

Virginia Herpetological Society  
Minutes of the Fall Meeting  
Bridgewater College  
402 East College St • Bridgewater, VA 22812  
October 22, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 3:02pm by the president, Kory Steele, with 20 in attendance. Old Business was reviewed by reading the activity log kept by the president, vice president, and secretary. Copies were made available to those attending, and can be made to members upon request. Meeting turned over to committees.

Committee Reports

Newsletter, Susan Watson: Accepting materials for the Jan/Feb newsletter, including book reviews. The August newsletter was sent out with only a couple returned emails.

Catesbeiana, Paul Sattler: 31(2)- 200 copies were printed at the cost of \$436. Has a decent amount of articles for the next issue. Still needs data for the Old Colchester survey.

Treasurer-Secretary, Emily Steele: 205 members, 28 of which are Life members. 656 Facebook fans. Current bank account balance \$6597.86, but \$500 of that is assigned to the State Wildlife Grant.

Conservation, Tim Christensen: Unable to attend, report made available on our website for review.

Research, Joy Ware: Unable to attend, but reported to the president that no evidence of diseases have been found this year at her sites of Rappahannock, Presquile Island, and James River.

Education, Mike Clifford: (Received member of the year at this meeting!! Congratulations.) Some of his report will overlap with the conservation committee efforts. Has presented for Master Naturalist programs. We have educational posters, power point presentations, and information geared towards children on our website. We are the leading source of information for native herp inquiries. Full report of educational efforts is available on our website for review.

HerpBlitz, Jason Gibson: Hungry Mother State Park was the location for 2011 and the write-up is completed. Breaks Interstate Park write-up, 2009 location, is still in the works. Possible locations for 2012 are Mattaponi WMA and Carol County. Need to determine dates for the survey, possibly the second week of June.

Cafepress, Patricia Crane: Unable to attend, but reports that the 2012 calendar is now available for purchase.

Website, John White: We have unlimited storage and unlimited bandwidth, therefore able to continue updating site, adding information and photos as needed.

New business

Elections of new officers: Nominating committee, Jason Gibson, sent out emails ahead of time requesting nominations for all positions. Treasurer/Secretary- Emily Steele nominated to continue with this position and accepted. President- Larry Mendoza nominated to this position after serving as Vice President, and has accepted. Vice President- open floor nominations for Jason Gibson, David Perry, and Kelly Greer. David Perry has been nominated for the position and accepted.

Four out of the five members of our advisory committee will continue with their position. The incoming president will be able to appoint someone to the newly vacant spot.

Herp IDs: John White, Mike Clifford, and Kory Steele will continue on the team. John Orr will join the team in helping with the identification process. Eastern ratsnake continues to be the most common request for ID. Not very many requests for salamander IDs are received. Discussed making some form of documentation for recording all of the observations, distributions, and photos of the identified animals.

Changes to Catesbeiana: Discussed changing from paper to electronic. Allowing members to opt-in for electronic, and keeping the paper copy as default. This would help cut costs in production and postage. This would also allow the use of color pictures. We would continue with paper copies for the museums and institutes that are members. Should consider removing the membership list from the issue. This will help cut down on the number of pages being printed. Could also pose a concern of privacy. No longer need this list as a means of networking since the internet provides a huge source of finding herpetologists in your area.

2012 Survey sites: Locations to consider Dismal Swamp, Shenandoah River, Dyke Marsh, joint survey with NCHS, and a specialized fossil/herp survey with Dr. Weems.

Memberships: Need to consider changing our “youth” option to “student”, so high school and college students can be included. Look into changing from an electronic membership card to a paper copy.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.

Emily Steele  
VHS Treasurer-Secretary