



PENNSYLVANIA  
Master Naturalist

Dear Colleague,

As this New Year begins, we are reaching out to community and conservation organizations that benefit from the volunteer service and advanced training requirements of Pennsylvania Master Naturalists to support the long-term sustainability of our program by becoming a **Member Organization**. One of the many benefits of organizational membership (see side panel) is the **direct marketing of your education and volunteer service opportunities to trained Master Naturalist volunteers** in your area. Pennsylvania Master Naturalist is an initiative directed toward developing local corps of trained volunteers who offer education, citizen science, and stewardship service dedicated to the understanding and management of natural areas in their communities. Because Pennsylvania Master Naturalist program staff manages volunteer recruitment, training and reporting of volunteer service and training hours, community and conservation organizations can continue to focus on their important conservation initiatives with the help of quality volunteer leadership. Our citizen volunteers have become essential to local, regional, and statewide conservation efforts.

Since our first training in 2010, Master Naturalist volunteers have:

- Engaged in **40,000 hours of volunteer service** to advance community-based conservation projects, contributing nearly **\$800,000 in conservation value** and impact to over **100 partners**;
- **Reached over 50,000 people** through education and outreach activities;
- **Improved over 1,800 acres of habitat** through stewardship service;
- Completed **more than 30,000 hours of continuing education** in the natural sciences.

At current, around 100 new citizen volunteers are trained annually to become certified Master Naturalists. Following completion of a 50-hour initial training course, Master Naturalist Trainees are dedicated to advancing conservation efforts in the region through ongoing volunteer service. Also, they continue to gain knowledge through continuing education.

If you are interested in joining our growing collaborative of member organizations, please complete the attached form and mail it to me along with the annual membership fee (see attached). Feel free to contact me if you have questions about our program or organizational membership.

With my thanks,

*Michele Richards*

Michele Richards, President

Phone: 570-441-3364 | email: [michele@pamasternaturalist.org](mailto:michele@pamasternaturalist.org)

SUPPORT THE VOLUNTEERS  
WHO SUPPORT YOU...  
BECOME A MEMBER  
ORGANIZATION!

#### Benefits of Membership

- **Direct marketing** of your education programs and service opportunities to our regional network of volunteers – both on our website and through targeted emails.
- **Member programs are pre-approved for Pennsylvania Master Naturalist continuing education credit hours.** A Master Naturalist volunteer must complete a minimum of 12 hours of advanced training annually.
- **Member service projects will be highlighted on the PA Master Naturalist webpage** ([pamasternaturalist.org](http://pamasternaturalist.org)) and in our seasonal e-newsletter, increasing visibility of your organization's mission and programs.
- **Special access** to a network of dedicated and highly trained volunteers.
- **Invitations to local and regional networking events** where members can meet and recruit regional Master Naturalist volunteers.

Connecting People, Nature and Community



## Benefits and Services of the Pennsylvania Master Naturalist initiative:

Certified Pennsylvania Master Naturalists:

- Possess a **strong foundation of natural history knowledge** gained through 55 hours of ecoregion-based intensive training, covering topics such as regional geology, ecology, regional wildlife, aquatic and upland communities, urban ecology, and the development and presentation of interpretative programs.
- Are committed to a minimum of **30 hours of volunteer service in the first year of participation and 20 hours of service in subsequent years.**
- Are dedicated to **advancing their content knowledge in natural history** by pursuing advanced training. Volunteers must complete 8 hours of continuing education during the initial year of participation and 12 hours in subsequent years.
- Are **managed and cultivated by Pennsylvania Master Naturalist staff**, allowing your organization to focus on conservation priorities. We are responsible for volunteer recruitment, only identifying individuals with a demonstrated commitment to volunteer service.
- Hold a certification that demonstrates a **commitment to volunteer service.** Utilizing volunteers to achieve conservation goals requires a significant investment of an organization's staff time and resources. Master Naturalists offer organizations a more secure return on that investment.

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## ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Membership:** \$100.00 for renewal. \$50 introductory rate for first year.

*Please make check payable to "PA Master Naturalist"*

**Membership Term:** January 1 – December 31

**Amount of Payment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please choose the form of payment:**

Check    Money Order

**Send membership form with fee to:**

PA Master Naturalist  
197 Montour Rd.  
Elysburg, PA 17824