

**Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens  
Board Meeting – June 20, 2014**

Attending: Mike Bertram (via speaker phone), Bob Gray, Anna Hull, David Ross, Henry Whitesell; convened at 3:30.

**A) Key Dates**

1. Our next board meeting will be

Friday, July 18, 3:30-5:30 Lincoln University

**Conference Dial-in Number: (716) 748-0224** (potential toll call)

**Host Access Code: 445962\***

**Participant Access Code: 445962#**

2. Grassland Restoration Days (conditions permitting)

- Friday, June 27: New Texas Barrens

3. Upcoming meetings

June 23 or 24: GIS Conference Call (Mike, Gary, Rachel, Bob)

July 2, 10 am: TNC update Conference Call

Before July 4: ChesterCounty 2020 stakeholders meeting

4. Hikes/Talks

- August, Oxford Public Library, Serpentine Barrens Resources and Volunteer Opportunities, August 20, 6:30 pm
- September 20, Maryland Native Plant Society lecture at Cecil County, Mike Bertram
- September 21, Maryland Native Plant Society hike at Goat Hill, Chris Hoess
- October 5, botanical/ecology hike at Goat Hill
- October 21, Oxford Historical Association lecture, Mining in the Barrens, Mike Bertram
- First quarter 2015, Oxford Historical Association lecture, Jane Dorchester

**B) Action Items Going Forward**

Mike Bertram:

Will update website and Facebook following workdays.

Will update site status and review New Texas entries in Site Tracker;

Make slide of volunteer opportunities; review website and be prepared to discuss (July 18 board meeting) volunteer needs to share at August 20 event.

Create GIS data dictionaries for New Texas and Chrome; load GIS data into Dropbox; load all the GIS data into that folder

Point person for our history initiatives

Bob Gray:

Continue to look for a time to talk with Joe

- About borrowing state ATV when we work on area 20 at Goat Hill.
- About how to protect glade spurge (using input from Carol Loeffler)
- About map scans
- About planning for 2015 burns

Follow up with Ken Woodward on date/time for Jane Dorchester presentation

Will contact Ray Haden at boy scout camp

- Discuss plans for keeping trails open; trail to site 19 needs work
- Jay Gregg believes scouts have a workday trailer; find out how this works as a possible guide to something we might create for our own use.

For next conversation with Marci

- Status of indemnification agreement
- PPF input on equipment sharing agreements with NCP and BoF
- PPF policies on volunteers whose conduct might endanger or tarnish our organizational image
- General update on strategic planning initiative
- Will confirm that August 20 event is being promoted

Will arrange a time in July after vacation to meet with Henry to update Site Tracker.

Review website and be prepared to discuss (July 18 board meeting) volunteer needs to share at August 20 event.

Provide Gary with 2008 TNC strategic study and any other documents he thinks would help Gary as he gets his summer course underway.

Follow up with Chester County 2020

Circulate notes on WCU Non-Profit Expo.

Review and inventory W. PA Conservancy material.

Point person for monitoring our strategic plan.

Anna Hull:

Will contact Carol Loeffler about strategies to protect glade spurge

Will ask Jen Rehill to send a list of regional networking opportunities; will share that list with Board members to identify events we can cover.

Update workday poster and circulate.

Review website and be prepared to discuss (July 18 board meeting) volunteer needs to share at August 20 event.

Schedule meeting with Ed Herr.

Circulate notes on WCU Non-Profit Expo.

Future:

Schedule late spring 2015 search for hairy chickweed at Pilot

Point person for science, education and membership/outreach initiatives.

David Ross:

Will check with Molly about promoting August 20 library event

Review website and be prepared to discuss (July 18 board meeting) volunteer needs to share at August 20 event.

Will discuss with Pal the best ways to coordinate with Elk Township.

Send out email proposing a conference call involving Mike, Gary, Rachel Ralls and Bob; add Gary to GIS data folder in Chrome

Circulate notes on WCU Non-Profit Expo.

Point person for administrative initiatives.

Kent Wagner:

Review website and be prepared to discuss (July 18 board meeting) volunteer needs to share at August 20 event.

Point person for recreational uses and trail planning initiatives.

Henry Whitesel:

Get workday schedule to Anna by June 27 (need to confirm NCP date with Jay Gregg)

Will keep in mind that one of our fall goat hill work days may include protecting glade spurge plants.

In addition to circulating workday reports, have in mind forwarding photos to Mike Bertram.

Meet with Bob in July to update Site Tracker data base.

Send Anna contact info for Sara from DeLoitte

Review website and share thoughts before (July 18 board meeting) volunteer needs to share at August 20 event.

Point person for our conservation/maintenance activities

**C) Agenda Items Considered**

- 1. Approved Minutes from Board Meeting of 05/30/2014.**
- 2. Approved today's agenda.**
- 3. We agreed on July 18 at 3:30 at Lincoln University for next board meeting**
- 4. Reviewed Action Items from 05/30/2014 Board Meeting Minutes not directly connected to other agenda items**

Bob Gray:

Talk with Kent about using brush whackers at Chrome on June 6. -- Done

Check with Joe

- About borrowing state ATV when we work on area 20 at Goat Hill.
- About how to protect glade spurge
- About map scans

In progress. On glade spurge:

Anna will contact Carol Loeffler (Dickinson College), who has been identifying locations where glade spurge needs to be protected from deer.

Bob will review our protection strategy (Anna to speak to Carol)

We may focus one of our Goat Hill work days to installing additional protective cages around glade spurge plants.

Follow up with Marci

- on what kind of language PPF want for an agreement on equipment sharing at Goat Hil (BoF, PPF, TNC) and Nottingham County Park (County, TNC and PPF) - waiting on response from Marci
- who at PPF is responsible for our Facebook page; discuss how we might get content to PPF in a more timely manner for updating.

We agreed that workday leaders are responsible for getting photos and workday reports to Mike Bertram ASAP after a workday and Mike will post to our website and Facebook.

Provide Anna information she needs to complete application for access to PA Heritage Program gateway. -- Done

Update Site Tracker -- Done

Look into whether we need to register for June 17 event at West Chester University -- Done

Future:

July: Follow up with Joe on 2015 burn

July: Follow up with Ken Woodward on date/time for Jane Dorchester presentation

Anna Hull:

Will email the board the list Jen Renhill provided of networking events over the next few months.

If it turns out, we never received the list - Anna will ask her for a copy. The lead she and Marci gave us about the West Chester Non-Profit Fair proved very helpful.

Schedule a trip to Pilot – Chris, William Ryan – to look for hairy chickweed there -- Will do next spring

Complete PA Heritage Program gateway application – in progress

Reserve room for June 20 and July 18 Board meetings -- done

David Ross:

Will raise issues related to volunteer forms during June Board meeting – Tabled to July

Henry Whitesel:

Create workday schedule for July and August – in progress

There will be one on July 12 and one just before Labor Day, then additional dates through September including

2 days in Chrome

Goat Hill: follow through with Joe – power line near parking lot; finish clearing on Goat Hill – and pull trees on area 23; 90 , 24 and 92 are good times to pull trees

New Texas – need to cut down trees – KK and Y; area M – good place to do during deer season because near road (hence off limits to hunting)

Otherwise, will shift to Sunday workdays – mid September for rest of fall during deer season

We discussed trail maintenance at Goat Hill. Boy scouts have taken the lead here.

Deliver brush hog to Anna for repairs -- Done

**5. Monthly reports from board member “Leads” as applicable -- Tabled**

- a. Conservation / maintenance (HW)
- b. Science (AH)
- c. History (MB)
- d. Education (AH)

- e. Recreation / trails (KW) (Goat Hill discussion (DR))(brief)
- f. Membership / outreach (AH)
- g. Administration (DR)
- h. Strategic Plan (BG)

**6. Status of agreement with (a) NCP about “shared” equipment acquisition cost and maintenance expense, and permanent storage location and (b) TNC for storage of BoF equipment in TNC barn (DR and BG)**

Jay Gregg has asked us to propose language. Bob will go ahead and take a first crack at a draft if we don't receive input from PPF soon. Jay expressed a willingness to help us move equipment to different workday sites.

Molly to talk with Chris King about the potential for increased use of the TNC shed

TNC wants to have an agreement in hand before we move forward with a plan to provide us with additional equipment for shared use.

**7. Equipment - Brush hog repair (HW, AH).**

Brush hog is at Anna's house – Chris hopes to do the repair this weekend in time for June 27 workday.

**8. Rare barrens species protection – Create internal list, populate Site Tracker spreadsheet, and create map of probable / known locations (using site observations and PA Heritage Program info access per Rocky Gleason), (BG, AH, MB)**

Mike has added fame flower sites to site tracker

Bob added Very Hairy chickweed

**9. Expedition to locate “Very Hairy” Chickweed at Pilot. (AH)**

Will plan for late spring 2015

**10. Review status of Site Tracker Spreadsheet and updating process (BG, HW).**

Bob added where we worked this year – general status of the sites

Bob and Henry will schedule a conversation to update Site Tracker.

Mike will update New Texas status.

### **11. PPF – Marketing assistance - event promotion, social media, outreach, etc. (AH)**

We agreed to work on making better use of Facebook.

Are keeping open the possibility of participating in Whole Foods promotion (patrons could donate bag discount to our organization, raising visibility)

Anna will continue updating our workday poster and we each will try to post on local bulletin boards.

Henry will send DeLoitte's Sara's contact info to Anna

### **12. August FLSB presentation / event at Oxford Library (AH, MB).**

August 20, 6:30 pm. Mike, Anna and David will be there.

Already listed on our Web site; make sure PPF and Nature Conservancy have it listed.

Mike will create a slide listing volunteer opportunities; discuss at July Board meeting.

Current list of needs on web site:

- Public outreach
- Maintenance Leader
- GIS analysis
- Plant Monitors/Site Stewards
- Hike Coordinator

We want to make clear that we are open to whatever help folks might be able to give us  
Do you like to talk to people (outreach) do you like to walk in the woods (plant monitor)

### **13. Summer and Fall workday schedule. (HW)**

Coming

### **14. Master Plan status: (BG) TNC Organizational Meeting 5/28 – Immediate Action Items:**

- Coordinate work scopes and responsibilities between parties (TNC, West Chester Univ, Temple Univ (possibly), BoF work team, Friends, etc.
- Update and obtain input from key stakeholders (Jay, Joe, Pal, etc)
  - Status of each site (work area) – ID info requirements – update site status tracker
- Next conference with TNC;
  - Assemble data to develop plan for Chrome.



- Provide available mapped data and prior planning studies and other info to West Chester University
- Draft timeline / deliverables

Bob summarized the various parallel streams that have been feeding into our strategic planning initiative.

Bob, Anna and David met with Joan Welch, Joy Frischle and Gary Coutu of WCU – Geography on June 17. Opportunities to incorporate projects related to our initiatives this summer, fall and spring.

Bob has had conversations with Temple University

Continuing conversations with TNC

Joe – and his DCNR team

Chester County 2020: George Asimos (also on PPF board) and William Reynolds – opportunities to do a master plan that links all of these barrens -- they think the county will get excited about – in line with Linking Landscapes and Open Space goals.

He will pull together a meeting with the senior planners and politicians – to talk about a plan for preservation of the barrens as well as coordinate with Lancaster and Cecil

Important to update Ed Herr on our planning and to explore future of Herr lands.

Bob and David updated Jay on these developments

David to talk with Pal

WCU partnership offers us additional opportunities to explore a rich array of GIS data.

Mike: As we consider these academic collaborations, we should remain open to the 64k question. No one has been able to identify what's the ecological factor that allows some serpentine areas to remain as barrens, while others succumb to encroachment by invasives.

Next steps:

- Bob to provide Gary with 2008 TNC strategic study and any other documents he thinks would help Gary as he gets his summer course underway.
- David to send out email proposing a conference call involving Mike, Gary, Rachel Ralls and Bob; will add Gary to GIS data folder in Chrome
- Mike create GIS data dictionaries for New Texas and Chrome; will load his GIS data into Dropbox; load all the GIS data into that folder

- Bob follows up with Chester County 2020
- Anna to pursue a meeting with Ed to discuss potential trail connecting barrens sites

Travel schedules:

- Anna away until July 14<sup>th</sup>
- Mike Bertram away June 25 to July 6<sup>th</sup>
- David away June 22 to June 29
- Bob away July 4<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>
- Henry away July 17<sup>th</sup> to August 7<sup>th</sup>

**15. Admin – Master Plan documents folder;** (DR) -- Tabled until July

- Review status of PPF "Conservation" volunteer sign-up form for Goat Hill, release strategy for worksites, adapted version of the TNC form to capture contact information.

**16. Repository for archival plans and maps sent from W. PA Conservancy.** (BG)

Bob is still reviewing the box. Anna is obtaining access to Heritage gateway. David has created a Dropbox folder for sharing GIS shape files.

**17. Follow-up list of contacts and tasks stemming from Non Profit Expo – W. Chester University (BG,DR, AH)**

Anna, Bob and David to write up and circulate notes about what they learned.

**18. Volunteer "standards" (Board)**

Since the last Board meeting, one of our stakeholders shared that a volunteer had been charged with criminal conduct. After consulting with individual Board members, Bob contacted the volunteer asking that he not participate in FSLSB activities.

We had a useful conversation about the issues this raised for us going forward. Bob will see if PPF has any policies for coping with situations of this sort.

**19. Other business**

None

**20. Adjourned at 6pm with thanks to Anna for hosting.**