

## Historic Rivers Chapter - VMN

### General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

The September General Membership Meeting of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists was called to order by President Shirley Devan at 6:03 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Human Services Building, 5249 Olde Town Road, Williamsburg, VA.

#### *President's Report - Shirley Devan*

- Shirley began by welcoming the members of Cohort IX who were in attendance and three of the recipients of the Nancy Norton Nature Camp Scholarships who came to report to the membership about their camp experiences.
- Shirley then asked Judy Jones to introduce the campers and invite them up front to speak.

The first camper to speak was Katherine Zickel. She brought a Power Point presentation and reported that Mammalogy was her major and cleaning bones was her favorite activity. Katherine hopes to return to nature camp next year as she loved making friends and all of the nature learning she experienced. She heartily thanked the membership for her scholarship.

The next camper was Nash McDowell. She enthusiastically spoke about majoring in Herpetology and reported filling an entire notebook with all she learned. She enjoyed hiking, the counselors and making lots of friends with whom she shared "a profound love of nature". Nash hopes to return to camp next year and also wholeheartedly thanked the membership.

The last camper to speak was Emily Beach. Emily majored in botany and enjoyed the fact that it was a small, quiet and attentive class. She enjoyed learning the parts of plants, tree identification, and all about mosses and ferns. She described a very fun 4<sup>th</sup> of July with many special activities. She had a wonderful time and gave the membership a huge thank you.

The fourth scholarship recipient, Sofia Mendez was not able to be there.

After their presentations Shirley thanked the girls and their families for coming and they departed.

Items discussed at the September 3, 2014 Board meeting were then reported and/or updated for the information of the members.

Shirley asked Mike Woodward to make a Membership presentation.

#### *Membership - Mike Woodward*

- Mike reported that the Chapter has already amassed 7,254 volunteer hours in 2014 and 26,550 miles.
- Four members of Cohort XIII became Certified Master Naturalists. They are Doug Dwoyer, Bob Gibbs, Nancy Pledger, and Mike Woodward.
- Milestone awards were given to the following:
  - Hart Haynes, 250 hours
  - Inge Curtis, 500 hours
  - Judy Jones, 500 hours
  - Seig Kopinitz, 1000 hours
- An announcement was made about the upcoming “Black Lights & Bugs” program at New Quarter Park on Saturday, September 13, from 7:30-9:30. Teta Kain will be there to make a short presentation on moths. Then there will be several viewing stations available to see the night insect activity.
- Shirley thanked Mike and Jeanette (who wasn’t able to be there) for all their hard work in switching our Listserv provider. The transition has gone smoothly.

***Past President - Patty Maloney***

- Patty reported on the upcoming State Conference to be held September 26-28. There are 240 registrants.
- The winning photos of the HRC photo contest will be on display in the Statewide photo contest for judging by the Colonial Nature Photography Club. The photos are by Inga Curtis; fauna, Judy Jones; flora, and Hart Haynes; “other”.
- The Keynote Speaker for Saturday night is the entomologist Art Evans. He will have his new book available at that time.

***Treasurer - Cheryl Jacobson (not present)***

- Cheryl provided the following information on account balances:

Checking	\$2,647.05
Nancy Norton Scholarships	395.00
Basic Training	1,631.64

***Basic Training - Roger Gosden (not present)***

***Volunteer Service Projects - Jan Lockwood (not present)***

***Continuing Education - Lucy Manning***

- Lucy reported on several up-coming Continuing Education opportunities:
  1. Felice Bond's Photography Class at the JCC Recreation Center on Thursday night at 7:00.
  2. A Native Plant Walk on September 20
  3. After Hours Lecture at VIMS on September 25
  4. A movie called "Chasing Ice" about sea level rise will be shown at the Williamsburg Library on September 15

***Field Trips - Dean Shostak***

- Dean reported the success of the trip to Wakefield to the National Weather Service Weather Forecasting Station. He will be putting together an email of questions to send to the staff there for anyone who might have a follow-up question.
- Sherry Brubaker reported on a trip to Surry to a Monarch garden with lunch following at the Virginia Diner.

***Newsletter - Deb Woodward***

- Deb is working on the newsletter. She needs photos and articles in the next two days.

***Host - Sherry Brubaker***

- Sherry reported that the Holiday Party will be on December 10 at Legacy Hall in New Town from 6:00-9:00. She will be putting together a committee to help with the event.

***Members at Large - Les Lawrence, Clyde Marsteller, Janet Curtis, Joanne Sheffield, Tom Dougherty (not present)***

**BREAK**

**RAFFLE DRAWINGS - Sherry Brubaker**

***Vice President - Programs - Linda Morse***

- Linda introduced Doug Dwoyer, retired Aerospace Engineer from NASA Langley, and HRC Master Naturalist who gave a talk on "Hampton Roads in the Dynamic Anthropocene Climate Regime - Large Changes are Coming Soon".
- Doug introduced the concept of Anthropocene which he described as an "informal geologic chronological term" that incorporates the effects of human activity on natural systems.

- In addition to a fact-filled presentation, Doug offered three questions for Master Naturalists to contemplate: 1. Are risks posed by climate change sufficient to stimulate action on our parts.  
2. If so, how much are we willing to change our lifestyles, and 3. What obligation do Master Naturalists have to actively participate in solutions.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Barnhart

Co-recording Secretary