



Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Sunday, April 17, 2016

Salem Public Library, Salem, VA

Attendance: Brian Boggs, Larry Bradfield, Mike Crowder, George Devlin, Bill Fabian, Nancy Fabian, Gwinn Firing, Bob Garst, Ellen Holtman, Carina Hughes, Robin Jordan, Scott Karns, Gail MacFarland, Frank Sellers, Pat Taylor, Sharon Vest, Bill Wilkinson, Janet Wilkinson, Freyja Williams, Dennis Woodson (20)

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 1st quarter financial report as follows:
 - The beginning balance was \$2,489.76
 - There were two deposits in the 1st quarter: \$93.00 and \$2,657.00
 - Total amount of checks written of \$655.28, as follows:
 - \$69.00 to Allsorts for nametags
 - \$64.50 to Janet Wilkinson for Go Outside Festival
 - \$156.99 to Nancy Fabian for classroom materials
 - \$10.00 to Janet Wilkinson for Earth Day booth
 - \$41.04 to David Williamson for nametags
 - \$11.50 to Allsorts for nametags
 - \$272.25 to Conservation Services for riparian project
 - \$30.00 to Shenandoah Valley SWCD for riparian project
 - Ending balance of \$4,584.48
- **Secretary's Report (Bill Fabian):** Janet Wilkinson previously emailed the minutes of the January 17, 2016 quarterly meeting to members. Robin Jordan motioned to approve the January minutes and Gwinn Firing seconded the motion; the minutes were unanimously approved.
- **Other Old Business:**
 - **Chapter Advisor:** Bill Fabian re-introduced our new chapter advisor, George Devlin.
 - **Garst Mill Park Riparian Buffer Project:** More than 19 people helped out over two days (March 12 and 13) at Garst Mill Park with the RVMN state grant project

to replant the riparian buffer. On March 12, VMNs removed invasive multiflora rose and prepared the area for planting. On March 13, 75 seedlings were planted, using 50 tree tubes along a 250 ft. area along both sides of the creek. Live stakes were also planted along the creek banks, in an effort to stabilize the banks. Students from Hidden Valley High School environmental and key clubs helped out on March 13. The Roanoke Times put a submitted write up and pictures on the SWOCO blog (the southwest county neighborhood newspaper).

George checked on the plantings on April 16 and reports that the elderberry and arrow wood are thriving. The spicebush does not look good after last week's freeze. The buttonbush has not changed in appearance since it was planted. Roanoke County installed fencing to protect the planted area on both sides of the creek. The plantings need to be watered at least once per week, so if anyone is at Garst Mill Park, the plantings can be watered using a bucket and creek water.

The Roanoke County Therapeutic Recreation Program has asked RVMN to assist with a tree planting on April 29 from 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM. George purchased 5 foot tall tree tubes and the seedlings are being provided for free through the Arbor Day project. The county will designate accessible locations where the trees will be planted.

Further work will be done in the future at Garst Mill Park and at Green Hill Park to place plant identification labels and trail markers.

- **Roanoke County Park Partners Project:** George Devlin mentioned that Roanoke County is willing to have RVMN perform additional work at Garst Mill Park as Park Partners (e.g., spread mulch).
- **Earth Day:** Janet Wilkinson is coordinating the logistics for the RVMN booth at Earth Day on Saturday, April 23. The event runs from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM at River's Edge Park in Roanoke. Janet has sent emails with more details regarding volunteering for the event.

Brian Boggs is coordinating the booth activity (providing free seedlings to the public). Brian has obtained 100 crab apple, 100 hazelnut, and 300 short leaf pine seedlings from Joseph Boswell at the Department of Forestry. We will be displaying a Department of Forestry sign at the booth as well as RVMN signs. Brian will pick up the seedlings on Thursday, two days before the event.

- **Election of New Officers:** New chapter officers will be elected at the quarterly meeting in July. Please let Nancy Fabian know if you are willing to be President or Vice President. The following members have expressed interest in these offices:
 - Frank Zeller – Treasurer
 - Scott Karns – Secretary
 - Brian Boggs – Marketing

- **Third Quarterly Meeting and Picnic in July:** Possible locations for the picnic and meeting to be held on Sunday, July 17 at 2:00 PM were discussed. It was decided that Janet Wilkinson will look into reserving (or renting) a picnic shelter, preferably at Garst Mill Park (preferred because of our involvement with this park through the riparian buffer project). The backup locations are Green Hill Park or Mill Mountain. As was done last year, the chapter will purchase chicken and the other food items will be potluck, brought by the members. Nancy Fabian will send out a notice in advance of the July potluck to coordinate who is bringing what.
- **VMN Logo Items:** Nancy Fabian stated that VMN logo items are available for \$15 each. As supplies/sizes are currently limited, an order for more items needs to be placed. Scott Karns volunteered to coordinate this effort by contacting High Peaks to check availability of both cotton and moisture-wicking shirts and hats. Scott will email members to see who is interested in ordering apparel.
- **State VMN Update:** Michelle Prysby is the new program coordinator for the state VMN.

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Curriculum Committee (Nancy Fabian):** Twenty-six trainees (27 trainees were accepted; a few applications were rejected) are half way through this year's class. The practical exam is Saturday, May 21 at the Fabian's house (volunteers are needed).
- **Projects Committee (Robin Jordan):** Robin Jordan (Projects Committee Chair) will try to find out about volunteer opportunities/events and email them to members.
 - **Center in the Square:** Freyja Williams reminded members that there are currently two opportunities available for volunteer hours at CITS: tank team docent and the monthly education table. The next monthly table is tentatively scheduled for June 12, but Freyja will confirm this date by sending an email.
 - **Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club Volunteer Opportunities:** Carina Hughes updated the group about RATC volunteer opportunities. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is a national conservation group in charge of AT lobby, policy, land acquisition, and maintenance. The ATC has employees from Georgia to Maine (locally, Kathryn Herndon). RATC volunteers maintain the trail, not ATC employees. The RATC is in charge of 121 miles of the AT. The best way to be informed of volunteer opportunities is to join the RATC Meet Up group online. Brian Boggs is already part of the Meet Up group and will email chapter members when significant volunteer opportunities arise. Carina stated that one does not have to be a member of the RATC to participate in the work hikes. Saturday, June 11 is the next training for volunteer ridge runners for the McAfee's Knob Task Force. The Task Force is a good way to get a large number of hours on one day each month (usually a shift is 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM).

- **Advanced Training Committee Report (Gail MacFarland):** A request was made for possible subjects for future advanced training.

New Business:

- **Continuing Education:** Self-study is not an allowable format for continuing education; however, there are online webinars through VMN and online courses through universities (e.g., Cornell) that can be done from home. Other opportunities for continuing education include attending the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society or Roanoke Valley Bird Club meetings when there are presentations on local topics. The chapter advisor, George Devlin, will approve continuing education opportunities, should anyone have specific questions.
- **Statewide VMN Conference:** The Blue Ridge Foothills and Lakes Chapter are hosting the state VMN meeting and asked our chapter for support. Janet Wilkinson will email BRFL to get a summary of volunteer opportunities in order to centralize our response.
- **Save Our Streams:** Nancy Fabian reports that Sharon Stinett plans to provide SOS training soon (Nancy will email the membership). Nancy raised the question of how many SOS sampling kits our chapter needs, based on who is taking the training (the chapter has to order them then be reimbursed by the Isaac Walton League). Please let Nancy know if you plan to train and continuously monitor a stream location for SOS. Bill Fabian also reported that there is now a requirement to call Department of Game and Inland Fisheries 48 hours prior to collecting for SOS.
- **4H Camp Volunteer Opportunities:** Dennis Woodson brought up the possibility of volunteer opportunities at the 4H Camp this summer. There is a forestry camp in June in Appomattox and Roanoke 4H camp in July at Smith Mountain Lake. Janet Wilkinson will ask Leslie Prillaman at Cooperative Extension about volunteer opportunities.

2016 Meeting Dates: The next quarterly general membership meeting will be on July 17, 2016 at 2:00 PM (location TBD), in conjunction with the annual picnic.

Adjournment of Meeting: With no further new business, Scott Karns motioned to adjourn the meeting. Robin Jordan seconded the motion, and all members were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Minutes recorded and submitted by

Janet Wilkinson, Secretary

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