



March 2026

Welcome to Headwaters Master Naturalist cohort 10! The most recent training class began in February and we're excited to welcome your expertise and ideas to our chapter.



Interested in a future training? Check out our [website](#) for information on the course and [how to apply](#).

chapter happenings



Chestnut planting with The American Chestnut Foundation

On February 19, Rob Beaton and Wick Fary joined members of the Rivanna Chapter and American Chestnut Foundation staff and volunteers at the Virginia Department of

Wick Fary affixes labels to identify each individual plant
Photo by Rob Beaton

Forestry Crimora Nursery, to plant some 800 stratified chestnut seeds.

The [Virginia Chapter of TACF](#) maintains a greenhouse at the nursery, where select hand-pollinated seedlings are grown for a year before transplanting to trial growing plots at Lesesne State Forest State Forest and elsewhere in the state.

Under the supervision of Cassie Stark, Director of Science Implementation for TACF, we prepared growing media and filled pots, nestled pre-stratified seeds below the surface in 12-inch deep pots, and--the hardest and most critical part!--affixed labels to tags that identify the parents of each new tree.

Seeds are sourced from TACF-monitored individuals from throughout the historic range of the tree, with the goal of breeding an ideal combination of blight and other pathogen resistance along with typical species traits that will be stable across generations when reintroduced to less controlled environments.

by Wick Fary

volunteer opportunities & upcoming events

These events and more can be found in [BetterImpact](#) under the opportunities tab.

Staunton Tree Stewards Community Planting Days: The Staunton Tree Stewards will be planting trees at the new YMCA (575 New Hope Rd.). on Sunday, March 8, 1 p.m.; Thursday, March 12, 10:00 a.m.; Thursday, March 19, 10 a.m., Saturday, March 28, 10.a.m. (if needed). Contact [Staunton Tree Stewards](#) for more information.

Pollinators in Your Yard, Saturday, March 21, 12-4 p.m. The Harrisonburg Pollinator Program is hosting its fourth annual [event](#), and volunteers are needed to share about native pollinators and promote HMN. Sign up in [BetterImpact](#).

Natural Chimneys Park: Picnic + Pulling Invasives, Sunday, March 29. We will enjoy a picnic potluck plus some hands-on invasive plant removal. The picnic will go from 12-1 p.m.; bring something to share. From 1:00-2:30 p.m. there will be a hands-on activity to remove invasive plants. (You're also welcome to join the board meeting from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.) Contact [Cheryl Shull](#) if you have any questions.

Cornell's **Project FeederWatch** continues through April 30. More information on how to participate can be found on their [website](#).

Billy Flint will be leading a **night hike to see spotted salamanders (date TBD)** at sinkhole ponds. It's not possible to give an exact date because it has to happen when things are really wet, but hopefully this can happen in the next few weeks.

Malcolm Cameron is also coordinating a **walk on the trees and geology of sinkhole ponds**, most likely in late March or early April.

Watch your email for further details; sign up will be in [BetterImpact](#).

continuing education

Webinar: *The Virginia Wildlife Action Plan: A Plan for the Next 10 years*, March 11, 12-1 p.m.

The Virginia Wildlife Action Plan is now on its third iteration and a significant portion of the Plan is presented as an online tool and is more interactive.

Webinar: *Restoring Invaded Landscapes*, March 24, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Part of a series hosted by the Invasive Species Collaborative at Virginia Tech. Speakers: Speakers: Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. and Plant SWVA Natives

Winter Webinar Series w/ the Shenandoah Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, March 5, & April 2, 6-8 p.m. Speaker Jack Monsted manages the Native Plant Trail at Blandly Experimental Farm. \$10 registration fee covers both.

Register

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HMN needs you!

The Headwaters Master Naturalists board has an **opening for** either a **membership chair** or a few people to join a membership committee. The membership chair primarily recognizes members for reaching milestones, and verifies new and archived members with the state office. The chair or committee could also support members by acknowledging contributions and reaching out when members are close to a milestone they may not be aware of. This person also joins board meetings held every other month, online and in-person, that last 1 to 1 1/2 hours. [Contact us](#) if you are interested or have questions about the role.

We want to hear from you! Have a project update, field trip pics, nature observation or something else you'd like to share?

[Please email us!](#)



Headwaters Master Naturalists

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