

June 12, 2020

Statement of Solidarity and Inclusivity to Maryland's Master Naturalists

An event occurred a few weeks ago which sparked surprise and anger from many of us who work in natural resources education. I'm speaking of the situation where a woman called 911 on an avid bird watcher because he asked her to leash her dog. She stated in her call to authorities that an African-American male was threatening her, and that she feared for her life and needed help immediately. The events since this news broke have been even more shocking and sad. The death of Mr. George Floyd on May 25th, has triggered a move away from complacency to one of action to work harder than ever to dismantle racial injustice in our country. As the state Extension program leader for natural resources with the University of Maryland, I pledge to work with the leaders, volunteers, and staff in all of our programming areas to better understand and implement change to be more inviting, inclusive and welcoming to all peoples. I have faith that there are great leaders in areas where we need help to achieve more diversity, equity and inclusivity in the Maryland Master Naturalist program and I hope to hear from you at either whubbard@umd.edu or my cell phone at 301-789-9441

Sincerely,



William Hubbard, PhD
State Program Leader - Natural Resource Extension Programs
University of Maryland Extension