

Spring 2020 Training for School Tour and Little Naturalist Guides:

Saturday, March 7, 9-11am. Meet at the Kiosk:

Reading the Forested Landscape

Led by Nancy Weiss. *Nancy's childhood was spent at the New Jersey shore either outside swimming, biking and bird watching or else inside practicing music and reading. After college and medical school, she moved to Massachusetts to complete her surgical training and stayed there for her entire surgical career. She soon fell in love with the climate and topography of Massachusetts and made friends in the music and natural history communities. She bought 80 acres of forest land to teach herself about forest management first hand. Because of her concern for habitat preservation she also became active with both The Nature Conservancy and Massachusetts Audubon Society. 12 years ago, she retired to Charlottesville and loves it here. She has continued to learn about the natural world, becoming a certified tree steward and a certified master naturalist. The 3 areas she has worked hardest at learning are frog calls, butterfly identification and everything she can about Virginia's trees and forests.*

Guides, both new and experienced, should take advantage of this unique opportunity to walk with Nancy Weiss. Nancy will take guides along the red and brown trails teaching us to read the messages the land shares along the way. This will be an opportunity to learn more about how various tree, shrub, and herbaceous species in Ivy Creek's forests have changed over time. See how to read the influence of man and so imagine how the forest looked 80 years ago. This is a forest ecology walk and so, while there will be some tree identification, that will not be the main focus. The skills that Nancy will share on this walk will come in handy when shaping an engaging and inquiry based school tour.

Tentatively in mid March. Meet in the Education Building:

How to look for signs of animals on an Ivy Creek school tour

Led by Hub Knott

This training is still in planning but we are hoping to have Hub Knott of the Living Earth School come teach us ways that we can see the animals that are often hiding when school tours are on the trails.

Tuesday, March 24, 2-4pm. Meet in the Education Building:

Interpreting the History of River View Farm and the Ivy Creek Natural Area on a school tour

Led by 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.*

This is a good introduction to guiding school tours at Ivy Creek. Dede Smith has been leading school tours for 25 years. She is also one of the people most knowledgeable about both the cultural history of River View Farm and the story of the creation of the Natural Area. She will combine all these skills while leading us on a walk of the Purple Field/Blue trail, showing us ways to incorporate these stories into walks with school children. Afterwards we come inside and spend some time reviewing the various resources available to you as Ivy Creek guides: the

guide manual and other online resources; the library in the education building; the laminated nature guides in the barn; and more.

Tuesday, March 31, 2-4pm. Meet in the Education Building:

The Ins and Outs of an Ivy Creek School Tour

Led by Catherine Boston. *Catherine began leading school tours in the late 1990s and is currently the Director of Education at Ivy Creek. She has always loved being outside and is happiest when her work takes her there. Previous to coming to Ivy Creek she worked for 25 years with Innisfree Village, doing small scale farming with a team of volunteers and adults with intellectual disabilities.*

We will spend the first hour 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 also talk about the Inquiry Method of interpretation that is used on school tours. And we will complete the required paperwork for guiding. Afterwards we will walk the Yellow Trail with an experienced school tour guide.

****This training is mandatory for all new guides. Experienced school tour guides do not need to come to this training but will need to meet with Catherine to complete their paperwork.**

Tuesday, April 7, 2-4pm. Meet in the Education 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.

Tuesday, April 14, 2-4pm. 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, April 21, 2-4pm. Meet in the Education Building.

Honeybees as Pollinators

Led by Karen Hall. *Karen has been a hobbyist beekeeper and member of the Central Virginia Beekeepers Association (CVBA) since 1997. Her particular interest and emphasis is community outreach and education, especially promoting apiculture to children of all ages. She and her husband Ken have been the beekeepers for Ivy Creek Natural Area for more than 17 years. In addition, she provides programs for public and private schools as well as community organizations and events, coordinates the Honeybee exhibit at numerous County Fairs and teaches beginning beekeeping courses. Karen is Outreach Coordinator for CVBA.*

Stopping in the barn to see Karen's demonstration hive is one of the most popular elements of a tour at Ivy Creek. In this training Karen will speak to the relationship between honeybees and the plants they pollinate (although her extensive knowledge could lead us just about anywhere). We will start in the Education Building but will make a visit to the hives in the barn and will spend time on the Red Field/White trail as well.

Tuesday, April 28, 2-4pm. TBD