

President's

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March
2024

northernneckvmn.org

edited by Camille



Virginia Master
Naturalists
Northern Neck Chapter



And speaking of Better Impact...

Recently a NNMN had difficulty logging hours for one of our stewardship activities. When she logged into BI, she was not seeing all activities listed that she knew should be there. Through the tenacity of our BI coordinator, John Narney, eventually the problem and its solution were determined. We do not know if others will ever encounter this, but *just in case*, here is what you need to know and do!

On the "Log Hours" page, at the top, there are 3 buttons: **Recent, Active, and Inactive**. Make sure that the "**ACTIVE**" button is engaged. In the example below, the **Recent** button is engaged, and *therefore only the most recent activities the MN has logged in will be available*. Changing to **Active** will display ALL the activities the chapter has available in the drop-down.



When all else fails, or anytime you have a Better Impact question, email John at (jnarney@verizon.net).

Hello, Northern Neck Master Naturalists!

My, this recent pic shows the effects of age and bright sun! This month, I went to Belle Isle State Park for advanced training with Kevin Howe and Camille Grabb as part of their Walk on the Wild Side Project to find and marvel over frog and salamander egg masses. Seeing salamander egg masses was a life first for me and I am grateful for the information they exchanged and the experience. During bluebird monitoring at Belle Isle SP this season, I want to 'sneak' over to the frog pond and follow the eggs' development. Sounds of Spring are all around and bring joy! ~ Paula Boundy, Certified VMN, NNK Chapter, President 2024

**Paula's REMINDER TO ALL:
VISIT Better Impact to RECORD YOUR
HOURS
(Volunteer AND Continuing Education)**

**NEXT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, May 14, 2024, via Zoom**

**Exciting Opportunity!
First Partnering Event with the
Rappahannock Tribe!
Invasive Plant Survey – Tuesday,
April 23, 9:00 am at Fones Cliffs
(This is our MAY Program !)**

We have been asked by the Rappahannock Tribe to survey areas of Fones Cliffs for invasive plant species. We will look for “hot spots” of invasive plants. The Tribe has a crew that will remove the plants once they have been identified.

Prior to going into the field, Heather Bedford will show examples of some of the invasive plants we are likely to see.

For those interested, there is also an online workshop with the Blue Ridge PRISM on invasive plants on March 26 and 27. The link to the program to register is:

<https://blueridgeprism.org/event/spring-summer-invasive-plant-workshop-identification-virtual>

Where: Fones Cliffs

Carter's Wharf Road, Warsaw, VA
From Rt. 360 between Warsaw and the Downing Bridge, take Rt. 624/Newland Road. Proceed on Newland Rd for 11 miles, then turn LEFT onto Carter's Wharf Road. Proceed for about 1/2 miles then turn LEFT onto the Refuge

A BI reminder email will be sent by Postmaster Alice prior to the event.

Contact Ellen Hunter, D&I Chair
(ellenhunter1007@gmail.com), with questions or for additional information.

**The Turtles
are Coming!**
And we need
to find and
count them!



2024 DWR Diamondback Dash
Those registered need to sign up for
online training on April 4, 6, or 8.

**NEW Activity! Northern Neck Box
Turtle Identification & Monitoring!**

Project leaders: Bob Dunstan (NNMN) and Kory Steele (Virginia Herpetological Society) NNMNs will identify and photograph box turtles during their active months. DWR estimates that there is a 32% decrease in box turtles in the past hundred years. This activity will define the population in our Northern Neck counties where they appear to be abundant. In theory it is easier to define population declines in areas with high populations of the species. This will contribute to resource management by determining the number of NNK box turtles and to conservation by accumulating data on the number of road kills and health issues of these turtles. Volunteer hours will be logged in BI in Citizen Science/wildlife/box turtle. Interested MNs need to register for Zoom training to be held on **April 15, 7:00 pm**, by emailing Bob at robertdunstan@yahoo.com
For Bob's complete description of this activity, please see the BI email that Alice sent on March 15.

**CHAPTER BOARD MEETING
March 11, 2024, via Zoom**



Our Chapter Advisors expressed gratitude for those NNMNs who have responded to the call for assistance with **the 4-H school programs** in Westmoreland and Richmond Counties. You are appreciated!

Spring Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events:

Lancaster – held on March 23
 Northumberland – April 20, 9-2, Middle School Parking Lot in Heathsville
 Westmoreland – May 18, 9-2, A.A. Johnson Building Parking Lot, Montross

2024 BTC Committee Co-Chairs, Andy Bailey & Camille Grabb, were accepted by the Board. The committee is planning a new class beginning in September 2024.

Paula reported that the VMN Award pins, for recertification and volunteer service milestones, should be arriving soon!

A motion was approved to provide all NNMNs with new name badges featuring our new logo. “Old” badges may be used; but, it is recommended that we use the new ones.

URGENT NEED! *The Chapter is still looking for an Education-Outreach co-chair to assist Terry Jordan. Please contact Terry (terryjor3@gmail.com) or Paula (paglb4@gmail.com) to volunteer!*

2024 Chapter Budget:

General Chapter Expenses (PO box, etc.)	\$500.00
Communications (website, business cards)	\$350.00
Membership (postage, background checks, name badges)	\$600.00
Programs (speaker fees & room rentals)	\$800.00
Outreach/Education (supplies, handouts, children’s take-aways)	\$500.00
Hospitality (summer & Holiday events)	\$800.00
BTC – to be determined	
TOTAL	\$3550.00



Volunteers are needed for the 2024 Outreach Events. Please contact Terry Jordan: terryjor3@gmail.com

- | Date | Event & Location |
|---------------|--|
| April 13 | Osprey Festival
Colonial Beach |
| April 13 | NNMG Seminar
Lancaster Elementary School |
| April 20 | NAPS Earth Day
Heathsville |
| May 25 | St. Stephen’s Strawberry Festival- Heathsville |
| June 7 | Montross First Fridays
Montross |
| June 15 | Tappahannock Farmers Market - Tappahannock |
| August 3 | Irvington Farmers Market
Irvington |
| September TBD | Boots & BBQ (NNLC) |

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2024 DWR Diamondback Dash Zoom Webinar for Terrapins information:

**March 30, 2:00 pm
 Contact Megan at DWR**





April 9 – 9:00-11:00 am

NNMNs @ Belle Isle State Park
Meet at Camp Store
(Continuing Education in the Field!)

Spring Unfolding: Orchids, Blueberries, & More

Contact Camille: cgrabb9@gmail.com

April 9 – 9:30-12:00 noon

Emmanuel Christian Fellowship
440 Trail Maintenance
Emmanuel Church Rd, Warsaw
Contact Ellen Hunter:
ellenhunter1007@gmail.com

April 15- 7:00 pm - Zoom

Northern Neck Box Turtle Identification Project (see article on p. 2)
Contact Bob Dunstan to enroll:
robertdunstan@yahoo.com



April 23 – 9:00 am

Identifying Invasives at Fones Cliff
(see article on p. 2)

May 7 – 9:00-11:00 am

NNMNs @ Belle Isle State Park
Meet at Camp Store
(Continuing Education in the Field!)

Bird Migration

Contact Camille: cgrabb9@gmail.com

May 14 – 3:00 pm by Zoom

NNMN Chapter Board Meeting

May 21 – 9:00-11:00am



Balls Neck Rd Cleanup

Contact Camille: cgrabb9@gmail.com

**BOLO for Emails
from Alice about
Butterfly Counts
beginning in MAY!**



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If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify the Richmond County Extension Office at 804-333-3420/TDD* during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. *TDD number is (800) 828-2011.