

**Potomac Valley Master Naturalists
Volunteer and Continuing Education Opportunities
Spring-Summer-Fall 2020**

Certified Master Naturalists are required to participate in 8 hours of continuing education and 16 hours of volunteer work in order to recertify annually.

Master Naturalist Candidates (Students) working towards their certification require 30 hours of volunteer work (plus the 62 hour of specific core & elective classes). We encourage & support the 2020 candidates to begin working on their volunteer hours even though their classes have been postponed due to Covid19.

Remember to enter ALL of your volunteer and continuing education hours into **Track It Forward** (<https://www.trackitforward.com/user>)

Volunteer Opportunities:

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society has four Nature Preserves <https://www.potomacaudubon.org/preserves/>.

The preserves offer excellent opportunities for volunteering with your quarantine buddies.

Please contact PVAS's Land Manager, KC Walters katelyn@PotomacAudubon.org if you have specific questions or need more information (such as mowing, construction, chainsaw, etc.)

Yankauer Nature Preserve

1. Mowing - push mower is on site (contact KC if interested, training will be provided)
2. Pull weeds from the Pollinator Garden located near the entrance sign (dead-nettle, thistle, chickweed, etc.)
3. Keep trails clear - clipping back overhanging vegetation
4. Trash pickup - particularly around parking lot (bag trash and take with you to dispose of at home)
5. Invasive species management - priority species are barberry, garlic mustard, autumn olive, tree of heaven, multi flora rose, bittersweet – manual management only (cutting & pulling - no pesticides) Do not try to tackle all species at once. Go with the idea of focusing on one invasive that day.

The invasive plants are found throughout Yankauer - however please focus on the back side of the preserve around the Kingfisher, South and Dan Fisher trails – due to the high priority forest ecosystem found there. Tools needed are clippers and/or loppers and gloves.

Cool Spring Nature Preserve

1. Keep trails clear - clipping back overhanging vegetation
2. Weed the shrub garden - located directly when you turn in to parking lot (on your right side) and the center garden located around the well head in the parking lot
3. Construct a solar panel box (contact KC for further details, need skilled carpenter)
4. Reinstall trail signs (contact KC for further details)
5. Invasive species management - priority species are autumn olive, Japanese honeysuckle, bittersweet, garlic mustard. Manual management only (cutting & pulling – no pesticides) The invasive plants are found all over the preserve. Tools needed are hand clippers and/or loppers, gloves

Stauffers Marsh Nature Preserve

1. Pick up trash throughout preserve especially focusing along the West Pond Trail
2. Keep trails clear - clipping back overhanging vegetation
3. Invasive species management - priority species are amur honeysuckle, Japanese honeysuckle, knapweed (knapweed found behind the front gate). Honeysuckle is found in the forested areas of the preserve (walk along the forested trails). Tools needed are clippers and gloves.

Eidolon Nature Preserve

1. Keep trails clear – clipping back overhanging vegetation
2. Chainsaw operators needed for trees on trails (contact KC)
3. Invasive species management - priority species are autumn olive, multi flora rose, garlic mustard, vinca (hand pull) and forsythia. These plants are concentrated around the cottage. Tools needed are clippers and/or loppers and gloves.

Informational video on Garlic Mustard Removal:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sl1HFFr89Ao>

The Following Volunteer Projects are found on the MNOFWV.ORG web site:

(Please continue to check this website often for further volunteer and community science updates)

- Nest Watch
- WVDNR Box Turtle Project (community science)
- Bumble Bee watch
- Fire Fly project
- Back Yard Bark Beetle project
- Forest Fungi project

The Master Naturalists of WV also encourage Master Naturalists to investigate the opportunities at www.crowdandcloud.org for further community science opportunities.

Volunteer Opportunities Through Other Organizations:

(You may contact these organizations to inquire about volunteer opportunities)

WV Rivers Coalition <https://wvrivers.org>

Cacapon Institute <https://www.cacaponinstitute.org>

Friends of Blackwater Falls <https://saveblackwater.org>

Wetland Native Plant Memorial Garden:

Bolivar – Harpers Ferry Public Library

Contact: Phil Folk philfolk55@gmail.com

Cacapon State Park and Berkeley Springs State Park - volunteer opportunities will be available during the summer and fall such as leading hikes giving presentations on nature subjects, staff the park nature center, invasive plant control, etc. More information will be provided once we learn more.

Continuing Education Opportunities:

Options for Earning Continuing Education Hours Online:

Classes from the Virginia Master Naturalists website can be used towards continuing education. Recommended classes are:

Biological Control of Tree-of-Heaven 69 minutes

Presenter: Rachel Brooks, Ph.D. candidate, Virginia Tech School of Plant and Environmental Sciences

Recorded: 18 April 2019 [Watch the video](#)

Wilderness Rescues and Being Prepared: A Systems Approach 41 minutes

Presenter: Matt Rosefsky, MEDIC SOLO Disaster + Wilderness Medicine School

Recorded: 16 July 2019

[Watch the video](#)

Virginia Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases 64 minutes

Presenter: Alexis White, Ecological Sciences PhD Candidate, Old Dominion University

Recorded: 28 February 2019

[Watch the video](#)

Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird 73 minutes

Presenter: Katie Fallon, Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia and author of the book *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird* (published in 2017)

Recorded: 11 August 2017

[Watch the video](#)

Cornell Bird Academy has many courses for a fee, all well done. [Academy.allaboutbirds.org/media-library](https://www.academy.allaboutbirds.org/media-library). They periodically go on sale.

WV State Master Naturalist Conference classes are available on Kathleen Tyner's YouTube channel (Kathleen is a New River Gorge Master Naturalist). Subjects include: Archeology, Astronomy, Pollinators, Moths, Ferns, Raptors, Creating Ponds, American Chestnuts, Mosses and Lichens, Fireflies
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVY33rK81KAwLsVpsX6ly0Q>

Potomac Valley Audubon's Videos on YouTube

PVAS Monthly Programs are eligible for one hour of continuing education Programs held January - May and September – November

During COVID-19 physical distancing the programs will be recorded and uploaded to:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFNs5WB3kWpvekW17u5Ju7A/> or <https://www.facebook.com/PotomacValleyAudubon/?ref=bookmarks>

The Great Courses Plus is another source of high quality videos (fee based). These are internet based courses by top university instructors. Courses are 20 or more meaty lessons of about 1/2 hour each. Like Cornell courses they are self-paced and you can view them as many times as you wish. One month free trial, how much can you binge? See <https://www.thegreatcoursesplus.com/>

Blandy Experimental Farm & Virginia Arboretum is offering a **free online workshop on Invasive Plants**: Learn how to identify and tackle nonnative invasive plants by attending this free Invasive Plant Workshop using Zoom.

Saturday May 30 1:00 – 5:00pm

Registration required.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/invasive-plant-workshop-spring-tickets-93181401079>

Instructions for joining the conference will be sent one week prior.

The American Birding Association Virtual Bird Club kicked off on March 25th 2020. Their free one hour meetings are on Thursdays at 8pm every two weeks. When watched live you can ask questions of the speakers, if you cannot watch live, you can watch the recorded meeting on YouTube when convenient.

March 25th, Nick Lund, The Sorry State of State Birds <https://youtu.be/BKe3BCcSfZg>

April 8th, Tessa Rhinehart, Eavesdropping on Birds, https://youtu.be/q_kF46f7T9E

April 22nd, Jody Allair, Healthy at Home Birding, <https://youtu.be/Bqf3toNv97o>

May 6th, Robyn Bailey, Nests and Eggs 101, <https://youtu.be/e1Suq8nlfOo>