

The Naturalist

March 2023 Newsletter | Volume 19, Number 3
Historic Rivers Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists

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A Message from the President

by Connie Reitz

Change is in the air. It's April and things are happening. What's happening in our Chapter? Lots!

The first change you may have noticed is the new **VMN logo** (pictured below left). It's still a butterfly, just a little stylized, a little bright, and a little swoop/slash so it fits in with the other logos of programs under the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) umbrella. You'll see this new addition on the Better Impact (BI) homepage, Facebook page, emails from VMN, and other items which are viewed by the public. We will gradually be changing to the new logo on chapter items (clothing orders, tablecloths, banners, rack cards).

Another change is the membership of the HRC board. At the March general meeting we held our annual meeting with elections. Please welcome to the board as new members Claire White, Newsletter; Donna Benson and Marie Robertson, Hospitality co-chairs; and Janet Harper, member at large. Jen Harrigan remains on the board but moved to Education & Outreach co-chair. Shirley Devan, Jennifer Trevino, and Barb Neis are the new triad leading the Basic Training team. We should truly thank them since each holds another board position! They are willing to expand their duties so another training class can be held. All other board members remain in their respective offices. These new and returning members will continue to help



**Virginia Master
Naturalists**

guide our chapter forward with enthusiasm and excitement.

Remember to thank Janet Crowther, Adam Ferguson, Karen Hines, and Suzanne Stern for their time given to board activities. This group has rotated off the after completing their term.

We welcome 21 new members to the HRC. Five new members from W&M Cohort 3 and sixteen members from Cohort XVI were accepted into the ranks last month. Each one has completed training and the application process. Eight members of the cohort are certified. Congratulations to all who graduated! The new members who are students at W&M may need rides and/or mentoring in the next few months. I hope they will ask for assistance when wanting to join an activity or for guidance concerning CE or activities with our chapter. Be ready to lend a hand or a car ride.

We all want to thank Cohort XVI for the generous donation they made to HRC. They pooled their monies and gifted us with an unrestricted contribution to be used by the chapter. What a grand surprise!

Lots of our volunteer activities are gaining momentum. Education & Outreach has several events which will need volunteers and the Speakers Bureau has had many requests. Many of the plant activities are seeking help with potting, pulling, selling, and sharing. Get your hands dirty while sharing a plant with a friend or pulling an unwanted one out of the way. Birds are being counted and the butterflies are fluttering as they wait to be counted. The trees are anxious for the new VMN Tree Steward class members to come out to give them a hug, a measurement, or both. Training is about halfway through for this group.

Those are the notes of change for this month. Hope to see you out in nature somewhere soon.



Linda Morse (Cohort VII) with William & Mary Cohort 3.

Left to right: Linda, Kinsey Shefelton, Coral Rankin, William Cabral, Ben Steinman, and Savannah Anderson.



Cohort XVI members after graduation with HRC banner. | From left front row (hands on banner):

Martha Moss, Elizabeth Myers, Donna Benson, Christine Mason, Sarah Hodges. **Next row back, from left:**

Kristie Hammond, Robert Ambrose, Jim Leech, Bill Weldon (Leech and Weldon have beards), Marie Robertson, Lisa Cumming. **Farthest row back, from left:** Ron Hunt, Tracy Melton, Dave Beal, Leisa Clark, Dave Watt.

Snapshot: Wildlife Mapping at Croaker Landing

by Adrienne Frank



York River State Park,
James City, Virginia, US

Mar 6, 2023

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Protocol: Traveling
2.0 mile(s)

Checklist Comments:

Croaker Landing - Sunny and 50 degrees to start. Saw 1 angle-wing, 5 Henry's Elfin, and >20 medium size moths. A rat snake crawled up a tree, there were frogs and turtles in the wet area near the parking lot. Found a dead raccoon.

There were thousands of ducks on the river and 22 bird species total.

Canvasback 300
Lesser Scaup 100
Mourning Dove 1
Ring-billed Gull 6
Double-crested Cormorant 10
Great Blue Heron 2
Turkey Vulture 3
Belted Kingfisher 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker 3
Pileated Woodpecker 2
American Crow 3

Carolina Chickadee 2
Tufted Titmouse 4
Brown-headed Nuthatch 2
Carolina Wren 2
Eastern Bluebird 2
White-throated Sparrow 8
Song Sparrow 1
Eastern Towhee 2
Pine Warbler 12
Northern Cardinal 3

Ruddy Duck 4000- This was the most we have ever seen; they were close on the western side of the water and the rafts continued down from Croaker Landing beyond our sight.

Photo above, left to right: Martha Moss, Connie Reitz (kneeling) Babs Giffin, Adrienne Frank, Leisa Clark, Judy Jones, Christine Mason, Donna Benson, Lisa Cumming, Elizabeth Myers, Les Lawrence, Jan Lockwood, Brad Glasebrook, Ginny Broome, Shan Gill, Gary Driscoll.

Upcoming/Recurring Wildlife Mapping Opportunities

Additional details can be found on Better Impact, with last minute updates posted on HRC Google Group.

York River State Park	Apr 10/17/24, May 1	Every Monday
New Quarter Park	Apr 11/25	2 nd and 4 th Tuesday of the month
Greensprings Trail	Apr 13/27	2 nd and 4 th of Thursday of the month
Yorktown Battlefield	Apr 30	Last Sunday of the month
Jamestown Island	May 3	First Wednesday of the month

Let's Plant Some Trees! by Judy Kinshaw-Ellis

March means March Madness and for me, in addition to the basketball tournament, it means the arrival of a few hundred seedlings that were ordered months before. And many seedlings mean many people are asked to help plant. March 17 was the first day of planting and Master Naturalists, a Master Gardener, and a couple of people who are completing the new MN Tree Steward training all helped.

The first group of seedlings went into the Settlement at Freedom Park. A few Black Oak and about 20 Arrowwood Viburnum were planted, and a few Redbuds were put in near the parking lot. On March 20, patches of Hazelnuts and Chokeberries were added to the Settlement. On March 21, volunteers put in a variety of Plum trees both in the Settlement and in other areas of the park. Then on March 23, another 50 Redbuds were planted around Freedom Park.

There are two goals for the plantings in Freedom Park: the first is to increase the plant diversity throughout the park, and the second is to add trees and woody shrubs that would have provided food to the free Blacks who lived in the area in the early 1800s. The plantings focus on native species, but they are not exclusively native plants because the time period for the Settlement is 1804 to the 1850s. More than 1000 seedlings have been added in the last four years.

A number of water-loving seedlings also arrived. Bald Cypress, River Birch, and a couple of shrubby Dogwood species will be planted along the Chickahominy River at Brickyard Landing. Stay tuned for exciting news about a new project coming to Brickyard later this year.

Planting trees is a hard work, but it is extremely rewarding, and it is a fun way to spend some time with friends. Be sure to stop by the Settlement and check out the new plantings. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped to get this year's seedlings in the ground.

Photo bottom left: The first group of volunteers spent a couple of hours planting, watering, and putting tree protectors on the tiny seedlings. Left to right: Sig Kopinitz, Master Gardener Debe Sineath, Jeanette Navia, Keith Navia, and VMN Tree Steward trainees, Connie Reitz, Alice Kopinitz, and Judy Kinshaw-Ellis (photographer).

Photo bottom right: Sig, Keith, and Connie team up to get the tree in the ground and watered.



Aloha from Hawaii

by Cheryl J. Jacobson

I believe that Aloha expresses the spirit of Master Naturalist.

Aloha is the Hawaiian word for love, affection, peace, compassion and mercy, that is commonly used as a simple greeting but has a deeper cultural and spiritual significance to native Hawaiians, for whom the term is used to define a force that holds together existence. I love this definition as it expresses my feelings for those who love nature, a force that holds together existence.

I recently spent two weeks in Hawaii observing birds, whales, seals, turtles, and nature. See my top photo of the **600-pound Monk Seal** giving birth. There are only 1400 left in the world. I saw **Green Turtles on the beach**, being protected by naturalists like us. See second photo on the right.

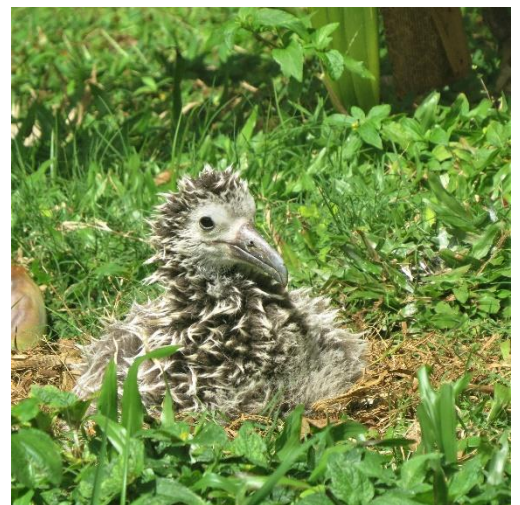
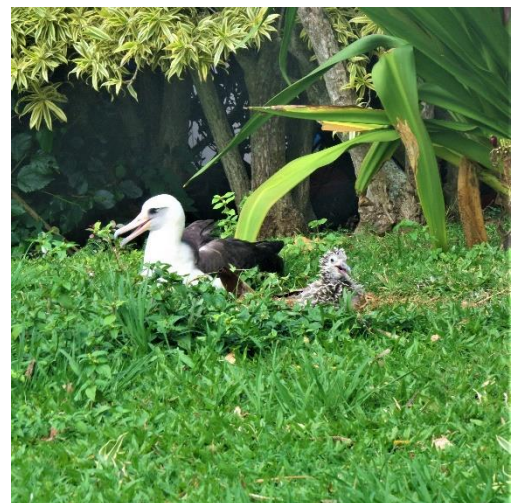
And of course, I saw many bird species I had never seen previously (54 new species to me). One of my favorite experiences was seeing **Laysan Albatross nesting** in a neighborhood. See photos of chick and parent (bottom right).

Now that I have your attention with cute, a major reason I decided to go to Hawaii is my interest in conservation of birds. I chair the Conservation Committee of WBC and co-chair the Purple Martin HRC Project.

Hawai'i's endemic forest birds are facing an immediate extinction crisis. Across the Hawaiian Islands, native forest birds have been experiencing population declines that have accelerated in the last one to two decades. Avian malaria, a non-native disease transmitted by invasive mosquitoes, is driving the potential extinction of four endemic Hawaiian honeycreepers: 'akikiki, 'akeke'e, kiwikiu, and 'ākohekohe. Two of the species have fewer than 200 birds remaining and could go extinct in the next few years. Once, there were more than 50 species of honeycreepers spread across the islands – today, only 17 species remain, most of which are restricted to small areas of habitat too cold for mosquitoes and avian disease. The kiwikiu and 'akikiki, have less than 200 individuals remaining and could go extinct in as little as two years.

In the world of conservation, all is not gloom and doom as we know firsthand by conservation efforts locally that addressed concern for American Bald Eagle. In Hawaii in addition to mosquito control, the other conservation activities being tried include: bringing birds into captive care until such time mosquito control is achieved; and moving birds from forests threatened by avian malaria or captivity to disease-free sites.

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In my search for honeycreepers, I spent a day with a guide at the Hakalau Forest Nature Reserve which was established in 1985 to protect and manage endangered forest birds like the Hawai'i 'ākepa, 'akiapōlā'au, and 'i'iwi, and their rainforest habitat. It is a challenging destination due to both remoteness and protective restrictions on visitor access, requiring the services of a permitted guide. The eastern slope of Mauna Kea is among the wettest places in the U.S., which I discovered as on we arrival, it was raining lightly but as the day progressed, so did the rain, a true rain forest. After several hours I abandoned my efforts to take photos. The accessible portion of the refuge is around 6,000-6,500' elevation, and the temperature was 39 degrees. However,

I endured as the beauty of the birds and forest was phenomenal. I got good looks at the rare 'akiapōlā'au, but due to the rain, was unable to take photos. Please see a photo taken by guide, Many Talpas, on a day with less rain.

So my HRC friends, lets keep up our conservation efforts as they are so critical at this time!

CE Highlights: Recent continuing education (CE) videos available

A select list of recent CE opportunities available to watch on-demand are below. Click the title to be directed to the webpage or YouTube video uploaded by the organization. Be sure to record your hours in Better Impact.

From Virginia Master Naturalists State Program:

Life is short but snakes are long: diversity and natural history of Virginia's snakes by Arianna Kuhn, Virginia Museum of Natural History (February 2023)

Exploring the mineral resources of Virginia by Thomas Hale, Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter Inc. (March 2023)

From The Williamsburg Bird Club:

Bird Bedlam on the Beach by Pete Myers, Ph.D., Biologist, Calidris.Photography (January 2023)

Behind the Scenes of Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation and What You Need to Know About Rescuing Wildlife by Julie Wobig, Deb Woodward and Colleen Harlow from AWARE (February 2023 Joint Meeting with HRC)

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Populations in

Virginia by Chance Hines, Research Biologist at the Center for Conservation Biology (March 2023)

From Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS):

Chesapeake Bay water quality: From Short-term Forecasts to Long-term Trends by Marjy Friedrichs and Fei Da, VIMS (January 2023)

Applying Marine Science to Regulatory Realities

by Emily Hein, Assistant Director Advisory Services VIMS (February 2023)

From Virginia Living Museum:

Adaptive Feeding Behavior in Bottlenose

Dolphins by Megan Galipeau, South Carolina Aquarium, Volunteer & Teen Programs Manager (January 2023)

Native Plants for Sale, a list by HRC members

Chapter members were asked on March 20th to send in their knowledge about in-person and online sites for ordering native plants. Below is a compilation of what Suzanne Stern, Judy Jones, Judy Kinshaw-Ellis, and Marie Robertson had to share. Thanks to Marie for the photos of her native plants (blueberry, bluebells, and spicebush with spicebush caterpillar). Enjoy! Hyperlinks abound to take you directly to websites.

Nurseries to Visit:

Coleman Nursery 3000 Ironbound Road Williamsburg, VA 23185 757-903-2778	colemannursery.com "I have had success ordering from Coleman Nursery ... They will actually order the native plants for you if they have access to them."
Forest Lane Botanicals 104 Forest Lane Williamsburg, VA 23188 757-291-4899	forestlanebotanicals.com "I highly recommend them as both a great source of plants but also as a way to support by buying local."
Lady Fern's Native Plants 4900 Colley Ave Norfolk, Virginia 23508 757-678-6041	vnps.org/native-plant-nursery-list/entry/8743/ Grown by VNPS Member. Majority of plants are native to Virginia. Closed Sunday and Monday
Reedy Creek Environmental 4020 Dunston Ave Richmond, VA 23225 804-980-0013	reedycreekenvironmental.wordpress.com "a small nursery run out of a gentleman's yard in Richmond; he has fair prices and some great native plants."
Southern Branch Nursery 1412 Benefit Road Chesapeake, VA 23322 757-373-7763	southernbranchnursery.com "they have a wide variety of good quality plants"



Online Sales:



gardenforwildlife.com by National Wildlife Federation

izelplants.com "a clearing house for other nurseries"

prairiemoon.com Seeds and plants available. Located in Winona, Minnesota.

wholesalenurseryco.com "I ordered bare root Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) online here and they are doing well in the natural area of my yard."

thepollennation.com "exceptional packaging and shipping, my plugs arrived in great shape!"

treefredericksburg.org "offers native trees and shrubs at very affordable prices in the fall. You have to drive to Fredericksburg to pick them up, but the process is very organized and the price and selection are very good. They sell out quickly so you have to watch for when they open the sale online."

2023 Native Plant Sales

Check out the calendar to the right for sales in Williamsburg and nearby from Richmond to Newport News.



Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS.org):

Find even more native **plant nurseries** and **plant sales** throughout the state of Virginia on the VNPS website.

Facebook: "I spend a lot of time on the Virginia Native Plant Society Group on Facebook, and I recommend joining the **Virginia Native Plant Swap** group on Facebook. I have gotten free plants from other native plant enthusiasts between here and Richmond, as well as in Newport News."

Apr 22 thru May 7am-dusk	Williamsburg Botanical Garden Located inside Freedom Park 5337 Centerville Road Williamsburg, VA 23188 Plant sale using an honor box. Mostly natives and a few non-natives. Sign up for email updates when new plants are added. williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org
Apr 22-23 Apr 29-30 9:00-4:30	Virginia Living Museum 524 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard Newport News, VA 23601 Spring Native Plant Sale Weekend 1, Weekend 2 "Go early, many varieties of straight native plants; plant list posted online in advance" VLM horticulture staff focus on native plants that will do well in the landscape.
Apr 29 9:30-2:30	Williamsburg Community Building 401 North Boundary Street Williamsburg, VA 23185 John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society Annual Native Plant Sale Plants to attract pollinators. Expert advice on choosing and planting.
May 5-6 9:00-3:00	Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden 1800 Lakeside Avenue Richmond, VA 23228 Spring PlantFest "Go early!"
May 6 9:00-12:00	Williamsburg Botanical Garden Located inside Freedom Park 5337 Centerville Road Williamsburg, VA 23188 James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association Plant Sale Natives and non-natives
Sept 15-16 9:00-3:00	Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden 1800 Lakeside Avenue Richmond, VA 23228 Fall PlantFest "Go early!"



Members Spotlight:

Two at Work Behind-the-Scenes

Jeanette Navia (pictured top left) and **Judy Jones** (pictured below) are two long standing members who, to quote current HRC President Connie Reitz, “do a lot of behind-the-scenes works which no one notices until things are available or updated. The change in the logo brought this to my attention. So many little things which have to be addressed and these positions get lots done without much fanfare or recognition.” Both are board members of many years who generously took the time to answer questions about their involvement in HRC starting with how and when they joined the chapter, and focusing on their respective board roles, including how they found their way to it and the responsibilities they carry, along with a few of the highlights of their favorite projects outside of their board work. **Jeanette** is our webmaster and **Judy** currently serves as the membership coordinator and the Better Impact contact. Continue reading to see what they had to say.

Jeanette Navia, Cohort III

I joined the Historic Rivers Chapter in 2008. We in Cohort III started classes in September and graduated in December. Classes were held every week except for Thanksgiving break. I was working full time as a cataloger at the Williamsburg Regional Library, but found the classes so interesting, it did not seem like a burden to get everything done.

Seig Kopinitz had already created the chapter’s website in 2007. When Seig was ready to give up his web duties in 2011, I volunteered to take it on, as I had enjoyed creating websites since I’d handwritten one in HTML in the late 1990s. The HRC site had a lot of information, both for the public and for members, with pages on local birds, insects, trees, and other flora and fauna, as well as pages listing all the chapter volunteer projects and updated listings of continuing education opportunities. Keeping it up got to be overwhelming, so a group of us (Shirley Devan, Susan Powell, Jennifer Trevino and I) got together in 2016 to decide what to do. We decided we should just have a few public pages to show potential members what we were about.

I only update a few things now: I add a copy of our newsletter every month; I add information about the Nancy Norton Nature Camp Scholarship once a year; and I post registration information about joining our Chapter each June. Working with Janet Crowther and MJ O’Byrne, I recently added a section on our Speakers’ Bureau with a contact form so community groups can request HRC members who volunteer to give presentations. The site also has a general contact form so members of the public can ask questions. Luckily, these get sent directly to the president of the chapter (currently Connie), so I don’t have to reply to them.

I also administer the Google Groups email mailing lists, adding new cohort and board members, deleting those who have left, and changing people’s email addresses when necessary.

My favorite projects are outdoors: bluebird monitoring; litter pickup; planting trees and wildlife mapping. Greensprings Interpretive Trail is my favorite wildlife mapping site and my husband, Keith, and I lead a walk there twice a month.

Judy Jones, Cohort VIII

I am a graduate of Cohort VIII, graduating in March of 2014. Presently, I am Membership Coordinator as well as the Better Impact (BI) contact. In the past I've been hospitality, publicity, outreach, president, past-president, and secretary. I volunteered for both membership and BI contact. I love being on the board and being active in the HRC discussions and decisions as to the direction we'll take over the next few years. It gives me great joy to see the skill and talent of new board members as they intertwine their ideas and enthusiasm with existing board members and work to keep our Chapter fresh and new.

My roles this year blend together...as the membership coordinator, I help members navigate the BI system, order nametags, monitor milestone accomplishments, and assist in writing the annual report. As BI contact, I am there to help members navigate the BI system, add/remove activities and feedback fields, make bulk and individual changes, and offer suggestions to folks as to how to improve their profiles or how to re-enroll.

Unexpected surprises on the Better Impact site are never good news. So, I try to keep those to a minimum. As to highlights, I'm always impressed by the number of volunteer hours our chapter records each month and each year. We are so dedicated to making a difference in our community—from outreach and education, to stewardship, to citizen science...I am humbled by the number of members who are working hard to make a difference.

I'm involved in many projects – the plethora of volunteer and Cont. Ed opportunities never ceases to amaze – it's a buffet of activities and I'm just ready to dig in! I monitor Purple Martins, Osprey, and bluebirds. I monitor clouds and rainfall. I work as a trail guide and steward on Bassett Trace. I volunteer in local community gardens, pick up litter, coordinate our nature camp selection process, coordinate the photo display at the regional library, and I speak to groups about eagles or bluebirds or maybe ospreys—whatever topic they choose. I volunteer at outreach activities and enjoy helping hospitality plan picnics and gatherings. In truth, there isn't much on the menu that I haven't sampled and thoroughly enjoyed. There's never an empty moment in HRC!

I am very proud that I have accumulated over 6000 hours of volunteer time!

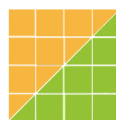
Better Impact Mobile Phone App

“Just one request –
record your hours!!”

It's never been easier to fulfill Judy Jones, BI contact's request. If you haven't already downloaded the BI app for your Android or Apple phone, or pinned the page to your Microsoft Windows phone check out the following link:

[support.betterimpact.com/
siteguide/my-impact-app/](https://support.betterimpact.com/siteguide/my-impact-app/)

The mobile app lets you easily record your hours on the go. Just finished wildlife mapping? Or another activity? Before you drive away, did you consider logging your hours? If you have the mobile app and have saved your favorite activities, it's a snap to fill in the required information.



Check out a portion of the “Log Hours” screenshot from an Android phone below:

10:17

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Log Hours

Search All Activities

Environment - Wildlife Mapping - All App

Environment - Wildlife Mapping - All Approved Sites

Include inactive activities in search

Switch to Recent Activities

Date Volunteered
mm/dd/yyyy

Hours
0

Minutes



First VMN Tree Steward class - Bassett Trace Nature Trail at Colonial Williamsburg, first field training exercise 3/25/23. Photo by Daina Henry, Steering Committee.

Historic Rivers/Peninsula Chapters' Joint VMN Tree Steward Training

by Rick Brown and Jim Francis, Co-Chairs



This past year marked the first ever creation of a formalized program for Tree Steward training for Virginia Master Naturalists. 2022 saw creation of a planning committee and a full year of organization and planning for

the commencement of training that began March 2023. While a more complete analysis will be written at the end of the course, there are several discernible impacts that can be reported at the halfway stage of the training.

Because the study of Dendrology and arbor-related subjects is so inexorably intertwined with the Master Naturalist program, a good number of members indicated a desire to participate in an advanced training course for Tree Stewards. The Historic Rivers and Peninsula chapters decided to combine forces to create a joint training program for applicants from both chapters. We received 35 applicants for the 30 slots authorized. This training concept was a first for both of these chapters and has demonstrated

the advantages that can be gleaned from the cross pollination of our commingled ideas. Trees Virginia very generously provided a \$1,000 reimbursement grant to help defray the costs of this initial effort. As a result the tuition payments for each trainee were only \$30.00.

The joint steering committee composed of members from both chapters prepared a curriculum designed to appeal to the interest of Master Naturalists. A faculty of 19 college level instructors with 9 doctoral degree holders have agreed to provide specialized training blocks in their fields of expertise. The course is designed with 50 hours of planned instruction divided between classrooms and 2 extended field exercises. Training sessions alternate between locations convenient to both chapters. At this writing we have completed almost half of the planned training sessions. Thus far we have had presentations on Botany from Dr. Janet Steven, Taxonomy and Tree Identification from Dr. Stewart Ware, Geology from Linda Morse and Dr. Dom Ciruzzi, and a panel discussion from forestry industry experts led by Dr. Daina Henry, a member of the Steering

Committee. Our first field training exercise was held on Saturday March 25, at the Bassett Trace Nature Trail in Colonial Williamsburg.

The simple goal in providing this course is to respond to our members' desires for advanced training while increasing awareness and interest in a variety of tree related activities. We are hopeful that our members will apply their newly acquired knowledge to contribute significantly to the preservation of our natural world habitat through creation of volunteer projects related to arboriculture involving other members from both chapters. We are confident that there are additional outcomes yet to be recognized from this training. We would also like to think this may become a pilot project that other VMN chapters can build upon to work with several of our sponsoring agencies for the betterment of our forested resources and the Virginia Master Naturalists' mission.



Two of our students Jeff Honig & Alice Kopinitz examine forest soils. Photo by Rick Brown.



Dr. Dom Ciruzzi, W&M Geology Assistant Professor, teaching water movement through forests and trees. Photo by Shirley Devan.



Instructor, Tree Steward trainee, and W&M Geology Senior Lecturer **Linda Morse** demonstrating how to examine and evaluate forest soil samples. Photo by Shirley Devan.



Instructor **Dr. Stewart Ware**, Professor Emeritus, Botany Department at W&M, teaching tree identification. Photo by Rick Brown.

April 12 HRC General Meeting Speaker:

Karen Duhring, Coastal Resilience & Sea Level Rise in Virginia

Karen Duhring from the Center for Coastal Resources Management (CCRM) at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) will speak at the general meeting on "Coastal Resilience and Sea Level Rise in Virginia." To learn more about her research interests, current projects, and see selected publications before the general meeting on April 12th visit her [staff page](#) on the VIMS website.

FeederWatch Fancies: A Trio of Limericks

by Sarah Hodges, Photography by Jim Easton



Tube feeder, caged suet, or hopper,
No bully birds or barriers will stop her,
My dainty girl Downy,
Makes me much less frowny,
Because in acrobatics no one can top her.

The cautious Carolina Wren,
Stealthily hops up now and then,
He sneaks in and out,
Trills a triumphant shout,
He's scored some suet once again!

My yard is rife with maniacal cackles,
More than enough to raise my hackles,
Though I wish they were deceased,
I try to be at peace,
With those demons that we call grackles.



On the Calendar

Wednesday	Apr 12	HRC General Meeting 6-7:45pm at JCC Library (and Zoom)
Sunday	Apr 16	CE Bird Walk 7am with Hampton Roads Bird Club at Newport News City Park
Sunday	Apr 16	Spring Fling Festival 2-4pm at JCC Library (HRC Outreach Activity)
Thursday	Apr 20	CE Speaker 6-7:30pm Threats to Native Bird Populations at VLM *Register
Saturday	Apr 22	CE Bird Walk 8am with Williamsburg Bird Club at New Quarter Park
Saturday	Apr 22	Earth Day Trail Maintenance at Charles Brown Park, Yorktown *Register
Saturday	Apr 22	Earth Day/Oyster Fest 10-2 at York River State Park (HRC Outreach Activity)
Wednesday	May 3	HRC Monthly Board Meeting 6:30-8:30 on Zoom (contact president for link)
Saturday	May 6	Pedal the Parkway 9am-4pm (HRC Outreach Activity, Settlement Parking Lot)
Wednesday	May 10	HRC General Meeting- Speaker Topic: Use of Drones in the Natural World
Saturday	May 13	HRC Field Trip to Chub Sandhill Nature Preserve—details TBA

Online Continuing Education (CE) Opportunities

Thursday	Apr 13	Zoom 6:30-8pm Bees as Bioindicators *Register with VNPS
Tuesday	Apr 25	Zoom 3-4:40pm Caterpillars Count! Insect Survey Training Workshop

(See Better Impact Calendar and HRC Google Group monthly CE emails for more opportunities.)

The **Virginia Master Naturalist** Program is a statewide corps of volunteers providing 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 and volunteer service. The program is jointly sponsored by seven state organizations and based in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation within the College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech.

Learn more about our chapter at historicroivers.org

The Naturalist is the monthly newsletter of the Historic River Chapter (HRC) of Virginia Master Naturalists. Other organizations may not publish material from the newsletter without express permission from the chapter. Newsletter contributions should be emailed to HRCeNewsletter@gmail.com by the end of the month. If you have a submission in the works, please notify the newsletter editor. Photos should include concise captions and credits to photographer(s).



HRC Executive Committee

President

Connie Reitz

Vice President/Programs Chair

Shirley Devan

Secretaries

Barb Neis

Janet Curtis

Treasurer

Adrienne Frank

Additional Board Members

Immediate Past President

Ricklin Brown

Historian/Publicity/Media

Deborah Humphries

At-Large Members

Nancy Barnhart

Shan Gill

Bill Harper

Janet Harper

Chairs of Standing Committees

Membership

Judy Jones

Basic Training

Shirley Devan

Barbara Neis

Jennifer Trevino

Volunteer Service Projects

Jennifer Trevino

Continuing Education

Barb Creel

Education and Outreach

MJ O'Bryan

Jennifer Harrigan

Newsletter Editor

Claire White

Field Trips

Sherry Brubaker

Hospitality

Donna Benson

Marie Robertson

Appointed Committees & Teams

Risk Management Team

Roger Gosden

Patty Maloney

Better Impact Contact

Judy Jones

Collections & Resources (CAR)

Jennifer Trevino

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI)

Adrienne Frank

Basic Training (William & Mary Coll of the Wild)

Linda Morse

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