



# THE NATURALIST

*The monthly newsletter of the Historic Rivers Chapter*

*Virginia Master Naturalist Program*

<http://historicrivers.org>

February 2016

Volume 10, Number 2

## Chapter Board 2015-2016

*Shirley Devan, President*  
*Patty Maloney, Past President*  
*Linda Morse, Vice President*  
*Nancy Barnhart and Ginny Carey*  
*Co-Secretaries*  
*Deb Woodward, Treasurer*  
*Janet Curtis, Paul Cuomo, Ruth and Deane Gordon,*  
*Susan Powell, Les Lawrence, Clyde Marstellar,*  
*Members-at-Large*

*Mary Apperson, Chapter Advisor*

### Committee Chairs

*Adrienne Frank, Gary Driscole, Continuing Education*  
*Judy Jones, Publicity & Outreach*  
*Jennifer Trevino & Sharon Plocher, Basic Training*  
*Mike Woodward, Membership*  
*Jan Lockwood, Volunteer Service Projects*  
*Cheryl Jacobson, Historian*  
*Linda Morse, Programs*  
*Doug Dwoyer, Newsletter*  
*Sherry Brubaker, Field Trip Coordinator*  
*Joe Beene, Barb Bucklin, Maud Ann Wilson, Hosts*

## President's Message

By Shirley Devan

The members of our chapter continue to amaze and astonish with their volunteer spirit and commitment to our Chapter's success. The response to the nominating committee's request for members to serve on the HRC Board was gratifying – but not surprising. The willingness of our members to serve is legendary!

We are so pleased to present the following slate of candidates for consideration and voting at our March 9 Annual Meeting:

(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

- Judy Jones, President
- Jan Lockwood, Vice President and Program Chair
- Sue Mutell and Deane Gordon, Co-Recording Secretaries
- Nancy Barnhart, Volunteer Service Projects
- Renee Dallman, Membership
- Sonny Bowers and Barbara Neis, Co-Chairs for Publicity & Outreach
- Alister Perkinson, Member at Large

Can we say enough about the members who are completing two years on the board? Hardly! But we will shout out a hearty “thank you and well done!” to these members:

- Linda Morse, Vice-President & Programs
- Ginny Carey & Nancy Barnhart, Co-Recording Secretaries
- Jan Lockwood, Volunteer Service Projects
- Mike Woodward, Membership,
- Judy Jones, Publicity & Outreach
- Les Lawrence, Member-at-Large
- Clyde Marsteller, Member-at-Large
- Patty Maloney, Past President

I’ll be completing my second year as President and will serve as Past President. I’ve been proud to say “I’m President of the Historic Rivers Chapter” when I meet one of our partners or a prospective new member. I consider it an honor to be your President.

We are so glad these dedicated members are continuing on our Board for another year:

- Deb Woodward, Treasurer,
- Gary Driscole and Adrienne Frank, Co-Chairs, Continuing Education
- Sharon Plocher and Jennifer Trevino, Co-Chairs, Basic Training
- Cheryl Jacobson, Historian
- Doug Dwoyer, Newsletter
- Sherry Brubaker, Field Trip Coordinator
- Joe Beene, Maud Ann Wilson, Barb Bucklin, Co-Chairs, Host Committee
- Paul Cuomo, Member-at-Large
- Susan Powell, Member-at-Large
- Ruth Gordon, Member-at-Large

As you can see, our 2016-2017 Board is a strong and talented one, with veterans and newbies. That’s the way it should be! New members mentored by veterans. I know Board members who are leaving their positions are more than willing to help out the new folks. They always have been and I don’t foresee that they’ll let us down this time.

When our Board members and Committee Chairs blast out a call for volunteers for help with a project or an event, please give them your support and share your talents and skills. I think you’ll find that you’ll gain much more than you give.

Finally, many thanks to four members who helped me on the nominating committee: Deane Gordon, Jennifer Trevino, Deb Woodward, and Barbara Neis.

Remember that at the March 9 Annual Meeting we will be electing our new board members and officers. See you there!

Time to Pay Our Dues!

Chapter Dues are due by February 28. Please use the form below to send in your dues. Thanks!

VIRGINIA MASTER NATURALISTS  
HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER



2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

Enclosed is my check for \$25 for membership dues to HRC-VMN for 2016. (Please make the check out to HRC-VMN and on the memo line, write 'dues'.)

I have enclosed additional donations for:

Nancy Norton Nature Camp Scholarships      Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

General Fund      Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your dues to:

VMN HRC  
PO Box 5026  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Please send your dues in by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

## Mastodon Project Continues by Kathy Cross

Virginia Museum of Science, Richmond, Va. invited Dr. Jerre Johnson to give a presentation of the Mastodon Dig in Yorktown. He asked Kathy Cross to coordinate the meeting and help him with transporting the bones for the presentation. There were approximately 80 attendees at the presentation. Highlights of the event included networking with different people interested in helping with this project. Two attendees were from different Chapters of the Virginia Master Naturalists, the Powhatan and Riverine Chapters, and hoped they could join our Historic Rivers Chapter in preserving the Mastodon bones, as well as other joint ventures!

This is what it is all about, sharing our experiences with other Chapters and working together towards a common goal. The goal is “Preserving Virginia and all she has to offer!” Rock on my Cohorts of past and present!



Pictured left from left to right: David Olli with Va. Museum of Science, Jere Johnson, Kathy Cross, Landon James Kennebeck and Allison Lorraine Kennebeck.



Jerre Johnson speaking at Va. Museum of

**Butterfly Project  
News**

2016 will be a big year for data collection for butterfly sightings. The project is compiling information about when species are flying and the numbers present each month of the year. We will need lots of help recording observations!

Members of our chapter have drafted an annotated list of butterfly species with sighting dates, host plants, and behaviors. In 2016, we hope to add more information about the species in our area, especially related to occurrence and use of plants.

You can help by reporting your observations, such as the species, date, number observed, and other notes. Stay tuned for more information about the method to record your the data.



Anne Marie Castellani from Cohort 1 submitted the first butterfly observation for 2016. She saw a Snout on January 31 near Little Creek Reservoir.

And....

## Coming soon – *The Butterflies of the Williamsburg Area: An Annotated List*

This draft document will be available to interested members of our chapter in a PDF format. It is intended to be a working document to help us learn more and collect more accurate data.

Below is an example of the contents. There are no photos and no information about identification.

If you would like an Email copy, please let me know. Adrienne at [Adrienne-gary@cox.net](mailto:Adrienne-gary@cox.net)

### Butterflies of the Williamsburg Area: An Annotated List Sample Notation

**American Snout (*Libytheana carineta*):** Uncommon                      **Broods:** 2  
**Typical Flight Period:** March - September (January – March/September – December)  
**Reported Sightings:**            Earliest – January 5, 1998, March 5    Latest – September 14  
   Williamsburg Areas Butterfly Count (August): Observed once, Centerville sector  
**Habitat:** In or near hardwood forest edges, coastal scrub, and river bottoms  
**Caterpillar Hosts:** Hackberry Family (*Cannabaceae*), Common or Northern Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*),  
   Sugarberry or Southern Hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*), Dwarf or Georgia Hackberry (*Celtis tenuifolia*)  
**Notes:** Adults overwinter; nectars on Hackberries and infrequently on flowers; gathers nutrients from sap, feces,  
   and mud; usually seen singly perched on leaves and twigs; flight varies moving like satyrs or glides.

## Trivia Challenge

Which popular detective retired to become a beekeeper?

Sherlock Holmes  
Miss Marple  
Chief Inspector Armand Gamache, or  
Hercule Poirot

Answer on Page 13

## The Wahrani Nature Trail Submitted by Fred Matthies

On Saturday and Sunday (February 5th and 6th), Wahrani received a bit of cross-pollination. On Saturday, we gave a nature hike to three members of the Historic Southside Master Naturalist Chapter. We did a nearly 4-mile trail familiarization to a mid-eighteenth century cemetery. The photo below shows visitors Doris Gallup and Candi Stevens at the graves of Reverend Arnott (d, 1745) and Captain John Long (d, 1736). The trail signage has been improved greatly and we have tri-fold paper maps available at all four bulletin boards. For info, on Sunday, February 21st, we're planning on another introductory, 1-2 hour hike beginning at 10am (weather dependent). A map can be found at the following link: <http://www.co.new-kent.va.us/DocumentView.aspx?DID=108>



On Sunday, we were pleased to have Helen Hamilton and Gus Hall provide us with a plant identification walk along the trail. Helen and Gus are authors of a book you might have in your library: Wildflowers & Grasses of Virginia's Coastal Plain. The "walk" was sponsored by the JCC-Williamsburg Master Gardeners and the John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. What follows is Helen's description of our walk.

"Seven interested walkers joined Gus Hall and Helen Hamilton on a chilly Sunday morning on February 7th. There had been a lot of rain earlier in the week, and the trail was wet and muddy in spots, but it was a delightful stroll through a beautiful habitat.

Joining us were two eager Virginia Master Naturalists, Fred Matthies and Chris Goebel. A day earlier, they had walked the trail all the way to the cemetery, doing some light trail maintenance, which is an ongoing project for these trail ambassadors.

## HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

We were happy to see Meegan Wallace and her husband Chuck Deffenburg. Meegan has just retired as an environmental consultant, based in Newport News, and will be leading a plant walk on April 23 in the Grafton Ponds area. Completing the group were Ralph Ashton, New Kent Master Gardener, and Shirley Ferguson and Leslie Allanson from the Richmond area.

Two common evergreen ferns were compared: Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichioides*) and Ebony Spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*), both with lance-shaped pinnae with “ears” at the base, but the latter is much smaller and more delicate. Gus also talked about the relationship between American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and the parasitic Beechdrops (*Epifagus virginiana*), describing the name similarities, the prefix *epi* from the Greek for “above,” or “on,” appropriate since Beechdrops are commonly seen near beech trees.

Early on the trail we came upon a large field of two species of the Clubmoss Family, Running-cedar *Diphasiastrum digitatum* and Tree-clubmoss (*Dendrolycopodium obscurum*). Gus remembers these plants as *Lycopodium digitatum*, and *Lycopodium obscurum*, names which we agreed are a lot easier to recall but difficult to pronounce. Some searching turned up plants with cylindrical reproductive cones.

Members of the group were good at spotting plants we had missed. Under the leaves were two orchids, Crane-fly (*Tipularia discolor*) and Downy Rattlesnake-plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*). Several clusters of a grape fern also were seen, tentatively identified as Rattlesnake Fern (*Botrypus virginianus*)

Some mosses were easy to identify and grew prolifically on fallen trees, and soil banks. Very prominent is the yellow-green Fern Moss (*Thuidium delicatulum*) and Common Broom Moss (*Dicranium scoparium*). We also found a patch of *Mnium* sp.

After a couple hours strolling and looking and talking we reached the power line and an entirely different dry habitat, where we uncovered a young Hawkweed (*Hieracium* sp.) and saw dry stems of Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and Dog-fennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*). A moss of dry habitats, *Polytrichum* sp. was abundant, along with British soldiers (*Claydonia cristella*) and reindeer moss (*Cladonia rangiferina*).

The Wahrani Nature Trail is a lovely woods walk and we plan to return in spring and summer when the flowering plants will be in bloom.”



Front row (r-l): Shirley Ferguson, Chris Goebel, Leslie Allanson, Gus Hall  
Back Row (l-r): Meegan Wallace, Chuck Deffenburg, Fred Matthies, Ralph Ashton



Wildlife Mapping Photos



Nancy & Ginny at Jamestown



Eastern Towhee female at New Quarter Park

# !!!IMPORTANT REMINDER!!!

The Cornell Lab 

 Audubon

 BIRD STUDIES  
ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX CANADA

Powered by 

The Great Backyard  
Bird Count



Art by Churley Harper

Friday February 12  
through  
Monday February 15

Visit  
<http://gbbc.birdcount.org>  
for more information

## Continuing Education Opportunities

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

**[CE] WBC Walk at New Quarter - February 13, 2016** from 7:00 am to 9:00 am at New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr, Williamsburg, VA 23185

**[CE] NPS Nude Tree Walk - February 13, 2016** from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at William & Mary - Sport Center, 400 Brooks Street, to walk to the College Woods.

**[Class] Climate & Weather - February 16, 2016** from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Freedom Park

**[CE] NOAA - Habitat Restoration Session 2 - February 17, 2016** from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at New Kent Forestry Center, Providence Forge, VA

**[CE] WBC Monthly Meeting - Shorebirds, Hunting and Wind Development - February 17, 2016** from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at College of William & Mary, the Integrative Science Center, Room 1127.

**[CE] WBC Field Trip - Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel - February 20, 2016** all day at Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, Virginia Beach

**[CE] WBG - Restoring Pollinators - February 20, 2016** from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at James City County Recreation Center, 5301 Longhill Road, Williamsburg

**[CE] HRBC Bird Walk - February 21, 2016** from 7:00 am to 10:00 am at Newport News City Park

**[CE] VIMS - Ocean Plastics - February 25, 2016** from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Watermen's Hall - McHugh Auditorium 1375 Greate Rd Gloucester Point, VA 23062

**[CE] WBC Bird Walk - February 27,** from 7:00-9:00 am at New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr.

**[CE] HRBC Bird Walk - March 6, 2016** from 7:00 am to 10:00 am at Newport News City Park

**[CE] Cohort X Graduation - March 9, 2016** from 6:00 - 9:00 pm at JCC Library, 7770 Croaker Rd.

**[CE] WBC Walk at New Kent Forestry Center - March 12, 2016** from 8:00 am to 11:00 am at New Kent Forestry Center, 11301 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, VA 23140

**[CE] WBC Monthly Meeting – VA Breeding Bird Atlas - March 16, 2016** from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm at College of William & Mary, Integrative Science Center Room 1127

**[CE] VDCR - Virginia State Parks and Natural Areas...Your Backyard Classrooms - March 17, 2016** from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at Oconeechee State Park in Mecklenburg County, VA

**[CE] Holly Society - Meeting & Presentation on VA Hollies - March 19, 2016** from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at Joe & Mimma's Italian Restaurant, 5742 George Washington Hwy (Rt 17), Grafton VA

**[CE] WBC/MG -DESIGNING THE SMALL GARDEN - March 19, 2016** from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at Freedom Park Interpretive Center, Williamsburg Botanical Garden

[\[CE\] HRBC Bird Walk](#) - March 20, 2016 from 7:00 am to 10:00 am at Newport News City Park

[\[CE\] WBC Bird Walk](#) - March 26, 2016 from 7:00-9:00 am at New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr.

[\[CE\] VLM - Jack Hanna](#) - April 1, 2016 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Virginia Living Museum, J Clyde Morris Boulevard, Newport News, VA



Sue Mutell



Shirley Devan

Members show HRC pride on their license plates!

**Mark your calendar!**  
**Upcoming General Membership Meetings**

March 9 (Wednesday) – Dr. Gerald Johnson, W&M emeritus professor of Geology, Digging up Monty

April 13 (Wednesday) – Wes Hudson, PhD candidate, Va. Institute of Marine Science, wetland tree research at New Kent Forestry

Meetings start at 6pm and are in the Kitzinger Room of the James City County Library in Norge.

Trivia Challenge

Which popular detective retired to become a beekeeper?

Sherlock Holmes