

PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Print page 2 on cardstock if available. This is the cover
2. Print page 3-9
3. Remove paper and flip over vertically
4. Print pages 10-16
5. Use the printed page numbers to realign the pages. They should start with
 - Cover
 - “Welcome to Your Phenology Journal”
 - Jan – Dec calendar pages
6. Fold the booklet in half lengthwise
7. Use the “pamphlet stitch” or other method to bind the pages



2026 phenology Calendar

Phenology Wheel

Write or draw an observation for each month. Use your notes throughout the year to fill in the circle with pictures or text highlights.

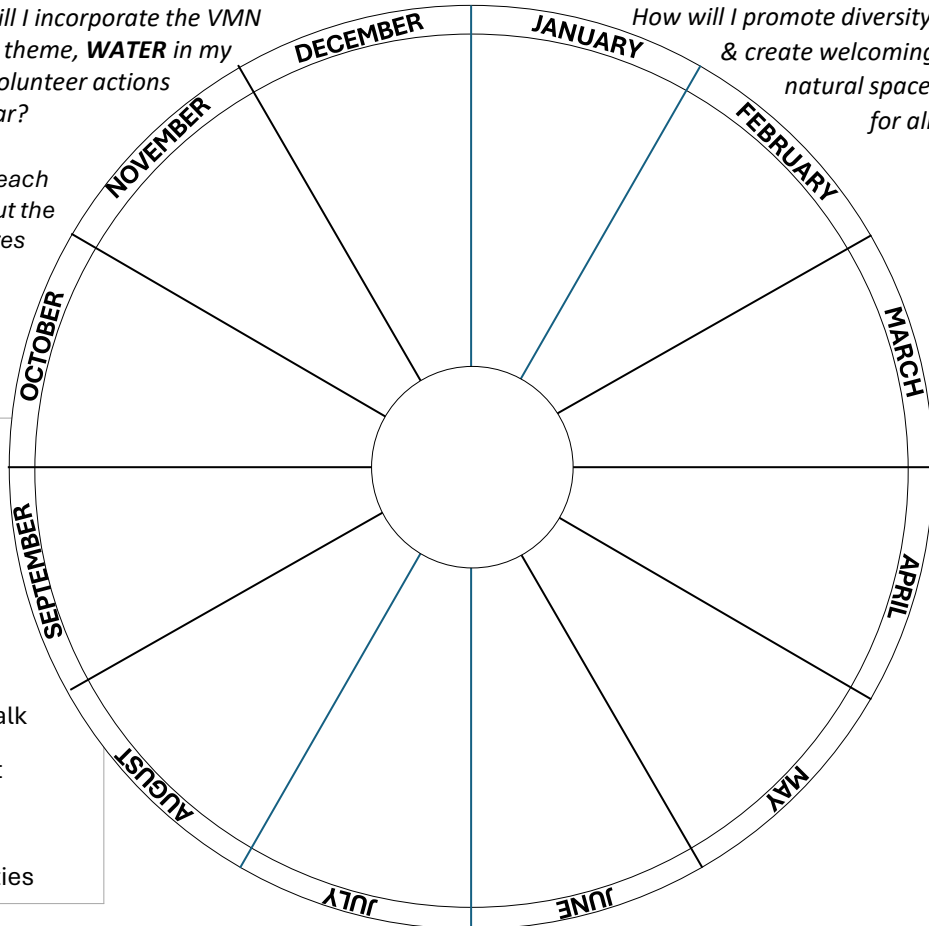
Sign up at
Merrimac Farm
Upcoming Events



- Chapter Meetings
- Outreach Events
- Team Meetings
- Board of Director Meetings
- Citizen Science Activities
- Continuing Education Speaker/Talk
- Continuing Education Field Event
- Nature's Impact "Happy Hour"
- 2026 Water theme-related activities

How will I incorporate the VMN annual theme, **WATER** in my VMN volunteer actions this year?

How will I promote diversity & create welcoming natural spaces for all?



Merrimac Farm VMN Event Details

- Dec 1**
Outreach Team
- Dec 7**
Training (BTC) Team
- Dec 15**
Board meeting
- Dec 16**
Communications Team
- Dec 21**
Impactful "Happy Hour" (early due to holidays)

Sign up at
Merrimac Farm VMN
Upcoming Events



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Sign up for this month's VMN CE webinar Series 	1 Join the Outreach team ~ or help at an event	2	3 Persons with Disabilities Day	4 Wildlife Conservation Day	5 World Soils Day
6 What's still green outdoors? Record your findings	7 Join the Training team ~ or Mentor a BTC participant	8 Learn a constellation or find planets on a moonless night	9	10 Take a cloud survey today & record data in Globe Observer	11 International Mountain Day	12 Clean micro-plastics from along a riverbank
13 PWTSC 2nd Sun Hike	14 Geminids meteor shower	15 ALL members are invited to our Board meetings	16 Join the Comms team ~ or submit an article	17	18 Upload your sightings into iNaturalist or help ID someone else's	19 Learn to ID several conifers using a dichotomous key
20 Curl up with a good book on nature	21 Chill out with us and update your hours in Better Impact First Day of Winter Winter Solstice	22	23 Take a full moon hike and look for nocturnal activity	24	25	26 Have you seen any signs of mammals this month?
27 Merrimac Farm Birdwalk with PWCA	28 Take a cloud survey today & record data in Globe Observer	29	30	31		

Look back over your sightings and phenology journal for the year... how did you do? What do you want to add next year?

JAN 2026

Draw or write your
daily observations





















How will I incorporate the VMN annual theme, **WATER** in my VMN volunteer actions this month?
How will I promote diversity & create welcoming natural spaces for all?

Merrimac Farm VMN Event Details

-  **Nov 3**
Outreach Team
-  **Nov 7**
CHAPTER MEETING
(Games & Crafts!)
-  **Nov 9**
Training (BTC) Team
-  **Nov 14**
Stream Cleanup
-  **Nov 18**
Communications Team
-  **Nov 30**
Impactful Happy Hour

Sign up at
Merrimac Farm VMN
Upcoming Events



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1  Project Feederwatch Nov 1 to Apr 30 	2 Sign up for this month's VMN CE webinar Series 	3  Join the Outreach team ~ or help at an event	4 	5 How is your tree doing? (see Feb 7)... check back each week and track changes	6 Sign up to join weekly surveys with NVBA 	7  Come join us at the Chapter Meeting!! Games! Crafts!
8 PWTSC 2nd Sun Hike	9  Join the Training team ~ or Mentora BTC participant	10 Virtual iNat night 	11 Fee Free Day @ National Parks	12 Learn a constellation or find planets tonight	13 	14  Join us for a Fall Stream Cleanup
15 National Recycling Day Fee Free Day @ National Parks	16 Take a cloud survey today & record data in Globe Observer	17 	18  Join the Comms team ~ or submit an article	19 	20 Clean micro-plastics from along a riverbank	21 
22 Curl up with a good book on nature	23 	24 Take a full moon hike and look for nocturnal activity 	25 	26 Upload your sightings into iNaturalist or help ID someone else's	27 Take a cloud survey today & record data in Globe Observer	28 Have you seen any signs of mammals this month?
29  Merrimac Farm Birdwalk with PWCA	30  Chill out with us and update your hours in Better Impact	Review your volunteer work. Did you accomplish your goals this year? What are your plans for next year?				


FEB 2026

Draw or write your
daily observations


How will I incorporate the VMN annual theme, **WATER** in my VMN volunteer actions this month?


How will I promote diversity & create welcoming natural spaces for all?


Merrimac Farm VMN Event Details

 **Oct 6**
Outreach Team


 **Oct 12**
Training (BTC) Team

 **Oct 20**
Board meeting

 **Oct 21**
Communications
Team

 **Oct 24**
Leesylvania State
Park Fall Festival

 **Oct 24**
Trick & Treatment

 **Oct 26**
Impactful Happy Hour

**Sign up at
Merrimac Farm VMN
Upcoming Events**



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

Fall hawk &
waterfowl
migration
Sep-Oct 


Sign up for this
month's VMN CE
webinar Series



1
How is your
tree doing?
(see Feb 7)...
check back
each week and
track changes

2
Sign up to
join weekly
surveys
with NVBA



3
Join
Friends of the
Occoquan for
a River
Cleanup


4
Saturn at its
brightest

World
Animal Day



6
Join the
Outreach team
~or help at an
event


World Habitat Day

7
What
flowers are
in bloom
today?

8
Take a cloud
survey today
& record data
in Globe
Observer

9
Clean
micro-
plastics
from along
a riverbank

10
October Big Day
-eBird 

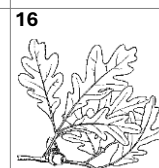
11
PWTS
2nd Sun Hike

12
Join the
Training team
~or Mentor a
BTC participant



13
Virtual iNat
night




15
Learn a
constellation
or find planets
tonight



17
Look for a
Fall River
Cleanup near
you!

18
Take a
nocturnal
hike and look
for owls &
bats 

19
Which trees
have changed
color? Record
your findings

20
ALL
members are
invited to
our Board
meetings 



21
Join the
Comms team ~
or submit an
article 

22
Have you seen
any signs of
mammals
this month?

23
Upload your
sightings into
iNaturalist
or help ID
someone
else's

24
Join us for Fall
Festivals
International
Day of Climate
Action 

25
Merrimac
Farm
Birdwalk
with PWCA

26
 
Chill out with
us and update
your hours in
Better Impact

27
Take a full
moon hike
and look for
nocturnal
activity

28
World
Sustainability
Day

29
Take a cloud
survey today
& record data
in Globe
Observer

30
Prep for
Project
Feederwatch
(Nov - Apr)

31
Curl up with
a good book
on nature

MAR 2026

Draw or write your
daily observations

How will I incorporate the VMN annual theme, **WATER** in my VMN volunteer actions this month?

How will I promote diversity & create welcoming natural spaces for all?
















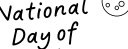




pg. 5 MAR

Merrimac Farm VMN Event Details

-  **Sep 1**
Outreach Team
-  **Sep 12**
Hispanic Heritage
-  **Sep 14**
Training (BTC) Team
-  **Sep 16**
Communications Team
-  **Sep 17**
Continuing Ed Talk
-  **Sep 18-20**
VMN Conference
-  **Sep 19**
Leopold's Fall Fest
-  **Sep 19**
Continuing Ed Event
-  **Sep 28**
Impactful Happy Hour

**Sign up at
Merrimac Farm VMN
Upcoming Events**



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>Fall hawk & waterfowl migration Sep-Oct </p>	<p>2</p> <p>Focus on waste prevention & Reuse Zero Waste Week</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Join the Outreach team ~ or help at an event </p>	<p>4</p> <p>Sign up for this month's VMN CE webinar Series </p>	<p>5</p> <p>How is your tree doing? (see Feb 7)... check back each week and track changes</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Sign up to join weekly surveys with NVBA </p>	<p>7</p> <p>Look for a Native Plant Sale this month</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Find a river cleaning event by kayak or canoe </p>	<p>9</p> <p>International Day of Clean Air</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Virtual iNat night </p>	<p>11</p> <p>Take a cloud survey today & record data in Globe Observer</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Learn a constellation or find planets on a moonless night </p>	<p>13</p> <p>Become a Tree Steward with Plant NOVA Natives</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Join us for Hispanic Heritage Family Nature Fest </p>
<p>15</p> <p>PWTSC 2nd Sun Hike </p>	<p>16</p> <p>Join the Training team ~ or Mentor a BTC participant </p>	<p>17</p> <p>Clean micro-plastics from along a riverbank</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Join the Comms team ~ or submit an article </p>	<p>19</p> <p>Check out this month's Continuing Education talk </p>	<p>20</p> <p>Fee Free Day @ National Parks</p>	<p>21</p> <p>World Water Monitoring Day </p>
<p>22</p> <p>World Clean-up Day & Recycle Week </p>	<p>23</p> <p>What flowers are in bloom today?</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Venus at its brightest</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Learn to ID a Goldenrod using a Dichotomous Key</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Upload your sightings into iNaturalist or help ID someone else's </p>	<p>27</p> <p>National Day of Service (NPS) </p>	<p>28</p> <p>Public Lands Day </p>
<p>29</p> <p>World Rivers Day  Merrimac Farm Birdwalk (PWCA)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Chill out with us and update your hours in Better Impact </p>	<p>31</p> <p>First Day of Fall ~ Autumnal Equinox </p>	<p>32</p> <p>Take a cloud survey today & record data in Globe Observer</p>			

APR 2026

Draw or write your
daily observations

How will I incorporate the VMN annual theme, **WATER** in my VMN volunteer actions this month?

How will I promote diversity & create welcoming natural spaces for all?

Merrimac Farm VMN Event Details

Aug 4

Outreach Team

Aug 10

Training (BTC) Team

Aug 18

Board Meeting

Aug 19

Communications
Team

Aug 30

Butterfly Day @
Prince William
Forest Park

Aug 31

Impactful Happy
Hour

**Sign up at
Merrimac Farm VMN
Upcoming Events**



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

Summer Bird
Nesting
Season
Jun-Aug



Sign up for this
month's VMN CE
webinar Series



National
Water Quality
Month



How is your
tree doing?
(see Feb 7)...
check back
each week and
track changes

Sign up to
join weekly
surveys
with NVBA



1
International
Adaptive
Activity Day

2
Look for
Milkweed,
Mountain
mint and
other native
plants in
bloom



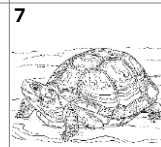
4
Join the
Outreach team
~ or help at an
event
International Owl
Awareness Day



5
Look for
blooming Joe
Pye weed



6
Take a cloud
survey today
& record data
in Globe
Observer



8
Clean
micro-
plastics
from along
a riverbank

9
PWTSC
2nd Sun Hike

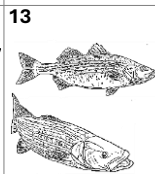
10
Join the
Training team
~ or Mentor a
BTC participant



11
Virtual iNat
night



12
Astro Triple Treat!
Six-planet parade
Partial Solar
Eclipse
Perseid meteor
shower



14
What kinds of
flowers are in
bloom?
Record your
findings

15
Look for
active insects
on your
nature walk
today

16
Which plants
are fruiting
now? Record
your
observations

17
Look for
native bees ~
record your
sightings.

18
ALL members are
invited to our
Board meetings



19
Join the
Comms team ~
or submit an
article



20
Upload your
sightings into
iNaturalist
or help ID
someone
else's

21
Join a 2026
Fall NABA
Butterfly
Count

22
Have you seen
any signs of
mammals
this month?

23
Merrimac Farm
Birdwalk with
PWCA

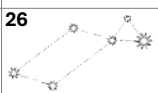


24
Chill out with
us and update
your hours in
31 Better Impact



25
Fee Free Day
@ National
Parks

26
Learn a
constellation
or find planets
tonight



27
Take a cloud
survey today
& record data
in Globe
Observer

28
Take a full
moon hike
and look for
nocturnal
activity



MAY 2026

Draw or write your
daily observations




















How will I incorporate the VMN annual theme, **WATER** in my VMN volunteer actions this month?
How will I promote diversity & create welcoming natural spaces for all?

Merrimac Farm VMN Event Details

-  **Jul 7**
Outreach Team
-  **Jul 11**
Continuing Ed Event
-  **Jul 13**
Training (BTC) Team
-  **Jul 15**
Communications Team
-  **Jul 16**
Continuing Ed Speaker
-  **Jul 24**
Moth Night
-  **Jul 26**
Butterfly Day
-  **Jul 27**
Impactful Happy Hour

Sign up at
Merrimac Farm VMN
Upcoming Events



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Summer Bird Nesting Season  Jun-Aug	Plastic Free July ~ no-single use plastics	Sign up for this month's VMN CE webinar Series 	1 Clean micro-plastics from along a riverbank National Clean Beaches Week	2 How is your tree doing? (see Feb 7)... check back each week and track changes	3 Sign up to join weekly surveys with NVBA 	4 Fee Free Day @ National Parks
5 Have you seen any signs of mammals this month?	6 Look for birds nesting or fledging 	7 Join the Outreach team ~ or help at an event 	8 Pollinators peak in June ~ find local pollinators and record your sightings	9 Rescue native trees ~ visit the Plant NOVA Trees website	10 Use lights and a white sheet to attract moths. Record your sightings	11 Join us for a Continuing Ed Field Event 
12 PWTSC 2nd Sun Hike	13 Join the Training team ~ or Mentor a BTC participant 	14 Virtual iNat night 	15 Join the Comms team ~ or submit an article 	16 Check out the July Continuing Education talk 	17 Look for Green treefrogs on rainy evenings	18 Learn a constellation or find planets tonight
19 Go on a walk along a marsh and look for herons & egrets	20 Record sightings of fruit bearing plants in iNaturalist	21 	22 Upload your sightings into iNaturalist or help ID someone else's	23 	24 Join us for Moth Night 	25 Adopt-a-trail and keep it clean
26 Join us for Butterfly Day Merrimac Farm Birdwalk with PWCA 	27 Chill out with us and update your hours in Better Impact 	28 World Nature Conservation Day	29 Take a full moon hike and look for nocturnal activity 	30 Look for Monarchs on milkweed 	31 Take a cloud survey today & record data in Globe Observer 	

JUN 2026









Draw or write your
daily observations

How will I incorporate the VMN annual theme, **WATER** in my VMN volunteer actions this month?

How will I promote diversity & create welcoming natural spaces for all?


















pg. 8 JUN

Merrimac Farm VMN Event Details

-  **Jun 2**
Outreach Team
-  **Jun 6-7**
River Fest!
-  **Jun 8**
Training (BTC) Team
-  **Jun 13**
CHAPTER MEETING
-  **Jun 16**
Board meeting
-  **Jun 17**
Communication Team
-  **Jun 20**
Manassas Bee Festival
-  **Jun 29**
Impactful Happy Hour

**Sign up at
Merrimac Farm VMN
Upcoming Events**



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Summer Bird Nesting Season Jun-Aug 	1 International Nature Journaling Week National Great Outdoors Month	2 Join the Outreach team ~ or help at an event National Oceans & Rivers Month	3 Sign up for this month's VMN CE webinar Series 	4 How is your tree doing? (see Feb 7)... check back each week and track changes	5 Pick a spot to clean up World Environment Day	6 Join us in Occoquan at River Fest! National Trails Day 
7 Join us in Occoquan at River Fest! 	8 Join the Training team ~ or Mentora BTC participant World Oceans Day 	9 Virtual iNat night 	10  Have you seen any Monarch butterflies?	11 Look for turtles digging nests to lay eggs	12 Sign up to join weekly surveys with NVBA 	13 Come join us at the Chapter Meeting!! 
14 PWTSC 2nd Sun Hike Fee Free Day @ National Parks	15 Look for native butterflies ~ record your sightings.	16 ALL members are invited to our Board meetings 	17 Join the Comms team ~ or submit an article 	18 Visit a wetland. Which frogs have you seen? 	19 Count dragonflies & damselflies ~ take pictures and load into iNaturalist	20 Join us at the Manassas Bee Festival! 
21 Look for the 'fruit' of Mayapples First day of Summer ~ Summer Solstice 	22  June 22-28 Pollinator Week	23 What kinds of pollinator ~ plant interactions can you find?	24 Look for native bees ~ record your sightings.	25 Join a 2026 Summer NABA Butterfly Count	26 Take a firefly hike ~ record your sightings 	27 Upload your sightings into iNaturalist or help ID someone else's
28 Take a nocturnal hike and look for owls & bats Merrimac Farm Birdwalk with PWCA	29  Chill out with us and update your hours in Better Impact	30 What wildflowers are in bloom? What has stopped blooming?	Don't forget to check websites/calendars of our Sponsoring Agencies & Partners for Continuing Education & Volunteer Activities (see page 2)			

pg. 8 JUN

JUL 2026

Draw or write your
daily observations

How will I incorporate the VMN annual theme, **WATER** in my VMN volunteer actions this month?

How will I promote diversity & create welcoming natural spaces for all?

















Pg. 9 JUL

Merrimac Farm VMN Event Details

-  **May 5**
Outreach Team
-  **May 11**
Training (BTC) Team
-  **May 13**
Communication Team
-  **May 16**
Kids to Parks Day
-  **May 21**
Continuing Ed Talk
-  **May 23**
Continuing Ed Field Event
-  **May 27**
Impactful Happy Hour
(Holiday Hours)

**Sign up at
Merrimac Farm VMN
Upcoming Events**



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Spring Bird Migration Mar-May 	Audubon Climate Watch May 15 - Jun 15	Look for a Native Plant Sale this month American Wetlands Month	Sign up for this month's VMN CE webinar Series 	How is your tree doing? (see Feb 7)... check back each week and track changes	1 Sign up to join weekly surveys with NVBA 	2 Clean the Bay Day ~ Chesapeake Bay Foundation 
3 Which trees have leafed out? Can you identify the oaks?	4 Are you seeing birds in nests? Record your sightings.	5 Join the Outreach team ~ or help at an event 	6 Which invasive species are you managing this month?	7 What flowers are in bloom today?	8 Look for warblers, tanagers, and vireos on a nature walk	9 Eagle Festival @ Mason Neck S.P. World Migratory Bird Day & Global Bird Day 
10 Mother Ocean Day PWTSC 2nd Sun Hike Mother's Day	11 Join the Training team ~ or mentor a BTC participant 	12 Virtual iNat night 	13 Join the Comms team ~ or submit an article 	14 Go on a butterfly hunt! Record your findings 	15 Research an endangered species in VA Endangered Species Day	16 Join us at Kids to Parks Day National River Cleanup Day 
17 Clean a stream or park & recycle litter World Recycling Day	18 Can you find a Jack-in-the-pulpit? 	19 Upload your sightings into iNaturalist or help ID someone else's	20 Which native bees can you find today? World Bee Day	21 Join us for the May Continuing Education talk 	22 International Day for Biological Diversity	23 Join us for a Continuing Ed Field Event 
24 Get outdoors! Merrimac Farm Birdwalk with PWCA 31	25 Visit a National Park Fee Free Day @ National Parks	26 	27  Chill out with us and update your hours in Better Impact	28 Read an excerpt from "Silent Spring" Rachel Carson's Birthday	29 Compost food waste Composting Day	30 Take a drive in the mountains and look for Mountain laurel

AUG 2026

Draw or write your
daily observations

How will I incorporate the VMN annual theme, **WATER** in my VMN volunteer actions this month?

How will I promote diversity & create welcoming natural spaces for all?

Pg. 10 AUG

Merrimac Farm VMN Event Details

-  **Apr 7**
Outreach Team
-  **Apr 11**
Continuing Ed Event
-  **Apr 13**
Training (BTC) Team
-  **Apr 15**
Comms Team
-  **Apr 18**
Jr. Ranger Day
-  **Apr 21**
BoD Meeting
-  **Apr 24-27**
City Nature Challenge
-  **Apr 24-25**
SEAS
-  **Apr 27**
Impactful Happy Hour

**Sign up at
Merrimac Farm VMN
Upcoming Events**



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Earth Month Project Feederwatch Nov 1 to Apr 30 	Spring Bird Migration Mar-May 	Sign up for this month's VMN CE webinar Series 	1 ☾ Take a full moon hike and look for nocturnal activity	2 Get prepped for City Nature Challenge with an info webinar	3 How is your tree doing? (see Feb 7)... check back each week and track changes	4 Look for Bluebells... How long are they in bloom? Record your observations
5 Go on a spring ephemeral walk... look for Dutchman's Breeches, Trout Lily, Trillium, and more...	6  Join a 2026 Spring NABA Butterfly Count	7 ☾ Join the Outreach team ~ or help at an event	8  How many American Robins have you seen?	9 Join some birdwalks this month. The warblers are coming through!! 	10 ☾ Apply to Volunteer at a State Park (from the VA State Park website)	11  Join us for our Continuing Education Field Event
12  PWTSC 2nd Sun Hike	13 ☾ Join the Training (BTC) team International Dark Sky Week	14 Virtual iNat night  Join a stargazing event with the NoVA Astronomy Club (NOVAC)	15 ☾ Join the Comms team ~ or submit an article	16  Examine flowering Dogwood ~ can you find the bracts & flowers?	17 ☾ Can you find Mayapple? Look for 'umbrella leaves'	18  Join us at Prince William Forest for Jr. Ranger Day! National Park Week (Apr 18-26)
19 What color are Serviceberry blooms? Find one near you to observe. 	20 Upload your sightings into iNaturalist or help ID someone else's	21  ALL members are invited to our Board meetings	22 Look for Lyrids meteor shower tonight! National Day of Service (NPS) Earth Day	23 ☾ Prep for City Nature Challenge 	24   Join us for City Nature Challenge! & Assist with SEAS (see newsletter)	25   Go comet hunting tonight!
26  Merrimac Farm Birdwalk with PWCA	27   Chill out with us and update your hours in Better Impact	28 Help ID sightings from CNC Listen for frogs on your walk today Save the Frogs Day	29 Join a birdwalk and use eBird to tally your sightings National 'Go Birding' Day	30 Have you seen returning hummingbirds yet? Look for Eastern Redbuds or hang a feeder	Create a 'Pollinator Pathway' in your yard or neighborhood (get a sign from Plant NOVA Natives) 	

SEP 2026

Draw or write your
daily observations

How will I incorporate the VMN annual theme, *Merrimac in my VMN volunteer actions this month?*

How will I promote diversity & create welcoming natural spaces for all?

Pg. 11 SEP

Merrimac Farm VMN Event Details

-  **Mar 3**
Outreach Team
-  **Mar 7**
Stream Cleanup
-  **Mar 9**
Training (BTC) Team
-  **Mar 14**
Stream Cleanup
-  **Mar 18**
Communication Team
-  **Mar 19**
Continuing Ed Talk
-  **Mar 28**
Continuing Ed Event
-  **Mar 28**
Stream Cleanup
-  **Mar 29**
Bluebell Festival
-  **Mar 30**
Impactful Happy Hours

Sign up at
Merrimac Farm VMN
Upcoming Events



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 National Groundwater Awareness Week Project Feederwatch Nov 1 to Apr 30	2 Spring Bird Migration Mar-May	3 Join the Outreach team or help at an event World Wildlife Day	4 How is your tree doing? (see Feb 7)... check back each week and track changes	5 Are you seeing new birds in your backyard? Track them in eBird & iNaturalist	6 Look for spiraling Woodcock courtship flights or listen for their calls (Clifton Institute)	7 Sign up for a Stream Cleanup from our website
8 PWTSC 2nd Sun Hike Daylight Savings Time starts	9 Join the Training team ~or Mentora BTC participant	10 Virtual iNat night	11 Take a walk in your area... what's the first wildflower you've seen? Meadowood Survey (NVBA)	12 Have bluebirds arrived yet?	13 Can you find where 'Harbinger of Spring' is blooming closest to you?	14 Participate in a Stream Cleanup International Day of Action for Rivers
15 Learn to identify early blooming wildflowers on a spring 'ephemerals' walk.	16 Listen for high pitched "peeps" of tiny Spring Peepers	17 Find 'green' signs of Spring	18 Global Recycling Day Join the Comms team or submit an article	19 RSVP for the March Continuing Education talk	20 Join a vernal pool walk & observe egg masses World Frog Day First Day of Spring Spring Equinox	21 Find a 'Forest bathing' walk International Day of Forests
22 World Water Day	23 Use a cloud chart and ID clouds World Climate Day	24 Look for Eastern Phoebes & other returning migrants	25 Ocoquan Bay NWR Survey (NVBA)	26 Look for Trout lily & Trillium in the woods	27 Can you find evidence of mammals? Tracks, scat, snacks?	28 RSVP for the CE Field event or Participate in a Stream Cleanup
29 Join us at the Bluebell Festival @ Merrimac Farm!	30 Chill out with us and update your hours in Better Impact	31 Have the Spicebush & Eastern Redbuds blossomed yet? Join "Caterpillars Count!" ~ training begins in early April. We host several sites	Reach out to PWSCD to become a certified Water Quality Monitor			

OCT 2026

Draw or write your daily observations

How will I incorporate the VMN annual theme, **WATER** in my VMN volunteer actions this month?
How will I promote diversity & create welcoming natural spaces for all?




















Pg. 12 OCT

Merrimac Farm VMN Event Details

-  **Feb 3**
Outreach Team
-  **Feb 9**
Training (BTC) Team
-  **Feb 14**
Native Plant Symposium
-  **Feb 17**
Board of Directors
-  **Feb 18**
Communications Team
-  **Feb 23**
Impactful Happy Hour

Sign up at
Merrimac Farm VMN
Upcoming Events



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Look for last year's berries on plants  Feederwatch Nov 1 to Apr 30 	2 Groundhog Day & World Wetlands Day Check out a wetland near you 	3 Join the Outreach team ~ or submit an idea for the Water theme 	4  Join the National Phenology Network (NPN)	5 VMN Monthly CE Series 	6 Take the "Observer Certification Course" for Nature's Notebook from NPN (CE hours)	7 Pick a tree to observe & record all year. Draw or photograph your tree. Submit it in iNaturalist. 
8 Take a hike & try to ID a tree by its bark PWTSC 2nd Sun Hike	9  Join the Training team ~ or Mentor a BTC participant	10 Virtual iNat night 	11 Listen for the courtship hooting duets of Great Horned Owls Meadowood Survey (NVBA)	12 Sign up for eBird & learn about the Great Backyard Bird Count 	13 Great Backyard Bird count, Feb 13-16 	14  Join us at the Native Plant Symposium!
15 Look for geese pairing up. What other breeding displays can you find?	16 Fee Free Day @ National Parks	17  ALL members are invited to our Board meetings Lunar New Year	18  Join the Comms team ~ or write an article	19 Look for Skunk Cabbage in a wetland 	20 Join the Bluebird Monitoring team ~ training is this month & monitoring starts in March	21 Take a hike and look for the rosy red flower clusters of Red maples (Acer rubrum)
22 National Invasive Species Awareness Week Merrimac Farm Birdwalk with PWCA	23 	24  Look for Virginia Springbeauty (Claytonia virginica) under trees in the woods.	25  Occoquan Bay NWR Survey (NVBA)	26 Have Red-winged Blackbirds returned? Note your findings in eBird or iNaturalist	27 Can you find fiddle-heads and fern fronds? What kind is it?	28 Planetary alignment (6 planets) 

Join our new monthly "Impactful Happy Hour" virtual sessions. Complete your Better Impact hours logging with friends & find out what your fellow VMN volunteers are doing each month.

Don't forget to check partner websites & calendars for upcoming events

NOV 2026

Draw or write your
daily observations

How will I incorporate the VMN annual theme, **WATER** in my VMN volunteer actions this month?

How will I promote diversity & create welcoming natural spaces for all?

Pg. 13 NOV

Merrimac Farm VMN Event Details



Jan 6
Outreach Team



Jan 12
Training (BTC)
Team



Jan 14
Communications
Team



Jan 15
Continuing Ed
Speaker



Jan 31
**CHAPTER
MEETING**

**Sign up at
Merrimac Farm VMN
Upcoming Events**



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Project Feederwatch Nov 1 to Apr 30 	Audubon Climate Watch Jan 15 - Feb 15	Watch an intro to Phenology video 	Download "Nature's Notebook" phone app 	1 Winterfest @ Mason Neck First Day Hikes @ VA State Parks	2 Set up a winter bird feeder	3 Take an early evening stroll & observe the full moon
4 Take a hike & try to ID a tree by its bark	5 Create an eBird account & submit a checklist National Bird Day 	6 Join the Outreach team ~or help at an event	7 Curl up with a good book on nature	8 Do you have Juncos in your yard? Record them on eBird & iNaturalist	9 	10 Look for Jupiter early evening opposite from the sun.
11 PWTSC 2nd Sun Hike	12 Join the Training team ~or Mentora BTC participant	13 	14 Join the survey team & make some observations Meadowood Survey (NVBA)	15 Check out the Jan. Continuing Education talk	16 Look for winter birds	17 What types of waterfowl can you find today? Winter Waterfowl Watch (NVBA)
18 Look for stars during the new moon	19 National Day of Service (NPS)	20 Find your favorite winter tree! See Capital Nature's "Beauty and Magic of Winter Trees" webinar	21 Find a conifer - can you ID it? Take some pictures and upload to iNaturalist	22 Make a bark rubbing of a tree with paper & a crayon or pencil	23 Can you find winterberry?	24 Take a hike or walk in your neighborhood. How many different evergreens can you find?
25 Bird Walk @ Merrimac Farm (PWCA)	26 International Environmental Education Day	27 Listen for woodpeckers on your nature walk today. What did you hear?	28 Occoquan Bay NWR Survey (NVBA)	29 VMN Monthly CE Series 	30 Don't forget to record your volunteer hours in Better Impact	31 Come join us at the Chapter Meeting!!

DEC 2026

Draw or write your
daily observations

How will I incorporate the VMN annual theme, **WATER** in my VMN volunteer actions this month?

How will I promote diversity & create welcoming natural spaces for all?

Pg. 14 DEC

Sponsoring Agencies



Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)
(includes Master Gardeners & 4-H)



Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)



Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)



Virginia Department of Forestry (DoF)



Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR)



Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH)



Virginia Institute of Marine Science –
Center for Coastal Resources Mgt. (VIMS)



Partners



Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)



Clifton Institute



Keep Prince William Beautiful (KPWB)



Leopold's Preserve



Master Gardeners of Prince William



Northern Virginia Bird Alliance (NVBA)



Plant NOVA Natives (PNN)



Prince William Conservation Alliance (PWCA)



Prince William Soil & Water Conservation
District (PSWCD)



Prince William Trails & Streams Coalition
(PWTSC)



Virginia Native Plant Society – Prince William
Wildflower Society (VNPS-PWWS)

Nothing Gold Can Stay

by Robert Frost

*Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.*

*Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.*

Write a statement or draw
a picture to summarize
your year of observations.



Welcome to your phenology journal

Use this journal as your personal “nature calendar”.

Track seasonal changes - like budding, blooming, migration, and leaf color – all year long. Choose a local spot and visit it regularly. Your observations will help slow you down, stay mindful, and notice how the environment shifts over time. They also create useful data for understanding ecological changes.

The monthly calendar pages include chapter activities and events, sponsor and partner events, and activities you can do throughout the year.

How to Start Your Journal

1. **Choose Your Spot:** Pick one place you can return to often – your yard, a trail, or park.
2. **Select Your Subjects:** Focus on a few specific plants or animals to observe closely (e.g., one oak tree, a patch of wildflowers, or local robins).
3. **Record Details:** Note the date, weather, and specific stages you observe (e.g., "Oak leaves 10% emerged," "First cardinal seen," "Maple leaves starting to yellow").
4. **Use All Your Senses:** Look; listen, smell, and feel the environment. Nature isn't just visual.
5. **Be Consistent:** The more often you record, the more you'll see patterns and changes over time. These entries will slowly tell the story of your local ecosystem – year after year.

Phenology is...

The study of recurring plant and animal life cycle stages and how they relate to weather and climate.

Scan the codes below to learn more and participate in phenology projects:



Nature's Notebook: Introduction to Phenology
(YouTube video)



How do you document seasonal changes?
(YouTube video)



USA National Phenology Network



Nature's notebook



Exploring Plant Cycles with iNaturalist



Tracking Phenology: Exploring the Role of Time in Nature