


**Greetings, all Northern Neck Master Naturalists!**

The Board did not meet this month, but we want to continue the monthly communication. There are a lot of things happening, even without a meeting!



Virginia Master Naturalists

**Virginia Master Naturalist Statewide Conference and Volunteer Training 2021**

The statewide conference is going virtual this year!  
 October 1-3, 2021

As with previous in-person conferences, this event aims to provide high-quality continuing education for VMN volunteers and to promote networking amongst volunteers and program partners.

The user-friendly conference platform is called Whova and will be accessed by computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Registration will open around September 1. There will be a cost to register, but this fee will cover the live event and pre-recorded and on-demand sessions (which will be available to registrants for six months after the conference).

A special VMN Day of Service is planned for Sunday, October 3, 8:00 am-Noon.

For more details, please see: [www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/vmn-statewide-conference.html](http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/vmn-statewide-conference.html) or wait for an email from VMN!




**BETTER IMPACT**

**LOG YOUR HOURS!**

**NEWS & NOTES**  
**from the Board**  
*August*  
**2021**  
*shared by Camille*

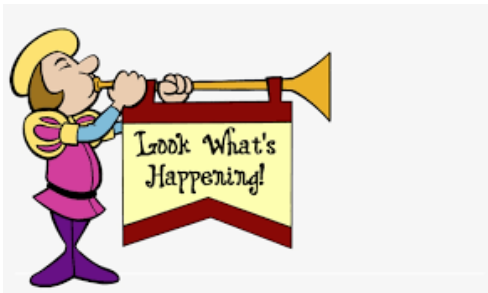


**NNMN BTC**  
**2021 is**  
**Underway!**

The Northern Neck Chapter Basic Training Course began on August 3, via Zoom. We have a talented and dedicated group of 19 going through the process, with assistance from the BTC committee, 16 mentors, and numerous chapter members who are filling various roles as content presenters, speakers about specific activities, and field leaders. It definitely takes a village!

The student “biographies” will be presented in a separate document when we have them compiled with photos. Until then, here are their names and Northern Neck homes.

- Carole Alexander – Hague
- Andy Bailey - Hague
- Becky Crowther – Reedville
- Hannah Donnelly – King George
- Bob Dunstan - Kilmarnock
- Polly Foote – Warsaw
- Pat Harris – Stafford
- Ryan Harriss - Kinsale
- Ellen Hunter – Warsaw
- Chip Jones - Westmoreland
- Terry Jordan – Heathsville
- Betsy Maddux – Kilmarnock
- Luke McCormack - Spotsylvania
- Kathy Moffitt – Lancaster
- Anne Parker – Kilmarnock
- Marie Pinto – King George
- Joyce Reimherr – Colonial Beach
- Alita Thomas – Irvington
- Christine Watlington Jones - Westmoreland



## Northern Neck Master Naturalists September Meetings (via Zoom)

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Board Meeting – 1:00 pm

General Member Meeting – 2:15 pm

Join Zoom Meeting for both:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6900272521?pwd=aUdvd3FIYWRRXNFZ0ZllrZko0QzRkZz09>

Meeting ID: 690 027 2521

Passcode: 158660

*All NNMN Members are invited to attend Board Meetings!*

**BTC Class and Program for ALL NNMNs:**

**6:50 pm-8:20 pm**

**Dr. Shawn Dash, Hampton University**

**“Entomology”**

Join BTC Zoom Meeting:

<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/3657828063>

Meeting ID: 365 782 8063

Master Naturalists will be sent this information in an email in early September and then three days prior to the meetings.

# HELP WANTED!



There are NNMN Board and Committee positions opening for 2022. Please contact Charlene Talcott if you are willing to take a turn at chapter leadership, to recommend someone for such a role, or to serve on the nominating committee.  
[charlene.talcott@gmail.com](mailto:charlene.talcott@gmail.com)

## Mistress Mary, Quite Contrary,

### How Does Your Garden Grow?

Debbie Gillespie was kind enough to send two photos of her garden after she planted the pollinator plant seeds we received this spring.

Looks like her plants are thriving!

It gives me hope!



## Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge

The Grand Opening Day at Cat Point Creek at the RRVNWR, scheduled for October 16, has been postponed (because of Covid) and is planned now for May 1, 2022. It will be a Refuge “Go Wild” day as well as just a grand day at Cat Point Creek. **Volunteers will be needed** - mark the day now if you wish to volunteer! There will be nature and owl walks, kayak-led nature trips, lots of activities for families and kids! More information will be forthcoming but be aware that Master Naturalists can help (and get a good look at the attraction of Cat Point Creek)! Contact Kevin Howe for further information: [juniper@erols.com](mailto:juniper@erols.com)



**Heard  
about  
SOLAR  
coming to  
the NNK?**

For details about WHERE and WHEN and additional information, contact KEVIN.



## Meet Our Newest Northern Neck Master Naturalist!

*Brian Bennett has transferred into our chapter from the Shenandoah Chapter. By way of introduction, here are a few words from Brian:*

Shortly after I retired from practicing law and we moved from Pennsylvania to Front Royal in 2008, my wife, Mary, and I helped found the Friends of Shenandoah River State Park. I became very active in the Park's Junior Ranger day camp program and thought it would be good to broaden my knowledge of Virginia's natural environment. I was in the 2010 class of the Shenandoah VMN Chapter. I did most of my hours at Shenandoah River State Park (you can still see a number of my postings as toad2415 at [riverparkfriends.org](http://riverparkfriends.org)) continuing to help manage the Junior Ranger program and numerous other Friends activities. Along the way I oversaw two Garden Club of Virginia grants for the Park - the first for the installation of a 1.4 acre pollinator meadow with a bee program and the second for the rehab of the visitor's center native plants landscaping. I also continued to be somewhat active with the Shenandoah Chapter, serving in an administrative capacity on several courses and a couple of terms as an officer. Since moving here in April 2020 (never move during a pandemic!) I have worked with a former NNMN member, Jane Henley, at RW-C to establish a nature education kiosk at our hiking trails. I look forward to meeting members of NNMN and working with you as I am able.

*Brian, WELCOME to the Northern Neck and to our Chapter! We look forward to working with you!*



## Request for Volunteers:



**Girl Scouts** **Virginia State Parks**  
Friday, September 10 — Sunday, September 12, 2021

Northern Neck Master Naturalists are



supporting Girl Scouts and GS VASP at Belle Isle State Park in 2021. There are a small number of girl scouts registered to camp Friday through Sunday.

### **NNMN Volunteer opportunities include:**

**Campsite Cleanup:** Site cleanup of primitive camping site located along Mud Creek Trail for prospective campers. Date TBD

**Saturday, Sept 11, morning:** Fishing 101. Led by Park Staff. This is a good activity for MNs who have an interest and knowledge in ichthyology, phenology and water quality.

**Saturday, Sept 11, afternoon:** Butterfly Safari led by NNMN. (GS troop attending is working on a Butterfly Garden down in Pole Green). This is a good activity for MNs who have an interest or experience with butterfly identification, quarterly butterfly counts held on the NNK and butterfly garden habitat


**Sunday, Sept 12, morning:** Caterpillars Count! led by NNMN. A small group of NNMN have just completed a pilot program at BISP. This is a good activity for MNs to share how to be a citizen scientist, what is phenology, bird food is more than caterpillars! and what information the scientists are looking to find.

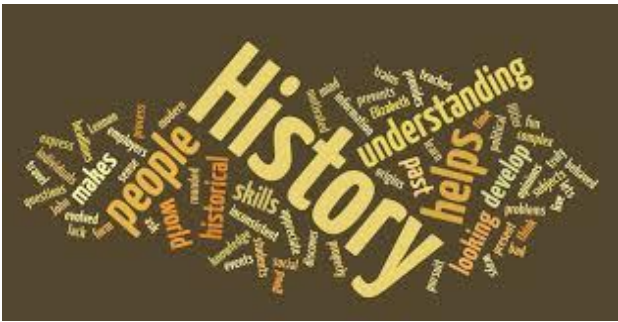
Interested?  
Need more information?

Contact Anne Clewell,  
[aclewell@aol.com](mailto:aclewell@aol.com)

Photo credit: Debby  
Tupper gearing up for



GS  VASP 2021!



As most of you know, our monthly general meetings this year have featured a look back on the basic training course cohorts that have resulted in our group of Northern Neck Master Naturalists. This is a salute to the classes we have honored so far in 2021, with several more yet to come.

The Northern Neck Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists was formed in 2007.

Seven charter members of that first class are still Chapter members today:

Faye Andrashko, Paula Boundy, Maggie Gerdts, Darleen Nelson, Earline Walker, Temple Moore (current Historian), and Charlene Talcott (current Past President)

The **SECOND** BTC Course was held in 2009.

There were 16 graduates of that class.

Eight are still ACTIVE members today:

Bill Arnold, Bobbie Burton, Margaret Ann Fohl, Nancy Garvey, Beth Kendrick, Ted Munns, Pam Narney, and Lolly Riley

The **THIRD** Basic Training Course was held in 2010. There were 20 graduates of that class.

Four are still active members today:

Judith Holyfield, Lucy Hottle, Lise Maring, and John Narney (current VMN Liaison)

The **FOURTH** Basic Training Course was held in 2012. There were 14 graduates of that class. Two are still ACTIVE members today, Gail Drake and Cathy Sachs

*Stay tuned for the Class of 2014 and the Class of 2016 in September!*

Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear a mask in most settings, however fully vaccinated people should wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. But you may need to follow the specific guidance of the facility where you are meeting because some localities may implement additional mask restrictions. And as before Individuals who are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear masks in all settings.



Clean Virginia Waterways, sponsored by Longwood University, is part of the Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup. From August-November, families, organizations, and community groups work to clean up litter in and around our waters. Not only is the cleaning up a helpful way to prevent more trash from polluting, but those who clean up and report the different types and amounts of trash recovered are joining other citizen scientists in providing the data to help find solutions to the pollution problem. Data may be collected on paper forms or by using the Ocean Conservancy’s “Clean Swell” app. The NNMN hope to schedule and hold a number of cleanups in the Northern Neck during the next few months, but we need site captains to plan and host the cleanups. It is easy to become a “site captain” and plan a cleanup event in your neck of the Neck! For more information, check out the website: <http://www.longwood.edu/cleanva/> Lee Arslan has agreed to coordinate events for our chapter. Please let her know if you are signing up to be a site captain, and when and where you will be clearing litter, so that others may join in your efforts. Lee can be reached at [rangertrix@gmail.com](mailto:rangertrix@gmail.com) Remember, there are 19 eager BTC volunteers willing to earn hours!

Current VCE Mask Guidelines: