

**All programs are free of charge and open to the public unless otherwise indicated.**

*Check [ivycreekfoundation.org/calendar.html](http://ivycreekfoundation.org/calendar.html) for last minute changes*

## **December 2010**

### **Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting**

*No meeting this month.*

#### **4 First Saturday Bird Walk**

*Saturday, December 4, 7:30 am*

Come join Teresa Shaner for an early morning bird walk. Cosponsored by the Monticello Bird Club. Beginners always welcome. Meet in the parking lot.

#### **5 Tracking and the Earth**

*Sunday, December 5, 9:00 am*

Join Hub Knott outdoors to search for signs of wildlife activity. Learn how to read the stories of animal life in the landscape of Ivy Creek. Meet at the barn. Co-sponsored with the Living Earth School.

#### **8 Virginia Native Plant Society Meeting**

*Wednesday, December 8, 7:30 pm*

Visit with friends old and new in a relaxed festive setting. Enjoy a native plant/seed exchange and informal holiday gathering. Meetings are free and open to all plant enthusiasts. Meet at the Education Center at the Ivy Creek Natural Area.

#### **9 Monticello Bird Club Meeting**

*Thursday, December 9, 7:00 pm*

Hear David Shoch's talk and slide show about his experience as on board naturalist with an expedition tour to the Antarctic. Free and open to the public. Meet in the Education Center.

#### **11 Winter Craft Day**

*Saturday, December 11, 2:00 pm*

Enjoy winter craft day at Ivy Creek. Make seasonal nature crafts out of natural materials. Open to all kids ages 5 and up. Please register in advance by contacting LoriAnne Barnett, (434) 872-4580 or email [labarnett@vt.edu](mailto:labarnett@vt.edu). This program is co-sponsored with Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H.

## **January 2011**

### **Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting**

*No meeting this month or next.*

#### **5 Become a Virginia Master Naturalist**

*Wednesday, January 5, 9:00 am*

If you enjoy the outdoors and are interested in conserving our local natural heritage, consider becoming a Virginia Master Naturalist. The Rivanna Master Naturalists' next training session will be held Wednesday mornings and some Saturdays from February 16th through May 25th. Those interested in the program are welcome to attend this free, informational meeting in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area. For more information visit [www.vmn-rivanna.org](http://www.vmn-rivanna.org).

#### **8 First Saturday Bird Walk**

*Saturday, January 8, 7:30 am*

Join us for an early morning bird walk on a rare second Saturday of the month with Jim Nix of the Monticello Bird Club. Beginners always welcome. Meet in the parking lot. We'll resume First Saturdays next month.

#### **9 Winter Natural History Walk**

*Sunday, January 9, 2:00 pm*

Join Mary Jane Epps as we search out the plants, fungi, insects, and animals that are still visible in the winter. We'll learn about their life histories, traditional uses, and how they are adapted to survival under winter conditions. Meet at the kiosk next to the parking lot at the Ivy Creek Natural Area.

#### **12 Virginia Native Plant Society Meeting**

*Wednesday, January 12, 7:30 pm*

Dan Bieker, who teaches popular PVCC courses on Ornithology and Natural History, will speak to us on "Rare and Unusual Wildlife of Albemarle County." Meetings are free and open to all. Meet in the Education Center at the Ivy Creek Natural Area.

**13 Monticello Bird Club Meeting***Thursday, January 13, 7:00 pm*

Learn about most widespread owl in the world from Lance and Jill Morrow of the Shenandoah Valley. They'll talk about the habits of Barn Owls from their studies in the valley. Free and open to the public. Meet in the Education Center.

**Young People Only:  
Junior Naturalist Clubs  
Gear Up for Spring.  
Register now!**

The 4H Junior Naturalist clubs at Ivy Creek offer fun, outdoor activities exploring the fields, forests, and streams of Ivy Creek and Ragged Mountain Natural Areas. We will learn about the native plants and wildlife of our area (including snakes, spiders and bats!).

The clubs meet every other Monday from 4:00 – 5:30 pm at the Ivy Creek Natural Area, beginning January 17th. Two sections, for ages 5-9 and ages 9-13, provide age-appropriate activities. Pre-registration is required. To register, email Dan Bieker at [danbieker@gmail.com](mailto:danbieker@gmail.com) or phone at (434) 971-9618.

*This program is co-sponsored with Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H*

**15 Clouds, Winds and Storms***Saturday, January 15, 2:00 pm*

The weather can be counted on to change. Learn from W. Mitchell Sams about the role clouds play in foretelling and creating weather. As part of this lecture we'll explore the origin of winds and how they determine both short and long-term weather patterns. Please register in advance as space is limited by emailing programs @ [ivycreekfoundation.org](http://ivycreekfoundation.org) no later than January 13th. Free of charge. Meet in the Education Center.

**17 Junior Naturalists First Meeting***Monday, January 17, 4:00 to 5:30 pm*

First meeting of Junior Naturalists, a Cooperative Extension 4-H club. See box above for more information.

**19 Become a Virginia Master Naturalist***Wednesday, January 19, 9:00 am*

Introductory meeting, see description for January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Natural History of Virginia  
at PVCC  
Register now!**

Love learning about natural history? Sign up for PVCC "Introduction to the Natural History of Virginia" (NAS 145). Instructors Dan Bieker and Tom Dierauf offer hands on lectures and field trips about the native plants and wildlife of Central Virginia and the Blue Ridge Mountains. This 3-credit course meets ten Monday evenings in the Education Center at Ivy Creek with five Saturday morning field trips. Starts January 24<sup>th</sup>. To register, log onto the Piedmont Virginia Community College website at [www.pvcc.edu](http://www.pvcc.edu) by January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**22 Casual Hiker through Urban Disaster: Wilderness First Aid***Weekend, January 22-23, 8:30 am*

In this two-day course, learn how to save a life when someone is injured in a wilderness area, or urban disaster zone. The class blends lecture, hands-on rescue scenario practice, and Q&A. Led by SOLO instructor and director of the Outdoor Adventure Social Club - Matt Rosefsky. The resulting Wilderness First Aid certification is valid for two years. Registration required. Fee includes books, handouts, and certification. For more information go to <http://www.outdoorsocial.com/wfa.htm> or call (434) 760-HIKE. 10% of proceeds will go to Ivy Creek Foundation.

**22 Tracking and the Earth***Saturday, January 22, 9:00 am*

Join Hub Knott outdoors to search for signs of wildlife activity. Learn how to read the stories of animal life in the landscape of Ivy Creek. Meet at the barn. Co-sponsored with the Living Earth School.

## 24 Natural History of Virginia

*Monday, January 24, 6:30 to 9:30 pm*

Join Dan Bieker for the first class of Piedmont Virginia Community College's *Natural History of Virginia*. You must register with PVCC. Meet in the Education Center. See description above.

### **Sign up at PVCC for Field Ornithology Register by January 14th!**

Birdwatching enthusiasts from novice to expert will learn how to identify the birds of Central Virginia by sight and song through Saturday morning field trips. Starts on February 19<sup>th</sup>. For more information about this course, call Dan Bieker at 971-9618. *Register by logging onto the Piedmont Virginia Community College website at [www.pvcc.edu](http://www.pvcc.edu) by January 14th.*

## 27 Ivy Creek Toddler Time

*Thursday, January 27, 10:00 am*

Introduce your toddler to nature with this short talk and trail walk for three to five year olds. Volunteer guide Rachel Bush will host, starting in the Education Center at the Ivy Creek Natural Area.

### **Beginning Beekeeping Class This Winter.**

Learn about the basics of beekeeping from the Central Virginia Beekeeping Association. This indoor course covers bee biology, choice of bee species, and honey production.

The class runs every Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 pm during the month of February 2011. Classes are not held at Ivy Creek Natural Area but in the new County Office Building Annex at 1600 Fifth Street Extended. More details will be available in the Albemarle County Parks & Recreation Department's "Open Doors" flyer in January or register through a link on the Central Virginia Beekeepers Association website at <http://centralvirginiabeekeepers.org>.

## 29 Streamwatch Training Workshop

*Saturday, January 29, 10 am to 4 pm*

In this StreamWatch introductory training, learn the fundamentals of benthic invertebrate sampling to gauge water quality and stream health. Reservations are required due to limited class size. Contact Rose Brown at [rose@streamwatch.org](mailto:rose@streamwatch.org) or 962-3527 Meet in the Education Building at Ivy Creek. No charge.

## February 2011

### 5 First Saturday Bird Walk

*Saturday, February 5, 7:30 am*

Join us for an early morning bird walk with Leigh Surdukowski of the Monticello Bird Club. Beginners always welcome. Meet in the parking lot.

### **Tree Steward Training**

Gain knowledge of tree identification, care, and how trees benefit our urban and rural landscape. Classes begin Tuesday, February 22nd, 2010 at the Department of Forestry, not at Ivy Creek. After completing the 14-week training (Tuesdays 9 am until noon) you become a Charlottesville Area Tree Steward. Tree Stewards volunteer in a variety of tree related activities, not all physically demanding. At Ivy Creek, the tree stewards have restored a section of the Quiet Area edge between the Education Center and the Barn. Register by mailing in form from website of Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards. Call Joyce Hillstrom at 434-295-4045 or Sally O'Neil at 434-295-9419 for more information. Cost of \$75 includes training manual and other publications. Website is [www.charlottesvilleareatreestewards.org](http://www.charlottesvilleareatreestewards.org).

### 9 Virginia Native Plant Society Meeting

*Wednesday, February 9, 7:30 pm*

Hear Jake Hughes, lead Biological Science Technician, Shenandoah National Park, present "Weeds, windowsills and warm-season grasses: exotic plant management and native plant propagation at Shenandoah National Park". Meetings are free and open to all. Meet

in the Education Center at the Ivy Creek Natural Area.

**10 Monticello Bird Club Meeting**

*Thursday, February 10, 7:30 pm*

Come learn from longtime birder Gretchen Gehrett of Ivy about bluebirds. Free and open to the public. Meet in the Education Center.

**13 Tracking and the Earth**

*Sunday, February 13, 9:00 am*

Join Hub Knott outdoors to search for signs of wildlife activity. Learn how to read the stories of animal life in the landscape of Ivy Creek. Meet at the barn. Co-sponsored with the Living Earth School.

**13 Learning the Native Trees of Virginia**

*Sunday, February 13, 2:00 pm*

Learn to identify trees in the dead of winter using bark, branching, seed, and other distinguishing characteristics. Join Ellen Powell of the Virginia Department of Forestry on a Winter Walk in the **Ragged Mountain Natural Area**. Meet in the RMNA parking lot.

**19 Field Ornithology Class**

*Saturday, February 19, 8:30 to 11:30 am*

Come to the first of a series of classes on field ornithology sponsored by Piedmont Virginia Community College and taught by Dan Bieker. Registration required by January 17<sup>th</sup>. Meet in the Education Center. (See description above.)

**24 Ivy Creek Toddler Time**

*Thursday, February 24, 10:00 am*

Introduce your toddler to nature with this short talk and trail walk for three to five year olds. Volunteer guide Rachel Bush will host, starting in the Education Center at the Ivy Creek Natural Area.

**26 Fun with Photography in Nature**

*Saturday, February 26th, 2:00 pm*

Learn from professional photographer Tod Cohen ([www.todcohen.com](http://www.todcohen.com)) about nature photography. Meet in the education center for a talk on composition, lighting and exposure. Afterwards we'll go out to find the most interesting images we can capture. Then finish with a brief discussion of our experiences at the end of the walk.

## March 2011

**3 Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting**

*Thursday, March 3, 7:00 pm*

Beginners welcome to our first meeting of the year. No charge. See our website <http://centralvirginiabeekeepers.org> for more details in mid-February. Meet in the Education Center.

**5 First Saturday Bird Walk**

*Saturday, March 5, 7:30 am*

Join us for an early morning bird walk with Lou Tanner of the Monticello Bird Club. Beginners always welcome. Meet in the parking lot.

---

## ICF Membership

The Ivy Creek Foundation is a volunteer-based non-profit organization that depends on community donations to maintain the natural areas for your enjoyment and to provide free educational programming. This year we are developing a series of environmental education units, several of which we have described in past newsletters. We are also working with local teachers, school administrators and other community partners to develop education programs related to the rich family history of Ivy Creek.

We cannot do any of this without the support of our membership! This year we have launched our first concerted membership drive, and we need your help! Please become a member if you are not already, or pass this form on to a friend who enjoys the natural areas but is not yet a member. To join, please send your tax-deductible contribution to: Ivy Creek Foundation, P.O. Box 956, Charlottesville, VA 22902

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

- |                                       |  |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sustaining | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Regular | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Subscribing  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Donor      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Patron   |