

RAPPAHANNOCK RAMBLINGS

Issue 4 Volume 5

October/November 2021

VMN State Conference

By Amy Settle

The Virginia Master Naturalist State Conference was held virtually October 1-3. The conference included networking sessions, pre-recorded sessions on multiple topics with live Q&A sessions, as well as live sessions on topics such as the Opening Plenary: Nature's Puzzle with Alonso Abugattas (Capital Naturalist), Accessing Nature, Reducing Plastic Pollution and Solid Waste, Wilderness in Virginia, Night Should be Dark, Building Bridges to the Natural World, and many others. Those who were registered for the conference have access to recordings for six months. Recordings are now available in the Whova app.

Many chapter members took advantage of both virtual and in-person activities held locally and even used in-person events to discuss the virtual sessions. Local in-person events included two sessions for Discovering Nature in Your Favorite Place – Lake Anna Bird Walk with Donna Finnegan and Belmont Nature Walk with Imogene Treble and John Wiltenmuth – and a trash cleanup at Old Mill Park for the Day of Service. We had several members of the current basic training class come out and join in the activities.

(con't. p. 5)

*"The mountains are calling
and I must go..."*

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Birdwalk Photo by Bethany Brown



Belmont Walk Photo by John Wiltenmuth

Chapter Elections and Committees

By Amy Settle

This is the year for elections for chapter officer positions! Elections are held every two years at the chapter meeting in December. The December chapter meeting will be on Tuesday, December 7 and will also serve as the graduation ceremony for the current class and a potluck. If you would like to learn more about what is required of an officer or you would like to run for an office, contact one of the existing officers or come to a board meeting. The current officers are: President – Harry Puffenberger, Vice President – Amy Settle, Treasurer – David Way, and Secretary—Joella Killian. The next board meeting will be November 4 at 6:00 upstairs at Wegmans. Officers and committee chairs are all board members.

There are also opportunities to get involved with committees. There are committees for Membership/Special Activities (Imogene Treble), Projects (Rikki Lucas), Continuing Education/Advanced Training (Amy Settle), Basic Training (Jim Scibek), Outreach/Publicity (Bethany Brown), and Communications (Amy Settle). If you want to learn more about a committee or get involved, reach out to the chair of the committee. Some specific areas in which we need help include a revamp of the chapter website and newsletter development.

Time spent in office positions or working for committees counts as volunteer hours for administration of the chapter.

Better Impact

By Amy Settle

What is the Better Impact Site? This is the new volunteer management site used by the Master Naturalists across the state.

<https://app.betterimpact.com/Volunteer/Main>

On the Better Impact site you can use the calendar of opportunities to sign up for events. You can even add these events to your calendar right from Better Impact. This is also where you log your volunteer and continuing education hours to track for your certification.

There is a document on the home page that gives more information on how to use Better Impact.

There are still a number of you who haven't logged in to the new site yet. If you need assistance with your username and password, please email Imogene Treble (trebleei@gmail.com) or Amy Settle (arsettle@msn.com).

You need to log in at least one volunteer hour this year to continue as an active member.

Useful Apps for Master Naturalists

By Amy Settle

There are many useful apps for the Master Naturalist in the field that are free. There are several apps available for identification of plants and wildlife including Seek, iNaturalist, and PlantSnap. Seek is great for playing around alone and learning while iNaturalist is more like social media for the Nature Nerd. For the native plant enthusiast Flora of Virginia is available as an app for \$20.

There are several apps for birding including eBird, BirdNET, Merlin, and Raptor ID. There are many others including some that cost like The Warbler Guide. A few of the apps have added sound identification. Merlin Bird ID has been my favorite for sound identification because it reinforces the bird that is singing each time it is heard.

There are also apps with trail information and maps including All Trails and Avenza. The Virginia State Parks have put free maps out for Avenza this year. The Avenza app is great for remote areas with no cell signal as it still shows your location on the trail map. It has helped me out several times when I've been exploring new locations.

Calendar of Events

October 19 - Chapter Meeting, Fredericksburg Church of Christ, 226 Riverside Drive at 7 pm
Speaker: Susanne Helsel on EDDMaps mapping invasives project

October 21 -- Native Plant Demonstration Garden Maintenance at Cedell Brooks Park, 11215 Henry Griffin Road, King George

October 28 -- Native Plant Demonstration Garden Maintenance at Cedell Brooks Park, 11215 Henry Griffin Road, King George

October 31 – Belmont Nature Walk, Gari Melchers Home and Studio, 224 Washington Street, Falmouth at 2:00

November 4 - Chapter Board Meeting, Wegmans on Fall Hill Ave. (upstairs) at 6:00 pm

November 16 - Chapter Meeting, Fredericksburg Church of Christ, 226 Riverside Drive at 7 pm
Speaker: Imogene Treble on Better Impact usage

November 28 – Belmont Nature Walk, Gari Melchers Home and Studio, 224 Washington Street, Falmouth at 2:00

December 7 - Chapter Meeting with potluck, class graduation, and officer elections, Fredericksburg Church of Christ, 226 Riverside Drive at 6 pm

December 26 – Belmont Nature Walk, Gari Melchers Home and Studio, 224 Washington Street, Falmouth at 2:00

Please contact arsettle@msn.com if you have any events for our calendar. Next issue will include dates between December 15 and February 29.

State Conference (con't.)



Clean up at Old Mill Park Photo by Matthew Brown

Contact Us

Central Rappahannock Chapter
Virginia Master Naturalists

P.O. Box 5996
Fredericksburg, VA 22403
masternaturalistcrc@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at:

 [http://
masternaturalistcrc.blogspot.com](http://masternaturalistcrc.blogspot.com)

www.virginiamasternaturalist.org

 [Central Rappahannock Chapter -
Virginia Master Naturalists](https://www.facebook.com/CentralRappahannockChapterVirginiaMasterNaturalists)

Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

Chapter Officers

President: Harry Puffenberger
hpuffen@yahoo.com

Past President: Jim Scibek
j-m-scibek@msn.com

Vice-President: Amy Settle
arsettle@msn.com

Treasurer: David Way
bikeman101797@gmail.com

Secretary: Joella Killian
_jkillian@umw.edu

Chapter Advisor: Andrew Peal
andrew.peal@dcr.virginia.gov

Committees

Membership/Special Events
Chair: Imogene Treble trebleie@gmail.com

Project Committee
Chair: Rikki Lucas lucsr2@mymail.vcu.edu

Continuing Education/Advanced Training
Chair: Amy Settle arsettle@msn.com

Basic Training
Chair: Jim Scibek j-m-scibek@msn.com

Outreach/Publicity
Chair: Bethany Brown bethany.brown510@gmail.com

Communications Committee
Chair: Amy Settle arsettle@msn.com

Newsletter Editor: Amy Settle arsettle@msn.com



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