



Featured Site:

Meadowood Recreation Management Area

Meadowood Recreational Management Area located on the Mason Neck peninsula in Fairfax County, Virginia has a history not just in wildlife but also in our American history. The 800-acre Mason Neck peninsula, approximately 18 miles south of Washington D.C. is also the site of Gunston Hall. This is the historic home of George Mason IV, author of the Virginia Bill of Rights.

On October 18, 2001 the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States acquired the 800 acres of the Meadowood SMRA with plans to manage it to provide open space for recreation, environmental education, and wild horse and burro interpretation.

The Meadowood Recreation Management Area works in partnership with Freedom High School, Rippon Middle School, Gunston Elementary School, and Live and Learn Homeschool to provide students and teachers with hands-on environmental education in a natural setting.

"It is perfect for outdoor environmental lessons due to the variety of natural habitat types within walking distance of one another including ponds, meadow, vernal pool, lowland forest and upland forest within a large urban landscape," states Theresa Jefferson, Environmental Education Specialist at Meadowood.



Volunteers at Meadowood on National Public Lands Day, September 2005.

They host a variety of programs such as Bird Identification, Tree and Leaf Identification, Pathways to Fishing, Habitat Hikes, Invasive Weed activity kits and Clean-Up Days. The variety of plants and animals allows for numerous field experiences.

For more information, please contact Theresa_Jefferson@es.blm.gov or visit the Hands on the Land website, www.handsontheland.org.



Students from Freedom High School and volunteers working on the WoodThrush trailhead at Meadowood on National Public Lands Day, September 2005.

*Nature
Wonder, Amazement
All things connected,
Earth.
By: Alyssa*

Member News

Be sure to visit the "Bulletin" section at www.handsontheland.org for updated news from Hands on the Land members!

Please contact Ellen Reid, ereid@keystone.org if you'd like to share your site's news in the newsletter.

Web Corner

Posting Student Work

It's easy to post student work to the Hands on the Land webpage. You can post artwork, essays, poetry or photos. Follow these easy steps:

1. On the Hands on the Land home page click on 'Admin Hub'.
2. Log on using your email address and assigned password. If you do not have a password, please contact the webmaster, Dave Zelenka at davez@interactive-earth.com.
3. Under 'Contributions' click 'post' student *Artwork and Photography* or *Poetry and Essays*.
4. Fill in the boxes with the information and click 'post'.

NOTE: If you are posting a picture in jpeg format, it must be smaller than 70KB.

Posting student work is a great way to share your site's educational programming. Students love to have a place to show the results of their hard work, too!

*Peck, peck, goes the woodpecker looking
for bugs*

*His red hat looks so funny and he looks
like he has a tux*

*Peck, peck, goes the woodpecker making
holes*

I hear his silly calls and see him fly off

By: Krista Fink, Age 12



It would be fun living at the Sand Dunes. I'm a sunflower. When it's morning I wake up and drink some water. I start freezing because it's cold in the morning. When it's night I sleep. Then I get water because it's cooler at night. Tomorrow in the afternoon people come. Then they pull off my leaves. Next they step on me! Finally they pull my leaves off. It is only fun living here when people take care of the sunflowers.

Bianca, Sargent Elementary

Upcoming Events

NSTA National Convention, April 6-9 2006 Anaheim, California

Partners in Resource Education (PRE) will sponsor three workshops at the National Science Teachers Association convention. We hope to see you there!

April 6: Living with Fire, 7:30-9am, Room 207A, Convention Center

April 8: Energy and our Public Lands, 10-11:30am, Room 204A, Convention Center

April 8: Silent Invaders, 12 noon-1:30 pm, Room 204A, Convention Center

Participants will receive materials to assist in meeting learning standards at these 90-minute workshops. For more information about the national NSTA convention, please visit www.nsta.org.