

**Historic Rivers Chapter - VMN
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 9 May, 2012**

The May General Membership Meeting of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists was called to order by Patty Maloney at 6:09 p.m. The meeting was held in the Human Services Building, Multipurpose Room, 5249 Olde Towne Road, Williamsburg, VA.

Several items discussed at the April 4, 2012 Board meeting were updated:

Treasurer's report: Thad Hecht reported that collection of member dues for the current year is continuing. Only five of the Chapter's 79 members have outstanding dues.

General Membership Meeting programs: Wes Hudson, graduate student at VIMS, will present a program at the June Membership meeting on the Growth and Survival of Woody Wetland Vascular Plants, based upon research conducted at New Kent Forestry Center.

Presentation of Member Awards:

Susan Powell, Membership Chair, presented the following awards:

Certification as a Virginia Master Naturalist Historic Rivers Chapter – Ruth Gordon
Dogwood Pin/Re-Certification for 2012 – Kathi Mestayer

Milestone Service Awards:

250 hours service – Cheryl Jacobson, Jim Booth, Stephanie Schmuck

500 hours service - David Youker, Lois Ullman, Linda Cole, Patty Maloney

1,000 hours service - Les Lawrence

Heartiest congratulations to all award recipients.

Volunteer Service Projects:

1. Lois Ullman reported that the Kiskiack Golf Course Bluebird Trail will be open to volunteer monitoring shortly.
2. The Williamsburg Land Conservancy has requested assistance from the Chapter in conducting a Walk and Talk for Walsingham Academy 7th Graders at the Greensprings Trail on May 21, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Gary Driscole, Patty Maloney, and Les Lawrence have volunteered to assist. Other members who are interested should contact Gary.
3. Clyde Marsteller and the Zoo are participating in the June 2 Children's Day at the Williamsburg Farmers Market. Les Lawrence has volunteered to transport the tent for the Zoo exhibit and Cheryl Jacobson has volunteered to assist Clyde. Additional volunteers are needed for the set up and take down, as well as with the Zoo presentation.

Advanced Training: Members were reminded to check the Chapter newsletter and website for training opportunities.

Field Trips: Les Lawrence reported that the recent Chapter field trip to western Virginia had been well attended and most successful. Guides, Jerre Johnson and Charlie Dubay, received high praise for leading activities in the fields of Geology, Botany, Ornithology, and Macro-invertebrates.

Plants for VMN projects: Sara Lewis has received plants from the John Clayton Native Plant Society for the Master Naturalist Teaching Garden at New Quarter Park and would appreciate assistance in planting them on Saturday, May 12, at 10:00 a.m. Some of the plants, such as beech trees, bald cypress, and sun-loving-butterfly-attracting plants, are unsuitable for the Teaching Garden. She offered the latter plants to Chapter members for community projects.

Master Naturalist Clothing: Items are available for purchase. Checks should be made out to HR-VM and given to Thad Hecht or Shirley Devan.

Event Calendar:

1. June 14-July 2 – Display of photographs of wildlife by award-winning photographer, Ken Conger, taken during his two seasons as a park ranger in Alaska's Denali National Park, Williamsburg Regional Library Gallery.

Program:

Fran Geissler, Director of Stormwater for James City County, gave an interesting and informative presentation entitled, "How Native Plants can Save the Bay". She explained that stormwater is the largest polluter of our nation's waterways and outlined current regulations designed to improve water quality in Chesapeake Bay. She described the measures James City is implementing post-development to deal with problems caused by stormwater. Many of these measures are directed towards managing stormwater in its progress towards the Bay so that pollutants and sediment will be filtered out prior to entering our area waterways. Since the volume of water leaving hard surfaces is twelve times greater than the volume leaving naturally vegetated areas, James City County promotes native plantings and rain gardens rather than concrete swales, buffers along riparian areas, and stream restoration, in short the "softer side of things". Programs that citizens may access to expand and preserve plantings and reduce stormwater runoff on their properties include Turf Love, Garden Love, Conservation easements, James City County Pride mini grants, and the Clean County Commission. Ms. Geissler concluded by noting that the JCC Stormwater Division is conducting a workshop on stormwater and rain gardens on June 13 for those who are interested in learning more.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Lockwood, Co-Recording Secretary