



**Virginia  
Master  
Naturalist**  
Southwestern Piedmont Chapter

# THE VINE

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**DON'T FORGET TO LOG YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2012!**  
<https://virginiamn.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm>

## 2012 OFFICERS

President, Dottie Haley  
Vice President, Tamara Poles  
Secretary, Mavis Rice  
Treasurer, Denny Casey  
Past President, Kathy Fell

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Advisor/Development, Denny Casey  
Host, tba  
Membership, Christy Deatherage  
Newsletter/Web Page, Ashby Pritchett  
Outreach/Publicity/Historian, Lynn Pritchett  
Program, Tamara Poles  
Training, tba  
Volunteer Service, tba

Southwestern Piedmont Master  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year is an exciting one for our local Master Naturalist chapter. During September, we will be hosting the 2012 State Conference. We live in such a wonderful place for those of us who love the outdoors and now we will get the opportunity to share some of our local natural treasures with our fellow Master Naturalists. Planning and preparation for the conference began months ago but there is still a lot more to do. We really need your help. As we begin to plan the activities for the upcoming year, there are several other committees that we need to staff in order to keep the basic functions of the chapter running in addition to the preparation for the State Conference. If each member would commit to just one or two hours per month towards committee participation, that would make a huge impact. It's also a good way to earn up to 10 volunteer hours. Please sign up to help with a committee.

Part of the activities during the State Conference will take place at Fairystone State Park -one of my personal favorites. My family has made so many special memories there - birthday picnics, cabin stays and camping trips. We have camped when it was so hot, you could hardly stand it and stayed in one of the cabins and watched the snow falling on the lake. I consider myself very blessed to live here. I am looking forward to the activities that our local chapter will take part in this year to help promote the preservation of our natural treasures.

Dottie Haley

Right, Fairystone Park on beautiful day!  
(Photo from Dottie Haley)



## **Kirwan Leads Discussion on Geology of Appalachia**

The Southwestern Piedmont Chapter's October Meeting was held at VMNH on Tuesday October 18, 6:30. The meeting featured the showing of a portion of the PBS documentary on Appalachia, followed by guest lecturer Dr. Matt Kirwan leading a discussion of the geology and archaeology of Appalachia.

Dr. Kirwan earned his doctorate in Geology and Environmental Studies from Duke University. He opened the event by playing Part One of the PBS documentary "Appalachia: A History of Mountains and People", titled "Time and Terrain". Information on the series can be found at <http://appalachiafilm.org/>.

Noting that the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains are older than the Appalachian mountains, having formed around 500 million years ago, Dr. Kirwan explained that most of the Blue Ridge range sit on Mesoproterozoic crystalline rock, with its oldest rock on the eastern side of the range.

Why haven't the Blue Ridge and Appalachian mountain ranges eroded away over the past half billion years? Dr. Kirwan explained that the greatest force of erosion, glaciation, stopped in Pennsylvania, so the central Appalachians are higher than those in the north.

Why do the Blue Ridge and Appalachian mountains have such great biodiversity? These mountains offered a stable refuge for species to migrate to during the last glaciation period, which occurred between 25,000 and 12,000 years ago. Kirwan noted that the disturbance of the forest by early man, removing trees for agriculture and for fixed living space, and moving goods and plants from other areas in trade, brought in the osage orange, mulberry, pawpaw and fruit trees.

The session counted as advanced training for members, and was open to the public. Twenty four persons attended the lecture.

## Chapter Participates in Blue Ridge Ski & Outing Club Event

The November Chapter Meeting involved participation in the Blue Ridge Ski & Outing Club Outdoor Expo 2011, held at the National Guard Armory on Thursday Nov 10, 7:00 – 9:00 PM.

Six Chapter members participated in the event by setting up its newly-created display board, and networking with other participating groups, such as the Dan River Basin Association.

Right, Lynn and Ashby Pritchett stand in front of the Chapter's display table.

(Photo by Lynn Pritchett)



The Blue Ridge Ski and Outing Club Expo featured gear and equipment for all outdoor activities. Representatives from ski resorts and outdoor equipment suppliers were present.

Approximately 150-200 people attended the event. Chapter member Dennis Reeves serves as the Trips Coordinator for the Blue Ridge Ski & Outing Club.

## **December Holiday Party & Elections Wrap Up 2011**

**The Southwestern Piedmont Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists met at the Virginia Museum of Natural History on December 15, 2011, to celebrate another year of volunteer accomplishments and to elect new Chapter officers for 2012.**

**Members attending brought food to make a potluck buffet-style dinner. Joe Keiper, Executive Director of the Virginia Museum of Natural History attended as a Chapter guest, in recognition for his support of the Chapter in 2011.**

**The election was held by secret paper ballot. A slate of officer candidates was submitted to members in attendance. The slate of candidates was unanimously approved without amendment or addition of alternate candidates.**

**Elected by acclamation were Dottie Haley, as Chapter President; Tamara Poles, as Chapter Vice President, Mavis Rice, as Chapter Secretary; and Denny Casey, as Chapter Treasurer.**



**Left, Chapter members gather before the election of new officers.**

**(Photo by Christy Deatherage)**

## Identification of Endemic Species

By Kathy Fell

Last November, I took a 7 mile hike with my daughter along an established trail in west Maui. There were many interpretive signs along the trail, highlighting endemic and indigenous species that were threatened. When we got back, we looked up the terms to be sure we understood the correct meanings:

**Indigenous** is synonymous with native. An indigenous species occurs naturally in a region or area without any direct or indirect human intervention.

An **endemic** species is unique to a geographic area. These species are not found anywhere else in the world.

An **exotic** species is one that has been introduced, intentionally or unintentionally from another geographic area.

An **invasive exotic** is a species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

I found an entire web site of species endemic to Virginia:

[http://www.landscape.org/virginia/plants-animals/Species%20Lists/va\\_endemics/](http://www.landscape.org/virginia/plants-animals/Species%20Lists/va_endemics/) .

We should learn to identify some of these that are uniquely ours!

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According to the above-mentioned LandScope article, *“Of the several thousand species that naturally occur in the state, some species have only been found in the Commonwealth -- these are considered endemic to Virginia. Nine vertebrate species and five vascular plant species are classified as such.”*

### The nine vertebrate species:

#### **Fish**

- Clinch Sculpin (Cottus sp. 4);
- Roughhead shiner (Notropis semperasper);
- Phoxinus sp. 1;
- Roanoke logperch (Percina rex).

#### **Amphibians**

- Shenandoah Salamander (Plethodon shenandoah);
- Peaks of Otter Salamander (Plethodon hubrichti);
- Big Levels Salamander (Plethodon sherando).

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## Identification of Endemic Species (continued from previous page)

### Mammals

- Smith Island Cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus hitchensi*);
- Pungo mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*).

### The five vascular plant species:

- Virginia round-leaf birch (*Betula uber*);
- Addison's leatherflower (*Clematis addisonii*);
- Virginia white-haired leatherflower (*Clematis coactilis*);
- Millboro leatherflower (*Clematis viticaulis*);
- Peter's Mountain-mallow (*Iliamna corei*).

The article goes on to state *“Determining which of the thousands of invertebrate species are endemic is a difficult endeavor, due to both the overwhelming task of surveying for them across the state and the varying levels of survey effort being conducted by other heritage programs in adjacent states. These lists will continue to be refined as inventory work continues.”*

Fifteen **Invertebrate** groups were identified, itemizing specific types of flatworms, segmented worms, mussels and clams, snails, millipedes/centipedes, caddisflies, spiders and pseudoscorpions, amphipoda and isopods, springtails, beetles, true bugs, cicadas and leafhoppers, grasshoppers-crickets-katydid, stoneflies and diptera.

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### Other Readings and References :

**“Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration and Landscaping”**, Department of Conservation and Recreation—Natural Heritage Program,  
[http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural\\_heritage/nativeplants.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/nativeplants.shtml) .

**“To Remove Invasive Species”**, Piedmont Environmental Council,  
<http://www.pecva.org/anx/index.cfm/1,685,0,0,html/Invasive-Species> .



## VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteer hours reported as of September 30, 2011:

**2011 CHAPTER GOAL:**

**2011 VOLUNTEER HOURS**

Categories -

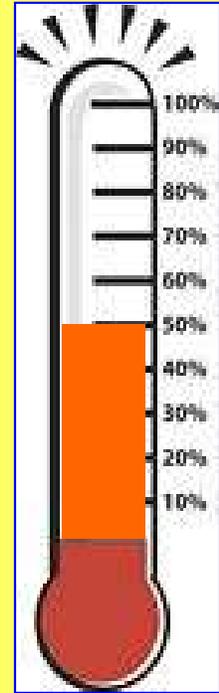
- Administration
- Advanced Training
- Citizen Science
- Education
- Stewardship

Reported Total– 976 hours or 48% of our Chapter Goal.

Thank you, volunteers!

Report all volunteer hours to:

Christy Deatherage, turkeyball@comcast.net, (276)627-6276, or submit hours to the VMN Volunteer Management System at <https://virginiamn.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm>



To see the Southwestern Chapter Calendar of Events, go to <http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/southwesternpiedmont.html#news> And Click on “Calendar of Events”.

### SPECIAL NOTICES

January 19, 2012 **Annual Recognition Banquet**, VMNH, 6:00 PM

February 16, 2012 **“BATS, Be Afraid”**, Bonnie Miles, VMNH 6:00 PM. Meeting is open to the public. Advanced training credits for Chapter members: 1.0 hour.

March 3, 2012 **Virginia Blue Bird Monitoring Project**, Vickie Fuquay, Raywood Landscape, Danville VA, 11:00 AM. Advanced training credits for Chapter members: 1.0 hour.

March 15, 2012 **How to Use the VMN Web-based Volunteer Management System**, Kathy Fell, VMNH 6:00 PM. Bring your laptop. Administrative training credits: 1.0 hour.

March 17, 2011 **Piedmont Kite Festival**, Jack Dalton Park, Collinsville VA, 10:00 AM—3:00 PM. Morning shift 9:00 AM -12:30 PM. Afternoon shift 12:30 PM-3:00 PM. Volunteer credits: 2.5 hours.