

# Northern Neck Master Naturalists

Summer 2017



Last Rose Mallow of Summer. Pam Narney's native plant garden

As has been done in the past, we are dusting off the NNMN Newsletter as a vehicle to introduce the latest Basic Training Class to the chapter. The newsletter also includes items of interest to the chapter that have been submitted by the membership. The newsletter depends on this input from you all. As the editor, a job that is available for anyone who wants to take it on, I solicit your items for future issues. Please let me hear from you at [nnmneemail@gmail.com](mailto:nnmneemail@gmail.com), subject line newsletter.

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## MEET THE CLASS OF 2017

The 2017 Northern Neck Master Naturalist Basic Training Class is underway. The class

started with orientation on August 25, then a week off for the Labor Day weekend. Class started in earnest September 8. Classes will continue through the final exam on November 9. Graduation will be held in conjunction with a holiday luncheon on December 11. Class coordinators, Pat McMurray and Arlene Crabbe-Kilduff, have laid out a challenging schedule for the students. Classes are being held on Fridays with two Saturday sessions. As usual, class and field trip venues are spread throughout the Northern Neck. New for this class will be a class project centered on Bush Mill Stream Natural Area Preserve. Chapter members are invited to attend classes either as a refresher or just to meet the new students. Members are welcome to assist on field trips. The class schedule is attached.

The nineteen members of the class are:

**Casey Boettcher** - As a child, I explored the forests around my home, both in Maryland and in Pennsylvania. Later, after having lived in the Pacific Northwest, I moved to Tucson where I worked as a systems analyst for the University of Arizona. On the weekends, I'd go hiking and camping in the mountains around Tucson and farther north, in the pinyon juniper woodlands of Flagstaff. It was in Arizona where I met my wife and "naturalist mentor," Lesley.



Having recently moved to Heathsville, I am eager to once again explore the natural habitats of the Atlantic seaboard that I left behind as a child. The wetlands and verdant woods of the Northern Neck are a welcome change to the desert environment that Lesley and I have inhabited for more than a decade and we look forward to learning more about them.

**Lloyd (Sandy) Dodge** - I was raised In Suffolk County on Long Island when it was still country. I spent my childhood playing in the woods, the beaches and marshes. I love the place where



my wife and I live now with its varied habitats. Now that I am retired, I am looking to spend more time outdoors and to learn more about my surroundings. The Mater Naturalist program seems like a perfect fit with

opportunities to learn and to help on various conservation projects.

**John Ericson** - From close suburb of NYC. Family trained, lifelong hunter and fisherman. High school with Jesuits in NYC. BA in Literature with minors in Sciences and Philosophy. Army draftee—competitive pistol team member and instructor. Sports car mechanic and racer. Coast Guard reserve Coxswain. 20 years NOAA research vessel captain and engineer. NOAA Diver, Diver Med Tech and EMT.



Commercial licensed Tractor Trailer. 18 years part time VMRC-Shellfish Restoration (oysters, scallops, clams). 27 year Gloucester resident.

**Gretta Geisinger** - My husband and I have been part-timers since 2007 but moved here full-time in June. We live on the Coan river and would like to ensure that we are protecting and enhancing the local environment. I felt the Master Naturalist program would provide the information and guidance needed for that. Before retiring, I worked at the VCU Medical Center for over 20 years as the department administrator for the departments of

ophthalmology and otolaryngology. After retiring, I volunteered at the Richmond Animal League for 3 years and have always supported charities involved in the protection of the environment



especially as it relates to animals. My husband, who is an avid fisherman, is also very interested in maintaining a healthy environment. I see this as my opportunity to get hands on experience and make a difference locally.

**Martin Hill** - Learning and being in nature are two of my favorite things. Wow, the Master Naturalist program rings both bells. Before retirement, I focused on knowledge discovery and social learning. One of my objectives is to reduce climate



change by combining past experience with the MN program. I'm currently a DCR volunteer at BISP, a perfect place to the put the MN program into productive practice.

**Kevin Howe** - My wife and I retired to Northern Neck from Northern Virginia about two years ago. We had been visiting the area for many years and love it. I grew up in northern California spending all the time I could hiking,



backpacking, skiing, climbing, hugging redwoods – anything outdoors. After pursuing biology in college in California, teaching high school biology for two years and graduate school in California then Oregon (OSU), I taught and did research in ichthyology/aquatic ecology in the Northwest and the South before ending up at the Smithsonian Institution where Betsy and I were both employed. After some time, I left the Smithsonian to start a construction company from which I retired two years ago. One of my main focal points and joy has been exploring the natural world and sharing my environmental knowledge. I love teaching and sharing at all levels – if it included the outdoors. And I am a long time whitewater and sea kayaker having taught for LL Bean for many years.

Working full time did not allow me enough time to pursue the outdoors as much as I would like. But moving to the NN has now given me that freedom and the Master Naturalist Program seems perfect. And I would like to give back as a volunteer. I am the current President of the NN Chapter of the VA Native Plant Society and look forward to increasing my knowledge of Northern Neck natural history.

**Anne Kornegay** - I have been coming to the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck since the 70's, and built a home here in 2008. I have always loved being near or on the water, and learning about animals, plants, and birds. After retiring from a career in higher education, I



wanted to continue to learn, especially about this area, and to serve my community. The Master Naturalist program seemed a perfect fit and I am excited about this opportunity.

**Kyle Langford** - After 37 years of working in Information Technology (IT) especially databases at the University of Maryland where I



also got a degree in Electrical Engineering, I have escaped to nature in the Northern Neck. I still primarily live in Howard County, Maryland but three years ago my wife and I acquired a get-away house in Heathsville, VA.

The house is nestled in the woods on a ridge next to a ravine on Bush Mill Stream diagonally across from Bush Mill Stream Natural Area Preserve. I feel like I live in a park. You can see my dock from the end of the Deep Landing Trail. However, no jet skis or gas powered boats at my dock. The thrill of finding and learning about the elusive flora and fauna in our parks, preserves and even our yards is what got me hooked on nature. Though I have retired from IT, I still love to learn ways to apply old and new IT skills in my life. In this case, how can IT improve conservation, access and understanding of the natural areas of the Northern Neck? I'm also an avid photographer, cook, crabber and history buff.

**Brian Luckham** - I am almost 30, and grew up in Lancaster and Northumberland area. I'm very talented in many things such as singing, painting, and carpentry. I am very athletic and spend a lot of time walking my dogs at trails, beaches, and parks. I have a few hobbies including flying drones, kayaking, fishing, and much more... I'm not married and have no kids.



**Felicity Rask** - Although British by birth and heritage, I spent my childhood in the Pampas of Argentina. There I took for granted wide open spaces, wild life, horses, cattle and Christmas in mid summer. My earliest bird memory is of a burrowing owl with its chicks. We children



believed they could turn their heads 360 degrees.



I used to be able to name garden plants but now I mostly watch birds and the plants are forgotten. I am a member of the Native Plant society and endlessly struggle to recognize those plants and learn the names.

In Gloucester we live on the Ware River and have enjoyed 25 years of returning osprey pairs to our dock. For several years I have led bird walks at Brent and Becky's Bulbs.

We now spend 5 months a year in Vero Beach, FL where I lead Nature walks and help control invasive species in an Indian River Wildlife Preserve that backs up to our property. In FL we take at least one bird trip per week. The abundance of birds on the Treasure Coast is amazing. I use eBird and am always delighted when I see entries made by familiar names from Virginia.

I am frustrated by knowing a little about a lot and hope that the class will help me integrate and expand this knowledge. I look forward to getting a lot of experience using plant and tree keys. I need to learn more about how to keep good records.

**Carolyn Reiner**- Carolyn teaches chemistry and other science courses for Rappahannock High School in Richmond County. She is an avid runner, passionate mountain hiker, and a lifetime violinist. Carolyn is looking to include what she learns in the Master Naturalist program in her curricula and



introduce her students to different areas of study regarding environmental science.

**Linda Shields** - Mother, social worker, artist, life long learner are roles that describe me.

Focusing on nature has been a priority since childhood when I enjoyed many hours with unusual pets as well as traditional ones. Now I live on 4 acres of wetlands located on the Piscataway Creek, a place full of the wonders of nature. Its mystery and beauty beckons us to learn more.



**Martha Tallent** - I was born in southern California and spent summers during my youth



in the Sierra Madres mountains surrounding the Los Angeles basin. I'm a life-long Girl Scout and enthusiastic outdoors person and camper. My father, an avid trout fisherman and

outdoorsman, instilled in me a love of nature. My husband and I bought our property in Reedville in 1990 and moved here full-time in 1997. I live on a 26-acre brack pond which opens periodically into the Chesapeake Bay (lucky me!) and supports abundant wildlife. I love the Northern Neck and am anxious to increase my knowledge about my surroundings.

**Jan Towne** - I have lived on Winter Harbor in the Onemo area of Mathews County for twenty-nine years. After receiving a degree in Environmental Resource Management, I worked as a park ranger at Newport News Park and then went on to home school my three children through high school for eighteen years. During that time my husband and I opened a kayak tour/retail business on our property



which we ran until 2010. Prior to opening Bay Trails Outfitters, I coauthored the Mathews Blueways kayak trail guide. I have always loved being in the outdoors and continue to delight in all aspects of God's awesome Creation.

**Jan Tyndall** - I grew up in a rural part of New Jersey right next to The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. My parents loved nature, and I spent many hours

exploring the refuge with them. I know that's where I fell in love with nature! My mother volunteered at the Raptor Trust, which was a rehab center for injured birds, and my father



raised honeybees and had a demonstration hive which many school groups came to see. I moved to Virginia in 1976 and raised my children in Gloucester County. I've been active in nature groups for many years, including the Sierra Club, Rappahannock River Valley Wildlife Refuge Friends Group, Bethel Beach Stewardship Committee, Northern Neck Audubon Society, and the Bath-Highland Bird Club while I was a VISTA volunteer. I retired from teaching Special Education full time a few years ago, but I still teach part time. I have wanted to take the Master Naturalist Class for several years, and I am so happy that I finally have the time to do it! I enjoy birding, kayaking, camping, reading, and just sitting outside watching nature from my backyard on Woodas Creek in Mathews.

**Audrey Vaughn** - As an adult, I have always volunteered in one capacity or another. When my husband and I decided to make the Northern Neck our permanent home, I had no clear plan for what volunteering I might get involved in. I love watching the eagles, osprey,

and heron on the river in front of our home. Last year we started learning about the fish of the region, this year we began crabbing off our dock.

I really like being outdoors, whether walking my dogs, gardening, being a spectator at a sporting event, riding horses on an Argentine ranch or taking a hike.



The Master Naturalist program will allow me to know the Northern Neck and its natural environment better. I look forward to using and sharing what I have learned as a knowledgeable volunteer.

**Porter Washington** - I am a retired special education teacher. I designed programs for counties in Northern Virginia for severely autistic children. I have taught grades PK - 8th. I have taught kids who were blind, wheelchair bound or had parole officers! In all of my teaching, I have learned more about strengths than weaknesses and that it is never too late to learn. I have always loved nature and want to learn the best way to take care of it. Having my first grandson is a great opportunity to pass on the love and knowledge of nature and how to care for it.



**Betsy Washington** - My husband and I retired to Northern Neck two years ago, but I have been coming to Northern Neck and the Middle Peninsula since I was three years old. My early years spent exploring the Rappahannock River and surrounding marshes, and woodlands inspired my later studies in marine biology, ecology, and conservation landscaping. I was a professor at GWU where I taught plant and

ecological landscape design classes with emphasis on native plants and watershed protection for 16 years. One of my main joys has been sharing my love and knowledge of the natural environment with students and community members through outreach,



conservation landscaping, and environmental education.

Moving to the Northern Neck has brought my life full circle, and given me time to pursue many of my passions including landscaping with native plants to attract wildlife and create habitat, birding, kayaking and getting out and observing nature!

I am currently Secretary of the NN Chapter of the VA Native Plant Society and am eager to join the Master Naturalists and expand my knowledge of the Northern Neck environment and natural history. I am very excited about meeting and networking with like-minded individuals, and participating in conservation projects and educational outreach in Northern Neck

**Liz Worsham** - We live off the Great Wicomico and have been weekendng on the Northern Neck with our family for 10 years. Once the kids went off to college, we retired from the software industry in Northern Virginia and moved here full time. I've always been interested in animals, plants, and ecology and I eventually joined the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to lend a hand in their conservation initiatives: I've grown oysters (to help rebuild reefs) and underwater grasses (to help clean



the water entering the Bay). That and simply learning more about my front yard (NN Master Gardener workshops and Native Plant Society programs) were instrumental in sparking my interest to do more. I feel lucky to be living in the NN – such a rich and fascinating environment. And I'm looking forward to becoming a NN Master Naturalist in order to learn more about it, help others appreciate and enjoy it, and ultimately work toward preserving it.

## Virginia Coast Reserve Oct 3-5 Field Trip

The chapter will conduct a Continuing Education Field Trip October 3-5 to the Virginia Coast Reserve (VCR), The Nature Conservancy -



### Shore Birds from Virginia Coast Reserve web site

Nassawadox, Virginia. The Nature Conservancy owns 14 of the 18 barrier and marsh islands off of Virginia's Eastern Shore, and 90 percent of the Atlantic Ocean coastline in the area. The work done at the Virginia Coast Reserve serves as a model for how conservation can help a landscape to adapt and become more resilient in the face of a changing climate. The Virginia Coast Reserve conservation strategies include:

- [Migratory Bird Conservation](#)
- [Marine Habitat Restoration](#)
- [Coastal Resilience](#)
- [Land Protection](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Community Outreach](#)

The Field Trip will be focused on The Virginia Coast Reserve, Barrier Islands, as well as VA DCR and VIMS sites close by. Planned Events will offer continuing education and field experiences about:

- Barrier Island Habitat and Species (approximately 4 Hours)
- Coastal Resilience (approximately 2 Hours)
- Salt Marsh Habitat and Eastern Shore Marine Species (approximately 3 Hours)
- Environmental History of the Barrier Islands (approximately 1 Hour)
- Science and research related to Virginia's Barrier Islands and Eastern Shores (approximately 3 Hours).

Cost of the trip is \$150 per person exclusive of lodging and transportation. Low cost lodging at the VCR Brownsville facility is available. Trip details and itinerary are attached to this newsletter. For more information contact Jeff Wright at Pec11908@mac.com.

## Dr. Carolyn Woods “...Healing the Earth”

by Marty Hill



Dr. Carolyn Woods, PhD presents at the July NNMN Meeting. photo by M. Hill

The July general meeting was held at Murphy Hall, Westmoreland State Park. The guest

speaker, Carolyn Woods, PhD presented “The New Health Imperative - Healing The Earth.” Dr. Woods’s objectives for the talk were to help us **understand** the sickness of the earth and **motivate** us to participate in its cure. She pointed out that first step to take when addressing any health issue is to diagnose the condition. Dr. Woods said, “Our Earth - our home - the planet on which we live - and without which we could not live - our beautiful, wonder, life-supporting Earth is Sick.”

She did an excellent review of the scientific evidence that human activity is the major contributor to the Greenhouse effect - causing global climate change. While we are beginning to understand the causes and how to treat it, the sickness is not slowing down. Why not? As Al Gore made clear, the inconvenient truth is **the human race lacks the collective understanding and will** to heal the earth. This was truly a learning experience for me—I understand much more and have changed my behavior as a result. I wish more people could hear Dr. Woods. One source for her presentation was “The Weather Makers/2005/Atlantic Monthly Press, N.Y.” She recommended that every Master Naturalist read this book. I bought a copy and have learned so much from it.

## Trees to Products Conference, Wise Virginia

by John Narney

In July, Pam and I attended the “Trees to Products Conference” in Wise, Virginia. The conference, sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension in collaboration with the Southwest Virginia Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, provides educators an opportunity to get an in-the-field tour of sustainable forest-management techniques and observe the steps in wood product production. While not currently educators, as Virginia Master Naturalists we thought this would be an



excellent opportunity to enhance our understanding of forestry.



**NNMN Members Pam and John Narney at logging operation, Wise VA, July 2017**

The first stop on our forestry tour was a reclaimed mining site. The area around Wise is hilly to say the least, and if you are standing in a flat area there is a good chance that it was a coal mine at one time. When the property owner sells the mining rights he tells the mining company how he wants the land reclaimed. Some of these lands have been developed, some are in pasture, and much of this has been reforested. We then toured federal and privately owned forests to see logging practices first hand. There was an emphasis on leaving trees near stream beds to maintain riparian borders. Timber cutters are required to post bonds to ensure that they protect water quality. In one area we saw a chipper the size of a minivan fill a semi trailer in less than fifteen



**Massive wood chipper turning trash timber into fuel for hybrid power plant. photo by J. Narney**

minutes. Those wood chips went to Dominion's Virginia City Hybrid Energy center which is designed to use up to 20% biomass for energy production. We saw areas that had recently been clear cut, with the exception of seed trees and a "den" tree, where the forest was starting to regenerate on its own. Leaving seed trees creates new growth through natural succession.

After the forest tour we visited wood product manufactures to include a saw mill, wood flooring company, a chip mill, and a paper plant. The impressive part of these visits was the realization that because profit margins are small there is very little waste in the whole process. Wood not suitable for logs is chipped and used for fuel. At the saw mill, saw dust is collected and sold for fuel and scraps go to the chipper. The flooring plant uses its saw dust to power the boilers that it uses to heat its kilns. The chip mill takes hardwood logs that are not suitable for lumber and reduces them to the chips that feed the paper mill. If no one told you there was a paper mill in town you wouldn't know it was there. They use a closed pressure cooker type system to create the pulp so there is no paper mill smell.

A pine forest can be harvested in twenty or perhaps fifteen years but hardwoods may only be harvested once in a lifetime. This makes it important for the property owner to take advantage of the Department of Forestry, private consultants or industry foresters in creating a long term plan. Numbers prove the value of managed forestry in Virginia—there are 15.3 million acres of commercial timberland, our hardwood forest acreage today is 155% of what it was in 1940 and, for 2014, the ratio of the forest's annual growth compared to harvest volume was more than 2.1:1 for softwood and 2.2:1 for hardwood species. Just like corn and soy beans, timber is a crop to be harvested and in Virginia it is harvested responsibly using environmentally sound practices with a goal of sustainability. It is not a sin to cut a tree.



## Hickory Hollow Natural Area Preserve News

by Paula Boundy

Hickory Hollow (HH) is a Natural Area Preserve managed by Virginia Department of Conservation and Resources, Natural Heritage Division, under the personal eye of Zach Bradford. It is actually owned by the Northern Neck Chapter of the National Audubon Society, Inc. (NNAS). NNAS is a partner of NNMN and there are volunteer project opportunities at HH.

It is a wooded area with many named trails along which native trees are identified by signage and where spectacular native flora bloom in their respective timeframes. A link to the brochure follows:

[http://www.northernneckaudubon.org/Resources\\_files/NNASHickoryhollowbrochure.pdf](http://www.northernneckaudubon.org/Resources_files/NNASHickoryhollowbrochure.pdf)

Also on the NNAS website under resources is the comprehensive list of plants observed at HH. This photo, taken by Nick Ferriter of the



Ragged fringed orchid at Hickory Hollow NAP. photo by N. Ferriter, NNNPS

Northern Neck Native Plant Society, is of a ragged fringed orchid that blooms in early August at HH.

Another delicate native in bloom about now [end of August] is *Elephantopus tomentosus*, Hairy Elephant's-foot shown in a photo from the web.



*Elephantopus tomentosus* (Hairy Elephants Foot). web photo

This wonderful site is nearing its twentieth anniversary and NNAS is having new and additional signage designed and installed for a celebration in 2018. Visit soon for a “before” and then visit often thereafter and especially for the celebration, official date/time will be publicized.

## THIS & THAT

**Support Clean Energy Generation with Renewable Energy Credits.** from Katharina Bergdoll

There is a very simple, easy way to reduce Carbon Footprint and stimulate green energy production! A company called ARCADIA POWER is offering Wind Power Support to anyone in Va. If you sign up (which needs only lifting a finger to click your computer!), nothing about your power service changes. You keep all the current equipment, repair service, etc. of your current supplier (Dominion, or a Co-op; although these plans may not be available to NNEC customers). You may sign up for the 'Free Plan' in which Arcadia uses half your power costs to purchase Renewable Energy Credits or RECs to support



wind farm generation. Your electricity costs no more than you currently pay. However, you MAY GET 100% Wind Energy Credits for only 1.5 Cents/kwh more. Go to [epa.gov/greenpower](http://epa.gov/greenpower) to get more information on RECs. Go to this link: [Arcadia Power | Clean Energy For Anyone](#) for more information on arcadia.

**Book Review.** New Ideas to think about from Pam Narney

One of the most interesting books that I have read since Doug Tallamy's "Bringing Nature Home" is "Planting in a Post-Wild World" 2015 by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West ISBN978-1-60469-553-3. I had been reading Tallamy for a long time and was looking for the new best thing. This book is it.

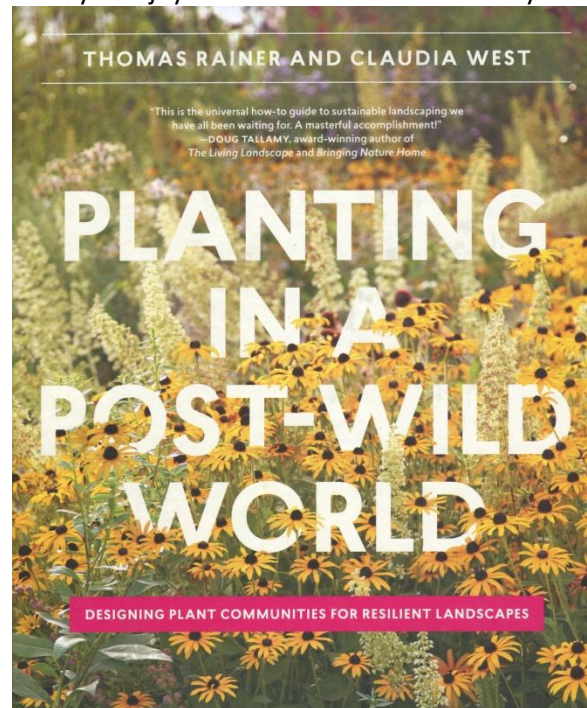
With traditional landscaping you plant a single plant, it stays in one place, and you take care of it. Native plant landscaping uses only natives that existed in that site before colonization. "Planting in a Post-Wild World" is one step beyond native plant landscaping. Rainer and West "...two of the leading voices in ecological landscape design, reveal how plants fit together in nature and how to use this knowledge to create landscapes that are resilient, beautiful, and diverse."

The book is lush with beautiful photographs which illustrate their design principles which are:

1. There should be a unity of form and function, not isolated plants, (Much easier to obtain using their ideas.)
2. Stress is an asset, (Not yours but the growing conditions.)

3. Cover the ground, (No mulching needed!!)
4. The designs are not messy (A common complaint registered by neighbors when they see native plant gardens) but are attractive and legible, and
5. Provide management not maintenance. (Much less work!!)

The book provides both in words and photos descriptions and illustrations of their design philosophies and gives a clear understanding of which plants will grow together to fit into their concept of layers. Anathema to some Master Naturalists and Native Plant proponents is the idea that exotics (never invasives) can work well in these functional designs, especially in light of climate change and the destruction of most of nature as we knew it. Rainer and West say that we cannot ever return to the 1600's era of nature and native plants, but we can bring the beauty and joys of nature back in a new way.



**Volunteer Hours.** from Petra Walian

Can you believe it is already September? School has started again, the roads have become busier again and I am sure all of the Master



Naturalists are also busy working on their volunteer projects especially with this awesome weather! With the year quickly zooming by it is time to review your volunteer hours and make sure you have logged enough to earn your recertification pin. In order to earn your recertification pin you must log 40 hours of volunteer time and 8 hours of continuing education. For our class members of 2016, in order to recertify, you must first certify with 40 volunteer hours and 8 continuing education hours and then have an additional 40 volunteer hours plus 8 continuing education hours. If you are unsure the number of hours you currently have, go to "View your Hours" on the Volunteer Management website. In the Start Date block: type 01/01/2017 and "End Date: type 12/31/2017. Click on submit. Scroll to the bottom to view your hours. It is good measure to review your data for accuracy since a mistake in data entry is easily made. Simple data entry errors such as the wrong date or number of hours in the wrong block can mean the difference between recertification or not. Data should be entered by mid-December; a firm date will be circulated when I receive a deadline for the Annual Report.



### **Don't be late like the White Rabbit!**

Please, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your hours or how to add data feel comfortable to email me at [pwalian@yahoo.com](mailto:pwalian@yahoo.com) or call me personally at 757.869.4974.

### **Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail** from Alison Sowar

The spreadsheet for the summer season was submitted. Many thanks to those of you who participated. The GPS locations and physical addresses will certainly help in finding the sites. Enter your wildlife sightings into Ebird and INaturalist.

Since a year has passed since the VBWT program began, get in touch with your contact for a yearly check-in. If the contact has changed or any of the info has changed let me know, so it can be put on the webpage.

If you notice anything that could be dangerous for a trail visitor, like a washed out area from a storm, let me know.

On a good note, Leslie saw that Heritage Park Resort, which has been closed, has a sign in front of it saying it is going to become part of the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge! So I will be reporting that signage to the coordinator at DGIF.



**There is more to see than birds and wildlife. Oyster mushrooms along VABWT at Stratford Hall. photo by K. Bergdoll**

The checklists are not needed for this season. Please email me when you have completed your check. My email address is: [alison.sowar@gmail.com](mailto:alison.sowar@gmail.com). Please have these to me in the next few weeks if possible. If you are a new student or new to the program, I can adjust the time for you.



Several sites have become open. They are all in King George County with the exception of Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw. A few are in question as I do not have responses from the trail monitors.

So many of you have gone the extra mile to help DGIF update their info. It has really been appreciated! I try to send personal emails to all of you whenever possible. Check the VBWT webpage to see if your updated info has been entered yet. It is happening!

I was pleased to often have 100% coverage of the sites with the help of My Twins (you know who you are) who picked up extra sites after they were unclaimed after the first season. Now they need a break to pursue other MN activities.

**Nomination of Chapter Officers for 2018.** It is not too early to be thinking about election of next year's slate of Chapter officers. President, Vice President, and Secretary will be elected at the November General Meeting. If you would like to be nominated for one of these offices or know someone you feel would be well suited for the position please contact the nominating committee chair, Don Hess, [hess.don@gmail.com](mailto:hess.don@gmail.com).

**2017 Class Course Material.** The Basic Training Manual that was provided to the 2017 students on flash drives is available for download from DropBox. Here is the link to get to it: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t5p33dm5ub1vo2x/AADAgBFKvgHM5pYaHNoURD9Aa?dl=0>

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The new BTC class has hit the ground running, field notebooks in hand, and *Amblyomma americanum* on their minds.

Thank you to the members of the chapter and our outreach program for helping recruit the 2017 Basic Training Course.

A new addition to the curriculum is a class project. The purpose of the class project is to offer an experience for students that allows them to apply the knowledge and skills learned during the classroom and field portions of their educational program to assess, create and implement a plan to monitor and support a Virginia Natural Area Preserve. The class developed project plan includes a focus on Stewardship, Environmental Education, and Citizen Science. Bush Mill Stream Natural Area Preserve, Heathsville, Northumberland County, Virginia was selected as the site for the class project.

Support to the class project includes Zach Bradford, Chesapeake Bay Region Steward, Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and the NNMN Class Mentors. Educational goals were established for the class project toward integrating other portions of the class curriculum into the project.

1. To understand and commit to your role as a Master Naturalist volunteer
2. To cooperate as a member of a team with a common mission and develop group camaraderie
3. To commit to continuing self-development and sharing of knowledge and skills
4. To assess a project, develop an action plan and complete the project
5. Learning to develop projects for placement in the Virginia Master Naturalist Volunteer Management System
6. Record and share information using standard processes such as monitoring protocols, field notebooks, computer databases, and APPS

The class project also will offer opportunities for members of the chapter to work in the field

with the BTC class on projects at Bush Mill Stream NAP.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 15-17** - "VMN Statewide Conference and Training" Northern Virginia 4H Center, Front Royal, VA. Registration is closed.

**October 3-5** - "NNMN Field Trip to The Nature Conservancy Virginia Coast Reserve, Eastern Shore of Virginia". Details and Itinerary are attached. Contact Jeff Wright at [Pec11908@mac.com](mailto:Pec11908@mac.com).

**October 4** - "Capture and Curation Methods for Studying Terrestrial Vertebrates and Invertebrates: Discovering How Important Scientific Specimens Can Be!" 8:30 – 3:30 VIMS. For information, contact Sandra Erdle at [syerdle@vims.edu](mailto:syerdle@vims.edu), or 804-684-7144.

**October 10-12** - "Virginia! Naturally!: 2017 Environmental Education Conference" Northern Virginia 4H Center, Front Royal, VA. See <https://vae.wildapricot.org/2017-VAEE-Conference> for details.

**November 14** - NNMN Board and General Meeting and Continuing Education Program. Election of officers. Details TBD.

**December 1**- "Virginia Master Naturalist Program Leadership Days" 10:00 am - 4:00 pm in Providence Forge, VA. For Chapter leaders in the Northern Neck and other chapters in the Southeastern region. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

**December 11** - "Basic Training Class Graduation" and Holiday/10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon. Transportation Museum Heathsville. Further details TBD.

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>

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Thanks to Jeff Wright, Marty Hill, Paula Boundy, Katharina Bergdoll, Pam Narney, Petra Walian, and Alison Sowar for their work on this issue. Special thanks to Pat McMurray and the Class of 2017.

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

## Schedule Basic Training Class 2017

<b>Date 2017</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Classroom Location</b>	<b>Class Topic</b>	<b>Fieldtrip Location, And Leader</b>	<b>Field Objective</b>	<b>Field Assistant</b>	<b>Great Naturalist Speaker</b>	<b>Great Naturalist Choice</b>
Orientation Friday Aug 25  9:00 to 3:00	<b>Tara Brent- Chapter advisor Chris Burkett, DGIF Bill Blair</b>	<b>Rappahannock Community College Kilmarnock</b>	Orientation Meet and Greet; Volunteer Management System; Risk Management; Dress for Field; VA Wildlife Action Plan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Friday Sep 8 Class 1  9:00-4:30	<b>Sara Nuss, VIMS Bill Blair Jeff Wright Nancy Joel</b>	<b>Heathsville Library</b>	Intro & Basic Skills; Conduct & Behavior; Keeping a Field Journal; Citizen Science and Research Tools Climate and Weather	<b>Bush Mill Stream Natural Area</b>  Jeff Wright	Intro to Class Project	Patricia  Temple Moore	Nancy Joel	The First Naturalists



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Friday September 15 Class 2 9:00-4:00	<b>Richard Moncure, FOR Tim Christensen, Fort Eustis Bill Crouch, USFWS</b>	<b>Wilna (Warsaw)</b>	Aquatic Ecology & Management; Entomology	<b>Wilna (Warsaw)</b> Tim Christensen Patricia McMurray	Insect and arachnid ID Benthic Macro invertebrate	Bill Blair  Leslie Fellows Carla Kidwell	Bill Blair	John Muir
Saturday Sep 16 Class 3 9:00-400	<b>Bill Blair</b>	<b>Lancaster Library</b>	Practice adding hours; Botany; Nature of Naming; Using Field Guides & Keying; Propagation	<b>Hickory Hollow</b> Bill Blair	Using a field guide; plant ID	TBD	Patricia-video	Carl Linnaeus
Friday Sep 22 Class 4 9:00-4:00	<b>Karen Duhring, VIMS</b>	<b>VIMS</b>	Ichthyology; Estuarine and Coastal Ecology and Management	<b>VIMS</b> Karen Duhring	Sampling Techniques, Aquatic Life ID	Bill Blair Jeff Wright Patricia	NA	NA
Friday Sept 29 Class 5 9:00-4:00	<b>Michelle Prisby, VMN  Nancy Joel</b>	<b>Belle Isle State Park (BISP)</b>	Ecological Concepts; Fungi	<b>BISP</b>  Nancy Joel	Using a field guide; Plant and Fungi ID	Patricia	Jeff Wright	Teta Kain

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Saturday Sept 30 Class 6 9:00-3:00	<b>Teta Kain Katie Shepard, DCR</b>	<b>BISP</b>	Ornithology; Interpretation and Speaking Skills	<b>BISP</b>	Bird ID and tools Teta and Jeff	Leslie Fellows Pam Narney John Narney Bill Blair	Pam Narney	John James Audubon
Friday Oct 6 Class 7 9:00-3:30	<b>Scott Bruce, DEQ</b>	<b>Westmoreland State Park</b>	VA Biogeography with focus on Coastal Plain; Hydrogeology, Ge ology, Soils, Fossils	<b>Stratford Hall Scott Bruce  Cindy Baliles</b>	Find and ID fossils	Nancy Joel Bill Blair Jeff Wright	Mindy Ashton	Rachel Carson
Friday Oct 13 Class 8 9:00-4:00	<b>Karen Duhring, VIMS</b>	<b>Westminster Canterbury Irvington</b>	Wetlands Ecology and Management	<b>Rappahannock River Harry Wells Amy Hagerdon Meredeth Dash Westminster Canterbury Tom Teeples</b>	Water Testing Protocol  Plant and fungi ID	Temple Moore  TBD	Jane Henley	William Bartram
Friday Oct 20 Class 9 9:00-4:00	<b>John Magruder, 3 Rivers Forestry</b>	<b>BISP</b>	Forest Ecology & Management; Dendrology	<b>Chilton Woods Charles Knoeller Bill Blair</b>	Forest Management Tree ID	Carla	Katherine Keith	Annie Dillard

<b>Date 2017</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Classroom Location</b>	<b>Class Topic</b>	<b>Fieldtrip Location, And Leader</b>	<b>Field Objective</b>	<b>Field Assistant</b>	<b>Great Naturalist Speaker</b>	<b>Great Naturalist Choice</b>
Friday Oct 27 Class 10 9:00-4:00	<b>Zach Bradford, DCR</b>	<b>Shiloh School</b>	Mammology; Herpetology; Coastal Systems	<b>Dameron Marsh Hughlett Point</b>  Zack Bradford	ID mammals and herps; Observe shoreline dynamics	Bill Blair	<b>Debbie Gillespie</b>	Darwin or Anna Comstock?
Friday Nov 3 Class 11 9:00-4:00	<b>Nancy Joel/Pam Narney</b>  <b>Bobbie Burton</b>	<b>Hull Springs Farm</b>	Urban and Developed Systems; Living Shoreline Concepts Wetlands Mitigation	<b>HSF</b> Bobbie Burton/Nancy Joel	Living Shoreline Concepts Wetlands Mitigation	N/A	Patricia- Video	Aldo Leopold
Thursday Nov 9 Class 12 9:00-4:00	<b>Final Examination</b>	<b>Heathsville Library</b>	Review Exam and Journals; Chapter administration	<b>Bush Mill</b> Jeff	Class Project	Temple Moore Patricia	Class Members	To be assigned
Mon Dec 11 Time TBD	<b>Graduation And Workshop</b>	TBD						



## Northern Neck Master Naturalists - Field Trip October 3-5, 2017

Virginia Coast Reserve (VCR), The Nature Conservancy - Nassawadox,  
Virginia

*This is the plan for the 2017 continuing education field trip.*

*We have had a good response to the trip. As of 5 Sept we only have a few – very few – slots still available.*

*Changes to the trip information are primarily about the option to arrive on Monday afternoon 2 October, the changes are listed in the “Lodging Options” and in the “Signing up for the Field Trip” sections of this note.*

The instructions for how to sign up for this trip are at the bottom of the e-mail following the itinerary.

This Trip is limited to 20. Priority is to Active Members of the chapter in good standing, and then to members of the 2017 Basic Training Course who have completed the enrollment process, background check, and the risk management course. We will do our best to accommodate all that wish to attend but some folks may have to be on a standby list if we get more than 20 wanting to attend.

Field Trip is focused on The Virginia Coast Reserve, Barrier Islands, as well as VA DCR and VIMS sites close by.

Planned Events will offer continuing education and field experiences about:

- Barrier Island Habitat and Species (approximately 4 Hours)
- Coastal Resilience (approximately 2 Hours)
- Salt Marsh Habitat and Eastern Shore Marine Species (approximately 3 Hours)
- Environmental History of the Barrier Islands (approximately 1 Hour)
- Science and research related to Virginia’s Barrier Islands and Eastern Shores (approximately 3 Hours)

The field trip offers excellent opportunities to sharpen field skills and observe diverse habitat and a wide variety of species to include those involved in fall migrations. Citizen science aspects of the trip and environmental education will be emphasized.

All events are weather-dependent, particularly the trip to a Virginia Barrier island. Most events can take place in light rain or drizzle.

### **LODGING OPTIONS:**

- We have space for up to 14 people at two houses at the VCR Brownsville facility. These are two to a room and sharing of bathrooms. These rooms will be approximately \$20 or less per night per person. We will attempt to fill up these rooms before using the overflow option of commercial lodging.
- Our overflow, and members who prefer, can choose to can stay at the Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn Express in Exmore (10 minutes by car). The rooms with bathroom range in price from around \$70 to \$95 per night. Individuals needing to use commercial lodging are responsible for contacting these facilities and making their own reservations.
- An additional cost of \$150 will cover meals, boat trip, etc. The only meals not covered are Tuesday evening where after returning from the boat trip we have several options on places to eat and Lunch on our departure on Thursday 5 October. These costs apply to all of us regardless of lodging assignment. Meals are on your own if arriving on Monday 2 October and for breakfast on 3 October.
- Arrangements have been made to accommodate those who wish to arrive on the afternoon of Monday 2 October. In addition to the option of staying Monday evening in commercial lodging there are options at the VCR Brownsville facility to handle some of those wishing to arrive early in the afternoon on Monday 2 October. An attempt will be made to allow individuals who originally selected the Brownsville option for the field trip to stay in the same room at Brownsville for the entirety of their visit starting on Monday 2 Oct. No option is available to spend

**Monday Night 2 October in Brownsville and then switch to commercial lodging for 3 and 4 October.**

**DEPOSIT:**

**\$150 is needed for the trip of which \$75 is non-refundable after September 18.**

**Notes**

1. This Trip is optimal for 20 or fewer folks due to constraint of boat trips, facilities, and staff
2. This Trip is rigorous. There is a lot of walking in wildlife habitat areas and outside activities. Individuals may have to be able to wade in knee deep water to get into and out of boats or to transit areas of beaches and streams.
3. Hiking is moderately challenging. This may include individual hikes up to 4 hours, with some steep slopes, wet surfaces, and loose surfaces that are found in Natural Area Preserves and refuges. Should be able to climb stairs and walk at least 4 miles without a problem.
4. All activities are weather and/or tide dependent. We have alternative options each day to work around climactic conditions and challenges.
5. Itinerary will be finalized based on availability of VCR staff and resources.
6. Alternate activities may be available for those who may not wish to participate in boating or some hiking activities.
7. Many of the activities are in marsh and wetland areas associated with Natural Area Preserves, Reserves, refuges, sanctuaries, State Parks, etc.
8. VMN Risk Management Guidelines are used in the planning of the event. Participants will need to complete all necessary forms to include medical forms and general waivers.
9. This is an excellent trip for bringing a camera, binoculars, and field notebooks.



10. Participants who have signed up for the trip and paid their deposit will be provided additional information about the trip to include travel maps, site maps, more detailed event descriptions, and any suggested “read ahead” material for the trip and any recommended field guides to bring.

11. A suggested clothing and footwear list will be provided.

12. All participants should bring a small day back pack or fanny pack to carry a snack, necessities, and any needed medications. Also bring a water bottle, hydration pack, or canteen for the hikes.

13. Insect repellent and sun block are recommended. Follow NNMN “***Dress for the Field***” guidance.

### **DRIVING TIMES:**

For planning so you arrive **on time** on Tuesday 3 Oct. Request that travelers plan for morning traffic in the Hampton Roads and Norfolk area **and add** any necessary time to their planning. You will go through the Hampton Tunnel on I-64 and take the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel to get to the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Here are projected driving times. No additional time added to these figures for traffic.

- a. From Heathsville – 151 miles and 3:30 Hours
- b. From Gloucester – 102 miles and 2:30 Hours
- c. From Kilmarnock – 132 miles and 3:00 Hours
- d. From Montross – 163 miles and 3:35 Hours
- e. From Warsaw - 154 miles and 3:20 Hours

If arriving on Monday 2 October - and staying at Brownsville - request you plan to arrive between 3:00PM and 4:30PM. Please contact Jeff Wright at 703-801-0239 or pec11908@mac.com if you have any questions on arriving on Monday 2 October.

## **ITINERARY**

### **Tuesday 3 Oct**

10:00AM – Arrive at Virginia Coast Reserve (VCR)

10:30AM to Noon – Wagon Ride Nature Tour around VCR Brownsville Tract – VCR Staff

Noon – Lunch - Brownsville

12:30PM – Carpool to Wachapreague, VA

1:00PM – Boat trip to the Barrier Islands (Parramore Island Natural Area Preserve) – VCR Staff

*Parramore Island is the state's largest natural area preserve. More than seven and a half miles long, the island is one of 14 uninhabited Atlantic barrier islands that are part of The Nature Conservancy's Virginia Coast Reserve. The island features a high-energy beach and dune system, a globally rare maritime scrub community, and expansive salt marshes.*

*This will be a tour through marsh areas and marine habitats to get to Parramore Island. On Parramore Island we'll hike through various habitats on a cross island trail as we go across the island and then walk along the beach around the North end of the island to return to the former Coast Guard Station where we will depart to return to Wachapreague. Hikers may have to cross small streams and water areas on the beach. The hike is designed to be at a very leisurely pace as we stop frequently to observe and discuss features of the island, marine environment, and wildlife. Hike will be between 3 and 4 miles in total and about 3 hours in length.*

5:30PM – Dinner - On our own - Island House Restaurant in Wachapreague or another area restaurant.

8:30PM to 9:00PM – Porch time discussion for those staying at Brownsville – No host

## Wednesday 4 Oct

7:30-9:00AM - Continental Breakfast

7:00AM – 8:30AM - Bird and Critter Walk – VCR Staff

9:00AM – Carpool to Savage Neck Dunes Natural Area Preserve

9:30AM – Savage Neck Dunes Natural Area Preserve

*This 298-acre preserve contains outstanding Chesapeake Bay beach, dune, and maritime forest communities, migratory songbird habitat, and an exemplary population of northeastern beach tiger beetles. About a 2.4 mile round trip hike crossing dunes to get to the beach.*

12:30PM Lunch at Brownsville.

1:30PM to 4:30 PM Marsh Species Walk or Briefing or Barrier Island Center

*An afternoon walk to explore marshes at Brownsville. The hike is designed to be at a very leisurely pace as we stop and observe features of the island and wildlife. Hike will be approximately 3.5 miles.*

*A visit to the Barrier Island Center is also an option.*

*It is a gathering place, graced by weathered porch rockers that welcome you into an art gallery and gift shop rivaling New York's finest. It is a museum that shelters yesterday's culture of the islanders and watermen, and it is a farm that follows today's best practices to cultivate the land. Yet it is, most of all, a storyteller, safeguarding the wisdom of our past for the sake of the Eastern Shore's future.*

5:30PM – Dinner at Brownsville

7:00PM – Evening Stroll – Northern Neck Master Naturalists

9:00PM to 9:30PM – Porch time discussion – No host

## **Thursday 5 Oct**

7:30AM – 9:00AM Continental Breakfast

7:00AM – 8:30AM Bird and Critter Walk - Northern Neck Master Naturalists

10:00AM – 11:00AM Coastal Resilience Presentation – VCR Staff

11:30AM – Departure from Virginia Coast Reserve (VCR)

Lunch – On our own. Suggest visiting places to eat in Cape Charles

## **Departure Options enroute to the Northern Neck**

12:30PM *Kiptopeke State Park Hawk Watch Platform and Harbour (This is day before the Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival (6-8 Oct) starts*  
*This park offers recreational access to the Chesapeake Bay and the chance to explore a unique coastal habitat featuring a major flyway for migratory birds. Kiptopeke is three miles from the northern terminus of the **Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel***

## **and/or**

12:30PM *Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge*  
*Each fall, like colorful clockwork, the refuge is the scene of a spectacular drama as millions of songbirds and monarch butterflies and thousands of raptors converge on their voyage south.*

## **SIGNING UP FOR THE FIELD TRIP**

**1. A check for \$150 dollars made out to Northern Neck Master Naturalists should be mailed to:**

**Lise Maring  
Attn: Northern Neck Master Naturalist  
1358 Newmans Neck Road  
Heathsville, VA 22473**

**2. An e-mail should be sent to Jeff Wright at Pec11908@mac.com stating that you wish to attend the field trip and you have sent your check to Lise Maring as in the instructions above.**

- a. Provide your lodging preference: either Brownsville or Commercial Lodging.**
- b. Provide your roommate preference (if any) as rooms at Brownsville are two to a room**
- c. Designate if you plan to arrive on Monday afternoon 2 October or Tuesday morning 3 October.**

**Jeff**

**Jeff Wright  
President Northern Neck Master Naturalists  
703-801-0239**