



## THE NATURALIST

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

<http://historicrivers.org>

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 No. 11 November 2009

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### Message from the president

#### Our Website!

#### It's A Fantastic Tool!

One of the amazing tools available to members of the Historic Rivers Chapter is our website. The address is <http://historicrivers.org>, and Webmaster Seig Kopinitz has packed it with information, links, photos, and all sorts of things that are handy and useful to our members. Here are just a few of its many features.

Right now if you visit the home page of our website you will notice a photograph of a great-looking group of people - our newest trainees on their first day of training. You might notice that everyone is wearing their Historic Rivers lanyard. If you haven't received yours yet, let me know. The first one is free!

Above the photograph are a few chapter news items that will help keep you up-to-date. If you scroll down below the photograph, you will notice the calendar. It lists many of the activities that are upcoming and available to our chapter. If you click on a particular activity, often there is information about the activity such

as when, where, and who to contact if you want to participate.

Below the calendar you will find icons for all our sponsors. The icons link directly to the homepage of the sponsor, so you are always only a click away from their websites. I find this feature very handy. For instance, when I need to enter WildlifeMapping data or need to know the distribution of a particular animal within the state, I simply click the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries icon, and violá, I'm at their site.

At the very bottom of the website there is a link to the president. If you every need to contact me, simply click the **For more information, contact Historic Rivers President** to send me an email message.

Along the left margin of the home page you will find a link called **VMN Brochure**. This link will open a PDF file of the Historic Rivers Chapter information brochure. This is handy if you ever need to give a potential member information about our chapter. You can also print it out to use at any of our educational events. The brochure

## CHAPTER OFFICERS 2009

*Susan Powell, President*

*Shirley Devan, Vice President & Programs Chair*

*Angier Brock & Katie Schultz, Secretary*

*Jim Booth, Treasurer*

*Barbara Boyer, Newsletter Editor*

*Felice Bond, Historian*

*Alice Kopinitz, Host*

*Jeanette Navia, Membership*

*Bruce Hill, Volunteer Service Projects*

*Bruce Hill, Training Chair*

*Susan Engle-Hill, Joanne Medina, Advanced Training*

*Adrienne Frank & Gary Driscole, Outreach Committee*

*Seig Kopinitz, Webmaster*

*Dave Youker, Member-at-Large*

*Mike Powell, Member-at-Large*

## COMMITTEES

### **Volunteer Service Projects**

*Bruce Hill, Chair*

### **Advanced Training**

*Susie Engle-Hill, Co-Chair*

*Joanne Medina, Co-Chair*

### **Training Committee**

*Bruce Hill, Chair*

### **Outreach/Publicity**


*Adrienne Frank, and Gary Driscole*

Message from the president, continued from page 1

is designed to be printed on two sides, and folded into a tri-fold brochure.

Below the link to the brochure is a link to our **Chapter Newsletters**. Here you can peruse the current issue as well as all the previous issues of our newsletter. They are in PDF format, so you can print a copy to give to friends or to use for educational events. Can you believe this is issue Volume 3 Issue 11 of our chapter newsletter??!

The third link down is **Become a Master Naturalist**. This is one of the most important links on the website because it offers information on how to sign-up for training, what to expect from the program, and how to get started. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining our chapter, direct them to this link.

The fourth link down is **How to use these pages**. Seig designed this link so that those who aren't completely comfortable with computers could become familiar with the organization and terminology used on the website. He explains what all those crazy symbols mean (for instance:  **a Webcast or Podcast or links to them**), and what you can find under each of those green tabs.



Now that I've shown you a few of our website's many features, it's time for you to explore. I encourage you to visit and "play" with the tools and links on the website. Give us your feedback and ideas. We want to make the website as useful and handy a tool as possible!

Regards,

Susan Powell, President

Historic Rivers Chapter

VA Master Naturalist Program

#### 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 2009. You can't get certified unless you send in your hours!

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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.

## Cohort IV Training Schedule through December

By Shirley Devan

Topic	Day of Week	Date	Time	F/T	C/ Rm	Adv Tr	Speaker	Category	Location
October-09									
Field Trip: Wetlands Ecology	1st Saturday	3-Oct-09	9 am - 4 pm	6			Hugh Beard & Charlie Dubay	Training [Field Trip]	York River State Park
Dendrology	1st Tuesday	6-Oct-09	6 pm to 9 pm		3.0		Stewart Ware	Training	Human Services Bldg.
Monthly Chapter Meeting	2nd Wednesday	14-Oct-09	6 pm to 9 pm			2.0	TBD	Monthly Meeting	Human Services Bldg.
Geology	3rd Tuesday	20-Oct-09	6 pm to 9 pm		3.0		Jerre Johnson	Training	Human Services Bldg.
Adv Training: Geology	4th Saturday	24-Oct-09	9 am to 3 pm			5.0	Jerre Johnson	Advanced Training [Field Trip]	
Halloween	5th Saturday	31-Oct-09							
November-09									
Indigenous Cultures of VA	1st Tuesday	3-Nov-09	6 pm to 9 pm		3.0		Aleck Loker	Training	Human Services Bldg.
Monthly Chapter Meeting	2nd Wednesday	11-Nov-09	6 pm to 9 pm			2.0	TBD	Monthly Meeting	Human Services Bldg.
Wildlife Mapping	2nd Saturday	14-Nov-09	9 am to 3 pm			6.0	HRC Staff	Advanced Training	Human Services Bldg.
Interpretive Skills and Field Methods	3rd Tuesday	17-Nov-09	6 pm to 9 pm		3.0		Steve Living	Training	Human Services Bldg.
Thanksgiving	4th Thursday	26-Nov-09							
December-09									
Entomology	1st Tuesday	1-Dec-09	6 pm to 9 pm		3.0		Barbara Abraham	Training	Human Services Bldg.
<b>Annual Membership Meeting and Party</b>	<b>2nd Wednesday</b>	<b>9-Dec</b>	<b>6 pm to 9 pm</b>			<b>2.0</b>	<b>Michelle Prysby</b>	<b>Training</b>	

### General Membership meeting

November Meeting—Wednesday, November 11, 2009

6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Our speaker for Nov. 11 is Ben Owens, the nursery/greenhouse supervisor at the College of William and Mary. Ben has been with the college for 13 years and has an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Landscape Gardening from Sandhills Community College located in Southern Pines North Carolina, graduating in 1979.

**Please note: The meeting will be held at the James City County Library in Croaker in the Kitzinger Community Room from 6-9 pm.**

December Meeting—Wednesday, December 9, 2009

6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Holiday party with a very special guest—Michelle Prsyby  
(See additional information in this newsletter)

**Congratulations to the following Master Naturalists for earning their 250-hour milestone pin:**

**Felice Bond**

**Gary Hammer**

**Sheila Kerr-Jones**

**Clyde Marsteller**



## **Advanced Training Opportunity and Environmental Education**

### **Project WILD**

November 4th, 9am-4pm, Virginia Zoo [www.projectwild.org](http://www.projectwild.org) This program emphasizes wildlife because of its intrinsic and ecological values, as well as its importance as a basis for teaching how ecosystems function. The Project WILD K-12 Curriculum and Activity Guide focuses on wildlife and habitat. Each is organized in topic units and instructors may use one or many Project WILD activities or the entire set of activities to serve effectively as the basis for a course of study. The workshop is free; registration required by October 21st to Holly Carson at [holly.carson@norfolk.gov](mailto:holly.carson@norfolk.gov) or 441-1347

## **THE VIRGINIA LIVING MUSEUM**

**November 10**

### **Ice Age - The Real Story**

Four times during its history, our earth has been plunged into the deep freeze. What caused these ice ages? Why did they end? What evidence did they leave behind? Join us as we create a tabletop ice sheet and watch it move, and examine the remains of strange and wonderful ice age critters. Could "Icehouse Earth" return? Presented by Betsy Wolin, VLM Education Associate.

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

**December 5**

### **Shark Family Programs**

Investigate the lives of ancient sharks and their modern descendants in a special one hour look into the lives of these amazing living fossils. Touch shark skin, look under a microscope at special shark adaptations, observe a live shark egg case, delve into the internal workings of sharks and discover fascinating facts about their skate and ray relatives.

Ages: 13 and above (6-12 with an adult)

Time: 1 p.m.

Cost: \$5. **Tickets available at the Admissions Desk**



## Historic Rivers Chapter – December Meeting

Our December party meeting is scheduled for December 9 at the James City County/Williamsburg Community Center , Rooms A&B located at 5301 Longhill Road in Williamsburg. Tickets are \$20 per person. Members may bring one guest. (Note: room capacity is 100)..

The meeting will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres and desserts followed by a presentation by Michelle Presby, our VMN State Coordinator.

Please RSVP to Patty Riddick at [PattyRiddick@cox.net](mailto:PattyRiddick@cox.net) by November 10 so the planning committee can complete arrangements.

Please send your check (payable to Historic Rivers Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalist) to:  
Historic Rivers Chapter  
P. O. Box 6424  
Williamsburg, VA 23187

Checks should be received by November 17. Your check is your reservation.

Since we are all concerned about the environment, we are **“GOING GREEN”** (like the Christmas Tree frogs) and asking you to help in the following way. Please bring **YOUR OWN PLATE AND UTENSILS**. A Ziploc bag works great and provides for easy carrying.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee listed below.

Cordially,

The December Committee  
Alice Kopinitz, Felice Bond, Barbara Boyer, Patty Riddick



## Time Sheets

Jeanette Navia asks that you continue to send in your time sheets using the same Word doc form as before. You do not need to include travel time for Advanced Training, but please do include hours for Volunteer Service. Travel time for volunteer service goes toward your milestone hours.



## Evaluation of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists Program by a member of Cohort IV

Ted Sargent

If you want an honest evaluation of the Virginia Master Naturalist, Historic Rivers Chapter Training Session for Cohort IV, I am happy to provide one; but if toes get stepped on, remember you asked for it.

I believe the advertising and announcements for this course were very misleading, and I quickly discovered that I was poorly prepared for the consequences of sending in my \$150 course fee. Nowhere in the information for this course (including the State VMN descriptions online and the Information and Application Form for Cohort IV) is there any disclaimer concerning the potential dangers to the health of the students. Admittedly, I have suffered no physical damages from my course work thus far, but I expect to any day now.

Things began innocently enough with the first class: Introduction to VMN and Basic Training. However, a few days later I almost ran a stop sign while looking at my flashcards for Dr. Bruce Hill's notes for nomenclature. (I believe it was the card for "thermoacidophiles" which actually distracted me.)

Two days later, following a fascinating VIMS lecture by Dr. Art Evans on insects, taken for advanced training, I realized that my car was halfway across the yellow line on the Coleman Bridge because I was examining a squashed beetle on my windshield, trying to decide if it was a *Chrysobothris femorata* or an *Alaus oculatus*.

Then, following Susan Powell's interesting class on Habitats, I scraped three cars while trying to park at the Blooms Supermarket because I was distracted by the proximity of the nearby community of secondary succession plants. It was then that I noticed a pattern developing. The more I got into becoming a Master Naturalist, the more attention I devoted to the world around me. (And the concomitant less attention I paid to my driving.)

As my training progressed, I found that the problem also expanded. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century world of driving while talking on an I-phone between bites of a Big Mac, I was adding the distractions of looking for Charlie Dubay's Gymnosperms and Angiosperms. (Can you really find Gametophytes through the window of a moving vehicle?) I'm all for multi-tasking, but this is ridiculous! If I drive through valleys, I am confused by whether the lower elevation is supposed to be on the north slope or the north-facing slope. I can no longer use Interstate #64 for fear of smashing through a guardrail while staring in shock at the *Phragmites australis* that Hugh Beard informed us are invading the marshes visible along that highway. Since I began classes, I have received four traffic tickets: two for failing to maintain the state minimum speed, one for careless driving, and one for driving under the influence of Shirley Devan.

Thank God for Mary Apperson, whose discussion of Risk Management did not require looking through a car's window. On the other hand, I have a bone to pick with her. In the section of her handout entitled Be alert to dangerous conditions, she completely failed to make any mention of the dangers of which I am writing. (I'm considering legal action.) Certainly I am anticipating Aleck Loker's lecture on Indigenous Cultures; there shouldn't be any indigenous people to look at. However, it would be just my luck to be rear-ended while driving and looking at a map to find the Mataponi Indian Museum.

The heart and soul of VMN work is Volunteer Projects. I propose the following project. Someone should do a study of Master Naturalist trainees, both in Virginia and in other states, comparing their driving records before and after training begins. I suggest that the study would show an incredible increase in traffic accidents by training participants, as well as a marked increase in traffic citations. I suspect that most of the violations would be revealed as "wandering off the highway," "failure to stay in the appropriate lane," or "driving while distracted."

And then there's Dr. Jerre Johnson!!! In addition to the health danger of rib-cracking laugh-

ter, I now discover that no longer is it enough to view the vegetation outside my window---now I'm expected to, "Use your eeeeyyesss!" on the ground under my tires.

On the way home from his class last night, I slammed into a viscous pothole. Did I get out of the car to check my tires? No! I got out to check the rocks at the bottom of the pothole to see whether they were metamorphic or igneous; and whether there was any 'two pints' mixed in with the aggregate! In addition to dangers to my health from driving accidents, I've now added the danger of being run over on a dark road while kneeling over a pothole. And why did I hit the pothole? I hit it because I was a nervous wreck, staring not at the road but at the night sky, in anticipation of seeing a mile and a half wide meteor about to slam into the Virginia coast! Now my *mental* health is threatened also.

One might think that I could alleviate these health dangers by merely staying out of vehicles and traveling by Shank's mare. Not so. This morning, I left my car at my mechanic's (remember the pothole?) and as the weather was expected to be nice, I decided to walk home, a distance of 3-4 miles through rural countryside. The walk would do me good, and maybe I would lose a pound or two from the exercise. Instead, the walk took me four hours and I arrived home twenty pounds heav-

ier. The length of time was due to the many diversions into the woods and fields to check out the botany, dendrology, ecology, geology, and habitatology. The weight gain came from one pound of grasses, two pounds of leaves and pinecones, four pounds of wood, and thirteen pounds of rocks. (I was correct when I told Dr. Johnson that it seemed to me that geologists were the bass fiddlers of the science orchestra.)

So there is my evaluation of VMN---dangerous to one's health. Included in the above-mentioned Information and Application Form for Cohort IV are the following requirements for students:

*You must be able to send and receive documents by email.*

*You must be able to open PDF documents.*

*You must be able to open, print, and prepare documents in Microsoft Word.*

*You must be able to do research on the Internet.*

To which I would like to see added:

*You must be able to drive and walk while wearing blinders.*

Virginia Master Naturalists---devoted, distinguished, dedicated...but **DANGEROUS!**

## CHANGE IN MEETING LOCATION

The next two general membership meetings will be held in different locations:

**November 11th—Kitzinger Community Room at the James City County Public Library in Croaker, VA**

**December 9th—James City County/Williamsburg Community Center, Rooms A&B**

**5301 Longhill Road, Williamsburg, VA**

## Geology field trip with Jerre Johnson

By Shirley Devan

Anticipated problems with rain and campus parking on Homecoming weekend did not materialize and 15 Master Naturalists and guests enjoyed a geology field trip Saturday, October 24 with Dr. Jerre Johnson, Geology Professor Emeritus from William and Mary. We caravanned to Yorktown and parked at the Moore House where we then skipped down the river bank to check out the fossil beach as well as try to identify the rocks imported from the Piedmont for the rip rap.

After a potty break at the Yorktown Visitor Center, we visited Cornwallis Cave on the Yorktown Waterfront where we learned about the complex interactions of waves, erosion, and impact crater came together to provide the tilted rock formations around the cave.

"OOOOOOOOOOOpen your eyes" was a constant theme (as we all remember!) and Jerre helped by waving his hand out the window when we went up or down an ancient river bank or

shoreline. After lunch we visited the "buffalo wallows", more correctly known as Grafton Ponds where we actually saw water in the sink holes from the recent rains. No one's car got stuck on the side of Ft. Eustis Blvd, so we proceeded back to Williamsburg, keeping an eye out for Jerre's arm waving out the window or his voice crackling on the walkie-talkie. We parked near W&M's Ludwell Apartments on Jamestown Road and walked down to the Lake Matoaka fossil bed adjacent to the spillway. We compared this formation to those we had seen in Yorktown and found several Middlesex scallop fossils and clam shell fossils. Our final stop was a "secret" location where we learned about an archeology project Jerre is helping with. An extra added bonus: pecan trees where several folks collected a few to take home.

We returned to campus and no one had a parking ticket and everyone had a great day. Many thanks to Jerre for showing us some geology hot spots we often overlook and to the Master Naturalists who made the day so enjoyable.



All photos courtesy of Shirley Devan

At Grafton Ponds: Les Lawrence, Jerre Johnson, Gary Hammer





Rhonda DeChirico, Lois Ullman, Gary Hammer, Jerre Johnson

Lake Matoaka Fossil Beach



Dr. Jerre Johnson at Cornwallis's cave,  
Yorktown, VA



Foreground is Lois Ullman. Left to right in background is Patty Mahoney, Dean Shostak, Jerre Johnson at Yorktown fossil formation.

Left to right: Ted Sargent, Jerre Johnson, Lois Ullman on the bank of the York River at Yorktown.







## Winter Hours

Friday, 10 a.m. to Dusk

Saturday & Sunday, 8 a.m. to Dusk

## November

4 - Mountain Bike Trail Ride, 6-8 p.m.

7 - Walk & Talk, Clyde Marsteller, Insects, 10 a.m.-Noon

7 - Fall Colors Disc Golf Tournament, Intermediate & below, Register 8 a.m., Start 10 a.m.

8 - Fall Colors Disc Golf Tournament, Advanced & Open, Register 8 a.m., Start 10 a.m.

11 - Mountain Bike Trail Ride, 6-8 p.m.

14 - Bird Walk, Tom McCary, 8-10 a.m.

18 - Mountain Bike Ride, 6-8 p.m.

21 - Stargazing with NASA/Langley Exchange Skywatchers, 6-9 p.m.

25 - Mountain Bike Ride, 6-8 p.m.

28 - Bird Walk, Bill Williams, 7-9 a.m.



*Disc Golf Course will be closed for regular play during Fall Colors Tournament!*



*Please excuse our mess!*

The construction equipment and material in the overflow lot are arequired for area utilities enhancements.

Shelter & Fire Circle Reservations: \$50 & \$25; Call 890-3513  
Disc Golf: Daily \$3, Annual \$25; Sales & Rentals



### Directions

- Exit Col Pkwy at Queen's Lake, turn right. Turn on Lakeshead Dr. (Look for sign.)
- From Peninsula: Exit I-64 at Rt. 199 toward Jamestown. Exit Rt. 143W. Right on Pen-niman Rd., left on Hubbard Ln. Right on Lakeshead Rd., follow to Park.

### Upcoming events:

#### Mountain Bike Trail Rides -- At Night!

Led by Eastern Virginia Mountainbike Association. Held Wednesday nights in November and December from 6-8 p.m. Lights are required. Meet at front gate. For more information, contact membership@evma.org.

#### Coyote in New Quarter Park??

Yep. But coyote are elusive and normally avoid humans. However, coyote are medium-sized carnivores that are very territorial and generally will not tolerate other coyote or dogs. Coyote show aggression and attack free-roaming animals in their territory, especially if they have young or are provoked. *Keep your dog leashed.* Coyote can be active at anytime of day or night, but are more typically observed at dawn and dusk.



#### December

2 - Mountain Bike Ride, 6-8 p.m.

9 - Night Mountain Bike Trail Ride, 6-8 p.m.

12 - Bird Walk, 8-10 a.m.

16 - Night Mountain Bike Trail Ride, 6-8 p.m.

20 - Christmas Bird Count, contact Bill Williams at jwwil2@wm.edu.

23 - Night Mountain Bike Trail Ride, 6-8 p.m.

25 - Park Closed. Merry Christmas!



More Information at: [www.meetup.com/NewQuarterPark](http://www.meetup.com/NewQuarterPark) & [www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec)

## ESTUARIES TO OCEANS FIELD TRIP

Seaford Elementary School

By Shirley Devan

The "Sharks" and "Rays" from Mount Vernon Elementary School arrived about 9:30 at Seaford Elementary in York County Tuesday, October 26. And it took a large team of science educators, foresters, marine biologists, extension agents, parents, teachers and Master Naturalists to teach them about Forested Wetlands, Water Quality, Ocean Currents, Phytoplankton, Aquatic Invertebrates, Observational Buoys, and Ocean Floor Core Sampling. All done in four hours! And all was hands-on for the students and leaders. An impressive event for a show-up volunteer like me.

Jennifer (a parent) and I assisted Sarah Maguire from VIMS at the "Aquatic Macroinvertebrates" station where we helped eight groups of students (each group had about 1/2 hour) find and identify aquatic macroinvertebrates from 6 buckets of water collected from the school's property. "I can't find anything" alternated with

a high-pitched "I found something!" as the students examined the critters with hand lenses. Before leaving our station, they had to answer two questions in their journal: "What do you think freshwater macroinvertebrates eat?" and "What preys on macroinvertebrates?" and draw a picture of one or two macroinvertebrates they found.

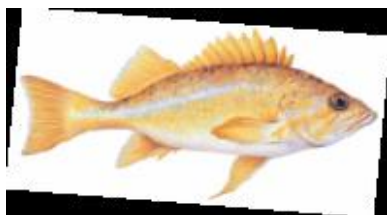
Almost all students were engaged in the tasks despite the cool winds whipping through the schoolyard and wet fingers and hands. Playing in water is always fun for 5th graders no matter the weather!

Most amazing was the pre-planning and organization by Barb Dunbar, Jody Turner and others from the VA Cooperative Extension office in York County. I think the adults had as much fun and learned as much as the students. Barb says another event will likely take place in the spring. Good work, Barb.

### Seafood Watch Tip of the Month

from Patty Riddick

## Rockfish



### Become Aware

#### **Make Choices for Healthy Oceans**

Many rockfish populations have plummeted due to decades of heavy fishing. Even if the fishing stopped, it would take up to 100 years for some species to recover. Try Pacific halibut instead.

Visit [www.seafoodwatch.org](http://www.seafoodwatch.org) for more information about making ocean friendly seafood choices.

**Monterey Bay Aquarium.SeafoodWatch**

# HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

## NEWS FROM THE JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Native Plant Walk – Sunday, November 1 at 1:00 pm. Phillip Merritt will lead a tour of fall foliage and wildflowers at Sandy Bottom Park Nature Park located at the corner of Hampton Roads Parkway (West) and Big Bethel Road, Hampton. Register at 757-604-1026 or [claytonsnatives@yahoo.com](mailto:claytonsnatives@yahoo.com).

Herbarium Tour – Saturday, November 21 at 10:00 am. Beth Chambers will lead members and guests of the John Clayton Chapter of the VA Native Plant Society on a tour of the new William & Mary Herbarium. Space is limited. Register and get directions at 757-604-1026 or [claytonsnatives@yahoo.com](mailto:claytonsnatives@yahoo.com), or contact the herbarium at 757-221-2213 or email [willi@wm.edu](mailto:willi@wm.edu).

Native Plant Walk – Saturday, January 23 at 10:00 am. Longhill Swamp Skunk Brunch. Join Phillip Merritt as he looks for the winter blooms of the skunk cabbage, the 2009 VNPS perennial of the year. Hot drinks and refreshments provided! To register and get directions call 757-604-1026 or email [claytonsnatives@yahoo.com](mailto:claytonsnatives@yahoo.com).

Note: These are free but please register in advance!

### Below:

**Beth Chambers, Curator of the William and Mary Herbarium; Photo by Jan Newton**



**Skunk Cabbage blossom (*Symplocarpus foetidus*); Photo by Phillip Merritt**





# HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

## A Saturday Morning at Grafton Ponds

by Patty Riddick

On Saturday morning, October 17<sup>th</sup>, eight hardy souls gathered for a tromp through the Grafton Ponds Natural Area Preserve in lower York County. The trip was led by Larry Riddick. It was chilly but fortunately no longer raining. We walked for approximately three miles, and our time stretched from the projected two hours to three and a half hours! A real highlight of the day was finding many of the vernal ponds quite full of water thanks to the abundant rainfall we've had throughout the year. One of these ponds even hosted a River Otter who peeked out at us as we approached and then began to swim back and forth periodically popping up to check that we were still there, a bit of hide and seek. Clyde Marsteller rolled over many logs and found many critters for his Zoo. Alice Kopinitz

snapped many pictures of insects and bugs along the way. Susie Engle-Hill lent her expertise particularly as applied to birds and wildflowers. We saw Mabee's Salamanders, Marbled Salamanders, a Redback Salamander, a Worm Snake, a Southern Ringneck Snake, two White-tailed Deer, a Southern Leopard Frog; plus, Gray squirrels, Warblers, Robins, Downy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Nuthatches, Titmice, Blue Jays, Warblers, and Turkey Vultures. It was quite a productive day of wildlife mapping and fun for all. Here's hoping more of you will come out with us next time to see the area and learn what this wildlife mapping site covers.



Above left: Mabee's Salamander



Above right: Otter Pond



Right: Marbled Salamander

All photos courtesy of Patti Riddick