

# Historic Rivers Chapter, VMN - Membership Meeting Information

Wednesday, 14 January 2009

6:00 to 7:00 PM

Human Services Building  
5249 Olde Towne Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23187

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES – January, 2009

The January meeting of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists was called to order at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2009, by Chapter President Susan Powell, who reported that the Annual Report for 2008 has been completed. (Whew!) She noted the following remarkable highlights:

Advanced Training Hours in 2008                      Total 1007.25 hours

### Volunteer Service Hours in 2008

a)	16 projects	Education/Outreach	748.66 hours
b)	20 projects	Citizen Science	1,125.0 hours
c)	6 projects	Stewardship	377.25 hours
d)	Admin		1,234.7 hours

42 projects in 2008    Total 3485.61 hours

Pursuant to a recommendation from the Board, a motion was made and seconded that the annual dues for members for 2009 should be \$25, payable by cash or check no later than 15 March 2009. The motion carried unanimously. Checks should be made payable to Historic Rivers Chapter VMN.

Susan asked that those wishing to continue serving on a committee or become a member of a committee contact the appropriate committee chair. She then called for the following reports:

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- A. Programs – Shirley Devan discussed the upcoming Field Trip to New Kent Forestry Center on Saturday, February 7, 2009, from 9-1. Featured presenters will be forest education specialist Lisa Deaton and forester Billy Apperson from the Department of Forestry. Because of the field trip, there will be no membership meeting in February. Shirley also announced that following the six o'clock membership meeting on March 11, 2009, Chris Ludwig will give a presentation on “Virginia’s Biodiversity and Its Conservation.” The April 8 program will be presented by Steve Geisler, Executive Director of the Virginia Public Service Authority, on “The State of Recycling – Locally and Globally.”
- B. Treasurer – Jim Booth simply said, “Pay your dues!”
- C. Historian – Felice Bond reported that she would appreciate help collecting articles from local newspapers for our chapter scrapbooks (a photograph of Cohort III was in today’s *Virginia Gazette*). She also brought the beautifully organized and comprehensive scrapbooks from the last two years for us to see. She told us about the possibility for placing a bulk order (30) of *Frog Calls* CD from DGIF. Those interested in purchasing one should contact her at [fbond203@cox.net](mailto:fbond203@cox.net) .
- D. Basic Training – Bruce Hill and Shirley Devan will be planning for this fall’s Cohort IV.
- E. Membership – Jeanette Navia announced that Julie Breeden and Margaret Ware are now certified Virginia Master Naturalists. She raised the question of whether someone had to have the exact number of hours of service for certification. The group consensus was that she should have some discretion to certify those who are “very close”.
- F. Volunteer Service Projects – Bruce Hill has emailed members an up-to-date list of service projects and the contact person for each one.
- G. Advanced Training – Joanne Medina and Susie Engle-Hill reported nine (!) opportunities for advanced training in January alone. They suggested signing up for the Lewis Ginter offering early.
- H. Newsletter – Barbara Boyer called for articles and photos for the next issues of the newsletter, and she asked that they be emailed to her at [cboyer12@cox.net](mailto:cboyer12@cox.net) or [bwboye@wm.edu](mailto:bwboye@wm.edu) .

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- I. Outreach/Publicity – Adrienne Frank and Gary Driscole, noting that one of the chapter’s priorities for 2009 is to include the “underserved,” asked for ideas about how to do that.**
- J. Host – Alice Kopinitz brought snacks, as did Jeanne Millin and Joanne Medina. Everything was delicious! Alice also held a “free raffle” for a bookmark she had made, which Joanne won.**
- K. Members at Large – Mike Powell stated his willingness to hear any suggestions or comments anyone would like to make but for some reason did not feel comfortable addressing to a board or committee member.**

The following “other items” were introduced.

- A. Susan announced that the next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, in the Conference Room of the Human Services Building. The meeting will start at 6:00. All members are welcome to attend.**
- B. Susan also said that Barb Dunbar would like to encourage participation in her program at Coventry Elementary School, which will start at the end of January. The focus of this year’s program will be the “Ecological Footprint.” Susan will email everyone Barb’s notice and email address.**
- C. Susan also reported receiving a phone call from Shelly Coulter, the new manager of Waller Mill Park. She wanted to know if we would like to participate in an Earth Day event at the park on April 18th, from 10 to 2. She is envisioning a booth with hands-on material similar to what we have done at Estuaries Day or the Farmer's Market. She can provide tables and chairs and such. Busch Gardens will be bringing animals, the DGIF will be doing a demonstration with fish electro shocking at the park (and aging fish with scales, etc.), and the Hampton Roads Wet Truck will be on display. Shelly Coulter's phone is 259-3778 and cell is 345-8311.**

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- D. Dorothy Geyer, Natural Resource Specialist for the Colonial National Historical Park, spoke to us about volunteer opportunities at the Park. Using a power point presentation, she reviewed the NPS mission, to conserve and protect resources for future generations, and told us of a 1999 Natural Resource Challenge to provide funding for planning and research. CNHP comprises 8700 acres, including the Yorktown Battlefield, Jamestown Island, and the Parkway that links them. She described how CNHP works with an invasive species team several times a year. In 2009, that work is planned for the weeks of April 26 and September 30. That work typically happens from Monday afternoon through Thursday morning in the week for which it is scheduled. Volunteers are welcome to work with the team on any of those dates. There is also an ongoing volunteer opportunity, working with Dorothy and a group of volunteers on Mondays from 9-12. Future volunteer opportunities may include projects various inventories and monitoring. CNHP has the second highest number of species of concern of any park.**
- E. Larry Riddick announced the annual all-day Horticultural Extravaganza on March 14 at York High School. When registering, participants can choose from several classes and a box lunch. The day ends with a panel moderated by Cathy Lewis. There are also exhibits. Patty Riddick and Felice Bond will co-chair a booth for the HRVMN.**
- F. Sara Lewis announced that “Cabin Fever Sunday” will be held the last Sunday in March at New Quarter Park, with outdoor recreation opportunities. She also announced Project Budburst, where you choose one of seven plants to observe at least once a week to see when it leaves out, buds, etc. Also, let Sara know if you want to be added to the NQP mailing list.**
- G. Announcements about other upcoming events of interest:**
- February 6 at VIMS – winter plant identification in the coastal region**
- May 2 - Virginia Native Plant Society invasive species removal**

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**The meeting was adjourned at 7, at which time the program began. Clyde Marsteller treated us to his amazing “zoo in my luggage” presentation, assisted by Patty Riddick and Shirley Devan.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Angier Brock, Secretary**