

The Naturalist

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FROM THE HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER
VIRGINIA MASTER NATURALISTS

Virginia
Master
Naturalist



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Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Photo by Judy Jones

See more photos from the butterfly count on
page 3

President's Message

By Adrienne Frank

Hurray! Our chapter has a new advisor and many of you know him. John Gresham has been a member of our chapter and now he has a new role. John is the Educational Support Specialist at York River State Park, and being our advisor will be part of his job responsibilities. John plans to join us on October 10th at our General Meeting, so please be sure to welcome him.

In August, our previous advisor, Page Hutchinson, was transferred from New Kent Forestry Center to Charlottesville for her job as the State Coordinator for Project Learning Tree under the VA Department of Forestry. We have been in search of a new advisor since the beginning of the summer.

As you probably know, the Statewide VMN program and our chapter bylaws required us to find a new advisor. Michelle Prysby, at the State VMN office, worked on our behalf to find a replacement. She searched for potential advisors who were working locally for one or more of State sponsoring agencies (VA Department of Conservation & Recreation, Forestry, Game & Inland Fisheries, Cooperative Extension, VIMS, and/or Marine Science Center). York River State Park was a natural fit, because of our long-standing relationship.

A Master Naturalist advisor can carry out these responsibilities during work time, but does not receive additional compensation. An advisor is not expected to be a member of the local chapter, but can be both member and advisor. Page was an advisor and member, and that was exceptional, according to Michelle.

There are a number of expectations or qualifications for the advisor. He/she should:

- Be familiar with the goals, activities and mission of the VMN organization and local Chapter.
- Be aware of the VMN State policies and guidelines and other agency's expectations for volunteer requirements, behavior and activities; and ensure that the chapter knows these policies and guidelines; and must report violations or potential violations to the State Office.
- Exercise good organizational and communication skills.
- Possess knowledge of natural resources and of potential partner organizations in the community.
- Be willing to involve VMN volunteers in his/her natural resource job duties that will benefit the sponsoring agency(ies) and program as a whole.

- Maintain enthusiasm and a strong desire to see the VMN program succeed in the community.

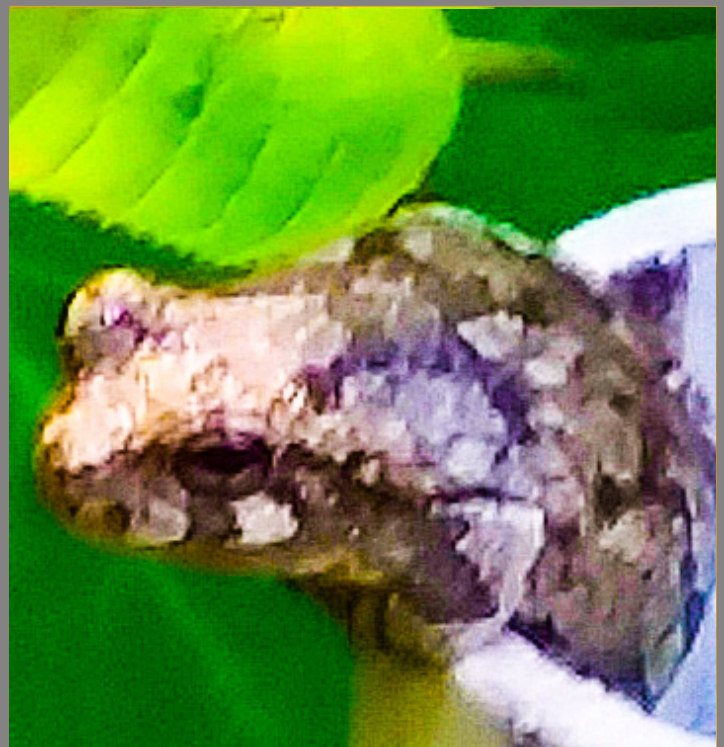
The advisor should not be the manager but rather a facilitator of opportunities for VMN volunteers to exercise their own initiative and judgment when coordinating chapter business, events, and activities. He/she should be available to advise, recommend, inform and notify the chapter and/or its members on and of appropriate and professional matters.

The Advisor is expected to commit 5-7 hours per month for chapters that are well established, and the advisor's responsibilities are to:

- Serve as an ex-officio member of the chapter's Board of Directors; attend all scheduled Board meetings, participate in e-mail discussions, and provide counsel and advice when needed.
- Serve as a liaison between the State VMN Office and the chapter.
- Assist the State VMN Office and State Steering Committee in implementing/enforcing policies.
- Serve as part of his/her scope of duties within a State Sponsoring Agency.
- Communicate about the program with his/her own agency and other partnering organizations in the community.
- Review the Chapter's financial status and participate as a member annual audit committee.
- Teach at least one class that falls within his/her expertise for the Chapter's basic training.
- Participate in event planning and attend chapter events when possible or when identified as necessary through the planning process.

Chapter Board

Chapter Advisor	John Gresham
President	Adrienne Frank
Vice President, Programs	Linda Morse
Co-recording Secretaries	Sue Mutell, Connie Reitz
Treasurer	Barbara Neis
Membership	Renee Dallman
Volunteer Service Projects	Shirley Devan
Continuing Education	Jennifer Trevino
Basic Training	David Lunt, Janet Harper
Past President	Judy Jones
Historian	Keith Navia
Education & Outreach	Sherry Brubaker, Karen Grass
Publicity	Joni Carlson
Newsletter	Cindy Baker
Field Trip Coordinators	Maud Ann Wilson, Barb Bucklin
Host Committee	Randi Heise
Members-at-Large	Sharon Plocher, Gary Driscoll, Rick Brown, Alister Perkinson, Joe Beene
Webmaster	Jeanette Navia
Social Media	Sonny Bowers
Liaison to the State	Susan Powell



Look who popped up to check on the board? A Copes Tree Frog. Photo by Susie Engle

4th Annual Butterfly Festival

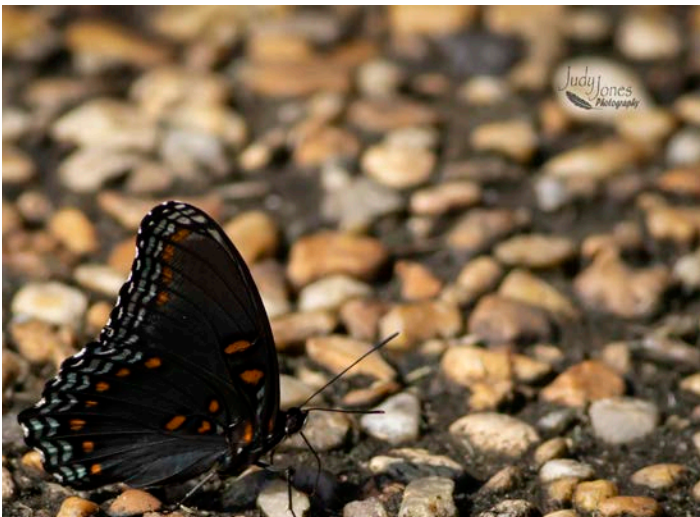
Thank you over and over again for all your help, We couldn't have done it without you!!!! The 4th Annual Butterfly Festival at Williamsburg Botanical Garden was a giant success because a huge number of HRC members stepped up to help out. Despite the heat and humidity, your smiles, your knowledge, and your enthusiasm to teach both the young and older visitors to the garden was a gift we appreciate wholeheartedly. In total, we have 47 members who worked 98 two or four hour slots, some of you over and over again. Because of your energy, expertise, and willingness to help, 4,061 very happy guests went home with crafts, chrysalis, and much more knowledge of our pollinators, plants, and environment.



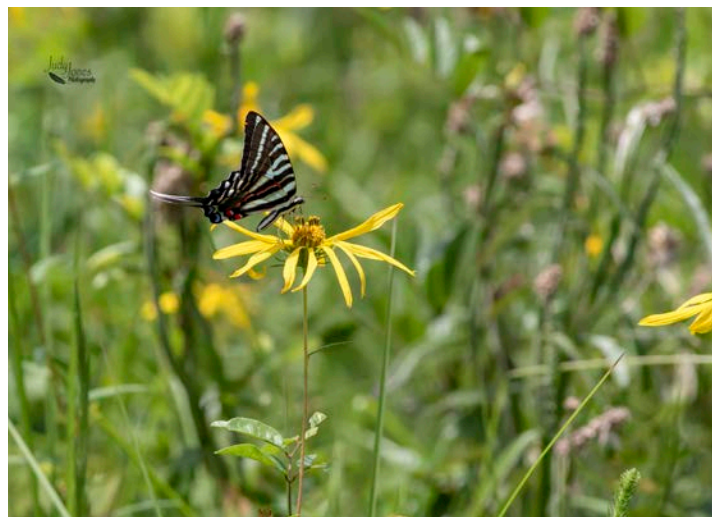
A child is introduced to the wonder of butterflies at the August Butterfly Festival .

Butterflies Spotted during Annual Williamsburg Count

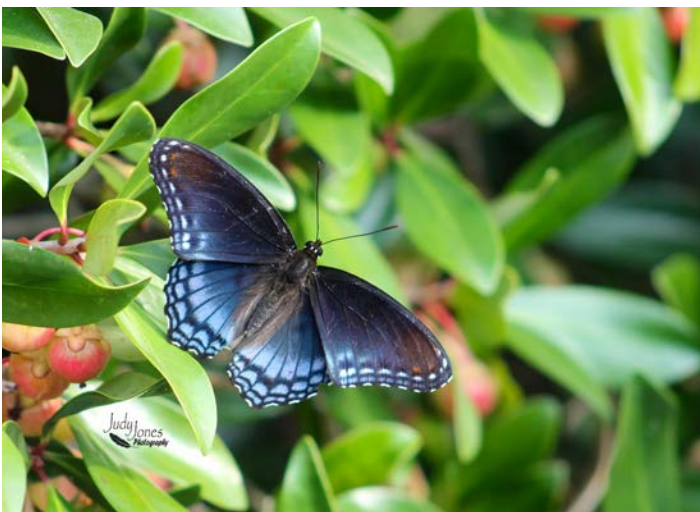
Photos by Judy Jones



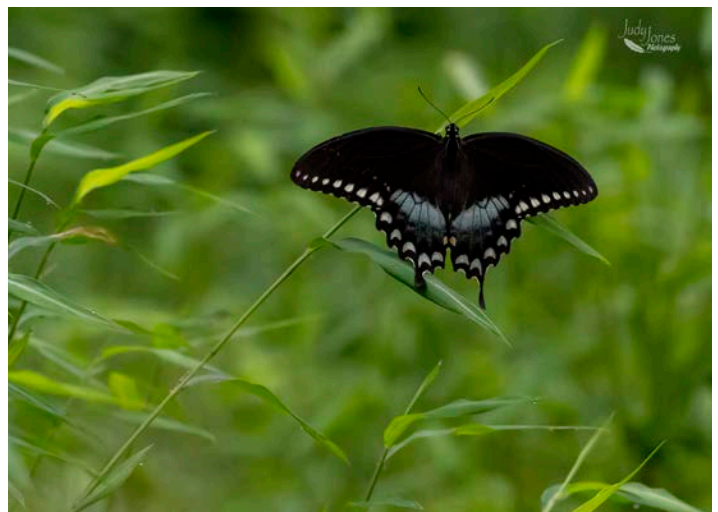
Red-Spotted Purple butterfly



Zebra Swallowtail



Red-Spotted Purple butterfly



Spicebush Swallowtail

Host Plants for Butterfly Caterpillars of the Williamsburg Area

Pipevine Swallowtail - Virginia Snakeroot, Dutchman's Pipe	Summer Azure - Black Haw, Wild Black Cherry	Little Wood Satyr - Orchard Grass, Kentucky Bluegrass
Zebra Swallowtail - Common Paw Paw	Holly Azure, Henry's Elfin - American Holly, Inkberry	Common Wood-Nymph - Purpletop Grass, Little Bluestem
Black Swallowtail - Carrots, Parsleys, Fennel, Queen Anne's Lace	Eastern Pine Elfin - Virginia Pine Brown Elfin - Blueberries (High & Lowbush), Deerberry	Silver-spotted Skipper - American Wisteria, Partridge-pea, Sennas
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail - Wild Black Cherry, Tuliptree/Yellow Poplar	American Snout, Hackberry & Tawny Emperor, Question Mark - Hackberry (Common, Northern Dwarf, Sugarberry)	Southern & Northern Cloudywing, Long-tailed Skipper, Hoary Edge - Legumes (Tick-trefoils, Wild Bean)
Spicebush Swallowtail - Spicebush, Sassafras, Red Bay	Variegated Fritillary, Great Spangled Fritillary - Violets (Blue, Bird's Foot, Field/Wild Pansy); Variegated & Gulf Fritillary - Passion Flower	Wild Indigo Duskywing - Yellow Wild Indigo, Sundial Lupine; Hayhurst's Scallopwing, Common Sootywing - Lamb's Quarters
Palamedes Swallowtail - Red Bay, other Laurels	Pearl Crescent - Asters (Calico, Frost)	Common Sootywing - Amaranth (Tidal-marsh, Smooth Pigweed/Green)
Cabbage White - Mustards, Cabbage, Broccoli, Kale	Question Mark, Eastern Comma - American Elm, Nettles (Wood, False) Eastern Comma - Common Hops	Horace's & Juvenal's Duskywing - Oaks (White, Red, Spanish, Swamp Chestnut)
Orange Sulphur & Clouded Sulphur - C. Partridge-pea, Alfalfa, White Clover	Red-spotted Purple, Viceroy, Black Willow, Eastern Cottonwood Red-spotted Purple - W. Black Cherry	Common Checkered-Skipper - Mallows (Rose, Seashore)
Little Yellow - C. Partridge-pea, W. Sensitive Plant, White Clover, Alfalfa	Mourning Cloak - American Elm, Black Willow, Eastern Cottonwood	Broad-winged, Dun, & Dion Skippers - Sedges
Falcate Orangetip - Mustards, Field Rape, Cress or Bittercress	Red Admiral - Nettles (Wood, False)	Broad-winged Skipper - Wild Rice, Giant & Rice, Common Reed, Cutgrass
Cloudless Sulphur, Sleepy Orange - Partridge-pea, Sennas	American Lady - Plantain-leaved Pussytoes, Everlastings, Ironweed -	Carolina & Gemmed Satyr, Sachem, Fiery Skipper - Bermuda Grass, Crab Grass
Great Purple Hairstreak - American Mistletoe	Painted Lady - Thistles (Field, Yellow), Mallows (Rose, Seashore)	Zabulon, Little Glassywing, Crossline, & Swarthy Skippers - Purpletop Grass, Little Bluestem
Juniper Hairstreak - Eastern Red Cedar	Common Buckeye - Plantains, White Vervain, Purple False Foxglove	Tawny-edged & Delaware Skippers; Southern & Northern Broken-dash - Panic Grasses (e.g., Switch Grass)
Gray Hairstreak - Wild Sensitive Plant, Mallows (Rose, Seashore)	Monarch - Sandvine/ Honeyvine, Milkweeds	Clouded Skipper - St. Augustine /Carpet Grass, other grasses
Red-banded & White-M Hairstreak - Oaks (White, Red, Spanish, Swamp Chestnut)	Carolina & Gemmed Satyr, Northern Pearly-eye - River Oats, Bottlebrush Grass, Virginia Cutgrass	Aaron's & Salt Marsh Skippers - Salt Marsh/ Smooth Cordgrass, Salt Grass; Salt Marsh Skipper - Black Needle Rush
Eastern Tailed Blue - Common Partridge-pea, Alfalfa, White Clover, Wild Sensitive Plant	Appalachian Brown - Sedges	Ocola Least Skippers - Wild Rice, Giant & Rice Cutgrass

Source - Butterflies of the Greater Williamsburg Area: An Annotated List of Species (March 2018)

For information: adrienne-gary@cox.net

Mutiple MN Chapters Band Together for Oyster Restoration

L to r: Carolyn Black, Roger Gosden, Jeff Tucker (non-member), Judy Tucker, Robin Culler, Frank Debolt, Page Hutchinson, David Lunt and Claire White



Eight members of the HRC volunteered at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) Oyster Restoration Center on Friday, August 31st. Our chapter was joined by volunteers from both the Peninsula and Tidewater VMN chapters at the VIMS boat basin in Gloucester to work on this restoration project (S3d). With so many hands available we were able to make light work of all the tasks our project sponsor Heather Lockwood planned.

The morning started at the shell washing station where buckets of used oyster shells from local restaurants were sent along a conveyor belt to be washed and tumbled, before being bagged and stored until they can be used for growing juvenile oysters. Everyone had the opportunity to try out different tasks in the process. Carolyn Black and David Lunt spent some time helping to operate the machinery which rinsed and tumbled the shells. Frank DeBolt and Roger Gosden were often found transporting buckets of cleaned shells to the bagging tables where Robin Culler, Judy Tucker and Claire White filled bags. Page Hutchinson spent much of her time using ring pliers to seal the bags before they were transported to the curing pile.

Our second project was quite the site to see. Everyone joined together to make a human daisy chain to almost effortlessly transport a pallet full of cured bags of recycled oyster shells to a nearby setting tank. The 800 gallon tank was filled with bags to serve as the new home for oyster larvae, which will attach to the shells, continue to grow and eventually make it into our waterways where they serve as an important filter feeder.

The next opportunity to help out with this project will be on Friday, November 30th. If you're interested in helping to restore the bay's health and don't mind getting a little dirty come on out. The more hands on the deck the easier the work.

Learn more at:

<http://www.cbf.org/about-cbf/locations/virginia/facilities/oyster-restoration-center/>



Bluebirds are a VMN Chapter Thing

Three quarters of the members of the Historic Rivers Chapter are bluebird monitors. Monitors check the 317 nestboxes on our 18 trails weekly to record data on bluebirds and other native species. Successes (eggs, chicks and fledglings) and failures (inability to hatch or fledge, predation and insect infestation) are reported to the Virginia Bluebird Society. Each trail has a leader who is responsible for stewardship of the nestboxes, establishing schedules, training monitors, and sending the data to the County Coordinators weekly.

This project began in 2010 when members were asked to “rescue” 12 active bluebird nestboxes not being monitored. The project has grown from 12 boxes and 78 bluebirds fledged in 2010 to 298 boxes and 937 bluebirds (and 251 birds of other species) fledged in 2017. This is the highest number of fledges since the project began and the second highest productivity of 3.98 fledges per box.

In 2015, many bluebirds perished while roosting inside or near the boxes during the harsh winter. Only 350 bluebird chicks fledged from 273 boxes that year, reducing productivity to 2.15 fledges per box. In 2016, the trails began to recover but clearly the Eastern Bluebird is vulnerable. The team is experimenting with winterizing boxes to protect the birds from severe cold.

To protect the nesting birds from predation, recently we organized a clinic to construct 112 Noel guards for older nestboxes and trialed two-Hole Nestboxes where House Sparrows had attacked the bluebirds. Over 3 years, the incidence of sparrow predation declined and bluebirds have successfully nested, with 44 bluebirds fledging from three 2-Hole boxes in 2017.

The Chapter’s trails continue to diversify. Four trails have been established in schoolyards and provide educational opportunities for the students. A VBS web

cam was installed on one school trail and a second is planned for another trail. Our species roster also expanded this year when the Brown-headed Nuthatch and the Tree Swallow nested successfully.

The Project was one of three awards the HRC won at the annual State Conference in early September. VMN Eastern Bluebird Trail Monitoring won the Citizen Science Project Award because it has contributed consistent and quality data on the nesting outcomes of the Eastern Bluebird and other species to the VBS’s state database. Further, it engages 98 members of the Historic Rivers Chapter in a successful and satisfying project to conserve the Eastern Bluebird. Our Bluebird monitoring project would not be possible without the diligence, commitment, and enthusiasm of its monitors. But more than that, the success of this project owes its life to its two mentors,

Jan Lockwood and Lois Ullman.

Eastern Bluebird photos were made by Inge Curtis



NESTING HISTORY OF EGGS LAID AND EGGS FLEDGED, 2012—2018

FLEDGES

- The rate of recovery the bluebirds have experienced since the losses of the winter of 2014-2015 slowed down in 2018. 970 bluebirds fledged in 2018, only 34 more than in 2017.
- The bluebirds laid 1,297 eggs in 2018 – a record! Yet, of those, only 81% hatched, and 76% fledged. This is the lowest percentage of fledges from eggs laid since 2012.
 - ✧ e. we sustained more casualties (lost eggs and chicks) in 2018 than in any year since 2012
- Fledges of “Other species” were lower in 2018 than in 2017 – 1,134 fledged in 2018, 51 fewer than 1,185 in 2017.
 - ✧ It was surprising that some species were absent from trails where they had nested regularly in the past
 - ✧ A new species for our trails, Tree Swallows, successfully fledged.
- Overall productivity per box for all species declined from 3.98 in 2017 to 3.57 in 2018. Note: we had an additional 19 boxes in 2018.

LOSSES

- The 2018 season started slowly. The first egg was recorded on March 24 (March 19 in 2017) but most trails didn't see eggs until the second week of April or later, which resulted in a shorter season and fewer second and third nestings.
- The cool temperatures in March and succeeding spring rains may have caused the birds to abandon some early clutches of eggs.
- There was 1 confirmed and 7 possible incidents of predation by Black Rat Snake, 1 by House Sparrow, and 4 by House Wren. In all, 40 House Sparrow nesting attempts were removed from the boxes. While unsuccessful, they prevented other birds from using the boxes.
- There were 2 reports of vandalism.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Have the trails reached saturation point?
- Have you noted changing habitats where the trails are located? E.g. less mowing/ longer grass making it difficult for the bluebirds to hunt?
- Have you noted more human or recreational use where the trails are located?

Thank you and Happy Trails in 2019!

Jan and Lois



TOTAL FLEDGES HRC BLUEBIRD TRAILS 2018

Trail	# of BOXES	EABL 2018	EABL 2017	CACH	TUTI	WREN	All Fledges Per Box*
Berkeley Middle School	3	13	15				4.33
Cedar Grove Cemetery	7	32	17	5	5		6.0
Chickahominy Riverfront Park	19	83	93	3			4.4
Dr. Grass/Grafton-Bethel E.S.**	7	37	19			HW6	6.14
Ford's Colony	39	58	93	5	26		2.29
Freedom Park	24	28	29	17			1.9
Grace Episcopal Church Yorktwn	5	9	9	0		HW4	2.6
James City County Marina**	9	15	13	7		HW6	3.1
Kingsmill Golf Courses	34	250	215	2	TrSw4		7.52
Kiskiack Golf Course	20	72	87				3.6
Matoaka E.S. Cardinal Way Trail	4	3	8				0.8
National Park Service Colonial Parkway	15	27					1.8
New Quarter Park	17	84	71	0		HW 5	5.2
Newport News Park	40	80	109	15		CW 5	2.5
Poquoson Learning Garden ** Installed and monitored by the Poquoson Master Gardeners. Diverse nestbox designs being evaluated.	20	21	28	4		BHNU 9 HW 24	2.9
Waller Mill Elementary School **	7	17	15			HW8	3.57

continued on page 9

TOTAL FLEDGES HRC-VMN BLUEBIRD TRAILS 2018

York County Sports Complex	12	69	67				5.75
York River State Park Combined with YRSP Entrance Road in 2017	31	72	47	0		HW4	2.5
TOTAL Fledges 18 Trails 2018 (164 Other) 1,134	317	970		58	35	71	3.57
TOTAL Fledges 17 HRC Trails 2017 (251 Other) 1185	298		934	129	56	56	3.98
TOTAL Fledges 15 HRC Trails 2016 (251 Other) 1185	275	611		103	104	27	3.2
TOTAL Fledges 15 HRC Trails 2015 (217 Other) 567	273	350		102	89	26	2.15
TOTAL Fledges 12 HRC Trails 2014 (83 Other) 885	235	802		52	31		3.8
TOTAL Fledges 8 HRC Trails 2013 (116 Other) 742	204	626		67	49		3.6
TOTAL Fledges 7 HRC Trails 2012 (105 Other) 791	190	686		92	92	0	4.2

continued on page 10

EASTERN BLUEBIRD NESTING HISTORY OF EGGS LAID, HATCHED AND FLEDGED ON THE HRC TRAILS 2012-2018

	2012 Season	2013 Season	2014 Season	2015 Season
Date first egg laid	March 22	April 11	April 2	April 5
Total eggs laid	929	807	977	452
Eggs hatched	734 – 79% eggs laid	673 – 83% eggs laid	834 - 85% eggs laid	366 - 81% eggs laid
Bluebirds fledged	686 – 74% eggs laid	626 – 78% eggs laid	802 – 82% eggs laid	350 – 77.5% eggs laid

	2016 Season	2017 Season	2018 Season
Date first egg laid	March 16	March 19	March 24
Total eggs laid	782	1,124	1,297
Eggs hatched	666 – 85% eggs laid	986 – 87% eggs laid	1,049 – 81% eggs laid
Bluebirds fledged	611 – 78% eggs laid	934 – 83% eggs laid	972 – 76% eggs laid

1. The bluebirds laid a record number of eggs in 2018 – 1,297. Of those 81% hatched, while 76% fledged. This is the lowest percentage of fledges since 2012. In other words we had more casualties (lost eggs and chicks to predation, failure to hatch or fledge, etc.) in 2018 than in any year since 2012.



Wildflower of the Month – October 2018

John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

By Helen Hamilton, John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



Devil's Walking Stick (*Aralia spinosa*) By Helen Hamilton

Devil's Walking Stick is well-named—in winter the plant is recognized by an unbranched stem covered with sharp spines, not at all suitable for support while walking. In the growing season the plant produces enormous compound leaves that are divided three times (triply compound) and covered with irritating prickles. These are the largest leaves in North America, reaching four feet long and three feet wide, forming an umbrella-like canopy. Green in summer, they become attractive bronze-yellow to red in fall.

This is a shrub or small tree, that can grow to 30 feet, adding a tropical look to a naturalized setting or mixed shrubbery border. The greenish-white flowers are small, but in great clusters that can be three feet long, held above the leaves, and then drooping from the weight of the flowers. Covered with bees and butterflies in summer, the flowers are followed by dark-purple, juicy berries, very popular with birds and small mammals, that leave behind lacy red stalks.

Devil's Walking Stick is very easy to grow, thrives on neglect and is adaptable to urban conditions. Full sun or part shade and any type of soil is suitable—the plant prefers moist, fertile loams but will tolerate soils with rocks and clay. Devil's Walking Stick is often found along well-drained stream banks and roadsides. It grows rapidly and spreads by self-seeding and sprouts from the base, eventually creating a thicket. A pioneer species, the plant disappears as a forest is maturing.

Scattered throughout eastern U.S. and most counties in Virginia, Devil's Walking Stick grows in upland and low woods and woods edges. While it could be an accent or ornamental, Devil's Walking Stick is too aggressive for the home garden, but since the flowers and fruits are so valuable to pollinators and birds, it is suitable for planting in large lots, along the edge of woodlands. Deer tend to avoid browsing on the prickly leaves, and the plant has no disease problems, nor insect infestations.

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

Welcome Cohort XIII

By Karen Grass



Back row, l to r: Frank Smith, Lark Smith, Greg Carpenter, Joyce Carpenter, Tory Gussman, Jim Easton, Rob Garris, John Enright, Stephen Parfet, Carol Parfet, Lizzy Green, Ann Jo Cosgrove, Mike Whitfield, Annie Layton. Kneeling: Heather Power, Pat Murphy, Lisa Garris, Meghan Lamoreaux, Roxanne Machamer Photo by Judy Jones

The Basic Training Team is pleased to present 19 new members comprising Cohort XIII. The Historic Rivers Chapter will benefit tremendously from this Lucky 13 Cohort, enriched by the diverse skills, talents, and excitement of these trainees. Enthusiasm, energy, and passion for the environment were already in evidence during the first night of class, September 4th, 2018. This session covered an overview of the basic training program, requirements for VMN certification and graduation, and Bill Williams' presentation on the principles of classification and the importance of binomial nomenclature. The culmination of Cohort XIII Basic Training will be graduation at the General Meeting on March 13th, 2019.

This inquisitive group is ready to tackle various environmental topics, engage in the Chapter's projects, and work with oth-

er members to become friends of nature. As these trainees advance through the program, please introduce yourself when they participate in bird walks, plant walks, board and general meetings. Many of the trainees are eager to begin their volunteer service (after risk management training on October 2nd). Whether it's a King Tide training, Wildlife Mapping, Bat Monitoring, or Bird Count, please welcome them and share your expertise and experiences.

A special thanks to our Basic Training Committee for their hard work in planning, recruiting, and running the program and to our sponsors, speakers, and members who continue to support the program throughout the year.

ROUNDUP WEED KILLER CHEMICAL FOUND IN CHEERIOS AND QUAKER OATS! DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS? WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?

fortune.com/2018/08/15/roundup-in-cheerios-weed-killer

"The Environmental Working Group, a Washington, D.C. a group that assesses chemicals in consumer products, on Wednesday released the results of a test it conducted on popular oat-based products, like Cheerios, Lucky Charms, Kind Bars, Nature Valley bars, and others, to determine whether they contained any of the herbicide glyphosate. Glyphosate is the active ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup weed killer, and at high levels, has been linked to cancer."

"Unfortunately, some of the results were not what you might hope. In it's testing, the EWG tested 45 samples of conventionally grown oats and 16 of organically grown oats. In 43 of the 45 cases, it detected glyphosate. And in 31 of those cases, glyphosate levels were above the organization's health benchmark of 160 parts per billion."

"Glyphosate is commonly used by farmers across the industry who apply it pre-harvest." It added that the reported levels of the chemical "are significantly below any regulatory limits" and compliance standards for human consumption."

Native Trees—NOT!

By Rick Brown and Shirley Devan

Kobus magnolia? Ogeechee tupelo? Xiao ye li? Chinese podocarpus? Most certainly these are not the trees that we learned about in Dr. Stewart Ware's "Dendrology" session in Basic Training.

But several Historic Rivers Chapter members have trekked around William & Mary and Colonial Williamsburg looking for these—and other exotic trees in the last few weeks.

BUT WHY?

Earlier this summer VMN volunteers across the state received word from the state VMN office about VA Tech's Dr. Eric Wiseman's effort to Recertify Trees for the VA Big Tree Registry. "The time is upon us to complete 10-year recertification for trees that were last measured in 2008 or prior," per Dr. Wiseman.

Several folks in our Chapter grabbed this idea and Shirley reactivated the project. Reactivated? YES! Our HRC chapter took on this project in 2007 and 2008. After training from Dr. Jeff Kirwan, then director of the Big Tree Project, we set out to find and measure our assigned "big trees" around town. Overall tree scores are determined by a formula set by the National Big Tree Program combining height, crown width and trunk circumference.

Here we are 10 years later, and Dr. Wiseman assigned our volunteers some of the same trees! Seig & Alice Kopinitz, Linda Cole, and Shirley Devan, all members of Cohort I, helped with the first project and were repeaters on this recertification effort, as well. In addition to Seig, Alice and Shirley, 2018 volunteers are Rick Brown, Connie Reitz, Jeanette and Keith Navia, and Glenda White.

The Williamsburg area has only one national champion tree, a Jujube Tree located in CW, and does not have many champion native trees, but there are some. Most of the champion trees are exotics brought to the W&M campus by Dr. Baldwin in the middle of the 20th century. The trees at Colonial Williamsburg are either natives commonly found in this region or trees that were brought to the colonies prior to 1800. The majority were planted during the Rockefeller restoration efforts in the 1930s and added to over the years.

Connie Reitz and Rick Brown are the Co-Champions of this 2018 effort. Rick is a Tree Steward and has all the high-tech equipment we need. In 2008 we used a clinometer to measure a tree's height. Rick has taught us how to use a hypsometer, a laser

range-finder marvel, that requires only a few clicks and the tree's height appears on the screen. Of course, the old-fashioned tape measure is still the go-to tool to measure circumference and crown. Also, improvements in satellite imagery and GPS technology now allow us to locate a tree, zoom in, and pin its precise location on a Google map. Using our smart phones, pads or a GPS tracker (which we did not have in 2007), we can add information, update measurements and then download that data to the Virginia Big Tree Register maintained by Dr. Wiseman at Virginia Tech.

WHAT ABOUT OUR TREES IN 2018? WHAT DID WE FIND OUT?

This year our team located and remeasured a wide variety of species including: a Japanese White Pine and Korean Oak at W&M, and an Eastern Cottonwood at CW, all of which are listed as current state champion trees. We measured trees as tall as the Dawn Redwoods, 117' and small as the Japanese White Pine, 17 feet. Some of the trees have added height while others increased in girth. Weather is a factor that may actually have caused a tree to have decreased in overall measurement. The common denominator is that each of the trees is considered significant enough, with respect to its own species, to rate inclusion on the Big Tree Register. A local tree may get bumped from the list when another larger tree is discovered elsewhere in the state. Sadly, our efforts also found that several trees that were measured and included in 2008 are now gone owing to weather, disease or man-made construction projects. We have located and recertified or eliminated a total of 32 trees so far.

Beth Chambers, Curator of W&M's Herbarium, spent a morning with Rick and Shirley on campus trying to locate and identify a few hard-to-find trees using our list and her book of W&M trees from the 1980s. She was able to confirm that several trees had fallen to construction equipment during 30+ years of renovation and new construction on campus. Plus, the demolition of Millington Hall in the last few years included the demolition of several trees on our list.

Everyone on the team agreed that finding, marking and measuring these big and relic trees is a fun chapter project akin to a treasure hunt. We have become certified Big Tree Huggers!



Shirley and Linda Cole on WM Campus in 2007. Cohort I



Shirley Devan hugging dawn redwood on W&M campus.



Connie Reitz and Glenda White stand by a Quercus chenii on campus

Powhatan Creek Park Cleanup

By Connie Reitz

At our inaugural gathering, three trusty Chapter volunteers spent approximately one hour enjoying donuts, having social conversation, and volunteering. Deb Woodward, Karen Grass, and Connie Reitz enjoyed the early morning shade and lower 80s temperature as they walked the Powhatan Creek Park picking up litter and debris in this small park. This is a new project (S2f) for our Chapter and is another stewardship opportunity. The Chapter had previously worked with the James River Association and James City County Parks and Recreation on the "Blueway" part of this park by documenting birds, animals, and flora found along the creek from the Jamestown Marina up to the park off Jamestown Road. This project is another way to continue the efforts to make our parks and waterway safe and attractive while protecting our environment. A litter cleanup activity will be offered once each month to fulfill our Adopt-a-Park contract. Our Chapter name is on the signage at the entrance of the park to let visitors know we have adopted the care of this park. Hopefully in future months other members will volunteer to keep the park clean. Options for fun after doing the volunteer activity could be spending a few minutes sitting at the picnic table chatting with a couple of friends from your Cohort, kayaking with friends to share an easy paddle (free launch site at the park), sharing lunch at Jamestown Pie or Toby's Dog House with another Chapter member you'd like to know better, or do some birding. Let me know if you have ideas to incorporate with this project. Select a month, day, and time you'd like to volunteer. Challenge another Cohort, BB trail team, or wildlife mapping group. I'd love to hear your suggestions.

The photo is from the Sept 19 cleanup day.



Save the Date & Plan to Attend the Fall Picnic

October 20

Rain date is

October 21

We are very fortunate to be able to host the Fall HRCVMN at the lovely home of Ted Sargent.

Activity details are in development and we welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

Please send your suggestions to
Randi Heise, randiheise@yahoo.com

SUPPORT GULLS GONE WILD

By Shirley Devan

Last weekend, Gulls Gone Wild (a team of Historic Rivers Master Naturalists and Bird Club members) flew around the highways and by-ways of the Eastern Shore for the Kiptopeke Challenge to raise much-needed funds for the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO).

The five Master Naturalists — Nancy Barnhart, Barbara Neis, Joyce Lowry, Sue Mutell, and Shirley Devan—competed against other teams to find the most species of birds in 24 hours.

And the winner was—CVWO!

CVWO supports these HRC projects:

- Williamsburg Area Butterfly Count each August
- Prothonotary Warbler monitoring project in Chesapeake, James City County, Dragon Run, and Newport News Park
- Publication of the HRC brochure
"Butterflies of the Williamsburg Area"
- Annotated List of Species — Butterflies of the Greater Williamsburg Area



Red-headed Woodpecker

The CVWO is a non-profit organization whose mission is the protection of wildlife and habitats in coastal Virginia through field research, education, and land conservation. The CVWO is a 501(c)(3) organization; donations are tax deductible. The CVWO's web site has additional information about its organization, programs, and research:

www.vawildliferesearch.org/annual-kiptopeke-challenge.html

Please support the Gulls! All donations go to CVWO. You can still donate to the Gulls team at the above web site or mail you donation check, payable to CVWO, to Shirley Devan, 6227 Tucker Landing, Williamsburg, VA 23188. Please pledge whatever you like. All who donate at the \$25 level or higher will receive updates, publications, and news about CVWO's projects. and news about CVWO's projects.



Wild Ponies and Cattle Egrets



Gulls Gone Wild Team

Continuing Education (CE) Opportunities – October, 2018

The Continuing Education (CE) calendar is posted on the VMN Volunteer Management System website. When you log in to enter your hours, you can find the link to the CE calendar in the left-hand column under, Event Calendars—Continuing Education. [Click an activity on the calendar and open to find a more detailed description \(including registration information, contact information, any cost, etc.\) of the continuing education activity.](#) Reminder: Travel time is not a part of CE credit/hour(s). Note: Should additional applicable CE event(s) come up during the month the event(s) will be posted on the CE calendar in the VMN Volunteer Management System.

Christopher Wren classes that contain content on the natural environment are accepted as CE training. CW classes require registration and payment (\$\$\$) through the W&M Christopher Wren Association. Typically, there are 3 session and 6 session courses. Applicable courses are listed on the CE Calendar. VLM programs require registration through the VLM. VIMS programs require registration through the VIMS.

If you have a question about the relevance of a topic for Continuing Education or wish to check whether or not you can obtain CE hours, please contact the Continuing Education Chair, Jennifer Trevino, jbktrevino8@cox.net

SAT 09/29/2018	John Clayton Chpt, Native Plant Society plant walk at Taskinas Trail , York River State Park, 9:00-11:00 am
TUE 10/02/2018	HRC Cohort XIII Basic Training Class, Williamsburg Community Chapel, Room 120, "Native Plants," and "Risk Mgmt," 6:00-9:00 pm
SAT 10/06/2018	John Clayton Chpt, Native Plant Society plant walk at Sandy Bottom Park Freshwater Wetlands & Wooded Trail, Sandy Bottom Nature Park, Hampton, 10:00-11:30 am
SUN 10/07/2018	Hampton Roads Bird Club Sunday Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7:00 am
WED 10/10/2018	HRC Gen Meeting (speaker portion), JCC Library, Kitzinger Room, "Tick Study," Matthias Leu, 6:00 pm
SAT/10/13/2018	Williamsburg Bird Club Bird Walk at Bassett Trace, 8:00 am
TUE 10/16/2018	HRC Cohort XIII Basic Training Class, Williamsburg Community Chapel, Room 120, "Entomology," 6:00-9:00 pm
WED 10/17/2018	Williamsburg Bird Club Monthly Meeting, W&M Integrated Science Center, Room 1127, 7:00 pm
SAT 10/20/2018	WBotGarden,"How to Grow Herbs," Freedom Park Interpretive Center, 10 am
SUN 10/21/2018	Hampton Roads Bird Club Sunday Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7:00 am
MON 10/22/1028	C. Wren Class, "Identification of Trees w/ Leaves, Twigs, & Fruit-" 9:30-11:30 am, Session 1 of 3, Wmsbg. Library, \$\$\$-Register w/C. Wren Association
MON 10/22/2018	C. Wren Class, "The Adirondacks-Forever Wild," 1:30-3:30 pm, Wightman Cup Room, Session 1 of 3, \$\$\$-Register w/C. Wren Association
TUE 10/23/2018	C. Wren Class, "Scientific Discoveries & Their Origins," Smart Hall, Rm 110, 1:30-3:30 pm, Session 1 of 3, \$\$\$-Register w/C. Wren Association
THU 10/25/2018	C. Wren Class, "Ecology of Tidal Marshes SE VA," 9:30-11:30, Patriot's Colony, Session 1 of 3, \$\$\$-Register w/C. Wren Association

Continuing Education (CE) Opportunities – October, 2018

THU 10/25/2018	VIMS After Hours Lecture, "Ghost Forests, Zombie Fish, Space Fish: Strange but True Tales" VIMS, 7:00-8:00 pm
SAT 10/27/2018	Williamsburg Bird Club Bird Walk at New Quarter Park, 8:00 am
SAT 10/27/2018	HRC Field Trip to Virginia Living Museum, "Snakes of Virginia," 9:30-12:00, VLM, \$14/per person
MON 10/29/2018	MON 10/29/2018 C. Wren Class, "Identification of Trees w/ Leaves, Twigs, & Fruit-" 9:30-11:30 am, Session 2 of 3, Wmsbg. Library, \$\$\$-Register w/C. Wren Association
MON 10/29/2018	C. Wren Class, "The Adirondacks-Forever Wild," W&M Wightman Cup Room, 1:30-3:30, Session 2 of 3, \$\$\$-Register w/C. Wren Association
TUE 10/30/2018	C. Wren Class, "Scientific Discoveries & Their Origins," Smart Hall, Rm 110, 1:30-3:30 pm, Session 2 of 3, \$\$\$-Register w/C. Wren Association
TUE 10/30/2018	HRC Cohort XIII Basic Training Class, Williamsburg Community Chapel, Room 120, "Ornithology," 6:00-9:00 pm