



Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Sunday October 21, 2012
Virginia Department of Forestry, Salem

Attendance: Nancy Fabian, Bill Fabian, Dennis Woodson, Christina Koomen, Beth Hawse, Sharon Vest, Larry Bradfield, Bob Peckman, Kris Peckman, Mike Crowder, Bill Moore, Pat Taylor, Carl Reed, Pat Malotte, Laura Beltran, Betsy Cook, Laurie Spangler, Scott Spangler, James Clarke, Asia Clarke, Jaslyn Gilbert, Sally Sizer, Carina Hughes, Joesephine Clark (24)

Call to Order: The general membership meeting was called to order at 4:45 PM by Beth Hawse.

Old Business:

Treasurer's Report (Ann Stinnett) – Ann was absent, so Beth asked for a motion to table the treasurer's report until we could get it. Sharon made the motion and Larry seconded. It was passed unanimously. Ann later forwarded the report as follows:

- Total balance as of January 21st, 2013 is \$ 2,316.79.
- Wrote one check for \$260.72 to Bill Fabian for class books and jump drives.
- Deposited \$30.00 for classes attended by non-members.

Coordination of the Draft minutes, provided XXX Yea's and no Nay's on a vote to accept the Treasurer's report, and will be considered accepted.

• **Secretary's Report (Bill Fabian)** – The minutes for the third quarter meeting had been forwarded to all members and corrections made according to comments received. Laurie made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed; Dennis seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously. Bill then discussed the old action items, and stated that most action items had been addressed and that results would be discussed in old business. No new action items had been assigned from the October meeting due to low attendance.

- **Other old business** –

- Nancy reported that the new version of the Virginia Native Plant guide was now available to members for \$2.00 each. We had purchased 100 copies, enough to provide a copy for the current class as part of their materials with enough left over for current members and to use for the next class.

- Bill Fabian reported the final results of the fall Basic course. Twenty of the twenty-two student who started the course had successfully completed both the written and practical exams, and all but two had completed the requisite hours to become members. The two who still needed hours each needed to make up a field trip, and were planning on getting that done.



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- Sharon Vest had coordinated with George at the Icimani Girl Scout camp. He said the work they needed done on the trails was more than just maintenance; i.e. they needed some actual trail construction done. The other work that needed to be done included vegetation removal, clearing on the trails, and flower bed maintenance. Some of the tree ID signs needed correction as well. Bill suggested that for the trail building, Sharon get George in touch with Hugh Scruggs, a graduate of the fall class who was now the lead on the generalized trail maintenance project. She agreed to put them in contact.

- Nancy Fabian had an update on the metal collection project that she would discuss under the projects portion of the agenda.

- Christina Koomen provided an update on the new web site. It had been approved by the executive committee for format, and other than content updates it was ready to go live. Bill mentioned that another new member, Jon Beard, had been given administrative privileges for maintaining the photos on the VMS site, and he had some photos of some of the class field trips he was going to post. She might want to contact him about other photos.

- **Old Business Not Discussed – Fund raisers:**

- Bill Fabian had brought to the meeting the seven remaining ball caps with the Virginia Master Naturalist logo on them to the meeting, but had forgotten to include them on the agenda as being available for to offer them up to the members for sale of \$15.00 each. If any members are interested, let him know and he will make them available on a first come first serve basis.

- Lynda Calkins had completed the action to price out t-shirts and polo shirts with the Master Naturalist logo, and had sent Bill an e-mail with her results. T-shirts would cost roughly \$7.00 - \$10.00 depending on how many colors we used on the shirt, and that Polos would be roughly \$15.00 - \$20.00 depending on the logo and quality of the shirt. Bill Fabian will canvas the Chapter for interest and preorder numbers in a separate e-mail from the one distributing these minutes.

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Executive Committee Report (Beth Hawse)** – Beth reported that the main topic of the executive committee discussion was the dates of the next basic course, and would be discussed further under new business with the full membership. She also announced that we have a new state coordinator, Alicia Crall, acrall@vt.edu, (435)872-4580.



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- **Membership/Marketing Committee Report (Christina Koomen)**- Christina discussed the new web site and said it was pretty good now but still needed content improvement. She also reminded us that Earth Day was coming up in April, and we should register for a booth again this year.

- **Curriculum Committee Report (Nancy Fabian)** Nancy said the class had been a good success. Bill Fabian noted that 20 of the 21 trainees had passed their written and practical exams and 18 were now new members. One student chose not to take the exams, and two needed to make up a field trip to complete their basic course. Nancy also said that we needed to decide on what gifts to provide instructors for the next class and that we needed to make a decision on whether to have the next class this coming fall, or to schedule it in the Spring of 2014. After discussion Nancy motioned and Sharon seconded to have the next class in the Spring. The motion passed with only one dissent.

- **Advanced Training/Project committee report (Fred Walters).** Fred was unable to attend the meeting, so no committee report was available. Fred has not been available for the last three meetings, so Nancy said she would call him to see if he still had interest in heading the committee. Ideas for training and projects were then discussed:
 - Nancy suggested that we needed to get some service projects organized and scheduled.
 - Beth brought up classes for Project Wet, Project Wild, and Project Learning Tree as potential for advanced training and then to take to youth organizations as a project. She mentioned the 4H Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) as a project event, and Dennis mentioned there was a April Boy Scout Forestry Camp that he had done in the past.
 - Nancy asked for ideas for advanced training, and the following thoughts were presented:
 - Ask Dr. Toni Pepin to lead a field trip on Wetlands
 - Ask Richard Crites to lead a field trip on geology, maybe Falls Ridge
 - Ask Mike Hazelett, Rich Crites, or Toni Pepin to lead a field trip on spring ephemerals.

New Business:

- Nancy announced that service projects dates for March and April had been scheduled through Ryan Klopff at DCR:

“Nancy,
Thanks for your interest in volunteering! Let’s go ahead with the dates you’ve suggested, and plan to do trash removal at Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve. The trails are in pretty good shape following some recent volunteer work from a local trail club. Wes, myself, or both of us will be there to assist and supply gloves, bags, and tools.
Thank you. We are looking forward to these workdays on March 9th and April 13th.”



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-Ryan”

Nancy will send out an email to the Chapter with details of time and meeting place a week or two before each event.

- Dennis mentioned that he and Nancy and Bill Fabian had given a presentation to the Tri-County Forestry and Wildlife Association on the Roanoke Valley Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists that seemed to be very well received.
- Bill Fabian suggested that we review our committee organization. The combined committee for projects and advanced training did not seem to be very active, and maybe with the new members we might get volunteers to head separate committees. Beth suggested that she thought our structure was fine, but it would be good to get volunteers for the committees. Laura Beltran volunteered to work on the Advanced Training/ Continuing Education committee.
- Bill Fabian asked if the time and dates for the quarterly meetings were still good for the chapter, now that the membership had grown from the new class. It was generally agreed that the Sunday afternoon meetings were fine.

Proposed Meeting dates for 2013 (third Sunday of listed month):

Generally, the Executive committee meets at 2:30 and general membership meeting is at 3 PM. The large meeting room at the Salem regional library has been reserved for all meetings below. If the annual picnic is held in conjunction with the July meeting, we will need to discuss a location for the picnic at the April meeting.

- **1st Quarter** **20 January 2013**
- **2nd Quarter** **21 April 2013**
- **3rd Quarter** **21 July 2013**
- **4th Quarter** **20 October 2013**

Adjournment of Meeting:

With no further new business, Sharon motioned to adjourn the meeting, Carl Reed seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 PM.

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