activities, but in return, you will have access to a lot of useful knowledge, meet like-minded people who share your love and concerns for nature, and you will make a valuable contribution to our stewardship of the natural world.

Many of the organizations are national with state chapters and local groups. Contact information on five of the environmental organizations is provided below. If you are active in an environmental organization and would like to share your experiences with Jefferson Lab's Environmental Protection Committee, contact Tina Johnson at ext. 7611.

The **Sierra Club** web site is www.sierraclub.org. To reach the Virginia chapter, check <http://vasierraclub.org>. Within the Virginia chapter, there are groups based on geography, and the state web site lists specific needs for volunteers to help with special events. Sierra Club, like many organizations, has a newsletter, is on Facebook, and has Twitter and blog accounts.

The **National Wildlife Federation** web site is www.nwf.org, and it has two Virginia affiliates:
-- Virginia Conservation Network at www.vcnva.org, and
-- Chesapeake Mid-Atlantic at www.nwf.org/en/Regional-Centers/Chesapeake-Mid-Atlantic.aspx

The **National Resources Defense Council** web site is www.nrdc.org. This organization has 1.3 million members, but apparently does not have state-wide and local clubs. It does have some regional offices for employees, and the nearest one is in Washington, D.C.

The **Virginia Native Plant Society** website is www.vnps.org. This organization sponsors field trips and seminars and has an extensive list of other organizations on its Links page, including some that are species specific, such as organizations focused on butterflies or chestnuts.

The **Chesapeake Bay Foundation** website is www.cbf.org. This organization has an events calendar that shows a lot of activity nearly every day. There is a separate section on the web site for the member states. CBF has a newsletter, and there is a Hampton Roads e-newsletter on the website.

There are hundreds of reputable environmental organizations. Why not celebrate Earth Day, April 22, by joining an organization and getting involved in their efforts to improve our environment? Virginian-Pilot correspondent Clif Gustafson lists events by municipality in a story titled "Give Your Planet Some Earth Day Love" posted at HamptonRoads.com at:
<http://hamptonroads.com/2011/04/give-your-planet-some-earth-day-love>

Sincerely,

Your JLab Environmental Program staff