



Fairfax Master Naturalists Annual Report 2018, Jan 17, 2019

Instructions: Click in the box you where you wish to enter information, then type the information that's been requested for that question. The boxes will expand as you type if more space is needed.

Chapter Name:

Fairfax Master Naturalists

1. Board Information

a. Please list names, roles, and e-mail addresses for all Board members, including officers and committee chairs, as of January 2019. In addition, please include a contact for communications with any issues related to the Volunteer Management System (VMN-VMS). If the Role listed is not what you call it in your chapter, please list your equivalent title. If you do not have a listed Role in your chapter, please write 'not applicable'.

Role/Office	Name	Date Term ends
President	Joe Gorney	12/31/2020
Vice President	Kit Sheffield	12/31/2020
Secretary	Shannon Dart	12/31/2020
Treasurer	Ron Grimes	12/31/2020
Projects Chair	Ashley Ossher	12/31/2020
Training Chair	Pete Mecca	6/31/2019
Continuing Ed Chair	Linda Bennett	12/31/2020
Membership Chair	Shawn Dilles	12/31/2020
Webmaster	Susan Cato	12/31/2020
Outreach Chair	Cynde Sears	12/31/2020
Host Chair	Alison Keck	12/31/2020
Communications Chair	Susan Cato	12/31/2020
Past President	Michael Reinemer	12/31/2020
Chapter Advisor	Jim McGlone	
VMN-VMS Contact		12/31/2020
IT Chair		12/31/2020

b. Some Chapters' Boards change over on schedules other than the calendar year. Please indicate the month in which you have the elections of your new Board members.

December

2. Chapter Membership (*indicate number in each category in column to the right*)

A	Trainees (individuals who are enrolled in but who have not yet graduated from the Basic Training course):	10
B	Virginia Master Naturalist Members (individuals who have graduated from the Basic Training course but who are not certified for 2019):	105
C	Certified Virginia Master Naturalists (Chapter members who, in 2018, have completed all of the requirements to be newly certified or recertified for 2019, including completing the Basic Training course, 8 hours of continuing education, and 40 hours of service):	107
D	Total number of Chapter Members (A + B + C):	222
E	Total number of Active Volunteers (Chapter members who have contributed at least one volunteer hour to approved projects within the last 12 months.):	147

3. Certification, Re-certification and Milestones

Jill Spohn will send this list to Tiffany by the end of January.

Contact for Certificates and Pins:

Shawn Dilles

4. Chapter Training

a. Basic Training Courses

Number of Basic Training courses (not classes) held in 2018:	2
When were your courses (not including field trips) held? (Place an 'X' in the appropriate gray box)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekday daytime	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evenings
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekends	
Number of Basic Training course <i>trainees</i> in 2018 (including those who have not yet graduated):	38
Total number of Basic Training course <i>graduates</i> in 2018:	26
Total number of Basic Training course participants over the lifetime of the chapter:	414

b. Continuing Education

The number of Continuing Education hours obtained by your chapter volunteers in 2018:	1856
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5. Chapter Partners

Partnering organizations, such as parks, nature centers, and other organizations

<p>Audubon Society of Northern Virginia: POC – Tom Blackburn 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Suite 100 Reston, VA 20190 www.audubonva.org</p> <p>Earth Sangha: POC – Lisa Bright 10123 Commonwealth Blvd. Fairfax, VA 22032-2707 www.earthsangha.org</p> <p>Fairfax County Park Authority: POC – Tammy Schwab Resource Management Division 12055 Government Center Parkway Fairfax, VA 22035-5500 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks</p> <p>Fairfax County Invasive Management Area Program: POC – Erin Stocksclaeder/Gloria Medina Resource Management Division 12055 Government Center Parkway Fairfax, VA 22035-5500</p>
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<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resource-management/ima/>

Friends of Accotink Creek: POC – Kris Unger

<http://www.accotink.org>

Friends of Dyke Marsh: POC - Glenda Booth

<http://www.fodm.org>

Green Spring Gardens and Historic Green Springs: POC – Ralph Weitz

4603 Green Spring Road Alexandria, VA 22312

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/>

Hidden Oaks Nature Center: POC – Michael McDonnell

7701 Royce Street, Annandale, VA 22003

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks/>

Huntley Meadows: POC - Karen Sheffield

3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22306

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/>

Long Branch Nature Center: POC – David Farner

625 S. Carlin Springs Road Arlington, VA 22204

<https://parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/long-branch-nature-center-park/>

Mason Neck State Park: POC - Marc Ingram

7301 High Point Road Lorton, VA 22079

www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/mas.shtml

Northern Virginia Conservation Trust: POC- Rentz Hilyer, Land Conservation Specialist,

rhilyer@nvct.org; Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, 4022-A Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003

<http://nvct.org>

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Paul Gilbert

5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

www.nvrpa.org

Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District: POC- Lily Whitesell, Herrity Building, Suite 905

12055 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22035

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/>

One Good Tern - POC Charles Studholme

1710 Fern Street, Alexandria, VA 22302

Plant NOVA Natives: POC - Margaret Fisher, plantnovanatives@gmail.com

<https://www.plantnovanatives.org>

<p>Riverbend Park: POC John Callow, 8700 Potomac Hills Road, Great Falls, VA 22066 https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend</p> <p>Save Lucy Campaign: POC - Leslie Sturges, 877 Bunker Hill Road, Mt. Solon, VA www.savelucythebat.org</p> <p>Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute: POC -Joe Guthrie, GuthrieJ@si.edu https://siarchives.si.edu/history/smithsonian-conservation-biology-institute-scbi</p> <p>Virginia Bluebird Society: POC – Carmen Bisho, 726 William St., Fredericksburg, VA 22401 http://www.virginiabluebirds.org</p> <p>Virginia Department of Forestry: POC - Jim McGlone 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 904, Fairfax, VA 22035</p> <p>Virginia Native Plant Society (Potowmack Chapter): POC - Alan Ford P.O. Box 5311 Arlington VA 22205 http://vnps.org/potowmack/</p>
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6. Volunteer Service

Note: This section focuses on active projects only -- those projects for which volunteer hours have been reported during 2018, now completed or on-going projects.

a. Full Project List.

Attached: full list of 2018 projects that includes the project name, the number of hours completed on that project in 2018, and the number of Chapter volunteers involved in 2018.

b. Projects with Sponsoring Agencies.

Projects Chapter volunteers served **directly** with sponsoring agencies. Active projects only.

Sponsoring Agency	Descriptive Title	Service hours
SWCD	NVSWCD Biological Stream Monitoring	111.41
VDGIF	2nd Virginia Bird Breeding Atlas (VABBA2)	71.55
VDGIF	VBWT Adopt-A-Trail--Phase I	71.50
Virginia State Parks	Virginia State Parks Stewardship Projects	48.00
SWCD	NVSWCD/FMN Watershed-Friendly Home & Garden Tour	43.00
VDGIF	Virginia Frog and Toad Calling Survey	38.00
Virginia State Parks	Kayak guide at Mason Neck State Park	20.25
SWCD	NVSWCD Native Seedling Sale	16.50
SWCD	"Build Your Own" Rain Barrel Workshops	10.25
SWCD	NVSWCD Enviroscape Model Presentations	6.75
SWCD	NVSWCD Stewardship Projects	6.00
SWCD	Storm Drain Education	4.00
VDGIF	Education/Outreach Programs for VA DGIF	3.50
SWCD	NVSWCD Packard Center Rain Garden Maintenance	1.75
SWCD	NVSWCD Stream Cleanup	1.25

c. Education/Outreach.

Education/Outreach projects are activities in which the volunteer educates the public. This includes interpretive programs at parks; presentations at fairs, booths, etc.; and educational presentations to identified audiences, such as garden clubs, school groups, homeowner associations, etc.

Number of volunteer hours towards Education/Outreach projects in 2018:	4,222
<p>2018 outreach or service that specifically reached underserved audiences (e.g., people of color, non-native English speakers, programs for individuals with disabilities.)</p> <p>The Meaningful Watershed Education Experience program for middle school students in Fairfax Country at the Hidden Oaks Nature Center reaches a broadly diverse student population reflecting the County’s demographics. This is long-time volunteer project that draws many hours from Fairfax Master Naturalists each year.</p>	

d. Demographics of contacts:

Face-to-face interaction where there is an exchange of educational information based on scientific knowledge. This section is extrapolated from 2017 data from the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience programs at Hidden Oaks. The chapter is working to improve the collection of fuller demographic data from programs.

Gender	Age	Race/Ethnicity						
		American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	White	Unknown Race/Ethnicity
Female	Youth	0	275	75	353	0	345	38
Male	Youth	0	160	75	341	0	341	37

Total number of people reached in 2018 (i.e., total number of contacts):	
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e. Citizen Science.

Citizen Science projects include service involving data collection, monitoring, biological inventories, and other research-oriented activities. Examples include bird censuses, Wildlife Mapping, and the Mason Bee Monitoring project. The activities may be a part of statewide projects or projects specific to a local partner.

Number of volunteer hours towards Citizen Science projects in 2018:	3,584
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f. Stewardship.

Stewardship projects are hands-on activities intended to improve habitat and other natural resources, or, in some cases, to improve the ability of the public to access these resources. These activities may include exotic plant removal, habitat restoration, and trail building.

Number of volunteer hours towards Stewardship projects in 2018:	2,800
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<u>Estimate of acres</u> of habitat improved through your Stewardship projects in 2018:	25
<u>Estimate of miles of trails and streams</u> improved through your Stewardship projects in 2018:	15
<u>Estimate of number of sites</u> improved through your Stewardship projects in 2018:	35

Note: Count acres/miles that were already reported on in previous years if you continued work on them in 2018. For number of sites, you may estimate the total number of different sites (e.g., parks, natural areas, habitat plantings) where you made a positive impact through stewardship.

f. Administrative Service.

Administrative time includes efforts spent on chapter organization, volunteer development, training and other management roles. This may include: leading general membership meetings; planning and supervising VMN training classes; working on a chapter newsletter; internal communication efforts; and any other activities that maintain and support the effectiveness of the chapter and the statewide program.

Please note that as of January 2017, travel time for volunteer service is to be included in the total hours reported by a volunteer for a particular project. The “travel time project” should have been made ‘inactive’. If, for some reason, your chapter members still reported travel time (not mileage) as a separate project, please include those hours with your administrative service hours.

Total administrative hours for 2018 by your chapter members:	1,963
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7. Chapter Finances

This section should be completed by your chapter’s Treasurer.

Chapter funds received through training course in 2018:	\$7,400.00
Chapter funds received through membership dues in 2018:	\$2,580.00
Chapter funds received through grants in 2018:	\$0.00
Chapter funds received through other sources in 2018 (provide general source and amount):	
donations and logo item	\$91.00

8. Noteworthy Projects and Impacts

The next set of questions is an opportunity for you to provide more information on any of the projects your Chapter volunteers worked on in 2018, the **most significant** and that **document the depth and scope of volunteer service**. (1) project name as listed in the VMS, (2) the type of project, (3) the total number of hours contributed to it in 2018, (4) the number of Chapter members involved in the project, (5) a list of any of the seven VMN Sponsoring Agencies involved in the project, and (6) a detailed description of the project. *Why was the project needed, what are the volunteers doing, what are the results, and why are they significant?*

Project 1 : The **NOVA Martin Initiative**

The **Northern Virginia Purple Martin Initiative** was started in 2011 by Fairfax Master Naturalist Mike Bishop to assist the purple martin population in Virginia by constructing, installing and maintaining purple martin nesting containers. The program began in 2011 with one house at a high school field. Since then, the "Ring of Purple" has expanded to 16 colonies, improving nesting and the populations for this unique bird species.

In 2018, 13 new colonies were erected in these locations:

- Marie Leven Preserve
- E.C. Lawrence Park
- Twin Lakes Golf course (6) colonies
- Sully Woodlands
- Bull Run Park
- George Mason University (2 colonies)
- Flint Hill School
- Kestrel trail established in Airlie, Virginia

The Initiative continues to maintain three previously established purple martin colonies, four bluebird and one wood duck trail, plus the Cub Run Stream Valley Feeding Station and Bird Blind.

The Initiative gave six presentations for the public on cavity nesting birds, reaching an audience that included an estimated 85 Virginia Master Naturalists. The program drew at least 150 VMN volunteer hours in 2018. In all, \$4,500 in equipment and materials were donated at no public expense to conservation.

Project 2: **Plant NoVA Natives Campaign**

The **Plant NoVA Natives Campaign** is a region-wide effort to encourage more homeowners, schools, faith congregations, businesses and government agencies to use native plants for landscaping. Native plants provide countless benefits for wildlife diversity and ecosystem health. The program drew 516 hours of volunteer time from 16 Fairfax Master Naturalists during 2018. Activities included outreach to community groups, consumers and local nurseries. The campaign's sponsors include the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program of Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality and partners include the Virginia Department of Forestry and the Coop Extension.

Other Impacts - Awards to Fairfax Master Naturalists in 2018

Fairfax chapter member Betsy Martin and Paul Siegel were awarded the Environmental Award from Fairfax County. The two founded Friends of Little Hunting Creek, recruiting over 1,500 volunteers to support the numerous cleanup events they have coordinated over the years. The stream valley has benefitted from the tons of trash that have been removed. Betsy and Paul also advocate for the

preservation and restoration of riparian areas and have worked with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust to protect these sensitive areas. The Northern Virginia Trash Action Work Force that they formed in partnership with other groups continues to challenge policies and practices that enable and incentivize single-use plastic items.

Rentz Hilyer, who has served as Fairfax Master Naturalists Vice President during 2017 and 2018, was also recognized by Friends of Little Hunting Creek who gave him a Beautification and Environmental Improvement Award for his initiative and dedication to cleaning up and enhancing the public trail there.

Fairfax County Park Authority Board gave Marilyn Schroeder the 2018 Elly Doyle Park Service Award, which recognizes outstanding volunteer service. Marilyn has been a role model for staff and volunteers at Hidden Oaks Nature Center for 12 years, serving as a program leader and FCPA liaison for Fairfax Master Naturalists. She specializes in the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience and other school outreach programs, has represented Hidden Oaks at the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Museum, and interpreted natural history stewardship with other groups. Marilyn Schroeder also won the National Association for Interpretation Region 2 Volunteer of the Year award in Front Royal. Marilyn's excellence in programming plus her work with FMN and Invasive Plant Management earned her this honor.

Bob Dinse received an Outstanding Volunteer recognition from Hidden Oaks Nature Center this year. Bob serves as the site's trail manager, improving the safety and functionality of the trails and gardens. He is the first to respond after weather-related incidents and has improved bridges and created fair-weather crossings for the stream. He is also a Meaningful Watershed Education Experience regular, leading groups of 7th graders with hands-on stewardship projects. Bob's calm demeanor and willingness to get things done make him a valuable contributor to the team at Hidden Oaks.

Outstanding Volunteer at Huntley Meadows Park recognition was presented to FMN Secretary Shannon Dart. They stated, "Shannon Dart has volunteered at Huntley Meadows Park for five years, contributing about 25 hours a month to the park along with volunteering ventures at the Smithsonian, CERT and her church. Whether she is picking up a last-minute shift to support her volunteers, tackling a massive data entry project to support naturalists' research, teaching young children about birds and flight, or welcoming visitors into the park, she tackles any task with the utmost integrity and humility. With her consistent support of 250 service hours this year and assistance in citizen science, she has made a substantial impact on the community.

Outstanding volunteer at Riverbend Park recognition was given to Tom Blackburn. "For the past three years, Tom Blackburn has brought his passion for nature to Riverbend Park programs, beginning with the kayaking program and expanding to countless other programs, as well as the Astronomy Festival and Virginia Indian Festival. His impact on the Riverbend community is noticeable, and last year, Tom became a Certified Interpretive Guide to enhance his role as Assistant Program leader.

Civil Rights Compliance Information

To comply with state and federal guidelines, we are required to document the following information on an annual basis and to work toward achieving balanced membership in our program. Balanced membership is met when the racial and gender composition of the club or organization is exactly proportional to that of the population of the membership area. Even if a club or organization does not have balanced membership for a majority of those underrepresented group categories present in the membership area, the program can be deemed to be in compliance if the club or organization leaders, in collaboration with the appropriate Extension professional, can demonstrate that "all reasonable efforts" have been made to achieve balanced membership within the group.

Number of Members by Race/Ethnicity:

0	American Indian or Alaskan Native
4	Asian
2	Black or African American
1	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity and one or more races
0	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
202	White
6	More than one race

Number of Members by Gender:

163	Female
57	Male

During this past year, did this club/organization have balanced membership that was integrated by race and gender (refer to the definition of balanced membership above)? Type an "X" in the appropriate spaces.

By Race: ___Yes XNo

By Gender: ___Yes XNo

Reasonable efforts used this past year / plan to use this next year. Documentation of efforts should be on file.

2018	Reasonable Efforts	2019
x	Invite members of under-represented groups to join the club or organization by personal visit.	x
	Invite members of under-represented groups to join the club or organization by letter/email.	x
	Invite members of under-represented groups to join the club or organization by telephone.	
x	Make use of mass media, including radio, newspaper, and TV.	x
x	Distribute newsletters, posters, flyers, and announcements to recruit under-represented clientele.	x
	Contact community groups to recruit under-represented clientele.	
x	Conduct a membership drive or promotion to reach under-represented clientele.	x
x	Make special efforts to recruit volunteers from under-represented clientele groups.	x
x	Plan and implement joint activities to create integrated programs.	x
x	Utilize meeting places selected to encourage participation by under-represented clientele.	x

Other efforts taken by this organization to be in compliance with Civil Rights laws.

- VMN should add social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) as a category. Fairfax Master Naturalists has tried to reach underserved populations via social media including Twitter.
- Paid mass media (advertising) in the Washington DC area is very expensive but the chapter has pursued earned media coverage (articles and op-eds).

January 11, 2019
Date Submitted

Michael Reinemer, President
Signature of the Club or Organization Leader (Typed name is acceptable in lieu of a written signature.)