

## Spring In-Service Trainings for Ivy Creek Guides and Docents

**February 24, 2021, 7-8:30pm**

*Learn the Calls of Our Local Frogs and Toads; Zoom presentation*

Led by Michelle Prysby. *Michelle served as the statewide coordinator of the Virginia Master Naturalist program from 2005-2012, returned in 2014 to serve as the Special Projects Coordinator, and became the director of the program in 2015. She is an Extension faculty member in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech, but her office is in Charlottesville. She provides assistance to the state's 30 VMN chapters; teaches basic and continuing education courses; leads development of new training resources and program initiatives; and engages with sponsoring agencies, partnering organizations, and national organizations to support the program's mission.*

When you take a stroll by the water in spring, do you wonder what all the peeps, croaks, and trills are? We have only about a dozen frog species that call in the Rivanna watershed, and, with a little practice, you can easily learn to recognize them all. In this session, we will discuss each of the species that you might hear in the Charlottesville/Albemarle area, listen to their calls, and practice different ways of remembering them. To help make the session interactive *and* to help you learn the mnemonics, please bring the following to the session if you're able: an empty glass bottle (the larger the better), a thick rubber band, a balloon (already blown up), two small rocks or pebbles, and a plastic comb. Don't worry if you don't have some of these on hand; there's no need to purchase anything. If you happen to have a duck caller or the buzzer from the board game "Taboo", those would be great bonus items to bring!

**March 25, 2021 7-8:30pm; Zoom presentation**

*The Great Virginia Flood of 1870 happened a week after Hugh Carr put down his partial payment for the land that is now Ivy Creek Natural Area and devastated lands along the Rivanna. Come learn about this pivotal event in Virginia's history and how it can be included in interpretations at Ivy Creek.*

Led by Paula Green. *Paula Green is an environmental historian with an MA in public history from James Madison University and the author of The Great Virginia Flood of 1870. Her undergraduate work and training as an anthropologist and archaeologist influence her writing and research. In addition to cross-discipline training, Paula has worked in the JMU Libraries for more than thirteen years and is an expert at locating rare research materials.*

In the fall of 1870, a massive flood engulfed parts of Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland. What began near Charlottesville as welcome rain at the end of a drought-plagued summer quickly turned into a downpour as it moved west and then north through the Shenandoah Valley. The James, Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers rose, and flooding washed out fields, farms and entire towns. The impact was immense in terms of destruction, casualties and depth of water. The only warning that Richmond, downriver from the worst of the storm, had of the wall of water bearing down on it was a telegram.

Ms. Green will give an overview of the 1870 flood and its damage to the region with an additional focus on the events along the Rivanna River. She will also discuss how flood relief was handled and distributed to those impacted. The talk will be geared towards the interpretation of Ivy Creek, based on surviving records. The 30-40 minute talk will be followed by time for questions.