Greetings, ORMN members!

The Virginia Master Naturalist organization is collaborating with the Virginia Department of Forestry on a project to plant 25 new acres of riparian buffers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.  They are currently trying to decide on the best target areas for the project, and one of the sites under consideration is our chapter's 5-county area.

Before they can select an area, they need to gauge the amount of interest among local VMN volunteers who might participate in the project.  Volunteers would commit to attending a training, selecting one or more sites for a new riparian buffer, leading a planting day to plant the trees, and doing some follow-up checks and maintenance of the plantings.

Here are a few more details:

**Training** – There will be a training provided this fall, most likely in Charlottesville, that will cover proper tree planting techniques, proper choice of sites, and collecting follow-up data on tree survival.

**Timeline** –  Over the winter the volunteers would select the sites for the riparian buffers, secure any needed permissions, and get organized for a spring planting.  Plantings are expected to take place in spring 2020, with some follow-ups throughout the year to check on the tree survival.

**Number of volunteers needed** – At least 2 ORMN members to go to the training, select planting sites and coordinate planting day.  Other volunteers could simply show up to help plant trees under the supervision of those that were trained.

Our area may not be selected as one of the target areas, so no one has to commit to anything specific right now.  But if you think you would be interested in participating in this project, please email me at catheal@mac.com and let me know.  I will pass on the responses to VMN where they will help in the decision-making.  Thanks.

Carolyn Smith
Projects committee chair