

Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists Quarterly Meeting Minutes
April 14th, 2019
Explore Park, Roanoke County Virginia

Attendance: Donna Haley, George Devlin, Phil Lochrunner, Bill Fabian, Nancy Fabian, Glen Mitchell, Susanna Mitchell, Tina O’Hara, Regina Prunty, Inge Terrill, Scott Spangler, Laurie Spangler, Kathy Sink, Carol Rowlett, Linda Cory, Nancy Armstrong, Ellen Jessee, Sally Noble, Cindy Newell, Bill Newell, and Larry Bradfield.

Call to Order: The general membership meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM by Donna Haley.

It was suggested that with the unusual weather we have been having that the traditional quarterly meetings be changed to bi-monthly meetings in 2020. A motion was made and seconded, so as of 2020 we will meet 6 times per year.

Old Business:

- 1) A Treasurer’s report was submitted to the officers after the meeting as Frank was unable to attend the meeting.

Beginning balance: \$4,544.49

Deposits

02/05/19 Class fees \$ 800.00

03/14/19 Class fees \$ 300.00

Total Deposits \$1,100.00

Withdrawals

03/05/19 Class Name Badges \$ 13.23

02/17/19 Gift Cards for Presenters \$ 200.00

02/17/19 Gifts for Presenters \$ 17.64

Total Withdrawals \$230.87

Ending Balance

\$5,413.62

2) Vice President's Report : Tammi Cascone was absent, and no report was given.

3) Secretary's Report : Minutes from the last meeting that had been previously distributed by email were approved unanimously. Tina also reported on the progress of the activity book with Explore Park, coming down the home stretch, it will be a great way for children and parents to learn about the wildlife you can see at the park. Talks are underway to make additional books with varying subjects.

4) President's Report: Report on Explore Park wildflower survey, April 14th 2019, 10 people signed up , despite the weather. The park needs to get people to document weekly, using cell phones to take pictures and Wildflower Books. There is a 3 ring binder at the front desk , section #5 wildflower survey , you can come any day and log information .

Together with BRFL, we are monitoring a new Bluebird trail at the park, there are 15 boxes along the trail, 1 box is already full, box 14. It is noted that the bluebird experts are not satisfied with the boxes, but as the bluebirds are no longer threatened we will see how much success we have. Kathy Sink has volunteered to train Nancy Armstrong and Tina O'Hara to help monitor the boxes. They will be checked biweekly , hopefully we will have success. At the end of the season a trail coordinator will fill out the data. During bad weather and downtime in Winter the workshop will be asked to make Owl and bat boxes to place near the zipline course. Perhaps they can make duck boxes next year.

Backpacks are being compiled for families to check out , to explore nature, with information cards, story books, toys.....There is one

about trees, one about birds, aquatic life etc. If anyone has old binoculars that would be a great addition to the packs. Lots of great things happening at Explore Park, great volunteer opportunities close to home.

Go Fest, this year we need someone to coordinate the booth as Bill and Nancy will not be available.

5) Plogging, Shall we start a plogging / hiking group. Plogging is a new craze where you pick up garbage as you hike trails. Gloves or poles to pick up the garbage are necessary.

6) Congratulations to the new Certified Master Naturalists as well as those who have received their new pins. Special shout out to Nancy Fabian , Laurie Spangler and Donna Haley for completing 500 volunteer hours. Donna also completed a total of 1000 hours.

7) Chapter annual report, 14 trainees from the 2018 class completed the course , there are now 24 master naturalists and 51 active naturalists. The total number of continuing education hours in 2018 were 575, through varying projects. Total number of people contacted was 4175, citizen sciences 588 hours, stewart ship hours 867, and administrative hours 559. It was mentioned that there is not enough ethnic diversity, this is something we should try to improve.

8) National Wildlife Federation , we received a \$2500.00 grant , we will spend \$1000.00 on plants and landscaping of schools \$1500 .00 on other things , science museum renovation of hidden garden, featuring aquaponics, hydroponic gardens getting the garden restarted featuring local crops including peanuts. This will be a Virginia studies garden, with exotic trees and plants, hopefully a successful complete habitat.

9) VAAE Conference Maymont Richmond was held on Feb 7 -9th. Our 2019 VMN Conference will be in Harrisonburg, Virginia from September 20-22nd, 2019, at the Massanetta Springs Camp and conference Center.

10) March 2nd Salvage Permit class at Explore Park was cancelled until September. More information will follow when date has been confirmed.

Partnerships / Outreach:

Mill Mt. Zoo: Spring break Camp April 16-18th , need volunteers to help during the day.

Native Restorations (early May Wildflower Society/ Master Gardener/ Arboretum Sales. Mill Mountain Earth day event, Party for the planet April 27th , 11-4 pm. 10-3 Make a mason bee home(save toilet and paper towel rolls) Learn more about our native solitary Mason bees from the Roanoke Valley Master Naturalists. Children of all ages can make a simple mason bee nursery, craft to take home with them.

World Migratory Bird Day/ community art show event May 11, 11-4 pm

Native restorations (early May Wildflower society/ master gardener /arboretum Sales.

Explore Park:

Workshops and Hikes : RSVP to vakeenum@msn.com

4/27 Trees, Wildflowers and Forest Ecology 10-12:00

Artisan Saturday at Explore park , April 27th 10-3 pm

5/11/19 Nature Journals-Phenology 10-12:00

6/08/19 Build a Terrarium 10-12:00

Wild Things

5/11/19 Birds and Bird nests 1-3pm, make a nesting material hanger
6/08/19 Tiny Creatures 1-3pm

6/08/19 Natives vs. Invasives Walk and Talk 1pm with RVMN
8/10/19 Artisan Sunday at Explore Park 10-3 with RVMN

Thursday 4/18/19 Earth day 2019 at the veterans administration
Medical center . 9-1pm, We will share seeds and talk about the
Importance of native plants.

Grandin Village Earth Day: Saturday 4/20/19 Nancy Fabian and
Gail MacFarland co chairs. Handing out seeds and trees.

4/24/19 Special event “ **Hometown Habitats**” film showing at the
Grandin Theater.

5/15/19 the Salem Garden club will be holding a rain or shine
Workday in the gardens of the Salem Museum.

New Business:

June: Sharon Stinette will be hosting a stream monitoring class, date and
time to be announced.

July: 7/14/19 Quarterly VMN meeting at Garst mill park, picnic, Regina to
reserve shelter and Tammi to coordinate graduation program and rewards.

7/26/19 Regional project Wild Training at Explore park, mark your MN
calendar for hosting opportunities.

Bree teacher inservice program this fall/ pollinators.

October: Hokie Bug Fest , 10/05/19 at Squires Student Center
Great event , make plans to attend.

George Devlin: 2 different clean up days at Garst mill park, planted , cut
down tall brush and picked up trash. He suggested working with Roanoke

County to advise people when to put out trash cans as with this crazy weather much of the trash in the stream is coming from trash cans.

It was suggested that proper recycling do's and don'ts would be a great topic for gofest. It was also suggested that VMN course would be a great gift idea for those wishing to make a difference.

The meeting was adjourned, the next quarterly meeting will be held at Garst mill park, a potluck picnic on July 14th, 2019