



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York – Poquoson Extension Volunteers

**September
2016
Vol.17 Issue #7**

*Merrilyn Dodson
Editor*

While this section is normally focused on upcoming events, there are three upcoming events that need the attention and participation of all MGs.

1. **September 3** 4-H Chrysanthemum sale at Yorktown Market Day
2. **September 10** Go Green Expo – see Rebecca Cho’s article on page 5
3. **September 24** PLG Plant Sale – watch for an email for additional information

Future Calendar Events

- | | |
|------------|---|
| October 6 | 9:30 am Learning Gardens monthly meeting at St Luke’s UMC |
| October 8 | 9 am – 1 pm 4-H Chrysanthemum sale at Yorktown Market Day |
| November 3 | 9:30 am Learning Gardens monthly meeting at St Luke’s UMC |
| December 1 | Learning Gardens Holiday gathering (TBD) |



Master Gardener Mission Statement

Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York – Poquoson, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Merrilyn Dodson (872-0824, joint_dod@verizon.net) or Yvonne Hurst (890-4940, yhurst@vt.edu). The deadline for news for The Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15th of the month.

Contact Information: York – Poquoson MGs. If you have changes to your email, phone #, or address, please notify Yvonne Hurst. We want to keep all communication channels open.

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If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify Megan Tierney York-Poquoson Extension Agent at 757 890-4940 during business hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

GREETINGS FROM Megan

Lessons Learned From a State Wide Study Trip



For the last 9 months I have been attending the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute. I have been all over Virginia experiencing the major issues facing the commonwealth. My parameters for understanding the world, the economy, and people have been thoroughly stretched by this experience. I am currently in the connection phase where I am taking what I learned and trying to apply it to my life and way of thinking. I am rebuilding my life, its purpose, its course, and have adjusted my mission and values. My main mission has remained true but my goals and objectives for my personal growth have changed. Our main lesson was about the importance of learning

negotiation so that we can reach higher ground and create positive outcomes. I am working toward learning how to identify different party's interests and coming up with solutions outside their bounds to help both parties come up with a new paradigm.

We started out in Richmond VA, where we learned about personal leadership and environmental justice, which basically is about low income people getting stuck in environmentally flawed areas or being uprooted for progress and the social impacts it has on their culture. This was incredibly eye-opening. The second class was in VA Beach, where we learned about Sea Level Rise and its potential impact on our state as well as leadership types and personality styles. The third session we learned about land use, conservation and lobbying in Richmond as well as energy and economics. We heard the pros and cons of consensus building and policymaking. For the fourth session, we went to Staunton and learned about advanced agriculture, biological systems agriculture, and the pros and cons of both. We toured farms in the snow and talked about the effects of regulation on Agriculture and Natural Resources and how interest identification and consensus building can be used to create a better solution for commercial and government entities, so they can work with each other rather than against each other. For the fifth class session, we went clear across to the other side of Virginia to see the coal mines and results of extracted resources and mine land reclamation. Wow, what an adventure! The lesson in culture and history that we attained there was unforgettable and deep rooted. By the time you are reading this I will have just finished my last session in Charlottesville and will have graduated from the Virginia Natural Resource Leadership Institute and will then become a part of the vast network of alumni that helps identify interests and solutions to the States Natural Resource Issues.

I am blessed to have had this experience and to be given new tools to try to help make our State and Nation a better place for Citizens to Live, Work, and Play. I have deeply valued the friendships I have made and the adventures that we have faced together to see the bigger picture of the economy, agriculture, natural resources, and how to work toward creating and inspiring solutions. I know this lesson will be the corridor to my next adventure in life. I am reminded that life is about growing and learning and if we are not doing that then we are not living.

Megan Tierney, VCE, ANR Agent Environmental Horticulture, megank@vt.edu

Master Gardener Coordinator's Corner

As many of you know, I am moving to Florida. Bethany Beck has volunteered to be my replacement as the Master Gardener Coordinator and I will be turning the position over to her this fall. We will be turning over the position and acting as Co-Coordiators for a few months working together, so please include her on all correspondence to me for the Master Gardener Coordinator.

The hardest question to answer is "When are you moving?" The answer is a bit more complicated than you might imagine. My husband and I decided long ago that we wanted to move to a warmer location when we retired, and I have always wanted to live at the beach. In 2012 we bought a house on A1A across the street from the beach near St. Augustine, FL with views of the ocean, the inter-coastal waterway, and the St. Augustine lighthouse. Since my husband was still employed we leased the house. My husband is now retired and the lease was up in June, and the house is vacant. I would like to say that I am moving to Florida now, but the truth is, I am not ready to do that.

Since I retired, I have spent my time volunteering, so our house in Poquoson is not at all ready to put on the market to sell. The house and garage are cram packed with things that I do not want to move to Florida. The truth of the matter is we have way too much stuff. The process of going through it and getting rid of what we are not going to move is a lot slower than I would like. We have to de-clutter, de-junk, and get rid of our excess belongings before we can move, so I am volunteering less and working at the house more.

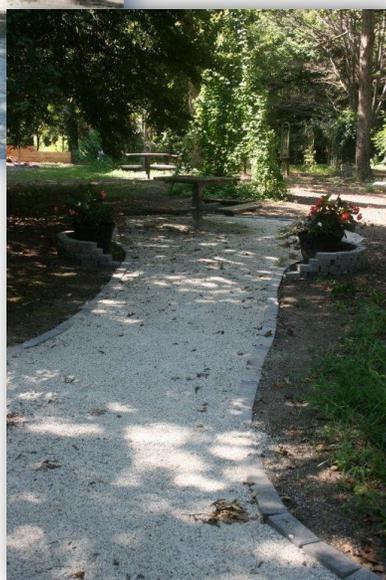
The house in Florida has been a rental property since we bought it, so there are several things I want to have done to it before we move in. I spent a few weeks in July camping in the house to figure out what needs to be done and prioritize the work, and found a contractor to do the work. For starters, the track lighting, bathroom lighting, and chandeliers need to be removed and replaced with updated lighting and the interior painted. For the next few months, I will split my time between Florida and Virginia, checking on updating the new house, and de-cluttering the old house and getting it ready to sell.

So, the answer to the question, "When are you going to move?" is that I will be spending time in both Florida and Virginia starting in July. Although I will be volunteering less, I hope to see you all at the meetings and a few volunteer activities through the end of the year, if not longer.

Laura Marlowe, York Poquoson Master Gardener Coordinator
<https://virginia.volunteersystem.org/>, Laura_marlowe@hotmail.com, 757 876-7074

Learning Gardens

Boy, it's been a hot summer. I'm looking forward to a cooler fall, aren't you? Since our highly successful Spring Plant Sale, we have finished the mulch/potting soil stall, the pathway around the wheelchair accessible picnic table, a trellis, and another raised bed. Thanks goes to Don Davis, David Taylor, Mary Boxer, Jill Schuff, Carol Weakley, Mary Buckelew, Tom Rawls, and several other volunteers for completing these projects in the York Learning



Garden. The number of volunteers on the Thursday work days has been steady and dependable all summer, thank you! Sadly, we had to say good bye to Mary Buckelew this summer as she moved to Norfolk to be closer to family. She is a great Master Gardener and volunteer in the York Learning Garden and will be missed by all.

Our next Learning Garden Monthly Meeting will be Thursday, 1 September, 0930 at St Luke's UMC. We'll get organized for the remaining months of 2016 and focus primarily on the preparations for the Fall Plant Sale coming on **Saturday, September 24th** at the Poquoson Learning Garden. I know you all have been busy propagating plants preparing them for the sale. For your long range planning, future Learning Garden Monthly

meetings will be October 6th and November 3rd and our December meeting/Christmas party will be on December 1st, location TBD.

As usual, we'll be working in the gardens each Wednesday (PLG) and Thursday (YLG) mornings, 9:30-12:00; there's always plenty to do!

Jerry Coffman, icoffman12@cox.net, 757-867-9014

Poquoson Learning Garden News

- Work days at the PLG are every Wednesday, weather permitting. The raised beds and other planters are planted; we are looking for additional volunteers to help water at the PLG on Mondays, Fridays and the Weekends. This is a great volunteer opportunity, if your schedule does not allow you to come out on our Wednesday work days in the garden. Contact Noel if you are available to help water.
- Longleaf Pines – In conjunction with the Poquoson Museum, we are proceeding with the plan for an initial planting of approximately 80 longleaf pine seedlings on the south end of the Museum Campus. We will begin preparing the planting site in September with planting to follow in October/November. If that planting is successful, the plan is to plant an additional 300 seedlings in the future.
- Information Mailboxes – A new Mailbox Information Center has been installed at the Poquoson Museum. The Center is located at the head of the nature trail and consists of nine mailboxes that will be used to post information about the Museum and the Learning Garden. Carol-Marie Kiernan hand painted each of the boxes with designs representative of the information that will be available inside. The Center consists of two rows of boxes. The boxes on the top row, left to right, will contain information on the Poquoson Learning Garden; Raised Bed and Adaptive Gardening; Square Foot Gardening; Straw Bale Gardening, and the Poquoson Museum. The boxes on the bottom row, left to right, will contain information on: Native Plants; Virginia Cooperative Extension Information; Butterflies, Birds and Pollinators; and Bees.
- Greenhouse – Putting the glass back into the greenhouse is on hold for now. We had a few other smaller projects we wanted to focus on first. So this activity will probably be after the fall plant sale.
- New at the PLG – We now have a small three-sided, open front shed for our tools, wheelbarrows and garden cart and a phone booth sized pollinator habitat. See accompanying pictures.
- Fall Plant Sale – It is past time to start looking around your yard to see what plants you have that may be divided or potted up for the fall plant sale. If you have divided, dug, and potted the plants by the end of August and will care for them in September, they should be in great shape for the sale. By the time you read this, you should have received more details about the sale



Mark Your Calendars for the Fall Plant Sale
Saturday, September 24, 8am-noon, at the Poquoson Learning Garden

Noel Talcott, nancynoeltalcott@cox.net, 868-0974

VCE Peninsula Master Gardeners Present Hampton roads 8th Annual



The Expo opens at 10:00 a.m. and closes at 3:00 p.m. on **September 10th** 2016. Remember to complete and turn in your Expo evaluation for a chance to win a \$25 Anderson Show Place gift certificate! And check out the VCE Master Gardeners, our speaker lineup, vendors, children's activities in the Pavilion, and the periodic demonstrations throughout the day.



Session 1A Room 103: 10am-11:15am:

- Berry Growing in Virginia with Tidewater Tips: Anne Geyer, AgriBerry Farms - Room 103

Session 1B Room 104: 10am-11:15am:

- Turf Doesn't have to be a 4-Letter Word: Mike Goatly, Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Virginia Tech - Room 104

Session 2A Room 103: 11:30am-12:45pm

- Living Shorelines for Erosion Protection: Karen Duhring, Coastal Management Scientist, Virginia Institute of Marine Science - Room 103

Session 2B Room 104: 11:30am-12:45pm:

- Fall Planting for Great Spring Flowers!: Lisa Ziegler, The Gardener's Workshop - Room 104

Session 3A Pavilion: 1pm-2:45pm:

- Rain Barrel Workshop with Newport News VCE Master Gardeners: Pavilion (*pre-registration required*)

Session 3B Room 103: 1:30pm-2:45pm:

- Permaculture for the Home Gardener: Patrick Johnson, Small Farm Outreach Program Agent, Virginia State University - Room 103

Attending any of the lectures, qualifies as continuing educational credits, if you are in need of such.

York-Poquoson Master Gardeners will have a booth illustrating our activities so we'll be looking for volunteers to help man it – another way to accumulate volunteer hours. Contact Rebecca if you can help.

The event is held at the Brittingham Midtown Community Center, 570 McLawhorne Drive in Newport News.

Rebecca Cho; tombeccacho@cox.net, 871-2334



York-Poquoson Master Gardener **HELP** Desk



The York-Poquoson Help Desk was established March of 2016. The objective of the Help Desk is to be a contact point for the public to reach the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) York/Poquoson Office and to be a resource to the community assisting with horticultural pest and garden problems.

The webpage is located on the York County Government Website (listed as VCE Master Gardener Help Desk) lists the location, hours of operation, e-mail account (yk.pq.mg@gmail.com), specimen collection requirements, and client specimen

submission forms.

The desk is currently manned by 13 master gardeners on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am - noon. We have assisted with over 140 problems ranging from plant, weed, and insect identification to integrated pest management (IPM) control – even Sapsucker Woodpeckers. Clients e-mail questions and send pictures, call the desk, or bring in specimens. Almost all issue resolutions involve working with the VA Tech Clinics, publications, extension office reference material, and/or Megan's extensive knowledge.

MGs manning the desk have found the “job” to be quite an enjoyable learning experience for themselves. It is also a rewarding way to provide horticultural education and be of service to public.

The Desk has been so successful that we may need to staff on Tuesdays as well during the spring and summer months. Additional training sessions will be offered this fall. We hope to bring some of the new interns on board in the spring.

Gwen Harris, Help Desk Coordinator, gwenharris@cox.net, 898-8649

4-H Schoolyard Habitats Outreach



4th Annual Whirlwind Schoolyard Habitats Two-Day Tour: Despite the heat wave, native plants were thriving, and the pollinators were plentiful, as we visited 12 schools and both York/Poquoson Learning Gardens in late July. In addition to several outreach partners who attended and/or met us at their school’s habitat, tour attendees who joined us both days included Yvonne Hurst and the two 4-H interns, Amy and Megan. Megan Tierney and Gail Massey joined us on the second day. Real troopers, all!!

Wildlife Habitat at the Tabb Library:

By the time this issue goes to press, the Tabb Library may have a wildlife habitat in the sunny corner of the large raised bed out front. David Lee, a Boy Scout in pursuit of Eagle Scout Rank, planned the project with limited funding from the library. Our group provided guidance and helped him stretch his budget by donating the majority of the native plants on his wish list. In addition, the new habitat is to feature an olla to assist with watering requirements as the plants get established. Library staff will maintain the habitat.



Professional Development Modules: By the time you read this, this group will have provided several nature-based learning modules for the York County School Division professional learning conference slated for Thursday, August 25th.

Plans for the 2016/2017 School Year:

- Assist schools raising monarchs in the classroom this fall and continue to phase in wild bird conservation and education.
- Transition more maintenance responsibility of the schoolyard habitats to the respective school communities by promoting habitat workdays and providing additional public education.
- Update website.
- Recruit outreach partners; **JOIN US!**

Schools without an Outreach Partner for 2016/2017 School Year

Elementary schools (Grades K-5): **Coventry ES, Seaford ES, Yorktown ES**

Middle schools* (Grades 6-8): **Queens Lake MS, Tabb MS, Yorktown MS**

* *These middle schools are recent additions to our program and have not previously had a dedicated outreach partner.*

Four other schools (**Magruder ES, Mt. Vernon ES, Tabb ES, Waller Mill ES**) with established schoolyard habitats have just one designated outreach partner. A second outreach partner at each school is essential for professional, reliable outreach.

For more information or to offer your assistance to **4-H Schoolyard Habitats Outreach**, contact:

Barbara Dunbar, 757-880-8875 (cell), twotac@cox.net
Jody Turner, 867-1135 (home), jodybynature@gmail.com

The Lawn Team

The Lawn Team has been quite busy this summer and will continue into the fall. Three Lawn Clinics were scheduled. One for August 20th at True Value Hardware on Route 17 taught by Larry Riddick; one at Ken Matthews on August 27th taught by Carl Ennis; and one at Taylor's Do-It Yourself Center in Poquoson on September 10th taught by Pete Peterman. All are in the morning from 10-12.



Healthy Virginia Lawns teams will be visiting homeowners from August 23rd to September 8th providing pertinent information on the use of fertilizer to protect our watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay. Currently we have over 30 homeowners who have requested our help. Continued support is dependent on having additional Master Gardener volunteers who are willing to meet with homeowners to explain the importance of protecting the environment and answering questions or providing research on horticultural issues. If you are willing to step-up to this vital interface with the community, please contact Pete Peterman at 757-766-8658 or rwpeterman@verizon.net.

York-Poquoson 4-H Mum Program

The 2016 York-Poquoson 4-H Mum Program has been a great success! Nineteen children registered and learned how to grow and care for the mums as well as how to account for, market, and sell their product. The participants received materials to grow and propagate 29 mums and attended five classes, which included lessons on plant care, accounting, marketing a product, and developing a business plan. Participants will have the opportunity to sell their mums at the September 3rd Yorktown Market Days as well as the October 8th Fall Yorktown Market Days. Some of the participants are donating part of their proceeds to local charities. If you are interested, you may purchase mums from the participants by calling the Extension Office at 757-890-4940 to receive contact information. Pictured here are some of the students with a few of their mums along with Extension Master Gardeners Sheri Greenleaf, Lily Lach, and Gwen Harris.





Safety Town was once again a successful endeavor. Donna Bales, Jane May, and Shirley Showalter educated incoming kindergarteners on the dangers of poison ivy and the joys of gardening. The four week program gave us the opportunity to interact with approximately 225 five year olds, the teen helpers, parents and grandparents. The kids were fun and enthusiastic learners. Many of the parents told us they had to accompany their kids on a search of the yard to make sure there was no poison ivy lurking. Along with other programs Master Gardeners do with children, we are making a positive impact on the next generation!

VMGA Fall 2016 Educational Symposia

The Virginia Master Gardener Association in partnership with the Virginia Cooperative Extension presents Maymont & Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Fall 2016 Educational Symposia. Tour two of the Southeast's best public gardens:

- **Maymont, A World of Gardens in one Estate.** Join Peggy Singlemann, Maymont's Director of Horticulture and co-host of WCVE's "Virginia Home Grown," to learn how Maymont exemplifies the influence of international garden design on the landscape. Ms. Singlemann will lead a walking tour of the hilly estate following a presentation on Maymont's varied gardens.
- **Getting to Great, Growing the Garden.** The lecture will be from Grace Chapman Elton, Director of Horticulture at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. An overview of recent Garden design projects that enhance the guest experience, connect people and plants, demonstrate sustainable choices and build focused collections will be covered. Tours led by members of the Garden's horticulture staff will highlight several of these recent projects, with an emphasis on the design choices and ongoing refinements.

Here's the schedule:

- 8:30 AM -- Arrive and register at either Lewis Ginter or Maymont
- 9:00 AM -- Talk and Tour On-site
- 11:30 AM -- End of site one tour, depart promptly for second site, lunch on your own
- 12:45 PM -- Arrival and registration at Lewis Ginter or Maymont
- 1:00 PM -- Talk and Tour of site two
- 3:30 PM -- End site two tour, free to enjoy the garden

This event is scheduled for Saturday, **September 17th**. Registration is limited to 60 participants. There is no on-site registration. The cost is \$30 for VMGA members and \$40 for non-VMGA.

Please note, both sites will include up to a 60 minute GARDEN TOUR requiring walking at pace with a guide over uneven terrain. If you have any questions, please contact EDUCATION@VMGA.NET before completing the registration. To register go to <http://www.vmga.net/nexteducevent.php>.

Tom Bolt, VMGA Communications Committee



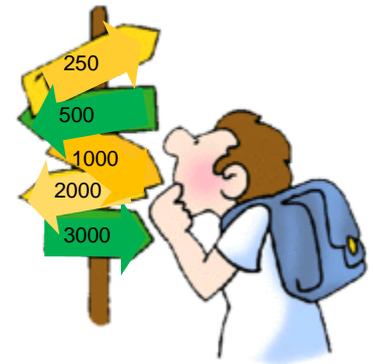
Congratulations to Beth Check who completed her 50 hours during the summer. Thus the entire class of 2015 achieved Master Gardener status. Good work done by everyone!



Milestone Recipients Recognition

Each year at the Master Gardener College, Master Gardeners across the state are recognized for the number of volunteer hours donated to Master Gardener activities. The following persons from our group achieved this level of participation during 2015. These hours combine education and volunteer hours as educational hours enhance our ability to educate the public. Please offer these individuals your congratulations

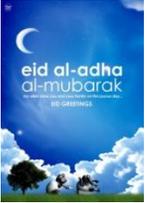
250	500	1000	2000	3000
Janet Bradshaw	Pam Camblin	Mary Buckelew	Evelyn Parker	Evelyn Parker
Jerry Coffman	Jerry Coffman	Rebecca Cho	Joe Ranalli	Jody Turner
Merrilyn Dodson	Rose Marie Conde	Gwen Harris	Noel Talcott	
Patty Ellison	Merrilyn Dodson	Anne McHenry	Jody Turner	
Carl Ennis	Parry Ellison	Cindy Ortman		
Jack Fedder	Carl Ennis	Evelyn Parker		
Greg Hajos	Donna Gorcys	DeAnn Posey		
Georgia Holtz	Gwen Harris	Lanna Rackley		
Laura Marlowe	Kathi Hebert	Jan Wiener		
Pete Peterman	Diane Herbert			
Vi Ross	Evelyn Parker			
Marge Schenck	Tom Rawls			
Karen Ward	Vi Ross			
	Marge Schenck			
	Carol Scott			
	Don Scriptor			
	Denise Sommers			
	Karen Ward			



It goes without saying, that if these individuals did not record their volunteer hours regularly, they would not be recognized. Thus providing you with an incentive to do likewise😊



~ September 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Locations: YH – York Hall, 301 Main St NQP – New Quarter Park RWL – River Walk Landing PW – Public Works (105 Service Drive)				1 9:30 Monthly Learning Garden Meeting at St. Luke's UMC	2	3 9 am – 1 pm Market Days at RWL (Monarch Butterflies)  7:30 pm VA Symphony Concert at RWL
4	5  County Offices closed	6 9am – noon MG 2016 Training Begins at Providence UMC	7 9:30 am – noon Work in PLG	8 9:30 am – noon Work in YLG 7 pm Hampton Roads Horticultural Society Mtg at St. Luke's UMC 6 pm Wetlands Board in YH	9 6:30 – 8:30 pm Rhythms on the Riverwalk Concert Series at RWL	10  8 am – noon Household Chemical/ Electronics at PW 8 am Bird Walk at NQP 9 am – 1 pm Market Days at RWL 10 am – noon Lawn Clinic at Taylor Do-It Center (Poquoson) 10 am – 3 pm Go Green Expo
						
11  Grandparents' Day	12 	13 9:30 am Monthly MG Meeting at St. Luke's UMC	14 9:30 am – noon Work in PLG	15 9:30 am – noon Work in YLG	16  Full Moon 6:30 – 8:30 pm Rhythms on the Riverwalk Concert Series at RWL	17 8:30 am – 3 pm VMGA Symposia at Maymont & Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens (Richmond) 9 am – 1 pm Market Days at RWL 9 am Bring York Own Kayak at NQP ‡10 am Worms & their Uses at Williamsburg Botanical Garden
18	19	20	21 9:30 am – noon Work in PLG	22 9:30 am – noon Work in YLG  1 st day of autumn	23 6:30 – 8:30 pm Rhythms on the Riverwalk Concert Series at RWL	24 * 7 am Bird Walk at NQP 9 am – 1 pm Market Days at RWL 8 am – noon Plant Sale at PLG
25 11 am – 6 pm Yorktown Art Stroll at RWL	26	27 10:00 am Hort Therapy at York Convalescent Center 6:30 pm Moonlight & Music at NQP	28 9:30 am – noon Work in PLG 6 pm Chesapeake Bay Board in YH	29 9:30 am – noon Work in YLG	30 6:30 – 8:30 pm Rhythms on the Riverwalk Concert Series at RWL	

‡ Local worm farmer, Ron Crum, will tell you all you need to know about raising worms. For more info, contact Ron at 757-291-6675 or email him at roncrum@yahoo.com

* Members of the Williamsburg Bird Club lead two Bird Walks each month. Every fourth Saturday, the group meets for a 2-hr walk to Queens Creek, through the mature forest, up into meadow edges and along bluffs overlooking wetland marsh. Experienced birders record the number of birds spotted by species and submit the data online to the Cornell laboratory of Ornithology. NQP is located at 1000 Lakeshead Drive.