

CONTINUING EDUCATION IS A MASTER NATURALIST BENEFIT!

Many people want to keep up on current affairs. To do that, they may read a newspaper, watch the nightly news or listen to a news radio station.

Master Naturalists want to keep up on current affairs as well. We want to keep up with what's happening in nature: what's the latest research on pollinators; how could climate change affect the birds we see on our property; is there a way to control those invasive nonnative plants that are choking out the native trees on our property? Finding information on the wide diversity of topics of interest to Master Naturalists takes time. That is where Continuing Education comes to the rescue!

What is Continuing Education?*

Does the opportunity:

1. Promote continued learning and development of naturalist skills?
2. Provide master Naturalists with knowledge and skills to work in volunteer efforts:
3. Provide Master Naturalists an opportunity to focus their interest in one or a few specific topics?
4. Build on the core curriculum initially provided by the local chapter?
5. Provide information on natural resources and resource management or naturalist skills applicable to Virginia?

✓ *If it meets one or more of the above criteria, it's considered Continuing Education.*

**From the ORMN website's Continuing Education page*

Virginia Master Naturalists requires Continuing Education for certification: "To be certified and maintain certification every year as a Virginia Master Naturalist, volunteers are required to complete 8 hours of continuing education." [Note: CE hours do not require

formal approval, but CE topics should always be presented in person or through an interactive online course.]

For example, eight hours each year might entail:

- ✓ A one-day seminar on a topic you really want to understand better.
- ✓ Binge-watching 8 one-hour videos on a rainy day.
- ✓ Attending all six chapter membership meetings plus watching two one-hour YouTube videos posted on the ORMN website.

Here's the good news

There is wealth of resources where you can find the topics you want to learn more about.

Here are some to consider:

- The Virginia Master Naturalist (VMN) program offers Continuing Education through its annual statewide conference, an [online webinar series](#), and regional workshops associated with specific projects. You can also sign up to be notified about upcoming [Continuing Education programs](#).
- ORMN offers a one-hour Continuing Education program at all general membership meetings. Here's a bonus to being an ORMN member: you earn one hour of continuing education for each general membership meeting you attend. As the kids would say, "eesy peesy!"
- The ORMN website has a whole section devoted to [Continuing Education](#). Check out the area you're interested in, be it Plants, Birds, Insects, Streams and Aquatic Habitats and more. There are links to interesting CE programs offered by other organizations such as the Shenandoah National Park Association and the Clifton Institute. New material is being added weekly, so make sure to check back soon!

Let the Continuing Education & Logistics Committee know what interests you and we'll try to put together a program and possibly a field trip on that topic in the future.

Continuing Education & Logistics Committee

Charlene Uhl, Chair
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So enjoy your benefits: Access to a wealth of information that you have for Continuing Education as a Master Naturalist!