

# Northern Neck Master Naturalists

February 2014

## 2014 BASIC TRAINING CLASS

The Northern Neck Master Naturalists 2014 Basic Training Class is starting Thursday February 20, 2014. The 13 week class will run through May 8 with classes being taught at the Northern Neck Electric CO-OP building on Pine Street in Warsaw and other sites throughout the Northern Neck including Belle Isle and Westmoreland State Parks and George Washington's Birthplace. Nine field trips are scheduled, with eight on the Neck and a final one at VIMS in Gloucester Point. Current members are welcome to attend all classes and fieldtrips. The schedule of classes and field trips is attached.

Twelve students are enrolled in the class:

- Brian Barbre, Montross
- Katharina Bergdoll, Hague
- Bill Blair, Gloucester
- Bryna Brennan, Heathsville
- Elma Dirolf, Kinsale
- Don Hess, Montross
- Nancy Joel, Mount Holly
- John Powell, Hayes
- Alison Sowar, Wicomico Church
- Henry (Hurricane) Thompson, Gloucester
- Mark Tyler, Lancaster
- Petra Walian, Hardyville

## MEET AND GREET FOR CLASS OF 2014 AND MENTORS

Beautiful and informative displays of posters and books illustrating many of the areas that Master Naturalists study and volunteer in were spread around the Northern Neck Electric CO-OP auditorium.

Gail Sigler, Nancy Millar, and Nancy Garvey provided coffee and scrumptious coffee cake.

In a round robin, current Master Naturalist members introduced themselves and highlighted various parts of the program. Each MN displayed the passion and joy that MNs have for nature. And then there was Earline.

Earline, in the form of the finest stand up comics, proceeded to empty her (apparently bottomless) MN trail carry bag while regaling trainees with wit and wisdom. Her tips were amazing. Earline pulled a small but cute tick removal kit from her bag and for two or three minutes lauded its efficacy. Then she said, "But we MNs just reach down, pull out the tick, and keep walking."

Several electronic and mechanical devices were pulled out of the hat, er bag, and quickly replaced with, "I still don't know how these work!"

In our chapter, Earline stated, we are all treated the same. There are no gender differences. If a woman falls down in a stream, the men will think she's made a bridge and walk right over her.



Petra Walian and Earline Walker

People laughed until they cried.

The trainees then introduced themselves. Many in the class had worked with each other or with Charlene years ago.



John Powell, Bill Blair and Charlene Talcott

The Chapter keeps making inroads into Master Gardener territory as three of our trainees are Master Gardeners. The class has a great cross section of interests and talents: artists, photographers, journalists, biologists, teachers, nature lovers and a retired earth science teacher who “loves rocks”.



Nancy Joel

If you missed your chance to meet the “newbies”, as Gail calls them, please remember that you are always welcome to

attend any class that you are interested in. Meeting the “newbies” will be an added



Pam Collins and Katharina Bergdoll

pleasure, because this class looks to be curious, committed, compassionate, and passionate about loving, learning, and living with nature. We are fortunate to add them and all of their talents to our Chapter.

## VMN CONTINUING EDUCATION WEBINAR SERIES

Virginia Master Naturalist volunteers are required to receive eight hours of continuing education, formerly known as Advanced Training, every year to become certified or maintain their certification. However, meeting this requirement can be difficult for volunteers that serve in rural areas of the state where continuing education opportunities may be limited. Therefore, Virginia Master Naturalist is pleased to announce that it has started a "Continuing Education Webinar Series" to support this volunteer requirement and to also provide additional ways for our sponsoring agencies and partnering organizations to connect with our volunteers at the statewide level.

The program will host a new webinar every month throughout the year. The next two webinars will provide needed training on the **Volunteer Management System (VMS)**, the software used by our volunteers to record hours. These will be presented on **February 24** for volunteers and **March 4** for administrators. Pete Pfeiffer, a member of the Arlington Regional chapter, will guide volunteers through the online system and discuss available software features. Then, on **April 14**, Dr. Marie Struder, the Director of Learning and Education with the Encyclopedia of Life, will be presenting: "**Finding Synergies for Biodiversity Awareness and Conservation: How Can the Virginia Master Naturalist Program and the Encyclopedia of Life Support Each Other?**" We

will continue to post information related to future webinars on the Virginia Master Naturalist website (<http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/training.html>) under the "Continuing Education Webinar Series" link. We look forward to using this online educational tool to continue to connect our volunteers and the conservation organizations they support.

Hours for the webinars are recorded to the *VMN-Advanced Training Webinar Series* project. This is the last entry in the list of projects on the VMS.

### **GOOD SNAKE, LIVE SNAKE, CONTINUED**

By Temple Moore

Pam Narney's excellent article in the last newsletter brought up the information of herpetological county by county data on the VHS website. To refresh, the Virginia Herpetological Society website is, logically enough, [www.virginiaherpetologicalsociety.com](http://www.virginiaherpetologicalsociety.com). This site contains a wealth of information but this article is concerned only with species distribution which was mentioned in the previous article.

There is a very specific and detailed process whereby you can add to your county/city data base of reptiles and amphibians (herps). To start, go to the VHS website and click on "county/city herp lists" in the left hand margin column. Input your desired county location and check the list against any additions you wish to submit. If you have an addition of any herp not presently listed, you must have a photo(s), or the actual creature to submit. If you have obtained that requirement, write a brief synopsis of when, where and how you found the animal and include detailed geographic location such as road intersection and

geographic coordinates. Also include weather, time of day and any other information which you might find helpful to identify creature and habitat. Use the Latin name followed by the common name as the title of the submission.

After collecting the necessary information, submit all to both VHS and to Dr. Paul Sattler at Liberty University. I suggest that prior to submitting to Dr. Sattler, you first send your data and visual evidence to the VHS for the experts to check and verify your identification. The volunteers at VHS are very helpful in assisting you with the proper format. Dr. Sattler makes the final decision as to whether your species is correct and he will edit or return your description for any corrections.

If you decide to submit a missing species, I will be glad to assist in creating the documentation. Through trial and error with previous submissions, I have at least learned how to make most of the mistakes. You can email me at [templemoore@verizon.net](mailto:templemoore@verizon.net) if you would like any assistance.

### **NEW VOLUNTEER PROJECTS**

The Project Proposal Committee has approved five new projects submitted by Tom Teeples. These projects are all located at Rappahannock Westminister-Canterbury (RWC) in Irvington.

The projects are:

- C3t Bluebird trail monitor at RWC
- C5j Plant Survey at RWC
- E2h Create educational trail maps and tree guides at RWC
- S2o Invasive plant removal at RWC
- S4j Nature Trail maintenance at RWC

Project descriptions are posted on the Volunteer Management Site. Contact Tom, [tomteeples@gmail.com](mailto:tomteeples@gmail.com), for details and coordination.

## GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

### February 14-17, 2014

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time.

Since then, more than 100,000 people of all ages and walks of life have joined the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. [Register for the count](#) or use your existing login name and password. If you have never participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count or any other Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you'll need to [create a new account](#). If you



Red-bellied Woodpecker in the Front Yard

already created an account for last year's GBBC, or if you're already registered with eBird or another Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you can use your existing login information.

2. Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the GBBC. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day, for each new location, or for the

same location if you counted at a different time of day. Estimate the number of individuals of each species you saw during your count period.

3. Enter your results on the GBBC website by clicking "[Submit Observations](#)" on the home page. Or download the free [GBBC BirdLog app](#) to enter data on a mobile device. If you already participate in the eBird citizen-science project, please use eBird to submit your sightings during the GBBC. Your checklists will count toward the GBBC.



Canvasback Ducks in the Backyard

**The Cornell Backyard Bird Count is volunteer project C3g on the Volunteer Management web site.**

## REPORTING YOUR HOURS

It's a new year and the recertification clock has been set back to zero. Master Naturalists need to record 40 hours of volunteer time and 8 hours of Continuing Education annually to be certified/recertified. Although it is still early in the season for most outdoor activities there are other opportunities to get hours: board and general meetings count as admin time, volunteers are needed to man the display at the upcoming Master Gardeners' Seminar, programs following meetings and State provided webinars count for Continuing Education hours.

## NOTES FROM CHARLENE

Belle Isle State Park will be holding a Project WILD workshop on Saturday, March 22, from 9 to 3.

The *Project WILD K-12 Curriculum and Activity Guide* focuses on wildlife and habitat. Each Project WILD activity contains all the information needed to conduct that activity including objectives, method, background information, a list of materials needed, procedures, evaluation suggestions, recommended grade levels, subject areas, duration, group size, setting, and key terms. A glossary is provided as well as an index cross-referenced by topics and skills. A list of correlations with Virginia SOLs will be provided.

This program is recommended for teachers, informal educators, and others that work with students. Each participant will receive the *Project WILD* Guide and lunch.

A fee of \$10 applies. Pre-registration is required by calling 464-5030.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a great time to be the Prez! I'm very excited to start the term off with another NNMN Class, starting Feb. 20th. We are up to 12 participants and the number may grow.

Many of you are volunteering to work with the class, either teaching, mentoring and hosting. Thank you. There are many opportunities to help with the class coordinators. Please see Paula Boundy's schedule and come out to support the new class.

If you weren't able to attend the chapter meeting in January, just a couple of items that I really want to move forward on this year.

We need a slogan, Water to the Woods, has already been taken, but I'm sure we can come up with one to make a statement on what we're all about, like "NNMN, Educating others to Experience the Environment," or something like it. Email any suggestions to me at [Motor254@yahoo.com](mailto:Motor254@yahoo.com) and we can vote on them at the March meeting.

Also, I would like us to have a signature event every year, highlighting our chapter, our sponsors and our partners and spotlighting our NN State Parks. I was thinking an "open house" with hands on stations to show people the impact we have on our environment and how to be better stewards. This is tentatively slated for October. Watch for details and be willing to share your expertise.

Thanks for this incredible honor to work with you to grow our chapter.

Cindy Baliles

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONTINUING EDUCATION\*

**Feb 20** – Basic Training Class begins, 9:00, NNEC, Warsaw, see attached schedule

**Feb 24** – The Volunteer Management System for Virginia Master Naturalists Webinar, 12:00 PM, Pete Pfeiffer,

[http://connect.ag.vt.edu/vmn\\_at2/](http://connect.ag.vt.edu/vmn_at2/)

**Mar 11** – Board Meeting, 12:00 PM, BISP

**Mar 11** – General Meeting, 1:00 PM, BISP

**Mar 11** – Creating Habitat to Support Native Pollinators, Faye Andrashko, 2:00 PM BISP

**Mar 29** – NN Master Gardeners' Seminar, 8:45 AM to 3:00 PM, Church of the Nazarene, White Stone

\*For more details, times and locations go to the Event Calendar on the Virginia Master Naturalist Volunteer Management web site.

<https://viriniamn.volunteersystem.org/users/index.cfm>

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Thanks to: President Cindy Baliles, Paula Boundy, Temple Moore, Pam Narney, and Charlene Talcott for their input on this issue.

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Please send items of interest, continuing education opportunities, news and pictures about your projects, and other future newsletter items to [jnarney@verizon.net](mailto:jnarney@verizon.net).

### NNMN COMMITTEES

Want to get more involved with the Chapter –want to learn more about how the chapter operates— think you know a better way? If any of these apply to you, volunteer to work on a committee. Contact any of the committee chairs listed below to join one of the Chapter committees. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Basic Training	Paula Boundy	Paula.boundy@va.metrocast.net
Newsletter	John Narney	jnarney@verizon.net
Web Site	Bonnie Wilson	bartikbk@me.com
Outreach	Jane Henley	Mlewisnut@aol.com
Project Proposal	John Narney	jnarney@verizon.net
Membership	Judy Holyfield	mygamm@hotmail.com
Historian	Polly Ward	rpmercker@gmail.com
Programs	Bonnie Wilson	bartikbk@me.com
Hospitality	Maggie Gerds	maggieurbana@hotmail.com
Continuing Education	Vacant	

The 2014 Basic Training Schedule is attached below.

Please regard the extra page with the NNMN Newsletter header as an invasive. It snuck it somehow and your editor hasn't been able to kill it yet.

<b>Date 2014</b>	<b>Instructor(s)</b>	<b>Classroom Location &amp; Time</b>	<b>** Hours</b>	<b>Fieldtrip &amp; Time</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Host</b>
Feb. 20 Class 1	Charlene Talcott (DCR) & NNK Chapter Leader	<b>NNEC</b> (0900-0930, Admin 0930-1230 Class)	3	None	0	Orientation; Introductions; Basic Skills Dress for Field/Journalizing VaMN Sign-up	<b>Bobbie Burton;</b> Pam Narney
Feb. 27 Class 2	David Mellor, PhD (Citizen Science Project Coordinator, VMN; Dept. of Forest Resources & Environmental Conservation @ VT	<b>BISP</b> (0900-0930, Admin; 0930-1230 Class)	3	<b>BISP</b> w/Dr. Mellor and Tom Teeples (C.VaMN, NN Chapter) (1330-1530)	2	Basic Ecology Wetlands, Swamp, Fungi	Bobbie Burton; <b>Pam Narney</b>
Mar. 6 Class 3	Pam Narney & Gail Sigler, (Certified VaMN-NNC); Bobbie Burton (NN Land Conservancy)	<b>Menokin</b> (0900-0930 Admin 0930-1230 Class)	3	None	0	Urban/Suburban Systems; Volunteer Opportunities; Other misc.	Bobbie Burton; <b>Pam Narney</b>
March 13 Class 4	Richard Moncure Friends of Rapp.	<b>George Washington Birthplace NM</b> (0900-0930, Admin 0930-1230 Class)	3	None; however individual viewing of sites at GEWA of interest!	0	Streams, Rivers	Bobbie Burton; Pam Narney; <b>Paula Boundy</b>
March 20 Class 5	Dr. Lynton Land (PhD. Geology, NN. Resident, Active in NAPS)	<b>Westmoreland State Park</b> Murphy Hall (0900-0930 Admin 0930-1230 Class)	3	<b>Westmoreland SP</b> w/ Lynton Land & Cindy Baliles (C. VaMN, NN Chptr) (1330-1530)	2	VA Biogeography w/focus on Coastal Plain Geology, Weather, Climate Soils, Fossils	<b>Bobbie Burton;</b> Pam Narney; Cindy Baliles
March 27 Class 6	John McGruder (Consulting Forester)	<b>NNEC</b> (0900-0930 Admin 0930-1230 Class)	3	<b>Chilton Woods</b> w/ Rich Steensma (Va DOF, Lanc. Co.) (1400-1600)	2	Dendrology; Forest Ecology and Management	Bobbie Burton; <b>Paula Boundy</b>

**NNEC**=Northern Neck Electric Coop in Warsaw

**GEWA**=George Washington Birthplace National Monument

**HSF** = Hull Springs Farm

**BISP**=Belle Isle State Park    **WSP**=Westmoreland State Park    **VIMS**=Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, College of William & Mary    **NNAS**=Northern Neck Audubon Society

**NNNPS**=Northern Neck Native Plant Society    **RRVNWR**=Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge    **C.MN-NNC**=Certified Va. Master Naturalist, Northern Neck Chapter

Total Basic Training Time for each Master Naturalist is 40 hours, of that 10 must be field trip time. Some classes may/can be made up if missed, some cannot be made up due to circumstances.

Some details are still being worked out; changes are inevitable and will be announced as soon as they are known. Be sure to always check each Class for any changes in location or time.

Master Naturalists In Training will provide their own snacks, bag lunch and beverages.

<b>Date 2014</b>	<b>Instructor(s)</b>	<b>Classroom Location &amp; Time</b>	<b>** H o u r s</b>	<b>Fieldtrip &amp; Time</b>	<b>H o u r s</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Host</b>
April 3 Class 7	Chris Hobson (DCR-DNH) Jane Towner (Shiloh School Interpreter)	<b>Shiloh School</b> (0900-0930, Admin; 09:30-1130 Class)	2	<b>Dameron Marsh &amp; Hughlett Point</b> (1200-1600)	4	Coastal Systems, Mammalogy, Herptology	Bobbie Burton; <b>Paula Boundy</b>
April 10 Class 8	Ellis Squires CVaMN, NNC and Ted Munns, CVaMN, NNC	<b>N N E C</b> (0900-0930, Admin; 0930-1230 Class)	3	<b>Laurel Grove Tract of RRVNWR</b> w/instructor, & Paula Boundy (CVMN, NNK) (1330-1530)	2	Botany; Nature of Naming Using Field Guide & Keying, Propagation	Bobbie Burton; <b>Paula Boundy</b>
April 12 <b>SATURDAY</b> Class 9	Tom Saunders (NNAS); Charlene Talcott	<b>BISP Visitor Center</b> approx. (1030-1230)	2	<b>BISP</b> w/Tom Saunders & Frank Schaff (NNAS) (0800 - 1000)	2	Ornithology; Interpretation & Speaking Skills	Bobbie Burton; <b>Pam Narney</b> ; Bonnie Wilson
April 17 Class 10	Guy Mussey, Stafford County COOP	<b>N N E C</b> (0900-0930, Admin; 0930-1230 Class)	3	<b>Hickory Hollow</b> w/Mr. Mussey & 2 NNMN's-TBD (1330-1530)	2	Entomology, Using a Key to ID	Bobbie Burton; <b>Pam Narney</b> ; &TBD
April 24 Class 11	Bill Portlock, Sr. Educator w/Chesapeake Bay Foundation	<b>Irvington Baptist Church</b> (0900-0930, Admin; 0930-1230 Class)	3	Boat Trip (Harry Wells) on Rappahannock River! Split groups! (1300-1500) w/Bill Portlock	2?	Wetlands; Chesapeake Bay; Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Bobbie Burton; <b>Paula Boundy</b> ; Temple Moore
May 1 Class 12	Dr. Carl Hershner (PhD @ VIMS)	<b>VIMS</b> at Gloucester Point <b>Time TBD based on tide (11:30am High)</b>	1	<b>"ALL DAY" FIELD TRIP@ VIMS</b> Seining w/Karen Duhring & other VIMS staff	4	Ichthyology, Estuarine & Coastal Ecology and Management	Bobbie Burton; <b>Faye Andrashko</b>
May 08 Class 13	Charlene Talcott	<b>HSF ??</b> (0900-1030, Admin; 1030-1230 Class)	2	Graduation (1300-1400)	0	Risk Management Review 'exam' & Journals; Other Admin.	Bobbie Burton; <b>Paula Boundy</b> & Chapter Members
<b>TOTALS</b>			34		22		

\*\* extra ½ hour of admin. time each Class as service time, admin.



# **Northern Neck Master Naturalists**