

The Naturalist

August 2024 Newsletter | Volume 20, Number 08
Historic Rivers Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists

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Feature Photo: Feather of **Eastern Bluebird** (*Sialia sialis*), New Quarter Park, 8/21/24 by Claire White.

A Message from the President

by Janet Harper

I can't believe the summer is over already. As we head into fall, kids are back in school and we're back to our regular monthly board and general meetings. It will be great to be together as a group again. I hope you can all attend the meeting!

We look forward to welcoming several new members to our chapter. **Daniel Brooks** from the Department of Forestry will be our new chapter advisor along with Meagan Thomas. He'll be replacing John Gresham as an advisor. Daniel has been out west for work, so I'm not sure he'll be able to attend our meeting, but we're so excited to have him join us. We have 2 new folks who transferred from other chapters, **Linda Hughes** and **Christine McKinnon**. We're also welcoming **Daniel Keener** back to the active list. Many of you will remember Daneil as a very knowledgeable young man. We'll introduce them at the meeting if they can come. As you see them out and about, please welcome them and help them get involved.

As mentioned back in May, the board is proposing to increase the annual dues to \$35. We will need to vote on that at the September general meeting.

Lots of events are coming up. The **State VMN conference** runs from Sep 27-29, virtually this year.

We've invited nearby chapters to participate in some of our activities that weekend, so you may see some different folks at these events. We have also been invited to attend events the Historic Southside Chapter has planned. That information was sent out by separate email to the chapter. If you haven't registered for the conference yet, please do so, we'd like to have a good showing of our members and it's a great way to get a lot of continuing education credit.

BugFest is also that weekend, on Saturday, Sept 28, from 10-2. Please contact Marie Robertson or Claire White if you'd like to help with that.

The **HRC picnic** at Ted Sargent's place is October 26, with the next day being the rain date. Remember this is an all-day event, but you can come and go as you please and bring friends and family, children included! We don't have many events where we can bring our loved ones, so it's a great opportunity for us to meet them and to show

them what HRC is all about. Would you like to join the planning committee? Contact Marie Robertson or Donna Benson, the more the merrier.

Some of you may be asked to write a report about one of your projects in the next couple of months, as members of the board start working on the annual report. The final product is a very long document with many different sections. Thank you in advance for doing this and adhering to the timetable so the report can be compiled efficiently.

The 'interested' list for a possible Tree Steward Course in 2025 is at 7 currently. It wouldn't be cost-effective to run a course without at least 15 people, so if you're interested and I don't have your name yet, please email me. The initial plan was to offer the course perhaps every 2-3 years depending on interest.

If I haven't thanked you lately, thank you everyone for making this such a great chapter! We rock!

On the Calendar

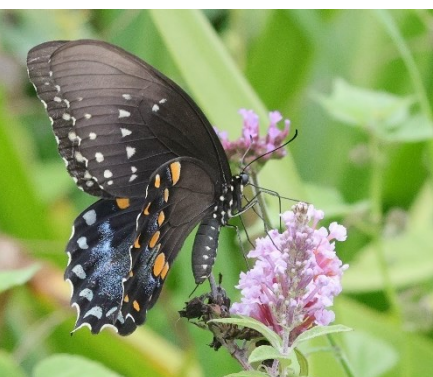
See Better Impact, HRC Google Group emails, and Continuing education (CE) emails for more opportunities.

Wednesday	Sept 11	HRC Hybrid General Meeting 6-7:45pm at JCC Library CE Speaker Portion: Judy Jones, HRC Member, "Owls: Photos and Stories"
Sunday	Sept 15	CE Bird Walk 7am with Hampton Roads Bird Club at Newport News Park
Monday	Sept 16	Registration deadline for Virtual VMN Conference (Sept 27-29) \$20-80
Tuesday	Sept 17	Field Trip to Dragon Run Watershed 10am Signup with Brad Glasebrook
Friday	Sept 20	Litter pickup at College Creek Beach 9-10am Meet in parking lot
Friday	Sept 20	CE Virtual Chestnut Chat 11:30am-1pm Register at tacf.org
Tuesday	Sept 24	CE Monarch Webinar 1-2pm Register monarchjointventure.org
Saturday	Sept 28	BugFest 10am-2pm Contact Claire White or Marie Robertson to help
Sunday	Sept 29	Wildlife Mapping Yorktown 9am-12pm Meet at NPS Visitor's Center Lot



Photo: Turkeys at Sweethaven Lavender Farm during Annual Butterfly Count, 8/3/24 by Deborah Humphries.

11th Annual Butterfly Count Summary by Adrienne Frank



Pictured: Above, Adrienne Frank, official count compiler in a field of flowers. Photographed by Barb Creel. **Left, butterfly photos** by Deborah Humphries: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Fiery Skipper, American Lady, and Spicebush Swallowtail.

Thank you to those who participated in our 11th Annual Williamsburg Area Butterfly Count on August 3, 2024. The weather was great for the butterflies starting mid-morning. At 9:00 am, it was about 80 degrees and cloudy, and as the temperature went up into the 90s, the butterflies came out.

Hearty observers braved the heat and humidity and a few remained counting until a little after 5 pm. There were small groups that ventured out into 7 sectors within the 15-mile diameter circle. We had the highest number of participants ever (57 observers).

Forty-eight butterfly species were identified and 2264 individuals. I am happy to say that this year had a higher species count than the past two years. Since 2014, the annual average of species was 49.6 and average individuals of 1783, so this count was slightly low in species, but higher in individuals. In addition to adult butterflies, we had reports of caterpillars including Brazilian, Viceroy, Monarch, and Black Swallowtail.

There were some single sightings, only one seen in the whole count: a Northern Cloudywing, Eastern Comma, Northern Pearl-eye, Common Sootywing, Broadwing Skipper, and Crossline Skipper. There were a few species that we have had in years past but missed this year: Hackberry and Tawny Emperor, and several skippers (e.g., Swarthy, Tawny-edged).

On August 3, the most observed species was the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (394). We had new high counts for quite a few species: Spicebush, Cabbage, Cloudless, Sleepy, Red-spotted purple, Silver spotted, Horace's Duskywing, and Fiery Skipper.

Each of the 7 sectors reported varied species. Here are some highlights:

The Gloucester sector, in its 5th year, had 10 observers. They had 2 fewer species than last year, but more individual butterflies. In comparison to other sectors, their great finds were 4 Appalachian Brown and a Crossline Skipper (only a few sightings since 2014).

Williamsburg City had 12 people observing the gardens of Colonial Williamsburg and several other spots around town. The team had the highest number of individual butterflies for Fiery Skipper (154) and Silver Spotted Skippers (109). A highlight was finding a Viceroy caterpillar. One team member surveyed the William & Mary campus and saw the only Common Sootywing for the count.

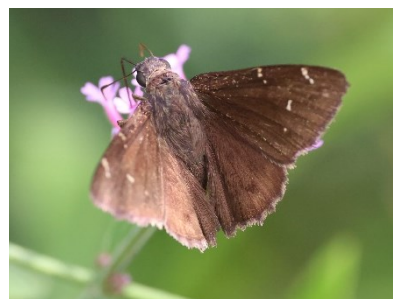
The Lower York sector surveyed New Quarter Park and other nearby locations and had 9 observers. New Quarter Park's woods and proximity to Queen's Creek yields some marsh butterflies not often seen in other sectors (e.g., 6 Salt Marsh Skippers). The Northern Pearly-eye and Broadwing Skipper were only observed in this park. They also discovered a Brazilian Skipper caterpillar.

Upper York County team covered York River State Park and surrounding areas and had 8 observers. They had the high numbers for both the Eastern Tiger and Spicebush Swallowtails, Cloudless Sulphurs, American Ladies, and Ocola Skippers. Carolina Satyr was only recorded here.

Freedom Park and the Warhill Tract had a team of 7. They found 6 Black Swallowtail caterpillars, 6 adult Monarchs, 23 Sachem, and one of the Appalachian Brown. Plus, many other species found by our sectors.

The Centerville Corridor had the highest numbers of Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (104), high numbers of Sleepy Orange (48 – this was 13 individuals greater than the last high number), Eastern Tailed Blue (14), and Little Glassywing (7). The seven-member team visited the Lavender Farm, Colonial Heritage, and other spots along the corridor.

Upper James City County sector had a number of private gardens and six observers. The two highlights were a Comma and a Northern Cloudywing. Both



Photos above: (1) Central Williamsburg participants (left to right) Linda Morse, Sherry Brubaker, Melissa Schutt, Judy Jones, Bob Kaplan, Bill Weldon, Keith Navia, Bruce Glendening, Jennifer Smith (Trainee, Cohort XVIII). Photo by Jeanette Navia. **(2) Centerville participants** (left to right) Deborah Humphries, Karen Creef (Trainee, Cohort XVIII), Babs Giffin, Shan Gill, Patty Maloney, Joanne Sheffield, and Shirley Devan. Photo credit Shirley. **(3-4) Northern Cloudy Wing** (left) versus Southern Cloudy Wing (right).

have only been seen a couple of times over the years. A **Southern Broken-dash** (pictured right) was observed here and in Gloucester.

The data was submitted to the **North American Butterfly Association (NABA)** website. Many thanks again to Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory and the Historic Rivers Chapter VMN for covering the \$3 fee for each of the 57 observers. Many thanks go out to our state and local parks, counties, businesses, and private owners who helped to make the count a success. Thank you all for joining in, weathering the heat, making great observations, and taking lots of photographs. What a team!

Please **SAVE the DATE** for next year, Saturday August 9, 2025.



Exciting Times at the Brickyard by Judy Kinshaw-Ellis



and treated for weeds. We hope to seed in the late fall.

We are also visiting some meadows around the region to find out what others have learned. This process has been very rewarding, and we are excited to see meadows in different stages of the process.

We also have started work on three educational signs. The park will have a sign about riparian buffers, one about meadow habitats, and one about planting native plants rather than non-natives or invasives. We have been busy checking out signs as we visit other parks around the region. We will also be putting a call out to our talented VMN photographers to submit photos for the signs.

If you have questions about Brickyard Landing, contact co-leads Donna Benson (mid520@mac.com) or Judy Kinshaw-Ellis (kinshawellis@gmail.com), or stop by the park at 990 Brickyard Road, Lanexa, on Monday or Thursday mornings between 8 am and 11 am. Many thanks to our intrepid volunteer crew.

Bladderworts at Greensprings Interpretive Trail

by Martha Bunim Moss



On a Thursday in August, Jeanette and Keith Navia led an HRC group in Greensprings for wildlife mapping. The week before, I had been there on my own, and noticed some yellow flowers in the swamp that I had not seen before. When I posted a photo of them, pictured above, a Maine Master Naturalist friend identified them as bladderworts. The yellow flowers, held about 6-12 inches above the surface, look something like snapdragons, and they are insect pollinated. Just looking at the flowers, one would not suspect them as being unusual, but they certainly are.

Beneath the Surface

Bladderworts are found in every continent except Antarctica. There are about 230 species; some are terrestrial and have normal looking roots in the ground, but most are aquatic, and have no roots, only bladders along the stems of the floating leaves, just below the water's surface.

Bladderwort's scientific name, *Utricularia*, means little utricles, or bladders. These bladders have tiny hairs around a closed entryway. When mosquito larvae, water fleas, or marine worms, brush up against those trip wires, the animal is sucked inside the bladder, together with more water. The speed of this "death trap" motion is about 1/10,000 of a second, calculated to be the fastest action in the entire plant world! Hormonal bodies, embedded in the interior wall of each bladder, then spray out

digestive enzymes. Fifteen minutes later, the animal is digested, and the trap is reset. It pumps out most of the water, in order to be ready to trap another mosquito or other tiny water organism. When there is a paucity of animals, it will "eat" algae. The water within the bladder is full of symbiotic microbes, which aid the plant's carnivorous process.

This plant could have very important practical significance in areas of the world plagued by diseases transmitted by mosquitoes. In laboratory studies, in India, researchers found astonishing results. Some disease carrying mosquitoes were 95-100% eliminated by the action of bladderwort, in only five days! This was the first study to look at using bladderwort as a biological control. For example, the *Anopheles stephensi* mosquito, which causes malaria, was 95% eliminated after just 12 hours of exposure. It could thus be an important factor in saving millions of lives in Africa, India and elsewhere.

Citation: Ajeet Kumar Mohanty, Abhishek Govekar, Charles de Souza, et al. Evaluating the carnivorous efficacy of *Utricularia aurea* (Lamiales: Lentibulariaceae) on the larval stages of *Anopheles stephensi*, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, and *Aedes aegypti* (Diptera: Culicidae), *Journal of Medical Entomology*, Volume 61, Issue 3, May 2024, Pages 719-725, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jme/tjae038>

Red Admiral Butterfly Photo Essay by Shirley Devan

Smallspike False Nettle, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, is a big presence in my patio garden – and getting bigger every year. I need to get aggressive with it, that’s for sure. Meanwhile, it is a host plant of the Red Admiral butterfly, *Vanessa atalanta*, one of our area’s most colorful summer flyers.



A Red Admiral visits my nettle periodically, probably more than I’m aware since I would only see it when I’m on the patio and that’s mainly when I’m eating lunch or in late afternoon with a cold adult beverage counting birds and butterflies. I’ve managed to have my camera with me on a couple of occasions when one has flitted through. They are hard to photograph because they don’t sit in one place very long. I’ve snapped a few acceptable images over the summer.

All summer I’ve tried to find Red Admiral eggs and caterpillars on my nettle. No success until this week (the last week in August) when I spotted a couple of leaves folded over each other. And I know that some caterpillars create a safe space for themselves with this technique.

I carefully peaked inside the folded leaves on August 30 and indeed found a caterpillar. Woohoo! Unlike Monarchs that may wander away from their host plant, the caterpillar of the Red Admiral stays on its host plant, forms a chrysalis inside the folded leaves, and then emerges as a butterfly.

I have not yet seen an adult Red Admiral emerge from the leaf enclosure. To do that, I’ll need to set up camp on the patio for a few days. I wish I could do that. Perhaps it will happen during lunchtime.

Pictured above: August 12th, Red Admiral on False Nettle in patio garden.

Pictured below: Left: August 30th, leaf enclosure formed by two leaves folded together (in the middle of the photo). **Center:** August 31st, Red Admiral caterpillar inside the leaf enclosure. I carefully folded the leaves back together. **Right:** September 1st, Red Admiral chrysalis inside the leaf enclosure.





Empty Feeder Blues by Judy Jones

Have your bird feeders been emptying quickly? Do you wonder at the rapacious appetites of our feathered friends? Are you mortgaging your house to pay for the many bags of bird seed you need?

Don't blame the birds!!! Blame the cicadas!

That's right! This cicada emergence of broods 13 and 17 provided the birds with a Golden Corral buffet of dietary delights. They had an abundance of food! And as the 1.5 million cicadas provided a protein-rich environment, many of the happily munching birds had enough energy for third broods—the binge-fest that birds enjoyed during this period supersized their families. (A slightly different side effect was created because the birds ate fewer caterpillars. As a result, the insects flourished, eating their way through the

forest leaves. We may have a real bumper crop of butterflies this fall!)

So how does a huge cicada emergence in the spring impact my feeders now? Well, we have a perfect storm of bird seed gobbling happening as we speak. We have adult birds grabbing a quick bite as they search for insects to take back to the chicks in the nest. We have fledglings who have just learned of the easy pickings at the bird feeders. We have all sorts of birds bulking up as they prepare to migrate. And we have birds who are early migrators stopping by for a meal on their way south.

So, keep on buying that bird seed. A lot of our avian buddies are relying on your generosity for their three meals a day. (Photo above: Eastern bluebird with periodical cicada in its beak.)

Save the Date: Saturday, October 26th

HRC FALL PICNIC at Ted and Judy Sargent's home

It begins with the bird walk at 8:00 am and ends with a wonderful crab fest and potluck cookout.

Put this date on your calendar and come join us! It's the BEST!

More information is coming as the date draws closer. Contact Marie Robertson or Donna Benson, your HRC Hospitality Chairs, if you are interested in helping the committee prepare.



CAR Materials: Check it out by Janet Harper

It occurred to me that not every chapter member knows the extent of our Collections and Resources (CAR, pronounced “car”). It was several years after my training before I realized we had a lot of resources. Materials would show up at an outreach event without much thought for where they came from.

Once we started bringing some of the CAR boxes to basic training, new members were able to see a very small portion of what we have. We have so many materials that we fill up a large portion of a storage unit in Williamsburg!

If you’re doing an activity, I bet we have something in the CAR for you to display there! We associate these materials with community outreach events, but they can also be used to augment speaker’s bureau events, basic training field days, and school outreach and nature clubs.

MJ O’Bryan and Ron Hunt will be updating the inventory list, and I hope to have it posted on Better Impact in the future so everyone can see what we have. Recent additions include: 10 ‘Bee and Other Pollinator’ folding guides, 10 laminated copies of Adrienne’s Butterfly guide, large and small tree cookies (thanks to Bill Grass and Rick Brown!), a third table, and a collapsible heavy-duty cart for hauling supplies to events.

We have a lot of stuff, let’s make good use of it!



Photo above: A glimpse inside the Collections and Resources (CAR) storage facility in July. Bins are organized by topic. Posters, handouts, books, craft supplies, specimens (both real and replicas), and much more are available for checkout for HRC projects. Photo by Claire White.

Future of W&M Landscaping and Environmental Policies

by Tracy Matthew Melton

The William & Mary (W&M) campus is spread over 1158 acres, including 755 acres of undeveloped and mostly forested land and 47-acre Lake Matoaka. These natural spaces are critical to the local and regional environment.

W&M is currently developing a new Campus Comprehensive Plan to guide “the use and objectives for W&M’s multiple campuses, and their current and future transformations.” The Campus Comprehensive Planning Committee is now engaging stakeholders, gathering data, and conducting utilization studies. It will “then synthesize these inputs into an overarching strategic vision.” The Landscape Plan is to be finalized in summer 2025 and the Learning Spaces Plan in fall 2025.

From September to November, the Planning Committee will be holding public meetings on various topics. Some of these meetings may be of interest to Historic Rivers Chapter members. Below is a link to the schedule and a list of meetings that may be of particular interest to HRC members. All these meetings are one hour. Please note that separate Planning Committee meetings are being held in the same location before all these landscaping ones.

<https://www.wm.edu/about/administration/senioradmin/operations/initiatives/masterplan/upcoming-events/>

I anticipate that the *Infrastructure Connections: A Discussion of Utilities, Energy Management and Telecommunications Networks* on October 16 will include a discussion of the large-scale geothermal systems being installed on campus. Here is a brief description of those systems:

<https://www.wm.edu/offices/architect/sustainability-stewardship/geothermal/>

Information on W&M Visitor Parking:

<https://www.wm.edu/offices/auxiliary/parkingandtransportation/visitors/parking/>

List of Public Landscape Meetings

WEDNESDAYS, times and rooms vary, all in Sadler Center

September 4th, 10 a.m. in Chesapeake AB Room
Plantings & Trees: What's right for William & Mary?

October 2nd, 4 p.m. in Tidewater AB Rom
Pathways Forward: Innovations in Roadway & Pathway Design

October 16th, 10 a.m. in Chesapeake AB Room
Infrastructure Connections: A Discussion of Utilities, Energy Management and Telecommunications Networks

October 30th, 2 p.m. in Chesapeake AB Room
Resource Management: The Role of Forest, Water, and Wildlife

November 13th, 4 p.m. in Tidewater AB Rom
Land Management Strategies: What and where is the future of development?

Continued Outreach in Lackey Area by J. Harper, photos by C. White

Claire White, Stephanie Schmuck, Bill Harper and Janet Harper hosted a booth at the Charles E. Brown Park August 24 'Back to School Bash' event. We had information on animal migration, several activity sheets for children and a **pinecone bird feeder craft** (picture left) which was a big hit for all ages. There were around 42 people in attendance, with 16 adults and children coming to our table (pictured center with Stephanie and Bill). The book box (pictured right with Janet and Claire) was also restocked that evening, bringing our year total to 151 items for that box alone. The plan is to continue restocking this box as well as the Lackey clinic one.



My August Backyard Discovery: Caterpillars on Wild Senna

by Marie Robertson

On a recent evening at the end of August, I was walking around my backyard taking stock of what was blooming and changing. I happened to notice a large, yellow caterpillar on my Wild Senna (*Senna hebecarpa*). It was remarkably bright, and very different from the smaller, green caterpillars that I had seen on the Wild Senna in previous years. I took a few pictures and as I did so, discovered two smaller, bright yellow caterpillars with amazingly detailed markings. The photo below shows all 3 caterpillars of different sizes. Can you find them?



I researched and found out that they are the caterpillars of the Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*) butterfly, which I often see fluttering around my yard, and is one of the butterflies that uses Wild Senna as a host plant. When the caterpillar eats the green foliage of Wild Senna, it is green in color; when it eats the yellow flowers of the plant, it becomes yellow in color. Natural camouflage at its best!

I also learned that the pollen of the Wild Senna flowers has a high protein-to-lipid ratio, which is preferential to bumblebees. The flower of the Wild Senna does not have nectaries (the part of the flower that produces nectar), so pollinators visit Wild Senna not for nectar, but simply for its highly nutritious pollen. If you are looking for a wonderful pollinator plant for a part-sun to full-sun location, consider adding Wild Senna to your yard. I can probably share some seeds later in the fall.

Pictured below is a closeup of the Cloudless Sulphur caterpillar from my backyard on a stem of Wild Senna. To the right is an adult Cloudless Sulfur butterfly on a flower, photographed by Deborah Humphries on August 3rd during the annual Williamsburg Butterfly Count at the Sweethaven Lavender Farm.



College Creek Beach Update

by Marie Robertson

In August we had two productive trash pickups at College Creek Beach and the Hawkwatch parking pullout along the Colonial National Historical Parkway. We collected 51 pounds near the Hawkwatch parking area and 84 pounds in our usual pickup area around College Creek beach. This brings us to a **total of 744 pounds since January**. We are so appreciative of the many HRC members that help us collect trash; we could not have achieved this without your dedication.

While the pickups can at times be hot, muggy, buggy and smelly, we get a great sense of satisfaction from cleaning up such a beautiful natural area. Eagles, osprey and cormorants often fly above us and hermit crabs scurry around the rocks as we collect trash. We find discarded spools of fishing line, broken fishing rods, lots of bottles and containers, and recently even a broken charcoal grill. Many visitors that see us collecting trash thank us for our service, and we often hear from regular visitors that they pick up what they can when they visit the beach.

At the last pickup, Dave Watt and I spoke with a gentleman that was fishing near us. He occasionally brings his 10-year-old son with him, and they always pick up trash while fishing. He said he tries to instill in his son a sense of responsibility about the environment. While we talked, he helped us cut and collect tangled fishing line, and bottles and trash that were scattered on and among the rocks. Meeting helpful citizens such as this gentleman and keeping the natural area clean for the wildlife are wonderful rewards for this stewardship activity. Let's keep up the good work!

Pictured right: Trees at College Creek surviving in challenging situations. Photos were taken during our most recent trash pickup days in August. The top photo is a maple tree that is almost completely uprooted, except for one or two roots still in the ground. The second photo is a pine tree and a sweet gum that are growing so tightly together that they have practically become one tree.



Calendar Bird: Beyonce the Baltimore Oriole by Deborah Humphries



I usually select no printed materials when I join [Project FeederWatch](#), but this year I might have to change that selection for the 2025 calendar. My photo of the Baltimore Oriole that was with us for 5 weeks was selected for the month of April page.

This Baltimore Oriole showed up in our yard on December 13th, 2023. I heard her before I saw her. At first, she was territorial over the seed feeder whenever she visited, but over the weeks she got more "friendly" with the residents of the yard and didn't chase anyone off of it. After first seeing her, I added grape jelly to the center of the hummingbird feeder. She went to that every morning around 9:30am.

While texting with friends about her, my autocorrect changed Baltimore to "Beyonce" and from that point on, that's what we

called her. The photo here and the one in the April 2025 calendar page were both taken in the cedar trees I have next to my deck. They were a perfect perch for her near the jelly feeder, where she kept an eye on the back yard and would issue warnings when hawks flew in.

The last time I saw her in the yard was January 19th, 2024. She made it onto the Williamsburg 2023 Christmas bird count; she was the first bird on my Jan 1, 2024, eBird list and of course she's part of Project FeederWatch. I'm so excited Beyonce made it into the 2025 calendar. Hopefully she'll come back next season.

Shorter Shares from HRC Members and Beyond



Aug 9: Everyone Sharing by Nancy Barnhardt

Starting with one male and two females there are now 15 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at our feeders, so they have had to learn to share. The Eastern Tiger Swallowtail was readily accepted, the yellow jacket took a little longer to be welcome.



Aug 10: Green Heron

A green heron made a pitstop on MJ O'Bryan's oyster gardening float. She gardens off her home dock for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Oyster Restoration program, an HRC approved project.



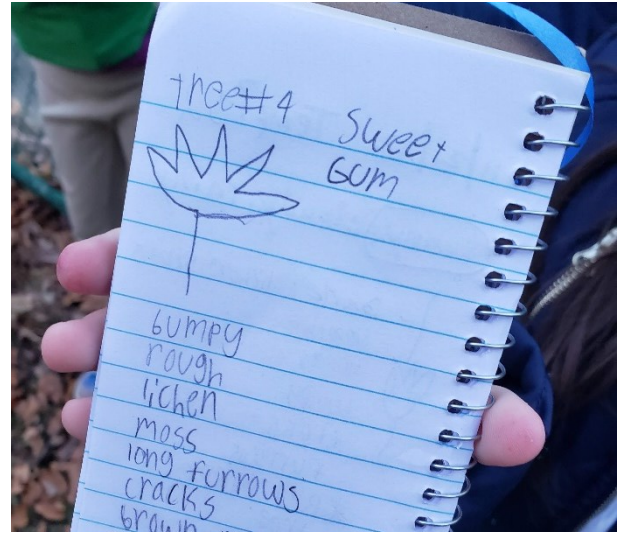
Aug 14: Wildlife Mapping at Jamestown Island by Deborah Humphries

This trio of Bluebirds put on a show flying in and out of this cavity during wildlife mapping at Jamestown Island. The cavity is in one of the snags alongside the NPS bridge.



Aug 20: Basic Training (BT) Informational Meeting

Sixteen accepted applicants met with the Basic Training Committee at the Williamsburg Regional Library on a Tuesday evening. Pictured above Janet Harper, HRC President, gives a welcome message to the group. Tory Gussman and Jim Leech, Basic Training co-chairs gave an overview of the program. The evening ended with mentors gathering in small groups with their mentees, and everyone enjoying light snacks. The first class for the new Cohort XVIII begins September 10th.



Help Wanted: A Few Consistent Volunteers

Help engage young minds interested in nature using a pre-planned program each week.

The SHIP Nature Explorers Club for 3rd-5th Graders at James River Elementary will be meeting on Tuesdays from 3:15 (snack time in the cafeteria) until 4:30 (parent pick up) this fall.

Our dates will be Tuesdays: October 22, October 29, (SKIP the 5th) November 12, November 19, November 26, December 3, and December 10.

Please consider this opportunity to work with children and direct any questions/interest to Pat Murphy at devlinmurphy@yahoo.com.

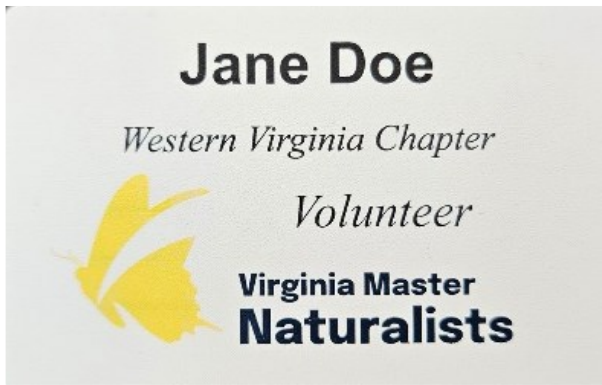
Keep Learning Links...

iNaturalist webinar (counts as CE): [How Your iNaturalist Data Makes a Difference for Biodiversity](#)

NPR article: [A photographer captures life in America's last remaining old-growth forests](#) by Ben de la Cruz

Aeon article: [Ant geopolitics](#) by John Whitfield

William & Mary Alumni Magazine article: [Restoring Williamsburg's woods, one plant at a time](#) by Tracy Melton



Sept 12: Deadline for Replacement Name Tags

Contact Judy Jones for your name tag style selections and get your payment (\$6.25) to Marc Moyers, our treasurer. The September 11 monthly meeting is a great place to do this in person as Judy is the speaker for the night!



Help Needed: BugFest

Several of our volunteers from last year's event can't make it out due to other commitments. We have room for up to 14 volunteers spread across several jobs for two 2-hour shifts at the HRC cicada themed tables on Saturday, September 28th at Grafton Middle School.

This annual event grows every year. Last year 87 crafts were assembled by children over the course of 4-hours at our tables with the help of HRC volunteers. We had 88 adult contacts at our HRC display which highlights our program's mission and

provides resources like our app handouts and butterfly brochures. Contact Claire White or Marie Robertson if you're interested. Novices welcome! We'll train you. Photo is of an annual cicada.

P.S. Yes, this is the same weekend as the VMN Annual Conference and a Basic Training Field Day. If you're not required to be at those events we'd love to have you.

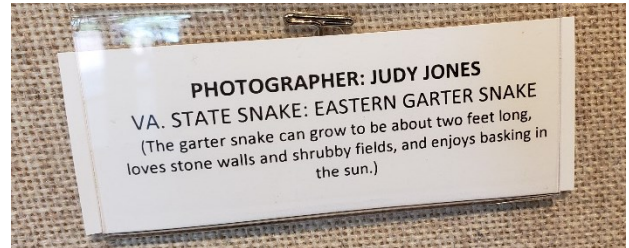


Photo Display Wraps Up

The HRC Photo Display "Through the Eye of a Master Naturalist" was available to the public for viewing this summer in the Williamsburg Library theatre gallery and closed on August 31st. Pictured above is one of Judy Jones' submissions for the Eastern Garter Snake category. The photo captions had interesting facts and observations to share. Keep snapping pics when out in the field and consider submitting photos for next year's photography contest.

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. Interested Virginians become Master Naturalists through training and volunteer service. The program is jointly sponsored by seven state organizations including the Virginia Cooperative Extension and is based in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation within the College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech.

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Learn more about our chapter at historicrivers.org

The **Naturalist** is the monthly newsletter of the Historic River Chapter (HRC) of Virginia Master Naturalists. Other organizations may not publish material from the newsletter without express permission from the chapter. Newsletter contributions should be emailed to HRCeNewsletter@gmail.com by the end of the month. If you have a submission in the works, please notify the newsletter editor. Photos should include concise captions and credits to photographer(s).



*Bonus pic: Striped Horse Fly (*Tabanus lineola*) on a sign at Jamestown Island on August 9. Photo by Claire White.*

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