



17 February 2017

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

Thank you for your support of the Virginia Master Naturalist program in 2016! 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 2016, VMN volunteers reported 831 hours of service on projects with your agency. These included 144 hours assisting the Education Department, 264 hours assisting the Research and Collections Department, and 423 hours of docent time at the affiliated Rockfish Valley Foundation Natural History Center. These hours equate to \$21,681 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!

Below, I have included the program-wide 2016 statistics. These statistics reflect many more hours that were not directly with VMNH, but that align with your agency mission. For example, volunteers are educating the public about Virginia's natural history and collecting data on the distribution and abundance of flora and fauna across the state. A particularly unusual and noteworthy contribution during 2015-2016 came from our Historic Rivers Chapter. Over those two years, volunteers contributed more than 900 hours assisting with the excavation, bone identification, and preparation of a mastodon skeleton in Yorktown, only the second ever found in Virginia.

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

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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Virginia Master Naturalists gave 264 hours of service assisting in the research and collections labs at the Virginia Museum of Natural History on projects such as cleaning bones and sorting artifacts.

