

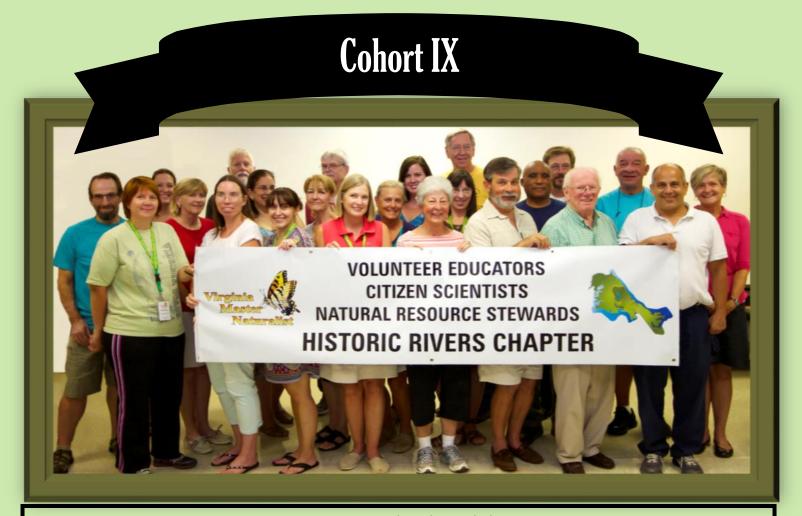
THE NATURALIST

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

http://historicrivers.org

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 No. 8 September 2014



Please welcome our newest Master Naturalists in training:

front row: Brenda Uekert, Madeline Vann, Amy Thornberry, Ginny Broome, Christina Clarke, David Lunt, Graham Rose, Jeffrey Honig

second row: Shan Gill, Susan Mutell, Eileen Alces, Millie Abell, Barbara Bucklin, Maud Ann Wilson, Mark Cotton, Louis Amato, Portia Belden

back row: Melissa Williams, Braxton Allport, Ray Abell, Lisa Nickel, Joe Beene, Rich Decker

Photo by Felice Bond

Basic Training Program (Cohort IX)

We are delighted to announce that another enthusiastic class of master naturalists (Cohort IX) has started training.

Recruitment was fast this year. We had already filled a class of 24 by the end of July (15 women and 9 men), and a number of applicants who submitted before the deadline were disappointed when we could only offer them a reserved place in next year's program. The training fee remains unchanged this year at \$150.

The members of Cohort IX are: Millie & Ray Abell, Eileen Alces, Braxton Allport, Jr., Louis Amato, Joe Beene, Portia Belden, Ginny Broome, Barbara Bucklin, Christina Clarke, Mark Cotton, Richard Decker, Deborah Eichelberger (from Cohort VIII), Shan Gill, Jeffrey Honig, David Lunt, Susan Mutell, Lisa Nickel, Graham Rose, Amy Thornberry, Melissa Williams, Brenda Uekert, Madeline Vann, and Maud Ann Wilson.

A two-hour Informational Meeting was held at the Williamsburg Library on August 12 at which 20 students were present for introductory talks about the VMN organization across the state, the HRC training program, and our volunteer service program. Although the event was arranged for the benefit of the class it was a refreshing reminder for all of us about the extent of conservation and education work across the chapter.

As we look forward to getting to know the new folk better we urge all members to welcome them when you have an opportunity. Every new class enriches our chapter with its breadth of ages and experience, the promise of fresh volunteers for our many projects, and the prospect of years working and learning together after graduation.

The classes began the day after Labor Day, starting at 6 PM and at the usual venue. The first guest speaker was Bill Williams. The program has been rescheduled to accommodate the availability of speakers, who are mostly the same as last year. We have a remarkable faculty who come back year after year to give their time and expertise. Reflecting growing interests in Lepidoptera within the HRC, we have included this time a butterfly field trip at Freedom Park thanks to Adrienne Frank and Teta Kain.

The program is listed on the next page of the newsletter. It is subject to change (speaker availability and weather). There is room at the back and sides of the meeting room for anyone who wants to attend a class as a refresher lecture, and qualify for Continuing Education hours. Please note that because the meeting room was not available on every Tuesday requested, we had to schedule three classes on Mondays instead.

I am very grateful to members of the Training Committee for their hard work in planning, advertising and running the program; and thanks to our other supporters for making these endeavors successful and so worthwhile for another year.

Roger Gosden on behalf of the Training Committee

Jean Balutanski, Shirley Devan, Walt Harris, Cheryl Jacobson, Sharon Plocher, Susan Powell, Jennifer Trevino

BASIC TRAINING CALENDAR 2014-2015

Class #	Date	Day	Time	Topic(s) & Venue*	Presenter(s)
1	09/02/2014	Tuesday	6:00-	Introduction to Program	Roger Gosden
			9:00	Nature of Naming	Bill Williams
Field	09/07/2014	Sunday	2.00-	Butterflies	Adrienne Frank
Trip		·	5.00	Freedom Park	Teta Kain
2	09/15/2014	Monday	6:00-	Evolution and Biology Basics	Hugh Beard
			9:00		
3	09/30/2014	Tuesday	6:00-	Entomology	Dan Nortman
			9:00		
4	10/4/2014	Saturday	9:00-	Citizen Science, Risk Management,	Susan Powell
			3:00	Field Methods	Jennifer Trevino
				New Quarter Park	Patty Maloney
5	10/14/2014	Tuesday	6:00-	Plant Biology	Charlie Dubay
			9:00		
Field	10/18/2014	Saturday	9:00-	Plant Ecology	Hugh Beard
Trip			3:00	Native Plants	Helen Hamilton
				York River State Park	
6	10/28/2014	Tuesday	6:00-	Herpetology	Tim Christensen
			9:00		
7	11/10/2014	Monday	6:00-	Dendrology	Stewart Ware
			9:00		
8	11/17/2014	Monday	6:00-	Geology	Linda Morse
			9:00	(Auditorium)	
Field	12/06/2014	Saturday	9:00-	Geology & Fossils	Linda Morse
Trip			3:00	Williamsburg / JCC	
9	12/09/2014	Tuesday	6:00-	Wildlife Habitats	Susan Powell
			9:00	Caring About Bees	Roger Gosden
10	01/06/2015	Tuesday	6:00-	Ornithology	Bill Williams
			9:00		
Field	01/10/2015	Saturday	9:00-	Forest Conservation & Mgmt. Na-	Lisa Deaton
Trip			3:00	ture Hike	Billy Apperson
4.4	04 /20 /2045	m 1	6.00	New Kent Forestry Center	CI 1 D 1
11	01/20/2015	Tuesday	6:00-	Climate & Weather	Chuck Bailey
r: 11	01/24/2015	C 4 1	9:00	777 1 · 777· 4	II 1 D 1
Field Trip	01/24/2015	Saturday	12:00- 3:00	Woods in Winter Freedom Park, JCC	Hugh Beard
1	02/02/2015	т. 1		3	C ₄ 1 . I · · ·
12	02/03/2015	Tuesday	6:00- 9:00	Ecology Concepts	Stephen Living
13	02/17/2015	Tuesday	6:00-	Open Evening	
	02/17/2013	ruesday	9:00	Open Evening	
14	02/21/2015	Saturday	9:15-	Mammalogy (AM).	Bo Baker
15	02/21/2013	Saturday	4:30	Ichthyology (PM)	Chris Crippen
			1.30	Virginia Living Museum	Ciiris Crippeii
	03/11/2015	Wednesday	6:00-	GRADUATION	
	03/11/2013	vv curicsuay		GMDunion	
			9:00		

^{*}Evening classes at the Human Services Building of JCC, 5249 Olde Towne Road in Williamsburg

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Deb Woodward, Newsletter

Sherry Brubaker, Host

Dean Shostak, Field Trip Coordinator

President's Message

One of the most important events in the life of our Chapter just occurred — 23 new members joined our Chapter and Cohort IX of Basic Training. Each of us has 23 new friends who like to play in the woods, learn about critters and plants, and enjoy volunteering in our local parks and schools. I know you will greet them warmly and welcome them to our Chapter and projects. See you all soon out on the trail! Thanks again for all you do for our Chapter.

~~Shirley Devan
President, HRC-VMN

Notes from the Board

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

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2014 Nancy Norton Scholarship Recipients:

.....made very moving presentations about their experiences at Nature Camp this past summer. Their participation in Nature Camp was made possible by generous donations to the Nancy Norton Scholarship Fund. I, myself, was very moved by their enthusiasm,

Nash McDowell,

grade 8, attends

Berkeley Middle

School.

passion, and their genuine appreciation of our sponsorship. I plan to make a nice donation this year to the Nancy Norton Scholarship Fund. Won't you please join me! Deb Woodward



Emily Beach, a tenth grader at Lafayette High.

Photos by Felice Bond



Our fourth camper, Sofia Mendez, hopefully will come to our October meeting. She is an 8th grader at Hornsby.





This photo was taken by Shirley Devan at Kiptopeke State Park Sept 12, near the hawk watch platform. Look at the key in the photo as a size comparison. Answer on page 11.

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Wakefield National Weather Service Forecast Office Field Trip

On Wednesday August 27, almost 40 Historic River Chapter members went to the NWS Forecast Office in Wakefield, VA. To accommodate our large size we divided into into two tours at 11 AM and 1 PM. We also had a delicious lunch at the friendly Virginia Diner right in Wakefield.





Photo by Shirley Devan

Our guide at the Wakefield NWS Forecast Office was senior meteorologist Michael Montefusco. He showed us how they interpret the various computer models to predict our weather. We learned about the network of weather balloons launched daily in Virginia and across the US. Mr. Montefusco was very generous with his time, explaining all the complex systems of forecasting, and how that information is disseminated. He showed us the onsite weather station and state of the art Doppler radar. Mr. Montefusco reiterated the importance of the CoCoRaHS

work we do every day.

It was a great weather day in every sense. Special thanks to Les Lawrence for helping coordinate, Jamestown Settlement for parking, Virginia Diner for prompt service, and the carpool drivers.

Sherry Brubaker added this comment:

Mike (the weather guy) agreed with my Minnesota brother-in-law's thesis that dew point is the key to comfort and weather. Dew point 50, equals nifty. 60 is sticky 70 is suffering and I added another level--80 is awful. My brother-in-law doesn't experience the latter since he doesn't live in VA!



Many thanks to Dean Shostak for arranging the trips to the NWS in Wakefield. More photos can be seen at https://www.flickr.com/photos/historicrivers/

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FREEDOM PARK'S BACKYARD NATURE HAPPENING—NATURE CAMP

2014 Story and Photos by Suzanne Masten

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of James City County camp staff, 5 HRC Master Naturalists, 11 children and their parents our woods will NOT be seeing "The Last Child In The Woods" (R. Louv). Many of us feel and understand the concept ... the future belongs to the nature connected.

"The future will belong to the nature-smart—those individuals, families, businesses, and political leaders who develop a deeper understanding of the transformative power of the natural world and who balance the virtual with the real. The more high-tech we become, the more nature we need."

-RICHARD LOUV

The week of August 18-21, was the first backyard nature camp offered by James City County summer camp program. HRC was asked to present information sessions each day. Oh, we were so sure this could be the beginning of some great relationships for all involved..kids/parents/naturalists/camp directors/ Freedom Park. However; we were not sure it was going to happen because two earlier camps were cancelled for lack of campers. But, five of our Master Naturalists had volunteered to lead four daily sessions and Monday morning dawned with 11 campers signed up and Freedom Park counselors ready for them!

Camp started with Alister Perkinson and Dan Smith signing the children in, giving them nature notebooks and supplies, mixing trail mix, supplying a coloring activity, and playing a rousing game of tree tag. Each day they handled the organization and camp of the day by having similar activities before and after the naturalist presentations.

The children were enthusiastic and the first day they learned to recognize a few tree species. Shirley De-

van lead the session and the children learned several identifying tree leaves, barks, and nuts. They did some neat leaf rubbings to include in their nature notebooks.

We then took a rousing nature walk looking for different trees, including the newly discovered, rare for this area, Quaking Aspen. They started to learn what a strong tool observation is. This walk also included learning some nature respect, like we don't "smush" a spider just because he happens to be on the same path we are on. And if we hoot and holler we announce our presence to the creatures in the woods... and they disappear.



Tuesday came and all the campers returned, which pleased us and made us smile!

It is always fun to be in on the beginning of a new endeavor and be part of the "can do" attitude, and high energy of the newness. In these situations you never know what will work and click and what won't, because you have no history of tradition...but, they came ready to play and learn some more!!

~continued on next page~

Nature Camp—continued

The next three days had similar schedules with Jan Lockwood presenting the bluebird/butterfly ses-

sion on Tuesday.
The toolbox visuals were so very helpful, and the hike to the Botanical Garden was the highlight of the day.
Alister and Dan had a very neat idea during the hike..they gave the children some cameras to take snapshots and then print-



ed them for the next sessions. The pictures were large laser prints...what good memories for the campers.



Catherine Short brought some reptiles and amphibians on Wednesday for the kids to meet and

HOLD! The campers showed quite a bit of respect and interest in this activity. They especially were in noisy wonder as Kathryn cornered an escaped frog, and then she proceeded to carefully hold it by its hind legs so all could get a good view...you heard not a sound when she did that part.



Lester Lawrence handled the mammal day with lots of pelts and skeletons as he spoke about their habits and traits. The session included an activity for the children to identify mammal tracks activity and making rubbings for their notebooks.

Dean Shostak and Suzanne Masten also worked with the naturalists, as well as Alister and Dan to make a very enriching time for all.

Camp week came to a close before we turned around. The adults talked of the success we felt about the experiences. We all had seen the children connecting with nature in the park and were glad to have witnessed the week.

Here's another photo for your..ummm...enjoyment?!



Tom Dougherty took this photo of a Copperhead snake on the sidewalk at Lake Matoaka - just a little guy but none the less you would not want to get bitten by him. He was dead however.





The mystery photo was the caterpillar of the Imperial Moth.

This photo of the adult moth was taken by Shirley Devan in July at Northwest River Park in Chesapeake. The scientific name of this moth is: Eacles imperialis

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Here is a photo of several of the winning photographers at the Reception for the HRC Photo Exhibit at the Library Gallery August 16.

left to right: Patty Maloney, Hart Haynes, Inge Curtis, Judy Jones, Bruce Glendenning. Hart, Inge, and Judy will have their first place photos judged at this fall's State Conference Photo Contest on September 26.

Photo by Shirley Devan

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Wildflower Spot-September 2014

John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

Swamp Loosestrife

Decodon verticillatus

This is a somewhat shrubby perennial, with long stems that can form an arch, allowing the tip to become submerged. Colonies of new plants often form where the stem tips touch moist ground. The leaves are lance-shaped and opposite on the stem or in whorls of 3 or 4. Bell-shaped pink-purple flowers cluster in the leaf axils, the most prominent feature being the 5 long protruding stamens. Each flower also has 5 short stamens, surrounded by 5 petals. Also known as Water Willow, this species is not a true willow, which are woody shrubs or trees that do not produce pink flowers.

Swamp Loosestrife grows in Virginia only in the coastal counties, in standing water of marshes or swamps or in tidal freshwater wetlands. It is common in the Coastal Plain and rare in the mountain regions. The plant is in bloom from July through September, followed by ¼-inch round seeds. The range is along the coast from Maine to Florida, Louisiana and to Indiana and Missouri.

The lower stems are swollen and spongy in texture, and attractive to muskrats. Ducks eat the seed capsules which probably float on the water. Many insects such as honeybees, bumblebees, and Swallowtail butterflies cross-pollinate the plants as they feed on nectar from the flowers. Caterpillars of moths and butterflies eat the foliage.

The genus name *Decodon* comes from the Greek *deca*, "ten," and *odous*, "tooth," referring to the jagged appearance of the flower parts.

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

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

Photo: Swamp Loosestrife (Decodon verticillatus) taken by Phillip Merritt

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Mark Your Calendar!!
Upcoming General Membership
Meetings

October 8 - Randy Chambers, Director, W&M Keck Lab - "The Diamondback Terrapin. Virginia's Version of Maryland's Mascot"

November 12 - Felice Bond (Cohort 1)- her beautiful photographs showing how climate change is affecting the flora and fauna in Costa Rica

December 10—Holiday Party, 6-9pm



February 18 - Pearl Beamer, wildlife rehabilitator - combined meeting with Williamsburg Bird Club

Looking for a good book? Read below an excerpt and what Deborah Eichelberger has to say about this book:

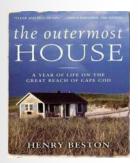
Book Review

The Outermost House:

A Year of Life on the Great Beach of Cape Cod

by Henry Beston (1888-1968)

"Hold your hands out over the earth as over a flame......Touch the earth, love the earth, honour the earth, her plains, her valleys, her hills, and her seas; rest your spirit in her solitary places. For the gifts of life are the earth's and they are given to all, and they are the songs of the birds at daybreak, Orion and the Bear, and dawn seen over the ocean from the beach." (p. 218, The Outermost House, 1929)



Often cited as a beacon in nature literature of the early 20th century, writer Henry Beston's *The Outermost House: A Year of Life on the Great Beach of Cape Cod* (1929) has been in publication for over 80 years; It was widely read at the time of its publication- and beyond. From a public policy perspective, the establishment of Cape Cod National Seashore is largely attributed to the awareness of the (national) intrinsic value of this seashore area as portrayed in Beston's writings. *The Outermost House* is one of a handful of books published by Beston in his lifetime, and undoubtedly the most popular- with *Northern Farm: A Chronicle of Maine* (1949) being another notable nature work of Beston. (Further resources: *The Henry Beston Society* http://henrybeston.com)

Born in Quincy, MA, with French heritage from his mother, Harvard-educated Beston retreated to a small cottage (coined "Fo'castle" by Beston) on the beach of Eastam in 1925 for spiritual rejuvenation after serving as an ambulance driver in the French army during WWI. At a time when the Cape was relatively uninhabited, he spent over a year in his 'bare-bones' house on the beach- immersed, and observing his natural surroundings. His nature writings that followed in *The Outermost House* draw the reader with ease and awe into his micro- and macro-universe on the Cape; From lush detailed descriptions of vegetation, bird migrations, seasonal transformations, celestial observations, and ocean waves and currents- we are bombarded with a sense of mystery and sacredness. His portrayal of the natural world is rather like painting a mural, and he was known to painstakingly spend days on a single sentence.

~continued on next page~

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Although not formally trained in the sciences or nature writing (and thus, by today's science standards, there are some errors), Beston captures the essence of wholeness- the ecologic perspective of interconnectedness and the web of existence. His reverence for the natural world is coupled with an embrace of the unknown, and his perspective and insight is illuminating- as is evidenced in the following narrative after viewing a flock of migrating birds:

"We need another and a wiser and perhaps more mystical concept of animals. Remote from universal nature, and living by complicated artifice, man in civilization surveys the creature through the glass of his knowledge and sees thereby a feather magnified and the whole image in distortion. We patronize them for their incompleteness, for the tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, and greatly err. For the animal world shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours they move finished and complete, gifted with senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of the earth." (pp. 24-5)

The Outermost House, pp. 24-5, 1928.

Rachael Carson (*The Edge of the Sea*, 1955; *Silent Spring*, 1962) cites Henry Beston as being the most influential writer in her career. Beston and Carson were friends and ardent birders, and Carson visited Beston and his wife several times at the Beston family farm in Maine. Henry Beston stands aside others of his time- including Leopold, Thoreau, Emerson, Muir- as a powerful agent of change in the conservation and environmental movement. He illustrates well the impact that descriptive naturalism can have on larger policy issues through public persuasion.

The Outermost House is a book to savor, preferably as a 'slow read', - for its portrayal of the natural world and for its literary complexity and nuances. It speaks to the power of careful observation combined with thoughtful and insightful reflection. This book is a joyful journey for those who treasure the vibrancy- and quietude- at the ocean's edge!



Deborah Eichelberger
HRC VMN Chort VIII/IX



September 2014

Field Trip to Monarch Butterfly Haven!

Monarchs and Other Species of Butterfly are raised, tagged and released by Jonie and Mike Carlson in Surry. Read more about this fascinating adventure below.

Story by Sherry Brubaker. Photos by Inge Curtis

It's not every day you get to visit a lovely garden, see the butterflies, birds, and even a grape-guarding snake! We also saw praying mantis homes (ootheca), learned that the mantis usually lives on the same bush its whole life, watched a fence lizard shed its skin, learned that chrysalis means "gold", and learned how to stabilize a chrysalis with glue. Then when we got back home, we were able to see Inge's wonderful close-up pictures and appreciate it all over again at a whole different level.

We had a great visit to Surry (love that ferry ride) and Joni and Mike's garden. We also had fun finding a new source of bird food in peanut land and people food at the VA Diner (their chocolate chess pie is worth the trip alone).



Monarch Butterfly Caterpillar



Black Swallowtail Egg





Red-Spotted Purple Egg



Monarch Butterfly



Inge Curtis in the Zinnia Garden.
This photo by Sherry Brubaker

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Did someone say Milkweed?



Surprise in the grapevines—Eastern Rat Snake.



Monarch Chrysalis



Common Buckeye Butterfly

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Membership Volunteer Hour Recognitions

Mike Woodward, Membership Committee Chair, awards service hour pins to the following people:



Seig Kopinitz, 1,000 hours!! CONGRATULATIONS!

Photo by Felice Bond



Hart Haynes, 250 hours; Inge Curtis, 500 hours; Judy Jones, 500 hours. CONGRATULATIONS!

The Membership Chair, Mike Woodward, reminds you to log in your volunteer and continuing education hours TODAY!!

Pictured below with Mike are our newest CERTIFIED Master Naturalist Members: Nancy Pledger, Robert Gibbs, and Doug Dwoyer



Photo by Felice Bond

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Trivia Corner

By Sherry Brubaker

What is the only North American bird that is black underneath and white on its back?

(the male bobolink in its breeding plumage. It has been described as "wearing a tuxedo backward.")



What mammal has the densest fir?

(The sea otter. On some parts of its body--notably its forearms, legs, and rump--it has a million or more hairs per square inch) How'd you like to be the one to count that??



"Isolated" vs. "Scattered" Showers

Question:

What's the difference between scattered and isolated showers?

Answer:

From a technical perspective—and in "weather talk"—isolated and scattered showers do indeed have different meanings.

The term "isolated" refers to showers that are few and far between, and the National Weather Service (NWS) defines "isolated" as displaying between 10% to 20% coverage. In other words, when the forecast calls for "isolated" showers, only 10% to 20% of the forecast area will receive measurable rainfall within the forecast period — most neighborhoods stay dry.

"Scattered" refers to the range of 30% to 50% coverage. So, even with "scattered" showers, half or less of the neighborhoods are expected to "get wet." For 60% and above, the terms most frequently used are "likely" and "numerous." At 90% to 100% coverage, we often simply say something like "expect showers."

So .. in the simplest sense, if I call for "isolated showers" over the WAFB viewing area, statistics say that the chance of rain actually occurring in YOUR neighborhood is 20% ... or about 2-in-10 (assuming that my forecast is correct).

I've taken to using the term "spotty" for rain chances under 20%, although the "purists" will say that the term has not been "approved." But I think it provides a mental picture that DOES distinguish it as being even less likely than "isolated."

Note that NONE of those terms reflect anything about the AMOUNT, intensity, or duration of the rain event — they only apply to the extent of areal coverage.

Hope this helps!

Jay Grymes Chief Meteorologist WAFB Storm Team

Continuing Education for September+ 2014

Lucy Manning, Continuing Education Chair (757-646-0877 lucymnnng@gmail.com)

Remember to go to our chapter's calendar for all event details! http://www.historicrivers.org/?page_id=1246

- [CE] Monthly meeting: "Hampton Roads in the Dynamic Anthropocene September 10, 6 9:00 [CE] WBC Monthly Meeting September 17, 7 8:00 pm at College of William & Mary, Andrews Hall, Room 101.
- [CE] John Clayton Native Plant Meeting: Bill Portlock, Naturalist September 18, 6:45 8:45 pm at Yorktown Public Library.
- [CE] WBC Field Trip September 20, 7:00 am to 1:30 pm at WBC Field Trip.
- [CE]: Native Plant Walk September 20, 9:30 11:30 am at Freedom Park, Williamsburg.
- [CE]No Bees, Fewer Fun Foods. September 20, 10-11:30 am at Freedom Park, Centerville Road, Williamsburg, VA.
- [CE] HRBC Bird Walk September 21, 7 10:00 am at Newport News City Park.
- CE] VIMS After Hours Lecture: Tagging Cats September 25, 7 8:00 pm at VIMS Watermen's Hall, McHugh Auditorium, Gloucester Point, VA.
- [CE] WBC Bird Walk September 27, 7 9:00 am at New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr., Williamsburg.
- [CE]: Entomology Cohort IX Training September 30, 6 9:00 pm at 5249 Olde Towne Road in Williamsburg, VA.
- [CE] HRBC field trip is to Kiptopeke State Park October 4, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at Kiptopeke State Park and the lower Eastern Shore.
- [CE]: Citizen Science, Risk Management, Field Methods Cohort IX Training October 4, 9 3:00 pm at New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr, Williamsburg, VA.
- [CE] HRBC Bird Walk October 5, 7 10:00 am at Newport News City Park.