

## **Historic Rivers Chapter - VMN**

### **General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, June 11, 2014**

The June General Membership Meeting of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists was called to order by President Shirley Devan at 6:12 p.m. in the auditorium of the Human Services building, 5249 Olde Towne Rd., Williamsburg, VA.

Because of our very special guest speaker and presentation for the evening, members of the Peninsula chapter of the VMN were also in attendance as well as several potential members of HRC Cohort 9. Prior to the presentation, items discussed at the June 4 board meeting were reported and updated.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Shirley Devan**

Shirley began by bringing forward Publicity and Outreach Chair, Judy Jones, to introduce the fourth winner of this year's Nancy Norton Nature Camp scholarships, Sofia Mendez, a fourth grader at Hornsby Middle School. Sofia and her mom were unable to be with us in May. Sofia plans to study some topic in botany at camp.

Next, Dorothy Geyer from the National Park Service was introduced and presented a Hartog volunteer citation for help in salt marsh monitoring around Jamestown Island (birds, salinity, vegetation, etc) to Patty Maloney and Dave Youker of our chapter. Shirley accepted the award on their behalf and noted that the project is ongoing and HRC chapter members will continue to be involved.

Shirley then reminded us about the photo contest for the state conference "other" category and clarified that "other" involves anything not flora or fauna, such as weather shots, inanimate natural objects, etc. Photos are due to Ted Sargent by July 4.

She noted that our chapter, partnering with the Peninsula chapter, will be hosting the state conference September 26-28 at the Virginia Living Museum, with great field trips throughout coastal VA and many wonderful workshops. Information about registration should be coming out soon.

The dates for Cohort 9 basic training were announced: September 2 through the March General member meeting.

TREASURER - Cheryl Jacobson

Cheryl cited our fund totals as General, \$3391.22; Nancy Norton Scholarship, \$320; and Training, \$278.

MEMBERSHIP - Mike Woodward

Mike exclaimed that our chapter has topped 50,000 total volunteer hours since our inception, and that we have already clocked 5,000 for this year! Keep those hours coming, and don't forget to report them!

VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROJECTS - Jan Lockwood

Jan reported that ten HRC members assisted with our regional effort on Clean The Bay Day (June 7) and that it was a successful effort. Hundreds of pounds of trash were collected in our area with many groups participating.

HISTORIAN - Adrienne Frank

Adrienne exhibited a copy of our wonderful new Butterfly brochure and noted where we have them distributed. Checklists will also be available for the coming butterfly count efforts. The Williamsburg count will be on August 9, and she will circulate the July dates for the other regional counts.

PROGRAMS - Linda Morse

Next, Shirley brought Linda up to introduce, Dr. Stewart Ware, Emeritus William and Mary biology faculty member, who provided us with a wonderful presentation on the "naturalist" recordings of John Smith when he explored the Jamestown, and greater Tidewater region, in the 1600's. It was a fascinating and well done presentation which generated lots of laughter and many good questions. He received loud applause and a remembrance from the chapter.

After our raffle drawing, conducted by HOSTESS Sherry Brubaker, Shirley made one more special presentation, a pink VMN "onesie" for Cohort 8 mom Danielle and daughter Parker Lawson, the two of whom attended all but one training session-- the latter in utero--last year!

All business having been conducted, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Carey, co-Recording Secretary