

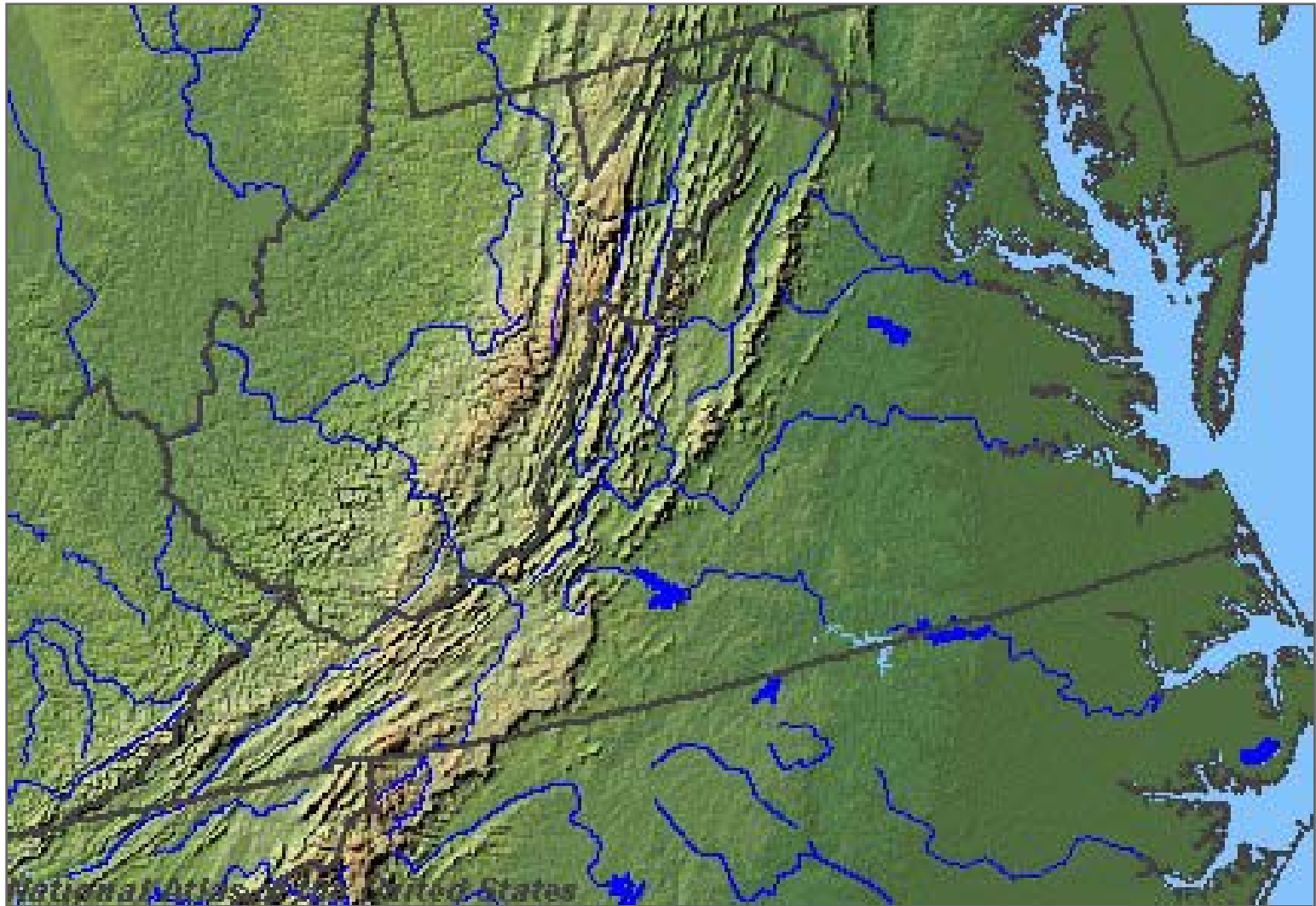


Virginia
Master
Naturalist

Merrimac Farm Master Naturalists



Master Naturalist Program





Introductory Class Objectives

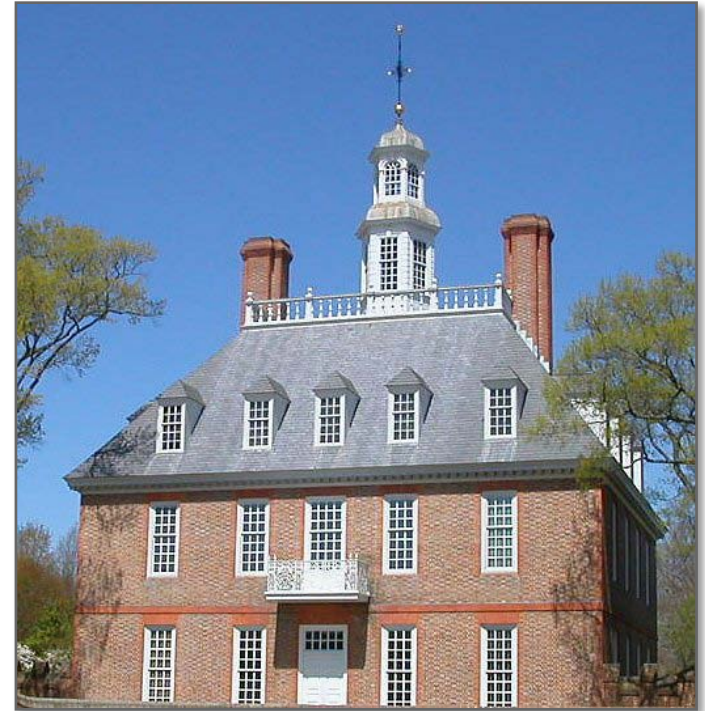
- Describe what a Master Naturalist volunteer is
- Identify and communicate the mission and goals of the Master Naturalist program and what makes it unique from other volunteer programs in Virginia





Class Objectives (continued)

- Identify and communicate the requirements & responsibilities of a Virginia Master Naturalist
- Be familiar with the expected standards of conduct for Master Naturalists and the applicable laws and ethical issues relating to wildlife educators and researchers





Class Objectives (continued)

- Understand the role of learning as a lifelong pursuit
- Understand the many possible options for volunteer service projects, including citizen science, education/interpretation, and stewardship projects





Master Naturalist Program

The **Virginia Master Naturalist Program** is a statewide corps of volunteers providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.



It is based in the Department of Forestry within the College of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech... but the boss lives in Charlottesville. (*Go 'Hoos!*)

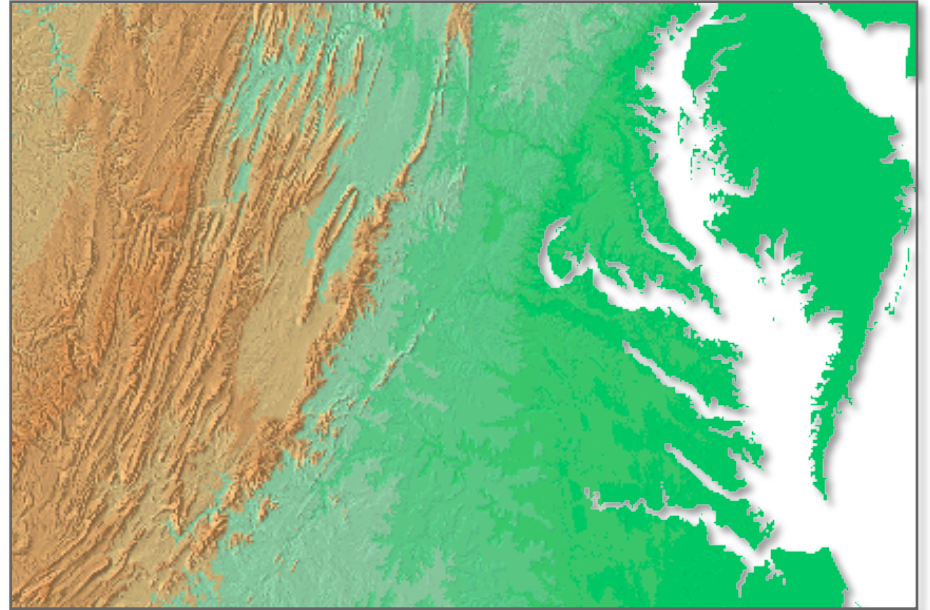




To Become A Master Naturalist...

Interested Virginians become Master Naturalists through training and volunteer service.

The process for becoming a certified Virginia Master Naturalist typically takes 6 to 12 months.

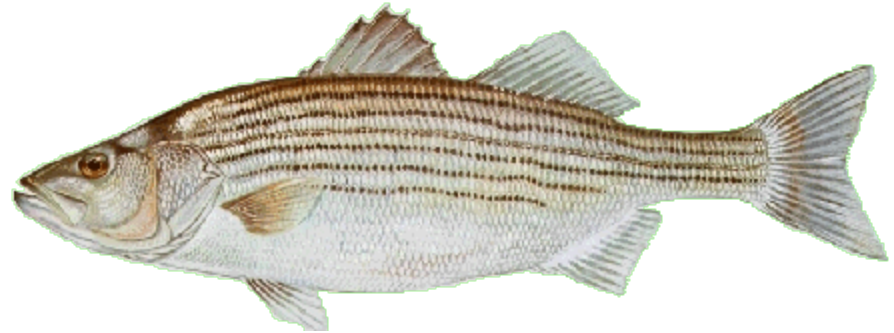




To Become A Master Naturalist...

One starts by completing a 40-hour basic training course offered by a local chapter of the program.

An additional 8 hours of advanced training are also required.



An important part of the certification process is the required 40 hours of volunteer service.





To Become A Master Naturalist...

We are classified as a Virginia Master Naturalist in Training until we complete our 40 hours of initial classroom/field study.

At that point, we can refer to ourselves as a Virginia Master Naturalist Member.





A Master Naturalist will know...



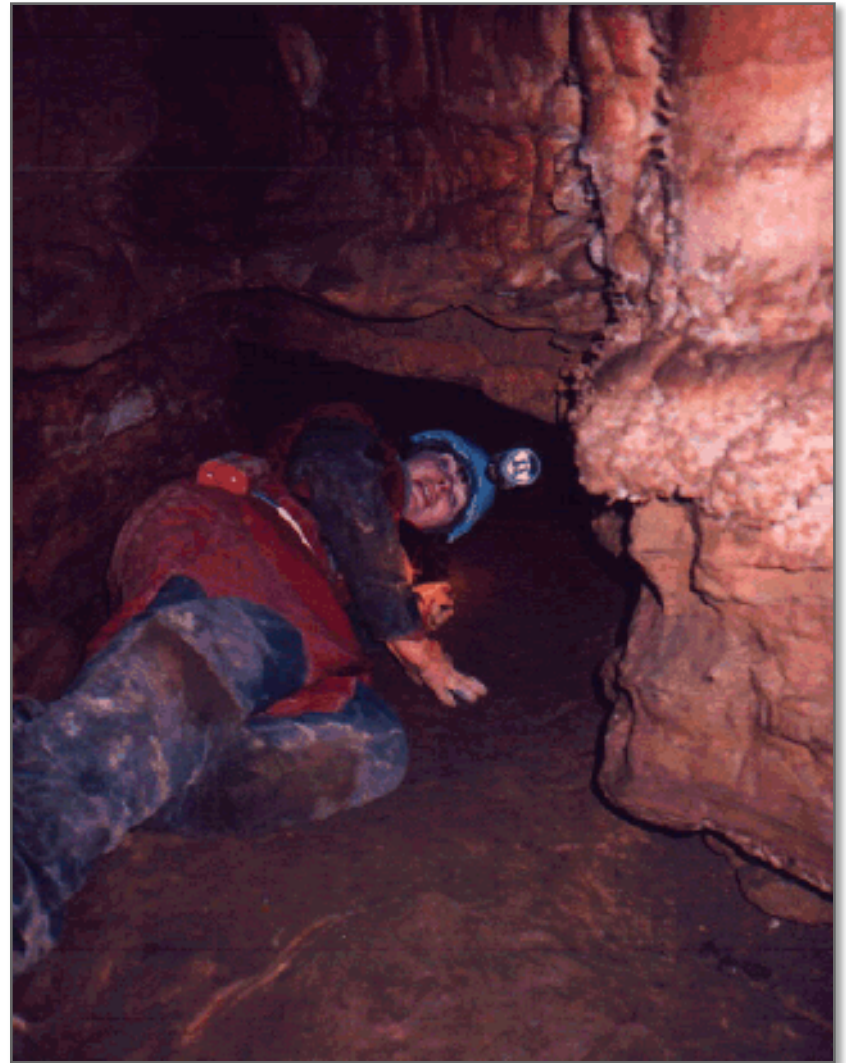
- All aspects of their role as a Virginia Master Naturalist, the mission and objectives of the program, and the guidelines for participation
- What a naturalist is and does and the significance of naturalists and natural history





A Master Naturalist will know...

- The biogeography of Virginia, including the physiographic regions and the geological and ecological aspects that make them distinct
- Basic concepts of ecology
- Basic concepts of geology
- Basic resource management principles





A Master Naturalist will know...

- Some native flora and fauna in the region
- The general process of science
- The roles of Virginia state agencies in the management and conservation of natural resources





Master Naturalists will be able to...

- Use a key to identify organisms
- Use a field guide
- Share knowledge with others (verbally and/or in writing)





Master Naturalists will be able to...

- Make and record observations in nature
- Recognize when s/he does not know the answer to a question, but be able to seek out answers from people, books, or other reliable resources





Every Virginia Master Naturalist training will include...

- Both field and classroom experiences, with a minimum of 25% of the course time spent in the field
- Information from unbiased, research-based sources





Every Virginia Master Naturalist training will include...

Material on the following topics:

- Introduction to the Virginia Master Naturalist program
- American Naturalists
- Basic Ecology
- Biogeography





Every Virginia Master Naturalist training will include...



- Geology
- Nature of Naming
- Education and Interpretation Skills
- Citizen Science and Research Skills





Every Virginia Master Naturalist training will include...

- Ecology and Management of the systems occurring in the region
- Overview of vertebrates, invertebrates, trees and other plants (biology, ecology, identification, conservation and management)





Why Bother?



We
volunteer,
and change
the world.

