



May 4, 2016

Dear VMN Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and Chapter Advisor representatives from VDEQ,

Thank you for your support of the Virginia Master Naturalist program in 2015! With your support, we continued to grow our program and make positive impacts for the Commonwealth’s natural resources. Your monetary contribution supports two part-time staff members, Tiffany Brown and Terri Keffert, who are vital for program and volunteer coordination. It also supports volunteer recognition items and other program supplies, program communications tools, staff travel to teach and meet with volunteers, training events, and other important functions of the statewide program. Your in-kind contribution of staff time for training volunteers, leading projects, advising chapters, and serving on our committees is also a critical part of our program.

In 2015, VMN volunteers reported 5,683 hours of service on projects pertaining to your agency, primarily water quality monitoring of streams, litter clean-up events, and Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences. These hours equate to \$148,269 in service, using the value of a volunteer hour in Virginia for 2015 published by IndependentSector.org, the industry standard. As you can see, you’ve made an excellent return on your investment in our program!

Included in these hours of service are water quality monitoring projects that took place in dozens of different locations and water bodies. Also included are hundreds of hours of youth environmental education. They also include more than 200 hours on the “Plant Natives” campaigns of the Coastal Zone Management Program. In addition, VMN volunteer contributions to the joint agency booth at the Virginia State Fair were particularly noteworthy this year.

Below, I have included the program-wide 2015 statistics.

| Virginia Master Naturalist Program 2015 Statistics | |
|---|---|
| New VMN volunteers trained | 529 |
| Active volunteers reporting service in 2015 | 1,679 (1,078 Certified VMN volunteers) |
| Continuing Education hours completed | 21,831 |
| Service hours contributed: Education | 27,934 |
| Service hours contributed: Citizen Science | 35,751 |
| Service hours contributed: Stewardship | 26,532 |
| Service hours contributed: Administration & Travel | 30,111 |
| Total service hours contributed | 120,328 |
| Monetary value of service | \$3,139,358 (source: IndependentSector.org) |
| Educational contacts made | 104,279 |

Invent the Future

Again, I thank you for both your monetary and in-kind support. Please let me know if you have any questions about this report or our volunteer activities, if you would like me to provide you with any other materials, or if you would like to discuss additional opportunities for collaboration.

Thank you,

Michelle D. Prysby

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Volunteers conduct benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring on the Middle River. Photo courtesy of VMN-Headwaters Chapter.