



Virginia Master Naturalists

Riverine Chapter

2023 in Review

199
volunteers

12,038
service hours,
valued at \$392K

15
sites stewarded

43+
scientific, monitoring,
and inventory studies
supported

22,635
contacts made
through education &
outreach

The Virginia Master Naturalist program is a statewide corps of trained volunteers providing education, science, and stewardship to benefit natural resource conservation in their communities. The Riverine Chapter is active in Richmond, Henrico County, and surrounding areas.

2023 Activity Highlights

- Volunteers assisted Richmond Parks & Recreation with study and restoration of Dell Meadow Pond in Byrd Park. They conducted weekly water monitoring, documented species observations, developed a planting plan, and installed native plants to improve the habitat.
- Volunteers participated in all steps of oyster reef restoration--collecting, transporting, and bagging waste shell, broadcasting oyster larvae onto it, and distributing it at oyster grounds in the Piankatank River. In 2023, this project introduced ~7 million spat on shell to the river.



In partnership with the Center for Conservation Biology, volunteers installed, maintained, and monitored American kestrel nest boxes, helping conserve this declining species. Photo by Parks Rountrey.

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