



Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 17, 2016

Salem Public Library, Salem, VA

Attendance: Art Bailie, Brian Boggs, Barbara Coffey, Mike Crowder, George Devlin, Nancy Fabian, Gwinn Firing, Bob Garst, Mary Harshfield, Ellen Holtman, Carina Hughes, Robin Jordan, Scott Karns, Gail MacFarland, Frank Sellers, Laurie Spangler, Scott Spangler, Ann Stinnett, Pat Taylor, Bill Wilkinson, Janet Wilkinson, Freyja Williams, David Williamson and Lynn Williamson (24)

Call to Order: The general membership meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM by Nancy Fabian.

Old Business:

- **Treasurer's Report (Mike Crowder):** Mike reported on the 4th quarter financial report as follows:
 - The beginning balance was \$2,690.76
 - There were no deposits in the 4th quarter
 - Check written in the amount of \$201.00 to Allsorts for VMN patches
 - Ending balance was \$2,489.76
- **Secretary's Report (Nancy Fabian):** Janet Wilkinson emailed the minutes of the October 11, 2015 quarterly meeting to members. Scott Karns motioned to approve the October minutes and Ellen Holtman seconded the motion; the minutes were unanimously approved.
- **Other Old Business:**
 - **New Chapter Advisor:** Nancy Fabian introduced our new chapter advisor, George Devlin.
 - **RVMN Clothing Patches:** Art Bailie presented the newly ordered embroidered VMN patches. Nancy Fabian raised the question of how much the chapter should charge for the patches (they cost \$2.01 each and the chapter spent \$201.00 on a quantity of 100). After some discussion, Gail MacFarland motioned that the

chapter charge \$3.00 per patch. Scott Karns seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

- **Roanoke County Park Partners Project:** Our chapter is still working on centralizing volunteerism with Roanoke County, led by Elizabeth and Art Bailie. The goal is to have an agreement in place for our chapter to be able to quickly respond to volunteer requests in Roanoke County parks and along the greenway. Freyja Williams stated that invasive removal at Explore Park will continue as in years past. George Devlin presented ideas for a VMN mini-grant proposal for a project in Garst Mill Park to repair the riparian buffer that was destroyed when AEP cleared the area around power lines. The proposal to state VMN for up to \$1,000 in funding is due on February 1 and requires that at least 10 master naturalists participate in a project for up to one year duration. George will check with the Department of Forestry regarding the availability of plants and what plants will reduce the need for cutting by AEP, which will then be communicated to AEP's forester.
- **Go Fest Results:** At least 16 master naturalists participated in the Go Fest booth, whether by volunteering on site or helping with materials for the art projects. The art projects were well received by the public. At Go Fest, 31 people signed up to receive email alerts about upcoming volunteer training opportunities. There were 295 recorded contacts (population served). Six VMN logo items were sold during Go Fest weekend (to our own membership, none to the general public) for a total of \$90.00, plus a \$3.00 donation. The chapter received a thank you note from Go Fest organizers, which was read to the membership by Janet Wilkinson.
- **Center in the Square:** There are currently two opportunities available for volunteer hours at CITS: tank team docent and the monthly education table. Freyja Williams has spoken with the volunteer coordinator of the Science Museum, Kathleen, about opportunities for volunteering at the touch tank and the butterfly garden. For either of these opportunities, there is a one-hour training class required. Freyja said that permission has been granted for VMN volunteers to wear our VMN logo items while volunteering at the Science Museum.
- **VMN Logo Items:** Nancy Fabian stated that VMN logo items are available for \$15 each. She noted the dwindling number of T-shirts and hats that are available and asked whether the membership thought additional inventory should be added. Everyone agreed this would be beneficial.

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Membership/Marketing Committee Report (Nancy Fabian):** A meeting was held for the general public regarding upcoming VMN training on January 13. Thirty-five people attended and 15 have already submitted applications to attend the training, which begins on February 24. The training was publicized at the Go Fest booth and Brian Boggs submitted an article to So Salem, the Botetourt View, and the Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club. David Williamson inquired about limits to training class size (currently capped at 25) and suggested that if more than 25 people apply, the chapter should consider accepting more than 25. Nancy Fabian said the limiter to class size will be the capacity of the room used for the training class.
- **Curriculum Committee Report (Nancy Fabian):** The VMN training class starts of February 24 and will occur every Wednesday through the end of May at the Salem Public Library. Nancy has instructors lined up for every topic except ichthyology (George Devlin and co-workers can probably cover this topic). Nancy said that Gail MacFarland has offered to monitor every class, but two monitors are needed for each date. She asked that people email her what date(s) they would like to volunteer to monitor. David Williamson agreed to make VMN Trainee name tags for class participants.
- **Projects Committee (Robin Jordan):** There is a McAfee Knob volunteer ridgerunner training class coming up. There is one day of instruction and the first time out there is on-the-trail training with a paid ridgerunner. One advantage to participating in this project is that ridgerunners accumulate a lot of volunteer hours per day they are on the trail. Carina Hughes, VMN, is involved with this project with the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club and can be contacted for further information.
- **Advanced Training Committee Report (Gail MacFarland):** A request was made for possible subjects for future advanced training. Suggestions for presenters and topics included:
 - Maureen Eiger – Roanoke Valley Bird Club
 - Amphibian walk (similar to session held at the state VMN meeting)
 - Vernal pools
 - Fungus
 - Bluebird Society (similar to session held at the state VMN meeting)
 - American Chestnut Foundation (similar to session held at the state VMN meeting)

New Business:

- **Election of New Officers:** A new slate of officers will be elected in July. Bill Fabian will be stepping down as President, Nancy Fabian will be stepping down as Vice President, and

Mike Crowder will be stepping down as Treasurer. Nancy Fabian asked that anyone interested in being on a nominating committee email her.

- **Riparian Buffer Project:** see Roanoke County Park Partners Project under Other Old Business above.
- **Earth Day 2016:** Nancy Fabian asked who would be willing to coordinate the Earth Day booth in April. Janet Wilkinson offered to run logistics (booth supplies and volunteers) if someone else will work on the content to be delivered. Ideas for content include snake and animal skins that belong to Beth Hawse and native tree give away.
- **Bird Rehabber Needs Bird Enclosures:** Maureen Eiger, a bird rehabber who cares for orphaned and injured birds, is looking for volunteers with carpentry skills to build bird enclosures. Bob Garst, a VMN who is involved with Boy Scouts, will present the opportunity to the Boy Scouts to see if there are any Scouts who would like to help, possibly as an Eagle Scout project.
- **Roanoke City Library, Grandin Road Branch:** The Grandin Road branch has been closed for renovations and when it reopens in March they would like to offer weekly educational meetings for the general public. Freyja Williams and Scott Karns are willing to help with this project.

2016 Meeting Dates: The next quarterly general membership meeting will be on April 17, 2016 at 2:00 PM at the Salem Public Library.

Adjournment of Meeting: With no further new business, Scott Karns motioned to adjourn the meeting. Gwinn Firing seconded the motion, and all members were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Minutes recorded and submitted by

Janet Wilkinson, Secretary

Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists