

May 23, 2011

Historic Rivers Chapter



PO Box 6424
Williamsburg, VA 23188

**Historic Rivers Chapter
Virginia Master Naturalist
Information and Application Form
For Cohort VI
(Fall 2011 – Winter 2012 Training Class)**

This document includes:

1. Information letter about Historic Rivers Cohort VI Training Class – pages 2 – 4
2. Application Form – pages 5 – 7 please print out 3-page Application Form, complete by hand, and mail to address on form.

May 23, 2011

Historic Rivers Chapter



PO Box 6424 Williamsburg, VA 23188

Dear Citizens:

The Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program is accepting applications for its Cohort VI training class, which will begin Tuesday, August 30, 2011, and end by March 14, 2012.

Most training classes will be selected Tuesday nights, 6 – 9 p.m. at the Human Services Building, 5249 Olde Towne Road in Williamsburg, and selected Saturdays. See the schedule on page 2.

The Virginia Master Naturalist Program is a statewide corps of volunteers who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities. Interested Virginians become Master Naturalists through training and volunteer service.

People who are curious about nature, enjoy the outdoors, and want to be a part of natural resource management and conservation in Virginia are perfect candidates to become Virginia Master Naturalists. It is open to all regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

The process for becoming a certified Virginia Master Naturalist typically takes 6 to 12 months. To become a member of the Historic Rivers Chapter, you must complete a basic training course (at least 15 of 17 classes and 4 of 6 field trips) as well as an additional 8 hours of advanced training. In addition, an important part of the certification process is the requirement for 40 hours of volunteer service.

Enrollment is limited to 20 applicants and will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis starting June 1, 2011. Tuition, which includes all materials, instruction, and Chapter membership dues for 2011 and 2012, is \$150.

To apply, please complete the application below and send it with \$150 tuition (cash or check made payable to the Historic Rivers Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalists) to:

Historic Rivers Chapter
Virginia Master Naturalists
PO Box 6424
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Virginia Master Naturalist programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Here are the specific requirements of our Historic Rivers Chapter:

1. You must complete 15 of 17 classes and 4 of 6 field trips. Most classes will be on Tuesday evenings, and there will be at least one Saturday field trip/training class each month from September through February, except December. See the specific dates below.
2. After you complete the basic training, you must volunteer for at least 40 hours each year to remain an active Master Naturalist.
3. You must also agree to complete 8 hours of advanced training each year you are an active Master Naturalist.
4. For Basic Training, you must be able to send and receive documents by email. A great deal of communication in this class is by email so plan to check email daily and respond as necessary. (A high-speed Internet connection is highly recommended.)
5. You must be able to open PDF documents. (Adobe PDF Reader is free and safe to download from: <http://www.adobe.com/>)
6. You must be able to open, print, and prepare documents in Microsoft Word.
7. You must be able to do research on the Internet.
8. You will be expected to do work and research outside of class.
9. A short open book quiz, distributed by email, may follow each class session. You must complete and return the quizzes before the next class.
10. An open book final exam, distributed by email, will follow at the end of the basic training course. You must achieve 70% on the final exam to continue in the program.
11. You are expected to attend every class, but you can miss 2 of the 17 classes and 2 of the 6 field trips and still complete the basic training requirements. We will work with you to arrange makeup opportunities if you miss more than this.

Most training classes will be selected Tuesday nights at the Human Services Building, 5249 Olde Towne Road in Williamsburg, and selected Saturdays.

Unless otherwise noted, evening classes begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. and end before 9:00 p.m. The 2011 – 2012 specific training dates are: (subject to change, but we hope not; Saturday dates are underlined):

August 30, 2011

September 6, 17, 20

October 4, 18, 29

November 1, 12, 15, 29

December 6, 14 [2nd Wednesday, December 14 is our Chapter's Holiday Party.]

January 3, 14, 17, 28, 2012

February 11 (Off-site class, 9-3 pm.), 21, 25

March 6, 14 [2nd Wednesday, March 14, is Cohort VI's graduation date and our Chapter's Annual Meeting.]

Here are the topics for the Cohort VI training (subject to change):

Introduction to Virginia Master Naturalist Program Nature of Naming	Wetlands Ecology Field Trip	Field Trip to New Kent Forestry Center – Forest Conservation & Management
Risk Management Training Biology Basics	Geology of VA & Geology Field Trip	Ornithology
Citizen Science, Scientific Methods, Field Methods	Entomology	Freshwater Ecology & Winter Botany
Habitats	Indigenous Cultures of VA Education & Interpretation	Mammalogy
Plant Biology	Meteorology/Climate/Weather	Fishes of Virginia-Ichthyology
Dendrology	Herpetology	Ecology

In addition to these classes, you are expected to:

- Attend at least two hours on one or more bird walks/field trips with either the Williamsburg Bird Club or the Hampton Roads Bird Club. You will receive information about these opportunities early in the program.
- Attend at least two hours on one or more native plant field trips/walks with a chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. The local John Clayton Chapter leads several walks per month in the fall. You will receive information about these opportunities early in the program.
- Attend at least one program in the series “VIMS After Hours” presented once a month at VIMS in Gloucester Point, VA. You will receive information about these opportunities early in the program.
- Write a short biography of a noted naturalist/scientist. You will receive information about this requirement early in the program.
- Each of these four requirements is included in the required hours for completing the Basic Training.

If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Trevino, email, jenny451@yahoo.com, Sharon Plocher, email, sharonjp4@cox.net or Shirley Devan, email, sedevan52@cox.net

Information about the program is also available at the statewide Virginia Master Naturalist website, <http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org>. You may learn more about the Historic Rivers Chapter at our web site: <http://www.historicrivers.org/index.html>

Thank you for your interest in our program. We look forward to having you with us.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Trevino, Sharon Plocher, Shirley Devan
Basic Training Committee
The Historic Rivers Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalists

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**Historic Rivers Chapter
Virginia Master Naturalist Program
Volunteer Information and Basic Training Enrollment Form**

Cohort VI: Fall 2011 – Winter 2012

A. GENERAL INFORMATION *(please print)*

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

Mailing Address: _____
(Street, Box, Route, Apt #) (City) (State) (Zip)

County or Independent City of Residence: _____

B. CONTACT INFORMATION *(please print)*

Phone (please indicate which phone number is preferred):

Home: _____ Mobile: _____ Business: _____

E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone: Day _____ Evening _____

C. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION *(Optional, for record keeping purposes only)*

Gender: Female
 Male

Race:
 White
 African American
 American Indian
 Hispanic
 Asian
 Multi-Racial

Date of birth: _____ Highest level of education: _____

How did you learn about the Historic Rivers Chapter Virginia Master Naturalist training? _____

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D. THREE REFERENCES

1.

(Name)	(Phone: day & night)	(Relationship)	
(Street, Route, Box, Apt #)	(City)	(State)	(Zip)

2.

(Name)	(Phone: day & night)	(Relationship)	
(Street, Route, Box, Apt #)	(City)	(State)	(Zip)

3.

(Name)	(Phone: day & night)	(Relationship)	
(Street, Route, Box, Apt #)	(City)	(State)	(Zip)

E. DRIVING INFORMATION

	Yes	No
Do you have a current and valid driver's license? If yes, issued in the state of ____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you currently have the minimum vehicle insurance coverage as required by the Commonwealth of Virginia?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a current commercial driver's license (CDL)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

(This information will be kept in a confidential manner and accessible only to authorized personnel. A "yes" answer does **not** automatically exclude you from becoming a registered volunteer.)

Have you ever had any **criminal convictions** related to:

	Yes	No
a. alcohol or drug abuse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. child abuse or neglect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. spousal abuse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. elder abuse or neglect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Have you ever been convicted of any violation(s) of law? Yes No

If volunteering for a position that requires the operation of a vehicle, have you been convicted of any moving traffic violations within the last 5 years? Yes No

If "yes" to any of the above, please describe. Use a separate sheet if necessary.

I understand that records and criminal background or reference checks may be conducted on me at any time during the application process or during volunteer service for the Virginia Master Naturalist Program.

<hr/> Signature, Volunteer	<hr/> Date
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