

## VMN-HRC General Membership Meeting

### Minutes

Wednesday, 13 April 2016

The meeting was held in the Kitzinger Room at the James City County Library, Norge, Va. Judy Jones called the meeting to order at 6:05 and asked Les Lawrence to introduce the guest speaker.

Les introduced Wes Hudson, PhD candidate at VIMS. Wes began his presentation by thanking the chapter for contributing 774 volunteer hours to his project titled *Development of Forest Wetland Ecology Functions in a Hydrologically Controlled Field Experiment in New Kent County, Virginia*. Non-tidal forested headwater wetland trees composed 96% of the living biomass in Virginia. Forty-two percent of these wetland trees have been lost. The eco-restoration goal is to return the forest wetland function to its original biomass. The challenge is that tree biomass is not keeping up with wetland restoration. Wes' methodology was to plant seven different species of trees in three identical, adjacent field plots. The amount of ground water in each field plot was varied producing an ambient, saturated, or flooded environment. Our chapter, along with many other volunteers, measured tree growth three times a year for six years. Wes presented his data showing the fitness of each type of tree in each type of field plot environment. Wes will be publishing his results within the next few weeks.

After thanking Wes the meeting took an intermission for snacks provided by Roger Gosden, Shirley Devan, and Linda Morse.

Judy resumed the meeting at 7:40. There will be another clothing order. A new water proof jacket has been added. If you have another piece of clothing that you would like to get embroidered with the VMN logo, get it to Judy; the cost is ten dollars. Beginning in August, the board meetings will be held at the Williamsburg Landing thanks to Joe Beene. May's general meeting will include an introduction of the three Nancy Norton Scholarship winners.

Jan Lockwood announced that our guest speaker at the May meeting will be Robert Isdell, PhD candidate at VIMS. His topic is *Turtles of the Virginia Coastal Plain, Including Research on the Diamondback Terrapin*.

Renee Dalman, Membership, announced that HRC members have volunteered 75,320 hours since our chapter began in 2005. Milestones hours were reached by these chapter members: Dave Youker, 2500; Judy Jones, 1500; and Virginia Carey, Jim Corliss, Kathy Cross, Sharon Falconer, Gwendolyn Harris, David Lunt, Sue Mutell, Maud Ann Wilson, 250 hours.

Nancy Barnhart introduced several upcoming volunteer opportunities. Patty Maloney is the coordinator for the Adopt-a-Trail which includes wildlife mapping at 14 sites. Individual trail leaders will announce dates for mapping. Shirley Devan gave an overview of the Virginia

Breeding Bird Atlas 2. Details can be found at <http://www.viriniabirds.net/Virginia-Breeding-Bird-Atlas.html>. Les Lawrence is leading the Bio Blitz at York River State Park on 23 April. Twenty two volunteers have signed up. Freedom Park Nature Trail (built by Go Ape) will be adopted by Cohort X. Interpretive signs for children will be added to the trail.

Adrienne and Gary will be hosting a butterfly walk at Warhill Sports Complex on Sunday, 17 April. The new revised *Butterflies of the Williamsburg Area* are printed and ready for use. Report any butterfly sighting to eButterfly. Use the Continuing Education list to plan your participation in local educational events. Bug Night with Teta Kain is scheduled for 26 July.

The Basic Training committee is on vacation for a few weeks. Cohort XI training meetings will be held at the JCC Law Enforcement building thanks to Renee Dalman's husband, Tony, a Major in the JCC Police Department.

Barbara Neis reviewed the upcoming outreach events. Riverfest will be held at the JCC Marina from 10-2 on 30 April. May 21<sup>st</sup> is the Chickahominy Family Fest. Please make sure and view Sonny Bowers' videos on the HRC website.

There are 15 people attending the tour of the York River Waste Treatment Plant on Tuesday, 26 April. Sherry also announced a Science Under Sail program aboard the *Alliance*, Riverwalk Marina, Yorktown on 18 May.

Three items were raffled as the closing venue. Maud Ann Wilson won the Hummingbird Watercolor. Mike Woodward won the Animal Tracks Guide. Sue Mutell won the Hummingbird coasters. Members were again reminded to sign up for May and June refreshments.

Judy adjourned the meeting at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Deane Gordon, Co-recording Secretary