

# RIVERINE MASTER NATURALIST NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2009

## Message from the President

I hope everyone had a happy holiday season and are looking forward to a productive New Year. I would like to take this time to highlight some of the Chapter's accomplishments this past year and give you all an idea of what we have in store for next year.

Your administrators were very busy in 2008. We adopted By-Laws that should serve the chapter well. We received our Chapter Charter from the State and now are officially the **Riverine Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist**. In light of this, the Administrative Board has obtained incorporation for the chapter which will allow us to become a Non-profit Organization. We are now eligible to receive a grant of \$700 for a water conservation project this coming year. The current assets in the treasury as of 12/09/08 are \$4,920.22.

The Board has been working to make it more convenient for each of you to achieve your Certification as a **Virginia Master Naturalist**. Karrin Gordon has developed a system that should help you keep track of your hours every month. You will be expected to keep track of your hours and transmit them to Karrin in order to receive credit for the time you have devoted to the chapter; thereby maintaining your certification. Please keep up to date on these very important records.

This year we are going to have field trips included in the basic training curriculum. This should make it easier for everyone to get the 10 hours of field training required to complete their basic training. Time spent hearing expert guest speakers will also count toward the 8 hours of Advanced Training required for certification and recertification.

The Projects Committee has worked hard to offer over 22 different projects from which you may choose to count toward the 40 Volunteer hours required for certification. A copy of the projects will be available at all of the meetings. Projects are available for those who like to get into the planting and clearing aspect of nature to the more sedate projects of meeting people and explaining our mission to them. Last year we attended four festivities where we had our booth set up and talked to over 400 people about our chapter. We have sign up sheets at the regular meetings for those who want to participate. In addition to this, Emily Gianfortoni has been advertising every one of the events in the "Riverine Chapter Announcements" she publishes weekly.

We have an exciting year ahead with our new class of Naturalists starting this January. If anyone is interested in attending any of the classes as make up or to continue your learning, contact Emily or our chapter advisor, Kathleen Ogilvy, so that space can be made available to you. We hope to have more social activities such as potlucks, where we can enjoy each others' company and kick different ideas around. Thanks to all of last year's officers for your patience with me and to the new officers for accepting the challenge of the coming year. Hope to see everyone at our next membership meeting. Please feel free to contact me at any time via email. ([smithrm10000@yahoo.com](mailto:smithrm10000@yahoo.com))

-submitted by Ron Smith



### 2009 Officers

#### President

Ron Smith

#### Vice President

Michael Larkin

#### Secretary

Anne Joseph

#### Treasurer

Ginger Glen-Calvert

#### Riverine Master Naturalist Program

[riverinechapter@earthlink.net](mailto:riverinechapter@earthlink.net)

<http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org>

(look under Riverine Chapter)

#### Newsletter Contact:

Terry Koci  
749-8605  
[welv.trz@verizon.net](mailto:welv.trz@verizon.net)

## Message from our Past Treasurer

Below is a summary of the Riverine income and expenses for 2008.

Chapter dues for all members (except new 2009 training class) are due by the end of January. Dues are still \$25.00 and are payable to the Riverine Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists. Dues are to be sent to our new Treasurer at the following address:

Ginger Glen-Calvert  
70 West Square Drive  
Richmond, VA 23238

-submitted by Bonnie Charles

### Riverine Chapter of VMN Treasurer Report for 2008

1. Starting Balance as of 1/1/2008	\$ 2,810.06
2. Income as of 12/31/2008 (Dues and Tuition)	<u>\$ 3,670.00</u> \$ 6,480.06
3. Expenses as of 12/31/2008	
\$ 400.00 (SCC & 501c3 Fees)	
\$ 136.45 (Speaker gifts)	
\$ 121.48 (Training class supplies)	
\$ 400.00 (Display Board)	
\$ 104.99 (Shade Canopy)	
\$ 82.08 (name badges)	
<u>\$ 358.80 (banner &amp; logo patches)</u>	
	\$ 1,603.80
4. Current Assets as of 12/31/2008	\$ 4,876.26

## Two Websites for Us

I recently found these two interesting websites:  
[www.southernexposure.com](http://www.southernexposure.com) – good source for heirloom seeds  
[www.gardenmedicinals.com](http://www.gardenmedicinals.com)  
The company that sponsors these websites is located in Louisa.

-submitted by Terry Koci

## Calendar of Events

### Pocahontas Park – Hike & History

Saturday, January 24

Contact: Mary Ellen Stohr at [mestohr1@comcast.net](mailto:mestohr1@comcast.net)

### Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 6:00 p.m.

Forest Hill Ukrops

### Landowners' Woods & Wildlife Conference

Saturday, January 31

Verizon Auditorium, Prince William Campus,  
Manassas - \$45.00 per person; \$80 per couple  
Registration deadline 1-16-09

Contact: 540-948-6881

### Virginia 4-H Natural Resources Weekend

Saturday & Sunday, January 31-February 1, 2009

Holiday Lake 4-H Center, Appomattox  
4H WHEP Coaches Training Offered

Contact: Jennifer Mercer at 540-245-5750 or  
[jamercer@vt.edu](mailto:jamercer@vt.edu)

### 2009 Symposium/Short Course

February 4, 5 & 6 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Contact: [www.lewisginter.org](http://www.lewisginter.org)

### Great Backyard Bird Count

February 13-16

Contact: [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc)

### Three Lakes Nature Center-Exhibit & Presentation on Naturalist James Bellwood

Saturday, February 21

Contact: Mary Ellen Stohr at [mestohr1@comcast.net](mailto:mestohr1@comcast.net)

### Good Gardening Symposium

“Enrich the Environment-Go Native”

Saturday, March 14, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Prince George High School, \$10 fee

Contact: B. Geer at [keano@rcn.com](mailto:keano@rcn.com) or Prince George  
Cooperative Extension Office

### Spring Garden Fest

Saturday, April 25, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College-Goochland

Contact: [gpmga.org](http://gpmga.org) or 804-556-5841

### Get Green Expo

April 25-26, Greater Richmond Convention Center

Contact: [www.getgreenexpo.org](http://www.getgreenexpo.org)

### Advanced Training Rally

May 8 – 10

Sweet Briar College

The following article & pictures were submitted by Michael Larkin:

## Help our Native Pollinators

For a lot of naturalists and outdoors citizens, 2008 brought to us the era of; “Where are the honeybees?” Speculation continues about the reason for their demise. Until a solution is found and they return to normal numbers, it is important that we provide for and shelter our native pollinators. We can encourage the development of those native to the US by planting, if not already in place, a bevy of flowers and shrubs in our gardens and parks. Plus we can provide residences for the natives. You might say in response; what are our native pollinators? And what type of residences?

Our native pollinators consist of a number of insects, birds and bats. In the realm of insects consider the number that is shown on photo no.1. One was hunting for nectar in a relatively small garden. Think about how many may be in a field of daffodils in Gloucester or in one of the medium strip fields we see on I-64.

When you consider that you may have enough pollinating plants in your garden, why not give some thought to how a few more in a sunny spot or woodland can help to contribute to the reproduction of the each species. The Virginia Department of Forestry sells seed mixes. In spring time most big box stores and nurseries sell envelopes and boxes of seed.

For a pollinating insect residence, a piece of wood approximately 2” thick x 4” x 6” with 1/4” to 3/8” holes, 4” deep, hung on a tree limb above children’s reach will suffice. (See sketch) Or some enthusiasts acquire small bamboo of the same diameter and length and make an arrangement using wire and glue. Our hummingbirds like fresh nectar in a clean feeder. At night, bats may visit the nectar feeder and the flowers in your garden before or after they feast on mosquitoes and moths.

