

June 1, 2017



PO Box 5026 Williamsburg, VA 23188

Dear Citizens:

The Historic Rivers Chapter (HRC) of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program (VMN) is accepting applications for its Cohort XII Basic Training Program, which will begin Tuesday, September 5, 2017, and end March 14, 2018.

Most training classes will be held on Tuesday nights, 6 – 9 p.m. at Williamsburg Community Chapel, 3899 John Tyler Hwy, Williamsburg, 23185. Several classes and all Field trips are held during the day on weekends at various locations. See the schedule on page 4. Dates are subject to change.

Note: The Chapel is our facility host only; it is not a sponsor and the Master Naturalist program is not affiliated with WCC ministries.

The Virginia Master Naturalist Program is a statewide corps of volunteers who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities. Interested Virginians become Master Naturalists through training, continuing education, and volunteer service.

People who are curious about nature, enjoy the outdoors, and want to be a part of natural resource management and conservation in Virginia are perfect candidates to become Virginia Master Naturalists.

The process for becoming a certified Virginia Master Naturalist typically takes 6 to 12 months. To become a member of the HRC, one must enroll in the basic training course.

Virginia Master Naturalists achieve certification by:

- Completing Basic Training
- Complete an additional 8 hours of Continuing Education
- Complete 40 hours of Volunteer Service

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Interim Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg. VMN Volunteer Enrollment Form, Revised November 2015.

The Basic Training program is limited to 20 adult participants; adult is defined as an applicant who is at least 18 years of age by the start date of the basic training program, September 5, 2017. Applicants will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Tuition, which includes all materials and instruction, is \$175. Please carefully consider your availability to commit to the training schedule before applying. Your application fee is used to provide your training materials, most of which are distributed on the first night of class. Therefore, we are not able to offer refunds of application fees for withdrawals after the first night of class.

The annual HRC membership fee/dues will be an additional \$25. The dues for 2018 can be paid between January 1 and March 14, 2018.

You must provide three references as part of the application process. Please give your references the **Reference Questionnaire** (separate document) and ask them to return the completed questionnaire to Janet Harper (wharper15@cox.net) by email or mail to the address below.

To apply, please print out the application posted on the website, fill it out completely, include the \$175 tuition (check made payable to the Historic Rivers Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalists), and mail to:

Historic Rivers Chapter
Virginia Master Naturalists
PO Box 5026
Williamsburg, VA 23188

The application must be received no later than August 15, 2017 to be considered for this year's cohort. Accepted applicants will receive a welcome email from Janet Harper or David Lunt and will be invited to attend an informational meeting which will be held the evening of August 22, 2017 at the Williamsburg Library.

If you have questions, please contact Janet Harper, wharper15@cox.net or David Lunt, vsdwlwmbg@gmail.com. Information about the program is also available at the statewide Virginia Master Naturalist website, <http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org>. You may learn more about the Historic Rivers Chapter at our web site: <http://www.historicrivers.org/index.html>

Thank you for your interest in our program.

Sincerely,
Janet Harper and David Lunt, Co-Chair(s)
on Behalf of The Historic Rivers Chapter Basic Training Team

Historic Rivers Chapter Basic Training Requirements:

1. The expectation is that you will attend every class and field trip. Still, “life happens.” You may miss no more than two classes and one field trip and still graduate from Basic Training. See individual dates below; please keep in mind that dates may change.
2. Attend at least two hours on at least one bird walk or Bird Club field trip, with either the Williamsburg Bird Club or the Hampton Roads Bird Club. You will receive information about these opportunities early in the program.
3. Attend at least two hours on at least one native plant walk with a chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. The local John Clayton Chapter leads 1 – 2 walks per month (sometimes more) in the fall. You will receive information about these opportunities early in the program.
4. Attend at least one program, **in person**, in the series “*VIMS After Hours*” presented the last Thursday of most months at VIMS in Gloucester Point, VA. You will receive information about these opportunities early in the program.
5. Attend at least one meeting of the Historic Rivers Chapter Board, which meets at 6:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Location is to be determined.
6. Research/Develop/Present as a group, a biography of a noted naturalist/scientist. You will receive information about this requirement early in the program.
7. A Class Topic Exploration Activity (CTE), distributed by email, may follow each class session. You must complete and return the CTE by the due date. These CTEs are reviewed but are not graded.
8. An open book/notes final exam will be distributed by email during the last several weeks of the program. You must achieve 70% or better on the final exam in order to complete and graduate Basic Training.

Unless otherwise noted, evening classes begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. and end at or before 9:00 p.m. The 2017-2018 specific training dates are below. Dates are subject to change.

Basic Training Classes and Field Trips Dates (Subject to Change):

Classes held on Tuesdays begin at 6:00 pm and end at 9:00 pm.

Classes held on Saturdays usually begin at 9:00 am and end at 3:00 pm.

Field Trips times vary, but typically begin at 9:00 am and end at 3:00 pm.

Month	Tentative Class Dates	Tentative Field Trip Dates
September 2017	Tuesday, 5 th Tuesday, 19 th Saturday, 23th	Sunday, 10 th
October 2017	Tuesday, 3 th Tuesday, 17 th	Saturday, 14 th
November 2017	Tuesday, 7 th Tuesday, 14 th	Saturday, 4 th
December 2017	Tuesday, 5 th	Saturday, 2 nd
January 2018	Tuesday, 9 th Tuesday, 23 rd Tuesday, 30 st (make-up if needed)	Saturday, 6 th
February 2018	Saturday, 3rd Tuesday, 6 th Saturday, 17th (2 classes) Tuesday, 20 th Tuesday, 27 th	
March 2018	Wednesday, 14 th Graduation	

Below Are Basic Training Topics (subject to change):

- Introduction to Virginia Master Naturalist Program
- Nature of Naming
- Risk Management
- Building Master Naturalist Skills
- Biology Basics
- Evolution
- Geology
- Habitats
- Ecology Concepts
- Climate and Weather
- Forest Conservation

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- Dendrology
- Plant Biology and Native Plants
- Wetlands Ecology
- Entomology
- Freshwater Ecology and Macroinvertebrates
- Butterflies
- Ichthyology
- Herpetology
- Ornithology
- Mammalogy
- Naturalist Biography

Tips for Navigating through Basic Training:

1. Access to a computer with connection to the internet is required.
2. You must be able to send and receive documents by email. You will need to check your email daily and respond as necessary.
3. You must be able to open PDF documents (Adobe PDF Reader is free and safe to download from: <http://www.adobe.com/>)
4. You must be able to open, print, and prepare documents in Microsoft Word (or similar but compatible program)
5. You will be expected to do work and research outside of class
6. You will be expected to do research on the internet