

Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, April 15, 2018

Explore Park Taubman House

Attendance:

Donna Haley, Robin Jordan, Nancy Fabian, Laurel Riddle, Tina O'Hara, Nancy Armstrong, Sally Noble, Sharon Stinnette, Phil Lochbrunner, Tammi Cascone, Regina Prunty, Denys Taylor, Sheila Vaughn

Additionally, some members went to the Taubman Art Center instead of the Explore Park Taubman House including Larry Brudfield, Carissa South, Anne Claire Shepherd, Clyde Venavale

Call to Order: The general membership meeting was called to order at 1405 by Donna Haley, President.

Board Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Frank Sellars

Deposits

Class Fee	\$2,455.20
Total Deposits	\$2,455.20

Withdrawals

Name Tags	\$21.00
Transfer back to Paypal	\$105.00
Reimb T. Casconi Class Matls	\$289.00
Go Outside Fee	\$50.00
Reimb 2 Class Fees (Cumbo)	\$200.00
Trans 2 students to BRFAL	\$50.00
Reimb T. Cascone - Gifts	\$172.72
Total Withdrawals	\$887.72

Ending

Balance **\$5,125.40**

Secretary's Report: Submitted by Laurel Riddle

Minutes were read. A motion was made to accept the minutes as read. Motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

Vice President's Report: Submitted by Tammi Cascone-Kovalcheck

2018 Spring Class –

- Tammi reported that 21 students are registered for class, 20 people come regularly
- An average of 15 students have been coming on field trips
- There have been visitors from other chapters attending to make up missed classes
- Class is going well
- Gail McFarland has monitored every class, other members have assisted
- If anyone wishes to help monitor the classes, please see Tammi

President's Report: Submitted by Donna Haley

- Donna expressed frustration that every “Kick-off” for World Wildlife Foundation Yard Habitat Certification has been interrupted by poor weather.
- Earth Day activities reviewed
- Mill Mountain Zoo – Migratory Bird Day – May 12, 2018
MMZoo would like to partner with us to reduce exotic or evasive species and replace with native plants around designated zoo habitats. Donna, with MMZoo staff, compiled a list of native plants related to the Eagle habitat. Once the Eagle habitat is finished, other enclosures will be targeted. MMZoo would also like RVMN to partner with them to conduct educational programs at the Discovery Center. They are creating back packs for check-out which include a guide book, binoculars, checklist on birds.
- Explore is wanting to include a back-pack program, also, with a more Naturalist bent. Funding for the Explore Park project is not finalized. We are waiting to get more information. Donna will be meeting with Explore Park staff to gather more information and ideas.
- Dates of upcoming projects:
 - April 28 – *Earth Day* at **Mill Mountain Zoo**
 - May 12 – *Migratory Bird Day* at **Mill Mountain Zoo**
 - June 30 – *River Fest on the Roanoke River (class may build a Regatta Boat)*
 - August/September – *Sunflower Festival at Botetourt County* (park cars or provide face painting and education for children) RVMN can keep money raised at this festival. 10,000 people showed up at last year's festival, so there is a potential for contact with a large number of people. After discussion, general consensus favored doing face painting with an education component (about bugs, for example)
 - April 29 – *Earth Day* – **Natural Bridge**
 - April 21 – *Earth Day* – **Grandin Village (Nancy Fabian) Wildlife Habitat is focus for Earth**
 - April 25 - *Earth Day at the Salem VAMC* – Clean Valley Council is making seed bombs to give away. RVMN will have a table of information regarding Wildlife Habitat

Committees:

Advisor: George Devlin

- George reported that everyone who mistakenly went to the Taubman Art Museum for this meeting will be credited for their time.

- George is planning a work day at Garst Mill Park probably in May. He said that Hemlock is growing, and will need to be removed and replaced with native plants
- The trees planted, last year, are doing well.
- He reported on the “fish fieldtrip” which will be held at Alta Mons this year

Projects: Robin Jordan

- Bluebird Monitoring – Maureen reported that a schedule has been set up.
- McAfee’s Knob – Ridge Running training is in progress
- Martinsville Natural History Museum has a number of several upcoming events and education opportunities.
- Educational opportunity – “Ancient Ocean Crossing” at 7:00 Tuesday near the YMCA in Salem
- Maureen Eiger is looking for help with Rehabilitation of wild birds for re-release. Her information was provided (bird911@cox.net)

Meeting ended with two education opportunities:

Sharon Stinnett talked about Stream Monitoring

Donna presented a video about bluebird monitoring was presented.

Meeting was adjourned right before the skies opened-up and torrential rain fell.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Riddle

Education committee:

The committee has met, and organized the upcoming new member class. Once the class list is put together, Donna or Tammi will send out a request for RVMN Members who would be interested in mentoring individual students and monitoring the classes/field trips. Gail will be able to set up the classroom before class, as she has been doing so proficiently for the past years.

Outreach Committee:

This committee will meet in February. This committee will organize education programs and promote our public presence (Go Fest, Earth Day)

Citizen Science

This committee will coordinate current projects and foster opportunities for new projects

Membership Committee:

This committee will work with outreach and education, recruiting new members, and posting information on the websites.

Hospitality Committee:

This committee will provide snacks and drinks for meetings and events and plan special membership events such as the annual picnic.

Bylaws Committee

This is a short- term committee which will meet to review and update our bylaws.

Projects Committee: Submitted by Robin Jordan

Review of current projects (these are described on the volunteer website)

- Bluebird monitoring
- McAfees Task Force – Ridgerunners
- Earth Day – April
- Center in t (the Square – next education activity will be in March. Contact person is Freyja Williams.
- Cornell Ornithology – backyard bird watches. Information can be found on the volunteer project website.

Marketing and Membership committee: David Williamson (no report)

New Projects Report: (submitted by Donna Haley)

- Backyard Certification via National Wildlife Federation. Today, the Master Gardeners are passing out applications at the Roanoke Home Show. Master Naturalists will be represented at the Salem Home show (March 24 and 25). Sign up is going around and will be sent via all-member email.
- Mill Mountain Zoo – outreach. There was a good showing at the Zoo Boo and Winter Wilds. Mill Mountain Zoo has invited the Master Naturalists to provide projects/activities for their upcoming events.
 - March 24- Spring Fling
 - April 28 – Earth Day
 - May 12 – Migratory birds

(Freyja informed the members that a salvage permit is required when using animal skeletons or parts for education or other activities. She said that she is certified to issue permits. Robin will look for a speaker to educate us about salvage permits)

- Explore Park – On opening day (April 15, 2018), Explore Park would like RVMN members to help with a “Walk in the Woods: Forest Eco-system”
- Clean Valley Day – (April 7, 2018)

- Friends of Natural Bridge is looking for volunteers for the Natural Bridge Park
- Natural History Museum in Martinsville is looking for help with projects
Ice Age Festival 1/20/2018 from 9-3.
2nd Thursdays, the Natural History Museum has speakers: paleontology , Earth Sciences, Invertebrates
- Department of Forestry – There is a grant available for projects involving planting trees (application is due within two weeks)
- Clean Valley Council – River Fest. Some members have expressed an interest in building a recycled regatta.

New Business

Bill presented the annual report. We have 70 standing members. 57 members are active volunteers. Overall volunteer hours are fewer than last years. Bill suspects that not all volunteer hours were recorded. He offered to present continuing education on VMS. Donna will post the Annual Report for membership review.

The meeting was adjourned.

Education: Katheryn Herndon Powell representing the Appalachian Trail Conservancy presented an interesting power point regarding volunteer opportunities along the Appalachian Trail including: Ridge Running, trail development and management, and invasive species management. She promoted RATC training for ridge running volunteers (3/3/2018) and Carilion's Wildlife First Aid Class (3/10/2018).

Respectfully Submitted

Laurel C. Riddle