



## THE NATURALIST

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

<http://historicrivers.org>

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 No. 11 November 2010

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### Message from the president

In this newsletter column, I want to share with the members of the HRC the discussion draft of our Strategic Plan for 2010 to 2015. The Board of Directors has been discussing and debating what the Chapter program should be in the next five years. It's like birthing an elephant as we want to do it right so our Chapter and what it does are on track for the next five years. Since the HRC is only approximately five years old, its first Strategic Plan is ultra important for all Chapter members. This Plan will formalize what the HRC program and its major projects will be for the near future.

It is important for each Chapter member to read the discussion draft carefully; we want to hear your thoughts and comments. We need the benefit of your insights. Now is the time for all Chapter members to voice your thoughts as the Plan will impact how the Chapter and its program and projects move forward. The Plan that follows is short, succinct, and clear. It's an easy read.

Please e-mail your comments to me at [Euplotes@msn.com](mailto:Euplotes@msn.com) in the next couple of weeks. We are planning for how best to move from the existing organizational structure to one that will be used to implement this Plan as the Chapter moves into calendar year 2011. The discussion draft for the Plan follows.

#### **HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER (HRC) STRATEGIC PLAN – 2010 to 2015**

#### **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HRC IN 2010**

The HRC is a dynamic group of knowledgeable and dedicated people who have come together because of common interests

in natural resources and their management and stewardship. The Chapter is an effectively organized group of diverse individuals who initially joined for an educational experience to increase their knowledge of "all things naturalist." Today, approximately five years after founding, the HRC is an active, eager group with a wide variety of interests. As an organization the HRC is strong, focused broadly, and organized. During the initial five years, the Chapter has pulled together into a cohesive dynamo.

Through building on each member's areas of expertise, discovering new interests, and finding like-minded members, the HRC have come together as a Chapter to serve the community through projects and events including wildlife mapping; teaching others in numerous areas of expertise; representing the HRC at local/state meetings/seminars; or volunteering where needed, i.e., answering e-mails for assistance.

The HRC management body is a Board of Directors that comprises a committed team that works together for the smooth, effective operation of the Chapter. Our official partners and joint sponsors include the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, the Departments of Conservation and Recreation, Forestry, Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Museum of Natural History. They are all integral to the Chapter.

Our collaborations with other relevant non-sponsoring organizations that are technical subsets of our program are equivalently important programmatically to the HRC. These organizations include the Williamsburg Bird Club, John

Continued on next page

## CHAPTER OFFICERS 2010

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- Bruce Hill, President*
  - Ted Sargent, Vice President & Programs Chair*
  - Patty Maloney and Lois Ullman, Secretary*
  - Jim Booth, Treasurer*
  - Barbara Boyer, Newsletter Editor*
  - Felice Bond, Historian*
  - Alice Kopinitz & Jeanette Navia, Host*
  - Shirley Devan, Membership*
  - Susan Powell, Volunteer Service Projects*
  - Bruce Hill & Shirley Devan, Training Chair*
  - Dave Youker, Advanced Training*
  - Adrienne Frank & Gary Driscole, Outreach Committee*
  - Seig Kopinitz, Webmaster*
  - Dean Shostak, Field Trip Coordinator*
  - 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*

Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, and the Master Gardeners' organization.

The HRC conducts basic training classes annually and graduates approximately 15 new volunteers from each training class. Members prefer to be involved in their own areas of interest with the HRC advanced training and volunteer service projects reflecting this diversity. With the addition of Cohort V members, the HRC should reach an adequate number of members to really take off and make an important impact in the community.

Within the HRC, there is a core group of approximately 35 members who participate in volunteer service projects monthly. The efforts of these 35 members account for over 85% of volunteer hours reported for the Chapter.

As a Chapter, the HRC is spread too thin across its volunteer projects. It's great for everyone to do his/her favorite thing, but at this time the Chapter is over committed to its many projects. Instead, there should be a thrust into a few directions to really make a difference in selected specific areas. We're here, we're there, and we're everywhere in bits and pieces.

We're doing a good job, but we could be doing a spectacular job if the Chapter would integrate the efforts of its membership into fewer projects. Simply put, the HRC needs a focus! The Chapter needs something for which it will be known and recognized.

### HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER in 2015

#### OPERATING RATIONALE

- HRC will be a group of volunteers dedicated to the stewardship of public lands and natural resources located in Virginia's southeastern peninsula
- HRC is a continuous learning nature organization that gives its knowledge and expertise back to the community by volunteering as educators, citizen scientists, or park stewards primarily in the communities of James City County, York County and the City of Williamsburg
- Volunteer Projects should answer a natural resources stewardship need in the HRC area of the peninsula. Such needs should be documented in the goals for the Chapter. A project that is selected by the HRC should address an ecological need or natural resource management need of the area. HRC efforts and projects should improve and facilitate management of the natural resources for present and future generations. The question to ask is: What need will a proposed project address; why is meeting this need important to our community?

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#### Notes from the Board

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

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## Basic Training for Cohort V: November – December By Shirley Devan, Training Committee

Here is the upcoming Basic Training schedule through December:

- November 2: Dendrology
- November 13: Field Trip – Geology [Saturday all day]
- November 16: VA Indigenous Cultures
- December 1: Weather and Climate [Wednesday -- new date]
- December 4: Wildlife Mapping [Saturday – Advanced Training – TNCC in Williamsburg]
- December 7: Entomology
- December 8: Chapter’s Holiday Party [Wednesday location Windsor Forest Community Club House]

Except for field trips, almost all classes will be 6 – 9 pm in the Multi-purpose Room at the Human Services Building, 5249 Olde Towne Road, Williamsburg, VA. [Exceptions are noted above.]

Members who attend Basic Training classes get Advanced Training hours.

### Advanced Training Opportunities

Date	Title	Location	Time	Remarks/Contact
<b>November</b>				
3-4 Nov	Methodology/Protocol for Perennial Stream Identification workshop	VIMS	All day	Contact Sandra Erdle (syerdle@vims.edu) to register.
6 Nov	Reptile & Amphibian Conservation in	Human Services Building	0900-1700	Tim Christensen: mtnc066@msn.com and
7 Nov	HRBC Walk	Newport News Park	0700-1000	Jane Frigo
13 Nov	WBC Walk	New Qtr Park	0800-1000	Shirley Devan
13 Nov	HRBC Field Trip	Craney Island	0800-1200	Dave Youker
14 Nov	HRBC Field Trip	Hog Island	0800-1200	Dave Youker
20 Nov	WBC Field Trip	Little Creek Reservoir	0700-1200	Shirley Devan
21 Nov	HRBC Walk	Newport News Park	0700-1000	Jane Frigo
27 Nov	WBC Walk	New Qtr Park	0700-0900	Shirley Devan
<b>December</b>				
5 Dec	HRBC Walk	Newport News Park	0700-1000	Jane Frigo
11 Dec	WBC Walk	New Qtr Park	0800-1000	Shirley Devan
18 Dec	WBC Field Trip	TBD	0700-1200	Shirley Devan
19 Dec	HRBC Walk	Newport News Park	0700-1000	Jane Frigo

## **Pre-class Prep – Field Trip – Geology of Virginia Peninsula**

Dr. Jerre Johnson, Professor Emeritus, College of William and Mary Geology Department, will lead this field trip.

**Date:** Saturday, November 13, 2010

**Time:** 9 am - 4 pm

**By 9 am, meet** in front of Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall, 601 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, VA 23187. If you are coming in on Route 199, at the traffic light, take Jamestown Road toward the campus (east). As you drive in, the campus will be on the left after the lake. First campus building you'll see is Business School, then a long parking lot, then a parking circle in front of Phi Beta Kappa Hall. Park as close to Phi Beta Kappa Hall as you can and meet the group in front of the building.

### **Our objective for this trip:**



Understand the geology around Williamsburg and the Peninsula

**NOTE:** This is not required for Cohort V but it is fun, you'll learn a lot, and get Advanced Training hours!

**Wear** long pants, long sleeves, and closed-toe shoes/boots.

**Carpooling** is important and the fewer the cars the better. If you can take two or three people and are willing to drive, please let Jerre know Saturday morning when you meet the group.

**Pack** water/snacks/beverages and/or a lunch. The group will probably stop for lunch at the McDonald's at the corner of Route 17 and Ft. Eustis Blvd. You can purchase lunch there or eat your own lunch there with us.

**Bring:** Camera, note pad, plastic bags for collecting fossils. You may also want to bring the last page of the handout Jerre gave you at class – "Figure 2: Schematic geologic cross section from the Fall Zone to the Chesapeake Bay showing terraces and underlying stratigraphic units. Eastern part along axis of the York-James peninsula." You'll be driving along several of those terraces on the field trip.

**Questions:** Contact Bruce Hill or Susan Powell.

Bruce Hill's phone and email: euplotes@msn.com, 757-903-4599

Susan Powell's phone and email: smapowell@cox.net, 757-564-4542

Enjoy the day!!

## END OF YEAR PARTY - THE FIVE SENSES

The eyes of the hawk, the screech of the owl, the scent of the skunk, the feel of bark, the taste of a wild blueberry. This year's End of Year Party theme is The Five Senses. The senses help wildlife survive, and they help us appreciate the beauty of nature.

Our Master Naturalist chapter holds an annual party each December instead of a December monthly meeting. This year, we will be holding the party at a new venue: the Windsor Forest Clubhouse in Williamsburg, at 108 Wyndham Way. This is only about a mile from the James City County Human Services Building where we hold classes and meetings. The party will be held December 8, 2010, from 6:00 p.m. until whenever (we have the clubhouse til midnight!). Dinner will be potluck, and there will not be a speaker. We will have a few games and door prizes. You will get to meet spouses and significant others, have fun and enjoy the good food! Each Historic Rivers Chapter member will be allowed to bring one adult or teenage guest.



Jeanette will be sending out an electronic eVite through email in a few weeks. Please watch for this and make sure you respond either Yes or No so we have an accurate count. In the past, we have asked people to pay to help with the costs of catering. This year, because we have decided to go with potluck, the party will not be catered and you will not be asked to pay. You will be asked to bring a dish or dessert -- salad, main dish, dessert, and your own beverage. Also, to help save the environment, please bring your own dishes and utensils. You may want to bring a plastic bag to store your dirty dishes in to take them home. (You can always wash out and reuse the plastic bag).

We believe we have enough volunteers for set up and clean-up, but if we can always use more hands. Thanks so much to all who offered! We will get in touch with you closer to the time of the party.

The Host Committee

Coopers Hawk patiently waiting while being banded at Kiptopeke—courtesy of Jeanette Navia

## Common Buckeye Butterflies Migrate



Submitted by Susie  
Engle-Hill

The amazing long-distance migration of the fragile Monarch Butterfly intrigues many of us. But there are other butterflies migrating as well. When I visited the Williamsburg Botanical Garden at Freedom Park on my lunch hour, I was greeted with a lovely sight. Common Buckeye Butterflies were flitting about, covering a third of the large orange/yellow/pink Lantana flowers. Yes, there were Monarchs, Painted Ladies, and other pollinators, but the population of Buckeyes was most abundant. Gorgeous!

According to Carole Brown notes in her article, “Beautiful Butterflies”, “The Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*) is found throughout the spring and summer from Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Ontario south through all of the US except for the Pacific Northwest. But when autumn arrives these butterflies begin to move south, spending the winter months in the Carolinas and south into Florida and across the southern US.”

Even in October these winged beauties are seen still happily mating and lots of caterpillars are found on the Narrowleaf plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*).

Plants in the Plantain family (*Plantago* spp) are considered common weeds and as such are the targets of weed control lawn fertilizers, so if you are treating your lawn with chemicals fertilizers and herbicides, you are destroying the plants that these butterflies need to survive. So here’s permission to allow the Plantains to romp happily through your lawn, and you can tell your neighbors that you’re creating butterfly habitat.

Continued on next page



Common Buckeye females lay their eggs on the Plantains, but will also use plants in the Snapdragon family (*Scrophulariaceae*), including snapdragon (*Antirrhinum*), toadflax (*Linaria*), and Gerardia, and also the Acanthus family including ruellia (*Ruellia nodiflora*).

If you want to attract Common Buckeye butterflies to your wildlife garden, consider planting any of the following plants: Yellow toadflax also known as Butter and Eggs (*Linaria vulgaris*); Largebracted plantain (*Plantago aristata*), Narrowleaf plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Blackseed plantain (*Plantago rugelii*), Virginia plantain (*Plantago virginica*), Carolina wild petunia (*Ruellia caroliniensis*), Pursh's wild petunia (*Ruellia purshiana*), or simply stop using chemicals on your lawn and see what pops up there naturally.



## On the Trail – Roy Chapman Andrews

“In the first fifteen years of field work, I can remember just ten times when I had really narrow escapes from death. Two were from drowning in typhoons, one was when our boat was charged by a wounded whale, once my wife and I were almost eaten by wild dogs, once we were in great danger from fanatical lama priests, two were close calls when I fell over cliffs, once I was nearly caught by a huge python, and twice I might have been killed by bandits.”

Born on January 26, 1884 in Beloit, Wisconsin, one did not have to wait long as Andrews innate boyhood interests and inclinations led to early adventures as he began to explore both woodland and waterway discovering his natural tendency toward danger and an uncanny ability to survive, all of which prompted him to conjecture that he was “born under a lucky star” setting the tone for his life as an American Explorer, Adventurer, Author and Naturalist.

Indeed, his vocation and avocation were paragon as this self-taught taxidermist used his hobby-derived income to finance his undergraduate tuition to Beloit College and upon graduation in 1906 travel to New York City seeking a position at the American Museum of Natural History. He talked his way into a non-existent position as a janitor in the taxidermy department working & studying simultaneously over the next few years matriculating with a graduate degree in Mammalogy from Columbia University in 1913.

Between 1909 and 1917 he traveled on numerous expeditions including sailing on the USS Albatross collecting reptiles and observing marine mammals in the Dutch East Indies as well as being a crew-member on the Schooner *Adventuress* in search of the Bowhead Whale in the Arctic. He and his wife, Yvette Borup led the Asiatic Zoological Expedition in Southwestern China and Burma. Interruptions in expeditions caused by The Great War found him actively engaged as a naval intelligence officer serving in Peking until returning home to embark upon his decade long dream and yet another adventure.

Andrews had envisioned a new type of exploration of magnanimous proportions including a cooperative venture of multiple science expertise's & innovative techniques to include the first use of automobiles for desert exploration coupled with camel caravan support. He presented his concept to the Museum Director, Henry Fairfield Osborn, who endorsed it and through his engaging personality he raised over \$250,000 from wealthy sponsors including J.P. Morgan and J.D. Rockefeller. The original intent was a paleontological expedition to find the origin of man but resulted in discovering an unbelievable passel of preserved fossils in the arid milieu of the desert.

In the 1920's he became a world famous fossil hunter leading five expeditions between 1922 – 1930 through a politically unstable China into Mongolia's Gobi Desert discovering rich fossil fields, new geological strata, skeleton parts of some of the largest and oldest known mammals, including the huge *Indricotherium* (formerly known by *Baluchitherium*) and the tiny *Protoceratops andrewsi*, a nest of *Protoceratops* eggs (the first known to science and later revealed to be *Oviraptor* eggs), *Pinacosaurus*, *Sauromithoides*, *Oviraptor* and *Velociraptor* none of which were previously known.

The cessation of expeditions was a result of the regional instability as risk from marauding bandits was commonplace where the warring factions in Mongolia and China treated outsiders with cavalier brutality. The unrelenting climate of the Gobi where temperatures could easily exceed 140 degrees during the day and frigidly dip at night, one in which Andrews party killed 47 vipers that were seeking refuge from the cold in their tents.

The Boy Scouts of America created a distinctive category for American citizens whose achievements of “outdoor activity, exploration and worthwhile adventure are of such an exceptional character as to capture the imagination of boys...” and bestowed the title of “Honorary Scout” on Andrews in 1927.

Before his death on March 11, 1960 Roy Chapman Andrews received honorary doctorates from Brown University in 1926 and Beloit College in 1928, served as the President of The Explorers Club from 1931 – 1934 and Director of the American Museum of Natural History (without further need of mopping floors) from 1935 – 1942 at which time he retired devoting the remainder of his life to writing and lecturing.

Douglas Preston, of the American Museum of Natural History wrote “Andrews is allegedly the real person that the movie character of Indiana Jones was patterned after. Andrews was an accomplished stage master. He created an image and lived it out impeccably – there was no chink in his armor. Roy Chapman Andrews: famous explorer, dinosaur hunter, exemplar of Anglo-Saxon virtues, crack shot, fighter of Mongolian brigands, the man who created the metaphor of ‘Outer Mongolia’ as denoting any exceedingly remote place.”

He is remembered not only for his intestinal fortitude, visionary optic, wide-brimmed hat and six-shooter strapped to his hip but his unique approach to field research combining a diverse team of experts, thoroughly planned expeditions and well-equipped supply caravans which set the model for modern exploration.

On-line Web-based Research:  
Britannica Concise Encyclopedia  
Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia  
Roy Chapman Andrew’s Society

*Prepared by Steven David  
Historic Rivers Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalist, Cohort IV  
February 2010*

## CoCoRaHS Volunteers Report Heavy Rains

By Les Lawrence

Since several members of our chapter participate in the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow (CoCoRaHS) network, daily measuring rainfalls and reporting those results to the headquarters at Colorado State University, I thought other chapter members might be interested in some of the data. During the 27 Sep – 1 Oct rain event, due to a tropical depression passing off-shore, chapter members reported the following total inches of rainfall for the five-day period and (where known) the heaviest one-day total, on the 30<sup>th</sup>:

Angier Brock	11.4	
Sara Lewis	11.45	5.72
Nancy Norton	11.52	
Jeanne Millin	11.90	6.00
Lois Ullman	11.93	
Les Lawrence	13.99	8.18



I obviously experienced a very heavy, localized rain band!

As participants know, the submitted daily recordings are displayed on a CoCoRaHS site map. It's always interesting (fun!) to compare the rainfall differences – sometimes significant - between the north/south and east/west areas around Williamsburg and surrounding counties.

If you are interested in this program, which is certified for Volunteer Service, go to [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org). Click on the Main Menu, and select Join Us. When we started this project earlier this year, we were able to get a pretty good discount on our gauges by ordering as a group. Dean Shostak will be ordering more gauges in November. Contact him at [deamarmonica@aol.com](mailto:deamarmonica@aol.com) by Nov 15 if you would like to get in on the next order (we are looking for another 12). If you have any questions, contact myself or Dean.

After the rain...

Windmill Farm in Tehachapi, CA

Courtesy of Michael Fuches



Contribute your own experiences! Complete the sentence:

**You know you're a Master Naturalist when....**

...you have been a serious arachnophobe since conception and find yourself gently relocating spiders from the house out to the yard, or just letting them be in the space between the storm windows and the real windows. That's not really "inside" the house, right?

...when a neighbor notices a group of cardinals on your roof, your first thought is, "Gee, I hope my yard has enough carrying capacity for them...."

...you use words like "herp" and "storm event" instead of "snake" and "rain."

...you don't clean out your rain gutters because the tufted titmice are foraging up there.

...you drive and park your car strategically so as not to disturb a spider, who is just trying to raise her family in peace, on the window, and then go out to the parking lot several times to make sure she's okay.

...you spend 15 minutes in a public ladies' room trying to rescue a crane fly who insists on hovering near the light fixture 10' above you.

...you grab your camera to take a photo of a black rat snake instead of running for the hills!!

...you worry about whether all this photography is kind of stressful to the herps.

Source: various Master Naturalists (you know who you are)

Submit additional examples to Kathi Mestayer – she will collect and collate them for presentation at an upcoming meeting (as soon as she has enough good ones!).



Did someone say Arachnophobia??

- Although difficult to measure in the short term, what potential benefit will a project provide for our community? Ask and answer what can be accomplished from the results of a project when five years have passed. We should broadly predict the outcomes of what HRC projects can contribute to the historic rivers community. What added value is possible from a HRC project?

## GENERAL GOALS

- HRC will remain a fiscally sound, well-integrated Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists (VMN) organization
- HRC members to be educated and trained to fulfill the intent of the VMN Program
- HRC will be committed to offering the highest quality naturalist program to encourage participation by existing and future master naturalists
- HRC will have a group of recognized experts across selected focus areas of interest/study to be available as an information resource to community groups in the HRC coastal plain of VA
- HRC experts will actively support its sponsoring partners and community partners to positively influence and impact wise utilization, restoration, and preservation of natural resource and their management, stewardship, and sustainability
- Focus the HRC program by biennially selecting a few major projects as program priorities of the Chapter; individual projects will continue as ongoing efforts

## PROGRAMMATIC GOALS

- Support and enhance the "Nature" education of young citizens. Tasks to accomplish this goal include: Classroom training, field trips, workshops, camps, and environmental scholarships.
- Support and enhance the "Nature" education of the communities, emphasizing citizen science and outreach informational events. Tasks to accomplish this goal include: Family friendly public events, citizen scientist projects, wildlife mapping activities similar to bird walks and plant walks.
- Become the communities' "go to" organization for questions or concerns about nature and natural resources. Tasks to accomplish this goal include: Develop a column in the *Virginia Gazette* to address nature questions from the communities, write blogs on HRC major projects and focus areas. Write and publish educational articles on nature in the coastal plain of Virginia. Work with local radio and television stations to develop programming on natural resources subjects. Develop a speaker's bureau for the HRC area of the peninsula.
- Formalize programmatic partnerships with pertinent HRC area organizations for doing cooperative and collaborative projects to affect a synergy that's stronger than the individual parts. Organizations to include are: Land Conservancy, Williamsburg Bird Club, John Clayton Chapter of the Native Plant Society, James City County Recreation Center, New Kent County Forestry Center, Master Gardeners' organization.
- As stewards of peninsula natural resources, identify and support the growing needs of HRC surrounding public lands and parks. Tasks to accomplish goal include: Coordinate with our sponsors and other relevant non-sponsoring organizations to identify potential projects for the Chapter. These stewardship focus areas include: York River State Park, New Quarter Park, Freedom Park, and the New Kent County Forestry Center.

Bruce F. Hill, President  
Historic Rivers Chapter  
Virginia Master Naturalists

The Friday Frolics crew on 8 October helped build a "boat" and goat pens for upcoming park Halloween and harvest events. The able-bodied crew consisted of Felice Bond, Seig Kopinitz, Gary Hammer and Patty Maloney supervised by Captain and First Mate, Scott Pearson and Mary Apperson.



Building the boat (Pictured Felice Bond and Scott Pearson)



Will it float? (Pictured Mary Apperson and Scott Pearson)



Swabbing the deck (Pictured Patty Maloney)



When we were in Louisiana last (week? month?), I took a photo of a moth in Mac's mother's carport.

Here it is— a Large Maple Spanworm Moth. I.d. courtesy of Clyde Marsteller. Gotcha!

Kathi Mestayer

## Backyard Wildlife Mapping Scene 6: The Marauding Raccoon By Larry Riddick



Mister Raccoon  
Asleep at noon,  
But roaming about  
When stars are out.

He then will appear  
At my house I fear,  
'Cause for him nothing's sweeter  
Than what's in my bird feeder.

He'll scratch and he'll bend it,  
And even upend it.  
He then will proceed  
To eat all the seed.

So, what's left for me  
To end nightly spree?  
With no place to hide  
Take the feeder inside.



Raccoon from Interstate Breaks Park, Virginia

Photo courtesy Barbara Boyer

# HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

Ramblings by Clyde

I spent the first week of October at Massanutten Resort snuggled in the mountains surrounding the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. My mornings were split between trout fishing and hiking. I thought I would share some of the wildlife I encountered ( not to be confused with the night life Ms Ellie & I enjoyed).

Evidently there is a major Turkey/Black Vulture roost by the lower trout pond near the Welcome Center and by 7am the sky was filled with the beasties looking for the thermals that were forming.

When the trout bite slowed I explored a small creek nearby. One morning as I was walking along the stream I was surrounded by a flock of small birds made up of chickadees, nuthatches, and woodpeckers. The chickadees were more robust than our Coastal Plain Carolina species with a splash of white in their wings and a “frayed” bib. The woodpeckers were interesting because it was the first time I saw both Downey and Hairy woodpeckers together. The Hairy Woodpecker looked like a Downey that McDonald “supersized”. Included in the mob but higher up were a bunch of noisy Jays. Later on in the morning after the vultures had reached cruising altitude I saw a pair of Pilated Woodpeckers chasing one another. A bit on I heard a “Gronk” above me and a pair of very large Great Blue Herons swooped by looking like escapees from “Jurassic Park”.

At the trout lake further up the mountain I saw clouds of Sulfurs and Buckeyes enjoying themselves on the asters and Golden Rods. I spotted a lonely Monarch crossing the lake looking forlorn and a bit lost. Around the lake a busy bevy of Bluets ( how do you like that for alliteration?) added more color. Bluets are a type of Damselfly. I chased down grasshoppers & crickets for bait but ended up catching all my trout on Mealy Worms (the larva of Darkling Beetles). For the fisherpersons in our Chapter I ended up with 19 Rainbow Trout for six days of fishing.

I also collected a Forest Webworm caterpillar Moth (*Malacosma disstria*) that made the mistake of landing on our deck.

I really lucked out on the amphibians. There are several small springs along the hiking trail and in the wet areas I found many Redbacked Salamanders (*Plethodor serratus*)

and several Northern Spring Salamanders (*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*). The crown jewel was a Slimy Salamander (*Plethodon glutinosus*). Almost forgot, as I was messing around the springs I flushed a pair of American Woodcocks. They scared the Bee Jesus out of me. I must admit my walking stick automatically flew to my shoulder & I scored a mental “double” on them.

The place is over run with White Tailed deer. It is deer bow hunting season and I think all the deer in the area realize the area is off limits to hunting. I wonder if the same mentality applies to tourists during tourist season?

The surrounding fields and golf courses had their resident populations of Groundhogs (Grundsows to us Penna. Dutchmen) standing sentinel duty and packing on weight in preparation for their winter hibernation.

During the drive home on I81 & I64 I passed a number of dead deer, a fox and a probable coyote.

A final observation. Only the Dogwoods, Sumacs and an occasional Maple were showing color. The preponderance of trees seemed to be Oaks, Butternuts, Sycamores, Maples, and Beeches with some pine interlopers. I did find a nice Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) in my walks.

Ramblin Clyde



### **ESL Seminar Series: Complex Life Cycles & Evolution of Larval Form in Marine Invertebrates**

**Starts:** November 3, 2010 at 7:30 PM

**Location:** VIMS Eastern Shore Laboratory

**Contact:** Linda Ward at 757-787-5816 or via {{lward,email}}

#### **Summary**

Professor Jonathan Allen of the College of William & Mary discusses the life cycles and evolution of larval form in marine invertebrates.

#### **Full Description**

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science, in collaboration with the Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore, will present the next in a continuing series of public seminars on natural resource and ecological issues when Dr. Jonathan Allen of the Department of Biology at the College of William & Mary presents *Complex Life Cycles and the Evolution of Larval Form in Marine Invertebrates*.

Please note that this lecture takes place in Wachapreague, Virginia on the campus of VIMS' Eastern Shore Laboratory.

The seminar is free and open to everyone. Seating capacity is 65 people and space is available on a first come-first serve basis. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided. If you have any questions, need directions, or want more information, call 787-5816.

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### **Climate change and impacts in the mid-Atlantic coastal region**

**Starts:** November 19, 2010 at 3:30 PM

**Location:** McHugh Auditorium, Watermen's Hall

**Contact:** Rochelle Seitz, 804-684-7698, seitz@vims.edu

#### **Summary**

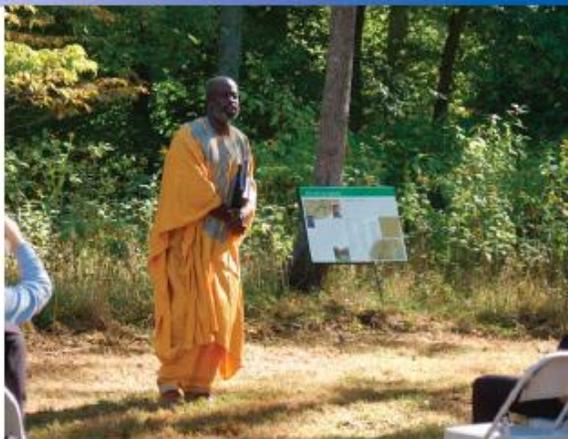
Science lecture by Dr. Ray Najjar of Pennsylvania State University.

#### **Background**

Dr. Ray Najjar is an Associate Professor of Oceanography at Pennsylvania State University.



*"Remembering the Forgotten,"  
Walk & Talk and Sign Dedication  
held on October 2.*



## November 2010

**1 - Winter hours begin. The Park will be open on Fridays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and on Saturdays & Sundays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.**

6 - Walk & Talk: The Chesapeake Bay, Jill Bieri, Chesapeake Experience

7 - Daylight Savings Time Ends. Remember to "fall back" an hour.

11 - Veteran's Day

13 - WBC Bird Walk, Susan Powell, 8-10 a.m.

13 & 14 - Fall Colors Disc Golf Tournament. For information, contact contact John Roy at [rottown@cox.net](mailto:rottown@cox.net) or visit [www.PDGA.com](http://www.PDGA.com).

13 - Stargazing Night, 7-9 p.m.

25 - Thanksgiving

27 - WBC Bird Walk, Bill Williams, 7-9 a.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.

### More Upcoming Events

## December 2010

4 - Walk & Talk: Natural Holiday Decorations, Arlene Aiken-Williams, owner, Morrison's Flowers & Gifts

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

25 - Park Closed



*Photo by Cathy Millar*

## 2010 Walk & Talks

We're planning the 2011 Walk & Talk season. Please let us know if you'd like to lead a Walk & Talk or if there is a leader or topic you'd recommend. Contact Molly ([nealerm@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:nealerm@yorkcounty.gov)) or Sara ([saraelewis@cox.net](mailto:saraelewis@cox.net)) with your ideas!



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)

*John Clayton Chapter  
of the  
Virginia Native Plant Society*  
Conserving Virginia's native plants

## Living Shorelines :

### Addressing Erosion with Environmentally-Friendly Methods

A workshop for waterfront property owners and anyone else interested in learning more about this Bay-friendly technique

Wednesday, November 3, 2010, 1 to 4 pm

at the Jamestown 4H Educational Center

3751 4-H Club Road

Williamsburg, VA 23185



- Classroom and outdoor sessions
- Meet living shorelines experts
- Learn about different methods
- Hear about and tour a new living shorelines project on the James River

The workshop is free, but space is limited and reservations are required.

For More Information and to register, contact:

Kate Coelln, Jamestown 4-H Educational Center

757-253-4931 kcoelln@vt.edu

#### Workshop Speakers:

Karen Duhring, Shoreline Scientist, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Walter Priest, NOAA Restoration Center

#### Workshop Sponsors:



- Wednesday, November 10: Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tour - King and Queen County

## More John Clayton Chapter news

- **Thursday, November 18 at 7-9 pm: Chapter Meeting: VA Natural Area Preserves on the Eastern Shore**

Guest speaker **Dot Field**, of the **Virginia Natural Heritage Program**, will give a presentation on "Virginia Natural Area Preserves on the Eastern Shore: Exploring the Flora and Natural Communities of the Outer Coastal Plain." This presentation will take listeners on a "guided" tour of the State Natural Area Preserves of the Eastern Shore, with a focus on the native flora they were established to protect.

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



Reminder, VNPS workshops are approved for advanced training for Virginia Master Naturalists!



**Oily beach and tarballs  
at Cypremort Point  
State Park, Louisiana,  
on Oct. 5, 2010.**

**Mac Mestayer**

Photo Courtesy of Kathi  
Mestayer



## **Students Collect Acorns for New Kent Forestry.**

By Pam Camblin

5<sup>th</sup> Graders from Magruder Elementary School enjoyed a walk in the woods on a spectacular day at New Quarter Park on Friday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is the second year for this project which was organized by parent volunteer Dana deJager. One week prior to the field trip Lisa Deaton had briefed the students at school on oak trees and acorns. They were told how important their role would be in collecting acorns for the New Kent Forestry to plant.

At New Quarter Park, students enthusiastically poured off buses with teachers and parent volunteers.

Lisa Deaton led the groups in a living tree lesson from Project Learning Tree. Students were broken into small groups for walks through the woods by Master Naturalists: Barb Dunbar, Liv Ullman, Les Lawrence, Christina Woodson, Goeff Giles, and Pam Camblin. Students were given the opportunity to journal with their classes. They attended talks on the local history by Sara Lewis, and Geology of the region (the students called it fossils) by Dave Malmquist. Students also collected acorns which were bagged and weighed before going to the New Kent Forestry Center.

Photo courtesy of Lester Lawrence

**November 7, 2010**

**SUNDAY LECTURE SERIES - GEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**



As part of our Sunday Lecture Series, Dr. Jerre Johnson, emeritus geology professor at the College of William and Mary, will discuss the geologic history of the Chesapeake bay region over 250 million years, including the repeated advances and retreats of seas. This presentation at the Virginia Living Museum begins 250 million years ago with the rupturing of Africa and North America, progresses through the creation and widening of the Atlantic Ocean, the impact of the Chesapeake Bay asteroid or comet 35 million years ago, and repeated advances and retreats of seas over millions of years. The latter laid the foundation of the Coastal Plain upon which several ancestral bays and the modern Chesapeake Bay were built during warm periods of the Ice Age. A discussion of life through time will accompany this tracing of the history of the Chesapeake Bay region. The Tides Inn is built on the floor of an ancient Rappahannock River tributary. Johnson taught geology at William and Mary for 36 years. Much of his research over the last four decades has been devoted to the geologic history of the Chesapeake Bay region, including the Chesapeake Bay impact crater. Each participant at this presentation will receive a Virginia state fossil, or Jefferson scallop.

Time: 1 p.m.

Cost: included in museum admission

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**November 9, 2010**

**TUESDAY EVENING SEMINAR SERIES - MEET VIRGINIA'S MAMMALS**

**Register online**

A variety of mammals large and small make their homes in Virginia. Some we notice every day; others are rarely seen. Using hands-on specimens from the Museum's collections and live mammals we'll take a close up look at their physical characteristics, natural history and behavior.

Ages 18+

Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

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

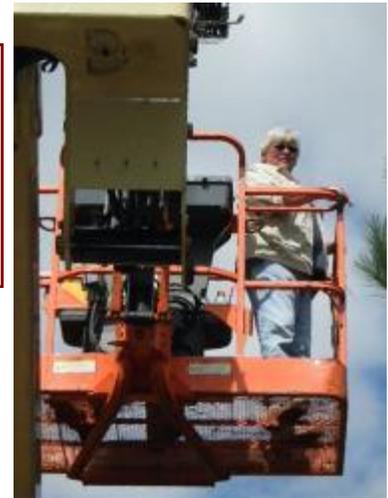
# HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

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Nancy Norton and Patty Maloney participated in the Loblolly pinecone harvest at New Kent Forest on 6 Oct 2010, Pinecones are picked "green" and then collected for drying and further seed processing.



Left: The harvest—  
Patty Maloney  
Right: On the way to the top Nancy Norton



Above Left: Don't look down  
Right:: View from the top  
Wow!

Pictures courtesy of Patty Maloney