

# The Naturalist

April 2025 Newsletter | Volume 21, Number 04

Historic Rivers Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists

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**Feature Photo:** Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) tree fruits known as schizocarps, commonly called samaras, at Greensprings Interpretive Trail on 04/07/25, by **Martha Moss**.

## A Message from the President

by Janet Harper

I hope everyone found a way to celebrate Earth Day, even if that meant just appreciating nature for the day. I enjoyed our trail work and cleanup at Charles Brown Park on Saturday, April 19. Nature graced us with a lovely sunny day with just the right temperature for working outdoors. We had 14 Historic Rivers Chapter (HRC) volunteers and spent about 3 hours pruning vegetation around the trails and removing invasives such as Autumn Olive, Privet, and Chinese Wisteria. Our litter pickup yielded less litter than in our monthly pickups but took us deep into very gnarly woods where we found a "trash dump" behind an abandoned property. This yielded lots of plastic, cans, bottles, and 2 chairs! Adrienne did a great job carting it all back with a wheelbarrow. After checking Google Maps at home, I realized this was not actually park property, so we won't be doing that area again. OOPS. While we were there, we filled the book box with another 26 nature-related books, bringing the total so far this year to 48. Thanks to all who helped, we accomplished a lot! Jeff Honig was still cutting invasives as everyone else was leaving.

I have been on a crazy spending spree this past month, purchasing Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) books and tote bags for basic

training with the Virginia Master Naturalist (VMN) mini-grant funds and backpacks and supplies for filling them for the DWR grant. Thank goodness I wasn't using my own debit card! Marie Robertson, Tory Gussman, and Brad Glasebrook did the initial planning and decision making for the backpack project by identifying the supplies needed and identifying the Williamsburg-James City County (WJCC) schools and parks to receive the packs. Their excel worksheet provided hyperlinks for all the supplies which was extremely helpful in calculating costs for the grant request as well as for ordering the supplies. For the grant submission, I expanded the project to include upper York County elementary schools and to increase the number of packs at each location, so we could reach the \$5000 level. Marie, Tory, and Brad all agreed to stay with the project after the grant was approved and were responsible for putting many of the moving parts of the project together. The Amazon business account Marc set up, not only saved us taxes and shipping, but also gave us discounts on several items! Thank you, Marc, for setting that up and for ordering many of our items! We initially planned for 50 packs, but because prices ended up being lower than our estimates, we were able to purchase 55 packs with embroidered HRC Logos and fill them with our wildlife viewing resources and tools.

I can't tell you how many times I've counted to 55 in the last several weeks to make sure we had enough of each item. The packs and supplies filled our dining room, and Brad, Tory, Bill, and I made



many trips around the table to fill the packs. Good News: We were able to fill them all before the end of the month and I delivered the first batch to Sarah O'Reilly for distribution to [James City County Parks](#). She's already made a flyer to advertise the packs! Tory, Brad and Marie will be delivering packs to the WJCC schools and additional parks this coming week, and I'll deliver the York County School's packs. Come to our chapter meeting to see how they turned out! We think they're really neat!

The extra packs will reside in the CAR for now. We'll be advertising them on our [Facebook page](#) and bringing 1-2 packs to Outreach events to show their contents and let folks know where they are available. We're still waiting to hear back from several schools, but once the packs are all delivered, I'll make a list of the sites and get it posted to Better Impact, so everyone is aware of their locations. Please promote them whenever possible, so we'll be able to show their effectiveness when we report back to DWR.

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**Pictured below: (left)** Supplies for wildlife viewing backpacks organized on Janet's dining room table. **(right)** Janet Harper delivers wildlife viewing backpacks to Sarah O'Reilly from James City County Parks and Recreation.







### Pictures from Charles Brown Park Earth Day Cleanup:

(left) Volunteers with tools and bags of invasives. Left to right: Claire White, Dan Foster, Janet Harper, Anne Annala, Gail Peterson, Joanne Benecki, Adrienne Frank, Gary Driscoll, Julie Peet, Jeff Honig, and Bill Harper. Not pictured: Linda Hughes and Anne Marie Castellani. Photo by Rick Brown. (right) Julie Peet and Joanne Benecki fill the community book box with 26 new titles. Photo by Claire White.

## On the Calendar

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

Wednesday	May 14	HRC General Meeting 6-7:45pm at JCC Library with Hybrid Zoom Option CE portion: "The Revitalization of the Virginia Living Museum" by D. Niebuhr
Thursday	May 15	Trail Work at James River NWR 9am-1pm   <a href="#">Email Cyrus Brame by May 12</a>
Thursday	May 15	CE Bird Walk 8-10am at Bassett Trace Nature Trail, Colonial Williamsburg
Thursday	May 15	CE: Ecology of Ticks 6-7:30pm at Virginia Living Museum   <a href="#">RSVP</a>
Saturday	May 17	CE: Name that Butterfly 9-10am at JCC Rec Center   <a href="#">Register on May 10</a>
Saturday	May 17	HRC "Cookies & Conversation" 5-6pm at Chickahominy Riverfront Park
Wednesday	May 28	Final Registration for Clean the Bay Day (June 7, 9am-12pm)   <a href="#">Visit cbf.org</a>
Saturday	May 31	Marine Science Day 10am-3pm at VIMS   <a href="#">Register at vims.edu</a>

**Weekly Wildlife Mapping:** Hope to see you at one of the upcoming events at York River State Park (every Monday), New Quarter Park (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays), Greensprings Trail (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays), Jamestown Island (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday), and Yorktown Battlefield (Last Sunday). Check email for any last-minute changes.



# Outreach in the Community

by Education & Outreach Committee



## Teaching the Community How to Host Eastern Bluebirds

Judy Jones provided an educational and entertaining presentation on Eastern Bluebirds at the James City County Library on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Sixty-eight people packed the room to learn more about Eastern Bluebirds' life cycle and how they raise their young. Judy also offered helpful hints regarding how to attract them by providing housing that protects them from predators and plants that produce berries for food.

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## Children Learn the Many Benefits of Sunflowers

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, the Williamsburg Regional Library hosted a Spring Break children's program, "Sunflowers Feed Birds, Bees, Butterflies and Mammals." Cynthia Ferentinos, Marie Robertson and Jennifer Smith taught the kids and their parents about the sunflower plant and the variety of wildlife that uses it for food and other purposes. Everyone also enjoyed a close up look at the butterflies and chrysalis that Jennifer brought. Then the kids participated in two activities to see how various shapes of bird beaks make it easier to eat different types of

food and planted sunflower seeds in repurposed cardboard containers so they could grow sunflowers at home.



**Pictured left:** (1) Jennifer Smith with butterfly specimen display. (2) Cynthia Ferentinos leading students through an introduction to sunflowers. Photos by Claire White and Marie Robertson.

## Additional Outreach Event Help Requested

Please read the descriptions below and let us know if you're willing to help with any of these. We'll assist you with getting the materials needed from the Collections and Resources (CAR) storage unit. Email Cynthia ([chf2virginia@gmail.com](mailto:chf2virginia@gmail.com)) and Marie ([mschwiet@gmail.com](mailto:mschwiet@gmail.com)) to express interest and ask questions.

### **Saturday, May 17, Jamestown Yorktown Foundation, Farmers & Foragers Day.**

Location/Time: The American Revolution Museum in Yorktown, 10am-4pm. This will include a tabling event and providing one or two brief presentations (using the HRC trifold to illustrate activities) to explain the mission of Virginia Master Naturalists, the different ways that we volunteer, and how to join a VMN Chapter. More info is available at this link: <https://www.jyfmuseums.org/learn/homeschool-youth-programs/family-days>

### **Friday, June 6, Ask a Master Naturalist/Master Gardener information table.**

Location/Time: James City County Library, 9:30 am-11:30 am. (May also be scheduled later during the year.) We'll invite community members to ask a Master Naturalist, and a Master Gardener questions regarding gardening or wildlife. This tabling event will coincide with a library program on planting and using herbs so we will likely have people passing by who are already interested in plants.

### **Saturday, July 12, Jamestown Yorktown Foundation, Citizen Science Day.**

Location/Time: Jamestown Settlement, 10 am-4 pm. This will include a tabling event and repeating an activity for families to help them learn how to use iNaturalist. The goal is to provide an overview of native and nonnative plants and how to use iNaturalist and let families practice on a scavenger hunt. They might not already have iNaturalist or be able to download it on the fly so we will have to make the exercise so it could be done with or without iNaturalist.



## **Library's Seed Exchange Program is Thriving!** by Cynthia Ferentinos

As the flowers finish blooming and start producing seeds throughout this season, please consider saving some to donate to the Williamsburg Regional Library's (WRL) Seed Exchange. Over the past fall and winter, the WRL Seed Exchange gave away over 1,000 mini packets of native plant seeds (and over 1,000 packets of vegetable seeds so far this spring).

We've also used these seed packets for educational programs at the libraries so adults and children can grow the native plants that they've learned about during library programs.

When you collect the fully dried native plant seeds, please write common and Latin (if known) plant name on the outside of the paper bag or envelope, your name, and the date. And if you can include a few intact seed pods or seed heads with your seed donation that helps us to educate others about how each plant develops and disperses seeds. As a reminder, time spent collecting native plant seeds can be counted as service hours in Better Impact under Flora-Acorn and Seed Collecting.

The WRL Seed Exchange also accepts donations of vegetable, herb and other flower seeds, as well as cuttings from house plants. You can bring donations to our monthly chapter meetings or drop them off anytime at the Circulation Desk at the James City County Library or the Williamsburg Library. At the James City County Library, there is also a box on the Seed Exchange cart in the entryway where you can deposit seeds.



# Branching Out by Mary Jo (MJ) O'Bryan



The "*Treemendous*" 20th anniversary of the Virginia Master Naturalist (VMN) program has me reflecting on my five years of service with the Historic Rivers Chapter (HRC). In my 57 years on this planet, this program has impacted me more significantly than anything else I've ever done.

Wildlife mapping, monitoring turtles, invasive plant removal, litter patrols, helping Eastern Bluebirds and Prothonotary Warblers flourish, bird and butterfly counts are all great activities that we do as a group but I can't help but realize how each one of us has branched out individually and the things we are doing outside of the group that are also making positive impacts to Mother Earth. If I just reflect on how I've grown and what I've learned from the eye-opening education I received in Basic Training back in 2019, I can't believe it!

Some of the more common things most of us have implemented are a direct reflection of the training we received. For example, I only plant native species and have added five native trees to my yard, including a white oak, witch hazel, eastern cedar, dogwood and an elderberry. I planted fennel and parsley for Eastern Swallowtail Caterpillars and milkweed for monarchs. I get so many caterpillars that I fancy myself a butterfly rancher. I built two osprey platforms and replaced dilapidated ones in our local waterway. I've added a bluebird house, a chickadee house and a Purple Martin house to my yard and some of my neighbors'

yards. I oyster farm off my dock and provide the oysters to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation every summer for oyster reef restoration. I educate neighbors and friends with all my newfound knowledge as often as I can. I've saved trees that were on the chopping block. I pick up litter on my neighborhood walks. I'm the resident expert to call when someone finds an animal in distress.

However, it's the other things I've gotten involved in from my newfound understanding of wildlife needs, climate change, and conservation efforts that have surprised me the most. I was a member of a board for the first time in my life as the Outreach Chair and Secretary for the HRC. It was a great educational experience that will help me with many other pursuits outside of my role as a VMN. I worked on a local campaign to get someone elected that opposed overdevelopment and large cruise ships docking at Yorktown beach. I knocked on doors, posted yard signs and handed out flyers at voting locations. I helped found Protect Yorktown and spoke at countless local government meetings, organized protests, monitored our Facebook page and even spoke in front of state committees against the cruise ship docking. In May, I'll be participating in a symposium at VIMS (Virginia Institute of Marine Science) about the impact of the cruise industry on our watershed. I monitor regulatory activities and write letters to politicians. I more carefully donate my discretionary funds to help conservation efforts.

When I travel, the first thing I want to do is check out the local wildlife and conservation efforts. Every year, I branch out a little bit more. This year, I'm going to do some Category IV rehabbing work with a local rescue group. Who knows what direction that will take me! Thank you so much for this program. No matter what, even if a course graduate doesn't volunteer much, or even get certified, I know we are all better humans and caretakers of the land, sea, and air for branching out and taking the course in the first place. We have had over 190 graduates in our chapter alone; can you imagine the impact? Congratulations on 20 years!

# Nature Explorers: Final Spring Club Meeting at JRES

by Pat Murphy

Our last day of Nature Explorers Club at James River Elementary School (JRES) was on Tuesday, April 15th. It rained as I was setting up for the afternoon's events. Our weather for every previous session had been perfect. The rain only lasted for 20 minutes but that was enough to make the grass and picnic area wet enough not to use. Don't ever assume when running a club that kiddos will be dressed, shoes and all, for weather. They rarely are.

We began inside with a review of data that students had collected in their journals during a tree game we had played at our last session. Only 1 tree (student) had survived out of the 14 that were there that day. Not a very healthy habitat.

We moved onto a discussion of pollen, explored it on potted native strawberry plants, then moved outside to make pipe cleaner bees. Manipulating a yellow and black pipe cleaner proved more difficult than expected but the kiddos persevered and fashioned their bees. The pipe cleaner bees moving between crushed yellow powdery chalk contained in paper cup flowers gave kiddos the visual of a hairy bee collecting pollen while moving from flower to flower.

In single file, we walked over to the Flagpole Garden to observe any bee activity after the afternoon spritz. Risk assessment dictated our very secure line with Robert, Elizabeth, and Gail surrounding our kiddos with our club sponsor, Laura bringing up the rear. Parents were already lined up, motors running, for club student pickup. Our Flagpole Garden is situated in the middle of James River's driveway. It is not easy to visit during any pickup times.

We found one bumble bee bouncing from one bloom of Eastern Red Columbine to the next. Robert found a ladybug. Troy asked about the native wild strawberries. "Will they really make fruit that we can eat?" Yes, the sweetest ever if our bees get to do their work.

We concluded with a relay game with each team using a Velcro paddle as a pollen collector (a bee), multicolored pompoms as pollen, and a red bucket marked with a yellow pompom as the team's flower. Yellow to yellow pompoms made a match but these spritely bees didn't know that until the end of the game when yellow pompoms were the only ones counted. Each kiddo received their own Eastern Red Columbine (volunteer plants



**Photos above:** (1) Portia Belden and students investigating the soil for life, (2) Robert Ambrose planting native plants with kiddos.





from the Flagpole Garden) to plant at home. The message throughout our 7 sessions and included in their journals was to plant Virginia natives. We hope they do!

It was my pleasure this year working with Robert Ambrose, Portia Belden (for part of the year), Elizabeth Myers, and Gail Peterson! They were enthusiastic participants guiding and encouraging kiddos as we moved through the 7 sessions of our Fall and Spring Nature Explorers' Club activities. I want to also thank Kim Owens for sharing what she does for a living and helping us add to our plantings in the back of James River by adding to our Longleaf Pine grove. I hope you enjoy the collection of pictures of our volunteers and kiddos in action, and every moment with a child in nature!

**Pictured left:** Kim Owens sharing her work with native plants.

## Brickyard Landing Milestone by Judy Kinshaw-Ellis

On April 17, 16 volunteers planted 165 perennials and two Bald Cypress trees in about 90 minutes at Brickyard Landing Park. The perennials were financed with a grant from the Ford's Colony Garden Club, and they mark the end of the planned installations for the initial phases of the Brickyard Landing Riparian Buffer Demonstration Garden and Meadow. While getting the last plants in the ground is exciting, there will be plenty of maintenance work to keep our team busy through the summer.

If you have been counting, a team of Master Gardener and Master Naturalist volunteers planted about 80 trees and woody shrubs in November of 2023, 1500 perennials and grasses in April of 2024, 130 trees and woody shrubs in November of 2024, and 120 seedlings in March of 2025. In addition, volunteers planted the meadow with several pounds of perennial and grass seeds, five flats of plugs, and the 165 perennials in April. Volunteers have also donated plants from their yards for both the meadow and the other garden areas, which brings the plant totals even higher! It is safe to say that volunteers have dug more than 2000 holes at Brickyard Landing, and we thank you all.

Summer will be spent weeding, watering, and tending the young plants. We hope to see some paths created, and benches and interpretive signs installed. Come out and see what all of the excitement is about. It is a beautiful park that changes each week.







*Brickyard Workdays: Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 990 Brickyard Landing Road, Toano*

**Pictured left:** Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners came out to plant the meadow as did our chapter advisor Daniel Brooks. What a hardworking crew. It is always exciting to see what we accomplish working together.

## Paspahegh Workday by Linda Hughes

Linda Hughes and Dan Foster hosted a chapter workday at Paspahegh Town at Jamestown Settlement April 18 to clear a plot for tobacco planting. The Paspahegh people considered tobacco a sacred plant and used it for ceremonial and social purposes. Smoking pipes were used to welcome visitors, cement relationships between communities, and in rituals. It later formed the basis for the early English colonial economy.

Shirley Devan, Judy Kinshaw-Ellis, MJ Freeman & Janie Moyers rolled up their sleeves with Dan and Linda to dig up large plants, remove nonnative invasives and prune up limbs on surrounding trees. Bain Schultz, landscape supervisor with Jamestown Yorktown Foundation (JYF), pitched in by providing gardening tools and brought out a leaf blower to make the area pristine for the tobacco plants. HRC also welcomed Tracy Perkins, one of our partners with JYF, to see our Historic Rivers Chapter members in action! The HRC-JYF partnership is one we greatly value!

**Pictured below: (left)** Shirley, MJ, and Dan at work. **(right)** Judy, Bain, Shirley, Linda, Dan, Janie, and MJ—the workday crew standing in front of Paspahegh Town dwellings, called yehakins. Photo credits: Janie Moyers.





# Shorter Shares from HRC Members and Beyond

## 5/17—Inaugural HRC “Cookies & Conversation”

HRC Hospitality has organized a “social time with no agenda” on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 5-6pm at the playground shelter next to the pool at Chickahominy Riverfront Park (1350 John Tyler Highway). Bring your own beverage, and enjoy cookies baked by Alice Kopinitz and conversation with fellow Master Naturalists.



## “Through the Eye of a Naturalist” Photo Contest Entries Still Wanted

Submissions welcome through June 15 in the following categories:

- Babies—bird category
- Babies—all other fauna
- Swamp flora
- Trees in flower
- High Tide and Low Tide—same day, same location

See the April 2025 newsletter or email from Judy Jones on March 27 for specific details on how to submit your photos to Ted Sargent for the contest. The winning photos will be on exhibition at the Williamsburg Library Theatre Gallery July 30-August 29. A special “Cookies & Conversation” will occur on August 13<sup>th</sup> at the exhibition.



## 4/8 Workday at Piney Grove—by Gail Peterson

Virginia Pinelands Restoration Specialist, Andi Clinton, from The Nature Conservancy, led 18 volunteers in planting over 300 Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*) plugs in a section of **Piney Grove Preserve** in Sussex County. The day started out miserable (cold and rainy) but once we got moving, we hardly noticed. In groups we planted seedling plugs using a dibbler bar. After we finished planting, Andi took us on a quick walk to show us one of the reasons we planted the trees—to create habitat for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*). We did not see any, but their habitat is amazing. Very enjoyable day!

**Pictured above:** Fellow Historic Rivers Chapter and Cohort XVIII members Dan Foster and Cameron Garrett joined me for a selfie. We also saw Christine Mason (foreground) at the event.



## HRC Long-term projects —by Janet Harper

The state program office for the Virginia Master Naturalists (VMN) asked for write-ups about projects which chapters had been doing for at least 10 years as part of the anniversary celebration. Since our chapter was established in 2007, HRC has several long-term projects. Judy Jones submitted information on the Bluebird Monitoring project and the Nancy Norton Nature Camp scholarship program. Adrienne wrote about the Prothonotary Warblers at Dragon Run, the Williamsburg area Butterfly counts, wildlife mapping at York River State Park, and Freedom Park's Botanical Garden. Shirley wrote about the Prothonotary Warbler project at Northwest River and how the project has expanded to include Powhatan Creek, Chickahominy Riverfront Park, and Greensprings Trail sites. Thanks to all these writers for sharing our history with VMN!



**CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION**  
*Saving a National Treasure*

## Volunteer with CBF this Spring and Summer

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) will be hosting its 36<sup>th</sup> **Annual Clean the Bay Day** on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm this year. Several sites in the Historic Triangle area have cleanups scheduled:

- **Colonial National Historic Park**- Jamestown end of the Colonial Parkway
- **James City Clean Commission**
- **Waller Mill Park**- in the past this involved litter picking along Airport Road near the reservoir
- **York County Beautification Committee**
- **York River State Park**

Registration ends on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Volunteer hours should be logged under Trails and Trash in the “Virginia Waterways Clean-Up/Clean the Bay – CBF” activity on Better Impact.

CBF is also working on a 1,000-linear-foot living shoreline oyster sill in Hampton named the **Pine Cone Harbour Project**. “This work will require bending, heavy lifting, and getting a bit dirty, so you can skip the gym for a day or two while assisting CBF with our largest shoreline project to date.”

Registration for workdays usually closes the week before, so the staff can adequately plan for volunteers. Don't leave signing up till the last minute. Log hours under “Oyster Restoration – CBF” in the Fauna category in Better Impact.



## Publicity and Continuing Education Email Accounts

Laura Grove, your new publicity board member, would like to encourage you to send all potential posts for the chapter Facebook page or news to be shared with local news outlets to the dedicated **HRCpublicity@gmail.com** email account. This is the same email that was created in 2022 by former publicity chair Deborah Humphries. When sending photos, please caption them and if using your phone try to take higher resolution images.

Claire White, your new continuing education (CE) board member, would like to encourage you to send all CE questions and suggestions to the NEW dedicated **ceHistoricRivers@gmail.com** email account. Also check out the Opportunities List on Better Impact for updated listings of our regular CE activities that include links to recorded CE.





## 4/9 “Why, why must a terrapin die?”

On April 9<sup>th</sup> Dr. Randy Chambers, Director of the William & Mary Keck Environmental Field Lab and Professor of Biology, gave a presentation on the “Plight of the Diamondback Terrapin” at the Historic Rivers Chapter monthly meeting. Members learned about the obstacles faced by these estuarine terrapins and various models of Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) that have been tested to reduce Diamondback mortality. **Dr. Chambers’ current BRD model (pictured above) has an elastic hatch that aims to allow terrapins to escape commercial crab pots.** At the end of the presentation Dr. Chambers recapped his talk with a five-minute poem that included custom lyrics sung to the tune of Don McLean’s “American Pie”:

*Why, why must a terrapin die?  
Jibber-jabber from the crabbers as the crabbers deny  
That BRDs can keep the turtles alive,  
Maybe this’ll be the day that they try!*

The recording is linked on [Better Impact](#) on the CE activity page for “HRC Speaker (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, Monthly Meeting)” for a limited time.

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**Pictures, top right: Snapshots from the Spring Williamsburg Bird Count. (top)** Cheryl Jacobson, pictured left led the Kingsmill sector. Judy Jones and Tory Gussman survey the sky to her right. **(bottom)** Green Heron photographed by Deborah Humphries, Jolly Pond sector leader.



## 4/27 Early observations on the Bird Club’s 48th Spring Bird Count—by Shirley Devan, Compiler

On such a beautiful day, about 85 volunteers turned out to count birds for the Williamsburg Bird Club’s 48th Spring Bird Count. The Club has conducted this count every year since its fledging in 1977. Numbers are still coming in for birds and birders. I can more easily estimate the number of birders than I can the number of species. From the sector totals I’ve received; my sense is that the birds put on a good show!

Five sectors had more than 80 species. The “winning team” was the Jamestown Sector with Dan Cristol and current and former students who tallied 99 species even without access to the full Wildlife Loop Road. Look for more precise (and final) numbers in the June newsletter! Many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who participated. It’s more important now than ever to stand up for science.

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



*Wild Columbine  
([Aquilegia canadensis](#))  
in bloom on April 14,  
2025, at New Quarter  
Park. Photo by C. White.*

## HRC Board Members

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Janet Harper

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Dean Shostak

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Linda Hughes

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## Field Trips

Brad Glasebrook

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Alice Kopinitz

## At-Large Members

Rick Brown

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Ron Hunt

## Appointed Committees & Teams

### Risk Management Team

Roger Gosden

Patty Maloney

### Better Impact Contact

Judy Jones

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Adrienne Frank

### Webmaster

Jeanette Navia

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Meagan Thomas, Virginia  
Department of Wildlife Resources

Daniel Brooks, Virginia Department  
of Forestry