

**MN State Advisory Committee Meeting
(Conference Call)**

January 15, 2015 - 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hrabovsky at 7:00 PM

Present were: Ellen Hrabovsky, Chairman, Monongahela

Andy Dalton, Vice Chairman, Canaan

Bernie Howe, Secretary

Clark Dixon, Potomac Valley

Sam Muncy, Member at Large

Denise Gwinn, web master

Jim Fregonara, DNR

Vicky Markey, Oglebay

Penny Miller, Oglebay

Sheldon Owen, Extension Agent

Melanie Snyder, Potomac Valley

Tommy Zeitz, Tygart Valley

Chairman Hrabovsky announced that Scott Warner is taking over the position of DNR Assistant Director to replace Walt Kordek. He will be based in Charleston and will meet with Jim Fregonara to get updated on the program. Chairman Hrabovsky requested a meeting with Scott at his earliest convenience.

A discussion on the Master Naturalist website was held. Chairman Hrabovsky thanked those chapters who have submitted their \$50 for support of the web site.

Denise Gwinn requested:

- Class schedule postings should be for the full year if possible**
- Schedule changes should be submitted as a whole new schedule**

A discussion was held on room availability. We currently have 11 rooms at Graceland, 26 rooms at the RCB Conference center, and 20 rooms at the Holiday Inn Express. The Holiday Inn Express rooms are \$104 each. All of this information will be on the registration materials.

Bernie Howe gave a report on the 2014 Conference Survey. Many of the complaints were minor and can be easily remedied by the committee. A template for conference planning has been emailed to each committee member.

Jim Fregonara will provide copying and sign making services. Additional support in this area will be provided by Sam Muncy.

Clark Dixon provided a summary report of the 2014 Conference Survey and gave a recap of his findings. (Summary report emailed to each member) Discussions were held on several of the issues.

Andy Dalton gave an update on courses and instructors for the 2015 Conference. Chairman Hrabovsky announced that she and Bernie Howe would do a two part course on photography. The morning session will be on basic photography and camera basics; the afternoon session will be on techniques for nature photography, field application, and photo enhancement with computer software. Several people volunteered to contact proposed speakers and report to Andy.

Sam Muncy announced that he has arranged for Mr. Brickman and Dr. Perkins of the American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) to provide the Friday night opening presentation. They will also conduct a workshop on Saturday morning. They are being supported by the TACF.

Andy Dalton will arrange for a speaker from the Astronomy Club to do a class room session with a “star gazing” component (weather permitting) following the Saturday night Annual Meeting.

Penny Miller will contact Paul Redford about scheduling one of the State Parks for the 2016 meeting.

Due to rising costs for food and facilities the registration fee was set at \$75 for early registration and \$100 for late and walk-in registration.

DNR will handle registration as they have in previous years.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernie Howe,

Secretary, MN State Advisory Committee