

1. The 1st annual "Raise Your Voice!" video essay contest is here!

The Environmental Youth Alliance is kicking off a new competition designed to get youth thinking about pressing environmental issues and sharing their ideas for a better future. This year we're asking youth aged 16-24 to submit a short video essay in response to the question: "Should bananas be available in Vancouver in 2025?" We want to hear your thoughts on the future of this popular fruit and how its inclusion in our diets impacts the health of our environment and communities. So grab a camera and start to debate your plate!

The contest winner will be awarded a \$1000 scholarship to support their entrance into a post-secondary program with an environmental focus. Submissions can be made by youth aged 16-24 who are BC residents.

The contest runs from March 7th - May 7th 2011.

For more information please visit: www.eya.ca/contest.html

We would love your help in spreading the word about this unique opportunity. Please forward this email to people who might be interested. If you'd like copies of our poster for your organization or to distribute, please contact Claire at volunteer@eya.ca or on 604-689-4446.

2. Seedy Saturday

Richmond holds its Seedy Saturday the *first Sat in March (March 5th this year)* and you're invited to attend and, if you'd like, have a table to sell stuff. In the past, people have sold seed balls, orchard mason bee houses, honey, seedlings, cuttings, etc. The event only lasts a couple of hours (10am to 12pm) and is usually REALLY busy for those 2 hours. Tables are by donation (min \$5) so please contact Anna Rallings a_rallings@hotmail.com if you'd like to book one. Also, if anyone has musical abilities, we are looking for musicians to do a couple of 20 min sets. Let Anna know. Hope to see you there!

Arzeena Hamir MSc. P.Ag.

Coordinator

Richmond Food Security Society

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3. Act NOW! International Performance Writing Festival

Do you love writing? Are you passionate about solving the challenges of sustainability?

The spotlight is on. This is your chance to shine! Be part of Act NOW! for an invaluable opportunity to jump start on turning your dream – whatever it is – into reality! Run by youth for youth, this festival engages young people ages 14-26 from around the world to learn, evaluate, innovate and act with a splash of creativity. Enter with a performable creative writing piece, such as a play, speech, monologue or poem and earn cash prizes and the chance to have your work performed.

Your entry will be:

- * part of a global movement of youth finding the sweet spot of passion and purpose, while celebrating sustainability,
- * sparking dialogue on the concerns and aspirations of your community,
- * inspiring innovation.

Regardless of whether you are a winner, your ideas and art may go viral and lead you to adventures and opportunities that you would have never imagined before. Go ahead and dare to dream! Here's a 3D audio production of the winning play from last year's competition: Lights Out!

Submission opens on March 14, 2011, and ends on April 30, 2011. Get started now and you might win the People's Choice. To learn more, please visit the Act NOW! International Performance Writing Festival.

4. Bee keeping course – BUZZ BUZZ

Hi all! I'm organizing an 8 week bee keeping course with Brian Campbell for this spring. Here's a little more about Brian:

Three years ago he started the Environmental Youth Alliance Urban Beekeeping Apprenticeship program where he mentors 8 young people during an intense 22 week program, every Saturday for 2.5 hours.

Graduates have either taken up backyard beekeeping or found employment with commercial operations. He works with West Coast Seeds as a consultant, staff trainer and teacher. He helped to found the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Farm School in Richmond and teaches the apiculture program. He also gives workshops across the province on honeybees and native bee management and conservation. He is a Certified Master Gardener, Certified Bee Master, has the Permaculture Design Certificate and is currently president of the Richmond Beekeepers Association. He is also I'm working with SFU, the EYA and other partners in a trial project to help farms develop onsite native bee habitat to show, hopefully, that investing in eco-sensitive areas on the

farm will pay off in increased productivity.

I'll have more info about the course shortly but it will be 2.5 hours a week on weekends from the end of May through June or July (depending on weather). The course will run at my place where the first thing we'll learn will be how to install a hive... exciting! (I'm at 5930 Blenheim which is a block away from major bus routes so we're easy to get to.)

Space is limited so if you are interested please let me know. The cost of the course is \$175 but I'm working with Chris to see if we can get some grant money to help offset the cost for anyone who needs it so don't let the cost scare you off.

Buzz buzz!

Julia - Julia Smith [geojane42@gmail.com]

5. Community Nursery Youth Apprenticeship Program

Hello,

This is the first call out for applications to EYA's Community Nursery Youth Apprenticeship Program! Please help us connect youth to this incredible opportunity. We are interested in hosting participants from diverse backgrounds and communities, so need your support in telling suitable applicants how to get involved.

There's a flashy poster to print and hang attached, a link to lots of info on our website, and some more description from the web pasted below.

Web Link = <http://www.eya.ca/youth-apprenticeship.html>

THANK YOU!

For People Aged 14 - 18

Learn everything you need to know to grow your own food. Get hands on experience working in an organic vegetable garden and community orchard. Help maintain 2 greenhouses. Distribute thousands of vegetable plants to under-served communities in East Vancouver. Meet like minded youth from around Vancouver. Earn \$ for your time and community service hours towards graduation.

Apprentices will be expected to dedicate 5 hours of time per week for a 12 week period *beginning Mid March and culminating Mid June*. We will spend 2 hours on a weekday (after school hours) and 3 hours on the weekend together. At the completion of the 12 week program, apprentices will receive a certificate and letter of reference from the Environmental Youth Alliance, along with a cheque, or stipend, for their time.

To apply to the Community Nursery Youth Apprenticeship, e.mail or drop off a resume and brief cover letter explaining why you'd like to be a part of the program to:

Matthew Kemshaw matthewk@eya.ca 517-119 W Pender St

6. Vancouver Generation Green Awards

If you're between the ages of 6 – 24 and live in Vancouver you could win up to \$12,250 for your idea on how to green your community. For more information and to apply follow this link:

<http://www.vancouverfoundationawards.ca/>

The deadline for applications is March 4.