



Education Committee Meeting

April 18, 2023, at 10:00 AM by ZOOM

Attendees: 22

Barbara Monfort, Mary Spear, Kathy Nepote, Allen Ingling, Gregg Korbon, Carolyn Burgess, Emily Ferguson, Monica Newby, Liz Browne, Walter Morgan, Breyette Covington, Jackie Savage, Rachel Keen, Marion Baab, Jon Rockett, Scott Syverud, Marjie Guiliani, Anne Benham, Steve Huff, Judy Oglethorpe, Mary Stack, Pam Dorland

Minutes of the March 14, 2023 meeting were approved.

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

Reference	Action Description	Contact	Due Date(s)
Communications Committee	Sign up for tabling events (posted to TIF)	website	ongoing

UPDATES

Communications Committee:

- Mary reported all advertising is moving along and there is a \$5 cost for the Cville Calendar to have an ad highlighted, which we have been doing for the Tree Basics Classes.
- Donations are \$250 since last meeting.
- 147 events; 1,322 names on our mailing list.
- Facebook - 919 followers. Instagram - 251 following
- We are still working on the CATS website, slow going, but moving along. Need people who know Word Press to help.
- Tabling and other events – please check TIF and sign up. Anne Benham noted we need a partner with Bethiny Stark at Riverfest to help with the Riparian River game.
- Barbara White and Walt Morgan are taking over management of the TIF calendar. Thank you!

Projects Committee (<https://www.trackitforward.com/site/76306/events>):

- \$5,000 from Tree Sale; most trees were gone within ½ hour! The whole event ran very smoothly, thanks to Phyllis's efficient planning and all our amazing volunteers.
- 4/17 hosted, with Parks and Recreation, 80 sophomore students from STAB doing invasive control at Azalea and Riverview Parks.
- 4/29 – Cleanup day at Jackson Via (subsequently canceled due to rain).
- 5/3 (postponed from 4/28), Arbor Day - Robin is hosting an activity at the Catalpa tree next to the skate park.
- 5/13 - Working at Breyette's request (in Waynesboro-see TIF) to replace wire cages on trees along the river walk that were attacked by beavers.

- Steve Gaines, City Arborist, suggested using Rives Park as a potential site for class planting. There is a pavilion, bathroom access, etc. Secondary site potentially at Walnut Creek.
- Kendra and Tony stepping back at 10th and Page at this time. Will be checking previously planted trees and later will see about potential fall plantings.
- Bill Sublette continues to work with Habitat. Please contact Bill if you are interested in helping.

STATUS REPORTS

Tree Basics Classes

Tree Basics Walks – Training

- Emily reported that following the Leader Workshop and new leaders and their mentors are meeting. Very exciting!
- Carol, Walt, and Emily walked the Downtown Tree Walk and Walt is now determining his next steps.
- Bethiny, Lisa, and Emily walked around the PVCC trails to consider the development of a possible walk there.
- Sherri continues to work with the Yancy Community to clear out invasives, inching closer to leading a walk for the community on their trail.

Tree Basics Walks-Scheduling

- 4/28-29 – Scott, Steve H and Greg will lead a walk at Mint Springs. (Emily’s pairings are well done!)
- 5/5-6 – Phil’s property for a Spring Forest walk; Sherri will assist.
- 5/19 - Emily will be leading a Tree Walk for the Nature Foundation at Wintergreen's 40th Spring Wildflower Symposium. If anyone is interested in the event early registration ends on May 1. Click the link to register. <https://www.tnfw.org/nature-events/spring-wildflower-symposium-2023/>
- 5/20-21 – Dana at Pen Park with Monica Newby assisting.
- 7/16 – Dana and Carol at UVA.
- *Please note: When you send in your proposed walk, please also include a picture of yourself with a sign of your walk location. This will help in our advertising.*
- There was a question about including kids/families on walks. Emily notes children are welcome on most walks, but event descriptions will note “adults only” if we are not encouraging their attendance. We will discuss adding targeted/kids walks.
- Speaking of kids’ activities.....
 - 4/27 – Marjie and Robin are doing a walk with 2nd graders at the Johnson School
 - Walter Hussey does lots with kids year-round, mostly at Pleasant Grove in Fluvanna. Please consider him as a resource for working with kids and feel free to reach out.
 - Marjie also does events such as Little Explorers and Little Naturalists and she’s happy to share her knowledge and experiences.

Member Meeting Presentations

- 4/26 - Jill Trishman-Marks, Executive Director of the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont will speak on development and progress at the garden.
- Natasha Heller and Chris Stroup are taking over Member meeting speaker lineups. Calendar is filled for 2023!

Proposed Project at Red Hill Elementary

- Pam outlined OWLS (Outdoor and Wild Learning Spaces) activities at Red Hill Elementary (RHE) and noted the involvement of several CATS members. With end-of-year activities at RHE, teachers and administration seem a bit overwhelmed, so we have put a pause on some of the plans.
- Emily will complete a tree inventory over the next couple of months.
- Plans for a walkabout to assess when/what trees to plant and prune have been postponed, but we may try to do that after school is out this summer. (Thanks to Kathy, Barbara and Allen for remaining on standby!)

Update on New Activities for Education Programs (proposed by Class of 2022)

- Breyette has begun a “deep dive” exploration of single tree species starting with Hackberry. She is developing materials which range from DNA sequencing to historical uses to identification to applied artistic exploration of tree energy. Her work will be a mix of right and left brain, scientific and spiritual evidence and application. Her next steps are to put together teaching tools that can be used with various audiences.
- Barbara, Tim, and Emily met with Walt to talk about expanding his presentation to CATS and then possibly the public.
- Walt is developing a 45-minute presentation called “Backyard Conservation” (working title) and the theme is that conservation begins at home and in one’s own garden. He has revised his outline based on feedback at last month’s meeting. There will be a dry run on 4/21 and we’ll report back on progress.

Presentation

- Jon Rockett, CATS associate member, shared info about the VA Big Trees program. Trees on the registry are recertified every ten years. The white oak at the airport is up for re-certification. Jon will be demonstrating the measurement techniques to include measurement of diameter, height, and crown spread.
- Going forward, Jon has offered to present workshops for a small number of CATS members on how to measure large trees, with little to no equipment. These would be train-the-trainer workshops. Please email Barbara if you are interested.

Smug Mug

- Not a lot of new pictures, but after Emily’s Zoom class, Scott posted a few. Thank you!
- Please feel free to post from walks or classes. Close ups of specific details are welcome; please be sure to include a good description.
- If you are on a walk, try to capture pictures of leaders we could use in our advertisements.
- As noted above, when you send in a proposed walk, please also send a picture of yourself holding a sign of the walk location. This will be used in our advertising and will help the public recognize who they need to connect with upon arrival.

Next Education Committee Meeting: Tuesday, May 16th at 10:00am via Zoom.