



# Field Notes

The Newsletter of the Peninsula Chapter - Virginia Master Naturalist Program

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Spring 2020

## New Beginnings

Spring finally has arrived! The cherry blossoms, daffodils, and dandelions are in full bloom. "The Pollening" has begun, as seen by the yellow haze on cars and ponds and experienced by those with allergies! It is also the start of the newest PMN Cohort XV. After a meet-and-greet on February 19, Basic Training began on Wednesday, March 4.



Photo Credit: Melissa Brosius

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## Everyone Can Help With The Field Notes Newsletter!

When volunteering, please take a minute to get a picture or two that can be included in the next issue! Email your photos to [vmn.mel@gmail.com](mailto:vmn.mel@gmail.com). Let's fill the next issue full of photos that show all the good work you are accomplishing! Thank you to everyone who submitted photos used in this issue!

## COVID-19 Resources

As the COVID-19 virus has spread into and across the United States, uncertainty and panic has accompanied it. The Virginia Peninsula has also been affected by the virus and efforts to contain it. As of late March 2020, local state and city parks are still open to the public, though visitors are still encouraged to practice social distancing: a gathering of 10 people or fewer and a distance of 6 feet between people.

Going for a walk in a park or neighborhood offers respite from the negativity in the news and social media. Exercise is good for the mind and body, and being immersed in nature soothes and heals the soul.

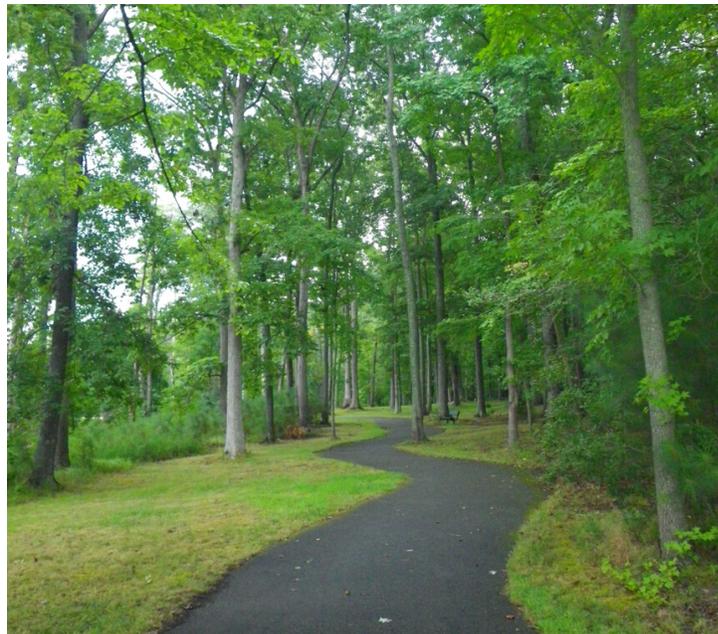


Photo Credit: Melissa Brosius

Here are some helpful links from the Virginia Cooperative Extension in response to COVID-19:

**<https://ext.vt.edu/covid-19updates/resources.html>**

While numerous institutions have been closed and many events cancelled due to the virus, there are still ways to get volunteer and CE hours from your computer at home. Don't forget to enter your hours in VMS as you complete these!

### **Zooniverse.org Projects**

PMN Vice President Shirley Chirch recently sent an email about getting volunteer hours by identifying information from photographs and videos on this website. There are 58 projects in the Nature category, 55 projects in Biology, 9 in Climate, and a few (not all) in Physics and Space. These hours would be entered under "**CS - Zooniverse**" in VMS.

### **Continuing Education Webinar Series**

Many interesting webinars are featured on the VMN website. Topics include wildlife, climate change, plants and trees, water quality, citizen science, VMN projects, and more. There is a monthly webinar that can be viewed live and links to archived webinars from previous months. These hours would be entered under "**CE**" in VMS.

# Peninsula Chapter

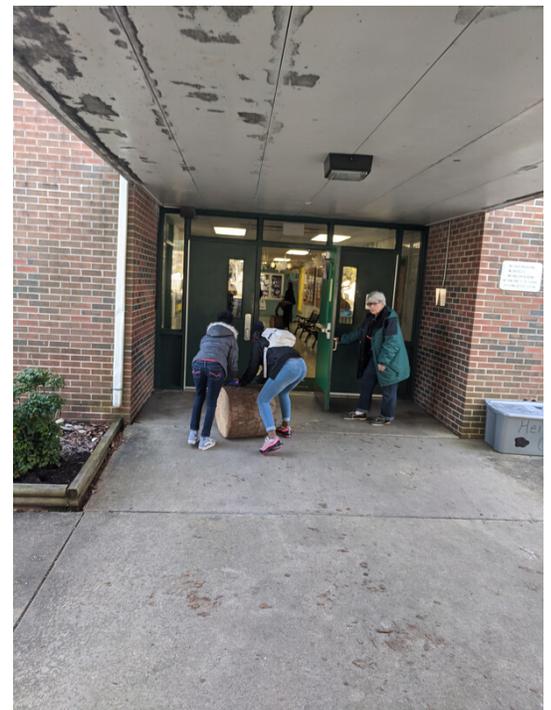
## Tree Plantings at Elementary Schools

Photo Credit: Dave Singletary



Peninsula Master Naturalists helped elementary school students plant 12 trees at 3 different schools.

Log Roll at Booker Elementary in Hampton!



## Pollinator Garden at Warwick River Christian School

Photo Credit: Sandra Roberson



PMN volunteers helped create a pollinator garden and a fish pond at Warwick River Christian School. At left is the garden before the renovations started.



The volunteers worked very hard to transform the garden into a functional and enjoyable space (above and below)!



June Hartzler pruning  
dead branches

## Pollinator Garden at Warwick River Christian School

Photo Credit: Sandra Roberson



The garden is finally ready for the kids!



Sandra Roberson's grandsons feeding the turtle (left) and watering the plants (right). As she says, "You're never too young to start helping out!"



# Peninsula Chapter

## PMN Clean Ups

Linda Boone's single-handed canoe clean-up of Harris Creek in Hampton



Photo Credit: Linda Boone

Sandra Roberson cleaning up at Huntington Beach in Newport News

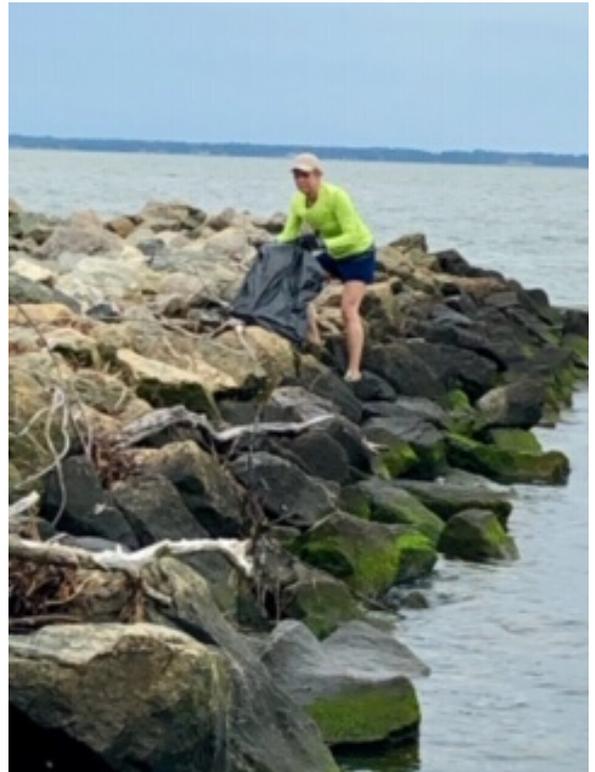


Photo Credit: Sandra Roberson



Susan Webb cleaning up a cherry tree at Endview Plantation. She cut out an invasive grapevine with a trunk that was 8 inches in diameter!

Photo Credit: Daina Henry

# Peninsula Chapter

## Bug Sightings

Photo Credit: Sandra Roberson

Pink spotted hawk moth on a moon flower.



Sandra Roberson raised and released about 30 monarch butterflies!



# Peninsula Chapter

## E-Mammal Camera, Mariner's Museum Park & Noland Trail



PMN volunteers installed the E-Mammal trail camera in the Mariner's Museum Park in November 2019. Since then, it's captured numerous pictures of deer, foxes, and raccoons, as well as squirrels, people, dogs, and vehicles in certain locations. The E-Mammal project has helped the PMN volunteers and museum staff determine that a known fox den is not currently being used. The camera is regularly moved around the park to discover more about the animals that live in the park. Who knows what it will capture next?!



# Peninsula Chapter

## Bee Byway Planting

Photo Credit: Dave Singletary



On Saturday March 7, Peninsula Master Naturalists were asked to help plant bee-friendly flowers in parts of a 15-mile corridor from Huntington Park to Newport News Park. This project is led by two 14-year old boys who will take the results to the worldwide competition in Detroit, Michigan in April. The boys also set up a user-friendly website, [beebyway.com](http://beebyway.com). It has a list of bee-friendly flowers, and you can register your property as a bee Waystation or Pit Stop. This marks your home on the website map, along with others, to connect the dots and make the Bee Byway a success!



## Articles from our members: Daina Henry



### Meet a Mariner

### *Dr. Daina Paupe Henry*

Educator, nature lover, volunteer, camper, gardener, water enthusiast, wife, mother. These are just a few words that describe Dr. Daina Paupe Henry. As an avid champion for The Mariners' Museum and Park, Henry embodies every ounce of what it means to be a mariner, to be personally connected to the world's waters, and the desire to connect others to their shared maritime heritage.

Henry has lived in Newport News for more than 30 years, with the Museum and Park being a part of her life the entire time. Cherished memories include walking on the Noland Trail, attending special events in the Park, and browsing the Museum's exhibits. She has truly enjoyed watching the Museum grow, change, and in her words, "only get better."

But, her real favorite? The 550-acre Park, and all the living things in it. She believes the Park and Noland Trail are true community gems.

"The Museum and Park are a vital part of our community to remind us of our past, our present, and our future," said Henry. "The Museum is a reminder of the importance of maritime history to our area – in terms of shipbuilding and its place in the building of America."

Henry provided guided trail walks this past summer, which were an incredible hit with visitors and Members alike. This brought her joy, knowing that she was able to connect the trees in the Park to maritime history.

Henry has been assisting the Museum with its water quality testing of Lake Maury. She is a volunteer water quality tester with many organizations, including the Department of Environmental Quality, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and James River Association. Her work on Lake Maury is helping the Museum and Park better understand the health and sustainability of the Lake, and the wildlife living in and around it.

When asked about what she loves most about the Park, Henry said, "The ability to find peace and quiet in the midst of the noise and kerfuffle of everyday life. To experience solitude and listen to the sound that leaves make when they fall, to hear not the clamor, but the cricket."

Henry holds multiple educational degrees, including a PhD from William & Mary, where she worked for many years as director of special projects, and adjunct faculty for the School of Education. She is the president of the Peninsula Master Naturalists, a former Master Gardener and Tree Steward, and served as a Boy Scout leader for almost 20 years. Her passion for the world's waters extends to her entire family as her husband works for Newport News Shipbuilding, and her two sons are avid sailors. "My family is a water family – we sail, kayak, canoe, and care about the water," said Henry.

Henry's parting words about the Park: "From sunrise to sunset, the trail is full of walkers, runners, bird watchers, and parents showing children the outdoors. The Museum and Park remind us that we must protect our waters and nature."

Volunteer Dr. Daina Paupe Henry enjoying the beauty of fall at Lake Maury.

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## Articles from our members: Patty VonOhlen

### Writing for Trees

"There is power in the written word" Benjamin Franklin

Trees stand silently and make our Earth a better place. They are continually providing service benefits. They clean the air we breath. They absorb the heavy rains to prevent flooding. They filter groundwater to prevent pollution in our waterways. They cool the earth as they filter and absorb sunlight. They provide food and shelter for wildlife. They are interesting and beautiful!

For those of us who love trees, it's hard to imagine why someone would want to cut them down. But sadly, many people do not value trees. So maybe trees need an advocate or spokesperson who can remind others of their importance. The Lorax tells us that someone needs to 'speak for the trees'.

The Writing for Trees Project is a way to 'speak for the trees'. And it's an easy and worthy way to earn PMN volunteer hours. It will help bring awareness and education on the value of trees to our friends and neighbors. Because this project will involve the volunteer working on their own, it will be a good activity during a pandemic social distancing time.

This project involves

1. Selecting a noteworthy tree that can be easily seen as people travel by.
2. Doing some quick research to learn more about that particular species of tree.
3. Taking a photo of noteworthy tree.
4. Writing a short paragraph (approx. 3-4 sentences) about the tree, highlighting benefits: Clean the air, absorb stormwater, provide for wildlife, serve as host species.  
*Optional: Writing a longer and more detailed description of the noteworthy tree/species for a 'Read more' link. Additionally a direct link to a good info website can be included.*



Photo Credit: Patty VonOhlen



## Articles from our members: Patty VonOhlen

5. Sending your write-up, photo and 'more info' links to various newsletters from homeowners associations, or Social Media Sites Facebook, NextDoor or a blog post. Church newsletter are another option if the featured tree is on the church property. There are many other options and ways to get the tree write-up out. Another possible e-newsletter is the Greater Hilton News Network. (See special direction below)

6. Posting your tree photo and write-up on our PMN Facebook page is optional and a good way to give others an easy way to 'share' and spread the good word on trees!

### The Greater Hilton Tree Project

Several neighborhoods in the middle of Newport News are collectively called Greater Hilton. (Boundaries: South Ave-Cedar La and between the James River & RR Tracks) There are hundreds of houses along the tree lined streets.

Because these neighborhoods were established in the first half of the 20th century, there are many large and old growth trees. Yet a large number of the people who live and travel around on the tree lined streets fail to notice or appreciate these tall and stately friends. They are used to large trees being part of the landscape and they ride right by them without even seeing them or appreciating their important role in making the Earth a better place.

The Greater Hilton News Network is an email and social media project to provide communication among residents, merchants and friends. Using the email marketing service called Constant Contact, information is shared by email to over 1000 subscribers. Also the area has two active Facebook groups. Both the GHNN email and facebook posts provide easy ways to **Write for Trees**. Send your submission to [greaterhiltonnewsnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:greaterhiltonnewsnetwork@gmail.com). Hundreds of people can be reminded and encouraged to value trees.

**The Write for Trees Project and the Greater Hilton Tree project are both open to anyone who would like to write for trees. To find out more about the projects contact Patty VonOhlen [pattyvonohlen@gmail.com](mailto:pattyvonohlen@gmail.com)**



Photo Credit: Patty VonOhlen



# Peninsula Chapter

## Peninsula Chapter Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	Charlotte Boudreau
<b>Vice President</b>	Shirley Chirch
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Bonnie Baffer
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Yukari Hughes
<b>Treasurer</b>	Christy Gardner
<b>Chapter Advisor</b>	Megan Tierney



## Member Meetings and Continuing Education

*Day/Time:* Second Tuesday of every month, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

*Location:* Sandy Bottom Nature Park

1255 Big Bethel Road, Hampton, VA 23666

## Committee Chairs

<b>Basic Training</b>	Gary Wright & Sandy Graham
<b>Continuing Education</b>	Maria Nissen
<b>Community Outreach</b>	Daina Henry
<b>Hospitality</b>	Merry Kennedy
<b>Membership</b>	Cindy Moore
<b>Volunteer Service Projects</b>	Tracy McIntyre
<b>Public Relations</b>	Ella Reilly
<b>Fund Raising</b>	Jim Francis
<b>VMS Coordinator</b>	Laura Marlowe
<b>Property Manager</b>	Diane Peters
<b>Newsletter</b>	Melissa Brosius
<b>Web Master</b>	John Berry
<b>Past President</b>	Daina Henry

## Upcoming Meetings

*Date:* May 12, 2020 (Tentative, subject to change)

*Time:* 6:00 p.m. Member meeting

7:00 p.m. CE: Mushrooms by Ripkin Gratton

*Date:* June 9, 2020 (Tentative, subject to change)

*Time:* 6:00 p.m. Member meeting & Recognition Awards (no CE)

## FIND US!

**Peninsula Chapter Website:** <http://vmnpeninsula.weebly.com/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/VMNPeninsula/>

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTblGR9RcDI62oxfJSLi3Ww>

**Pinterest:** <https://www.pinterest.com/VMNPeninsula/>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/vmnpeninsula/?hl=en>

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