



THE SOUTHSIDER

Volunteer educators, citizen scientists and stewards helping Virginia conserve and manage natural resources

A NEW CHAPTER FOR OUR CHAPTER

Have a Project in Mind and Need Grant Money for it? We Now have that Ability



Our chapter has now received the 501c3 nonprofit status that a number of members in our group worked hard to attain. This now enables us, as a chapter, to seek and receive grant funds. So give it some thought, if you have a project ongoing or one in mind that hasn't been written up and approved due to needing money for it to take place, you can now seek grant money in order to do that.

Now this does require seeking out those potential monies that are out there, and filling out the necessary paperwork that the grant providers ask for in applying for those funds.

Hopefully this will open up new possibilities for us.

John Bunch



I was so excited to see this big guy in my orchard last night. His head was so deep in the hole that he didn't notice me (carefully) weeding around him. First time I have seen an Eastern king snake in the wild, and I didn't have to leave the yard. **Mary Jo Albright, Posted to Facebook June 17, 2022**

RANGE: Southern New Jersey to Northern Florida, west to the Appalachians. Other subspecies are found through the Florida peninsula and west of the Appalachians. The Eastern kingsnake may be found in almost any habitat within its range, and often in the vicinity of water.

FEEDING HABITS: The Eastern kingsnake feeds on other snakes, lizards, frogs, rodents, turtle eggs, and birds and their eggs. It eats venomous snakes such as copperheads and rattlesnakes. It is even known to be cannibalistic.

IN PRAISE OF MASTER NATURALISTS

I joined Master Naturalists on a cold and dreary winter's night. Of course, I had already been vetted; references checked out, and living off the grid seemed to be a plus. The weather on the second night of classes was as gnarly as the 1st and I started to rethink my decision to become involved. As I arrived for that 2nd class, an overly cheery (from my perspective) member made some comment about things "getting better." (Again, from my perspective) "I nearly took her head off," which reinforced the revisiting of my decision to join.

Clearly, I persevered, 1st treating the experience like a college course, until I quickly realized I was without a perceived pathway to master the material and do the other things I needed to do in my life. I then took the approach of being focused on and open to the material presented, noting the information that particularly pertained to my situation, and letting the rest go by. My challenged mobility rendered a number of fieldtrips an opportunity to practice tolerance, discomfort, and, at least once, being glad I was seeing what I was seeing. Living as interactive a lifestyle with 35 wooded acres as I do, I rarely get excited about going somewhere else to see nature. I have been aware since my early twenties that I am a person who likes to know one thing really, really well.

A most appreciated aspect of the organization was that I could survey the possibilities for involvement and figure out how I could best contribute given who I am and my, then current, situation. In deciding to become involved in the coordination of the newspaper column, I talked with a number of people who indicated they would write occasional columns. When I "got enough" to feel there was a good chance I could do what I was about ready to say I would do, I took it on. The rest is, as they say, history. Members of "the column committee" have written a wonderful array of pieces on a wonderful array of topics from natural landscaping to prehistoric fossils. I have begun sending some of those columns to my grandchildren for their enlightenment and interest, as I learned new things about "my loved and revered box turtles," vultures, and looking more closely at "life here on the farm."

Before joining Master Naturalists, I had spent 20+ years living off the grid and restoring our land to longleaf pine. Since the advent of my sole caretaking responsibilities, I have had a need to be able to execute my caretaking as successfully as possible as well as weave my life into a larger community. A transition occurred during the time I was involved with the Master Naturalists. I have settled in. I have been able to see the land as my mission as opposed to a mission, I shared with another. That transition, and what I osmosed from my involvement with the organization has set me up to "strike out on my own." I am fully here. I continue my work of "nibbling around the edges" of this grand example of "nature abhors a vacuum" that I have come to call home. I have equipment that I can reliably use to assist me in that endeavor, and I am blessed.

As I have said before, Anam Cara is in much better hands now than she was 3 years ago. While I went looking for my church, I found my cathedral.

*Blessed Be,
Jo (Weaver)*



Two acoustic Bat monitors put in place today. One at Big Woods WMA and the other at South Quay NAP. They'll remain in place for 2 weeks. **John Bunch, posted to Facebook July 30, 2022**



The Audiomoth is a simple and cheap audio-recording device for recording birdsongs and sounds of insects, amphibians, and bats. The device runs a few weeks on three AA batteries. It is a passive recording device, ideal for monitoring long term animal activity on the spot.



**CLAUDIA
NEEDS YOU**



Contact Claudia Lee by August 28th if you can help with community outreach at the Isle of Wight County Fair.

GET TO KNOW A FELLOW SOUTHSIDER

An interview with Cindy Edwards

Joined 2018. Treasurer of Southampton County.



What attracted you to HSC VMN?

I saw an article in the Tidewater News about a group of training sessions on Butterflies and Pollinators that was going to be held at the Windsor branch of the Blackwater Library. Brenda Peters and Mary Catherine Foster gave those presentations – I believe there were six weeks of them. They were wearing their HSC VMN name tags. I learned so much; and, I asked the question “How do you become a Virginia Master Naturalist?” They proceeded to explain it to me; and, the rest is history!

What are you curious about in nature?

I am curious about anything that is new to me in nature. However, I am most curious about marine life. I want to learn about everything living under the sea. The whole under water ecosystem is amazing. I have loved Oceanography ever since high school!

Your favorite place in nature?

My favorite place in nature is anywhere on a body of water whether it be a river, lake, or ocean.

Your favorite place in Southside Virginia?

My favorite place in Southside, VA is on the James! . I enjoy swimming, fishing, and sun bathing on the James. Also, the history of the James is amazing. I can remember Lindsay LeMay teaching us about the different layers of the shoreline! It is fascinating!

Best part of being a Naturalist?

The best part of being a naturalist is teaching others about nature; so, they can become citizen scientist and help take care of our environment.

What challenged you the most during your VMN Basic Training?

I really can't pin point what challenged me the most. It certainly was a wonderful learning experience though!

What in nature brings you peace?

There are two things in nature that bring me peace – ocean waves crashing on the shore and the beauty of nature on a hike.

What do you think about when on long walks in Nature?

On long walks in nature, I think about my grandkids – what they will do in their life, where will they go, who they will become.

What is your most prized possession?

My most prized possession is my curio full of butterfly plates.

Name a couple of places or adventures still on your bucket list.

A couple of places on my bucket list are Switzerland and the New England States that I haven't been to – Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island. The pictures of these places are calling me to go! I know I will enjoy nature in each one!

What is the greatest gift you've received from Nature?

The greatest gift I received from nature is the peace it has offered me.

What is the greatest gift we can give each other?

The greatest gift you can give each other is respect followed by love.

If you could be any animal, which one would you be?

If I could be any animal, it would be a butterfly. They are beautiful and graceful.

Who is your hero?

My hero is Kenny Rogers! He is my hero because he was born and raised dirt poor; but, yet he made something of himself. He was a self-made man. He was a musician, a song writer, an actor, a photographer. He, also, owned a restaurant chain in Georgia. When you have ambition you will go far!

Who is your favorite Naturalist?

My favorite Naturalist is Maria Sibylla Merian. She was into butterflies!

What's your favorite movie?

My favorite movie is The Gambler starring Kenny Rogers followed by The Pelican Brief and Dances with Wolves.

Your guilty pleasure?

My guilty pleasure is eating too much! I love to eat!

What is some wisdom you've gained from Nature?

Some wisdom that I have gained from nature is that everything in nature has a place and purpose to complete the cycle of life. Everything affects something else.

Why do you care about HSC VMN Chapter?

I care about the HSC WMN because I enjoy the friendship of many members and how we volunteer and work together to take care of the natural environment in which we live. We have some awesome chapter members!

**THANKS TO ALL THE FOLKS WHO HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED FOR
'GET TO KNOW A FELLOW SOUTHSIDER'. WE WELCOME FEEDBACK. ARE THERE QUESTIONS
YOU WOULD LIKE US TO INCLUDE?**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART OR NOMINATE SOMEONE PLEASE EMAIL US.



MONARCH BUTTERFLIES ARE NOW LISTED AS ENDANGERED, MOVING ONE STEP CLOSER TO EXTINCTION

The monarch butterfly fluttered a step closer to extinction Thursday, as scientists put the iconic orange-and-black insect on the endangered list because of its fast dwindling numbers.

“It’s just a devastating decline,” said Stuart Pimm, an ecologist at Duke University who was not involved in the new listing. “This is one of the most recognizable butterflies in the world.”

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature added the migrating monarch butterfly for the first time to its

“red list” of threatened species and categorized it as “endangered” — two steps from extinct.

The group estimates that the population of monarch butterflies in North America has declined between 22% and 72% over 10 years, depending on the measurement method.

“What we’re worried about is the rate of decline,” said Nick Haddad, a conservation biologist at Michigan State University. “It’s very easy to imagine how very quickly this butterfly could become even more imperiled.”

Haddad, who was not directly involved in the listing, estimates that the population of monarch butterflies he studies in the eastern United States has declined between 85% and 95% since the 1990s.

In North America, millions of monarch butterflies undertake the longest migration of any insect species known to science.

After wintering in the mountains of central Mexico, the butterflies migrate to the north, breeding multiple generations along the way for thousands of miles. The offspring that reach southern Canada then begin the trip back to Mexico at the end of summer.

“It’s a true spectacle and incites such awe,” said Anna Walker, a conservation biologist at New Mexico BioPark Society, who was involved in determining the new listing.

A smaller group spends winters in coastal California, then disperses in spring and summer across several states west of the Rocky Mountains. This population has seen an even more precipitous decline than the eastern monarchs, although there was a small bounce back last winter.



Emma Pelton of the nonprofit Xerces Society, which monitors the western butterflies, said the butterflies are imperiled by loss of habitat and increased use of herbicides and pesticides for agriculture, as well as climate change.

“There are things people can do to help,” she said, including planting milkweed, a plant that the caterpillars depend upon.

Nonmigratory monarch butterflies in Central and South America were not designated as endangered.

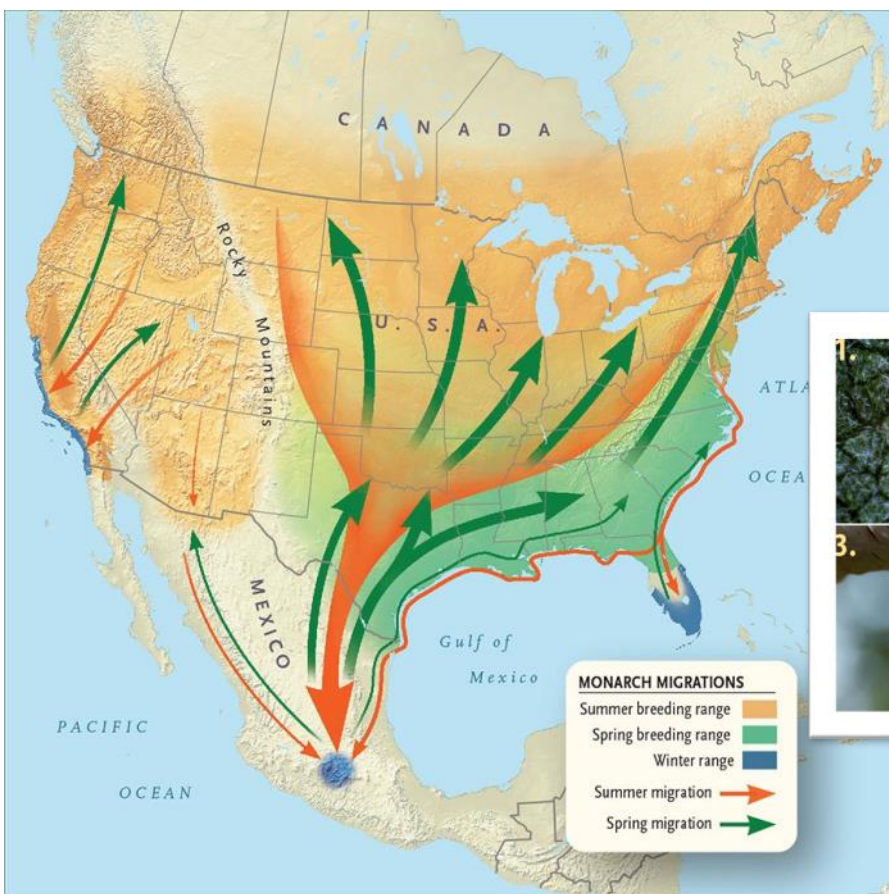
The United States has not listed monarch butterflies under the Endangered Species Act, but several environmental groups believe it should be listed.

The international union also announced new estimates for the global population of tigers, which are 40% higher than the most recent estimates from 2015.

The new figures, of between 3,726 and 5,578 wild tigers worldwide, reflect better methods for counting tigers and, potentially, an increase in their overall numbers, said Dale Miquelle, coordinator for the nonprofit Wildlife Conservation Society’s tiger program.

In the past decade, tiger populations have increased in Nepal, northern China and perhaps in India, while tigers have disappeared entirely from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, said Miquelle. They remain designated as endangered.

By Christina Larson, Published July 21, 2022. NBC News.

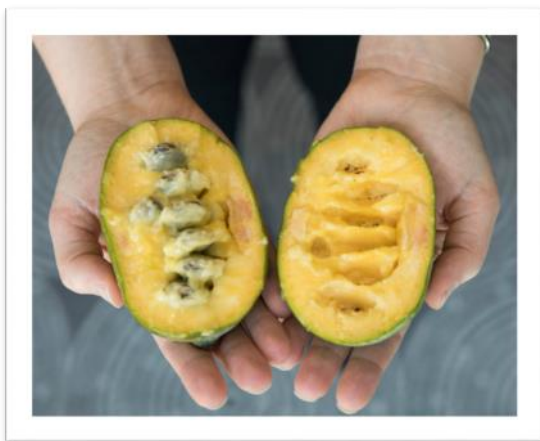


MONARCH MIGRATION MAP





SLATE OF NOMINEES 2023



The Peninsula Chapter would like to let you know about their upcoming **Pawpaw Festival at Historic Endview, Newport News, Aug 27, 11AM – 4 PM**. Celebrate one of Virginia's native fruits with free tastings, educational booths and talks by many local organizations, live music, and more. For questions, contact vmnpeninsula@gmail.com.



On **Saturday September 17th**, VIMS at their eastern shore location is hosting a 4-hour open house tour C/E event.

I have signed up along with three others. We are carpooling. This is going to be a very worthwhile tour. I encourage all that share an interest in the great work that VIMS does to put this event on your schedule. Pre-registration is required. Go to the VIMS website for details. **Henry McBurney, Continuing Ed**

Stormwater Retention Project Update



On Saturday morning May 21st, chapter members Dennis Pytach, Henry McBurney, yours truly, along with Ariane and Aston Williams, from the IOW NAACP and Smithfield Town Council member Wayne Hall assembled at Windsor Castle Park to install the underground piping for the Stormwater Retention Project.

This project is taking place at the kayak shed and is a collaboration between the HSC and the IOW NAACP. Discussions within our chapter began last November when we became aware that the IOW NAACP was looking for a means to provide a water source for their garden. The IOW NAACP maintains the community vegetable garden in the park and one of the lessons learned last year was that it was really missing an onsite water source. Our chapter had been on the lookout for ways of doing some type of storm water retention project as an educational outreach project. Our goal is to raise awareness in our community that by retaining storm water for slow release can result in improving our environment.

Collaboration with an organization that had a need for this retained water was the key to bringing life to this project. The park project application states that along with supplying water to the nearby vegetable garden, there is an “educational component that will consist of a curriculum that will involve youth within the county along with community members. Youth within the community will be able to understand the importance of managing stormwater and how to mimic the same process within their own yards and throughout the community.”

This project calls for 5 50-gallon drums donated by the James River Association all linked together by piping and set up on an elevated rack at the back of the shed. When filled with water collected by roof guttering (to be added soon), the elevated position of the drums will enable the contained water to be provided to the nearby vegetable garden by gravity. Then it just becomes a matter of turning on the faucet to have water available for the plants during the summer growing season.



Henry already had the piping laid out and mostly put together for the route. As the five of us began digging the 150-foot-long trench, we quickly realized what a difficult task was in store for us on this abnormally hot spring day. Wayne Hall then made a welcome command decision and, in a flash, he was off to rent a trencher from Home Depot. Wayne found it to not be an easy task of creating that trench, but within about 30 minutes or so of hard work he had completed the trench for the project. Once the trench was completed, it didn't take much time at all for us to complete the project while Wayne returned the trencher to Home Depot and we all retreated from the heat.



John Bunch

Chapter Educator Susan Watson

Tell us about your background.

I grew up in Prince George County, in an area known as New Bohemia (with which some of you may be familiar, if you travel west on Highway 460 at all). My husband and I knew each other in high school, and then dated almost 10 years before we married.

During that time, I earned my Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Science at Virginia Tech and worked part-time at Richmond area nature centers. After that, I obtained full-time employment with the state, first at DEQ for about 1.5 years, then at DWR in 2001. My jobs at DWR have evolved some over the years, but the main focus is always management of wildlife data.



What's the favorite part of your job?

It is difficult to pick one favorite thing. I think I just enjoy always learning more about wildlife, as well as being able to help others learn more about wildlife. I also enjoy that my job allows me a variety of experiences throughout every year, not just managing data.

Whom do you look up to in your field?

I look up to my supervisor, who I have worked with since 2001. She remains highly motivated to lead the agency in the right direction, no matter what setbacks we encounter, which seem to happen often. I look up to my favorite college professor from Virginia Tech, who just retired, but is still involved in the school and in the Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society. There are other co-workers who are also very passionate and always striving to the best things for our field, who I also look up to, and are another favorite thing about my job.

What drew you to this field and why?

I always loved animals, growing up on a farm, always loving to be able to be there or in the woods on that property. I thought I might want to be a veterinarian, but that dream changed during college, where I enjoyed ecology classes and discovered the field of Wildlife Science.

What do you find most challenging about your job?

One of the biggest challenges is working with limits to our technology in the agency that hinder the work we would like to do with the data we have or data we wish to collect.

Another challenge is striving to do more with limited numbers of staff, and in some cases, limited numbers of or limits to other resources.

Who OR what inspires you and why?

The people I look up to in my field inspire me, as well as my supportive family and the resources themselves. Getting outdoors and being around others who are passionate about nature remind me of what I'm working for to protect and conserve.

Tell us how you first got involved with HSC VMN.

I think my first involvement was when some members HSC attended one of the first vernal pool project training sessions. The best thing about that was my 10th grade biology teacher, Doris Gallup, was one of those HSC members we were instructing. (A proud moment for both of us!) I then started teaching the Herpetology course for the new recruits in HSC, which I have done for many years now.

Describe your ideal day in nature.

Although I grew up in the area, I do not enjoy the high heat and humidity we experience for a good portion of the year, so I enjoy cooler weather days with low humidity, when I can see wildlife enjoying it as well. One of my most memorable experiences, which lead me to work with the vernal pool project, was being able to visit a vernal pool site in the best conditions to see spotted salamander migration: at night, with lots of "warm" rain (probably around 45 to 50 degrees F), around late February to early March. The peepers calling were deafening, and we had to watch where we stepped, since the salamanders were walking all over the forest floor to get to the pools. When we made our way to a pool, the salamanders in the water were swimming, doing a bit of a courtship dance, and paid no attention to us taking photographs, as long as it was raining.

What would we be surprised to know about you?

I guess many folks don't know I like to do artwork: mostly drawing, painting, and wood carving. I don't do it as much as I would like, but keep trying to get to it when I can.

Another thing many don't know is that I have done the Polar Plunge four times, which is actually more fun than you think, and it is for a good cause (raising funds for Special Olympics).

Talk about your hobbies?

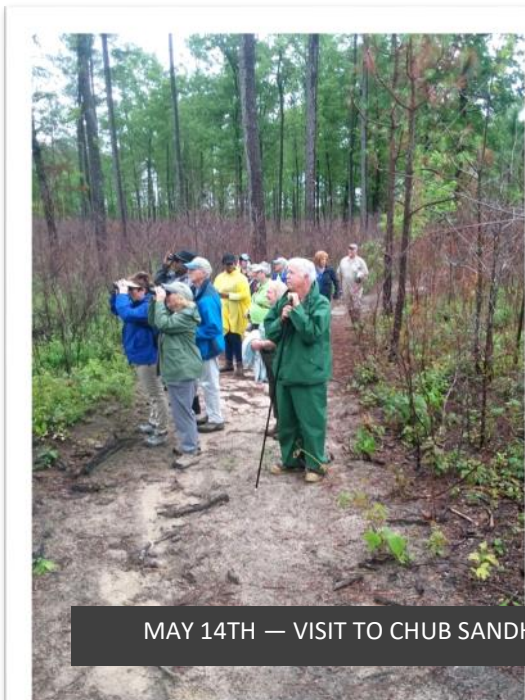
Well one I just mentioned in the previous question, I love to do artwork, I just wish I had more time to spend on it (and other hobbies). I also enjoy being outdoors: hiking, gardening, fishing, and kayaking. In addition, a few HSC members know that I enjoy visiting local craft breweries to sample new beers with family and friends.

If you could be any animal in the world, what would you be and why?

Tough question! It would be nice to live in the mountains (less of that high heat and humidity), so two animals I think of in the mountains of Virginia are the Eastern Hellbender and Bog Turtle. Pros for the Eastern Hellbender include a fun name, a literally cool habitat, and the males take care of the nest of eggs, haha. Pros for the Bog Turtle include living in a wetland environment (some land some water, so maybe taking in some of those mountain views when on land), another nice and literally cool habitat most of the time, and well, parental care is not an issue with eggs or young, once the eggs are laid.

As a presenting partner do you have any feedback about our organization?

I have nothing but good things to say about the organization and HSC VMN! Members are so eager to learn and help our agency. They are always a fun audience to instruct and fun and diligent volunteers to work with in the field. HSC member, John Bunch, has helped some of us at DWR in recent years to gather information on vernal pools and to access waterbodies in his area for fish surveys. I have definitely found some good friends in this chapter, as well as in the rest of the organization.

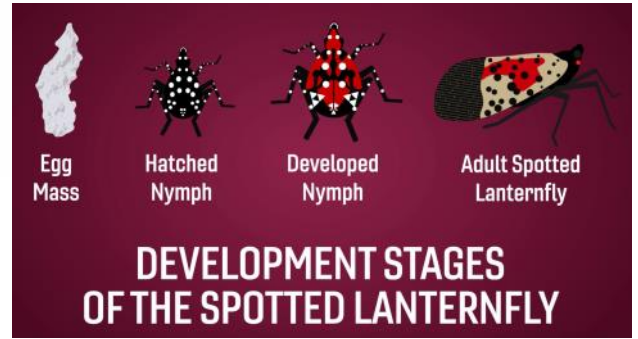


MAY 14TH — VISIT TO CHUB SANDHILL NAP TO VISIT THE GOLDEN PUCCOON

Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine

- 2022 Additions** ■
- Albemarle County
 - Augusta County
 - Carroll County
 - Page County
 - Prince William County
 - Rockingham County
 - Rockbridge County
 - Shenandoah County
 - Wythe County
 - City of Buena Vista
 - City of Charlottesville
 - City of Harrisonburg
 - City of Lexington
 - City of Lynchburg
 - City of Manassas
 - City of Manassas Park
 - City of Staunton
 - City of Waynesboro

- Original Quarantine** ■
- Clarke County
 - Frederick County
 - Warren County
 - City of Winchester



DEVELOPMENT STAGES OF THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

For more information:

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Office of Plant Industry Services

July 2022



While Sandy and I were canoeing on the Nottoway River today we saw something on Laurel Oak leaves (I think that's what they are) that I had never seen before. I asked on the Bug Identification Group and they tell me that these are Dobsonfly egg cases. **John Bunch, Posted on Facebook August 7, 2022**



Male and female eastern Dobsonflies.

Outdoor Continued Education Event

On July 23rd, our chapter held its first outdoor C/E event in the pole barn located in Windsor Castle Park. This hot July day started at 8:30am with coffee and Ringo's donuts and the presentation began at 9am. Our presenter for this event was Stephen Jackson who is the environmental and storm water technician for Isle of Wight County. Stephen's subject was "stormwater" and how we can help manage it to improve our environment.



Attended by our chapter members and some of the next class of prospective cohorts.



Following the presentation, Steve led the group along the Cypress Creek trail to the kayak shed and back. During the walk Stephen discussed several environmentally beneficial projects our chapter has been involved with and pointed out several other environmentally beneficial actions that could be taken.



This first of its kind event for our chapter was well attended by our chapter members and in addition was attended by some of the next class of prospective cohorts. In spite of the hot July weather, being in the shelter of the pole barn with all the overhead fans running resulted in a very enjoyable and informative morning for all.

Submitted by Henry McBurney

Photos by Karen Barlow

NANSEMOND RIVER CLEANUP

**OCTOBER 1, 2022
9AM 'TIL 12PM**

BRING YOUR KAYAKS, CANOES, & BOATS
ON FOOT CLEANUP VOLUNTEERS ALSO WELCOME!
MEET AT CONSTANT'S WHARF - 100 E. CONSTANCE ROAD, 23434
INFORMATION: LITTERCONTROL@SUFFOLKVA.US - 757.514.7604

KEEP SUFFOLK Beautiful
KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

FOLLOW US:
f 6

OPEN SPACES AND WILD PLACES

Managing Parks for People & Wildlife

Workshop Oct 13, 2022 9 am-2:30 pm
Virginia Institute Marine Science, Gloucester VA

**RESTORE
the
Wild**
VIRGINIA DWR

LUNCHEON INCLUDED

Parks and other open space are critical links in ensuring viable habitat for Virginia's wildlife. Providing this habitat can have multiple benefits for your park:

- Enhanced visitor experience
- Reduced maintenance costs
- Meet CAPRA accreditation sustainability goals
- Conserve wildlife
- Reduce runoff and pollution
- Volunteer engagement
- Equitable access

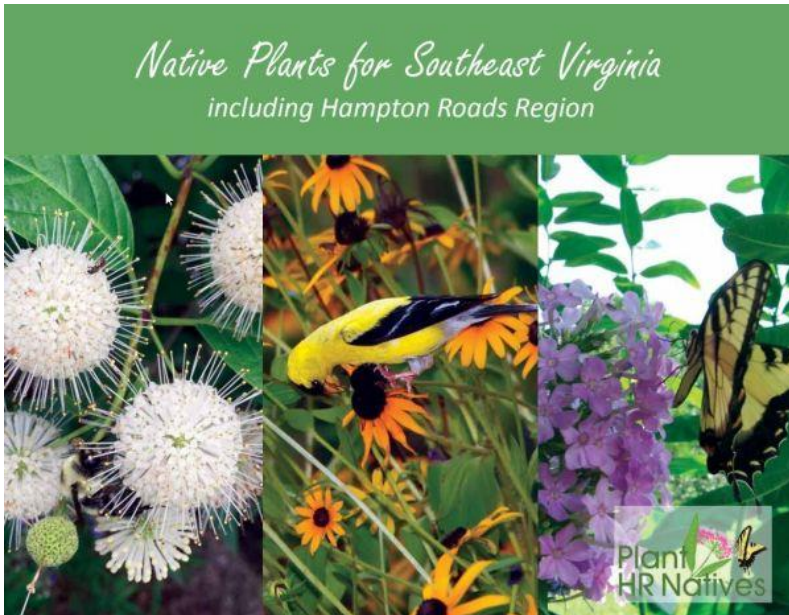
Topics include:

- ◆ Habitat assessment and improvements
- ◆ Invasive species identification and control
- ◆ Raingardens and buffers
- ◆ Living shorelines
- ◆ Enhancing Wildlife Viewing and Wildlife Programming

REGISTER AT: <https://forms.gle/okSXRTbyY1VWEWZL9>

This workshop provided at no cost by the DWR Habitat Education Program

Please contact Stephen Living DWR Habitat Education Coordinator with any questions:
Stephen.living@dwr.virginia.gov 757.409.2725



Region: Cities of Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Hampton, Poquoson, Newport News, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, Petersburg, Emporia and counties of Prince George, Sussex, Surry, Southampton, Isle of Wight, James City, York, Greensville (eastern side) and Gloucester.

Virginia Native Plant Guides

Free to Download: vnps.org/virginia-native-plant-guides/

