



**Virginia Master Naturalist Program
Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes Chapter
Spring/Summer 2010**

Update: The application deadline has been extended to March 5th, 2010. Call 540-365-4613 if you need more information.

To Potential Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in applying to be a Virginia Master Naturalist through the Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes Chapter (BRFAL) training program. Plans are underway to offer the training program beginning **March 11th and ending May 20, 2010.**

The BRFAL training program is designed to prepare individuals as **Certified Virginia Master Naturalists** for the statewide corps of master naturalist volunteers carrying out the Virginia Master Naturalist Program mission of "providing education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities". As such, it will provide the background knowledge and opportunity for skills development necessary to be effective as a volunteer Certified Virginia Master Naturalist.

To become a **Certified Virginia Master Naturalist**, a trainee must:

- Complete 40 hours of basic training, which includes a minimum of 25% time in the field;
- Pass the open-book training assessment with a score of 70% or higher;
- Complete 8 hours of approved advanced training designed to focus volunteer efforts on one or more specific topics of interest; and
- Complete a minimum of 40 hours of service in a BRFAL approved project within 12 months of the completion of the basic training program.

To maintain certification, a Certified Virginia Master Naturalist must complete an additional 8 hours of advanced training and 40 hours of service annually.

BRFAL's training sessions will be held on Thursday evenings from 6-8:30 PM with some Saturday sessions for field trips. The classes will normally be held in the Franklin Center (directly behind the library in Rocky Mount). The location of Saturday field sessions will vary based on the topic being presented. Trainees may not miss more than 2 classes, and all missed sessions must be made up by attending the appropriate class(es) within 12 months of the completion of training.

The total cost of the program, including materials, is **\$100**. This fee also entitles each participant to a one-year membership in the BRFAL Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program.

If you wish to apply for the Spring/Summer 2010 basic training program, please complete the attached application form and mail it by **February 19, 2010** to:

Virginia Master Naturalist
Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes Chapter
P.O. Box 1151
Rocky Mount, VA 24151
ATTN: Application Committee

The BRFAL Application Committee will notify all applicants on their status of their application by **February 26th**. Applicants accepted for the training program must send a check for \$100 to the above address by **March 5th**.

Additional information, including the draft syllabus on the Virginia Master Naturalist Program and the Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes Chapter, can be found at <http://www.brfal.org/>. For other questions about the Virginia Master Naturalist Program and/or BRFAL Chapter, please call (540) 365-4613 or by e-mail at brfal.vmnp@earthlink.net.