

HISTORIC RIVERS CHAPTER -- VMN
MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
June, 2009

The June meeting of the Historic Rivers Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, in the Multi-purpose Room of the James City County Human Services Building. As a pre-meeting warm-up, Shirley Devan showed marvelous "Chapter-in-Action-and-Other-Wonders" slides, including (but not limited to) photos of Clyde and the Zoo Crew at a local school, a Mabee's salamander at Grafton Pond, Chapter Members at the Williamsburg Farmer's Market in May, least tern eggs at Craney Island, birds at the Jamestown Ferry (including some displaying courtship behavior), and Gary Driscoll in his waders. Also included was Dave's photo of hatchling prothonotary warblers.

Shirley began the business part of the meeting at roughly 6:15 with the following announcements.

- **BOARD MEETINGS.** The most recent board meeting was Wednesday, June 3rd, 2009. The next board meeting will be Wednesday, July 1st, in the Multi-purpose Room, and will start at 6 pm. Meetings are open to all chapter members.
- **BOARD MEMBER NEWS.**
 - A few weeks ago, Bruce Hill, our Volunteer Service Project Chair, suffered a mild heart attack and subsequently underwent surgery. We send our best wishes to him and hope he has a speedy recovery. Our last report was that he was doing well and should be able to join back in activities very soon. Jim Booth added that he had visited Bruce today. Jim reported that Bruce is anxious to be feeling well again and is looking forward to the July 8th picnic.
 - Our co-chair of the Advanced Training Committee, Joanne Medina, is in the process of moving to Columbia, South America. We wish her well on her new adventure, and hope she will rejoin our group when she returns in a few years.
- **MEETING MINUTES.** Shirley noted that a draft of the minutes for the April General Membership Meetings was mailed to everyone. Yes, this morning, Chapter Secretary Angier Brock said, adding that Felice Bond has already emailed corrections and additions. Angier suggested that since not everyone has had a chance to look the minutes over, any effort to approve them should be postponed. She relies on everyone to make sure the chapter business is accurately recorded in the minutes, and she particularly wants to make sure that there is time for Jeanette Navia's keen eye to take a look-see. Once approved, the minutes will be posted to the website. Shirley said that the minutes for the June Board meeting also will be posted on the website once they are approved by the Board.
- **PROJECT TOOL BOX.** The chapter has amassed a great deal of materials that can be used for different projects and events. We are currently trying to find an

appropriate storage space for these items. If you know of any space that we could rent or use, please let us know. Sheila Kerr-Jones reported that the fledgling Peninsula Chapter would be willing to share the cost of storage if the Historic Rivers Chapter would share its artifacts. Shirley promised to take that idea to the next Board meeting.

- **GIFT CERTIFICATE.** The BOD has suggested that we use the \$75 Amazon gift certificate received last year to purchase field guides for Project Tool Box. Felice Bond, Patty Riddick and Larry Riddick have agreed to help form the committee that will select the guides from a list of suggestions. Larry suggested that we “think outside the box” here (he said there was no pun intended). He believes that most of us leading field trips would have the “usual” field guides and suggests that we think in terms of larger reference books. He said further that it would be helpful if anyone suggesting such a book would a) make sure it is available through Amazon.com, and b) find out how much it costs.
- **MERCHANDISE.** The chapter has purchased 100 patches that bear the Virginia Master Naturalist logo. These patches can be either sewn on or glued on. The glue on the back is activated by heat, so that patches can be ironed onto items of clothing or hats. If you haven’t received your patch, please see Shirley Devan. Also, if you would like to purchase any VMN merchandise, please see Shirley. Shirley gave out the new patches to members who had not already received one.
- **MERCHANDISE (reprise).** Seig said that while waiting in traffic on the way to tonight’s meeting, he saw a car with a “Master Gardener” license plate frame. He wondered about getting something like that for the Master Naturalists. And Shirley mentioned maybe looking into bumper stickers, too. There was some murmured assent but no firm decision.
- **FIRST AID KITS.** We have two first aid kits available. Chapter members can make arrangements with Susan Powell (smapowell@cox.net or 757-564-4542) if they would like to sign out a first aid kit. If possible, chapter members should take along a first aid kit whenever they are leading a service project.
- **HRCVMN VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM.** The most recent version of the volunteer service project requirements and forms document has been sent to everyone. Please use it when you want to propose a project or if you have been invited to do a speaking engagement. The directions are on the form, but if you have questions please contact Susan (smapowell@cox.net).
- **HRCVMN CHAPTER BYLAWS.** In response to questions/suggestions from chapter members, the BOD has reviewed and amended our bylaws to better reflect the way our chapter functions. The bylaws require that we notify the general membership of our intention to amend the bylaws at least 30 days prior to the general membership’s vote.

- The amended bylaws were sent to each member on June 4th via email for review. The red print within the document indicates the instances where the state allows each chapter to make their own decisions. These are the sections of the bylaws that were reviewed by the BOD and amended, where necessary.
- Please review the amended bylaws and forward to the Board in care of Susan Powell (smapowell@cox.net) any comments or suggestions by June 30, 2009. We would like to be able to discuss any comments or suggestions at our next board meeting, prior to the next general membership meeting. It is our goal to approve these amended bylaws at our July 8th general membership meeting.

Shirley then called on Committee Chairs for their various reports.

Membership – Jeanette Navia

Mike Millin, Dave Youker, and Jeanette Navia are newly certified Master Naturalists. Congratulations! Their name tags are here, but the certificates themselves still need to be signed by Mary Apperson, our Chapter Sponsor.

Jeanette reported that she continues to struggle with the timesheet dilemma. Several ideas are floating about – using an excel spreadsheet and having the state develop a new system are two possible solutions. She and Barbara Boyer each have additional leads to follow. Angela Scott suggested checking with other non-profit agencies, such as museums, that track volunteer hours, travel time, etc. In the meantime, however, Jeanette asks members to continue using the old time sheets. She also would like volunteers (especially any chapter members needing volunteer hours) to help transfer information to excel spreadsheets.

Programs - Shirley Devan

- Wednesday, July 8, 2009 is the day for next general membership meeting, which will be a picnic at York River State Park. We have reserved Shelter #2 from 4 PM until dark. Family members and other interested folks are welcome! The chapter will supply charcoal for grills as well as hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, drinks, cup, ice, paper plates, plastic forks and spoons, etc. Chapter members should bring a covered dish to share along with anything additional they might like to grill. Further information will be emailed, and members will be asked to RSVP.
- There will probably be no August program meeting. The room at the James City County Human Services Building is reserved, but it will likely be used by the training committee to prepare for the beginning of training for Cohort IV.

Treasurer – Jim Booth

Jim's report: "The bank's open and we are solvent." See Jim if you need to pay dues. Some still have dues outstanding; we want them to pay up so we'll all be members in good standing.

Historian – Felice Bond

Felice was not able to attend the meeting, though she hopes to come later for the program. Meanwhile, she had emailed Angier that *The Daily Press* had run Clyde Marsteller's article entitled "Critters in the Classroom" on April 10, 2009.

Basic Training – Bruce Hill and Shirley Devan.

Flyers are out! Shirley has designed them, printed them out, and put some around the area in various places. She gave at least one to all the chapter members who were present, requesting that they place a few around, too. Several people commented about how beautiful and eye-catching the flyers are. So far, two people have signed up for Cohort IV, one of whom (Lois) was in attendance at tonight's meeting. Welcome, Lois!

Details of the schedules have not been finalized, but tentative plans for the new training class are as follows:

- Classes will begin on the last Tuesday in August and end in mid-March.
- Classes will be held every other Tuesday or Saturday as the schedule permits.

Volunteer Service Projects – Bruce Hill

Shirley asked that chapter member pay attention to emails about volunteer service opportunities, and asked that we email project proposals to Susan Powell until we hear from Bruce that he is ready to join back in.

New Approved Volunteer Service Project:

- Invasive Species Removal at the Shenandoah National Park. An email was sent to everyone detailing contact information and the specific work days. If anyone would like to assemble a group together for one of the dates, please let Sara know so she can prepare for a larger group. If we wanted to go as a group on another day other than Saturday or Sunday, she would be happy to set that up. (Sara is familiar with the VMN program and often works with the Old Rag Chapter.) Sara Hall 540-999-3500 ext. 3437 or sara_hall@nps.gov.

Advanced Training –Susie Engle-Hill and Dave Youker

Dave Youker has agreed to help Susie Engle-Hill with the advanced Training Committee. Please email news of any advanced training opportunities to Dave, Susie, or Susan.

Approved Advanced Training Opportunities

- **Project Learning Tree.** Monday, June 29, 9am to 4pm at New Quarter Park. This workshop will be taught by Karen Little and Hugh Beard.
- **Wetlands Workshop at Claytor Nature Study Center of Lynchburg College –** August 4, 5, and 6.
- **VIMS After Hours Lecture** on Thursday, June 25, at 7 pm.: "Closed to Swimming? Human Health and the Chesapeake."
- **Native Plant Walks.** Native Plant Garden Tour – June 6 at 4:00 pm. Chickahominy Riverfront Park - June 20 at 10 am.

- **Virginia Living Museum Adult Science Seminars**
 - August 4 – Living Green House and Garden
 - September 8 – More Than Just Teeth – Sharks

- **Walk and Talks at New Quarter Park**
 - August 1 – Katie Sanford – Environmental Education: James versus York River Habitat
 - September 5 – Helen Hamilton – Growing a Beautiful Bobwhite Habitat
 - October 3 – Jerre Johnson – It’s All Downhill from Here: New Quarter’s Geology
 - November 7 – Clyde Marsteller – What’s Crawling Under that Log?
 - December 5 – Flora and Fauna of the Holiday Season

Newsletter – Barbara Boyer

Barbara reported that she appreciated all the material that is coming in and asked that we keep sending articles and photos to her at cboyer12@cox.net or bwboye@wm.edu . Also, please contact Barbara if you are not receiving your newsletter

Outreach/Publicity – Adrienne Frank and Gary Driscole

Adrienne and Gary were unable to attend the meeting, but Shirley reported that they had sent out “lots of notices” to various publications this week.

Host – Alice Kopinitz

Alice held another raffle. This time Sheila won a bookmark and a flashlight. Alice also treated us to delicious cookies.

Jeanette also had an item to give away – a combination rain gauge/thermometer/ weather vane. Sara Lewis wanted it, and so Jeanette gave it to her.

Members at Large – Dave Youker and Mike Powell

Mike had nothing in particular to report, but did say that if anyone had suggestions about the by-laws that they wanted to make anonymously, they should feel free to do so through him.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

“HABITAT AT HOME” CD. Shirley has a “Habitat at Home” CDs that Carol Heiser sent her. She is happy to lend it to anyone who would like to see it or to put it in the Tool Box for possible use later. Each segment is about 10 minutes long.

YORK COUNTY BOOKLET ON REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS.

Tim Christensen has promised Jim Orband that he will get together a booklet on the reptiles and amphibians of York County. Tim plans to be gathering data for that book between now and mid-June of 2010, and he would love our help gathering data. To that end, he handed out a form chapter members could use to report to him any sightings of reptiles and amphibians in York County – from the past five years, or between now and

mid-June. He also welcomes photos, no matter their quality, but further requests that the photographer's name and contact information should accompany those photos so that he (Tim) can get necessary permissions should he want to use them.

Tim also expressed his thanks to all who participated in the Tabb Spring Bird Count, which set a record of sixty-some birds.

The meeting was adjourned for a 5-minute break prior to Tim's presentation