

# Master Naturalist Continuing Education – Free

## Spring Training – Sponsored by Peninsula Master Naturalists

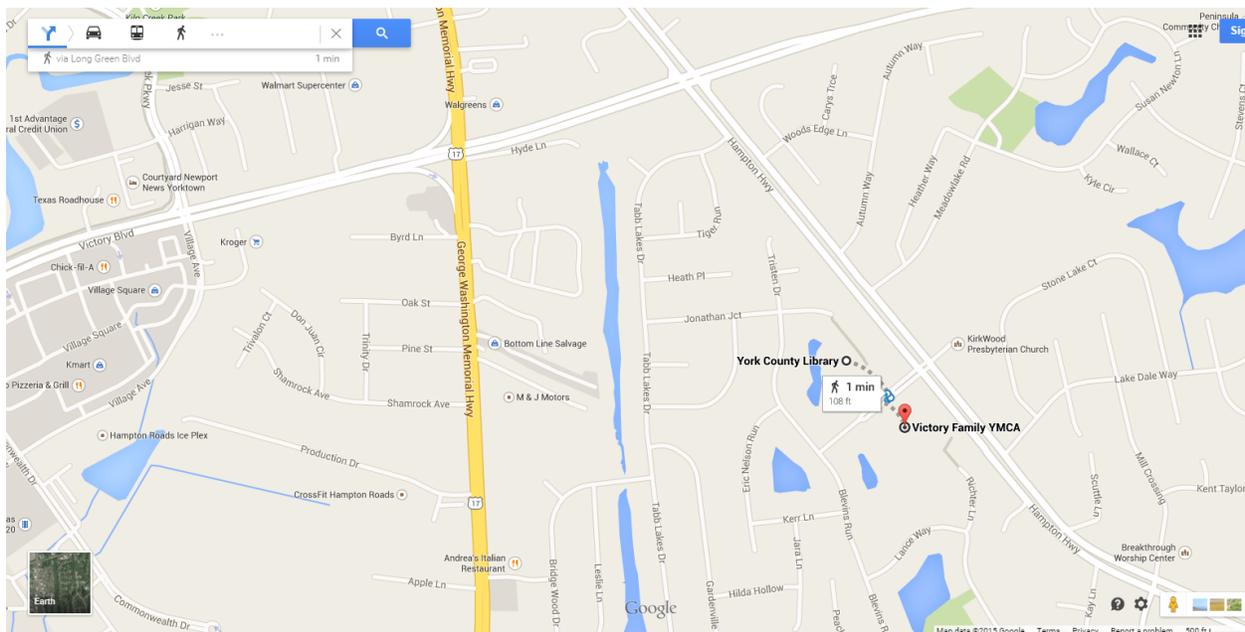
Free – Earn up to 4 hours of Continuing Education

Saturday, May 30, 9:15 AM to 3:45 PM

Tabb Library and Victory YMCA

100 & 101 Long Green Boulevard, Yorktown VA

That's off Hampton Hwy (Rte 134), near the intersection with Victory Blvd. The map below can help you locate the area.



Live map at <https://www.google.com/maps/dir/York+County+Library,+100+Long+Green+Boulevard,+Yorktown,+VA+23693/Victory+Family+YMCA,+101+Long+Green+Boulevard,+Yorktown,+VA+23693/@37.112923,-76.4477253,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x89ba81f81ed95cb9:0x1393c5444e310e42!2m2!1d-76.446358!2d37.113629!1m5!1m1!1s0x89ba81f801ee1ff1:0xebc6fe567631e1f5!2m2!1d-76.444801!2d37.112217>

No need to register—just show up.  
Bring a bag lunch if you'd like to picnic with other Master

**WHAT'S PLANNED:** We have two indoor “classrooms” reserved: the conference/meeting room at Tabb Library and the multipurpose room at Victory YMCA. Although they are in separate buildings, for most people the walk between rooms will be less than 2 minutes, but we have allowed 15 minutes between sessions for “milling about”. We are offering 10 topics--

some an hour, some a half hour--taught by 7 presenters. You will be able to choose 6 topics at most because sessions will run simultaneously in the two classrooms. We also have reserved the outdoor pavilion at the YMCA, which we will use for sign-in and lunch break.

**WHAT YOU DO:** Arrive between 9:15 and 9:30 to sign in. You may park at the Library or the YMCA, but please be sure to sign in at the Outdoor Pavilion behind the YMCA. (We need to keep records of attendees, and we will give you the day's schedule of sessions.) Attend the sessions of your choice. Bring your own bag lunch and join other Master Naturalists for a picnic in the Outdoor Pavilion after our keynote presentation, or go quickly to one of the nearby fast-food joints. Stay the whole day until 4pm or leave whenever you're ready.

**WHAT YOU GET:** You can earn up to 4 hours of Continuing Education credits.

## Schedule of Sessions

Key	<span style="background-color: #d9e1f2; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> half-hour classes	<span style="background-color: #ffffcc; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> lunch break
	<span style="background-color: #c6e0b4; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> hour classes	<span style="background-color: #a6a6a6; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> nothing scheduled

Time Slot	Room 1 - Tabb Library	Room 2 - Victory YMCA	Outdoor Pavilion
9:15-9:45			welcome
9:45-10:15		Using the VMS - Elisabeth Wilkins	& sign-in
15 min	break between sessions		
10:30-11:00	Intro to Peninsula Bats - Michelle Slosser	Birds of Prey Identification - Elisabeth Wilkins	
15 min	break between sessions		
11:15-12:15	Thinking Like an Ecologist - Shawn Dash		
	"Ecologist" continued		
12:15-1:15			Own Bag Lunch Picnic
1:15-2:15	Amphibian & Reptile Defenses Against Predators - Kory Steele	Urban Forest - Will Shoup	
	"Herp Defenses" continued	"Urban Forest" continued	
15 min	break between sessions		
2:30-3:00	Native Wildflowers for Containers - Polly Oliver	Using Newcomb's Wildflower Guide - Susie Yager	
15 min	break between sessions		
3:15-3:45	Decomposition Ecology - Shawn Dash	Using the VMS for Administrators - Elisabeth Wilkins	

## Description of Sessions & Presenters

Our keynote is "Thinking Like an Ecologist," a full hour presentation by Dr. Shawn Dash, beginning at 11:15 in the Library conference room. During this hour, nothing is scheduled in the YMCA room because we hope everyone will attend the keynote.

**9:45-10:15 (Y) Using the VMS:** Learn how to use the Volunteer Management System for more than just entering your hours. Bring your own laptop or tablet to connect to the wifi, or follow along on the projector screen. We'll discuss how to find other members' contact information, send group emails, pull up chapter documents, and find some quirks and hidden

uses that you may not know about. Learn the system's uses AND limitations. Bring your questions! (Elisabeth Carrozza Wilkins, PMN Vice President, Environmental Educator, former Deputy Director NYC Urban Park Rangers)

**10:30-11:00 (L) Intro to Peninsula Bats:** Learn about the bat species that live in our area. (Michelle Slosser, PMN Continuing Ed Co-Chair, Newport News Park Ranger Technician, York County Mosquito Control Technician)

**10:30-11:00 (Y) Birds of Prey Identification:** A quick intro to the raptors we find here and various ways to tell them apart, whether stationary or in flight. (Elisabeth Carrozza Wilkins, PMN Vice President, Environmental Educator, former Deputy Director NYC Urban Park Rangers)

**11:15-12:15 (L) Thinking Like an Ecologist (Seeing the Forest for the Trees):** Ecosystem interactions, providing ecological principles to understand local landscape and creation of wildlife habitat. (Dr. Shawn Dash, Assistant Professor, Evolutionary Biologist-Zoology-Entomology, Department of Biological Sciences, Hampton University, Hampton, VA)

**12:15-1:15 (OP) Lunch Break:** Bring-your-own picnic together in the pavilion, or fast food on your own.

**1:15-2:15 (L) Amphibian and Reptile Defenses Against Predators:** Amphibians and reptiles have a wide variety of predatory defensive morphology and behaviors, and many are unique to their taxa. This presentation will describe these methods with photos, videos, and anecdotes. (Kory Steele, Environmental Consultant GIS Specialist, VA Herpetological Society President, past VLM Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles)

**1:15-2:15 (Y) Urban Forest (The good, the bad, the ugly, and the necessary!):** A lecture that will encompass all the benefits of urban forestry with the pitfalls that many people and professionals fall into with good intentions but bad practices. - (Will Shoup, Area Forester, Virginia Dept. of Forestry)

**2:30-3:00 (L) Native Wildflowers for Containers (Improving Habitat One Pot at a Time):** Helping Our Native Pollinators, Butterflies and Birds Even in Small Space Gardening (Polly Oliver, Intern, Dept of Horticulture, Reynolds Community College, Goochland, VA)

**2:30-3:00 (Y) Using Newcomb's Wildflower Guide:** It's considered the indispensable reference for wildflower identification, but using the key can be challenging. Learn how and practice together on several specimens. (Susie Yager, PMN Continuing Ed Co-Chair, Horticulturist, Native Plant Enthusiast)

**3:15-3:45 (L) Decomposition Ecology (Living the life of a Necrophile):** A lecture on the importance and diversity of decomposers and brown food webs, with focus on insects, especially beetles and flies. (Dr. Shawn Dash, Assistant Professor, Evolutionary Biologist-Zoology-Entomology, Department of Biological Sciences, Hampton University, Hampton, VA)

**3:15-3:45 (Y) Using the VMS for Administrators:** Discuss how and why to actually use those VMS administrative permissions you have. Bring your questions! And bring your own laptop or tablet to connect to the wifi, or follow along on the projector screen. (Elisabeth Carrozza Wilkins, PMN Vice President, Environmental Educator, former Deputy Director NYC Urban Park Rangers)