

# The Vine



The Southwestern Piedmont Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists

Newsletter—Spring-Summer 2019 Edition

## President's Message

Hello Chapter Members!

Some of you may have already heard, but Dr. Elizabeth Moore, VMNH Curator of Archaeology and our Chapter Advisor, will be taking the helm as the State Archaeologist for the Commonwealth of Virginia this summer through the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. We will miss her here at VMNH and with the Chapter, but are very excited for her in her future role. Thank you Dr. Moore for your service to the Chapter. And, congratulations and best wishes!

I have discussed with Michelle Prysby, State Program Director, and I will transition to the role of advisor in January. We will hold an election in the Fall

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for a new Chapter President for 2020.

Be on the look out for Kathy's emails with upcoming projects and events. Lots of opportunities to earn service and continuing education hours this summer!

Christy Deatherage  
*SWPVMN Chapter President*

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### Spotted Lanternfly Citizen Science Detection Train the Trainer Submitted by Kathy Fell

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, I reported to Winchester Virginia (over 225 miles away) to attend the kickoff for the state-wide spotted lanternfly project. Multiple agencies were present, including DCR, Dept of Forestry, VCE, Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists. Our mission is to monitor across the state for the Spotted Lanternfly.

The Spotted Lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*, is a leaf hopper native to China, India and Vietnam. It was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014. This insect feeds on over 70 different species, including vines (grapes, hops), fruit trees (almonds, apple, apricot, cherry, peach, nectarine, plum) and many species of trees (pine, maple, oak, poplar, sycamore, walnut and willow). The infestation has now spread to New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Virginia. Spotted Lanternfly first arrived in Winchester Virginia in 2017, spreading to 1 square mile of infestation in the first year. If you remember your geography, Maryland and West Virginia are between Pennsylvania and Virginia. This insect hitch-hiked across state lines on a truck. By 2018, despite aggressive treatment, the infestation had grown to 18 square miles. What is the chance one will hitchhike down I-81 into our neighborhood?

Insects will lay eggs on trees and plants, but also on brick, stone, concrete, metal and other smooth surfaces including the sides of trucks, retaining wall block and lawn furniture. The insects secrete honeydew, which is a sticky substance that will grow mold and fungus. Hundreds of insects may congregate on a single tree. They seem to be particularly fond of *Ailanthus altissima* (tree-of-heaven), which is where we come in.

Several of our chapter members have located *Ailanthus* on their property and volunteered to be part of the monitoring program. Over the last weekend in April, I drove 435 miles over three days to show folks how to set traps on their trees. We now have traps set in 4 counties (Patrick, Henry, Pittsylvania and Lunenburg) and chapter members keeping an eye out for the Spotted Lanternfly. A super-sticky band is placed around the tree, sticky side out, which needs to be collected and inspected every two weeks and replaced with a fresh band. We will continue to monitor the traps through August 1<sup>st</sup> and possibly again next year. We are all hoping we don't find any Spotted Lanternfly.

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### Spotted Lanternfly Citizen Science Detection Train the Trainer (continued)



Left, Lynn Regan with newly installed trap. Above, Adult from [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/sa\\_insects/slf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/sa_insects/slf) . Below, 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> instar nymphs and adult female from <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=26349> .



Above, photos submitted by Kathy Fell.

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### Wildflower Survey at Explore Park—April 14, 2019 Submitted by Kathy Fell

Despite an ominous weather forecast, Ellen and Joe Jessee and I headed north to Roanoke a little before 9AM. The drive up was foggy, with the pale greens of new leaves bursting out along the way. Tangled amidst the redbud and dogwoods we spotted the distinctive lavender color of the invasive wisteria. We were headed to the Wildflower walk at Explore Park.

Explore Park is located a short distance off the Blue Ridge Parkway. This 1,100 acre Park includes historical structures, campgrounds, trails and access to the Roanoke River. The Roanoke Valley Chapter is working with the county to develop interpretive materials for the park. The day's mission was to identify wildflowers blooming along the River Trail.

At 10 AM, we met with members of the Roanoke Chapter, then split up, wildflower guides in hand, to see what we could find. Our group identified about 14 species of wildflowers along the trail and scattered around the campsites. We were treated to an occasional light sprinkle from above, but managed to stay mostly dry. Most evident were the wild blue phlox, Virginia bluebells, star chickweed and early saxifrage. Looking closer, we also spotted bloodroot, mayapple, wild ginger, cut-leaf toothwort, spring beauty, marsh marigold and rue anemone. We also found some just-emerging maidenhair ferns, brightly colored millipedes, and a few morels hiding amongst the leaves.

In addition to collecting the plant list, we also identified areas for future attention. These included a few spots with a large variety of different species that are good candidates for stops during nature programs. We also identified areas with invasive plants, such as garlic mustard, multiflora rose, and other undesirables that could use some clean-up.

We made it back to the visitor center without getting too wet. If you are sorry you missed this adventure, you may get another chance. The Roanoke Chapter is planning to organize additional wildflower walks every few weeks, document what emerges later in the spring and summer.



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### Wildflower Survey at Explore Park—April 14, 2019 (continued)



Above left, **Mayapple**. Above, middle, **Cut-leaf toothwort**. Above, right, **Morel**.

Above, photos submitted by Kathy Fell.

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### Snake-Spotting At Kathy Fell's Home Submitted by Kathy Fell

In Early June, I spotted a snake napping under a planter on the back patio. I'm always pleased to find a snake on the property. This one sported a very familiar pattern from my girl scout training in grade school. It was the very first copperhead that I have seen around here. I left it to its nap after taking a picture to post on iNaturalist.

I tried to recall all the different snakes I've seen here. I went back to the photo archives and came up with these pictures. I've also seen a number of worm snakes. But, for some unknown reason, I've never taken a photo of one.



**Top, left, Northern Copperhead. Top, right, Eastern Garter Snake.**  
Bottom, left, Dekay's Brown Snake. Bottom, right, Eastern Rat Snake.

[Above, photos submitted by Kathy Fell.](#)



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### Fairystone DGIF Birding & Wildlife Trail Assessment



Above, top, turkey vulture. Bottom, left, Newt. Bottom, right, Box Turtle.

Above, photos submitted to the Volunteer Management System Photo Albums.

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### Headwaters Chapter Visits VMNH Excerpt of the Headwaters Chapter Report by Ashby Pritchett

*Members of the Master Naturalist Headwaters Chapter came to Martinsville for weekend camping at Fairystone State Park, a visit to the VMNH, and a Potluck dinner at Kathy Fell's home. On Saturday, June 22nd, members of the Southwestern Piedmont Chapter sponsored a "mini-conference" for Headwaters visitors at the museum, helping with Behind the Scene tours, volunteer projects, continuing education and lunch. That evening, both chapters were invited to Kathy's home for a potluck dinner.*

Headwaters Chapter members and family members gathered at Virginia's Fairy Stone State Park in Patrick County on Friday evening, June 21, settling in camp grounds, RV spots and cabins. That evening, they gathered around a large campfire, making s'mores and listening to music performed by a trio of chapter members.

On Saturday, Headwaters Chapter members carpoled to the Museum, and joined several members of the Southwestern Piedmont Chapter, who hosted a full day of activities. They were given both public and behind the scenes tours in the morning.

During the lunch break, curator of archaeology Elizabeth Moore gave a presentation about an excavation she was involved with in the Great Neck area of Virginia Beach, in which the team unearthed remnants of a Native American encampment dating back 1500 years. As a "faunal" specialist, Dr. Moore examines recovered bone and shell shards, providing insight into how people lived, what they ate, and what kinds of domestic animals they kept.

After Dr. Moore's talk, both chapter groups filtered collection bags of materials recovered from the Virginia Beach excavation site and from the site of an Occaneechi Indian village along the Roanoke River in Pittsylvania County, looking for "beads, bones and bits". Kathy Fell found one bead in the Pittsylvania sample. Both groups also handled collection material obtained from the Claremont Manor in Surry County. Looking for 17-19th century bones and teeth, individual pieces found there need cleaning. Headwaters chapter members were given instructions on how to do this, using toothbrushes, dental picks, and small amounts of water.



Above, Christy Deatherage and Gael Chaney with Headwaters members at VMNH; photo credit: Carl Droms. Substance of this article taken from report of Carl Droms and Adrie Voors, June 2019, <https://headwatersmn.org/2019/07/02/trip-back-in-time/>.



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### Headwaters Chapter Visits VMNH (continued)

A smaller number of participants were given the chance to work in the Museum's "Wet Lab": This is where reptiles and amphibians are preserved in bottles of alcohol and formaldehyde. The objective was to identify the liquid in each bottle, to fill each container to the top and reseal it.



Saturday evening, Headwaters Chapter members were invited to a potluck dinner and social gathering at Kathy Fell's home with other members of the Southwestern Piedmont Chapter.

Kathy's house is surrounded by vast gardens of wildlife-supporting plants accessed by stone walkways, all of which she installed herself. Before returning to Fairystone, the visitors toured Kathy's gardens.



Top, left: Mary, Ivan Hiett, Jenna, and Janet sifting through sand, looking for tiny glass beads. Photo by Elizabeth Pass. Top, middle, Adrie sniff testing for preservative type. Photo by Carl Droms. Top, right, Peggy, Christy, and Burt cleaning bones. Photo by Elizabeth Pass. Bottom, left, Garden walk at the home of Kathy Fell. Photo by Elizabeth Pass. Bottom, right, British Soldier Lichen at Kathy Fell's home. Photo by John Bauman.

# Upcoming Events

# Southwestern Piedmont Chapter

**July 2019—Go to Volunteer Management System (VMS) for complete listing of events!**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Archeology Help Day	3	4	5	6 DRBA First Saturday Outing
7	8	9 Archeology Help Day	10	11	12	13 DGIF Birding and Wildlife Trl
14	15	16 Organismal Biology unconfer-	17	18	19	20 Dan River Clean-up
21	22	23 Archeology Help Day	24 Native Plant Campaign Mtg	25 VMN Webinars	26 VMNH Dino Day	27 VMNH Dino Smith Rvr Cleanup
28	29	30	31			

**August 2019—VMS calendar at <https://virginiamn.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm>**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Photo Contest	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Smith River Fest
11	12	13 Basic Training Class Begins	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Archeology Help Day	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Archeology Help Day	28	29	30	31

**September 2019—Look for updated Listing of Events on VMS General Event Calendar!**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 VMN State Conference - Har-	21 VMN State Conference - Har-
22 VMN State Conference - Har-	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Refer to General Events Calendar on the Volunteer Management System for more information and updates. The Volunteer Management System link is <https://virginiamn.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm> . Login is required to access site content.