



**Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday April 27 2014**  
**Science Museum, Roanoke Virginia**

**Attendance:** Nancy Fabian, Bill Fabian, Beth Hawse, Sharon Vest, Larry Bradfield, Ann Stinnett, Dennis Woodson, Bill Dwyer, Carl Reed, Donna Haley, Mike Crowder, Bill Moore, Christina Koomen, Frank Sellers, Laurie Spangler, Scott Spangler, Carolyn Hamlett, Lynda Calkins, Bob Peckman, Chris Peckman, Carina Hughes, Nicole Bird (22)

**Call to Order:** The general membership meeting was called to order at 2:15 PM by Beth Hawse.

**Old Business:**

- **Secretary's Report (Bill Fabian):** The minutes for the January 2014 meeting had been forwarded to all members. One correction had come in the day before the meeting, and Bill Fabian said he would delete the sentence that was in error and the final minutes would be posted to the VMS. Bill Moore made a motion to forego the reading of the minutes, and accept the minutes as distributed; Donna seconded and the motion passed, unanimously.
  
- **Treasurer's Report (Ann Stinnett):** Ann reported as follows:
  - ✓ Total balance of the checking account as of March 31st, 2014 was \$4,122.84.
  - ✓ Deposits made totaled \$2,540.00, \$2500 from Basic Course enrollment fees, and \$40.00 for mugs purchased.
  - ✓ Checks written the first quarter totaled \$644.70 to reimburse Bill and Nancy Fabian \$334.92 for pruning tools purchased for Happy Hollow trail maintenance, and \$309.78 and for class materials for the most recent Basic Course.
  - ✓ We will have a credit card payment that will be processed in April ofr the VMN inscribed mugs of \$469.37.
  - ✓ Bill Moore made the motion to accept the report, Laurie seconded it, and the motion carried unanimously.
  
- **Other old business** –
  - Invasive Species Removal Day is May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Coordination to work on the Greenway had fallen through, but an alternative had been proposed to pull Garlic Mustard at Mill Mountain. Bill Dwyer said he was going up there, and would coordinate with the staff to get permission.
  
  - Sharon Vest had coordinated a project event to trim overgrown azaleas at Happy Hollow Garden in Roanoke County, last summer. She said that we could do more trimming this year after the azaleas had bloomed, but she wasn't sure whether we would be pruning the same ones we did last year or just continue pruning where we left off last year. She said that she would announce an



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event when they were ready, which would probably be in June this year since they were late blooming.

○ Nancy Fabian reported the results of the Earth Day event. The Chapter had set up a booth, to educate the public on what we did and generate interest in recruiting those interested in becoming members of the Chapter. A total of 94 people stopped by the booth, and 39 people had signed up to be notified when the dates for the next Basic Course are established. Bill Dwyer and Bill Fabian rolled out the 8 x 2 1/5 foot banner that had been purchased for this and future events, and all agreed that it came out very nicely. Nancy expressed her thanks to all those who came to set up the shelter and display. She stated that with four people setting it up and taking it down, that it was up in 2-3 minutes.

○ Ann Stinnet reported on the status of a prior proposal to get t-shirts with the Chapter and VMN logo on them that we could wear when we were doing service projects and other venues when exposed to the public. She also talked about the proposal to get a number of safety vests that could be shared among the volunteers when doing things that were close to the roads and traffic. The idea was to put our Chapter and VMS logo on them as well. She had done some research and pricing and said that she would send out an e-mail to the executive committee to decide on colors sizes and quantities.

○ Bill Fabian announced the list of newly certified members and those who had recertified in 2013. He had received the certificates and pins, and handed them out to all those who were at the meeting. New certifications were awarded to Mike Crowder, Jon Beard, Donna Haley, Carina Hughes, Bill Moore, Bob Peckman, and Carl Reed. Recertification pins were awarded to Bill Fabian, Nancy Fabian, Daniel Harrison, Beth Hawse, Laurie Spangler, Scott Spangler, and Pat Taylor. Additionally, Beth and Bill Fabian had received 250 hour milestone lapel pins and rockers. Lapel pins are awarded when a member performs a total of 250 hours, 500 hours, and 1000 hours over the lifetime of his/her membership.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

• **Membership/Marketing Committee Report (Christina Koomen):** Christina announced that she would post the January minutes to the web site when they were finalized. Nicole Bird had volunteered to be the webmaster for our web site, and would work with Christina to get the information about the site, and start working on design and content. Donna Haley had brought up the opportunity for setting up our booth at the Troutville Trail Days, and Nancy Fabian announced that she would get with Donna to coordinate with the event sponsors to get us set up for a booth on Saturday and /or Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. We could do another recruiting event like we did for Earth Day, and possibly set up a sustainable gardening display.



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- **Curriculum Committee Report (Nancy Fabian):** Nancy reported that Basic course was well under way, with only two more classes and one field trip left. The class was very successful with 25 trainees with the last class scheduled for Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, and a practical exam tentatively scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup>. There were a lot of participants who had volunteered for class and field trip monitoring, and the instructors had been excellent again this year. She did announce that we would need some help with setting up the practicum, and venues were discussed as to where to have the practicum. Use of Fishburn or another of the parks was suggested as well as Mill Mountain. Bill Dwyer said he would ask about internet connection and possible use of the facility at Mill Mountain when he was there.

- **Advanced Training Committee (Ann Stinnett):** Ann had coordinated Butterfly Garden training for Advanced Training/Continuing Education in conjunction with the quarterly meeting. Derek Kellogg provided 1 ½ hour presentation and tour of the Butterfly garden at the Science museum, from 3:00-4:30, after which the rest of the quarterly meeting continued. Ann had contacted Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes, Central Virginia, and New River Valley chapters about whether they might be interested in trying to do some shared Advanced Training/Continuing Education sessions. The Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes and Central Virginia Chapters were interested. She hadn't heard back yet from New River valley. She also contacted the Alleghany Highlands Chapter but they had merged with the Bath and Highlands Chapter, and were now meeting in Hot Springs, which put them a little too far out to go for shared training classes. Ideas for continuing education were discussed. Bill Fabian mentioned that Dr. Pepin had agreed to conduct another tree ID / Plant ID walk at Fishburn Park, to both give the members who missed the basic course field trip due to it being scheduled at the same time as Earth Day a chance to make up the class as well as to serve for advanced training for other Chapter members who wished to attend. Bill Fabian will coordinate with Dr. Pepin to get a date scheduled. Bill Fabian offered to schedule an advanced training class on use of VMS for all members. A venue for the class was suggested to use the computer lab at the Hollins library, so trainees could get hands on experience in navigating the web application. He also mentioned that he had talked to Maureen Eiger and Laura Beltran at the Roanoke Valley Bird Club booth at Earth Day the day before the meeting, and Laura who leads bird walks at Greenfield Lake on Wednesdays during the summer months offered to let members join the walks, or if they needed to get training at another time she would be happy to try to accommodate them. Maureen, who is an Avian Rehabilitator with Category II state and federal bird permits offered to provide some advanced training on bird rehabilitation. She had presented at one of our quarterly meetings in 2011, and was well received.

- **Projects Committee (Larry Bradfield).** Larry talked about the status of the Adopt an Overlook project we are partnered with the US Park Service and Friends of the Blue Ridge. The project consists 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. He asked Carl, the project lead to discuss the starting schedule for this summer. Carl proposed some dates for the first cleanup, and after discussion of weather issues, we decided on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 0900, for the first monthly



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cleanup. Carl said he would send out an e-mail to organize those who wanted to volunteer, and that he would bring Park Service required waiver forms for those who wanted to participate, but had not yet filled out a form.

**New Business:**

- Beth announced that the next meeting in July would be in conjunction with the election of new officers and that in years past we also held our annual picnic after the meeting. She asked if the forum used in the past, where the Chapter provided the fried chicken, and members signed up to bring in a side dish, or dessert, or drinks, or plates/utensils/napkins etc., was acceptable for this year as well. The group agreed to this forum, and discussion ensued as to an appropriate location. After discussion, we decided to rent the Mill Mountain Pavilion for the meeting and the picnic. Nancy Fabian volunteered to coordinate the pot luck for the picnic, Ann and Lynda volunteered to purchase and bring the fried chicken, and Bill Dwyer volunteered to see about reserving the mill Mountain Pavilion.
- Beth then discussed the procedures that were needed for the election of new officers. Officers are elected for two year terms. She noted that she had served two terms as president, and was no longer eligible, so the president's position would be vacant. She then queried the other officers as to their willingness to continue for another term. Nancy Fabian said she would be willing to serve another term as vice president, if elected, which also includes chairing the Curriculum committee. Ann, who had served two terms as Treasurer did not want to continue in that position. Sharon, who had been Chapter Historian, said she was ready to step down. Bill Fabian said that he no longer wanted to serve as Secretary, but that he would consider serving as president, if no-one else wanted the job. He did say, however, that he would continue working on the curriculum committee, and serve as the basic class coordinator, and VMS administrator, which technically are not part of the Secretary's responsibility. Beth then noted that we needed to ask the members for volunteers and/or nominations for all the officer positions, and have a slate ready at least two weeks ahead of the election. Bill Fabian said he would send an e-mail to all members describing the officer positions' responsibilities, and asking for volunteers and/or nominations. Beth volunteered as outgoing president to serve as the nominating committee chair.
- Nancy Fabian brought up the subject of doing a project for invasive species removal day, scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Denny had started coordination with the Greenway to maybe set something up. Bill Fabian noted that Denny had been in Southwest Virginia fighting fires, and probably hadn't been able to finalize discussions, and that the person he had been talking to had not contacted us, so we might need to consider an alternative. Bill Fabian also said that one of our new Basic Course participants, Mary Harshfield, had mentioned to him at



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Earth Day that the Mill Mountain county park paths has quite a bit of Garlic Mustard in bloom, and that that might be a target for a volunteer event. Bill Dwyer said he would coordinate with the folks at Mill Mountain to get permission to pull the garlic mustard when he was there checking about the pavilion for the picnic.

- Dennis Woodson brought up a volunteer opportunity in support of the Virginia Herpetology Society (VHS). They would be conducting their annual survey at James River State Park on Saturday and Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. When asked what the volunteers would be doing, he noted that they would be identifying and noting any reptiles and amphibians they saw. He said that those who were interested needed to register in advance, and that registration could be accomplished, and full details could be found at the VHS web site, <http://www.virginiaherpetologicalsociety.com/2014-events/springsurvey.htm>.
- Beth talked about the opportunity for volunteers to chaperone at one of the 4H summer camps. She noted that volunteers could get their entire 40 hours of volunteer time for their annual certification requirement accomplished at one event. Dennis asked Bill Fabian if he knew whether the participants in the current basic course were aware of this opportunity and /or the other camps such as the Forestry camp he had participated in the year before. Bill stated that he didn't know but if Beth would come to the next class she could make them aware. Since training is required in advance of attending these camps, those interested in volunteering for this summer at Smith Mountain Lake should contact Beth as soon as possible to get scheduled, [bhawse@vt.edu](mailto:bhawse@vt.edu).
- Dennis also noted that he, Christina Koomen and Sharon Vest had attended the Roanoke County Bear Seminar, and that it was very informative. He said he had brought some extra brochures if anyone was interested. After those were distributed to interested parties, and Bill Fabian said he would take those that were left to the next Basic class and make them available to members not at the meeting.
- Beth noted that at the Bat training conducted last July that magazines had been handed out from the Bat Society, and members who had taken them had read them and returned them to share with the membership. Those too, were distributed to interested members present.

**Remaining Meeting dates for 2014:**

For the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly meeting 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 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly meeting from 1:30- 5:00. Note that the meeting date was changed from the previously scheduled third Sunday in October to the last Sunday in October due to unavailability of the room on the 19<sup>th</sup>.



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- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter                    20 July 2014 followed by annual picnic at Mill Mountain
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter                    26 October 2014 at Salem Library

**Adjournment of Meeting:**

With no further new business, Bill Moore motioned to adjourn the meeting, Bill Fabian seconded the motion, and all members were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

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