

Minutes

Williamsburg Bird Club Meeting

March 16, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.
Room 150, Millington Hall, W&M

President Shirley Devan welcomed members, guests and visitors. Approximately 55 people attended the meeting.

Announcements

Shirley reminded members that they can pay dues for 2011 to Chuck Rend, Treasurer, who was in attendance.

Shirley made the following announcements:

- Adopt-a-Highway program. Team collected 10 bags of litter during the March 5 spring cleanup of our Club's assigned two-mile stretch of Croaker Road. Participants were: Mike & Alex Minarik, Mary Anne & John Fennell, Chuck Litterest and David Monahan. The assistance of all is very much appreciated.
- Refreshments tonight provided by Barb Streb and Sue Brandon

Upcoming events

- Shirley called on Field Trip Coordinator Geoff Giles who announced the Saturday, March 19 – Field Trip to New Kent Forestry Center. Meet at 6:00 am at Colony Square Shopping Center to form carpools for the 45-minute drive. "Walk in the Forest" sponsored by Dept of Forestry is an all day event open to the public.
- March 26: Bird Walk at New Quarter Park. 7 am. Hugh Beard will be our leader
- March 27 – Cabin Fever Event at New Quarter Park, 1 – 3 pm
- Bill Williams announced the May 1 – Spring Bird Count and indicated that a sector leader is needed for Kingsmill sector and encouraged feeder watchers to contribute their observations too.

Program

Joe Piotrowski, Vice President of Programs, introduced the guest speaker: Dr. Bryan Watts, Director of

The Center for Conservation Biology at W&M/VCU.

Bryan Watts presented a program about raptor conservation in Virginia, focusing on the state's populations of Bald Eagles, Osprey and Peregrine Falcons. He discussed how their populations are doing, how the Center of Conservation Biology is working with them and what problems they continue to face.

Bryan is the Mitchell A. Byrd Professor of Conservation Biology and Director of the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary and Virginia Commonwealth University. He has worked with wild birds for more than 35 years. He received a B.S. from Virginia Tech, M.A. from the College of William and Mary, and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. Dr. Watts has conducted more than 500 field studies of birds that have addressed a diversity of questions with many species in many settings. He serves as an advisor to most government agencies on avian ecology and conservation.

Winner of raffle prize, a book about Backyard Birds, was Lucile Kossodo.

Refreshments were set up on the table at the front of the meeting room because the lobby was occupied by a dance group.

Minutes prepared by Shirley Devan, 21 March 2011