



POLLINATOR HABITAT TRAINING

Lake Shenandoah



**Volunteer Training Offered by
the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries,
with assistance from the Dept. of Environmental Sciences-UVA**

Be a Habitat Partner® and share your passion for wildlife and wildlife habitat!

This workshop brings together members of multiple volunteer organizations who are willing to collaborate on education outreach to the general public about the importance of pollinators and healthy wildlife habitats.

WHO'S INVITED: This workshop is being offered to volunteers and other community leaders interested in learning about pollinators and pollinator habitat and **who will also plan and conduct** subsequent pollinator habitat programs for the general public, either at Lake Shenandoah in Rockingham County, or in their own local community.

Volunteers from many organizations are encouraged to register, such as the following: Master Naturalists; Master Gardeners; DGIF Complementary Work Force (CWF) Volunteers; Tree Stewards; Virginia Native Plant Society; Beekeepers Association leaders; Izaak Walton League; Youth Leaders (e.g. 4H, Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs); Garden Club leaders; and other conservation and community service leaders.

WORKSHOP CONTENT: **The training will begin at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center** with an overview about pollinators. Then we'll caravan to Lake Shenandoah (about 5 minutes from the Center).

Lake Shenandoah is a 36-acre impoundment in Rockingham County, owned by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. In 2015, agency staff converted about one-acre of a conventional field into a pollinator meadow.



During the visit to the Lake, we'll conduct several field investigations to observe and identify pollinators, collect bee specimens, and learn about the native plants that form this biodiverse habitat.

In the afternoon, we'll **return** to the Conference Center for lunch and additional instruction, including a "mini-lab" to look more closely at the specimens we collected.

During the last portion of the training, we'll discuss how to target conservation messages to specific audiences, and participants will work in small groups to brainstorm and plan collaborative programming strategies. Our goal is to help you come away with several ideas for working together on subsequent pollinator programs for the public, such as for homeowners associations, school groups, and others.

Topics and Speakers include the following:

- *Importance of Pollinators; Bee Diversity; and Plant Ecology*—**T'ai Roulston**, Research Associate Professor, Dept. Environmental Sciences-UVA
- *Pollinator Habitat at Lake Shenandoah*—**Jason Hallacher**, Assistant Fisheries Biologist, DGIF
- *Key Messages for Habitat Education Outreach*—**Carol A. Heiser**, Education Section Manager and Habitat Education Coordinator, DGIF

WHAT YOU WILL RECEIVE: 1) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service *Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping* booklet; 2) a packet of numerous pollinator resources; 3) other habitat education materials; and 4) a certificate for 6 hours of instruction.

REGISTRATION IS ONLINE ONLY (register by 5:00 p.m. Sunday, August 13, 2017), at this link: <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/106239>

- **Thursday, August 17, 2017**
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Workshop BEGINS at the MASSANETTA SPRINGS CONFERENCE CENTER, 712 Massanetta Springs Rd., Harrisonburg VA 22801 (approx. 3 ½ miles east on Rte. 33 from I-81 Exit 247-A). Please plan to arrive by 9:15 to check-in.
- **BE PREPARED TO GO OUTSIDE, RAIN OR SHINE. A portion of the agenda includes field activities at Lake Shenandoah.**
- **NO CHARGE to attend.** In exchange for the free training, we ask that you agree to volunteer a minimum of 10 hours in the next 12 months to support and help promote DGIF's pollinator habitat project at Lake Shenandoah, **and/or** collaboratively plan and conduct public education outreach in your own community about the importance of pollinators and the value of native plants for wildlife habitat.
- **BOX LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED ON SITE,** at no charge. We've scheduled this as a working lunch, with no time on agenda to eat out.