

**Historic Rivers Chapter - VMN**  
**General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, 11 April, 2012**

The April General Membership Meeting of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists was called to order by Patty Maloney at 6:06 p.m. The meeting was held in the Human Services Building, Multipurpose Room, 5249 Olde Towne Road, Williamsburg, VA.

Several items discussed at the April 4, 2012 Board meeting were updated:

General Membership Meeting programs: The program for the May Meeting has yet to be determined.

Treasurer's report: As of March 31, 2012, the account balance is \$2,354.19, with collection of member dues continuing. Only 8 of the Chapter's total 79 members have outstanding dues.

HRC Listserv: The Board determined it will not create a separate second "sharing" list, separate from the listserv. The approved guidelines for the listserv will be distributed to Chapter members for their review and discussed at a future General Membership Meeting.

Volunteer Service projects:

- April 21, 2012, 11-5 p.m. James River Fest – Shirley Devan has coordinated equipment and volunteers to man the HRC booth. Thank you to all who have volunteered.
- April 21, 2012, 10-11:30 a.m. Freedom Park Interpretive Center – Shirley Devan is presenting a program on bluebirds to the Williamsburg Botanical Garden, followed by a visit to a nestbox. Volunteers from Cohort VI will assist with the nestbox visit.
- April 25, 2012, 9-1 p.m. York Elementary School Grade 1 Field Trip to New Quarter Park. New rain date May 2. Program leaders and volunteers have been confirmed.
- May 10, 2012, 9-1 p.m. Patrick Henry School Grade 1 Field Trip to New Kent Forestry Center, rain date May 25. - Thank you to Chapter members who have volunteered.
- July 14, 2012, 8 p.m. National Moth Night, New Quarter Park – presented by Felice Bond, Seig Kopinitz, and Susan Powell.

Membership Award: Sara Lewis received her Master Naturalist recertification. Congratulations, Sara.

Outstanding Volunteers Serving York County Government Award: Congratulations to HRC Member Jeanne Millin, Carol Fryer, and Anne Nielsen, who were nominated and selected for the 2011 Outstanding Volunteer Award for their work as Master Gardener Water Stewards in designing, creating, and promoting a rain garden at New Quarter Park. The award will be presented at York Hall on Main Street on Tuesday, April 17 at 6 p.m.

Advanced Training: Please visit the website to check for training opportunities.

Newsletter: Patty Riddick was applauded for her exceptional work on the HRC newsletter.

Publicity and Outreach: Photographs of Cohort VI graduation have been sent to area media and are awaiting publication.

Field Trip: 28 members are registered for the Geology Field Trip to Covington on April 28-29. Space is still available, with April 18 being the cut-off date. Jerre Johnson and Charlie Dubai will lead the group. Les and Dean are making arrangements for secure parking for participants' vehicles.

Project Osprey Watch: The Board approved a request to include members' meetings to discuss osprey behavior and observation of nesting osprey as volunteer service hours for this approved Chapter program.

Event Calendar:

- April 21, 2012, 9 a.m. – noon, “Bring Your Own Paddle” at New Quarter Park
- April 22, 2012, 7:30 a.m. Williamsburg Bird Club Field Trip to the Great Dismal Swamp, Leader is Bob Ake
- April 28, 2012, 9 – 11 p.m. “Star Gazing Night” at New Quarter Park

Potential Future HRC You tube: Tom Dougherty and Dean Shostak reviewed a Texas Master Naturalist You tube channel and believe a similar program could be a valuable informational and recruiting tool for HRC. They will submit it as a project for the Chapter's consideration.

Program:

Dean Shostak presented a video of a field trip to the Florida Everglades, January 12-16, 2012, that he had coordinated and led for 22 Chapter and family members. The video recorded the group's experience of the unique ecosystem and amazing wildlife as they kayaked across lakes ringed with wintering birds and alligators, glided through mangrove tunnels, slogged through a cypress swamp past an alligator hole and its resident, and hiked trails both day and night. They also discovered panther footprints imprisoned in the mud at the Panther Refuge, saw many butterflies, and toured the National Cypress Wildlife Refuge by Swamp Buggy to find delicate wildflowers, a cricket frog, numerous waterfowl, and more panther tracks! The video of the highly enjoyable trip was accompanied by original music played and composed by Dean. He concluded with suggestions to extend and enhance future field trips to the area.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Lockwood, Co-Recording Secretary