



# Dear Virginia Master Naturalist supporters,

I've had the pleasure this year of watching our fledgling program mature, and it has been amazing to see and hear about all of the accomplishments of our volunteers. Because of Virginia Master Naturalist volunteers, more kids are outdoors learning about nature...and more adults too! Thousands of acres of land have been improved through riparian plantings, wildlife habitat restoration projects, and invasive species management efforts. In total, Virginia Master Naturalists have contributed over \$1 million in service to the Commonwealth. That's an impressive milestone for a program that is only 3 years old.

I was especially delighted to give out two chapter awards last year to our two chapters with the strongest volunteering records: the Historic Rivers Chapter, located in the Williamsburg area, and the Beagle Ridge Chapter in the Wytheville area. Really, all of our chapters are doing a fantastic job recruiting and retaining volunteers, developing partnerships, matching volunteers to service opportunities, and helping our program to be recognized across Virginia and beyond. Thank you to all of our volunteers, chapter advisors, sponsoring agencies, local partners, and committee members for all your hard work.

I invite you to read on through this newsletter/annual report to meet some of our volunteers, learn about the impressive service projects completed by Master Naturalists across the state, and discover some of our other program accomplishments in 2008.

Sincerely,



Michelle Prysby

Virginia Master Naturalist Program Coordinator

Virginia Tech Department of Forestry/Virginia Cooperative Extension



## Save the Date!

We will hold our **Second Annual Virginia Master Naturalist Statewide Volunteer Conference and Training** in 2009!

When: October 30-November 1

Where: Leesburg, VA

What: A full weekend of advanced training opportunities, networking with other Master Naturalists, and, of course, having fun!

More details and registration information will be posted on the program Web site.

Photo: Master Naturalists enjoy the fall colors during a birding field trip at the 2008 Virginia Master Naturalist Statewide Volunteer Conference and Training in Wytheville, VA. Thank you to the anonymous person who posted this lovely photo on our photo-sharing site! (See page 11.)

## What's Inside?

Overview	2
Statistics	3
Service	4
Spotlight on a volunteer	7
Milestone achievers	8
Other accomplishments	8
Invasives	9
Chapters	11
Web sites	11
Contact info	12

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

## The Virginia Master Naturalist Program: An Overview

**T**he Virginia Master Naturalist Program is a statewide volunteer training program positively impacting natural resource education and conservation across Virginia. The program's mission is to be a corps of well-informed volunteers providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**A**t the state level, the program is sponsored jointly by Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and the Virginia Museum of Natural History. The Virginia Tech Forestry Department and College of Natural Resources provide additional support. Local partnerships are a cornerstone of the program and include other public agencies, as well as private organizations involved in conservation and education.

**T**he program consists of a network of 25 Virginia Master Naturalist chapters across the state. Each chapter is responsible for recruiting and training volunteers and for working with partners to create and coordinate volunteer service opportunities. The training consists of a minimum of 40 hours classroom and field time covering a core set of curriculum objectives. The objectives focus on



Dan River Chapter volunteers check out a turtle while out on a field trip.

Photo from Dan River Master Naturalists.

ecology, natural resource management, basic natural history of the animals and plants of Virginia, and skills for teaching and field research. Volunteers also complete 8 hours of advanced training that provides more specialized skills and knowledge. To become a Certified Virginia Master Naturalist, each volunteer must also complete 40 hours of service. This service can be in the form of education (such as leading an interpretive program in a state park), citizen science (such as collecting data on wildlife populations), or stewardship (such as restoring a natural area).

**T**his program benefits Virginia's citizenry, its public lands, and its natural resources. The development of a dedicated volunteer corps expands the capacity of Virginia's natural resource agencies. The cooperative nature of the program provides a mechanism for state, local, non-profit, and other partners to work together towards the common goals of conservation and education. The volunteer service provides a purposeful way for citizens to spend time outdoors and on Virginia's public lands.



Arlington Regional Master Naturalists immerse themselves in learning about aquatic ecology during a canoe trip.

Photo from Arlington Master Naturalists.



## 2008 Program Statistics

These data, provided by the chapters, show how our volunteers are making a difference. These figures represent a minimum; volunteer hours and impacts tend to be underreported.

<b>Number of Basic Training Courses Held</b>	<b>23</b>	
<b>Number of Volunteers Trained in 2008</b>	<b>390</b>	
<b>Total Number of Trained Volunteers</b>	<b>910</b>	
<b>Number of Active Volunteers</b>	<b>636 (70%)</b>	Active volunteers are individuals who reported any volunteer service during the year.
<b>Number of Certified VMNs</b>	<b>315 (35%)</b>	
<b>Volunteer Hours: Education</b>	<b>7116</b>	E.g. Interpretive programs, classroom presentations, and development of interpretive materials.
<b>Number of People Directly Reached Through Education Programs</b>	<b>18,849</b>	
<b>Number of presentations given by VMN volunteers</b>	<b>415</b>	
<b>Volunteer Hours: Citizen Science</b>	<b>6155</b>	E.g. Water quality monitoring, Wildlife Mapping, and other monitoring and inventory studies.
<b>Volunteer Hours: Stewardship</b>	<b>5254</b>	E.g. Trail building and maintenance, invasive plant removal, and habitat restoration.
<b>Number of acres positively impacted</b>	<b>2562</b>	
<b>Number of miles of trails built/maintained</b>	<b>222</b>	
<b>Total Project Hours:</b>	<b>18,770</b>	
<b>Monetary Value of Volunteer Project Hours:</b>	<b>\$376,907</b>	Based on the Independent Sector's report for VA.
<b>Volunteer Hours: Administration</b>	<b>12,064</b>	These hours reflect the tremendous amount of work completed by local leaders to start new chapters. Established chapters report spending less time on administration and more on projects.
<b>Total Volunteer Hours for 2008</b>	<b>30,834</b>	
<b>Monetary Value of total volunteer hours</b>	<b>\$619,146</b>	Based on the Independent Sector's report for VA.
<b>Total Volunteer Hours 2006-2008</b>	<b>49,877</b>	
<b>Monetary Value of total volunteer hours 2006-2008</b>	<b>\$1,001,535</b>	Based on the Independent Sector's report for VA.

## 2008 Sponsoring Agency Volunteer Project Highlights

Virginia Master Naturalists are clearly making a difference with their volunteer service. In 2008, they contributed more than 18,000 hours of service on education, citizen science, and stewardship projects to benefit Virginia's natural resources. Most of our chapters have a dozen or more on going projects. Some of the most noteworthy projects are highlighted below.

Eastern  
Shore Chapter  
members formed volunteer

### stewardship committees for three DCR Natural Area Preserves.

They have developed fact sheets, monitored water levels, maintained species lists, served as public contacts, and assisted with special events and supervision of other volunteers. "The assistance provided by the volunteer stewardship committees is essential to the effective stewardship of the Eastern Shore Natural Area Preserves," says Dot Field, DCR Natural Area Steward.

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation: VMN volunteers conducted education, citizen science, and stewardship projects at many state parks in 2008, including Bear Creek Lake, Belle Isle, Douthat, Hungry Mother, Kiptopeke, Mason Neck, New River Trail, Smith Mountain Lake, Westmoreland, and York River. They were also active at several DCR Natural Area Preserves. Projects in the parks and preserves included trail maintenance, plant surveys, bird monitoring, and interpretive programs for youth.

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries: Master Naturalists DGIF projects in 2008 included stewardship projects at Wildlife Management Areas, writing articles for the Outdoor Report e-newsletter, wildlife and habitat education programs, assisting with Canada goose banding and Mute Swan monitoring, assisting with monitoring of fresh water mussel populations, and wildlife habitat restoration projects.

Most  
of our Master  
Naturalist chapters are  
engaged in collecting data  
for the **WildlifeMapping  
program**, and volunteers  
contributed hundreds of  
hours to this project in  
2008.

The  
Blue Ridge Foothills  
and Lakes Chapter helped to  
develop an **outdoor classroom  
for the Skelton 4-H Center** on Smith Mountain Lake. This small, intimate outdoor classroom gives the students additional exposure to the outdoors, allowing the outdoor education facilitators to be better able to teach key concepts of environmental conservation. Since being built, the outdoor classroom has served as an outdoor learning area for several core curriculum areas: forest ecology, wildlife ecology, and outdoor survival skills. 4-H Center instructors find this outdoor classroom very beneficial to the success of their lessons.

Virginia Cooperative Extension: More than one third of the total VMN volunteer project hours went towards educating others about natural resources, contributing greatly to the Cooperative Extension mission. In fact, VMN volunteers reached more than 18,800 people through their education projects. For example, in 2008, VMN volunteers led several Junior Naturalist 4H clubs, staffed booths at county fairs, conducted Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences for students, assisted with 4H camps, and conducted habitat programs for landowners.

## 2008 Sponsoring Agency Volunteer Project Highlights

**V**irginia Museum of Natural History: Southwestern Piedmont Chapter members contributed 75 hours and reached more than 1600 people with educational programs for Virginia Natural History Museum visitors and special events. In addition, Master Naturalists are volunteering in the paleontology and archaeology labs, cleaning artifacts and doing other things to help manage the collections.

The SW Piedmont Chapter is partnering with the museum on a **long-term biological inventory of Frank Wilson Park**, a Martinsville city park neighboring the museum. The goal of this project is to identify the flora and fauna the park in order to generate a field guide. The volunteers have created a tree measurement and identification protocol to use with new volunteers and school groups. Volunteers have also created a website blog for this project at <http://wilsonparktreesurvey.blogspot.com/>.

The Northern Neck Chapter is helping to build **new trails in the only state forest** in that region. The trails will provide access to both foresters and the general public for educational and recreational purposes. Many uncommon flora are known to grow in these forests but have been inaccessible by trail until now.

**V**irginia Department of Forestry: Master Naturalist projects with DOF in 2008 included tree planting, seed/acorn collecting, and riparian buffer planting. One chapter is assisting the DOF in a deer enclosure study to determine the effects of and educate people about deer browsing in Fairfax County parks. Another chapter is partnering with the DOF on a forest management demonstration plot, on which they have inventoried existing trees, controlled weeds, and planted additional trees.



Beagle Ridge Chapter members help educate the public about wildlife habitats at a Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries booth. Photo from Beagle Ridge Master Naturalists.

## 2008 Local Partner Project Highlights

The Central Piedmont Chapter held a native grassland restoration workshop for landowners, showing landowners from 4 counties how native warm season grasses can be used to replace fescue to provide better wildlife habitat.

Riverine Chapter volunteers partnered with the Richmond Audubon Society on 30 outdoor programs designed to reach an underserved population of children who have not been exposed to nature and outdoor learning.



Beagle Ridge Master Naturalists show others a demonstration rain garden they built with students at a Wythe County elementary school.

The New River Valley Chapter is working with the USDA National Forest Service and several other community partners to develop 1 ½ acres of butterfly habitat near Blacksburg.

Bluebird Trails in Nelson County fledged 140 more Eastern Bluebirds in 2008 than in 2007, thanks to the Central Blue Ridge

Master Naturalists, who built or refurbished 99 new nest boxes and monitored them throughout the summer.

The Central Rappahannock Chapter partnered with Fredericksburg's Mott's Run Nature Center, located at an 860 acre natural area managed for both recreation and protection of a drinking water source. Master Naturalist volunteers staff the nature center to provide natural history information to the public. They answer questions about nature, lead visitors through interactive displays, and maintain a nature journal to track the flora and fauna in the area. The volunteers educated more than 900 visitors in 2008 and have allowed the center to serve more people by providing much needed weekend staffing.

The Fairfax Chapter worked with the Oakton High School Environmental Stewards to plant a native grass and wildflower garden at the school. Students and naturalists worked side by side to design and create the garden. The site is flourishing and has become a popular place for bluebirds to feed.

Old Rag Master Naturalists are working with the Smithsonian Institution to monitor butterfly diversity and abundance. Volunteers counted butterfly species in small plots from July through August. This is part of a regional biodiversity study.

The Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes Chapter has 14 members monitoring water quality with Virginia Save Our Streams. They contributed over 100 hours to the project, and led local students in water monitoring at Booker T. Washington National Monument.

Tidewater Master Naturalists conducted educational programs at the Eastern Shore and Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuges. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is short-handed at both of these refuges, and without the help of the Master Naturalists, they would not be able to offer these significant programs designed to teach area youth about the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

## Spotlight on a Volunteer: Our 200th Certified Virginia Master Naturalist, Terry Koci

**B**ack in 2007, Terry Koci was one of nearly 100 people hoping to be in the first Riverine Chapter Master Naturalist training class. Now, Terry has become our 200th Certified Virginia Master Naturalist and an active chapter member. As part of her volunteer service, Terry learned to recognize the calls of the frogs in her area and passed a test to become a Virginia Frog and Toad Calling Survey volunteer. Terry also helped with trail building at the new Powhatan Lakes Wildlife Management Area and publishes the Riverine Chapter's monthly newsletter. When she's not busy with those activities, Terry works for the Central Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association and takes care of a horse, goats, rabbits, hens, and a bio-intensive garden on her 4 acre property in Goochland. "She is a wonderful member of our chapter and a dedicated volunteer. One thing that stands out to me about Terry is how she tries to involve her daughter in as many activities with the chapter as possible," says Kathleen Ogilvy, Riverine chapter advisor.



The Virginia Frog and Toad Calling Survey is a citizen science project coordinated by the VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Learn more at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/frogsurvey/>.  
Photo from Banshee Reeks Master Naturalists.

## Spotlight on a Volunteer: A Life-Changing Experience for Sue Raymond

**S**ue Raymond was afraid of snakes--really afraid. She encountered snakes, both venomous and non-venomous, on her wooded property frequently, and her paralyzing fear had risen so high that she would no longer go hiking or even venture out in her yard except in winter. "I just retired from teaching and wanted to be able to be outside enjoying nature, the birds, the fauna, etc. I decided to try the master naturalist class to get back into tune with nature and also immediately realized that this might be my chance to conquer (somewhat) my fear of snakes," says Sue. It just so happens that the president of the local Central Virginia Master Naturalist Chapter, Mike Hayslett, is a herpetologist by training! "It really did work," says Sue. "I talked to Mike and he gave me some commonsense information that has helped me to get outside and not focus so much on the possibility of a snake encounter--or the dire consequences I'm always imagining. I'm not going to say I'm 100% cured, but I was able to go on all but one field trip with our class (I was in Arizona for the other hiking in rattlesnake infested desert! Last year I couldn't have imagined that!)."



Old Rag Master Naturalist Jack Price snapped this picture of a Timber Rattlesnake while visiting Old Rag Mountain, where he and other VMN volunteers participate in the Shenandoah National Park Adopt-an-Outcrop program, educating people about and monitoring sensitive rocky outcrops in the park.

## Milestone Achievements

Some Virginia Master Naturalists give many more than the 40 hours of service annually required to maintain certification. This year, we've started giving these superstar volunteers pins to acknowledge their dedication to the program and to Virginia's natural resources. Their service includes time spent on natural resource projects as well as administrative time donated to developing and supporting the local chapters. Thank you so much for all that you contribute!

*These names were compiled from the 2008 annual reports submitted by chapters. If any volunteers believe they should be added to this 2008 list, please contact your chapter's record keeper.*

### **250+ Lifetime Hours:**

Linda Cole, Historic Rivers Chapter  
Paul Davis, Central Blue Ridge Chapter  
Mary Lee Epps, Rivanna Chapter  
Karrin Gordon, Riverine Chapter  
Dede Smith, Rivanna Chapter  
Victoria Keenum, Blue Ridge Foothills & Lakes Chapter  
Alice Kopinitz, Historic Rivers Chapter  
Seig Kopinitz, Historic Rivers Chapter  
Kathleen Ogilvy, Riverine Chapter  
Pam Owen, Old Rag Chapter  
Rob Payne, Banshee Reeks Chapter  
Jack Price, Old Rag Chapter  
Ellen Reynolds, Beagle Ridge Chapter  
Patty Riddick, Historic Rivers Chapter  
Dorothy Tompkins, Rivanna/Northern Neck Chapters


### **500+ Lifetime Hours:**


Susan Abraham, Banshee Reeks Chapter  
Shirley Devan, Historic Rivers Chapter  
Emily Gianfortoni, Riverine Chapter  
Nicole Hamilton, Banshee Reeks Chapter  
Tammie Lowry, Beagle Ridge Chapter  
Frank McLaughlin, Banshee Reeks Chapter  
Charlotte Rea, Central Blue Ridge Chapter  
Dori Rhodes, Banshee Reeks Chapter  
Jim Scibek, Central Rappahannock Chapter  
Ida Swenson, Rivanna Chapter


### **1000+ Lifetime Hours:**


Kari Abbott, Historic Rivers Chapter  
Susan Powell, Historic Rivers Chapter

## Other 2008 Program Accomplishments

 We held our first ever statewide volunteer conference in Wytheville, Virginia. 79 Master Naturalists attended the conference, representing 18 chapters.


 We received a \$2000 grant from the Virginia Resource Use Education Council and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to provide watershed education training at our statewide conference.

 We held a New Chapter Coordinators Training at the New Kent Forestry Center and our four new chapters are now fully on board with the program.

 Our 5 state sponsoring agencies approved another 3 years of program funding.

 Our Web site had nearly 20,000 visits.

 Our chapters partnered with more than 150 local organizations.

 We achieved a 75% rate of re-certification of our volunteers.

## Armed and Dangerous: Destroying Virginia's Invasive Species with Volunteers

Invasive species are recognized nationally and locally as a leading threat to healthy ecosystems. In Virginia, invasive species displace native and beneficial species, negatively impact natural and agricultural resources, and, according to a recent report from Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation,



Volunteers in Bedford County are working with homeowners to eliminate tree-of-heaven in their subdivision using the "hack and squirt" method. Photo from Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes Chapter.

cost an estimated \$1 billion annually.

With a \$2500 grant from the Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources to promote Extension partnerships, Adam Downing (Northern District Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Agent) and Michelle Prysby (Virginia Master Naturalist Program Coordinator) launched the "Armed and Dangerous: Destroying Virginia's Invasive Species with Volunteers" program. We trained 74 Master Naturalist volunteers in four regional workshops equipping them to address invasive species issues in their communities, and followed the workshops with an awards program to recognize volunteers, both within and outside of the program, making a big difference on invasive species issues in the state (see the next page for our award winners).

In a follow-up survey of workshop participants, 76% of respondents said that, since the workshops, they have worked to eradicate invasive species on their own properties. In addition, 62% of respondents said they had worked to eradicate invasive species on another property, such as a park. About one

third of respondents had given a presentation about invasives, and 86% had informally educated a friend or neighbor about invasives. All in all, the survey respondents had educated almost 700 people about invasives and improved more than 260 acres of land through their on-the-ground efforts.

As just one example of the great projects these volunteers have done, a Master Naturalist team (Jim and Denise Pilversack and Jim and Bonnie Zinck) in Bedford County launched an invasive species removal campaign for their Homeowner's Association. They led an educational program for other homeowners, conducted a survey for the invasive Ailanthus tree, and worked with the property owners to remove 50 Ailanthus trees in the neighborhood. Over the next several years, they plan to continue the work, educating more homeowners and eventually controlling Ailanthus throughout the 100 acre subdivision.

### Save the Date!

May 2, 2009 will be a statewide Invasive Plant Removal Day! Plan to get your hands dirty removing invasive plants at a site near you. To find a project that needs volunteers, or to register your own project, visit <http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/invasives/index.html>



## Award Winners for Armed and Dangerous: Destroying Virginia's Invasive Species with Volunteers

**W**e had many submissions for our awards program, and we were pleased to acknowledge the following award recipients.

### Team Winners

Walnut Run Subdivision Project	See above for a description of this project, led by Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes Master Naturalists Jim Pilversack, Denise Pilversack, Jim Zinck, and Bonnie Zinck.
Invasive Management Area Volunteer Site Leaders	These 50 volunteers coordinate invasive species removal efforts at 40 sites in Fairfax County parks. Along with managing over 2000 other volunteers, they educated the public through community events and newsletter articles.

### Team Honorable Mentions

Falls Ridge Preserve Project	13 New River Valley Master Naturalist volunteers adopted a 10-acre plot in this Nature Conservancy preserve, visited it 12 times and spent almost 400 hours over the summer and fall controlling Ailanthus, autumn olive, and bush honeysuckle.
Banshee Reeks Weed Battalion:	These Master Naturalists mapped invasives on a 500 acre nature preserve, removed invasive plants at the site, and created an educational brochure for the public.

### Individual Winners

Helen Hamilton	This Master Gardener volunteer has educated hundreds of people in the Williamsburg area about invasives and conducts outdoor programs to teach people about using native plants instead of exotics.
Steve Young	This volunteer at Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington leads invasive removal efforts at the center and other locations and maintains a blog site geared at educating people about exotic invasives.
Jim Ballard	This private landowner incorporated invasive species control into his management plan for his Conway River Timber Farm. He has spent 200 hours controlling invasives, including garlic mustard and Ailanthus, on the property.

### Individual Honorable Mentions

Edward A. Munns, Jr.	This Master Gardener volunteer conducts educational programs about invasive species on the Northern Neck.
Linda Guinn	This Prince William Master Gardener developed educational materials about invasives and taught community classes on the topic.
Robin Williams	This Old Rag Master Naturalist volunteer has been very active in invasive control efforts in Shenandoah National Park, helping with on-the-ground efforts and with managing other volunteers.

## Reaching Out Through the Web

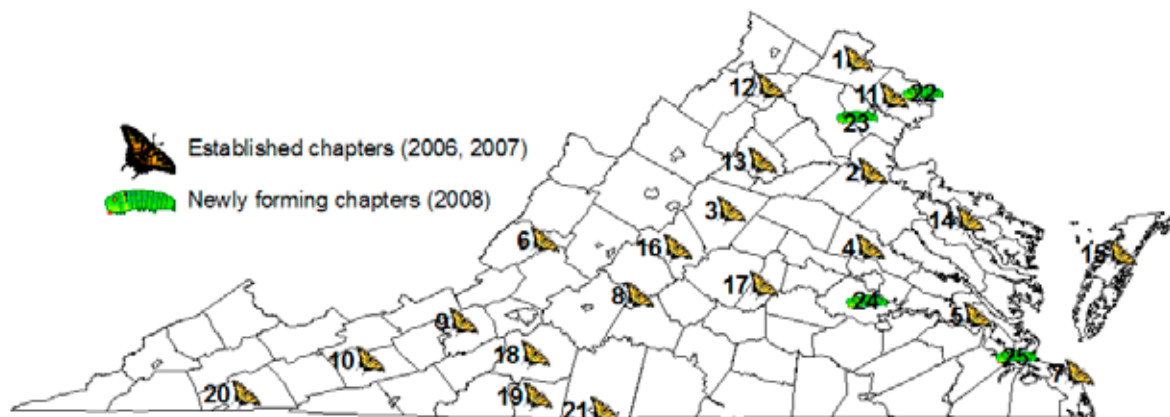
**W**e're on the Web, in more ways than one. We of course have our site at [www.virginiamasternaturalist.org](http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org) as a one-stop spot for information about the program, links to our 25 chapters, and downloadable program documents. In addition, many of our chapters host and maintain their own Web sites where they have chapter newsletters, project lists, event calendars, and more. Some chapters also have Facebook pages and Yahoo! or Google groups.

**I**n fall 2008, we launched [virginiamasternaturalist.smugmug.com](http://virginiamasternaturalist.smugmug.com), a photo sharing site that allows our chapters to post pictures of their activities. Anyone can view the photos by visiting that link, and chapter members can log on and download photos for use in presentations. So far only a few chapters have contributed, but we hope to increase that number in 2009. If you are a Virginia Master Naturalist volunteer who would like to contribute digital images of your chapter trainings, volunteer projects, or social events,

please contact Michelle Prysby for directions.

**I**n addition, we've just launched the Virginia Master Naturalist blog. The blog is mainly geared to Virginia Master Naturalist volunteers and chapter boards and will contain posts about interesting natural resource events in Virginia, natural history observations, and the program coordinator's observations and experiences as she visits chapters around the state. The blog can be found at [virginiamasternaturalist.blogspot.com](http://virginiamasternaturalist.blogspot.com).

**D**rop in and visit our main Web site, chapter sites, photo sharing site, or blog soon and often!



- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Banshee Reeks Chapter          | 14. Northern Neck Chapter                  |
| 2. Central Rappahannock Chapter   | 15. Eastern Shore Chapter                  |
| 3. Rivanna Chapter                | 16. Central Blue Ridge Chapter             |
| 4. Riverine Chapter               | 17. Central Piedmont Chapter               |
| 5. Historic Rivers Chapter        | 18. Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes Chapter |
| 6. Alleghany Highlands Chapter    | 19. Southwestern Piedmont Chapter          |
| 7. Tidewater Chapter              | 20. Holston Rivers Chapter                 |
| 8. Central Virginia Chapter       | 21. Dan River Chapter                      |
| 9. New River Valley Chapter       | 22. Arlington Regional Chapter             |
| 10. Beagle Ridge Chapter          | 23. Merrimac Farm Chapter                  |
| 11. Fairfax Chapter               | 24. Pocahontas Chapter                     |
| 12. Daughter of the Stars Chapter | 25. Peninsula Chapter                      |
| 13. Old Rag Chapter               |  |

**For contact information and details about our chapters, please visit  
<http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/chapters.html>**



*I was given the opportunity to be a seasonal educator for the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association this summer at 2 campgrounds close by my home in Damascus. It was a sizeable challenge but a good stretch to grow from my basic training. Had I not taken this path of the master naturalist, I never would have had the confidence to do it.*

*--Bunny Medeiros, Holston Rivers Master Naturalist*

The Virginia Master Naturalist program is sponsored jointly by Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Virginia Museum of Natural History. Additional support is provided by the Virginia Tech Department of Forestry and the Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources.

#### **Steering Committee**

Michelle Adcock, VCE  
Denise Hayes, Volunteer  
Beth Hawse, VA DCR  
Michael Hayslett, Volunteer  
Ron Hughes, VA DGIF  
Jeff Kirwan, VCE  
Michael Lachance, VCE  
Ann Mallek, VMNH  
Toni Noreika, VA DOF  
Ellen Powell, VA DOF  
Ellen Reynolds, VA DCR  
Lou Verner, VA DGIF  
Carol Zokaites, VA DCR

#### **Executive Committee**

Dennis Casey, VMNH  
Dean Cumbia, VDOF  
Bob Duncan, VDGIF  
Denise Hayes, Volunteer  
Jeff Kirwan, VCE  
Chris Ludwig, VDCR  
Keith Morgan, VDCR  
Jim Riddell, VCE  
Dave Slack, VDOF  
David Whitehurst, VDGIF

#### **Program Coordinator**

Michelle Prysby

Virginia Tech Department of Forestry/Virginia Cooperative Extension

Mailing Address: 460 Stagecoach Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902

Phone: 434-872-4580 E-mail: masternaturalist@vt.edu

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