

Roanoke Valley Master Naturalist Quarterly Meeting

January 15th, 2017

Attendees:

Dave Williamson
Lynn Williamson
Gail MacFarland
Freyja Williams
Ginny Savage
Gwinn Firing
Frank Sellers
Scott Spangler
Laurie T. Spangler
Christina Koomen
Pat Taylor
Elizabeth Bailie
Art Bailie
Laurel Riddle
Larry Brechfield
George Devlin

Meeting called to order: Robin Jordan

Board Reports:

Minutes from last meeting approved with no edits.

President's Report: Donna Haley is a guest speaker on Rain Gardens today at Roanoke Home and Garden Show at 3PM and was unable to be here.

Vice President's Report: Fabians are currently in South America. Nancy Fabian will be back January 23rd. The 2017 basic class is on track with public information session on January 25th and classes scheduled from February 22 through May 17.

Annual Report: Bill Fabian submitted the report on December 31. (Some people noted they had not yet entered hours by that date.) 2016 report numbers can be updated at a later date.

Chapter members: 60

Active Volunteers (at least one volunteer hour): 47

Continuing Education hours: 529.6

Volunteer hours towards Education/Outreach projects: 2,651

Volunteer hours towards Citizen Science: 2,404

Volunteer hours towards Stewardship projects: 1,903

Total number of people contacted: 4108

Total Administrative hours: 2,031

Total Travel Time hours: 652

Treasurer's Report: Frank Sellers presented the report.

Beginning Balance \$5,038.65

Deposits \$0.00

Withdrawals total \$1,217.78 (High Peak Sportswear \$760.36, Reimburse David Williamson \$59.97, Plants Map for Riparian Project \$258.89, Riparian Project Supplies \$138.56)

Ending Balance \$3,820.87

Secretary's Report: Scott Karnes was not present.

State Leadership Training: Attendees were Donna, David W., Frank S., and George. There was a lot of focus on establishing chapter Operating Manuals. This sparked meeting discussion on how this would clarify board and team duties and operations of the chapter. Training also covered reuse and recycling, newsletters, online communications, resources, and mentorship. Brief discussion followed on these topics with the decision to table further discussion on other topics later.

Project Committee: Robin Jordan ran down the list of current projects including Harvey's Knob Hawk Watch which will be active again during spring migration; there is a Facebook group which may be joined to keep up with highest activity and who's planning to be there. Ridgerunners will also be active again in the spring which now includes Dragon's Tooth as well as McAfee's Knob. Possible spring training dates will be forwarded to membership when known. Bluebird Trails (several locations are part of the Bluebird Monitoring Project) will also begin in the spring. CITS activities were discussed by Freyja, including the Touch Tank and the Butterfly Garden which both require training. Tabling in March, June, September, and December is a fun activity. This sparked discussion on updating the Project Listing—Robin Jordan has the ability to correct current project listings including updating contacts, just let her know. Other activities include the Great Backyard Bird Count (which is free) and FeederWatch

(which is not). FeederWatch is currently running from November 13 until early April. Great Backyard Bird Count will run from February 17 – 20 and is a great way to log hours in your armchair! Discussion also included DGIF trail maintenance, Nature's Conservancy (Bottom like chain saws).

Go Fest: The booth was not an ideal location but members enjoyed being co-located beside the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. Maybe booth locations are upgraded for groups who have been at Go Fest longer. A lot of people signed up that they were interested in the upcoming training classes and some visitors also signed up for storm water monitoring information. The 2017 date is October 13 – 15. This has proven to be a good learning activity and has generated much interest in our group.

Natural Bridge: Several members from our chapter along with members from the Alleghany Highlands chapter were attended one of the meeting with Gretch last name???XXXXXXXXXXXX at Natural Bridge. Volunteer opportunity: "Kids to Parks Day" will be May 20th from 10 to 3 and will include a wildflower walk, a bird walk, and an SOS demonstration. Any kid's activity is welcome as well that could be conducted from the picnic tables at the head of the trail under the bridge. More information will follow by email!

Riparian Buffer: George presented results from the 2016 plantings. More volunteer help will be needed this spring to label plants and trim weeds (so plantings under power lines won't be cut down along with weeds/unwanted trees).

Marketing and Membership: David Williamson reported on website updates, Paypal Account/card reader, and creating a prefilled emergency contact card for our chapter.

Continuing Education: Scott Karnes was not present but members suggesting asking Gretch from Natural Bridge about a talk, and asking Donna Haley to give us her talk on Rain Gardens. The group also wants to add information on upcoming Stem Talks on the chapter calendar online. David said that would be easy to do.

Unfinished Business:

The Alleghany chapter wants to have a joint meeting and work with us at Natural Bridge. The group was very interested in this, perhaps for a picnic at Natural Bridge.

Tree Stewards class is full. There is a waiting list.

Happy Hollow was discussed (also during the discussion on volunteer activities). There is a new volunteer coordinator for Roanoke County Parks and Recreation. We still need further clarification. This is a beautiful park and has volunteer opportunities for managing the plantings and trail maintenance.

New Business:

BREE is the Blue Ridge Environmental Educators. Donna Haley and Freyja Williams are members. Anyone may attend meetings. They are interested in coordinating opportunities for environmental education around the valley. Some ideas for service hours discussed during their meeting were Apple Ridge Farm, Clean Valley Council, and Adult Education trips. Clean Valley Council is again hosting the Roanoke River Festival on June 3. We could possibly create a float of recycled materials for the recycled regatta, with ideas on possible materials from George, or maybe we could have a booth. The adult education trips sparked everyone's interest with venues like the landfill, the wastewater treatment facility, and the resource authority.

Old Topics from Last Meeting: 1.) Joe Dubuis had suggested a voting procedure for photo contest submissions. 2.) Virtual warehouse inventory. 3.) Table setup with table skirt. These topics were again tabled.

Other: Class Graduation/project fair event from the agenda were discussed. There was a lot of excited discussion about moving the picnic to the end of the class and having people talk about projects and pair with new members. People also thought that having the quarterly meeting separate from the picnic would make it nicer for family members and visitors and allow for more social time.

2017 Save the Dates:

April 16 RVMN Quarterly Meeting

April 22 Earth Day

May 20 Kids to Parks Day (Natural Bridge)

June 3 Roanoke River Festival (Clean Valley Council)

July 16 RVMN Quarterly Meeting

September 15 – 17 VMN State Annual Meeting/Conference (Front Royal/Winchester area)

October 13 – 15 Roanoke Go Fest

October 15 RVMN Quarterly Meeting—Move date so as not to conflict with Go Fest???

The meeting was adjourned.

Training: David Williamson gave an excellent presentation on navigating various websites including our own, the state site, the VT Volunteer Management System, and other sites. The slides from the website presentation are at:

[RVMN WEBSITE OVERVIEW Jan 15 2017](#)

or

<http://www.rvmasternaturalists.org/wp-content/uploads/RVMN-WEBSITE-OVERVIEW-Jan-15-2017.pdf>