

## Fall 2021 Training for Ivy Creek Barn Docents

All Barn Docents must participate in a 1-hour mandatory training session to be held in late August/early September. These sessions cover the logistics of being a Barn Docent, scheduling, opening/closing procedures, COVID protocols, and basic safety issues. Barn Docents will also receive a brief tour of the Barn and the exhibits and fill out the necessary paperwork for volunteering for Ivy Creek. There will be two dates for the same training. Please choose **one** of the dates to attend. The meetings will begin at the Education Building.

**Saturday, August 28, 10am**

**Thursday, September 2, 10am**

New Barn Docents will also be scheduled to volunteer beside an experienced docent twice before signing up for the lead shift in a Barn opening. Details on scheduling shifts will be explained in the mandatory trainings.

In addition to the mandatory training session, all docents are *invited* to participate in any of the following training sessions. These sessions will be held together with Ivy Creek School Tour and Little Naturalist guides. Docents are welcome to participate in the indoor portion of these trainings. The walks are reserved for guides.

**Tuesday, August 24, 10am-12pm.** Meet at the Education Building:

*Introduction to the Ivy Creek Natural Area and River View Farm History*

Led by Catherine Boston/Dede Smith. *Dede Smith served as the Director of the Ivy Creek Foundation from 1993-2007. During her tenure, the Education Center was built, Ragged Mountain Natural Area was created, and Ivy Creek was honored as an African American Heritage site. Dede volunteers as a nature guide in the Schools Tour Program and sits on the Carr-Greer farmhouse preservation committee.*

*Catherine Boston served as the Director of Education for the Ivy Creek Foundation between 2019-2021.*

This introductory training will focus on the African American history of River View Farm as well as the creation of the Ivy Creek Natural Area. These unique stories offer many educational opportunities for school groups and should be woven into each tour in age-appropriate ways. We will begin in the Education Building, learning about the Carr and Greer families and their contributions to the local community. We will also talk about the founding of the Ivy Creek Natural Area and how the two stories overlap. Then we will head out to the trails for a walk along the Blue Trail, exploring opportunities along the way to interweave the stories of River View Farm and natural history as we traverse multiple habitats (edge, forest, aquatic) on our way to the reservoir.

**Tuesday, September 7, 10am-12pm.** Meet in the Ed Building:

*Interpreting the Geology of Ivy Creek with a School Tour*

Led by Marilyn Smith. *Marilyn is a geoscientist, a Virginia Watershed Educator, a Virginia Master Naturalist (VMN), a Project WET facilitator, and a community volunteer. Marilyn participates in watershed education activities at Camp Albemarle, Jack Jouett Stream Days and many other City and County school events. She and her husband David monitor at least 7 streams twice a year for the Rivanna Conservation Alliance's Stream Watch Program. Marilyn also teaches geology for area schools and VMN chapters and serves on the Board of Directors for Camp Albemarle. Prior to retiring in 2011, Marilyn was a Geoscience Project Manager for ExxonMobil working domestic and international assignments in Exploration and Production. Her passions include clean water, citizen science, and math/science education for all ages.*

Marilyn is an experienced school guide and will bring her expertise as a geologist and watershed educator to this training where we will explore the ways to bring geology to life for school children. She will walk us down to Martin's Branch and across to the field trail near the Hydraulic Overlook, seeking out rocks with cool stories to tell.

**\*\*Saturday, September 18, 2-4pm.** (note: this is a SATURDAY) Meet in the Ed Building:

*Biodiversity Projects at Ivy Creek*

Led by John Scrivani/Tom Wild. *John Scrivani has a PhD in Forestry Studies and 20+ years experience in applied forestry research, including work as the Senior Forester and Analyst for The Green Infrastructure Center, Inc., where he developed models to map natural resources for creating green infrastructure plans, developing urban forest management strategies, and calculating ecosystem services with new models and tools. John is a member of the ICF Board and sits on the Buildings and Grounds committee. Tom grew up in the Tidewater area of VA. His previous career was in geology, working for 25 years for Chevron, specializing in downhole sensing technology, interpretation, research and teaching. He and his wife Anne moved to Charlottesville in 2008, where he has worked as a consultant for oil, environmental firms, and the US Geologic Survey. Today he is fully retired and involved with the Charlottesville SPCA and numerous nature organizations, Rivanna Master Naturalists, Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards and the VA chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. Tom has been on the Board of Directors at ICNA since 2018. Hobbies include hiking, bread baking and woodworking.*

John will give a synopsis of the work he is doing to follow-up Tom Dierauf's extensive Forest Community Study of 2015, mapping individual forest stands and noting changes over time. This work has potential for future educational collaborations with schools and community groups. John will also share information on the biodiversity studies underway as part of ICF's work to update its Land Management Plan. Tom will then take us on a "succession walk" where we will get a chance to see and talk about some of the changes to the land at Ivy Creek over its history as farm, field and forest.