

NEWS and NOTES
from the Board

February
2021

shared by Camille

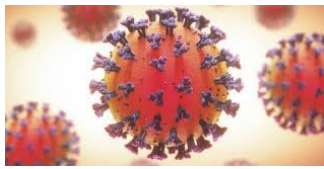
NN
MN

**Board Meeting held on Tuesday,
 February 9, 2021**

Announcements

From our Advisors, Tara & Wendy

Our advisors shared that the Newest Covid guidelines were issued by VCE on February 3, 2021. For indoor or outdoor events, there may be 30% of the capacity of the space, or 250 people, whichever is LESS. In addition, the Phase III Covid checklist should be completed prior to the event. *Even if Master Naturalists are working on a project with another organization, if the hours are going to be recorded as VMN volunteer hours, the checklist must be completed (see attached).*



**The Great Backyard Bird Count is
 this Weekend, February 12-16!**

This is sponsored by the Cornell Lab (eBird and Merlin Bird ID). Porter sent an email about this on Tuesday. Click here for details: <https://dl.allaboutbirds.org/>



**VMN "Better Impact" Training for
 Members Coming in March!**



Several chapter administrators are being trained now and are developing the chapter pages on Better Impact.

**Training sessions for chapter members
 will be held:**

- **Tuesday, March 2, 1:30 pm**
- **Wednesday, March 3, 6:30 pm**

Additional sessions may be offered by VMN. Our own VMN guru, John, will offer additional training and help if it is needed.

Until the new system is in place and the "green light" is given for us to begin using it to log our volunteer time, please continue to keep your own record of your hours and projects!



“Tuesday Twosomes” needs more participants! Please email nmnpresident@gmail.com with your name, BTC year, and contact info if you’d like to join us! We will mask and socially distance at whatever we do! We have 4 members of the 2019 and 3 from the 2017 classes. Where are all of you “earlier” members? We want to meet you (if we haven’t already) and get to know you! (I will even complete the Covid Checklist!)



Zoom Meeting



Next Board Meeting: March 9, 1:00 pm

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, March 9, 6:30 pm

- Membership vote for approval of bylaws
- Milestone Awards from Membership Chair
- Website Updates from Webmaster

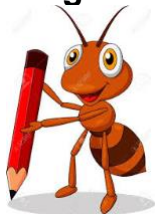
PROGRAM MEETING (public invited)

Tuesday, March 9, 7:30 pm

Dr. Shawn Dash, an entomologist at Hampton University, will present “Insect-Plant Interactions”. He is entertaining, knowledgeable, and very ecologically oriented. Dr. Dash is a former student of Doug Tallamy.

This is an approved, CE program.

~ All meetings via Zoom ~



Board Actions

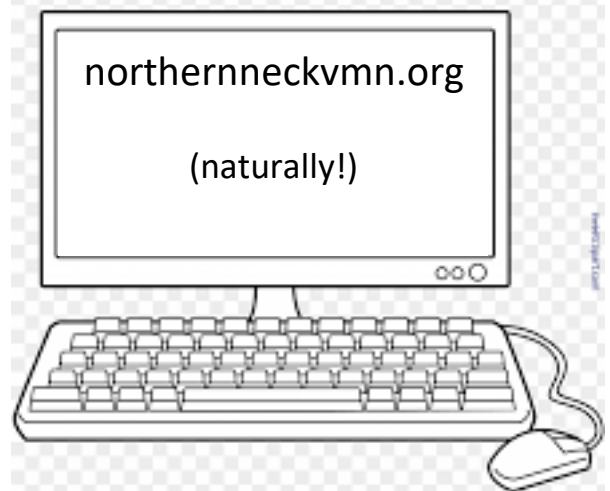
The Board approved the formation of an **ad hoc committee for the purpose of revising our Operating Handbook.**

Audrey, Buz, and Camille offered to serve.

If any members wish to be on this committee, please let Camille know. We would welcome a couple more people for this task.

Communication Committee

The Board authorized our webmaster, Porter, to purchase a domain name for our website, at a cost of \$20 per year. The new name is: northernneckvmn.org



The communication committee is continuing to work on the website design, with Porter and Anne leading the way. If you go to the site periodically, you will notice the changes as they are made.

Membership



Member Roster for 2021

Pat reported that the membership roster will soon be ready and will be emailed to all members.

Program Committee

In addition to the March program with Dr. Shawn Dash, Kevin has planned the May program as well. Our Dragonfly program planned for May, 2020, had to be postponed because of Covid. Kevin was able to schedule Dr. Richard Groover to present a program, via Zoom, on “The World of Dragonflies and the 17-Year-Cicada.” This will be held on May 11, 2021. (see “Book Review” on p. 4)



The **Outreach Committee** continues to work on booths, to be ready when the Covid limitations are lifted. Nancy is having labels printed for the VMN brochures, giving contact information for our chapter.

She is also working with Westmoreland State Park to plan several stewardship and educational activities there that will require Master Naturalist support. Get ready to volunteer when Nancy has more details!

Basic Training Committee

Pam shared the BTC proposed budget with the Board. Basically, the fees charged to the trainees should cover their materials. There is the possibility of having Art Evans come during the BTC to present entomology. Members would be able to participate in this for continuing education credit as well. His fee (\$300 for 3 hours; \$500 for the full day of lecture and field experience) is not factored in to the student costs, so the BTC Committee would ask the Board to approve that expenditure and cover that cost.



Continuing Education Committee

The Continuing Education group is diligently working to approve program opportunities for CE credit for the membership. In addition, members are also working to revise and simplify the application form for proposed programs. This can be completed online and submitted electronically or sent by US mail.



art125797319 GoGraph.com

Historian

Temple reports that he will save newspaper articles and other such material as appropriate to the chapter. If you have any NNMN materials that are of “historical significance”, please save for, or send to, Temple Moore.





FIELD GUIDES FOR BUTTERFLIES & DRAGONFLIES-DAMSELFLIES

The appearance of butterflies and dragonflies in March and April is a real signal to me that spring is upon us. And, every year, I strive to learn a little more about their biology, identification, and behavior. I spend my beer money on natural history books; you can never have too many.

There are several Butterfly and Dragonfly books available but two of my favorites that are perfect for us local naturalists are *Butterflies of the Mid-Atlantic* and *Northern Virginia Dragonflies and Damselflies*. While they are not 100% comprehensive for every species we could encounter, they are quite close, with 120 butterfly species covered in the first book and 92 dragonflies and damselflies species covered in the second. If you can learn those 212 species, I am impressed. These are often tough to id because of the difference between sexes, but these books help make it easier.

Both are really field guides – paperback so they are light with great color photographs covering just one species per page. Robert Blakney is the author on the butterfly guide and Judy Gallagher joins him as co-author on the dragonfly guide.

Each species has photographs, flight records (months when you see them), habitat (dragonflies) or larval host plants (butterflies), id characteristics, and in the beginning of the books, some biology including how to recognize the family of each group which is a great start to learn these taxa.

Available from Amazon for less than \$20 each - a valuable addition to your natural history library and your field pack.

(FYI - Our May 11th Master Naturalist program will be on Dragonflies & Damselflies by Dr. Richard Groover, via Zoom – stay tuned.)



Basic Training Class 2021

The dates are set, the registrar is emailing potential trainees, and publicity is being written. If you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming a VMN volunteer through the Northern Neck chapter, please refer them to the chapter website (northernneckvmn.org) or to our registrar, Nancy Joel, at registrarnmnbtc21@gmail.com

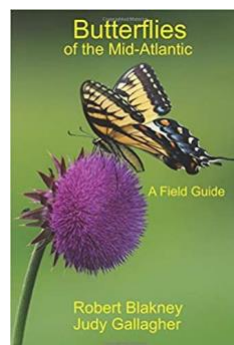
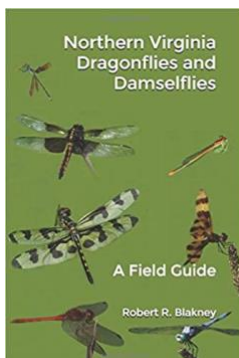


Meeting Minutes

In this time between the VMS and BI, the Secretary's minutes are not being posted to a website. If you wish to read the entire version of the Board minutes, please contact Buz Cox

(nmnsecretary@gmail.com) and he will send them to you by email attachment.

Please keep in mind that the minutes are typed, reviewed by the Board for revision, and then placed in final form. The February minutes should be available on or about February 19, 2021.





Checklist for In-person Programming During PHASE III in Virginia

Dated February 3, 2021

PRE-EVENT or PROGRAM

- Check with locality to ensure compliance with any local regulations
- Total group size should be limited to 30% occupancy of the event space, if applicable, or 250 participants, whichever is less.
- Pre-registration process for monitoring group size
- Written Arrival and Departure Procedures
- Advance communication with youth/parents/volunteers as to expectations for participation
- PPE supplies (should have some extra masks on hand just in case needed)
- Hand washing stations (if outdoors need portable, indoors ensure stocked and available)
- Alternative plan for those who cannot or choose not to participate in-person
- Train all leaders and volunteers on health and safety protocols
- If equipment required, enough available for every participant without sharing

DURING EVENT or PROGRAM

- Ensure frequently touched areas disinfected regularly or between users
- Sign-in process for all participants (including event staff) - Name, Email, Phone Number
- Review safety procedures and protocols prior to beginning and throughout the event, if applicable
- Ensure signage and markers for social distancing are visible and in place to assist in maintaining social distancing.

AFTER EVENT or PROGRAM

- Disinfect the facility or frequently touched areas, if applicable
- Disinfect any reusable equipment or supplies
- Maintain registration documentation

Program/Event Name: _____

Program/Event Date: _____

Signature: _____

Event Name _____

Participants:

#	Name	Phone	Email
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

Submit list of participants to our Advisors prior to the event:

For Westmoreland & Richmond County events: Wendy Herdman, wherdman@vt.edu.

For Lancaster & Northumberland County events: Tara Brent, tbrent@vt.edu