



# THE NATURALIST

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

<http://historicrivers.org>

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 No. 9 September 2010

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## Message from the president

### Welcome to Cohort V of the Historic Rivers Chapter

On behalf of the Historic Rivers Chapter (HRC), I extend a warm welcome to our newest members who we collectively call, Cohort V. The size of this cohort class is the largest we have had to date. The breadth of their interests and career experiences are impressive. Many of them bring a cosmopolitan dimension to our Chapter. But, best of all their enthusiasm for nature and desire to learn more about the coastal plain of Virginia's ecosystem is exactly what we want.

The HRC has grown to 50 members in its initial five years. With Cohort V members, our membership will increase by one third. We now see the critical mass of the Chapter being at a level that our projects can be well staffed and managed. Our events in citizen science, education, and wildlife mapping can advance to higher levels of stewardship.

In 2009, Chapter members logged 2,812.5 volunteer programmatic hours on our many projects. This 1.35 man years of citizen environmental public service earned us the designation of being the top Chapter for volunteer hours in the Commonwealth of Virginia. With Cohort V members, the Chapter can reach new levels of providing environmental stewardship for the coastal plain.

Following is an abbreviated background of the new members in Cohort V. Please welcome these members and help them be-

come integrated into our Chapter. A few bios are still outstanding so they will be included next month.

**Jean Balutanski**, a native of NJ, is new to VA. She maybe retired! Her career focused on working with people with disabilities – physical, sensory, learning, psychological. She recently completed a National Science Foundation grant that provided accessible field-based science experiences for adults with disabilities in the NJ meadowlands. She is interested in learning about Virginia's outdoors.

**Laura Copan** is a high school student who has lived in Williamsburg all of her life. A student at Walsingham Academy, she does pet sitting occasionally. The issue she is most familiar with is how the Japanese slaughter whales and dolphins.

**Lauralyn Copan** has lived in Williamsburg for 47 years. A William & Mary graduate, she is a French teacher and tutor. She is in the Master Naturalist basic training program with her daughter Laura. Lauralyn enjoys studying plants and animals, gardening, and aquariums.

**Janet Crowther** is from CT originally and came to Williamsburg 22 years ago via Moscow, ID. She is a librarian at the Williamsburg Regional Library where she is director of outreach service and community partnership development. Her environmental interests include trees, ferns, wild flowers, kayaking, and walking in the woods. This spring, she started a women's hiking group to explore trails in the Williamsburg area.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS 2010

*Bruce Hill, President*

*Ted Sargent, Vice President  
& Programs Chair*

*Patty Maloney and Lois Ullman, Secretary*

*Jim Booth, Treasurer*

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*Felice Bond, Historian*

*Alice Kopinitz & Jeanette  
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*Shirley Devan, Membership*

*Susan Powell, Volunteer Ser-  
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*Bruce Hill & Shirley Devan,  
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*Dave Youker, Advanced  
Training*

*Adrienne Frank & Gary  
Driscole, Outreach Commit-  
tee*

*Seig Kopinitz, Webmaster*

*Dean Shostak, Field Trip Co-  
ordinator*

*Patty Riddick, Member-at-  
Large*

*Evelyn Parker, Member-at-  
large*

## COMMITTEES

### *Volunteer Service Projects*

*Susan Powell, Chair*

### *Advanced Training*

*Dave Youker, Chair*

### *Training Committee*

*Bruce Hill & Shirley Devan, Chair*

### *Outreach/Publicity*

*Adrienne Frank, and Gary Driscole*

**Chris Curtis** is a native of England who has been in Williamsburg for 19 years. He earned degrees from Keele University and University College London. He has been a survey engineer at CERN, the large particle accelerator in Switzerland; has been affiliated with the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center in CA; and is now affiliated with the Thomas Jefferson Continuous Beam Accelerator Facility in VA. His interests include: biking, hiking, watching wildlife, and soccer.

**Janet Curtis**, a native of northern England, she attended Keele University in geography and English. She has lived in Switzerland and California prior to moving to VA. She works at the Williamsburg Regional Library. Her interests are hiking, bird watching, traveling, and cooking.

**Roger Gosden**, an Anglo-American, attended Bristol and Cambridge universities. He served on the faculties at Edinburgh, Leeds, and McGill universities before moving to the US permanently in 2001. He was medical director and professor at the Weill-Cornell Medical College in reproductive medicine/biology; he has worked at Eastern Virginia Medical School before retiring to Williamsburg. He has lead natural history walks in Scotland, England, and France; he is eager to learn about the fauna and flora of VA, especially birds and mammals.

**Thad Hecht** grew up in Kensington, MD and earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Penn State University. He retired to Williamsburg in 2005 and is a water enthusiast. He lives on the water, is a scuba diver, and has several kayaks and a canoe. His interests are gardening, volunteering, and meeting new people interested in nature.

**Matt Lazos** spent his youth in Gloucester, VA and on the Outer Banks of NC. He recently moved to the Williamsburg area to begin a small residential construction business; he is working on an undergraduate degree in marine biology. Because of living on and near the water, marine life fascinates him.

**David Lindbergh** has lived across the US and in Spain. New to Williamsburg, he is a student at Thomas Nelson Community College pursuing a degree in science. He has owned an outdoor advertising business and has been Mr. Mom for his family. He is a personal trainer. Previously David has lived in other areas of VA. He is looking for a second career. He enjoys the outdoors, especially coastal and wetland areas; he wants to help protect the nature VA offers.

**Lori Lindbergh** is a native of western PA, has lived in other areas of VA, and is new to Williamsburg. She has a BS degree in nursing from Eastern Kentucky University, an MBA from University of Baltimore, and a PhD in organizational psychology from Capella University. As an adjunct professor with Ashford University she teaches statistics, research methods, and business courses. She is preparing to take the VA State Psychology Licensure Exam. She is a personal trainer. She is partial to beach and coastal areas and wetlands.

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### Notes from the Board

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

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## ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITES

Date	Title	Location	Time	Remarks/Contact
<b>September</b>				
4 Sep	Reptile & Amphibian Conservation in Virginia	Rice Center; Charles City, VA	0900-1500	Tim Christensen: mtnc066@msn.com and Michelle Prysby: masternaturalist@vt.edu
5 Sep	HRBC Walk	Newport News Park	0700-1000	Jane Frigo
11 Sep	WBC Walk	New Qtr Park	0800-1000	Shirley Devan
11 Sep	HRBC Field Trip	Chippokes Plantation	0800-1200	Dave Youker
16-17 Sep	Good Green, Bad Green: Invasive Plant Control for Habitat Restoration	Front Royal, Virginia	All-day conference	<a href="http://www.forestryforthebay.org/ggbg/">http://www.forestryforthebay.org/ggbg/</a>
18 Sep	WBC Field Trip	Kiptopeke State Park	0700-1200	Shirley Devan
19 Sep	HRBC Walk	Newport News Park	0700-1000	Jane Frigo
22 Sep	What's Happening to Our Native Plant and Animal Species?	VIMS: Waterman's Hall	0830-1600	Sandra Erdle: syerdle@vims.edu
25 Sep	Citizen Wetland Workshop	Lynnhaven River area	0900-1400	office@lynnhaven2007.com
25 Sep	WBC Walk	New Qtr Park	0700-1000	Shirley Devan
30 Sep	Mercury: A hazard without borders	VIMS: Waterman's Hall	1900	<a href="http://www.vims.edu/public/register/index">http://www.vims.edu/public/register/index</a>
<b>October</b>				
3 Oct	HRBC Walk	Newport News Park	0700-1000	Jane Frigo
8-10 Oct	Eastern Shore Fall Festival	Eastern Shore	All day	Birds, butterflies, dagonflies, ecology <a href="http://www.esvafestivals.com/">http://www.esvafestivals.com/</a>
9 Oct	WBC Walk	New Qtr Park	0800-1000	Shirley Devan
16 Oct	HRBC Field Trip	Eastern Shore	0800-1200	Dave Youker
16 Oct	WBC Field Trip	Chippokes Plantation	0700-1200	Shirley Devan
17 Oct	HRBC Walk	Newport News Park	0700-1000	Jane Frigo
23 Oct	WBC Walk	New Qtr Park	0700-1000	Shirley Devan



Photo courtesy of Kathi Mestayer

The (Common) Buckeye Butterfly (*Junonia coenia*) on the Kentucky Colonel Mint and spending a lot of time on the wood asters

## Basic Training for Cohort V began August 31

By Shirley Devan, Training Committee

Except for field trips, almost all classes will be in the Multi-purpose Room at the Human Services Building, 5249 Olde Towne Road, Williamsburg, VA. [Exceptions are noted below.]

The total number of hours in Basic Training this year is 71 – 49 hours in 17 classes (including preparation of the Naturalist Biography) and 22 hours in 6 field trips. To graduate from Basic Training, volunteers in Cohort V must complete at least 15 of 17 classes and 4 of 6 field trips.

All sessions (except Saturday field trips) start at 6 pm sharp and end by 9 pm sharp. MOST (not all) classroom sessions are on Tuesday nights.

In addition, as part of the 71 hours, volunteers in Cohort V should:

1. Attend at least two hours on one or more bird walks/field trips with either the Williamsburg Bird Club or the Hampton Roads Bird Club.
2. Attend at least two hours on one or more native plant field trips/walks with a chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. The local John Clayton Chapter leads 1 – 2 walks per month (sometimes more).
3. Attend at least one program in the series “VIMS After Hours” presented once a month at VIMS in Gloucester Point, VA.

Here is the training schedule:

August 31: Introduction to VA Master Naturalist Program and the Historic Rivers Chapter; the Nature of Naming

September 7: Biology Basics and Risk Management

September 18: Field trip – Scientific Methods and Field Methods [Saturday afternoon]

September 21: Habitats

October 5: Plant Biology [location is Jamestown High School]

October 19: Dendrology

October 30: Field Trip – Wetlands Ecology [Saturday – all day]

November 2: Geology of VA

November 13: Field Trip – Geology [Saturday all day]

November 16: VA Indigenous Cultures

December 1: Weather and Climate [**Wednesday -- new date**]

December 7: Entomology

December 8: Chapter’s Holiday Party [Wednesday -- location TBA]

### 2011

January 4: Herpetology

January 15: Field Trip – New Kent Forestry Center [Saturday 9 am – 1 pm]

January 18: Ornithology

Continued on next page

January 25: Naturalist Biography due [outside class assignment]

February 1: Fishes of VA

February 12: Class/Field Trip: Freshwater Ecology and Winter Botany [Saturday all day; location is Jamestown High]

February 15: Mammalogy

March 1: Ecology Concepts

March 9: Cohort V's graduation and our Chapter's Annual Meeting [Wednesday -- location is TBA]



## Virginia Master Naturalists Historic Rivers Chapter COHORT V

Continued from page 2

**Sharon Plocher**, originally from IL, she spent her adult life in CA. She has BA and MA degrees from the University of California, Long Beach. She taught kindergarten before becoming a licensed psychologist specializing in education. She worked with handicapped preschoolers. Retiring from education in 1999, she became a Master Gardener in CA. She moved to Williamsburg in 2009 where she is excited about experiencing VA's abundant natural resources.

**Stephanie Schmuck** is from Zimbabwe where she inherited her love of nature from her parents. She is biologist with a BS from the University of Zimbabwe who came to the US on an exchange program through the Indiana University of PA. She is a stay at home mom with two young children. She has lived in Yorktown for 2 years. She is looking for new ways to volunteer and to teach her children how to be ambassadors of nature.

**Daniel Schwab** is from Culpeper, VA. A biology major undergraduate student at William & Mary, he intends to do graduate work in evolutionary biology and ecology. He is a member of Wm & Mary's marine invertebrate biology lab, volunteers through a college partnership for kids program, and tutors at the elementary school level. He has received two grants as an undergraduate. His particular interest is in zoology, especially invertebrates and birds.

**Jean DeLay Sefchick** is from northwestern IN where she grew up on a farm. She received a BS degree from American University in business administration. She worked at the Federal Trade Commission where she was the Agency's contracting officer. She retired to Williamsburg in 2008. Her interests include: hiking, camping, and gardening, especially herbs.

**Catherine Short** is from Rockville, MD where her family went camping as much as possible, especially on the Eastern shore. She now lives in West Point. She has a MS degree in environmental education from Lesley University's Audubon Institute. She is a 4-H Club Extension Agent. She is most familiar with zoology, particularly mammals.

**Claire Sink** retired to Williamsburg in 2006 from the Washington suburbs. Originally from the midwest, she earned degrees from the University of Wisconsin and Penn State University. She has worked for academia, and the private and public sectors. She retired from the US Department of Energy where her career included technology development for remediation of chlorinated solvents in groundwater and soils at federal nuclear weapons sites. Her environmental interests are broad and address the interactions of nature, man, and sustainability.

**Jennifer Trevino** is from southern CA where she earned BA and MA degrees from the University of San Diego in education with an emphasis on special education. Retired from the public school sector, she teaches online courses in education for National University. She relocated to Williamsburg a year ago; she is eager to begin her new adventure as a naturalist.

**Nancy Ward** has lived in Europe, Asia and the US as her father worked in public health as a physician for the Rockefeller Foundation. She has been in Williamsburg for 4 years, having moved here from CT. She is retired from teaching elementary school, is an outdoors person, and is an enthusiastic gardener.

**Mary Jo Warsinsky** is a native of Columbus, OH who has lived in Williamsburg over 20 years. She attended Christopher Newport University in ornamental horticulture. She has worked as a gardener at Colonial Williamsburg and as a grower at Weyanoke Nursery. She is retired. Her interests include tent camping and the interactions of plant and animal species in suburban environments.

Bruce F. Hill, President

Historic Rivers Chapter

Virginia Master Naturalists

## New Online Master Naturalist Membership Database is Ready

By Shirley Devan, Membership Chair

Everyone who uses it likes it! “It is a piece of cake to enter our volunteer time! This is a very nice system!” per Barbara Boyer. “This will make timekeeping so much easier for me and for Shirley! The form is very simple to use,” according to Sara Lewis. Dean Shostak “encourages members to use the online membership database to log in volunteer and advanced training hours. I did it for the first time today and it was really easy to set it up and log in my hours. I now have it bookmarked in my web browser to remind me to stay on top of it. Logging in my hours this way is definitely easier than the old email method. It really works.”

Everyone in the Historic Rivers Chapter has access to the new “Volunteer Management System” – the online database for recording your Advanced Training and Volunteer Service Hours.

I have activated everyone’s account and you should have received an email from sedevan52@cox.net providing you with log in info. If you’ve lost track of that note or your email app shoved it into your spam folder (oh no!!!), then call me or email me, and I’ll trigger the system again for you. Or go to: <https://virginiamn.volunteersystem.org/>

I sent out a “Getting Started” note a few days ago to make it even easier for you to get acquainted with the system. I encourage you to read it BEFORE you log in. You may want to have a hard copy on your desk as you log in the first time and enter your first volunteer time entry. Relax! It’s not hard!!

If you have not already done so, enter your hours for July, August and September. It’s better if you enter your hours as you perform them – daily or weekly. No need to wait until the end of the month. I suggest that you “bookmark” the log in page as Dean has done.

If you have questions, please contact me. As an Administrator, I can look at your records and fix entries or problems you may encounter.

Remember, we’re piloting this software for the rest of the state, so we’re all learning together. Other VMNs in Virginia will benefit from our experience and learning.

Thanks as always for your cheerful support.

Hello everyone,

The second Children's Botanical Art Workshop at The Williamsburg Botanical Garden is coming up on Saturday, September 11, (rain date September 18) from 11:30 to 3:00.

If you would like to volunteer - I would love to have three people that day! I have attached the program flyer and two photos from May's event.

If you have children or know of children who would be interested, please send this on!

Kindest Regards, Linda Miller



## Theodore Roosevelt – The Naturalist and Conservationist 1858 –1919

*“In utilizing and conserving the natural resources of the Nation, the one characteristic more essential than any other is foresight... The conservation of our natural resources and their proper use constitute the fundamental problem which underlies almost every other problem of our national life.”*

Theodore Roosevelt’s Address to the National Editorial Association, Jamestown, Virginia, June 10, 1907

“Speak softly and carry a big stick....and you will go far.” This West African proverb was a favorite of Theodore Roosevelt. He often used it to describe his negotiation strategy of talking peacefully while also threatening with possible military action. But the proverb could also be used to describe his strategies for his life-long wilderness treks to explore, hunt and photograph wildlife and his conservation efforts to establish and protect the National Park System and other natural treasures for future generations.

Theodore Roosevelt’s accomplishments during his 60 years of life were remarkable: Asthmatic child/adult, Home-schooled and tutored, Owner and curator of the Roosevelt Museum of Natural History (Age 9), Boxer, Adventurer, Hunter, Photographer, Taxidermist, Harvard Graduate (Natural History and Law), Rancher in North Dakota, Author, New York State Legislator, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, US Army Colonel and Rough Rider, Governor of New York, Vice President of the United States, President of the United States, Signer of the Antiquities Act protecting lands/historical monuments, Establisher of the Boone and Crocket Club, Smithsonian-sponsored explorer, Supporter of the Boy Scouts of America, Nobel Peace Prize Recipient, Medal of Honor Recipient (Posthumously in 2001)

### Roosevelt’s Naturalist and Conservationist Accomplishments

Roosevelt Museum of Natural History. As an asthmatic child, Roosevelt was home-schooled and tutored. In 1868 at the age of 9, his curiosity was sparked by a dead seal found in the harbor. He managed to obtain the seal’s head and the Roosevelt Museum of Natural History was born. He and his cousins captured, hunted and preserved hundreds of animals, birds and insects from the United States and from their travels in Europe and the Mideast. The collection was initially housed in the upper floor of his parents’ home keeping the stench and sights far away from the skittish maids. In 1871, some of his early specimens were donated to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History which his father helped establish. Roosevelt continued his collection during his college years and friends often refused to visit his rooms because of the stench. Later in life, his total collection was donated to the Smithsonian.

Boone and Crocket Club. After experiencing the decline of wild game in the Dakotas firsthand, Roosevelt gathered 12 men for dinner and established a group to work for preservation of large game by working to enforce existing laws and establishing new laws. The Boone and Crockett Club was the Nation’s first group dedicated to conservation. The club expanded to over 90 members and included scientists, lawyers and political leaders. Members authored many conservation articles and books and



participated in a variety of committees working to: create the National Zoo in Washington; enlarge and better govern Yellowstone National Park from wanton logging and slaughtering (Yellowstone bison became wards of the Federal Government); legislation to create a zoo in New York; legislation for an island reserve in Alaska for seals, salmon and seabirds; and passage of the Forest Reserve Act which empowers the President of the United States to designate land for protection as national forests. The club was also the motive force behind the National Park Protective Act of 1894.

Presidential Conservation Actions. As Roosevelt did not pursue his first love, Natural History, as a career, he used his political clout to make a difference.

Roosevelt used his executive powers to decree by fiat that the vast Federal Wetlands would be preserved as bird sanctuaries. This was during a time when the shore birds were being over-harvested to obtain plumes for women's hats.

Roosevelt proposed and persuaded Congress to establish a system of National Parks.

Roosevelt signed the Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities which empowered the President to proclaim National Monuments and historic and prehistoric sites without Congressional approval. This Act was used by Roosevelt and later Presidents to proclaim 105 National Monuments or about a quarter of the National Park System.

Roosevelt expanded Yosemite to include the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Sequoia Grove.

Roosevelt created the Bureau of Forestry to scientifically manage and harvest federally protected lands.

National Parks, National Forests, Reserves and Preserves: Roosevelt was responsible for placing over 230 million acres under public protection as National Parks, National Forests, game and bird preserves and other federal reservations. His actions created 5 National Parks, 150 National Forests, 51 Federal Bird Reservations, 4 National Game Preserves, 18 National Monuments, 24 Reclamation Projects, and 7 Conservation Conferences and Commissions.

East African Explorer: Within weeks of his retirement from the Presidency, Roosevelt headed to East Africa with the backing of the Smithsonian and a mandate from the National Museum in Washington, to gather wildlife specimens and other artifacts. Roosevelt travelled throughout Africa by foot, horseback, boat and on a special seat attached to the cowcatcher of a train. He photographed and hunted insects, and the whole animal kingdom from moles to elephants. His group killed and trapped 11,497 animals to include 512 big game animals. The tons of salted animals and skins were shipped to the Smithsonian which took years to mount and process. The Smithsonian shared many of these specimens with other museums throughout the world.

South American Explorer: In 1913, Roosevelt led a scientific exploration financed by the American Museum of Natural history to bring back new animal specimens. Although Roosevelt was stricken with malaria and severe infections which required continuous medical attention, the group mapped an uncharted waterway. This waterway was later named Rio Roosevelt.

Natural History Author: Roosevelt was a prolific writer of both articles and books. His main natural history works include: The Hunting Trials of a Ranchman, 1885; Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail, 1888; The Wilderness Hunter, 1893; American Big Game, 1893; The Deer Family, 1902; Good Hunting, 1907; African Game Trails; 1910; and Through the Brazilian Wilderness, 1914.

*“The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others.”*

Theodore Roosevelt’s address to the Deep Waterway Convention, Memphis, Tennessee, October 4, 1907

## Bibliography:

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### Websites:

Theodore Roosevelt and the National Park System <http://www.nps.gov/history/hisnps/npshistory/teddy.htm/>

Conservationist, Life of Theodore Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt Association.

<http://www.theodoreroosevelt.org/life/conservation.htm/>

*Prepared by Patty Maloney*

*Historic Rivers Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalist*

*Cohort IV*

*February 2010*



## Field Trip Reminder

By Dean Shostak

### September Field Trip Reminder

It is not too late sign up for the fossil trip on September 12. If you want to carpool let me know and I will arrange rides. Because Stratford Hall allows us to apply our \$5.00 admission to the on-grounds restaurant, lunch is pretty much covered too. This was a great trip earlier this Summer and we have 7 already going from our group. Contact VMNH directly to book your spot, but please let me know if you will be there. Dean Shostak H:757-229-8863, [deanarmonica@aol.com](mailto:deanarmonica@aol.com)

### Field Trip - Statford Hall/Westmoreland—September 12, 2010

Sep 12, 2010

Sept. 12: Stratford Hall/Westmoreland

9 a.m.-2 p.m.

VMNH Member, \$31.50; Non-Member, \$35

Children under 12, \$22.50; Non-Member, \$25

Stratford Hall \$5/ea grounds fee which can be applied to dining at the Stratford Hall Dining Room or Gift Shop

Meet at Westmoreland State Park at 9:00 a.m., convoy to Stratford Hall, and boat the Stratford Hall Cliffs to collect shells, bone, teeth, etc. from the Calvert, Choptank, St. Marys, and Eastover Formations. Bring a trowel, plastic bags, and a bucket. Dress to wade and get dirty. Access is moderate, with some walking required, and getting wet is likely. No restrooms.

Field trip fees are used to support VMNH research. To make a reservation, please e-mail [fieldtrips@vmnh.virginia.gov](mailto:fieldtrips@vmnh.virginia.gov) or call (276) 634-4171. Information is also available at [www.vmn.net](http://www.vmn.net). Please note that space is limited. (Scientifically significant specimens may be retained by curators for the VMNH collection.

Pictured below is from just one of 6 bags we collected last month at Stratford Cliffs. This time we will be bringing more tools including floating fossil screens that we made. Contact me if you want to build one as we have materials to build more if needed.



## Book Report

By Shirley Devan

**Merchants of Doubt:** *How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming.* By Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway. Bloomsbury Press. June 2010.

This book came out in June. I downloaded it to my Mac laptop using the Kindle software and read it in July. Since then I have recommended it to every Master Naturalist I've seen.

Turns out there is not a "vast" right wing conspiracy. According to the authors, there's a fairly small cadre of politically connected, outdated, uninformed Cold War scientists who have ridden "doubt" to the bank and bamboozled journalists and the public about science of seven critical issues: acid rain, the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke, the ozone hole, global warming, the Strategic Defense Initiative, and the banning of DDT.

Here is the review of the book from the publisher on [www.bloomsburypress.com/books/catalog/merchants\\_of\\_doubt\\_hc\\_104](http://www.bloomsburypress.com/books/catalog/merchants_of_doubt_hc_104)

"The U.S. scientific community has long led the world in research on such areas as public health, environmental science, and issues affecting quality of life. Our scientists have produced landmark studies on the dangers of DDT, tobacco smoke, acid rain, and global warming. But at the same time, a small yet potent subset of this community leads the world in vehement denial of these dangers."

"*Merchants of Doubt* tells the story of how a loose-knit group of high-level scientists and scientific advisers, with deep connections in politics and industry, ran effective campaigns to mislead the public and deny well-established scientific knowledge over four decades. Remarkably, the same individuals surface repeatedly—some of the same figures who have claimed that the science of global warming is "not settled" denied the truth of studies linking smoking to lung cancer, coal smoke to acid rain, and CFCs to the ozone hole. "Doubt is our product," wrote one tobacco executive. These "experts" supplied it."

"Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway, historians of science, roll back the rug on this dark corner of the American scientific community, showing how ideology and corporate interests, aided by a too-compliant media, have skewed public understanding of some of the most pressing issues of our era."

Here's a link to the Publisher's Weekly review on Amazon.com: [http://www.amazon.com/Merchants-Doubt-Handful-Scientists-Obscured/dp/1596916109#reader\\_1596916109](http://www.amazon.com/Merchants-Doubt-Handful-Scientists-Obscured/dp/1596916109#reader_1596916109)

By however means, try to read this book about how science should be done and how bad science is dangerous – to people and to the environment. Very readable and more compelling with every chapter.

A note about reading a book on Kindle on a laptop, a new experience for me: Advantage is that it's hands free except for turning the page. No need to hold open the pages of a new book. Disadvantage: having a hot laptop on your lap instead of a warm cat! Disadvantage: I'm not able to tell how far into the book I am and not able to compare the pile of unread pages on the right to pile of read pages on the left. Kindle does tell you in % how far you've read in the book. Not the same. Advantage: easy bookmarking with the soft copy. Disadvantage: I can't loan it out to MN friends. Advantage: only cost \$10. Advantage: hyperlinks to the footnotes with an easy return to your page. Advantage: I can adjust the font size of the text and the brightness of the background. Disadvantage: changing the font size really messes up the pagination. I'm still checking books out of the library.

## Backyard Wildlife Mapping Scene 4: The Cottontail Rabbit

By Larry Riddick

Cottontail rabbit,  
A cute little bunny,  
But what it does to my garden  
Is not very funny.



A visit is fine  
From this native rabbit.  
I just hope it doesn't  
Make my garden a habit.

From what I've seen  
When rabbits come over  
They'll eat anything green  
But prefer white clover.

For so many years  
I called clover a weed.  
I now let it grow  
The rabbits to feed.

Too early yet  
For final decisions,  
But clover may deter  
Other herbaceous excisions.

Virginia Master Naturalist September Issue, 2010

“Falling in Love with the Season’s Bounty”

By Linda Miller



Horse Nettle Fruit



Rose Hips

While “calendar” fall begins later this month, many of our blooming beauties are already bearing the fruits of their labor. With the help of their pollinators and even on their own, many of the spring and summer flowering flora are growing fruits of many shapes and many colors. Looking up, tree branches that flowered this spring are beaming with their “green” fruits such as the oaks, pomegranates, and the persimmons. Why the beeches have already dropped their brown nuts. Today while on my walk, I spied the long green fruit of the Trumpet Vine almost five inches long!

Over the last two years, I have painted a number of fruits and nuts but it was while I was taking a workshop with Juliet Kirby last fall that I realized how “unnoticed” these subjects can be. It was when Lucy, a dear fellow student of 87 years said, “Now Linda, why are you going to paint those weeds?” looking upon the Horse Nettle fruits on my table. I don’t remember saying anything but when I brought back my work the next week, she then saw what I had seen in those two decaying stems.

I now realize that it’s the naturalist in me that shows up in my work. Whether I am painting from a garden specimen such as the rose hips and including the remains of a spider’s web or the decaying fruit of a mettlesome native wildflower, I so enjoy showing others the intricacies of this amazing world.



## September 2010

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

4 - Walk & Talk: Foraging for Pawpaws, 10 a.m.-noon. Vickie Shuffer, Edible Wild Foods Expert

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

11 - Hare & Tortoise Run/Walk. [www.colonialroadrunners.org](http://www.colonialroadrunners.org).

18 - BYOK! 9 a.m.-noon - FREE Clean Water Kit from Chesapeake Bay Foundation to first 25 boaters!

18 - Stargazing Night, 8-10 p.m. It's International Observe the Moon Night, visit [www.observe-themoonnight.org](http://www.observe-themoonnight.org)

22 - Moonlight and Music Jam, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

22 - Bruton High School Cross Country Race, 3-6 p.m.

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

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

26 - Disc Golf Tournament, contact John Roy at [rotown@cox.net](mailto:rotown@cox.net)

### 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.



### More Upcoming Events

## October 2010

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

2 - Bruton High School Panther Invitational Cross Country Race, 8 a.m. *Disc Golf Course closed until 1 p.m.*

2 - Walk & Talk: Remembering the Forgotten: Burwell's New Quarter Site Dedication, 10 a.m. to noon

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

16 - BYOK! 9 a.m.-noon

17 - Disc Golf Tournament

21 - Moonlight and Music, 6:30-8:30

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

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

### Join Us for Moonlight & Music!



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

More Information at [www.yorkcounty.gov](http://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)

## 2010 Bluebird Year in Review

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By Sara Lewis

While we've enjoyed learning more about bluebirds this year, the team of New Quarter Park bluebird box adopters discovered that the weather was not conducive to nesting success this year. Late first clutches and second clutches had fewer hatchlings and fewer birds fledged. There have been no third clutches.

Lois Ullman and Shirley Devan were happy to watch their first clutches of birds hatch and grow in boxes 3 and 6. All were banded by Allyson Jackson, our W&M graduate student advisor, on July 5. Three of four eggs hatched in Shirley's box; one egg didn't hatch. Dean Shostak also had one nest of hatchlings. I had a first clutch in my Box 9, but the eggs did not hatch. Approximately 10 birds fledged.

Nancy Norton, Jeanette Navia, Ted Stevenson, and I all had second clutches in our boxes 2, 8, 11, 12, and 13. Twenty-two birds fledged from these second clutches.

Because of the smaller number of hatchlings and fledglings since late June, I e-mailed Allyson Jackson to ask how the heat was affecting the bluebirds' nesting behavior. She e-mailed back while settling in to her new job at the BioDiversity Research Institute in Maine.

"I totally think that they could be affected by the hot weather," she said. "They take cues from the environment about food availability before starting their last clutch, so with it being so dry and hot, I imagine there was a lot less food around at the end of the season, which may cue them to not try for a third clutch this year. And if there really is less food, it makes sense that there would be more brood reduction (less nestlings surviving) because the parents can't feed them all."

Several of us enjoyed watching as Allyson clipped numbered bands around the ankles of bluebirds between the ages of 8 and 14 days at New Quarter Park on Monday, July 5. I hope we'll be able to band more of them next season. Graduate students like Allyson have been using the data collected from banded bluebirds as the basis for research that increases knowledge about birds and their habitats to support management and conservation efforts.

So, for the 2010 bluebird season at New Quarter Park, we can add 32 birds to the 46 I announced in the June newsletter for a grand total of 78 bluebirds fledged this year! We look forward to next spring when we will add the boxes at York River State Park to our list of boxes up for adoption. If you are interested in helping with the 2011 season, please let me know. We'll meet in February or March to plan a new strategy.







Left and below - Allyson Jackson clips a band on a baby bluebird and shows off another with all of its new jewelry. If a dead banded bird is found, report its number and the location where it was found to the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center via their website at [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov) or by email to [bandreports@patuxent.usgs.gov](mailto:bandreports@patuxent.usgs.gov).



Left: Evelyn Parker, center, and Shirley Devan, right, watch Jackson slip bands onto a nestling's tiny leg.

All photos courtesy of Sara Lewis

## Measuring Trees at the New Kent Forestry Center

By Shirley Devan

The following appeal came to HRC member Mike Millin's email inbox from Wes Hudson, a Ph.D. student at VIMS:

"Dr. Jim Perry's Wetland Ecology Lab at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science seeks volunteers to assist with the fieldwork for a 7 year forested wetland investigation. The study seeks to improve the understanding of successful forested wetland restoration by investigating the growth and survival of 7 species of native wetland trees planted in three hydrologically distinct mesocosm cells at the Virginia Department of Forestry New Kent Forestry Center. The implications of this study are far reaching in the furtherance of wetland science and restoration ecology, and we need your help! We will be measuring the growth and survival of our 3000 trees. Come out and learn valuable skills in identifying tree species, surveying for adaptations, measuring trees and collecting data in the field."

Mike turned it into a Volunteer Service Project and the word went out with only 3 days notice for the August 7 work day.

This citizen science project immediately caught my attention. Measuring trees? Been there, done that – back in 2007 when HRC volunteers measured several LARGE trees around Williamsburg and on campus. For that task we had clinometers and 100' tape measures. We had a blast!

But this effort was for 3000 trees. Yow! How does that work?

Five VA Master Naturalists plus a few of Wes Hudson's VIMS grad student friends arrived at the New Kent Forestry Center Saturday, August 7 to give Wes a hand with his trees. Actually, there were only 2,772 trees. But still ...

Wes is in year 2 of his 7-year project. He measures his trees each year in April, August and October. Stay tuned for a similar appeal for the October measuring event.

The "three hydrologically distinct mesocosm cells" at the New Kent Forestry Center are: the flooded cell – maintains standing water; the saturated cell – water every other day; and the ideal cell – water about once a week.

The seven tree species planted there are: sycamore, river birch, swamp white oak, black willow, pin oak, sweet gum, and willow oak. The original trees were planted with three different size "root balls." The "bare root" trees had no soil attached to the roots. The "tublings" had a small amount

of soil on the roots, about the size of a Popsicle. The "gallon" trees had a gallon size bucket of soil attached to their roots.

Each of three cells has 22 rows with tree species randomly planted in 42 trees per row about 7 feet apart. Thus, 2,772 trees.

The task at hand on August 7 was to measure the stem diameter at ground level, canopy diameter (in 3 directions), and height of the trees in the "ideal" cell. These trees were the largest of the project because they are under the least water stress. We quickly learned that the larger the tree, the more time it takes to measure it. Wes trained three teams of MNs and sent them off with an experienced leader. Wes was the floater and helped where the rookies were unsure of what do to.

We used the largest set of calipers I've ever seen – about 127 cm long. Unwieldy does not even begin to describe using these to measure the canopy diameter (3 times!) of a tree five feet tall or more. We had a meter stick to measure height. We measured stem diameter with a small set of calipers. Wes measured the tallest trees with a stadial rod that stretched about 8 meters. Of course, someone on each team had to be a scribe – recording the data on a chart as the measurers called it out.

Did I mention that the temperatures were in the high 90s?? Frequent shade and water breaks were required. Wes had several coolers full of sandwich fixings plus a five-gallon thermos of ice-cold water.

Mike Millin, Christina Woodson, and I from the Historic Rivers Chapter helped out Saturday. Also, Carl Shirley and Charlotte Boudreau from the Peninsula Chapter helped out. Wes's friend Chris Hauser, also a VIMS grad student, was a team leader for the rookies. Dr. Robert Atkinson, Wes's CNU biology professor, stopped by for while to lend support.

Sunday Anne Marie Castellani and I from the Historic Rivers Chapter showed up to help Wes and his friend Sean Charles. By the end of Sunday afternoon, Wes still had more trees to measure before Tuesday. But the smaller trees in the "saturated" cell were the only ones left. So I returned Monday morning and helped Wes and Sean finish up the saturated trees. We eventually worked the time down to 15 minutes per row in the saturated cell. Whew! I left about 2

Continued on next page

# HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

pm and the guys had only a few trees to measure in the flooded cell. Guess what? The dead trees are the fastest to measure!

I'm looking forward to helping measure trees again in October when the temperatures will be more comfortable and I'll have some experience. Of course, the trees will be larger by then! I highly recommend participating in this project.



Above: Devan with giant calipers

Right: Wes Hudson and Sean Charles

Below: Five dedicated Master Naturalists      Photos courtesy of Shirley Devan

Left to right: Mike Millin, Christina Woodson, Shirley Devan, Carl Shirley (with giant calipers),  
Charlotte Boudreau.



**The Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia is pleased to offer the following workshop: What's Happening to Our Native Plant and Animal Species?**

WHEN: Wednesday, September 22, 2010 (8:30 AM – 4:00 PM, lunch will be provided)

WHERE: McHugh Auditorium-Waterman's Hall, VIMS Campus, Gloucester Point, VA

WHO: Dr. Roger Mann, Professor, VA Institute of Marine Science – “Chesapeake Bay Invaders: Past, Present and Predictions for the Future”

Mr. Kevin Heffernan, Stewardship Biologist, DCR Division of Natural Heritage – “Early Detection and Online Reporting Tools for Invasive Species.”

Ms. Debra Martin\*, Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Coordinator, VA Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services – “Survey and detection of exotic invasive insect and plant disease species.”

Mr. Keith Tignor, Virginia State Apiarist – “Honeybees, what's really going on?”

Mr. Larry Nichols, Office of Plant Industry Services, VA Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services – “Overview of the varied types of survey, detection and state regulatory programs.”

Mr. Christopher Hobson\*, Inventory Biologist, DCR Division of Natural Heritage – “White Nose Syndrome...What's happening to our bats?”

Description: A day of presentations by various speakers addressing threats to, and issues facing Virginia's native plant and animal species. What do northern snakehead fish (*Channa argus*), hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), *Geomyces destructans* (the fungus and presumptive causative agent for white-nose syndrome), fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*), Emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), veined rapa whelk (*Rapana venosa*), Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), and beach vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia*) have in common? They're all having negative impacts on some of Virginia's native plant or animal species. Come hear more about pressures and threats that these and some other species present. There is no charge for this workshop, but pre-registration is required.

Please fully complete the information below and return to Sandra Erdle (syerdle@vims.edu) by September 15, 2010 to register:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Should you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me! Thanks, and I hope to see you soon! Sandra Erdle

Sandra Y. Erdle

Coastal Training Program Coordinator

Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research

Reserve in Virginia

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

P. O. Box 1346

Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062

phone: 804.684.7144

fax: 804.684.7120

<http://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/>

## Master Naturalists Volunteer to Save the Bay

Sara Lewis, Oyster Restoration chair

A call for volunteers was forwarded from the Virginia Oyster Restoration center and Master Naturalists stepped forward to help. I received an email from Chesapeake Bay Foundation staffer Jackie Shannon who let me know that there was a “great response” to the request for help planting oysters on the Piankatank River Sanctuary Reef on August 30 and 31. Thanks to all who volunteered.

On Saturday, August 28, we also had fun cleaning oysters and oyster farm equipment at New Quarter Park. Shirley Devan and Patty Maloney came out to help Jordan Westenhaver and me clean oysters, evict baby crabs, and remove barnacles and assorted creek gunk

from our oyster farm equipment. This will be a once a month volunteer opportunity. This is the second year that Jordan and I have raised oysters for the sanctuary reef habitat restoration.

Pictured here are Daryl Lockwood, Amy Lockwood, Shirley, Jordan, and Patti. Amy is a science teacher at Bruton High School who plans to have some of her students help with occasional oyster cleaning. She came out with her son on Saturday to see what our oyster farm was all about. I’ll be visiting her class to talk about oysters and the Virginia Oyster Restoration effort.





Night at the VCR Rice Center

Above left: Garter Snake

Above right: Participants enjoying the warm summer night

Below: Lois Ullman and Dean Shostak

Photos courtesy of Felice Bond



VCU Rice Center

It was a great evening at the VCU Rice Center.

Here a few pictures I took around 2 AM.

Dean Shostak



Emerging Blue Dasher



Dead Leaf Moth



Smile!