



Northern
Neck Chapter,
Virginia
Master
Naturalists
northernneckvmn.org

NEWS & NOTES
for Members
September
2022

 Virginia Master Naturalists
shared by Camille

September Chapter Meetings

Those of us who attended the Chapter meetings on September 13 were not disappointed! We were in a great venue: the Lodge at Cat Point Creek. Although the area is not yet open to the public (that will happen soon), the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge staff made it possible for us to have our meetings and social there. The Board meeting was held at noon, followed by a brief member meeting to seek nominations for officer and committee chair positions (election is November 1) and to remind members that we will vote on the 2023 dues increase (to \$30) then as well. Next, Steve Colangelo (President of the Refuge Friends) and Marcie Kapsch (new Refuge Director) shared the projects in which our chapter volunteers could be significantly involved. Those include flora and fauna inventories, development of a new native garden, maintenance of existing native gardens, and development of educational activities for the public (including youth). More details will be forthcoming. **Eric Hentges** (ericjhentges@gmail.com) will act as the Chapter point person for our Refuge work. Following the presentation, members socialized with Steve, Marcie, and each other over snacks and cookies. Some members also visited the dock and boat launch on Cat Point Creek, which are both substantial facilities. The Refuge also has a "Wild in the Woods" area that would interest families with children. ***We extend our gratitude to Marcie and Steve for graciously welcoming us to the Refuge!***

Board Meeting



Chapter Advisors

From Tara:

Lancaster and Northumberland County Virginia Cooperative Extension offices will be offering household well water testing in a drive thru format this October. Participants will pick up their water sampling kit and instructions at the extension office, and return it to the same location for processing by the labs at Virginia Tech. The cost is \$65 and tests include results on 14 parameters (iron, manganese, sulfate, hardness, sodium, copper, nitrate, arsenic, fluoride, pH, total dissolved solids, coliform bacteria, E. coli bacteria, and lead. Results will be emailed or mailed to participants approximately 4-6 weeks after the testing. Test kits must be picked up on October 3 in Northumberland County and October 4 in Lancaster County. Drop off of water samples will be on October 5 in both counties. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

To register, call 462-5780 in Lancaster County and 580-5694 in Northumberland County. The number of tests available is limited, so register early!

From Wendy:

I would like to share a big thank you to the MN's who represented at Ebenezer United Methodist Church's community event in Westmoreland on 9/10.

At future meetings I will share my upcoming

4-H programs (at Lee's request 😊) to see if there is a way that we can work together on some programs.

President's Report - Camille reported a significant "trifecta" for our Chapter: on Saturday, September 10, we had 3 groups of NNMNs (a total of 20 volunteers) attending THREE different events!

Eric facilitated a group at the Ebenezer UMC event, with **Buz, Carole, Joyce, Lee A, Leslie and Pat H** manning the Birds booth.



Photo by Joyce Reimherr

Anne C had a team of 7 at "Girl Scouts Love VA State Parks" at Belle Isle. She was assisted by **Audrey, Cathy, Debby, Jeff, Katie, and Lesley**. It was Katie's day off, but she joined in the fun as a NNMN and not as Park Manager!



Photo by Anne Clewell

In Virginia Beach for the VMN State Training and Conference were: **Charlene, Darleen, Karen, Polly, Terry,** and myself.



Photo courtesy of Polly Foote

Way to represent the Chapter, everyone!

Membership Report – Pat McMurray has been busy! She arranged for our advisors to present the Civil Rights/Risk Management Training for those who need to re-certify (due every 3 years). Thirteen members attended the in-person training, and it was recorded for those who could not attend.

Pat also facilitated the transfer of our newest member, Heather Bedford, from the Central Rappahannock Chapter. Welcome, Heather! (see Heather's introduction on page 4).

Pat also reported that NINE members of BTC 2021 have achieved their initial certifications.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

- Carole Alexander
- Andy Bailey
- Bob Dunstan
- Polly Foote
- Pat Harris
- Terry Jordan
- Betsy Maddux
- Kathy Moffitt
- Anne Parker





Once again, the Board visited the issue of meetings, times, and places. We intended to follow the recommendations from the 2019 Working Groups Report, which was to have the Chapter Board meet at noon, followed by the General Member meeting at 1:00 with a Social, and then a Program meeting at 1:30 or 2:00. Several people voiced concerns about having all meetings on the same day (due to length of time entailed and that it would exclude those who are working). Others pointed out that we learned during Covid that Zoom is a valuable tool for conducting meetings and that we could continue using it. The sage advice of long-timers Nancy and Temple was most helpful. The consensus was that we would have our **November Board meeting on the morning of October 31, via Zoom. On November 1, late afternoon, we will have our annual Election meeting in person.** Location is to be determined, and it will be a pot-luck. Once the election is held, the incoming and outgoing Boards will meet to determine the plans for meeting in 2023. We welcome member input in this decision, so please let a Board member know your thoughts.



Charlene is trying to get all 2023 Officer and Committee Chair positions filled prior to our November 1 meeting. Please contact her if you are willing to serve our Chapter in this way: charlene.talcott@gmail.com .

We realize that “administering” the Chapter is not a favorite “activity” for most of us. Did you know that having a Chapter Board (officers and committee chairs) is REQUIRED for us to be a VMN Chapter? None of us could pursue the activities that we most enjoy if we did not have people willing to manage the Chapter. Please make it your individual priority to “take a turn” in a leadership role at some point in your NNMN tenure. You may ease into it by joining a committee and taking part in that!



According to our Bylaws:

“All elected or appointed members of the Board of Directors shall serve no more than two consecutive one-year terms in a given position. Upon consent of the membership at the time of the Annual Meeting, the secretary and the treasurer may serve extra terms as needed.”



The ~~LAST~~ Butterfly Count of the season is on Tuesday, September 27, in the George Washington Birthplace area of the Northern Neck. Please contact Jeff Wright if you would like to be involved:

pec11908@mac.com .

PLEASE remember to LOG YOUR HOURS!





Our Newest NNMN Member, Heather Bedford!

I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome to the group. I went through the Master Naturalist program in 2013, with the Central Rappahannock group and was certified a few years. I joined the Master Naturalists because I have always enjoyed exploring and learning about the natural areas near me. Since I am a practicing herbalist that focuses on wildcrafting, I predominantly led plant walks with my old group. I assisted with several presentations geared toward elementary students, wrote the occasional article for the newsletter, and volunteered at Caledon and Westmoreland State Parks. I am native to the Northern Neck and when I returned home, I took a hiatus from volunteering to build up my farm and to focus on my fiber arts for a little while. My real passion lies mostly in nurturing and maintaining endangered medicinal plants. I am currently trying to turn one of my properties into a botanical sanctuary. I'm growing ginseng, bloodroot, and goldenseal on it. I want to expand that to include some of our endangered orchids. My main interest in returning to the Master Naturalists is to work mostly in ecology; clearing areas of invasive plants, clean-ups, etc. I also wish to be more involved with various aspects of citizen science, wildlife counts, water monitoring, surveys, and similar activities. I also don't mind helping with public outreach and doing presentations. I love the land, waterways, and the people in the Northern Neck and really can't wait to get my hands dirty again trying to make it better.

Editor's Note: We're so glad to have Heather with us! She attended the August CR/RM training and the September meetings at Cat Point Creek.



for the



Belle Isle State Park
Saturday, October 8, 2022
11:00 am-2:00 pm

NNMN Volunteers are needed in TWO areas:
- PLANNING 3-5 fall activities for the children
- WORKING at the park with the children
Please contact Camille (cgrabb9@gmail.com) if you can help with either or those!



Virginia Master Naturalists

VMN 2023 State Conference
Abingdon, VA
September 29-October 1, 2023

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