



THE NATURALIST

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

<http://historicrivers.org>

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 No. 6 June 2012

In this Issue

President's Message

Page 2

Shirley's Special Day

Pages 3-4

*Yorktown Elementary at New Quarter
Park*

Page 5

Awards, Awards, Awards...

Pages 7-8

Life at Matoaka Lake Spillway

Page 9

Western Shore Marshes IBA

Page 10

Chapter Geology Trip

Pages 12-13

*You Know You're a Master Naturalist
When.....*

Page 14

Oliver's Osprey

Page 16

Zoo News

Page 18

Advanced Training

Page 21



***Congratulations to Shirley Devan!
Shirley received the WHRO Community Impact
Award for Environment!***

May 17, 2012

Chapter Board of Directors 2012-2013

Officers

Patty Maloney, President

Kathi Mestayer, Vice President

*Ruth Gordon and Jan Lockwood,
Co-Secretaries*

Thad Hecht, Treasurer

Hart Haynes, Member-at-Large

Nancy Norton, Member-at-Large

Dean Shostak, Member-at-Large

Mary Apperson, Chapter Advisor

Committee Chairs

Felice Bond, Historian

*Shirley Devan, Publicity and
Outreach*

*Jennifer Trevino and Sharon
Plocher, Basic Training*

Susan Powell, Membership

*Lois Ullman, Volunteer Service
Projects*

*Adrienne Frank and Gary
Driscole, Advanced Training*

Kathi Mestayer, Programs

Patty Riddick, Newsletter

Janet Curtis, Host

*Les Lawrence, Field Trip
Coordinator*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, Historic River Chapter:

The Great Outdoors Month is officially here! June is the perfect time to enjoy the great outdoors in our area before the dog days of summer really hit. The primary focus for the National Get Outdoors Day on 9 June is to introduce first time visitors to the public lands/parks and reconnect youth to the great outdoors. So, grab your family, friends and neighbors and head out for an adventure in the wild natural areas of our local National, State and County parks.

The special June days celebrating the outdoors include: National Trails Day (2 June); Virginia Free Fishing Days (1-3 June); National Boating and Fishing Week (2-10 June); National Get Outdoors Week (2-10 June); National Get Outdoors Day (9 June); and Fee-Free Day at the National Parks, National Forests, etc. (9 June).

There is something for everyone on the York River State Park's June calendar: National Trails Day events; Clean the Bay Day events; Fossil Frenzy; Pick Your Paddle; National Get Outdoors Day events; Mysterious Moonlight Canoe Trip; Photography Walk; Stargazing; River Seining; Coastal Hiking and geocaching. James City County and York County parks also have a variety of events on their June calendars to get you into the great outdoors. And as an extra bonus, many of these events may even qualify as advanced training or volunteer service.

Get out there and have fun! I know I'm preaching to the choir, but find someone who is "nature-deprived" and take them on a great outdoor adventure. You never know, you may even recruit a future Master Naturalist!

Patty Maloney

President, Historic Rivers Chapter

Virginia Master Naturalist

Notes from the Board

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

©2012 Historic Rivers Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalist Program. No parts of this newsletter may be reproduced without permission of the Board of Directors of the Historic Rivers Chapter. Contact: patyriddick@cox.net.

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.

Shirley Devan Wins WHRO Community Impact Award 2012

Why me, when there are so many unsung volunteers in our chapter? Maybe not exactly her words, but I heard Shirley saying something similar before she received the WHRO award at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott on May 17. But that's Shirley, never seeking credit for working on behalf of local naturalists. She was certainly right that others deserve accolades too, but in my mind she stands out as the great encourager, as indeed she encouraged me to join Cohort V.

Respect and admiration were reflected by a large turnout from our chapter for the event, which was chaired by Barbara Hamm Lee of WHRO in an auditorium filled with friends and guests of the award-ees. There were five categories - Shirley won for the Environment. During the luncheon, we watched video interviews with each of the prize-winners, after which there was enthusiastic applause and even a few cheers between mouthfuls of chicken and dessert! State Senator, John Miller, praised Shirley in his introduction, but we knew so much more about her work than he could ever know or say. Likewise, the panel of judges only had a nomination form and two supporting letters to go on, although these were enough to win their unanimous vote for her. To understand the full justification for the honor, one would have to watch her at board meetings, introducing speakers, inspecting nest boxes, trudging through rain and swamps, and floating in a kayak along an obscure creek where prothonotary warblers thrive. That's the Shirley we know and love.

But there was more to the day than the satisfaction of seeing five people receive recognition who never sought it. What is good for Shirley is good for all the organizations she represents, not only through the prize money which she split between two of them, but perhaps more importantly for publicity about naturalists giving their time and expertise because they care about the Tidewater environment.

Well done, Shirley!

Roger Gosden



Shirley presented half of her prize money to Ann Carpenter, Treasurer of the Williamsburg Bird Club, and half to Brian Taber, President of the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory.

See Shirley's video at : <http://www.whro.org/underwriting/preview/?id=CIA2012Environment>

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER



"Today's luncheon in Norfolk was certainly a memorable event for me, made even better with so many friends and 'tribe members' there to share it.

As I said at the luncheon, hardly anyone accomplishes much alone. So many friends and members of conservation organizations have helped make a difference in our community.

I am grateful to Roger Gosden for nominating me for the award. Many thanks to Susan Powell and Bill Williams for their letters to WHRO in support of the nomination.

I will be eternally grateful for the friendship and support from all of you, and your generous demonstration of that today. A day full of highlights for Steve and me. I hope you enjoyed it too."

Shirley Devan



HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

Yorktown Elementary First Graders Enjoy Their Trip to New Quarter Park

by Sara Lewis

A lucky thirteen Master Naturalists volunteered to make a beautiful day in the park a fun learning experience for one-hundred and twenty first graders from Yorktown Elementary School. The kids thoroughly enjoyed presentations by Bug Man Clyde Marsteller, assisted by Zoo Cru members Patty Riddick and Cheryl Jacobsen; Bird Lady Jane Frigo (a visiting presenter from the Hampton Roads Bird Club) assisted by early bird Roger Gosden; Butterfly Lady Catherine Short; and Tree-mendous Tree Lady Sherry Brubaker, with assistance from her left hand branch, Shirley Devan. Group guides were Angier Brock, Thad Hecht, Les Lawrence, Jan Lockwood and myself. See the Historic Rivers Flicker site for more photos from the day.

The first graders were attentive and enthusiastic about bugs, birds, butterflies, and trees. We hope that a few of them went home with a new appreciation for being ALERT to their natural surroundings and can now identify a tree, caterpillar, bird, and bug or two!

A big THANK YOU to Historic Rivers Master Naturalists. Volunteers make it possible to get more children into the woods for environmental education.



Photo: Master Naturalists plus one volunteer from the Hampton Roads Bird Club gave first graders an enthusiastic look into the critters and trees that live in New Quarter Park. Missing from photo: Jan Lockwood.

April 25, 2012

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

Wildlife Mapping on the Green Spring Trail

Photos by Linda Miller



Black Patent Leather Beetle — "Hey, do you know the way to Clyde's Zoo?"



Male Common Yellow Throat— "I'll sing a little song for you!"



Cheryl Jacobson and Stephanie Schmuck receive awards for completing 250 Hours of Volunteer Service !

Also meeting 250 Hours was Jim Booth (not pictured).



Les Lawrence tops the 1,000 Hour Volunteer Service Milestone!



**Patty Maloney and Lois Ullman reach 500 Volunteer Service Hours!
Also reaching 500 Hours were Dave Youker and Linda Cole (not pictured).**



Congratulations to Ruth Gordon, newly Certified Virginia Master Naturalist!

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

“Busy afternoon at the Lake Matoaka spillway. Have been watching a pair of great blue herons for weeks now. Today was ‘big bird’ day ...about a dozen black vultures tearing into a deer carcass with a pair of turkey buzzards just watching. A hawk (was unable to identify it) flew in and perched on a tree watching all the action. Only one heron present today – watched it catch a frog – several times – frog kept getting out of his beak – finally he/she dispatched the frog – was sad to see those legs kicking like crazy while in the beak ... the cycle of life ...one mallard hanging around at the bottom of the spillway staying in the shade ... someone had dropped a rather large fish on the road between the lake and the spillway – probably couldn’t hang on to it while flying off ... also found the corpse of a small lizard on the sidewalk – the tail was bitten off and the little guy was starting to dry up.”

Shared by Tom Dougherty

Sunday, May 27, 2012



HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

WESTERN SHORE MARSHES IBA

By Dave Youker

On Saturday, 19 May, 22 people participated in the latest event in support of the Western Shore Marshes IBA. This bird survey and clean-up was held at Gosnold's Hope Park and was a joint venture between our two bird clubs and the City of Hampton through their Hampton Clean City Commission. Other participants included master naturalists and nine members from Scout Troop 18. The day was divided into two 2-hour segments. We conducted a bird survey during the first segment, and we identified 51 different species. Highlights included a nice view of a male and female Blue Grosbeak and several views of Brown-headed Nuthatches which is a species of interest for this IBA. The remaining participants showed for the second segment, and we canvassed the entire park. To be expected, the majority of the litter was found along the shoreline which is subjected to tidal and storm surges. With the litter disposed of and species tallied, the members departed leaving this portion of the IBA in better condition. Thanks to the following bird club/naturalist members who were able to support this event: Bill Ferris, Cheryl Jacobson, Jan Lockwood, Jane Frigo, Betty Peterson, Sharon Burton, Bryan Barmore, Brent Slaughter, Laura Slaughter, Tom Charlock, and Ken Lipshy.



(l-r) Mike Mallozzi, Betty Peterson, Jan Lockwood, Dave Youker, Laura Slaughter, Brent Slaughter, Cheryl Jacobson, Bryan Barmore, Bill Ferris, and Sharon Burton

CHAPTER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – JUNE 13TH
MEETING AT 6:00 P.M.
PROGRAM AT 6:30 P.M.



Wes Hudson and HRC Member Ginny Carey

“On June 13, our speaker will be Wes Hudson, the VIMS Graduate Student who is conducting research on wetland tree species at New Kent Forestry Center. Many of our Chapter's MNs have participated in measuring the trees that Wes is monitoring, and enjoying the project.

The title of his talk will be:

"Growth and survival of woody wetland vascular plants: A field study with controlled hydrology."

It will cover information about forested wetland ecosystems, their functions and values as well as regulations. He will also touch on restoration of these ecosystems, in particular, how to ensure that they become forested.

The meeting will start at 6:00 pm, and the presentation will begin at 6:30 pm.

Hope to see you there!”

Kathi Mestayer

Photo by Shirley Devan

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

Geology Trip led by Jerre Johnson and Charlie Dubay on April 28-29th. Group consisted of HRC Chapter members, family and friends, plus one super bus driver, Arnold Palmer.



Photo by Les Lawrence—not pictured.

The following account by Les Lawrence, our fearless trip leader, along with Dean Shostak.

“With newly purchased rock picks in hand, we boarded the Oleta bus at Lowe's in Williamsburg and travelled to Richmond where we visited the first of many rock formations at the James River Park. We next chipped away at slate in a quarry near Arvonja; and at our next stop, we obtained many pounds of kyanite at a mine in Buckingham Co - the only operating kyanite mine in North America. Next, we examined (and ‘borrowed’) a few limestone and dolomite rocks alongside Hwy 60 at the Skyline Drive. Our next stop became somewhat problematic because the bus wouldn't fit through a tunnel to get to our objective. A good Samaritan pointed us in the direction of a bypass, and we eventually arrived at our destination - a stream running beside a house down below the road level. (How did Jerre know about that site!?) There, we learned about yet another rock formation: travertine.



When we arrived in Covington, where we over-nighted, we found that NOTHING stays open after 5 p.m., even on a Saturday, except the ABC store and a small movie theater. Our driver, Arnold Palmer, came to the rescue of 27 hungry folks and drove us to a restaurant some miles from our hotel.

The next morning we backtracked to Iron Gate (where the group picture was taken) and then headed northward to a much needed coffee (etc.) break in Warm Springs. At Goshen Pass, our next stop, the explanations about rock formations had an added feature: many, many Red Admiral butterflies. And a test from Charlie on tree identifications. On the way home, we made additional stops at a motel alongside I-64, where we picked apart shale from an adjoining hillside to find graptolites, a marine (animal), and made a last stop on Afton Mountain to collect some greenstone.

I should add that at every stop we made, Charlie found examples of all types of flora to tell us about as we continued on our way. The bus was a travelling classroom!

By the time we reached Lowe's, our bus weighed a whole lot more than when we started out! Rocks were everywhere, and there was an equivalent of a good sized tree in some of the seats!"

You Know You're A Master Naturalist When.....

...there's a couple of little baby cardinals right outside your front door, and you're so excited about them, but at the same time, really worried about upsetting the parents. So, you start to use the back door, but there's a dove nesting in Medusa's hair back there (no hatchlings yet). So, you think about crawling out a window, just for a few weeks, but all the parents are pretty mellow, at least for now. Still, you think about whether you should make eye contact with the mom, and say hi, or whether that will clue in a snake to her whereabouts. You put out extra food, even grabbing an earthworm that you dug up while transplanting and setting it out with the birdseed. "Look guys! A worm! Covered in dirt with trace minerals!"



By Kathi Mestayer

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

I was helping Jennifer Trevino monitor the bluebird boxes at Fords Colony today and we walked by this guy -- dead mole!! A new mammal for me!!! Luckily I had my camera and took photos of dorsal and ventral sides. The flies were moving in on him

Remember, always take a camera with you!!

Shared by Shirley Devan



Oliver's Osprey

The Osprey

This morning
 an osprey
 with its narrow
 black-and-white face

and its cupidinous eyes
 leaned down
 from a leafy tree
 to look into the lake - it looked

a long time, then its powerful
 shoulders punched out a little
 and it fell,
 it rippled down

into the water -
 then it rose, carrying,
 in the clips of its feet,
 a slim and limber

silver fish, a scrim
 of red rubies
 on its flashing sides.
 All of this

was wonderful
 to look at,
 so I simply stood there,
 in the blue morning,

looking.
 Then I walked away.
 Beauty is my work,
 but not my only work -

later,
 when the fish was gone forever
 and the bird was miles away,
 I came back

and stood on the shore, thinking -
 and if you think
 thinking is a mild exercise,
 beware!

I mean, I was swimming for my life -
 and I was thundering this way and that way
 in my shirt of feathers -
 and I could not resolve anything long enough

to become one thing
 except this: the imaginer.
 It was inescapable
 as over and over it flung me,

without pause or mercy it flung me
 to both sides of the beautiful water -
 to both sides
 of the knife.

from **West Wind**, Mariner Books, 1997.

Poem shared by Cheryl Jacobson

Jamestown Lilies are Blooming....



Sharon Plocher, Jennifer Trevino and I were exploring the long loop at Jamestown this afternoon and we spotted a good number of Jamestown lilies blooming near Black Point. Sharon let me scoot out of the car to get a few snapshots. Beautiful!

For those who are not members of the Native Plant society, here is a link to some info about it: <http://www.baylink.org/wpc/lily.html>

June 13: Stormwater Management Workshop

“Lakes, Ponds & Rain Gardens”

8:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Williamsburg Community Center, 5301 Longhill Rd., Williamsburg

RSVP to Pat Menichino pat.menichino@jamescitycountyva.gov.

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

Hello Cohorts,

I went collecting yesterday in God's 3 Acres (G3A) . For those of you who are not familiar with G3A it is a 3 acre suburban woodlot owned by my church. It lies off of Warwick Blvd in the Denbigh area of NN. Most of the Zoo's animals have come from it or my backyard. So far I have collected (and released) eight species of snakes there :

worm snakes

rough earth snakes

crowned snakes

smooth earth snakes

ring necked snakes

brown snake (De Kay's)

immature black racer & a 3 foot young adult

smooth green tree snake

To this list I have added a ninth- a rough green tree snake. It is the most active animal I have seen. It will be part of the Zoo for the Williamsburg Farmer's Market and will reside with us for the next couple of weeks (I will release it before 30 days).

The Zoo has two new permanent residents; An Eyed Elater (Click Beetle) and a beautiful Spotted Salamander donated by a local Pet Store. Someone walked in the store, told the owner he had the salamander as a personal "pet" for several years and was moving out of the area. Didn't say where it was collected. Pet store called me and asked if I wanted it for the Zoo or could I release it? Guide lines say you must release within 30 days at exact location animal was collected so you will see both additions at the Market.

My Wolf Spider hatched her eggs and now has about 100 babies riding piggy back.

Ramblin Clyde

p.s. still looking for a frog and toad

Rough Green Snake
Opheodrys aestivus



big

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER



Naturalists enjoy a
VNPS Walk Saturday,
26 May.....

“Some pics from the plant
walk on Saturday ...held at
home of Mary Turnbull
John Clayton Chapter Sec-
retary ... over 88 plants
types were viewed ...”

Tomd



HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER



Photo at left by
Hart Haynes

Photo at right
by Inge Curtis



Photo at left by
Inge Curtis

Advanced Training for June/July 2012

- [\[AT\] NPS Walk at Beaverdam Park](#) - June 2, 2012 morning at Gloucester VA
- [\[AT\] HRBC Bird Walk](#) - June 3, 2012 from 7:00-10:00 am at Newport News City Park
- [\[AT\] VLM - Dinner with Venus: a twice in a lifetime event](#) - June 5, 2012 from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm at Virginia Living Museum , Newport News
- [\[AT\] VIMS Science Under Sail cruise](#) - June 6, 2012 2:00-4:00 pm at Yorktown's Riverwalk Landing Pier,
- [\[AT\] WBC Bird Walk at New Quarter Park](#) - June 9, 2012 from 8:00-10:00 am at New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr., Williamsburg
- [\[AT\] Monthly meeting](#) - June 13, 2012 from 6:00-9:00 pm at JCC Human Services Bldg., 5249 Olde Towne Rd., Williamsburg
- [\[AT\] WBC Field Trip](#) - June 16, 2012 from 7:00-1:30 pm at WBC Field Trip
- [\[AT\] HRBC Bird Walk](#) - June 17, 2012 from 7:00-10:00 am at Newport News City Park
- [\[AT\] NPS Walk at College Landing](#) - June 23, 2012 morning at College Creek
- [\[AT\] VIMS - Coastal Resource Management workshop](#) - June 24, 2012 from 9:00-3:30 pm at McHugh Auditorium VIMS - Watermen's Hall 1375 Greate Road Gloucester Point VA 23062
- [\[AT\] VLM - Dinosaur Discoveries](#) - June 30, 2012 from 9:00-4:00 pm at Virginia Living Museum, Newport News
- [\[AT\] NPS at Longhill Swamp](#) - June 30, 2012 from 9:30-11:00 am at 5700 Warhill Trail, Williamsburg Indoor Sports Complex
- [\[AT\] HRBC Bird Walk](#) - July 1, 2012 from 7:00-10:00 am at Newport News City Park
- [\[AT\] Monthly meeting](#) - July 11, 2012 from 6:00-9:00 pm at JCC Human Services Bldg., 5249 Olde Towne Rd., Williamsburg
- [\[AT\] WBC Bird Walk at New Quarter Park](#) - July 14, 2012 from 8:00-10:00 am at New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr., Williamsburg
- [\[AT\] HRBC Bird Walk](#) - July 15, 2012 from 7:00-10:00 am at Newport News City Park
- [\[AT\] VIMS](#) - July 17, 2012 from 6:00-8:00 pm at VIMS - Catlett-Burruss Research and Education Lab 7577 Spencer Road Gloucester Point VA 23062
- [\[AT\] WBC Field Trip](#) - July 21, 2012 from 7:00-1:30 pm at WBC Field Trip
- [\[AT\] Experience the Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem \(7/27 to 8/5\)](#) – Overnight river explorations based at Seaford Yacht Club. See www.chesapeakeexperience.org

For more information about AT opportunities go to: <http://www.historicrivers.org>
By Adrienne Frank and Gary Driscole