

Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, July 15, 2018

Garst Mill Park/Summer Picnic

Attendance: 31 people attended

Picnic commenced at 4pm

Call to Order: The general membership meeting was called to order at 5pm by Donna Haley, President.

Board Reports:

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

Class of 2018

Honorable mention - **Kathy Sink** did not miss any classes, did not miss any field trips, attended and passed the practical and submitted and passed the written test.

Started with 25

2 dropped out prior to start of class due to health issues

2 moved to another chapter

1 stopped attending after the first class

1 stopped attending half way through

19 regular students

15 attended and passed the practical test

13 submitted and passed the written test

3 students need to make up at least one class and/or one field trip AND need to submit the practical and/or take the practical

2 students need to make up at least one class and/or one field trip

9 students completed all requirements to be moved from Student to Member status

RVMN Board, Secretary Resignation by Laurel Riddle

She has resigned as of last week due to family/work concerns so we are recruiting for a replacement.

Basic duties include taking minutes at board and quarterly meetings, and helping with correspondence for the Spring class.

Secretary's Report: Submitted by Laurel Riddle Minutes were emailed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as sent.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Frank Sellars

Virginia Master Naturalists - Roanoke Valley Chapter

Treasurers Report - July 2018

Beginning Balance		\$5,125.40
Deposits		
Merchandise Sales	\$222.00	
Donations	\$5.00	
Total Deposits	\$227.00	
Withdrawals		
Reimb T. Cascone - Gifts	\$26.33	
Total Withdrawals	\$26.33	
Ending Balance		\$5,326.07

RVMN Board, Membership Chair Resignation by David Williamson

He made a forced career transition into independent consulting and teaching, and is having to cut back to focus on fewer things.

Basic duties include gathering an interest list for new class (Go Fest), verifying membership info and encouraging participation from members.

President's Report: Submitted by Donna Haley

VMN State Conference We hope to see you all in Fredericksburg in September 7-9! Registration now starts July 23.

Conference website: www.regonline.com/vmn2018

Photo Contest:

https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/custom.aspx?EventID=2294694&_i=%2bd%2bb8axRVZ4%3d

Please send photos to Donna at mgmom@outlook.com by **Wednesday, July 25th at 6pm**. Chapter voting will be July 27-August 5. The winners will be submitted by the Aug 13 deadline.

- Donna reiterated frustration that every "Kick-off" for National Wildlife Foundation Backyard Habitat Certification has been interrupted by poor weather this spring/summer. We will have a reorganization meeting in early Fall to kick start this program. We have 5000 seed packets to distribute at Go Fest, and have grant money to spend on public lands.

MMZoo would like to partner with us to reduce exotic or evasive species and replace with native plants around

designated zoo habitats. Donna, Laurie and Scott, 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, and Donna is talking with Matt at the MMDiscovery Center as well. They have back packs for check-out which include a guide book, binoculars, checklist on birds.

- ExplorePark 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. We have approved the project proposal to work with Explore Park.
- Virginia Wildlife rescue project/hours; this is also an approved project under
- Blue Ridge Parkway wildflower restoration project, we will get more details. Please pot up divided natives for use this spring at zoo or on parkway.
We will ask BR Wildflower Society if we can partner with them, use their sale leftovers in May for these projects.
- https://www.beeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-bee-city-usa-joins-forces-with-the-xerces-society/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=d082f06a86-Catch_The_Buzz_4_29_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-d082f06a86-332055001

Dates of upcoming projects:

7/28 Fireflies Hike 7:00-9:00 PM Explore Park Contact Victoria Directly at: vakeenum@msn.com

- July 31 at the Archaeology Lab, it is now time to take a second look at all those rocks we have been washing and rehousing! Chris Egghart, archaeologist with the Department of Environmental Quality and expert in Native American stone tools, will be coming to the VNH museum on July 31st to provide a one-time training opportunity. Attendees will learn to identify different types of rocks as well as different types of stone artifacts, how they were made, how they were used, and how we use them to date a site. He will be bringing an artifact collection with him that includes a variety of tool types. This class is open to VMNH archaeology volunteers and Master Naturalists. The lecture portion of the class will last about 2 hours and will be followed by hands on in the Archaeology lab, practicing what we just learned about. Please RSVP to kathyfell@yahoo.com, so we can make sure we have enough space for everyone.
- August 11 Artisan Saturday 10a-3pm @ Explore park
- August 17-19, 2018 **MOUNT ROGERS SUMMER NATURALIST RALLY**
<http://blueridgediscoverycenter.org/mrsnr/> (continuing ed)
- August 18th is the 3rd Annual Tinker Creek Volunteer Cleanup! Sign up here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4fa5a82aaafb6-deschutes1> We will also be posting updates on the Facebook Event's page:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2014267301919267/>
- August 18, All About Virginia's Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases (2hrs) Blue Ridge Heritage
- September 22, Hawk Watch at Buffalo Mountain Natural Area Preserve (4hrs) Blue Ridge Heritage

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, sunflowers, for example)

September 7-9, 2018 State Conference: Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center,

September 29 Harvest festival at Market Street Farmer's Market

September 22, Hawk Watch at Buffalo Mountain Natural Area Preserve (4hrs) Blue Ridge Heritage

Sunday, Oct 7th Quarterly Meeting and Election of Nominees to the Board / Pot Luck Snacks (Bring food so Sharon Vest will come!)

Friday Oct 12 -14 Roanoke Valley Go Fest 2018 <http://www.roanokegofest.com/event-mapguide/> (outreach special event)

Saturday Oct 13 Vinton Fall Festival

Saturday Oct 20th Hokie BugFest (outreach special event)

Saturday Oct 27th Zoo Boo @Mill Mtn Zoo (outreach special event)

Saturday, December 1 Green Valley Book Fair Trip (carpool caravan) 2192 Green Valley Ln, Mt Crawford, VA 22841

Meet at the Daleville Kroger; departing at 8:30am on I-81 N. 1.5 hour one way

Located just south of Harrisonburg, Virginia, in the heart of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, the Green Valley Book Fair is a discount book outlet store featuring over 500,000 new books at incredible bargain prices. Save up to 90% off retail on over 30,000 different titles in more than 60 different categories – including fiction, history, health and self-help, children's books, religion, science, sports, cooking, home and garden, crafts, art, reference, nature and outdoors, and more. Founded in 1971, the Green Valley Book Fair has become famous among book lovers throughout Virginia and the mid-Atlantic region for its great selection and low, wholesale-to-everyone prices.

Our 25,000 square foot store is climate-controlled and wheelchair accessible. We have benches throughout the store to make your shopping easier. We accept VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, cash, travelers' checks and personal checks (with proper ID). We hope that you find everything here that you need in [planning a visit](#) to one of our upcoming Book Fairs. But remember, in order to provide the very best selection of discounted books available anywhere, the Green Valley Book Fair is open only during our listed Book Fair dates. (You can, however, [contact us](#) anytime with questions or comments.) <http://gobookfair.com/>

Advisor: George Devlin: Awards and Re-certifications

New Certificates: 4

Carol Rowlett, Phillip Lochbrunner, Tammi Cascone-Kovalcheck, Tara Poelzing

2018 Recertifications: 21

Robin Bailey, Elizabeth Bailie, Amy Dupuis, Joe Dupuis, Bill Fabian, Nancy Fabian, Donna Haley, Mary Harshfield, Ellen Holtman, Scott Karns,

Gail MacFarland, Nancy Reid, Laurel Riddle, Frank Sellers, Frank Simms, Carissa South, Lauri Spangler, Scott Spangler, Patricia Taylor, Sharon Vest,

David Williamson

100 hour pin - Bill Fabian!!! Congratulations to all! And thank you for all the time and effort you put into volunteering!

Help DGIF by reporting sightings of Wild Turkey and Ruffed Grouse during your travels or field projects in July and August

Simply record your observations of wild turkeys and ruffed grouse during July and August. You don't need to do any routes or otherwise make a special effort to collect data. Simply keep a copy of the report form (that can be downloaded below) in your vehicle or field pack and record any observations during your normal travels. If possible, please also estimate the mileage you have driven when making these sightings, for each month. Detailed instructions are below as well as on th

e report form.

Instructions:

1. Please download and [print a copy of this form](#) and keep it in your vehicle to log observations during July and August.
1. Record observations of all turkeys and grouse seen during July and August.
2. Report each observation on a separate line. For example, if you see birds at 3 different times during the same day, complete 3 different lines of information.
3. Avoid duplicate sightings. If you believe you have seen the same birds before, only report the first sighting.
4. Report "none seen" and the mileage for each month even if no turkeys or grouse were seen.
5. Do not report birds you observe while you were not working.

If you have any questions, please contact

***Katie Martin katie.martin@dgif.virginia.gov, or
Gary Norman gary.norman@dgif.virginia.gov***

Yes, definitely count this as volunteer time. If you're headed to the river to float or to the woods to hike but you see some turkeys, go ahead and report and count a fraction of time towards volunteer hours as well.

RVMN Board, Programs and Projects Resignation by Robin Jordan

She has other responsibilities that are turning out to be too difficult to work around

Basic duties include securing a continuing educational opportunity for our quarterly meetings,

being knowledgeable and encouraging participation from members in projects, both new ones and as below.

Bird rehabilitation—Maureen Eiger

Bluebird monitoring

Center in the Square—Freyja Williams

Conservation monitoring, Bottom Creek Gorge/Falls Ridge

Cornell Backyard Bird Watch (\$)

Earth Day

Garst Mill Park/Roanoke Park Partners—George Devlin

Great Backyard Bird Count/February

Hawk Watch@Harveys Knob/fall migration

McAfee Knob Task Force/Ridgerunners

Natural Bridge—Friends of Natural Bridge

Natural History Museum Martinsville

Virginia Birding and Wildlife Monitoring—DGIF

Youth Birding/Roanoke Valley Bird Club—Mary Harshfield

Master Naturalists Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities at Explore Park

Contact Victoria Directly at: vakeenum@msn.com

Workshops and Hikes

7/28 Fireflies Hike* 7:00 – 9:00PM meet at Visitor Center @6:30

8/11 Animal Camouflage Workshop/Hike* 10:00 – 12:00

WILD Things - Animal Camouflage 1:00 – 3:00 (information table and activity)

We can also host some “open” hikes

8/25 Nature Art Workshop* 10:00 – 12:00

9/8 Fall Wildflower and Plant Hike* 10:00 – 12:00

WILD Things – Plants 1:00 – 3:00 (information table and activity)

9/9 “Hike for Hospice” Hike 1:00 – 3:30 Plants and Animals along the River Trail

10/27 BATS Workshop* 10:00 – 12:00 (Families with young children) Activities based on AIMS Bat and Project Underground curriculum

11/3 Backyard Birds* 10:00 – 12:00 General bird info., ID and making feeders and making a journal.

WILD Things – Backyard Birds 1:00 - 3:00 (information table and activity/pinecone bird feeder)

We can also host some “open” hikes

11/17 Historical Use of Plants and Animals Hike* 10:00 -12:00

12/1 Nature Story, Hike and a Craft* 10:00 – 12:00

Citizen Science Projects

Start collecting data on the flora in Park - ID, bloom times, location.

Fauna in the Park – ongoing for checklist

*These activities require the public to pre-register and are subject to cancellation if minimum number of participants is not met.

Also, Master Gardener Training 2018 Hosted by [Roanoke Master Gardeners](#) and [Virginia Cooperative Extension - Roanoke](#)

Wednesday, September 5 at 6 PM - 9 PM til Oct 24 register with VCE above

