

From the VMN Summer Laurels 2021 Page

<http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/home/laurels-summer-2021>



Barry Buschow, VMN volunteer and president of the Old Rag Chapter, plants trees at Monroe Park in Fauquier County, VA to help protect the Rappahannock River watershed.

Old Rag Chapter and President Recognized for Conservation of Rappahannock River

Contributed by Bonnie Beers, Alejandro Bueno, and Charlene Uhl (VMN-Old Rag Chapter), and October Greenfield (Friends of the Rappahannock)

Old Rag Master Naturalists (ORMN) and our president, Barry Buschow, were recognized this spring at the annual awards program of the [Friends of the Rappahannock \(FOR\)](#) for ORMN's extraordinary contributions in supporting the health of the Rappahannock River watershed. This river runs 195 miles from the Blue Ridge Mountains across the Piedmont into the Chesapeake Bay south of the Potomac. It is a critically important part of the Virginia watershed, draining an area of 2,848 square miles and approximately 6% of Virginia.

Since 1985 Friends of the Rappahannock has been actively working to improve the water quality of this vital watershed through tree planting, restoration of banks, restoration of oyster reefs and living shorelines downstream, removing trash and actively promoting rain gardens and other landscape practices that reduce runoff and pollutants.

- ORMN was awarded the Upper Rappahannock Conservation Partner of the Year and our members were recognized for “going above and beyond” with tree plantings, river cleanups, water quality monitoring and educational programs. ORMN has four approved volunteer projects with FOR encompassing Citizen Science, Education and Stewardship. Since the beginning of 2021, almost 20% of ORMN active volunteers had recorded dedicated hours for FOR projects. FOR expressed specific gratitude for the strong presence of ORMN volunteers at a Park Cleanup at Culpeper County's Lenn Park in 2020, a planting at Old House Vineyards in Culpeper, and a planting at Pen Druid Brewery in Sperryville.
- Barry Buschow was presented the Volunteer of the Year Award for his many efforts across multiple counties where the Rappahannock flows. He is now trained as one of FOR water quality monitors. October Greenfield, FOR's Upper River Steward, noted that “Barry's curiosity and love for the natural world is an inspiration to all of us and we are appreciative of all of his hard work.”



Some of the tires and other garbage Old Rag Master Naturalist volunteers helped remove from the Rappahannock River watershed. Photo by October Greenfield, Friends of the Rappahannock.