



**Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists Quarterly Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2015
Mill Mountain Pavilion, Roanoke Virginia**

Attendance: Elizabeth Bailie, Art Bailie, Nicole Bird, Tyler Blount, Brian Boggs, Bill Fabian, Nancy Fabian, Ellen Holtman, Robin Jordan, Scott Karns, Christina Koomen, Gayle MacFarland, Donnie Martin, Toni Pepin, Laurie Spangler, Scott Spangler, Pat Taylor, Sharon Vest, Janet Wilkinson, Bill Wilkinson, Pat Williamson, David Williamson, and Dennis Woodson (23)

Call to Order: The general membership meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Bill Fabian.

Old Business:

1. Minutes of the April 2015 meeting had been previously distributed by email by Secretary, Bill Dwyer. Scott Spangler moved that the minutes be approved as written, Gayle MacFarland seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

2. A Treasurer's report was submitted to the officers prior to the meeting as follows:

Beginning balance:	\$2960.88
Deposits:	105.00
Checks written:	
Posters	56.80
Supplies	157.61
Other	51.75
Ending balance:	\$2799.72

It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's report be approved as written, and the report was approved unanimously.

3. Freyja Williams reported on the invasive species removal done at Explore Park. Another removal session is scheduled for July 25; please report to the parking lot at Explore Park at 8:00 am if you want to participate.

4. Nancy Fabian reported on the results of our Earth Day participation. Although the weather was not cooperating and turn out for Earth Day was less than in previous years, approximately 132 people visited our booth. We passed out over 100 tree seedlings, gave out information on local wildlife, and got the names of a number of individuals interested in the next Master Naturalist class.

5. Roanoke Public Libraries and Virginia Cooperative Extension is sponsoring an event titled “Living Roanoke: Cited Strategies for Sustainable Living” at the Main Library on August 4, 2015, from 4:00 until 9:00 pm. Bill Dwyer will be setting up a booth for RVMN with displays on local wildlife. If you are interested in assisting Bill, please contact him directly.

6. Bill Dwyer also participated as a counselor at the Forestry Camp at Holiday Lake in July. They had over 60 high school students participating, and Bill reported it was a great event. The Forestry Camp is held every summer and is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Forestry. If you want to serve next year, and get all of your volunteer hours completed in one week, contact Denny McCarthy for info.

Committee Reports:

1. Membership/Marketing Committee: Christina Koomen suggested that a membership survey be completed to determine the interests and priorities of the membership, and Robin Jordan agreed to assist. Those present approved the survey, and Christina or Robin will be contacting all members within the near future.

2. Curriculum Committee: Nancy Fabian reported that we have 15 additional members in the chapter as a result of the Basic Course completed in June 2015, many of whom were present at the meeting. In response to a question regarding the certification process, Bill Fabian stated that those in the 2015 class have until the end of June 2016 to complete their 40 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of continuing education. From that point on, the volunteer hours and continuing education are measured on a January-December calendar year. Even if the new

members complete their hours before June 2016, no action will be taken regarding getting certificates nor permanent name tags until the annual report is filed at the end of the calendar year.

3. Projects Committee: Robin Jordan reported on the Macafee Knob Task Force project, which is sponsored by the Appalachian Trail Club (ATC). Participants assist the ATC with monitoring use of the trails at Macafee Knob, and educating the public on how to minimize impact on the terrain and facilities. Anyone who wishes to assist should contact Robin, and 8 hours of training are required prior to participation.

In addition, Freyja Williams has been working with Center in the Square (CITS) to set up an educational program for visitors to the Atrium at CITS. Freyja has been setting up a table in the Atrium with information on wildlife of the Roanoke Valley. A question arose regarding the collection permit required by DGIF to collect and display wildlife-related specimens. Freyja is working on getting a permit from DGIF to allow the display of such specimens. Freyja has a meeting set up with Tiffany Beheler, the new Education Manager at CITS, on July 29. Our intent is to set up a roster of volunteers from RVMN who can work a set number of hours each month to provide information to the public at the table in the Atrium. In order for the project to be a success, we need a commitment from enough people to make sure we have coverage for the number of hours and days we set up (i.e., the first Saturday of each month). If you are interested in participating, please contact Freyja or Robin.

Ellen Holtman has also established a new volunteer project at the Community Arboretum at Virginia Western Community College. The Arboretum needs individuals to serve as tour guides for school groups who visit the Arboretum for education on plant biology, tree and plant identification, invasive species, etc. If you are interested in participating, please contact Clark BeCraft at 540-857-6388 or at cbeecraft@viriniawestern.edu.

4. Advanced Training Committee: Ann Stinnett has asked to step down as chairperson for Advanced Training. At the meeting Gayle MacFarland agreed to take over as chairperson, and Elizabeth Bailie agreed to assist. If you have any

suggestions for advanced training/continuing education, please contact Gayle or Elizabeth. During the meeting suggestions for training included having Ryan Klopff do a session on woodland diversity, having Linda Cory teach bird identification, and a session on the concept of “Leave No Trace.”

New Business:

1. Gayle MacFarland brought up the possibility of a money-making venture for the Chapter. The Salem Fair needs community groups to assist with monitoring the rooms where crafts and projects are left for display during the fair. They will pay non-profit groups for such assistance. Virginia Master Naturalists do not, however, yet have non-profit status with IRS.

2. Janet Wilkinson reported on the Roanoke GO Outside Festival, to be held October 16-18, 2015. The chapter voted and approved the expenditure of \$50 to pay the registration fee. Scott Karns, Pat and David Williamson, and Ellen Holtman all agreed to serve on the committee with Janet for the festival planning and implementation. In a subsequent email Janet reported that she has submitted our activity plan to the GO Outside organizers, and is waiting for their approval. The festival organizers require, in order to qualify for the \$50 registration, that we have an interactive activity for festival goers. Janet has proposed a tree education/identification game, leaf rubbings, and a make and take craft using fallen, pressed leaves. More information will be provided regarding this event when we get a response from the festival organizers.

3. The issue was also raised regarding the chapter obtaining patches with our chapter name and logo. Elizabeth Bailie agreed to research this issue regarding a source for the patches and the cost.

4. Bill Fabian provided information on the Virginia Society of Ornithology annual meeting that will be held in Roanoke on April 29 & 30, 2016. At past meetings the local Master Naturalist chapter had a table set up for providing information on the Virginia Master Naturalist program. The fee would be \$20 for the chapter to have a table at next April's event. Whether to participate was tabled for the January 2016 quarterly meeting.

5. Sharon Vest inquired about the status of our activities at Harvey's Knob. The chapter has adopted Harvey's Knob for clean up and maintenance. Bill Dwyer reported that he and Mike Crowder have been monitoring the overlook and that it has been properly maintained.

6. We discussed new service projects, including the bumble bee study on the Blue Ridge Parkway, monitoring the American Chestnut trees planted at Mill Mountain Park, and stream monitoring training with Sharon Stinnett for Virginia Save Our Streams. Sharon Stinnett subsequently agreed to do a training session for any RVMN members who want to get certified. If you are interested in this training, contact Bill Dwyer.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Next Meeting:

The next quarterly meeting of RVMN will be held Sunday, October 18, 2015, at the Salem Public Library.