

Fall 2021 training for School Tour and Little Naturalist Guides

If you are interested in volunteering as a Nature Guide with Ivy Creek, or have questions, please contact sue@ivycreekfoundation.org or rochelle@ivycreekfoundation.org.

New guides are highly encouraged to attend all training sessions. Experienced guides may choose to attend the sessions. All guides MUST attend the mandatory session on September 28 or make arrangements to make up the material covered that day.

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

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

Led by Dede Smith/Catherine Boston. *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 School 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, August 31, 10am-12pm. Meet in the Ed Building:

Butterflies at Ivy Creek Natural Area

Led by Mike Scott. *Mike Scott has been volunteering at Ivy Creek since 2000, teaching people about our local butterfly and moth species. While not a "school trained" entomologist, the information he shares comes from 50 years of observing, reading, raising caterpillars, and enjoying nature.*

The butterfly walks that Mike leads each summer are aimed at teaching people how to quickly identify the most common species in our area by size, color, and behavior. He also emphasizes the importance of planting both nectar plants and caterpillar food plants to encourage multiple generations of butterflies in your own yard. The session will begin with about 30 minutes of classroom time and then we hit the trails to see what we can find.

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 of 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. 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.*

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.

Tuesday, September 21, 10am-12pm. Meet in the Education Building

Interpreting Trees and Forest Ecology for School Children

Led by Ellen Powell. *Ellen Powell has been the Conservation Education Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Forestry since 2005. Prior to joining the Department, she was a Virginia Cooperative Extension agent, working in both the 4-H and Environmental Horticulture program areas. Ellen has a bachelor's degree in fisheries and wildlife sciences from North Carolina State University and a master's degree in forest resources from The University of Georgia.*

We are so lucky to have Ellen come walk with us. She not only knows trees but she knows children and how to engage them in the natural world. She will help us learn some creative ways to bring trees to life in your school tours. We'll get to know some individual trees, explore connections between forests and critters, and learn ways to get students interacting with the forest. We will spend time indoors but much of this training will be out beginning on the school trail and going wherever the trees lead us.

Tuesday, September 28, 10am-12pm. Meet in the Education Building

****This training is mandatory for all guides.** Guides who are unable to attend this training will need to meet with Sue individually to complete their paperwork.

Guiding at Ivy Creek

Led by Sue Erhardt/Alice Cannon. *Sue Erhardt, Ivy Creek's Executive Director, has more than 20 years of senior leadership experience working in the conservation, nature, and place-based education movement. She has worked for urban forestry organizations in Detroit and Washington DC, and most recently for an agriculture nonprofit based in Augusta and Highland Counties. Sue holds a Master's degree in Environmental Studies. She is a Certified Arborist and Certified Interpreter Guide. Her efforts have been recognized by prominent groups with several notable awards, such as the National Park Service Centennial Award and Outstanding Educator Award from the Arbor Day Foundation. Alice Cannon is a member of the Central Virginia History Researchers, a longtime Barn Docent for Ivy Creek and member of the Carr/Greer farmhouse preservation committee. We are grateful to Alice for the many ways she shares her passion for local African American history, in particular the story of Conly Greer and farming at River View Farm.*

We will spend the first part of this training going over how a tour works—how they are scheduled, safety procedures and the processes for last minute changes in scheduling. We will introduce you to some of the resources available to you as school tour guides and talk about interpretative techniques that can be used on the trails. After guides complete the required paperwork for volunteering, we will head to the barn for a lesson on its history and structures, as well as a tour of the exhibits found there during a school tour. With time permitting, we will then head onto the White Trail to try some of interpretative techniques learned earlier.