



# THE NATURALIST

The monthly newsletter of the Historic Rivers Chapter  
Virginia Master Naturalist Program

<http://historicrivers.org>

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 No. 5 May 2009

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Migration!

Dauphin Island is one of my favorite places on Earth! Dauphin Island is a barrier island off the coast of Alabama, on the western side of Mobile Bay. The entire island is a Bird Sanctuary, and is considered one of the top birding spots in the south. About 345 species of birds have been reported on the island.

Many years ago, when Mike and I lived in Biloxi, Mississippi, we used to drive over to Dauphin Island and spend the day birding. A few times we were lucky enough to catch it during a spring migration "fall-out." A fall-out is an unbelievable event! It happens when the neotropical migrants, having just flown about 500 miles across the Gulf of Mexico from the Yucatan Peninsula, encounter adverse weather conditions that force them to "fall-out," exhausted and starving, over whatever patch of land they can find. Dauphin Island is often one of the first patches of land they encounter. When these migrants arrive, they are usually so tired, they don't care about the presence of humans - they are only interested in resting and eating. It is easy to observe large flocks of warblers, tanagers, thrushes, and many other types of birds as they gorge themselves on the seeds and insects that are abundant on the island.

So this year while the birds were flying north, I flew south! Just this past week, I had the pleasure of spending an entire week birding on Dauphin Island with my family and the Kopinitz. We didn't experience a fall-out, but the birds were still spectacular. Among some of the highlights were Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, Tennessee Warblers, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, and Bobolinks. We also got great looks at Clapper Rails and Sora.

The good news is - all of these migrants have been reported in Virginia! And they are starting to arrive right now! Keep an eye on your backyard - I've heard reports that the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are back. Just today, I heard a Hooded Warbler - it often sings the song that sounds like, "Peter, Peter, Register."

This is a great time of year to get outside. This weekend, there are lots of Master Naturalist activities planned. On Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, there are "invasives removal" events planned at New Quarter Park and at the Colonial National Historic Park. Also on Saturday, our chapter has

**CHAPTER  
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Message from the president, continued from page 1

been invited to have lunch at York River State Park with the trainees from the new Peninsula Chapter Master Naturalists. The trainees will be participating in their wetlands class, so if you would like to meet some of the members of the Peninsula Chapter, plan to bring your lunch to the park to eat at one of the shelters.

On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Donna Ware will be leading us on a walk through the woods to look at wildflowers and other plants at Warhill High School. The walk is scheduled for 1:30pm. Check your email for further details.

Hope to see you at one of these events!

Susan Powell, President  
Historic Rivers Chapter  
VA Master Naturalist Program

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**Sara Lewis**  
**Adrienne Frank**  
**Jeanne Millin**  
**have completed 40 hours of voluntary service to**  
**achieve their certification!**



So many nuts, so little time...zzzzzz!

Photo courtesy of Kathi Mestayer

**Notes from the Board**

All meetings of the Board of Directors are open to members. Jeanette Navia reminds all to turn in their hours for April 2009. You can't get certified unless you send in your hours!

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## Naturalist Moments

**By Shirley Devan and Felice Bond**

Naturalist moments have come fast and furious this past week. Here's a short note about each:

Wednesday and Thursday, April 22 and 23: Clyde Marsteller, thanks to his new-found fame after The Daily Press published an article about him and his zoo in early April, was desperate for assistants to help with Zoo presentations at elementary schools in Newport News. Over 70 elementary students were waiting for us Wednesday at Yates School in Newport News. John Bertha from the Peninsula Chapter joined me to help Clyde. Most of Clyde's zoo was displayed on two tables and John and I were charged with displaying the zoo and answering questions: "Does it bite?" "Can I touch it?" "Where's the snake?" "What's this?" In reality, my job was to herd earthworms. Clyde had released the earthworms from their plastic container and they had become "free range" earthworms on two paper plates. More than a few times, while I was showing the students the moss or the cockroaches, one student would exclaim, "The worms are crawling away!" Surprising how fast they can move when I'm not looking! I herded them back to the paper plates and then continued on with the other items. Thursday, Clyde and five assistants presented the zoo to 87 kindergarteners and 6 teachers! The five assistants were: Sheila Kerr-Jones and I from the Historic Rivers Chapter and Teri Jennings, John Bertha and Charlotte Boudreau from the Peninsula Chapter. Sheila, John, and Charlotte were at the other end of the Zoo display, showing off the baby Rat Snake and the new American Toad, Toadstool. Teri and I showed off the Roly Polies, cockroaches, ants, snails, slugs, and earthworms. I had the same challenges as the day before – herding earthworms and trying to understand questions from shrill five year olds. They loved the animals, and of course, they loved Clyde.

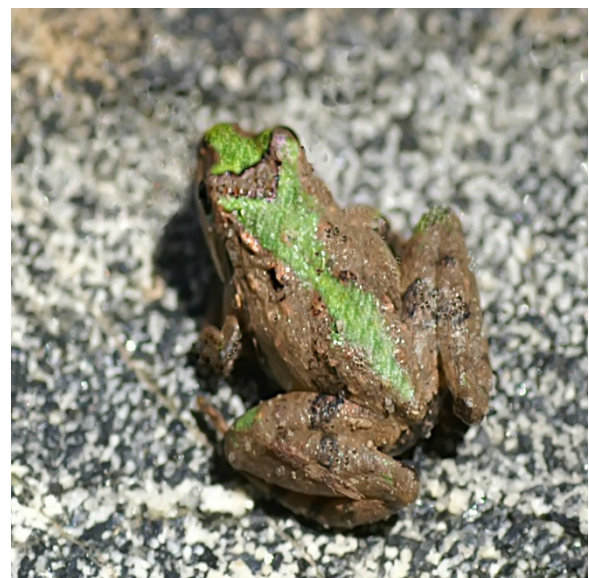
Photo courtesy of Felice Bond



The group photo was taken at Epes Elementary School in Newport News.

Left to right: Sheila Kerr-Jones, Clyde Marsteller, Teri Jennings, John Bertha, Charlotte Boudreau. Photo courtesy Shirley Devan

Thursday night, April 23: Frogging with Felice Bond around her DGIF Frog Route in James City County is always fun, whether we encounter frogs or not. Dave Youker, Historic Rivers Chapter volunteer, joined us along with Rebecca Knowles, a friend of Felice's (not a VMN). We started out at 8:30 p.m. with 10 stops on the schedule. Each of us had a task: Felice identified toads and frogs; Dave kept the clock – we had to listen for 5 minutes exactly; Rebecca counted cars passing by – an important data point because often traffic was too heavy to hear anything, much less a frog!



kept track of the air temperature. We had to stop if the temperature dropped below 50 degrees. Frogs were scarce – only two species and three individuals, Green Frogs (2 individuals) and a single Bullfrog. It was too chilly that night (57 degrees dropping to 48 degrees) to be hearing the species we were supposed to be hearing this month. Felice has heard more frogs calling during the daytime this week than we heard that night!

But the other non-herp encounters were fun too: a leech in Longhill Swamp; a Barred Owl calling along Longhill Road; hot chocolate at the 7-11 at 10 pm; Great Blue Herons squawking as we flushed them at Jolly Pond; and a large fish near the Jolly Pond dam. I got home at 11:30 – early only because we abandoned the last two stops because the temperature dropped to 48 degrees.

Friday, April 24: Those who volunteer at York River State Park on Friday afternoons know to expect the unexpected. This day was no exception. Felice Bond, Gary Hammer, and I washed up at the Park at 1 pm and set out to check the Prothonotary Warbler boxes at the Park. Three boxes at Croaker Landing had a high probability of hosting warblers so we headed there first. One box indeed had a nest – a Carolina Chickadee nest with 4 eggs. Mom rushed out as I lifted the box from its pole. We could not check the other two boxes because no one had waders. Meanwhile, we heard some frogs there in the swamp and started searching for them. Near the parking lot we heard a strange animal noise (not a bird!) – something like “eeeeeeeeeeeeeep.” Felice and I looked at each other and mouthed “What was that?” Finally, we found a good size Garter Snake with a mouth full of frog leg. The other three legs were firmly attached to the frog! The Green Frog was calling “eeeeeeeeeeeeeep” and desperately hoping for a rescue. Felice thrashed around in the briers

for a bit trying to get a better look. At one point, the frog jumped off and took the snake with him. We found the pair again. The frog’s pleas for help were weaker. The snake still had only one leg, but the snake usually wins these encounters. When Felice tried to grab the snake’s tail, both the frog and the snake disappeared into the swamp and we heard no more “eeeeeeeeeeeeeeps.”



Chickadee nest with 4 eggs.  
Courtesy of Felice Bond

The whole time we were dancing around a big puddle in the parking lot there at Croaker Landing, the result of the beaver dam in the swamp. Felice found tadpoles in the puddle along with some small aquatic beetles, probably whirligig beetles. Felice also found two red-spotted newts along with a newly hatched turtle about the size of Gary Hammer’s thumbnail plus a cricket frog that posed cooperatively for photos. Gary and Felice checked the nest boxes at the pond near the Visitor Center and found another chickadee nest with 6 eggs. The

other box had tiny signs of moss inside! They also heard a big chorus of cricket frogs several times from across the pond. All in all, a very satisfying ornithological and herpetological day at YRSP.

## Volunteer Service Projects

General Projects		
Prothonotary Warbler Nest Box Project	Shirley Devan	sedevan52@cox.net
Ellipse Garden: Botanical Demonstration and Education Project	Gary Driscole	<a href="mailto:Adrienne-gary@erols.com">Adrienne-gary@erols.com</a>
Colonial National Historical Park Invasive Species Control and General Maintenance	Angier Brock	<a href="mailto:abrock@vcu.edu">abrock@vcu.edu</a>
Invasive Plant Removal at New Quarter Park	Jeanne Millin	<a href="mailto:scotfarquhar@cox.net">scotfarquhar@cox.net</a>
Diamondback Terrapin Fencing Project	Tim Christensen	mtnc066@msn.com
New Quarter Park Native Plant Teaching Trail	Laure Houghland	woowee@cox.net
Zoar State Forest Nature Trail	Sibyl Rose & Dave Milby	<a href="mailto:milby@dof.virginia.gov">milby@dof.virginia.gov</a>
Jamestown 4-H Center – Environmental Education Instructional Aide	Sara Lewis	saraelewis@cox.net
Trail Maintenance at York River State Park	Mary Apperson	<a href="mailto:mary.apperson@dcr.virginia.gov">mary.apperson@dcr.virginia.gov</a>
Virginia Frog and Toad Calling Survey	Felice Bond	<a href="mailto:fbond203@cox.net">fbond203@cox.net</a>
Craney Island Monitoring, Conservation and Management of Beach and Marsh Nesting Birds	Shirley Devan	sedevan52@cox.net
Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, South Island Bird Monitoring	Shirley Devan	sedevan52@cox.net
Bobwhite Quail Habitat Restoration Project	Shirley Devan	sedevan52@cox.net
Bird Counts		
Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory	Susan Powell	<a href="mailto:smapowell@cox.net">smapowell@cox.net</a>
Big Sit Survey of Birds		
Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory Hawk Watch at College Creek	Susan Powell	<a href="mailto:smapowell@cox.net">smapowell@cox.net</a>
Williamsburg Audubon Christmas Bird Count	Shirley Devan	sedevan52@cox.net
Tabb area of Newport News Audubon Christmas Bird Count	Tim Christensen	mtnc066@msn.com
Spring Bird Count Williamsburg	Shirley Devan	sedevan52@cox.net
Spring Bird Count Hampton Roads	Tim Christensen	mtnc066@msn.com

Butterfly Counts		
Chippokes Plantation State Park	Alice & Seig Kopinitz	<a href="mailto:askop4@cox.net">askop4@cox.net</a>
Eastern Shore Wildlife Refuge	Alice & Seig Kopinitz	<a href="mailto:askop4@cox.net">askop4@cox.net</a>
Great Dismal Swamp Butterfly Count	Alice & Seig Kopinitz	<a href="mailto:askop4@cox.net">askop4@cox.net</a>
Butterfly Survey at Nansemond National Wildlife Refuge	Shirley Devan	sedevan52@cox.net
Wildlife Mapping		
Williamsburg Winery	Susan Powell	<a href="mailto:smapowell@cox.net">smapowell@cox.net</a>
York River State Park	Mary Apperson	<a href="mailto:mary.apperson@dcr.virginia.gov">mary.apperson@dcr.virginia.gov</a>
Greensprings Trail	Susan Powell	<a href="mailto:smapowell@cox.net">smapowell@cox.net</a>
Grafton Ponds	Larry & Patty Riddick	<a href="mailto:larryriddick@cox.net">larryriddick@cox.net</a> <a href="mailto:pattyriddick@cox.net">pattyriddick@cox.net</a>
Bassett Trace Nature Trail	Cherie Aukland	<a href="mailto:Aukland.c@cox.net">Aukland.c@cox.net</a>
New Quarter Park	Susan Powell	<a href="mailto:smapowell@cox.net">smapowell@cox.net</a>
Freedom Park	Susan Powell	<a href="mailto:smapowell@cox.net">smapowell@cox.net</a>



**Gary Hammer with mud turtle was taken by Felice Bond.**



What happens when we go overboard on reduce, reuse, recycle



Yep, it's all wisteria. That's some pretty impressive biomass, isn't it? And there's about an acre of it, at Jamestowne Island, near the entrance off the Parkway (also the site of the soon-to-be trail head for the Capital Bike Trail). The NPS swat teams, with assistance by Master Naturalists, have been rehabbing the site. In April, we went out and moved jack-in-the-pulpits from the trail area to the borders, and on May 2, will have Nonnative Invasives Removal Day, in cooperation with NPS and VNPS, to clear out the remaining invasives (and there are plenty left). Kathi Mestayer finds nonnative invasives removal to be excellent anger management therapy. Work with the NPS is a pre-approved Volunteer Service activity for us; contact Dorothy Geyer to find out more. [Dorothy.Geyer@nps.gov](mailto:Dorothy.Geyer@nps.gov)

## VA Project Learning Tree Postponed—another chance to register!

Due to inclement weather, we had to postpone the February **Virginia Project Learning Tree Facilitator Training** until May 20-21. It will still take place at the New Kent Forestry Center near Providence Forge, Virginia. Please forward the attached application to anyone you know who is interested in becoming a Project Learning Tree Facilitator. The prerequisite is participation in a PLT PreK-8 Workshop prior to the Facilitator Training. Current workshops are posted on the Calendar of Events at [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org) <<http://www.plt.org/>

**Participants are also expected to co-lead a PLT workshop within 18 months of completing Facilitator Training.**

**Kathi Mestayer finds nonnative Invasives removal to be excellent anger management therapy**

Photos courtesy of Kathi Mestayer



A line of pink ladies slippers near blooming at College Woods



**Blooming now at a College Woods near you...**

Yellow slipper with shadow—  
Photos courtesy of Kathi Mestayer

### Mistaken Identity? Invasive Plants and their Native Look-Alikes in the Mid-Atlantic

This FREE! FREE! 68-page booklet answers some of the toughest questions for people trying to figure out puzzles like:

Is this native wisteria or the chinese variety?

Invasive or native phragmites?

Is native honeysuckle really that pretty?

Sometimes, telling the native and nonnative invasive varieties can be very tricky, as in the case of red (native) and white (nonnative) mulberry. This book, downloadable (see below) will help when you are in that frustrating grey area.

It was developed by:

Delaware Invasive Species Council  
USDA, Delaware DA  
Delaware Horticultural Center  
University of Delaware

Here's where to get your very own copy:

Higher quality 8meg file:

[http://www.nybg.org/files/scientists/rnaczi/Mistaken\\_Identity\\_Final.pdf](http://www.nybg.org/files/scientists/rnaczi/Mistaken_Identity_Final.pdf)

Lower quality 2meg file for dial-up connections:

[http://www.ni.nrcs.usda.gov/documents/Mistaken\\_Identity.pdf](http://www.ni.nrcs.usda.gov/documents/Mistaken_Identity.pdf)

### The Box Turtle Connection:

#### Virginia's Box Turtle Monitoring Program

#### For Teachers and Their Students

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) is offering three workshops for educators interested in helping monitor Box Turtle populations. Participants will learn field methods and protocols, which include setting up a census plot and conducting a visual survey, equipment use and maintenance, collection of morphometric data, and radio telemetry and other tracking techniques.

The workshops will be held:

June 18, 2009 in Charles City County

July 7, 2009 in Loudoun County

July 16, 2009 in Charlottesville

Suzie Gilley, Wildlife Education Coordinator

VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries

P. O. Box 11104

Richmond, VA 23230-1104

804-367-0188 (desk) - 804-367-6179 (Fax)

[Suzie.Gilley@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:Suzie.Gilley@dgif.virginia.gov)



## Upcoming Programs for the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists

**May 3: Sunday afternoon Field Trip/Native Plant Walk instead of regular meeting on 2nd Wednesday. Dr. Donna Ware will lead Master Naturalists on native plant walk around Warhill High School and environs. Meet at 1:30 pm at Warhill High School.**

**June 10: Wednesday night program 7 - 9 pm. Tim Christensen will present a program on his recent trips to Ecuador for herp research. We'll have a short business meeting from 6 - 7 pm. Location is Multipurpose Room at Human Services Building on Olde Towne Road.**

### VIRGINIA LIVING MUSEUM

#### ADULT SCIENCE SEMINARS FOR 2009

##### May 5 Diversity of Fishes

The diversity and specialization of fishes around the world is astounding. The Amazon boasts more species than any other freshwater system, from the familiar, to the bizarre and even the dangerous. We will take a look at many interesting species and their roles in this unique ecosystem, consider conservation concerns, and learn how hobbyists and professional aquaria may help and/or hinder the survival of fish species.

Presented by: Chris Crippen, VLM Aquarium Curator

(limited to 30 participants)

##### June 2 The Secret Life of Flowering Plants

Millions of gardeners enjoy the colors and scents of their favorite flowers but rarely pause to consider the vital role that flowering plants play in nature. This workshop features a close-up investigation of the intricate structure and function of leaves, stems and root structures. We will also investigate the codependence of flowering plants and their animal pollinators and look at the significant economic impact of pollination.

Presented by: Chris Lewis, VLM Education Director

(limited to 25 participants)

##### July – No seminar

##### August 4 Living Green House and Garden

From solar panels to geothermal heating units, from Styrofoam walls to high performance windows find out how you can make choices within your home that can help improve the environment. This workshop includes a special inside look at the Museum's 'Living Green' House which showcases environmentally friendly home design and construction options. Outside the 'Green' house, learn Earth-friendly garden tips in the surrounding Conservation Garden. Presented by: Fred Farris, VLM Deputy Director

(limited to 20 participants)

##### September 8 More than Just Teeth

Shark! - Is a jaw full of sharp teeth the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word? We'll take a look at the amazing adaptations that have kept sharks at the top of the food chain for millions of years, debunk some shark myths, and explore the important roles that sharks play in the ocean ecosystem. Presented by: Dana Zebrowski, VLM Science Educator.

Ages: 16 and above.

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Cost: VLM members \$5, non-members \$7, active VLM volunteers free. Call 757-595-9135 to register.





**Earth Day at Waller Mill Park, April 18th**

**Animal skulls and pelts were a hit during HRC's participation in activities.**

**Adrienne Frank entertains and instructs visitors.**

**Photo courtesy of Gary Driscole**



## Nonnative Invasives Day

Photos courtesy of Kathi Mestayer



The day was a cooperative effort between the National Parks Service, the Virginia Master Naturalists, and the Virginia Native Plant Society. The latter two organizations declared May 2, 2009 to be "Virginia Nonnative Invasives Removal Day." Events were held all over the state. — Kathi Mestayer



Getting up close and personal with an invasive vine.

Dorothy Geyer, (pointing to clipboard) prepares volunteers to remove nonnative invasives from the "Glass House" site at Jamestowne Island. This site is the proposed trail head for the Capital Bike Trail.



Left:  
William and Mary students pitch in.

Right:  
Volunteer in a field of dead chinese wisteria; that's a lotta vine!



## Backyard Habitat Day at the Williamsburg Farmer's Market: May 9, 2009

By Kathi Mestayer

Back by popular demand! We are planning to hold **Backyard Habitat Day** at the Williamsburg Farmer's Market on May 9, 2009. This event is already approved for Volunteer Service Hours, and we need more volunteers (a few have already signed up based on how much fun it was last year). We set up the tent(s) at 8 am or so, and break everything down at noonish, so we can clear out before the farmers/ vendors make their exits. This is a fun opportunity to talk with the general public about creating, enhancing and preserving habitat. We will be using the wonderful display materials that the committee made last year to illustrate habitat components and extremely cute critters (is there any other kind?).

Please email me at [kwren@widomaker.com](mailto:kwren@widomaker.com) if you are interested. We especially need a couple of people for logistics, to carry on Jordan's excellent work from last year. She knows what to do, and we need strong arms and some appropriate vehicles to get our tents and supplies to and from Merchant's Square. Come on down!



**Here members of the Master Naturalists are supporting the Horticultural Extravaganza held recently (March 14, 2009) at York High School.**

**Pictured from left to right are Gary Driscole, Felice Bond, Jeanette Navia, Patti Riddick, David Youker, and Sara Lewis.**

### Walk and Talk

**New Quarter Park hosts a "Walk and Talk" on the first Saturday of each month. Here is a list of the upcoming topics.**

**. June 6 – Gregory Millsagle – On the Bluebird Trail**

Take a look inside the bluebird boxes at New Quarter Park with Gregory Millsagle, who installed and has been tending to the boxes at New Quarter Park for many years. Millsagle is the owner of the Wild Birds Unlimited store in the Village Shops at Kiln Creek.

**July 4 – No Walk and Talk**

**August 1 – Katie Sanford – Environmental Education: James versus York River Habitat**

Discover York River habitat features and learn how they differ from those on the James River, about ten miles away. Sanford is the environmental educator at Jamestown 4-H Center who teaches children to appreciate the turtles, snakes, fish, and other creatures that inhabit the swamp, river, and educational center on Greensprings Road in Jamestown.

**September 5 – Helen Hamilton Growing a Beautiful Bobwhite Habitat**

**October 3 – Jerre Johnson – It's All Downhill from Here: New Quarter's Geology**

**November 7 – Clyde Marsteller – What's Crawling Under that Log?**

**December 5 – Flora and Fauna of the Holiday Season**

[http://www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec/parks/new\\_quarter/1nqp\\_info.htm](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec/parks/new_quarter/1nqp_info.htm)

For more information on upcoming events at New Quarter Park, check out

[www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec/parks/new\\_quarter/1nqp\\_info.htm](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec/parks/new_quarter/1nqp_info.htm)



A friendly Opossum from the Virginia Living Museum out for some early morning exercise. Photo courtesy of Nora Marien

Another one of Clyde's critters



Curious black and white jumping spider  
Courtesy of Michael Fuchs



## WILDLIFE HABITAT "TRAIN-THE-TRAINER" AD- VANCED WORKSHOP FOR MASTER NATURALISTS



Regional Workshop Dates & Locations (training content is the SAME at each):

**Thurs., June 4, 2009** on the Eastern Shore [Location & Lunch arrangements TBA]

**Sat., June 20, 2009** at the Heritage Preservation Center (Museum) in Wytheville, Wythe County [Lunch arrangements TBA]

**Wed., July 8, 2009** at The Nelson Center in Lovingston, Nelson County [Lunch arrangements TBA]

**Workshops are 8:15 a.m.-4:00 p.m., rain or shine—be prepared to go outside!**

## On Grafton Pond (s)

By Larry Riddick

Photos by Patty Riddick

Forgive the corny title, but Patty and Larry Riddick recently took advantage of a “golden” opportunity to learn more about Grafton Ponds flora and fauna. The two of us have been wildlife mapping Grafton Ponds on behalf of HRCVMN for a few months, so when we found out that the John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society was sponsoring a walk in the area, we quickly signed up and gathered with some hearty souls on a cold, rainy, early-April afternoon. Fellow HRCer, Angier Brock was among our group.

We all know something about Grafton Ponds, because we visited it on Dr. Jere Johnson’s geology field trips as part of our initial master naturalist training. You probably recall his explanation that these vernal pools were formed by the gradual dissolution of underlying calcareous deposits, and that they support a special group of plants and animals.



One of about fifty vernal pools in the Grafton Ponds area.

What made this excursion particularly rewarding was the expertise and enthusiasm of our guides. We were led by Rebecca Wilson, who is the Chesapeake Bay Region Steward for the Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Natural Heritage and Darren Loomas, the Southeast Region Steward. Steven Living from DGIF also joined us.

The group discusses salamander habitat. Pictured are



Stephen Living (left), Darren Loomas (second from left), and Rebecca Wilson (second from right).

Perhaps because of the late arrival of spring, conditions were not ideal for plant seekers. Very few plants were in bloom. Such was not the case for those of us whose main interest was in the local animal residents. Vernal pools are prime breeding spots for many amphibians who take advantage of the absence of would-be predator fish to lay their eggs. While the time to find eggs in the pools had evidently passed, quite a few adults awaited discovery beneath nearby logs.

Our log rolling endeavors uncovered four species of salamanders; a Northern Two-lined, a Redback (Leadback version), two Marbled, and four Maybee’s. Finding the Maybee’s salamanders was especially exciting, because they are listed as a threatened species in Virginia.



**Two Mabee's Salamanders found under the same log.**

It was a real treat to find these reclusive representatives of the caudata order and add them to the list of songbirds and deer more routinely observed on other WildlifeMapping trips to Grafton Ponds.



**Stephen Living holds a Marbled Salamander**