For more information:
Virginia Master Naturalist program state office
www.VirginiaMasterNaturalist.org
Email: masternaturalist@vt.edu
Phone: 434-872-4587
Mailing address:
Virginia Cooperative Extension – Charlottesville/Albemarle
460 Stagecoach Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902
or your local chapter at:

Examples of volunteer projects that Virginia Master Naturalists are doing:

• Monitoring bat populations using acoustic detection equipment
• Organizing a wildlife-focused day camp for youth at a Virginia State Park
• Providing advice to homeowners for improving wildlife habitat and stormwater buffers on their properties
• Installing a demonstration garden to attract pollinators in a public park
• Leading nature walks for the public at a local natural area
• Collecting data for a study of native mason bees
People who are curious about nature, enjoy the outdoors, and want to be part of a team working together on natural resource management and conservation in Virginia are perfect candidates to become Virginia Master Naturalist volunteers.

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.

Becoming a Certified Virginia Master Naturalist:

• starts with completing a 40-hour basic training course offered by a local chapter of the program;
• includes an additional 8 hours of continuing education;
• requires 40 hours of volunteer service; and
• typically takes 6-12 months.

Visit VirginiaMasterNaturalist.org to find current chapter locations and contacts.

Virginia Master Naturalists perform approved volunteer service in their communities.

Education – Teach adults and youth about nature!

Citizen Science – Collect data on wildlife and plant populations, water quality, and more!

Stewardship – Restore wildlife habitat, clean up a local stream, or build a trail!

The basic training course covers background knowledge and skills to prepare participants for their volunteer service. Topics include:

• Core biology topics such as ornithology (the study of birds) and botany (the study of plants)
• Management and conservation of ecological systems such as forests and wetlands
• Teaching and interpretive skills
• Citizen science and research skills
• Practice in the field identifying species and learning about natural resource management

Each chapter tailors the course to fit its local environment, so no two courses are exactly the same.