



Rivanna Naturalist News

A newsletter for Master Naturalists of Albemarle and surrounding Virginia counties.

Volume 3 No. 4

Dec 2010-Feb 2011

The majority of you can access the internet. Some of the information is on the following websites. If you cannot get onto the internet and/or want it categorized, read about it all below.

- Our web site vmn-rivanna.org/index.html
- Va Naturalists Va Naturalists
- Va Native Plants Virginia Native Plant Society.
- Monticello Bird Club link from vmn web site above
- ICNA ivycreekfoundation.org/

If the auto links don't work, copy and paste the URL into your browser.



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- Programs/Hospitality: John Holden
- Curriculum: TBA
- PR Committee: Cass Cannon/Mary Spear



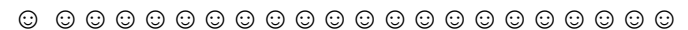
Volunteer Opportunities

Designated below by this green color



Upcoming Meetings

Designated below by this purple color

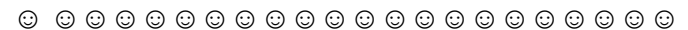


Upcoming Education Opportunities

Designated by this burnt yellow color.



We're still preparing our training class schedule for next winter-spring. One draft schedule is attached at the back of the newsletter. Members are invited to sit in on as many classes as you wish, in case you need a refresher. *Be sure to check the true schedule before going. This is only a draft.*



Rivanna Chapter of Master Naturalists

Year End 2010 Membership Meeting

Location: County Office Building, 1600 Fifth Street Extended, Room A
Charlottesville 22903

Date: **Sunday, December 5**

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Info: Meet, mix, and be merry with friends from the Rivanna Chapter of Master Naturalists. Attend our bi-annual membership meeting for a late afternoon dessert fest to hear news from our sponsors, recognize newly certified naturalists, and spread some cheer. Bring your favorite holiday dessert.

Agenda

- Set-up 1:00-2:00 pm
Program Committee (includes décor, food stations, speaker/technology prep)
- Networking/Food 2:00-2:15 pm
Dorothy Tompkins and Linda Goodling
Members and guests arrive, mingle, name tags checked/recorded
- Set-up of fun event
- Welcome/Opening 2:15-2:35 pm

Ida Swenson, RMN Chapter President
Certificate presentations and other member business

(election of officers, t-shirts)

Committee Reports 2:35-2:50 pm

Chairperson of individual committees

Training, Programs, PR, Volunteer Projects,

Diversity, Webmaster, Newsletter,

2011 Annual Conference Introduction

Timekeeping Demo 2:50-3:00 pm

Rose Brown, Chapter Timekeeper

Speaker/Other News 3:00-3:55 pm

Dr. Zach Bush will provide a brief talk on "Fatal Separation: The Health Consequences of Insulating Ourselves from Nature."

- 1) RSVP was required, and let me know if you or you+guest will attend. Pls share too what type of dessert you plan to bring! I'll compile a list of goodies.
- 2) Bring your RMN name tag to the event.
- 3) Help us be green...bring your own utensils.
- 4) Show up for your class! Once again we will have a class attendance contest!
- 5) Participate in a nature book exchange. We'll have a table set aside in the room, where you can bring a book and take a book.

Ronda Ellcessor

The nominating committee is pleased to report that we have the following candidates for office to be elected at the December annual meeting:

President- elect Tony Russell This office is for one year followed by a year as president and then a year as past president on the Board

Corresponding Secretary Keggie Mallett Filling the second year of Carol Lawson's term in charge of mailings to members, thank yous, etc

Recording Secretary (need nomination) A two year term with the chief responsibility of taking notes at the Board meetings and updating the Operating handbook

As you can see, we need someone willing to be Recording Secretary. Also, please note that there may be nominations from the floor at the annual meeting. If you are willing to be recording secretary, please contact me as soon as possible so we can communicate the full slate to the membership.

Thanks so much for all you do for the naturalists

Ida Swenson



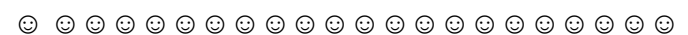
Memberships Due

It's that time of year. Rivanna Master Naturalist dues (\$10/year) for 2011 should be paid before our General Meeting December 5th. This does NOT include members of the 2010 as your tuition covered your dues for both 2010 and 2011. For the 2009 class, this is a first time request to you. The dues are used to cover administrative costs such as mailings, post office box rental, the web page and also to help fund refreshments at our several gatherings.

At this time we would also like to request that you consider making a donation to our chapter. We established a scholarship fund in 2008. Since that time it has been used to send several children to 4-H Camp, to the 4-H Natural Resources weekend and to award a partial scholarship to a RMN class member. We also give an annual donation to the Ivy Creek Conservation Area in recognition of our use of the facility. The latter comes out of our general account. As we currently do not have IRS status as a non-profit organization, contributions are not tax deductible.

Please mail your check, made out to Rivanna Master Naturalists, to P.O. Box 8284, Charlottesville, VA 22906. If you are including a donation please indicate if you would like it placed in the scholarship or the general account.

Ann Dunn



Remarkable Trees Hike

Here's a picture from it with some recognizable RMNs in it.



Thanks to John Holden, Jeannie Picasa & Devin Floyd for calling our attention to this with posts on the web as [TreeHike101610?](#) and [remarkable-trees-of-virginia-hike](#)

Ralph Hall/photo by John Holden from the 2nd web site noted above.



Blue Ridge Geology and Flora Fieldtrip, Nov. 2010

Recently, a group of roughly 40 Master Naturalists, Native Plant Society members and their friends explored the new Jack Albright Trail on Dobie Mountain adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway on a perfect late fall day of bright sunshine and colorful fall foliage. Chip Morgan, leading the walk,



explained that the Catoclin greenstone, which underlies the area, is a metamorphosed basalt. It originated from volcanic activity approximately 600 million years ago as the supercontinent Rodinia rifted apart. The Catoclin Formation consists of a dozen or more lava flows, each roughly 100 to 200 feet deep, that were extruded onto the surface of the billion year old granite basement. About 300 million years ago, as the supercontinent Pangaea was forming, the collision of Africa with North America pushed these rocks from southeast to northwest, crumpling them to form the Appalachians (which include the Blue Ridge and the Allegheny Mountains) and the Valley and Ridge Province. Chip pointed out that the rock outcroppings that we were seeing tended to be oriented from northeast to southwest (strike) and tilted (dip) toward the northwest. He also explained that the weathering of the Catoclin Formation produced a nutrient rich soil with a high content of favorable cations (positively charged atoms), especially calcium and magnesium, which are bound to particles of clay and humus. During our walk we saw several ferns and a large array of trees and shrubs, including hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), wild azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*), American chestnut sprouts (*Castanea dentata*), and many witch hazel shrubs (*Hamamelis virginiana*) in bloom.

Chip brought along two friends, Tom Marker, who is very involved with maintaining the Appalachian Trail, and

Russell Fitzgerald, who was born in the area and is familiar with the local history. Tom Marker told the story of the discovery of plane



wreckage that we saw on the north face of Dobie Mountain. We also learned about the construction of the Howardsville Turnpike, which was cut through the area at great expense only to be quickly superseded by the railroad. One unintended function of the Turnpike turned out to be the transport of moonshine from the Valley to points east.

This walk had something for everyone--geology, botany, local history, and exercise, all in a beautiful setting. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day. What a painless way to get advanced training hours!

Mary Lee Epps/photos by Terri Keffert



Heritage Harvest Festival 2010

I volunteered at the Piedmont Master Gardener's table around the corner from the RMN table. Here's Ida at the RMN table.



Possible venues that could provide both housing and meeting rooms include:

(Ed. We voted recently on an updated list of Downtown Hotel, Waynesboro Hotel, Camp & Mountain Resort.)

Holiday Inn Charlottesville-University Area, 1901 Emmet St., Charlottesville, VA 22901, 434-977-7700;

Comfort Inn-Monticello, 2097 Inn Dr., Charlottesville, VA 22911, 800-230-4134;

Doubletree Hotel Charlottesville, 990 Hilton Heights Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22901, 434-973-2121.

(Ed.--About 140 MNs chimed in on line with Michelle's updated venue proposals. Camp Friendship in Palmyra was the favored venue.)

Possible venues for meetings but not lodging might be:

Zehmer Hall Conference Center, University of Virginia, 104 Midmont Lane.

Charlottesville, VA 22904, 434-982-5282;

The 201-Downtown Event Venue, 201 Monticello Ave., Charlottesville, VA 22902, 434-249-4960

For the Friday activity as well as the Sunday activity, we would propose:

Shenandoah National Park to possibly include the Herbert Hoover Camp as well as hiking in one of the nation's most gorgeous treasures.

Wintergreen Natural Area combined with the Wildlife Center in Stuart's Draft.

For Saturday morning workshops, we can probably furnish speakers and field trips on the following topics:

History of Forests hi Virginia - Tom Dierauf

Inventorying Plants at Ivy Creek Natural Area - Tom Dierauf and Mary Lee Epps

Developing a Forest Trail (the DOF Trail) - Dede Smith, Bitsy Waters, et al.

Stream Health and Assessment - John Murphy, Rose Brown and/or Bob Henricks

Reporting Your Finds with Wildlife Mapping - Lou Verner

Sneaking around the Forest — Hub Knott

Bug Off (or other) - Peter Warren

For Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning field trips, we would suggest:

Ragged Mountain Geology Hike with Amy Gilmer
Landmark Forest at Montpelier with Tom Dierauf
History of the Ivy Creek Natural Area with Dede Smith

Bundoran Farms Nature Center

Monticello and Tufton Farm

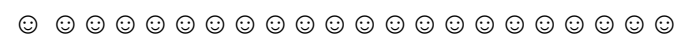
Pine Knot with Chip Morgan (Teddy Roosevelt's little known camp site)

Rivanna River Float with John Holden

Trail building at Preddy Creek or Byrom Nature Preserve

We are awaiting further information on costs and venues from the Charlottesville/Albemarle Convention Bureau.

Ida Swenson



Record Acorn Collection Effort

(Michelle sent this to us, as some of you participated in this.)

Across the state, Virginians scoured fields and parking lots in search of acorns. Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops filled numerous brown bags. In York County, fifth graders from Magruder Elementary collected 165 pounds of white oak acorns during a field trip at New Quarter Park.

“The response was very good this year,” said Joshua McLaughlin, nursery forester. “We reached our goals for almost all of the species. With such a short window of opportunity to collect acorns, we really appreciate everyone’s help.”

Employees at the Augusta Forestry Center will sort the acorns, then place them in storage. Acorns will be planted early next year.

State Forester of Virginia, [state.forester@dof.virginia.gov]



Thousand Cankers Disease: A Red Alert for Walnut

The chestnut tree is gone, we’ve lost most of our elm, ash, and many of our butternut trees, and now we stand to lose our walnut trees, as well. Just two years ago (2008), researchers discovered that a sudden decline in black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) in

Colorado was due to a combination of the Walnut Twig Beetle and previously unknown fungus which infested the trees by hundreds of thousands, causing cankers and cutting off the flow of nutrients. With a mortality rate near 100%, what is the prognosis if the disease moves into black walnut's native range? [Read More...](#)

Jennifer Gagnon, VFLEP Coordinator, Blacksburg



Emerald Ash Borer Training

Emerald Ash Borer Monitoring and Management Training Modules available now on the NPDN website.

Developed by Eric Wiseman, Sarah Gugercin, Dave Close and Heather Boyd (Virginia Tech). Reviewed by Jodie Ellis (Purdue University and emeraldashborer.info)

Module Objectives: Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive wood boring pest that is native to Asia. Since its discovery in southeastern Michigan in 2002, it has killed millions of native ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) trees in the midwestern United States and Canada. Experts predict that EAB could spread throughout 25 eastern states over the next ten years without effective suppression measures.

A key to slowing EAB spread is early detection and rapid response, which requires education of citizens and resource professionals. This on-line course provides an overview of EAB ecology and will empower learners to effectively detect and manage EAB in their communities.

To register for this on line course, go to <http://cbc.at.ufl.edu>.



Free Tree Seedlings for Youth

(Ed. comment: let LoriAnne know of any youth who want to participate in this. This is also a good reminder to any wanting to plant trees. You can get your seedlings from DOF in the early spring. Be advised though. Some years, like the wet 2009, were excellent years for no-attention tree planting, but 2010 would have required lots of watering.)

Free seedlings for youth planting projects will be available again for spring, 2011.

For pine seedlings, contact your county DOF forester by Jan. 10. Request white pine for Blue Ridge Counties and west. Request loblolly pine for piedmont and coastal plain counties. There will be no charge for these seedlings.

Hardwood seedlings will be available on a limited basis, with each Extension District allotted \$1500. Contact your District Extension Forestry Agent for more information. These orders also must be made by Jan. 10.

Seedlings generally arrive March - April, and you may request a date.

Many thanks to the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) for providing seedlings at reduced cost, and to the Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation for funding the program. Local garden clubs and Native Plant Society chapters are also contributing.

And thanks to you for working with youth to make the world a better place.

Jeff Kirwan, Emeritus Professor and Extension Specialist, VT Department of Forestry



Silent Invasion

Most of you are probably aware that invasive species cause devastating environmental and economic damage every year. These invaders, which can be in various forms like animals, plants and pathogens, often displace our native species, alter ecosystems and ecological cycles and destroy habitat. The estimated costs in this country from food and fiber losses and implementation of control treatments are over \$150 billion a year.

Although it is often the animals and pathogens that receive the most attention in the general public (ie. gypsy moth, EAB, Chestnut Blight, etc.), you are more likely to encounter and combat invasive plants on your land. This is what made the Good Green Bad Green Invasive Plants Conference so relevant. Lead by Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Smithsonian Institute this conference brought together both the science and the practical application of invasive plant control. An important message emphasized for any landowner or land manager is to have a plan to manage your invasive vegetation. The plan referenced below provides an example.

*Presentations from the conference are posted on the www.forestryforthebay.org/gqbg. GGBG is the password.

Basic Steps for Developing a Weed Management Plan

(<http://www.weedcenter.org/management/planning.html>)

- Perform an inventory or survey if needed to find out what's there. It is critically important to be able to positively identify the invasive species on your land. Several look quite similar to their native counterparts (ie Tree of Heaven and Sumac or Japanese honeysuckle & American honeysuckle). There are several ID guides on the FFB website. See especially Mistaken Identity at [http://www.nybg.org/files/scientists/rnaczi/Mistaken Identity Final.pdf](http://www.nybg.org/files/scientists/rnaczi/Mistaken%20Identity%20Final.pdf)
- Prioritize weed species and/or weed population threats. Managing your invaders often can be an overwhelming experience due to...well their persistent invasive nature. Decide which weeds pose the biggest threats to your restoration objectives, or which can feasibly be controlled within your budget and available time.
 - Consult the ID guides also to learn about the plants biology and phenology. How do they grow and reproduce? When do they flower and produce seeds? Etc. This will help you decide the most efficient and effective methods of control.
 - Understand the impacts of your weeds.
 - See if they are on your state or province's noxious weed list. You may be legally obligated to control certain invasive plants.
- Assess all of your management options including mechanical, biological and chemical control. Also, consider how you can prevent further or new infestations from happening, and how the area will be restored with preferred native vegetation following application of control methods. Think of your efforts as a way to restore native vegetation rather than simply eradicating invasives.
- Monitor your management actions and then evaluate your results to determine whether your weed management objectives are being achieved. Let's face it, invasive plants are here

to stay and total eradication is often not possible. Monitoring your management treatments is essential, for most often one treatment will not be sufficient to control the invasive plant.

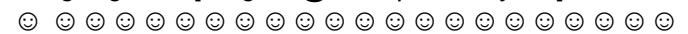
For a comprehensive list of plant invaders found in your region go to the following interactive website: <http://threatsummary.foresthreats.org/>

Autumn Olive By Dan Stiles

I have a USDA leaflet dated June 1972 entitled "Autumn Olive for Wildlife and Other Conservation Uses". Back then, autumn olive seemed like a really promising new plant that had been imported from Asia into our country. Plant specialists found it to have many great conservation uses. In fact, the first sentence of the USDA leaflet states, "People who want to attract wildlife, conserve soil, beautify odd areas, establish plant barriers, or make ornamental plantings find autumn olive a valuable plant". The last paragraph of the leaflet states, "A tendency of autumn olive to spread may keep some people from planting it. Although some old naturalized thickets have been reported, no places are known where autumn olive is considered a pest"...to read the full article please go to: <http://www.forestryforthebay.org/news.cfm>

(Article originally published in the *Morgan Messenger*)

Craig Highfield [Chighfie@chesapeakebay.net]



Butterfly Garden @ Ivy Creek

We are looking for volunteers to help with the butterfly garden at Ivy Creek Natural Area. This is both a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist project, the garden is in its first stages of installation. We would like to complete most of the planting of the host and nectar plants this fall. Next spring, we will need people to monitor the progress of the plants and help with weeding and upkeep. At some point we will take unofficial counts of the numbers of butterflies visiting the garden. We have requested 4-5 individuals to help with the planting this fall and then 2 people to begin in April – September every other week, for approximately 2 hours to oversee the ongoing program of garden maintenance. Do you like butterflies? Come be a part of Ivy Creek's fluttering flowers garden! For more information, please contact Linda Marchman at socialbutterflie@embarqmail.com or call 434.823.3666.

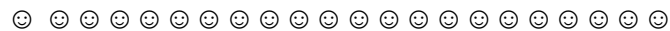


Broadus Wood Butterfly Garden

I am working with a group at Broadus Wood Elementary who are installing a Pollinator/Butterfly garden as well as designing a gardening curriculum and starting a 4-H Club. There are a few Master Gardeners involved and they are considering applying for the GreenWorks grant.

If any of you would like to be involved in some way, please let me know. I can put you in touch with the folks on the team.

LoriAnne Barnett



Ivy Creek Needs Guides

Ivy Creek lost 12 guides this fall. They really need help with their school tours. (These are held Monday, Thurs., or Friday mornings during the fall and spring guiding seasons.) A training course is being offered on Tuesday mornings this fall. There probably will be another one in the spring. The tours typically take 1 hour, during which you explore one of the near-in trails with a group of 10 or fewer school children. Most of the tours are with quite young children, pre-school through third grade.

Please consider volunteering. Ivy Creek needs your help and leading these tours is extremely rewarding. Please contact Bruce Gatling-Austin, the Education Director, with questions or if you wish to become involved. His email is programs@ivycreekfoundation.org

If you already have experience leading tours for children, you might not have to do the full training course. You would need to discuss this with Bruce.

MaryLee Epps

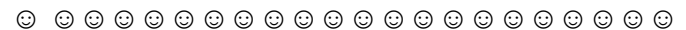


Rivanna Trails Foundation Work Party

DEC. 11 - RTF Work Party, Leaders [John Holden](#) & Jan Endahl

RTF Work party details: Meet at our RTF Tool Shed location on Earhart Street at 8:45 AM. Earhart St. is located off Emmet St., south of the 250 Bypass, across Emmet from Bodo's and Morton Drive. See the [RTF website](#) for a map. We'll gather tools and then caravan or carpool to the worksite. We'll work from about 9:00 until 11:30.

John Holden



Streamwatch Training

StreamWatch Introductory Training Workshop: January 29, 10am - 3pm.

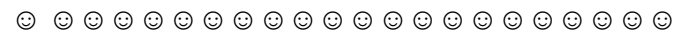
The workshop will cover the fundamentals of stream biological sampling—catching and identifying aquatic invertebrates for the purpose of evaluating water quality and stream health. The workshop is free, but class size is limited.

Advanced Training Workshop: February 19, 9am - noon.

Refresh your identification skills and learn more about family identification. We'll cover all levels of experience, so beginners are welcome too (in order to attend, you must have already attended an introductory training workshop).

Sign up by e-mailing to rose@streamwatch.org

Rose Brown



Va Watershed Implementation Plan

Here is the link to an archived recording of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Webinar: The Chesapeake Bay TMDL and Virginia Watershed Implementation Plan, presented by Brian Benham and Jim Pease on November 4th.

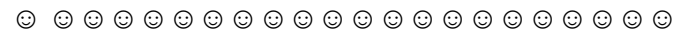
<http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/p43305770/>

This is the first in a series of webinars about the development of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan. We anticipate another webinar the beginning of 2011 to provide an update about the final TMDL and WIPs.

Presenters: Brian Benham, Biological Systems Engineering; brbenham@vt.edu & Jim Pease, Agricultural and Applied Economics; peasej@vt.edu

Please contact any of us with questions.

Erin James Ling, M.S., Extension Associate, Va Household Water Quality Program, Va Master Well Owners Network, Biological Systems Engineering, 400 D Seitz Hall, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061, ph (540) 231-9058, fax (540) 231-3199, wellwater@vt.edu, <http://www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu/>



Ivy Creek Natural Area Events

Tracking and the Earth

Meet @ the barn.

Sunday, December 5, 9:00 am

Learn from Hub Knott as we search outdoors for signs of wildlife activity, everything from tracks to scat. Learn how to read the stories of animal life in the landscape of Ivy Creek Natural Area.

Saturday, January 22, 9:00 am

Learn from Hub Knott as we search outdoors for signs of wildlife activity, everything from tracks to scat. Learn how to read the stories of animal life in the landscape of Ivy Creek Natural Area.

Sunday, February 13, 9:00 am

Learn from Hub Knott as we search outdoors for signs of wildlife activity, everything from tracks to scat. Learn how to read the stories of animal life in the landscape of Ivy Creek Natural Area.

Virginia Native Plant Society Meetings

Free and open to public, in Ed. Center.

Wednesday, December 8, 7:30 pm

Come hear Mike Scott, Ivy Creek's sage of butterflies, enlighten us about the fascinating world of Lepidoptera that are codependent with our native plants.

Wednesday, January 12, 7:30 pm

Dan Bieker, who teaches popular PVCC courses on Ornithology and Natural History, will speak to us on "Rare and Unusual Wildlife of Albemarle County."

Wednesday, February 9, 7:30 pm

Jake Hughes, lead Biological Science Technician, Shenandoah National Park, will present "Weeds, windowsills and warm-season grasses: exotic plant management and native plant propagation at Shenandoah National Park".

Monticello Bird Club Meetings

Free and open to public, in Ed. Center.

Thursday, December 9, 7:00 pm

Hear David Shoch's talk and slide show about his experience as on board naturalist with an expedition tour to the Antarctic.

Thursday, January 13, 7:00 pm

Hear Lance and Jill Morrow of the Shenandoah Valley talk about their Barn Owl studies in that area.

Thursday, February 10, 7:00 pm

Come learn from Gretchen Gehrett of Ivy about bluebirds.

Monthly Birdwalks

Beginners are always welcome. Meet in the parking lot.

Saturday, January 8, 7:30 am

Come fulfill your New Year's resolution to learn more about the local birds or just enjoy the outdoors with Jim Nix of the [Monticello Bird Club](#).

Saturday, February 5, 7:30 am

Walk with Leigh Surdukowski of the [Monticello Bird Club](#) to enjoy the late winter birds.

Winter Natural History Walk

Sunday, January 9, 2:00 pm

Join Mary Jane Epps as we search out the plants, fungi, insects, and animals that are still visible in the winter. We'll learn about their life histories, traditional uses, and how they are adapted to survival under winter conditions. Meet at the kiosk next to the parking lot at the Ivy Creek Natural Area.

Clouds, Winds and Storms

Saturday, January 15, 2:00 pm

The weather can be counted on to change. Learn from W. Mitchell Sams about the role clouds play in foretelling and creating weather. As part of this lecture we'll explore the origin of winds and how they determine both short and long-term weather patterns. Please register in advance as space is limited by emailing programs @ ivycreekfoundation.org no later than January 13th. Free of charge. Meet in the Education Center.

Learning the Native Trees of Virginia

Sunday, February 13, 2:00 pm

Learn to identify trees in the dead of winter using bark, branching, seed, and other distinguishing characteristics. Join Ellen Powell of the Virginia Department of Forestry on a Winter Walk in the **Ragged Mountain Natural Area**. Meet in the RMNA parking lot.



Book Corner

I recommend *The Wild Trees* by Richard Preston.

"More than 30 stories above the ground (in the California Redwoods) the climbers found themselves surrounded by a latticework of fused branches hung with gardens of ferns and trees bearing no relation to their host. In this Tolkienesque realm of sky and wind, lichens abound while voles and salamanders live and breed without awareness of the earth below."

While the book was criticized for looking too closely at the personal lives of the climbers, Preston made this an interesting yet facinating read about the trees for the layman.

Keggie Mallet



VT Restructuring of Extension Service

VT plans to restructure our Cooperative Extension system. A link to the actual plan is here:

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/restructuring/files/restructuring-plan-2010.pdf>

They're, in effect, going from a county service to a 5 county setup. There still may be some county offices. Exactly how it will affect us is unknown at this time.

We have been told that they are modeling the restructuring after the University of Minnesota state. Here's the link to that information <http://www.extension.umn.edu/offices/>

In addition we will certainly forward any new information we receive as soon as possible.

Ralph Hall/Peter Warren



Been doing your bird watching?



Or just observing Snow Coyotes in your yard.



Picture from Dorothy Tompkins



Deadline for items to be included in the newsletter is the **24th of the month before the next quarter (February)**. 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 434-297-1963 or by USPS mail to 420 Ivy Farm Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901-8841.

Class Schedule for RMN Basic Training Spring 2011 Draft 3 (10/31/2010)

Classes (C) 900-1200 with field trips (FT) in PM and some Saturdays

Require attendance at one Info session as Introduction to VMN

| | Date | Topic | Instructor(s) to consider | Host | Hands on Activity |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|---|--|------|---------------------------------|
| | Feb 16, 2011 9a.m. | Basic Ecology Journals and how to use them | Michele Prysby | | |
| | Feb 23, 2011 9a.m. | Introduction to Citizen Science Risk Management Skills Stations – Maps, Keys (Taxonomy?-if not with Botany) | Michele Lori Anne Tex (GPS, Compass?) | | Maps and keys |
| | Open date | Tracking Field Trip | Hub Knott | | |
| | Mar 2, 2011 9a.m. | Cold blooded vertebrates - reptiles, amphibians, fish | Kristine Grayson Art Bolger – Fish | | |
| | Mar 9, C-9:00 FT-1:00 | C-Forests and Tree ID FT-Reading the Forest Landscape | C-Ellen Powell(Tony) FT-Tom Dierauf | | Winter twig ID |
| | Mar 16, 2011 9a.m. | Volunteer Fair (Include Habitat at Home®?) Introduction to volunteer projects related to Education, Stewardship, or Citizen Science* & vol timesheet Interpretation Evolution | Bruce Gatling-Austin, (D.S., F.B.--backups) Ruth & Dorothy | | |
| | Mar 23 C-9; FT 1 p.m. | Geology local impact (Tectonic Plates) Geology field trip | Amy Gilmer Amy or Tom Biggs | | local rocks+ Sed., Met., Ig. |
| | Mar 30, 2011 9a.m. | Botany (taxonomy?-if not w/ Tools) | Ruth Douglas | | Flower parts, keys |
| Sp Brk | Apr 6, 2011 9a.m. | Invasives intro and pull at Ivy Creek | Ruth Douglas (& Phil Stokes?) | | Invasives pull |
| | Sat. Apr. 9 9a.m. | Botany Field trip | Ruth Douglas | | |
| | Apr 13, 2011 9a.m. | Urban and Suburban Environments; Land Use | Lou Verner | | |
| | Sat., Apr. 16 9a.m. | Hydrology on a Saturday 1/2 class and ½ fieldtrip | Sam Austin | | |
| | Apr 20 FT-7am,C-9 | C-Birds (Adaptation) Early Morning field trip | Jenny Gaden Dan Beiker | | Bird specimens |
| | Apr 27, 2011 9 a.m. | Climate, Weather– Local Soil | Jerry Stenger Stesha Dunker or Cullen Sherwood | | Reading a weather map |
| | Ask Bill for best date | Amphibian Field Trip (late afternoon) | Bill Feeney | | |
| | May 4, 2011 C-9; FT-1pm | Invertebrates & Arthropods (email take-home exam) | Peter Warren | | ID'g specimens |
| | May 11, 2011 C-9a.m.; FT-1p.m. | Mammals – Nuisance Wildlife Field trip: Aquatic Ecology Experiential | Carol Heiser and/or Nancy Newman Ida Swensen | | Skulls?? |
| | May 18, 2011 9a.m. | Practical, followed by review of both Practical & Final Exams Amer. Naturalists (or on May 25) | | | |
| | May 25, 2011 9a.m. | Graduation, Review logistics of life as a Volunteer Naturalist, Next Steps; Evaluation | Lori Anne | | |

Neither Charlottesville nor Albemarle Co. have school on Feb. 21-22; Spring Break for both Charlottesville and Albemarle Co. schools is April 4-8.

Holidays - Easter, April 24; Earth Day, Friday, April 22

*Volunteer activities for students to consider - four hours as part of graduation requirements

Invasive removal: Ivy Creek, Shenandoah National Park; Education: 4H, Camp Albemarle; Earth Day or other events with tabling