



Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Sunday October 27 2013
Salem Library, Salem Virginia

Attendance: Nancy Fabian, Bill Fabian, Beth Hawse, Sharon Vest, Larry Bradfield, Ann Stinnett, Dennis Woodson, Jaslyn Gilbert, Carl Reed, Donna Haley, Mike Crowder, Bill Moore (12)

Call to Order: The general membership meeting was called to order at 3:15 PM by Beth Hawse.

Old Business:

- **Secretary's Report (Bill Fabian):** The minutes for the July 2013 meeting had been forwarded to all members who attended, and corrections made according to comments received. The final minutes were forwarded to all members and posted to the VMS. Larry made a motion to forego the reading of the minutes; Bill Moore seconded and the motion passed. Bill Moore then made the motion to accept the minutes as distributed; Sharon seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Treasurer's Report (Ann Stinnett):** Ann reported as follows:
 - ✓ Total balance of the checking account as of October 27th, 2013 was \$ 2,416.79, with no changes from the last report.
 - ✓ Larry made the motion to accept the report, Sharon seconded it, and the motion carried unanimously.
- **Other old business** –
 - Nancy announced that the new Virginia Plant Guide was still available for purchase at \$2.00 (roughly the cost to the Chapter), if anyone was interested. Those wishing to purchase a copy should contact Nancy Fabian. Copies of the guide will be made available as handouts for the next basic training course in the spring.
 - Sharon Vest had coordinated a project event to trim overgrown azaleas at Happy Hollow Garden in Roanoke County. She reported the result of that project was very successful, and resulted in the Chapter being able to obtain pruning and trimming tools, the cost of which would be reimbursed by the County. She also reported that we could keep this as an ongoing project and do more trimming in the spring, after the azaleas had bloomed, but not to wait as long as we did this year. She expected they would finish blooming in late April or early May.

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Membership/Marketing Committee Report (Christina Koomen):** Christina was unable to attend, but had sent Bill Fabian a draft press release for the upcoming spring class starting the 25th of February 2014. There were some dates that needed confirmation, so Bill forwarded the draft to



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Nancy to coordinate the finalization of dates with the curriculum committee. Beth announced that she had discovered how to enable systems administration privileges on the chapter Facebook page, and had given Ann and Christina, so Christina would be able to fix the problems she had reported at the July meeting.

- **Curriculum Committee Report (Nancy Fabian):** Nancy reported that a draft schedule had been coordinated with the committee, and that the spring Basic course classes would begin on 25 February, 2014, and end 13 May, 2014, with a practical exam tentatively scheduled for May 31st. She also stated that she would like to schedule an information session sometime on the first week of January, when Denny could be there to inform potential recruits about the program. The next steps that we needed to take were to start contacting the proposed instructors to see if we could finalize the topics dates and instructors. She also reported that we needed to get gifts for the instructors. E-mail coordination had determined that mugs with the VMN logo on them would be appropriate and affordable and that we should get extras members could purchase them at cost if they desired. Ann suggested Robertson's in Salem could provide those. Bill Fabian made the motion for the chapter to authorize Nancy to investigate and procure the gifts in coordination with Ann. Carl seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mike asked if current members could attend the classes, and Bill Fabian said certainly. Nancy discussed the need for current members to volunteer as monitors for the basic training classes, and that that would be a good way to attend classes they were interested in. Beth cautioned that if members were attending classes to make up for those missed from their own basic course that they could either count the class as credit to their basic course or as volunteer time, but not both.

- **Advanced Training Committee (Ann Stinnett):** Prior to the meeting Ann had arranged an advanced training class on Bats, given by Ellen Brown, who is recognized by Bat Conservation International, she has a level 1 permit from the VDOGIF to rehabilitate orphan bats. It was very informative, not only on the biology of bats, but their importance to the ecosystem, and the problems they are facing in Virginia and the United States due to a fungus called white nose syndrome that attacks them while they are hibernating, and has seriously reduced bat populations in the eastern half of North America. She also reported that the advanced training class conducted on Back Yard Birding at the Brambleton Center on Tuesday the 22nd of October was very successful and informative. She mentioned that of the eleven people in the class, four were from our Master Naturalist Chapter. Jaslyn reported on the outcome of the ecological and SEM training conducted at Radford University on 5 October. Dr. Jason Davis provided insight into research on bluebird stress and social behavior as well as other birds that they interact within their nesting environment.

Bill Moore discussed the training for the Wildlife Mapping project that he was coordinating. The training will be held at Smith Mountain Lake on the 15th of November and consist of 3 hours of classroom training starting at 9:00 AM, the after a lunch break (not included) would be followed by 2-4 hours of field training. This training is required in order to participate in the wildlife mapping project. Bill said he would send out an e-mail in the next few days to the 13 people who had



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indicated that they were interested in participating, that detailed the directions and specific building and room where the training would be held.

Ideas for new advanced training possibilities were discussed. Jaslyn said that she was coordinating for a field trip to Radford to observe a controlled burn and get insight into the environmental consequences. Ann said that the Blue Ridge Wildlife Forest Service would provide training on the importance of Wildfires at the Garden Center from 7:00-8:30 PM on Monday evening the 28th of October. Beth said she would be interested on something on Herpetology. Ann mentioned that the program presented at the Butterfly Garden at the Center at the Square in Roanoke was very well done, and that the cost for admission included refreshments.

- **Projects Committee (Larry Bradfield).** Larry talked about the status of the Adopt an Overlook project he had been coordinating with the US Park Service and Friends of the Blue Ridge. He had completed the application to adopt Harvey's Knob for level 1 maintenance, and asked for volunteers who might work on this project to fill out and sign the required waiver forms. The project will consist of cleaning up the Harvey's Knob overlook of trash and debris once a month when the parkway is not closed due to weather in the winter months. A number of people signed up to help, and Bill Fabian mentioned that we needed a project lead to coordinate the actual dates and times when a 2-3 person team would go out and perform the service. Carl volunteered to be the lead and coordinate the monthly schedule. Those members who did not get a waiver form but would like to volunteer for this project should fill out and sign the form that is enclosed with the e-mail distributing the minutes and return it to Larry Bradfield so he can get it to the Park service.

New Business:

- Beth announced that DCR had a good resource for learning about rare Lepidoptera species in Virginia: "*Atlas of Rare Butterflies, Skippers, Moths, Dragonflies, and Damselflies of Virginia*", and had sent out an e-mail to everyone with the web site: <http://www.vararespecies.org>.
- Beth encouraged members to attend one of several strategic planning sessions for the future of the VMN program that are going to be held at various locations around the state. The nearest to us being a session in Blacksburg on the 18th of November. There is a limit to 50 seats, and registration is required. Lunch will be provided. Please register by November 8th at the following link: www.regonline.com/vmnstrategicplanningsessions_1286127
 - Questions? Contact Alycia Crall (acrall@vt.edu)
- Beth briefed on results of two conferences; the Virginia Naturally Environmental Education Conference held in Richmond, Oct 16-18, preceding the VMN Master Naturalist annual statewide meeting held on October 18-20. She stated that they went well, and that there is talk of combining the two into a single conference in the future.



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- Beth noted that our presenter for the Bat training was not allowed to take compensation for her class, but had offered us the opportunity to make a donation to the Bat Conservation International organization. Bill made a motion that the Chapter donate \$35, Sharon seconded it and the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting dates for 2014:

We will try to have an Advanced Training session in conjunction with general membership meeting starting at 2:00 PM. The large meeting room at the Salem regional library has been reserved for the meetings below with the exception of the 3rd quarter.

- **1st Quarter** **26 January 2014**
- **2nd Quarter** **27 April 2014**
- **3rd Quarter** **20 July 2014 followed by annual picnic**
- **4th Quarter** **19 October 2014**

Adjournment of Meeting:

With no further new business, Sharon motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ann seconded the motion, and all members were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

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