

President's

A **SEPTEMBER**
G **2023**

E northernneckvmn.org

Edited by Camille



**Virginia Master
Naturalists**
Northern Neck Chapter

Message from our President

Hello Northern Neck Master Naturalists! As summer fades away, the promise of less humidity and cooler temperatures can be reenergizing. The Chapter's September Board meeting reflected continuing participation in many projects, the Basic Training Class in progress, Outreach and training possibilities, and administration needs! Please check out specifics within this newsletter and enjoy Fall. See you October 12th for our program meeting. *Paula Boundy*, Certified VMN, NNK Chapter, President 2023



Photo credit: Pat McMurray

Jeff Wright Strikes GOLD!
Congratulations to Jeff for being the **FIRST NNMN** to achieve the VMN Golden Circle award for reaching **5,000 Volunteer Hours!**

Other NNMNs achieving Milestones:

250 Hours:

Anne Parker & Karen Williams

500 Hours:

Stu Ashton & Porter Washington

1,000 Hours:

Anne Atkins

2,500 Hours:

Katharina Bergdoll,

Kevin Howe,

Betsy Washington

CONGRATULATIONS, ALL!



Last Butterfly Count of 2023!

26 September 2023

Annual **George Washington Birthplace Fall**

Butterfly Count

Contact Jeff Wright for information or to participate: pec11908@mac.com



with various responsibilities. Contact Andy Bailey to volunteer @ lowermachodod@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY. The Chapter continues to seek a Chair, or two co-chairs, for the Hospitality Committee. The Graduation celebration for the current BTC and the Member End of Year Social, a combined event, needs a member [or two] willing, interested in and committed to organize it. Additional members will be sought to assist - volunteer hours are eligible toward service requirements and rewards! Contact Paula to volunteer @ paboundy4@gmail.com.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The Nominating Committee is seeking members interested in chairing or co-chairing a committee. Committee Chairs serve on the Chapter Board of Directors. There are several committees that need chairs. Please look at the list and contact Camille if you are willing to take a turn on the Board in 2024 (cgrabb9@gmail.com). Don't be shy; this is your chance to serve the chapter in a position that you would like. The responsibilities are explained in our Chapter Operating Handbook (in Better Impact home page, on right side, bottom, click "See all Files", then scroll to "Chapter Governance" and click on "2021 Operating Handbook").

Chairs or Co-chairs needed:

- **Basic Training Committee**
- **Membership**
- **Outreach/Education (co-chair)**
- **Activities**
- **Communications**
- **Continuing Ed.**
- **HOSPITALITY**

***FACEBOOK.** The Chapter does not have a Facebook page. Official Chapter communication is handled by our e-blasts care of Alice Stieve, our webpage care of Anne Clewell, and various information, documentation, and record/time keeping on/through Better Impact. Official VMN communication is by email. However, social media is a strong influence today. It has outreach potential that may extend our Chapter's diversity and inclusion goals. Our communication committee will be considering the administration of social media such as Facebook in coming months. A member willing, interested in and committed to hosting such media is essential. Contact Alice to volunteer @ nmn22.als@gmail.com

**The position is possibly filled with announcements pending.*

NEXT BASIC TRAINING CLASS. A list of 134 "Interested Persons" in the Virginia Master Naturalist Northern Neck Chapter is an exciting prospect for the future of our Chapter and its impact on the missions of the program. Previously our Chapter has conducted Basic Training Class [BTC] in alternate years; however, this list demands attention. A member [or two] willing, interested in, and committed to Chair the BTC is essential. Additional members will be needed to be on the committee to assist

EMPHASIS! UPDATED VMN - VOLUNTEER POLICY HANDBOOK.

VMN released the new and extensively updated version of the handbook in August. Members received the initial notice in the Bi-Weekly email from VMN. Read it, then **enter your admin. time in BI**. Please refer to it often as a resource. It can be found on each member's MyImpactPage where you enter your volunteer hours...scroll down to the gray tab Files, then down to VMN Documents. It is also on the VMN site @

http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/uploads/2/1/8/6/21860850/vmn_vph_2023_published.pdf

ALL members should read this document! You do not have to read it all in one sitting, though!



September 12, 2023

The Chapter Board had a lengthy meeting earlier this month. Our **Chapter Advisors** had several important items to share. Tara initiated a discussion on the use of Facebook as a tool to reach members of the public we may not be currently reaching. **Communications Chair Alice Stieve** agreed to call the committee together to consider this. **Wendy** reported that her counties will have **Hazardous Waste Collections** soon: Westmoreland on September 30 and Richmond County on October 21. **Tara** shared that all four Northern Neck counties are taking registrations for

household water quality testing through Virginia Tech. The cost is \$65 for a very thorough analysis of homeowners' drinking water. Contact county extension offices for more details.

Tara and Wendy issued an appeal for NNMNs to work at the **State Fair at the VA Cooperative Extension display**. An email blast with all details followed. Please contact them if you want to enjoy time at the Fair and help represent VCE.

President Paula announced that the **5-year financial review was completed**. Fran Westbrook, treasurer of the Master Gardeners, handled the task and reported that she "found the financial records of the Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists to be financially accurate." Great news, Paula and Debby!

Vice President Polly has an October 12 program arranged at Lancaster Community Library. Doug Dwoyer, a Middle Peninsula Master Naturalist, will talk on "The Anthropocene Naturalist". Time TBD. In January, Dr. John Swaddle from the College of William & Mary will provide a program on bird strikes.

Diversity & Inclusion Chair Ellen Hunter reported that NNMN members have been enthusiastically working with Emmanuel Christian Fellowship in Richmond County to create nature trails through their wooded property. This is a predominantly African American congregation. The group also requested assistance with plant identification on site and information about native plant species. Work will continue with this group.

It is hoped that the November program with members of the **Rappahannock Tribe** will develop relationships for future collaborations.



A new location for the stewardship activity, **“Clean Northern Neck Waterways”**, was approved by the Board. The chapter will “adopt a highway”, which will be a 2-mile stretch of Balls Neck Road from Shiloh School Road to Hughlett Point. Two clean-ups are required each year, and after the second clean-up the highway department will erect a sign naming NNMN as the adopter. Email blasts will give the dates and times of these clean-ups.

The Outreach Committee has had a busy and enjoyable season. Many NNMN volunteers have manned the various booths, providing positive and friendly comments and advice to members of the community. THANK YOU to all who have been a part of the 2023 outreach effort!

Volunteer Opportunity at Belle Isle State Park Fall Fest

Saturday, October 7, 10:30 am-12:30 pm Northern Neck Master Naturalists have been asked to have several fun-filled educational stations for children & families to enjoy. If you any ideas for crafts or games, or if you would like to help with these activities, please contact Camille Grabb (cgrabb9@gmail.com).

Save These Dates!

Thursday, October 12 – NNMN Program
“The Anthropocene Naturalist”
 Presented by Doug Dwoyer, VMN,
 Middle Peninsula Master Naturalists
 Lancaster Library, Time TBD

Tuesday, November 14
 NNMN Board (12:00)
 General & Election (1:00)
 and Program (2:00)
 BISP Education Room
 Program with the Rappahannock Tribe

Sunday, December 17
 BTC Graduation & Annual Holiday Social
 St. John’s Church, Warsaw

More details will be in chapter email blasts



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Girl Scouts LOVE
Virginia State Parks
(especially when NNMNs are
involved)
Belle Isle State Park
September 9, 2023



Photo Credit: Debby Tupper



Photo Credit: Debby Tupper

DWR initiated the "Diamondback Dash" in August-September. Many NNMNs were involved in kayaking local waterways in search of the terrapins.

This group had a loop from Cooper's Landing on the Great Wicomico River.



Photo Credit: Joe Stieve

