

Northern Neck Chapter
Virginia Master
Naturalists
President's Page
March 2023
northernneckvmn.org



Virginia Master
Naturalists
Northern Neck Chapter

NOTE

NEW!

VMN
LOGO!



Message from our President

Hello, Northern Neck Master Naturalists!

It's March, and it is living up to its reputation as a windy month. Right now the Red Maples are showing their spring colors and there are common violets and bluets blooming on the ground. Many have shared that Spring seems to be arriving early this year; the sights and sounds are delightful and much anticipated. Activities are occurring all around and there is hardly time to catch your breath as you sprint from one Zoom meeting or presentation to the next! Hope to see you all somewhere soon!

Paula Boundy, Certified VMN, NNK Chapter, President 2023 ~ paglb4@gmail.com

SPECIAL NOTE: MEET the BTC 2023 in this issue! See p. 5-8



FROM
THE

BOARD MEETING



The Chapter Board met on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 3:00 pm, via Zoom.

The Program Meeting followed at 4:30 with Kevin Howe presenting an engaging and informative session on "Vernal Pools".



Our president is seeking volunteers to fill three positions:

- One person to join the "financial review team", which is a one-meeting commitment to review the Chapter financial records;
- Diversity & Inclusion and Hospitality Chairs are Board positions and the commitment would be for 2023 with the option to re-up for 2024.

Please contact Paula at paglb4@gmail.com to offer your assistance with any of these.

VMN Mini-grant Opportunity for Chapters -Deadline: April 12! Read info at: https://vce.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cZ6eOglGLqtUJgy and contact Debby Tupper (d.tupper@verizon.net) if you have an idea for a Chapter grant!

Vice President Polly Foote shared that the May program and general meeting will be held on **Saturday, May 13, 2023, 10:00 a.m., at Belle Isle State Park.** Dr. Holly Gaff of Old Dominion University will share a timely topic for Master Naturalists: **TICKS!** She is an expert in this realm and will lead us in a “hunt” for ticks following her talk. *Add to your calendars NOW so you don't miss out!*



Membership Chair Pat McMurray shared the Volunteer Milestones attained by Chapter members as of January:

500 Hours - Charlene Talcott

250 Hours - Lee Arslan

- Andy Bailey
- Jerry Fairman
- Art Gilbert
- Deborah Gillispie
- Debby Tupper
- Mason Washington

Way to go, Everyone!

Several Northern Neck Master Naturalists achieved **Initial Certification** in 2022:

Bob Dunstan

Polly Foote

Ellen Hunter

Terry Jordan

Kathleen Moffitt

Joyce Reimherr



Of the 73 NNMN members, **40** recertified for 2023!

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Lee Arslan | Mindy Ashton | Stu Ashton | Anne Atkins |
| Andy Bailey | Carla Bangs | Heather Bedford | Katharina Bergdoll |
| Paula Boundy | Bryna Brennan | Bobbie Burton | Anne Clewell |
| Sandy Dodge | Leslie Fellows | Polly Foote | Nancy Garvey |
| Camille Grabb | Pat Harris | Eric Hentges | Kevin Howe |
| Terry Jordan | Lise Maring | Pat McMurray | Temple Moore |
| Pam Narney | Lesley Newman | Anne Parker | Alison Sowar |
| Charlene Talcott | Debby Tupper | Audrey Vaughn | Betsy Washington |
| Porter Washington | Karen Williams | Jeff Wright | |



Alice Stieve is Communications Chair and handles receiving and sending emails for our chapter as its “postmaster.” Like all of us, Alice is volunteering her time. If you have an email that you think should go out to all members, please give Alice plenty of lead time to get it sent. Also, before asking Alice to post it to all volunteers, please consider whether the content reflects our mission as VMNs.

It is better to give Alice information in an email; links or attachments to other sites often will not transmit through BI. If you need to have Alice send an email to all, please send it to [nnmn22.als@gmail.com](mailto:nmn22.als@gmail.com). Thank you, Alice, and keep up your great work!

**OUTREACH
BOOTH
SEASON
IS HERE!**



Outreach Co-Chairs Terry and Camille announced the ten events that we hope to have the NNMN booths attend this season. We are especially in need of at least ONE NNMN volunteer to LEAD one of the April 15 events, or we will not be able to handle both. Please contact Camille (cgrabb9@gmail.com) if you’re willing to lead either the Heathsville or Colonial Beach event.

We encourage everyone to work *at least one* Booth event. BTC members are welcome as well.

You may go ahead and let us know NOW which event you’d like to work. We will have Alice send an email a week or two prior to each. We look forward to working with everyone throughout our season! Thank you!

Terry and Camille

(terryjor3@gmail.com) (cgrabb9@gmail.com)

Outreach 2023	
Date	Event
3/25	NNMG Symposium, White Stone
4/15	CB Osprey Fest, Colonial Beach
4/15	NAPS Earth Day, Heathsville
5/27	St. Stephens Strawberry Fest, Heathsville
6/17	Farmers Market, Tappahannock
7/1	Farmers Market, Irvington
7/15	Farmers Market, Heathsville
8/4	<i>First Fridays, Montross (not yet confirmed)</i>
9/16	Farmers Market, Tappahannock
9/30	Boots & BBQ, NNLC, King George

Member Submissions Desired for the Pres Page!
Please send announcements, articles, book reviews, nature observations, personal reflections, photos, etc., to cgrabb9@gmail.com
Thank you!



**Next Chapter Board Meeting - Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 3:00 pm,
Zoom**

Program Meeting - Saturday, May 13, 10:00 am, BISP

VCE Spring Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Lancaster	Northumberland	Westmoreland
March 25	April 22	May 20
9:00-2:00	9:00-2:00	9:00-2:00
Courthouse	Northumberland MS	AT Johnson Bldg
Parking Lot	Parking Lot	Parking Lot

(Richmond County in the Fall)



Reminder: It is important that you LOG VOLUNTEER and CE HOURS as they are earned!
You should keep your own written record as well!



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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) 828-1120.



The 2023 Northern Neck Master Naturalist Basic Training Class (BTC) is underway. Classes started on January 21 and will continue through the final wrap up on November 14. In response to previous comments on the intensity of the class, the BTC committee decided to spread the class out and take a summer break. The classes are held on alternate Tuesday nights by Zoom. In addition, the students will attend seven field trips at various Northern Neck locations and VIMS.

The sixteen members of the class are:

Tim Bradshaw

I was born in Southampton County, Virginia, and currently live in Tappahannock. I have worked in VA, Md, Mexico, China, Japan, Texas. (Too much for word count.) My hobbies include bird watching. I was a Texas Master Naturalist for 10 years and I am eager to start again.

Mike Burns



I grew up in Buffalo, NY, earned a BA at Syracuse University and an MPA at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Administration, worked for three years for the New York State Assembly and 41 years at the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency.

I currently live with my partner Gail Cooper on Davis Creek off of the Western Branch of the Corrotoman River, not far from the Merry Point Ferry. We bought in 2015 and have been here full time for several years. I enjoy yard work, birding, sailing,

hiking and bike riding, among other activities. I am interested in becoming a NNMN to advance my commitment to continuous learning, to continue making a difference in protecting our environment and make new friends.

Molly Callaway



Molly Callaway and her husband Joe bought their home in Mt. Holly on the Nomini Creek in 2011 and moved here full time from Frederick Maryland in 2021. They have two children and a grandchild on the way.

She worked for Montgomery County government for 36 years; 10 years with the Youth Conservation Corps, and 26 with the Montgomery County Volunteer Center. She has a master's in human resource management.

She enjoys kayaking, golfing, hiking, and cooking. She joined the Master Naturalists to learn more and to share her love of our natural environment with others.

Joseph Chirico



I am looking forward to participating. I was born and raised in the suburbs of Washington DC but also spent most of my pre-college summers at the Jersey Shore.

At the Shore, I developed a love for the Barnegat Bay, and life on the water. I am very interested in aquatic ecosystems and as a result have an advanced scuba certification. I love going to new dive sites all around the world.

Joe Chirico (cont.)

After college at William and Mary, I moved to NJ for a few years but eventually moved back to Bethesda, MD where my wife and I raised two kids. I had a 35-year career in corporate finance with a variety of institutions. In the midst of the pandemic, we decided to get out of the city and bought a house in White Stone, where I enjoy getting out on the water as much as possible. I would like to become a Naturalist to expand my knowledge base and share what I can with others.

Robin Didlake



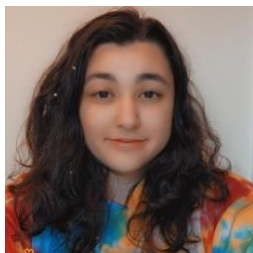
My name is Robin Didlake. I live in Bowling Green. In June, I retired as a high school science teacher from Caroline County Public Schools. I'm currently working as an Environmental Educator for

Friends of the Rappahannock.

My hobbies include beekeeping, bird watching, hiking, running, sewing, and spending time with my friends and family.

Environmental education is very important to me, and it starts with personal growth. This is what led me to want to become a Master Naturalist. I enjoy spending time with and learning from like-minded people and then using my love of teaching to spark the next generation of Environmental Stewards.

Lexi Dillenschneider



Hello! My name is Alexandra, but my preferred name is Lexi. I am married and have a dog who is the light of my life. I am originally from Harford County, Maryland, and I currently live in King George, Virginia.

I work as a veterinarian assistant at a local veterinarian clinic. My hobbies include fishing and anything outdoors. I decided I wanted to become a master naturalist because I love

nature with a passion. I am studying at Unity College Distance Education Program, pursuing my bachelor's degree in wildlife conservation. I also volunteer at a local shelter taking care of the cats that are up for adoption. I am more than excited to begin this journey!

Upcoming BTC Zoom Classes:
**March 28 – Freshwater Ecology/
Climate & Environment**
April 11 – Botany
April 25 – Ornithology & Mammalogy

Kathy Gilson



I grew up in rural Connecticut among farmland, corn fields and the many rivers that fed the factory mills along them. It was normal to be outside in the fresh air continually.

Whether in the Vermont Mountains or camping on an island off the coast of Connecticut, outdoors seemed the normal place to be. When I moved to Boston to study Fashion Design, the outdoors always had to be a planned restricted event.

Eventually I moved to Gloucester Mass. a fishing town, north of Boston, where I raised my family. As a stay-at-home mom, my hobbies became sociology, gardening, and landscaping.

After running the Visitor Center in Gloucester, I began my retirement with my husband and moved to Lancaster Virginia, in 2020. Becoming a master Naturalist and studying nature, is an extension of my love of the outdoors.

Bill Hoover



Hello, my name is Bill Hoover. I've spent most of my life living and working in New Jersey. Don't hold that against me as New Jersey is, outside of the more urbanized areas, quite beautiful. I'm presently working as an IT technician at JPMorgan Chase in Jersey City.

Bill Hoover (cont.)

My wife, Joann, and I moved to the Northern Neck last year as a way to escape the frenzied lifestyle of the northeast in our pending retirements. I've spent most of my life outdoors first in the construction and nursery industries and mostly through my hobbies. These include canoeing, running, cycling, hiking, and fishing. I'm hoping to expand my knowledge of the natural environment as well as engage in community service through the NN Master Naturalist program.

Join our Zoom classes, every-other Tuesday starting at 6:30 pm:

<https://viriniatech.zoom.us/j/81012575896>

Joann Hoover



Hello NNMN, I spent my early years living in a rural area outside of Ithaca, NY where I grew to love the wooded outdoors. I later relocated to rural central NJ where my husband Bill and I also raised our family of three boys. We

moved to Weems just outside of the border of Kilmarnock a year ago. I also retired last January from a career in finance where I worked in the freight transportation sector.

Bill and I like to spend our leisure time outdoors gardening, hiking, and canoeing. I am very excited to begin the Master Naturalist program to learn more about the natural treasures of the Northern Neck and to share those with others in the various volunteer capacities of the NNMN.

Vicki Kinsel

I am a retired physician in Internal Medicine and Nephrology and moved to the NN in the 1990s initially to work as a hospitalist at RGH but was recruited to run the dialysis facility in Kilmarnock. My practice shortly became focused on mostly Nephrology serving Lancaster, Richmond and Essex Counties.

In 2002 I met Gus Shelton, we married and have lived in Lancaster near Lively on a small farm with around 30 rescue animals. Over the years, I have volunteered with a number of organizations, including the NNM Free Clinic, the Ledwith Lewis Tappahannock Free Clinic, Northern Neck Partners for Pets and as a community medical examiner.

Gus and I enjoy being outdoors and I especially love hiking, biking, and gardening. I have been interested in the NNMN program for years but did not have the time to commit until I retired and now look forward to learning more about the natural world here in the Neck and Virginia.

Andrea Levine



Born and raised in The Bronx. Summers in upstate NY, introducing me to the natural wonders of the outdoors. College years on Lake Ontario – recreation included back country camping in the Adirondacks, cycling

excursions, and cross-country skiing.

My husband and I just completed a house on Mill Creek. Prior to this we had built/owned a 2nd home on Harveys Creek just to test the waters – I guess it passed. I'm still working, as a realtor (4th career and a longer story), mostly in Richmond, some local, as well.

Free time includes – kayaking/kayak fishing, sailing, paddle boarding, cycling, hiking, cooking, planting, oyster gardening, arts and culture. NNMN – Love of outdoors, nature. Great way to learn, explore, “give back” and meet like-minded people.

Robert Pagano



Born (Brooklyn, NY), raised on Long Island (East Northport, NY) – I talk good (lol). My wife and I moved to Irvington, VA in May 2020. Finally, bought a house at the right time. (lol)

Rob Pagano (cont.)

I currently work in higher education, specifically, a grant research and evaluation firm, focusing on DEI related projects (Maybe a slight shift to some environmental projects?) Hobbies include kayaking, hiking, biking, and cooking.

I decided to become a VMN to advance my volunteerism. The ability to think globally and act locally. Looking forward to meeting people with similar outlooks and appreciation of the environment we live in.

Karen Pica Mungiu



I am blessed to live in the Sandy Point area of Heathsville, VA. Growing up on a fruit farm in rural Michigan provided me with a wonderful opportunity to learn life skills and an appreciation for nature.

I recently transitioned away from full-time employment so

have more time to spend on new learning and activities.

I enjoy gardening, amateur photography, amateur birdwatching (from the deck with a libation), exploring new sites, history, and crafts. Becoming a Master Naturalist will make me a better steward of our Northern Neck natural resources and allow me to share that knowledge with others in our community.

Beth Rohne



After growing up and attending university in Charlottesville, VA, I moved to Topping (Middlesex) in 1991 before settling in Ottoman (Lancaster) in 1999. After a widely varied career in education (from adults in community and

correctional settings to children in a lower elementary Montessori classroom), I am currently the youth services specialist at Essex Public Library.

Unsurprisingly, I enjoy birding (this includes poultry), gardening, mountain backpacking trips and lots of different kinds of music (which may be the only surprising part). I chose to become a master

naturalist because I find peace being in nature and am passionate about sharing its wonders.

Judy Thomas



I am a former assistant professor of Social Work at Virginia Commonwealth University and I'm currently on the board of directors of the American Society of Botanical Artists. I am a botanical artist and illustrator,

printmaker, and have been a gardener from childhood.

I live in Mechanicsville, Virginia, and was encouraged to join the Northern Neck Chapter from a current member. I love exploring nature and am concerned about the destruction of natural areas due to the impact of humans.

Mark Trent

Originally from Oklahoma, I have lived in Arkansas, Washington State, Michigan, California and now Lively VA. After a 15-year career in farming peanuts and cattle, I spent the next 15 years in Agriculture Extension and Research.

My hobbies include hiking and skiing. I want to be a Master Naturalist to be a part of natural resource conservation and meet likeminded people.

BTC 2023 is using a team approach to mentoring. Each mentor has two to three trainees and all standby to assist other mentors and trainees. The mentors are:

Camille– Mentor Lead

Anne Atkins

Katherina Bergdoll

Anne Clewell

Buz Cox

Pam Narney

Karen Williams