



May 4, 2016

Dear VMN Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and Chapter Advisor representatives from VIMS-CCRM,

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 474 hours of service on projects directly part of your agency. These hours equate to \$12,367 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 oyster restoration projects, educational programs with VIMS, and volunteer time on the VIMS wetlands tree project at the New Kent Forestry Center.

Below, I have included the program-wide 2015 statistics. These statistics reflect many more hours that were not directly with VIMS, but that closely align with your agency mission. For example, volunteers in several chapters are conducting oyster shell recycling efforts in their communities, assisting with living shoreline installations, participating in submerged aquatic vegetation restorations, and educating people about coastal resource conservation.

<b>Virginia Master Naturalist Program 2015 Statistics</b>	
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*

Michelle Prysby

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*VMN volunteers in the Tidewater Chapter are helping restore the Lafayette River wetlands in Norfolk. The project's objective is to remove the Phragmites and replant with native grasses, shrubs and trees to recreate an attractive and natural wildlife habitat. To date, about 8,000 square feet of shoreline has been cleared of phragmites; over 1,000 plugs of native grasses and 40 trees have been planted. The project is supported with technical assistance and expertise from members of the Lafayette Wetlands Partnership.*