

**Historic Rivers Chapter – VMN
General Membership Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2011**

The March Cohort V Graduation Dinner and General Membership Meeting of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists was held in the Windsor Forest Clubhouse, 108 Wyndham Way, Williamsburg, VA. The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Ted Sargent at 6:15 p.m.

- Ted Sargent called the evening to order followed by a delicious potluck dinner prepared by our members with Cohort V graduates as guests.
- Following the meal, Lisa Deaton with the New Kent Forestry Center requested assistance for the planned “Walk in the Forest” event scheduled at the Center on March 19.
- Ted Sargent quite humorously introduced the very accomplished speaker for the occasion, Dr. Bruce Wielicki, a NASA climatologist. Dr. Wielicki’s outstanding presentation on the accurate interpretations of climate change as compiled by the world’s experts in the field was in turn educational, entertaining and sobering and included tips on improving conditions in our own homes. He encouraged us to visit the IPCC website to access the most factual information.
- The slate for the 2011 Board of Directors was presented by the Nominating Committee, seconded and approved unanimously. Elected were President: Barbara Boyer; Vice President, Programs: Ted Sargent; Secretary: Patty Maloney, Lois Ullman; Treasurer: Thad Hecht; Historian/Outreach: Geoff Giles; Basic Training Chair: Jennifer Trevino; Advanced Training: Adrienne Frank, Gary Driscoll; Volunteer Service Projects: Susan Powell, Cherie Aukland; Membership: Shirley Devan; Host: Janet Curtis; Newsletter: Patty Riddick; Field Trips: Dean Shostak, Les Lawrence; Members at Large: Nancy Norton, Kathy Mestayer, Felice Bond; Webmaster: Jeanette Navia.
- Shirley Devan, Barbara Boyer and Ted Sargent then proceeded with Cohort V’s graduation ceremony of 16 new Master Naturalists/volunteers. Noting that all the graduates had completed a daunting list of requirements over six months with thanks to training team members: Bruce Hill, Susan Powell, Evelyn Parker and the many volunteers who assisted, Shirley called up Jean Balutanski, Janet Crowther, Christopher Curtis, Janet Curtis, Roger Gosden, Al Lovelace, Bill O’Connell, Catherine Short and Nancy Ward who completed Basic Training and each received a Certificate of Completion, name badge, VMN patch, and VMN Tervis Tumbler. Completing Basic Training and requirements to become a Certified VA Master Naturalist with 40 hours of Volunteer Service and at least 8 hours of Advanced Training were two members of Cohort 3: Sibyl Rose and Pam Camblin. Seven members of Cohort V: Laura Copan, Lauralyn Copan, Geoff Giles, Thad Hecht, Stephanie Schmuck, Sharon Plocher and Jennifer Trevino completed Basic Training and at the same time completed the requirements to become Certified VA Master Naturalists – 40 hours of Volunteer Service since class started in August plus 8 hours of Advanced Training. Heartiest congratulations to each of you!
- Shirley then called up those members who were recertified, having completed 40 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of Advanced Training in 2010. This year, instead of

certificates, pins representing the state bat (the Virginia long eared bat) were presented to Jim Booth, Barbara Boyer, Angier Brock, Pam Camblin, Tim Christensen, Linda Cole, Shirley Devan, Susie Engle-Hill, Gary Hammer, Bruce Hill, Sara Lewis, Clyde Marsteller, Kathy Mestayer, Jeanne Millin, Mike Millin, Jeanette Navia, Larry Riddick, Margaret Ware and Dave Youker. Three from Cohort IV who, since graduating completed at least 40 volunteer and 8 advanced training hours also were recertified: Nancy Norton, Lois Ullman and Christina Woodson.

- Shirley then presented Milestone Awards for Hours of Volunteer Service. The State VA Master Naturalist recognizes volunteers who have given **250** hours of Volunteer Service. Adrienne Frank, Les Lawrence and Patty Maloney received a special pin plus the bat pin. Next were awarded those who have given **500** hours of volunteer service: Felice Bond, Gary Driscoll, Alice Kopinitz and Seig Kopinitz received both a special pin and a bat pin. The state's next milestone is **2500** hours of volunteer service. Historic Rivers Chapter is the only Chapter in the state to have a Master Naturalist with 2500 hours – Susan Powell. Her special pin is on order! Congratulations to all of the above!
- Jeanette Navia and Alice Kopinitz were thanked by all for their hard work in planning the delightful evening enjoyed by all. They, in turn, thanked their set-up committee. Ted Sargent then adjourned the meeting. Many pitched in to leave the party room and kitchen in good order.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Ullman
Co-Secretary