

VMN-HRC General Membership Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, October 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Deb Woodward at 6:00 p.m. It was held in the auditorium of the Human Services Building, 5249 Olde Towne Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188.

Before introducing the evening's speaker, Deb recognized Maud Ann Wilson who announced that raffle tickets were available for purchase. The proceeds of the raffle will benefit the Nancy Norton Nature Camp Scholarship.

Deb then introduced our speaker, Dr. Martin Gallivan, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Anthropology, College of William and Mary. Dr. Gallivan's presentation was titled "Powhatan - Landscapes of the the James-York Peninsula" and featured his studies of the watershed of the Chickahominy native cultures, particularly what cultures looked like before and after colonization. He gave a brief history of John Smith's explorations downstream from Jamestown to the Hampton area, up the York River and eventually to Werowocomoco for trading with the Powhatan.

Dr. Gallivan focused on the importance of landscape including such features as ice in the rivers, agriculture, forests, and estuary. He spoke on historical ecology, the relationship between environment (landscape) and humans. He spoke of the "deep history" of the Chesapeake region (prior to 1607) and the impact of native cultures on the environment, specifically on agriculture, forest management and fisheries.

There was a lively question and answer session following Dr. Gallivan's presentation. At the conclusion, Deb presented him with a special flash-drive card that the Chapter is giving to speakers in appreciation of their time and expertise.

Break

Membership - Mike Woodward

Mike announced and presented the following Volunteer Hour achievements: Thad Hecht - 500 hours (not present) and Doug Dwoyer - 250 hours.

Members from Cohort IX achieving certification status were Shan Gill, Millie Abel, and Lou Amato.

Special Presentation - Kathy Mestayer, Project FeederWatch

Kathy gave a presentation to the membership on Project FeederWatch. This is a project involving counting birds at a home feeding station during the winter season and entering the data on a Cornell Lab of Ornithology web page. Her presentation gave a very thorough explanation of how to participate in this project. This is a project good for any level of birder as Cornell provides information and guidelines on likely local bird populations. In addition, Judy Jones spoke of the very useful Cornell Lab app called "Merlin". This is a free bird identification app that is great for beginners.

Host Committee - Maud Ann Wilson, Barb Bucklin, Joe Beene

Maud Ann reminded the group about the upcoming Annual Chapter Picnic at Ted and Judy Sargent's house. It will be an all-day event and family and friends are invited. She asked that everyone remember to RSVP Ted with your plans. She is looking for help with table set-up, and a volunteer to help Judy in the kitchen.

Field Trips - Sherry Brubaker

Sherry asked for a show of hands on how many people went on one of the Sturgeon trips, and how many people were lucky enough to see a Sturgeon. She then spoke of a few possible trips for the near future including a trip to the Pamunkey Indian Reservation and a visit to a flower garden in Saluda, probably not until butterfly season next spring.

Sherry asked if there was any interest among the membership in putting together a Travelogue of members various trips to present as a Christopher Wren class. She asked members to give it some thought.

Mastodon Project Update

Several members had been at the dig site following a week and a half of rain and reported an abundance of sediment, water, and mud, and a small piece of bone. Updates to follow.

Nancy Norton Nature Camp Scholarships - Judy Jones

Judy reported that she will begin working on Nature Camp Scholarship applications earlier this year. She is looking for 4-5 people to help rework the application and then complete the review and selection process. She will send an email with details.

Additional Business

Susan Powell has created "Emergency Contacts and Telephone Numbers" and "Emergency Procedures" cards that she and Jennifer Trevino revised. They contain contact numbers for the VA Risk Management Office, Local Police and local hospital numbers among others. One card has more local numbers and a place for each member to enter their own contact information. Susan has made enough for every member of the Chapter. She distributed cards to those present. These are intended to be kept with Members or at least in your car.

Host - Maud Ann Wilson

Maud Ann conducted the raffle with several lucky members winning: an all-weather pad and pen won by Jan Lockwood, a book entitled Rocks and Fossils won by Mary Turnbull, and a moose stuffed-animal won by David Lunt. The raffle raised over \$100.00.

Maud Ann reminded us about the December 3 Holiday Party. Details to follow.

Deb reminded us that the November General Membership Meeting will be held in the Norge Library. The location changes will be highlighted in the October Newsletter.

Deb adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Barnhart, Co-Recording Secretary