

<p>NEWS & NOTES from the Board <i>September</i> 2021 <i>shared by Camille</i></p>	<p>NN MIN</p>
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**DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021,
is the deadline for
registering for the Virginia
Master Naturalist Virtual
Conference, being held
October 1-3!
Details here:

<http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/vmn-statewide-conference.html>

Board Meeting Notes September 14, 2021

The September Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 14, at 1:00 pm via Zoom.

Minutes will be posted in the Documents Folder in Better Impact, but the highlights are included here.

Chapter Advisors, Tara and Wendy, shared that masks are required for EVERYONE in any and all Virginia Tech facilities. That means that anyone who needs to conduct any kind of business at one of the Extension offices must wear a mask inside!

International Coastal Cleanup – All NNMN members are encouraged to participate in one of the cleanups in our area being done now through November. Better yet, volunteer to be a site captain so that you can select the location of the cleanup and the date and time! The cleanups combine Stewardship and Citizen Science, as the different types of trash collected are being reported to the Ocean Conservancy via the Clean Swell app. Contact Lee Arslan (rangertrix@gmail.com) for more information or see our website for details!
<https://www.northernneckvmn.org/>



Treasurer's Report

Audrey Vaughn reported a bank balance of about \$5500.00. She shared that the BTC is over its budget due to increased costs of books and materials after the initial lists were made. The chapter will cover the overage. The Board discussed the possible need to raise our chapter dues but then recognized that the 2022 Board should make that decision.

November 9 - General Meeting and Election of 2022 Board!



On September 14, Dr. Shawn Dash presented "Entomology" to the BTC cohort and interested members of the chapter via Zoom. Thanks to **Program Chair, Kevin Howe!**



Past President and Nominating Committee Chair, Charlene Talcott, requests volunteers for this committee and for 2022 Board positions!

Please contact Charlene (charlene.talcott@gmail.com) to volunteer for the committee OR to indicate your willingness to serve as a 2022 Board member!



Communications Chair, Porter Washington, noted that many people **REPLY** to the "NNMN **Communications**" emails. These emails are generally announcements about upcoming events and activities, and a **CONTACT PERSON** is listed for those who want more information or to volunteer for the activity. **Please email the contact person directly.** The "NNMN Communications" is a listserv only!




Nancy Joel announced that the Outreach Booths attended 5 public events this summer. For the first time ever, we had booths at two events on the same day! The booths have been well-received by those attending. Nancy is considering using the booth materials this winter to set up displays at our public libraries.

2021 Basic Training Course
The BTC members will be having their 9th session tonight, via Zoom. They are working diligently and enthusiastically. Many have already begun volunteering with the chapter and accruing hours! Mentors are working well with their mentees to support them in their efforts.

Hospitality Chair, Extraordinaire, Anne Clewell seeks



Volunteers for the upcoming holiday gathering and BTC graduation; a joint venture planned for Sunday afternoon, December 12, 2021. Contact Anne to offer your help (nnmnhospitality@gmail.com) and mark your calendars with this date! Anne also shared that five NNMNs assisted

with the "Girl Scouts  VA State Parks" at BISP on September 10-12, 2021.

Meet the Class of 2021

Northern Neck Master Naturalists

The 2021 Northern Neck Master Naturalist Basic Training Class (BTC) is underway. Classes started on August 3 and will continue through the final wrap up on November 16. As the BTC committee started the planning process in early 2020, it became clear that a new approach would be needed to comply with COVID-19 protocols. Although protocols were relaxed somewhat as the class approached, the committee realized that there were other advantages to the Zoom format. Thus, our first Zoom BTC was born. Class coordinator, Camille Grabb, and the committee have laid out a challenging schedule for the students. In addition to the Tuesday evening Zoom classes, the students will attend five field trips at various Northern Neck locations.

The nineteen members of the class are:

Carole Alexander

I'm Carole Alexander, I grew up in Baltimore County, Maryland so the big city. Most of my life, I remember enjoying being outside and going for walks. Shortly after getting my driver's license, I remember going to the state park near my house to go for hikes and enjoy the atmosphere. In 1988, I moved to Virginia, where I am located now and it's easy to say I love it. One of my friends visited me from Maryland and said I live at the end of the world. Not quite but I enjoy God's creation and the many things I've learned about nature. My goal in becoming a Master Naturalist is to better understand our resources and to help in whatever way I can to preserve this beautiful area. I'm looking forward to learning more and more and being able to share this knowledge with others. Thank you for this amazing opportunity.



Andy Bailey

My name is Andy Bailey, and I am a resident of Hague, Virginia, living on the eastern bank of the Lower Machodoc Creek with my Master Naturalist wife. After several years accompanying her on bird, waterfowl and butterfly counts and a variety of other master naturalist field activities, I decided to enter the Basic Training Class this year. I am finding it challenging and rewarding and much more relevant than my MBA. After a career with the Virginia Department of Transportation, leaving as its Deputy Commissioner; a second career as a consultant that took me to Cambodia, Iraq, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Greenville, SC and Austin, TX; and a third ending as an independent consultant, I have finally retired. My days are now filled with yardwork and gardening, boating, and fishing (not enough), hikes and nature walks, and as winter approaches, more time in my workshop. I now understand the common theme of retirement, "I am so busy now, I don't know how I got anything done when I worked for a living." As a child in Oklahoma, I marveled as we stood at night in our backyard to watch Sputnik pass overhead amidst a sky of endless numbers of stars amid the broad swath of the Milky Way. My brother and I spent our days outside, exploring the woods and creeks around our small town, and fishing at our family's cabin on the lake. It was there that I observed my first fossils, a lifelong fascination, and visited the zinc and lead mines of the region with my geological engineer father. It also was there that I heard from friends, members of the Creek and Cherokee nations, a different history than the one I saw in the movies or learned in school.



Throughout my life I have basked in the wonderment of the natural world around me. As I have grown older, I take great solace in walking deeply in a forest or sitting beside a moving stream. The variety of living things, their interconnections and our role in nature take on a spiritual significance, making me want to do the things that I can to restore our environment to the world I knew as a child, if not an earlier one.

Becky Crowther

I grew up in the woods and corn fields of Rainswood. Most of my childhood memories involve plants: walking behind my grandfather's tiller, cranking the old cherry pitter, and splitting firewood. After eight years of city work, VCU's environmental science degree made career switching easy.

I have been a science, math, and history teacher at Northumberland Elementary School for years. I have two teaching goals:



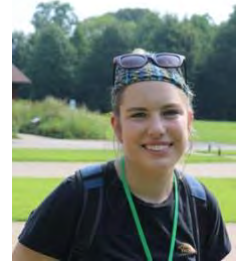
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increase outside time and decrease screen time. Students love to walk the nature trail behind the school and piddle in the raised bed gardens where we are growing peanuts this year.

At home in Reedville, Mr. Crowther has learned to tolerate my use of the shovel. This year, the garden grew to accommodate asparagus, a pomegranate tree, and a milkweed patch. I enjoy holding the cooler down while watching daughter and husband crab each summer.

Hannah Donnelly

Hannah Donnelly is employed by Virginia State Parks and has worked at Chipokes and Pocahontas State Parks in the past. She is currently employed at Westmoreland State Park. She is anxious to learn more about wildlife, nature, ecosystems, and our environment in general and wants to help others become stewards of our state's natural resources. Hannah has worked with groups of Virginia Master Naturalists in the past and decided it would be a good fit for her because of her interest in and commitment to nature, too. Originally from Williamsburg, Hannah currently lives in King George.



(shared by Camille Grabb from application and interview notes)

Bob Dunstan

I am Bob Dunstan, husband to Mary Ellen, father of Chris and Katie and grandfather to six. I am a veterinarian who practiced small animal medicine for two years and then went back for additional training in pathology. I became a faculty member first at Michigan State University and then at Texas A&M where I specialized in studying the microscopic changes in the skin of animals. After 23 years as a university professor, I was hired by Pfizer to work on skin diseases of humans. From there I moved to a small, biotech company called Biogen and helped lead the pre-clinical research team that developed aducanumab, the first FDA approved drug shown to improve the clinical signs of Alzheimer's disease. I now work part time for Abbvie, using artificial intelligence to improve our ability to diagnose and understand inflammatory diseases of the skin, lung, and intestine. I enjoy pickleball, bike riding, fishing, and playing my banjo ukulele. I have had a



long-time fascination with reptiles. I am excited about the Virginia Naturalist Program.

Polly Foote

As a kid in a military family, we moved a fair amount and no matter where we were, I was always outside. I also was intrigued when my grandfather threw peanuts to cardinals and towhees when they called and, eventually, I became a birder myself. That interest led to learning about bird habitat which led me to native plants.



In 2020, after more than 20 years living in Williamsburg and raising our family, my husband and I moved permanently to the Northern Neck where I continue to work remotely in the Human Resources field. When the BTC opportunity was posted, I was very excited to really learn about the nature all around me here, to meet other local people with similar interests and to be able to contribute to the community in this manner.

Pat Harris

Thank you for accepting me into the 2021 Northern Neck Master Naturalist Program. It is an experience like no other to date.

My life began on a chicken farm in New Jersey, college in Virginia (Madison College) where I graduated with a degree in Medical Technology. After 10 years in a medical laboratory, I joined IBM. Moves to New York, Vermont, Minnesota, California as a Manager/ Process Engineer for IBM manufacturing plants were an adventure. Back to Virginia, I resumed my career as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist at Culpeper Hospital and retired as the Microbiology Supervisor.



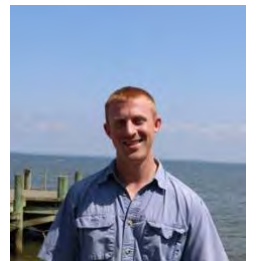
The best times of my life have always been centered around Nature...from the days when I organized a salamander circus; to cheering on

my children and grandchildren playing baseball and soccer; to my grand gardening experiments/challenges; to fishing and active bluebird monitoring. My daily mile+ walks in the neighborhood give me the opportunity to pick up trash and observe Mother Nature at her finest.

Currently, I live in Stafford with a 2-acre pond outside my back door that has led me to yearn to know more about the environment and critters and plants that inhabit my land. We are lucky to have herons, eagles, deer, beavers, turtles, and osprey as frequent visitors as well as most of the Virginia birds and the occasional bear, fox and coyote who are afraid of my dog, Loco, a standard poodle. Yes, I am married to the "beaver's number one enemy" because the beavers love my dogwoods and flowering trees, and continually try to dam up the overflows that keep my home dry and above water. But each year, new beavers relocate to our pond and build up their hut which now resembles a high-rise condominium and the battle between humans and nature continues.

Ryan Harriss

Ryan Harriss is a native Virginian and was raised to appreciate the natural beauty of the bays and rivers of Virginia's Northern Neck. While growing up in Northern Virginia, he and his family spent much time at the family home in Kinsale. After graduating from the College of William & Mary, Ryan decided to follow in his father's footsteps by becoming an officer in the US Navy. Currently stationed on a destroyer at Norfolk Naval Station, Ryan is anxious to share his passion and appreciation for the natural world with others, so that they, too, may realize the importance of protecting Virginia's heritage and fragile ecosystems. *(Shared by Camille Grabb from application and interview notes)*



Ellen Hunter

I am from the Washington, DC/Maryland area. Growing up we spent time at our house on the Chesapeake Bay where we enjoyed swimming, sailing, fishing and crabbing. My husband, Richard is from Petersburg, VA. We are both physicians and met at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN during our training. In 2001, we moved with our two young sons to Boise, Idaho. I practiced in a clinic specializing in Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases until 2014. Thereafter, I worked at the VA Medical Center in Boise until 2018 when I retired.



We visited our close friends that live in Sharps on the Rappahannock River in about 2010 and fell in love with the Northern Neck. We were lucky enough to be able to purchase a small house next door to them in 2015 for a retirement home. We split our time between the Northern Neck and Idaho. We usually stay in Idaho during the summer since it is less humid there. We have enjoyed exploring the Northern Neck area with all the amazing wildlife. I am looking forward to being part of the Virginia Master Naturalist program to learn about, discover and appreciate the great outdoors.

Chip Jones

My name is Charles Carter Jones, named after both of my grandfathers, but have gone by Chip Jones my entire life. I was raised on our family farm in Montross, VA, located in Westmoreland County, where we raised commodity crops (corn, soybeans, wheat, barley) and vegetables for roadside markets. I was active in the Boy Scouts from age 6 until 18, earning the rank of Eagle Scout and enjoying the outdoors of the Northern Neck. After graduating Washington and Lee High School, I attended Rappahannock Community College where I eventually became the second Upton Scholar, a program named in honor of RCC's first president. After earning my associates, I attended Virginia

Tech where I earned my bachelor's in Agriculture and Applied Economics.

After graduating college, I enlisted into the Virginia Army National Guard, in which I still serve to this day. I have deployed to Iraq twice and the southwestern border of the United States twice. Upon my return from my first deployment to Iraq, I went back to work in the family business for a short time and it is there I noticed the Eastern Shore license plate. Wondering why the Northern Neck didn't have its own, I set out with local lawmakers to see how the Northern Neck could get one. In 2009, that dream became a reality when the Northern Neck license plate was approved by the General Assembly with proceeds to go benefit the Northern Neck Land Conservancy. In 2018, I was named NNLC's Conservation Champion for my efforts.



In 2011, after my second deployment to Iraq, I was elected as Westmoreland's representative to the Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District, eventually becoming vice-chair of the board in 2013. In 2015, I was elected as area chair to the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts where I eventually became president in 2019. In that year, I declined running for a third term due to future military obligations and wanting to be with my (now) wife and stepson. My last employment was with Stratford Hall, where I helped manage 1900 acres along the Potomac River. Part of my duties was managed timber harvesting, agricultural land management, and wildlife habitat restoration. Included in those duties were fun activities such as prescribed burns and beekeeping. My interest in being a Master Naturalist comes from my time at Stratford Hall. Stratford Hall hosts a lot of activities for Master Naturalists, in particular the bluebird count. Knowing that their work crossed many of the Northern Neck's organizations, I felt that I could use my knowledge and experience to benefit those same organizations. I have a fondness of the open space and a deep love of the Northern Neck!

Terry Jordan

I am a namer (perhaps some of you understand). At 10 I was identifying birds, plants, and bugs and was looking into edible wild plants. I was a city kid, however, and we didn't move to the suburbs until I was in high school. I first attended collage at the age of 32 and received my Masters in Estuarine and Environmental Studies in 2008 where I worked with seagrasses, seaweed and hydrology. I currently teach biological sciences at the College of Southern Maryland. I am a birder and am still naming plants. We moved from Southern Maryland in 2018 to the Northern Neck. I am thrilled to have landed in this amazing part of Virginia and excited to be involved in the Master Naturalist program. It is great to meet and work with others that have similar interests and concerns.



Betsy Maddux

One of the best gifts my parents gave me was instilling a desire to be a lifelong learner, so the Master Naturalist Program is a great opportunity to do just that. In 2020, my husband and I moved permanently from Midlothian, VA to Kilmarnock, VA on Henry's Creek. We are both learning how to manage almost 4 acres consisting of 70 mature grapevines, persimmon, and fig trees, raised beds, perennials, shrubs, and grasses. I love living on the water and enjoy boating (another learning pursuit), fishing, kayaking or just taking in the views and reading on the dock. My life has gone from being a full time Nurse Practitioner at Johnston Willis Hospital, which left little time for extracurricular activities, to tennis, golf and pickleball on a daily basis. I am proud to have three grown sons with children of their own and to have trained and completed a full marathon at age 52. I am grateful now to have time to



continue my lifelong learning opportunities in so many ways.

Luke McCormack

I was born in New York City and have lived in Virginia most of my life. I live in Spotsylvania County and really enjoy my drives out to various parts of the Northern Neck. I have a lot of interest - too many! Professionally my background is in technology, and I have recently retired from Federal Service which required a lot of traveling, long hours and not a lot of time for the outdoors. Becoming a Virginia Master Naturalist allows me to explore parts of the state that I have a great interest in, give back and deepen my understanding of nature on various levels.



Kathleen Moffitt

A New Englander from birth, I moved to the DC/Nova area for my education and my career as a Certified Nurse Midwife. I practiced in this role for over forty years. When my husband and I moved to Richmond, VA a decade ago, we discovered NNK through a neighboring friend. Always attracted to water (ocean and river) and nature, we bought a waterfront home 8 years ago on the Corrotoman River in Lancaster. We renovated and updated and two years ago it became our forever home when we retired. A few of my interests are history, reading, walking, boating, and working in the garden experimenting with Northern Neck native plants. Crabbing and oysters gardening are done on the dock. Dog lovers, we have 2 Corgi pups that we adore. I've enrolled in the NNMN program to further my knowledge of the natural world, dig deeper, meet like-minded folks, and contribute my increased awareness and time into the future.



Anne Parker

Even though I was born and lived my early years in the Richmond area, I had the privilege of spending summers and many non-summer weekends in residence here in Balls Neck on Mill Creek (one mile from where my mother was born and raised.) I have always loved nature and spent countless hours outside, here in Northumberland and wherever else I may have been. As a young person, you could usually find me traipsing through a forest, walking a beach or out on the water (or curled up with a good book!) At age 12, I moved with my parents here full-time and attended 8th - 12th grade at Lancaster High School.



After finishing college, my husband and I proceeded to move around Virginia, then around the country, adding three sons to our family along the way. My husband and I loved cross-country driving trips (I've been in or through all 50 states) and have been to many National Parks. I found that the drive to get there could be as interesting as actually being there. Watching the flora, fauna and terrain change always kept me interested and engaged on our travels.

We have been full-time residents here on Mill Creek since 2007, and now that my youngest son is off to college, I am delighted to invest time in expanding my knowledge of the natural world and to give back, in stewardship and other ways, to the public natural areas and parks that have meant so much to me.

Marie Pinto

"I've lived in the King George area since age 4. I was fortunate to grow up here where nature is so accessible - as a child, I spent lots of time outside climbing trees, collecting bugs, and camping with the Girl Scouts. Inspired by my love of the



outdoors and passion for sustainability, I studied Environmental Science at UVA. After earning my B.S. in Spring 2020, I began working in my current position as a Volunteer Coordinator at Richmond National Battlefield Park. Through this job, I've been able to meet many fantastic Riverine Master Naturalists who spoke highly of the VMN program and recommended I attend a local BTC. Though my term with the NPS will end in January 2022, I'm currently on the hunt for a new job where I can remain close to my family, friends, and cherished outdoor spaces in the Northern Neck."

Joyce Reimherr

I currently live with my husband Rob Rudick between Colonial Beach and Takoma Park, MD. Colonial Beach has kept me busy chairing the downtown revitalization group and Main Street America Affiliate program, Downtown Colonial Beach. Downtown Colonial Beach sponsored its first Osprey Festival in 2019 which has been virtual since then. Through that I met Pam and John Narney. They fostered my interest in birdwatching and ospreys, which led to my applying to the Master Naturalist program. I graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a major in Sociology, earned an MSW from Howard University School of Social Work where my field of practice was displaced populations, and later acquired a post-graduate certificate in Career Counseling from Johns Hopkins University. Before I retired from paid employment, I had worked since 1993 as a social worker specializing in occupational issues. During my last decade on the job, I was involved with operating career development programs for ex-offenders at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility and Pre-Release Center. Before that I had worked with the Montgomery County, MD workforce development programs, and prior to that in career support programs for populations ranging from government intelligence employees to homeless individuals diagnosed



with mental and emotional disorders. My major hobbies are reading fiction and books on socio-political topics and traveling with my husband with whom I have visited a large portion of the Western states, England, Spain, Portugal, Peru and Mexico. I have also been developing interests in natural and American history, particularly in historic figures from Westmoreland County and the Northern Neck.

Alita Thomas

I am Alita Thomas. My husband and I moved to Lancaster County from Northern Virginia in the summer of 2018. We live on the Corrotoman River in the woods. It is living in the woods that has made me so keenly aware of my responsibility as a steward of our surroundings.



I have been a massage therapist for almost thirty years and have always been interested in anatomy and the science of healing and finding balance in the body. This curiosity has led me to learn about my surroundings and what creates balance in our environment. I want to do my part to sustain and benefit the ecosystems in which I live - certainly, at least, to do no harm.

My main interests are in photography and the birds, animals, and trees of the Northern Neck. My husband and I enjoy playing golf, biking and astronomy. I look forward to what I can learn and how I can become a better steward through the Master Naturalist program.

Christine Watlington Jones

I grew up outside of the Town of Ashland in Hanover County. We had acres of forests to roam through, a creek to play in, and a pond for ice-skating. Fast forward many years and I live in Midlothian with my husband (Chip



Jones), my son, and our Labrador retriever puppy.

I am currently employed with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) as a policy and regulatory coordinator for two of the agency's divisions – Soil and Water Conservation and Dam Safety and Floodplain Management. Through my work with many of DCR's divisions, I have seen the value of the activities and programs that are provided by Master Naturalists. As my husband is a Northern Neck native, I am excited to be able to participate in the Northern Neck Master Naturalist chapter; it will increase my knowledge and appreciation of the special places, critters, and plants throughout the Northern Neck.