

VMNH Board of Trustees Education and Public Programs Committee

May 13, 2021, 3:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting

- Welcome and introductions
- Education Updates-
 - Quarterly updates- (see table below)
 - At-the Museum highlights: Saturday Education Activity Tables for visitor interaction (coincide with Museum Minute videos on social media)
 - Outreach highlights – Waynesboro Drive Thru Treasures From the Vault event (May)
 - Distance Learning - Virtual programming (public/private schools, homeschool, afterschool programs)
 - Collaboration with B.F. Yancey Community Center, Albemarle County (April)
 - Teacher professional development project update
 - Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) Virtual Conference (February)
- Upcoming:
 - 2021 Summer Camps – 4 camps (2 in June, 2 in July) for ages 6-8 and 9-11. Maximum number of participants: 10 per camp. COVID Guidelines strictly enforced
- Grant Updates:
 - Boxley Grant for Virtual Programming (\$10,000 total - \$4,000 towards scholarships March 2021 through December 2021)
 - Hooker Furnishings (\$2,500 total - \$1,500 towards scholarships March 2021 through April 2022)
- Exhibit Subcommittee –
 - AR Topography Interactive table in *Wild Watersheds* exhibit
 - Stream Interactive in *Wild Watersheds* exhibit

No public comments will be taken at this meeting

DEPP Quarterly Numbers

	Outreach (Martinsville, Central, South Central, Eastern)		At-the-Museum		Distance Learning	
MONTH	PROGRAMS	SERVED	PROGRAMS	SERVED	PROGRAMS	SERVED
January 2021	0	0	2	46	6	33
February 2021	0	0	2	48	10	146
March 2021	0	0	2	40	16	488
	0	0	6	134	32	667

	Outreach (Martinsville, Central, South Central, Eastern)		At-the-Museum		Distance Learning	
MONTH	PROGRAMS	SERVED	PROGRAMS	SERVED	PROGRAMS	SERVED
January 2020	27	589	26	1627	0	0
February 2020	29	551	28	535	0	0
March 2020	17	410	14	316	0	0

	73	1550	98	2478	0	0
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NOTES:

January 2020: Ice Age Festival Student Day and Public event

Mid March: COVID shutdowns

VMNH Board of Trustees Education and Public Programs Committee Minutes

Friday, February 12, 2021 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Board Members Present: Cord Cothren (Chair), Faye Cooper, Joan Montgomery (VMNH Foundation Representative), Siri Russell and Nathan Sanford

Board Members Absent: Makunda Abdul-Mbacke

Staff Members Present: Christy Deatherage and Zach Ryder

- Welcome – members briefly introduced themselves
- Review of January meeting minutes. Noted that a request to the executive committee was made for an edit to the November full board meeting minutes (Education Committee section) to reflect, “Organizations could use CARES Act funds to cover VMNH distance learning program fees.”
- Education Updates – Christy shared images of recent education programs.
 - Second quarter numbers were reviewed (last page) and compared with 2019 second quarter numbers (last page).
- At the Museum highlights-
 - The Education Department continues to provide exhibit activity tables for visitor interaction during public operating hours
- Distance Learning (Virtual) Highlights-
 - The committee discussed the makeup of the distance learning audiences- homeschool families, public/private schools, and various community partners (such as afterschool programs).
 - Virtual programming with homeschool families continues twice monthly (first and third Wednesday) with three separate zoom sessions focused per grade/age levels (6-8 year olds, 9-11 year olds, and ages 12 and up).
 - We have seen an increase in requested information related to virtual programming as well as booking programs with schools and other organizations.

- Communication has been established through board member contact for potential virtual programming in the Charlottesville area (through B.F. Yancey School Community Center). A zoom meeting is scheduled in the next week to discuss details.
- Online content-
 - Continuation of the teacher professional development videos with curator content with spring anticipated completion. Videos will be available via VMNH YouTube page.
 - Continuation of the Museum Minute video series on Facebook. Each Friday, Education staff focus on a particular fossil or specimen on display for a 60-second informative clip.
 - A variety of other videos has been added to the website or social media such as experiments that can be conducted at home.
 - VMNH has created a microscope loan program in which the public can “check out” a microscope for one week at no cost. Suggested activities, slides, and slide covers are included.
- The Department staff attended (virtually) ASTC (Association of Science and Technology Centers) Conference in October as well as VAST (Virginia Association of Science Teachers) in November. Staff have registered for upcoming virtual conferences as well.
- The committee was briefed on education related grants. VMNH has continued their partnership with Boxley Materials for a grant focused on various virtual programming throughout VMNH. (The 2019 grant focused on outreach education programs in the Boxley service area.) The Education Department will offer scholarships on a first come first serve basis for virtual programming during the Spring 2021/Fall 2021 school year. The grant will also support virtual programs on social media such as *Tales of Ancient Life* and *Ben in Nature*. Christy reported she is working with Drs. Moncrief and Pritchard on a NSF grant that would involve programming and a teacher workshop focused on Moncrief and Pritchard’s research contributions for the grant. The proposal will be submitted by end of February/March.
- Christy updated the committee that summer camps are in the planning phase and will be contingent upon COVID numbers/guidelines at that time. The Education Department is also planning virtual programming that can take place during the summer.

Exhibit Subcommittee

- The Committee was updated on the opening of the *Lepidoptera* exhibit. The exhibit features over 700 butterfly and moth species. Photos were shared of the various displays.
- The Exhibits Department is currently working with a company that creates interactive floor exhibits. The interactive floor component will be featured in the

Wild Watersheds exhibit (interactive floor example video was shared) and project a river flowing with rainbow, brook, and brown trout.

- Report/Recommendation to BOT: Committee Chair Cord Cothren will report on:
 - Microscope Program
 - Grants
 - Virtual Programs
 - Exhibit images/sample floor video

Next Board meeting – May 15, 2021