



Volume 1 No. 5

First Saturday bird walks @ ICNA, 7:30 am.  
Beginners always welcome. Meet in  
parking lot.











The host for glochidia (mussel larvae)



A juvenile Pheasant Shell Mussel

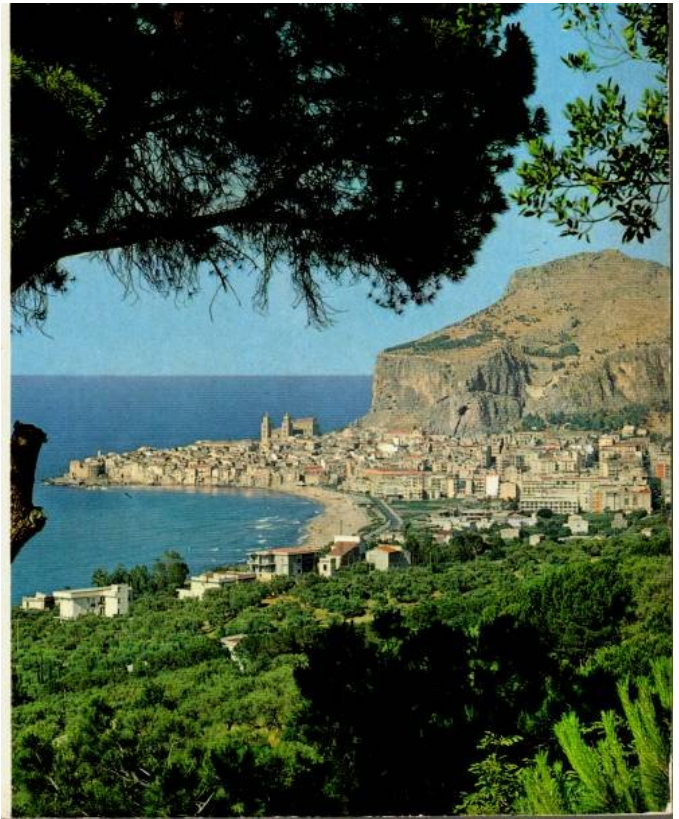


Rivanna Master Naturalists love to learn!

## Cefalu Mussels

As Rose states in her article, mussels filter stuff out of the water that surrounds them. If this water is contaminated, the mussels become contaminated as well. This was brought to me first hand during one of my 12 business trips to Sicily.

One really scenic town in Sicily is Cefalu situated east of Palermo on the northern coast. It is a town at the base of a cliff mountain.



Some co-workers and I visited this town on one trip. We went to the top of the hill and looked down upon the town and the coast. We saw what looked like a red tide coming from the east side of the mountain but curling back to the beach that you see above. We finally figured out that it was probably the discharge of a poorly operated sewage treatment plant.

A couple years later, my wife and I took a trip to England and Wales. After touring Wales, Oxford and thereabouts, I conducted a training class near London off the ring road before driving down to a hovercraft ferry that took us across the English channel. I had more business on a Sunday afternoon (at a restaurant, of course, where the client paid) in Rouen at the mouth of the River Seine. Tough life, but some of us had to do it. We then drove down to the Riviera and along it and then down the west coast of Italy to Sicily, taking the ferry from the "boot" over.



We decided to have lunch in Cefalu one Sunday afternoon. I had mussels. My wife, fortunately, did not. We came back to the Sigonella Inn on the NATO base west of Catania where I became deathly sick with diarrhea and vomiting. An Italian doctor came to my room and fixed me up. No charge. After all, I guess I could have been a NATO general for all he knew, but I like to think he was just being a nice Italian.

Were those mussels caught anywhere near that red tide that we saw a couple years before? Probably. I've been to lunch with co-workers at restaurants around Siracusa and Catania where they had mussels. No problems there.

*Ralph Hall*

## Birth Of A Hummingbird

Keep in mind, the egg is smaller than a tic tac and a quarter fits the opening of the nest! This is truly amazing!



Be sure to click on NEXT PAGE at the bottom of each page; there are several pages.

A lady found a hummingbird nest and got pictures all the way from the laying of eggs to them leaving the nest.

It took 24 days from birth to flight. Because you'll probably never in your lifetime see this again, enjoy and please share! Ctr +click (or copy & paste into browser address line) here: <http://community-2.webtv.net/Velpics/HUM/>

*Ida Swenson*

## Wildlife Mapping Reports

I just heard of a 430 lb. bear killed in Albemarle Co. recently, and it was not a record. Usually, though, they are 200 lbs or even 150 lbs.

*Frances Lee-Vandell*

## RMN Officers

Those bolded are up for election this year.

President  
Susan Pleiss

**\* President-elect (a contest wow!)**

**Ida Swenson**  
**Bill Feeney**

Treasurer  
Mary Lee Epps

**\* Recording Secretary**  
**Tana Herndon**

Corresponding Sec  
Jackie Heath

Dede Smith

Deadline for items to be included in the newsletter is the **26<sup>th</sup> of the month before the next quarter (March)**. Please submit any announcements or articles of interest to be included in the next issue to *Rivanna Naturalist Notes* Editor, Ralph Hall, preferably by [e-mail](#), by facsimile 434-297-1962 or by USPS mail to 420 Ivy Farm Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901-8841.

