



Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Sunday, October 11, 2015

Salem Public Library, Salem, VA

Attendance: Larry Bradfield, Dan Cohen, Mike Crowder, Bill Fabian, Nancy Fabian, Gwinn Firing, Donna Haley, Ellen Holtman, Scott Karns, Christina Koomen, Bill Moore, Pat Taylor, Bill Wilkinson, Janet Wilkinson (14)

Call to Order: The general membership meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Bill Fabian.

Old Business:

- **Treasurer's Report (Mike Crowder):** Mike reported on the 3rd quarter financial report as follows:
 - The beginning balance was \$2,799.72
 - There were no deposits in the 3rd quarter
 - Checks written were in the amount of \$58.96 to Nancy Fabian and \$50.00 to Janet Wilkinson
 - Ending balance was \$2,690.76.
 - Bill Moore made a motion to accept the report, which was seconded by Ellen Holtman; the motion carried unanimously.
- **Secretary's Report (Bill Fabian):** Janet Wilkinson will be the Secretary until the July 2016 officer elections.
- **Other Old Business:**
 - Go Outside Festival status (Janet Wilkinson) – Our chapter will have a booth at the Go Outside Festival on October 16 (6-9 PM), October 17 (10-8 PM) and October 18 (10-5 PM). We have about a dozen people signed up to help at the booth over the course of the weekend. Volunteers have started turning in pressed leaves for art projects at the booth, but further submissions are always appreciated and can be brought to the booth at the festival. Scott Karns inquired about selling VMN merchandise, such as hats, T-shirts, tote bags, and mugs that

the chapter has in stock. Bill Fabian will get these items to Janet Wilkinson within a couple of days.

- Patches status (Nancy Fabian presented on behalf of Elizabeth Bailie) – Nancy reviewed the email that Elizabeth sent to chapter members regarding the patch design, color and pricing. After discussion of pricing and inventory, Gwinn Firing made a motion that the chapter purchase 100 patches (color SC338). The motion was seconded by Ellen Holtman and carried unanimously.
- SW Regional Inter-chapter Conference (Bill and Nancy Fabian) – Bill reported that there were eight members of our chapter at the conference on September 26. Bill stated the conference was worthwhile and explained the sessions that were available to conference attendees, including one he attended on ants by the VA Museum of Natural History. There is a possible new citizen science project for ant collection and identification. Nancy gave a report on the sessions she attended: how to plan a public event and the bluebird session presented by the state coordinator for the VA Bluebird Society. Nancy would like to see the chapter have a public education event similar to the one described by the Blue Ridge Foothills Chapter. Nancy suggested that the chapter obtain copies of a pamphlet on how to manage domestic cats and their effects on birds from the American Bird Conservancy. Everyone agreed that this would be good educational material to distribute.
- Roanoke Outdoors August 4 results (Bill Fabian) – No one involved was present to address this event, but Bill's understanding is that it went well.
- Explore Park events (Bill Fabian) – Bill stated that the chapter had a successful invasive species removal season and this project is probably completed for 2015.
- Center in the Square atrium display events and status (Donna Haley) – Donna Haley presented on behalf of Freya Williams. She said that the displays have been successful and the next display date is December 12 from 10 AM - 2 PM. Volunteers are always needed for this initiative.
- Arboretum at Virginia Western Community College (Ellen Holtman) – Ellen reports that part-time employee Sharon Stinnett is leaving the arboretum; therefore, the need for tour guides in the spring will be greater. Other needs at the arboretum include mulching, composting, and other stewardship activities.
- Harvey's Knob (Mike Crowder) – On a recent visit to the site, Mike picked up about half a dozen cigarette butts, but the site was otherwise clean. He ran into regional Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway personnel who were cleaning and painting the signs. They suggested that we could put marine wax on the signs to help protect them. Support for this project wraps up for 2015 at the end of October and resumes in spring 2016.

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Membership/Marketing Committee Report (Christina Koomen):** David Williamson is taking over Facebook and website management on departure of Nicole Bird to Wilmington, NC. Christina was planning to distribute a survey regarding future plans for the chapter through Survey Monkey, but they charge \$100 if there are more than 10 questions. Possible questions include: how many activities are you involved in? Is there anything holding you back from being more active (e.g., a working person not being able to do activities during the week)? It was suggested that the survey be sent by email through the VMN volunteer system so that there would not be an expense incurred.
- **Curriculum Committee Report (Nancy Fabian):** If anyone has information about people who are interested in joining the chapter, please let Nancy know. She will start contacting people in December regarding the training classes that will begin in February at the Salem Public Library.

New Business:

- **Enabling Environmental Education students from Roanoke College (Dan Cohen):** Dan requests that environmental education students from Roanoke College be allowed to join us for our training classes and events in order to give the students hands on exposure to natural history. He envisions event support from the students to our chapter and vice versa.
- **Scholarship program for college students and scouts to attend training classes (Bill Fabian):** The idea of providing full or partial scholarships to students to join was discussed. The training class currently costs \$100. Dan Cohen will send an email to the chapter to get feedback about the idea of scholarships, whether they should be full or partial, and how many could be given per year. This program may include Boy Scouts in addition to Roanoke College students, as our training program is available to anyone 14 years old and up. Chapter member Bob Garst, who works with Boy Scouts, got details on youth training from the state VMN coordinators, Alycia Crall and Michelle Prysby. While they said training can be given to anyone 14 years old and up, project work cannot begin until one is 18 years old or older, unless accompanied by an adult parent or guardian.
- **Roanoke County Parks and Rec partnership (Bill Fabian):** Elizabeth Bailie met with Assistant Director of Parks, Mark Courtright, about plans to partner with the parks department starting next spring for maintenance projects, invasive species removal, and activities in parks, especially Green Hill Park. Christina Koomen mentioned the stakeholder meeting that the county is holding regarding Explore Park on October 20. The county will present the master plan and seek additional comments. There is an online survey available for those who want to give the county their input.

- **Board meeting with Alycia Crall and Michelle Prysby (Nancy Fabian):** Bill and Nancy Fabian and Robin Jordan met with Alycia Crall and Michelle Prysby of the state VMN program to discuss getting a new chapter advisor, as Denny McCarthy has moved. Beth Hawse of Virginia Cooperative Extension has agreed to be our temporary advisor. Robin knows someone within the Department of Environmental Quality who may be able to be our advisor.

2016 Meeting Dates: The following meeting dates were approved unanimously via a motion from Gwinn Firing and a second from Scott Karns. All general membership meetings will be held quarterly on the third Sunday of the month at 2:00 PM, with continuing education before or after, if possible.

1st quarter – January 17, 2016

2nd quarter – April 17, 2016

3rd quarter – July 17, 2016 (annual picnic)

4th quarter – October 16, 2016

Adjournment of Meeting: With no further new business, Bill Fabian motioned to adjourn the meeting. Scott Karns seconded the motion, and all members were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 2:57 PM.

Minutes recorded and submitted by

Janet Wilkinson, Secretary

Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists