

Virginia  
Master  
Naturalist



Celebrating 10 Years of Service to Virginia



Jim McGlone  
Urban Forest Conservationist  
VMN Steering Committee  
FMN Chapter Advisor

# Virginia Master Naturalist Sponsors

Sponsored by 7 agencies:



Also supported by:



## **Mission:**

The Virginia Master Naturalist program is a statewide corps of volunteers providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.



# Program Structure

## Local Partners

Providing training and volunteer opportunities

## Chapter Advisor

Local representative of one of the 7 sponsoring agencies



## Chapters

Led by volunteer officers and committee chairs

Made up of certified Virginia Master Naturalists and individuals working towards certification

## Executive Committee

Represents the sponsoring agencies and makes final decisions about policy, personnel, and budget.

## Program Coordinator

Leads program development, supports operations of program, provides a central source for program information

## Steering Committee

Develops program policies and advises program operations. Approves chapter activities.

# Virginia Master Naturalist Chapters



# Active Members in PWR



☞ Banshee Reeks = 88

☞ Merrimac Farm = 63

☞ Fairfax = 168

☞ Arlington = 216

☞ Central Rappahannock = 111

☞ Northern Neck = 58

## Local Partners

Providing training and  
volunteer opportunities

## Chapters

Led by volunteer officers  
and committee chairs

Made up of certified Virginia Master  
Naturalists and individuals working  
towards certification







# Certification Process

## Basic Training

40 hours

Classroom and field experiences

Natural history, conservation and management, teaching and research skills

Led by local experts

+

## Continuing Education

8 hours

Specialized topics that build on basic training

Required annually to maintain certification

+

## Volunteer Service

40 hours

Education, citizen science, stewardship or administration

Required annually to maintain certification

=

Certified Virginia Master Naturalist

# A Virginia Master Naturalist Knows...

- ❧ Mission, objectives, and guidelines of the program
- ❧ Significance of naturalists and natural history
- ❧ Biogeography of Virginia
- ❧ Ecology (basic concepts)
- ❧ Geology (basic concepts)
- ❧ Resource management (basic principles)
- ❧ Some native flora and fauna in the region
- ❧ Process of science
- ❧ Roles of Virginia state agencies in the management and conservation of natural resources



# A Virginia Master Naturalist Can...

- ☞ Use a key to identify organisms
- ☞ Use a field guide
- ☞ Share knowledge with others
- ☞ Make and record observations in nature
- ☞ Recognize when he or she does not know the answer to a question, but be able to seek out answers from people, books, or other reliable resources



# Volunteer Service Project Guidelines

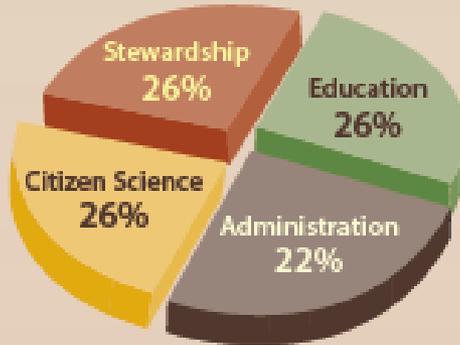
- Minimum of 40 hours to maintain certification
- Must be dedicated to the beneficial management of the natural resources within the local community
- Must be for public benefit, not personal gain
- May be a series of short, unrelated experiences, a long-term commitment to single project, or a mix
- Can be conducted independently or as a team
- Can be part of an existing partner project, a new project developed by the volunteer, or a class project



# Education

Total volunteer hours

**526,583**



Total  
Monetary  
value of  
**\$12,372,233**



## Citizen Science

## Stewardship



Planting Native Wildflowers at  
VDOT Rest Area



## From Our Sponsors - Experience the Bay at the State Fair

7/31/2015

0 Comments



*This fall VMN will work side-by-side with state natural resource personnel at the Virginia State Fair to help students and families experience Virginia's Chesapeake Bay and natural resources. Please consider signing up.  
Photo by Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.*

*By Ann Regn, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality*

# Continuing Education-Objectives



- Promotes continued learning and development of naturalist skills
- Provides knowledge and skills necessary to work in local volunteer efforts
- Provides an opportunity to focus interests
- Builds on the core curriculum initially provided
- Provides information on natural resources and resource management applicable to VA
- May be 8 hours of one training, or a series of shorter trainings

# Continuing Education-Examples

- Short courses and workshops offered by state or local partners on specialized topics such as forest management or public speaking skills
- Training specific to a planned service project such as invasive plant ID or Wildlife Mapping
- Public lectures on natural history topics if they meet the advanced training objectives and pertain to local natural resources

## *2015-2016 Watershed Educators Institute*

*The Watershed Educators Institute is a series of one and two day workshops offered from October 2015 through June 2016 for those desiring to be formally recognized as leaders in watershed education in the Commonwealth of Virginia.*



### ***Designing and Leading a MWEE for School Groups***

Required workshop for anyone desiring to receive a Certificate of Recognition as a Watershed Educator Leader.

This workshop will provide a framework for developing effective Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) that result in specific student driven action projects. In the afternoon you will have a chance to begin planning your own seasonal or yearlong action project. Participants will receive CBFs *Guide to Creating a MWEE* and U.S. Fish and Wildlife's *Schoolyard Habitat Project Guide*.

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016

OR

Date: Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016

Location: Ivy Creek Education Bldg  
Charlottesville

Location: Heritage Center  
Pocahontas State Park

Fee: \$15

Fee: \$15

***Assessing the Health of a Watershed – Part 1***

***Assessing the Health of a Watershed – Part 2***

***Introducing Watersheds***

***Methods for Teaching Biological Assessment of Stream Health***

***Freshwater Wetlands Investigation***

***Coastal Wetlands Investigation***

*I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed the Master Naturalist program. It has opened new interests, provided education, and new friendships. It truly has changed the way I look at the world. The VMN program continues to be one of the highlights of my life.*  
(Temple Moore, Northern Neck Chapter)



*I want to say a big “THANK YOU” to you and all of the Old Rag, Rivanna and Shenandoah Master Naturalists who came out to Montpelier and labored over two days to pull so much garlic mustard out. Your group was certainly a breath of fresh air . . . I love it that all of you actually enjoy doing this!*

(Sandra Mudrinich,  
horticulturist at  
Montpelier)





*The Virginia Master Naturalist program transforms lives: our own, and those of the people and other beings that we serve under VMN.*

(Kim Scudera, Fairfax Chapter)



# Virginia Master Naturalist



Michelle Prysby  
Virginia Master Naturalist  
Acting Program Coordinator

[mprysby@vt.edu](mailto:mprysby@vt.edu)

434-872-4571

[www.VirginiaMasterNaturalist.org](http://www.VirginiaMasterNaturalist.org)