



Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Sunday, April 9, 2017

Salem Public Library, Salem, VA

Attendance: Donna Haley, Gail MacFarland, Larry Bradfield, Amy Dupuis, Joe Dupuis, Bill Fabian, Nancy Fabian, Gwinn Firing, Mark Gustafson, Tammi Cascone, Laurel Riddle, Frank Sellers, Joey Story, Pat Taylor, Sharon Vest, Bill Wilkinson, Laurie Spangler, Christina Koomen, Tammy Wood, Carissa South, Ellen Holtman, George Devlin (22)

Call to Order: The general membership meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by Donna Haley.

Old Business/Board Reports:

Minutes from last meeting were approved with no edits.

- **President's Report:** Spring activity (any edits, GD didn't catch this)
- **Vice President's Report:** class going well, bird walk was great, 4 students missed it
- **Annual Report (Bill Fabian):** submitted to VMN on Dec 31, 2016

Membership Statistics:

Trainees (those that have not completed basic course but still on the books) = 7

RVMN Members (those who completed basic course but didn't achieve certification for 2017) = 20

Certified Master Naturalists for 2017 = 35

Active Members (those who contributed at least one hour of volunteer service in 2016) = 55

Inactive members (those who haven't recorded any volunteer hours in VMS in 2016) = 63

Total hours by category: Continuing Ed/Advanced Training = 529.6

Administrative = 2,031

Citizen Science = 2,404

Education = 2,651

Stewardship = 1,903

- **Treasurer's Report (Frank Sellers):** Frank reported on the 1st quarter financial report as follows:
 - The beginning balance was \$3,820.87
 - Deposits in the 1st quarter: \$2,190.10 (class fees and sales of merchandise)
 - Total withdrawals was \$1,233.31 (class materials)
 - Ending balance of \$4,777.66. " _____ " motioned to approve the treasurer's report, " _____ " seconded the motion; the treasurer's report was unanimously approved.
- **Secretary's Report (Vacant):** Donna Haley asked for a volunteer to be chapter secretary or if anybody wanted to nominate someone. A few questions were asked about position duties but no volunteers or nominations at this time. (after the meeting, Laurel Riddle volunteered to finish the current term of Secretary which ends July 2018)

Team/Subcommittee Reports:

- **Project Committee (Robin Jordan):** Robin was unable to attend
- **Earth Day April 22nd (Tammi C. and Ellen H.):** have received some response from potential volunteers to staff booth. Event at Elwood Park, setup is 8-9 am, have booth from 9-2, same day as marathon so come early, Food Lion has donated 1,100 produce bags for tree seedlings, hoping to get # from VDOF
- **Kids-to-Parks Day May 20th at Natural Bridge:** event is 10 to 3 arrive by 9 am to setup/check in. Gretch Boeren (Park Ranger) would like VMN help leading birding walks throughout the park and SOS demo at the creek if able. Also, we can setup table with chapter info at visitor's center during lunch time. Potential volunteers can go to park prior to event (free) to view trails and birds in preparation. Call park **540-291-0330** ahead of visiting to let them know. **GD email chapter with contact info.**
- **Riparian Buffer Project (George Devlin):** brief description of Garst Mill Park riparian plantings in 2016. Help will be needed later in spring to cut back tree species growing under power lines, pulling invasive plants and installing plant labels. GD will email soon with date(s)
- **Membership/Marketing Committee (Dave Williamson):** Dave was unable to

attend meeting (I don't remember if there were any comments)

- **Project Updates:**
 - **David: ATC Phenotypes (no update)**
 - **Donna: CITS** – May 20th looking for VMN to help. We are using tree leaves and (?) for interpretation
 - **Frank Sellers: American Chestnut Foundation** – working to introduce blight resistant trees. Planting at Catawba Sustainability Center orchard. In fall, they will need help planting seeds and with pollinating. Information will be emailed and put on RVMN website for future events.
 - **Bill Fabian: Bluebird Trails:** active trails with RVMN: one at Hanging Rock GC, two on Blue Ridge Parkway, one at Botetourt CC, anyone interested in monitoring, ask Bill for information.
- **Unfinished Business:** Awards were presented to those in attendance for recertification, new certification, 250 hour and 500 hour pins.
 - **2017 Recertification:** Robin Bailey, Art Bailie, Elizabeth Bailie, Brian Boggs, Mike Crowder, Bill Dwyer, Bill Fabian, Nancy Fabian, Gwinn Firing, Donna Haley, Beth Hawse, Ellen Holtman, Carina Hughes, Robin Jordan, Scott Karns, Gail MacFarland, Frank Sellers, Laurie Spangler, Scott Spangler, Ann Stinett, Patricia Taylor, Sharon Vest, Janet Wilkinson, Bill Wilkinson, Freyja Williams, David Williamson
 - **New Certifications:** Maya Bohler, Amy Dupuis, Joe Dupuis, Chris Means, Gary Oberlander, Nancy Reid, Laurel Riddle, Frank Simms, Carissa South
 - **250 hours:** Donna Haley, Bill Wilkinson
 - **500 hours:** Bill Wilkinson

New Business:

- **Blue Ridge Environmental Educators (BREE):** Donna H. and Freyja W. are members working with BREE to find opportunities for service hours:
 - **Apple Ridge Farm:** in Floyd Co. is looking for volunteers to help teach during their summer programs for kids
 - **Clean Valley Council:** would like RVMN to have a table/booth at the Roanoke River Festival on June 3. Part of this event is the Recycle Regatta, a short race on the river with boats made from recycled, reused, repurposed materials

- **Adult Ed Trips:** to landfill, wastewater treatment plant, resource authority
- **Request from National Wildlife Federation:** the chapter was asked to help coordinate efforts in the region with the Community Wildlife Habitat Program where private homes, schools, parks etc. can become designated as wildlife friendly habitats. A committee was formed Ellen Holtman, Nancy Fabian, and Mary Harshfield are leading this effort. Please contact one of them if you want to help.
- **Advanced Training/Continuing Education Chair**
 - Scott Karns temporarily held this position (did someone volunteer?)

Carryover to next meeting:

Joe Dupuis suggested a voting procedure for photo contest. I believe Dave W. will be able to place submitted photos on the website so people can vote on them.

Virtual warehouse inventory. Some discussion on where stuff is and the banner – please edit.

Save the dates:

April 22 Earth Day at Elmwood Park

May 6 Roanoke Master Gardener plant sale at Brambleton Center

May 10 class project fair

May 13 Wildflowers sale at VWCC Arboretum

May 17 Math Day at CITS

May 20 Kids to Parks Day at Natural Bridge SP

June 3 Roanoke River Festival

July 16 RVMN Quarterly meeting

The next quarterly general membership meeting will be on October 9, 2016 at 2:00 PM at the Salem Public Library. Secretary Scott Karns will arrange for the meeting space.

Adjournment of Meeting: With no further new business,

motioned to adjourn the meeting I didn't catch if someone actually did???. The business meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM. Donna Haley followed with a presentation on Rain Gardens, Rain Barrels and Storm Water Management

Minutes recorded and submitted by:

George Devlin, Chapter Advisor
Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists