

Historic Rivers Chapter - VMN

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

The April General Membership Meeting of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists was called to order by President Shirley Devan at 6:05 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Human Services Building, 5249 OldeTown Road, Williamsburg, VA.

Vice-President Linda Morse introduced the speaker, Dorothy Geyer, Natural Resource Specialist, National Park Service. Dorothy has been with the Park Service for over 25 years. She gave us a brief history of Colonial National Historical Park, pointing out that it was the first National Historical Park in the country. The Park has three main components; Jamestown, the Colonial Parkway, and the Yorktown Battlefield. The sub-units include Greensprings, Swann's Point, and Tindall's Point where the NPS owns some of the earthworks.

Dorothy then gave a brief summary of the various projects that HRC volunteers have been involved at in the National Park. They include Colonial Marsh Bird Monitoring, Invasive Species Removal, Field Plant Inventory at Yorktown, and a Meadowlark Nesting Survey undertaken by Angier Brock.

New projects on the horizon include a Yorktown Battlefield Bird survey and a 2015 Bioblitz for July and August focusing on butterflies. In 2016 the National Park Service will be celebrating its 100 anniversary and Dorothy hopes there will be a Centennial bioblitz event involving bees. She asked if we as MN would be interested in participating in the bioblitz.

She then showed a short video produced by the National Park Foundation called Find Your Park, promoting the NPS as it approaches its Centennial.

Business Meeting:

Membership - Deb Woodward for Mike Woodward

- Deb announced two milestone awards: Lois Ullman for 1000 hours. Lois has been involved in many activities; Project Feederwatch, CoCoRHAS, and Bluebird Monitoring and Coordinating.
- A second milestone award was announced for Barb Dunbar for 500 hours. She has been involved in many activities especially the Monarch Initiative.
- Deb had pins available for several volunteers who have been recertified.

Treasurer - Deb Woodward

- Deb announced we have a current balance of \$4,494.55.

Basic Training - Sharon Plocher

- Sharon reported there are currently 24 people interested in Basic Training for next training session.

Volunteer Service Projects - Jan Lockwood

- Jan reported on the upcoming research of William and Mary Professors Harmony Dagniesh and Josh Puzey on Milkweed and Monarchs. We will have the opportunity to help them locate and/or collect native common milkweed which they are studying to see how it relates to Monarchs on the Coastal Plain. Deane Gordon will be the liaison between the HRC and Harmony and Josh.
- Barb Bucklin is working on a proposal for a project at Matoaka Elementary School. She was involved in establishing a nature trail at the school which needs to be maintained and enhanced. There is a nature club at the school that would like to partner with the HRC for help with maintenance of the trail and in initiating bird and butterfly habitats. She will keep us up to date.
- Lois Ullman reported that there is no news or progress on the Nutria Project which was introduced by Todd Englemeier last year.
- Jan gave an update on the Project Sparrow Swap. There has not been much progress on this project. The Virginia Bluebird Society has some concerns about it. Jan will keep us informed.
- Jan reported that there is little activity so far on the bluebird trails.

Continuing Education - Adrienne Frank and Gary Driscole

- Adrienne reported that there are many events between now and the end of May. HRC members can see all the events listed on the Chapter website: historicrivers.org. She will send an email about the times/places for the Spring Butterfly Exploration which will be conducted at a number of locations on almost every day of the third week in April.
- There is a kickoff meeting for Osprey Watch on April 17.
- Sara Lewis reported that Friday Frolics are on-going at New Quarter Park from 1-3 p.m. There will be work to do on the rain garden and the Bobwhite habitat. The Native Plant Society has inquired about calling the Bobwhite habitat the Bobwhite/ Butterfly Habitat. They would like to see the planting of some wildflowers and the reduction of some of the fescue that is there now.
- On May 2, NQP will celebrate its 30th Anniversary and HRC will join in the celebration. Judy Jones will send out more information in email.

Field Trips - Sherry Brubaker

- Sherry mentioned several happenings in the area that members might be interested in. These include the current exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on flowers in art, Clyde's frogs at the Virginia Living Museum, and the Birds, Bugs, and Butterflies art exhibit at the Dewitt Wallace gallery at William and Mary.

- Upcoming trips include the Chippokes Butterfly garden presentation on April 18, the trip to the Fish Hatchery on April 22, and the Kayaking Trip at Dragon Run on May 5.

Newsletter - Doug Dwoyer

- Doug reported that the deadline for the April newsletter is Sunday, April 12.

Historian - Cheryl Jacobson

- Cheryl reported that there have been a number of articles and/or pictures about HRC members including Cohort IX graduation, Sieg's tulip blossom photo, mentions of upcoming bluebird presentations, and an article about and picture of Shirley Devan in the Home and Leisure section of the Daily Press.

Publicity and Outreach - Judy Jones

- The HRC logo clothing has arrived and Judy is able to take new orders if there is interest in this. She will send an email about it.
- On May 13, the three recipients of the Nancy Norton Nature Camp Scholarships will come to the Chapter meeting to introduce themselves.
- Upcoming events involving the HRC include: the James River Fest on 4/25, the 10th Anniversary celebration at NQP on 5/2, the Chickahominy Riverfront Festival on 5/16, and Estuaries Day at York River State Park on 8/22.

Vice-President, Programs - Linda Morse

- On May 13 we will show the film "Symphony of the Soil" in the auditorium. That same evening will include the introduction of the Nancy Norton Nature Camp Scholarship recipients. It will begin at 6:00 p.m.
- On May 20 the HRC will combine meetings with the Williamsburg Bird Club and hear a presentation from Pearl Beamer, wildlife rehabilitator. She will be bringing some hawks with her. That meeting will begin at 7:30.
- Mathias Leu, Professor of Biology, College of William and Mary will be the speaker at the June meeting.
- We have no General Membership meetings in July and August.
- The September meeting will feature a presentation on spiders.

Hosts - Joe Beene, Maud Ann Wilson, Barb Bucklin

- A sign-up sheet was circulated for snacks for General Membership meetings.
- There were three items distributed as door prizes.

Members At Large

- Alice Kopinitz has raffle tickets for sale for the quilt from the Native Plant Society.

- Doug Dwoyer reported on a book that could be of great interest to HRC members called, The New Wild: Why Invasive Species Will Be Nature's Salvation, by Fred Pearce, Icon Books (2015).
- The raffle at the May meeting will be for books by Roger Gosden, Sara Lewis, and Helen Hamilton. Proceeds of the raffle will go to the Nancy Norton Nature Camp Scholarship fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. followed by refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Barnhart, Co-recording Secretary