NEWS RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Jodie Littleton Communications Consultant Adkins Arboretum 410.490.6930 jlittleton@adkinsarboretum.org



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Adkins Arboretum Offers iNaturalist Training for Teachers

Teachers seeking inventive ways to engage students in the study of nature and ecology are invited to join <u>iNaturalist for Teachers</u>, offered Fri., June 28 at Adkins Arboretum.

iNaturalist is a free and open-source online community that teachers can use to reinforce Maryland State Department of Education STEM and environmental literacy standards. The perfect interface between nature and technology users, the program encourages users to observe and describe the natural world around them, to follow their curiosity, and to share their experiences with others. iNaturalist provides a public online forum where students' field observations can be cross-checked by a community of fellow enthusiasts and global experts.

Led by naturalists Matt Muir and Margan Glover, this program is geared to high school science teachers. The session will provide hands-on examination of iNaturalist, field work on a variety of habitats to explore the strength of iNaturalist as a tool for exploration, and a discussion of ways in which iNaturalist can be incorporated creatively in curriculum development and meet STEM and environmental literacy standards. Refreshments will be served; participants should bring a bag lunch. The program fee is \$20 per teacher. Advance registration is required at adkinsarboretum.org or by calling 410.634.2847, ext. 0.

Adkins Arboretum is a 400-acre native garden and preserve at the headwaters of the Tuckahoe Creek in Caroline County. Open year round, the Arboretum offers educational programs for all ages about nature and gardening. Through its <u>Campaign to Build a Green Legacy</u>, it will build the <u>W. Flaccus and Ruth B. Stifel Center at Adkins Arboretum</u> and a "green" entranceway to broaden educational offerings and research initiatives promoting best practices in conservation and land stewardship. For additional information about Arboretum programs, visit <u>www.adkinsarboretum.org</u> or call 410-634-2847, ext. 0.

Adkins Arboretum 12610 Eveland Road P.O. Box 100 Ridgely, MD 21620 410.634.2847 www.adkinsarboretum.org info@adkinsarboretum.org