

**OLD RAG MASTER NATURALISTS  
ANNUAL MEETING  
JUNE 20, 2015**

The annual meeting of the Old Rag Chapter was held in the barn of Earle and Betty Martin on their beautiful Stony Brook Farm in Syria, Virginia.

**Members in Attendance:** Doug Albach, Chris Anderson, Adele Baker, Janet Bearden, Dan Beisner, Ann Bowman, Bruce Bowman, Chris Browning, Grace Cangialosi, Connie Chamberlin, Bill Clark, Deirdre Clark, Marcia Colby, Julie Connelly, Leonard Cowherd, Ken Cranston, Cynthia Crook, Jane Dalton, Ed Dorsey, Pam Dowdell, Adam Downing, Ellen Early, Kris Eggleston, Katherine Englar, Tom Englar, Jenny Fitzhugh, Charles Fortuna, Victoria Fortuna, Jinx Fox, Erin Fuller, Alfred Goossens, Ted Goshorn, Pam Graves, Joyce Harman, Don Hearl, Shelley Henry, Ron Hughes Bev Hunter, Roberta Jalbert, Elizabeth Johns, Barry Johnston, Peggy Kenney, Heather Law, Cherri Lawson, Deborah Lee, Dee Dee Lyon, Michael Mastropaolo, Debby Millais, Everett Millais, Linda Murphy, Tracy Neely, Mary O'Meara, Charles Petty, Jack Price, Marie Riedel, Bill Rowe, Peggy Schochet, Wendy Short, Carolyn Smith, Jeff Smith, Jane Smith, Dana Squire, Gail Swift, Pat Temples, Roger Temples, John Watson-Jones, Caroline Watts, Eric Weber, Lynne Weber, Robin Williams, David Wright. Guests: Alycia Crall, Earle and Betty Martin, Chris Johns, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Northup.

Projects Fair: A display of twelve to fifteen projects that are supported by our chapter was set up in an area of the barn. Various members created displays and manned the tables, talking with the membership about the projects in which they are involved.

At 4pm, the meeting began with an introduction by Earle Martin, who gave a history of the farm, his stewardship goals and the American Chestnut restoration project he has on his property. The doors of the barn were closed for the powerpoint presentation and there was palpable sweating and panting on this very hot day.

At 4:30pm, President Don Hearl convened a business meeting.

- Barn doors were opened.
- Minutes of the March Quarterly Meeting were approved.
- Treasurer Linda Murphy began her presentation of the budget.
- Rain began pounding on the roof of the barn and starting blowing into the venue.
- Doors were closed.

Outside, another scene was unfolding. Lucille Ball (aka Caroline Watts) had made a trip to the PortaPotty when Linda started talking, (since Caroline is on the board and had heard it all before). When the deluge began, Caroline was inside the small enclosure, holding on for dear life. The wind was blowing, the rain was pummeling the sides of the john, and loud claps of lightning were all around her. She was terrified. But, she knew that safety was nearby, inside the barn. When a very brief lull came, she escaped from her prison, ran to the barn and....found the doors closed. Unable to open them from the outside, she began banging loudly, screaming out, looking for help. And the deluge began again. Drowned rat doesn't begin to describe....

- Linda continued her presentation of the budget. No one could hear a sound due to the pounding of the rain, not even the loud banging on the door.
- A loud clap of thunder caused Linda to shriek and she stepped away from the microphone.
- Linda gathered up her courage and continued talking. No one heard a word, not even the loud screaming at the barn door.
- Linda made a motion to accept the budget as presented. An enthusiastic second was made, vote was taken and the budget was approved.
- Doors were opened. Cool breezes began flowing through the barn. Signs of relief were heard throughout the audience. Lucille Ball entered the barn.

Old Business: none

- New Business:
  - certificates for completion of training were given to Class VII.  
Congratulations!
  - recertification awards and milestones were announced.

Business meeting was adjourned: 5 pm.

Introduction of Chris Johns, husband of member Elizabeth Johns, and Editorial Content Editor of the National Geographic Magazine. Chris spoke about the upcoming 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service, the importance of our national parks and the efforts of the magazine to support the creation of national parks in other areas of the world.

Introduction of Jim Northup, Superintendent of the Shenandoah National Park. Jim presented some of the recent changes in the park, and the initiatives under way for the future.

Movement toward the food! The doors were opened again, the food was delicious and abundant, and a good time was had by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Temples  
Secretary