



## 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):*

Development of Environmental Education Curriculum for use by  
Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists

**Submitted by:** Clyde Marsteller  
877-6432  
[clydeccedm@aol.com](mailto:clydeccedm@aol.com)

Susan Powell  
564-4542  
[smapowell@cox.net](mailto:smapowell@cox.net)

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

To develop an environmental education curriculum that uses experiential learning to convey information about and promote the discovery of ecological concepts, stewardship, and the importance of conservation of natural resources and the environment.

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

Education/outreach

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

An environmental education curriculum will be developed that will make use of resources and observable facts pertinent to our local environment. An example is the already developed class titled, "The Ecology of an Isabel Log or a Zoo in My Luggage." This class makes use of a decomposing log felled by Hurricane Isabelle to describe decomposition and the associated food web. This class stresses the importance of stewardship and incorporates experiential learning to help participants better understand ecological concepts that pertain to the local environment. Other topics will be developed.

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

Classrooms, camps, workshops, and other speaking engagements

**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?):*

A typical class or speaking engagement may involve one or several hours, depending on the venue. The development of the curriculum will be an ongoing project.

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

N/A

**Name: Organization:**

**Phone number: Email:**

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

Clyde Marsteller  
Susan Powell (Assistant Chair)

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.

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

With the exception of required risk management training, no advanced training in the topic will be required to assist in a speaking engagement. Advanced training will be required to lead a specific speaking engagement.

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

Clyde Marsteller and/or Susan Powell will provide advanced training.

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

At this time, no equipment or resources will be provided.

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

Office supplies and access to copier resources; cages and other supplies to handle and house small animals (e.g., amphibians, small non-venomous snakes, and invertebrates).

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

Unsupervised handling of any animal is strictly prohibited. Volunteers will be trained to handle animals and all precautions will be taken to prevent unsupervised handling of animals. Other risks may involve exposure to heat, dehydration, and contact with insects (e.g., bees) or other plants and animals. The HRCVMN safety protocol will be observed as soon as it is developed.

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

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Yes

**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 curriculum upon completion of the presentation.

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

Contact with the public, outreach, advertisement of speaking engagements or camps through newspapers, signage and website.

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

*Date of approval:*

*Comments and Evaluation by Board:*