

The Maryland Master Naturalist Program

Presented to the Calvert County Environmental
Commission by Autumn Phillips-Lewis and Shelby Cross

Program Overview

- Overseen by the University of Maryland Extension
- Carried out by host sites throughout the state separated by Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and Mountain Regions
- Offered in 14 counties over various years
 - Calvert County- ACLT (sole host site with “co-hosts”)
 - Prince George’s County- Patuxent River Park (one of two host sites)





Program Overview

- Host sites advertise/recruit, coordinate speakers & schedule, handle all communications with participants
- \$250 class fee
- 52 hours of class time, 8 hours of field trip time
- Class project
- Written and Practical Exam
- 40 hours of volunteer service, 8 hours of advanced training
- Trainee vs. Intern vs. Certified MN

Program Host Sites

Calvert County

- 7 consecutive years hosting the program
- 116 people completed training
- 76 (65%) active Master Naturalist volunteers



Prince George's County

- 1 year hosting the program
- 19 people completed training
- 19 active Master Naturalist volunteers





Putting the Program Together

- Advertising
- Collecting applications and interviewing
 - Typical applicant
- Develop class schedule and contact all speakers
- Find and organize pre-readings
- Participant paperwork and payment

Week	Date	Topic	Instructor	Location	Hours
1	2/25/2019	Program Introduction	Joy Rafey	ACLT	1
		ACLT, BC, CPNHT	Various		1
		Science of Science	Autumn Phillips-Lewis		1
2	3/4/2019	Fundamentals of Ecology	Autumn Phillips-Lewis	ACLT	3
3	3/11/2019	Weather, Climate, & Man's Impact	Jeff Stehr	ACLT	3
4	3/18/2019	Soils	Sara Via	ACLT	3
	Wed 3/20/19	"Herp Hunt" Field Trip	Andy Brown	ACLT	3(6-9pm)
5	3/25/2019	Herpetology	Scott Smith	ACLT	3
6	4/1/2019	Ornithology	Gwen Brewer	ACLT	3
7	4/8/2019	Freshwater Ecosystems	Ron Klauda	ACLT	3
	Sat 4/13/19	Optional Earth Day Trail Run	Contact: Autumn	ACLT	TBD
	Sun 4/14/19	Optional Earth Day Trash Clean Up	Contact: Autumn	ACLT	12-3pm
8	4/15/2019	Geology	Joe Marx	ACLT	3
	4/22/2019	Botany	Karyn Moline	ACLT	3
9	Sat 4/27/19	Ornithology Field Trip	Gwen Brewer	ACLT	3 (6:30-9:30a)
	Sat 4/27/19	Optional Canoe Guide Training	Contact: Autumn	ACLT	9am-1pm
10	4/29/2019	Saltwater Ecosystems/Bay Issues	Walter Boynton	ACLT	3
11	5/6/2019	Interpretation	Kerry Wixted	ACLT	3
12	5/13/2019	Entomology (Insects)	Mike Raupp	ACLT	3
	Sat 5/18/19	Dendrology (inside & outside portion)	Steve Stadelman	ACLT	4(12-4pm)
13	5/20/2019	Ichthyology (Fish)	Jay Kilian	ACLT	3
14	Tue 5/28/19	Mammalogy	Gene Groshon	BCNEC	3
	Sat 6/1/19	Canoe Field Trip on Parker's Creek	Bob Field	ACLT	3 (1-4pm)
15	6/3/2019	Exams Due, Class Presentations, Tree ID Practice	None	ACLT	3
	Thurs 6/6/19	Tree & bird Exam & potluck	None	ACLT	3
Total "Class" time: 52 Hours					
Total "Field Trip" time: 9 Hours					



#	Date + Topic	Time	Instructor (affiliation)
1	Thurs Feb. 21 Program Introduction + M-NCPPC/PRP + Science of Science	3 Hrs 6-7 PM 7-8 PM 8-9 PM	Joy Schindler (MDMN) Tommy Baden, Park Director (PRP) Shelby (PRP)
2	Thurs Feb. 28 Climate Change & Ecological Impact Soils	3 hrs 6-7 7-9	Sara Via (UMD) Sara Via (UMD)
3	Thurs Mar. 7th Natural Histories of Pax	3 hrs 6-9 pm	Stepahnie Sperling (M-NCPPC)
	Saturday Mar. 9th Field Trip: Historical Mt. Calvert + River Farm	4 Hrs 9 am-1pm	Stepahnie Sperling (M-NCPPC)
4	Thurs Mar. 14th Work on Group Presentations	3 Hrs 6-9 pm	PRP Staff
5	Thurs Mar. 21st Herps	3.5 Hrs 5:30-9 pm	Scott Smith (DNR)
6	Thurs Mar. 28th Trees + Flowers	3 Hrs 6-9 pm	Karyn Molines (Calvert Co. Natural Resources Division)
7	Thurs Apr. 4th Fish	3 Hrs 6-9 pm	Letha Grimes (DNR)
8	Thurs Apr. 11th Insects	3 Hrs 6-9 pm	Michael Raupp (UMD)
9	Thurs Apr. 18th Geology	3 Hrs 6-9 pm	Martin Schmidt (Maryland Geological Society)
	Saturday Apr. 20th Tree/Flower Hike + ID	3 Hrs 9 am-12	Chris Garrett (M-NCPPC Ranger)
10	Thurs Apr. 25th Weather + Climate	3 Hrs 6-9 pm	Jeff Stehr (UMD)
11	Thurs May 2nd Microbes + Fungi	3 Hrs 6-9 pm	William Needham (Mycological Association of Washington D.C.)
12	Thurs May 9th Ornithology	3 Hrs 6-9 pm	Gwen Brewer (DNR)
13	Thurs May 16th Mammals	3 Hrs 6-9 pm	Kerry Wixted (DNR)
	Sat May 18th - Sun May 19th Bioblitz!	3 Hrs min. <u>Mandatory</u>	PRP Staff
14	Thurs May 23rd Interpretation	3 Hrs 6-9 pm	Angela Yau (Montgomery Rec and Parks)
	Sat May 25th Bird Field Trip	3 hrs 7-10 am	Greg Kerns (PG Rec and Parks)
15	Thurs May 30th Potluck/Exam	3 Hrs 6-9 pm	PRP Staff - SC
	Sat. June 15th Canoe Field Trip	8 Hrs	PRP Staff - SC



Typical Class Week

- 3 hour class Monday (CC) or Thursday (PGC) night
- Occasional Saturday or additional weeknight field trips
- Pre-reading

Favorite Classes

- Herp Hunt
- Entomology
- Ornithology
- Dendrology



Other Class Components

- Complete a group project
 - Selected by host site
 - *Ex: boardwalk construction, brush piles, natural play space*
 - *MNs expected to dedicate at least a few hours*
 - *Group presentation*
- Complete written general exam and bird and tree ID practical



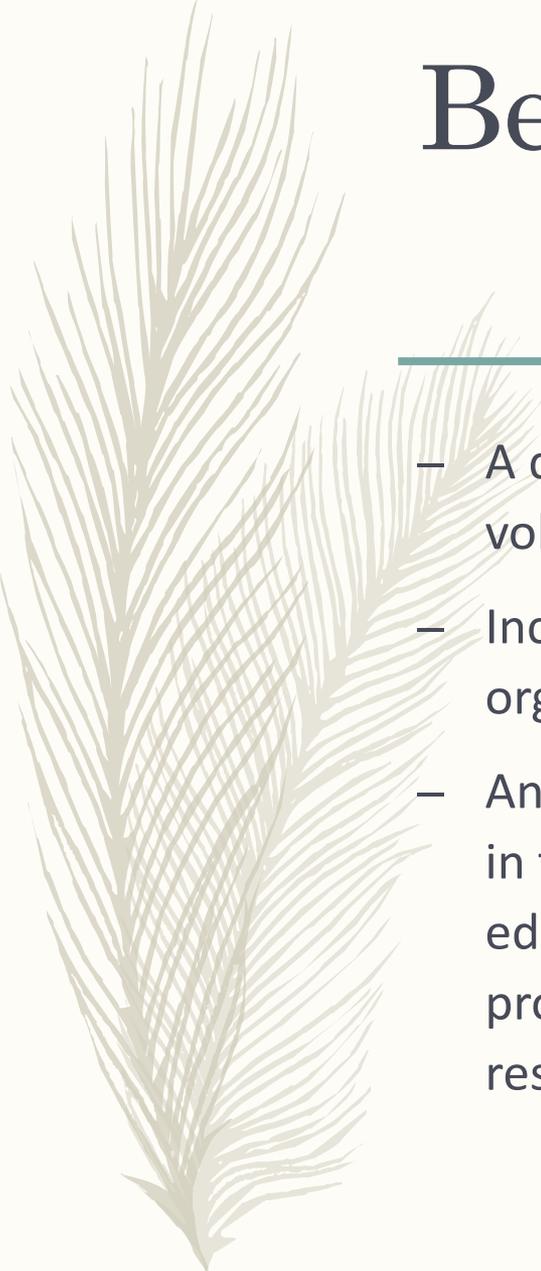
Participant Commitment

- In the end, participants have devoted:
 - \$250
 - 60 hours of class/field trip time
 - Roughly 5 hours of class project time
 - Taken written and practical exams
 - Committed to 40 volunteer service hours and 8 advanced training hours each year
 -
 - **THEY ARE DEDICATED!!!!**



Host Site Commitment

- In the end, host sites have devoted significant staff time and resources to:
 - Advertising/recruiting
 - Organizing class schedule and coordinating presenters
 - Setting up and attending classes and field trips
 - Managing an ever-growing volunteer base
 - Tracking volunteer hours and submitting to the UMD
 - Other paperwork such as end of class reports and re-signing of volunteer agreements



Benefits to the Host Site

- A dedicated, *trained* group of volunteers that grows each year
- Increased awareness of the organization
- An increasing number of people in the community who become educators and advocates about protecting Maryland's natural resources

In 2018 alone, ACLT-trained Master Naturalists volunteered 4,251 hours in Calvert County



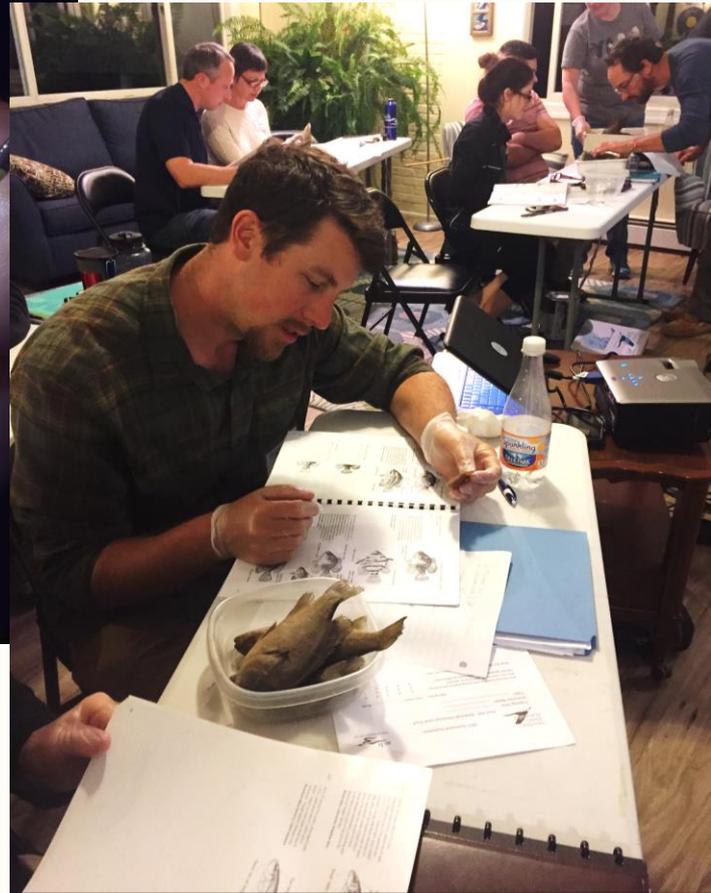
Host Sites

American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT)

Prince Frederick, MD

Calvert County – Coastal
Plain







Host Sites

Patuxent River Park (PRP)

Upper Marlboro, MD

Prince George's County –
Coastal Plain





Stephanie Sperling, Archaeologist for Prince George's County Parks and Recreation instructing and washing artifacts with PRP's Master Naturalist Class



