

TREE Meeting of Sept. 17, 2009, Northumberland Community Library, Heathsville

In attendance: Charlene Talcott, Faye Andrashko, Laura Lawfer, Matt Lewis, Wendy Mataya, Staci Merkt, May Sligh, Gary Andrashko, Bill Arnold, Andy Talcott

Presenter: Dr. Jeff Kirwan, co-author of *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*

The meeting began with member and guest introductions and networking discussions about current and upcoming projects. Wendy Mataya may be seeking assistance from members as she progresses in new grant-funded project for girl scouts. Laura told of the Sept. 26, Stratford Hall event "Northern Neck Food & Harvest Festival," to be held from 10:00 – 4:00 on the Stratford Hall grounds. It will feature six wineries and a number of food vendors, as well as kids' activities.

Charlene gave an update on the VA DEQ grant that funded the Three Rivers Environmental Educators (TREE). We have been frugal and have funds left, which we have earmarked for specific items such as brochures, table display, and table cloth to use for exhibits.

Discussion took place as to possible future field trips and meeting sites.

The next meeting, January 12, 11:00 – 1:00, will be hosted by Friends of the Rappahannock at their Fredericksburg site. Reminders and directions will be sent as time is closer. Maureen Hamm is coordinating at FOR.

Charlene reminded members that we will take nominations for officers at the next meeting, and she encouraged members to nominate themselves. We will nominate President, VP, Secretary. In addition, there are committee chairs to fill. More to come on those.

Reminder: Member information should be updated for the Web site directory. Please send updates to Laura Lawfer at llawfer@stratfordhall.org and she will coordinate getting them to the Web. If your organization's information has changed—or is not on the Web—please let Laura know.

Lunch followed, and the group took a tour of the Northumberland County courthouse grounds, blacksmith shop, and old jail.

Finally, Dr. Jeff Kirwan of Virginia Tech, coauthor of *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*, gave a presentation on the Remarkable Trees of Virginia Project. He discussed details on the project's involvement and the beautiful photography of the book and enhanced the talk with personal anecdotes on the trees and the project itself.