



<p>Northern Neck Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalists</p>	<p>NEWS & NOTES for Members <i>April 2022</i></p> <p><small>Virginia Master Naturalists</small> <i>shared by Camille</i></p>
--	---

Booth Season is Back!



Nancy Joel with the NEW Osprey display
Photo by Betsy Gorn

Our booth displays began the “season” on March 26 at the **Master Gardeners Symposium** in White Stone. The leaders for this event were Eric Hentges, Anne Clewell, and Betsy Maddux. On April 9, the booth traveled to the **Colonial Beach Osprey Fest**. It was a chilly, overcast, and windy day, but that did not deter the master naturalists who made the day a success: Nancy Joel, Bobbie Burton, Carole Alexander, Pam Narney, Joyce Reimherr, Pat Harris, and Betsy Gorn.



Photo by Betsy Gorn

The third event was “Earth Day” at the Heathsville Farmers Market on April 16. Anne Clewell and Betsy Maddux again handled this very successful event. Nancy had another new display, this one emphasizing the importance of planting TREES! The fourth event of the season was “Earth Day” at Dug In Farms on the official Earth Day, April 22. Terry Jordan, Lee Arslan, Betsy Gorn, and Camille shared the Trees display with the public there. With these four events, we have interacted with well over one hundred members of the public and have added over a dozen interested people to the 2023 BTC roster!

We are committed to the St. Stephen’s Strawberry Festival (Heathsville) on May 28, and to the NNLC “Boots & BBQ” at Waterloo Farm on September 17. Nancy suggests we do a Tappahannock Farmers Market and an Irvington Farmers Market as well. There are many more Outreach opportunities in our community this season. We will do as many as our **volunteers** allow! One member has offered to be one of the co-leaders, but she needs a second person to make the “team.” Please contact Nancy Joel (joeln@wmlcps) or Camille Grabb (cgrabb9@gmail.com) if you are willing to help at an event. Two or three working together makes handling the display easy and enjoyable! THANK YOU to Nancy for continuing to handle the applications and for creating two new displays! The chapter now has four very professional-looking boards to use during the 2022 events.

Board, Member, and Program Meetings
Tuesday, May 10, 2022
Board – Noon
Social and Member Meeting – 1:00
Program Meeting – 2:00? (time TBD)
Westmoreland State Park, Beach Shelter

FINALLY!
April 19
Chapter Board
Meeting
IN PERSON!



The called Chapter Board meeting, to discuss the results of the Working Groups reports, was held on April 19 at the Northumberland Sheriff's Office meeting room. It was great to be together again! For a complete record of the implementations being made from the Working Groups Reports of 2019, please see the minutes of the meeting. The following are a few of the highlights:

CHAPTER GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- The Northern Neck Chapter Bylaws were amended and approved by membership March 9, 2021
- The Northern Neck Chapter Operating Handbook was revised and updated June 8, 2021

MISSION PERFORMANCE

(CITIZEN SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, & STEWARDSHIP)

- Hours reported in Better Impact document service areas that potentially save the state money
- Direct Contacts are people with whom a VMN shares educational information in a face-to-face encounter
- Indirect Contacts are those contacted through phone or email for this exchange of educational information
- Every VMN volunteer who meets with a group of people counts ALL of those people as direct contacts
- Anne Clewell has created a draft Annual Activity Calendar

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Board and General Meetings in odd-numbered months
- Field Trips in even-numbered months when appropriate

COMMUNICATIONS

- All recommendations have been implemented
- Website has been re-designed and remains current

March Certificates and Milestone Pins

These awards have been in the County VCE Offices waiting for the honorees to come in to pick them up. Those NOT collected *by Friday, May 6, 2022*, will be picked up by Membership and brought to the May 10 meetings for distribution!



Coming June 4, 2022

Nancy Joel shared with the Board her vision for a Northern Neck "Chapter Challenge" for National Trails Day. A committee has been formed and is working on the details. More information will be coming your way soon! Please mark your calendars NOW for this exciting opportunity!



June 12, 2022
Grapewood Farm
Montross

Invitations coming soon to your inbox!

In
*Loving
Memory*

*Earline Walker,
Charter Member,
Northern Neck Chapter,
Virginia Master Naturalists*

Debby Tupper, Treasurer, on behalf of our chapter, sent a memorial donation of \$100 to Northumberland

Association for Progressive Stewardship, one of Earline's favorite local organizations.



Now that SPRING is really here, our activities are increasing. PLEASE be sure to LOG your VOLUNTEER and CE hours through Better Impact.

If you need assistance, please contact John Narney (jnarney@verizon.net) or Pat McMurray (patunia46@aol.com). Either is happy to assist!



Pollinator Seed Packets are available for those who would like to plant a variety of natives that support our native creatures! They will be available at the May 10 meetings or email Camille (cgrabb9@gmail.com) for another method of getting them to you!

Upcoming EVENTS

Virginia Master Naturalist
Statewide Conference
and Volunteer Training
September 9-11, 2022
Virginia Beach, VA
Check out the information at
<http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/vmn-statewide-conference.html>

This is a great opportunity to learn more about being a Virginia Master Naturalist and seeing the natural resources of the southeast corner of our state!

Member contributions to the President's Page are welcome. Please send book reviews, information, photos, etc., to Camille.

President's Pages are sent once a month to the membership.



The following article was sent to me by a friend. I regret that the author cannot be credited, as it is not known who wrote this (could it have been Doug Tallamy, or perhaps a Virginia Master Naturalist?). At any rate, the words will ring true for most naturalists, I'm quite sure. Reflect and enjoy the humor!

Conversation between St. Francis and God

GOD: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

St. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

St. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

St. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it-sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

St. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

St. FRANCIS: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow, and, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

St. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

St. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

St. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

St. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

St. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

St. CATHERINE: "Dumb and Dumber", Lord. It's a story about...

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis...