

# Delaware Master Naturalist

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Delaware Master Naturalist State Program Coordinator





***Solidago odora* – Sweet goldenrod (state herb)**

***Augochloropsis Metallica* – native pollinator**



# Overview

- Introduction to the Program
- Training requirements
- Levels of Delaware Master Naturalists
- Commitment of Certified Delaware Master Naturalists
- Volunteer Service Activities
- Advanced Training
- Local Organizing Partners
- Statewide Partners



# Definitions

- ***Program Facilitators:*** individuals associated with statewide program partners who will coordinate initial training courses. Schedule training; coordinate with instructors, host site personnel, and trainees.
  - Joe Sebastiani, Delaware Nature Society
  - Blake Moore, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension
- ***State Program Coordinator:*** supports the statewide program at the guidance of the State Steering Committee
  - Blake Moore – University of Delaware Cooperative Extension



# Definitions

- ***State Steering Committee***: Ensures the successful execution of the Delaware Master Naturalist mission. The State Steering Committee is organized by a set of bylaws describing membership, duties, subcommittees, and terms. Members are active as chairpersons or members of sub-committees that provide guidance in developing program policy, creating training guidelines, establishing curriculum, developing resources, sponsoring conferences and advanced training, designing recognition programs, overseeing marketing, fundraising and promotional efforts, assisting Facilitators in identifying qualified instructors and in locating needed resources, developing LOPs to provide volunteer projects, and connecting volunteers with LOPs.



# Definitions

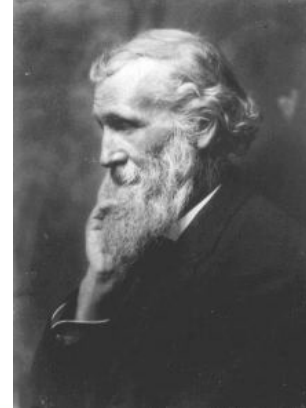
- ***Local Organizing Partners (LOPs)***: are organizations that register with the Delaware Master Naturalist program in order to receive volunteer service hours from Delaware Master Naturalists. The LOP is responsible for recruiting volunteers into the Master Naturalist program and coordinating volunteer service opportunities with the State Coordinator and Master Naturalist volunteers. LOPs are responsible for approving Master Naturalist volunteer-initiated project proposals involving their organization. A LOP can also advertise volunteer service opportunities with their organization through the State Master Naturalist Coordinator (LOP-initiated project proposals). As a Delaware Master Naturalist, it is necessary to be affiliated with a LOP but after the first year of service, the affiliation can be changed to another registered LOP. Collaborating with other LOPs is strongly encouraged.



# Who is a Naturalist?

- A student of natural history, particularly of plants and animals
- *“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.” John Muir*

photo from the Sierra Club



# Delaware Master Naturalist Mission

- Mission: *The Delaware Master Naturalist Program engages citizens as ambassadors and stewards of Delaware's natural resources and ecosystems through science-based education and volunteer opportunities.*
- Vision: *A statewide corps of knowledgeable volunteers dedicated to natural resource management, research, and outreach in Delaware.*





# Who are Delaware Master Naturalists?

- A Delaware Master Naturalist is a person trained to contribute to conservation, research, education and other stewardship programs as a volunteer.
- A person who is willing to provide a continued commitment to nature
- Must be 18 years of age
- Must be affiliated with a Local Organizing Partner
- No experience necessary, just a willingness to learn!!



# History of the Delaware Master Naturalist Program

- Dr. Mckay Jenkins – University of Delaware
  - Cornelius Tilghman Professor of English, Journalism, and Environmental Humanities
  - works in natural areas around the University of Delaware removing invasive plant species with Environmental Humanities students
  - Became a Certified Maryland Master Naturalist
  - Secured grant funds to develop program
- Partnership with Delaware Nature Society
  - Naturalist Certification Series



# History

- Funds
  - Delaware Naturalist Handbook
  - State Program Coordinator and Graduate Student assistance
  - Resource Manuals
    - Volunteer Resource Manual
    - Local Organizing Partner Resource Manual
    - Facilitator Resource Manual
  - Branding/Marketing



# Delaware Naturalist Handbook

- Will serve as the guide to the Delaware Master Naturalist initial training curriculum
- Written by University of Delaware Faculty, Delaware Nature Society Staff, and University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Staff.
- Currently in the editing/publishing stage



# Delaware Naturalist Handbook

- Historical and Ecological Overview of Human Impacts on Delaware's Landscape and Watersheds
- Delaware Geology and Evolution
- Watershed Ecology
- Soil and Botany
- Field Sketching and Nature Photography
- Plant ID and Taxonomy
- Insects
- Reptiles and Amphibians
- Ornithology
- Citizen Science and Overview of the Scientific Method
- Weather and Climate Change
- Invasive Species and Habitat Management
- Environmental Justice
- Sustainable Landscapes



# Introduction to the Program

- Organized as a training program with a commitment to nature
  - Facilitators will conduct training but must also register as a Local Organizing Partner to receive volunteers
    - Delaware Nature Society
    - University of Delaware Cooperative Extension
  - Local Organizing Partners will recruit and retain volunteers
    - LOP Interest meetings scheduled for first week in November



# Program Details

- 60 hours of initial training -\$250.00/trainee
  - Classroom lecture
  - Hands-on learning
  - Field trips
- Open Source Take-home exam
  - 70% required to pass
- 100% attendance is required. Must work with Program Coordinator for make-up sessions but may not be available until the next training class (must be room for extra attendees at that session)



# Levels of Delaware Master Naturalists

- Master Naturalist Trainee: upon acceptance and until completion of initial training
- Master Naturalist Intern
  - Required to complete 40 hours of volunteer service hours to the affiliated organization
  - Service hours must be completed within 12 months of completion of initial training to become a Certified Delaware Master Naturalist
- Certified Delaware Master Naturalist
  - 40 hours of approved volunteer service hours required annually
  - 8 hours of advanced training required annually





# Levels of Delaware Master Naturalists

- Alumnus
- Transfers from out of state must work with the State Program Coordinator for acceptance. Must pass initial training final exam.



# Continued Commitment to Nature

- 40 hours of Volunteer Service Hours required per year. Must be served with the LOP which recruited the Intern. After the first year, the Master Naturalist may choose to affiliate with a different LOP. LOPs may work with other organizations to provide volunteer opportunities
- 8 Hours of advanced training annually at the level of Certified Delaware Master Naturalist



# Volunteer Service Hours

- Education and outreach
  - Lead naturalist walks at natural areas, state parks, and nature centers
- Citizen Science
  - Track locations of Spotted Lanternfly or helping with wildlife surveys
- Environmental Stewardship and Natural Lands Management
  - Tree plantings, invasive species removal, etc.
- Administrative and planning for the ***Delaware Master Naturalist program***
  - Assist the statewide program with event planning and recruitment



# Advanced Training

- Topics that build on the foundation of the initial training
  - Helps lead Delaware Master Naturalists to desired specialties
  - Encourages lifelong learning journey
- Trainings currently offered by your organizations may be approved for Delaware Master Naturalist advanced training
- Continues to develop camaraderie



# Program Administration

- State Program Coordinator started May 1, 2019
  - Duties make up only a portion of overall Natural Resources Agent duties
  - Offers support to LOPs and Delaware Master Naturalists
- State Steering Committee formalized at the end of September
  - 9 current members
  - 1 year terms



# Local Organizing Partners

- LOPs
  - Organizations with environmental and natural resource missions who register with the Delaware Master Naturalist Program.
  - Recruits and retains Delaware Master Naturalists with support from the statewide program
  - Provides volunteer service opportunities (may advertise through DMN Website)



# Benefits of being a LOP

- Trained volunteers can help accomplish and expand environmental and natural resource missions
  - Limited supervision during volunteer services
  - lead volunteer efforts
  - initiate service projects
  - Gather data for research
  - Recruit additional volunteers and connect with new volunteer pools
  - Create new partnerships with other registered LOPs



# Benefits

- Receive support from the statewide program
  - Advertise volunteer opportunities on Delaware Master Naturalist Website
  - Reach a wider group of stakeholders through the DMN Network
  - Access to volunteer management system to track volunteer hours
    - Easy to use and extract data from
  - State Program Coordinator will connect interested individuals with LOPs





# First Class of Delaware Master Naturalists

- Beginning in March 2020!
- Draft curriculum and schedule for the first class of Delaware Master Naturalists has been made
- Funding has been identified to help with costs associated for the first DMN training
- Training location secured
  - Ashland Nature Center, Delaware Nature Society



# Proposed Dates for Spring 2020 Training

- **Classroom Lectures**

- March 11, 2020 5:30pm – 8:30pm
- March 25, 2020 5:30pm – 8:30pm
- April 8, 2020 5:30pm – 8:30pm
- April 22, 2020 5:30pm – 8:30pm
- May 6, 2020 5:30pm – 8:30pm
- May 20, 2020 5:30pm – 8:30pm
- June 3, 2020 5:30pm – 8:30pm
- June 17, 2020 5:30pm – 8:30pm

- **Saturday Field Trips(full day)**

- March 21, 2020
- April 18, 2020
- May 16, 2020
- June 13, 2020



# Website

- <https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/environmental-stewardship/master-naturalist/>
- Search Delaware Master Naturalist Program



# Program Partners

- Statewide Partners
  - Delaware Nature Society
  - University of Delaware Cooperative Extension



# University of Delaware Cooperative Extension

- We connect the public with university knowledge, research and resources to address youth, family, community and agricultural needs. On an everyday basis, Extension:
- Enhances agriculture production and environmental sustainability,
- Engenders leadership and volunteerism in youth and citizens and a voice to communities,
- Provides the strategies for living a healthy lifestyle,
- Guides children on the road to responsible adulthood, and
- Makes the quality of life better for every resident of the state.

<https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/>



# Delaware Nature Society

- Delaware Nature Society's mission is to connect people with the natural world to improve our environment through education, advocacy and conservation. We envision a healthy and sustainable environment.
- Facilitator and Partner program of Delaware Master Naturalist Program
- Has been conducting the Naturalist Certification Series for 13 years as of 2019
  - Topics included: Mammals, Terrestrial Ecosystems, Reptiles and Amphibians, Birds, Insects, Wildflowers, Trees and Shrubs, and Aquatic Ecosystems
- Joe Sebastiani's experience with the Naturalist Certification Series has been invaluable to the development of the Delaware Master Naturalist program.





## Naturalist Series





# Naturalist Series





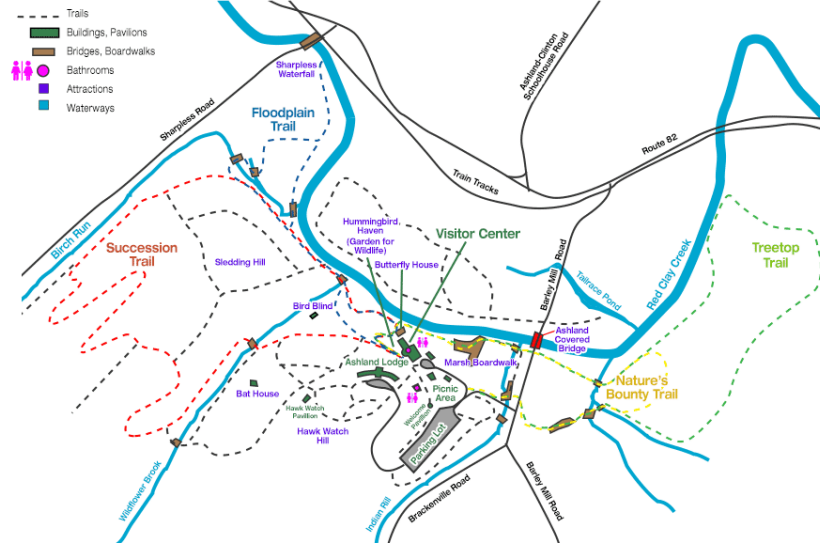
# Delaware Nature Society

- Ashland Nature Center will be the host site of the first Delaware Master Naturalist training class!
- 130 acres
  - Woodlands
  - Meadows
  - Marshes
  - Red Clay Creek
- 4 miles of nature trails



# Ashland Nature Center

## Ashland Nature Center Trail Map Delaware Nature Society



# In Conclusion

- Please stay tuned to the Delaware Master Naturalist website for LOP registration information.
- LOPs begin recruiting potential trainees
- Interested individuals begin connecting with LOPs
- Identify expert educators
- First Class begins March 11, 2020



# Contact Us

- Delaware Master Naturalist Website
  - <https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/environmental-stewardship/master-naturalist/>
  - Email [rbmoore@udel.edu](mailto:rbmoore@udel.edu) for more details
- University of Delaware Cooperative Extension
  - [www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/](http://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/)
- Delaware Nature Society
  - [www.delawarenaturesociety.org](http://www.delawarenaturesociety.org)



# Thank you!!

- Big thank you to the members of ANROSP for the advice and help with materials!!



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE  
**COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION**



**Delaware**  
Master  
Naturalist

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