

Northern Neck Master Naturalists

Fall 2016



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NEW AND RETURNING OFFICERS

Election of 2017 Chapter officers was held at the November 15 General Meeting. Jeffrey Wright was elected president by acclamation. Nancy Joel and Lise Maring will be staying as secretary and treasurer respectively. There were no nominations for vice president so that position is vacant for the time being. Anyone wishing to volunteer for the job should contact the secretary, Nancy Joel at joeln@wmlcps.org.

Note: two individuals could be co-vice presidents, if desired. Jeff Wright was a member of the 2016 NNMN Basic Training Class and has already become Certified. To see a picture of Jeff and read a little about him see the attachment to this newsletter.

Changes to committee chair positions were Petra Walian taking over as Membership Chair and Pam Narney taking over the calendar. The Program Committee needs a chair and Alison Sowar will work on the committee until a chair is found.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

This section, usually at the end of the newsletter, has been moved up to give Jeff's comments the spotlight.

As both a fellow Virginia Master Naturalist and the incoming President of our Northern Neck Chapter I want to share some thoughts on aspirations I have on the direction of the chapter in 2017. I also wanted to share a little about myself.

Over the next few months I hope to talk to all the members of the chapter to help me understand our collective and individual aspirations as Master Naturalists and Citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. You should be worried! Nancy Joel and Bill Blair, as the leaders of Class 16, provided me with the knowledge, skills, and tools to find any species or habitat on the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula - particularly any species with a phone number, e-mail, or street address, "history" or picture in the Post Office. So this is your chance to test the caller ID function on your phone. And get me to buy you a cup of coffee or tea.

It is no secret that Virginia is a great place to live and that as Master Naturalists we play a role in the future of the state's lands, waters, and diversity of life. There is a lot to do. There

is a lot we can do to make a difference. I am a determined optimist so I know we will succeed.

Here is a preliminary list of ideas for the chapter to pursue (please see the attachment for details):

- Providing actionable and useful information to our members and the community
- Fostering Life Long Learning and More Continuing Education Opportunities
- Growing our Membership
- A measure of quantity: Increasing the chapter's overall volunteer hours and the average volunteer hours per member
- A measure of quality: Increasing the measurable impact of volunteer projects
- Refining each of our skill sets and each of our tool kits
- Refining our List of Projects to include a class project and a few more chapter projects
- Recognition programs within the Chapter

Let's talk. Let's learn. Let's have fun but above all let's make a difference in our communities and for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Jeff
Jeff Wright
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2016 VIRGINIA MASTER NATURALIST STATEWIDE CONFERENCE AND TRAINING by Charlene Talcott

Bill Blair, Pam Narney, John Narney, and I attended the 7th Annual Virginia Master Naturalist Conference in Wirtz, Virginia, from August 26-28. This is home to the Skelton 4-H Center at Smith Mountain Lake. The event was

hosted by the Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes chapter. Their initials are BRFL, which they pronounce as Burr-Full.



Bill Blair, Pam & John Narney, and Charlene Talcott at the 2016 VAMN Statewide Conference and Training

The group enjoyed several sessions about contributing to the breeding bird atlas, creating habitat for amphibians, birding by ear, the latest research about bats, methods for studying mammals, information about ticks and tick-borne diseases, how to monitor box turtle populations, raptors of Southwest Virginia, creating inexpensive outreach and educational materials, creating water and pollinator gardens, tree identification skills, and more. We came away with several ideas for speakers at upcoming meetings.

Tim McCoy who works with the Entomology Department at Virginia Tech, was the keynote speaker. He highlighted Virginia's many native pollinators, including native bees, butterflies and beetles. We learned ways we could attract them to our yard and ways to protect them. He was another great speaker that we could consider.

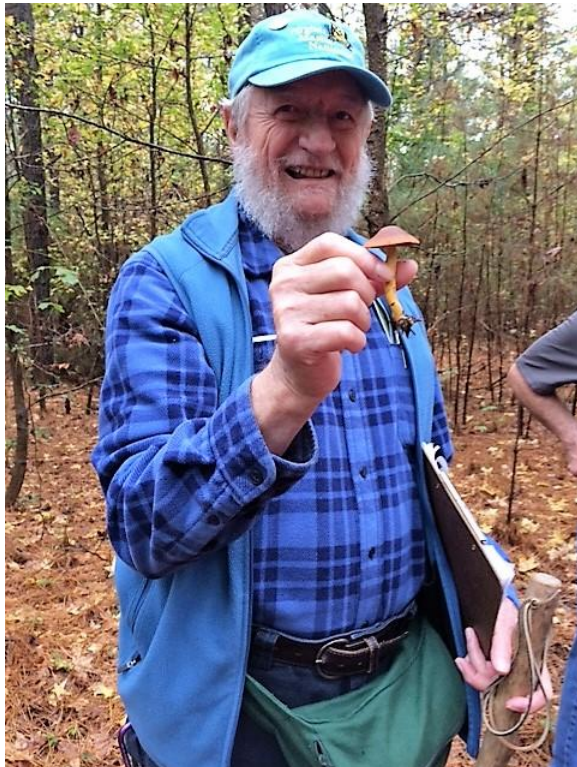
There were also field trips to a local dairy farm that uses sustainable methods, and hikes to several area natural areas. One field trip was a short course in mycology (mushrooms and other fruiting fungi). A pre-conference canoe trip on Smith Mountain Lake was available. Participants also had a chance to participate in

a Bio-blitz at the Booker T. Washington National Monument.

We were excited that two of our members earned prizes in the photo contest. In the “Virginia Flora, Fauna, and Other Species” category, Nancy Joel won an Honorable Mention for “Fishing Spider in Tree.” Arlene Crabbe-Kilduff won First Place in “Virginia Habitats and Landscapes” for “Ebb and Flow.” Congratulations to both!

This was my first full conference, and I’m glad that I went. Next year’s conference will be September 15-16 at the Northern Virginia 4H Educational Center in Front Royal, so mark your calendars!

TOM TEEPLES NOMINATED FOR MASTER NATURALIST OF THE YEAR



Tom Teeples on tree walk at Rappahannock Westminister Canterbury, photo by Alison Sowar

Prior to this year’s Statewide Conference the Northern Neck Chapter nominated Tom Teeples

as the Virginia Master Naturalist of the Year. His recommendation read in part:

“He has an innate curiosity for nature and often engages our members as he finds some unusual species and asks for assistance in hunting down a likely identification. Tom became instrumental in developing walking trails around his retirement community for the residents and visitors to enjoy and use as part of their health and wellness programs.”

Although Tom was not selected; it is an honor for our chapter to have someone of Tom’s stature in our chapter.

Tom was also honored recently by having a trail named for him at the Hickory Hollow Nature Preserve by Northern Neck Audubon society.



Tom Teeples Trail, Hickory Hollow Nature Preserve, photo by Paul Servis

Congratulations Tom and keep on doing what you’re doing.

WHAT’S BUZZING IN THE WORLD OF BEES **by Jane Sale Henley**

The media in August, September and October have offered a bonanza of information for those of us who hunger for the latest word on the plight of disappearing bees, in particular wild bees. A sampling of what has appeared in the newspaper and my e-mail inbox include a report in *Peer Magazine* reviewing all the studies by scientists in the last six years which emphasized the global nature of the decline and the role of corporate control of global agriculture, new systemic pesticides, new

viruses, development of commercially managed honey bees and bumblebees, heat waves and drought from climate change, and the potential positive impact of reduced chemical use on pollinators.



Pollinator at work on Rose Mallow, photo by John Narney

A Washington Post article 8/17/16 covered the English study of 18 years collecting data from 60 bee species showing neonicotinoid exposure can cause major damage to bees. A report from IPBES, a United Nations group of 124 countries published results of a two year study revealing that 40% of invertebrate pollinator species world wide -particularly bees and butterflies- are facing extinction caused by changes in land use, agricultural practices, pesticide use, alien invasive species, disease and pests, and climate change, also mentioning that wild pollinators are important to the stability in pollination even when managed bees are present in high numbers.

On the positive side, in August Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton issued an executive order outlining steps users of neonicotinoid pesticides are required to take such as “verification of need”, careful attention to product labels and restrictions with increased inspection and enforcement of label requirements and development of stewardship materials to minimize non-target exposures as well as adherence to best management practices to protect pollinators. Perhaps other states will follow Minnesota’s lead.

While butterflies and other pollinators are essential to the total picture, Bees are the best pollinators. Honey bees are so important to food producers that in spite of the colony collapse disorder in 2006 bee keepers have managed to improve their skills and avoid diseases well enough that according to the USDA in 2015 there were 2.66 million commercial honey producing colonies in the U.S. which is significantly higher than 2006. On the other hand wild bees which do not make honey and include bumble bees and other species of bees (4000 in U.S.) do not get the attention of the honey bee. “There is nobody around to breed new queens and help them recover,” wrote Christopher Ingraham in the *Washington Post* on Oct. 13. “Wild bees are on their own.”

Fortunately the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has taken two major steps this summer to try to stop the decline of particular at risk bees. For the first time in the U.S. seven species of rare yellow-faced bees, all native to Hawaii, were placed on the endangered species list.



Rusty patched bumblebee, *Bombus affinis*, US Fish & Wildlife Service photo by Dan Mullen

More important to the continental U.S. is the decision of Fish and Wildlife to formally “recommend” that the rusty patched bumblebee be put on the endangered species list. In the last twenty years this bee has disappeared from about 90% of its historic range, which included the Midwest and the East Coast. In recent years almost none have been sighted in the East. The Xerces Society petitioned the agency in 2013 to list the bee. Finally action has been taken. Fingers are crossed that soon it will join the yellow-faced bees on the official Endangered Species list.

This action is important to the protection of all wild bees because it will mean that no major federal projects can go forth without the certainty that they will not affect the habitat of the rusty patched bumble bee, a habitat that is also important to non-registered bees.

In a continuation of the recent media focus on bees, on October 11 the *New York Times* in its Tuesday Science Times section gave two total pages over to a bee research project entitled "The Bee Stalkers" which features six young scientists collecting bumblebees in the Arctic Circle. Only bumblebee species can survive the extreme climate there as well as the winter darkness. The King Bee of the region that survives closest to the North Pole is called the *Bombus polaris*. Catching one of those in your net is a time for major celebration. For more information on this project, go on line to NYT 10/11/16, Science Times.

Closer to home in Virginia is a project at UVA by a fourth year student and her advisor to study the reasons for the decline of the once common American bumblebee *Bombus pensylvanicus*. Employing the assistance of volunteers in Northern Virginia who live near Blandy Experimental Farm in Clarke County student Samantha Heitsch set out twenty starter hives with a queen and 10 workers in each at various sites, urban and rural. By the end of the summer the hives had increased significantly in number of bees. The results have so far shown that home gardens and wildflowers in town can be very important food sources for bumblebees. Because of heat and drought conditions in rural settings, the watering and care of home gardens has shown that town bees have performed as well or better than those in "ideal habitat" rural settings. Also Samatha's advisor T'ai Roulston who has been studying bees for years reports that two years ago he and a Smithsonian scientist collected over 35,000 bees from 17 sites in Virginia and amazingly found a single rusty patched bumblebee foraging among flowers near Delaplane, VA, which gives hope for the future

in Virginia and the East Coast. Yes, gardeners, there is a place for you to help protect declining bees.

2016 PHOTO CONTEST by Petra Walian

We have such talented folks in our chapter! For the fourth time a Northern Neck Master Naturalist's photo has won a prize in the State Photo Competition. In fact, this year, two of our members submitted photos that received ribbons!



Arlene Crabbe-Kilduff's award winning photo "Ebb and Flow" taken at Hughlett Point NAP

Arlene Crabbe-Kilduff's "Ebb and Flow" won first place in the Virginia Landscapes and Habitats category. Arlene's photo was taken during her basic training class.



Nancy Joel's award winning photo "Fishing Spider" *Dolomedes tenebrosus* taken at Hickory Hollow NAP

Nancy Joel received an Honorable Mention for her photo "Fishing Spider" *Dolemedes tenebrosus* in the Virginia Flora, Fauna and other species category. Nancy's photo was taken at Hickory Hollow during her basic training class.

Way to go Ladies!

All of the winning photos taken by Northern Neck Virginia Master Naturalists for the local photo contest can be viewed on our website. Please follow the following link to see them: http://www.northernneckmasternaturalists.org/Photo_Contest.html

It is so much fun to see what our members view through the lens of their cameras; so make sure to grab your camera next time you go out and share your photo adventures with us next year!

VMN PROGRAM LEADERSHIP DAY

by Alison Sowar

I attended the VMN Program Leadership Day offered on November 11 at the Wetland Studies and Solutions in Gainesville. This was the first of four VMN Leadership Days that were held throughout the state. I came away from the program, which lasted from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM and found that I had learned a lot of "new" information, ways to handle chapter problems that might arise, and positive ways to have an effective board through open communication.

Everyone in attendance was involved; most of the time this does not occur. A lot of that was due to the leadership of Michelle {Prisby}, Tiffany {Brown} and Terri {Keffert}. The Volunteer Policy Handbook update was appreciated and we broke into smaller groups to see how other chapters were run as far as the frequency of board and general meetings, and also common problems, such as a large chapter roster but a much smaller number of members who actually participate. Several of us were the only representatives from our chapters, and I felt this allowed more frank communication between us.

Usually I am not too excited about the use of stand up white boards, but this time I saw them put to good use, so I know it is indeed possible. As we rotated about the room, we discovered that all of us had many positive, and to a lesser degree, negative "internal and external" situations.

As far as our "venue" was concerned, we could not have been welcomed in a warmer way. The Wetlands Studies building is about as "green" as it can be, and I was fascinated with the kitchen next to our meeting room. Everything was energy efficient, right down to glass fronts on the refrigerators, to avoid the constant opening and closing when preparing meals.

Besides a friendly staff, and a huge stuffed turkey hanging from the ceiling, a half dozen dogs (Labs or larger, one Chihuahua) socialized with us during class. All in all, a very positive experience that I recommend!

REPORT ON VIRGINIA BIRDING AND WILDLIFE TRAILS

by Alison Sowar

The next checklist for the VBWT is due on December 20. This is the third set, and I appreciate everyone's hard work. At least none of you will be spending the day in 95 degree weather this time. We have an extremely large area that covers our chapter. I don't know the status of other chapters who are participating, but the June reports were supposed to be from 12, and only three responded. That says a lot for all of you. I am curious as to how many others participated in the September reports. Also, at the beginning of the project, Jessica said that a yearly report was needed, so I have emailed her after not hearing anything about this yet. I would think that she would be interested in the number of hours all of us have put into this. However-that is not confirmed at this time, so I will let you know if I hear from her.



Wilmont Landing, Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, King George County, photo by Alison Sowar

Over the last ten years or so, since the publication of the Coastal Trail booklet, some of the areas have fallen into disrepair. Some are boat ramps with room for several cars and no sign of wildlife. One privately owned site may change hands, one was still closed due to the tornado and one had a neighbor who tried to discourage people from visiting the property that is owned by the state, and not her own. So many of us have faced some challenges. But overall, I believe that most of us have been able to enjoy a lot of the natural beauty that the Northern Neck has to offer during this project. Alison Sowar, Project Coordinator

THIS AND THAT

Trail Cameras

Ever wonder what's going on on your property when you're not around? The advent of relatively inexpensive digital trail cameras can help you see without being seen. Katharina Bergdoll's camera captured these pictures of a curious beaver at Newton's Pond in Hague.



Beaver Ballancing on a log at Newton's Pond, photo by trail camera

It's not too late to ask **Santa** for your own, camera that is—not beaver.



Into the Pond, photo by trail camera

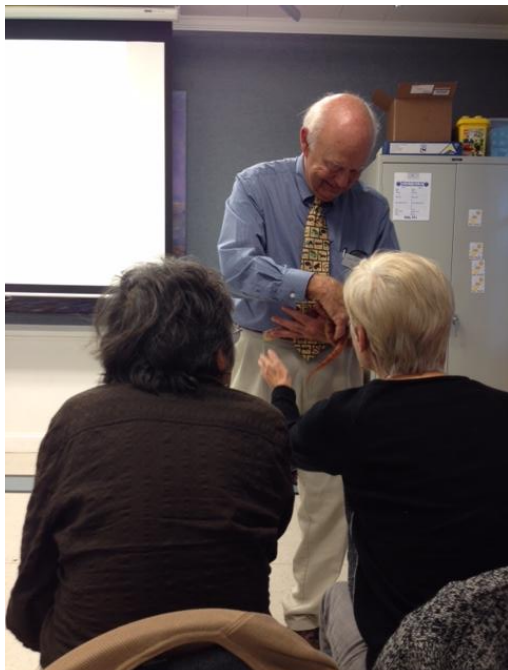
On Speakers Past and Future by Alison Sowar

The General Meeting in September concluded with the Chesapeake Bay Steward, Zach Bradford. His program concentrated on orchids of the Northern Neck area. He had so many lovely photographs and he spoke to a large audience in the newly opened Lancaster Library. This was the first General Meeting held after the 2016 Basic Training Class graduated in June.

Our November meeting featured David Bryan, from the US Department of Agriculture, who is working with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in the restoration of the Bobwhite Quail. Held at the Northumberland Public Library in Heathsville, this subject brought in a lot of folks, and some members we don't see very often, who had quite a few questions for him. One gentleman, Charlie Wilson, brought a framed photo of the habitat that David had helped him create and he was

very excited to show it to him. David, as well as Zach, is a gifted photographer and is a bird lover as well, so he tied in the quail habitat restoration as being beneficial to songbirds and pollinators as well.

Besides being entertaining as well as informative, the speakers we have after the General Meetings are also there for the purpose of continuing education. I welcome suggestions for future speakers. Please contact me with the name of the prospective speaker, the subject matter and a phone number as well as an email address. I have a list of speakers that goes back to 2012 now. Also, I was hoping for some of the General Meetings to be held at the NN Coop as its location is about halfway between the boundaries of our chapter. However, with the opening of new buildings there, and incomplete information at this time, I don't know about the availability of the classroom we have used in the past.



Chapter Member Temple Moore giving continuing education class on herpetology, photo by Alison Sowar

Some of our chapter members have given presentations as well. Tom Teeples, Bill Blair, Temple Moore, Jane Henley, and Bryna Brennan have all contributed over the last two years.

Feel free to contact me if any more of you are interested in speaking as well.

Take care and Happy Holidays!

Alison Sowar

Program Chair

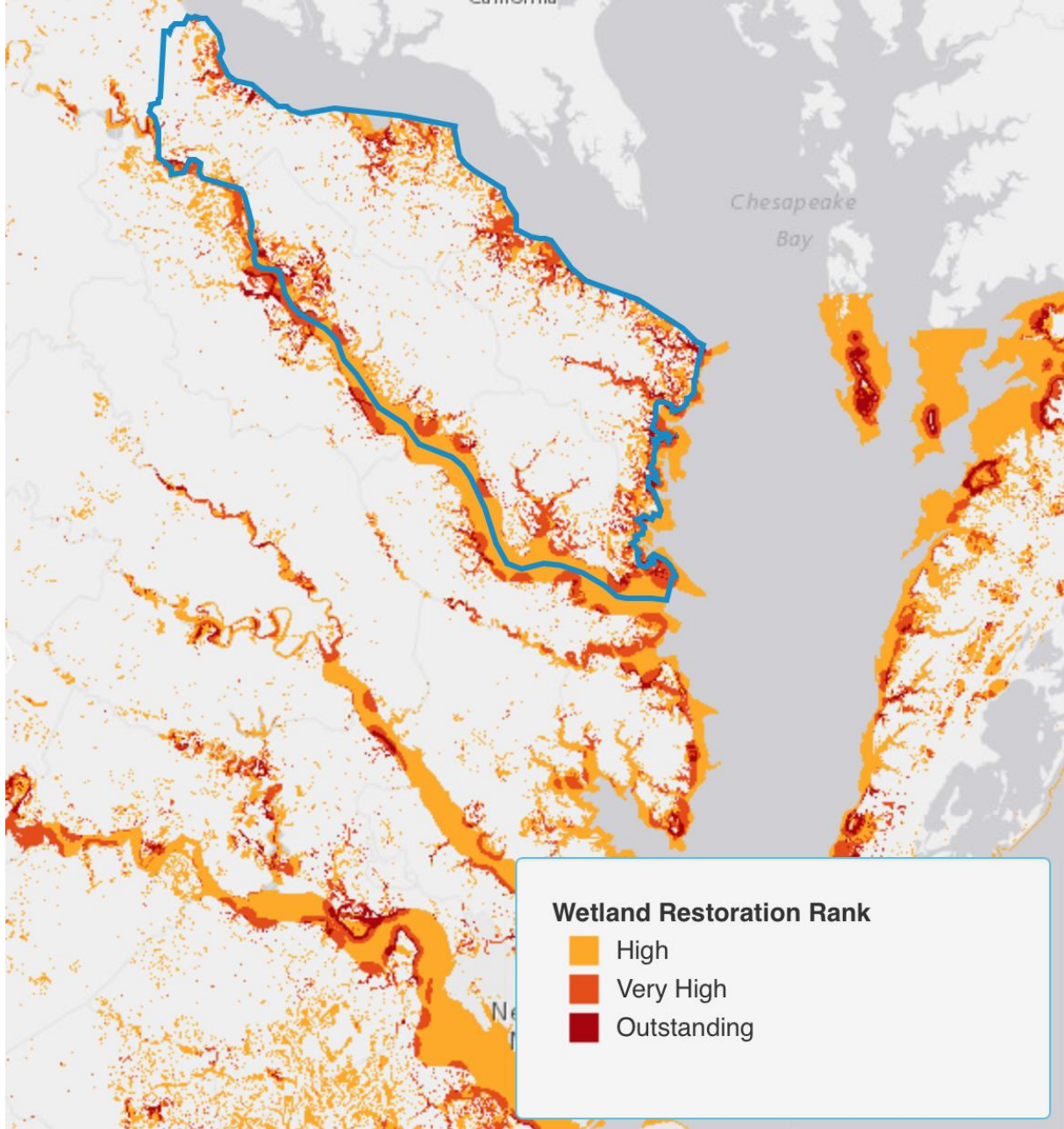
Alison.sowar@gmail.com

Explore Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan

by Jeff Wright

An online copy of the wildlife action plan for the state is available at www.bewildvirginia.org/wildlife-action-plan/. It allows you to select a region summary or view species of greatest conservation need. There is a wealth of information depicted in graphic and narrative form about the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula in the Action Plan. The plan is produced through the efforts of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and Virginia Tech's Conservation Management Institute with funding in part from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service State Wildlife Grants Program.

In describing wetland related actions needed on the Northern Neck: *"Restoring degraded wetlands is also a priority conservation action within this planning region. DCR's Natural Heritage Program designates wetland restoration opportunities in the Virginia Wetlands Catalog. Two types of restoration priorities have been identified. The first are areas adjacent to already conserved lands or wetlands. The second are small wetlands that support specific priority species such as the brant or seaside sparrow. This map depicts where the best opportunities are for restoring wetlands within the planning region."*



Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula Wetland Restoration Priorities

The “screen shot” above from the report of NNK and MP shows wetland areas identified as priorities for restoration. Within the region there clearly are some opportunities for NNVMN projects supporting the priority areas.

The Action Plan is an easy read and a good read as it focuses on the lands, waters, and species

of our area. It also provides a link to *Virginia's Climate Modeling and Species Vulnerability Assessments* (<http://www.bewildvirginia.org/climate-change/virginias-climate-vulnerability-assessment.pdf>)

How to Make A Tax-Deductible Contribution to The Northern Neck Chapter Of The Virginia Master Naturalist Program

by Jeff Wright

Yes, there are several easy ways to make a tax deductible contribution specifically for the Northern Neck Chapter or to the overall Virginia Master Naturalist Program.

The best place to start is to go to the Virginia Master Naturalist Webpage <http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org>. In the upper right is tab "Give" which you click on and takes you to the following information for a tax deductible donation to the state wide program. If you want to further designate your donation to go to the chapter - added in *Blue Italics* - is the one additional step to have the donation designated specifically for the Northern Neck Chapter.

"Support the Virginia Master Naturalist Program

Your donations, of any amount, make a big difference to our program and are tax deductible as allowed by law. No amount is too small! Your financial contributions help us not only sustain the Virginia Master Naturalist program, but also to expand it with special initiatives. Although the majority of our operating funds come from our state agency sponsors, those funds do not cover all of our needs.

All donations made to the Virginia Master Naturalist program are used to support program needs that are identified in the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. Your contributions help us grow the program to involve more volunteers [doing more great work to conserve Virginia's natural resources](#).

To give with your credit card, please visit Virginia Tech's [secure online-giving page](#), choose the option to enter your own gift designation, and type "VMN Account 876092."

(In the comments section of the form put "FOR THE NORTHERN NECK CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA MASTER NATURALIST")

To give by check, please make your check out to the "Virginia Tech Foundation Inc.," write "VMN Account 876092" on your check's memo line, and mail your gift to the address below. *(On your check's memo line put "VMN Account 876092 FOR THE NORTHERN NECK CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA MASTER NATURALIST")*

Virginia Tech University Development
(0336)
902 Prices Fork Road
Blacksburg, VA 24061

For more information on giving to Virginia Tech and its programs, please visit www.givingto.vt.edu. "

So if you are thinking of a tax deductible contribution that helps Master Naturalist programs the information above is a good place to start.

AVIAN HOUSE GUESTS by Arlene Crabbe-Kilduff

At home one day I heard a whirling roaring chirping coming from my chimney. It was a powerful sound. I tried to get pictures of the inside of the chimney, not knowing what was making the noise but suspecting that birds were involved, I called Jeff Wright; the 2016 MN Training Class Audubon bird expert.

Jeff asked me what kind of chimney it was. Brick and mortar. Jeff said leave the birds alone. They are chimney swifts or sweeps as Northern Neck natives call them. The swifts use saliva to make their nests in your chimney, raise their babies, and in the fall, they leave.

Jeff said that after they leave I have two options.

One, get the chimney cleaned by someone who knows about swifts, and co-exist with the chimney swifts. Be aware of the swifts and what they are doing and why, and wait for their arrival next year when they will do it again. Each year after they leave, have the chimney cleaned.

Option 2

Cap the chimney either with a cap that will keep them out of your chimney or with a cap that protects them but lets them in.



Chimney swifts, source unknown

ACTION POINT: Chimney swifts are federally protected. I will be ready to share my home with them next year.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

C5n Digitizing Virginia's Herbaria

Participants will transcribe label information from high-resolution images of herbarium specimens using an online interface called <http://notesfromnature.org>. The herbarium

specimens are from Virginia and include both native and non-native species. Within NotesfromNature.org, these specimens are located in the plant expedition category called, "Plants of Virginia".

See the entire project plan in the documents section of the Volunteer Management site or contact Lise Maring at lonewolf1366@hotmail.com or 804-580-7757 for more information.

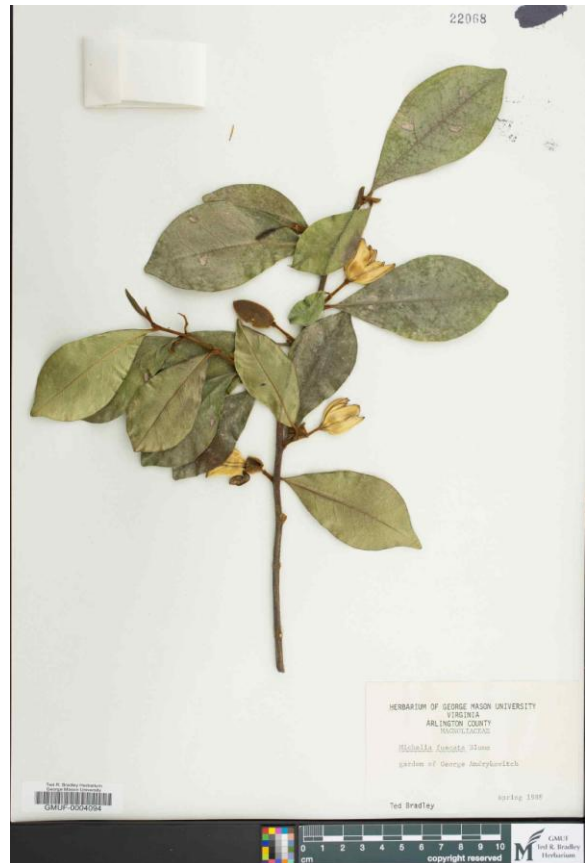


Photo of *Michelia fuscata* specimen from Herbarium of George Mason University

VOLUNTEER HOURS

An annual report is generated the first of January for each Virginia Master Naturalist chapter that includes each individual's hours completed for the particular year. In order to either certify for the first time (after completing the basic training class) or to recertify annually, you must have 40 volunteer hours and 8 hours of continuing education. Recertification is

necessary to maintain your status as a Certified Master Naturalist and you are also rewarded with a pin each year for your efforts if you have the proper number of hours for both categories.

All of your hours for the year 2016 should be recorded in the volunteer management system by December 15. It is important to check for accuracy; making sure your hours have been recorded in the proper category and that simple data entry errors have not been made.

If you are having any difficulties recording your data in the volunteer management system please ask Petra Walian, pwalian@yahoo.com for assistance.

NNMN 2016 HOLIDAY PARTY

Many thanks to Jane and Page Henley for graciously hosting the chapter's Holiday Party at their farm, the Oaks in Nuttsville. As in years past Jane went all out to fill the house with holiday spirit. Everyone had a wonderful time.



Jane and Page Henley at the Oaks, poor quality photo by John Narney

Pictures from the party are attached.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 13, Noon, Webinar on Pesticide use and Safety for Naturalists, Tim McCoy.
<http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/continuing-education.html>

Dec 15, Deadline for entering 2016 volunteer hours.

Dec 18, All day, Christmas Bird Count, George Washington's Birthplace, Contact Jeff Wright for details, pec11908@mac.com.

Dec 20, Half day, Christmas Bird Count, Northumberland and Lancaster Counties, Contact Jeff Wright for details, pec11908@mac.com.

Dec 20, Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail checklists due to Alison Sowar, alison.sowar@gmail.com.

Dec 21, Winter begins



"Cold Finch" , photo by Pam Narney

Jan 10, 2017, 1:00, General Meeting, Belle Isle State Park. Presentation on great horned owl by Faye Andrashko to follow.

Feb 1, 2017, Registration for Northern Neck Master Gardeners' Seminar opens, <http://www.nnmg.org/>.

Mar 25, 2017, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, Church of the Nazarene, White Stone, Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy; "The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden."

See the below listed Master Naturalist web sites for more coming events:

Our Northern Neck site:

<http://www.northernneckmasternaturalists.org/Welcome.html>

State site:

<http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/>

Logging Hours site:

<https://virginiamn.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm>

Thanks to: Jeff Wright, Charlene Talcott, Jane Henley, Petra Walian, Alison Sowar, Katharina Bergdoll, Arlene Crabbe-Kilduff, and Pam Narney for their work on this issue.

Please send items of interest, advanced training opportunities, news and pictures about your projects, and other newsletter items to jnarney@verizon.net.

PRESIDENT'S IDEAS FOR THE CHAPTER

- Providing actionable and useful information to our members and the community
 - ✓ Good Meetings with speakers on topics of interest to our members and our communities
 - ✓ Good Newsletters through more contributors from within the chapter
 - ✓ Timely and monthly work by the Board of Directors and Chapter Officers to keep the full chapter informed of opportunities, challenges, and “what is happening”
 - ✓ Working closely with the State’s Master Naturalist Office and Coordinator
 - ✓ Capturing and sharing project work using media and tools
 - ✓ Provide timely information on our upcoming events and activities to our communities
 - ✓ Offering some of our members as speakers to NNK and MP organizations and groups
- Fostering Life Long Learning and More Continuing Education Opportunities
 - ✓ A chapter field trip each year
 - ✓ Continuing Education becomes a chapter priority and focus area that is of the quality for recognition at the state level
 - ✓ More Continuing Education opportunities focused on the Northern Neck
 - ✓ Self-appraisals by our members of their skill sets, areas needing refinement, and overall learning aspirations. Leverage these aspirations to select educational programs and training workshops
 - ✓ Leveraging the educational aspects of state-wide and national level citizen science programs
 - ✓ An annual suggested reading list on topics of interest to our members, sponsors, and communities
- Growing our Membership
 - ✓ Both in numbers and by geography
 - ✓ Change the training class cycle from ever two years to every 18 months or even annually
 - ✓ Starting “now” to prepare for NNVMN Class 17
 - ✓ Recruit year-round - all of us empowered as recruiters
 - ✓ Understand how many new and active naturalists are needed in the chapter to replace inactive and former members
 - ✓ The effort should foster community equity, inclusion and diversity
 - ✓ Continue refining our messaging, methods, and outreach to the community toward getting new members
- A measure of quantity: Increasing the chapter’s overall volunteer hours and the average volunteer hours per member
 - ✓ Continue mentoring of recently graduated class members to help them meet certification requirements
 - ✓ Take a new member out on your projects
 - ✓ Increasing the number of active chapter members that meet annual education and volunteer goals
- A measure of quality: Increasing the measurable impact of volunteer projects
 - ✓ Where applicable getting data from our field work into Citizen Science Data bases at the State and National Level
 - ✓ Continue to grow our participation in statewide projects as identified by the Virginia Master Naturalist Program and by our sponsors:
 - Virginia Cooperative Extension

- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
 - Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
 - Virginia Department of Forestry
 - Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
 - Virginia Museum of Natural History
 - Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Center for Coastal Resources Management
- Refining each of our skill sets and each of our tool kits
 - ✓ Helping the chapter adopt and master the new tools and technologies adapted by our sponsors for statewide projects
 - ✓ An occasional training workshop on a new tool or technology related to our efforts
 - ✓ Everyone gets a little geeky and a bit more scholarly in applying tools, field work, and research methodologies – no luddites beyond 2017!
 - ✓ Citizen Science Tools – applying cameras, smart phones, computers, field guides, etc. to further the impact of our work for the state
 - ✓ Sharing information on tools such as APPs that are helpful for our volunteer work and for lifelong learning
- Refining our List of Projects to include a class project and a few more chapter projects
 - ✓ Some weeding and sowing needed for our list of existing projects
 - ✓ Adding volunteer work tasks for some of the volunteer work we are doing that is not yet “packaged” as a project
 - ✓ Each class will have a team project
 - ✓ Find one or more “make a difference” projects each year for the chapter to accomplish and publicize
 - ✓ Find more projects related to our waters and the impact of sea level change and climate change
 - ✓ More engagement with our ***Chapter Partners and Kindred Organizations in the Northern Neck and Nature Organizations in the State of Virginia:***
- Recognition programs within the Chapter
 - ✓ Class graduation in conjunction with a general membership meeting
 - ✓ Chapter Certificate or Pin for first certification
 - ✓ More updates and recognition of the status of projects

Meet Jeffery Wright

I am a regular participant in wildlife census and citizen science projects primarily focused on birds, rivers and oceans, and habitats. Each year I endure four or more Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) in Virginia. Last season I participated in the Brooke, Cape Charles, Matthews, and Williamsburg-Gloucester CBCs as well as bird counts on the Potomac, York, and Rappahannock Rivers. In 2016 I also became a participant in the state wide and VMN project – Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas 2 (VBBA2).

I volunteer with the Nature Conservancy of Virginia on planning committees, as a trail monitor at the Voorhees Preserve in Westmoreland County, the Alexander Berger Preserve in Spotsylvania County, and for trail, facilities, and habitat work on the Barrier Islands of Virginia managed by the Nature Conservancy's Virginia Coast Reserve.

I am a member of the Northern Neck Audubon Society (NNAS) and serve as a Director thru 2018 chairing Citizen Science and Conservation Committee of NNAS. I also get to co-lead bird walks in different areas of the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. I will be the leader and compiler for the first annual Christmas Bird Count on 20 Dec covering portions of Lancaster and Northumberland Counties. If you are interested in participating please contact me. This key citizen science project is an approved project for the NNVMN.

I pride myself in being a regular and accomplished bird spotter, but in reality an irregular and unaccomplished bird identifier, thus the need for tools, field guides, "Life Long Learning," and trying to always go birding with somebody who is a better birder. In addition to NNAS, I am member of the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO), The North American Blue Bird Society (NABS), the Northern Virginia Audubon Society (NVAS), and the American Birding Association (ABA), and a member of the Friends of Dragon Run where I am a kayak paddle guide and the Vice President of the organization. NNVMN has some approved projects associated with the Dragon Run.

Among my favorite philanthropic institutions supporting nature are The Nature Conservancy, American Bird Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and The Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Before declaring 95% retirement and being entered into the Witless Protection Program by my spouse, I spent over four decades in government and industry applying (or un-applying!) tools and technologies for solving difficult and complex operational challenges.

My undergraduate degree in Political Science and my graduate degree in American Government prepared me for selling either birding field guides or encyclopedias door-to-door. But studying under the firm supervision of the likes of Professors Joel, Blair, P. Narney, J. Narney, Baliles, and others from the chapter I am now a Virginia Master Naturalist. My parents would be proud as they introduced me at an early age to the outdoors, nature, and volunteer projects. I should mention that the fishing industry and seafood put food on our table and got me through college. So I have a special place in my head, heart, and soul for the lands and waters we depend on.

I do have an abiding passion for nature and the outdoors. Having worked or traveled in over 50 countries I have seen the good the bad and the very ugly about the planet and the need to protect and advance the natural world. Likewise, I have had the privilege of living in different parts of this great country. I was frequently forced to leave communities by the local bird clubs, once for habitual sparrow

mis-identification, twice for deliberately undercounting French speaking Canada Geese during Christmas Bird Counts, and once for proposing the European Starling as the state bird. But the family did leave the Hummingbird Capital of the US on good terms.

In addition to birding and conservation, my hobbies include kayaking, photography, hiking, music, theater, and trying to spoil a brace of Basset Hounds and a Dachshund. Kathy and my water address in Northumberland County: Ellyson Creek, Little Wicomico River, Chesapeake Bay, Atlantic Ocean.

Let's talk. Let's learn. Let's have fun but above all let's make a difference in our communities and for the Commonwealth of Virginia.



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NNMN 2016 Holiday Party



*Happy
Holidays*

