



THE NATURALIST

*The monthly newsletter of the Historic Rivers Chapter
Virginia Master Naturalist Program*

<http://historicrivers.org>

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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*HISTORIC
RIVERS CHAPTER
WELCOMES
COHORT
VII*

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, Historic Rivers Chapter:

July and August are "Bug-a-Palooza" months for our Chapter!

During July, members of our chapter participated in the following fantastic "bug" events:

- HRC's Moth Night on 14 July was a huge success at New Quarter Park. Many thanks to all who made it possible, and to all of you who joined in the fun to celebrate National Moth Week. The photos posted on our website are awesome.

- Several members of our chapter provided benthic macro invertebrate training for the York County 4-H Camp on 24 and 26 July. Twenty young campers participated in the stream sampling and macro invertebrate identification to determine water quality of the local stream.

- Members of our Chapter participate in the July butterfly counts at the Great Dismal Swamp and the Eastern Shore. I'm sure there will be great finds and great photos posted on our website in the near future.

August continues with the "bug" theme with two challenging advanced training opportunities.

- Monarch Butterflies. The Monarch Teacher Network, in conjunction with James City County Parks and Recreation and the Williamsburg Botanical Garden, is offering a two-day workshop at Freedom Park for teachers as well as other "nature" educators. This workshop will provide participants with the knowledge, skills, materials and confidence to raise monarchs in the classroom and create an outstanding learning experience for the students. For more information, visit www.MonarchTeacherNetwork.org or contact Brian Hayes at bhayes@eirc.org.

- Benthic Macroinvertebrates. James City County is revamping their water quality monitoring program and is offering workshops on 19 Aug or 25 Aug. These workshops are open to both those with previous "Save Our Streams" training as well as new volunteers. The new program will use some new metrics and identify the macroinvertebrates to the next taxonomic level, which is the family level. This will enable the County to better understand what is impacting the streams and to share their data with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Contact Suzanne Dyba at Suzanne.Dyba@jamescitycountyva.gov to sign up for this training.

As always, thank you all for everything you do to make our Chapter such an enormous success. Your dedication, enthusiasm and willingness to share your knowledge are awe-inspiring!

Patty Maloney, President

Historic Rivers Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalist

Notes from the Board

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

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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.

4th Annual Statewide Volunteer Conference and Training

September 7-9, 2012

Hosted by the Southwestern Piedmont Chapter

The conference is at the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville and the nearby Fairy Stone State Park. Lots of fun while learning as well as making friends from other chapters!

Sign up now! Registrations close on August 6! Remember to pre-register for all sessions—they fill up quickly.

For more information and registration, go to:

[https://www.regonline.com/2012_vmn_conference.](https://www.regonline.com/2012_vmn_conference)

Editor's note: To view the web address given above, please highlight the address, right click, and choose "open hyperlink."

A Note of Thanks.....to Gary Driscole.....

4 June 2012

"Gary,

Thanks to you and the Master Naturalists for again facilitating a wonderful educational 'Walk and Talk.' This one really had its challenges, but your 'teacher voice' truly saved the day.

Thank you all again, you are a community treasure."

Best,

Elizabeth Friel"

Williamsburg Land Conservancy

BLUEBIRD BULLETIN

July 2012

Once again it is quiet on the HRC Bluebird Trails as nesting activity draws to a close. The majority of the boxes are empty. That is because 225 Eastern Bluebird chicks have fledged from the boxes since the beginning of June. The number is less than the 313 fledges recorded during the first nesting, March-May, but it is customary for the second nesting to be less productive than the first. Despite fears for their wellbeing during the recent high temperatures and storms, the birds fared well. We have not received any reports of dead chicks in July.

As of July 27, the boxes still contain 34 bluebird eggs and 49 bluebird chicks, so there will be yet more fledglings to enjoy. Four of the boxes contain third nests but a significant third nesting is unlikely. Monitoring will cease within two or at the most three weeks.

Once again we can't praise or thank our monitors enough for their enthusiasm and commitment to this project. They have continued to make their regular trips around the boxes in the face of heat, storms, biting insects, downed trees... and they have enjoyed it! We've been told it's been a great learning opportunity for some and a tremendously rewarding experience for all, particularly the time it has given us to enjoy nature alone or in the company of friends. Sadly it is ending, but the monitoring team has the satisfaction of knowing it has contributed to the safe arrival of 538, and counting, young bluebirds.

Jan Lockwood

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

From Tom Dougherty..... “Here are the 3 VMN who attended ... hot and humid not with-
standing”



Jeanne Millin, Catherine Short, and Tom Dougherty at the VNPS plant walk at Wahrani Park on July 7th.

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

COHORT VII – Basic Training 2012-2013

The HRC Basic Training Committee is hard at work this summer making preparations for the upcoming 2012-2013 Cohort VII Basic Training session. There will be a Cohort VII Informational Meeting on August 14th at the Williamsburg Library, for the purpose of acquainting new Cohort VII members with the Virginia Master Naturalist Program, and more specifically, with our own Historic Rivers Chapter. The first Basic Training class session begins September 4, 2012.

Here is the HRC-VMN Basic Training Calendar for 2012-2013:

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER VIRGINIA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM COHORT VII 2012-2013 BASIC TRAINING CALENDAR

| | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| 08/14/2012 | Tuesday | 6:30-8:30 | Informational Meeting for Cohort VII - Williamsburg Library |
| 09/04/2012 | Tuesday | 6:00-9:00 | Intro. to HRC-VMN; Meet the Board; Nature Of Naming |
| 09/18/2012 | Tuesday | 6:00-9:00 | Risk Management; Biology/Evolution Basics |
| 09/29/2012 | Saturday | 2:00-6:00 | Citizen Science; Scientific and Field Methods; Potluck – York River State Park |
| 10/02/2012 | Tuesday | 6:00-9:00 | Habitats |
| 10/13/2012 | Saturday | 9:00-3:00 | Field Trip – Wetlands Ecology at York River State Park |
| 10/16/2012 | Tuesday | 6:00-9:00 | Plant Biology |
| 10/30/2012 | Tuesday | 6:00-9:00 | Dendrology |
| 11/13/2012 | Tuesday | 6:00-9:00 | Geology |
| 11/27/2012 | Tuesday | 6:00-9:00 | Entomology |
| 12/08/2012 | Saturday | 9:00-3:00 | Geology Field Trip at various sites |
| 12/11/2012 | Tuesday | 6:00-9:00 | Indigenous Cultures |
| 01/08/2013 | Tuesday | 6:00-9:00 | Climate/Weather |
| 01/12/2013 | Saturday | 9:00-3:00 | Field Trip – Forest Conservation & Management; Nature Hike; New Kent Forestry Center |
| 01/22/2013 | Tuesday | 6:00-9:00 | Herpetology |
| 01/26/2013 | Saturday | 9:00-1:00 | Field Trip/Class – Macro invertebrates; Winter Trees - at Freedom Park |
| 02/05/2013 | Tuesday | 6:00-9:00 | Ornithology |
| 02/19/2013 | Tuesday | 6:00-9:00 | Ecology Concepts |
| 02/23/2013 | Saturday | 9:00-4:00 | Mammalogy (9-12); lunch; Ichthyology (1-4) – at VLM |
| 03/05/2013 | Tuesday | 6:00-9:00 | Butterflies |
| 03/13/2013 | Wednesday | 6:00-9:00 | Cohort VII Graduation; HRC General Mtg./Elections |

Continued on next page...

Other:

By January 31, 2013:

Naturalist Biography Due

By February 28, 2013:

Field Trip with WBC or HRBC: 2 hours

Field Trip with VA Native Plant Society: 2 hours

Attend minimum of one VIMS After Hour Lecture: 1 hour

We're looking forward to a terrific 2012-2013 Basic Training session!

Basic Training Committee:

Jennifer Trevino, Sharon Plocher, Shirley Devan, Susan Powell, Cheryl Jacobson, Tom Dougherty

(Dates/times subject to change)



“Alice Algae and Freddy Fungus met and took a Lichen.”

As shared by a Shenandoah National Park Ranger—May 2012.

Photo and message by Patty Riddick.

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

Greetings,

A warm, steamy night greeted a good size crowd at New Quarter Park Saturday night for MOTH NIGHT in celebration of National Moth Week.

As our guest speaker explained, what may be uncomfortable for us made for a great night for the moths and other critters. The later the hour, the better the critters were.

Many thanks to Felice and Tom Bond, Alice and Seig Kopinitz, and Susan and Mike Powell for setting up four black light stations while dodging the raindrops.

Also we benefited from great help from Sara Lewis and her husband/NQP staff member Ken Schmidt, who provided glow lights and water and ELECTRICITY!! Also, Park Manager Molly Nealer worked closely with the MOTH NIGHT team in advance to make sure all was smooth!

Teta Kain was there with some awesome photos of moths from her backyard and shared with us what we might expect to see. Later in the evening, we oohed and ahhed as we found the same moths she had shown us on her slides. THANK YOU, TETA!

Here is a link to our web site where 8 photos are rotating. Folks will be posting more in the coming days so check back.

<http://www.historicrivers.org/>

To those who came out, thanks for making the evening a success!

See you soon.

Shirley Devan



Teta Kain's Presentation at Moth Night

Photo by Felice Bond

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

HRC MOTH NIGHT

New Quarter Park

July 14, 2012



Adrienne, Patty, Alice, Gary and Larry at Moth Night (above) by Shirley Devan



Callie Newton, Steph and her girls, and Jan Newton examining a Rough Green Snake (left) by Felice Bond

Seig gets helping hand from Mike to photo the insects (below) by Shirley Devan





THE MOTHS!

Above left: Diamorphic Tosale Moth

Above right: Clymene Moth

Right: Rosy Maple Moth

Below left: Geometrid Moth

Below right: Plume Moth

Photos and ID by Seig Kopinitz



HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER



Tile-horned Beetle



Grapevine Beetle



Flower Longhorn Beetle

AND OTHER CRITTERS!

Photos and ID by Seig Kopinitz



Spotted Orbweaver



Summer Fishfly



SAVE THIS DATE!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND

HRC FALL PICNIC

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

7:00 – 9:00 A.M. BIRD WATCHING

9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BREAKFAST FOR BIRDERS

10:00 – 11:00 A.M. NAP TIME OR WANDER AROUND

**11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. TREE AND PLANT IDENTIFICATION
(SHERWOOD FOREST PLANTATION)**

1:00 P.M. LUNCH (BYO)

**2:00 – 5:00 P.M. MOTORBOAT CRUISES, CANOEING,
KAYAKING, SWIMMING, FISHING ON THE JAMES RIVER**

5:00 – 6:30 P.M. STEAMED CRABS AND OYSTER DINNER

7:00 P.M. CLEAN UP

8:00 P.M. FROG WALK

9:00 P.M. OWL PROWL

10:00 P.M. BONFIRE OR STARGAZING



STAY TUNED.....MORE TO FOLLOW.....



BLUEBIRDERS: NANCY GORE, NANCY BARNHART AND CHERYL JACOBSON
Freedom Park

July 19, 2012

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

The Chapter Tool Box

Almost since the Chapter's inception, HRC members were collecting items to use in our public appearances, classroom instruction, and fest days. The array of items ran from turtle shells to pictures of native plants to our Chapter banner. What evolved was "The Tool Box" where all our items were stashed. The Tool Box is not one box but a number of containers housing our collections. The Tool Box moved from garage to garage (wherever someone had space) and has finally ended up stored in the attic of Felice Bond's home. Felice is the current gracious custodian of our Tool Box. So, with this bit of explanation I turn you over to Deb Woodward who recently joined the Tool Box Committee to organize, catalogue and number everything we have which anyone may want to use.

Patty Riddick

"Now dress comfortably because we are going to be playing with dead things." Those were the instructions I was given before my first day volunteering on the "Tool Box Committee." "What in the world have I gotten myself into," I thought. But I repeated the mantra I have always told my children - "You can always wash your hands." Finding some comfort in that, I joined Felice Bond, Alice Kopinitz and Patty Riddick in the bonus room at Felice's house to go through boxes and boxes of collected items; field guides, equipment, posters, fossils, insects, and mammal skulls and bones. We carefully inventoried and marked each item with its unique identification code. Hours sped by as we chatted, researched identification of some items, looked up scientific names and carefully logged each item back into its correct storage box. From Vernal Pool equipment to insect displays to backyard ecology education – The Tool Box is ready to provide hands on materials, displays and equipment. Just one more way that the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists is ready to engage others in the wonders and protection of the natural world.

Deb Woodward



Felice Bond, Alice Kopinitz, and Deb Woodward organize, classify and mark all the items in the Chapter Tool Box.

Turtles at the Noland Trail

By Tom Dougherty

July 20th



Advanced Training - August 2012

- [\[AT\] Experience the Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem \(7/27 to 8/5\)](#) - July 27, 2012 all day at Based at Seaford Yacht Club in Yorktown weekdays
- [\[AT\] VLM - Fossil Mysteries](#) - August 4, 2012 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at VA Living Museum, Newport News
- [\[AT\] HRBC Bird Walk](#) - August 5, 2012 from 7:00-10:00 am at Newport News City Park
- [\[AT\] WBC Bird Walk at New Quarter Park](#) - August 11, 2012 from 8:00-10:00 am at New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr., Williamsburg
- [\[AT\] Inside to Seaside @ VIMS](#) - August 11, 2012 from 10:00-11:30 am at VIMS - Watermen's Hall, Visitors' Center Aquarium, Gloucester Point
- [\[AT\] HRBC Bird Walk](#) - August 19, 2012 from 7:00-10:00 am at Newport News City Park
- [\[AT\] VIMS](#) - August 21, 2012 from 6:00-8:00 pm at VIMS - Catlett-Burruss Research and Education Lab 7577 Spencer Road Gloucester Point VA 23062
- [\[AT\] HRBC Bird Walk](#) - September 2, 2012 from 7:00-10:00 am at Newport News City Park
- [\[AT\] VA MN Conference](#) - September 7-9, 2012 SW Piedmont area hosts the conference in Martinsville, VA
- [\[AT\] WBC Bird Walk at New Quarter Park](#) - September 8, 2012 from 8:00-10:00 am at New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr., Williamsburg
- [\[AT\] Monthly meeting](#) - September 12, 2012 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at JCC Human Services Bldg., 5249 Olde Towne Rd., Williamsburg
- [\[AT\] VA Native Plant Society Annual Meeting](#) - September 14-16, 2012 at the Wyndam VA Crossings Hotel in Glen Allen/Richmond, VA
- [\[AT\] WBC Field Trip](#) – Tentative date - September 15, 2012 from 7:00-1:30 pm Williamsburg Bird Club Field Trip

Submitted by Adrienne Frank