

OLD RAG MASTER NATURALISTS
ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 18, 2016

Forty-three members of the chapter met at the Barn at Stony Brook Farm, home of Earle and Betty Martin of Syria, for the annual meeting and dinner.

Bill Clark opened the gathering with a welcome to members, thanks to Earle and Betty and introduction of Michele Prysby, the state director of the Virginia Master Naturalist program.

Michele complimented the chapter on its increasing membership and the numerous and varied projects in which we are volunteering. She reminded us of two things:

1. Statewide Conference, August 26-28. Registration for seminars will open on Monday, June 20, and will close on August 1. She encouraged everyone to sign up early as space is limited.
2. "Constant Contact" is a communication tool used by the VMN program to keep chapters and individuals informed of upcoming events, seminars, etc. If you want to be on the list to receive regular communications, go to the VMN website: www.virginiamasternaturalists.org and click on the "Stay Connected" button to enroll. VMN also has a Facebook page.

Bill Clark introduced the speaker for the meeting: Dr. Ricard Stanoss, DVM, Academic Program Director at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal. Dr. Stanoss spoke to the group about the mission of SCBI, recent accomplishments and cutting edge research being conducted there. A humble man, Dr. Stanoss frequently referred to the "geniuses who are my friends," but it was clear he is a member of that elite group at SCBI.

The Business Meeting was called to order by President Don Hearl.

Don spoke to the accomplishments of the chapter, including a new and improved website, a revamping of the upcoming Class 8 to be held in 2017, and a mini-grant from DEQ to support water quality/stream monitoring. We have 9 newly certified monitors in three teams working in several areas in our chapter region.

Don also spoke about the challenges of the chapter, the largest of which is finding people to serve on the Board and on committees. We are now 109 strong, and he encouraged everyone to take a turn in an administrative position.

The budget was circulated in an email by Linda Murphy, Treasurer, for review by the Membership. A motion was made to approve the budget, seconded, and a vote was taken in the Affirmative.

There are three unexpired terms that are vacant on the board. Those positions need to be filled for a term of one year. There was one completed second term that needed a replacement for a first term of two years. Ellen Early was voted in by the membership to fill the full term of two years. Don reported to the membership that it is the duty of the Board to vote in individuals to fill the three unfinished terms. Jinx Fox, Mary Frances leMat and Grace Cangialosi have agreed to serve in those positions.

New Business was presented by Vice-President Bill Clark . He thanked board members who are leaving and presented gifts to them: Linda Murphy (absent), Pat Temples, Deborah Lee, and Don Hearl (stepping down as President, but serving on the board in an ex officio capacity as Past President).

Dana Squire mentioned that certificates and name tags were available on a table nearby for anyone who had not yet received them.

Meeting was adjourned for dinner, 5 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Temples, Secretary

Board Meeting, June 18, 2016

Following the dinner, the Board convened for a brief meeting to appoint members to unexpired board seats and to elect officers for the upcoming year, July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017.

The board appointed the following people to fill unexpired terms for a period of one year. These individuals will be eligible to serve two consecutive two-year terms after June 30, 2017, if elected by the membership.

Grace Cangialosi
Jinx Fox
Mary Frances leMat

Elected as officers were:

President: Gail Swift
Vice-President: Peggy Kenney
Secretary: Mary Frances leMat
Treasurer: Ellen Early

There being no further business, there was a vote to adjourn the board meeting.

Patricia Temples, Secretary