

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



**News and Notes from the Chapter Board Meeting on November 9, 2021**

November is traditionally the Chapter's General Meeting and Annual Board Election. Like so many things in 2021, the election did not happen. There was not a full slate of nominees for the Executive Board positions at that time. The election meeting is being postponed until the December 12 Chapter Social and BTC 2021 Celebration. As is always the case, nominations from the floor may be made prior to the voting. The Nominating Committee has now secured nominees for all Executive Board positions. They are:

President - Camille Grabb  
 Vice President - Eric Hentges  
 Secretary - Lee Arslan  
 Treasurer - Debby Tupper

Committee chair positions are not elected, but it would be ideal to have volunteers for those roles set as well before we head into 2022. Please contact Charlene Talcott ([charlene.talcott@gmail.com](mailto:charlene.talcott@gmail.com)) to see which committees need chairs and to volunteer for one of those positions if you are willing. We hope to see EVERY NNMN member at the Sunday, December 12 Social!

**Additional Information from the Board Meeting**



- Treasurer, Audrey Vaughn, reported that 2022 dues notices are being mailed to NNMN members. The 2021 BTC Class members will also be receiving notices since they will be members in 2022! Please remit your payment as soon as possible. It is important that Audrey close out the books prior to December 31, 2021.



- Membership Chair, Pat McMurray, shared that 14 NNMN members have not entered any 2021 volunteer or CE hours into Better Impact. We're reminded that at least ONE volunteer hour per year MUST be entered in BI to remain a VMN member. Also, it is important that everyone put all hours into BI prior to the end of 2021. Our hours reports help the VMN program office justify the value of master naturalists to the State so that VMN continues to receive state funding! Pat provided the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Volunteer Hours Report:

Category	Hours	Percent of Total
Administration	121	8
Citizen Science	423	28
Education/Outreach	841	56
Stewardship	119	8
Total Hours	1504	

This does not include hours from those who have not yet logged in to BI. Education/Outreach includes 587 hours for BTC.





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- Porter Washington stated that Audrey will be taking over as Activities (projects) Chair for 2022. Anne Clewell is serving as Webmaster (check out the new NNMN site at [northernneckvmn.org](http://northernneckvmn.org)). Porter plans to continue sending the NNMN email communications.



Photo: J. Dunstan

Deformity allowed encircling;  
Encircling allowed deformity.  
A kiss became locked lips,  
a touch, shared skin:  
a sylvan mystery.  
The coupling doubles,  
tugging bark but xylem  
and phloem too.  
With bypasses grafted  
shared nutrients flow.  
Without one root  
or one trunk shaft  
both trees survive.  
No barrier separates  
this symbiotic twist;  
Asymmetries do persist.

~ Dr. James Dunstan 11/25/2018

(Dr. Dunstan is the brother of BTC 2021 trainees  
Betsy Maddux and Bob Dunstan)



Anne Clewell asked the Board for an additional \$300 for the Hospitality budget, which was approved.

Anne also asked that anyone with 2022 calendar items for the NNMN website to please send those to her.



**Sunday, December 12, 2021, 2:00-5:00**  
**St. John's Episcopal Church in Warsaw**

All NNMN members should have received an invitation email recently. Please join us for a much-needed social and to celebrate our 2021 BTC Graduates! Please contact Anne C ([nmnhospitality@gmail.com](mailto:nmnhospitality@gmail.com)) for more details or to volunteer.



The 2021 BTC Content and Field meetings have concluded!

We will be celebrating the 18 newest NNMN members at our Social event! Please extend your congratulations to all!

### Upcoming NAS Christmas Bird Counts

All sites require registration with site compiler

**Tuesday December 14 - Northumberland-Lancaster CBC** - Jeff Wright (site compiler) [pec11908@me.com](mailto:pec11908@me.com) (703) 801-0239

**Saturday December 18 - Newport News CBC** - Bill Boeh (site compiler) [dolphrog1@yahoo.com](mailto:dolphrog1@yahoo.com) (includes Hampton, Poquoson, York County)

**Sunday December 19 - Williamsburg CBC - the Rosewell Sector is in Gloucester** - Bill Blair (site compiler) [varanger@cox.net](mailto:varanger@cox.net) (757) 871-8022

**Sunday December 19 - George Washington's Birthplace CBC** - Bill Portlock (site compiler) [portlock@bealenet.com](mailto:portlock@bealenet.com) (includes Westmoreland, Essex, Richmond counties)

**Monday December 27 - Middle Peninsula CBC -**  
 Susan Crockett (site compiler) [scrocket@cox.net](mailto:scrocket@cox.net)  
 804-832-1839 (includes Gloucester, Middlesex,  
 King & Queen counties)

**Sunday January 2 - Mathews CBC -** Mark Sopko  
 (site compiler) [mgsopko@gmail.com](mailto:mgsopko@gmail.com) (804) 815-  
 2897



<https://feederwatch.org/>

## Recognizing the BTC Classes of 2017 & 2019

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Course was held in 2017, and the graduates were:**      \* - still active today

Casey Boettcher	<i>*Lloyd "Sandy" Dodge</i>	John Ericson
Greta Geisinger	<i>*Marty Hill</i>	<i>*Kevin Howe</i>
Anne Kornegay	<i>*Kyle Langford</i>	Felicity Rask
Carolyn Reiner	Linda Shields	Jan Towne
Jan Tyndall	<i>*Audrey Vaughn</i>	
<i>*Betsy Washington</i>		<i>*Porter Washington</i>
Liz Worsham		

Virginia Master Naturalists

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Course was held in 2019, and the graduates were:**      \* - still active today

<i>*Lee Arslan</i>	<i>*Anne Atkins</i>	<i>*Susan Bossie</i>
<i>*Anne Clewell</i>	<i>*Buz Cox</i>	Ellen Crist
<i>*Jerry Fairman</i>	<i>*Art Gilbert</i>	<i>*Camille Grabb</i>
<i>*Roger Gruben</i>	<i>*Eric Hentges</i>	Elliot Levinson, dec.
<i>*Lesley Newman</i>	Dana Smook	<i>*Alice Stieve</i>
<i>*Debby Tupper</i>	<i>*Mason Washington</i>	<i>*Karen Williams</i>

Virginia Master Naturalists

**The following Members of the 2017 Class have held Chapter leadership roles:**

Sandy Dodge – Historian, 2019 & 2020  
 Marty Hill – Member at Large, 2019  
 Kevin Howe – President, 2019; Past President, 2020; Projects, 2020; Programs, 2021  
 Kyle Langford – Webmaster – 2019  
 Audrey Vaughn – Treasurer, 2019, 2020, 2021  
 Betsy Washington – Outreach – 2019; Continuing Ed, 2021  
 Porter Washington – Vice President – 2021; Webmaster, Communications, & Activities, 2021

Virginia Master Naturalists

**Leadership Roles among the Class of 2019**

Susan Bossie – BTC Co-chair, 2020  
 Anne Clewell – Hospitality Chair, 2020 & 2021  
 Buz Cox – Secretary, 2021  
 Jerry Fairman – Projects, 2020  
 Camille Grabb – Secretary, 2020; President, 2021; BTC Co-chair, 2021

Virginia Master Naturalists

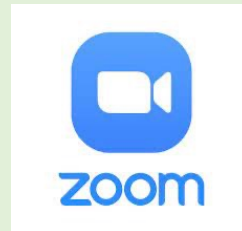
2021: *The Year in Review*

# Northern Neck Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalists 2021

## The Year in Review

Goal: To creatively plan and implement the Chapter's activities in order to continue fulfilling our mission within the constraints of the Covid pandemic

*All Board Meetings and General Meetings  
were held via Zoom in 2021*



2021 Board  
Elected at the  
November  
2020 General  
Member &  
Election  
Meeting

- The new Board members were to assume their duties immediately.
- November 18 - The Executive Board met, masked & socially distanced, to begin planning for the 2021 year. This group approved the committee chairs as recommended by the Nominating Committee and approved the expenditure for VMN masks for all members.
- December 8 – The full Board met via Zoom to look at the year ahead. Since we could not meet indoors, Anne Clewell, Hospitality Chair, prepared a virtual holiday service and social activity, “The Winter Nature Challenge.”



# JANUARY

Our Holiday Virtual Social, The Winter Nature Challenge, concluded. Kudos to Hospitality Chair, Anne Clewell, for her innovative, service-oriented, and fun pandemic event!

VMN masks were sent to all dues-paying Chapter members!

Our Chapter's Annual Report was sent to the VMN Office.

The January Board and General Meetings were held on January 12. The program was "Hickory Hollow: A Winter View", shared by Betsy and Kevin!

"Tuesday Twosomes" initiated.

Covid Protocol: 10 person limit



The Board met on Tuesday, February 9.

NNMN Administrators being trained this month!



Check out the NEW NNMN Website!

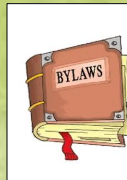


Covid Update: 30% capacity or 250, whichever is less.



## Training for Volunteers!

Members of the Charter Class of 2007 were recognized and thanked for getting the Northern Neck Chapter started!



The Chapter Membership approved the 2020 revision of the bylaws on March 9, 2021.

Board & General Membership Meetings held Tuesday, March 9. Milestone Awards were presented. Dr. Shawn Dash spoke on Entomology

VMN Laurels were presented to Anne Clewell, John Narney, and Betsy and Kevin!

Charter members still active today are: Faye Andrashko, Paula Boundy, Maggie Gerds, Temple Moore, Darleen Nelson, Charlene Talcott, and Earline Walker



Two new volunteer Activities were approved by the Board:

- Caterpillars Count! – an arthropod monitoring program sponsored by UNC
- Spotted Lanternfly Monitoring (the spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect wreaking havoc in fruit orchards and vineyards)



**NO Board or General Meetings were held in April.**

- The Continuing Ed Committee has a newly revised application form for Continuing Ed credits. There are revised Guidelines for CE Credit approval, allowing for “Self Approval” of Sponsoring and Partner Agency programs if they meet the Mission Statement of the Virginia Master Naturalists and build upon topics covered in the Basic Training Course.



Our chapter received packets of pollinator seeds from the VA Turf Grass Council. These were distributed to members who requested them.

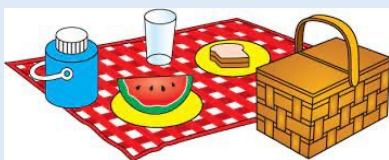
Board and General Meetings held on May 11, 2021. Dr. Groover presented on Dragonflies and Damselflies & the 17-year Cicada

The Outreach Booth plans the following outings:  
June 5 – Irvington Farmers Market  
July 17 – Heathsville Farmers Market (Kids’ Day)  
August 21 – Tappahannock Farmers Market  
September 4 – Irvington Farmers Market  
September 4 – Heathsville – St. Stephens Episcopal Church

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 \*Lolly Riley

**Covid Update:**  
New guidelines allow 50% capacity indoors or out; masks are required indoors and out



Hospitality Chair Anne Clewell was THRILLED to finally be able to plan another social event! The chapter picnic was held at Belle Isle State Park on June 13. It was a delightful event attended by about 30 on a splendid afternoon by the River!

Chapter Board Meeting was held on June 8. There was not a quorum present, so announcements were made but no business conducted.

The Outreach Booth went to the Irvington Farmer’s Market on June 5. Nancy Joel thanked Nancy Garvey and Betsy Gorn for staffing the Booth at this event. The theme was “Attracting Birds to your Backyard”, which was quite popular. VCE materials were handed out at this event.

**Covid Update:**  
NO restrictions on group size, social distancing, indoors or out; masks not required for fully vaccinated; highly encouraged for unvaccinated





**Board & General Meetings were held on July 13.**

The Board clarified the NNMN policy on working with honeybees in the role of a Northern Neck Master Naturalist. This is considered "agricultural", and the honeybee is non-native, so it is not an approved volunteer activity for members of our chapter and cannot be counted towards hours. Any NNMNs working with honeybees at state parks or other public places should not identify themselves as Northern Neck Master Naturalists.

**The Capital Naturalist, Alonzo Abugattas, provided our program on "Herps."**



The Chapter Operating Handbook was updated by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board.

We recognized those from the **Classes of 2010 & 2012** who are still active members of our Chapter: Edith Holyfield, Lucy Hottle, Lise Maring, & John Narney; and Gail Drake & Cathy Sachs

**New Activities Approved by the Board:**

- The Westmoreland Oyster Gardening Project was approved for volunteer hours.
- GLOBE is a citizen science project that uses cloud images to supplement NOAA and NASA satellite data. A "lead" person is needed for our chapter.

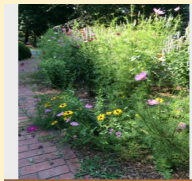


**NO Board or General Meetings were held this month, but... NNMN BTC 2021 is Underway (via Zoom)!**

The course began on August 3 and continues on Tuesdays through November 16, with 5 Saturday in-person field trips planned for 19 trainees!



How does the garden grow? Debbie Gillespie shared two photos of her garden's progress after she planted the pollinator seeds received in April!



The Northern Neck Chapter of VMN welcomed our newest member, Brian Bennett, who is transferring in from the Shenandoah Chapter.



A VMN-approved activity has been added to our NNMN opportunities. Three cleanups at Hughlett Point are on first Tuesdays in September, October, and November.

**Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge**  
The Grand Opening Day at Cat Point Creek at the RRVNWR has been postponed and rescheduled for **May 1, 2022.**

**Chapter Board and Program Meetings were held on September 14.**

**Dr. Shawn Dash shared entomology with BTC and NNMN members.**

**Recognizing the Class of 2014 and currently-active volunteers:**

Katharina Bergdoll, Bryna Brennan, Betsy Gorn, Nancy Joel, Alison Sowar

**Honoring the Class of 2016 Active Volunteers:**

Mindy Ashton, Stuart Ashton, Carla Bangs, Arlene Crabbe-Kilduff, Lesley Fellows, Debbie Gillespie, Patricia McMurray, Ernest Monschein, Lee Scripture, Katie Shepard, and Jeff Wright

Covid Update: All VT facilities require that masks be worn indoors

**Girl Scouts ♥ Virginia State Parks**

Friday, September 10 — Sunday, September 12, 2021  
Anne Clewell, Debby Tupper, Audrey Vaughn, Lesley Newman and Lee Arslan volunteered at the event.

**The bios of BTC 2021 Members were included in the September President's Page!** Thank you, Pat McMurray!





The Chapter Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 12, via Zoom.

This was a called meeting for the primary purpose of seeing the slate for the 2022 Board.



The beekeeping issue, which we thought was resolved in July, re-surfaced at the virtual VMN state conference. Northern Neck Master Nats in beekeeping garb were shown at Westmoreland State Park in the final slide show. The Board requested that an email be sent to WSP to remind them of the NNMN policy, and to the VMN staff so that they are aware of our position and decision.

### WHERE ARE THE CHAPTER ADMINISTRATIVE VOLUNTEERS?

Nominating Committee Chair Charlene Talcott and her committee report NO NOMINEES or VOLUNTEERS for the 4 Executive Board positions! The Chapter cannot function without Board members.

Following the meeting, two people agreed to take on roles: Eric Hentges will stand for Vice President, and Debby Tupper agreed to the Treasurer nomination. We still need a PRESIDENT and SECRETARY!

## November

Board and General Member Meetings were held on November 9.

Election to occur in December IF a slate can be finalized on November 9.

### Slate of Nominees for 2022 Chapter Board Positions

President -

Vice President - Eric Hentges

Secretary -

Treasurer - Debby Tupper



International Coastal Cleanup through NNMN  
4 cleanups  
21 people  
41.5 lbs. of trash