

**Virginia Master Naturalist
Historic Southside Chapter
Basic Training Course Syllabus**

Classroom Sessions

Classroom sessions are Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Isle of Wight County Extension Office Conference Room

- Wednesday
August 10, 2011: **Introduction to Virginia Master Naturalist Program**
Instructors: Michelle Prysby, VMN Program Coordinator & Janet Spencer, IOW Extension Agent
Welcome & introductions (15 min)
VMN Program & policies (75 min)
Break (15 min)
VMN volunteer projects & risk management (75 min)
- Wednesday
August 17, 2011: **Basic Ecology, Concepts & American Naturalists**
Instructors: Dr. John Patterson, Biology Professor, & Harvey Darden, VDOF Forester
Announcements (10 min)
American Naturalists presentations (students 30 min)
Basic ecology & classification systems (75 min)
Break (10 min)
Biodiversity, human impact & T&E species (45 min)
Quiz (10 min)
- Wednesday
August 31, 2011: **Botany & Entomology**
Instructors: Darren Loomis, VDCR SE Steward & Janet Spencer, IOW Extension Agent
Announcements (10 min)
Plant biology, identification, taxonomy & distribution (75 min)
Break (10 min)
Insect biology, identification, taxonomy, role & distribution (75 min)
Quiz (10 min)
- Wednesday
September 14, 2011: **Ornithology & Forestry**
Instructors: Terry Jenkins, Audubon Society & Harvey Darden, VDOF Forester
Announcements (10 min)
Bird biology, identification, taxonomy, role & distribution (75 min)
Break (10 min)
Tree biology, identification, taxonomy & forest management (75 min)
Quiz (10 min)
- Wednesday
September 28, 2011: **Mammalogy & Ichthyology**
Steve living, VDGIF Biologist & Eric Brittle, VDGIF Biologist
Announcements (10 min)
Mammal biology, identification, taxonomy & distribution (75 min)
Break (10 min)
Fish biology, identification, taxonomy & distribution (75 min)
Quiz (10 min)

Wednesday
October 12, 2011: **Wetlands & Estuarine Ecology**
Instructor: Bobby Clontz, TNC Land Steward
Announcements (10 min)
Wetlands distribution, flora & fauna, function & management (75 min)
Break (10 min)
Estuarine & coastal ecosystem distribution, characteristics & threats
(75 min)
Quiz (10 min)

Wednesday
October 26, 2011: **Weather & Climate & Presentation/Teaching/Interpretive Skills**
Instructors: Fred Turck, VDOF Asst. Director, Resource Protection
Division & Coordinating Committee & Dianna Griffith
Announcements (10 min)
Weather measurements & elements. VA's weather & human effects
(60 min)
Break (10 min)
Interpretive skills, education & advocacy & audience management (60
min)
Break (10 min)
Quiz (30 min)

Wednesday
November 2, 2011 **Evolution (this class will be used as a makeup class)**
Dianna Griffith

Field Trips (4 hours each)

Saturday
August 13, 2011: **Virginia Aquarium**
Instructors: VA Aquarium personnel.
Ichthyology & Estuarine Ecology – marine life cycles, habitats &
adaptations, creek animal classification, food chain of the marsh &
wetlands & watersheds.

Saturday
September 3, 2011: **Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center -**
Instructor: Laurie Fox
Trees, shrubs & herbaceous plants of SE VA. 26 various theme &
demonstration gardens. Stream protection, buffer zones, wildlife
habitat & food plantings & species diversity.

Saturday
September 10, 2011: **Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge**
Instructors: Dismal Swamp personnel
Forest & non-forest plant communities, habitat management, fire
management, Atlantic white cedar restoration & wildlife management.

Saturday
September 17, 2011 **Big Woods State Forest &
The Nature Conservancy Piney Grove Preserve**
Instructors: J.D. Kleopfer, Wildlife Diversity Biologist/Herpetologist
& Bobby Clontz, TNC Land Steward
Herpetology - VA reptiles & amphibians diversity, biology, taxonomy,
identification & T&E species. Habitat management & fire ecology.

(entomology & ornithology will be included as appropriate during the field tour)

Saturday
October 1, 2011:

Blackwater Ecologic Preserve

Instructors: Darren Loomis, VDCR SE Steward & Harvey Darden, VDOF Forester

Botany & Forestry – dichotomous key, native plants & trees, using a field guide, T&E species & recording observations.

(entomology & ornithology will be included as appropriate during the field tour)

Saturday
October 8, 2011

Blackwater River Eco-Cruise

Instructor: Jeff Turner, Blackwater / Nottoway Riverkeeper
Floating classroom tour of Blackwater River – riverine environment, history & wildlife.

Saturday
October 22, 2011:

Virginia's Biogeography, geology, soils & habitat training

Instructor: Alice Beachy, Environmental Science Teacher

Training will be at the Isle of Wight County Extension Office

VA geologic history, physiographic provinces & paleontology.

Geologic processes, mineral identification & soils.

Wednesday
November 9, 2011:

**Smithfield Demonstration Garden – 8 hour advanced training
(This training would be open to all area VMN Chapters)**

Habitat Facilitator Training.

Instructor: Carol Heiser, VDGIF Habitat Education Coordinator

Location is the Luter YMCA in Smithfield