



Education Committee Meeting

May 16, 2023, at 10:00 AM by ZOOM

Attendees: 15

Barbara Monfort, Mary Spear, Kathy Nepote, Allen Ingling, Tim Maywalt, Carolyn Burgess, David Marrs, Emily Ferguson, Penny Kaiserlian, Jackie Savage, Chris Stroupe, Rachel Keen, Steve Huff, Mary Stack, Pam Dorland

Minutes of the April 18th, 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	Send a brief email on what areas of the CATS website you visit most often and what type of information you search for	Mary Spear	Soonest
Communications Committee	Please check TIF to sign up for Tabling events. Contact Anne if you can help as a tabling manager/coordinator.	Anne Benham	Soonest
Recertification/Notable Trees	Please contact if you are interested in a workshop on measuring and certifying notable trees	Barbara Monfort	By 8/1
Recertification/Notable Trees	Submit a letter to advocate CATS's hope that the "airport oak" can remain in its current/original location	Barbara Monfort	By 6/30

UPDATES

Communications Committee:

- Donations from Eventbrite registration for talks and walks (so far) for 2023 total about \$1,000.
- Our Followers: 150 on Eventbrite; 921 Facebook; Instagram 271; we're trying to get more interactivity on all social media.
- Website update: Switched from Go Daddy to SiteGround to increase speed and prevent crashes. Updating of pages continuing and we're working on background and best navigation.
 - The working group is Mary Spear, Becky Cox, Chris Van Wymelenberg and Emily Ferguson has just joined. Thank you!
 - If you use the website, please send Mary a brief email on what areas you visit most often and what type of information you search for on our site. This will really help the working group.
- Tabling: Crozet Fair (on 4/28) was cancelled due to a bad weather forecast. We have 4 people signed up to help at the Rivanna Riverfest on 5/20. Still need a couple of volunteers at Tufton Farm on 5/27. Please sign up on TIF. Also, if you are interested in helping as a tabling manager, please contact Anne Benham.

- Barbara White and Walt Morgan are the new TIF managers; please contact them with any questions or problems.
- Emily described the obstacle course game to be used at the upcoming Rivanna Riverfest. The course is for a drop of water navigating from a field to the stream/river either through a riparian buffer or not. Kids (water) will carry petri dishes of water over/through each course to deposit it in a bucket at the end. Teams will compete to see which has the least amount of water in the bucket. The obstacle course represents how trees slow down, filter, and reduce the amount of water reaching the stream/river.
- Emily described the obstacle course game to be used at the upcoming Rivanna Riverfest. The course is for a drop of water navigating from a field to the stream/river either through a riparian buffer or not. Kids (water) will carry petri dishes of water over/through each course to deposit it in a bucket at the end. Teams will compete to see which has the least amount of water in the bucket. The obstacle course represents how trees slow down, filter, and reduce the amount of water reaching the stream/river.

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

- May 20 - Pleasant Grove Park (Fluvanna County) at 9:30am. We will continue assessing the small, staked trees (in tubes); pruning, invasive removals, etc. Please check TIF for additional details and RSVP.
- May 25 – Pen Park, at the corner of a new development. Chris Gensic of Parks and Recreation needs our help removing invasive vines and autumn olive. Chris will be there to treat with herbicides as we remove. Please check TIF and RSVP.
- June 3 - Ivy Creek at 9:30am. Spring clean-up and mulching. Please check TIF for additional details and RSVP.

STATUS REPORTS

Plans for 2023 Tree Steward Class

- Registration starts 6/1 and we are updating the website with class info. Please refer your friends.
- Work Group met last week and confirmed availability with presenters. We are also adjusting dates in the Intro section and updating/shortening the invasives module due to practice and technology changes.
- Forest Ecology Walk Field Session – Ivy Creek will have 3 leaders instead of 2.
- Invasives Plant ID and Control Field Session – this will be hands-on for identifying and treating. Please contact Tim with interest; there will be training for this specifically.
- Class size remains at 32; tuition at \$160; Orientation Aug 8 and grad on Nov 18
- More volunteers the better – it's good for the new students to see as many of us as possible.

Tree Basics Classes

- June 27 at 7pm via Zoom; Emily's Summer ID class. Walk at 9:30am on July 1.
- October will start these up again.

Tree Basics Walks – Training

- April 28 - cancelled due to poor weather
- April 29 - Scott's Mint Springs walk - 10 people
- May 5 & 6 - Phil's property walks with 6 and 8 people
- May 9 - Kathy gave her Trees and Wildlife talk via Zoom for 61 attendees
- May 13 - walk at Charlotte Yancey Humphris Park had 7 people
- Also of note: Mary and Jackie have been doing a fantastic job trying to overcome some of the limitations of the platforms we use for these events.

Tree Basics Walks-Scheduling

- Registrations seem a bit slower, probably seasonal, due to people being outside more. We are considering advertising a bit farther out.
- 5/20 and 5/21 at Pen Park at 9:00am – This walk was boosted on Cville Weekly and added 3 more walkers.
- 5/28 at DardenTowe over Memorial Day (also October).
- 6/2 and 6/3 at Belmont (to be posted soon).

Member Meeting Presentations

- Chris Stroupe and Natasha Heller are the new coordinators for lining up speakers. Mary has passed the torch and provided written procedures and guidance.
- We are already booked through November 2023. Please contact Chris or Natasha with ideas for speakers in 2024. It's not too early!
- May 17 at 9:30am via Zoom – Grace Monger, Extension Agent at the Virginia Cooperative Extension will speak on the VA tree fruit industry and backyard tree fruit.

Proposed Project at Red Hill Elementary

- Winding down at the end of the school year and OWLS will start firming up plans for Fall 2023. But we have a couple of “maintenance” projects and workdays planned for over the summer.
- A big thank you to all the CATS members who have responded so enthusiastically! Kathy, Ellen, and Barbara for staying on standby to do a tree assessment/planting plan and to Emily for her continuing work to provide a tree inventory.
- We had a very successful teaching module on seeding and planting. Extremely well-received by teachers and admin and feedback from parents is that the kids were very excited! We hope to do more teaching modules in the future. (Lily and Peter, we have you on the list! 😊)
- A couple of other members (Becky Turner and Allen Hammer) have reached out and expressed interest – we have you on the list too.

Recertification of “Airport Oak” and Notable Trees Program

- Jon Rockett held a demo to recertify the “Airport Oak” for the Virginia Big Trees Program, which is required every 10 years. Measurements are taken for updates to circumference, height, width and branching patterns.
- David Marrs noted this tree is the second-biggest in the state of Virginia and estimated to be 319 years old. Height is unchanged at 75'; width slightly more than 10 years ago; circumference increased 21”!
- Airport believes tree needs to stay undisturbed, but it is close to a flight path, so that is concerning. Barbara would like to submit a letter to the airport to reinforce CATS's hope that the tree will be maintained in its original/current location.
- We are considering a train-the-trainer workshop (potentially Fall 2023) on how to do measurements with simple tools and materials to be used for our own Notable Trees program. We would like to bring that training under the CATS umbrella and reach out to other counties so they could offer it too.
- Rachel suggested we could reach out to other communities to start their own Notable Trees program and broaden the program outside the Charlottesville area.

Next Education Committee Meeting: Tuesday, June 13th at 10:00am via Zoom.