



## Education Committee Meeting

### October 12, 2021 at 10:00 AM by ZOOM

Attendees:

Tim Maywalt, Phyllis Johansen, Carolyn Burgess, Mary Spear, Kathy Nepote, Rachel Keen, Penny Kaiserlian, Phil Stokes, Pam Dorland, Lil Williams, Liz Browne, Barbara White, Mary Loose DeViney, Ed Spellman, Steve Huff, Becky Turner, Emily Ferguson, Anne Benham, Martha Orton

Minutes of the August 24<sup>th</sup> 2021 meeting were approved.

The following table summarizes ACTION items noted in this month’s minutes.

Reference	Action Description	Contact	Due Date(s)
<b>Tree Basics Classes</b>	• Determine a Spring Walk date at Phil’s property	Phil/Tim	TBD
	• Plan/coordinate walks at Ivy Creek for Largest and Oldest Trees and/or Fruit and Nut trees	Phil/Tim	TBD
	• Plan/coordinate walk(s) at Mint Springs or Walnut Creek for November Tree ID	Emily/Tim	TBD
	• Get approval from Monticello for a group to do a walk (National Tree, per Phil)	Tim	TBD
	• Other walks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Belmont (Kathy and Emily can help Steve with identifying appropriate walks)</li> <li>○ Cemetery walks?</li> </ul>	Steve/Kathy/Emily Steve/Emily	TBD
<b>Filling Some Staff Gaps</b>	Volunteers needed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree Walk Coordinator</li> <li>• SmugMug Photo Librarian</li> </ul>	Tim, Mary	Soonest

**UPDATES**

Communications Committee:

- Penny had audio issues and could not be heard.
- Facebook participation is growing; about 750 Followers presently. We are getting more questions/activity.
- People interested in learning about tree steward opportunities in their state/area should contact their local VDoF/Urban and Community Forestry Program staff; they have listings that may be helpful.

## Projects Committee:

- Thursday, 10/14, we will be doing maintenance and pruning at CATS Grove at McIntire Park.
- Next week, 10/16, we will be doing maintenance on the arboretum trees at VDoF getting ready for dedication of Founders Tree.
- New class members showed up to help at Jackson Via (Byers) and at the Tree Sale.

## **STATUS REPORTS**

### Member Meeting Continuing Education

- October 27, 9:30-12:00 on-site at VDoF, where we will gather to watch Professor Timothy Beatley present remotely; masks required. (A Zoom link will also be sent for others to watch if not able to join us on-site.) Professor Beatley is with UVA's Urban and Environmental Planning Department and is currently working in the areas of sustainable and resilient cities to address environmental challenges.
- November 17<sup>th</sup> Member meeting may be a tour at UVA led by Mary Hughes, the University Landscape Architect.

### Training New Tree Stewards Class: Work Group Report

- Graduation Day is 11/13, and we will do a debrief and get feedback from our new graduates on the class.
- Makeup sessions are ongoing (almost complete). Nov 6th at 10am is makeup for David Powell's walk (Tom Wild will lead). Tim Maywalt has a pruning makeup scheduled for October 31. Emily Ferguson will be setting a date for makeups for the second tree walk. Makeups will be arranged for the planting day scheduled for October 30.
- Work Group will meet on October 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss format/presentation for Graduation Day.
- There are currently 15 students who are not up-to-date on quizzes. Emily will send reminder notes.
- Feedback has been that the videos are long and students don't have the time to view. Presentations are generally broken into segments, so students may wish to watch by-segment as their time allows.
- It was noted that the summaries contained in each video are very helpful for what is in the content of the quiz.
- The Board approved sharing our training with other Tree Steward chapters, if requested.
  - Meanwhile, the northern Virginia chapter of CATS has rescinded their request for our training modules; they are proceeding with their own training.
- Master Gardeners has requested use of our Invasives chapter for their training manual; will be presented to the CATS Board.

### Tree Sale Update

- Phyllis reviewed the history of the sales, which started in 2013 with the main goal of planting more trees.
- Total sales increased each year over the last three (2019-2021). This year, we sold 285 for a total of almost \$2,900.
- This year's Tufton Sale was hampered by limited parking; some potential buyers were turned away.
- Tufton also kept their sale separate from CATS, which restricted flow and usually benefits both sales.
- New class members showed up to help. Yea!
- As of 2021, we've sold \$35,790 and 3,727 trees to 867 buyers.

### Tree Basics Classes – ([Click here to check the website](#))

- Tree Selection, Planting and Care is scheduled for the evening of October 19 via ZOOM. (coming up in a few weeks).
- 11/2 and 4 - Winter Invasive Plant Identification and Treatment; two evening sessions via ZOOM
- 11/6 – Winter Invasive Plant Identification and Treatment (Azalea Park); field session in the morning (afternoon session)

- Walks:
  - Spring ID Walk at Phil's property - TBD
  - Phil – Ivy Creek – considering walks for Largest and Oldest Trees or Fruit and Nut trees
  - Emily – Mint Springs or Walnut Creek for November Tree ID – Tim/Emily to firm up dates
  - Tim to look into approval from Monticello for a group to do a walk (National Tree, per Phil)
  - Belmont: Steve Huff, Kathy Nepote and Emily Ferguson are developing a street tree walk in the Belmont neighborhood (date TBD).

#### Filling Some Staff Gaps

- Need Coordinator for tree walks, scheduling, logistics, arranging for an “assistant”. Please contact Tim.
- Photo Library Librarian: need help with SmugMug uploading, cataloging, categorizing, etc. Need photos of classes, activities, trees, and flora to be used for classes, pamphlets, presentations, etc. Please contact Mary or Tim.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### Discussion: Chainsaw/Brush Cutter Safety Training

- Ben Heltzel, Arborist, has conducted previous classes. He is a new class member and is working with Becky Turner on developing the class and CATS protocols to be used when using this machinery.
- Class to include discussions of types, use and care of tools, and first aid in case of **injury**.
- Groups will be kept small – maximum of 15.

##### Discussion: Tree Walk Leader and Tabling Training

- Previously done in 2017; considering updating and offering it again. Looking for feedback.
- Being a leader will help to strengthen confidence in tree identification and education of the public – two of our primary goals.
- “How to” Workshop to develop marketing aspect, getting volunteers for tabling, identifying materials, education/focus.
- Developing a “Frequently Asked Question” list to assist table staff.
- VDoF storage room is excellent resource – we have flyers, info, storyboards.
- Emily offered to do a “tree talk” to engage with those who are gathered around a table.

##### Discussion: News Item on Memorial Tree at PVCC

- PVCC happy to honor their Arts Professor with a memorial tree (Southern Magnolia) and provided the location.
  - Donation level/cost: tree, soil, mulch, fertilizers, etc.
  - Plaque or marker – requires space and location permission
  - Jennifer Davis, new class member, has adopted the newly-planted memorial tree and will monitor its care; probably a 3-year commitment
- A memorial tree program is being discussed and CATS is considering establishing a new committee/work group to develop a plan for the program:
  - (Board will develop a) Committee to consider:
    - Scope and obligation
    - Planting site(s)/permissions
    - Donation/sponsorship levels
    - Tree type/size/cost and maintenance considerations
    - Plaque/signage, obtaining permissions, etc.

Discussion: CATS Membership Directory and Photos

- Agreed to add photos of members in the members-only section of the CATS website as part of our membership list. Location was not established at the meeting.

Discussion: New workshops to consider in 2022

- Workshop will be developed and implemented on how to plan, schedule, obtain volunteers, and select material for tabling opportunities, with the possible inclusion of a tree walk offering at event.
- Workshop on CATS Event Photography will be repeated with the added element of how to load event photography into SmugMug, the CATS photo library, and how to use library photos to further CATS' mission.
- Workshop on chainsaw and brush cutter safety to be arranged and delivered after the first of the year with an element on first aid.

**Next Education Committee meeting date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 – 10:00am via ZOOM

*Respectfully submitted by Pam Dorland.*