

**ORANGE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE,
PARKS AND RECREATION**

MEMORANDUM

To: Commission for the Environment
From: Rich Shaw
Date: March 6, 2014
Subject: Environmental Summit 2014

In February the CFE identified May 17 and May 31 as two potential dates for the Environmental Summit. After conferring with several potential venues the CFE decided to hold the 2014 Environmental Summit on May 31 at the Maple View Agricultural Environmental Center.

Jan Sassaman has lined up Dr. Norman Christensen to serve as keynote speaker at the event. Dr. Christianson is a professor of biology/ecology at the Duke Nicholas School of the Environment, and was the founding dean of that institution in the 1990s.

In addition to a keynote address, the CFE discussed having concurrent sessions on various subjects discussed in the State of the Environment report and having an activity for children.

The format and content of the meeting will be a topic of discussion at your next meeting.

Maple View Agricultural Education Center

3501 Dairyland Rd, Hillsborough NC

Maple View Agricultural Educational Center (MVAEC) is a nonprofit, educational facility, designed to encourage both children and adults to learn about agricultural life through hands on experience. The 6,000 sq. ft. facility offers a gathering area capable of accommodating up to 120 individuals. MVAEC features four interactive learning labs, providing opportunities for classroom and hands-on education.

Norman L. Christensen – Bio and Research: Christensen's research focuses on the effects of disturbance on structure and function of populations, communities and ecosystems. Ongoing studies include an analysis of patterns of forest development following cropland abandonment as these are affected by environment, stand history and plant demographic patterns. He and his students are pursuing comparative studies of ecosystem responses to varying fire regimes across temperate North America. He is conducting research on the utilization of remote sensing systems such as synthetic aperture radar to evaluate long-term changes in forest ecosystems. In addition to these interests in basic ecological science, Christensen has written widely on the importance of natural disturbance in the management of forests, shrublands, and wetlands. He is interested in the application of basic ecological theory and models to management, and has collaborated with others in the development of the concept of ecosystem management.