

2025 Spring Meeting Education Committee Report

Caroline Seitz

Education Committee Chair

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Report covers October 1, 2024 - May 12, 2025

Total Number of Programs: 28

Estimated total number of people reached: 6030

Erin Anthony

Total Programs: 1

Est. # of People Reached: 2100

1. 2 day table display at the Virginia Museum of Natural History ReptileFest Weekend along with Marshall Boyd, Jason Gibson, Ted Stille, and Amanda Stinnett

Travis Anthony

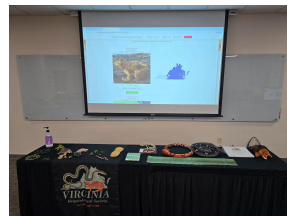
Total Programs: 3

Est. # People Reached: 170

1. Presented a herp talk for 40 k-12 graders and their parents at the Homeschool Hub Club
2. Presented a herp talk for 30 people of all ages at the Robins Nature Center at Maymont for World Wildlife Day.



3. STEMfest at Reynolds last night went very well, several groups stopped by and talked about wildlife, about 100 people of all ages.



Marshall Boyd

Total Programs: 4

Est. # People Reached: 3590

1. Table display at the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont 3rd Annual Fall Festival

2. 2-day table display at the Virginia Living Museum's Reptile and Amphibian Weekend event
3. With Arianna at the Master Naturalist "Education Station" event held April 19th at Virginia Museum of Natural History. MasterNat had a table featuring The Magical World of Salamanders and I created a VHS table featuring frogs and toads.
4. 2 day table display at the Virginia Museum of Natural History ReptileFest Weekend along with Erin Anthony , Jason Gibson , Ted Stille, and Amanda Stinnett

Barry Buschow

Total Programs: 2

Est. # People Reached: 120

1. Barry Buschow presented a snake slideshow talk for 20 members of the Calfee Garden Club in Culpeper.
2. Earth Day tabling at an elementary school



Matthew Close

Total Programs: 1

Est. # People Reached: 400

1. Tabled at McHarg Elementary in Radford, VA for their **One School, One Book Adventure Night** on Tuesday, February 25, from 5:30-6:30. The event had **404 people** in attendance. The plushy and rubber snakes were a huge hit for this young audience. The axolotl was probably the most popular critter that the kids talked about.

Jason Gibson

Total Programs: 1

Est. # of People Reached: 2100

1. 2 day table display at the Virginia Museum of Natural History ReptileFest Weekend along with Erin Anthony , Marshall Boyd, Ted Stille, and Amanda Stinnett

Mark Khosravi

Total Programs: 1

Est. # of People Reached: 200

1. Tabling at Mason Neck SP Eagle Festival with Bonnie Keller



Shefali Mehta

Total Programs: 3

Est. # of People Reached: 75

1. Native VA Herp Slideshow Talk - Harrisonburg High School Envirothon Team
2. Waynesboro Riverfest tabling
3. Turtle Book Author Talk - facilitator with young author of turtle book



Leeanna Pletcher

Total Programs: 2

Est. # of People Reached: 75

1. Virtual Zoom presentation on Virginia's native salamanders for the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance.
2. Virtual Box Turtle presentation

Caroline Seitz

Total Programs: 1

Est. # of People Reached: 3

1. Educational amphibian walk at a small private neighborhood park to look for amphibian habitat with the neighborhood's environmental group. Lake Barcroft, Fairfax; No herps seen or heard.

Ana Sparks

Total Programs: 1

Est. # People Reached: 13

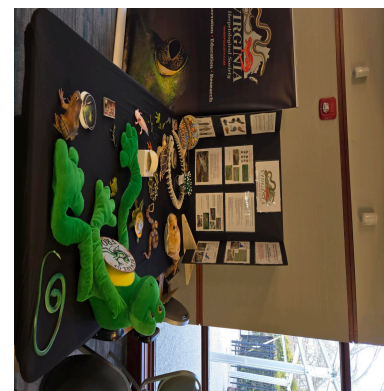
1. Presented a snake program for preschoolers at Capitol Hill Day School in Washington, DC

Ted Stille

Total Programs: 4

Est. # of People Reached: 2355

1. Table Display at Robins Nature Center at Maymont World Wildlife Day - All went smoothly at Maymont on Saturday. I'd estimate that I spoke with 150-200 people who stopped at the VHS table. That includes Travis so it might just be 149-199 people. There were scores more who passed by as they viewed our table and the other tables. There was lots of great interest and many of the people later in the day had heard Travis speak. They were all very impressed with his presentation and made the connection to VHS. Another very



impressive occurrence was 10-15 people who commented on how useful they found the VHS site. These were teachers, State/County Park representatives and home owners who were coming to the VHS site regularly to try to ID herps and frog songs or look up the ranges of different animals. The VHS site is a real asset. One teacher asked if VHS would come to her third grade class to talk so I'll likely be going to her Chesterfield class within the next month or so. Tommy Tadpole got "metamorphosed" about 50 times as I pointed to the plastic eggs, tadpoles and frog while transforming him.

2. Table display at a Girl Scout event in Hanover with Kimberly Zahn .
3. Herp Talk at the Warrenton Highland School. There were about 25 3rd graders. I used the VHS elementary school slideshow as a base and inserted the interactive quizzing slides throughout. You can see the students each using their clickers for each question. They love very quickly seeing if they got their responses correct. The last 40 minutes of the 2 hours were in teams going to 11 stations in their room to identify an "environment" (water, open rocky, fallen leaves) and then identifying the salamander, snake, tadpole, that was found there.



4. 2 day table display at the Virginia Museum of Natural History ReptileFest Weekend along with Erin Anthony , Marshall Boyd, Jason Gibson , and Amanda Stinnett

Amanda Stinnett

Total Programs: 1

Est. # of People Reached: 2100

1. 2 day table display at the Virginia Museum of Natural History ReptileFest Weekend along with Erin Anthony , Marshall Boyd, Jason Gibson , and Ted Stille.

Susan Watson ("wearing 2 hats" for VHS & DWR)

Total Programs: 7

Est. # of People Reached: 1045

1. Herpetology Courses for Virginia Master Naturalists (VMN), 2 courses for 2 chapters: Riverine and Historic Southside Chapters
2. Vernal Pool Cooperative of Virginia VMN project, trained VMN volunteers about vernal pool identification, ecology, associated species, monitoring, and protocols for least impacts, along with VCU's Anne Wright and veteran VMN volunteers for this project, 3 sessions provided with a combination of volunteers from different VMN chapters (Riverine, Pocahontas, and Historic Southside Chapters)
3. "Snakes of the Greater Richmond Area", virtual presentation for VMN, hosted by Pocahontas Chapter, with other chapters attending
4. Most of the 2nd day of 2-day table display at the Virginia Living Museum's Reptile And Amphibian Weekend (RAAW), along with Marshall Boyd & JD Kleopfer

Kimberly Zahn

Total Programs: 1

Est. # People Reached: 30

1. Table display at a Girl Scout event in Hanover with Ted Stille.

Media Mentions

Caroline Seitz was interviewed by Jessica Bowser on the Virginia Outdoor Adventures Podcast Part 1: [Virginia's Venomous and Nonvenomous Snakes: Hiking Safety, Myths, and Appreciation with Caroline Seitz, Virginia Herpetological Society \(Ep 62, Part 1\) - Virginia Outdoor Adventures: Hiking, Camping, Kayaking, Local Travel and more! | Podcast on Spotify](#)
 Part 2: [Virginia's Venomous and Nonvenomous Snakes: Hiking Safety, Myths, and Appreciation with Caroline Seitz, Virginia Herpetological Society \(Ep 62, Part 2\) - Virginia Outdoor Adventures: Hiking, Camping, Kayaking, Local Travel and more! | Podcast on Spotify](#)

Email questions asking about natural history/conservation or topics other than booking a program or tabling from the general public: 10

Report from John White:

We produced 250 or so give away 3d printed VHS frogs.

We supplied cottonmouth imagery/graphics to the Journal of the History of Collections (published by Oxford University Press).

15-May-2025 - Total number of animals identified 204, consisting of 28 frogs, 24 salamanders, 18 lizards, 97 snakes, and 37 turtles.

Photos from the Virginia Museum of Natural History Reptile and Amphibian Festival
 April 25 & 26



Ted Stille educates some new herp fans!



Look out Ted, there are dinosaurs right behind you!



Jason Gibson educates more new herp fans!



Great looking table display!



Lots of folks enjoying the VHS exhibit at the fabulous VMNH!

2025 Education Expense Report

Date	Category	Description	Notes	Amount
1/21	shirts	logo polo shirts		\$309.33
9/5	name tags	20 name tags		\$245.58
1/30	table cloths	2 stretchy tablecloths		\$16.60
2/24	postage	2 shirts and 3 nametags mailed		\$28.80
5/6	1000 pens	giveaway pens		\$352.82
4/25 & 26	Mileage	Erin Anthony travel to VMNH herp weekend mileage reimbursement		\$287.00
5/8	Canopy Tent	Canopy tent for Barry Buschow		\$156.04

\$1,396.17

Goals:

- Create "Gardening for Herps" slideshow
- Encourage volunteers to only sign up for events they are sure they can do
- Create an Education Committee Member Code of Conduct and Training Guide
- Encourage more active participation from education committee members
- Recruit more education volunteers