



THE NATURALIST

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

<http://historicrivers.org>

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 No. 5 May 2010

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Message from the president

Importance of Doing Outreach

We've had a good month with many activities being conducted. I'd like to pause briefly from these activities to have a discussion on why the outreach events we do are so important to our Chapter.

We all take who we are as an organization and what we do for granted. As you listen to our discussions, they are about the details of our activities and what we are accomplishing or planning to do. We are intense at "looking down the rope" into the inner workings of the Chapter. This is all well and good.

The point I want to make is that not everyone in the general public knows what a Master Naturalist is or has an idea of the kinds of activities that we do. Therefore, it is essential that our members understand the importance of also "looking up the rope" and communicating with the population at large as to what a Master Naturalist does, the kind of activities that our chapter and its members do, and most importantly how can others become a Master Naturalist.

The outreach events that we participate in as a Chapter are what I am talking about. The recent events where we have participated in citizen education about the environment include the: County Park & Recreation Expo; York County Master Gardener Horticultural Extravaganza;

Cabin Fever Sunday; and Earth Day at Waller Mill Park. Soon, on May 8, we will have our display at the Williamsburg Farmer's Market in Market Square. Thank you to this team of enthusiastic Chapter members.

These events are excellent opportunities to reach out to the general public about our activities. It is at these events where we invite interested individuals to learn more about becoming a Master Naturalist. This is what I am calling "looking up the rope" – looking outward to communicate to others the ecological importance and value of the activities we do and enjoy.

Our organization is equivalently attractive to people who are early in their careers to those who have retired and want to know more about nature or how the ecosystem functions as a whole. As an added dimension, many of our activities are great for children. The Zoo in a Suitcase is an outstanding hit anywhere it goes. This Zoo is vast in the information it provides, can be shown in most locations, and is a unique tool also to communicate to nonmembers who are interested in nature and the environment.

Our website is useful as an outreach tool for nonmembers to learn basic information about the Chapter and its activities. The photographs and news articles in the

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& Programs Chair*

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Upcoming HRC Monthly Programs

May 12, 2010 (Wednesday): "More about the Chesapeake Bay" by Jill Bieri, Owner, Chesapeake Experience.

Title: Underwater Grasses in the Chesapeake Bay PLUS MORE

Jill Bieri, Director of Chesapeake Experience, will speak about the health of the Chesapeake Bay, the decline of underwater grasses and the importance of hands-on education in the conservation and preservation of the Bay.

Jill Bieri, Director of Chesapeake Experience, has nearly 20 years of experience in and on the Chesapeake Bay, has a master's degree in marine science and had worked as both a scientific researcher and an environmental educator for the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) and NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) before founding Chesapeake Experience in 2007. Jill has developed, lead and managed countless field programs for students, teachers and the general public locally, regionally and nationally. Jill lives in Williamsburg, VA with her husband Dean and two daughters, Libby and Charlotte.



Carol Humble is the all-important person who takes care of our room reservations at the Human Services Building. Shirley Devan presented Carol with a VMN Tervis Tumbler April 28 along with a box of chocolate covered almonds. Many thanks to Carol!! Here Carol is outside our favorite campsite -- the Multi-purpose Room at the HSB. - Photo courtesy of Shirley Devan

Notes from the Board

All meetings of the Board of Directors are open to members.

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Message from the President, continued from page 1

local newspapers are excellent ways of reaching the general public. At the conclusion of newspaper articles, a point of contact could be listed for readers who want more information about our Chapter.

Let's always remember the importance and value of "looking up the rope" when we are with nonmembers, especially those who may be interested in becoming members. As a young Chapter, we should maintain an

ongoing focus on getting out the word to the general public. It would be nice for Master Naturalist to become a household word in the communities in which we live.

Bruce F. Hill, President

Historic Rivers Chapter

Virginia Master Naturalists

April 2010 meeting of the HRC Virginia Master Naturalists

Linda Miller presents Nature Sketching workshop

Photo by Jeff Miller



Master Naturalists at Farmers Market: May 8

"That's right, you heard right, the secret word for tonight is mudshark. And with the mudshark secret word.....the mudshark arpeggio."

Oops -- channeling Frank Zappa again. Where was I?

Oh, yes! We have a date for Habitat Day at the Farmers Market in Williamsburg! Saturday, May 8, perfect for nice weather and talking about nature in our own yards, back and front. For those of you who have done this before, you know how much fun it is. Why, just seeing Sheila doing her Dora the Explorer impression was worth the price of admission last year!

Let me know via email if you want to be part of the fun, either for planning, preparation, execution, or all three. No idea too strange!

Kathi Mestayer

kwren@widomaker.com

John James Audubon – An American Naturalist

1785 – 1851

John James Audubon was not born in America; he was born, in 1785, in Saint Dominique which is now Haiti, the illegitimate son of a French sea captain and plantation owner and his French mistress, a Creole chambermaid from Louisiana. At the age of three, he and his father returned to France, where he was later adopted by his step-mother and named Jean-Jacques Fougere Audubon. To avoid conscription into Napoleon's army, he immigrated to the U.S. in 1803, at the age of 18, and changed his name to the anglicized John James Audubon.

Audubon was quite an adventurer; he traveled throughout the south, explored what was then the western frontier (western Kentucky!), and spent time with Shawnee and Osage hunting parties. He greatly admired both the skill of Kentucky riflemen and the Indian hunting methods. For a period, he lived on his homestead just a few miles from Valley Forge, PA, which he considered "a paradise," hunting, fishing, drawing and playing music. Audubon was also a businessman, spending a decade at his dry-goods store in Henderson, KY, which ultimately failed, and he was briefly jailed for bankruptcy. He and his family were sustained during that period of hardship by his hunting and shooting skills acquired from the frontiersmen and Indians.

John James Audubon was foremost an ornithologist (he had an affinity for birds from his earliest days), but he was also a naturalist, hunter, and painter. While he was not the first person to attempt to paint and describe all the birds of America (that distinction belongs to Alexander Wilson), he painted, catalogued, and described the birds of North America in a form far superior to what had been done before; and for half a century he was America's dominant wildlife artist. His collection of 435 life-size prints comprising "Birds of America" still sets the standard for modern ornithologists, such as Peterson and Sibley. Surprising to many, however, Audubon had no role in the organization that bears his name. The Audubon Society, founded in the late 1800s, chose his name in recognition of his interest and work in protecting birds and their habitats; significantly, its primary founder, George Grinnell, had been tutored by Lucy Audubon, John James' widow.

When Audubon began his study of American birds, with a goal of illustrating his findings in a more realistic manner, he also began conducting the first known bird-banding on the American continent: he tied yarn to the legs of Eastern Phoebes and was able to determine that they returned to the same nesting spots year after year. He also began drawing and painting birds and recording their behavior. Having learned methods of scientific study and becoming adept at preparation and taxidermy, his rooms became filled with birds' eggs, stuffed raccoons and opossums, fish, snakes, and other creatures.

The success of his "Birds of America" came about in England and Scotland. Having first trying to raise money in Philadelphia for publication of his bird drawings, he was rebuffed by some of the city's leading scientists at the Academy of Natural Sciences where he had made enemies. In 1846, at the age of 41, he took his growing collection of work - over 300 drawings - to England. The British were immediately taken with his works, and Audubon was dubbed as "the American woodsman." He raised enough money to publish his illustrations consisting of 435 hand-colored, life-size prints of 497 bird species, made from engraved copper plates, their sizes depending upon the size of the species. The work totaled just over 700 North American bird species. The first and perhaps most famous plate was of the Wild Turkey, which had been Ben Franklin's candidate for the national bird.

The cost of printing the entire work was \$115,640 – which would be over two million of today’s dollars. The works took more than 14 years of field observations and drawings, along with his sole management and promotion of the project. Today, all 435 of the preparatory watercolors for “Birds of America” reside at the New York Historical Society. All but 80 of the original copper plates were melted down and sold by Lucy Audubon who was desperate for money.

“Birds of America” was followed by a sequel “Ornithological Biographies,” a collection of life histories of each species co-written with Scottish ornithologist William MacGillivray. In 1839, Audubon and his family returned to the United States, where he bought an estate on the Hudson River (now Audubon Park). Three years later, he published an octavo edition of “Birds of America,” with 65 additional plates. It was purchased by 1100 subscribers. Audubon’s final work was on mammals, the “Viviparous Quadrupeds of North American,” prepared in collaboration with the Rev. John Bachman who supplies much of the scientific text. The work was completed by Audubon’s two sons and son-in-law and published posthumously. His son John did most of the drawings.

John James Audubon died on January 27, 1851, after suffering from senility for about three years. He is buried in the graveyard at the Church of the Intercession in the Trinity Churchyard Cemetery and Mausoleum at 155th Street and Broadway in Manhattan.

Prepared by Les Lawrence

Historic Rivers Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalist

Cohort IV

February 2010

"Much Ado about Water in Williamsburg: an Academic Perspective"

Williamsburg Library, Scotland Street

Date: 19 May 2010, Wednesday 07:30 PM

The Williamsburg Botanical Garden

Presents an evening Learn and Grow Educational Program

with Dr. Randy Chambers, Director, Keck Environmental Field Lab,

Cornelia B. Talbot Term Professor of Biology, College of William and Mary

Williamsburg Regional Library, Scotland Street

The Williamsburg region is surrounded by water, and the quality of that water varies: some for drinking, some for swimming and fishing, some for irrigation. But much of our local water carries pollutants that limit its usefulness to us and negatively affect the health of aquatic environments. Dr. Chambers will describe some of the work being completed at the College of William and Mary on efforts to measure and to manage for better water and better environments.

Admission is free

For more information contact Clare Britcher at

clarebritcher@verizon.net

News from the John Clayton Chapter for the Native Plant Society

Saturday, May 6- Dec. 2010: Losing Paradise? Endangered Plants Here and Around the World - an exhibition and blog

Losing Paradise? Endangered Plants Here and Around the World is a project of **The American Society of Botanical Artists**. At the convergence of art, science, conservation, and education, the exhibit includes 44 works of botanical art portraying endangered plants in a variety of media.

The exhibit will be at the **New York Botanical Garden** on May 6th through July 25th. On August 14th through the remainder of this year it will be at the **National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian Institution**.

If you can't make it to one of the exhibitions, you can enjoy it "virtually". Visit www.asbalosingparadise.blogspot.com, a blog site dedicated to "Losing Paradise?"

Saturday, May 8 at 9:30 am: Friends of Dragon Run Wildflower Walk

This is a Friends of Dragon Run Field Trip - Mark Chittenden will lead a wildflower walk on the Big Island Preserve. Meet at in the Food Lion parking lot, Route 17 in Saluda, at 9:30 AM. Bring a lunch and something to drink. There are about 3 miles of forest roads and trails in this preserve.

To register contact Mark at (804) 642-6060, or email at markc@vims.edu

Sunday, May 9 at 1-3 pm: Mother's Day in the Garden

John Clayton Chapter members man a native plant display at the **Virginia Living Museum** for their Mother's Day in the Garden event. Educational brochures and information will be handed out and questions answered. Come see our **Long-Blooming Native Plants** display!

Volunteers needed! Call Helen Hamilton at 757-564-4494 or email her at Helen44@earthlink.net.

Saturday, May 15 at 10:00 am: Native Plant Walk in Gloucester

Join **Mary Hyde Berg** on a trip to see umbrella magnolias in bloom at her **Tripetala site** in **Gloucester**. Other plants we may see include orchis spectabilis and maidenhair fern.

(Rain date: Sunday, May 16 at 2:00 pm).

Please register by calling Mary Hyde Berg at (804)693-3568 (before 8pm).

- **Thursday, May 20 at 1-4 pm: Native Plant Walk - near Yorktown**

Join **Donna Ware** as she leads a tour of calcareous ravines on **Wormley Pond** near Yorktown. Plants we may see include puttyroot orchid, leatherwood and maidenhair fern. This trip may include some difficult walking (moderately steep slopes and getting under, over, or around a few fallen trees).

Please register by emailing Donna Ware at dmeware@verizon.net or calling her at (757)564-0657.

Thursday, May 20 at 7-9 pm: Chapter Meeting: Insects and Native Plants

Join us as guest speaker **Deborah Waller** speaks about how the reproductive success of native plants depends on their interactions with insect pollinators and seed dispersers.

Location: Yorktown Public Library on Rt. 17 and Battle Rd. in Yorktown.



Blanket Flower
Joe-Pye Weed



Deborah Waller

Please note additional information on page 11

Saturday, May 28 at 10:00 am: Native Plant Walk - Newport News Park

Join **Phillip Merritt** for a trip along the wetland boardwalk at Newport News Park.

Please register and get directions by calling Phillip Merritt at (757)604-1026 or emailing him at vnpsfieldtrips@gmail.com

Thursday, July 15 at 7-9 pm: Chapter Meeting: Planting Wild - Healthier Plants, Critters, and People

Our guest speaker **Lance Gardener** will discuss the benefits of planting native, not only for critters, but for families too! Plus, learn how to deter voles and other unwanted pests! Stay tuned for more details.

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Date	Title	Location	Time	Remarks/Contact
May				
1 May	All About Honey Bees	Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve	1400-1600	757-686-8684 , www.HofflerCreek.org
2 May	HRBC Walk	Newport News Park	0700-1000	Jane Frigo
8 May	WBC Walk	New Qtr Park	0800-1000	Shirley Devan
15 May	HRBC Field Trip	York River State Park	0800-1200	Dave Youker
14-17 May	Spring Wild Flower Symposium	Wintergreen Resort, Vir-		www.twnf.org
16 May	HRBC Walk	Newport News Park	0700-1000	Jane Frigo
20 May	VNPS meeting: Insects and Native Plants	Yorktown Public Library	1900-2100	www.claytonvnps.org
22 May		New Qtr Park	0700-1000	Shirley Devan
June				
1 Jun	Something Is Killing Our Bats - And It's In Virginia!	Virginia Living Museum	1800-1930	www.thevlm.org
6 Jun	HRBC Walk	Newport News Park	0700-1000	Jane Frigo
12 Jun	WBC Walk	New Qtr Park	0800-1000	Shirley Devan
20 Jun	HRBC Walk	Newport News Park	0700-1000	Jane Frigo
26 Jun	WBC Walk	New Qtr Park	0700-1000	Shirley Devan

Marine Science Day Open House

Starts: May 22, 2010 at 10:00 AM
Location: VIMS Campus
Event URL: <http://www.vims.edu/public/msd/index.php>
Contact: 804-684-7846, programs@vims.edu

Training Opportunities from Virginia Institute for Marine Science

In May, our monthly After Hours lecture is supplanted by VIMS' annual Marine Science Day open house on Saturday the 22nd. Marine Science Day is a fun-filled event for the whole family. Join us in Gloucester Point for exhibits, children's activities, seining on the York River, lab tours, seafood cooking demonstrations, mini-lectures, and much more. All activities are free, as is parking. The event proceeds rain or shine.

Sharks!

Starts: August 26, 2010 at 7:00 PM
Location: McHugh Auditorium, Waterman's Hall
Event URL: <http://www.vims.edu/public/register/index.php>
Contact: 804-684-7846, programs@vims.edu

Join VIMS professor Tracey Sutton as he explores the natural history of sharks and the management status of selected shark populations around the world.

Reservations to this free public lecture series are required due to limited space. Please [register online](#) or call 804-684-7846 for further information.

OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE VIRGINIA LIVING MUSEUM

May 11, 2010 -DATE CHANGE **Conservation Gardening**

Discover how to make your yard more eco-friendly and reduce the time you spend maintaining it. We'll take a look at practical ways of reducing chemical pollution and sediment runoff, capturing and reusing rainwater, choosing plants that thrive in our difficult climate zone, improving habitat for wildlife and more. This presentation will include a tour of the museum's Conservation Garden to view many examples of the suggestions that will be discussed.

Presented by: Chris Lewis, VLM Education Director

Ages 18+

Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5 Members; \$7 Non-Members. Active volunteers are free.



June 1, 2010 **Something is Killing Our Bats - And It's in Virginia**

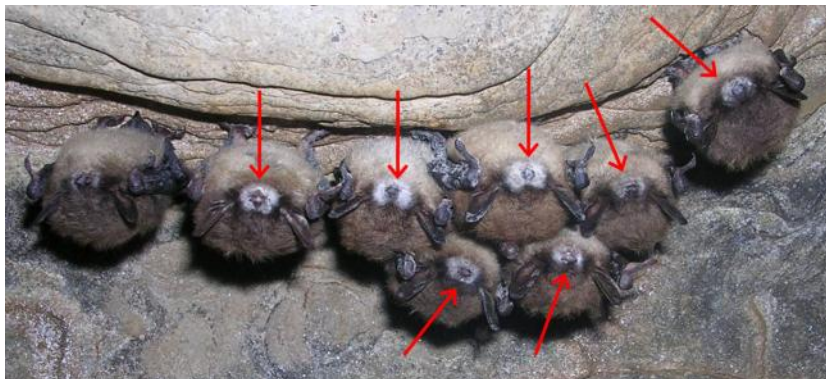
The mysterious White Nose Syndrome (WNS) that has killed hundreds of thousands of bats in the northeastern U.S. was confirmed in five counties in Virginia in spring 2009. Join U.S. Fish & Wildlife biologist Sumalee Hoskin at the Virginia Living Museum to explore what is known about WNS, the current status of WNS in our state, which bats are affected and what the spread of WNS may mean to Virginia's caves and other wildlife.

Presented by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Biologist Sumalee Hoskin

Ages 18+

Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5 Members; \$7 Non-Members. Active volunteers are free.



Grafton Ponds Spring Trip

By Patty Riddick

Another great day at Grafton Ponds - that was Saturday, the 24th of April. Eight Master Naturalists, and two future Master Naturalists spent about three hours exploring. We were rewarded with many birds to include the Ovenbird and Chipping Sparrow. We identified raccoon and deer tracks, saw three deer standing together, and uncovered a worm snake plus the rare Mabee's Salamanders, and the not-so-rare Marbled Salamanders. Ducks were flying, Green frogs were twanging, and an Eastern Box Turtle made an appearance. A great experience for all us adults and we really enjoyed having Josie and Patricia Shostak with us.



(l to r) Margaret Ware, Larry Riddick, Patricia Shostak, Josie Shostak, Dean Shostak, Susie Engle-Hill, Evelyn Parker, Christina Woodson, and Lois Ullman.

Photo by Patty Riddick

John Clayton Chapter of the Peninsula Native Plant Society

Native Plant Walk - Saturday, May 15 at 10am: A walk to see umbrella magnolias in bloom in Gloucester County. Also looking for showy lady slippers and maidenhair fern. (Rain date: May 16, 2pm) Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, VNPS. To register and get directions, call Mary Hyde Berg at (804)693-3568 (before 8:30pm).



Umbrella magnolia blossom (*Magnolia tripetala*): taken by Phillip Merritt

Dr. Donna Ware: taken by Jan Newton



Native Plant Walk - Thursday, May 20 at 1:00-4:00

pm: Botanist Donna Ware leads a tour of calcareous ravines at Wormley Pond near Yorktown. We expect to see puttyroot orchid, leatherwood and maidenhair fern. Be prepared for moderately steep slopes and getting under, over, or around fallen trees. To register and get directions call or email Donna Ware at (757)564-0657 or dmeware@verizon.net. More info at www.claytonvnps.org.



Phillip Merritt leading a boardwalk trip: taken by Jan Newton

Native Plant Walk - Saturday, May 28 at 10:00

am: Join Phillip Merritt for a trip along the wetland boardwalk at Newport News Park. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society. To register and get directions, email Phillip at vnpsfieldtrips@gmail.com or call (757)604-1026.

I came across this poem in an anthology called the "The Birds and the Beasts were there" by Christopher Morley. I thought it would be apropos to dedicate to my hard working HRC Zoo Cru members especially since they handle the three species of roaches to show the children (American, wood and Madagascar Hissing).
Clyde Marsteller

Scuttle, scuttle, little roach-
How you run when I approach:
Up above the pantry shelf.
Hastening to secrete yourself.

Most adventurous of vermin,
How I wish I could determine
How you spend your hours of ease,
Perhaps reclining on the cheese.

Cook has gone, and all is dark-
Then the kitchen is your park:
In the garbage heap that she leaves
Do you browse among the tea leaves?

How delightful to suspect
All the places you have trekked:
Does your long antenna whisk its
Gentle tip across the biscuits?

Do you linger, little soul,
Drowsing in our sugar bowl?
Or, abandonment most utter,
Shake a shimmy on the butter?

Do you chant your simple tunes
Swimming in the baby's prunes?
Then, when dawn comes, do you slink
Homeward to the kitchen sink?

Timid roach, why be so shy?
We are brothers, thou and I.
In the midnight, like yourself,
I explore the pantry shelf!

Christopher Morley



New Quarter Park Bird Walk

By Kathi Mestayer

A group of bird enthusiasts joined Dan Cristol at New Quarter Park on April 2, to walk and talk about birds. We saw a great group of adult and not-quite-yet-adult bald eagles, with the mottled feathers (except for the adult). Several osprey squealed at us, and a couple of blue-gray gnat catchers teased us from the bushes with their calls, then finally made a very brief appearance before ducking again for cover.

A goldfinch followed us from place to place, playing hide and seek (and winning). The titmice were not as standoffish, and frolicked in our midst.

Dan told us the story of his, and his students', ongoing research on survival rates of bluebirds in boxes on (vs off) golf courses. If you see a bluebird with one or more bands (may be colored and metal), drop him an email about the bands and the birds' whereabouts.

Update on NQP Bobwhite Habitat and Teaching Garden By Shirley Devan

Volunteers gathered at New Quarter Park Wednesday morning, April 28, to plant a variety of native plants donated by Cynthia and Bob Long and the John Clayton Chapter of the VA Native Plant Society (VNPS).

Plants requiring full sun were planted in the Bobwhite meadow near "the Point" while others needing shade or wet feet were installed at the Teaching Garden near the parking lot (behind the restrooms).

Many hands made for quick work. All were done by 11 am!

Participants (including members of Williamsburg Bird Club, Historic Rivers Chapter of VA Master Naturalists, and John Clayton Chapter of VNPS): Bob and Cynthia Long, Sara Lewis, Jeanne Millin, Joanne Andrews, Gary

Hammer, Nancy Norton, Patty Maloney, Tom and Jeanne Armour, Kathi Mestayer, and Shirley Devan.

Some of the native plants included asters, river oats, columbine, Penstemon, Swamp sunflowers, goldenrods, for the quail. Shade loving plants to the Teaching garden included violets, Lobelia, columbine.

Left to right in photo: Cynthia Long, Bob Long, Jeanne Millin, Kathi Mestayer, Gary Hammer, Sara Lewis, Patty Maloney, Nancy Norton. (Picture by Shirley Devan)



EARTH DAY—2010

The Earth Day Celebration's went swimmingly even with the short-fused notification. Thanks for the Historic River Chapter's Toolbox & timely opportunity to participate in this community outreach & education event in my own backyard!

I immensely appreciate Dave being on hand as a subject matter expert to speak to the elementary school age children about the relationship with our feathered friends focusing on the dependency which we have on our local resources and the impact that our actions have upon them.

The speaking session was tastefully seasoned with some very interesting avian trivia queries which drew the children into our world as Naturalist's and hopefully, to the accompanying parents, it elevated the importance of our ecological responsibility and how it effects future generations.

I set up two binocular viewing stations at ~10 feet (American Gold Finch/Painted Bunting) & ~20 feet (Eastern Bluebird/Northern Cardinal) using some small colorful bird replica's that normally decorate my daughters bedrooms. The exercise was designed to hone the skill of sighting a distant object (a bird), acquiring that object in the binoculars & finally identifying the species.

I pre-focused the birds from the observation points & when the child let me know that they could see a bird I asked them the about colors they saw, if they knew the name of the bird then played the song/call from the audio device from the Toolbox. I feel that it was a great multi-sensory lab which was helpful in combining the modalities by which we extract information from the environment through observation.

Also along with all of the wonderful information in the VMN Toolbox, I pre-packaged Ziplock snack bags with bird seed as take-aways along with the hand-outs. With a few of the children I spoke about what birds eat (nuts, seeds, berries, etc.) and had a

mixing bowl of home-made trail mix with a scoop for a parent to dispense to their child if desired. Next time I might add some gummy worms & insects!

Very near to our table another group was making pre-cut Eastern Bluebird boxes from a Boy Scout merit badge book's blueprint so we drifted over several times to watch & assist with the process. There were about a dozen boxes were completed which will be mounted in the residential areas as future homes to our Bluebird population.

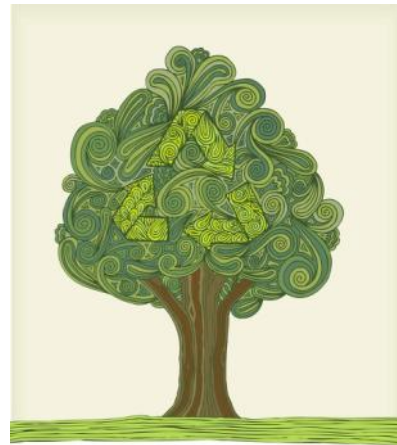
Steven David

Below: Dave Youker and Steven David





Left: Steven David & friend



Earth Day at Waller Mill Park

Clyde Marsteller, Alice Kopinitz, Adrienne Frank, Linda Miller and Jeanette Navia

Clyde is preparing the group for teaching the children.





*Summer hours begin May 1
Open daily from 8 a.m. until dusk*

May 2010

1 - EVMA Group Ride & Meeting, 9 a.m.
1 - British Long Bow Tournament, North American Chapter of the British Long Bow Society

2 - Cyclists Against Cancer, 8 a.m., ride 15, 25, or 50 miles. Registration forms in park office or contact elainecardwell@cox.net or 871-7544.

8 - York Co. Geology Ride, Walk & Talk field trip, Jerri Johnson, W&M Professor Emeritus. Space limited, reservations required: 890-5840 or 890-3513. (Participants may follow in own car.)

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

8 - No Quarter at New Quarter Disc Golf Tournament. Call John Roy at rottown@cox.net and 757-220-0959.

15 - BYOK! 9 a.m.-noon

22 - WBC Bird Walk, 7-9 a.m.

22 - Queens Lake 5K Run + 1K Fun Run/Walk, 8 a.m.

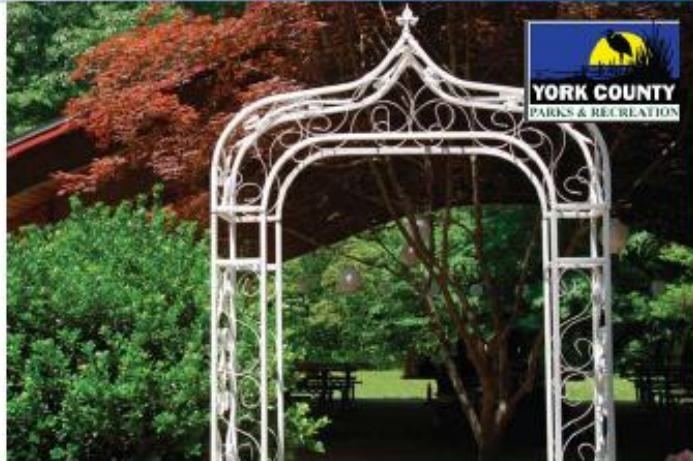
22 - Master Naturalists Teaching Garden Workday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

22 - Stargazing Nite with NASA, 7:30-10:00 p.m. See the Moon, Venus, Mars, & Saturn.

23- EVMA Spring Fling: Ride, Eat, Play, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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 Penniman Rd., left on Hubbard Ln. Right on Lakeshead Rd., follow to Park.



Upcoming Events

May, continued

26 - Moonlight and Music Jam, 7-9 p.m.

June 2010

5 - EVMA Group Ride & Meeting, 9 a.m.

5 - Walk & Talk: Diamond-backed Terrapins, Randy Chambers, William & Mary Keck Environmental Lab Director

5 - Chesapeake Experience Evening/Sunset Paddle, \$50/person. To register www.chesapeakeexperience.org or call 890-0502.

6 - Disc Golf Tournament

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

12 - Chesapeake Experience Mini Kayak Camp (9:30am - 3:30pm) ages 6-8; \$55/person. To register www.chesapeakeexperience.org or call 890-0502.

19 - BYOK! 9 a.m.-noon

25 - Moonlight and Music Jam, 7-9 p.m.

26 - WBC Bird Walk, 7-9 a.m.

26 - Master Naturalists Teaching Garden Workday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.



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

More Information at www.yorkcounty.gov, go to Parks and Recreation
New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr., 757-890-5840 (Friday-Sunday) . York Co Parks & Rec, 757-890-3500 (Monday-Friday)



Schedule of Events

All events and activities are free. Space on bus tours, guided walks, and workshops will be limited, reservations are required. Call 757/986-3705 for reservations and more information.

Thursday, May 6

- 7:00am - 11:00am Bird banding demonstration at the Jericho Ditch Bird Banding station
- 8:00am - 10:00am Bus tour to Banding station; departing from Jericho Ditch parking area
- 7:00am - 9:30am Guided bird walk (adults) at Jericho Ditch
- 7:00am - 9:30am Guided bird walk (adults) at Washington Ditch
- 10:30am - 11:30am Ribbon cutting for Boardwalk Trail at Washington Ditch
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm *Sounds of the Night* - guided bus and walking tour, departing from headquarters to West Ditch marsh

Friday, May 7

- 7:00am - 11:00am Bird Banding demonstration at the Jericho Ditch Bird Banding station
- 7:00am - 9:30am Guided bird walk (adults) at Jericho Ditch
- 7:00am - 9:30am Guided bird walk (adults) at Washington Ditch
- 10:30am - 12:00pm Bus tour to Lake Drummond; departing from refuge headquarters
- 11:00am - 12:30pm Nature photography workshop and guided walk; refuge headquarters conference room and Pines Trail (12-16 yrs w/adult)
- 1:30pm - 3:00pm Bus tour to Lake Drummond; departing from refuge headquarters
- 7:00pm - 9:00 pm Owl Prowl; departing from Jericho Ditch parking area

Saturday, May 8

- 7:00am - 11:00am Bird banding demonstration at the Jericho Ditch Bird Banding station
- 7:00am - 9:30am Guided bird walk (adults) at Jericho Ditch
- 7:00am - 9:30am Guided bird walk (adults) at Washington Ditch
- 7:00am - 9:30am Guided bird walk (adults) at Field Station woods
- 9:00am - 10:30am Beginners bird watching class and guided walk; refuge headquarters conference room and Pines Trail (12-16 yrs w/adult)
- 9:00am - 3:30pm Exhibits and family activities open, to include nature crafts, Blue Bird house building, *Connecting With Nature* activities, music, food; Field Station
- 10:00am - 11:30am Guided bus tour to habitat management sites
- 10:00am - 11:00am Vickie Shufer - nature walk on Washington Ditch Trail
- 11:30am - 12:30pm Vickie Shufer - Book signing, Field Station
- 11:00am - 12:30pm Bus tour to Lake Drummond; departing from Field Station
- 1:30pm - 3:00pm Nature photography workshop and guided walk; refuge headquarters conference room and Pines Trail (12-16 yrs w/adult)
- 1:30pm - 3:00pm Bus tour to Lake Drummond; departing from Field Station
- 3:30pm - 5:00pm Bus tour to Lake Drummond; departing from Field Station

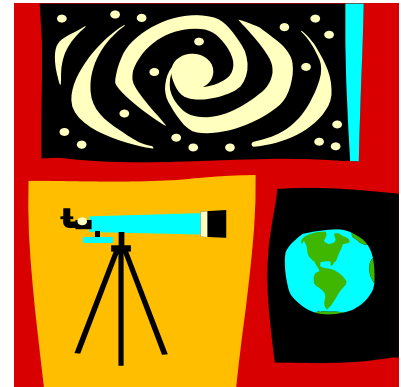


Field trip to York River State Park: Group shot

Below: Bill Williams leads the bird walk

Photos courtesy of Felice Bond





Congratulations for achieving 250 Service Hours
Larry Riddick, Shirley Devan, Jeannette Navia

Photo Courtesy of Alice Kopinitz

**CHEERS for our
hardworking volunteers!**



Dean Shostak has received his VMN Certification
He's completed the requirements to be a Certified
Virginia Master Naturalist.

Congrats, Dean!

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

On Thursday April 22, a few Master Naturalists actually were able to paddle the Dragon Run. Those lucky ones participated in a kayak trip with representatives from the Nature Conservancy from across the state and of trip leaders from the Friends of Dragon Run.

Photos courtesy of Gary Driscole



Valerie & Dean Shostak, and Larry Riddick.

Below: Teta Kaine clearing one of the many beaver dams...

Photo: Dean Shostak

Dean Shostak Photo Gary Driscole





Above: Larry Riddick, leading the active life on the Dragon.

Below: Up the Creek (with paddles!)

Photos by Dean Shostak



A Day at New Kent County Forestry Center

How do you hold the attention of a large group of 9 and 10 year old 3rd graders for more than 3 hours? By taking them on an Earth Day walk at the New Kent County Forestry Center and having them listen to nature talks and see demonstrations presented by the Department of Forestry and Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. At the invitation from Lisa Deaton (DOF), six members of the HRC participated as trail guides on a 22 April walk for approximately 120 students – and almost as many parents! – from Kearsy Creek Elementary.

Divided into four groups – led by Lois Ullman, Patty Maloney, Christina Woodson, and Les Lawrence – the trail walks led to separate stations where they heard and saw cool and interesting stuff. On the Swamp trail, the students first learned about causes of water pollution (each getting to dump contaminants into the “Chickahominy”) and the impact on both nature and our own drinking supply. They then walked the boardwalk and experienced the uniqueness of swamps, especially the bald cypress trees’ knees. Next, the Fish station was a big hit when they got up close and personal with native fishes of VA waters and the introduced non-native species (a 25 pound blue catfish really got their attention!). A walk along Squirrel trail through the upland forest led to a hands-on examination of furs of local area mammals; and

they participated in sorting the pelts into groups of herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores. They were more than ready for the next station, where they got to lay in hammocks and listen in silence to the different sounds around them, learning the importance of “listening to nature.” At the last station, some foresters taught them how to tell the age of trees by counting the rings, showed them the makeup of a tree’s trunk, and did a demonstration of coring a tree. (Most of the parents wanted to keep the “cookies” used for this demonstration!)

While the four guides got to enjoy – and learn! – from the trail adventures, Alice & Seig Kopinitz served at the command center in case of an emergency. They also wrapped and bagged over 200 cypress saplings for transport home by the students. Fortunately, the only emergency they had to contend with was 100 students wanting to go to the bathroom at the same time!

What a great way to celebrate Earth Day!!!



Photos courtesy of Lester Lawrence

Above left: New Kent County Forestry Center

Above right: Christina Woodson, Seig Kopinitz, Alice Kopinitz, Lester Lawrence, Lois Ullman, Patty Mahoney

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER



These are "before" and "after" photos of the American Elm on Boundary Street, on the corner of the Brown Hall courtyard (between the Birkenstock store and Prince George's St.). With the permission of Matt Trowbridge, the campus arborist, Kathi Mestayer worked her way around the trunk of the tree in several sessions last year, during which the ivy above did not show any signs of distress whatsoever. This past month, however, a brief visit to the tree showed that the ivy is on the ropes! We'll have to keep an eye on those vines to make sure they don't recolonize.

Success!

Photos: Kathi Mestayer

