



## Education Committee Meeting

### September 19, 2023, at 7:00 PM by ZOOM

Attendees: 19

Barbara Monfort, Gregg Korbon, Kathy Nepote, Mary Stack, Allen Ingling, Tim Maywalt, Penny Kaiserlian, Jackie Savage, Steve Huff, Robert Walters, Walter Morgan, Tonya Moon, Chris Stroupe, Debra Burleigh, Monica Newby, Casey Stillman, Rebecca Turner, Emily Ferguson, Sunny Choi, Pam Dorland

Minutes of the August 29th, 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	Contact Mary if you can help with website redesign (Wordpress needed) and/or management of tech accounts.	Mary Spear	Soonest
New Business	Contact Gregg Korbon if you are interested in joining the group developing the “A Tree for Every Child” program.	Gregg Korbon	Soonest

#### UPDATES

Communications Committee:

- Penny will be taking over Membership Management from Libby and will meet with Mary to go over responsibilities.
- Mailing for all September walks have gone out.
- Cancelled reservations for Crozet Fair due to all the conflicts on 10/7 (tree sale and invasives field activity).
- Mary will send a survey for t-shirts; watch for an email.
- Need someone to take over Eblast from Helen, who is stepping down.

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

- 9/20 is the Day of Caring. CATS and a financial group are partnered to work at VDoF where we will downsize cages and perform weeding and mulching.
- Meeting at CATS Grove on Saturday, 9/30, for weeding and mulching.
- Northeast Park on 10/14 for invasives control. Please check TIF – as activities may pop up.

## STATUS REPORTS

### 2023 Tree Steward Class

- Several new class members joined us tonight and were invited to take the opportunity to ask questions or share comments.
  - Are spouses of CATS members allowed to attend “member only” events?
    - Not generally, but some exceptions can be made. The best practice is to contact the host/organizer with questions.
  - Is CATS involved with PRISM?
    - Yes – PRISM interacts with just about any group that is involved in invasives. Tim recommends checking out PRISM’s website to learn more about them. PRISM will be leading our invasives class on 10/7.
- With rain forecast for 9/23, what will we do? Emily will be in touch with walk leaders, and they will make a decision closer to Saturday and send out email notification.
- Our last field day on Forest Ecology went well, although we had several no shows.
  - *Note to students: If you cannot attend a field day (which will need to be made up), please contact Tim Maywalt.*
- Education Workgroup is checking status on student Moodle/work – we will notify students to keep you on track for graduation requirements.

### Tree Basics Classes

- Emily will lead the next class for Fall ID, to be held on 10/17.
- Our Planting class will be in November because it is best practice to plant trees at that time.
- The Winter Invasives class will also be held in November.

### Tree Basics Walks

- 9/16 Chestnut Walk at Lesesne; led by Tom Wild with Dana Denbar coordinating the carpooling.
- 9/24, Mint Spring; full waiting list.
- 9/29 and 9/30, Phil Stokes Farm, Fall Nuts; Victor Hauser will assist. Bring a bag to gather nuts.
- 10/21, Emily’s Fall Tree ID.
- 10/27-28, Lewis and Clark Park at Darden Towe with Kathy and Allen.
- TBD in November. Sherri Fitzgerald will lead 3 smaller groups. Rebecca will reach out to Jackie to determine a date.
- Monica filled us in on Breyette’s walk in Waynesboro, which was confused by miscommunication. A message from the coordinator was that the walk was cancelled, so there were no participants. Tom gave Breyette, Monica and 4 friends a special advanced walk, which was helpful for them as they planned for their own walks.
- Emily will send a message out to new walk leaders (who have been trained) to hopefully line up some new walks, new ideas, etc.

### Membership Meeting Presentations

- Wednesday, 9/27, Erica Smithwick, Professor of Geography at Penn State will present on “Visualizing Forest Futures in Response to Changing Disturbances and Climate” and about how we make decisions on forest maintenance in the face of uncertainty. The program uses computer modeling and satellite imagery to help study our options.
- Send your speaker ideas to Chris Stroupe or Natasha Heller; they are lining up for 2024.

### Tree Measuring/Notable Tree Project

- Several meetings have been held. Emily has spoken Bob Leverett, with the National Tree Measuring Group, and Jon Rockett, who will be our lead. The group will meet on Friday, 9/22, to outline and develop the workshop demonstrating basic tree measurements to more advanced ones – what can go wrong/right. Small workshops of about 9 people will be scheduled; we already have about 17 people interested. The workshops will most likely be held at Ivy Creek. We're still working on it but hope to schedule in November-December to "Train the Trainer". There will be 3 groups of 3, who will measure, rotate, and then decide which group has most accurate measurements.
- Nancy Weiss is leading an update to the Notable Trees project, taking over from Robin. The Tree Measuring Workshop will generate more individuals who can measure trees and hopefully assist the Notable Trees project where they need to re-measure current notable trees and identify new ones.

### A Tree for Every Child (proposed program)

- Gregg has contacted the Tandem School to partner in pilot a program; waiting to hear.
- If you are interested in forming a working group or helping to identify a school where we can start this program, please contact Gregg.
- Debra Burleigh has curriculum/development experience and while working full-time, will try to be involved as much as possible.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Jean Umiker-Sebeok would like to solicit interest in a "pocket forest" idea. It's an international program that establishes an eco forest system on school grounds. There is an existing program that CATS could get involved with, if we decide to.

**Next Education Committee Meeting: Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at Noon.** *We will try various meeting times to see what works for most of the group and will take a poll to see what is working for most people.*