

VMN-HRC General Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday May 11, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Judy Jones at 6:05 PM. It was held in the Kitzinger Room at the James City County Library, Norge VA

Judy introduce two of the Nancy Norton Nature Camp Scholarship recipients. Zoe Averett is an 8th Grader at Hornsby Middle School. This will be her fourth year attending Nature Camp. Ned Rose is an 8th Grader at Peasley Middle School. He enjoys herpetology and wildlife photography. The third recipient, sixth-Grader Carter Thrash, was not in attendance.

Jan Lockwood introduced our speaker, Robert Isdell, VIMS Ph.D candidate. He spoke about *Turtles of the Coastal Plain and Research on Diamondback Terrapins*. There were detailed descriptions and photographs of the 21 species of turtles found in Virginia's Coastal Plain, discussions of the general threats to their habitat, and the ways we can help the turtle population. After fielding questions from the audience, the Chapter thanked our speaker and took a short recess to enjoy refreshments.

Upon conclusion of our refreshment break, Judy called upon Les Lawrence to discuss the BioBlitz. Les thanked all who participated. Team Captains Shirley Devan, Nancy Barnhart and Les Lawrence awarded Certificates for a Degree in Biodiversity Science from Biodiversity University to all HRC participants.

Judy announced that the Executive Board minutes are now posted on the VMS website. She also announced that Adrienne Frank will be presenting a program about Butterflies at 7PM on June 2 here in this room.

Judy also announced that she and others are thinking of going to the IMAX Theater in Hampton next Thursday, May 19, for the 12PM showing of the movie "One Hundred Years of National Parks". Admission is \$8.00.

The State VMN conference will be on August 26 through 28 at Smith Mountain Lake. Registration opens on June 20, and is expected to fill up fast.

There are two clothing items for sale this evening: a woman's large denim shirt for \$35 and a women's small navy blue polo shirt for \$25.

Ted Sargent spoke about the State Photo Contest. In the past, our Chapter photo contest mirrored the same categories as the State photo contest, and our Chapter winner photos were submitted for the State contest. This year, the State has changed the categories. Our Chapter winner for Flora was Hart Haynes' Fern photo, and our Chapter Fauna photo was George Reiske's Barred Owl photo. These photos were shown, and the membership voted for the one Chapter entry in the new "Flora and Fauna" category of the State contest.

The other (new) categories in the State photo contest are "Landscapes and Habitats" and "VMNs in Action". The membership voted to open a new Chapter photo contest for these new categories. Ted Sargent will send an email to the membership about the rule and deadlines for

photo submission. Judy noted that there will be a photo display in the lobby of the Williamsburg Regional Library from July 19 through August 30. Cohort XI will have their orientation meeting there on August 23. Thanks to Maud Ann Wilson for reserving this space for our photo display in 2016 and 2017.

Jan Lockwood noted that our speaker for the June meeting will be Dr. Shawn Dash, Asst Professor of Biology, Hampton University. The subject is *Fifty Shades of Pollination*.

Renee Dallman announced that David Lunt has reached the 250 hour milestone. Karen Wilson of Cohort X has earned VMN certification. HRC has logged 76,463 hours since our beginning. There will be a big recognition ceremony in September. Renee reminded everyone to record their hours of volunteer service and continuing education.

Judy noted that oval magnets with the VMN logo have been ordered and will be available next week for \$5.00 each. All proceeds will go into the General Fund.

Nancy Barnhart noted that Bill Wallace is looking for volunteers to collect oyster shells from local restaurants. Bill will re-send an email about this project. Paul Cuomo is also seeking volunteers for a pollinator garden project at the Wahrani Nature Trail in New Kent on May 22. Respond to Paul directly if you can help out.

Adrienne Frank noted that the Butterfly Walk at Warhill High School went well. Participants can log their hours as volunteer time on the Butterfly Project. Adrienne will be doing a butterfly presentation on June 2, 7PM at the JCC Norge Library. This is a Continuing Education opportunity.

Judy reported for the Basic Training Committee. The Executive Board voted to raise training fees from \$150.00 to \$175.00. This was the first increase in ten years, and is needed to cover the increasing costs of materials and references. Applications for Cohort XI Basic Training will be available online on June 1. Training starts the Tuesday after Labor Day, and orientation is August 23, 6PM at the Williamsburg Library.

Past President Shirley Devan spoke about the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas. Everyone lives in a survey block, so please take note of the birds in your yard and in your neighborhood. You can email your information to Shirley and she will make sure it gets to the right place and the right block of the database. Warblers start breeding in June, so please watch for breeding behavior.

Judy also reported for Sherry Brubaker, who was not present. With people traveling in the summer, field trips are on hold until the Fall.

Barbara Neis said that volunteers are needed for our next event, The Chickahominy Family Funfest, on May 21 at Chickahominy Park. We need people for the end of the day, as the event runs through 4PM. Barbara will send an email asking for volunteers.

There is an ongoing project for a garden on the grounds of Jamestown Marina, the former Eco-Discovery Park. The garden contains a lot of native plants contributed by the Native Plant Society, but needs a lot of weeding and maintenance. Portia Belden has volunteered to lead this effort, and will be sending out an email about the project.

Barbara also encouraged everyone to look on the HRC website for the VMN statewide video trailer created by Sonny Bowers.

Maud Ann Wilson thanked Barbara Neis, Christina Clarke, and Daniel Keener for the evening's refreshments. We still need another person to volunteer for refreshments for the June meeting.

Tonight's raffle raised \$90. for the General Fund. The raffle prize, an original stained glass piece created by Joe Beene, was won by Shirley Devan.

Ted Sargent announced that the Flora/Fauna photo contest vote was won by George Reiske's Barred Owl photo.

Since there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Mutell, Co-Recording Secretary