

President's

A **MAY**

G **2023**

E northernneckvmn.org

Edited by Camille



**Virginia Master
Naturalists**
Northern Neck Chapter

Message from our President



Hello Northern Neck Master Naturalists! May is for Mothers, flowers, baby birds and warm sunny weather. Our program this month by Dr. Holly Gaff included a slide showing tick season to be in full swing - and that it actually goes ALL year due to

the many species of ticks that are active in this area. Be sure to check out the slides that she kindly shared (see link below). I am suffering from psychologically induced itching as well as real from my most recent tick bite... Be careful out there! *Paula Boundy, Certified VMN, NNK Chapter, President 2023*



Polly has shared a link for Dr. Gaff's "Ticks 101" presentation. The tick talk begins at minute 28.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/14Au9WtW1yaLO4k0MV-GHED2N8KuwAXHL/view?usp=share_link

NNMN Awarded VMN Mini-Grant!

Debby Tupper wrote and submitted our grant proposal from members' suggestions, and we recently learned that we have been selected to receive the funding we requested (\$620). This will be used for the following:

- **two new vertical banners** for Outreach;

- **15 earbuds with microphones** to enhance online presentations;
- **two voice amplifiers** to assist with audio in large groups and/or outdoor settings.

Thank you, Debby, for your work on behalf of our Chapter!

May 9, 2023

BOARD MEETING



TIDBITS

Advisor Wendy Herdman thanked the NNMNs who helped with 5 Richmond County 6th grade programs recently. She shared that the lessons used were from Project Learning Tree, Project WET, and the 4-H curriculum, "There is No New Water".

There is a training opportunity this summer for the Project Learning Tree curriculum. DOF wants input on dates so that they can design a program that best suits the greatest need. They are requesting that those interested please fill out the survey at this link: <https://forms.office.com/g/bpKJ5wtE7e>.

Chapter 5-Year Financial Review

Paula and Debby and a non-chapter member (per bylaws) are finalizing plans to complete this review of chapter finances.

CHANGES to the BOARD!

Ellen Hunter is now the Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee.
Lesley Newman is relinquishing her role as Chair of the BTC Committee due to her upcoming move out of our area. Thank you for your outstanding leadership in this role and throughout your NNMN career! We will miss you and wish you well in your new opportunity.
Andy Bailey is the new Chair of BTC. WELCOME to the Board, Ellen and Andy, and THANK YOU for volunteering your service and time in these roles.



We are not yet halfway through 2023, but it is time to form a **Nominating Committee** to begin the search for new chapter administrators. As Past President, Camille chairs this 3-person committee. Two chapter members are needed. Our work can be completed primarily through emails and phone calls and volunteer hours will be logged through "Chapter Administration" in BI. Please contact Camille to volunteer.

If YOU are interested in a committee chair or officer role for 2024, please let Camille know!
cgrabb9@gmail.com.

Charlene asked us to contribute needed supplies to **Maleena's Wildlife Rescue** (2620 Bradley Farm Rd, Tappahannock, phone 804-366-7120; Maleenaswildliferescue@gmail.com). Charlene brought a large bin to our program meeting on Saturday, May 13, for donations brought by members. Check the Rescue Facebook page for a list of items needed to

help rehabilitate the native injured or orphaned animals there. Contact Charlene for more information.

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



Pat McMurray, Membership Chair, provided the Volunteer Hours report for the first quarter of 2023:

Quarterly Volunteer Hours Report 1st Quarter 2023

Report Group	Hours	# Vol.	%Total
VMN Chapter Administration	165	14	11
VMN Citizen Science	556	31	38
VMN Continuing Education	210		
VMN Education and Outreach	475	16	32
VMN Stewardship	276	31	19
Total Volunteer Hours	1472		
Total Hours	1682		

Member Contributions Desired for the President's Page

Please share your photos, experiences in the natural world, ponderings and wonderings, book reviews, articles you've written, etc., with the members of our chapter. Submit to Camille for inclusion in Paula's bi-monthly President's Page.



Upcoming Events:

dreamstime.com ©123456789 C. Minkoff

The NNMN booth displays attended 4 events in March & April. Sincere thanks to all Master Nats who volunteered their time at the events. We have seven more events from now through September. Please contact the event leader to volunteer for an hour or two!

Date	Event	Location	Leader
5-27	St. Stephens Straw. Fest	Heathsville	Terry
6-17	Tappahannock FM	Tappahannock	Terry
7-15	Heathsville FM	Heathsville	Camille
8-4	First Friday	Montross	Camille
8-5	Irvington FM	Irvington	Terry
9-16	Tapp FM	Tappahannock	Camille
9-30	NNLC Boots & BBQ	Lottsburg	Camille



NNMN Photos Needed!

The GREAT news is that the chapter is getting two new vertical banners! Now we need GREAT pictures for the banners! These banners will be in use for a long time. All you talented photographers can help by sharing pictures of NNMNs in action in one of our three primary areas of work: citizen science, education/outreach, and stewardship. All identifiable faces should have photo permission. Submit as jpg to Camille. Thank you!

We have a couple of “social” events to enjoy on the same weekend in June.

- **Saturday, June 10**, the BTC is organizing a summer **potluck picnic at Caledon** for ALL chapter members and their families. Joyce Reimherr is in charge and has planned special activities throughout the day. Everyone should have received the Google invitation recently. Please RSVP and tell which potluck item you will bring. Contact Joyce with any questions (joyce.reimherr@gmail.com) and put “Caledon” in the subject line.

- **Sunday, June 11, 1:00-4:00 pm** – Northumberland Preservation, Inc., is hosting a **“mix and mingle” Open House at the Shiloh school site** for members of the NN Native Plant Society, Audubon, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists. Explore the history of the school buildings, enjoy the native plants in the garden, and greet old and new friends! Light snacks will be provided; bring your own water or soda. *Please wear your name tag so we can put names with faces!*

Summer Butterfly Counts (contact Jeff Wright (pec11908@me.com))

- 30 May 2023 Annual **Northumberland-Lancaster** Spring Butterfly Count
- 27 June 2023 Annual **George Washington Birthplace** Summer Butterfly Count
- 25 July 2023 Annual **Northumberland-Lancaster** Summer Butterfly Count
- 22 August 2023 First Annual **Dragon Run** Summer Butterfly Count - *New Count for 2023*

- 26 September 2023 Annual **George Washington Birthplace** Fall Butterfly Count

Additional Counts are being held on the Middle Peninsula; contact Jeff for more information.

Continuing Education -

Tuesday, June 13 - BUTTERFLY IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP via ZOOM. 7:00-8:30 pm. Contact: Jeff Wright to register: (pec11908@me.com)

“Increasing Diversity Through Enhanced Outreach”

The chapter, and the Diversity & Inclusion Committee, have discussed over the years the need to reach out to our neighbors of other cultures. We knew we needed to “go to them;” they likely wouldn’t come to us. But wonders never cease, and at the Master Gardener Symposium in March, one of the attendees did come to us! She wanted assistance in developing trails and native gardens on her church property outside of Warsaw. The master naturalists who were there quickly agreed to help, as did the Master Gardeners. Since then, we have visited their property, met with several members and the pastor, and worked with them to create the initial trail in the wooded area. More work is needed to refine the first trail, create more trails, identify the significant plants growing there, and determine which native species to add to their property.

Emmanuel Christian Fellowship, Warsaw, is an African-American church. There are 42 acres, mostly in rolling field, but there is a wooded area of pine and mixed hardwood. The church wants to create spaces for exercise, reflection, meditation, and getting in touch with nature. We plan to continue working in the wooded area through the summer and

anticipate planting, along with the Master Gardeners, in the fall.

The NNMNs who have been there enjoyed getting to know the people and working with them to create the trail. We look forward to continuing this partnership with them and with the Master Gardeners. It’s a win-win all the way around!



Photo by Camille

Emmanuel members and NNMNs take a break after forging the first trail.



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If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify the Richmond County Extension Office at 804-333-3420/TDD* during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

Please turn to the next page to see the 2022 Infographic for our Chapter created by VMN!



68
active
volunteers



8,092
service hours,
valued at \$249K



25
sites
improved
through
stewardship



17
studies
contributed to
through citizen
science



19,353
contacts made
through
education &
outreach

Who We Are

The Virginia Master Naturalist (VMN) program is a statewide corps of trained volunteers providing natural resource education, citizen science, and stewardship in their communities. The Northern Neck Chapter is active in Northumberland, Westmoreland, Lancaster, Richmond, King George, and Essex counties and surrounding areas.

2022 Activity Highlights

- Volunteers provided environmental education at Belle Isle State Park, conducting nature programs for the Youth Conservation Corps, engaging youth in activities at the Fall Festival, and organizing a pollinator-themed weekend program for Girl Scouts.
- Volunteers collected data for the Caterpillars Count! project. They conducted weekly monitoring for caterpillars on native trees, documenting nearly 1,000 invertebrates. Their data will help researchers answer questions about climate change impacts on phenology.



Volunteers provided stewardship at Chilton Woods State Park. Their work to clear trails and remove invasive plants helped improve the site for the public to enjoy.

State Sponsors



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Image credits: top left - John Holden, top right - Cindy Andrews, bottom - Pat McMurray

