

# The Naturalist

June 2025 Newsletter | Volume 21, Number 06  
Historic Rivers Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists

Page | 1



## In This Issue:

---

**(1-2) President's Message:** Heat Advisories, Risk Mitigation, Announcements, Roadshow on July 12

**(2) On the Calendar:** National Wildlife Refuge Workday, Continuing Education opportunities

**(3-4) Greenspring Sign Ceremony Speech**  
by Adrienne Frank

**(5) Beech Leaf Disease in our Region** by Tracy  
Matthew Melton

**(6) HRC Field Trip Photos to Quarry Gardens**

**(7-8) Virginia's Botanical Cousins in Alaska**  
by Shirley Devan

**(9) Pollinator Palooza:** Gardeners and Naturalists Inspire Next Generations by Liz George

**(10) Brickyard Landing:** Wrapping First Phases of Construction by Judy Kinshaw-Ellis

**(11-12) Shorter Shares from HRC Members and Partners:** Paspahegh, Babesiosis, Native Plants for Pollinators, Butterfly Counts, Fishing Line

**(13) End Notes:** VMN, Contacts, Board Members

---

**Feature Photo:** Eastern Fence Lizard—male-  
*Sceloporus undulatus*—Chippokes State Park—Surry  
County, 06/21/2025 by [Martha Moss](#)

## A Message from the President

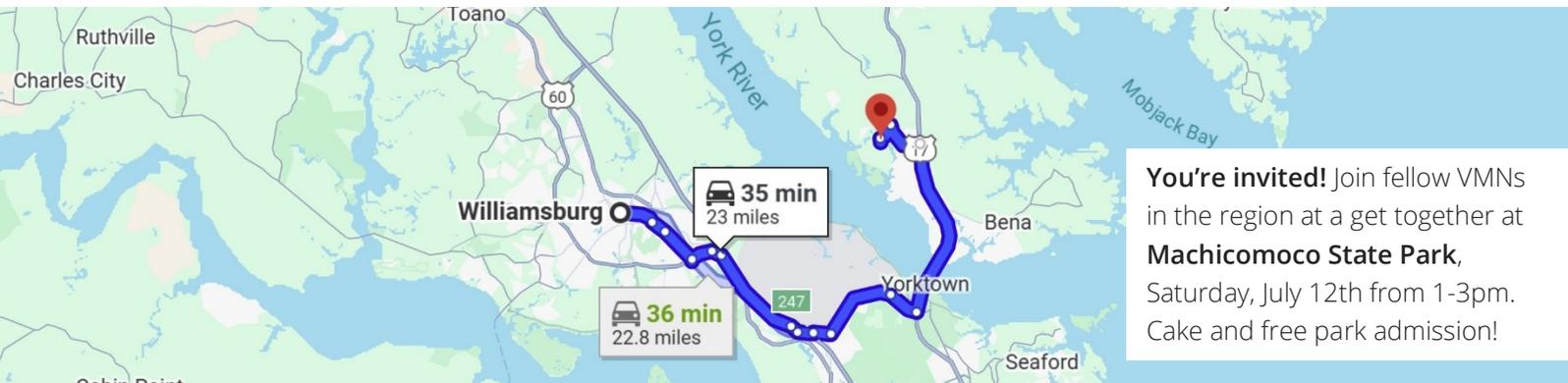
by Janet Harper

With all the heat advisories we've had lately, it seems like a good time to remind ourselves about summer safety. I applaud the event leaders who recently cancelled events due to the weather. It was sad to cancel the ice cream social, but it was the smart thing to do. The National Weather Service has good advice for avoiding the ill effects of heat exhaustion. They recommend wearing lightweight, light-colored clothing, using sunscreen, drinking lots of water even if not thirsty, spending time in air-conditioned spaces, reducing strenuous activity, and taking a cool shower or bath if overheated. Activities requiring physical work could start earlier in the day, if possible, to avoid the heat. Please be aware of the signs of heat exhaustion which include: feeling faint or dizzy, increased sweating, skin which becomes cool, pale and clammy, nausea or vomiting, and rapid and weak pulse. If not treated, these can lead to heat stroke which can be deadly! So, if you start having any of these symptoms, stop your activity immediately, sit down, drink some water, apply cool compresses if possible, and have someone stay with you. If symptoms persist or include confusion, throbbing headache, or loss of consciousness, dial 911! This also highlights the importance of working in teams as opposed to being alone.

Another warm weather safety concern is tick bites. As if we didn't have enough to worry about with Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Lyme disease, and Alpha-gal, now there's another tick-borne illness called Babesiosis becoming more prevalent in Virginia. Symptoms can resemble the flu, including fever, chills, body aches and fatigue. Strategies to prevent bites include wearing protective clothing, using insect repellent, staying on cleared paths to avoid tick habitats (tall grass, leaf litter), and checking yourself for ticks after time outdoors.

Remember that as Master Naturalists, we have a responsibility to mitigate risks, so know your limits, and take action to prevent heat and insect related issues. If you are a project lead, feel free to continue cancelling events when needed. If working at a tabling event, be sure to take a chair so you can sit rather than stand the entire time. Please let me and the risk management team know (Patty Maloney [maloney3013@aol.com](mailto:maloney3013@aol.com) and Roger Gosden [roger.gosden@gmail.com](mailto:roger.gosden@gmail.com)) if you develop any of these issues so we can track events in case we see a need to make different recommendations.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Remember that we don't have a general meeting in July or August. I received an email from Michelle Prysby saying that they had a very poor turnout for their **first VMN 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Road Show** and asking that we encourage more participation for the one in our area. Ours will be on July 12 at Machicomoco State Park from 1-3. See map below. Michelle and Tiffany are traveling across the state to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VMN with multiple chapters. They provide a lot of support for Historic Rivers, including advice, mini-grants, and reduced costs of basic training supplies! We need to show our appreciation for all their efforts by attending this celebratory event! So, please come if you can, you don't have to RSVP!



**You're invited!** Join fellow VMNs in the region at a get together at **Machicomoco State Park**, Saturday, July 12th from 1-3pm. Cake and free park admission!

## On the Calendar

See Better Impact (BI) and continuing education (CE) emails for more opportunities

|           |         |   |
|-----------|---------|---|
| Saturday  | July 12 | VMN 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Road Show 1-3pm at Machicomoco State Park    |
| Wednesday | July 16 | National Wildlife Refuge Workday   See BI Calendar for details & registration |
| Saturday  | July 19 | CE Virginia Tidal Freshwater Marshes 10am at JCC Rec Center with <b>WBG</b>   |
| Saturday  | July 26 | CE Bird Walk 8-10am with <b>Williamsburg Bird Club</b> at New Quarter Park    |

**Weekly Wildlife Mapping:** Hope to see you at one of the upcoming events at York River State Park, New Quarter Park, Greensprings Trail, and Yorktown Battlefield. Check email for updates and reminders.

# Greensprings Interpretive Sign Ceremony Speech, June 18

by Adrienne Frank



**Thank you:** There are many to thank for supporting the development of this sign and additional projects here at **Greensprings**. Those who provided funds, knowledge/information, and support, especially their time. Funders, James City County Parks and Recreations (JCC P&R) staff (especially Alister Perkinson & Sarah O'Reilly), experts, and Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists (HRC VMN).

**HRC VMN:** I would like to introduce a few of our Master Naturalist (MN) members who made significant contributions. Suzanne Stern (initiated the project), Deborah Humphries (produced the sign), Janet Harper (current president of our chapter), and many members of the committee (Jeanette and Keith Navia, Lisa Cumming, Janie Moyers, and a number of others).

## Background

VMN is a program backed by several state agencies with a mission to develop a cadre of volunteers. Virginia Master Naturalists are volunteer educators, citizen scientists, and stewards helping Virginia conserve and manage natural resources and public lands. Those who are interested become Master Naturalists through training and volunteer service.

In 2022, HRC VMN began a project along the Greensprings Trail to address accessibility and inclusion for all visitors. A small group of MNs completed a Department of Wildlife Resources

**Birdability** checklist, which helped to identify accessibility issues along the trail. HRC members began working with the JCC P&R to make some improvements along the trail.

Several objectives were recommended:

- To increase visibility along the raised boardwalk, by modifying the railing for wheelchair height.
- To reduce barriers by grading the ramps and trail.
- To obtain benches along the trail, resting spots for those walking the length of the loop.
- To educate visitors about the wildlife at Greensprings.

Our HRC VMN's champion for the Greensprings project was Suzanne Stern. She coordinated the initial meetings, recruited support, and applied for several grants.

- The Ocean Reef Community Foundation provided funds \$10,768 for benches and their installation. The benches were installed in March 2024.
- The Williamsburg Community Foundation Environment and Conservation Grant \$5,000 to help with the costs of the sign.
- HRC VMN with supplemental funds \$2,000.
- JCC Parks provided considerable support (e.g., committing staff time, installing benches and the sign).

## Sign Development

For almost two years, a committee met monthly to develop an educational sign. During the initial meetings, there was lots of discussion about habitat content and accessible features for varied individual needs. A long wish list was developed. The focus became an interpretative sign for the trail head where the public could learn about the wetland and its surrounds, keeping in mind the need for an attractive sign with a unique and compelling story. There were signs already on the trail, and we did not want to duplicate the content of the existing signs.

Here's a little bit about the development of the sign:

1. The committee educated itself about the natural history of the wetlands and nearby forest, and about constructing signs for individuals with physical challenges.
2. Content was gathered from community members, including Linda Morse (Geology), Alain Outlaw (History), Bill Williams (birds), and others.
3. Species lists of flora and fauna were collected by Jeanette and Keith Navia, HRC members who conduct wildlife mapping at Greensprings at least once a month. Their lists of 100s of plant and animal species will be available on the County's website, by using the QR Code on the sign.
4. Early in 2024, the committee charged **Deborah Humphries (pictured below) with designing the sign**, because of her experience in designing outdoor signs.



5. Deborah and Alister spoke with sign designers in other states to learn about potential costs for producing the sign. This helped with grant applications, and also size and design expectations. Cost prohibited the use of bronze or raised forms on the sign surface.
6. The committee wanted to show a timeline of the geology from 4-5 million years to present, human history, information about the Green spring, wetland and forestry habitat, seasons, animal migration and much more. Instead of 250 bird species, we picked the most common birds typically found throughout the year.
7. Deborah created background illustrations with plants and animal photographs interspersed. Photographs were submitted by a number of people, with the most represented species chosen.
8. The sign evolved from 3 separate panels to a single 9-foot panel with 3 areas of content, as the Paneer Sign Company advised.
9. The spinning wheel helped to include more common species (16), comparing 2 turtles, 2 herons, 2 snakes, 2 frogs, etc.
10. The committee chose to highlight several species in a spiral bound book.
11. The Beaver's life cycle was chosen because it is a key stone species (one that affects the presence of many others),
12. The Prothonotary Warbler because MNs have been monitoring nest boxes.
13. Ducks because those are easy to observe from the platform, especially in the winter months.
14. Twice, Deborah made beautiful full-size proofs for the committee to view and make final edits. The proofing process was pretty intense and so very important.

It was a long process and an exciting challenge. We all learned a lot. It was a significant collaboration between agencies that really worked. Now we can all look at this and say, we did it! And it is worthwhile and beautiful product.

# Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) in our Region

by Tracy Matthew Melton

In early November 2024, Keith Navia, Jennifer Smith, and I surveyed the College of William and Mary (W&M) woods with DOF forester Daniel Brooks, W&M urban forester Chad Peevy, and W&M grounds & gardens director Tony Orband. While we were in the woods, it was mentioned that beech leaf disease (BLD) was having a detrimental, deadly impact on American beeches (*Fagus grandifolia*) in the northeast. It was troubling news. Beeches are one of the most prevalent trees in our local woods.

BLD has continued to spread, reaching down into Maryland and several Virginia counties, mostly in Northern Virginia, but also in New Kent County.

On June 16, I participated in the [VMN Zoom webinar on DOF's Beech Leaf Disease Project](#). The disease is caused by a microscopic nematode that infiltrates leaves and buds. Leaves on affected trees have dark and sometimes chlorotic (yellow) banding between the leaf veins. This banding might be most visible while looking up into the canopy. Leaves become crinkled, thickened, and leathery. BLD causes mortality in small and large beeches, with the time from infestation to death estimated at 2-7 years. There is little understanding of the disease process and how it spreads, and no known treatment.

The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) requested that Master Naturalists examine beeches in woods that they are visiting and report whether or not BLD is present on the beech trees, and, if so, the extent and impact of the disease in that location. This information can be submitted using this link: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/3ceb83d182b04fc99c7c73b80059f0ba> (or with this URL shortcut: <https://bit.ly/beecheafDOF>).

Less than a week later, I observed BLD on both sides of Silver Mine Lake in the Hudson Valley, southwest of West Point, NY. A few days later, I saw it in beeches on a trail along the Wachusett Reservoir in West Boylston, Massachusetts. All of these trees were in extremely poor condition. One of the friends on the trip mentioned that BLD is a problem in their Pennsylvania town north of Philadelphia. BLD is indeed widespread and damaging in the Northeast. It is on our doorstep.

Further information is available using these links:

- [https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/images/bld\\_map.jpg](https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/images/bld_map.jpg)
- <https://dof.virginia.gov/beecheaf-disease-confirmed-in-virginia/>
- <https://bygl.osu.edu/node/2179>



**Pictured above:** Beech trees with BLD, Silver Mine Lake, New York, June 2025. Photos courtesy of Ward Thomas. **Pictured below:** QR code linking to the Beech Leaf Disease Survey website.





## Field Trip to Quarry Gardens

Photos from Brad Glasebrook and Adrienne Frank

On Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> interested Historic Rivers Chapter (HRC) members joined Brad Glasebrook, HRC field trip coordinator, and Linda Morse, HRC member and College of William and Mary geology instructor for a trip to **The Quarry Gardens at Schuyler**. Linda provided a geologic perspective of the quarry for the group.

According to the official website the gardens “were built around two large soapstone quarries that were actively mined between the 1950s and 1970s” and in the spring of 2017 the gardens opened “with two miles of walking trail, more than 40 galleries of diverse native plant communities, and a Visitor Center that includes exhibits on native plants, local ecosystems, and the history of the soapstone industry in Schuyler.”



---

**Photos: (Top left)** HRC members left to right: Suzanne Stern, Linda Morse, Brad Glasebrook, Jenny Kahn, Gary Driscole, Adrienne Frank, and Janie Moyers. **(Bottom left)** View of a quarry rockface and pool. **(Top right)** Closeup of vegetation growing in rock from group picture included Prickly-pear cactus and tiny purple blooms on the Quill Fameflower. **(Bottom right)** Great Spangled Fritillaries on Butterfly-weed.

Contact your Field Trip Coordinator: If you are interested in a future HRC field trip reach out to Brad Glasebrook ([gbrook1@cox.net](mailto:gbrook1@cox.net)) with your interest and ideas. Field trips can be local or day trips with members carpooling as desired. Recent trips included The Quarry Gardens, Wahrani Nature Trail and Zoar State Forest.

---

## Virginia's Botanical Cousins in Alaska

by Shirley Devan

My June trip to Alaska was billed as “Birding and Wildlife” with explorations in Anchorage, Nome, and Seward. All but one day of our trip was on foot exploring birding hot spots around these three destinations.

I was the only Master Naturalist on the trip, but several folks were “botanizers” like me and we spent quite a bit of time hunched over with our phones trying to identify plants and flowers. Most flowers in Alaska don’t get very big – climate is too harsh with a short growing season. We compared smart phone findings and discussed our favorite app for identifying plants. Early in our trip, we spent all day at [Eagle River Nature Center](#) 12 miles north of Anchorage. Its geography is stunning—with spruce-filled slopes looming over a broad valley reaching deep into the Chugach Mountains.

At Eagle River, I was pleasantly surprised to find some “cousins” of plants familiar to me in the Coastal Plain of Virginia and the rest of Virginia. When I spotted **Creeping Dogwood** (*Cornus canadensis*) lying very close to the ground along a trail at Eagle River, I immediately recognized it as a “flavor” of dogwood with its familiar leaves and seeds. Only it was less than two inches tall. After getting back home, I found in the [Digital Atlas of Virginia Flora](#) ([vaplantatlas.org](http://vaplantatlas.org)) that it does occur in Virginia in four counties: Albemarle, Bath, Highland, and Rockingham counties. And it is called Dwarf Dogwood.

Another familiar friend we found was **Field Horsetail** (*Equisetum arvense*) also observed at Eagle River. It is native throughout the arctic and temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere. In Virginia it is frequent to locally common throughout, except in southeast Virginia, where it is infrequent and largely restricted to calcareous habitats. In the Coastal Plain of VA, we are familiar with Tall Scouring Rush (*Equisetum praealtum*) and often refer to it as Horsetail. Our local friend looks much different than the Arctic version.



**Pictured above: (Top)** Creeping Dogwood in bloom and **(Bottom)** Field Horsetail.

---



And how could we mistake bluebells? Tall bluebells (*Mertensia paniculata*) immediately got our attention. It is native to northwestern North America and the Great Lakes, and we observed it at Eagle River. In Virginia we know Virginia Bluebells *Mertensia virginica* locally common throughout the mountains (lower elevations only) and the Piedmont

Several of us were quickly drawn to Star-flowered Lily of the Valley with two botanical names, *Maianthemum stellatum* and *Lysimachia borealis*, observed at Eagle River. In the Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora, *Maianthemum stellatum* has the common name of Starry Solomon's-plume or Starry False Solomon's-seal. It is native and rare in the mountains and northern Piedmont. Also, in the Digital Atlas, *Lysimachia borealis* is called Northern Starflower in Virginia, is native and frequent at middle to higher elevations in the mountains but apparently absent from far southwest Virginia. FYI: Another starflower in Virginia is the Spring Starflower *Tristagma uniflorum*, introduced in VA, infrequent and scattered in Coastal Plain and Piedmont

We traveled to Seward primarily for the 8.5-hour boat ride in the Kenai Fjords National Park. This day on the water was the primary reason I signed up for this Alaska trip and it did not disappoint. The next day, before returning to Anchorage, we birded around the tiny Seward airport where we could walk right onto the runway.

Our finds that day included shorebirds in a small creek at the end of the runway. Once we scoped them out, several of us resumed the telltale hunch of botanizers. How could we resist when we were stunned with a field of Bigleaf Lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*), at the end of the runway. They were just starting to bloom and were about 18" tall. We had to scurry away from the runway as a plane came for a landing! In Virginia, we are familiar with Sundial Lupine *Lupinus perennis* which occurs in the Coastal Plain and other counties in northwest Virginia.

---

**Pictured left: (Top)** Tall bluebells, **(Center)** Star-flowered Lily of the Valley, and **(Bottom)** Bigleaf Lupine.



## Pollinator Palooza: Gardeners and Naturalists Inspire the Next Generation by Liz George

Summer solstice, June 20, dawned bright and blue with a blessedly cool, dry breeze stirring the early summer blooms of native monarda, rudbeckia, hibiscus, and coneflowers at the [Pollinator Demonstration Garden at Veteran's Park/Kidsburg](#) (3793 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188). The day proved ideal for the 2nd Annual Pollinator Palooza, held in conjunction with James City County Parks & Recreation's "Longest Day of Play" and National Pollinator Week.

Designed for children 12 and under (with their grownups close at hand), the event offered hands-on fun with a purpose. Over 150 enthusiastic participants joined in activities that were as educational as they were engaging. Creating a bee hotel, painting a rock to decorate a butterfly puddler, and taking home a pot planted with native seeds were just a few of the fun crafts awaiting the kids, all activities planned with the goal of promoting an understanding of the crucial relationship between pollinators and native plants.

Amid this happy buzz of play and creativity, Master Naturalists Joanne Benecki and Donna Dodenhoff, Cohort XVIII, represented HRC at a table loaded with pictures and information about chapter projects. In addition to materials for general outreach, CAR provided Joanne and Donna with more specific lessons on pollination, butterflies, and native plants, consistent with the Palooza's theme but appropriate for all ages. Thanks to this morning of public engagement, HRC received two requests for speakers and a formal invitation to table prior to the Doug Tallamy lecture in September.

This is not the first time Master Gardeners and Master Naturalist have teamed up at the Pollinator Garden. Many Master Naturalists were instrumental in installing the garden in

2021, guided by a goal of showcasing sustainable landscaping with native plants and waterwise practices. That vision continues to blossom today with several garden volunteers—who are both Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners—embodying a spirit of dual stewardship that strengthens the garden's purpose and impact.

With so many overlapping areas of energy and expertise, Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists constitute a formidable team for promoting environmental awareness and stewardship. From large-scale restoration efforts like Brickyard Landing to playful, hands-on happenings like Pollinator Palooza, both groups achieve connection with the community in meaningful and memorable ways.

It's a partnership that thrives in every season—and every setting. Here's to continued communication, cooperation, and "cross-pollination" between the two organizations with long term benefits that ripple through both ecosystems and generations!



**Pictured above: (Top)** Master Gardeners Kim Owens and Linda Becker with bug masks. Kim is also a Master Naturalist. **(Below)** Donna Dodenhoff at the HRC booth with two visitors.

# Brickyard Landing Wrapping Up First Phases of Construction

by Judy Kinshaw-Ellis

One of the last planned installations for the initial phases of the Brickyard Landing Riparian Buffer and Demonstration Garden was completed the first week of July: a 60-foot dry riverbed which is a type of swale. Two smaller dry riverbeds will also be added, and all supplies are in place for construction.

Dry riverbeds are a management practice for stormwater control. In large rain events, water flows into the riverbed and is held there until it soaks into the ground. Slowing the stormwater in this way helps prevent it from going into the river and carrying pollutants with it. Water that soaks into the ground nourishes plants and may eventually replenish the aquifer that James City County depends on for water.

When work first started at Brickyard Landing, early rainstorms washed out paths to make it easy to determine where the swales should go. As volunteers planted, they left the areas free for later construction.

During June, volunteers spent part of each workday hand digging the largest of the three planned riverbeds. Once the digging was complete, team members lined the bed with geotextile fabric that acts as a weed barrier while allowing water to soak through. Volunteers then added a layer of small pebbles to the bottom of the stream bed and covered them with larger river rocks. To add some interest to the bed, team members then added larger rocks. After all rocks were placed, volunteers trimmed the geotextile fabric and mulched the edges.

If you have an area in your yard that holds water, come take a look at the new swale. It may offer a good solution.

*Workdays: Mondays and Thursdays  
from 8 am to 10 am.*



**Pictured above: (Top) Rocks are Ready:** Three rock sizes are used in a dry riverbed. Pebbles line the bottom, 3" to 6" rocks cover the pebbles and up the sides, and larger rocks provide interest.

**(Below) This sweaty bunch did some heavy lifting on June 30 and finished the swale at Brickyard Landing.** Front row: Nina Acosta, Donna Benson, and Judy Kinshaw-Ellis. Back row: Dan Foster, Mike Whitfield, Steve Day, Mike Beckman, Bruce Herman, Brad Glasebrook, Daniel Brooks, Anne Annala, and Karen Creef. Not in photo: Linda Hughes and Robin Penfold. Thanks to all!

# Shorter Shares from HRC Members and Beyond



## Dan's the Man! —by Linda Hughes

Our Paspasheg Demonstration Garden requires regular hands-on TLC even on the hottest of days. Dan observed that our cherished American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*), that we dug up from a less-than-ideal spot at Jamestown, was looking more like the Leaning Tower of Pisa. So, he decided to build a tripod to shore it up. Fortunately, staff at Jamestown Yorktown Foundation had a spare drying rack that modeled what the Paspasheg may have used for drying fish, animal skins or corn. Dan adapted it and voila, the Hazelnut has support.

## Babesiosis, Another Tick Disease —by Judy Jones

There is a new tick infection coming to the area. The **black-legged deer tick** can carry **Babesiosis**, with the Eastern Shore leading Virginia's reported cases. I've added a link so you can learn more about it and its flu-like symptoms. Please be vigilant in checking for ticks when you come back from walking in an area with vegetation or high concentrations of deer. We want us all to stay healthy.

<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/24809-babesiosis>



## Native Plants & Pollinators —by Judy Kinshaw-Ellis

Native plants make a difference for pollinators. Planting milkweed—common, swamp, or butterfly-weed—provides food for Monarch caterpillars. However, other species of butterflies and bees also use the plants for nectar. Look at this photo carefully to see how many species you can find.

## Butterfly Counts

Earn volunteer hours with local **North American Butterfly Association (NABA)** Coastal Region Butterfly Counts. All are welcome (friends and family), no skill required. See Adrienne Frank's email from June 12 for contact info or click the dates below to link to email of each count compiler.

Great Dismal Swamp NWR: **July 12/13**

Chippokes State Park: **Sunday, July 13**

Delmarva Tip: **Sunday, July 27**

Northumberland-Lancaster: **Tuesday, July 29**

Williamsburg: **Saturday, August 9**

Middle Peninsula: **Saturday, August 23**

Dragon Run: **Tuesday, August 26**

George Washington's Birthplace: **Tues, Sept 23**



## June 13: College Creek Beach (CCB) Cleanup after Clean the Bay Day

Six days after the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's annual Clean the Bay Day litter pickup event, Historic Rivers Chapter members went out and collected 26 pounds of trash from College Creek Beach (CCB). That's after 60 pounds were already removed at CCB during Clean the Bay Day!

This popular recreational site continues to need our chapter's support. Marie Robertson and Martha Moss, project co-leads, are stepping down after July. We hope you join us in maintaining this rewarding project. Reach out to them if you're interested in taking over. This is a beautiful site with creek and river views and abundant nature "finds."



## Save the Date! July 12<sup>th</sup>

As mentioned in HRC President Janet Harper's message, the State VMN Program staff are coming to us! Join Michelle and Tiffanie and fellow Virginia Master Naturalists from our region at

Machicomoco State Park (3601 Timberneck Farm Road, Hayes, Virginia 23072) on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm for cake and conversation. Free Park admission.

If you'd like to carpool, consider where you'd like to meet up and reach out to fellow members. Perhaps ask fellow cohort members to join you!



## Fishing line disposal receptacle at Brickyard —by Judy Kinshaw-Ellis

Volunteers at Brickyard Landing Park pick up quite a bit of fishing line, so they decided to do something about it. Judy Kinshaw-Ellis and Drew Ellis constructed and donated this fishing line disposal receptacle, and it will be installed at the park. It even has a removable cover to prevent birds from getting inside.

## Other Stories of Interest

June 27: *Geologists uncover new evidence from ancient asteroid that hit the Chesapeake Bay* by *Katherine Hafner*, WHRO Public Media

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 including the Virginia Cooperative Extension and is based in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation within the College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech.

*Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.*

**Learn more about our chapter at [historicroivers.org](http://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](mailto: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).



*Yellow-bellied  
Sapsucker feather,  
with human index  
finger for reference.  
Spotted at Bassett  
Trace, 6/30/25 by  
Claire White*



## HRC Board Members

### President

Janet Harper

### Vice President/Programs Chair

Dean Shostak

### Secretaries

Janet Curtis  
Linda Hughes

### Treasurer

Marc Moyers

### Historian/Publicity/Media

Laura Grove

## Membership

Barb Creel

## Basic Training

Donna Benson  
Bill Weldon

## Volunteer Service Projects

Adrienne Frank

## Continuing Education

Claire White

## Education and Outreach

Cynthia Ferentinos  
Marie Robertson

## Newsletter Editors

Shirley Devan  
Claire White

## Field Trips

Brad Glasebrook

## Hospitality

Judy Jones  
Alice Kopinitz

## At-Large Members

Rick Brown  
Michele Garrard  
Ron Hunt

## Appointed Committees & Teams

### Risk Management Team

Roger Gosden  
Patty Maloney

### Better Impact Contact

Judy Jones

### Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI)

Adrienne Frank

### Webmaster

Jeanette Navia

## Chapter Advisors

Meagan Thomas, Virginia  
Department of Wildlife Resources

Daniel Brooks, Virginia Department  
of Forestry