



CONTINUING EDUCATION WEBINAR SERIES

Date: Monday, April 14, 2014

Time: 12-1pm

Location: http://connect.ag.vt.edu/vmn_at4/

Finding Synergies for Biodiversity Awareness and Conservation: How can the VA Master Naturalist Program and the Encyclopedia of Life Support Each Other?

Presented by: Marie Studer, PhD

The VA Master Naturalist program has a mission to help Virginia conserve and manage its natural resources. The Encyclopedia of Life (EOL; eol.org) is a free online, participatory resource intending to aggregate information (text, multimedia, trait data) about all 1.9 million named species from existing databases and through contributions from both experts and non-experts. It's mission is to increase awareness and understanding of living nature. So, how can we work together to support each other's missions? This webinar will introduce participants to EOL's rich tools (customizable field guides, observation capabilities, games) and resources (species pages, articles, observer cards, podcasts) and open a discussion about how we can work together to build more robust knowledge about local biodiversity and more engaging activities for the general public, citizen scientists and others to interact with living nature and our programs.

Marie Studer joined the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL; eol.org) in November 2007 as the Learning and Education (L+E) director, based at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Marie is responsible for strategic planning and fundraising and develops partnerships to introduce EOL to educators, learners and citizen scientists in all kinds of formal and informal education settings. She meets with a broad range of stakeholders from around the world to discuss facilitating biodiversity awareness and learning, open science and participation in biodiversity-related activities. For eleven years prior to EOL, Marie was the Chief Scientist for Earthwatch Institute, responsible for overseeing the research, education and conservation programs for this international citizen science organization. Previously she was the Director of Science for the Massachusetts Bays Program, a US EPA National Estuary Program. She has a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Massachusetts Boston and a B.A. in Chemistry from Wheaton College, Norton, MA.