



THE NATURALIST

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

<http://historicrivers.org>

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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HRC held their Annual Photography Contest in October. Above and below are two professionally judged winners in Fauna and Flora categories. 1st Place in Fauna won by Felice Bond, and 1st Place in Flora won by Bill Davis. See all photos at www.historicrivers.org.



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*Les Lawrence, Field Trip
Coordinator*

Greetings, Historic Rivers Chapter:

“The real voyage of discovery consists of not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.” Marcel Proust

All of us have experienced “new eyes” when we explored something new at our basic training or our advanced training classes. As we discovered more about our natural world, we started really looking at the bugs, the birds, the frogs, the reptiles, the fish, the mammals, the plants, the trees, the weather, the rocks, the fossils...and every thing in between .

Our annual photo contest, “Through the eyes of a Naturalist”, highlighted the many discoveries made by our chapter members. Taking photos really makes you pay attention to the details. Every photo submitted was awe-inspiring and captured nature’s flora and fauna miracles. If you missed the October meeting, check our website for a posting of the winning photographs.

This month continue to keep your “new eyes” focused by:

Attending advanced training classes or volunteer service projects in a “new” area. (You only see what you know!)

Walking the woods with a wildlife mapping team. (Many eyes make seeing things and identifying things much easier!)

Picking up your camera, or your binoculars, or your magnifier loupe and really looking. (The details will astound you!)

And, if new landscapes are still calling you, be sure to attend our November General Membership Meeting where Seig and Alice Kopinitz will give a presentation on their trip to Antarctica. This will be a joint meeting with the Williamsburg Bird Club on 14 November at 730 p.m. in Millington Hall on the William and Mary Campus.

Hope to see you “discovering” at one of our many volunteer and advanced training activities this month,

Patty Maloney
President
Historic Rivers Chapter

Notes from the Board

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

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Alice and Seig Kopinitz (and friends) in Cierva Cove on Antarctic Peninsula Dec 2011

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

HRC members Seig and Alice Kopinitz will share photos and tales of their trip to Antarctica earlier this year.

This is a joint meeting with the Williamsburg Bird Club (Seig and Alice are also members of the Bird Club!)

Time: **7:30 pm**

Location: **Millington Hall, Room 150, W&M Campus**

Parking: Park in front of Phi Beta Kappa Hall, 601 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, VA. Parking permit and map will be sent to all HRC members a few days before the meeting. Please print out and place on your dashboard.

Free raffle prizes will be given away and light refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting.



Queen of the Shells

It has been a great season for making reef balls for oyster restoration. Reef balls are molded from marine safe cement and mimic the structure of natural reefs. Fiberglass molds are used to construct the reef balls. A completed reef ball is a hollow sphere, 18" high and 24" wide with several openings on the surface. Oyster spat attach to the reef ball, creating valuable habitat. These reef balls will be placed in the Lafayette River at a later date.

Jackie Shannon, the Virginia Oyster Restoration Specialist for Chesapeake Bay Foundation, calls me "Queen of the Shells." In the picture I am sitting on a pile of oyster shells that have been collected from restaurants. They will be bagged and placed in the bay for restoration. In the foreground you can see the reef ball molds that have been put together and filled with cement. On the following day, the molds will be removed, the reef balls stacked, the molds reassembled, filled with concrete, and left overnight to harden. This has become one of my favorite volunteer projects. I love the physical activity and the enjoyment of seeing the completed reef balls.

By Cheryl Jacobson

IBBA Annual Conference



November 9 – 11, 2012
The Williamsburg Hospitality House
Williamsburg, Virginia



Who we are: The International Butterfly Breeders Association, IBBA, is an international, non-profit, membership-based trade association promoting high standards of ethics, competence and professionalism in the breeding of quality Lepidoptera for all purposes. We accomplish this through research, grower education, market development, and habitat conservation and restoration.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lincoln Brower is a renowned authority in Monarch Research for over 50 years. Rick Mikula, author, butterfly lecturer and Animal Planet TV contributor will be a featured speaker during the conference.

A Sampling of Workshops and Presentations:

Healthy Butterflies: Diseases & Prevention

All about monarchs

All about painted ladies

Federal and state regulations relating to butterfly breeding and butterfly releases.

Involving students in butterfly conservation

Gardening for butterflies

Several authors will discuss their books and have book signings

Marketing resources and social networks

Knowing the finances of a small business

AND Much More!!

Vendors and Silent Auction: Vendors will be selling many butterfly related products during the conference. Our silent and live auction is always fun and you will soon be able to check out the items on our website.

Register at: www.butterflybreeders.org

Local contact: Conference Co-Chair, Catherine Short butterfliesinflight@hotmail.com 804 843-3723

Natural Areas Conference

Thanks to a Master Naturalist opportunity to do service, Mike and I attended one day of the “Natural Areas Conference” held in Norfolk on October 9-12. This is an annual meeting of the 30-year-old Natural Areas Association, a group providing support and resources to individuals and agencies concerned with the protection and stewardship of natural areas. Among the attendees were USDA, National Park Services, The Nature Conservancy, Coastal Zone Management Programs, USFWS, US Forest Services and representatives from DNR’s and Departments of Conservation and Recreation throughout the country. Next year’s meeting will be in Chicago.

Since we arrived early on Wednesday, Mike and I had our choice of where we wanted to assist. I chose the workshop on Invasive Species Management and Mike the sessions on Land Conservation. During the breaks we could visit the exhibitor booths and poster sessions. We were able to view a preview copy of the new “Flora of Virginia” book which I will pre-order for the Master Gardener library and maybe a copy for myself. We have lots of handouts, some of which we will bring to the next Master Naturalist meeting, and I took lots of notes that may be useful in invasive species work. I regret that they didn’t need help on Thursday, since there was an all-day Symposium on Phragmites, as well as some interesting Field Trips.

Jeanne Millin

Acorn Collection

This year's acorn collection for the Department of Forestry was a huge success. Chapter members collected and delivered to the NKFC close to 60,000 acorns! (Don't ask me how I know that number.) We provided 22+ bags of acorns from a variety of species of the genus *Quercus* - or oak trees, including swamp chestnut, sawtooth, eastern white, chestnut, willow, and northern red oaks. Sorry I don't have any photos, but credit goes to co-chair Cheryl Jacobson, Sharon Plocher, Jennifer Trevino, Lucy Manning, Hart Haynes, Sherry Brubaker, Deb Woodward, George Sallwasser, Jan Lockwood, Nancy Barnhart, Jessica Spickler, David Murphy, and Chris Curtis.

By Les Lawrence



WALLERPALOOZA!



From Shirley Devan.....

“..... Here are some photos taken by Jan Lockwood at Wallerpalooza, October 20, 2012 at Waller Mill Park. Our Chapter displayed our exhibit and the wasp nest was quite a hit.

We were adjacent to Clyde Marsteller and Cheryl Jacobson who were showing Clyde's zoo to the children and adults. They counted over 200 visitors.

HRC volunteers who helped with our exhibit over the 4 hour period: Jan Lockwood, Jennifer Trevino, Sharon Plocher, Nancy Barnhart, Joanne Sheffield, and Lucy Manning. 'Our group tallied at least 100 visitors and there were probably more that were not tallied during busy times,' per Nancy Barnhart!

Many thanks to all!”

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

Oyster Restoration Program - Great HRC Support!



By now, everybody in our chapter knows about the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's program at VIMS to help save the bay by creating new oyster beds and reefs. One of CBF's major efforts in this program is the construction of "reef balls" to help alleviate the shortage of oyster shells by providing these 18" x 24" concrete domes as alternate homes for the oyster spat. This year's construction of the reef balls came to a close in mid-October, with approximately 500 now on hand awaiting deployment to the Lafayette River next spring. Quite a few of our HRC members were instrumental in CBF's success, volunteering many person-hours of rather strenuous labor. Since we don't all go on the same days, I don't know exactly who all did participate, but I was impressed by how many new members from Cohort VII were out there building the forms, hauling concrete, and pounding away to get the concrete to settle properly.



HRC volunteers deserve a big pat on the back!



By Les Lawrence



Nov 17, 2012, 10 am

The Fungus Among Us: The monthly “Learn and Grow” educational series sponsored by the Williamsburg Botanical Garden will be on Saturday, November 17 from 10:00-11:30, in the Interpretive Center at Freedom Park.

Join Helen Hamilton and Louise Menges for an entertaining and informative illustrated talk on those strangely-shaped white, tan, orange, yellow growths in the forest, especially in wet areas. The program is free and open to the public, no registration required. For more information contact Helen Hamilton at 757-564-4494.

Photograph of Apple Cedar Rust is by Louise Menges

You know you're a Master Naturalist when.....

...you go to open your trunk to retrieve your cloth grocery bags, see this charming critter sitting on the trunk, so gently lower the trunk, get out your cell phone, and stand in the store parking lot recording the moment!



A Fork-tailed Bush Katydid, *Scudderia furcata*

By Patty Riddick



“We got quail!” - As shared by Adrienne Frank



HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

Two Hundred....and still counting

By Kathi Mestayer

Each fall, I start pulling up English ivy seedlings in my half-acre, wooded back yard. We're talking little-bitty, first-year sprouts, like the one in the photo. And each fall, I think, "Gee; I must've pulled up a *hundred* of these things!"

But I was never sure until this year, when I decided to count. So far, I have pulled up two hundred (200) of the little



Williamsburg Bird Club – Upcoming Events

November 10: Field trip to Shirley Plantation in Charles City County. Led by host Randy Carter and Bird Club member Tom McCary. Leave Williamsburg at 7:30. Meet to carpool at Colony Square Shopping Center.



SAVE THE DATE: December 16
– Audubon Christmas Bird Count

All Bird Club events are FREE and open to the public.

More info on all events at:

www.williamsburgbirdclub.org

A Yellow-rumped Warbler



Measuring Tress at New Kent Forestry Center

By Shirley Devan

Members of the Historic Rivers Chapter are once again helping measure trees with Wes Hudson at the New Kent Forestry Center. Per Wes Hudson, the VIMS Ph.D. candidate in charge of the study, “This is a 7 year forested wetland investigation. The purpose of this study is to improve the understanding of successful forested wetland restoration in Virginia by investigating the growth and survival of 7 species of native wetland trees planted in three hydrological distinct mesocosm cells at the Virginia Department of Forestry New Kent Forestry Center. The results from this study will help advance the fields of wetland science and restoration ecology.”

Wes measures his trees three times a year and this October session is the last time for 2012. He puts out a call for volunteers and we show up ready to “dance” around the trees with measuring devices ranging from small to large. Some species are quite large now – in the fourth year of the project. Some of the Sycamores are too tall to measure with the five-meter rod. Many of the River Birches have very broad canopies and it

Continued on next page.....

takes two people to hold the five-meter rod to capture three canopy measurements. In addition to height and canopy, we measure stem diameter at ground level and at breast height. All measurements are in centimeters except for the stem diameter at ground level, which is in millimeters.

Because of the size of the trees, a team of four people is the best size for moving up and down the rows. Often the trees are so big and wide that we can't see other team members on the other side of the tree!

Here are the seven native Virginia trees Wes has planted for his study:

Swamp White Oak *Quercus bicolor* – QUBI

River Birch *Betula nigra* – BENI

Sweetgum *Liquidambar styraciflua* – LIST

Pin Oak *Quercus palustris* – QUPA

Black Willow *Salix nigra* – SANI

Willow Oak *Quercus phellos* – QUPH

Sycamore *Platanus occidentalis* – PLOC

The data sheets only list the four-letter code for the Latin name of the trees. So the volunteers quickly learn that a BENI is a River Birch and a PLOC is a Sycamore.

HRC members' high distraction index is in full bloom as we make our way through the trees. Caterpillars, butterflies, skippers, toads, praying mantises, snakes and birds are quick to distract the tree measurers. Cameras pop out of pockets for photos and ID help. Getting back on task is sometimes a problem! "What tree were we measuring? Are we still on the right row?"

Volunteers for the first three days include: Les Lawrence, Cheryl Jacobson, George Sallwasser, Chris Curtis, Susie Engle, Sharon Plocher, Jennifer Trevino, and Shirley Devan.

Other volunteers include Master Gardeners from James City County, York County, and William and Mary.

HRCVMN

Basic Training Calendar

November/December, 2012

“Revised”

Tuesday, November 6th	Geology	6:00 pm.-9:00 pm.	Human Services Bldg.
Tuesday, November 27 th	Entomology	6:00 pm.-9:00 pm.	Human Services Bldg.
Tuesday, December 4 th	Dendrology	6:00 pm.-9:00 pm.	Human Services Bldg.
Saturday, December 8 th	Field Trip -Geology	9:00 am.-3:00 pm.	Various Sites
Tuesday, December 11 th	Indigenous Cultures	6:00 pm.-9:00 pm.	Human Services Bldg.

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER

ADVANCED TRAINING

Adrienne Frank and Gary Driscole, Co-Chairs

[AT] HRBC Bird Walk - November 4, 2012 from 7:00 am to 10:00 am at Newport News City Park

CLASS: Geology - November 6, 2012 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at JCC Human Services Center, 5249 Olde Towne Rd., Williamsburg

[AT] Megan Kobiela - Master's thesis defense - November 8, 2012 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm at Integrated Science Center room 1127 on the William & Mary campus

[AT] International Butterfly Breeders Association- Annual Conference - November 9-11, 2012 all day at Williamsburg Hospitality House

[AT] WBC Field Trip - November 10, 2012 from 7:00 am to 1:30 pm at WBC Field Trip to Shirley Plantation

[AT] WBC Bird Walk at New Quarter Park - November 11, 2012 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am at New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr., Williamsburg

[AT] Combined meeting with the WBC - November 14, 2012 from 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm at Millington Hall, College of William & Mary

[AT] The Fungus Among Us, the Williamsburg Botanical Garden - November 17, 2012 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am at Interpretive Center at Freedom Park

[AT] HRBC Bird Walk - November 18, 2012 from 7:00 am to 10:00 am at Newport News City Park

CLASS: Entomology - November 27, 2012 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at JCC Human Services Center, 5249 Olde Towne Rd., Williamsburg

[AT] HRBC Bird Walk - December 2, 2012 from 7:00 am to 10:00 am at Newport News City Park

CLASS: Dendrology - December 4, 2012 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at JCC Human Services Center, 5249 Olde Towne Rd., Williamsburg

[AT] WBC Bird Walk at New Quarter Park - December 8, 2012 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am at New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr., Williamsburg

Field Trip: Geology - December 8, 2012 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Various places

CLASS: Indigenous Cultures - December 11, 2012 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at JCC Human Services Center, 5249 Olde Towne Rd., Williamsburg

[AT] Monthly meeting - December 12, 2012 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at JCC Human Services Bldg., 5249 Olde Towne Rd., Williamsburg

[AT] HRBC Bird Walk - December 16, 2012 from 7:00 am to 10:00 am at Newport News City Park