

THE NATURALIST



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

<http://historicrivers.org>

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 No. 7 July 2013

FLOWER FIREWORKS



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tor*

Just Like Me

As oft as I could
When I was a child
I took to the woods
To look for things wild

My friends also came
Together to see
Our wonder the same
They were just like me

But then came a day
My friends would desert
Their interests did stray
To four wheels and skirts

Then alone in my world
Of critters and trees
Just an occasional girl
Was there no one like me?

And then they were gone
My growing up years
Focus now drawn
To family, career

Now that time has passed
As I knew that it should
Retirement at last
And back to the woods

But no longer alone on my treks
Others now join me there
They have my deepest respect
For nature they truly care

I'm really so happy to see
That there actually do exist
Folks who are just like me -
Master Naturalists

--Larry Riddick

Notes from the Board

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

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Virginia Master Naturalists Lead Programs at New Quarter Park

Volunteers from the Historic Rivers Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists have led five programs at New Quarter Park so far this year and two more are planned for July and October.



In March, Lois Ullman and Jan Lockwood talked to park visitors about maintaining and monitoring the bluebird trail in the park that includes 21 boxes.

In May, Jeanne Millin, along with Master Gardeners Anne Nielsen and Carol Fryer, talked about the rain garden they planned and constructed to capture and clean runoff from the parking lot. Later that month, Master Naturalists came out to conduct the 3rd Annual Yorktown Elementary School first grade field trip. Children learned about insects, recycling, decomposition, & butterflies.

In June, two lively events were held. On June 1, Clyde Marsteller brought "A Zoo in My Shopping Bags" to the park where about 25 children, parents & grandparents enjoyed seeing a variety of insects, the species that once ruled the earth.



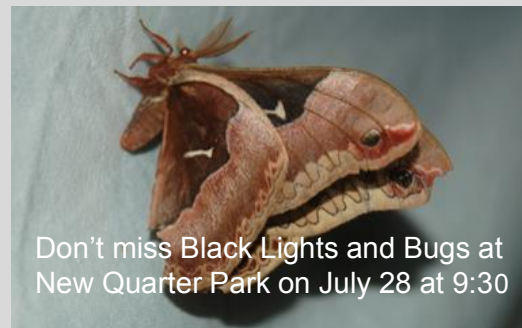
Clyde, Shirley , Deb



More than 20 visitors came to the park to learn about osprey from Cheryl Jacobson, who has organized Master Naturalists to watch osprey nests in the region and report nesting results to Osprey Watch, a Center for Conservation Biology program.

Pam Camblin, Shirley Devan, Judy Tucker, Jan Lockwood, Cheryl Jacobson, & Sara Lewis.

On July 28 (9:30-11:30) a group of Master Naturalists will set up white sheets and black lights to attract moths for viewing after dark. Felice Bond, Susan Powell, Alice and Seig Kopinitz, and Patty Maloney will be on hand with head lamps and insect guides to help visitors identify and inspect the creatures of the night.



Don't miss Black Lights and Bugs at New Quarter Park on July 28 at 9:30

On October 5 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Master Naturalist and local botanical artist Linda Miller will help visitors learn to look for the beautiful details in nature and express them in drawings.

Thanks to all of the Master Naturalists who have educated, conserved, & inspired park visitors! Plan to come to the programs in July and October as well as Bird Walks on 2nd and 4th Saturdays. If you have an idea for a program or want to lead a program at New Quarter, contact Molly Nealer 757-890-3513 nealerm@yorkcounty.gov or Sara Lewis 757-784-0344 saraelewis@cox.net.

Wildflower of the Month – July 2013

John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

DUCK POTATO

Sagittaria latifolia



Growing over 3 feet tall, this perennial has large fleshy leaves mostly shaped like arrowheads, highly variable in size. Both the leaves and flowering stalks are 2 feet long and contain a milky sap. The flowers are in whorls, with 3 white petals, the upper whorls with numerous yellow stamens. The leaves of Bulltongue Arrowhead (*S. lancifolia* ssp. *media*) reflect the name, as they are broadly lance-shaped, without the projecting pointed lobes at the base.

Common Arrowhead is abundant in marshes, ponds and streams across Virginia, blooming from June through October. The range is from Nova Scotia and Quebec to British Columbia, south to tropical America. Bulltongue Arrowhead occurs in Virginia only in the counties of the Coastal Plain, and is found near the coast from Delaware to Florida and Texas and south.

The genus name is from Latin *sagitta*, "an arrow," referring to the leaves. The species name *latifolia* means "broad-leaved." The common name refers to the tubers produced on the ends of underground stems that are dug up and eaten by waterfowl. Native Americans roasted or boiled the tubers; several days were required to cook them properly -- the "potatoes", deer meat and maple sugar made a very tasty dish.

For more information about native plants visit www.claytonvnps.org.

By Helen Hamilton, past-president of the John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

Photo: Duck Potato (*Sagittaria latifolia*) taken by Jan Newton



Help Make This License Plate Available!!!!

Pollinator Plates are new license plates in Virginia promoting pollinator conservation! These license plates are designed to get people talking about why pollinators are important and why we need to protect them. Help raise awareness and support pollinators- sign up for your plates today!

Samantha, owner of CafePress store and lover of pollinators, is spearheading this effort. Only 80+ more applications are necessary to make this license plate a reality.

Samantha is currently taking pre-sale orders and once she has collected 450 applications and plate fees, the plates will be on their way! For only \$10 (the plate fee), you can BEE part of getting these plates passed. :)

For More Information or to place an order go to
<http://www.pollinatorplates.com>

BABY BIRDS

- ♦ Eastern Bluebird
- ♦ Carolina Wren
- ♦ Prothonotary Warbler

Match the Label to the Correct Photo

(answers on page 8)

Photos on this page provided by Inge Curtis

A



B



C



HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

Monitoring bluebird boxes at York River State Park – 26 June 2013

By Shirley Devan

I walked bluebird trail #1 at York River State Park from 8 – 10 am with new monitor Mona Overturf. Mona is in training to be a bluebird trail monitor for next year and this was her second trek around trail #1.

The Master Naturalists who go to York River State Park know to expect to find just about anything! Today we were on the lookout for the bear that John Gresham, Park Interpreter, reported yesterday (June 25). My camera was ready!

Driving into the park, I saw a handsome Box Turtle was crossing the road. Very little traffic at 7:45 am so I stopped in the middle of the road, took a few snapshots, and helped him on his way.



Mona and I found 15 empty bluebird boxes and one box fledged its birds during the past week. Four boxes have bluebird eggs and two boxes have nestlings.



Carolina Wren flew out of one box as we approached and I took a photo of her messy nest. The 3 new wrens were deeply ensconced in that nest.

The nest we removed from the box where the bluebirds fledged had an interesting “leftover” food item along with the teenagers’ messy nest. A small skink lay in the nest cup – dried out and apparently intact. Since we have a collection permit, I carefully placed it in my pocket and took this photo when I got home. I’ll turn it over to Felice Bond who can likely identify the species. Can you imagine the conversation in the bird box between Dad and the teenagers?

Teen Bluebird: Dad, we want something different for dinner tonight. We’re tired of the crispy critters you bring home all the time.

Dad: Shopping for crispy critters is so quick and easy. They’re everywhere!

Teen: Dad, just find something different, OK?

Dad: Let me scout around and see what I can find.

(Later, Dad arrives with dinner)

Dad: Look what I found guys! A skink, just the right size!

Teen: Eeuuuuuwwww! Dad, it’s still wriggling ... and it’s got claws. I REFUSE to eat this thing. What made you think we’d eat this?

Dad: You guys are never happy. I got you something different and you’re still whining.

Teen (after Dad leaves): What are we going to do with this thing? Dad will be really annoyed if we don’t eat it after he went to all that trouble. We’ll have to hide it. I know, let’s sit on it and smother it and Dad will never know!



Osprey Watch

Cheryl Jacobson, our fearless leader of the master naturalists who are assisting in the citizen science project, "Osprey Watch," wants to invite you to the next meeting on July 10th at 2pm at York River State Park. Someone from the Center for Conservation Biology at William and Mary will be presenting and answering questions. Please gather at the amphitheater behind the visitor center where there is plenty of seating. There will be an opportunity to scope the osprey nest that is just nearby (two hatchlings are growing and thriving so they will be fun to see through the scopes).



Hope to see you on July 10th. Please RSVP to Cheryl Jacobson to assist her in planning. jcheryljoy@aol.com

Summer 'Reads'

"Flight Behavior" By Barbara Kingsolver

If you haven't read it... I think you will really enjoy it....the monarch butterflies and their migration are the central theme!

- Patty Maloney

"The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds"

By Julie Zickefoose

"Chickadees are not necessarily as nice as they are cute. My friend the humorist Al Batt says he thanks God chickadees aren't the size of hawks. Nobody would go outside. . . .Chickadees are scrappers." (from the book)

Some of the chapter titles include Nobody Can Cuss Like a Titmouse and Osprey: Hooked by Round Talons. The chapter on Piping Plover and Least Terns definitely shows how a few people can make a big difference to endangered birds. Her section on feeding birds and increasing cardinal populations, makes you think of possible negative effects of bird feeders. A book I highly recommend to anyone. -Sherry Brubaker

ANSWERS TO PHOTO QUIZ ON PAGE 6

- A Baby Eastern Bluebird
- B Baby Prothonotary Warbler
- C Baby Carolina Wren

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

James City County Invites Master Naturalists to Partner on Saturday Morning Youth/Family Programs

By Kathi Mestayer

We have been invited by Angie Sims, of the JCC Department of "Parks and Rec" to collaborate on a couple of Saturday morning programs this fall.

Saturday Nature Programs DATES:

Sept 28 (Saturday)

October 26 (Saturday)

TIME: 9-11 a.m.

PLACE: Either Greensprings Trail or Freedom Park (our choice)

TOPICS: Birds, Insects, Herps, Mammals (again, our choice)

JCC would like one Master Naturalist to be the "point-person" for each date, and coordinate the topic (s), sites, and programs. There is a fair amount of flexibility at this point, so if you are dying to do herps or bugs or something else, just say so!

Contact Angie.Sims@jamescitycountyva.gov. /757-259-5355

FYI !!

COMPARISON OF ACTIVITY ON HRC BLUEBIRD MONITORING

	June 26, 2013	June 27, 2012
Number of Nestboxes	204	190
Bluebird Eggs	153	118
Bluebird Chicks	79-80	125
Bluebird Fledges	363	389
Other Eggs	2	6
Other Chicks	4	0
Other Fledges	100	112
BB Total (E,C,&F)	595	632
Other Total (E,C,&F)	106	118
Total All Species	701	750

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER



<http://www.williamsburgfarmersmarket.com>

Historic Rivers Chapter will be at July 20 Farmer's Market

Shirley Devan

At least once a year we take our show on the road to the Williamsburg Farmer's Market. Our exhibit theme will be "Backyard Habitat" for the July 20 market.

Let me know if you can help out for all or part of the morning. Our exhibit must be available from 8 - 11 am. Here is the timing for two shifts:

7:15 - ~9:30: Unload and set up exhibit, tent, banners, etc. and meet the public.

9:30 - 11:30: Meet and greet the public; tear down exhibit and pack up.

We should have **AT LEAST** four people at the exhibit all the time and more is better. Setting up the tent is easier with 4 people! We'll also be talking about upcoming Basic Training for Cohort VIII and will have flyers there for interested folks.

You can record your time at the market (and in prep if you are involved) to Project E3a -- Farmers Market

Please contact me (sedevan52@cox.net) if you can help out July 20 at one of the BEST Farmers Markets in America!!

Butterflies and Birds Talk

Jan Newton, past Education Chair of the Virginia Native Plant Society and current webmaster for the local John Clayton Chapter, will present a program, titled "Native Plants for Butterflies and Birds," which will feature photos of, and information about, native plants that attract and provide food for butterflies and their caterpillars, as well as for birds. Tips for growing these plants in home gardens will be given. "Plant them and they will come!" The program takes place at 6:45pm on July 18 at the York County Public Library on the corner of Rt. 17 and Battle Rd., Yorktown. For information about this and other native plant events, visit www.claytonvnps.org.

Photo of Jan Newton by Seig Kopinitz



Advanced Training for July 2013

Go to our Chapter's calendar for all the details!

[AT] **Summer Public Tours @ VIMS - July 5, 2013** from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at VIMS - Watermen's Hall, Lobby

[AT] **VNPS West Virginia Native Plant Field Trip - July 6, 2013** all day at WV Canaan Valley and Dolly Sods

[AT] **HRBC Bird Walk - July 7, 2013** from 7:00 am to 10:00 am at Newport News City Park

[AT] **Summer Public Tours @ VIMS - July 12, 2013** from 10:30 am to 12 pm at VIMS - Watermen's Hall, Lobby

[AT] **WBC Bird Walk at New Quarter Park - July 13, 2013** from 8-10 am, New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr., Williamsburg

[AT] **Trees-to-Products Summer Teachers' Program - July 15, 2013** all day at New Kent Forestry Center

Project Learning Tree Early Childhood Facilitator Training - July 16, 2013 all day at New Kent Forestry Center

[AT] **Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Facilitator Training - July 17, 2013** all day at New Kent Forestry Center

[AT] **Project Learning Tree Secondary Facilitator Training - July 18, 2013** all day at New Kent Forestry Center

[AT] **Native Plant Society Talk: Critters and Native Plants - July 18, 2013** from 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm at Yorktown Public Library, Route 17

[AT] **Summer Public Tours @ VIMS - July 19, 2013** from 10:30 am to 12 pm at VIMS - Watermen's Hall, Lobby

[AT] **HRBC Bird Walk - July 21, 2013** from 7:00 am to 10:00 am at Newport News City Park

[AT] **Summer Public Tours @ VIMS - July 26, 2013** from 10:30 am to 12 pm at VIMS - Watermen's Hall, Lobby

[AT] **Experience the Bay 2013: New Perspectives on the Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem - July 27-31, 2013** all day at ECO Discovery Park in Jamestown

[AT] **WBC Bird Walk - July 27, 2013** from 7:00 am to 9:00 am at New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr., Williamsburg

[AT] **Project WET Workshop - July 30, 2013** from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at New Kent Forestry Center

Lucy Manning, Chair (646-0877; lucymnng@gmail.com)