



**Virginia Master Naturalist Program
Chapter Annual Report 2013**

Instructions: Click in the box where you wish to enter information, then type the information that's been requested for that question. The boxes will expand as you type if more space is needed.

Chapter Name:

Historic Rivers Chapter

1. Board Information

Please list names, roles, and e-mail addresses for all Board members, including officers and committee chairs, as of January 2013. In addition, please include a contact for communications with any issues related to the Volunteer Management System (VMN-VMS). It is ok if you do not use all the spaces provided.

Per Historic Rivers Chapter bylaws, Board members are allowed to serve two consecutive one-year terms.

Role/Office	Name	Email address	Date Term ends
President	Patty Maloney	maloney3013@aol.com	12 March 2014 End of 2 nd year
Vice-President-Programs	Kathi Mestayer	kwren@widomaker.com	12 March 2014 End of 2 nd year
Secretary	Jan Lockwood	nzedr@msn.com	12 March 2014 End of 2 nd year
	Ruth Gordon	ruthkagordon@gmail.com	12 March 2014 End of 2 nd year
Treasurer	Cheryl Jacobson	icheryljoy@aol.com	12 March 2014 End of 1 st year
Advanced Training	Lucy Manning	lucymnng@gmail.com	12 March 2014 End of 1 st year
Basic Training	Roger Gosden	roger.gosden@gmail.com	12 March 2014 End of 1 st year

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Volunteer Service Projects	Lois Ullman	jlullman@verizon.net	12 March 2014 End of 2 nd year
Membership	Susan Powell	smapowell@cox.net	12 March 2014 End of 2 nd year
Publicity, Outreach, and Website	Shirley Devan	sedevan52@cox.net	12 March 2014 End of 2 nd year
Historian	Adrienne Frank Gary Driscole	adrienne-gary@cox.net	12 March 2014 End of 1 st year
Field Trips	Dean Shostak	deanarmonica@aol.com	12 March 2014 End of 1 st year
Host	Sherry Brubaker	sherrybrubaker@cox.net	12 March 2014 End of 1 st year
Members-at-Large	Janet Curtis	jcurtis@wrl.org	12 March 2014 End of 1 st year
	Tom Dougherty, III	tomd23@cox.net	12 March 2014 End of 1 st year
	Hart Haynes	olimar97@hotmail.com	12 March 2014 End of 2 nd year
	Joanne Sheffield	josheffie@yahoo.com	12 March 2014 End of 1 st year
Newsletter	Deb Woodward	deb.woodward3@gmail.com	12 March 2014 End of 1 st year
VMN-VMS Contact	Susan Powell	smapowell@cox.net	

2. Chapter Membership

A.	Trainees (individuals who are enrolled in but who have not yet completed the basic training course):	*21
B.	Virginia Master Naturalist members (individuals who have completed the basic training course but who are not Certified for 2013):	14
C.	Certified Virginia Master Naturalists (Chapter members who, in 2012, have completed all of the requirements to be newly certified or recertified for 2013, including completing the basic training course, 8 hours of advanced training, and 40 hours of service.):	67
D.	Total number of Chapter Members (A + B + C):	102
E.	Total number of Active Volunteers (Chapter members who have contributed time to one or more approved projects within the last 12 months.):	85

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***21 Trainees were initially enrolled in Cohort VIII; one trainee withdrew, and another has opted to finish Basic Training with the next cohort (Cohort IX).**

Certification, Re-certification and Milestones

DO NOT LIST HERE. Please update the Excel spreadsheet for your chapter to show new certifications, re-certifications, and milestones. Directions on how to indicate these individuals are included on the spreadsheet. We will use the data on the spreadsheet to generate certificates for new certifications, recertification pins, and milestone pins for your chapter.

Please provide a name and address to mail Certificates and Pins:

Susan Powell
2247 Forge Road
Toano, VA 23168
757-566-3236 (home) or 757-871-9538 (cell);
smapowell@cox.net

3. Chapter Training

a. Basic Training Courses

Number of basic training courses (not classes) held in 2013:	2
1st was offered Sep 2012 thru Mar 2013 (Cohort VII) 2nd was offered Sep 2013 thru Mar 2014 (Cohort VIII)	
When were your courses (not including field trips) held? (Place an 'X' in the appropriate gray box)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekday daytime	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evenings
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weekends
Number of basic course <i>trainees</i> in 2013 (including those who have not yet graduated):	47
Total number of basic training course <i>graduates</i> in 2013:	20
Total number of basic training course participants over the lifetime of the chapter:	155

b. Advanced Training

The number of Advanced Training hours obtained by your chapter volunteers throughout 2013:	1714
We welcome your suggestions for Advanced Training that you would like to see offered by the Virginia Master Naturalist program or by one of its sponsoring agencies. Please list your suggestions.	

4. Chapter Partners

Please list your chapter's partnering organizations, such as parks, nature centers, and other organizations with whom you partnered on the local level in 2013. Please refer to your chapter's 2012 annual report, included in the annual report package that was sent to you, so that you may copy and edit the previous list rather than start from scratch. The box below will expand as you type.

- **York River State Park**
- **York County Parks and Recreation**
 - **New Quarter Park**
- **City of Williamsburg Parks and Recreation**

- Waller Mill Park
- James City County Parks and Recreation
 - Greensprings Greenway Interpretive Trail
 - Freedom Park
 - Little Creek Reservoir Park
- Newport News Park
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- Center for Conservation Biology, College of William and Mary and Virginia Commonwealth University
- Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory
- Williamsburg Bird Club
- Hampton Roads Bird Club
- Virginia Native Plant Society, John Clayton Chapter
- Virginia Herpetological Society
- Virginia Bluebird Society
- Williamsburg Land Conservancy
- Williamsburg Botanical Garden
- Colonial National Historic Park
- Friends of Dragon Run
- Rice Center, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners
- York County Master Gardeners
- Williamsburg Farmers Market
- Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools
- York County Public Schools
- Poquoson Public Schools
- Newport News Public Schools
- Gloucester County Public Schools
- Virginia Gazette
- New Kent Forestry Center
- York County and James City County 4-H
- Eco Discovery Park

Volunteer Service

Note: This section focuses on active projects only--those projects for which volunteer hours have been reported during 2013. These may be projects that are now completed or on-going projects.

a. Full Project List.

If your chapter has up-to-date data in the VMN-VMS, you do not need to include a full project list in your annual report. If your chapter does not have up-to-date data in the online VMN-

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VMS, please provide a full list of 2013 projects for your chapter that includes the project name, a one sentence description, the number of hours completed on that project in 2013, and the number of chapter volunteers involved in that project in 2013.

Our full project list is up-to-date and online on the VMN-VMS

b. Projects with Sponsoring Agencies.

Please briefly list a descriptive title and the number of service hours for the projects your chapter volunteers did with VA Cooperative Extension (including 4-H), VA Department of Forestry, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, VA Department of Conservation and Recreation, VA Department of Environmental Quality and the VA Museum of Natural History. List active projects only; do not list projects for which no volunteer hours were actually completed.

Agency	Project	Hours
VA Cooperative Extension (4-H)	Youth Environmental Education Programs including Summer Camps	80
VA DCR	Bluebird Box Monitoring at York River State Park (in conjunction with the VA Bluebird Society)	317
	Trail Maintenance at York River State Park	199
	Estuaries Day at York River State Park	30
VA DEQ	Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience	9
VA DGIF	Wildlife Mapping	
	Instruction	39
	Backyard	285
	Chapter Approved Sites	1190
	Management of State Permits	7
	Virginia Frog and Toad Calling Survey	6
	Quail Call and Rabbit County Survey	5
	Vernal Pools Survey	4
VA DOF	Wetland Tree Investigation in association with VIMS	212
	Youth Education Programs at New Kent Forestry Center	110
	Acorn Collection and Pine Seed Processing	65
	Big Tree/Remarkable Tree Survey	8
	Trail Maintenance at New Kent Forestry Center	8

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c. Education/Outreach.

Education/Outreach projects are activities in which the volunteer educates the public. This includes interpretive programs at parks; presentations at fairs, booths, etc.; and educational presentations to identified audiences, such as garden clubs, school groups, homeowner associations, etc.

Number of volunteer hours towards Education/Outreach projects in 2013:	1849
Please list any 2013 outreach or service activities by VMN volunteers in your chapter that specifically reached underserved audiences (e.g. outreach to inner city youth, nature programs for non-native English speakers, and programs for disabled individuals.)	

Zoo in My Luggage
Schoolyard Habitats: Monarch Initiative
James City County Public Schools - Environmental Education
New Kent Forestry Center - Youth Education Programs
York County Public Schools - Environmental Education
York County/Poquoson/Newport News - Junior Master Naturalists
Gloucester County Public Schools - Environmental Education
York River State Park - Estuaries Day
Poquoson Public Schools - Environmental Education
New Quarter Park - Youth Education Programs
York County - Horticultural Extravaganza
Waller Mill - Earth Day Event
Bird Sleuth
James City County Parks and Recreation - Environmental Education Programs
Warhill High School Nature Club
Farmer's Market
4-H - Youth Environmental Education Programs
New Quarter Park - Native Plant Teaching Trail

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d. *Demographics of contacts:*

Note: A **direct contact** refers to the face-to-face interaction with clientele where there is an exchange of educational information based on scientific knowledge. Do not include business-type contacts, such as confirmation of the time and place of an event or discussions of Master Naturalist chapter business. Volunteers should be recording these demographics using the current VMN time sheet or an acceptable adaptation of it, and/or on the VMN-VMS.

Gender	Age	Race/Ethnicity						
		American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	White	Unreported
Female	Youth	2	27	193	16		1606	168
	Adult	0	2	69	0		1045	55
Male	Youth	0	19	203	15		1443	177
	Adult	0	5	30	0		534	41
Total number of people reached in 2013 (e.g. total number of contacts):								5650

e. *Citizen Science.*

Citizen science projects include service involving data collection, monitoring, biological inventories, and other research-oriented activities. Examples include bird censuses, Wildlife Mapping, and the Virginia Frog and Toad Calling Survey. The activities may be a part of statewide projects or projects specific to a local partner.

Number of volunteer hours towards Citizen Science projects in 2013:	6584
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f. *Stewardship.*

Stewardship projects are hands-on activities intended to improve habitat and other natural resources, or, in some cases, to improve the ability of the public to access these resources. These activities may include exotic plant removal, habitat restoration, and trail building.

Number of volunteer hours towards Stewardship projects in 2013:	740
Estimate of acres of habitat improved through your Stewardship projects in 2013:	Estimated 20 acres
Estimate of miles of trails and streams improved through your Stewardship projects in 2013	Estimated 7 miles

Note: The acres and miles are not part of the online VMN-VMS at this point, but if you have any other way to estimate these values for your chapter, it is extremely useful. If you visited the same site repeatedly (such as a trail you've adopted for maintenance), just include one estimate of the length of the section maintained, not multiplied by the number of times you visited. Do, however, count acres/miles that were already reported on in previous years if you continued work on them in 2013.

g. Administrative Service.

Administrative time includes efforts spent on chapter organization, volunteer development, training and other management roles. This may include: leading general membership meetings; planning and supervising VMN training classes; working on a chapter newsletter; internal communication efforts; and any other activities that maintain and support the effectiveness of the chapter and the statewide program. Do not include travel time here; put travel time under "h."

Total administrative hours for 2013 by your chapter members:	2070
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h. Travel Time.

Travel time includes time spent driving to and from volunteer service projects.

Total Travel Time hours for 2013 by your chapter members:	1054
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5. Chapter Finances

The Board of the Historic Rivers Chapter has recently developed a budget.

Does your chapter have 501(c)3 status?	No
Does your chapter do an external audit of its finances?	No
Chapter funds received through training course in 2013:	\$3000.00
Chapter funds received through membership dues in 2013:	\$1725.00
Chapter funds received through grants in 2013:	None
Chapter funds received through other sources in 2013 (provide source and amount):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1285--Nancy Norton Nature Camp Scholarship Fund [Donations are accepted in honor of Nancy Norton, deceased member of the HRCVMN. Each year students in grades 5 thru 12 compete for scholarships to attend Nature Camp in Vesuvius, VA. Students are selected for the scholarship via winning application.] • \$716--General Membership Meeting Fund-raising Raffles 	

6. Noteworthy Projects and Impacts

The next set of questions is an opportunity for you to provide more information on any of the projects your chapter volunteers worked on in 2013. You may report on up to 5 projects, but **you must report on at least two**. All of the projects you are doing are significant, but we ask you to choose the five that you are **most proud** of, that are **most significant** to you, and that will help us **document the depth and scope of volunteer service**. What might make a project significant? It may have the most volunteer time or highest number of volunteers associated with it. It may have had noteworthy educational impacts. It may have had significant impacts in terms of natural resource management and conservation. Perhaps it involved a unique partnership. Projects that are completed or well underway may be better examples than projects that are planned but not yet begun. For each project, please provide the (1) project name, (2) the type of project, (3) the total number of hours contributed to it in 2013, (4) the number of chapter members involved in the project, (5) a list of any of the 6 VMN sponsoring agencies involved in the project, and (6) a detailed description of the project. This description should highlight why you feel the project is significant, the goals or purpose of the project, a description of the activities that the volunteers are doing to achieve the project goals, and any outcomes or impacts that you can describe. In other words: *Why was the project needed, what are the volunteers doing, what are the results, and why are they significant?*

Project 1 (click in the box below and begin typing, the box will expand as you type):

C2w – Pleasure House Point Bio Blitz

Citizen Science

187.5 hours

27 Participants

Pleasure House Point BioBlitz

The Pleasure House Point property is a 118-acre *tract* of environmentally sensitive land in Virginia Beach. Its habitats include maritime forests, scrub/shrub vegetation, open grassy meadows, sand dunes, tidal mudflats, and the open waters of Crab and Pleasure House Creeks. Although previously slated for waterfront development, in 2012 the tract was acquired by the City with help from the Trust for Public Land and in collaboration with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The land is now designated as "Pleasure House Point Natural Area." The site will eventually include not only trails but also a Chesapeake Bay Foundation education center.

Karen Callaway, planning technician for the Virginia Beach Department of Recreation and Parks, invited several local Master Naturalist chapters to take part in a BioBlitz to help identify and inventory some of the plants and animals that utilize that land. The Historic Rivers Chapter, of course, responded enthusiastically with volunteers.

The event took place over the weekend of May 3-5, 2013. Deb Woodward, Historic Rivers Chapter newsletter editor, published a special edition of "The Naturalist" about the BioBlitz. [A copy of the special edition newsletter is attached.](#)

Submitted by Susan Powell (Adapted from the Special Edition of "The Naturalist Volume 7 No. 6 June 2013")

Project 2 (click in the box below and begin typing, the box will expand as you type):

**E2q - Grafton Bethel Elementary School Nature Garden Youth Education Programs
Education/Outreach**

19 hours

1 participant

E2r - Schoolyard Habitats: Monarch Initiative

Education/Outreach and Stewardship

692 hours

9 participants

S3g - Grafton Bethel Elementary School Nature Garden Restoration

Stewardship

26 hours

1 participant

Grafton Bethel Elementary Nature Restoration Project

I have been working on this project primarily with Mrs. Patty Ellison who is a Virginia Master Gardener. In 2012 we planted over 70 new native plants in the Grizzly Getaway. Many were donated to the school by the John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society and Stonehouse Elementary School. The Native Plant Society also donated labels for the new natives. Some plants were purchased at native plant sales with money from the PTA. Some labor help was provided by the PTA Beautification Committee, and the Boy Scouts of Troop 200. In the spring we were able to have First Grade come out and do a scavenger hunt adventure where they learned about plants, flowering and non-flowering, use of plants as food, habitat, native plants, deciduous and evergreen plants, and decomposition. The Kindergarteners also came out to plant zinnias in the alphabet garden and learned about parts of the plant and their functions.

In the fall we participated in the outreach partner training with the Monarch Initiative. This tied in perfectly with the restoration of the garden since it involved more native plants in the school garden. It was also going to be a great way to provide more resources to the teachers with SOL tagged curriculum ideas to make it as easy as possible for them to find ways to come outside. The school is also designated as a Monarch Way station and we were hoping to expand on this. We received a donation of bird feeders from the Yorktown Wild Birds Unlimited store which was wonderful since most of our other feeders were past their prime. Right before Christmas break the school received a donation of over 6000 bulbs from Brent and Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester, some of which were native. We were able to get several classes out from Kindergarten to third grade to plant the bulbs.



Bulb planting

In the spring of 2013 we had a fourth grade class working with us to design improvements to the Getaway and were able to have the principal agree to let us plant in areas that were previously off limits to us. Through the Monarch Initiative we were able to get more than 60 native plants for the habitat. The school also received \$300 worth of books and supplies through a matching grant funded by the PTA as well as numerous other supplies including sweep nets, butterfly cages, posters, gardening gloves, insect collection tools, field guides, and so much more. The Kiwanis club came out to help prepare planting areas, and plant some flowers at the front of the school. Several of the classes came out to plant the new native plants. The Boy Scouts came out to spread mulch in all the new areas.



Kiwanis Kids preparing a new bed and planting



Newly planted native beds



Fourth grade planting natives

We also made hypertufa bird baths through the Monarch Initiative to provide more water sources

throughout the garden. Ken Matthews Garden Center generously donated a sunning rock to the garden. The school also participated in the Fine Arts contest with the Monarch Initiative and two students had their artwork put on display at the Tabb library.



Artwork from students

When the 5 Kindergarten classes came out to plant zinnias we focused our talk on how the zinnias would help the monarch butterflies. We started the seedlings in biodegradable recycled newspaper pots and read the students a story about Monarch butterflies. They plant zinnias under Z in the alphabet garden and each class plants a different color so when they bloom there is a rainbow effect.



Kindergarten planting zinnias and learning about Monarchs

Through all the native plants, feeders, bird baths, bird houses and sunning rock we were certified by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries as a Virginia Habitat Partner. I attended a staff meeting at the end of the school year and was able to inform the whole staff about the project, upcoming training and plans for the fall, which was a great way to generate enthusiasm for the Getaway.

During the summer there was very little maintenance required since we had so much rain. The only work to be done was weeding. We had several birds nest in the garden including chickadees, robins, and house wrens. We have seen several other birds, rabbits, snakes, and numerous spiders and insects in the habitat. Unfortunately monarch numbers were down this year, so we hardly saw any monarchs all summer.

In the fall the fourth grade teacher who was our main contact for the Monarch initiative contacted us about getting the whole of Fourth Grade outside. We taught them about native plant identification in the Getaway; had Clyde bring his zoo to talk about being good stewards, which was a huge hit; did our own bug hunt and talk on arthropod classification; and finally, participated in their Field Experience day at Harwood Mills Park where we led groups on a scavenger hunt through the woods. All of these have been great for generating knowledge and enthusiasm in the students to see the world they live in through new eyes. We may have even been able to convince the kids that snakes have a good purpose.

The other fall activity that has been a huge success has been raising and tagging monarch

butterflies. At first we couldn't find any monarch caterpillars, and a Master Gardener donated some to the school. A week later we were able to find our own, and we even shared some with Waller Mill. We were able to get 16 classes to raise caterpillars. All 16 classes tagged, as well as another class and several of the school staff. We tagged a total of 42 butterflies, 41 were raised in the classrooms, and 1 was a wild caught adult. Of those we had 16 males and 26 females. The last tagging took place on November 1st which is when they normally arrive in Mexico, so hopefully they make it and we get feedback on some that we tagged. We did have some losses. Nine of the caterpillars either did not complete their life cycle or emerged with deformed wings. Two that were tagged were found in the Getaway and had been eaten by something. We were able to retrieve the tags. It was so great to see the enthusiasm of all the adults and students involved. There were numerous comments on how this was so much better than raising painted ladies in the spring, how amazing it was to see the caterpillars grow so fast, and how exciting it is to be a part of a bigger scientific project. We had some of fourth grade raise black swallowtails and they plan to watch the chrysalides over the winter and hopefully see them emerge in the spring. This is a nice contrast to show how different animals have adapted to survive the winter.



Monarch tagging



One story that was a highlight to the end of the project was this: One second grade class had been very enthusiastic about the project, but unfortunately one butterfly failed to emerge and the other emerged with crumpled wings. The teacher and students were very disappointed, and they were unable to come to the last tagging event of the season. I went outside to release another butterfly and saw an untagged male monarch flying up in the branches of one of the trees in the getaway. I watched for a while as it happily flew out of reach. All I had was a small plastic aquarium, but I asked the butterfly, "Please come down here, I really need another butterfly." After a little more pleading the butterfly calmly floated down and landed on a bush in front of me. I crept up behind it and placed the aquarium over it. To my amazement I caught that butterfly! It was by far the wildest of all the ones we had tagged all season, beating its wings against the container, no longer the calm butterfly that had floated down from the tree. I rushed inside to the classroom and the students were thrilled to have a chance to tag a butterfly after all. It was no easy task to tag the butterfly that would not sit still for a moment. We tagged him, took him out to the getaway and the kids did a countdown to release. He took off like a shot, students cheering, everyone smiling, and the butterfly happy to be free again. It was by far my most memorable tagging of the season.



The wild monarch ready to be set free

We received 15 more native plants from the Master Gardeners and Native Plant Society for the school which we have spread to the front flower beds. The Boy Scouts came out to help plant and spread mulch again. Another parent has stepped up and installed a vegetable garden behind the cafeteria, and we hope the students will grow food that the cafeteria can serve with lunches.

Our final project at the school for 2013 was another bulb planting session. This year's donation came very late, but with almost 6,000 bulbs we were thrilled to plan for a beautiful spring show. We had the Kindergarten classes and two 4th grade classes come out on the last day of school to plant in several new areas. The students had a great time, with beautiful weather and lots to plant. Everyone enjoyed learning about the difference between a bulb and a seed, the different types of bulbs, and how to plant them. We planted more the next day and unearthed a Grey Tree Frog by accident. Luckily he wasn't hurt and we tucked him back into the mulch. We will have 2 more classes finish the planting on January 6th 2014.



Kindergarten
planting bulbs



It has been a great year and we look forward to another year of adventures.

Submitted by Stephanie Schmuck

Project 3 (click in the box below and begin typing, the box will expand as you type):

E2h - New Kent Forestry Center - Youth Education Programs

Education/Outreach

110 hours

14 participants

E2i - New Quarter Park - Youth Education Programs

Education/Outreach

16.5 hours

6 participants

E2m - York County Public Schools - Environmental Education

Education/Outreach

15 hours

4 participants

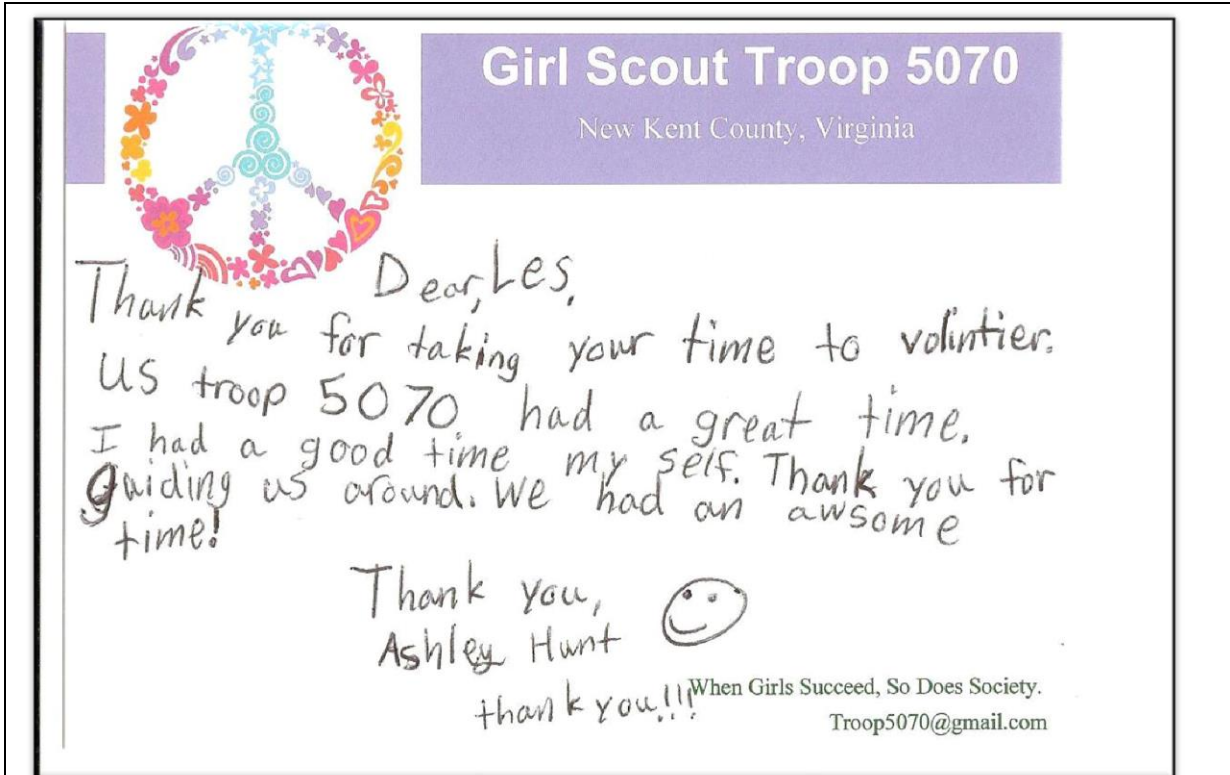
HRC Members Provide Educational Nature Hikes

One of the favorite educational activities that HRC members participate in are guided nature hikes for elementary school groups, Boy and Girl Scouts, and mixed groups of people of all ages. During 2013, our Chapter participated in eight such hikes, three at York River State Park (YRSP, our Chapter's local sponsor organization), four at the Department of Forestry's (DOF) New Kent Forestry Center (NKFC), and one at New Quarter Park (NQP).

Since the DOF initiated their field trip program at NKFC in 2011, three different schools now hold annual outings for their 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students. HRC members have supported every nature walk held there to date, providing guide leadership, presenting topic-specific talks at the different educational stations; and, on one occasion, HRC member Cheryl Jacobson carried a variety of snakes around for the children/parents/teachers to get a close-up examination. The kids loved it; the adults were quite shy!

The nature hike at NQP has also become an annual event for York County Elementary School's 1st graders. This event was initially arranged by HRC member Sara Lewis who also works for the park – but it has been the school's decision to make it an annual field trip, based on the positive feedback from the kids and accompanying parents/teachers.

In October, I was contacted by the DOF outreach person, Lisa Deaton, to participate in the first nature hike held there for a group of Girl Scouts, Troop 5070 from New Kent County. This one was a bit different in that there was a wide-range of ages in the Troop, and senior scouts were used to assist as guides. The Troop provided this feedback, sent from my very able assistant:



HRC members Nancy Barnhart, Nancy Gore, Judy Jones, and I had a great day leading a group of Cub Scouts from Williamsburg area Pack 102 on a nature hike at YRSP, on Nov 3. Mr. David Simmons, a Pack leader who is also the IT Manager for the VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, requested assistance for the hike and, naturally, the HRC was happy to accommodate.

We spent the day acquainting the Scouts, leaders, parents, and siblings - 22 people in all - about habitats and the flora and fauna found in the park and along the trail. Another need was for the Scouts to learn about at least five trees. No problem with that. I heard one of the boys saying to himself, "I can't wait to get home and write about this (the trees) in my journal." That was rewarding.

A favorite nature hike of this year was held over two days, October 10 and 11, at YRSP for approximately 120 4th graders from Stonehouse Elementary. Even though the weather wasn't all that great – cool and drizzly, it was special in that several members got to lead different walks, and one, Geoff Giles, put on waders and assisted seining for critters in the York River.

This two-day event was initiated by a parent volunteer for the class, who contacted our Chapter's outreach person, Shirley Devan. Several days prior to the walk, Shirley, Nancy Barnhart, Nancy Gore, Cheryl Jacobson, Geoff Giles, and I established a trail to follow. We identified a number of points to discuss, including habitats, identifying critters in the habitats even though not necessarily present, decomposers, and some tree characteristics. They loved learning about "scat" and seeing an old snake shed Nancy Gore had found several days earlier.

From my personal perspective, it was a fun day and, even more important, the students seemed

to enjoy the field trip.

Submitted by Les Lawrence

Project 4 (click in the box below and begin typing, the box will expand as you type):

A1a – Participation in Board and Committee Meetings

A1b – Preparation for Board and Committee Meetings

Administration

570 hours

38 participants

Participating In and Preparing For Board Meetings

Administrative work is vitally important to the well-being of our chapter. Our Board members work hard, and our chapter benefits tremendously from their efforts.

Many members find serving on the Board a daunting notion—particularly if they are just finishing Basic Training. However, those who take the plunge ultimately find serving on the Board interesting and enjoyable. One such volunteer is Joanne Sheffield, member of Cohort VII and recent Basic Training graduate. Here is what she shared about her experience on the Board, serving as a Member-at-Large:

I was pleasantly surprised when I was asked to serve on the MN Board as a Member-at-Large, especially since I was just finishing the classes. As it turns out, it has been a great experience. In addition to learning how the Board works and what's going on, I am able to be one of the first to know what's coming up! Initially, I didn't realize the term was for two years, but I certainly am happy to have another year. It's been a pleasure to listen and work with the dedicated members who make up the Board.

The new requirement of having current students attend at least one Board meeting during their course work is a good one. It could encourage people to understand what the Board does and to volunteer for Board positions.

Joanne

Submitted by Susan Powell

7. Other Impacts

Are there any other program impacts you can share? We welcome anecdotes, quotes, and any other material you can provide to document the impacts of the VMN program on its participants, on Virginia's natural resources, and in Virginia's communities. Photographs are helpful; please consider adding some 2013 images to your chapter's section of the VMN Smugmug site (see the directions included in your annual report package).

New Quarter Park Bluebird Monitoring Team awarded 2012 Volunteer of the Year

Molly Nealer (in red), York County Parks and Recreation supervisor, nominated the New Quarter Park Bluebird Monitoring team for a Volunteer of the Year award from York County.

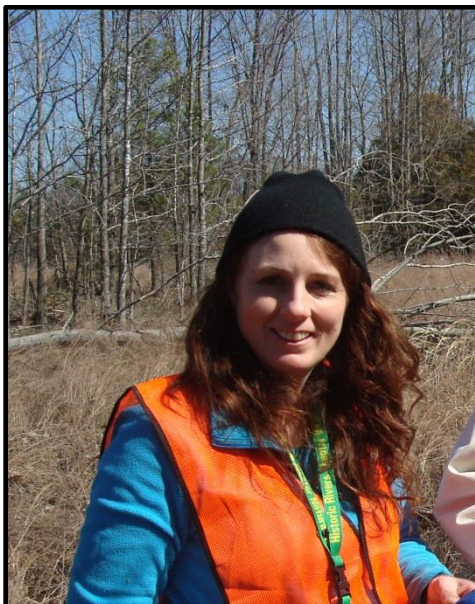


Present to receive the award on April 16 in York Hall, Yorktown, were Jeanette Navia, Joyce Lowry, Jan Lockwood, Lois Ullman, and Sara Lewis, Shirley Devan, and Nancy Barnhart. Other members of the 2012 team were Cheryl Jacobson, Wendy & Jesse Nelson, and Dean Shostak.



Walt Zaremba, Chairman of the York County Board of Supervisors, presents award to the New Quarter Park Bluebird Monitoring Team, represented here by Jeanette Navia, Lois Ullman, Jan Lockwood and Joyce Lowry.

Christina Woodson is appointed to the Board of the Virginia Bluebird Society. She serves as the Virginia Bluebird Society County Coordinator for Henrico, Hanover, and Richmond City.



Christina Woodson



Virginia Master Naturalist programs are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital, family, or veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

The *Green Fire* Film Connects Legendary Conservationist Aldo Leopold with Modern Environmental Projects

As part of an ongoing effort to provide outreach to the community, the Historic Rivers Chapter elected to purchase a public screening license for the Emmy® award winning film, *Green Fire—Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic For Our Time*. This one-hour film documents Aldo Leopold's life in the early part of the twentieth century and the many ways his land ethic ideas continue to be applied all over the world today. It is the first high definition documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold.

The Chapter paid a one-time license fee of \$150. The license grants our chapter the rights to show *Green Fire* to a public audience an unlimited number of times in any given location. When we bought the license, we also received a community screening resource kit, complete with publicity materials.

On June 12, 2013, the Historic Rivers Chapter and the Peninsula Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists cohosted a screening of *Green Fire* at the Library Theater in Williamsburg. The premier was free and open to the public – no tickets were required. Prior to the screening, the chapter hosted a public reception and a photography exhibition in the Library Gallery to showcase the winners of the 2012 Historic Rivers Chapter Nature Photography Contest "Through the Eye of the Naturalist."

We have made the film available for use by other Master Naturalist chapters and hope to host additional screenings of *Green Fire* and other similar films in the near future.

Submitted by Susan Powell

8. Civil Rights Compliance Information

To comply with state and federal guidelines, we are required to document the following information on an annual basis and to work towards achieving balanced membership in our program. Balanced membership is met when the racial and gender composition of the club or organization is exactly proportional to that of the population of the membership area. Even if a club or organization does not have balanced membership for a majority of those underrepresented group categories present in the membership area, the program can be deemed to be in compliance if the club can demonstrate that "all reasonable efforts" have been made to achieve balanced membership within the group. Examples of "all reasonable efforts" are listed below.

Number of Members by Race:

	American Indian or Alaskan Native
1	Black or African American
	Asian
	Hispanic or Latino
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
101	White

Number of Members by Gender:

65	Female
37	Male

During this past year, this club or organization had balanced membership that was integrated by race and gender (refer to the definition of balanced membership above). Type your answer in the appropriate gray box.

By Race:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
By Gender:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Use the table below to document what reasonable efforts your club or organization used this past year. You should also note what efforts you plan to use this next year. Check those items that apply; you are not required to use all of these efforts. Documentation of past efforts should be on file with this club or organization. Please type an 'X' in the appropriate box.

Past Year	Reasonable Efforts	Next Year
	Invite members of under-represented groups to join the club or organization by personal visit.	
	Invite members of under-represented groups to join the club or organization by letter/email.	
	Invite members of under-represented groups to join the club or organization by telephone.	
X	Make use of mass media, including radio, newspaper, and TV.	X
X	Distribute newsletters, posters, flyers, and announcements to recruit under-represented clientele.	X
X	Contact community groups to recruit under-represented clientele.	X
X	Conduct a membership drive or promotion to reach under-represented clientele.	X
X	Make special efforts to recruit volunteers from under-represented clientele groups.	X
X	Plan and implement joint activities to create integrated programs.	X
X	Utilize meeting places selected to encourage participation by under-represented clientele.	X

Please list any other efforts that have been taken by this club or organization in order to be in compliance with Civil Rights laws.

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10 January 2014

Date Submitted

Susan Powell, Membership Chair

Signature of the Club or Organization Leader (Typed name is acceptable in lieu of a written signature.)