



## **Master Naturalist State Advisory Committee**

### **January 19, 2017 conference call**

Attendance: Ellen Hrabovsky, Morgantown, Paul Bretonbach Potomac Valley, Penny Miller, Wheeling, Becky Linger, Kanawha Valley, Keith Richardson, New River Gorge, Jim Fregonara, Elkins DNR, Ann Wakeford, Sam Muncy, Members at large, Denise Gwinn, our webmistress, Kiernan O'Malley, Kathy Shreve, Scott Warner, DNR, Bernie Howe,

#### **I. Announcements**

##### **A. The \$50.00 fund to support our web site is not needed this year**

Any issues with not paying \$50? No.

##### **B. Welcome Keith Richardson and the New River Gorge Master Naturalists**

Welcome to the new coordinator! Keith called Ellen in the fall with the interest in reviving the chapter. The chapter will be running out of the New River Birding and Wetlands property. The county has leased the property to the chapter. Became a member in 2013, but it went defunct. Now interested in setting up the chapter and has set up the advisory committee and will be working with Ellen to set up the chapter.

Affiliation Agreement: Before sending Keith the affiliation agreement for signing it needed some revision. The description of the advisory committee needed adjustment. The new document is on file in the office in Elkins. The affiliation agreement is in order; however, the chapter bylaws need work.

Bylaws: The current chapter by-laws are very complex and not feasible for most of our chapters. The Bylaws need to be revised to reflect the limited membership of our some of our chapters. The bylaws as written are more appropriate for the MNSAC than for individual chapters. Kieran O'Malley and Jim Fregonara will work together to revise the bylaws. Penny Miller volunteered to look at them also. Ellen will help rewrite and Becky Linger will help with the proofreading. Once the draft of the bylaws revision is completed, it will be sent to the chapter coordinators for comment.

## II. 2017 Conference Planning – Becky Linger

### A. Program

Keynote Speaker, Randy Kelley, DNR Elk Project Leader, Friday night

Sissie Summers (Sissie.A.Summers@wv.gov) WVDNR, Saturday night

#### Classes Need classes in place by March 1

1. Project WET, (full day)
2. Nature Interpretative Guide Heritage Steward Training, Doug Arbogast (half day)
3. Survival Techniques, Dana Rowsey & Joe Adkins (half day)
4. Geology, Clo Simard (half-day)
5. Mammals, Sheldon Owen (half day)
6. Nature Photography, Ellen Hrabovsky (full day)
7. Medicinal and Edible Plants, Becky Linger (half day)
8. Nature Journaling, Becky Linger (half day)
9. Soils, Stephen Carpenter
10. Wildflowers & Weeds, Mark Watson (**confirm**), Brian Streets (Anne Wakeford)
11. Birds, Jim Waggy (**confirm**)
12. Insects, Laura Miller (**confirm**)
13. Aquatic Habitats, (**checking with Ken Poland and Danielle Stevenson**)
14. Early Morning Bird Walks (**Kanawha Valley Members**)

#### Pre-Conference Activities

Elk Restoration Field Trip, Friday, talk with Scott Warner

Buffalo Creek Disaster Discussion, talk to Museum at the Park curator about this.

Chief Logan Recreation Center: Tennis courts, basketball courts, walking track, swimming pool, exercise classes (as scheduled). Open M-F, 6 am – 9 pm, Saturday, 7 am – 7 pm, Sunday, 12 pm – 6 pm.

Chief Logan State Park

26 Campsites (reservations start in February)

The Park at the Museum, swimming pool, walking trails, wildlife center and a fishing pond.

Waterways, a water slide park. 29 miles north of Chief Logan on 119

Hatfield/McCoy Trails pass by the Park

Golf Courses: Logan Country Club & Golf Course in Chapmanville, Tridelphia Country Club and Golf Course in Mallory, and Riverview Country Club in Man

Four Seasons Country Store: Canoe and kayak rentals on the Guyandotte River

### B. Instructor paper work

Becky will be sending out forms to the confirmed instructors: IRS-W9 Form, Instructor Information Form has section where instructors can describe their classes. We will need this back by the beginning of March.

## **C. Schedule and Web Registration**

Last year, Steve Gibson from the DNR was able to set up the webpage for registration. Early March is the deadline for setup.

Denise Gwinn has been trying to keep the website current with general offerings. Reminder that chapter coordinators should let Denise know any events.

Also, shall we be announcing the names of folks who were recently certified? The consensus was to just keep that in the chapter. Although, at the business meeting during the State Conference, we could recognize the recently certified.

## **III. Election of committee members at the conference**

Sam Muncy is at the end of his term as member-at-large. The committee solicits nominations.

## **IV. State Park project – Scott Warner**

Coordinators' Meeting in November at Morgantown, there was a lot of interest in partnering with the State Parks. Meeting at Blackwater of State Naturalists, this partnership was well-received. Would set up a type of process where the chapters would have a program that we could pick from based on the member's expertise. The State Park webpage has several links for volunteering and learning more about the Master Naturalist Program:

Volunteer Opportunities with the State Parks:

<http://www.wvstateparks.com/community/volpark.htm>

On the State Parks webpage, they have a link to the Master Naturalist Program:

<http://www.wvstateparks.com/packages/masternaturalist.htm>

There's a volunteer form in place that may need to be adjusted to our program and our collaboration:

[http://www.wvstateparks.com/Form/Master\\_Naturalist.html](http://www.wvstateparks.com/Form/Master_Naturalist.html)

Sissie Summers may be available to meet with us at North Bend on April 1. The volunteer collaboration will be on the agenda for the North Bend meeting. Hopefully, the program will be ready to be presented at the State Conference in June. We will be meeting in North Bend at 11:30 for lunch and then have the meeting.

## **V. Implementation of digital manual**

It is time to make the newly digitized manual available for classes this year. John Bocan has it in very usable form.

For our members, we will be putting it on a flash drive, and paying the DNR \$20.00 instead of the standard \$40.00 for the manual and nametag.. The printed manual would still be available to those who would prefer it. Jim Fregonara will look into purchasing flash drives that are printed with the Master Naturalist logo and Kathy, with John's help, will load the manual.

## **New Business**

We need to make sure that our Conference Announcement indicates that participants need to make their reservations by May 9 or Chief Logan Lodge will release the block of rooms to the general public. Also, if you want to camp, you'll need to wait until February 15<sup>th</sup> to reserve a campsite.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Becky Linger*