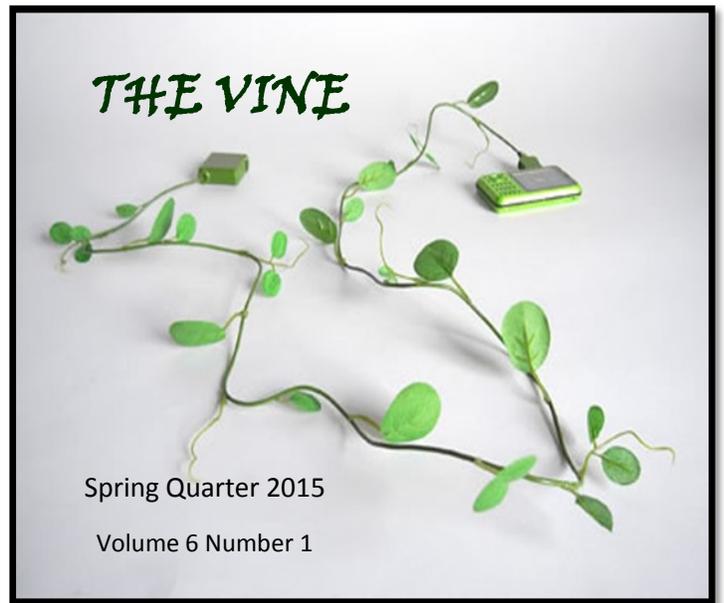




**Virginia
Master
Naturalist**
Southwestern Piedmont Chapter



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Articles of Interest

Bio Blitz with DRBA
Annual Mount Rogers Naturalist Rally

**Southwestern Piedmont
Master Naturalists**

Dr. Dennis Casey
Chapter Advisor

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Chapter Webpage

<http://www.vmnh.net/virginia-master-naturalist-program>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I welcome Spring with awe and wonder. In the past few weeks, our local temperatures have wreaked havoc with the resident plant and animal life. But, finally – the buds are blooming, trees are greening, and the blue-birds are back!

Time to celebrate our natural surroundings and enjoy the mystery and complexities that abound. I look forward to serving you all this year – expanding our groups knowledge and geographical bounds. Please feel free to contact me if there is anything I can help with.

We've a lot going on – be sure to peruse Jessica's weekly updates; there's something for everyone. Also, feel free to search for new continuing education and projects for our group to share in.

Enjoy,

Lynn



Planting Chestnuts.

Martinsville Bluebird Trail in Memory of Jimmy Doyle



The "Bluebird Man", Jimmy Shelton Doyle, flew away home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Thursday, February 19, 2015. The new stickers on the boxes that number 40 now on the Martinsville Trail are a big part of Jimmy Doyle's legacy. I hope to show his passion for the birds in the future.



Jimmy Doyle the former Henry County coordinator with the Virginia Bluebird Society, shows the gifts he was given during a ceremony honoring his more than 36 years of working to improve bluebird habitats in the county. (Contributed photos)

The Bluebird nestboxes are monitored weekly. A journal is kept to record the number of eggs, hatchling chicks, and fledglings. during At the end of the nesting season, that information is sent on to the Virginia

Bluebird Society (www.virginiabluebirds.org) which tracks the comeback of the Eastern Bluebird. We also look for other bird species that use these nestboxes. Nesting attempts of non-native House (English) sparrows and European starlings are discouraged, as all these birds compete for these nestboxes. House sparrows will even attack and kill Bluebirds, and destroy their young and eggs. Go to (<http://woolwinehousebluetrail.com>) for more information.



(Continued on next page)

(Martinsville Bluebird Trail in Memory of Jimmy Doyle - continued)

The Martinsville Bluebird Trail has been growing in this last year and there are plans to divide its 40 nestboxes into smaller clusters so that several Master Naturalists might earn volunteer hours monitoring them. See on our VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: (<https://virginia.volunteersystem.org>) under Projects: Service- CitSci. Bluebird Monitoring.

The trail reaches across Martinsville as well as around Lake Lanier, and can be easily divided up into close pockets of 10 or more, so no one has to travel all the way across town. Training will be provided and assistants during the monitoring until individuals feel comfortable in monitoring on their own. Dottie Haley, our Henry County Coordinator is also available to answer any questions that may come up as well as myself.

It is interesting see all the different personalities of the parents birds, including the Carolina Chickadees.



Bluebird nesting box at Lake Lanier 2015



Chickadee's nest 2015

Article submitted by Linda R Drage

Photos of Jimmy Doyle submitted by Martinsville Bulletin and other pictures by Linda Drage.

Martinsville Library Pollination/Secret Garden



Paul and Patty May, Jim Tobin, Jim Woods, Tyler Allen, Kathy Fell, Joe & Ellen Jessee, and Jimmie Greer in front.

Gardening requires a lot of water - most of it in the form of perspiration. Well that turned out to be true for the first phase of at least three, transforming the small garden space behind the Martinsville Library into a Pollinator/Secret Garden. Bushes were trimmed, plants removed, and dirt thrown in every direction (well mostly the first two). After the trimming and general work is done, it will soon be time for the most rigorous of phases: building the Discovery Trail! With some hard work and hopefully many hands, we will dig up a path and remove the rest of the remaining grass in the garden to make room for more plants! After we strain out as much sweat but hopefully not tears from those who participate, there will only be the last phase left of planting the new plants in May. How can we make this project even cooler you ask? We are asking that you try and think of your favorite children's/young adults story that either features a flowering plant we can plant or a character you can find a garden object to represent. For example: If you like the Frog Prince then get a frog statue with a crown. Then bring that garden folly with you along with a note telling us what book it came from so we can place them around the garden for an additional children's scavenger hunt! The dirt is calling for you to help us dig! See you then!

Jessica D.



Article submitted by Jessica Driver

Basic Training Field Trip— Save Our Streams Monitoring



'Save Our Streams' Field Trip training class for water monitoring led by Wayne Kirkpatrick.

<http://www.vasos.org/>

Picnicking with my fellow members of the Southwest Piedmont Chapter. This followed an earlier 'Save Our Streams' Field Trip training class for water monitoring led by Wayne Kirkpatrick. Great group of lovely outdoorsy nature folks to hang out with at a picnic at a fire pit. Yummy food! Cold Day, yes. We warmed up by the fire. March 28, 2015.



Lynn Regan, Christine Boran, Wayne Kirkpatrick, and Andy Lash.

mini

Friday, May 1, 2:00pm - 8:00pm
Angler's Park, Danville, VA

BIOBLITZ

REGISTRATION FEE

Non-members: \$5 for individuals,
\$10 for families.
FREE for DRBA Members.

To register, contact:
Amy Farinelli OR Krista Hodges
(afarinelli@danriver.org,
khodges@danriver.org)



What is a BioBlitz?

An outdoor event where volunteer scientists, families, students, teachers, and other community members work together to find and identify as many species of plants and animals as possible in a given area. Join us!



WWW.DANRIVER.ORG

FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◇ April 24, Earth Day Student Day
- ◇ April 25, Earth Day Festival
- ◇ May 1, Bio Blitz with DRBA
- ◇ May 2, Basic Training Field Trip Ornithology/Wildflowers
- ◇ **May 8-9, 41st Annual Mount Rogers Naturalist Rally**

Registration due before May 1, 2015.

For more information visit:

www.blueridgediscoverycenter.org/mrnrr

[www.facebook.com/
MountRogersNaturalistRally](https://www.facebook.com/MountRogersNaturalistRally)

Every year the Naturalist Rally Committee assembles a wide variety of excellent field trips with leaders who are experts in their field. Their goal is to make the Mount Rogers area ecology understandable and interesting for everyone, from inquisitive amateurs to accomplished naturalists.



[See Chapter Calendar for more](#)

VOLUNTEER HOURS for 2015

Reported April 9, 2015:

Categories -

- Administration 240
- Advanced Training 160
- Citizen Science 304
- Education 1137
- Stewardship 31.75

Total Travel Hours: 2032

Reported Total– 1884 hours.

Thank you, volunteers!

Andy Lash, Chair of Membership Committee

2015 CHAPTER GOAL:
1000 VOLUNTEER HOURS



DON'T FORGET TO LOG YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR THE 1st QUARTER 2015!

<https://virginiamn.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm>

Have a new Volunteer Project in Mind?

Download a Volunteer Project Proposal Form from our Chapter's VMN **Volunteer Management**

System: <https://virginiamn.volunteersystem.org/users/documents/20Forms151.doc>



Southwestern Piedmont Chapter Website:

<http://www.vmnh.net/virginia-master-naturalist-program>

Click on "Calendar of Events" to see what other things we are doing!



Basic class

