



# THE NATURALIST

*The monthly newsletter of the Historic Rivers Chapter*

*Virginia Master Naturalist Program*

<http://historicrivers.org>

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## Chapter Board 2015-2016

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## President's Message

Shirley Devan

Change is in the air—and I don't mean just the weather! After nine years with all our meetings in the Human Services Building on Olde Towne Road, we'll be shifting our meeting locations starting in November and December. James City County will begin an 18-month renovation/refurbishment of the Human Services Building early in December. We are fortunate that our community has so many FREE meeting space options. This is where we'll be soon:

- **Chapter Membership Meetings (second Wednesdays)** will be in the Kitzinger Meeting Room at James City County Library in Norge (7770 Croaker Rd).... starting November 11 and continuing through June 8, 2016. Our Holiday Gathering will serve as our December Chapter Meeting and it will be Thursday, Dec 3 at Legacy Hall. *(continued on page 2)*

### Notes from the Board

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

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# HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

## *President's Message (continued)*

- **Board Meetings (first Wednesdays)** will be at Child Development Resources (CDR) in Norge beginning December 2 and continuing through June 1, 2016. For your GPS gadgets, the street address is 150 Point O'Woods Rd, Williamsburg. Actually, it is very close to the James City County Library in Toano.
- **Basic Training** sessions will be at the Freedom Park Interpretive Center starting December 1 and continue through the February 16 session.

The message for now is...take note of meeting locations when announcements go out. We will take special care to list the location of a Board or Chapter meeting in each announcement. There will no longer be a "default" meeting location. As always, if you have questions, please contact me or another Board Member.

Another "change" just announced is really a loss – Alycia Crall is leaving her position as VMN Statewide Coordinator to take a position with the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) in Boulder, CO. It's hard to overstate the energy, enthusiasm, and creativity Alycia brought to the VMN program. As you can imagine, burnout is a hazard in this job. For the time being, our friend Michelle Prysby will likely be appointed the interim statewide coordinator while a search begins for a permanent coordinator. Tiffany Brown will continue as Project Assistant in the VMN program office. Much of what Alycia, Michelle, and Tiffany do is not visible to most volunteers unless you attend regional or state VMN conferences. On a daily basis, they carry the VMN flag to our State sponsoring agencies, steering committee, and executive committee. They are the support network for Virginia's chapters and are problem solvers for Chapter leaders when the problem gets too big for a Chapter to solve.

Happy trails to you, Alycia! Thank you for all you've done for our VMN chapters.

Trivia Challenge  
(Answer on Page 10)

What is a flock of Flamingos called?

## Freedom Park Thanks HRC for Support of Summer Camps!

Master Naturalists,

Thank you for all of your fantastic help with our camps this summer! Your knowledge and expertise really made the camps special, and we could not have done them without you! As I wrap things up for the summer, I would really appreciate any feedback you have regarding the camps, your general impression of the camps, and anything that you think would improve the camps. Thanks again, and I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the fall.

Alister Perkinson  
Park coordinator  
Freedom Park



## A Warm Welcome to Cohort X! By Jennifer Trevino, Basic Training Committee

**The 2015-2016 HRC Basic Training program successfully launched Tuesday evening, September 1, 2015. The smiling faces below are our newest HRC Basic Training Cohort X members. Highlights of the evening's class included a presentation on the basic training program and requirements for graduation and VMN certification, an instructional Dropbox "how to" presentation, program speaker Bill Williams' presentation on the principles of classification and the importance of binomial nomenclature, and of course "snack time." Future basic training classes will focus on Evolution & Biology Basics, Risk Mgmt., Citizen Science and**

**Field Methods, Entomology, Plant Biology, Herpetology, Habitats, Native Plants and Dendrology, Geology, Ornithology, Ecology, Climate & Weather, Mammalogy, and Ichthyology. The culmination of Cohort X Basic Training will be graduation, March 9, 2016.**

**Whether out-and-about working on a volunteer project, participating in a continuing education activity, attending a general membership meeting, or participating in the many other events our chapter's master naturalists enjoy, please take a minute to introduce yourself to our new Cohort X members.**



*Photo by Judy Jones*

Front Row (left to right): Karen Wilson, Alister Perkinson, Mike Blum, Patsy Carlson, Renee Dallman, Joni Carlson, Amanda Jolly  
Middle Row (left to right): William Harper, Janet Harper, Kristie Couser, Barbara Neis, Bill Vanzetta, Judy Kinshaw-Ellis, Anita Angelone  
Back Row (left to right): Mark Cotton, Robert Thomas, George Reiske, David Graft, Ken Paladino, Sonny Bowers  
Not Pictured: Michael Coyle, Randi Jeise



HRC Basic Training Committee



Left to Right: Sharon Plocher, Jennifer Trevino, Susan Powell, David Lunt, Cheryl Jacobson, Maud Ann Wilson, Shirley Devan

Photo by Judy Jones

Cohort X Butterfly Field Trip  
Freedom Park



Adrienne Frank providing introductory briefing



Cohort X'ers observing butterflies in Park

## Membership Committee Corner

By Mike Woodard, Membership Committee Chair

Logging in those Volunteer and Continuing Education hours is important. Did you know those hours are reviewed and used by our Sponsoring Agencies (i.e. Virginia Cooperative Extension, VDCR, VDEQ, VDF, VDGIF, Virginia Museum of National History and VIMS). For example, they use the information to complete annual volunteer activity reports as well as preparing grant proposals.

Also, it is important for you to log in your individual hours to retain your Certified Master Naturalist status. Master Naturalists need to complete (and log in) 40 hours of Volunteer Service and 8 hours of Continuing Education **each calendar year** to retain that Certified Master Naturalist title.

Recently, Judy Jones, Nancy Barnhart, Bill Wallace, Paul Cuomo, Walt Harris and Joanne Sheffield were recognized for reaching important milestones in their volunteering efforts. Nancy and Judy have logged in over 1,000 volunteer hours, while Bill, Paul, Walt and Joanne have now booked at least 250 hours.

Members of the Cohort IX Training Class are rapidly achieving their Certified Virginia Master Naturalist status. Recently, the following have become Certified Virginia Master Naturalists: Barbara Bucklin, Christina Clarke, Lisa Nickel, Jeffrey Honig, Brenda Uekert, and Joe Beene.

When you see these busy and very productive VMNs, make sure you congratulate them on their efforts and these significant achievements.

Now is a good time for you to log in your hours. Just go to the VMN Volunteer Management System (<https://virginiamn.volunteersystem.org>). And, as always, contact Mike at [woodwardsm@cox.net](mailto:woodwardsm@cox.net) if you need any help with that.



Volunteer Hour Milestone Awardees pictured with Deb Woodard and Shirley Devan  
Left to Right: **Nancy Barnhart** (1000 hours), **Joanne Sheffield & Bill Wallace** (250 hours)  
Not Pictured: **Judy Jones** (1000 hours), **Paul Cuomo, Walt Harris** (250 hours)

# HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER



## Master Naturalist Certification Awards

Pictured left with Deb Woodard and Shirley Devan: **Joe Beene**

Pictured right with Mike Woodard: **Lisa Nickel & Barbara Uekert**

Not pictured: **Barbara Bucklin, Christina Clarke, & Jeffery Honig**



Daniel Keener, who is a Cohort VIII graduate, is taking his driver's license course! He is hoping, by doing this, to become more independent and give easier access to his job and Virginia Master Naturalist activities.

All of his VMN friends wish him the best of luck! We know you can do it, Daniel!

## Butterfly Circle News

### Butterfly BioBlitz for Colonial National Historical Park

By Shirley Devan

“More is better, right?” We can never have too many Butterfly Counts!

Master Naturalists enthusiastically responded to requests from the National Park Service to help count butterflies on the three sections of the Colonial National Historical Park – Historic Jamestown Island, Yorktown Battlefields, and Colonial Parkway.

Peggy Whitney, BioTech, with the National Park Service, set September 12 as the date for the Butterfly BioBlitz and we MNs were curious to see what butterflies were around in late summer.

Peggy did a great job organizing us into teams and 24 “butterfliers” set out on a cloudy cool Saturday morning. Ten volunteers were Historic Rivers Chapter members.

The sun came out late morning and so did the butterflies. The predicted rain did not appear until we were enjoying our “adult beverages” at Paul’s Deli later in the day.

The final tally: 42 species for the three teams! Dorothy Geyer, Natural Resource Specialist for the Colonial National Historical Park, and Peggy were very pleased with the tally.

Adrienne Frank and Gary Driscole were the “experts” on the Colonial Parkway team that found 25 species. The most numerous – the Common Buckeye. The rarest – two Tawny Emperors, one of which landed on Adrienne! Monarchs: 4.

Our Chapter’s entomologist friend Ken Lorenzen was the “expert” on the Yorktown Battlefield team of nine people! Our best finds of the day were a Great Purple Hairstreak and a Palamedes Swallowtail, both found by Ken. The Great Purple Hairstreak was a new record for the Park.

The Yorktown team had 23 species with Common Buckeye being very numerous. The Yorktown team also enjoyed the company of five-year old Joshua accompanied by his mother Amy. Joshua is quite a naturalist already and found quite a few butterflies for us. For a while, his almost-dead Zebra Swallowtail was the only Zebra for the day.

At Jamestown Island, two “experts” – Allen Belden and Brian Taber – helped a team of 9 volunteers. This group tallied 27 species including several Palamedes Swallowtails, Gemmed Satyrs, and 5 Monarchs.

A great end to the butterflying season. We appreciate the invitation from the National Park Service to participate in this citizen science effort.





Left: Tawny Emporor butterfly  
Right: Appalachian Brown butterfly  
Along Colonial Parkway



Left: Great Purple Hairstreak butterfly  
Right: Part of butterflying crew  
Both at Yorktown Battlefield



Left: Gray Hairstreak butterfly  
Right: Monarch butterfly  
Both at Jamestown

Trivia Challenge

What is a flock of Flamingos called?  
A flamboyance



## HRC Plays Key Role in Mastadon Bone Recovery by Kathy Cross

Dr. Jerre Johnson and Kathy Cross want to thank all the Virginia Master Naturalists and friends for helping in the recovery of Mastodon bones found in our area. The area is still confidential to the public.

We continue to do the dig after finding quite a few well preserved bones, including 2 tusks each measuring 7 -1/2 feet long! The age of the mastodon is estimated to be at least 11,000 years. A fragment of jaw and one of the tusks tell an interesting story. The mastodon had an impacted tooth and the animal was apparently attacked based on the preliminary findings.

This is a once in a life time experience which we could not have done without, and will continue to do with, your support ( and muscle power)!





# HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

## Annual Fall Picnic by Barb Buckling, Joe Beene & Maud Ann Wilson

- OCTOBER 24, 2015 - A Date Too Fun To Pass Up....An Event Too Great To Miss
- Our HRC-VMN ALL-DAY INTO-THE-EVENING annual Fall Picnic out on the Beautiful Chickahominy River
- Everyone is invited to come & enjoy nature, relax, eat, & socialize. Our generous host & hostess will be Ted & Judy Sargent. Everyone in Cohorts I-X is needed!!
- Sign-up, directions, schedule for the day, & other important information will follow shortly in an email. For now, just get ready to join us on Saturday, October 24!!

## 2015 Nature Camp Scholarship Recipients by Judy Jones



At the September Chapter General Meeting our Nature Camp scholarship winners provided enthusiastic reports of their experiences at camp. They were very impressive young ladies! Pictured above are (from left to right) Heather Herrick, a seventh grader from Hornsby Middle School, Judy Jones, and Shenan Cole a sixth grader from Queens Lake Middle School.



## Continuing Education Opportunities

Please check the Chapter website for more information (<http://www.historicrivers.org>). Workshop registration may be required ahead of time.

**[CE] VIMS - Discovery Lab-Echinoderms - September 15, 2015** from 6:00 pm to **[CE] WBC Bird Walk - September 26, 2015** from 7:00 am to 9:00 am at New Quarter Park

**[Class] Building Master Naturalist Skills - September 26, 2015** from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185, United States

**[Class] Entomology - September 29, 2015** from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at JCC Human Services Building, 5249 Olde Towne Rd

**[CE] Monarchs on the Move w/Joni Carlson - October 3, 2015** from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm at Chippokes State Park, Surry at Quayle Classroom at the Farm and Forestry Museum

**[CE] - NPS - Unusual plants at the New Kent Forestry Center - October 3, 2015** from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at New Kent Forestry Center

**[CE] HRBC Bird Walk - October 4, 2015** from 7:00 am to 10:00 am at Newport News City Park

**[CE] Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival October 8th - 11th** – Based at Cape Charles, Virginia - <http://www.esbirdingfestival.com>

**[CE] WBC Bird Walk at New Quarter Park - October 10, 2015** from 8:00 am to 10:00 am at New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr., Williamsburg

**[CE] VLM - Virginia Science Festival - NASA Exhibits - October 10, 2015** from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Virginia Living Museum, 524 J Clyde Morris Blvd, Newport News, VA 23601,

**[Class] Plant Biology - October 13, 2015** from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at JCC Human Services Building,

**[CE] Monthly meeting - October 14, 2015** from 6:00-9:00 pm at JCC Human Services Bldg

**[CE] HRBC Field Trip to Kiptopeke, VA Eastern Shore - October 17, 2015** from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm at meet at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel South Island toll plaza at 7:00 AM.

**[Field Trip] Wetlands Plant Ecology - October 17, 2015** from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at York River State Park, 9801 York River Park Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188, United States

**[CE] HRBC Bird Walk - October 18, 2015** from 7:00 am to 10:00 am at Newport News City Park

**[CE] VIMS October Discovery Lab-Mad Lab - October 20, 2015** from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at VIMS - Catlett-Burruss Research and Education Lab 7577 Spencer Road Gloucester Point, VA 23062

**[CE] WBC Monthly Meeting - Habitat Fragmentation - October 21, 2015** from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm at College of William & Mary, Andrews Hall, Room 101

**[CE] WBC Bird Walk - October 24, 2015** from 7:00 am to 9:00 am at New Quarter Park,

**[Class] Herpetology - October 27, 2015** from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at JCC Human Services Building, 5249 Olde Towne Rd.

**[CE] VIMS After Hours Lecture: Otherworldly Oceans - October 29, 2015** from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at VIMS - Watermen's Hall, McHugh Auditorium 1375 Greate Road Gloucester Point,

**[CE] HRBC Bird Walk - November 1, 2015** from 7:00-10:00 am at Newport News City Park

