



## Education Committee Meeting

**September 27, 2022 at 10:00 AM by ZOOM**

Attendees: 15

Tim Maywalt, Mary Spear, Allen Ingling, Kathy Nepote, Steve Huff, Victor Hauser, Ben Heltzel, Jean Umiker-Sebeok, Debra Burleigh, Natasha Heller, Carolyn Burgess, Jackie Savage, Penny Kaiserlian, Vanessa Hurst, Barbara Monford

Minutes of the August 30, 2022 meeting were approved.

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

Reference	Action Description	Contact	Due Date(s)
<b>Member Meeting Continuing Education</b>	Looking for several people to become a team to line up/coordinate monthly speakers	Mary Spear	By 11/1
<b>Future Plans for Walks</b>	Contact Jackie to coordinate date/posting for Fall walk at Phil’s property	Phil Stokes	By 10/15
<b>New Business</b>	Request tree ID cards for tabling events. (Carolyn will email Kathy for examples to an order can be placed.)	Carolyn, Tim and Mary	asap

**UPDATES**

Communications Committee:

- The Tree Sale is this Saturday, October 1st. We’ve placed an ad in Cville Weekly and a sponsorship on NPR is running all day on 9/27. If you’re planning to attend the Tree Sale, please go early; it tends to sell out.
- Tim noted the benefits of planting smaller container trees: they are inexpensive, and not root bound, which means they can grow really fast by spreading out quickly.

Projects Committee ([check TIF calendar](#)):

- We had a fantastic turnout from our current class for weeding at CATS Grove (9/15) and then mulching at VDoF (9/17). Victor Hauser helped at both these events as well as assisting Anne with a tabling event at the Wool Factory on 9/25.
- The next Projects meeting will be on 10/12 at 9:00am via Zoom. Please contact Kathy for the link.
- On 10/13, we will work to clear invasives at Northeast Park – they are currently overrun, but we are trying to protect the trees.

- On 10/15 at Jackson Via School, we will have a full day planting trees and invasives control. We hope to have help from some of our UVA student friends.
- On 10/29, we will be planting approximately 25 trees at Mint Springs Park. (This activity will be posted on TIF as soon as it's confirmed. Please check back to sign up.) Tim reminded students that if they can't come to the class planting activity scheduled for 11/5, they can come to this one.

## STATUS REPORTS

### Member Meeting Continuing Education

- Next Membership Meeting is Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30-11:00am via Zoom. Our speaker will be Susan Tyler Hitchcock, a National Geographic photographer and author who's written a book, "Into the Forest; Hearing the Message of the Forest".
- Speakers are already booked through April 2023 and we have a nice diversity of speakers lined up.

### 2022 Tree Steward Class Status, TIF, Moodle, etc.

- We are at the halfway mark for the current class. We've done two tree walks and a forest ecology walk. Next up will be invasives, pruning, and planting at Pen Park and we'll have representation from the Blue Ridge Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management.
- We're getting good feedback on the hybrid approach to our Tree Steward class. It seems going online helps students to work at their own pace and time and then be available to join the scheduled field activities. Everyone seems to be adjusting well to Moodle.
- To brush up on your skills, Tim invited current stewards to take advantage of all the class materials residing on Moodle. If interested, you can contact Emily, who can provide an ID and password for your access.

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

- Classes
  - For the Zoom class on 9/20, "How to Select and Care for Trees", we had about 50 people (mostly public).
  - On 10/25 at 7:00-8:30pm via Zoom, Emily will be hosting the Fall Tree ID (by leaf color) class.
- Walks
  - In September, Dana Denbar led a walk at Pen Park and Tom Wild and Donna Vinal led an identification walk at the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont.
  - Steve Huff, Scott Syverud and David Marrs led the Belmont Avenue walk on 9/22. About 11-12 folks showed up, which is a good size group; only issue was a "ringer" landscape architect <smile>. With the popularity of this walk, we could use more leaders so that we can continue to offer the walk without burning out the same people.
  - On Saturday, 10/29 at 1:30-3:30pm at the VDoF, Emily will lead the Fall ID Walk.
  - Future Plans for Walks
    - Jackie noted walks are filling up quickly (within 1-2 days of being advertised) and we maintain wait lists.
    - Only two walks are currently on the books for 2023. Walk Leaders, please contact Jackie to schedule for next year.
    - There was discussion about:
      - How far out to advertise walks because people sign up very early and then don't show up. It was decided to post walks closer to the actual walk date and to strengthen the wording in the reminder email to have registrants cancel if they are unable to attend.

- People registering more than once (maybe placeholders for a friend?), which causes confusion. Mary suggested adjusting Eventbrite settings to only allow 1 name at a time and reminding folks to cancel if they can't make it.
- How many registrants should we allow before we cut off attendance? Jackie noted that if we make it easier to cancel early enough, we can release tickets. She also agreed to have her email listed as a contact for cancellations.

### Photo Library

- Thanks to Kathy for sending pictures from the "Day of Caring".
- Selfies are being uploaded by the current class members as part of a Photo Assignment and it's fun to see all the new faces.
- Photo Assignment Update for Class
  - Mary noted the class assignment to upload photos to SmugMug and reviewed the current status of posted photos. We have 22 selfies uploaded and other photos will be due on 11/12. Pam is monitoring completion of the assignment and helping student troubleshoot issues with SmugMug. This has been a good assignment to help new folks get familiar and comfortable with SmugMug and help to populate our library.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Tim confirmed that the Chainsaw Safety Class is scheduled for 10/4 and the class is full. A representative from the Stihl Mid-Atlantic Region is delivering the workshop.
- CATS has a procedure for starting new activities or projects and we are interested in your ideas! One such idea is to help children/families tag trees (with bar codes) at Pen Park. Cheri Acker in our current class suggested this activity and it was agreed that we can work on a proposal for developing this (and other ideas) after the class ends.
- Carolyn suggested having packs of tree ID cards available at tabling events for families. She will email Kathy to send samples to Tim and Mary, so an order can be placed for a small inventory.

**Next Education Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 10:00am via ZOOM.

*Respectfully submitted by Pam Dorland.*