

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

The **October meeting** of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists took place on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, in the Multipurpose Room of the Human Services Building, 5240 Olde Town Road, Williamsburg, VA. As members arrived, Alice Kopinitz handed out raffle tickets. Susan Powell, Chapter President, called the meeting to order shortly after 6 PM. Her first announcement was that the Human Services Building was having water pressure problems that made the toilets unflushable. She had been advised by the building manager that the “porta potty” out front by the sidewalk was for our use. Shirley noted that it had just arrived and was clean and orderly. Someone mentioned that the woods might also be a possibility, and Barbara Boyer reminded us that we are, after all, Master Naturalists.

Members and upcoming classes. Following that discussion, Susan welcomed new members and reported that training is well underway for Cohort IV. The next classes will be Geology with Jerre Johnson on October 20; the Geology Field trip with Jerre Johnson on Saturday, October 24; Indigenous Cultures with Alec Loker on November 3; and Interpretive Skills with Stephen Living on November 17. Members of Cohorts I, II, and III are also welcome at these classes, particularly the two new classes on November 3 and November 17. Members get advanced training hours for attending them.

In addition, a Wildlife Mapping advanced training class will be held on Saturday, November 14, in the larger conference room in the Human Services Building. The cost of the course is \$25 to include the VA Gazetteer, \$15 if you don't want the Gazetteer. Couples can pay only \$25 if they share materials. Anyone planning to attend should so indicate on the sign-up sheets or contact Susan Powell (564-4542 or smapowell@cox.net). A sign-up sheet went around.

Meetings and Minutes. The minutes for the September General Membership Meetings will be posted on the website soon. The October Board meeting was canceled. The next Board meeting will be November 4th.

Treasurer's Report. In the absence of treasurer Jim Booth, Susan reported that, in his words, “we are solvent.”

New List Serve for Historic Rivers Members. Jeanette Navia has set up a list serve for us to use and has tested it by sending an email to everyone. One advantage of the list serve is that members can update their email addresses – and when someone's address changes, we don't have to each go into our own address books to make the change. Jeanette reported that everyone should have gotten a “welcome” message. The list serve is set up to allow attachments. We should all note that when we reply to a list serve message, that reply goes to everyone on the list, not just the person who sent it. It is not necessary for everyone to reply that they got the test message.

Merchandise. Members who have not yet received a Virginia Master Naturalist logo patch should see Shirley Devan. All members receive their first patch for free. Additional patches can be purchased for \$2 each. Also, to purchase bags or other merchandise, please see Shirley. In order to wear the official VMN logo on items of clothing, members must first complete the basic training program.

VMN Statewide Volunteer Training and Conference. According to the VMN website, the 2009 conference will be held in Leesburg, Virginia, Friday, October 30 through Sunday, Nov 1, with field trips into the surrounding area. Our host chapter is the [Banshee Reeks Chapter](#), which trains and meets at [Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve](#) – perfect for Halloween weekend. Urban ecology will be one of several conference themes, with a classroom session on conducting environmental education programs in an urban setting and a field session on urban watershed issues. Among those from our chapter planning to attend are Seig and Alice Kopinitz, Barb Dunbar, and Susan Powell.

Also attending are Les Lawrence and his wife Laura, Felice Bond and her husband Tom, and Clyde Marstelller and his wife Ellie. Clyde will present "A Zoo In My Luggage" on Sunday morning from 9 to 12, and he's hoping that while he is there the housekeeping people don't, in his words, "attempt to change linen or the additional "guests" might send them screaming down the hallway."

Jeanette reminded us that Chapter awards will be given at this conference, and asked us to make sure to give her updated information about volunteer and advanced training hours. It is particularly important that she get the "milestone" hours for those who have reached 250, 500, 1000, and 2000 hours of service. Anyone who might be close should contact Jeanette.

VMN on SmugMug. Michelle Prysby has put a Master Naturalist site on smugmug so that chapters can post photographs of their projects. <http://virginiamasternaturalist.smugmug.com/> is the URL if you simply want to view them. Click on any of the gallery categories that appear. Refer to the end of these minutes for rules regarding sharing photos on this site and for instructions about posting and editing images.

Future VMN Conference. Carl Shirley, President of the Peninsula Chapter of VMN has contacted our President, Susan Powell, about co-sponsoring a conference for roughly 150-200 people. The Eastern Shore and perhaps other chapters might also work on this. Susan solicited possible sites to have such a conference. Suggestions included the old Ft. McGruder Inn, now a Radisson, and a nearby Marriott.

First Aid Kits. Remember that we now have two first aid kits available. Members can make arrangements with Susan Powell (smapowell@cox.net or 757-564-4542) to sign one out – and are encouraged to do so when volunteering for a service project. Susan brought one with her to show us.

Upcoming Service Projects include the following:

- **October 17th - Wildlife Mapping at Grafton Ponds** - Patty and Larry Riddick. This event will take place rain or shine. "We're Master Naturalists. If we have to swim there, we will," Larry Riddick said.
- **October 24th - New Quarter Park Invasive Plant Control** - Jeanne Millin and Ken Thompson. With regard to NQP, Ken is taking responsibility for maintaining the teaching garden, and York County has some money to contribute for plants. Sarah Lewis invited

people to bring their weed whackers; electric ones can be plugged in at the shelter, so long extension cords will be needed. The work will start after the bird walk, around 9:15AM. (NOTE: After the meeting but before the minutes were approved, this event was postponed.)

- **October 24th - Harvest Day** - Adrienne Frank and Gary Driscole. Adrienne presented this possibility, saying that our chapter had done such an outstanding job with its part in the Estuaries Day at York River State Park, we had been invited back to participate in the Park's Harvest Day. However, after some discussion about all the other things going on that day (invasive species removal at NQP, the geology field trip, William & Mary's homecoming), the decision was for Adrienne to decline the opportunity to participate this year.
- **October 26th - Estuaries to Oceans Field Trip** - Barb Dunbar. Although the program is for Mt. Vernon School, it will take place at Seaford Elementary. The date is a Monday. Barb has all the leaders she needs, including Lisa Deaton, the state Project Learning Tree coordinator. There will be a water quality test station, a station where buoys can be made and floated to test them, a station simulating the sampling of cores from the ocean floor, and a station on macro invertebrates. Although the leadership roles are filled, Barb can still use some volunteers to help. The day runs from 9AM until 1PM, and she will feed everyone lunch.
- **Friday Frolics** - 1:00 pm each Friday at York River State Park.

The Understanding Watersheds Forum, originally scheduled for October 10, has been rescheduled for January 16, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, at the JCWRC Rooms A and B, Longhill Road. The event is free and open to the public; reservations are not required. Topics and presenters include “How to protect the James City County Natural Legacy” (Paul Sturm, Director, Center for Watershed Protection); “How Effective is Our Water Management?” (Dr. Jerre Johnson, Geologist); and “What You Can Do in Your Back Yard” (Linda Lucas & Art Gustafson, Master Gardeners). In addition, there will be a break for a buffet lunch between the first two sessions and a closing question-and-answer session moderated by Michael Woolson. The event is sponsored by the Friends of Powhatan Creek, the Historic Route 5 Association, and the James City County Concerned Citizens (J4C). For more information, Contact Barbara Gustafson (Barbara-sg@cox.net) or Sarah Kadec (skadec@verizon.net).

- **Other Committee News and Reports**
- **Programs Committee.** Chair Shirley Devan. Tonight's speaker is Lance Gardner, a Master Gardener and VIMS graduate student who will discuss gardening ideas. On November 11, the speaker will be Ben Owen, Nursery Supervisor for William & Mary. And on December 9, we will have our annual holiday get together with Michelle Prysby speaking to us about Citizen Science.
- **Volunteer Service Projects.** Bruce Hill. There are lots of opportunities, including those listed above. Others include

- Shirley Devan’s need for another driver for the geology field trip on 10,24; and
- Monday morning work with Dorothy Geyer, Natural Resource Specialist for Colonial National Historical Park. Anyone interested should contact Dorothy at 757.898.2433 or Dorothy_geyer@nps.gov or Angier Brock at 757.234.6170 or abrock@vcu.edu. Sometimes the group meets at Jamestown Island, sometimes at Yorktown, sometimes along the Parkway, depending on what work most needs getting done.
- Also, Adrienne Frank reported having heard that there will be a Land Conservancy Walk and Talk on November 1. Helen Hamilton had volunteered Gary Driscoll for that, and Gary could use some help. However, after some discussion, it was clear that no one else had heard anything about this event, and that it was not even on the Land Conservancy website. Also, the timing is bad for us because of the state conference that weekend.
- **Basic Training** –Membership. Jeanette Navia. Jeanette had already mentioned the new list serve and reminded everyone to send in their hours.
- **Advanced Training**. Dave Youker and Susie Engle-Hill. Dave reported that he and Susie are working to consolidate advanced training possibilities in one place.
- **Newsletter**. Barbara Boyer continued her call for articles and photos for the upcoming issues of the newsletter: cboyer12@cox.net or bwboye@wm.edu .
- **Outreach/Publicity**. Adrienne Frank. Adrienne reported having had a good Estuaries Day at YRSP. She said it was not as well attended this year as in the past, and that some YRSP staff had not been in attendance because they were at the Virginia State Fair that day. Adrienne has generated a list of items to take for a display – categories and ideas using materials that are available in our chapter toolbox.
- **Host**. Alice Kopinitz reported on plans for the holiday party. It will cost \$20/person, \$40 for two people. HRVMN members may each bring one guest. The theme is Green. Be looking for direction about ways to help us all be “green.” The party will again feature heavy hors d’oeuvres and dessert. She will ask people to RSVP to Patty Riddick; checks will go to Jim Booth, our treasurer.

Other Business and Announcements

- Everyone is urged to attend the **November 3 Basic Training**, which features a new training topic for us. Alex Loker will speak about **Indigenous Cultures**. He has written books that he will bring and offer for sale at that time.
- Patty Riddick brought **cards from the Virginia Living Museum about a “Seafood Watch”** to help keep our oceans healthy. The cards give information about “Best Choices” to make when ordering seafood, as well as “Good Alternatives” and “What to

Avoid.” The cards, put out by the **Monterey Bay Aquarium**, can be carried in wallets or pockets for use when dining at restaurants (or shopping at stores) that sell seafood.

- With regard to the **Water Stewardship Project** we learned about – and expressed interest in – at our September meeting, Krystal Coxon passed around a sample workbook. She said that no date will be scheduled for the training until March.
- Barb Dunbar reported on a **NOAA “Be Wet” grant**, and asked whether we want to be a partner in that. If so, she would need a letter by October 16th. The consensus was that the Board would need to take this up at its November meeting. That misses the deadline, but perhaps there will be other opportunities for our participation. A number of good opportunities are opening up because of the “No Child Left Inside” program. Barb agreed to come to the next board meeting to talk about this further.
- **VIMS** will have a “haunted” discovery lab on October 22.

After all of the business had been completed, Alice asked Susan to draw the winning raffle ticket. Gary Driscole won the prize, a bookmark Alice had made. Also, Alice said she would not be able to stay for the entire program, and that therefore everyone should eat up all the snacks she had brought – which included blond brownies and shortcake cookies. Delicious! Then Susan adjourned the business meeting shortly before 7 PM, allowing a short break before the program to follow at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Angier Brock
Secretary

RULES and INSTRUCTIONS for posting images to the VMN smugmug site:

Rules with regard to sharing photos on this site

1. Please upload only the best photos;
2. Do not upload images of youth under 18 unless there are photo releases on file for all of the youth in the pictures;
3. A photo release is part of our VMN volunteer enrollment form. However, any Virginia Master Naturalist volunteer can always request that a particular image may be deleted from the site. Some people may prefer not to have certain images posted, and that is fine.
4. Only upload images pertaining directly to the VMN program. Images of VMN training events, volunteer events, and social events are all acceptable. Natural history and scenic images from sites in Virginia are also acceptable if they were taken as part of a VMN event.
5. No photos that are offensive, of illegal activities, or otherwise inappropriate are allowed.

6. Keep copies of your photos on your own computer in case your on-line copies are deleted.

Instructions for uploading images

There are several ways you can upload images. Here are two of the easiest ways. If you are computer-savvy, you can explore other ways through the Smugmug Help menu.

Uploading by email

Send an email addressed to virginiamasternaturalist@email.smugmug.com. In the subject line, put “vmnphotos” and nothing else. Attach any photos you would like to upload. You can post multiple photos in one email. If you just do one photo attached to the email, you can put a caption for the photo in the body of the email. Otherwise, it would be helpful if you include the chapter name in the names of the photos so the photos can be organized.

Uploading in smugmug.

1. Go to <http://www.smugmug.com>.
2. Click the “login” button at the top of the page.
3. Enter masternaturalist@vt.edu for the email and “vmnphotos” for the password.
4. Click on “Your Smug Homepage”
5. Click on the green “Add photos” button near the top of the page.
6. Select the sub-category to which you want to add your photos. There are separate sub-categories for each chapter and for statewide events. You can choose to create a new photo gallery within our chapter’s sub-category.
7. You might next get a page asking you what uploading methods you want to use. Click “Old Faithful,” the most straightforward way. Again, if you are computer savvy, you can explore other methods.
8. You are now on the page to add photos. Choose the “browse” button next to each photo number and find the photo you want to add.
9. Once you have browsed for and added all the photos you want to add, click the “add photos” button at the bottom, and you’re done.

Editing Images

1. Go to <http://www.smugmug.com>
2. Click the “login” button at the top of the page.
3. Enter masternaturalist@vt.edu for the email and “vmnphotos” for the password.
4. Click on “Your Smug Homepage”
5. Look down the page to find the gallery categories, and click on one to see the galleries contained within.
6. Click on one of the galleries. You will then see thumbnail pictures that you can click on to view or edit. Once you are looking at the images, you can add captions, do some color editing, crop photos, rotate photos, and even add a bookmark for the location that the photo was taken onto Google earth. You can also add or edit keywords. Keywords will help us sort the images later. Anyone with the password can edit the photos; you do not need to be the photographer (which is why photographers should keep a copy of their own computers).