

VMN-HRS General Membership Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, 10 February, 2016

The meeting, held in the auditorium of the James City County Library, on Croaker Rd, Norge, VA, was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Shirley Devan.

Linda Morse, Vice President/Program Chair, was called on first to introduce our speaker for the evening: Dr. Matt Balazik, from the Rice Center at VCU, who spoke about sturgeon, especially in the James River. There has been a restoration of these "fish of superlatives" who live long lives, as much as 60 years. Dr. Balazik regaled the audience with interesting historical and population data for this endangered species. He and his research team work on survival studies, spawning issues, and electronarcosis. Without support, sturgeon may disappear from their natural habitat in the Northern Hemisphere.

After the chapter thanked Dr. Balazik, Shirley resumed the order of business by reporting on the work of the HRC nominating committee which included, in addition to Shirley, Jennifer Trevino, Barb Neis, Deb Woodward, and Deane Gordon. The complete list of proposed officers and board members, as well as board members completing their two year terms, and those continuing in two year terms, is provided in the minutes of the February 3 board meeting. Shirley thanked everyone for being willing to serve. The slate of nominees will be voted on at our March 9 general membership meeting.

Deb Woodward gave the Treasurer's report, reviewing last month's financials and going over the basics of the budget proposed for the new year. Signed copies of both these documents are included with the February 3 board minutes. Dues are now being collected for this year.

Mike Woodward has compiled, submitted, and disseminated our annual report for 2015. He cited some of the highlights and encouraged everyone to read it. 83 of our members are being re-certified.

Linda Morse reviewed our programs for March (graduation) and April. Jan Lockwood will begin taking over for programs after that time.

Jan Lockwood took the floor next to talk about volunteer service projects. She summarized a new initiative from the Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries in connection with the VBWT (Virginia Bird and Wildlife Trails) project. This initiative was discussed at length at the Feb. board meeting with no formal action, but a suggestion that a single coordinator for assessing our possible participation be found. Patty Maloney has agreed to take on that role, and we are looking at helping with at least phase one of the initiative. She has already begun signing up volunteers. There will be a Webinar on March 4.

Sara Lewis announced a new project: the 6th Public Archaeology Days. Many historical artifacts have been uncovered at New Quarter Park and help is needed to wash and preserve them. There will be a monthly "Wash and Talk" for which folks can register, or just show up. It was announced there will be a "Bird Sleuth" program at New Quarter Park on April 15-16. This will be led by Jeanne and Mike Millen.

Shirley Brubaker recapped several field trips including two Naked Tree Walks (Charlie Dubay, and one at Jamestowne Settlement) There will be a Hog Island trip in March and possibly Dragon Run in April.

Under the heading of "Outreach," Judy Jones noted the James City County Expo on Feb.27 (volunteers are already onboard) and the James River Fest in April. More information will be forthcoming. She will have VMN garb available for sale at graduation on March 9 and everyone is encouraged to wear such to graduation.

Gary and Adrienne reiterated the Naked Tree Walk with Charlie Dubay this Saturday and reminded everyone that continuing education offerings including VIMS programs are posted on our website. Shirley reminded everyone of the coming weekend Great Backyard Bird Count.

As we moved toward closing, guests in attendance were introduced, the raffle winners were announced by Maud Ann Wilson. Fresh eggs brought by Ruth and Deane Gordon were a welcome new addition to our usual wonderful offerings.

There being no other old or new business, Shirley adjourned the meeting at 8:36.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Carey, Co-Recording Secretary