

The Naturalist

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FROM THE HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER
VIRGINIA MASTER NATURALISTS

Virginia
Master
Naturalist



March 2019

Volume 14, Number 3

The President's Message

By Adrienne Frank

Spring Has Sprung—and It's A New Year for Our Chapter.
AND WE HAVE A LOT GOING ON!

NEW BOARD

First, I would like to welcome our new members to serve on the 2019-2020 HRC Board of Directors and other Committee Chairs. We continue have a very strong board, and it seems that they all have endless energy. It is a delight for me to serve with such a knowledgeable and committed team.

New Members:

Co-Secretary - Betty Bennick

Education & Outreach Co-chairs with Sherry Brubaker, Lark & Frank Smith

Newsletter - Lisa Reagan

Field Trip Coordinators - Dean Shostak & Ginny Broome

Member-at-Large - Glenda White

Risk Management Team - Roger Gosden & Patty Maloney

Members with New Roles:

Membership - Rick Brown

Basic Training Co-chair with Janet Harper, Karen Grass

Historian and Publicity - Keith Navia

Host - Cindy Baker

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

We have all been waiting for warmer weather and it is on the way. Everyday, there is a new service project or continuing education opportunity. For some of us, it's a bit overwhelming to make choices. I encourage you to get out there and do something new and to engage with other members of the chapter. Also, our chapter has set goals for stewardship and outreach to under-served populations, and so I encourage you to think about what you can do as a VMN volunteer. Here are a couple of activities that may be of interest and support our chapter.

CONSIDER STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES - EXAMPLES

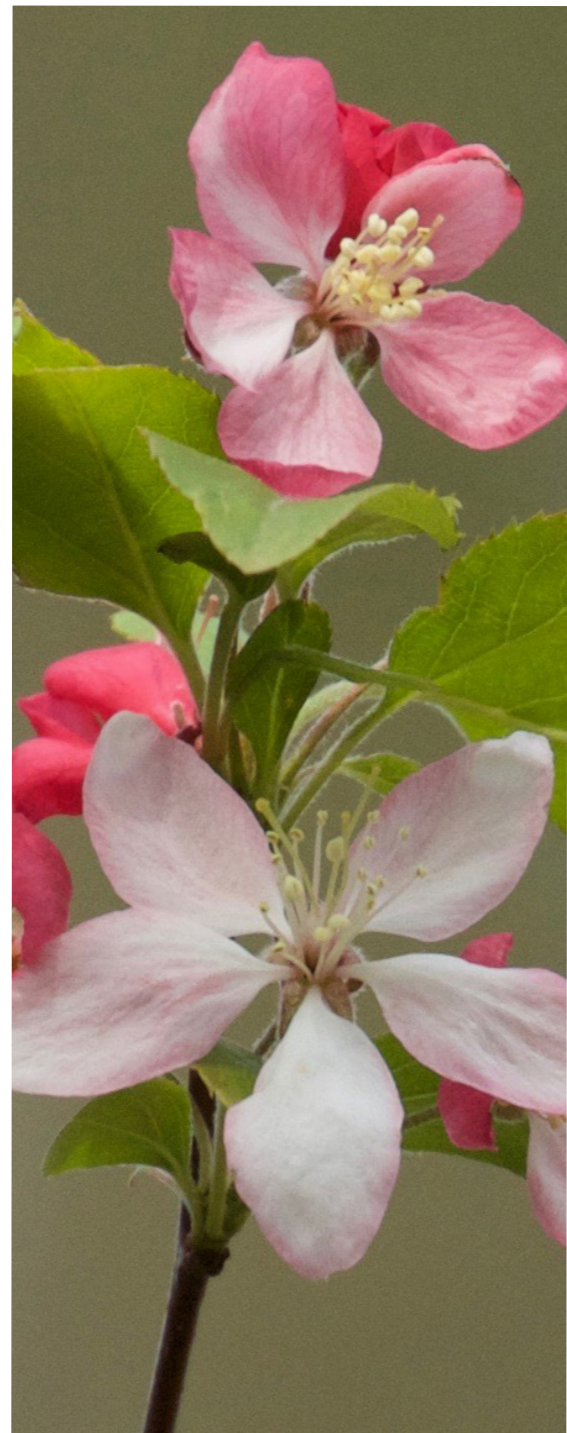
S2E - KEEP JAMES CITY COUNTY BEAUTIFUL - "TEAM UP 2 CLEAN UP"- APRIL 13 - ASK SHIRLEY DEVAN

S2F—ADOPT-A-PARK, CHAPTER-SPONSORED JCC PARKS & RECREATION SITES - ASK CONNIE REITZ

S2C—FWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MAINTENANCE - APRIL 13, MAY 1 - CYRUS BRAME,

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

S1E—WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN SUPPORT— FRIDAYS AT FREEDOM PARK



continued on next page

S2A8—TRAIL AND PARK MAINTENANCE, JCC MARINA - HELP ONE OF OUR PARTNERS - COASTAL VIRGINIA WILDLIFE OBSERVATORY

S2D—THE NATURE CONSERVANCY - VIRGINIA - PROJECTS - APRIL 10-30 - BIRD SIGN INSTALLERS (BARRIER ISLAND). APRIL 18 OR 20 - BROWNSVILLE OPEN FARM DAY PREP (NASSAWADOX) - ASK RICK BROWN FOR INFORMATION

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES—EXAMPLES

PLANT HAMPTON ROADS NATIVES: SUPPORT YORK COUNTY POLLINATORS"—GRAFTON MIDDLE SCHOOL ON APRIL 6 FROM 9-1.

E2L—JAMES CITY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION - FAMILY FUN FEST AT CHICKAHOMINY PARK - MAY 18- JUNE 8

PUBLIC SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS - MULTIPLE

Farmers Market - 2 days this summer

Spring brings so much to observe in nature. April is a great time to find spring butterflies, it's spring migration for birds, and the frogs are singing. It is reproduction time for many species. Get out there and enjoy!

Time to balance your egg! The spring equinox (vernal) fell on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at 5:58 P.M. EDT. This event marks the astronomical first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. Day and night are almost equal in length.

Celebrate the equinox by observing nature around you! According to the Almanac, people have celebrated by doing some of the following:

Balance an egg—Folklore tells us that eggs will stand on the equinox. Many people have had success with keeping eggs balanced for the day. Try it and see!

Watch for worms emerge—The Full Worm Moon was named as a result of people observing the emergence of worms when the full moon occurs on the equinox.

Notice the arc of the Sun across the sky—It shifts toward the north. Birds may be using it as the path northward in migration.

Listen to the birds—Increasing sunlight triggers birds to sing.

Listen for frogs—Get out that frog call CD and see if you can identify frogs by sound.

Observe the emergence of flowers—First the Crocus, then daffodils, then wisteria, etc.

Start planting—Plant some native plants in your yard for the pollinators, they need the nutrients from the nectar and their host plants for their caterpillars.

www.almanac.com/content/first-day-spring-vernal-equinox

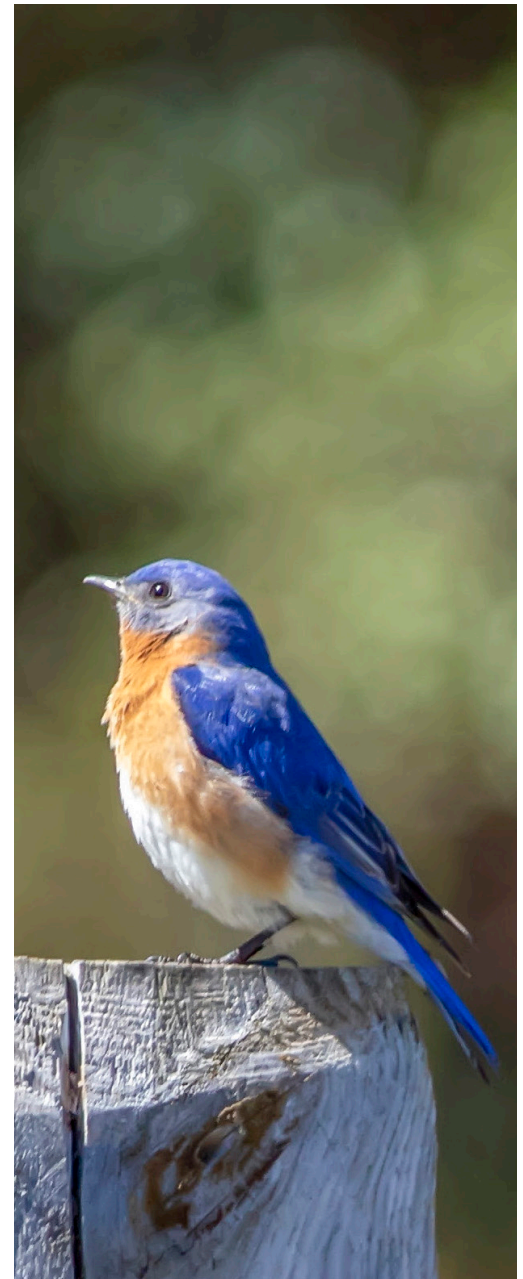
SPRING ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS

Hawk Watch - Several days a week - Ask Nancy Barnhart

Butterflies Exploration - April 13 - Ask Adrienne

Spring Bird Count - May - Ask members of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Bat Monitoring and Bluebirds and Prothonotary Warblers.... The list goes on.



Eastern Bluebird Photo by Judy Jones



Red tailed Hawk Photo by Judy Jones



Crocus Photo by Cindy Baker

Chapter Board

Chapter Advisor	John Gresham
President	Adrienne Frank
Vice-President	Linda Morse
Secretaries (co-chairs)	Betty Bennick, Connie Reitz
Treasurer	Barbara Neis
Volunteer Projects Chair	Shirley Devan
Basic Training (co-chairs)	Janet Harper, Karen Grass
Membership Chair	Rick Brown
Continuing Ed Chair	Jennifer Trevino
Education and Outreach (co-chairs)	Sherry Brubaker, Frank Smith Lark Smith
Historian and Publicity	Keith Navia
Host Chair	Cindy Baker
Newsletter Chair	Lisa Reagan
Field Trips (co-chairs)	Dean Shostak, Ginny Broome
Members-at-Large	Glenda White, Joe Beene
Past President	Judy Jones
Liaison to the State	Susan Powell
Risk Management Team	Roger Gosden, Patty Maloney

Here's the Cohort, It's Name is

XIII

Story by Maude Ann Wilson

Photos by George Reiske

On Wednesday, March 13, our Historic Rivers Chapter of VMN met at the James City County Library to hold our special March meeting. After hearing our guest speaker, Dr. Derek Loftis, speak about sea level rise, coastal flood protection, and the King Tide, we had our election of new officers and then we celebrated **GRADUATION** for our 18 new Cohort XIII members.

These are the new members who worked so hard and accomplished so much:

Greg Carpenter, Joyce Carpenter, Heather Power, Lisa Garris, Rob Garris, John Enright, Lizzy Green, Pat Murphy, Jim Easton, Meghan Lamoreaux, Ann Jo Cosgrove, Roxanne Machamer, Carol Parfet, Stephen Parfet, Tory Gussman, Frank Smith, Lark Smith, and Mike Whitfield.

In addition to all the requirements that Cohort XIII successfully completed, they also did something else amazing....during their training months, the combined volunteer hours that they managed to accumulate were 711 hours of volunteer service and 173 hours of continuing education. What a valuable contribution they have already made to our chapter!! We gratefully thank each of them for their deep caring and wonderful volunteering.

David Lunt, Co-chair of the Cohort XIII training team, congratulated the newest members and announced that they were indeed "a special group of people – citizen scientists and volunteer educators!" He thanked all members of Cohort XIII and their families, all of the presenters, Sharon Plocher for her activities poster masterpieces, and all of the Basic Training Committee. David also shared Cohort XIII's unique hand sign and said that they had learned over 170 objectives by listening and watching over 1,500 slides! David ended by saying that Cohort XIII's learning will never end as they continue to participate in chapter projects.

Following David Lunt's presentation, the entire training team of David Lunt (co-chair), Janet Harper (co-chair), Renee Dallman, Rick Brown, Jennifer Trevino, Barb Neis, Karen Grass, Shirley Devan, and Maud Ann Wilson, presented certificates and gift bags to each new member. NUMEROUS congratulatory pictures were snapped by George Reiske, photographer extraordinaire.

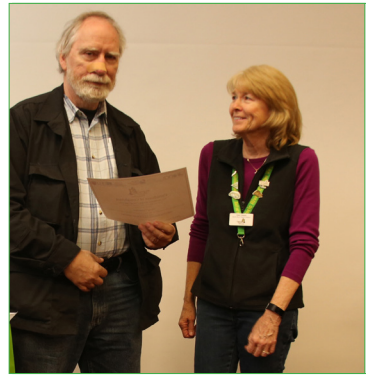


Nine Cohort XIII members were further congratulated for earning their **CERTIFICATION** by accumulating at least 8 hours of Continuing Education and 40 Volunteer Hours in addition to all the requirements of Basic Training. They are **Ann Jo Cosgrove, John Enright, Lisa Garris, Rob Garris, Tory Gussman, Roxanne Machamer, Pat Murphy, Lark Smith, and Mike Whitfield.**

After chapter milestones, including Les Lawrence receiving his 5,000 volunteer hours recognition by Renee Dallman, everyone was invited to a spirited and delicious reception organized and led by our dedicated social chairman Randi Heise.

BIG CONGRATULATIONS go to our newest Cohort XIII HRC-VMN members. We wish them many hours of volunteering and new friendships! We know that we are very lucky to have them join our Historic Rivers Chapter!

continued on next page



And after Graduation
Let
Them
Eat
Cake



Welcome to Cryptogams

During March, Helen Hamilton conducted one workshop, three times, called **Welcome to Cryptogams**. She has been studying Pteridophytes (ferns), Lycophytes (Clubmosses, plus), and Bryophytes (Mosses and Liverworts) in the last few years, gone to workshops and classes, and she also published her book, *Ferns & Mosses of Virginia's Coastal Plain*. After she attended a recent class, she became very excited about sharing some of what she has learned with her friends in Williamsburg.

The focus was on plants that reproduce by spores, without flowers or seeds—**cryptogams**, which include ferns, mosses, liverworts, and other plants. She provided an overview of evolutionary history, taxonomy, anatomy, and life cycles of cryptogams. Mid-morning, we went outside of the Freedom Park office to find samples of these plants. The diversity in a very small area was amazing. Helen identified a number of mosses and a liverwort for us. Inside, she provided binocular microscopes so that we could study plant structures of samples.

Participants included several Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, and Native Plant Society members. Many of the participants were novices, and the workshop only began to cover the surface. However, many of us were inspired and to try to identify some of what we collected. Here are some photos to spark your interest.



Liverwort Marchantia
Polymorpha



Liverwort Snakeskin
conocephaulun salvrosun



Tree Moss



Starburst Moss



Contact: Donna Pratt, Publicity
Phone: 757-608-8929
Email: wareriver@gmail.com

HERBS A-PLenty!

HERB SOCIETY PLANT SALE OFFERS MORE PLANTS AND MORE DAYS TO SHOP

Williamsburg, Va., Mar. 20, 2019—Following last year's sellout event, the Colonial Triangle of Virginia Unit of the Herb Society of America is expanding its annual plant sale in Williamsburg this year to offer more plants and more days to shop. The two-day sale will be held Thursday, April 25, from 4:00 pm-7:00 pm, and Friday, April 26, from 8:00 am-2:00 pm, inside the fellowship hall at King of Glory Lutheran Church, 4897 Longhill Road, Williamsburg. The sale will feature a wider assortment of herbs than last year, as well as herbal soaps and other garden-related craft items. The sale will accept cash and checks only. For more information, contact Donna Pratt at (757) 608-8929

Nature Explorers Club By Karen Grass

James River Elementary School



Students play the Oh Deer Game during which they learn about food, shelter, and water in a habitat with Lisa Garris, Pat Murphy and Rob Garris



Students examine Moss with Pat Murphy and Sherry Brubaker



Students look at Owl pellets.

"Are you curious about nature? Do you enjoy being outdoors and getting dirty? Nature Explorers is the club for you!!! Come and join us in an exploration of your schoolyard, first digging into the soil, training our senses to inquire about what shares space with us at James River Elementary!"

Pat Murphy, a newly graduated member of Cohort XIII used the above ad to attract students to a Nature Club at James River Elementary school for the month of March. Students meet weekly on Wednesday afternoons to explore the habitat in the outdoor meeting space of the school. Lisa and Rob Garris, Rick Brown, and Sherry Brubaker have assisted each week as students examine scat, animal tracks, owl pellets, bugs, plants, birds and the trees that live in the wooded habitat behind the school. Students are enjoying learning about natural resources through games and activities and journaling their finds on their Nature Explorer t-shirts. Several students have asked that the club be continued in the coming months as they love learning outdoors! Pat is already planning the fall version of this engaging club. We hope you might volunteer.



Children made T-shirts that reflected their camp experiences.



Cohort XIII Presentations

In the February newsletter, on the page depicting Cohort XIII's Naturalists presentations, one photo was ill-cropped and another photo was left out. This page corrects those mistakes.



(L to R) Greg Carpenter, John Enright, and AnnJo Cosgrove identified the tremendous scope of the contributions of the American marine biologist, author, and conservationist Rachel Louise Carson (1907 – 1964) whose book *Silent Spring* and other writings are credited with advancing the global environmental movement. Presented during the Cohort XIII Naturalist Biography group presentations.

Photo by David Lunt

(L to R) Lisa Garris, Stephen Parfet, and Jim Easton pose jubilantly after presenting their research into the life and work of George Bird Grinnell (1849 – 1938), an American anthropologist, historian, naturalist, and writer at the Cohort XIII Naturalist Biography presentations on February 2, 2019.

Photo: Lisa Reagan





Bassett Trace Nature Trail

Bassett Trace Nature Trail Is Open

Photos and Story by Shirley Devan

"What's old is new again!" That's how I describe the Bassett Trace Nature Trail in Colonial Williamsburg. For those who have not discovered this local wonder, I hope you will make time to explore it soon.

In the last month, Rick Brown along with some "spear carriers" have installed 20 tree labels and trail markers on the Bassett Trace Nature Trail. We need for leaves to come out to ID a couple trees!

Since the beginning of 2019, Colonial Williamsburg has worked to improve/replace/repair railings and steps, cleared downed trees, installed signage, and redefined the trail entrance.

Meanwhile, the trail is open to the public! No ticket required. The trail is well marked all the way to the Green Course, 1.4 miles one way. Just follow the bright orange circles out and back. Be sure to look for the tree labels on 20 native trees near the trail.

The official opening of the trail was Wednesday, March 20—Colonial Williamsburg Hospitality Group hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony that was open to the public.

I hope a HRC volunteer (or a couple of volunteers) will adopt the trail for Wildlife Mapping. Over 140 species of birds have been documented there (thanks to Nancy Barnhart and others). Just in the days before I found two snakes, two butterfly species, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. And that was officially winter! Also, many native plants are starting to appear.

Wildlife Mapping treks can be done weekly, twice a month, or once a month—however the Project Champion wants to organize the visits.

I also encourage our Chapter to use the trail for tree walks and native plant walks—field trips, continuing education, and Basic Training learning opportunities.

We are still awaiting word from CW on the specifics of their weekly guided tours.

When we know more, we'll reach out for leaders and "sweepers." We'll also definitely have orientation sessions that will be open to all.

Let us know if you have questions. Thanks for your support!



Bloodroot Flower



Garter Snaker



Rick Brown Tags Eastern Red Cedar



Eastern Comma Dorsal

Upcoming Continuing Education (CE) Opportunities

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.) for 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.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at W&M (formerly, Christopher Wren Association) classes that contain content on the natural environment are accepted as CE training. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at W&M classes require registration and payment (\$\$\$) through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at W&M (formerly, 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, jbktrvino8@cox.net

MON 04/01/2019	W&M Osher Institute Class, "What Bugs You: Intro. to Insects and Other Arthropods," 2:00-4:00 pm, W&M Wightman Cup Room, Session 2 of 3, \$\$\$
THU 04/04/2019	W&M Osher Institute Class, "What Bugs You: Intro to Insects and Other Anthopods, 2:00-4:00 pm, Wightman Cup Room, Session 3 of 3
SAT 04/06/2019	"Plant Hampton Roads Natives; Support York County Pollinators," 9:00-1:00 pm Grafton Middle School, must register https://www.yorkcounty.gov/FormCenter/Beautification-Committee-30/Plant-Hampton-Roads-Natives-Support-York-90
SUN 04/07/2019	Hampton Roads Bird Club Sunday Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7:00 am
TUE 04/09/2019	Friends of Dragon Run General Meeting, 7:00 pm, Gloucester Library
WED 04/10/2019	HRC Gen Meeting (speaker portion), 6:00 pm, JCC Library Kitzinger Room
THU 04/11/2019	W&M Osher Institute Class, "Tidal Marshes of Chesapeake Bay," 9:30-11:30, Discovery Park New Town, Rm 136, Session 1 of 3 \$\$\$
SAT 04/13/2019	Williamsburg Bird Club Bird Walk, Location TBD, 8:00-10:00 am
SAT 04/13/2019	John Clayton Chapter VNPS, "Spring in the Forest Walk," Longhill Swamp at Lafayette HS, 10:00 am
TUE 04/16/2019	VIMS Discovery Lab Series, "Plastic Pollution In Our Oceans," 6:00-8:00 pm, VIMS Catlett-Burruss Research and Educational Lab
WED 04/17/2019	Williamsburg Bird Club Monthly Meeting (speaker portion), 7:00 pm W&M Integrated Science Center, Rm 1127
THU 04/18/2019	W&M Osher Institute Class, "Tidal Marshes of Chesapeake Bay," 9:30-11:30 am, Discovery Park New Town- Rm 136, Session 2 of 3
THU 04/18/2019	W&M Osher Institute Town & Gown Lecture, "A New Paradigm for Oysters in the Chesapeake," 12:15-1:15; must already be registered for classes through Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to attend
THU 04/18/2019	VLM Naturally Speaking Series: "Corals in Hot Water; Climate Change Impacts," 6:00 pm, VLM, must RSVP, https://thevlm.org
SAT 04/20/2019	Williamsburg Bird Club Field Trip to Great Dismal Swamp- Jericho Ditch, carpool 6:15 am, Colony Square Shopping Center
SUN 04/21/2019	Hampton Roads Bird Club Sunday Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7:00 am
WED 04/24/2019	HRC Field Trip-Dragon Run Kayak Paddle, 9 am-1 pm, limited space, must pre-register, note: paddle only for CE credit (no travel time)

THU 04/25/2019	W&M Osher Institute Class, "Tidal Marshes of Chesapeake Bay," 9:30-11:30, Discovery Park New Town, Rm 136, Session 3 of 3
SAT 04/27/2019	Williamsburg Bird Club Bird Walk at New Quarter Park, 8:00-10:00 am
SAT 04/27/2019	John Clayton Chapter VNPS, "Spring Woodland Flowers Walk," White Oak Trail at Newport News Park, 10:00 am
SAT 04/27/2019	WBotGarden, "Feathered Friends in the Backyard All Year Long," 10:00-11:30 am, Freedom Park

April HRC Volunteer Opportunities prepared by Shirley Devan

Date	Start Time	Project Code and Name	Contact	Email	Notes
Monday, April 1, 2019	9:00 AM	C1b -- Wildlife Mapping- York River State	Adrienne Frank	adrienne-gary@cox.net	
Wednesday, April 3, 2019	6:30 PM	A1a -- Board meeting at the Williamsburg Landing	Adrienne Frank	adrienne-gary@cox.net	
Wednesday, April 3, 2019	8:45 AM	C1b -- Wildlife Mapping - Jamestown Island	Nancy Barnhart	barnhartnt@gmail.com	
Friday, April 5, 2019	9:00 AM	S1e -- Work in Williamsburg Botanical Garden every Friday	Gary Driscole	adrienne-gary@cox.net	
Sunday, April 7, 2019	8:00 AM	C1b -- Wildlife Mapping at New Quarter Park	Jan Lockwood, 757-634-4164	nzedr@msn.com	Meet at Parking Lot near Office
Monday, April 8, 2019	9:00 AM	C1b -- Wildlife Mapping- York River State Park	Adrienne Frank	adrienne-gary@cox.net	
Wednesday, April 10, 2019	6:00 PM	A1a -- General Meeting at Kitzinger Room- JCC Library	Adrienne Frank	adrienne-gary@cox.net	
Thursday, April 11, 2019	9:00 AM	C1b -- Wildlife Mapping - Greensprings Interpretive Trail	Rose Ryan/Keith Navia	Rose: whispering-wind10875@gmail.com	Keith: schrodcat7@gmail.com
Friday, April 12, 2019	9:00 AM	S1e -- Work in Williamsburg Botanical Garden every Friday	Gary Driscole	adrienne-gary@cox.net	
Friday, April 12, 2019	10:00 AM	S2a5 -- Artifact Wash and Talk	Sara Lewis	Sara.Lewis@york-county.gov	Let Sara know if you can help out
Saturday, April 13, 2019	9:00 AM	S2c -- James River National Wildlife Refuge Powell Ck Proj	Cyrus Brame, USFWS	cyrus_brame@fws.gov	contact Cyrus if you plan to attend
Saturday, April 13, 2019	8:00 AM	S2e -- James City County Spring Clean Up	Shirley Devan	sedevan52@cox.net	
Monday, April 15, 2019	9:00 AM	C1b -- Wildlife Mapping- York River State Park	Adrienne Frank	adrienne-gary@cox.net	

DATE	START TIME	PROJECT CODE AND NAME	CONTACT	EMAIL	NOTES
Tuesday, April 16, 2019	8:00 AM	C1b -- Wildlife Mapping at New Quarter Park	Jan Lockwood, 757-634-4164	nzedr@msn.com	Meet at Parking Lot near Office
Friday, April 19, 2019	9:00 AM	S1e -- Work in Williamsburg Botanical Garden every Friday	Gary Driscole	adrienne-gary@cox.net	
Monday, April 22, 2019	9:00 AM	C1b -- Wildlife Mapping- York River State Park	Adrienne Frank	adrienne-gary@cox.net	
Tuesday, April 23, 2019	8:00 AM	C1b -- Wildlife Mapping at New Quarter Park	Jan Lockwood, 757-634-4164	nzedr@msn.com	Meet at Parking Lot near Office
Thursday, April 25, 2019	9:00 AM	C1b -- Wildlife Mapping - Greensprings Interpretive Trail	Rose Ryan/Keith Navia	Rose: whispering-wind10875@gmail.com	Keith: schrodcat7@gmail.com
Friday, April 26, 2019	9:00 AM	S1e -- Work in Williamsburg Botanical Garden every Friday	Gary Driscole	adrienne-gary@cox.net	
Sunday, April 28, 2019	9:00 AM	C1b -- Wildlife Mapping - Yorktown Battlefield	Jeff Honig, 757-771-8041	aberlour@cox.net	Text Jeff if you arrive late & need to locate group
Monday, April 29, 2019	9:00 AM	C1b -- Wildlife Mapping- York River State Park	Adrienne Frank	adrienne-gary@cox.net	