



May 4, 2016

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

Thank you for your support of the Virginia Master Naturalist program in 2015! Your in-kind contribution of staff time for training volunteers, leading projects, advising chapters, and serving on our committees is a critical part of our program. I also thank you for the satellite office space you have provided for us in the DOF headquarters building.

In 2015, VMN volunteers reported 4,712 hours of service on projects pertaining to your agency, such as tree plantings, invasive plant management, and installation of tree identification trails. These hours equate to \$122,936 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 nearly 100 hours of volunteer time at your joint agency booth at the Virginia State Fair. Also included are hundreds of hours of invasive plant pulls in parks and on other public lands. They also include education, citizen science, and stewardship relating to American Chestnut restoration. Some of the VDOF-specific projects included education programs at the New Kent Forestry Center, acorn collection for the nurseries, and stewardship projects at Chilton Woods, Channels, and Conway Robinson State Forests.

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

Although your agency did not provide a monetary contribution to our base program operations in 2015, we hope that you will consider doing so in the next fiscal year. Even a small level of support will help us continue to grow our program and make positive impacts for the Commonwealth's natural resources. Our base budget covers two part-time staff members, Tiffany Brown and Terri Keffer, who are vital for program and volunteer coordination. It also supports volunteer

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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.

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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VMN volunteers in the Riverine Chapter led an effort to install a tree identification trail at Powhatan State Park and to develop an accompanying interpretive brochure. This work was supported by a VDOF Urban and Community Forestry grant to the VMN program. Photo courtesy of Kitty Hardt, VMN-Riverine Chapter.