

**NEWS and
NOTES from the
Board
April
2021**



shared by Camille

Board Meeting NOT Held in April!

But the Board has been working...

- Jeff Wright asked if our Chapter would co-host the **July 27, 2021, Northumberland-Lancaster Summer Butterfly Count** and the **September 21, 2021 Annual George Washington Birthplace Fall Butterfly Count**. The Board approved both.
- Joyce Reimherr asked for our support of the **Colonial Beach Virtual Osprey Fest**, which will be ongoing from now through October. The Board agreed that it would be worthwhile to support and a good way to give our chapter publicity. Informational articles from our members about anything in the natural world would be appreciated. Pam Narney is contributing an Osprey Blog!
- **The Continuing Ed Committee has a newly revised application form for Continuing Ed credits** that we hope is easier, clearer, and can be filled out online. We have also **revised the Guidelines for CE Credit approval, allowing for "Self Approval" of Sponsoring and Partner Agency programs** if they meet the Mission Statement of the Virginia Master Naturalists and build upon topics covered in the Basic Training Course. This will relieve the burden of having to individually approve several applications to get credit for watching monthly programs from our partner agencies such as NN Audubon Society and the NNNPS when they meet these requirements. The guidelines and form are included at the end of the "Page."
- **The Outreach Committee** has been preparing booths to take to community events. **Volunteers** are needed to staff the booths. If you are comfortable participating in these activities under the current Covid protocols, **please contact Nancy Joel, Outreach Chair (joeln@wmlcps.org)**, **to offer your assistance at one or more of these events.**

Upcoming events include:

- June 5 – Irvington Farmers Market
- July 17 – "Kids Day" at Heathsville Farmers Market
- August 21 – Tappahannock Farmers Market
- Sept. 4 – Irvington Farmers Market
- Sept. 4 - St. Stephens Episcopal Church 2021 Homecoming Festival and Farmers' Market, Heathsville

Upcoming NNMN Chapter Meetings

May 11, 2021

All via Zoom

Board Meeting at 1:00 pm

General Member Meeting at 6:30

Program Meeting at 7:00

(program open to the public)

**"Dragonflies, Damselflies,
and the 17-Year Cicada"**

Dr. Richard Groover

*Look for Zoom links on May 1 and May 8 via
nmmnemail*



**NEW NNMN
Volunteer
Activities!**

Two new volunteer activities, both citizen science, have been added to the BI Opportunities list. Both are VMN-approved, so therefore open to any state master naturalist.

- Do you have a "tree of heaven" on your property? If so, it could be serving as a host to the **Spotted Lanternfly**, an invasive insect first discovered in Virginia in 2018 and wreaking havoc with fruit trees in the very northern "tip" of our state. These insects are destroying apple, peach, and grape orchards. So far, none have been found in our Neck of the woods, but that is the purpose of this activity: to monitor for them. They seem to hitchhike on trucks and cars travelling through areas and then relocate to new places. To learn more about the insect and monitoring, please go to this link:

<https://www.ento.vt.edu/4-H-Entomology/SpottedLanternfly.html>

There are 5 "modules", or video clips, to watch to learn about the pest and what is being done to try to stop their spread throughout Virginia. After viewing, if you are interested in monitoring for these insects, please contact Camille (nmmnpresident@gmail.com) for further information and supplies.



-- Caterpillars Count! This is a project being conducted by UNC and supported by the National Science Foundation. Information about this was sent to all NNMNs through the chapter email. This project measures the seasonal variation (*phenology*) and abundance of arthropods (caterpillars, beetles, and spiders) found on the foliage of trees and shrubs. To view information and a video on how to do this, please go to the website:
<https://caterpillarscount.unc.edu/>



Have YOU been there? If not, there is no better time than NOW to log on for your first BI experience and profile update. If you need assistance, contact inarney@verizon.net



Virginia Master Naturalists

Announces 2022 Certification Requirements
Please see the complete announcement from Virginia Cooperative Extension, March 2021. The nutshell version is:

- 1 – Staying Enrolled as a VMN Volunteer in 2022: *every volunteer must complete and report at least one volunteer service hour during 2021.*
- 2 – Maintaining Certified Status: *certified MNs must complete and report at least 20 hours of volunteer service and 4 hours of CE during 2021.*

2021 Basic Training Course Scheduled

The BTC Committee is pleased to announce that the training class for our future MNs will begin on August 3, 2021, and continue through November 16, 2021 on Tuesday evenings, via Zoom, 6:30-9:00. Most field experiences will be held on Saturdays.

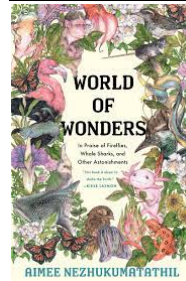
Member support is requested; your assistance is greatly needed and appreciated! **Field leaders** and **mentors** are being sought! Please contact Pam (pnarney@verizon.net) or Camille

(nnmnpresident@gmail.com) to offer assistance in the field, and Alice Stieve (alice.stieve@me.com) to be a mentor for someone in the Class of 2021.

Zoom Information Sessions remaining include:
Wednesday, May 5, 10:00 a.m. and
Thursday, May 20, 6:30 p.m.

Know of a potential applicant? Please have them contact Nancy Joel, Registrar, at registrarnmnbtc21@gmail.com

Book Review



World of Wonders
In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments
By Aimee Nezhukumatathil

This talented writer has put together a delightful book that is part memoir, part life lessons learned, but primarily an ode to the beauties and mysteries of nature. The author was fortunate to have parents who shared the natural world with her. The child of a Filipino mother and Indian father, she lived in many places during her childhood: Kansas, Arizona, New York, and Ohio. Often the only "brown" child in her classes, she sought solace and understanding in the natural world. With vivid descriptions that show her poetic style, each chapter is an essay about one particular animal or plant that she has encountered in her life. Her appreciation for the beauty and gifts of each one is shared with the fascination and admiration of a true naturalist. Although many creatures are not "native" to us, her passion and love for each instills in us the desire to preserve, protect, and admire, even though we may never encounter some of these miracles of nature. She takes "interpretation" to the highest level!

Will you, like I, recall warm June nights of long ago as you read her essay about fireflies? Will you cringe with anguish and frustration when she recounts her 3rd grade experience with peacocks? Will you, too, find yourself giving up calamari after reading her essay about squid?

The book is a quick read, and since it is divided into essays, it is easy to pick up and put down as responsibilities dictate. Her writing is brilliant and captivating. She truly celebrates and extols nature, and brings that joy to her readers.

Northern Neck Master Naturalist Continuing Education (CE) Guidelines

All program requests for Continuing Education (CE) Credit must be completed on the Application for Northern Neck Master Naturalist Continuing Education (CE) form listed on our website.

Self-Approval: Many programs by our Sponsoring agencies and Partner organizations are appropriate for Continuing Ed credit but they must apply to our mission as Virginia Master Naturalists and/or build on topics covered in the Basic Training Classes.

VMN Mission Statement: The Virginia Master Naturalist program is a corps of wellinformed volunteers who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sponsor Agencies: Most programs by our **Sponsor Agencies** will, by nature of their sponsorship, count toward Continuing Education Credits provided they apply directly to our mission as Virginia Master Naturalists and/or build on topics covered in the Basic

Training Classes. Our Sponsors include: Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF), USDA Cooperative Extension Service (VCE), Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH), Virginia Institute for Marine Science's Center for Coastal Resources Management (CCRM).

Partner Organizations: Similarly, most programs provided by our Partner organizations will also qualify for CE credit if they apply to our mission and build on the BTC curriculum (e.g.), Northern Neck Audubon Chapter, the Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Belle Isle State Park, Westmoreland State Park, and Friends of Dragon Run and others. If you have questions, please contact the Chair, or submit an application.

Examples to help determine eligibility of programs:

- Knowledge or experience that would directly enhance the NNMN core curriculum would be eligible.(IE: Fishes of North America would be eligible, Fishes of the Great Lakes would not.)
- Going on a bird walk (or other nature walk) with a knowledgeable leader representing an organization with particular expertise in that area would be approved (i.e. Audubon, NNMN, Ornithologist professor, sponsor agencies.); going with your neighbor would not.
- A Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources,(DWR) program on Wildlife Management or Camera Trapping would be approved; a DWR program on Field Dressing a Deer would not.
- A Master Gardener program on Sustainable Pest Management or Creating Wildlife Habitat in Your Garden would be approved; How to Grow Giant Tomatoes would not.

All Other Programs: For CE credit approval of programs from organizations outside of Virginia or that are not from our Sponsor or Partner organizations, you will need to fill out the **Application form referenced above** and attach any relevant information or

Northern Neck Master Naturalist Continuing Education (CE) Guidelines

descriptions of the program for evaluation by the Continuing Education Committee. **A link to the program description is particularly helpful in gaining approval.** Again, we will consider whether the CE opportunity meets the two stated criteria: apply directly to our mission as Virginia Master Naturalists and/or build on topics covered in the Basic Training Classes.

To provide review time, please submit the application at least two weeks before the event. We understand that this is not always possible (especially with new pop-up zoom webinars) and will do our best to evaluate all submissions in a timely manner.

Complete and email the completed application for Continuing Ed Credits to the NNMN Continuing Education Chair: Betsy Washington at nmmnContEd@gmail.com if you have any questions. You can also snail mail the completed form to:

Betsy Washington
379 Waterbury Rd,
Kilmarnock, VA 22482

Application for Northern Neck Master Naturalist Continuing Education (CE) Credit

Items submitted two weeks or more in advance are guaranteed a response prior to the event. In other cases, the committee will attempt to approve all requests in a timely manner but cannot guarantee approval.

Name:

Date:

Contact Information: Email:

Phone:

Title of CE Opportunity:

Sponsoring Organization:

Date of Opportunity:

Time of Program:

Speaker:

Description of opportunity (include web link, brochure or attach separately):

Web Link:

Does this continuing education opportunity (check at least one):

Promote continued learning and development of naturalist skills?

Provide Master Naturalists with knowledge and skills to work in volunteer efforts?

Provide Master Naturalists an opportunity to focus their interests in one or a few specific topics?

Build on the core curriculum initially provided by the local chapter?

Provide information on natural resources, resource management or naturalist skills applicable to Virginia?

Is the program: Offered by one of our sponsor agencies or partners? YES NO

(Automatic approval **IF yes and** at least one above question is answered affirmatively.)

Some examples to help determine eligibility:

"Applicable to Virginia" -- knowledge or experience that would directly enhance the NNMN core curriculum would be eligible. (IE: Fishes of North America would be eligible, Fishes of the Great Lakes would not.)

- Going on a bird walk (or other nature walk) with a knowledgeable leader representing an organization with particular expertise in that area would be approved; going with your neighbor would not. (i.e. Audubon, NNMN, Ornithologist professor, sponsor agencies.)*
- A DGIF program on Wildlife Management would be approved; a DGIF program on Field Dressing a Deer would not.*
- A Master Gardener program on Sustainable Pest Management in Your Garden would be approved; How to Grow Giant Tomatoes would not.*

Complete and submit to the NNMN Continuing Education Chair at nmnContEd@gmail.com or mail to Betsy Washington, 379 Waterbury Rd, Kilmarnock, VA 22482

Committee Review:

Approved

Not Approved

Date: _____