



The Virginia Master Naturalist program is open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

2022 Chapter Board of Directors and Chapter Positions	
Board Position	Name
President	Camille Grabb
Vice President	Eric Hentges
Secretary	Lee Arslan
Treasurer	Debby Tupper
Past President	Charlene Talcott
Membership	Pat McMurray
Activities Chair	Audrey Vaughn
Acting BTC Chair	Lesley Newman
Communications	Alice Stieve
Continuing Ed	Charlene Talcott
Diversity & Inclusion	Charlene Talcott
Historian	Temple Moore
Hospitality Chair	Anne Clewell
Outreach Chair	Nancy Joel, <i>acting</i>
Chapter Position	Name
Chapter Advisor	Tara Brent
Chapter Advisor	Wendy Herdman
Better Impact Contact	John Narney
Webmaster	Anne Clewell

### January Board Meeting Highlights

The first meeting of the new Board (and the New Year) occurred on January 11, 1:00 pm, via Zoom. In addition to our advisors and

**Northern Neck Chapter,  
 Virginia Master Naturalists**  
[northernneckvmn.org](http://northernneckvmn.org)  
**News and Notes for Members**  
**January 2022**  
*Shared by Camille*

Board members, several chapter members sat in on this meeting. Several items should be of interest to members and are listed here.

On a “chapter business” note, the VMN Annual Report for 2021 was submitted to the State office on January 10, 2022. If you are interested in seeing it, please look for it in Better Impact (home page, right side, Files, then at bottom, “See All Files” Annual reports are the first thing listed; click on 2021 Annual Report).

Vice President and Program Chair Eric Hentges reported that our program meeting for January will be held on January 31, 2022, via Zoom, time TBD. It will be a waterfowl identification workshop with the Northern Neck Audubon Society. Expect email notification of time and Zoom link as the end of the month nears.



Eric has plans to survey the membership for suggestions for program topics that would be of interest to our members for our other program meetings in 2022.

**RENEWAL  
 REMINDER**

Our treasurer, Debby Tupper, reports that most members have submitted

their 2022 dues of \$20 with the emailed form that was sent prior to the end of 2021. If you have not yet paid, please email a check and the form to PO Box 673, Kilmarnock, 22482. THANK YOU for your attention to this! And remember, if you are making changes in your address, phone, or email, PLEASE make those same changes in your Better Impact profile. And while you are in Better Impact, please log any volunteer or CE hours that you have already accrued for this year!



**NEW committee – Diversity & Inclusion**

Charlene is chairing this newest committee. Please contact her if you would like to help our chapter reach out to the underserved communities in the Northern Neck. Much work needs to be done.



**Our Membership Chair, Pat McMurray, plans to send an email to remind us of what MAY and MAY NOT be reported as volunteer hours for Virginia Master Naturalists! Be on the lookout for that.**



Have you looked at our website lately? Visit frequently for news & information!  
northernneckvmn.org



**OUTREACH Committee** is in need of a **CHAIR!** This is an extremely important committee as it is our primary way of reaching the public. Nancy Joel has graciously agreed to manage this until someone volunteers to take it on, and she will mentor the new chair thoroughly and assist them in their new role as needed. Please contact Nancy with questions or to volunteer for the job. ([joeln@wmlcps.org](mailto:joeln@wmlcps.org)) Our chapter has already been contacted by two groups for outreach at their upcoming events:

**Saturday, March 26, is the Master Gardener Symposium** in White Stone. Eric and Camille will be point people for that, so please contact one of them if you wish to help at that event.

The **Colonial Beach Osprey Fest** is on **Saturday, April 9.** We will need people to work our booth. In addition, the organizers are looking for people who would be willing to lead bird walks during the festival. If you are interested in helping with either of those, please contact Nancy. Both booth work and leading a bird walk would be approved activities for volunteer hours. The community Farmers Markets and other events throughout the Northern Neck will be starting in April or May and continuing into September. Please volunteer to help for a few hours at one of these events when

they are announced! And if you're willing to CHAIR our Outreach Committee, please talk to Nancy.



The February Chapter Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 8, 1:00 pm, via Zoom. A reminder email with agenda and Zoom link will be sent to members prior to the meeting. At this time, the 2022 budget will be determined and other business will be acted on as needed.



**Thursdays & Fridays, January 20, 21, 27, & 28, 1:00-4:30 pm**

New Directions in American Landscapes  
Winter Symposium

<https://ndal.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2022-Symposium-Brochure-LACES.pdf>

(parts are suitable for Chapter CE)

**Monday, January 31, time TBD**

- Winter Waterfowl Identification Workshop via Zoom (complete details and Zoom link will be sent to NNMNs prior to the event) (also approved for CE).

**Saturday & Sunday, February 5 & 6**

Annual Audubon Winter Waterfowl Count at different locations on the Northern Neck.

Contact Jeff Wright to volunteer:  
[pec11908@mac.com](mailto:pec11908@mac.com) (Citizen Science hours)

**Tuesday, February 8, 1:00 pm via Zoom**

- Chapter Board Meeting (agenda and Zoom link will be sent to members prior to meeting)

**VIMS Oyster Aquaculture Research  
Virtual Seminar Series  
(attend one or all three)**

**1 - Tuesday, February 8, 5:30-6:30 pm**  
Water Quality Monitoring and Oyster stakeholders

**2 - Tuesday, February 15, 5:30-6:30 pm**  
Forecasting Bay water quality and vulnerability of oysters to environmental stressors

**3 - Tuesday, February 22, 5:30-6:30 pm**  
Genetic variability of Dermo disease and biosecurity of shellfish seed

**To Register:**

<https://cwm.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYpc-GuqDMjG9x6XIv-LhtV1ES-PY-HE1UP>

(VIMS is a VMN sponsor so approved for CE)

**Tuesday, March 8**

1:00 pm - Chapter Board Meeting via Zoom

- Chapter Member & Program Meeting; time and format TBD





**Annual Chapter  
Picnic  
Sunday, June 12,  
2:00-5:00 pm**

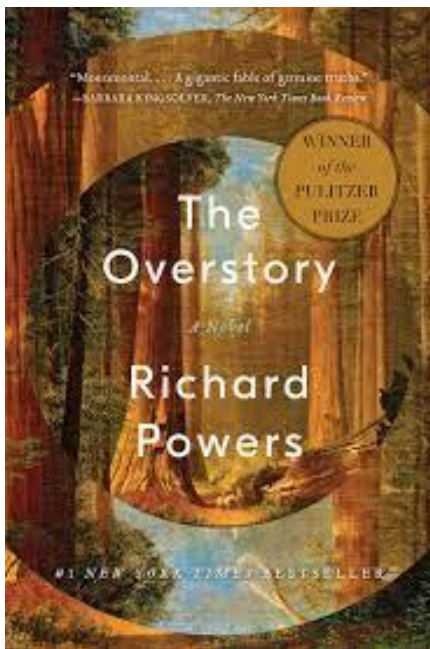
**AND...**



Virginia Master Naturalists

**2022 VMN State Conference  
Friday, September 9-Sunday,  
September 11  
Virginia Beach**

## Book Review



- Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction
- Winner of the William Dean Howells Medal
- Over One Year on the *New York Times* Bestseller List
- *Washington Post*, *Time*, *Oprah Magazine*, *Newsweek*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Kirkus Reviews* **Best Book of the Year**

*Review written by Andy Bailey, BTC 2021*

Do you remember books you read as a child that caused you to think differently about life or perhaps even changed your life? Richard Power’s *The Overstory* may be that book for adults. In his Pulitzer Prize winning book, Powers has caused me to think more broadly of the connections between humans, the environment that nurtures us, and forests and trees that sustain both.

In reading a novel that begins roughly during the Summer of Love and continues through Occupy Wallstreet, one might note while reading, “I remember that event” or “that person is familiar.” Powers draws upon real life events – logging protests and destruction of logging machinery or the Stanford Prison Experiment – and models key characters on real individuals - the revolutionary forest science of Susan Simard and Peter Wohlleben among them. The work is grounded in their early and continuing research on the communication between and among trees. Powers’ belief and faith in their understanding of Forest Ecology is evident throughout the book.

*The Overstory* is epic, threading together the lives of idealistic, misfit, misunderstood, marginalized, and occasionally misguided, but always committed protagonists. Powers revisits the post-sixties antiwar radicalism as it branches into the radicalized environmental movement – specifically the protection of old growth forests of the northwest – as it evolves from peaceful protests to active resistance against clear cut logging and ultimately to destruction of the means of logging.

His many well-developed characters are both ordinary and exceptional, heroic and tragic. Each character has a special relationship with trees and is transformed by them. Olivia, its mystical center, having experienced a near death electrocution, awakes to the inner call of trees and forests in need of protecting advocates. Or were the trees communicating so that through her, they could help humans understand life itself? Patricia, the initially scorned scientist, demonstrates transcendent nobility and unequalled courage as she takes the paramount action by which humans can save the forests upon which all life depends.

The antagonists are a conflicted triad. The Forest Service, with its mission as actualized to maximize the production of lumber, defined and directed by Congressional actions, is perhaps the most conflicted of the villains. Its cozy and supportive relationships with the lumber industry leads to myopia and its refusal to acknowledge any science that fails to support agricultural timbering, also known as plantation monoculture. Even as its foresters are studying and gaining a critical understanding of the multiple benefits of forest diversity, both in age and species, its leadership publicly promotes policies that are short term in focus and beneficial to the lumbering business.

Powers treats public safety organizations harshly. He constantly points to their practices against peaceful protesters, such as applying pepper spray directly to immobile protesters' eyes or spraying chemicals directly to Douglas' genitals, after cutting away his pants. In other events confronting peaceful protesters, police actions lead to injuries and permanent disfigurement, such as to Mimi when the barricade she is

defending is bulldozed. It shows police violating their own procedures to end a protest more quickly so that logging operations, clear cutting, can resume.

With the third antagonist, Powers is at perhaps his most ironic self, naming the clear-cut to monoculture to clear-cut-cycler, Humboldt Timber Company. Alexander von Humboldt, whose early observations of nature led him to conclude that colonialism nurtured monoculture agricultural practices that wreaked havoc on native species and environmental diversity, is surely spinning in his grave at the honorarium. The company is all about short term profitability, and supported by public laws and policy, it is able to silence many of the voices that want to consider the overall cost of deforestation, particularly its impact on the environment, climate change and global warming. The triad of antagonists have stacked the deck, making it nearly impossible for reasoned dialogue and mutually beneficial policies.

The characters are rich, but none more so than the natural forests. Powers has an obvious affection for and connection to forest communities. He sees that altruism of species and inter-species interactions, as a dying tree distributes its nutrients to other younger and growing trees. He sees the mycorrhizal networks that are the natural world's superior construct of the internet. He writes of the healing powers of the forest and the chemicals that scientists have identified in trees' transpiration. Not since the peoples of the First Nation, has anyone written or spoken of trees as so closely related to humans or essential to human culture and survival. He is also unsparing in his observation that Americans' view of

nature as something to be conquered leads to dire implications for our future.

He captures this evocatively in Patricia's intuition. "And she can hear, louder than the quaking leaves, which side will lose by winning."

Powers begins with the American Chestnut and the blight that eliminated one-fourth of the trees of the eastern forest in a single lifetime. He visits the ancient redwood forests, the majestic trees, larger than any other living thing, housing multiple communities of living things both above and below ground. He takes us to the temperate rainforest of the northwest and the ever-useful Douglas fir. He wanders through Silicon Valley and the transformative potential of online gaming. He recognizes the science that may help us understand a more fundamental role for humans on the planet. He wrote, "The best arguments in the world won't change a person's mind. The only thing that can do that is a good story." Powers has provided us with this in *The Overstory*.

*Thank you, Andy, for sharing this book with all of us! ~ CG*



### **Photos of Master Naturalists at work**

**especially needed for the Annual Report!**

If you are the contact or lead on an activity, please send your photo(s) to Activity Chair, Audrey Vaughn, [virginiariverbreeze@gmail.com](mailto:virginiariverbreeze@gmail.com)

# MORE



In addition to the Outreach Committee needing a Chair, several committees are in need of members. If you would like to volunteer for any of these committees, please contact the committee chair to offer your assistance:

Programs – Eric Hentges

[ericjhentges@gmail.com](mailto:ericjhentges@gmail.com)

Continuing Education – Charlene Talcott

Diversity & Inclusion – Charlene Talcott

[charlene.talcott@gmail.com](mailto:charlene.talcott@gmail.com)

### **—OUR SPONSORS—**

