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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/ANNOUNCEMENT

The Northern Neck Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists will conduct an informational meeting to introduce the Master Naturalist program and announce the class to begin in late August. The Master Naturalist program is sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension; the Virginia Departments of Game and Inland Fisheries, Conservation and Recreation, and Forestry; and the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

The Master Naturalist program was established to educate and train interested people in all aspects of the natural world, with the goal of providing a group of well informed and dedicated volunteers to assist the various organizations devoted to protecting, enhancing, and conserving our natural heritage. Particular emphasis will be given to areas of local and regional interest.

The course will consist of approximately forty hours of study, including field trips. The course is planned to run approximately 10-12 weeks beginning in late August, and the cost will be approximately \$120 per student. Exact cost, dates, and times are to be determined at a later date. Certification as a Virginia Master Naturalist requires completion of the basic course plus forty hours of volunteer service and eight hours of advanced training.

Applicants must attend this informational meeting in order to be considered for enrollment. It is expected that there will be only one such meeting. The meeting will be held on April 10, 2008, at 7:00 P.M. in room 157 at Rappahannock Community College, Warsaw. For more information, refer to the Virginia Master Naturalist Web site at www.virginiamasternaturalist.org, or contact either Charlene Talcott at Charlene.Talcott@dcr.virginia.gov or 804-462-5030, or Temple Moore at 703-683-3328.

Virginia Master Naturalist programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status. An equal opportunity/ affirmative action employer.

If you are a person with a disability and need assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Charlene Talcott to discuss accommodations prior to the event.