UMCES Appalachian Laboratory
Open House
April 21, 2012
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Tentative Activities

Scheduled Activities

11:00am - GPS Cache Hunt
Outside (weather permitting) - meet in Lobby. Participation is limited.

12:30pm - GPS Cache Hunt
Outside (weather permitting) - meet in Lobby. Participation is limited.

The Allegany County Solid Waste Management Board will also have a rain barrel and compost bin display set up in the building, along with information and pre-order forms for these items.

Lab Activities

First Floor

Front Entrance - Stirring the Mud (weather permitting)
Wetland ecosystems are vital to the health of all other biomes on our planet. Learn more about wetland ecosystems and the types of plants and plant communities found in wetlands.

Lobby - Where in the World?
Use what you already know about geography to try to identify the location of a variety of distinct aerial images. Get started on your "adventure" in the lobby and then find the remaining images located throughout the building on the 2nd and 3rd floors. When you're finished, go to the Landscape Ecology Lab to see how many you got right!

Rear Patio - Fish Movement Monitoring (weather permitting)
Try out state-of-the-art radio-frequency identification equipment and learn more about how researchers are using it to remotely monitor brook trout movement.

Room 109 (IVN Room) – Where Does Our Water Go?
Check out our Interactive Video Network (IVN) room, a distance learning facility, and learn about how we are supporting environmental literacy at our local schools. Try out our schoolyard-based activities using an online mapping tool developed by National Geographic. Find your school or house, map how water from your home or school flows to the ocean, and compare land cover in different parts of our region.

Room 109A (IVN Presentation Room) - How much mercury is in the air you breathe? Mercury is in many things we encounter in our everyday lives, including fillings in our teeth, fluorescent light bulbs, and tuna fish. Learn more about mercury in our environment and how it is measured by scientists.

Room 112 (Classroom) – Kid's Corner
Families can discover incredible insects, learn about the importance of our forests and plant a pine tree, make a hummingbird feeder to attract feathered friends to the backyard, make an eco-friendly tote bag, create a one-of-a-kind Earth Day t-shirt, and more. Activities will vary throughout the day.

Second Floor

Room 231 (Landscape Ecology) - Life in the Landscape
Researchers will be on hand to demonstrate remote sensing and landscape ecology field and lab techniques. Participate in an interactive board game in which players experience the trials and tribulations of organisms as the live and move across the landscape. Players will observe the impacts of human and climate-induced changes on difference species and landscapes.

Room 233 (Soil and Plant Laboratory) - What does an apple have in common with a tree trunk?
Learn how scientists use tree cores and rings as tools to understand and answer questions about different environments. Young children can investigate tree cores and rings to complete a coloring activity. Other participants can use a microscope to investigate and learn more than just a tree's age.

Room 241 (Environmental Science Education Laboratory) - Are we drinking the same water that the dinosaurs consumed millions of years ago?
Learn more about earth's precious resource and make a bracelet depicting the water cycle.

Room 241 (General Ecology Laboratory) - Understanding Sea Level Rise
Discover how global climate change could potentially impact coastal areas through this hands on interactive display.

Room 243 (Environmental Science Education Laboratory) - Critter Nation
View and learn about aquatic benthic insects and their life cycles. Discover how the caddisfly, a stream insect, builds a case to serve as protection for their larval life stage. Build your own caddis fly case with materials typically available to caddis flies in their stream environment.

Third Floor

"Eagle's Nest" (located at the top of the stairs) - How can you help save our Earth?
Recycling information. Learn how to make your own green cleaning supplies and repurpose common items in your home.

Room 316 (Water Chemistry Laboratory III) - pHun with Acids and Bases
Participate in a demonstration of groundwater flow and subsurface contaminant transport using a benchtop groundwater flow model.

Room 321 (Wildlife Ecology Laboratory) - Bats: Beyond the Scary Movie
Learn why bats are important to our ecosystem, how they use echolocation, observe demonstrations of field equipment used in bat studies and discover current threats to bat populations. Build a bat to take home with you!

Room 323 (Forest Ecology Laboratory) - Is that DNA in My Smoothie?
Learn how to isolate DNA from strawberries and bananas in this fun for all ages activity. It may make you think twice about that banana-berry smoothie!

Room 324 (Conservation Biology Laboratory) - Do you love CSI, forensics or biology and wonder what it's like to work with DNA in the lab?
Experiment and become a "DNA Gel Jockey". You'll learn to load DNA samples and separate them using gel electrophoresis. You can bring DNA that you've isolated yourself from the DNA Smoothie activity next door, or you can use our samples that have already been prepped. This activity is limited to high school ages and up only, please.

Room 337 (Water Chemistry Laboratory I) - Trouble Bubbling Underground
Learn about acids and bases encountered in our everyday lives; measure the pH of a variety of different materials and learn how pH relates to water quality.