

WV Master Naturalist Annual Meeting

(Davis & Elkins College)

June 13, 2015 - 7:00 PM

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

Chairperson Hrabovsky welcomed all and recognized “first timers” as well as attendees from each Chapter. She also expressed appreciation for the excellent keynote presentation on the “American Chestnut” presented by Matt Brinckman, Science Coordinator for the The American Chestnut Foundation and thanked Sam Muncy for arranging the program.

Further recognition was given to Jim Fregonara of the WV DNR for his support in organizing the conference and to Mr. Shane Jones, Catering & Hospitality Manager of D & E, for the great service throughout the weekend.

Elections: Two positions on the State Advisory Committee are open; a 2 year term Member-at-Large and a 1 year Member-at-Large position due to the resignation of James VanGundy.

Sam Muncy was nominated and seconded for the 2 year position. Nominations were closed by motion and Mr. Muncy was unanimously elected.

Amy Wakefield was nominated for the 1 year position. Nominations were closed and Ms. Wakefield was elected unanimously

Mr. Scott Warner, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Diversity Division of the WV DNR was introduced. Mr. Warner spoke of the DNR support for the Master Naturalist Program and requested an annual meeting with State Advisory Committee. He also gave a brief overview of the SWAP (State Wildlife Action Plan) and invited participation at one of three Open Houses being held the following week.

MN Web site: It was noted that the Master Naturalist website has been updated and a suggestion to include the Bylaws and forms for application was discussed. Denise Gwinn, the webmaster, requested that all changes in chapter education schedules be submitted as an entire calendar and not just the schedule change. Denise was recognized for her good work keeping the web site current and useful.

Andy Dalton was thanked by all for her efforts in planning and implementing the Conference programs. Andy asked the members if there is an interest in exploring the possibility of sponsoring a Biodiversity weekend for families in the future. Several members volunteered to work with Andy on this idea.

MN Manual: A request was made to evaluate the Master Naturalist Manual and bring it in line with the curriculum. Also the manual should be made available in digital form. An *ad hoc* task force will address these issues.

The 2016 Annual Master Naturalist Conference will be held June 10th thru the 12th at North Bend State Park. Included next year will be a Friday night cookout and campfire. It was proposed that one or more preconference activities be planned and several suggestions were offered.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernie Howe,

Secretary, MN State Advisory Committee