

**HRC - VMN General Membership Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, January 13, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Linda Morse at 6:00 p.m. It was held in the Kitzinger Room of the James City County Library, on Croaker Road, Norge, VA.

Linda began by asking the Host Committee to tell us about the evening's raffle. Maud Ann told us the raffle will benefit the Nancy Norton Nature Camp Scholarship Fund. The committee circulated a sign-up sheet for refreshments for upcoming meetings.

Linda then introduced the speaker for the evening. Dr Norman Fashing, a retired professor of biology at William and Mary received his PhD in Entomology and Arachnology from the University of Kansas. His specialty is the study of mites.

Dr. Fashing's presentation was a fascinating look at the world of spiders. He included several videos of spiders showing the hard work of web spinning and the variations in design and use. He debunked a few urban legends about spiders and Daddy Long-legs showing many very entertaining photos. The class Arachnid includes 45,700 spider species worldwide, with 4,000 in North America, and 30 in Virginia. He noted that they are not studied much so there may be more species. Spiders have a wide range of eye pattern and this is used for keying species. We learned about what they eat, their silk and its different kinds, parts of the spider, social spiders, breeding, and their value. Dr. Fashing's presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session.

General Meeting

President - Shirley Devan

Shirley thanked Jan Lockwood for bringing snacks. Jan was assisted by Jeanne Millin, Patty Maloney, and Judy Jones.

Shirley then welcomed 2 guests, Richard and Regina Beck. Richard spoke about the Community Leadership course sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. This course familiarizes participants with the volunteer opportunities in the greater Williamsburg area. It covers all aspects of the community and includes an environmental component. Through contact with Lucy Manning, a graduate of the class and a member of HRC, Richard was put in touch with Shirley. Shirley will speak to the group about all the opportunities for volunteering in the natural science world. She will tell them about the HRC-VMN program and our partners as well as other opportunities.

Shirley next spoke on the upcoming Annual Meeting and elections. Elections will be held on March 9 at the Annual Meeting and Graduation. The following positions will be open: President, Vice-President/Programs, Co-recording Secretaries, Volunteer Service Projects, Membership, Publicity and Outreach, and 2 members-at-large. The nominating committee is Shirley, Deb Woodward, Jennifer Trevino, Deane Gordon, Barb Neis.

The Annual Report has been filed with the State and is available to members. Mike Woodward did an excellent job of preparing the report. Shirley encouraged all members to take some time to read it. HRC has 140 members. In 2015 the Chapter spent 1663.76 hours on Education and Outreach, 7546.5 hours in Citizen Science, and 580.55 hours in Stewardship.

Shirley reported that the Board approved the 2016 Budget at the January 6, 2016 Board meeting. It is a balanced budget with income and expenses each of \$3650.00. Treasurer Deb Woodward did an outstanding job preparing the budget. Deb will send out an email about dues. Information about the budget will be in the newsletter.

Field Trips - Sherry Brubaker

On January 19 at the Jamestown Settlement, Joni Carlson will give a tour of the Clayton and Catesby exhibit at 3:30. There will be an outdoor tour at 2:00, Clayton and Catesby tour at 3:30, and a presentation by Donna Ware at 4:30.

The second field trip Sherry reported is in celebration of Clyde and Miss Ellie's 55th Wedding Anniversary, there will be a trip across the James River via ferry, to possibly the Smith Fort, the Peanut Shop and Virginia Dinner.

There is a sign up sheet in the back of the room for these two trips.

Basic Training - Sharon Plocher and Jennifer Trevino

Sharon reported that Cohort X is a very enthusiastic group and many hope to be certified by graduation.

Volunteer Service Projects - Jan Lockwood

Jan reported on the new stewardship projects at three National Wildlife Refuges. These volunteer opportunities will be at James River NWR, Presquile NWR and Plum Tree Island NWR. Jan sent an email detailing these opportunities. The first one is on January 23. Some have already filled up so she reminded us to be sure to sign up soon.

Continuing Education - Adrienne Frank and Gary Driscoll

Gary and Adrienne reported that the list of CE opportunities is on the Chapter website.

Newsletter - Doug Dwoyer

The deadline for the newsletter is Sunday 1/17/16.

Members-at-Large - Paul Cuomo, Ruth and Deane Gordon, Les Lawrence, Clyde Marsteller, Susan Powell

Les reported Shan Gill's sighting of an Eastern Rat Snake in YRSP in January. The temperature was 51 degrees and the snake was not in the sun. It took several minutes for it to move while Shan watched.

Clyde reminded everyone of the Big Bug exhibit at the Virginia Living Museum. This exhibit will be on display until April. Also coming to the VLM is Jack Hannah, Director Emeritus of the Columbus Zoo, on 4/1/16 from 4-6 pm.

Other Business

Adrienne gave an update on the Annotated Butterfly Book that a number of HRC members have been working on. A draft document is being printed and will be available to those interested. The collection of data will be ongoing and is focusing on habitats, timing, plants used for nectaring, brood information, and plants that butterflies land on. There will be a focused effort to take photos along with observation data.

The host committee still needs volunteers to bring snacks in May and June and one more volunteer for March.

Jeff Honig reported that his employer, Canon, is interested in making donations to non-profits. A priority is given to those that involve children. Jeff is collecting a list of possible recipients and is welcoming suggestions.

Les Lawrence provided a large number of milkweed seed packets for distribution.

The raffle was held and produced \$122.00 for the Nancy Norton Nature Camp Scholarship Fund.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Barnhart, Co-recording Secretary