



# BACK BAY BREEZE

*Back Bay...it's worth saving!*

April, 2010

## April 7th Meeting



Wednesday, April 7th, the Back Bay Restoration Foundation **General Membership Meeting** will be held at the ABC EEC, 3022 Newbridge Road. Join us for a **light dinner and door prizes** at 7 p.m. followed by a presentation and discussion at 7:30. Call 721-7666 for directions.

The evening's speaker will be **Frank Walker of Tidewater Beekeepers**. He will give a brief talk about the role bees play in agriculture and the environment, show a 15 minute movie about the secret lives of honey bees, and present a demonstration beehive to explain the inner workings of the hive. Tidewater Beekeepers is the largest local beekeeper's organization in Virginia and is dedicated to educating the general public about honeybees and the benefits they provide to our local community.

**Bring your honey or just bring yourself, but bee sure to bee here on Wednesday, April 7th!**

**Come hungry! Leave happy and educated!**



### *Inside:*

- ~ Hazards to water quality in Back Bay
- ~ Back Bay Business
- ~ Forum wrap-up
- ~ Family fun—Go Plant a Tree
- ~ VA Native Spring plant sale
- ~ Spring tram schedule
- ~ False Cape State Park events

*And more...*

If you currently receive a paper copy of the Breeze, please consider switching to e-mail letters. Send your request to [bbrf@verizon.net](mailto:bbrf@verizon.net)

Don't forget to check us out on Facebook and Twitter!!

# 25th Annual Flyway Feast

**Save the Date ~ Saturday, June 26, 2010**

Surprises galore will be in store along with a special edition t-shirt and much, much more! Tickets \$50 for adults and \$25 for children.

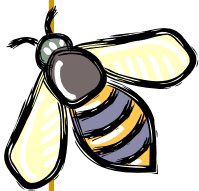
Stay tuned to the website and the *Back Bay Breeze* for details!

## Springtime is Yard Work Time



Spring brings thoughts of flowers, strawberries, butterflies...and yard work. Lots of it. This time of year people routinely don their gardening gloves, rev up their mowers and get to work prettying up their yards, bushes and trees. Unfortunately this is also when pesticide (and fertilizer) usage hits annual highs. Before heading to Home Depot to stock up, here are a few things you might want to know. Runoff from impervious surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks and compacted soil of neatly groomed lawns accelerates the rate at which these toxins wash into the streams and ditches and eventually into Back Bay. Pesticides including insecticides, herbicides and fungicides likewise wash into the watershed and have the potential to harm the little critters that live in the bay and the larger wildlife that feed upon them. Consider some of these natural remedies—they are safer for you and your family too!

- ~Homebrew insecticides (garlic, hot pepper, soap, tobacco)
- ~Mechanical insect control (traps, hand-picking, or Diatomaceous Earth)
- ~Biological insect control (ladybugs, praying mantis, nematodes, backyard birds)
- ~Plant insect deterrents (basil, garlic, chives, geranium)



- The March e-letter contained an article about fertilizer use. As a reminder, the recommended time to lay down the nitrogen is in the fall—not spring!
- Often insecticides also pose a threat to pollinators such as bees. Many used on farms and backyard gardens are “broad-spectrum,” meaning they may indiscriminately harm non-target beneficial species too.

For more information, see: <http://www.basic-info-4-organic-fertilizers.com/>

## **Doggy Doo...Doggy EWW!!**

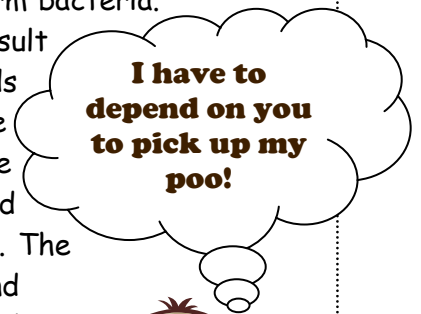
The presence of pet waste in stormwater runoff has a number of implications for the water quality of Back Bay with perhaps the greatest impact from fecal coliform bacteria.

This bacteria can pose health risks to humans and other animals and result in the spread of disease. Recent EPA estimates indicate for watersheds of up to twenty-square miles draining to small coastal bays, two to three days of droppings from a population of only 100 dogs would contribute enough bacteria and nutrients to temporarily close a bay to swimming and shellfishing. Pet waste can also be a factor in eutrophication of lakes. The release of nutrients from the decay of pet waste promotes weed and algae growth, limiting light penetration and the growth of submerged aquatic vegetation. This can reduce oxygen levels in the water, affecting fish and other aquatic organisms.

Aside from all this, poo smells bad, looks bad, attracts disease vectors (flies), and is disgusting to step in.

**To quote our friends at Lynnhaven River Now...**

**Scoop the Poop!**

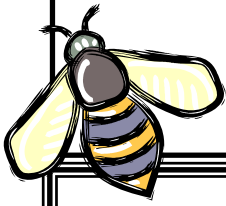


## ~BBRF Business & Volunteer Opportunities~

~The next **New Bridge Road Cleanup** is scheduled for **April 24, 2010**. Meet at 2949 New Bridge Road at 8am. Thank you to all our past volunteers who've spent the *last year* keeping the Back Bay watershed clean - one beer can at a time.

~The **25th Annual Flyway Feast** will be held on **June 26, 2010!** Please consider donating your time as a volunteer—we can never have too many of those—or perhaps contribute an item to the live or silent auction or to the many, many items we like to raffle at the end of the day!

~I have several extra CD's of the 2010 Forum presentations. They will be available at future meetings on the front table.



Stay tuned to your e-mail for updates and reminders regarding these and other events. Please email [bbrf@verizon.net](mailto:bbrf@verizon.net) for more information, to sign up for any of these events or to ensure I have your most recent/correct email address.

### **New Memberships and Renewals** **Thank you to the following individuals for supporting BBRF!**

**Swan:** Gentry Childress  
**Family:** Jeff Brooks, Bill Flemming  
**Individual:** Castle Craddock



## The 2010 Forum by the numbers

**110** interested friends and supporters of the watershed attended the Forum held March 17, 2010

**14** volunteers and BBRF Board Members filled water pitchers, hauled coolers, set up and cleaned up the room, and much more. My sincerest thanks to Louise Brandwein, Diane Staples, Sara Garver, and Spooky Gilbert for volunteering their time.

**10** stimulating speakers presented information ranging from local agriculture practices to fish and fowl populations in the watershed

**9** display booths were packed with free pencils, honey and all kinds of educational goodies from our local non-profit partners

**4** sponsors who made the day possible—financially speaking. Thanks go to **NOAA & CZMP for the grant monies and Virginia Dominion Power & Stihl for additional sponsorships**

**2** exciting presentations. One from Representative Barry Knight to Vickie Shufer recognizing her recent selection as BBRF Conservationist of the Year and one from HRSD rep, Norm LeBlanc to BBRF in the form of our NEW water quality testing meter courtesy of an HRSD grant!

That all adds up to **ONE GREAT DAY** had by all! See you next year!  
Thank you to everyone who played a part in the day's success.



**Virginia Coastal Zone**  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

# Family Fun - Go Plant a Tree

April 30th is Arbor Day! Grab the kids, a shovel and a Virginia Native tree and join in this nationwide effort!

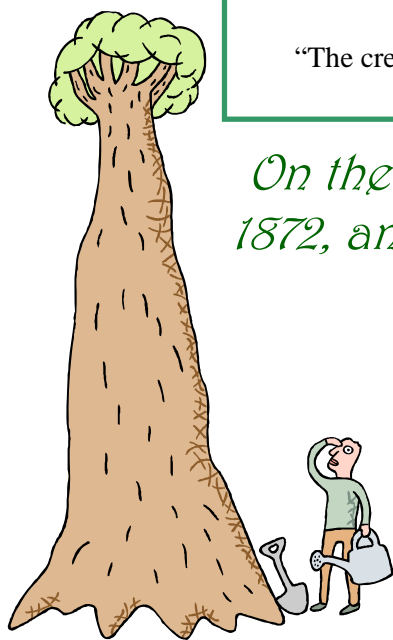
Get a list of VA Native Trees, a tree identification guide or order your own tree seedlings from [www.dof.virginia.gov/trees/index.shtml](http://www.dof.virginia.gov/trees/index.shtml)



“Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.” ~**Warren Buffett**  
“What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another.” ~**Mahatma Gandhi**  
“The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.” ~**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

TREES CAN ADD VALUE TO YOUR HOME, HELP COOL YOUR HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD, BREAK THE COLD WINDS TO LOWER YOUR HEATING COSTS, AND PROVIDE FOOD & HOMES FOR WILDLIFE.

*On the first Arbor Day, April 10, 1872, an estimated 1,000,000 trees were planted.*

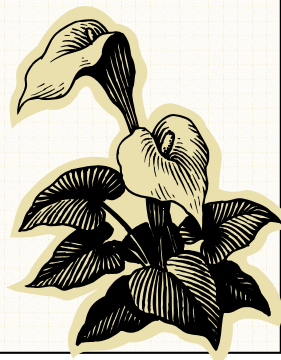


Join nearly a million members who plant and care for trees by becoming a member of The Arbor Day Foundation. Members receive The Tree Book, with planting and care information, Arbor Day bimonthly newsletter, membership card, and discounts on more than 100 varieties of trees. New members also receive 10 free trees. [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

Spring also means its time to buy and plant Virginia Natives!

The 18th annual Gathering of the Guilds will be held on Saturday, April 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the historic Francis Land House in Virginia Beach.

Guild members from all over Hampton Roads, including BBRF's partner group Back Bay Wildfowl Guild, will share information and demonstrate their specialties to the public. The Virginia Native Plant Society will hold their annual plant sale in conjunction with the Gathering of the Guilds. The sale will be located on the front lawn of the Francis Land House located at 3131 Virginia Beach Boulevard in Virginia Beach. Perennials, shrubs, small trees and much more will be for sale. Call 385-5100 for additional information.



# False Cape State Park Events

## Wilderness Survival Skills

Develop essential survival skills on this journey through Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge to False Cape State Park. Find out which plants are fiber plants and how to use them to make rope, how to find shelter from the cold and wind, which plants can provide food and how to start a fire without matches.

**Date:** Saturday, April 3, 1-5:00 pm **Cost:** \$10.00/person

## Back Bay Kayak Paddle

Explore Back Bay by kayak, while looking to the sky for the return of migrating birds from their southern winter-feeding grounds. Kayaks and equipment are provided - no paddling experience is necessary. **Date:** Sundays, April 4 & 11, 3-6:00 pm **Cost:** \$16/person

**\*\*For above two events: Meet at Little Island City Park. Reservations required; call 426-7128**

## Coastal Plant Uses

Find out how coastal plants were used by American Indians for fiber, food, and other crafts and the role they play today. The program will begin at Barbour's Hill at the Visitor Center/Contact Station at 10:00 am and is open to the public, including campers, hikers, bikers and tram guests. **Note:** Guests may arrive by tram (standard tram fees apply) which departs from Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center at 9:00 am and returns at 1:00 pm. **Date:** Saturday, April 3, 10am-12:00pm

## Welcome to Wash Woods History Tour

Take a scenic tram ride through Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park to the site of the historic Wash Woods community in what is now False Cape State Park. Hike the 1-mile (round trip) nature trail to the church and cemetery site where the steeple and gravestones remain. Guests meet the tram at the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center at 9:00 am and return at 1:00 pm. **Date:** Sundays, April 4 & April 11, 9 am-1:00 pm **Cost:** \$8.00 for adults; \$6.00 for children under 12 and adults over 62, under 3 is free.

## Shell and Tell

Stroll down the beach looking for seashells and other beach artifacts. Find out what animal lived inside the shell and its role in the food chain. The program will begin at Barbour's Hill at the Visitor Center/Contact Station at 10:00 am and is open to the public, including campers, hikers, bikers and tram guests. **Note:** Guests may arrive by tram (standard tram fees apply) which departs from Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center at 9:00 am and returns at 1:00 pm. **Date:** Saturday, April 10, 10am-12:00pm

## So you want to drive the tram?

**BBRF is always looking for a few good men and women who love people, the outdoors and driving a sweet ride through Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park.**

**Email [bbrf@verizon.net](mailto:bbrf@verizon.net) for more information or to sign up.**



## ~Spring Tram Schedule~

Starting April 2 through Memorial Day, the tram will commence its Spring Schedule departing the BBNWR parking lot Friday through Sunday at 9:00 AM and returning at 1:00 PM. Reservations are not taken. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Prices remain \$8 adults, \$6 seniors over 62 & children under 12, Under 3 - free.



## Operation Nestwatch: Your assignment, if you choose to accept it...

Anyone can monitor nests - it's a rewarding way to spend time outdoors and participate in science.

Grab the kids and grandkids and a pair of binoculars and keep your eyes open for nesting activity in your neighborhood.

NestWatch is a continent-wide citizen-science project and nest-monitoring database of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, funded by the National Science Foundation and developed in collaboration with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center.

"Citizen scientists" submit their nest records to Cornell's online database where observations are compiled with those of other participants in an effort to better understand and manage the impacts of environmental change on bird populations.

For more information visit <http://watch.birds.cornell.edu/nest/home/index>



### **BBRF** **Board of Directors**

Todd Barnes – President  
Richard Whittemore –V. President  
Nils Bahringer –Treasurer  
George Walsh Ren Fortier  
Noah Hill Sean Priest  
Tom Piatt Sallie Kerr  
Will Gilbert Chris Stankus  
Charlie Ellin Norm LeBlanc  
Charlie Hurd  
Executive Director - Susan Wenzel

Back Bay Restoration Foundation is a non-profit corporation comprised of concerned citizens committed to the restoration, preservation, and enhancement of Back Bay, its watershed, immediate tributaries, and adjacent environs. The Back Bay Restoration Foundation Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Back Bay Restoration Foundation. © 2003 Back Bay Restoration Foundation

### ***Clip and Save***

***April 2: Tram Spring Schedule Starts***

***April 4: VA Native Plant Sale***

***April 7: Membership meeting: Tidewater Beekeepers***

***April 22: Earth Day***

***April 24: New Bridge Road Cleanup***

***April 30: Arbor Day***

***June 26: 25th Annual Flyway Feast***