



Rivanna Naturalist News

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

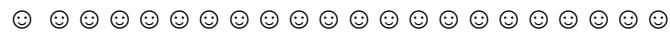
Volume 3 No. 3

Sep-Nov 2010

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.



Upcoming Rivanna Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists Programs

Save these dates! Make plans to join friends from the Rivanna Chapter of Master Naturalists for these guided walks/programs. Most guided programs are eligible for ADVANCED TRAINING credits.

SEPTEMBER

Hawk Watch
Date: Sunday, September 12, 7am – 9am

OCTOBER

“Remarkable Trees of Virginia” Site Visit
Date: Saturday, October 16, 9am – 11am

Contact on the above two: John Holden at john@brms.com or 434-973-9179/home

NOVEMBER

Date: Saturday, November 13, 10am – 1pm
Location: Humpback Rocks
Walk Leader: Chip Morgan

Ronda Ellcessor at ronda@ellcessor.com on the above.

DECEMBER

Year-End Chapter Meeting and Holiday Gathering
Date: Sunday, December 5, 2pm – 4pm
Location: County Office Building, 1600 Fifth Street Extended, Room A, Charlottesville 22903
Contact: Ronda Ellcessor at ronda@ellcessor.com

Look for additional details via the VAMN ListServe. Or, check out the Rivanna Master Naturalist Facebook page for updates.

President:	Ida Swenson idathefriz@gmail.com
President Elect:	Dorothy Tompkins dorothytompkins@mac.com
Recording Secretary:	Tana Herndon tberndon@gmail.com
Corresponding Secretary:	Carol Lawson jimcarol2@verizon.net
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Webmaster:	Dede Smith/Eric Johnson dede.virginia@gmail.com
Chapter email address:	rivannamn.info@gmail.com website: http://www.vmn-rivanna.org



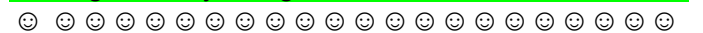
Chapter Advisors: Peter Warren & LoriAnne Barnett

Committee Chairs:
Volunteer Projects: Tex Weaver
rivannamn.info@gmail.com
Programs/Hospitality: John Holden/Ronda Ellcessor
Training: TBA
PR Committee: Cass Cannon/Mary Spear



Volunteer Opportunities

Designated by this green color



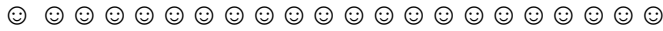
Upcoming Meetings

Designated by this purple color



Upcoming Education Opportunities

Designated by this burnt yellow color.



Inklings from Ida:

Hope all of you enjoyed your summer. It certainly was a busy one for the Rivanna Master Naturalists as this newsletter shows. It seems like we get more and more golden opportunities to volunteer and to learn more. Obviously, that's a major perk to belonging.

Your Board of Directors has not been idle (although we skipped August). And neither have been the committees. The Program Committee has a wonderful offering for us this year as you can see elsewhere in this newsletter. An injection of new enthusiasm and ideas has certainly shot it off like a rocket. If you want to join, contact John Holden or Ronda Ellcessor. The brand new Public relations Committee is also off to a great start. Mary Spears or Cass Cannon would love to have you join the rest of this talented group. As their scope and duties develop, we'll communicate more. The Training Committee has begun plans for the next class and also would welcome more members. Contact me, LoriAnne or Peter if you would like to join it. Tex Weaver has taken over the Chairmanship of the Volunteer Projects Committee. Eric Johnson is now 'co-webmaster' with Dede Smith.

The Board is considering establishing a budget. It's not that we have that big a treasury, but perhaps we can give the committees more autonomy. We are pleased to be able to offer scholarships for children to go camp and others to attend trainings. Our Board meets at VCE at noon the first Wednesday of each month and you are very welcome to attend.

We did get some bad news. Susan Pleiss, our past president and timekeeper, has moved to Dayton, Ohio, for a new job. We will miss her wise council and faithfulness to the timekeeper duties. Rose Brown has offered to be our timekeeper.

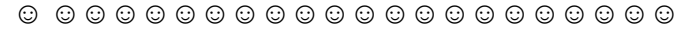
Also, Carol and Jim Lawson are going to be charter members of a new chapter nearby us. That is very exciting, but she has notified us that she cannot fulfill the second year of her term as corresponding secretary. If you might be interested in that spot, we will include it on our slate of offices to be elected at our December annual meeting. Each year we elect a Vice-President who becomes President the following year. This year, we also elect our Recording Secretary for another year. If you would be interested in any of those positions, please let me know. Usually the Past President chairs the nominating committee, but with Susan in Ohio, it may fall on the shoulders of the "almost" past president.

On another note, I'm pleased that the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District has asked me to work for them on an hourly basis. I look forward to actually being paid and getting mileage for some of the

activities I already do. Don't worry... I will still have plenty of hours, but it is nice to have volunteer service recognized more tangibly.

Thanks so much for all you do for nature... and the Rivanna Master Naturalists.

Ida Swenson



THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE HAS its FIRST FALL WALK

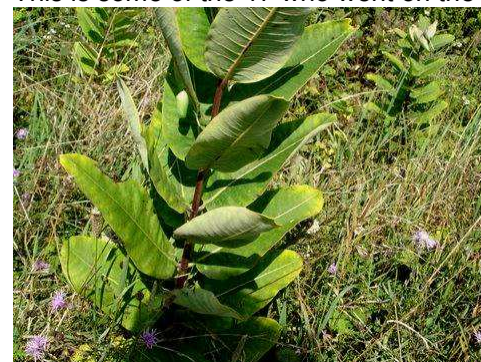
On Saturday August 21st, seventeen Rivanna chapter Master Naturalists and friends spent 2 hours in Shenandoah National Park's Big Meadows looking at butterflies. 22 species were recorded, and some as the Painted Lady and the Buckeye, were in the "wow" category for intense colorations. This was either a great year, or a great location...or both! This will become an annual August event. There are 3 more monthly walks or hikes in the Fall, and the October 16th one to the tall Pocosin Hollow poplars, should be unique. Look for a Spring overnight weekend next May to Canaan Valley State Park and the Dolly Sods with camping or a special lodge rate. Information on particular "adventures"

Special thanks to Linda Marchman for leading the walk, and not just for her amazing technical knowledge, but also for sharing her deep connection to and appreciation of the butterfly world

Here are some pics from the walk.



This is some of the 17 who went on the walk.



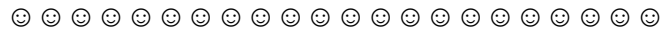
There is a Monarch Chrysalis hanging from milkweed.



Here's one in caterpillar stage.

Bob Hendricks posted many butterfly pictures here:
http://virginiamasternaturalist.smugmug.com/Chapter-Images/Rivanna-Chapter/Butterfly-Walk-8212010/13448202_TkHzv#978851585_vtshp

john holden 434-977-1397 x 331



Those Incredible Butterflies!

Isn't this the year for butterflies! I've seen them everywhere, all so beautiful, in all sizes and colors. And several of us got a chance to get to know these fascinating creatures just a little bit better this summer.

Linda Marchman and many knowledgeable RMNs led us on a Butterfly Walk on Aug. 21 at Shenandoah National Park. The late summer vegetation of Big Meadows made for an easy walk as we spotted over 20 species in just a short distance. A Monarch chrysalis delighted all as we started out, and Linda gave us the detailed natural history of this amazing species. One source says that the name was to honor King William III of England in the 17th c, due to the gold ring around its smooth lime green chrysalis, reminding all of a king's crown. These caterpillars are opportunistic in regards to where they decide to pupate - even a protected electrical cord seems to do, as shown below.



Several of us have also been helping with butterfly surveys, which gave me a great chance to learn how to identify many species. Those moth-looking creatures with the big, black eyes feeding on flowers in the daytime? They are butterflies known as Skippers and boy, are there a lot of varieties of them! (Moths fly at night - one clue. Another is their antennae differences -- normally "feathery" or branched on a moth, and slender, knobbed antennae on a butterfly.)

We've identified Eastern Tailed Blues (yes, they have a tiny 'tail' next to a small orange spot - a diagnostic trait.) And did you know that the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail female comes in two colors? They can also be black. I now know how to tell the four black swallowtail species apart (you've got to look at those varying spots first!) We've seen incredible Common Buckeyes, Great Spangled Fritillaries, Red Admirals, and Eastern Commas - or was that a Question Mark? Yes, those last two are actual names of butterflies around here, and they are very unique in their raggedy wing shape.



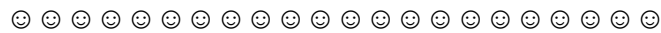
This one is a Great Spangled Fritillary.

I've learned that the best way to identify butterflies is through binoculars. You can really see all you need, even the tiniest diagnostic white dot, without getting too close to the butterfly. (If they will only stay still, of course.) A great field guide to use is in fact called "Butterflies Through Binoculars: the East" by Jeffrey Glassberg, the president of the North American Butterfly Association, one of the agencies collecting the data from the surveys.

Helping with these surveys has opened my eyes to the many intricacies of these beautiful miracles of nature. I encourage everyone to grab a field guide, a pair of binoculars, and maybe paper to write on, and start identifying the butterflies in your own garden. You can even turn your information in to the Wildlife Mapping database and get Master Naturalist hours. (See www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlifemapping for the information they will need first before you begin.)

Thanks to John Holden and the Program Committee for a great morning out in the cool mountains! Save the date for the next outing September 12, for a hawk migration watch.

Article and photos by Terri Keffert



Day Camp for 5th-8th Graders

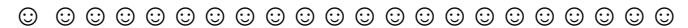
During the week of August 16-20, 4-H, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Charlottesville's Quality Community Council, the Department Of Forestry, the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District and the Master Naturalists sponsored a day camp for rising 5th-8th graders. Funding for the camp (including scholarships) was provided by the Ballyshannon Fund and the Department of Environmental Quality. A number of activities were done throughout the week, all with a focus on creating an awareness of the dichotomy between urban and rural water, wildlife and plants. Each day the students visited a different location testing water quality, identifying plants and animals, swimming and learning about the interconnections of water, wildlife, and forestry in urban and rural settings. LoriAnne Barnett and Joya McMurray planned and facilitate the camp.

Tex Weaver designed a number of great watershed maps for us to share with the kids so they could identify exactly where in the watershed we spent each day. Ida Swenson, Christine Putnam, and Michelle Prysby helped on Monday at Jordan Park in Charlottesville to test water quality (including macroinvertebrate samples, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and turbidity) and do a stream cleanup. We also visited Riverview Park where the Rivanna River was tested and the kids completed a short hike. Tuesday the camp visited Mint Springs where Tucker Rollins talked to the kids about potential projects they could do in the park in the future.

Ida and Linda Goodling helped the kids enjoy hiking, testing the water quality and swimming. Wednesday's canoe trip was rained out. John Holden was going to help us paddle, and unfortunately that was the only day he could. However, he generously donated a sky chart and frisbee to the program from Blue Ridge Mountain Sports. On Thursday students went to Camp Albemarle where they tested water, took a tree ID hike and a tour of a local farm. Ellen Powell from the Department of Forestry and Virginia Master Naturalist Steering Committee joined us for a tree cookie activity and the kids also tie dyed shirts and had a campfire. After cooking their supper, the kids, LoriAnne, Joya and Ida stayed overnight at Camp Albemarle. Sleep was had by a few! Friday the students were finally able to do the canoe trip on the Ivy Creek Reservoir before returning to town after a full week.

A number of follow up activities will be conducted this fall including a service learning activity chosen by the students. We will put a call out for volunteers after time, place and activities are determined.

Ida Swenson, LoriAnne Barnett



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY AND CLEAN THE BAY DAY



John and Tex would like to thank everyone that participated on Saturday, June 5th in making this combined event a huge success! Over 50 volunteers, including 14 Master Naturalists, came together to remove debris from 1.5 miles of the Rivanna Trail at Riverview Park and

2.2 miles of the Rivanna River from Darden Towe Park to Riverview Park. This resulted in approximately 1,030 pounds of debris collected and disposed of from our local trails and waterways! In addition, Master Naturalists helped with trail maintenance and invasive plant removal, helped guide hikes and provided education resources at a display table. Special recognition is extended to the main sponsors of this event: The Rivanna Trails Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Blue Ridge Mountain Sports! We look forward to even greater Master Naturalist participation in this annual event next year (Saturday, June 4, 2011)!

John Holden & Tex Weaver



Frog Watching



Hi fellow frog fans!

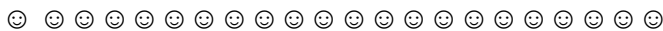
My survey route starts in Nelson County and ends in southern Albemarle. I was pleasantly surprised,

on my first run in mid-March, to hear wood frogs at two of my stops. That's really late for that species, but the weather was so crazy this Spring (on my way home after the run I stopped at my favorite "neighborhood" froggy spot and heard a deafening chorus of wood frogs, which leads me to believe that the "pond" may actually be a vernal pool--I'm going to be sending information to Michael Hazlett at Sweet Brier). Spring peepers and upland chorus frogs were the only other things I heard on the March run. Most of my stops are located near running creeks, which were more like raging torrents due to the amount of snow melt they contained. Noise was definitely a factor, so I may have missed some quieter calls.

On the final run in mid-June, I heard gray tree frogs, northern cricket frogs, spring peepers, green frogs, and bullfrogs, and at one of the stops I heard all of these species at the same time. The creeks were at more normal levels, but they still had more fast-moving water than most frogs would probably like. I wonder who and how the stops were selected. Mine is an NAAMP route, not a locally-established one.

Does anyone else have problems with aggressive dogs on your route?

Jennifer Whitenack



Native Plant Society Meetings @ ICNA
Meetings are free and open to all plant enthusiasts.
Meet in the Education Center.

Wednesday, September 8, 7:30 pm
Listen to Katie Burke speak on "The Ecological History of the American Chestnut."

Wednesday, October 13, 7:30 pm
Helen Flamini will speak about efforts to plan for a botanical garden in McIntire Park.

Wednesday, November 10, 7:30 pm
Come hear a talk geared to local plant enthusiasts.

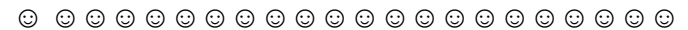


Monticello Bird Club Meetings @ ICNA
Free and open to the public. Meet in the Education Center.

Thursday, September 9, 7:00 pm
Learn about the birds and bird habitat of the Culpeper Basin of northern Virginia. Mary Elfner will talk about their present as well as future difficulties they face.

Thursday, October 14, 7:00 pm
Listen to Jim Nix talk about his trip to Columbia this past spring. Jim will bring his usual sense of good humor and wit to share about the wildlife in South America.

Thursday, November 11, 7:00 pm
Hear Mike Wilson from the William and Mary Conservation Center lecturing on "Silent Night: the Decline of North American Nightjar Populations." Nightjars are birds such as Whippoorwill and Common Nighthawk.

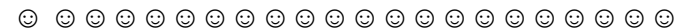


Wildlife Home Study Course

I was going to send this just to the current class, but I thought others might also be interested. Hub talked about the home study course developed by one of his mentors, who founded the Wilderness Awareness School out in Washington. I've been working on the course (whenever I have time!), and many people expressed interest in it on Saturday, so here's a link to the information.

http://www.wildernessawareness.org/home_study/kamana.html

Jennifer Whitenack



Newsletters of Possible Interest

Below, from Michelle Prysby, is a list of listserv resources. If you would like to be put on any of them, please communicate directly with the appropriate agency referenced below.

Michelle Prysby is also inviting board members to be part of the "Chapter Coordinators Listserv" for various chapters to communicate broadly to all. If you choose to be on this listserv, expect several messages a week, some of which may not be intended for our chapter or are mistakes. I try very hard to send to you the ones that do apply to us.

Dear VMN Chapters,
I try to send this message regarding communications out about once or twice a year to catch new chapters and new board members.

First, please make sure that all of your board members know that they are invited to be a part of this Chapter Coordinators Listserv. I have attached the information about how to sign up for and use the listserv.

Second, there are many electronic communications from our statewide sponsors and partners that might be of interest to

you and your chapter members. Please consider signing up for them. They are all good sources for finding out about advanced training and volunteer opportunities and for getting to know our sponsoring agencies better. Some of them are emailed twice a month, others come out quarterly, and others are just posted on the Web for you to read on your own schedule. It's a lot of information...one strategy might be to have different board members or volunteers assigned to be the receiver of information from a particular agency, so that no one person has to get all the email. On the other hand, maybe you have a volunteer with an Internet addiction who loves to be "in the know" and who would want to sift through these newsletters for information that would be of interest to the chapter. Of course, I will continue to send out many Advanced Training and volunteer opportunities, but I do not forward all of the things that are in these newsletters.

*Virginia Naturally: This is Virginia's environmental education network. Many of our chapters are already Virginia Naturally partners, and all of our chapters could be! More information on how to become a partner is available at <http://www.vanaturally.com/vanaturally/partners.html>. Partners receive the e-newsletter which contains lots of environmental education events and training. Partners can also advertise their own events to the listserv, so it is a good way to get the word out about what you are doing. It is a major clearinghouse for information.

*Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has a terrific e-newsletter called the Outdoor Report. Subscribe at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/outdoor-report/>. You might also consider purchasing a subscription to the Virginia Wildlife magazine that the agency puts out (<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/virginia-wildlife/>). Master Naturalists are being featured in it more and more! Case in point, the June issue (page 30) had an article on bluebird nest boxes by Virginia Master Naturalist Tom Teeple and the July issue featured (also on page 30, coincidentally) a fantastic photo of an American Woodcock taken by Virginia Master Naturalist Brooks Lindamood. Congratulations to both of them.

*Virginia Department of Forestry has an e-newsletter available at <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/press/enews/index.htm>.

*The Virginia Museum of Natural History has an e-newsletter available at <http://www.vmnh.net/register.cfm>.

*The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation-Natural Heritage posts an electronic newsletter at http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/nhenews.shtml.

*The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation-State Parks has emails a newsletter. Subscribe at <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs014/1101626824846/archive/1101865786192.html>.

*Virginia Cooperative Extension is so diverse that we do not have one single e-newsletter for the whole agency. However, there are a couple pertaining to natural resources that might be of interest. First is the Virginia Forest Landowners Update. Subscribe at <http://www.fw.vt.edu/forestupdate/Pages/newsletter.html>. The second is Engagement Matters, a newsletter for the whole natural resources team within VCE. It is available online at http://www.cnr.vt.edu/cnr_webpages/engagement.htm. All 5 of

our regional Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Agents have regional newsletters as well. Contact your regional agent for more information on that (listing at <http://www.forestry.vt.edu/PublicEdAndEngagement.htm>.)

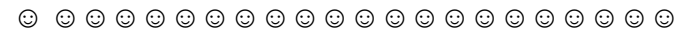
Michelle Prysby/Ilda Swenson



Make Your Own Charcoal-Sep 4th

September 4, 2010
8:00 – Noon (Open-house style)
Madison County Farmers' Market

<http://www.cnre.vt.edu/forestupdate/calendar/september/charcoal.pdf>



Reptile & Amphibian Training-Sep 4th



Calling all fans of reptiles and amphibians!

What? Attend this one day training to qualify as an ambassador for reptile and amphibian conservation in Virginia. Virginia Master Naturalist Tim Christensen (Historic Rivers Chapter) and the Virginia Herpetological Society have put together this train-the-trainer opportunity specifically for Master Naturalists. You will leave the training with the knowledge and materials to give presentations on reptile and amphibian conservation for community groups (such as homeowner's associations, teachers, hiking clubs, garden clubs, etc.)

Instructors include Tim Christensen and Susan Watson (VDGIF), with an optional post-workshop bonus presentation by Dr. Paul Hamilton (Reptile and Amphibian Ecology International) on his herpetofauna research in Ecuador.

Why? Reptiles and amphibians are declining in diversity and numbers. Habitat loss is a big issue, but they also suffer from a lack of positive PR. Virginia Master Naturalists are the perfect candidates to be PR agents for these ecologically important critters.

When? The first workshop will be **Saturday, September 4, 2010**, with registration starting at 8:30 am and the workshop running from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. (Note: future workshops in other regions are in the planning stages, so if you can't attend this one due to distance or time, you'll likely have other opportunities.)

Where? Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Rice Center/Region 1 office in Charles City,

Come spend the afternoon at Greene County Park!-Sep 12th

(If we get a critical mass of folks willing to run a table, we can use it as volunteer hours in educating others. If you would like to run a specific workshop for them, contact Stephanie Golon, noted below. – Ida)

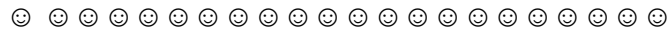
Bring your friends and family for an afternoon of exploration about the natural world.

What lives in our local streams? What trees and plants are native to our landscape? How can we protect the Park from erosion? Learning activities for children and adults, with light refreshments provided.

- Event Schedule: 1:00 – 5:00pm
- Rainwater Management – Biowales, rain-gardens, and more
- Tree and Shrub Buffers – How they can improve water quality
- Going Native! – Learn to identify native, alien, and invasive plants
- The Comfort Station – When? where? who? and how?
- Trail Walk and Talk – Guided walks along different Park trails
- How Healthy is this Stream? – Chemical testing and biological monitoring (looking for aquatic bugs!)

Event Date: September 12, 2010
Rain Date: September 19, 2010
(Come for all or a part of the program)

Contact: Stephanie Golon - (434) 985-5282 (sgolon@gcva.us)

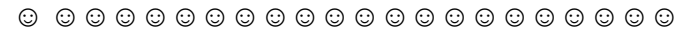


Design Us an Ivy Creek Herbarium-Sep 14th

Please help us design a logo and label for the new Ivy Creek herbarium, which is an offshoot of the on-going plant survey at Ivy Creek. Creating the herbarium will involve collecting, pressing, and labeling and mounting on archival paper samples of most vascular plants found within the Ivy Creek Natural Area. We have already collected and pressed nearly 100 plants, and will soon be ready to begin mounting them. However, first, we are hoping that a Master Naturalist, Native Plant Member, or other talented person will help us develop a logo for the herbarium labels and also a layout design. Specifications, followed by an example of a possible layout, are in the

attachment. Please email your designs to me by September 14.

Mary Lee Epps



Good Green, Bad Green-Sep 16&17

Registrations are now open for the Good Green, Bad Green conference! There are a few partial scholarships available for Master Naturalists. Please see the Event Website for information on how to apply for these.

Good Green, Bad Green
Invasive Plant Control for Habitat Restoration
A MID-ATLANTIC FOCUSED CONFERENCE

Event Website: detailed program, online registration, scholarships, sponsors, continuing education credits & more! <http://www.forestryforthebay.org/ggbg/>

Sept. 16 & 17, 2010

Northern Virginia 4-H Center and Smithsonian Conservation Biology Center, Front Royal, Virginia

Evening Seminar Feature: Lew Ziska, Ph.D on "Climate change, CO2 and Invasive Plants"

Field, Forest and indoor sessions: Species ID, Integrated Vegetation Management, Habitat Triage, Herbicide Use & Habitat Restoration

Topics to include:

- Species identification techniques
- Integrated Pest Management
- Treatment demonstrations
- Strategies for conducting site triage
- Herbicide safety
- Restoration successes and challenges

Who should attend:

- Natural Resource Professionals
- Master Naturalist
- Consulting Foresters
- Arborists
- Master Gardeners
- You!

Who should attend: Natural Resource Professionals, Master Naturalists, Consulting Foresters, Landowners, Arborists & Horticulturalists, Master Gardeners, You!

Registration is available on-line or by mail for full (2-day) or partial (one-day or evening seminar only)

To make sure you receive final notice of this conference, please complete this 1 minute survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/goodgreenbadgreen>

Adam Downing, 540-948-6881, adowning@vt.edu



Buffer Planting @ Pen Park-Sep 16

Please consider joining me Thursday, September 16th to volunteer with the City of Charlottesville Department of Parks and Recreation and Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) to complete a stream-side buffer planting project in Pen Park. See below for details and remember to email Jess Barton with CBF (letting her know you are with the Rivanna Master Naturalists) so she knows to expect you and can plan accordingly... Thanks and let me know if you have any questions. Enjoy your day!

Tex Weaver, texweaver@embarqmail.com, 973-1270

Web calendar link:
<http://www.cbf.org/Page.aspx?pid=195&cqid=1&cdt=9%2f16%2f2010&ceid=376&cerid=0>

Join Chesapeake Bay Foundation volunteers as we help the Charlottesville Parks and Recreation Department finish a stream-side vegetated buffer project along a creek bank at Pen Park golf course.

When: Thursday, September 16, 2 – 4pm
Where: Pen Park, Charlottesville, VA

<http://www.charlottesville.org/Index.aspx?page=386>

Why: Planting vegetation such as grasses and shrubs along the side or waterways reduces run-off of sediment, pollution, and fertilizer and helps improve water quality.

The Parks and Recreation Department has already completed Phase 1 of the stream buffer project in Pen Park and now with the cooler weather is ready to complete Phase 2 - planting rows of the shrubs.

Volunteer! To volunteer please contact Jess Barton at Jbarton@cbf.org.

Gloves and tools will be provided, please bring water and sunscreen.

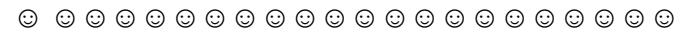
Jessica Barton, VA Grassroots Coordinator



Fall Plant Walk-Sep18th

Saturday, September 18, 10:00 am
Enjoy the early colors of the fall leaves on a plant walk with Ruth Douglas from the Virginia Native

Plants Society. We'll also see yellow wingstems, white rabbit tobacco, and orange jewelweed. We'll go on a slow walk for an hour or so. Wear shoes that can get dirty.



Valuing Urban Forests-Sep 23rd

Conference Center at Arlington County's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources 2700 S. Taylor Street

Evening Public Meeting - 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Thursday, **September 23** - Registration is Free.

Day Conference - 9:30 – 3:30 pm, Friday, **September 24** - Registration is \$30.

Municipalities are steadily improving their ability to manage urban forests, but much work remains. Air and water quality protection, energy conservation, noise abatement, and local products are but a few of the benefits of urban forest stewardship. In recent years, scientists have made significant strides in developing urban forest assessment and decision-making tools that help managers and local leaders achieve these and other objectives. These meetings will cover the state of urban forest assessment science and application, and provide testimonials and demonstrations regarding research and implementation in the mid-Atlantic region and beyond.

Speakers include

Dr. David Nowak is a US Forest Service Research Scientist and a leading world expert in urban forest valuation and management. Dr. Nowak will discuss the state of urban forest assessment science and provide an update on the suite of I-tree assessment applications he and others have developed.

Ms. Kristy King is a research forester at the New York City Urban Field Station and will provide a testimonial regarding the use of urban forest valuation tools for building monitoring and management capacity in the greater New York City area.

Ms. Cindy Musick is past chair of the Maryland Urban Forest Council and PhD student in Virginia Tech's Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation. Ms. Musick will describe her research project, which focuses on urban tree planting and human dimensions of canopy coverage in Arlington County.

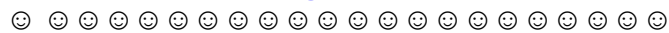
Dr. Eric Wiseman is an assistant professor of urban forestry and arboriculture in Virginia Tech's Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation and will lead a demonstration of urban forest assessment and valuation.

A public meeting will be held at Arlington County's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources on Thursday evening September 23rd. Registration is free. The following day, September 24th, a single-day conference will occur at the same location. Registration is \$30.

Who should attend? Community Leaders, Planners, Landscape Architects, Urban Foresters, Arborists, Park Managers, Developers and Builders, Homeowners and Interested Citizens

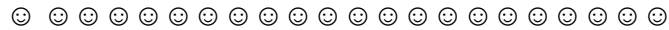
Lunch and refreshments will be provided!!!

Visit: www.frec.vt.edu/urbanforestvalue/ for agendas and other information. Or contact John Munsell at (540) 231-1611 email jfmunsel@vt.edu



Fall Ivy Creek Work Day-Sep 25th

Saturday, September 25, 9:00 am
Help control non-native invasive plants this morning. After a quick review of invasives and the tools for removal, we'll spend an hour or two working on one trail.



**Shenandoah Nat'l Park
National Public Lands Day 2010-Sep 25th**

Shenandoah National Park invites you to become one of thousands of volunteers on public lands across the country to celebrate service and recreation on National Public Lands Day 2010!

The park will be hosting the event at the Dickey Ridge Visitor Center at milepost 4.7 along Skyline Drive. Following a short informative presentation, participants will assist with various field work projects in the Dickey Ridge area. Projects may include cutting / removing woody invasive plants (Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, wineberry, Oriental bittersweet), hand-pulling invasive plants (Mile-A-Minute), collecting / planting acorns, collecting native grass seed, and preparing areas to be planted with native grasses in 2011.

Invasive exotic plants are plants that are introduced from foreign ecosystems. These plants spread quickly and displace native plants. Their presence disrupts plant diversity and can seriously threaten the survival of rare native plants.

Another exciting project will be taking place in the park's backcountry near Overall Run. Participants will hike from Matthew's Arm Campground to the project area with a wilderness ranger and assist with a backcountry campsite project. This project is limited to a smaller group size and RSVP is required. The hike is considered moderate to strenuous and the work project

will involve lifting up to 40-50 lbs. Because of the hiking time required to reach the worksite, this project will last throughout the afternoon. Those interested in volunteering for this project should contact the Natural Resources Volunteer Coordinator for more information.

In addition to celebrating the spirit of public service, this event is intended to educate participants about human and ecological threats that impact the park as well as to show what everyone can do to help by volunteering, being respectful when visiting our parks and making wise choices at home.

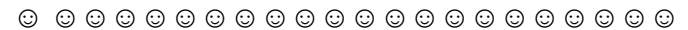
Schedule of Events

September 25, 2010 – Dickey Ridge Visitor Center
8:30 – 9:00 am

Registration
9:00 – 9:30 am Presentation
9:30 – 11:30 am Field Projects
**Details for backcountry campsite project TBD.

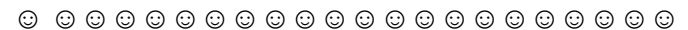
Free park admission to attend the event is available to everyone.

To help streamline the registration process and plan for group size, we ask that you RSVP by 9/17/10. Registration paperwork will be sent to participants ahead of time for their convenience. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Amanda Webb, Natural Resources Volunteer Coordinator at (540)999-3500, ext. 3437 or Amanda_Webb@nps.gov.



Monarchs on the Move @ ICNA-Oct 3rd

Sunday, October 3, 3:00 pm
Learn about the natural history and ecology of this amazing insect. Michelle Prysby will offer hands-on study of live monarch caterpillars and butterflies. Following the presentation, we will assist with a study of monarch migration by tagging and releasing butterflies in the field.



Geological Field Conference-Oct 8&9

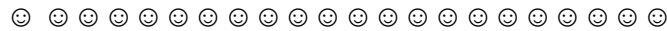
The 2010 Virginia Geological Field Conference will take place in the Heart of Virginia - the central Piedmont on October 8th-9th. Brent Owens (William & Mary) will lead us to some exciting exposures of metamorphic rocks in the Chopawamsic arc terrane. (An application PDF was in e-mail, if you lost it, contact your editor.)

The conference will be based at Bear Creek Lake State Park near Cumberland. Camping and cabins are available in the park, motel accommodations are located in Dillwyn, Fork Union, and Zions

Crossroads (20 to 45 minutes from Bear Creek Lake State Park). For links and more information checkout the VGFC website (<http://web.wm.edu/geology/vgfc/2010.php>). As is typical there will be a Friday evening business meeting/trip introduction and an all-day Saturday field trip. Transportation, lunch, and guidebooks will be provided. The pre-registration deadline is Sept. 20th.

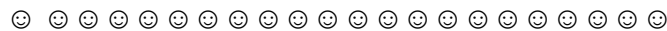
Amy Gilmer set up a VGFC facebook page: check it out and spread the word about the field conference.

Chuck Bailey, President, VGFC Professor of Geology, College of William & Mary



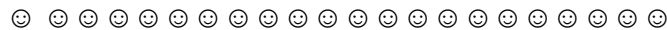
Invasives Plant Workshop-Oct 9th

Saturday, October 9, 10:00 am
Learn to identify and control non-native invasive plants in this workshop guided by Phil Stokes. We'll also learn how to use tools for invasive removal. Meet at the Education Center.



Insect Walk-Oct 10th

Sunday, October 10, 1:00 pm
Join Peter Warren, horticultural extension agent for Charlottesville and Albemarle, on a walk to learn more about the insects you encounter in the fall. Discover the important role insects play in our daily lives. Have questions? Bring along your specimens for identification. Meet in the Education Center to start.



Ivy Creek Guide Training-Oct 12th

Tuesday, October 12, 9:30 am
Become a volunteer guide! Learn the trails and how to be a basic naturalist. Topics covered include mammals, reptiles, amphibians, trees, plants, birds, and the history of River View Farm. Meet every Tuesday morning. We'll start in the Education Building. Free.



Blue Ridge Parkway Symposium-Oct 15th

Again, it is shaping up to be a very busy fall with many overlapping opportunities. Some of you may be interested in this conference/symposium on the Blue Ridge Parkway. They are bringing in some excellent keynote speakers, including Peter Jenkins (author of A Walk Across America) and Richard

Louv, a name that is familiar to many of you as the author of Last Child in the Woods.

Please visit the Web site below for details on the symposium, which is sponsored in part by the Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources and Environment. **Note that it is possible to attend just the dinner and keynote with Richard Louv on Friday, October 15 for a reduced fee.** The conference registration deadline is September 24, but, as always, you may want to register sooner to ensure yourself a space.

http://blueridgeparkway75.org/events/view/blue_ridge_parkway_75_symposium_part_ii/

Michelle Prysby



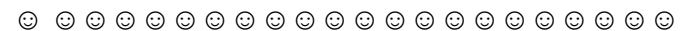
October Plant Walk-Oct 16

Saturday, October 16, 10:00 am
Enjoy the colors of the fall on a plant walk with Tim Williams from the Virginia Native Plants Society. We'll see yellow crownbeard, red hearts-a-bursting, and all the multicolored leaves of the trees from the black gums to the red maples. Meet by the kiosk next to the parking lot.



Streamwatch – Introductory Training-Oct 16th

Saturday, October 16, 10:00 am
In this [StreamWatch](#) introductory training, learn the fundamentals of benthic invertebrate sampling to gauge water quality and stream health. Class size is limited, and a reservation is required. Contact Rose Brown at 962-3527 or rose@streamwatch.org. Meet in the Education Center



Invasive Plant Removal Work Day-Oct 23rd

Saturday, October 23, 9:00 am
Help control non-native invasive plants this morning. After a quick review of invasives and the tools for removal, we'll spend an hour or so working on one trail. Pickup tools outside the Barn.



Ragged Mountain Natural Area Moonlit Walk-Oct 23rd

Saturday, October 23, 7:30 pm
Take a moonlit walk at the Ragged Mountain Natural Area and experience the ghostly presence of Edgar Allan Poe who found refuge here while a student at the University of Virginia. Not

recommended for small children. Meet in the parking lot. Bring a flashlight.



Bringing Nature Home-Nov 1st

Mark your calendars (and make reservations, see below in red) – you won't want to miss this talk!

Doug Tallamy, chair of the department of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, has graciously agreed to visit us November 1st. Doug will present his talk: Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens. Here is the foreword from his book (by Rick Darke)

“As development and subsequent habitat destruction accelerate, there are increasing pressures on wildlife populations. But there is an important and simple step toward reversing this alarming trend: Everyone with access to a patch of earth can make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity. There is an unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife — native insects cannot, or will not, eat alien plants. When native plants disappear, the insects disappear, impoverishing the food source for birds and other animals. In many parts of the world, habitat destruction has been so extensive that local wildlife is in crisis and may be headed toward extinction. Bringing Nature Home has sparked a national conversation about the link between healthy local ecosystems and human well-being, and the new paperback edition — with an expanded resource section and updated photos — will help broaden the movement. By acting on Douglas Tallamy's practical recommendations, everyone can make a difference.”

This talk is for everyone - including suburban and urban residents, educators, planners, volunteers, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists.

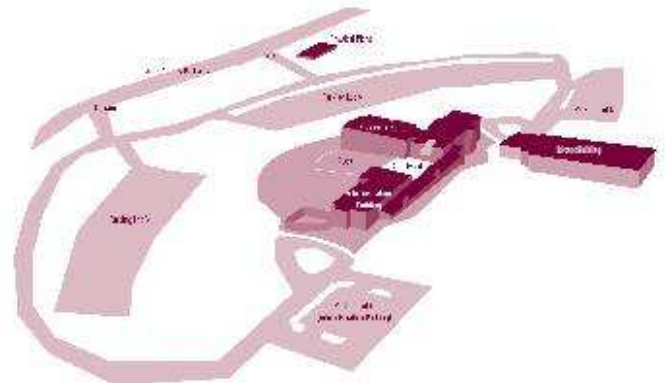
A great article on Doug can be found in the New York Times: www.nytimes.com/2008/03/06/garden/06garden.html? r=1 and his website is <http://bringingnaturehome.net/>

Reply to Susan Edwards to reserve your seats now –we expect a full house! You can also call us at 751-4401 to reserve seats. This talk is free of charge, but reservations are required.

Two times to choose from:
November 1st, 2:00 – 3:30 PM & 7:00 – 8:30 PM
 Both at: Multipurpose Room, Science Building
 John Tyler Community College, Midlothian Campus
 800 Charter Colony Parkway
 Midlothian, VA 23114

Directions and a map of the campus are below. This is a green building, LEED certified! www.jtcc.edu/green/index.htm If you'd like to learn more about the location.

- Travel from Short Pump and areas Northwest
- Travel I-64 to Route 288 South
 - Continue south on Route 288 and exit at Woolridge Road
 - Turn right at the first traffic light onto Charter Colony Parkway and go 1/10 mile
 - Turn right into the main entrance



(A PDF with this in bigger format is available.)

Susan A. Edwards, M.S.
 ANR Technician & Master Gardener Coordinator
 Virginia Cooperative Extension - Chesterfield County
 P.O. Box 146, 6807 Mimms Loop
 Chesterfield, VA 23832
 ph: (804) 751-4401 fax: (804) 751-0515



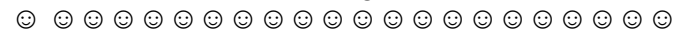
Trees in Winter-Nov 6th

Saturday, November 6, 9:30 am
 Learn from Tony Russell the finer details of tree identification. It's not all about the leaves! Tony will help us learn trees by twigs, winter buds, and bark. Come learn to see the trees in the forest. Meet in the Education Center.



Peninsula Trail Adventure Walk-Nov 10th

Saturday, November 20, 10:00 am
 We'll visit this remote and unique area with grand reservoir views on a walk with Phil Stokes. Meet by the kiosk next to the parking lot.



Give Thanks for Ivy Creek Work Day-Nov 27th

Saturday, November 27, 9:00 am
 Help control non-native invasive plants this morning. After a quick review of invasives and the tools for removal, we'll spend an hour or so working on one trail. Cosponsored by the Virginia Native Plants Society. Pickup tools outside the Barn.



YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO
Coccyzus americanus

More than one resident of Bundoran has noted the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo recently. They have been calling their hollow wooden calls ka-ka-ka-kow-kow-kow-kowlp-kowlp-kowlp from many sites in the forests or the forest edge. This secretive bird has an unusual breeding pattern, with breeding

correlated with an abundant food supply and a very rapid breeding cycle. From egg-laying to fledging of the young takes only 17 days, and breeding occurs from April well into August. Since they are so vocal at this time one can speculate that the recent rains have brought out their favorite foods: large insects such as katydids, grasshoppers, cicadas, crickets and caterpillars. I did not hear these cuckoos much during the drought.

The yellow-billed cuckoo arrives from its winter stay in Central America in April and breeds through out central and eastern US. It prefers open woodland with clearings and some low dense vegetation, usually with water nearby. It is generally absent from urban areas.

The yellow-billed cuckoo has been called “the rain crow” but its proficiency as a rain predictor has never been shown. This cuckoo is known for its “skulking” behavior; when perched it avoids movement, sits with its back hunched to conceal its white breast and belly and disappears into the foliage when disturbed. It is much more likely to be heard than seen. When spotted, its distinctive tail pattern is quite pretty: the outer feathers (rectrices) are tipped with white giving the appearance of six large white spots on the undersurface. The bright rufous wing primaries are a lovely color. The moderately long curved, stout bill is mostly yellow with the upper mandible black.

The yellow-billed cuckoo has declined significantly in the US and used to be common in the west, but has virtually disappeared from those states. This disappearance seems to be due to destruction of riparian habitats from agriculture, flood control and urbanization.

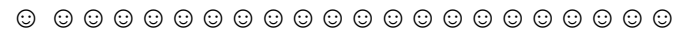
The yellow-billed cuckoo, like other cuckoos may lay eggs in other bird's nests. Most often it is in another yellow-billed cuckoo's nest. Generally they seem to use their own nest, and the incidence of brood parasitism is not known.

It's call can be heard at www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Yellow-billed_Cuckoo/sounds

(Ed. note: Here's a picture of one from <http://www.1000birds.com/images/Yellow-billed-Cuckoo27898.jpg>.)



Dorothy Tompkins



Tick Information/Pictures

I googled pictures of ticks and found the following: <http://webpages.charter.net/balplanman/MicPix/Ticks/Ticks.html> It includes several species of ticks and developmental stages of these ticks.

The photographer, John Moran, also has a “paper” on ticks at that website, with a lot of information about them. Since he did not list any affiliation on his web site I wrote and asked him if the paper had been published anywhere and did he have references. He wrote back and said he'd gotten the information off the web over several years, but did not have a complete list of references. So, while he has lots of information, I can't really recommend this to you with confidence that it is scientifically accurate. However, it may be worth perusing, but take it with a grain of salt or two, and do your own research if you are interested in more information. Mr. Moran told me that he and his wife live in CT, which is ground 0 for Lyme disease, and they both have chronic Lyme disease—thus his interest in ticks. He is an electrical engineer by training. The one thing I saw in the paper that concerns me has to do with insecticides he mentions: DEET and permethrin. DEET is found in lots of “mosquito repellants”. Permethrin is used by US military forces. It is very toxic to cats and fish, and can harm other animals as well. I googled it as I was not familiar with it. Apparently it is very effective, and given that our armed forces' mission is protecting the country, I can see why they would want to use it. But, I would not use it—too dangerous. And, I have two cats!

I have recently found several larval ticks dug in to my skin. How do I know they are larvae? Because they have 6 legs, not 8. They are super tiny, but visible to the naked eye. I get a red spot around any tick bite (not the bull's eye) due to an allergic reaction to the material they inject as they are feeding. So, it is easy for me to spot them, a tiny black dot surrounded by a small red spot.

Ruth Douglas

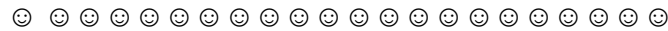
(Ed comment: If you're providing information to clients of VCE, please direct them or make a copy of publication 2906-1396 by Eric Day, e.g. pubs.ext.vt.edu/2906/2906-1396/2906-1396.html)



Invasives Removal

Your Board of Directors set up an ad hoc committee on Invasive Species Projects to determine the scope, coordination and possible sponsorship of a site. Jackie Heath and Tana Herndon have offered to be on this short term committee which will report back to the board on October 6 with some recommendations. Would you like to help them? Contact Jackie at jackieheath@comcast.net if you are willing. You will get administrative volunteer hours for participating on the committee. Of course, removing the invasives and or coordinating invasive removal on approved projects count as stewardship hours.

If you have strong feelings about adopting a site somewhere in our area (to remove invasives 2-3 times a year), feel free to communicate with Jackie and/or Tana and they will pass it on to the committee.



Deadline for items to be included in the newsletter is the **28th of the month before the next quarter (December)**. 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.

