

Master Naturalist Mission

The Virginia Master Naturalist program is a statewide corps of volunteers providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.



VMN Program Sponsors

- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Center for Coastal
 Resources Management
- Virginia Museum of Natural History

First and foremost, we are a volunteer organization!

Certified members volunteer a minimum of 40 hours a year on chapter approved projects.



Riverine Training Class

Members volunteer in a wide range of projects



Education and outreach

Citizen science

Stewardship

Chapter administration

Education & Outreach Projects

Speaking to groups

Programs for children

Booths at community fairs



Citizen Science Projects

- Water monitoring
- Collecting data on vernal pools
- Bluebird trail monitoring
- Bird counts
- Butterfly surveys
- Wildlife mapping



Stewardship Activities

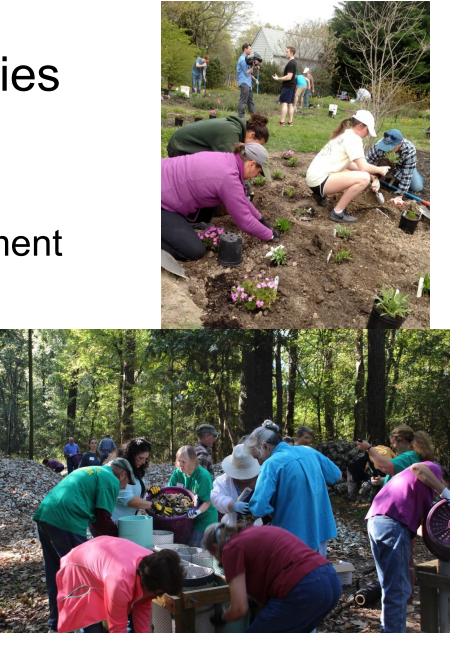
Oyster shell recycling*

 Invasive plant management in state and local parks

Stream clean ups

Tree planting

*VMN State award for stewardship project



Administration of Chapter is <u>Entirely</u> by Volunteers

- Board of Directors
- Committee chairs and committee members
- Administration of training program for new members



Becoming a Member

- Read the Training Class Information and check out the Tip Sheet before filling out the application
- 2. Complete application package available at www.RiverineMN.org
- 3. Applications are due by October 15, 2023.
- 4. Be brief, but specific we usually receive more applications than we can accept.

Virginia Master

Riverine Chapter

5. Fee for course is \$150, scholarships are available

Training Program Requirements

- 1. Attend 14 weeks of training classes
 - Thursday evenings 6:30-9:30 pm
 - January 11 April 18, 2024
 - 8600 Dixon Powers Dr. (Henrico Coop. Ext.)
- 2. Complete at least 10 hours of field training
 - Mostly on Saturdays
- 3. Complete training assessments



Complete Certification as a VMN Volunteer

- Complete all basic training requirements within one year (preferably by the end of April).
- Volunteer a minimum of 40 hours each year on Riverine approved projects.
- 3. Complete 8 hours of continuing education each year.
- 4. Pay \$25 membership fee



Some Considerations in Deciding Whether to Apply for the Program

- Do you have the time to attend all training classes & do 1-2 hrs of weekly homework?
- Can you attend field trips, which are usually on Saturdays? (you'll need several, and most people want to attend more)
- Do you have Internet to access class materials & use Zoom if weather cancels an in-person class?



...More Considerations in Deciding Whether to Apply for the Program

- Do you have time to volunteer?
- Are you willing to keep track of your volunteer hours and record them on the online Better Impact site?



Thank you for your interest in the Virginia Master Naturalist Program!

- Virginia Master Naturalist State website: www.VirginiaMasterNaturalist.org
- Riverine Chapter website: www.RiverineMN.org
- For any questions about applications or training contact us at president@riverinemn.org

