

**Historic Rivers Chapter - VMN
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 13, 2013**

The February General Membership Meeting of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists was called to order by Patty Maloney at 6:04 p.m. The meeting was held in the Auditorium and Multipurpose Room of the Human Services Building, 5249 Olde Towne Road, Williamsburg, VA.

Items discussed at the February 6, 2013 Board meeting were reported/updated for the information of members.

President's Report – Patty Maloney

1. Change made to nominations to the 2013-2014 HRC Board of Directors to be voted on at the March 13 General Membership Meeting: Janet Curtis will replace Les Lawrence as a Member at Large.
2. Alycia Crall has been appointed to the position of VMN Coordinator. She succeeds Michelle Prysby.

Programs – Kathi Mestayer

1. February 13, 2013 – Dr. Norman Fashing, Entomologist, Professor, Biology Department, the College of William and Mary
2. March 13, 2013 - Cohort VII Graduation. Speaker, Dr. Donna Ware, *The Flora of Virginia*
3. April 10, 2013 – Dr. Matthias Leu, conservation biologist, the College of William & Mary, “Tick Talk”
4. May 8, 2012 - Felice Bond and Seig Kopinitz, “Butterfly Photography”
5. June 12, 2013 – Dr. Martha A. Case, Director of the Herbarium, the College of William and Mary (*tentative*).

Treasurer's Report – Thad Hecht

1. Justine Koleszar, a seventh grader, was chosen from the Williamsburg Bird Club applicant pool to receive a Nancy Norton Nature Camp Scholarship.
2. Two additional Scholarship recipients will be chosen by the Director of Nature Camp.
3. The Scholarships are funded through the dedicated fund set up by the Historic Rivers Chapter in memory of Nancy.

Basic Training – Jennifer Trevino/Sharon Plocher

1. March 13, 6:00 p.m.: HRC-VMN – Cohort VII 2012-2013 Graduation (23 Graduates). Please RSVP.

Membership - Susan Powell (absent)

1. If there is sufficient interest from HRC members, the HRC WildlifeMapping Training Committee is planning to offer a WildlifeMapping Certification Workshop on May 11, 2013.

Volunteer Service Projects – Lois Ullman (absent)

1. Thursday mornings at Eco Discovery Park: Removing invasive plants in preparation for planting a native plant garden and a learning garden, setting up a composting demonstration site, and other “green” initiatives.

2. Monday Frolics/Weed and Walk at York River State Park: 10:00-11:00 a.m. - Maintaining the Native Plant Garden. 11:00 a.m.- Optional Wildlife Mapping of designated areas in the park.
3. February 15 through February 18: Great Backyard Bird Count, a citizen science project that provides data to help scientists assess how birds are doing over time.
4. February 23, 9:00 -12:00 noon: VMN exhibit at James City County Recreation Expo.
5. March 7-10: VMN/WBC exhibit at the Wilson Ornithology Conference, College of William and Mary.
6. March 9, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: VMN exhibit at the Horticultural Extravaganza in York County.
7. March 19-20, 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon and 1:00-3:00 p.m. each day: Wrapping Tree Seedlings for New Kent Forestry Center for the Walk in the Forest event March 23.
8. August 24, Estuaries Day at YRSP. Request for VMN interactive/teaching exhibit, a bluebird display, and volunteers to lead both a plant walk and a bird walk. (Contact - Catherine Short.)

Publicity and Outreach – Shirley Devan

1. It has been suggested that HRC host screenings of *Green Fire*, a film on the life and philosophies of Aldo Leopold, at area libraries, schools, etc. to reach underserved sectors of our community.
2. February 16, 10:00 a.m.- 12 noon. Walk and Talk sponsored by the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. Shirley Devan will present “Bluebirds in our Gardens” at the Freedom Park Interpretive Center followed by a walk to look for bluebirds and visit the nestboxes. VMN’s are welcomed to assist visitors view the nestboxes.

Advanced Training – Adrienne Frank and Gary Driscoll

1. Additional opportunities to be added to the HRC website:
 - a. February 16, 10:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. and February 17, 11:a.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Free 2013 Sustainable Living Fair at Old Dominion University.
 - b. February 28, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Friends of Dragon Run hosts a presentation by Anne Wright (biologist, VCU and Rice Center) on vernal pools, threatened wetland areas, and the life history of amphibians and invertebrate species. Gloucester County Library, Rte 17.
2. “Frog Walk and Croak” will be led by Felice Bond. A last minute call will be issued when conditions are right. The earliest time will be one-half hour after sunset and participants will be asked to carry a flashlight wrapped in red cellophane.

Historian – Felice Bond

1. Catherine Short has offered to donate materials from her collections to the HRC Tool Box.

The business meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m. Dr. Norman Fashing, Professor of Biology at the College of William and Mary described the myriad ways in which insects defend themselves from predation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Jan Lockwood, Co-Recording Secretary