



Northern Neck Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalists

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



In the April President's Page, when reporting the volunteers who "manned" our Outreach Booth events in March and April, I inadvertently forgot to list two members at the Colonial Beach Osprey Fest. Mindy and Stu Ashton should have been included. My apologies and thank you both for your help!



For the first time since March 2020, the NNMN chapter held all of our meetings—Board, General with Social, and Program—LIVE and IN PERSON this month! We met at Westmoreland State Park, which waived the parking fee for our afternoon of meetings. Highlights are included in this newsletter. Complete details will be in the May Minutes, to be posted in

"Sibling Rivalry in the Osprey Nest" was Pam Narney's informative and fascinating program for our May meeting. For over 20 years, Pam has passionately observed and researched ospreys. With an osprey platform in the water by her dock, she has been able to watch and photograph the nests year after year. She reports her observations to Osprey Watch. We all left with more knowledge of and appreciation for these "fish hawks." Thank you, Pam, for enlightening us!



Photo by the Osprey Queen, Pam Narney



PLEASE REMEMBER TO LOG YOUR HOURS!

www.MyImpactPage.com



# in June!

June 4



Watch for BI emails that will explain how you may participate! Trail maintenance activities will be available throughout the Northern Neck. We are hoping that ALL members will volunteer a few hours on that day and LOG the hours in Better Impact! Thank you in advance for your participation.

June 12



## Business from the Board

Advisor Tara Brent shared the VCE "Extension Contacts Reporting Fact Sheet" in response to questions at the April Board meeting about "direct contacts." This will be included with the minutes. The most important information for Master Naturalists is that "direct contacts" are those where

there is face-to-face exchange of educational information . Video conferencing (Zoom, etc.) that includes two-way interaction between presenter and audience and is an exchange of educational information is also considered "direct contact." "Indirect contact" includes email, telephone, newsletters, and social media. **For both direct and indirect, there must be an educational, not business, nature to the exchange.**

Advisor Wendy Herdman shared details about the Westmoreland County Hazardous Waste Collection held on Saturday, May 21, Montross. An email with further details was sent to all members. This event was for Westmoreland residents only.

Treasurer Debby Tupper brought to our attention the 2022 unbalanced budget. Our annual income (approximately \$1400 from member dues) will not continue to support our expenditures, if our budget stays the same as 2022, which is \$2850. Several options are possible, including an increase in dues, which will be shared at the membership meeting in July. If anyone has suggestions or thoughts, please contact Debby ([d.tupper@verizon.net](mailto:d.tupper@verizon.net))

SAVE THE DATE  
Next Chapter Board and Member Meetings:  
July 12, 2022



*"All gave some...some gave All"*







Pat McMurray shared the following:  
**Quarterly Volunteer Hours Report**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022**

Report Group	Hours	Volunteers	%Total
VMN Chapter Administration	397	21	21.54%
VMN Citizen Science	628	28	34.07%
VMN Continuing Education	186	35	10.09%
VMN Education and Outreach	227	30	12.32%
VMN Stewardship	405	36	21.98%
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>1843</b>		

**The secret world beneath our feet is mind-blowing – and the key to our planet’s future**



**Member Jerry Fairman** recently found an article in a publication that he thought most of us would find helpful and informative. Thank you for sharing the link, Jerry!

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/may/07/secret-world-beneath-our-feet-mind-blowing-key-to-planets-future?utm\\_term=627ce8b420f9af5dd38d0224b13bb9cc&utm\\_campaign=GreenLight&utm\\_source=esp&utm\\_medium=Email&CMP=greenlight\\_email](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/may/07/secret-world-beneath-our-feet-mind-blowing-key-to-planets-future?utm_term=627ce8b420f9af5dd38d0224b13bb9cc&utm_campaign=GreenLight&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=greenlight_email)

## surprise encounter

*I parked the car near the beginning of Mud Creek Trail to make some pre-walk observations for an upcoming Walk on the Wild Side at Belle Isle SP. I have walked this trail in many seasons and it is such a delight in each. I was eager to search out some spring ephemerals, early butterflies, flowering trees and plants. I had hardly made 20’ of progress before I was stopped in my tracks by the sound of birds making quite a racket. And very nearby. So what’s the story here? Aha, a bluebird on a tree branch flapping its wings and squawking. Noted. I looked around for the ‘cause’. Another bluebird was flying around frantically heading in and out of this tree. My first thought was that I was near a nest and the parents were protecting it from a ‘predator’. Okay. Where’s the nest, where’s the ‘predator’? I knew a bluebird box was some 30-40’ further down the trail so I thought this pair was defending a nest in this tree. I wanted to scout the trail so I moved past the squawking parents to give them their space. Surprise. One of the birds dive-bombed me. Me! I ducked. And with that I noticed a wobbly little shape 20-30’ ahead of me ON the trail. Hopping, flapping. Another aha. A nestling learning to fly. With that I backed my way out the trail and gave the family their space. Technically I know humans are predators, top of the food chain, but I don’t think I have ever felt like one until that moment. — Anne Clewell, BTC19*

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