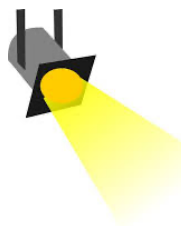


Northern Neck Chapter,  
Virginia Master Naturalists  
northernneckvmn.org

**NEWS & NOTES**  
for Members  
**February 2022**  
Virginia Master Naturalists  
*shared by Camille*



**Highlights from the Chapter Board Meeting February 8, 2022**

(As usual, complete minutes will be posted in Better Impact following the approval process).

The primary reason for the called Board meeting in an even-numbered month was to set the 2022 budget. Because a slate of officers was not elected until December and did not take office until January 1, the committees and officers had not shared their financial needs in time for the January Board meeting. This was accomplished during this meeting. The 2022 budget is as follows:

Northern Neck Master Naturalists 2022 Operating Budget	
Committee	Amount
Programs	1000.00
Membership	200.00
Communications	250.00
Hospitality	450.00
Outreach/Education	300.00
BTC pre-fund	500.00
General Operating	150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2850.00</b>

Treasurer Debby Tupper reported that 74 members had paid their 2022 dues of \$20 each for a total income of \$1480. As our only real source of income, it is readily apparent that this is not a balanced budget. The Chapter did have a prior healthy balance in the bank account; however, that will not sustain us in future years if our expenses remain the same or increase and our income does not rise. The

necessity of raising our dues was mentioned, as was the possibility of undertaking fund-raising efforts. No decisions were made but conversations will continue. If you have thoughts or suggestions to share, please contact Debby Tupper ([dtupper@verizon.net](mailto:dtupper@verizon.net)).



**Eric Hentges** shared that many members attended the January 31 Program Meeting, an engaging and informative Winter Waterfowl ID Workshop led by Jeff Wright. **The March 8 Program Meeting** will feature Adam Lynch, River Steward with Friends of the Rappahannock. Friends of the Rappahannock has partnered with the Northern Neck Land Conservancy to produce a series of custom "Clean Water Plans" and other products for landowners who have placed their property under private conservation easement. This program will explain how the Clean Water plans were developed and **how the Northern Neck Master Naturalists can help advance the Northern Neck's shared goals of improving environmental sustainability.** This Zoom meeting will follow the Chapter Board meeting (1:00) and is scheduled for 2:00 pm. Emails with the Zoom login information will be sent to all NNMNs prior to the meeting.



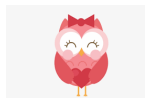
Eric plans to send a survey to all members for input on programs for the rest of the year. Please respond so that programs may reflect your interests!



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Pat McMurray, Membership Chair, explained that most members of the chapter will need to renew their Civil Rights/Risk Management training this year. She is looking at ways that we might do this. Pat has revised and distributed the roster for 2022. She also sent out a reminder about which activities are approved for volunteer hours. While many citizen science, stewardship, and education activities done with partnering organizations are approved, **administrative or fund-raising time spent with those organizations may not be counted as NNMN volunteer hours.** If in doubt or to be certain, please contact Pat (patunia46@aol.com) .

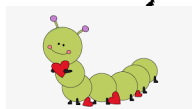


Lesley Newman, Basic Training Course Committee Chair, announced that Kyle Langford graciously formatted the 2021 BTC Class Project videos, "One Small Bite", and Lesley would like for the Chapter to consider how to use these.

Lesley also shared that her committee is coming together and that she anticipates even more chapter member involvement during the next course.



Have YOU Been Here Lately?



Alice Stieve, Communications, is now handling the nmn email blasts and has created a template for email announcements to be sent to membership. She will make that available so that anyone submitting information to her for emailing may follow that template. Alice's email address to send announcements to is: [nnmn22.ALS@gmail.com](mailto:nnmn22.ALS@gmail.com) .

Continuing Education Chair Charlene Talcott announced that Bryna Brennan has joined the committee.



Diversity & Inclusion Committee seeking members! Contact Charlene ([charlene.talcott@gmail.com](mailto:charlene.talcott@gmail.com)) .



Outreach Chair Needed & Wanted!

Nancy Joel has served the Chapter in many roles throughout the years. She would really

like to be relieved of this responsibility for 2022. She has all materials inventoried and up-to-date and is quite willing to mentor her successor. PLEASE see this as a great -2-

# Upcoming

EVENTS

opportunity to take a leadership role in the chapter and earn volunteer hours! It is possible for two members to share this role as Co-chairs. The Chair (or co-chairs) do not have to go to every event; just recruit the members who will attend. The NNMN booth that travels all over the Northern Neck is our primary method of reaching out to the public and sharing our mission. In other words, it is extremely IMPORTANT! Please contact Nancy ([joeln@wmlcps.org](mailto:joeln@wmlcps.org)) for more information about the responsibilities and to let her know that you will relieve her!

In the meantime, Nancy is continuing to process event applications while awaiting a replacement chair. She is also handling the Booth for the Colonial Beach Osprey Fest and will be recruiting volunteers to work an hour or two during the 9:00-5:00 time on Saturday, April 9.

Pam Narney ([pnarney@verizon.net](mailto:pnarney@verizon.net)) will register those volunteers who are interested in leading a bird walk that day during the festival.

The other Outreach event to which we have committed is the Master Gardeners Symposium on Saturday, March 26, 8:30-1:00 in White Stone. To volunteer for an hour or two at that event, please contact Eric ([ericjhentges@gmail.com](mailto:ericjhentges@gmail.com)) or Camille ([cgrabb9@gmail.com](mailto:cgrabb9@gmail.com)). Your help at either of these events is appreciated!



Have you looked at our website recently? Visit often for news and Chapter updates!

[northernneckvmn.org](http://northernneckvmn.org)

**Hospitality Chair Anne Clewell** reported that she is working on the June picnic. The date is Sunday, June 12, 2022, 2:00-5:00 pm. Put the date on your calendars NOW so you don't miss it! Anne will be recruiting assistance as the time nears.

## VIMS Oyster Aquaculture Research Virtual Seminar Series

(attend remaining one or two)

2 - Tuesday, February 15, 5:30-6:30 pm  
Forecasting Bay water quality and vulnerability of oysters to environmental stressors

3 - Tuesday, February 22, 5:30-6:30 pm  
Genetic variability of Dermo disease and biosecurity of shellfish seed

**To Register:**

<https://cwm.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYpc-GuqDMjG9x6XIv-LhtV1ES-PY-HE1UP>

(VIMS is a VMN sponsor so approved for CE credit)

## Tuesday, March 8

1:00 pm - Chapter Board Meeting via Zoom  
2:00 - Chapter Program Meeting via Zoom

AND...



Virginia Master Naturalists

**2022 VMN State Conference**  
Friday, September 9-Sunday,  
September 11  
Virginia Beach

## Winter Wonder in the Natural World

*A true experience as shared by Camille*

During the bitter cold snap we experienced a few weeks ago, my husband discovered an opossum underneath our large coral honeysuckle bush. After checking on it for a while, he realized it was not “playing possum” but was actually deceased. There were no signs of injury or trauma, so the cause of death is speculative (old age? freezing?).

Regardless, he brought it out of the bush so that we could let nature take its course. He placed it on top of a small burn pile in the field, and for almost ten days it remained untouched. Finally, the weather had warmed enough for it to be emitting an odor that could only be attractive to vultures and raptors, and as I left one morning to head to town, I texted him that the vultures were circling. I soon got a text update that the vultures had it off the pile and onto the ground (how that happened neither of us observed). A short while later he texted that an adult eagle was now engaged in the feast (or fray). By the time I returned, turkey vultures were holding their own as black vultures flew overhead, occasionally swooping down for an attempt to nab a morsel. I grabbed the spotting scope and set it on the back deck with a clear view of the action, so as not to disturb them by walking up too close. Two turkey vultures stood as stalwart as sentinels on duty while a third had the chance to feed. Every now and then they switched roles. Black vultures landed and held their wings outstretched, perhaps asserting their size and strength. Occasionally one would timidly venture closer to the carcass, only to be rebuffed by the vigilant sentries. Suddenly an eagle dove down, vultures scattered, and the eagle attempted to lift the carcass with his strong talons, but without success. Momentarily it flew off and left the vultures to the remains. This continued for another couple of hours, with some vultures eating, some standing guard, others circling overhead. Finally, there were no more vultures or eagles, and yet another bird was pecking at the scant remains. Brown with a white belly, it spread its wings and tail to reveal that it was a red-tailed hawk.

Nothing remains of the opossum but the question: *Who took the pelt?*

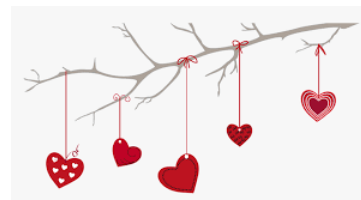


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**Can SPRING be far behind?**