20 February 2017

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

Thank you for your support of the Virginia Master Naturalist program in 2016! 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.

In 2016, VMN volunteers reported 6,282 hours of service on projects pertaining to your agency, which is a 33% increase over 2015. These hours include service directly with the agency, such as providing educational programs at New Kent Forestry Center, collecting acorns for VDOF nurseries, and assisting with the VDOF booth at the Virginia State Fair. They also include thousands of hours of invasive plant management on public lands, tree plantings, educational events for Arbor Day, and American Chestnut restoration work. These hours equate to $163,897 in service, using the value of a volunteer hour in Virginia for 2015 published by IndependentSector.org, the industry standard. (The 2016 value is not yet available, but is likely to be higher.) As you can see, you've made an excellent return on your investment in our program!

I have included the program-wide 2016 statistics. These statistics reflect many more hours that were not directly with VDOF, but that still contribute to natural resource conservation and education. For example, volunteers in several chapters assisted homeowners with choosing appropriate native plants for landscaping.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virginia Master Naturalist Program 2016 Statistics</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New VMN volunteers graduated from basic training</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active volunteers reporting service in 2016</td>
<td>1,743 (1,206 Certified VMN volunteers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuing Education hours completed</td>
<td>24,190</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service hours contributed: Education</td>
<td>35,432</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service hours contributed: Citizen Science</td>
<td>43,517</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service hours contributed: Stewardship</td>
<td>29,852</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service hours contributed: Administration &amp; Travel</td>
<td>37,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total service hours contributed</td>
<td>145,996 (21% increase over 2015!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monetary value of service</td>
<td>$3,809,035 (source: IndependentSector.org)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational contacts made</td>
<td>106,460</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although your agency did not provide a monetary contribution to our base program operations in 2016, 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...
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 Prysby
Director, Virginia Master Naturalist program
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434-872-4571

Virginia Master Naturalists in the Roanoke Valley Chapter planned and installed a riparian buffer in a county park. Along with planting native shrubs and trees and monitoring their success, they installed plant labels to help interpret the planting for park visitors.
Virginia Master Naturalist
Statewide Report from 29 Chapters

2,921 Chapter Members
Each figure equals ~29 individuals.

1,743 active volunteers
reporting service in 2016

382 new volunteers
trained in 2016

145,996 Total Volunteer Hours
Valued at $3.8 Million!

145,996
Total Volunteer Hours

Volunteer Service

2016 Accomplishments

Assisting State Agencies
VMN volunteers expanded the capacity of state natural resource agencies through projects such as RareQuest, Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail adoption, stewardship at state parks, and water quality monitoring in local streams.

Engaging Youth Through Environmental Education
VMN volunteers connected youth with nature through afterschool programs, day camps, special events, and classroom programs, making 55,163 youth contacts.

Provided stewardship at 300+ sites

Contributed to 100+ citizen science studies of natural resources

Made 106,460 contacts through educational programs

Virginia Master Naturalist programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinley, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.