



Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists Quarterly Meeting
Sunday January 15, 2012
Virginia Department of Forestry Office, Salem

Attendance: Beth Hawse , Nancy Fabian, Bill Fabian, Jim Bush, Pat Taylor, Dennis Woodson, Denny McCarthy, Sharon Vest, Ann Stinnett, Lynda Calkins, Victor Fischer, Grace Terry, Laurie Spangler, Scott Spangler, Ryan Klopf, Sara Koropchak (16)

Call to Order: The general membership meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM by Beth Hawse.

Old Business:

- **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. Sharon made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed; Nancy seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Treasurer's Report (Ann Stinnett)** - Ann, reported a current balance of \$782.50. The only outstanding debits were for a Board approved recently purchased shelter for the Chapter to use when putting on outdoor displays at events, and a five dollar registration fee for participation in the upcoming Roanoke Earth Day celebration on 21 April. Nancy Fabian asked what means we had to raise funds for the Chapter, and Ann reported that the primary income was from class fees, but had been supplemented by efforts like the recent hat sales. Ann suggested that her company was currently working on an order for T-shirts and Polo shirts for another Chapter, and that we could also get something like that going if there was interest. Ann will provide Bill Fabian with some pricing and timelines, and he will canvas the Chapter for interest and preorder numbers.

- Beth Hawse asked Bill Fabian for the status of the DGIF permit application drafts. Bill told the group that he had not gotten started on them yet due to other priorities, but that he had them on his list of things to do and would get them going in the near future.

- Beth stated that the VMN/VMS system was on line and working for our Chapter. She outlined the need to get on line and start keeping our hours on the automated system. She noted that Denny McCarthy needed to put all our projects into the system, since service hours had to be charged against a project that was in the system. Admin hours, including time spent attending quarterly meetings, as well as Continuing Education hours can be entered now since the Categories for "Administrative Time" and "Advanced Training /Continuing Education" are generic and already on the system. That generated discussion about projects and project approval. Beth stressed the need to get all projects written up, submitted to Denny, at dennis.mccarthy@dof.virginia.gov, for his approval and entry into the system. That way, when short notice volunteer opportunities came up, members could record their time to it. In the past, volunteer work for projects initiated by other chapters and sponsoring agencies was assumed to be valid approved, but those projects need to be approved in the system for our chapter, so if another chapter has an approved project, we should get a



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copy of the write up and get it modified for our chapter, submitted to Denny for approval, so he could put it into the system for our members to charge their volunteer hours to.

- We discussed the status of nametags which the Chapter had agreed to buy for newly certified members, and the status of everyone's contact information on the membership list spreadsheet. Denny agreed to send a list of those who needed nametags ordered to Ann Stinnett, who would take action on the purchase.

New Business:

- Nancy Fabian announced that the Board had approved purchase of a booth space at the Roanoke Earth Day Celebration on Grandin Street on the 21st of April. The purpose of our booth was to raise awareness of the Roanoke Valley Master Naturalist Chapter and provide information to potential recruits for the 2012 class in September. The board had also approved the purchase of a shelter for this and other events. Beth described the shelter to the group and Bill Fabian gave an update on its expected arrival date. (Author's Note: The shelter was received on 17 April). Nancy asked for any pictures that would aid in making an attractive display board that members might have. Ann Stinnett said she had some good ones of Girls Scouts and trees, as well as some good micro-invertebrate session pictures. Nancy agreed to download pictures from the web site. There was also discussion of members taking more pictures for use at these events including hosts getting pictures of some of the excellent instructors our Chapter has been fortunate enough to bring in to the basic training classes. This would be an attractive aspect to recruit new members if they understood that they would get good quality instruction in the classroom.

- This led to discussion of the State wide Virginia Master Naturalist photo contest that Beth had previously announced to the members through e-mail. She passed around the announcement for everyone to look at, and Bill Fabian summarized the gist of the contest. Each Chapter would be allowed to submit two photos to the contest and the winning Chapter's photos would be on display in Richmond for the year. One photo should be of fauna, and the other of flora.

- Lynda Calkins led discussion on the fall class planning, requesting that all who were interested in helping to get the curriculum planned needed to volunteer soon so the committee could meet and get assignments made for securing instructors, dates and hosts. Beth Hawse brought up that those who had missed required classes from their basic course for last year could make up those classes by volunteering to host that bloc of instruction in the new class, thereby getting volunteer hours and class requirements satisfied at the same time.

- Beth Hawse opened discussion on getting together an election committee for nominating candidates for the biannual election of Chapter officers. She stated that officers were elected for a two year term, and limited to two consecutive terms in the same office. For our Chapter, the first two year term will be coming to an end this year. Beth, as the only "past" president of the chapter, was



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nominated to serve as the committee chair, and she needed two other committee members. Laurie Spangler, and Dennis Woodson volunteered and were approved by the board at the meeting.

- Ryan Klopff from the Virginia Division of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) introduced his role in DCR in maintaining Natural Area Preserves (NAP), and discussed his desire to define volunteer opportunities in preserves in our area. He specifically mentioned efforts needed for re-sampling vegetation plots on Poor Mountain for studies related to Pirate Bush regeneration, i.e. whether it would do better in prairie versus woodland communities, and if fire might play a role in its reseeding lifecycle. Measurements and correlations would be needed for that study as well. He also said Grassy Hill NAP was planned to have trails going in, and signage would be needed for Peddler Hill later when they completed access roads.

- Bill Fabian asked if our Chapter would like to set up an event for the Virginia Invasive Plant Removal Day scheduled for May 5th, 2012. Beth asked Ryan Klopff of DCF if he knew of any events or opportunities that they had planned or needed to get help on. Ryan said that the only invasives they currently had pending were Garlic Mustard and Tree of Heaven, but that if we waited until May 5th it might be too late for the Garlic mustard since it started to bloom early this spring. The Tree of Heaven required use of a commercial grade herbicide, and would need someone certified in its use. After group discussion we determined that a Garlic mustard pulling event could be scheduled for Sunday the 22nd of April instead of May 5th. Sharon Vest agreed to take the lead for the Chapter and get an e-mail out to the membership.

- Beth Hawse opened discussion on the annual picnic in conjunction with the next quarterly meeting scheduled for July 15th. Although last year's picnic and quarterly meeting were held at Douthat State Park, Beth no longer worked there, and asked about alternative locations. Nancy Fabian volunteered the Fabian property, 134 Yarrow Lane, Fincastle, Virginia, 24090, since there was plenty of outside space available, and plenty of indoor space as well should the weather be inclement. After discussion, Bill Fabian motioned to have a pot luck picnic after the meeting, and the Chapter would provide pre-cooked chicken from Kroger which had turned out well last year. Lynda Calkins seconded the motion which passed unanimously, and Lynda volunteered to pick up the chicken at the Daleville store. Nancy Fabian volunteered to organize and coordinate the pot luck contributions, so we wouldn't end up with too much of one type dish and not enough of others.

- Ryan Knopf 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.

Subcommittee Reports:



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- **Executive Committee Report (Beth Hawse)** – Beth Hawse restated that the executive committee discussion centered around the purchase of the tent and weights, and the clarifications she had received from Michelle Prysby about use of the VMS/VMN system that were discussed previously in the meeting.

- **Membership/Marketing Committee Report (Christina Koomen)**- Christina was not present, but Nancy Fabian reported that she had discussed plans for the Earth Day event with Kristina, and that she would send e-mail to the membership for volunteers to man the booth in two hour blocks.

- **Curriculum Committee Report (Lynda Calkins)** Linda reported that it was time to start having committee meetings in order to allocate tasks for getting the curriculum set and securing commitments from instructors and class hosts for the Basic class beginning in September. She stated that volunteers to help with the committee should contact her at lcalkins123@gmail.com. Bill Fabian and Ann Stinnett are currently participating on this committee.

- **Advanced Training/Project committee report (Fred Walters).** Fred was unable to attend the meeting, but an opportunity for advanced training, and some project work was discussed.

- Beth brought up the opportunity for Advanced Habitat Facilitator training given by Carol Heiser of DGIF, which she had previously forwarded to the membership. Several of our members had attended similar training last year, but Carol had indicated that, although that training was not a pre-requisite for the current course, that the current course would supplement that training and was designed specifically for Virginia master naturalists. The class is scheduled for May 1st in Fredericksburg, VA, from 9:30 – 4:00. Registration deadline is April 20th, 2012, and the registration form and instructions are attached.

- Jim Bush asked if we had planned a half work day at the Icimani Girl Scout Camp. He stated that there were still tree signs to be put up and other possible work. Lynda said that she would follow up and notify the group of volunteer opportunities for that project.

- Dennis Woodson mentioned that he had attended the latest meeting of the Tri-County Wildlife and Forestry Association. He stated that there may be opportunities for projects associated with that group. More information on the group can be found by registering at www.tricountyva.org.

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.



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- 3rd Quarter July 15 (tentative picnic)
- 4th Quarter Oct 21

Adjournment of Meeting:

Lynda Calkins motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ann Stinnett seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by
Bill Fabian, Acting Secretary
Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists