

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

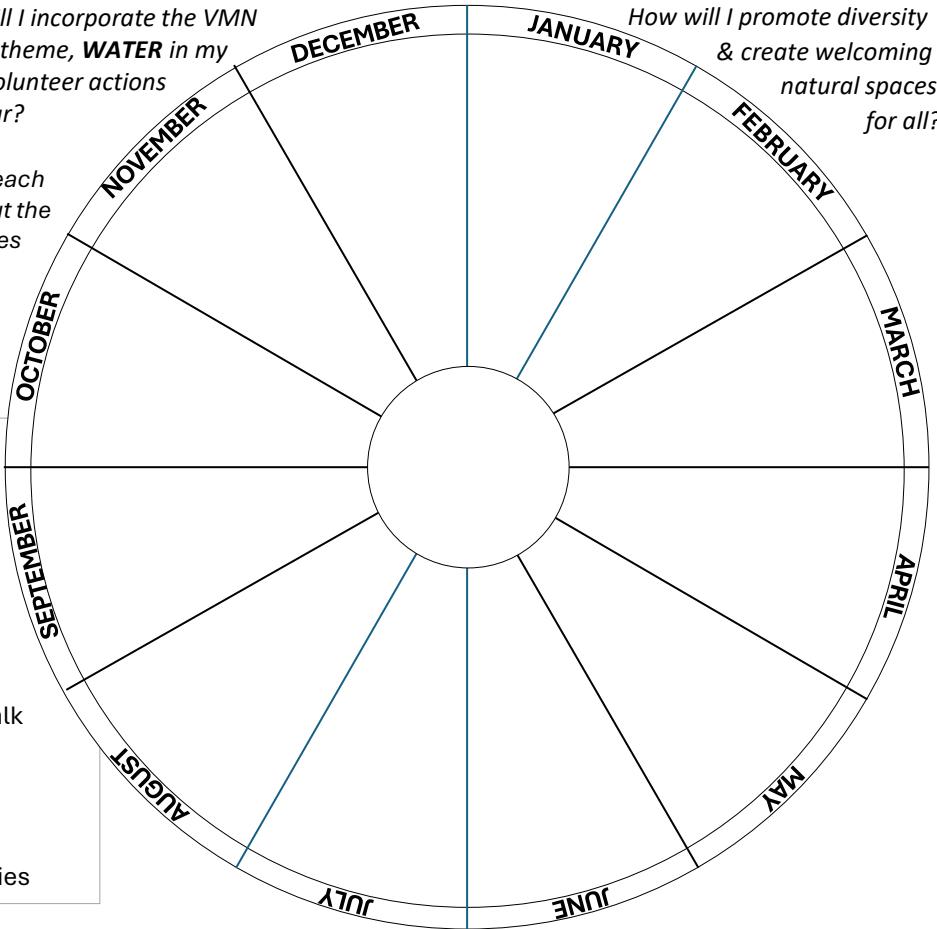
Phenology Wheel

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

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](#) 

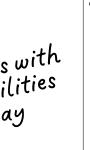
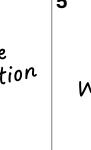
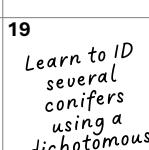
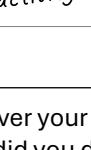
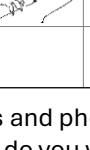
-  Chapter Meetings
-  Outreach Events
-  Team Meetings
-  Board of Director Meetings
-  Citizen Science Activities
-  Continuing Education Speaker/Talk
-  Continuing Education Field Event
-  Nature's Impact "Happy Hour"
-  2026 Water theme-related activities



pg. 2

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)

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  Persons with Disabilities Day	3  Wildlife Conservation Day	4  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  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  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	22  First Day of Winter Winter Solstice	23  Take a full moon hike and look for nocturnal activity	24  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?						

Sign up at [Merrimac Farm VMN Upcoming Events](#) 

**JAN
2026**

*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?

Draw or write your daily observations

pg. 3 JAN

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**



Review your volunteer work. Did you accomplish your goals this year? What are your plans for next year?

**FEB
2026**

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?

Draw or write your daily observations

pg. 4 FEB

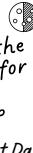
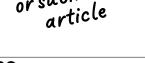
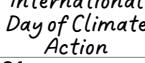
Merrimac Farm VMN

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 VMNCE 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 World Habitat Day 
4 Saturn at its brightest World Animal Day 	5 	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 PWTSC 2nd Sun Hike 	12 Join the Training team ~or Mentor a BTC participant 	13 Virtual iNat night 	14 	15 Learn a constellation or find planets tonight 	16 	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**

*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?

Draw or write your daily observations

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
Fall hawk & waterfowl migration Sep-Oct 	Focus on waste prevention & Reuse Zero Waste Week 	1 Join the Outreach team ~or help at an event 	2 Sign up for this month's VMNC E webinar Series 	3 How is your tree doing? (see Feb 7)... check back each week and track changes 	4 Sign up to join weekly surveys with NVBA 	5 Look for a Native Plant Sale this month 
6 Find a river cleaning event by kayak or canoe 	7 International Day of Clean Air 	8 Virtual iNat night 	9 Take a cloud survey today & record data in Globe Observer 	10 Learn a constellation or find planets on a moonless night 	11 Become a Tree Steward with Plant NOVA Natives 	12 Join us for Hispanic Heritage Family Nature Fest 
13 PWTSC 2nd Sun Hike 	14 Join the Training team ~or Mentor a BTC participant 	15 Clean micro-plastics from along a riverbank 	16 Join the Comms team ~or submit an article 	17 Check out this month's Continuing Education talk Fee Free Day @ National Parks 	18 World Water Monitoring Day 	19 Join us for Fall Fests or Continuing Ed 
20 World Clean-up Day & Recycle Week 	21 What flowers are in bloom today? 	22 Venus at its brightest 	23 Learn to ID a Goldenrod using a Dichotomous Key 	24 	25 Upload your sightings into iNaturalist or help ID someone else's 	26 National Day of Service (NPS) Public Lands Day 
27 World Rivers Day Merrimac Farm Birdwalk (PWCNA) 	28 Chill out with us and update your hours in Better Impact 	29 	30 Take a cloud survey today & record data in Globe Observer 	31 	32 Have you seen any signs of mammals this month? 	33 

APR 2026

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?

Draw or write your daily observations

pg. 6 APR

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	
Look for Milkweed, Mountain mint and other native plants in bloom	Join the Outreach team ~or help at an event	International Owl Awareness Day	Look for blooming Joe Pye weed	Take a cloud survey today & record data in Globe Observer	7	8 Clean micro-plastics from along a riverbank
PWTSC 2nd Sun Hike	Join the Training team ~or Mentor a BTC participant	Virtual iNat night	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	
Which plants are fruiting now? Record your observations	Look for native bees ~ record your sightings.	ALL members are invited to our Board meetings	Join the Comms team ~ or submit an article	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?
Merrimac Farm Birdwalk with PWCA	Chill out with us and update your hours in 31 Better Impact	Fee Free Day @ National Parks	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	29

MAY 2026

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?

Draw or write your daily observations

pg. 7 MAY

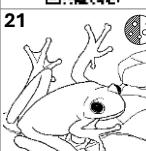
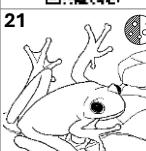
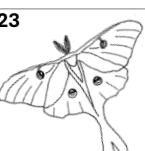
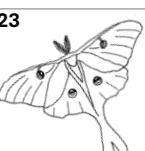
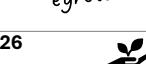
Merrimac Farm VMN

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 VNM 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 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 PVCA 	27 Chill out with us and update your hours in BetterImpact 	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

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?

Draw or write your daily observations

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
Jun 1 Summer Bird Nesting Season Jun-Aug	1 International Nature Journaling Week	2 Join the Outreach team ~or help at an event	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
Jun 7 Join us in Occoquan at River Fest!	Jun 8 National Great Outdoors Month Join the Training team ~or Mentor a BTC participant	Jun 9 Virtual iNat night 	Jun 10 Have you seen any Monarch butterflies? 	Jun 11 Look for turtles digging nests to lay eggs	Jun 12 Sign up to join weekly surveys with NVBA 	Jun 13 Come join us at the Chapter Meeting!
Jun 14 PWTSC 2nd Sun Hike	Jun 15 Fee Free Day @ National Parks Look for the 'fruit' of Mayapples	Jun 16 Look for native butterflies ~ record your sightings. ALL members are invited to our Board meetings	Jun 17 Join the Comms team ~ or submit an article	Jun 18 Visit a wetland. Which frogs have you seen? 	Jun 19 Count dragonflies & damselflies ~ take pictures and load into iNaturalist	Jun 20 Join us at the Manassas Bee Festival!
Jun 21 First day of Summer ~ Summer Solstice	Jun 22 June 22-28 Pollinator Week 	Jun 23 What kinds of pollinator ~ plant interactions can you find?	Jun 24 Look for native bees ~ record your sightings.	Jun 25 Join a 2026 Summer NABA Butterfly Count	Jun 26 Take a firefly hike ~ record your sightings 	Jun 27 Upload your sightings into iNaturalist or help ID someone else's
Jun 28 Take a nocturnal hike and look for owls & bats	Jun 29 Chill out with us and update your hours in Better Impact 	Jun 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)

**JUL
2026**

*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?

Draw or write your daily observations

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 VMNC 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 
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 Big 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 	16 Join us at Kids to Parks 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? 	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! 	25 Visit a National Park 	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 	30 Take a drive in the mountains and look for Mountain laurel 
31 Merrimac Farm Birdwalk with PWCA	Fee Free Day @ National Parks				Composting Day	

**AUG
2026**

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

Draw or write your daily observations

Pg. 10 AUG

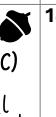
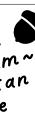
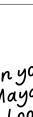
Merrimac Farm VMN

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 Nou 1 to Apr 30	Spring Bird Migration Mar-May	Sign up for this month's VMNCCE 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 	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 Go comet hunting tonight! 	25 Join us for City Nature Challenge! & Assist with SEAS (see newsletter) 
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 	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 	31 Create a 'Pollinator Pathway' in your yard or neighborhood (get a sign from Plant NOVA Natives) 	32 Pollinator Pathway 

SEP 2026

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?

Draw or write your daily observations

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 Mentor a 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	19 RSVP for the March Continuing Education talk	20 Join a vernal pool walk & observe egg masses	21 Find a 'Forest bathing' walk International Day of Forests
22 World Water Day	23 Use a cloud chart and ID clouds	24 Look for Eastern Phoebe & other returning migrants	25 Occoquan 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?	31 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

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?

Draw or write your daily observations

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 Join the National Phenology Network (NPN)	4 	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 Virtual iNat night 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 ALL members are invited to our Board meetings Lunar New Year	17 Join the Comms team ~ or write an article	18 Look for Skunk Cabbage in a wetland	19 Join the Bluebird Monitoring team ~ training is this month & monitoring starts in March	20 Take a hike and look for the rosy red flower clusters of Red maples (Acer rubrum)	21 Planetary alignment (6 planets)
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 	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 Don't forget to check partner websites & calendars for upcoming events

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

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?

Draw or write your daily observations

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 Mentor a BTC participant	13 	14 Join the survey team & make some observations Meadowood Survey (NVBA)	15 Checkout the Jan. Continuing Education talk	16 	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 	26 International Environmental Education Day	27 Listen for woodpeckers on your nature walk today. What did you hear?	28 	29 VMN Monthly CE Series 	30 Don't forget to record your volunteer hours in BetterImpact	31 Come join us at the Chapter Meeting!!

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.



Virginia Master
Naturalists

Merrimac Farm Chapter

Pg. 15

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