

The Naturalist

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FROM THE HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER
VIRGINIA MASTER NATURALISTS



October 2017

Volume 11, Number 7

The President's Report

FIVE QUESTIONS FOR LES LAWRENCE

You've probably heard the expression, "Less is More". We are very proud of the fact that our Les Lawrence definitely lives up to that motto. When he just recently was awarded Honorable Mention as State VMN Volunteer of the Year for his work in our chapter, he proved to all that, yes, Les is truly more! Let's not talk about his nearly 5000 hours of volunteer time earned in the last eight years. And forget about the fact that he's served on our chapter board for six years as well as led Wildlife Mapping at York River State Park for the last eight years. Instead, we'll focus on just the last two years, only. Okay....

Les has participated in our chapter's Camera Trap Wildlife Survey, VBWT Adopt-a-Trail Phase I, three butterfly counts each year, two bird counts annually, Project Feeder Watch, Wildlife Mapping at Jamestown Island, New Quarter Park, Greensprings Trail and, of course, Les continues to lead our weekly mapping efforts at York River State Park. He's also accepted the challenge of bluebirding both the trails at York River State Park as well as Freedom Park. Despite his 78 years, he's also worked on our Mastodon Project, digging in the mud for hours several times a month plus volunteered on the very challenging (and once again very muddy) Colonial Marsh Bird Monitoring Project as well as cleaning oyster cages and oyster washing and the archeology project at New Quarter Park.

Shall we continue? Okay, he's volunteered as a teacher at the Freedom Park Nature Camps, as a teacher for multiple New Kent Forestry Center educational field trips, and as a teacher for the James River School Nature Club. Les has also represented our chapter at Family Fun Fest, Estuaries Day, James River Fest, the Farmer's Market, and Williamsburg Botanical Garden's Butterfly Festival.

But, all these activities and volunteer opportunities don't capture the essence of our incredible volunteer. Les is more than an active member—he is an individual who engenders a sense of family, a climate of trust, and shares the joy of membership in our Historic Rivers Chapter every time he shows up at an event.

And so, today, I'd like to reintroduce to all of us one of our favorite HRC VIP's —Les Lawrence. Before he answers my five questions, though, read the note written by Portia Belden that we sent to the state VMN when nominating him for Volunteer of the Year. As you read this, you'll realize that our LES is decidedly MORE!

The newsletter article headline read, "Les Lawrence Saves the Day." While Les led 2nd and 3rd graders along the path to their outdoor

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Sue Mutell points the way during a wildlife mapping expedition at York River State Park.

Photo by Shirley Devan



classroom to learn about mammals, a surprise guest appeared on the trail—a snake! Les calmed the agitated children (a mix of excitement and fright) and once they had taken their seats on the outdoor classroom benches, he used the moment to let the children talk about what they had seen. Les held them in awe as he took time to educate them about snakes and helped them identify the type of snake that they had seen, an Eastern Rat Snake. Don't you know that the snake made an encore appearance on the walk from the outdoor classroom back to the school?!

Another recent chapter email began, "What a treasure we have in our chapter!" referring to Les's impressive presentation to a group of children at a local state park, one of many presentations in many different parks and schools. Yes, we are so fortunate that, for nearly 5000 volunteer hours, Les's gifts as a teacher, citizen scientist, and natural resource steward have also encompassed the adult Nature lovers, the Master Naturalists of the Historic Rivers Chapter. For example, each week, Les leads wildlife mapping at York River State Park. As members from new cohorts join the group, he makes each feel welcome and lets everyone know that their contributions are appreciated, even though they might not feel confident yet in their knowledge. For instance, he recently celebrated with a novice birder who had just identified a Northern Mockingbird. Yet, at the same time, he also freely acknowledges and commends our very skilled bird, plant, and reptile identifiers. His patience, kindness, natural curiosity, and love of Nature permeate any project that he leads or of which he is a participant, be it bird counts, butterfly counts, oyster conservation, or board membership. Les encourages children and adults, as

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Chapter Board 2017

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Besides laying eggs, this box turtle spent some time in September and October keeping an eye on the board. Photo by Cindy Baker

well as inspires everyone he meets to educate themselves and others so we can all work together to help preserve our natural world. The headline of this nomination for Volunteer of the Year is, "Les Lawrence Makes the Day."

FIVE QUESTIONS FOR LES LAWRENCE:

Fill in a little background info please..... My Dad worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority, and I spent my high school years in Kingston, a small town about 30 miles west of Knoxville. Naturally, I was a staunch Tennessee Vols fan and expected to go to college there. But it didn't work out that way; I graduated on a Friday and was a member of the U.S. Air Force on Monday. That worked out just fine, since I was assigned to what was then called the USAF Security Service, which opened up an avenue to a great career. After 8 years, 8 months, and 26 days in the USAF (but who was counting?), I was discharged and subsequently went to work for the federal government, the No Such Agency (NSA). Back then we weren't supposed to tell where we worked. Through those years I lived in Alaska, the Philippines, England, several places in the U.S., and travelled throughout Europe and the Far East.

Fill in a little about yourself now.... After retirement, my wife Laura and I first moved to the mountains of east Tennessee (culture shock), then to a private community island off South Carolina (hurricanes!), and for the last 19 years have enjoyed the perfect combination of everything here in the Williamsburg area.

Tell us one thing about yourself that is funny, quirky, unique, or really rather bizarre.....Not many people know this, but I am a bit OCDish. I count things. Some MNs who wildlife map with me know that I keep close track of how many steps we take. I use my FITBIT now, but they don't know I used to count the steps in my head. Ever count stairs, ceiling tiles, etc.? I do. Yes, it's a tad bizarre.

Why did you choose to become a Master Naturalist? I've always enjoyed nature and just being outdoors. I grew up camping, hiking, fishing, etc., and was in the scouting programs from Cub Scouts through Explorer Scout. When I learned about the Master Naturalist program from friend and neighbor Felice Bond, it was a natural fit. I was in Cohort IV, so it's been quite a few years now. I did later graduate from college, U. Of Maryland—Terps instead of Vols, but my science background (political) hasn't contributed much as a Master Naturalist.



Les Lawrence Photo by Hart Haynes

A silver-spotted skipper

Photo by Judy Jones



Born to Bird

Story and photos by Inge Curtis

I WAS BORN AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR II

in the Hanseatic town of Bremen, home of the children's story of the Bremen Town Musicians. My father was immediately drafted into the Luftwaffe because as a ship's captain he had a sought after skill—navigating by the stars.

Because it was war, my family thought a safe spot for us would be

the small resort town Kuehlungsborn on the Baltic Sea. I don't remember seeing my father more than a few times during the six years of war, I do remember the deprivations, the hunger, my mother trying to do right by three little ones aged infant, one and two years old. I remember the air raids, the wounded, blinded and crippled moving through our town, fleeing from the Eastern front.

The war ended when I was six. We were in Kuehlungsborn when the Russians arrived. I will spare you

those details. We did not know where my father was. He had been severely wounded earlier in the war (47 broken bones) but as soon as he could walk on crutches, he was sent back to the front. He came back to us in November when our area had been declared the Russian Occupied Zone.

Our family of five, each with a backpack, made our way west. A trip that takes about 8 hours today took us about a week. After trudging days on end through bombed out towns and cities, as little as I was, I had become a pacifist, even

though I did not really know what that meant. In time, all my male relatives became conscientious objectors. To this day there are more pacifists in Germany than in any other Western country. Of course, it would take a book to describe that journey to Lower Saxony with inadequate shoes and clothing while scrounging for food and necessities.

We ended up in a village where we slept in a hayloft, it was Nov. 8, 1945, my birthday. For three years, we lived in a tiny construction trailer without

A note from the editor: You may have noticed that many of the photos in this newsletter and others are from the cameras of Inge Curtis. She was featured in the last issue because she won the state photo contest for Virginia Master Naturalists—Flora and Fauna division. At the October meeting, as the Board discussed the awards our chapter garnered, I asked out loud how Inge made such perfect photos—artful composition, spot-on focus, I could go on and on. Judy and Shirley and others asked, "Why don't you feature Inge in the next newsletter?" So I wrote a series of questions and sent them to her via email intending to write a story from her answers. But her answers were so detailed and, I think, so inspiring that Inge ended up telling her own story.

"To this day there are more pacifists in Germany than in any other Western country."

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Wren



Summer Tananger

heat, running water or electricity. My sister and I shared a 24-inch-wide cot. The first winter was the coldest Germany had seen in a hundred years, no one still alive will ever forget that winter of 1946/47. My dad would massage us first thing in the morning to warm us up sufficiently to be coherent.

My first school was a village school about two miles away. That does not sound very far, but for a skinny little girl with wooden shoes and without adequate food in her body the walk seemed forever. We were strangers in that village—refugees. Local children were asked to bring us a sandwich for lunch. I'll never forget one sandwich: bread had been dampened and salt put on top, to this day, I never, ever use salt on anything. Never even buy it. In those days, sometimes I was so weak by the afternoon my brother would carry me a little on the way "home."

After three years of living like this, my father was able to secure a job in the British Occupied Zone as an interpreter. He bartered for a small barrack and we now had a real house after putting it back together, after hand-digging our own well and septic system.

I was in fourth grade now and the

new school was just as far, but I had shoes—kind of. There were 80 children in my class! The reason for this, of course, was that most teachers had been killed in the war. Eighty children. Imagine.

We now had lunch at school. I think it was a CARE program. When I think of it, it still makes me cry with gratitude. Most of the time it was oatmeal with raisins and you learned not to be the first in line because the raisins were at the bottom of this huge kettle. You also did not want to be at the end of the line because there might not be anything left. I loved that oatmeal—I still do.

The school, which would be considered something like a middle school, did not lead to university entrance. University would have been a train ride away and there was no money for such a thing. So after graduation my only option was an apprenticeship.

I wanted to become a beekeeper. In Germany at that time, a lot of beekeepers drove mobile vehicles on which maybe as many as sixteen differently colored hives were stacked. The sides of these vehicles were hinged and could be opened to reveal the hives behind it. So the beekeeper would travel from one blooming

site to the next, from apple blossom to cherry blossom to peach, to the heather.

The keeper stayed in the bee camper as well. Having witnessed so much destruction and ugliness, this to me seemed like an idyllic, peaceful existence.

But my parents would have none of it. What else could I do that would be second in beauty and peace to bee-keeping? flowers! So I was apprenticed as a greenhouse gardener. And I was very good at it. I loved raising African violets, primroses of any kind and taking care of a whole house full of gloxinias was a great joy. The 64-hour work week, not so much. From greenhouse gardening I graduated to landscape gardening and then came the opportunity to come to America.

In those days you had to be sponsored and a family in Pound Ridge, New York did just that. I arrived in a Bavarian outfit complete with Bavarian hat at Idlewild (JFK) airport in New York. For years, I wondered how my sponsor recognized me immediately. I still have that hat and it makes me laugh at my naivety. I had come on a one-way ticket on TWA, my first time on a long flight. A one-way ticket was then \$210 dollars. I paid that

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Young Chipping Sparrow



Young Chestnut-sided Warbler

back in \$5 increments.

One of my first jobs in the US was at a nursing home in Bedford Hills, NY., close to New York City. I would often take the train to visit an older Irish lady who had a small apartment on Broadway across the street from Columbia University.

The first time I visited her, she suggested I take an English course at Columbia. I thought that was out of the question. Way out of the question. When I expressed my doubts, she said: "the Father will show you." She always referred to God as the Father.

She literally shoved me out of the apartment and I timidly approached the only person that was crossing the campus that fortunate mid-morning. He clearly sensed my hesitation and ask me whether he could help me. I had practiced: "I want to learn English." Well this dear man put his arm around my shoulder and said: "come with me, I am the dean of foreign students."

And so began the happiest time of my life. I had the kindest professors who looked out for this immigrant, who encouraged me and sometimes when I fell asleep in class they would give me a private re-cap during lunch.

One professor even put money in my coat pocket when she realized I did not have the fifteen-cent subway fare to come downtown.

They knew I worked around the clock and never reprimanded me. I worked as a superintendent of a small brownstone, as a cook, as a practical nurse as a translator for a law firm working on indemnification claims. And the best job ever was for a radio station

**"...and with my camera
I could take it all home with me.
Taking it all home was
the thrilling part
and sharing that thrill
was the next best part."**

that broadcast out of the Riverside Church, the Rockefeller Cathedral. I had a small office on the 12th floor in the tower—it was spectacular.

I graduated with honors in history in 1969 and I thought I could fly. When the President of Columbia handed me my diploma, I wanted to hug all of New York.

When I moved to Williamsburg in 1993, I ran a bed and breakfast on Richmond Road. I was known for my

beautiful garden. But a B&B is a lot of work, seven days a week if you are lucky. In the winters, however, there was a lull and that is when I travelled. As long as I owned the B&B I explored the Southern hemisphere; once I sold the place I went north.

My love for birds was an outgrowth of my love for flowers and all things beautiful and peaceful. Of course they are more illusive and I did not have a way to capture them until I bought my first camera in 1996.

My daughter was on a study abroad program in Adelaide, Australia and she invited me to join her for her semester break. We literally tracked around the entire continent and up and down the Great Barrier Reef for two months! It was a dream adventure. I came home with many rolls of film. I had caught the bug.

The following year I travelled to the Galapagos and I got the double bug. Then came the Antarctic and my mind was blown. Every wilderness, whether in Africa, Japan, the Aleutian Islands, Central or South America was full of beauty, and with my camera I could take it all home with me. Taking it all home was the thrilling part and sharing that thrill was the next best part.

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Prothonotary Warbler Fledges



One of my daughters actually gave me a bird club membership one Christmas, however, I could never go on any of the bird walks because weekends were my busiest time until I sold the business. My daughters like the fact that I love birding, but it does not excite them personally. My

grandson, on the other hand gave his first bird presentation when he was in preschool with photographs from his Oma. I have inspired quite a few people with bird pictures, friends, insurance agents, neighbors, a farmer in the area and I appreciate the fact that it makes these folks more aware

of our environment.

When asked once which was her favorite bird I heard Shirley Devan reply: " the one I am looking at." That is a perfect answer. For me it means I have literally thousands of favorites on all seven continents and lots of places in between.

OCTOBER 28, 2017 HISTORIC RIVERS MASTER NATURALIST FALL PICNIC

- 7:30 AM** EARLY BIRD BIRD WALK - Shirley Devan
- 8:30 AM** BEE KEEPING AND THEIR GOLDEN GIFT - Roger Gosden*
- 9:00 AM** BREAKFAST at Ted's
- 10:30 AM** GEOLOGY WALK AND TALK - Jerre Johnson
- 12:00 PM** BYO LUNCH
- 1:00 PM** BUTTERLY WALK AND SEEK - Adrienne Frank and Gary Driscol
- 2:00 PM** KAYAK/CANOE UP THE CREEK FOR A PEAK– Adrienne Frank and Gary Driscole
- 3:00 PM** FUNGI ID AND WALK - Teta Kane
Although this walk is scheduled for 3:00 PM, it will be repeated as needed.
- 4:00 PM** FISH DISH
- 4:30 PM—7:00 PM** DINNER Food and Drink - Good Grief Let's Eat!
Free time to mingle, meet your new favorite cohort member and rub elbows eating crabs, pot luck, good drink, and fill all the nooks and, catch up on master naturalist happenings.
- 7:00 PM** NOT TO BE MISSED - Ted's Slide Outdoor Show
Highlights of travels through Alaska and Western Canada through the eyes of a Master Naturalist

DIRECTIONS

Take Richmond Road (Route 60) or I-64 to Toano
At the Fire & Rescue Squad Station, turn onto FORGE ROAD
Go 2.4 miles west on FORGE ROAD
Turn LEFT onto LITTLE CREEK DAM ROAD (VA 631) for just over one mile
Turn RIGHT onto MENZELS ROAD (VA 659) and go for a little over a mile of bumpy road.

At the "END OF STATE MAINTENANCE" sign and three mailboxes, go right and continue to an open gate.
Go Straight and across a field you will see a two-story yellowish stucco house on the Chickahominy River
Follow the road to the house.
"HRC" Signs will be posted

Lost? Call [484-955-0699](tel:484-955-0699) or [484-663-1850](tel:484-663-1850)

New Champion for Stewardship at New Quarter Park: **RICK BROWN**



Rick Brown, Cohort 12

COHORT XII IS OFF AND RUNNING! At New Quarter Park, we already have a C-XII volunteer who has stepped up to the plate to champion our Bobwhite/Butterfly Habitat. A big NQP thank you goes to Rick Brown for his willingness to work, learn, and preserve. Rick will be heading up our stewardship effort at the B/B Habitat by weeding, weeding, weeding, planning and planting in order to maintain this beautiful and productive patch of the park for birds and butterflies. Rick is a Queen's Lake neighbor. He has lived in our neighborhood for two years after retiring from his career as an attorney. He hails from West Virginia. Welcome Rick!

The B/B Habitat was launched by native plant enthusiast and Queen's Lake neighbor Cynthia Long in 2008. In the early years, she assigned parts of the quarter-acre meadow to volunteers who planted native plants donated by Cynthia and other members of the Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS). In the beginning, the Bobwhite Habitat was a cooperative project of the VNPS, the Williamsburg Bird Club, and the Historic Rivers Master Naturalist that was intended to attract Northern Bobwhite to the meadow. We saw one Bobwhite, but the fescue grass continued to grow around the plants making the habitat too thick for use by the ground-nesting birds. Then, after about three years of abundant black-eyed Susan and Partridge Pea growth, aggressive dog fennel set in. In another season or two, it became evident that we needed to do a better job of maintaining the project against aggressive native and non-native plants.

Also, at the same time, our Chapter's butterfly efforts began under the direction of Adrienne Frank. She led butterfly counts at New Quarter and elsewhere around the Historic Triangle area. NQP and our B/B Habitat became one of the best places to find butterflies with the highest species counts around.

As Cynthia was less able to lead the charge with maintaining the habitat, NQP staff and Master Naturalists took over. We planted hundreds and hundreds of native plants in the patch. Wildflowers grew and grew. But dog fennel and fescue grass continued to be our enemies. This past spring, we decided to work aggressively against unwanted plants in one small patch of the meadow. A section was defined by mulched paths.

Now, Rick will lead the charge to weed and tend this smaller patch, and then extend the habitat as he and his volunteers are able. Volunteers! That's you! Rick will be reaching out to you soon with a schedule of upcoming work days to maintain the Bobwhite/Butterfly Habitat. Listen for a call from Rick and answer with a good measure of Master Naturalist pride!

Also on tap at New Quarter Park are stewardship efforts at the Pollinator Garden near the office, championed by Anita Angelone, and maintenance in the Shaded Rain Garden on Loop 1, championed by Keith and Jeanette Navia. Please look for their upcoming advertisements of opportunities to earn important stewardship hours for your annual record and for our chapter. Anita's crew usually meets on third Saturday mornings monthly at 9:30 am, or earlier if it's hot. The Navias have met with Virginia Tech and Master Gardeners who initiated the rain garden. They will be asking you to help with planting this fall.

Final HRC-VMN Bluebird Trail Reports for the 2017 Nesting Season



Newly-hatched chicks and eggs at Newport News Park. Photo by John Adair



Two newly-fledged bluebirds at New Quarter Park
Photo by Jan Lockwood



2017 End of Bluebird Season Celebration.
Photo by Judy Jones

HATS OFF TO THE LEADERS AND MONITORS OF THE 17 HRC-VMN TRAILS! THE TWO ATTACHED CHARTS TELL THE STORY -

Total fledges HRC-VMN Bluebird Trails, 2017

- 1,185 birds fledged this season – 934 Bluebirds and 251 “Other native cavity nesting species”. This is a marked increase in fledges from 2016 when total fledges were 845 – 611 Bluebirds and 234 “Other” species.
- “Other” species included 129 Carolina Chickadee, 56 Tufted Titmouse, 61 House Wren, and 5 Brown-headed Nuthatch.
- With 23 additional nestboxes on the trails in 2017, the most accurate way to assess growth is to compare productivity per box. In 2017 3.98 birds fledged per box, an increase from 3.2 fledges per box in 2016.
- The extreme right column shows a steady increase in productivity since the 2015 season when only 2.15 birds fledged per box because our nesting population was drastically reduced following the unusually cold winter.
- In 2017 we came close to equaling the productivity of the seasons prior to 2015.

Eastern Bluebird Nesting History HRC-VMN Trails, 2012-2017 -

- The percentage of Bluebird eggs hatched and fledged in 2017 is very slightly higher than in previous seasons. We lost 138 eggs and 52 chicks this year from 1,124 eggs laid. Those losses were attributed almost equally to predation (Black Rat Snake, House Sparrow, and House Wren) and to non-viability or abandonment.
- Non-native House Sparrow attempted to nest on several trails. Monitors continually removed their nests and eggs from the boxes and the Bluebirds were eventually able to claim the boxes. 2-hole boxes were successful on two trails in deterring HOSP and in fledging 10 clutches of bluebirds. In all, only 4 chicks and 2 eggs were predated by HOSP in 2017, many fewer than in previous years.
- Two new species nested in our boxes. A clutch of 5 Brown-headed Nuthatches fledged in York County this year, after a failed attempt in 2016, and Tree Swallows made a first attempt to nest in James City County. Tree Swallows regularly nest on bluebird trails elsewhere in Virginia.
- Nestboxes were also occupied by Squirrel Tree Frogs and Cope’s Gray Tree Frogs. (Productivity was not tracked.)

As we compiled our end of season reports for the Virginia Bluebird Society, Lois and I reflected on the tremendous growth this project has undergone since its beginnings in 2010 when HRC was asked to assume responsibility for the New Quarter Park bluebird trail. In 2010, 78 bluebirds fledged from 12 nest boxes, each lovingly tended by its own monitor. Subsequently, other trails were added. In 2017, 92 Master Naturalists nurtured 934 bluebirds to fledging from 298 nestboxes on 17 trails.

We are extremely grateful for the dedicated support and commitment of each of these bluebird teams. Organized and coached by their trail leaders, the monitors are devoted, knowledgeable, and effective. They also have fun and delight in following the fortunes of their bluebird families on their trips around the trails. We couldn’t do it without them. A heartfelt thank you HRC-VMN bluebirders! We look forward to another Bluebird Trail Adventure with you in 2018.

Jan Lockwood and Lois Ullman

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10-2-2017 TOTAL FLEDGES HRC-VMN BLUEBIRD TRAILS, 2017

Trail	# Boxes	EABL 2017	EABL 2016	CACH	TUTI	WREN	All Fledges Per Box*
Berkeley Middle School	4	15	14			10 HOWR	6.3
Cedar Grove Cemetery	6	17	-	10			4.5
Chickahominy Riverfront Park	16	93	62				5.8
Dr. Grass/Grafton-Bethel E.S.**	7	18	25				2.6
Ford's Colony	39	93	67	17	33	6 HOWR	3.8
Freedom Park	27	29	34	21	8		2.15
Grace Episcopal Church Yorktwn	5	9	-			12 HOWR	4.2
James City County Marina**	8	13	14	5		17 HOWR	4.4
Kingsmill Golf Courses	34	215	77	20		10 HOWR	7.2
Kiskiack Golf Course	20	87	38				4.4
Matoaka E.S. Cardinal Way Trail	4	8	-		1		2.25
New Quarter Park	19	71	58	2			3.8
Newport News Park	40	109	79	25	14		3.7
Poquoson Learning Garden ** Installed and monitored by the Poquoson Master Gardeners. Diverse nestbox designs being evaluated.	17	28	10			6 HOWR 5 BHNH	2.3
Waller Mill Elementary School **	7	15		5			2.9
York County Sports Complex	12	67	62	6			6.1

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York River State Park Combined with YRSP Entrance Road in 2017	31	47	43	18			2.1
TOTAL Fledges 17 HRC Trails 2017 (251 Other) 1185	298	934		129	56	66	3.98
TOTAL Fledges 15 HRC Trails 2016 (234 Other) 845	275	611		103	104	27	3.2
TOTAL Fledges 15 HRC Trails 2015 (217 Other) 567	273	350		102	89	26	2.15
TOTAL Fledges 12 HRC Trails 2014 (83 Other) 885	235	802		52	31		3.8
TOTAL Fledges 8 HRC Trails 2013 (116 Other) 742	204	626		67	49		3.6
TOTAL Fledges 7 HRC Trails 2012 (105 Other) 791	190	686		92	13	0	4.2

EASTERN BLUEBIRD NESTING HISTORY HRC TRAILS 2012-2017

	2012 Season	2013 Season	2014 Season	2015 Season	2016 Season	2017 Season
Date first egg laid	March 22	April 11	April 2	April 5	March 16	March 19
Total eggs laid	929	807	977	452	782	1,124
Eggs hatched	734 - 79% eggs laid	673 - 83% eggs laid	834 - 85% eggs laid	366 - 81% eggs laid	666 - 85% eggs laid	986 - 87% eggs laid
Bluebirds fledged	686 - 74% eggs laid	626 - 78% eggs laid	802 - 82% eggs laid	350 - 77.5% eggs laid	611 - 78% eggs laid	934 - 83% eggs laid

Upcoming Continuing Education (CE) Opportunities – October-November 2017

The Continuing Education (CE) calendar is posted on the VMN Volunteer Management System website. When you login to enter your hours, you can find the link to the CE calendar in the left-hand column under, EventCalendars-Continuing Education. Click an activity on the calendar and open to find a more detailed description (including registration information, contact information, any cost, etc.) of the continuing education activity. Reminder: Travel time is not a part of CE credit/hour(s). Note: Should additional applicable CE event(s) come up during the month the event(s) will be posted on the CE calendar in the VMN Volunteer Management System.

Christopher Wren classes that contain content on the natural environment area accepted as CE training. CW classes require registration and payment (\$\$\$) through the W&M Christopher Wren Association. Applicable courses are listed on the CE Calendar. VIMS programs require registration through the VIMS.

If you have a question about the relevance of a topic for Continuing Education or wish to check whether or not you can obtain CE hours, please contact the Continuing Education Chair, Jennifer Trevino, jbktrevino8@cox.net

THU 10/26/2017	VIMS After Hrs Lecture, 7:00-8:00pm: "Old & Cold-Greenland Sharks and the People Who Study Them"
SAT 10/28/2017	Williamsburg Bird Club Bird Walk—New Quarter Park- 7:00 am
SAT 10/28/2017	Pollinator Habitat Workshop at Chippokes State Park-9:30 am-4:00 pm, Classroom Next to the Farm & Forestry Museum; FREE but MUST REGISTER
SUN 10/29/2017	"Monarchs and Pollinators: The Need for Habitat Restoration," Lecture by Dr. Chip Taylor, VB Law Enforcement Training Academy, 1-4 pm, Lecture free and open to the public. Seating is limited. First come, first seated.
WED 11/01/2017	HRC Field Trip to NOAA Wakefield Weather Station- 2:45-4:00 pm
SUN 11/05/2017	Hampton Roads Bird Club Sunday Bird Walk, 7 pm
TUE 11/07/2017	HRC Cohort XII Basic Training Class- 6-9 pm- Williamsburg Community Chapel-Room 120, "Native Plants;" "Interpretive Skills and Toolboxes"
WED 11/08/2017	HRC Gen Meeting- 6 pm JCC Library- Kitzinger Room
THU 11/09/2017	CoCoRaHS WX Talk Webinar: The National Weather Association (NWA) Who We Are-What We Do; 1:00 pm. EDT, CoCoRaHS website
SAT 11/11/2017	WBC Bird Walk at New Quarter Park- 8 am
MON 11/13/2017	C Wren Class-For the Beauty of It All: America's National Parks, 9:30-11:30 am W&M Hall-Wightman Cup Room (1 of 3 classes)
TUE 11/14/2017	HRC Cohort XII Basic Training Class, 6-9 pm- Williamsburg Community Chapel-Room 120, "Geology"
WED 11/15/2017	Williamsburg Bird Club (WBC) Monthly Meeting- 7:00 pm- Andrews Hall- W&M

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THU 11/16/2017	John Clayton Chpt-VPNS-Chpt Mtg-Flora of VA App Demonstration-7 pm
SAT 11/18/2017	WBotGardens-Medicinal Herbs: Myths, Stories, & How to Grow- 10:00 am-Freedom Park
SUN 11/19/2017	Hampton Roads Bird Club Sunday Bird Walk at Newport News Park- 7:00 am
SUN 11/19/2017	WBC Field Trip to Hog Island- 8:00 am
SAT 11/25/2017	Williamsburg Bird Club Bird Bird Walk- New Quarter Park- 7 am
MON 11/27/2017	C. Wren Class-For the Beauty of It All: America's National Parks- 9:30-11:30 am W&M Hall-Wightman Cup Room (2 of 3 classes)