



**Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists Quarterly Meeting**  
**Sunday July 15, 2012**  
**Fabians', 134 Yarrow Lane, Fincastle**

**Attendance:** Beth Hawse , Nancy Fabian, Bill Fabian, Jim Bush, Pat Taylor, Dennis Woodson, Christina Koomen, Denny McCarthy, Sharon Vest, Ann Stinnett, Lynda Calkins, Laurie Spangler, Scott Spangler, (13)

**Call to Order:** The general membership meeting was called to order at 3:09 PM by Beth Hawse.

**Old Business:**

- **Treasurer's Report (Ann Stinnett)** - Ann, reported a current balance of \$347.51. Payments had been made to procure the chicken for the PicNic, pay for the fold up shelter and weights that was used for the Earth Day event, and \$60 for name tag procurement.

- **Secretary's Report (Bill Fabian)** – The minutes for the first quarter meeting were discussed. Bill stated the minutes had been forwarded to all members and corrections made according to comments received. Beth asked if anyone wanted to have the minutes read, and no one did. Ann made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed; Laurie seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously. Bill then went over the old action items, and announced which ones were closed, and which ones were still in progress.

- Ann reported that she had officially retired, but that she still could price out T-shirts and Polo shirts with the Master Naturalist logo. She said she would do that and get something to Bill Fabian so he could canvas the Chapter for interest and preorder numbers.

- Bill Fabian gave status of the DGIF permit application drafts. He had drafted an initial Salvage permit, but that it required that we list all the things we wished to collect by species, and other than opportune body parts such as tortoise shells, and listing a sample of all native fauna, it really didn't make sense until we found what we wanted to collect. It also made no sense to submit an Exhibitor's Permit until we had something of our own to exhibit. Collector's permits also require that we know what live animals we wish to collect, and in what quantity and when, so that until a project to do something like that is proposed, there should be no need to submit one.

- Bill reported on the status of the shelter to the group. The shelter and weights had been delivered in time for the Earth Day Roanoke event, and worked out very well. He mentioned that someone had even interviewed us and posted the interview on YouTube. The members asked that he send a message out to the members with the YouTube address so they could see the interview. He stated the shelter was now stored at Denny's office and could be picked up by any member by contacting Denny.



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- Lynda had contacted the Girl Scouts to see what work was needed at the Icimani Girl Scout Camp, and they said it still needs some follow on work. They also reiterated the offer for use of the area for things like our practical exam.
  
- Ann reported the status of nametags which the Chapter had agreed to buy for newly certified members. The nametags had been ordered, and she would get them to Denny when they came in for distribution.
  
- In the April meeting, Ryan Knopf had brought up an idea for a project that could also be used as a fund raising event for the Chapter. He volunteered to coordinate a metal collection event at the Grassy Hill NAP in Franklin County off of Thimble Lane in Rocky Mount. In addition to cleaning up the environment, he collected metal could be sold to the scrap yard to add funds to the Chapter treasury. Although Ryan was unable to attend the meeting, the project was discussed, and Denny volunteered to contact Ryan to see if that was still a feasible potential project.

**New Business:**

- The bi-annual election of new officers was the primary new business for this meeting. As the only president, past or present, Beth Hawse presided over the election of new officers to serve for the next two years. Beth had received nominations and polled the candidates for their willingness to serve in the position(s) they had been nominated for, and presented the slate to members. Of the nominees who had indicated their willingness to serve, the slate settled with one candidate for each position as follows:

- President: Beth Hawse
- Vice President: Nancy Fabian
- Treasurer: Ann Stinnett
- Secretary: Bill Fabian
- Historian: Sharon Vest

Since Beth was a candidate, Laurie Spangler chaired the motions and voting. It was moved and seconded that an acclamation vote of the slate as read be made. The motion carried, and Laurie asked for an acclamation vote. The “yeas” were unanimous, and the candidates were declared elected.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

- **Executive Committee Report (Beth Hawse)** – Beth stated that Michelle Prysby was leaving for a job with UVA. Impact on the group would be that to ensure that any outstanding certification requests and award reports needed to be in before the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. Denny thought we were caught up on that. Beth Hawse stated that most of the rest of the executive committee meeting focused on the status of VMN-VMS for our use. Bill had entered all the currently



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approved projects, so they were available for members to log their hours against. Michelle had put in the pre- 2011 hours for all the members who logged hours in 2010 and before. Hence the system is ready for use. She asked if all those present had successfully logged on yet, and most had not. Beth asked Bill to send out an e-mail to the entire membership from the system explaining the steps on how to log on the first time, with a system generated password. She cautioned them that they needed to change their password to one of their own choosing first thing, since the system generated password would only work for the initial logon. Beth also announced that DEQ is now also a state sponsor of the Master naturalists. Denny asked her if she knew of a Point of Contact for that agency, and Beth said she would enquire and let him know.

- **Membership/Marketing Committee Report (Christina Koomen)**- Christina talked about upcoming training dates, and discussed an article that she wanted to publish on the Garlic mustard Pull that our chapter had participated in earlier, from a write-up that Sharon vest had done. She also stated that she would like to re-design the web site to make it more appealing and more user-friendly. Bill suggested that she use Nancy as a beta test user of the redesigned pages, since she had a proclivity to want web applications and navigation to be intuitive, with little or no training/practice required to do what you wanted and/or find what you were looking for.

- **Curriculum Committee Report (Lynda Calkins)** Lynda Calkins, as outgoing vice president and chair of the curriculum committee, turned the committee over to Nancy Fabian, as the new chair. She then led discussion on the fall class planning, and stated that she would continue to work with the committee and provide all materials she had from previous class planning over to Nancy. Some discussion on transition and who the current committee members were followed, and Nancy said she would request an initial 2012 committee meeting with the next week.

- **Advanced Training/Project committee report (Fred Walters).** Fred was unable to attend the meeting, so no committee report was available, however, opportunities for advanced training and project work was discussed.

- Lynda asked if Bill and Nancy would coordinate Virginia Save our Streams training so she could participate and become a certified stream monitor. Nancy said she would talk to Wes Jarkowsky about setting something up.

- Denny suggested we look at the training available from Project Learning Tree. Numerous modules were available, and the watershed model could be used to bring the pelts and skulls that we borrowed from the State Park could be brought into the schools. Beth brought up the opportunity for hosting a workshop for Project Learning Tree. In the past they have provided books for free to organizations who host workshops. The normal cost of books, like those for "Project Wet" e.g., were on the order of \$25.00. Sharon asked that once you had the training, how would you get into the schools to teach these classes. Beth replied that the logical first contact would be the school principal. She also stated that Denny was doing a lot of



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outreach to school age children in his new capacity at DOF, and shadowing him on some of these excursions might be another way of gaining entry. Bill suggested that if we were to pursue this, that someone would need to write up a project for it so we would have something to charge volunteer hours to.

- Laurie mentioned that the Nature Conservancy was looking for monitors. She currently was doing monitoring of Bottom Creek gorge.
- Jim Bush asked how he might be able to claim volunteer hours for work he has been doing with the American Chestnut foundation, and the Roanoke Tree Stewards organization. Bill told him to write up a project for tree steward management, and submit it to Denny for approval.
- Dennis Woodson mentioned that he had completed his 40 hours this year by volunteering at a 4H camp, and that it was extremely rewarding. The camp is held the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June every year, and that would provide an opportunity for those who wished to participate in next year's camp.
- Dennis also mentioned a Citizen Science opportunity with the Virginia Herpetological Society. They have a web site that allows people to submit sighting and photo information on various species of interest. There is a link to Eastern Box Turtle reporting, for example. They use this information to update local County population estimates. Bill asked Dennis if he would write up a project proposal for this activity, so multiple members could participate and claim their time as volunteer hours. Dennis said he would.

**Remaining Meeting dates for 2012 (third Sunday of listed month):**

Generally, the Executive committee meets at 2:30 and general membership meeting is at 3 PM.

- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter                      Oct 21

**Adjournment of Meeting:**

With no further new business, Laurie Spangler motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ann Stinnett seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 pm, at which time the annual picnic began.

Minutes recorded and submitted by  
Bill Fabian, Secretary



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