



## Virginia Master Naturalist Program Project Proposal Form

*Project proposals should be completed by partner organizations or chapter members and submitted to the chapter's Board of Directors for review. Projects will be evaluated for relevance to program mission and objectives. Projects and activities implemented without approval are not considered Master Naturalist activities, do not count towards required service hours, and do not carry the liability shield.*

**Submitted to:** The Board of Directors for the  
Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists

**Project Name** *(For approval and recording purposes):*

Virginia Frog and Toad Calling Survey

**Submitted by:** Felice Bond  
259-9915  
[fbond203@cox.net](mailto:fbond203@cox.net)

**Project Purpose and Value** *(How will this project contribute to natural resource management, conservation, or education?):*

To work with the Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries in establishing the current species distribution and relative abundance of our anuran resources so we might monitor their changes in the future. This is part of an international monitoring program designed to watch for trends in anuran populations. The data collected will be entered into the master North American Amphibian Monitoring Program database and can be accessed by amphibian specialists around the world, as well as interested citizens.

**Project Type** *(Is this project education/outreach, citizen science/monitoring, stewardship, or administrative?):*

Citizen science/monitoring

Project Proposal Form #1, 2/11/2007 Virginia Master Naturalist programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

**Project Description** *(Describe what the project involves. What will participants actually do?)*:

Observers will sample a route assigned by the VDGIF a minimum of three times per year. Each route consists of 10 stops where data will be collected between sunset and midnight. Observers will record the time, sky code, wind code, and amphibian calling index for each species heard. Data forms will then be returned to the state coordinator.

For more information, check out this site:

<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/frogssurvey/>

**Project Location** *(Where will this project take place?)*:

Besides the York County route, there are available routes in VA Beach, Suffolk, Isle of Wight/Suffolk border, and the counties of Southampton, Sussex, Surry, Gloucester, and Mathews.

**Time Frame** *(What, if any, is the time frame for this project? Be as specific as possible –What time does the volunteer need to be there and how late are they expected to stay? If it is seasonal, what are the approximate dates or appropriate weather conditions? Is this an on-going project or does it have a fixed end date? About how many hours can a volunteer expect to put into this project?)*:

Surveys must be conducted three nights per year, once in late winter, once in the spring, and one more time in early summer. Data must be collected in the time period between 30 minutes past sunset until midnight. Good frog weather is during light drizzle after a thunderstorm/when the roads are still wet/within 3 days of rain/humid nights. Each nightly survey can last from two to three hours. This is an ongoing project, and volunteers are encouraged to dedicate at least three years to the program.

**Partner Contact** *(If a partner is involved, who at that organization is the contact for this project?)*:

**Name: Organization:**

John (J.D.) Kleopfer

Project Proposal Form #1, 2/11/2007 Virginia Master Naturalist programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries

<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/frogsurvey/>

**Phone number:** **Email:** 804.829.6703 [John.Kleopfer@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:John.Kleopfer@dgif.virginia.gov)

**Project Chair** (*Who from the chapter is the contact person and organizer for this project*):

Felice Bond

**What, if any, prior experience or expertise is required or preferred?**

Prior knowledge of Virginia frogs and toads would be helpful.

**What training will be provided and by whom?**

John Kleopfer or Felice Bond and Susan Summers will provide advanced training.

**Resources provided** (*What equipment or other resources will be provided for the volunteer(s)?*):

A set of the following equipment and resources will be provided for each route:

- *Atlas of Amphibians & Reptiles in Virginia* by Joseph Mitchell and Karen Reay
- cassette tape or CD: *The Calls of Virginia's Frogs, Voices of the Night: The Calls of the Frogs and Toads of Eastern North America*
- copy of route map
- Fahrenheit thermometer
- site description forms
- data forms

**Resources needed** (*What will the volunteer(s) or chapter need to provide and how will these resources be acquired?*):

- a vehicle
- rain gear
- GPS
- Cell phone

**Safety hazards and protocols** (*What will the volunteer(s) or chapter need to provide and how will these resources be acquired?*):

Observers need to be aware that they will be out at night in the dark, sometimes parked on the side of the road, conducting the surveys preferably in drizzle, between sunset and midnight. Each person should carry a cell phone, and there should be at least one assistant accompanying the main observer.

**Are minors involved?** (*If yes, then all volunteers must be trained in working with youth and the Above Suspicion policy.*)

No

**How will the project be evaluated during implementation and after completion?**

A project evaluation form will be developed. Participants will be asked to evaluate the project upon completion of the survey.

**How will the Virginia Master Naturalist Program be recognized?**

Through the VMN website, newspaper articles, VDGIF

*For Chapter Board of Directors Only: Project approved?*

*Date of approval:*

Project Proposal Form #1, 2/11/2007 Virginia Master Naturalist programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Comments and Evaluation by Board: