

The Naturalist

March 2024 Newsletter | Volume 20, Number 03
Historic Rivers Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists

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Feature Photo: Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*) tree pollen cones (strobili) and needles at Bassett Trace Nature Trail, 03/22/24 by Claire White.

A Message from the President

by Janet Harper

It's an honor for me to represent the Historic Rivers Chapter (HRC) as president. Thank you for trusting me with that responsibility. I know that I have big shoes to fill but promise to do the best job I can to support all of you in your chapter activities. Open communication is very important to me. If you have ideas for new projects or activities or changes you would like to see in how we operate, please feel free to contact me.

I owe Connie Reitz a big thank you for her efforts in orienting me to this new role. Her advice, suggestions, and support have been invaluable. As past president, she'll stay on the board until the sad day (for me) she leaves the area. I may be calling you in Pennsylvania, Connie.

We have a large turnover in board positions this year! It says a lot about our chapter that we have so many people willing to volunteer for these positions. As we transition to a new board, I would like to give a special thanks to those volunteers leaving the board this year. Several of these folks have served for many years in a variety of positions. Both Jennifer Trevino and Rick Brown have been on the board since their respective graduations. Barb Neis and Nancy Barnhart have also been board members a number of years in several

different positions. Other volunteers leaving the board include Jen Harrigan, Deborah Humphries, Sherry Brubaker, and Bill Harper. All of these folks have helped make HRC the wonderful chapter it is.

Thank you also to those of you staying on board, either in the same position or a different one. It's so nice to have that continuity, and I look forward to working with you all. These include Shirley Devan (have you ever not been on the board?), Judy Jones, Janet Curtis, Barb Creel, Marie Robertson, Donna Benson, Claire White, and Shan Gill staying in their current roles. Adrienne Frank and MJ O'Bryan are staying, but assuming new roles. I'm so appreciative that you're all continuing!

Welcome to the new board members! Marc Moyers has agreed to be our new treasurer; I'm sure his financial background will be very helpful. Jim Leech and Tory Gussman are the new Basic Training Co-chairs, a project near and dear to me. Mary Jo O'Bryan has agreed to stay on as Outreach Co-chair with Barbara Boyer and they have accepted the responsibility for the CAR as well. They are on the ball with several activities already planned. Brad Glasebrook will be in charge of field trips. If you know of great places to go, let Brad know. Our two new members-at-large are Michele Garrard and Bill Weldon. Thank you all for accepting these extra volunteer duties. As you can see, it really does "take a village".



Moving forward- Did you know that April is designated as Keep America Beautiful Month, Lawn and Garden Month, Celebrate Diversity Month, Children and Nature Month, and Community Service Month? What better month to do a park cleanup day at Charles Brown Park on April 27! Or some gardening in your own yard? Some special days in April are Bat Appreciation Day on the 17th and Earth Day on the 22nd. With so many things to celebrate and many of your seasonal activities back on, check the newsletter or volunteer list on Better Impact and go outdoors and have some fun! I hope to see you out and about!



Top Photo: Trio of HRC Presidents: Rick Brown (previous Past President), Connie Reitz (current Past President), and Janet Harper (current/new HRC President) at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Bottom photo: 16 of the new HRC Board members on their monthly Zoom meeting. Not pictured: Judy Jones, Tory Gussman, Bill Weldon, or Risk Management Team.

Welcome to the New Graduates by Janet Harper



Pictured above: Fifteen Cohort XVII Graduates at the HRC Annual Meeting on March 13, 2023.

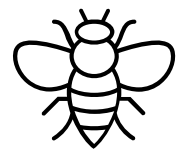
Back Row (left to right): Eric Beckhusen, Kevin Caudle, James Bruce, Cara Sanderson, Kim Owens, Vanessa Trujilio, Connie Motley, Michele Garrard, and Garry Maynor. **Front Row (left to right):** Julie Peet, Michelle Gianvecchio, Karen Mattern, Marie Chico, Melinda Cousins, and Sheila Morris. (Photo Credit: Janie Moyers)

It's always exciting to graduate a new cohort and welcome them into the chapter. I hope by now you've found some projects that you're interested in. Try some out to see what's involved and find one that sparks your passion. A lot of our seasonal projects, such as Bluebird monitoring, OspreyWatch, Purple Martin project, and Diamondback Dash, are just getting started back up.


Donna Benson and Marie Robertson did a great job planning the Graduation Gala! It was a lot of fun, and not just because my group won the trivia contest. The food was excellent and the company even better. It was nice to see and talk to some of the new graduates there. Congratulations to you all; I look forward to working with you on some projects in the future.

Graduation Gala Trivia by HRC Hospitality

In case you missed it, Hospitality co-chairs Marie Robertson and Donna Benson have provided the trivia questions utilized at the Graduation Gala below. The event was held at the Freedom Park Interpretive Center on Sunday, March 24th. Teams of 4-5 members worked together to answer the questions, many of which were pulled from the monthly newsletter and the 2023 Annual Report. Lots of laughter and debate was heard while the competitive teams worked together. [Answers can be found at the end of the newsletter.](#)



1. What percentage of native bees are solitary bees? *According to the Xerces Society.*
2. What native plant is the 2024 Wildflower of the Year, as announced by the Virginia Native Plant Society?

3. What species of turtle lives in the brackish waters of the James and York Rivers?
 4. Which birds sometimes take over Bluebird boxes along the National Historical Colonial Parkway? *Chickadees, Finches, Tree Swallows, or Wrens.*
 5. Which bird is the most commonly observed bird at the annual spring Hawkwatch?
 6. What nearly-extinct-in-Virginia tree greets visitors at the entrance to the Basset Trace Nature Trail?
 7. What native vine produced the seed pod pictured? *Participants held the dried, woody, empty pods, which were about 1 inch wide and longer than 6 inches*
- 
8. What butterfly relies on Paw-paw trees as a host plant?
 9. Name one HRC project that is specific to our location in the Tidewater area.
 10. Name the bird in the bird call audio recording. *Participants listened to a Merlin recording. The distinctive hooting call is often described as sounding like "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?"*
 11. Approximately how many pounds of trash were collected during trash pickups at College Creek beach in 2023? *200, 490, 530, or 700 pounds*
 12. How many different species of butterflies were observed by HRC members in last year's 10th annual Williamsburg Area Butterfly Count? *27, 32, 46, or 57 species*
 13. What invasive species did HRC members remove last March from the woods behind the Swem Library on the W&M campus, with the help of 5 W&M students?

On the Calendar

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

Wednesday	Apr 10	HRC General Meeting 6-7:45pm at JCC Library and via Zoom
Fridays	Ongoing	Garden Support 9am-12pm at Botanical Garden, Contact Gary Driscole
Saturday	Apr 13	CE Osprey Festival 9am-4pm Virginia Osprey Foundation , Colonial Beach
Sunday	Apr 14	Outreach at Spring Festival 1:30-4pm at Stryker Center , Williamsburg
Saturday	Apr 20	CE Native Orchids 10-11:30am with Williamsburg Botanical Garden
Monday	Apr 22	Earth Day! W&M Panel Discussion 4pm, HRC Beach Litter Pickup 6pm
Tuesday	Apr 23	CE Tri-National Monarch Butterfly Conservation 1-2pm *Webinar/Register
Sunday	Apr 21	CE Bird Walk 7am with Hampton Roads Bird Club at Newport News Park
Saturday	Apr 27	CE Bird Walk 8-10am at New Quarter Park with Williamsburg Bird Club
Saturday	Apr 27	Spring Park Cleanup 9am-12pm at Charles Brown Park , York County
Saturday	May 4	Outreach at Farm Day 10am-2pm with Williamsburg Community Growers

Local Spring Plant Sales with Native Species:

[Virginia Living Museum](#): April 20, 21, 27, and 28, 9am-4pm, Newport News, VA

[Virginia Native Plant Society, John Clayton Chapter](#): May 4, 9:30am-2pm, Williamsburg Community Building

[James City County-Williamsburg Master Gardeners](#): May 11, 9am-12pm, Williamsburg Botanical Garden

[Williamsburg Botanical Garden](#) Honor Box Plant Sale: April 27-May 27, 7am to Sunset

March 19: First Day of Spring Photos by Adrienne Frank



Photos of early spring (clockwise from left): Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) blooming in the woods, spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)—the pink lines are the darkest I have seen, fiddleheads of Cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*), Eastern cricket frog (*Acris crepitans*) in creek, and bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) in center—white flowers and lobed leaves.

April 22: Earth Day Panel Discussion by Tracy Melton

William & Mary (W&M) will be hosting an [Earth Day panel discussion](#) in the Ford Classroom in Swem Library, 4-6 p.m. on Monday, April 22. Confirmed panelists include authors Michael Branch (W&M '85) and Dean King.

[Michael Branch](#) was my W&M freshman DuPont hallmate, Madison roommate, and friend. He was then a student of Transcendentalism and subsequently a legendary professor at the University of Nevada (Reno), a founder of the field of environmental literature, and a popular and esteemed western writer and humorist. Truly, he is one of the most renowned western environmental writers. His books include *Raising Wild*, *Rants from the Hill*, *How to Cuss in Western*, and *On the Trail of the Jackalope*. [Dean King](#) is a leading Virginia writer and author of numerous nonfiction essays and books, including *Guardians of the Valley: John Muir and the Friendship That Saved Yosemite*.



I anticipate that it will be a fun and freewheeling conversation about the environment and our connection to it. The event is open to the public. Use [this link for visitor parking](#) on campus. It appears that visitor spots linked to the Passport app are available immediately behind Swem Library and nearby in the Boswell Hall (formerly Morton Hall) parking lot, on *Jamestown Road*, across Ukrop Way from the Mason School of Business.

Thank you!

by Connie Rietz, photos by Janie Moyers

To all my friends in the Historic Rivers Chapter (HRC) of the Virginia Master Naturalists, I don't know if I can put into words the memories of our March 2024 general meeting. The excitement and smiles as members of Cohort XVII graduated and four members of this group were certified.

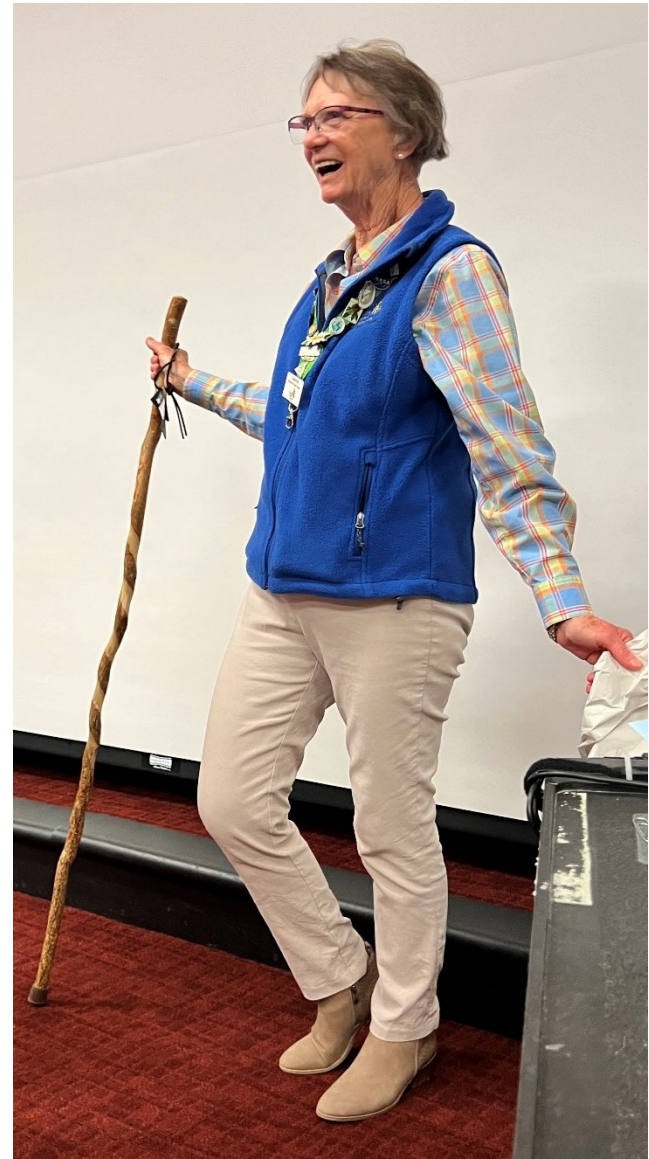
This was followed by the awarding of recertification bling to more than 60% of our membership. This is remarkable. The celebration of milestones achieved by members during the last six months with the highlight of Jennifer Trevino being recognized as our most recent inductee volunteering more than 5,000 hours and joining the **Virginia Master Naturalists' Golden Circle**.

Elections were completed easily because of the efficient work done by the nominating committee—Valerie Shostak, Shirley Devan, and chair Rick Brown. I am thrilled with our new board and the potential each member brings to our chapter. We can only continue to grow stronger as we learn together and share information with our community.

As Rick Brown shared the news of my changing status on the board to PAST president, I realized he was really continuing with a thank you to me. He continued with the news of my upcoming move to Pennsylvania to be near family. Judy Jones and Rick asked me to come forward to receive a gift from the board and from each of you—a **personalized walking stick (pictured top right)** so I can have memories of you with every step I take on a new trail or path.

The **books and field guides (pictured bottom right)** presented to me by Shirley Devan and Adrienne Frank—again from all of HRC—are treasures. I remember (I think it was Janie Moyers) being told to look up and out. What a picture! All those in attendance were standing, clapping, smiling. I'm not sure what my Zoomer friends were doing but I had you in this moment, also. My heart was filled with happiness. This is a picture and a memory etched in my mind's eye. I see each of you. I remember a moment shared. I laugh as a comment, or a joke is recalled. Thank you for bringing nature into my life after so many years inside. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the HRC family and in different leadership roles since graduating with Cohort XI in 2017.

Happy and heavy is my heart as I prepare for an upcoming move away from you but close to family. Bittersweet. I miss you already but hope to share a few more times with you before leaving. Thank you all!



March 13: Snapshots from Annual Meeting

by Claire White and Janie Moyers



Top Row: Snapshot of the seventy people physically present at the March 13th Annual meeting while Shirley Devan stands at the podium introducing the basic training graduation portion of the night.

Second Row (left to right): (1) Kim Owens spoke on behalf of the Cohort XVII graduates. (2) Judy Jones, Membership Chair, announced awards of volunteer service hour milestones. Certification pins were also available for the 99-chapter members who completed 40 service hours and 8 hours of continuing education during 2023. (3) Jennifer Trevino earned her 5,000-hour pin and poses with outgoing HRC president Connie Reitz.



Third and Fourth Rows (left to right): More milestone awardees.

(1) Six of the fourteen 250-hour awardees: Marie Robertson, Tracy Melton, Jim Leech, Brad Glasebrook, Donna Benson, and Martha Moss. (2) 1,000-hour milestone awardees: Dan Arbegast, Tory Gussman, and Rose Ryan. (3) Three of the five 500-hour awardees: Barb Creel, Claire White, and Mona Overturf.

Osprey Nests and Festival

by Martha B. Moss



Last year, I found an osprey nest very high up—on top of an electrical utility stanchion (in the parking lot at **921 Capitol Landing Road, top photo**) and checked that nobody else had claimed it on the [Osprey Watch](#) website and started watching it. I also co-watched a nest closer to home—the one on top of a light pole illuminating the playing field at **Jamestown High School (center photo)**. Still high, but at least I could see the chicks a bit when they hatched. I would like to find a more easily observable and unclaimed nest, but if I don't, I will happily repeat the same ones as last year.



I enjoyed time spent observing them, especially when the male would fly off and you knew he would be back with a fish in almost exactly 20 minutes! Very exciting indeed. And when you could hear the chicks clamoring for food, lighting up the Merlin app sound recorder.

So far this year, I have noticed the return of ospreys on those two mentioned above, plus on the flat, man-made platform not too far out in the York River, at **York River State Park (bottom photo)**. My husband Ralph and I discussed that nest with Historic Rivers Chapter (HRC) sponsor and park ranger, John Gresham, who said they had been back for one week already.

I think I can safely report that yes, some ospreys have returned to their nests! Time to record information on their breeding activities, and to keep our fingers crossed that their success rate will improve over last year.



I am going to attend the [Osprey Festival](#) in Colonial Beach, Virginia on the Northern Neck. Brad Glasebrook is the HRC field trip organizer for the trip, which will be on Saturday, April 13th. There will be golf carts to drive people to see the osprey nests in the area, Michael Academia of The Center for Conservation Biology will be one of many speakers, and there will be information on ospreys all day long. Sounds like a great event! I hope more HRC friends will be there also!

Learn more about earning service hours as a part of the [Osprey Watch project on Better Impact](#). Contact Lisa Nickel if you'd like to be added to the HRC Osprey Watch Google Group to see what other nest observers are seeing throughout the area.

Updates from Elementary Nature Explorers Clubs

The Spring 7-session afterschool club Nature Explorers started on February 27th and met four times before the Williamsburg-James City Schools went on Spring Break. Marie Robertson leads a 16-student club at Clara Byrd Baker Elementary School with the help of fellow Historic Rivers Chapter (HRC) members Robert Ambrose, Sherry Brubaker, Bob Kaplan and Mike Whitfield; while Pat Murphy leads a 20-student club at James River Elementary School with the help of Elizabeth Myers, Janet Harper, Claire White, and Julie Peet. Leaders Marie and Pat develop activities that get our local students thinking about, interacting with, and learning about the natural environments surrounding their schools. The HRC helpers keep the group organized and focused, and lead small groups of students through the activities, impart knowledge and answer questions.

Clara Byrd Baker Nature Explorers—by Marie Robertson



In our first meeting, we learned about how trees compete for resources, and the consequences of too little rain, space, sun, and nutrients. We spent two days speed-walking to the Powhatan Creek Trail entrance by the school to observe and learn about native plants (spring beauties, mayapples, violets, jack-in-the-pulpit and Christmas fern). The students wrote down basic information about these native plants and sketched them in their nature journals. We also learned about invasive plants and the negative effects they have on our ecosystem. The students learned to identify invasive Japanese honeysuckle along the trail and saw examples of how it can tightly wind around trees and other native plants. Most recently, we focused on the importance of decomposers and spent time looking for insect decomposers as well as fungi on rotting logs near the school parking lot.

Pictured above, left to right: (1) Mike Whitfield (right) and me (left) helping the students identify some native spring beauties and violets. (Photo credit: Abigail Robertson, my daughter). **(2)** Forsythia (non-native) and native spicebush, which blossom at the same time. I showed these to the students to illustrate why people are attracted to the showier blossoms of the non-native, but it does not have any ecological benefit, like spicebush does. **(3)** Club sign to label where native mayapples are growing beside the trail. I labeled 4 different types of native plants for the students to look at and draw in their nature journals.

James River Nature Explorers—by Pat Murphy

What do you do if you want to share the importance of water in a habitat named after the James River where there is no visible water? Create the vision. The James River Elementary Nature Explorers Club made **terrariums** (pictured right) on March 19. We recycled 2-liter bottles of Coke; cut them open; added pea gravel; a round of landscape fabric; soil; moss (nature's sponge); a shell (to remind us of water); and of course, an adorable frog. We only had one mishap where a student's terrarium was dropped on the way inside, but Claire and Janet jumped right on it and recreated Zoe's little garden. Our team at James River is made up of very good sports as last Tuesday's session (March 26) included assisting kiddos in putting on footless calf length tube socks to protect against ticks as we plunged into the soil of a downed tree in the woods. Who thought that would have been such a challenge for 3rd-5th Graders?! Not me, BUT no ticks reported! Happy explorations!!!



Photo top: Seated—Connie Reitz and Ruth Larson (JCC). Back row (left to right)—Janet Harper, Adrienne Frank, Bob Gall (JCC), Trayton Ripley (JCC), Suzanne Stern, Josh Bew (JCC), and Alister Perkinson (JCC). Photo credit: James City County (JCC).

Greensprings Trail Benches

by Adrienne Frank

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team (DEI) for the Historic Rivers Chapter (HRC) is pleased to have completed one accessibility objective. Eleven benches were purchased and installed around the main part of the Greensprings Trail. The benches have already been used by walkers, and several people have commented that they appreciated having the rest along the trail.

On Friday March 29, 2024, there was a photo op with Ruth Larson, the Berkeley District representative for the James City County (JCC) Board of Supervisors,

representatives of Historic Rivers Chapter, Alister Perkinson (JCC/HRC), and other JCC Parks and Recreation staff. HRC was formally thanked for the coordination, purchase, and help to install the benches.

A big thank you to HRC member Suzanne Stern who did the lion's share of organizing and obtaining funding. She secured funds from HRC and a grant from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation. Members of our chapter helped to plan placement of the benches, and the James City County Parks and Recreation staff cemented them into the ground. See the [Facebook post from the March 15th installation workday](#) to see the HRC work crew. The ADA compliant benches have only one armrest, keeping one end open so wheelchair users can easily slide into them. JCC Parks plans to use this type of bench in all future park bench installations.

Crane Flies by Martha Moss

Crane flies in Virginia, as pictured here, are members of the Tipuloidae family of flies. There are about 5,000 species of crane flies in this family, but there are about 500 other genera, with 16,000 species of crane flies described so far. This family of long-legged insects hail from the Middle Triassic, around 245 million years ago. They undergo complete metamorphosis. The egg hatches into a larval form, mostly under water but also in soil, sometimes under grassy lawns. 95% of their



lives are spent in the larval form, sometimes for a few years, eating plants, microbes, other insect forms, or fungi. **The female, after emerging from the pupa, gets swarmed by males eager to mate with her (as pictured left).** She then lays eggs, deposits them in water or soil, and dies one or two days later.

On Friday, March 29th Shirley Devan and I met and picked up some trash along Longhill Road, across from the Life Church before going down an embankment into the swampy area nearby searching for a least trillium. After we found the lone trillium, with two or three trillium sprouts around it, we spied a ball of swirling insects, on a log...crane flies trying to be the one to mate with the one female in the group. The female is the wide one. The males are skinny ones...as you can see in the picture. After our observations we scrambled our way through the greenbriers, and back up the muddy hill to the street.

Calling all Volunteers! July 20 BioBlitz help needed



A BioBlitz is an exciting, educational initiative aimed at documenting biodiversity. It is a collaborative effort that brings together scientists, naturalists, volunteers, and community members to conduct surveys of the living organisms within a specific area over a designated period. The Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District is organizing a BioBlitz to celebrate World Nature Conservation Day. The event will be held on July 20 (rain date July 21) from 8am-12pm at New Quarter Park.

The Historic Rivers Chapter needs to provide at least 16 volunteers to help make this four-hour event a success. Calling all bird, plant, and insect walk leaders. Volunteers can also sign up to serve as a resource for mammal, reptile, amphibian, and fungi identification in the main event area, or help with big tree measurements, or fishing for and identifying species from the creek. Shifts vary from 30 minutes for walks to 2 hours for main event areas. Please consider signing up soon! We have 3 months to prepare and learn more. Volunteer signup and shift details can be found at colonialswcd.org/cwncdbioblitz

Shorter Shares from HRC Members and Partners



Greenspring Trail Bench— by Bob Ambrose

For the past five years I have been a Virginia Capital Trail (VCT) ambassador riding the trail to make sure it's safe and people are having a good time. It was great to see one of the 11 benches that our club assisted to obtain and helped with the installation along the Greenspring Trail. This pictured bench is only 10 feet from the VCT. I can see the bench each time I ride the trail and take rest if needed! Great job everyone!



Bluebirds Busy at Warhill

On March 15th the Warhill Bluebird Team spotted their first clutch of eggs! It was exciting to see the nest start to develop from the first day of 2024 monitoring on March 1st. Photos by Connie Motley.

Save the Dates: Upcoming Large HRC Gatherings

There are 3 more speakers slated for the second Wednesday general meetings at James City County Library before our summer meeting break. See dates, topics, and speakers below:

April 10: Endangered Species Act by Emily Argo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

May 8: Oyster Restoration by Jackie Shannon, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

June 12: Dragonflies by Amanda Whispell, Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District

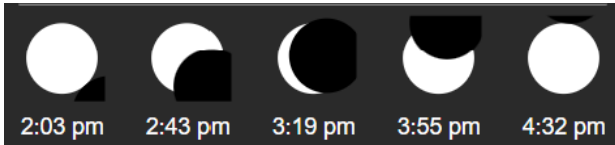
Social gatherings are also in the works. In June or July, we will have our second summer ice cream social. Be on the lookout for more information. October 26 is our confirmed date for the fall picnic, with a rain date of the 27th.

July 20: 16 or more Volunteers Needed for BioBlitz

Alerts on Invasives: Callery Pears and Requirements for Invasive Sellers— by Kim Owens

I'm on a campaign to educate and remove the invasive Bradford (Callery) pear tree (*Pyrus calleryana*). Blue Ridge Prism has put out a [flyer about the detriments of the tree](#). Please check it out and share it with others! Use the [iNaturalist Callery Pear in Virginia](#) webpage to report sightings.

“Legislation to educate consumers on invasive plant species passed in the General Assembly, but not without debate on where signage should be placed,” reported by [Virginia Mercury](#), an independent, nonprofit online news organization. This is such amazing news to me! I literally emailed all those on the slate committee! Glad this is moving forward!



Solar Eclipse on April 8— by Deborah Humphries

Check out these links: (1) [How to see the solar eclipse in Virginia](#). This article includes details for the path for Virginia and when it will affect us. (2) [Solar eclipse path mapped across the US](#).

Williamsburg should have around 80% max coverage of the sun by the moon during the eclipse. The image above was taken from NASA Eclipse Explorer interactive website for zip code 23185.

426 lb. of Soft Plastics Collected—by Karen Hines

We have closed out the second month of our year-long drive with a stunning amount of clean, dry, stretchy soft plastic! Thanks to you... we have delivered 426 pounds of food-free, dirt-free recyclable plastic to the Trex partners. In April, we are sure to pass the halfway point of our 1,000-pound goal for the 12-month drive. Bravo! Check the [Google Group](#) for latest weekly drop spots.



Calling Cicada Enthusiasts!

HRC BugFest leads Marie Robertson and Claire White have decided on a cicada theme for our outreach booth at the September 28th event. Do you have any cicada exoskeletons, materials, photos, or an interest in helping with preparing for the event? If so, reach out to Claire and Marie this spring for summer planning.



DWR Falcon Cam

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) Richmond [Falcon Cam](#) (pictured above) is live. Four eggs were laid by a Peregrine falcon during the month of March and are expected to hatch between April 24-26. Check out the website to watch the live action, including previous days.

News from NOAA Fisheries

[Feb 28: Necropsy Offers Rare Opportunity to Study White Shark Biology](#)

[Mar 25: Marsh Madness](#)—While players duel it out on the court, we're keeping score of all the ways marsh habitat plays an important role in the protection and restoration work we do for communities, fish, and wildlife.

[Mar 26: Where the Leatherbacks Roam](#)—Scientists find evidence of critical feeding grounds for endangered leatherback turtles along the U.S. Atlantic coast by studying movement behavior

[Mar 25: From Survey to Stock Assessments—How Data Are Used](#)—Bottom Trawl Survey

Answers to Gala Trivia

(1) 75% of bees are solitary (2) White Turtlehead (3) Diamondback Terrapin (4) Tree Swallows (5) Turkey Vulture (6) Long-leaf Pine (7) Trumpet Vine (8) Zebra Swallowtail (9) Oyster Gardening, Diamondback Dash, Osprey Watch, Prothonotary Warbler Nest Box Project, River Rat Patrol, Water Quality Project (10) Barred Owl (11) 700 pounds collected in 2023 (12) 46 butterfly species observed (13) Tree of Heaven

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 [historicrivers.org](https://www.historicrivers.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).



*Bonus picture:
Closeup of Christmas
Fern (*Polystichum
acrostichoides*)
fiddlehead unfurling
on March 22nd at
Bassett Trace Nature
Trail, photo by Claire
White. Fiddleheads
are the young, curled
fronds of the fern.*

HRC Executive Committee

President

Janet Harper

Vice President/Programs Chair

Shirley Devan

Secretaries

Janet Curtis

MJ O'Bryan

Treasurer

Marc Moyers

Additional Board Members

Immediate Past President

Connie Reitz

Historian/Publicity/Media

Jenny DeVasher

At-Large Members

Michele Garrard

Shan Gill

Bill Weldon

Chairs of Standing Committees

Membership

Judy Jones

Basic Training

Jim Leech

Tory Gussman

Volunteer Service Projects

Adrienne Frank

Continuing Education

Barb Creel

Education and Outreach

Barbara Boyer

MJ O'Bryan

Newsletter Editor

Claire White

Field Trips

Brad Glasebrook

Hospitality

Donna Benson

Marie Robertson

Appointed Committees & Teams

Risk Management Team

Roger Gosden

Patty Maloney

Better Impact Contact

Judy Jones

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI)

Adrienne Frank

Basic Training (William & Mary Coll of the Wild)

Linda Morse

Webmaster

Jeanette Navia

Chapter Advisors

Megan Thomas, VA DWR

John Gresham, VA DCR