

Peninsula Chapter

Field Notes



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Peninsula Chapter - Virginia Master Naturalist Program

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Spring 2016

Message from the President:

First, I want to thank everyone for their support and encouragement to take on this role. (I really had wanted to spend less time administratively and more time outside...) I hope I can provide what the organization and you (individually) need.

My door is always open, my phone is usually within grasp, and as you probably know, I am always accessible by email (dainapaupe@cox.net). I want to hear your views and ideas about how to make this a better organization. We each have a valuable perspective. Let me know your perspective.

And, please forgive me if I make mistakes, or do not understand the history of how things have been done, this is my first time as your president. I will and can learn. We have a great team put together, to help get all of our tasks done. I want to thank everyone who in anyway contributes administratively to keeping this ship afloat. I may be at the helm, but it is everyone else who is manning the sails and making the ship go. If you have not volunteered yet to help with administrative tasks, now is the time. Make a difference to the organization. There is a task for everyone.

The creek behind my home has a plethora of diversity – different grasses, trees, shrubs and different critters inhabiting. It would be a dull picture if everything was the same. Each swath of grass grows where it is best suited, some like it wetter, some like it saltier, some are homes to periwinkle, others are the homes to muskrats and deer. They (nature) work it out. So can we.

It is not important how you contribute to nature and the chapter; it is important THAT you contribute. Thanks for all you do, both large and small jobs. See you outside somewhere.

Daina

Summer Events—YOU Are Needed!

If you are looking for something fun to do this summer that helps the environment, don't forget to check the calendar on our Volunteer Management System. We have numerous projects that offer opportunities to volunteer during these warm months. These include summer camps, butterfly counts, water quality monitoring, paddling at Lucas Creek for BioBlitzing, schoolyard habitats in York, Poquoson, Hampton and Gloucester and many others.

And, don't forget to document some of your species sightings for the Virginia WildlifeMapping program on iNaturalist.com. Its easy to do and provides important data to DGIF and other research programs. See page 5 for directions.

From your editor



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Peninsula Chapter

Spring Forward Event

By Melissa Mullins, Cohort 4

On behalf of the entire Peninsula Chapter, the Spring Forward Committee would like to thank the Mariners' Museum & Park for their generous support as our amazing Presenting Sponsor for the March 31st Spring Forward event. The Huntington & Anna Room was a lovely venue which allowed us to mingle and get to know our special guests and each other better while also viewing the project boards developed by our chapter's hardworking volunteers. While we know we are awesome, **the ability to show to our partners and sponsors the impact that we have made in our community** was key to the overall success of the evening. Over 90 participants were able to enjoy the project boards, refreshments, raffle, and camaraderie of the assembled nature enthusiasts.



Charter members celebrate!

Photo by Bryan Barmore

We also would like to thank Dr. Shawn Dash for his entertaining talk on partnerships in nature, "Lean on Me: An Examination of the Evolution and Success of Partnerships." While master naturalists know that science and nature are fascinating topics, Dr. Dash showed us proof that they can also be presented in a way that will capture anyone's interest. How perfect is that?

Thank you to Elisabeth and Pam who did a wonderful job welcoming everyone and presenting the new certifications, recertifications, and milestone pins to the chapter's members. We look forward to seeing more members receive recognition for their many hours of dedication to our community and the environment. As time goes by, the ranks of those achieving the 250, 500, and 1,000 hour pins will soar and the impact of their hard work will grow.

Thank you to the following sponsors for providing goods and services for our raffle:

Ace Peninsula Hardware
Backyard Birder Seed and Supply
CadeFit
Ken Matthews Garden Center
Norfolk Botanical Gardens
Sassafras Farm
Southern Branch Nursery
Whitley's Peanut Factory



Thank you to these sponsors for cash donations:

McDonald's Nursery
Whole Foods Market

Pestout Organic Pest Services

PESTOUT

Tidewater Physical Therapy



And a big thank you to our presenting Sponsor the Mariners' Museum and Park, for the use of their facilities.

Peninsula Chapter



Photos by
Bryan Barmore, Cohort 6

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PMN volunteers to Celebrate Earth Day, By Brad Halcums, Cohort 2

Peninsula Chapter members were in several places on Saturday, April 16, as Earth Day was celebrated. Several of the locations are noted below.



Virginia Living Museum

Daina Henry led a display on water quality testing in the Museum's downstairs. She was assisted by Phyllis Singletary. (above)

The Chapter had an outside display which was staffed by Diane Peters, Bev Nunnally, Felicia Mason, Phyllis Kohlman, Yukari

Hughes and Pam Courtney. Contacts from inside and outside the Museum totaled about 260 guests. Several visitors signed up as possible trainees.

Members got to meet the VDGIF's newest worker, Bertie, a dog trained to sniff out the invasive species nutria.



Christopher Newport University

The Chapter had a very successful plant sale with proceeds of about \$650. Special thanks go to Sandy Graham and Willard Waples who were available all day. Other members helping were Anne Owens, Ella Reilly, Charlotte Boudreau, Chris Gwaltney, Mary Galloway, Brad Halcums, Gary Wright, Susie Yager, and Susan Walton.



Bennetts Creek Park Suffolk

Bryan Barmore co-lead a bird identification walk at the Park for the Nansemond River Preservation Alliance's BioBlitz.

Photos by Susan Walton

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iNaturalist and Virginia WildlifeMapping Article and photos by Susan Walton, Cohort 2



An easy and vital way to help our Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is to document wildlife sightings for them. With limited funds and field biologists focused on many special projects, VDGIF implemented WildlifeMapping in the 1990s, enlisting citizen scientists to record their observations from the field.

This spring, DGIF launched a long awaited updated, version of WildlifeMapping using the online platform of iNaturalist.



Yes, this is MUCH simpler than the previous version! While you must provide documentation for your observations via photographs or sound recording, iNaturalist automatically uploads information from your photograph's metadata. If you are not using a phone or camera with GPS, it is very easy to add the location.

Unsure of an observation? iNaturalist is used by many different organizations and numerous scientists monitor the sight to validate identifications. Once someone has done this, your observation will be upgraded to "research grade." The WildlifeMapping project is curated by DGIF personnel who also assist with this process.



Basic directions for posting an observation on the iNaturalist.org website

First, you must sign up or sign in.

You will be asked to **Drag and drop some photos** or **Choose photos**

When you **click on your photo** file in your computer or phone, it will be loaded onto a screen that will have a space for species name, date and location. Date and location will be entered automatically from your photo if available in your metadata. The screen is shown below.

Type in your species identification at **species name**. It will autocomplete for you as you type.

Fill in the **date and time** of the observation if it wasn't gathered automatically from your photo.

For location, you can type in a nearby address the GPS coordinates will be added for you.

Click on **submit** to save your observation!

Be sure to join the project **Virginia WildlifeMapping** and share your observations there!

Did I mention, there's an app for that? If you prefer using your phone to a camera, you can upload your data directly from your phone.



Now, we just need to figure out how to convince everyone that searching for wildlife is more fun than looking for Pokemon Go!

Peninsula Chapter

Lawyer's Wig Mushroom

Article and photo by Phyllis Kohlman, Cohort 6

With our wet spring and some of our hot summer afternoon showers, we have a chance to discover different types of mushrooms. I discovered this one in some natural pine needle/leaves mulch.

This photo shows an elongated, white cap mushroom, with horizontal circles of tan coloration that is on the "lacy like" edges, identified as *Coprinus comatus*, or commonly Lawyer's Wig or Shaggy Mane. Think of the historical wigs that English lawyers wore, we can quickly identify why it got this nickname.



I did not observe its further stages of existence, which seem to be very interesting. To disperse its spores, the mushroom cap, in a few hours, turns into a black liquid, which is full of the spores. The spores are provided with all the sugars the mushroom body had available. Therefore the remaining body is no longer needed. This liquefying process occurs once the mushroom has reached its full potential. This starts the new cycle of life in the spores.

All of the spores seem to mature at the same time, so when the autodigestion enzyme is released, the spores are ready for dispersion. This black liquid can be used to dye something temporarily.

These mushrooms once correctly identified are said to be edible, but need to be consumed before the autodigestion starts. **Please consume mushrooms only if identified by an expert!**

Identification:

- The cap is oblong, 1-2 inches length, revealing a short stem.
- The color is white with tan circle at distal part of cap and lacy scales horizontally around the cap, with the scales' tips being that same tan coloration.
- The white to pink, gills, on the underside of the cap are not attached to the stem. Once the autoliquidifying process starts, the gills begin to turn black coloration.
- The hollow stem has a smooth surface.
- Can be found in many countries around the world, growing in groups on organic matter, or other areas, during warm, moist seasons.

Sources:

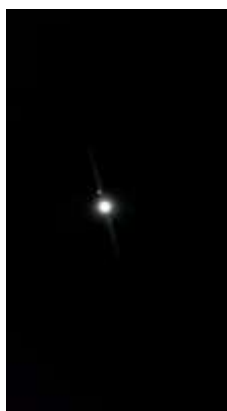
- 1 Cornell Mushroom blog, The Dish on Delinquescence in *Coprinus Specise*, July 1, 2008/ category: Edibles, fungi, mushrooms
- 2 Mushroom Expert.com, Coprinoid Mushrooms: The Inky Caps, by Michael Kuo
- 3 Mushroom Appreciation, All About *Coprinus Comatus*: The Dissolving Shaggy Mane Mushroom!

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Congratulations to Cohort XI!



Photo by Marie Smith, Cohort 5



Astronomy class was held at the Virginia Living Museum. After class the group had an opportunity to look through the telescope. Jonathan Honchul, Cohort 10, captured this view of Jupiter and four of its moons.



Dendrology class at Sandy Bottom with Susie Yager, Ashley DeCarme and Carol King. Photo by Daina Henry, Cohort 6.



VIMS field trip.
Photo by Daina Henry, Cohort 6.

Peninsula Chapter

Lake Maury Cleanup

Article and photos by Daina Henry, Cohort 6

PMN helped to clean up Lake Maury at Mariners Museum on April 21. Larry Lewis, Gary Wright, Chris Gwaltney, Charlotte Boudreau and Daina Henry went paddling in kayaks and a canoe to pick up trash. Trash included a basketball, football, shoes, water bottles, Styrofoam. This was in preparation for MM to open the lake for paddling for the summer.



Who is that masked man? Larry Lewis, Cohort 3.



Charlotte Boudreau, Cohort 1, cleaning the bottom of Lake Maury.

PMN at Hampton Master Gardener Sale

By Brad Halcums, Cohort 2

The Chapter was at Bluebird Gap Farm on April 30, 2016 for the Hampton Master Gardener Plant Sale. Members helping out were Ellen Coleman, Fred Kohlman, and Brad Halcums. Bev Nunnally brought tiny snakes, a frog, and a cockroach all of which generated a lot of interest. Willard Waples donated more seeds for sale and Bev brought some items to sell.

Despite the chilly weather, we had about 170 contacts and raised \$50 for the treasury. The next sale is scheduled for September 17 at the Farm.

Thanks to all who helped make this a successful event!

Peninsula Master Naturalists at Buckroe Beach

By Brad Halcums, Cohort 2



On June 11, 2016, our Chapter set up an outreach tent at the Lifes a Beach Triathlon at Buckroe Beach in Hampton. Members present were Pam Courtney, Diane Peters, Marie Smith, Laura Marlowe, Françoise Verland, and Brad Halcums. It was a bright cool day and even though we did not have many contacts, those folks who stopped by were very interested in the Chapter and several signed up for more information. In addition, we cheered on members Ana Colon and Elisabeth Wilkins as they completed the course. Pictures were taken by Marie Smith, cohort 5.

Peninsula Chapter

Peninsula Chapter Board of Directors

President	Daina Henry
Past President	Elisabeth Wilkins
Vice President	Laura Nusz
Recording Secretary	Diane Peters
Corresponding Secretary	Yukari Hughes
Treasurer	William Boeh
Historian	Loye Spencer
Chapter Advisor	Megan Tierney



Committee Chairs

Basic Training	Becky Holliday, Sandy Graham
Continuing Education	Marc Nichols, Hannah Montalvo
Community Outreach	open
Hospitality	Marie Smith, Chris Gwaltney, Charlotte Boudreau
Membership	Lylliane Battle
Volunteer Service Projects	Bob Vazquez
Public Relations	Ella Reilly
Fund Raising	Suzie Yager
VMS Coordinator	Laura Marlowe
Newsletter	Susan Walton
Web Master	Larry Lewis

Upcoming Meetings

Day: Second Tuesday of the month
Location: Sandy Bottom Nature Park
1255 Big Bethel Road, Hampton, VA 23666

General Membership Meeting

Date: August 9, 2016
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Continuing Education

Date: August 9, 2016
Time: 7:00 pm.
Speaker: Dr. Shawn Dash

General Membership Meeting

Date: September 13, 2016
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Continuing Education

Date: September 13, 2016
Time: 7:00 pm.
Topic: Reptile Hike led by Marc Nichols

Executive Board Meeting

Date: September 6, 2016
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Main Street Library, Newport News

VMN State Conference

Date: August 26-28, 2016 in Wirtz, Virginia

Basic Training Class begins

Date: September 7, 2016

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