

**Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens
Nottingham County Park – August 13, 2017**

Attending: Chris Hoess, Tracy Raymond, David Ross in person; Molly Anderson by phone.

A) Key Dates

1. Our next board meeting

Sunday, September 10, 4pm-6, place TBD

Conference Dial-in number: (716) 748-0224 (potential toll call)
Host Access Code: 445962*
Participant Access Code: 445962#

2. Hikes, Talks, Work Days and Other Commitments

B) Action Items Going Forward

Tabled Agenda Items

Ex officio board representation

Barren Brook monitoring project

Draft strategic plan for hosting International Serpentine Conference

See August 10 agenda.

Molly Anderson

Will request updated guidance about Lower Chrome burn from Pat McIlhenny in time for discussion at our September 10 board meeting

Will schedule at Upper Chrome a trail maintenance work day for November to clear fallen logs, add needed blazes and property boundary signs; and prepare for mowing of the grassland area.

Will schedule a date in March to assess the Upper Chrome trails (under wet conditions) with local equestrian interests. The goal is to identify sections where horses and walkers ought to be separated and where modest board or stepping stone would improve the recreational experience.

Will draft (in time for feedback by our September 10 board meeting) a volunteer outreach message to be directed through the TNC volunteer newsletter solely to SE PA TNC members.

Mike Bertram:

Point person for our history initiatives and web master

Bob Gray:

Point person for strategic planning initiatives.

Chris Hoess:

Will send out a reminder ahead of the September 10 board meeting

Will develop a list of neighboring property owners for Lancaster (New Texas) and Cecil Counties (Goat Hill).

Will work out agreement with BoF for shared use of the shed, including sharing the combination.

Will work with Tracy on cleaning up the workday volunteer list preparative to sending out an outreach email.

Will work with Tracy to schedule botany hike at New Texas.

Will identify individuals at Lancaster County Conservancy Tracy should contact about inter-organization field trip.

Will consider who might take on some of the responsibilities for science and education initiatives.

Tracy Raymond

Will contact Jay Gregg: We are open to providing volunteers should Jay contact us with a workday opportunity. Would Jay object to our doing a workday without ranger support? Can we devise a plan to remove the debris at serpentine sites in SW corner of Park that minimizes the demands on Park resources?

Will work with Chris on cleaning up the workday volunteer list preparative to sending out an outreach email.

Will work with Chris to schedule botany hike at New Texas.

Will convene meeting of Outreach Committee

David Ross:

Will ask Henry if he will host September 10 Board meeting.

Will update his list of neighboring property owners for the Chester County barrens properties.

Will work with Boy Scouts about organizing a trail work day.

Will contact Wilson King about walking the Upper Chrome trails in March.

Will convene next meeting of Restoration Committee

David will contact Ed Farber who volunteered to sort through FSLSB mapping information to discuss whether Ed can take on the task of helping us standardize our site codes at Goat Hill. If this doesn't seem a fruitful path, David will contact TNC GIS staff.

Point person for administrative initiatives.

Kent Wagner:

Henry Whitesel:

Will establish the deadline by which the Scout needs to finish the project (i.e., when does he turn 18).

Bill Whittaker:

C) Items Considered

Welcome and Agenda

Meeting convened at 2:30. The actual meeting flow deviated from the circulated agenda.

Next Meeting Date

Sept. 10, 4pm- 6, place to be determined. David will ask Henry, or host himself.

Takeaways from August 2 Research Meeting

(See attached notes and minutes)

Tracy led us through draft notes of the August 2 meeting (a copy is available from Chris).

The Board approved reimbursing Tracy \$135 for food and refreshments for what proved a very successful and useful event.

Tracy recommends scheduling a parallel **meeting for property stakeholders** (owners and key neighbors) over the winter.

David will update his list of neighboring property owners for the Chester County barrens properties; Chris will develop a similar list for Lancaster (New Texas) and Cecil Counties (Goat Hill).

BoF, TNC and NCP representatives were excited by the possibility of hosing a **combined timber sale**; no one property is likely to have a sufficient number of trees sized for lumber likely to attract a bidder. BoF will pursue.

Goat Hill:

Transfer of TNC-owned land, including the shed, to BoF should be accomplished by early fall.

Board authorizes Chris to provide BoF with **shed combination** and to work out **agreement for shared use of equipment** stored there, including ATV.

BoF taking responsibility for maintenance of the northern serpentine sites.

Restoration committee charged with:

Prepping the Rose Trail and other accessible sites for Jim Herr to mow next March.

Assessing maintenance, restoration needs at site 4.

Work on trail to site 19 and feasibility of establishing trail to sites 13, 12 and 11.

Removing cedars at site 23.

NCP:

Ranger support for workdays will be sharply curtailed over the next year. We are open to providing volunteers should Jay contact us with a workday opportunity. Tracy will ask Jay if he would object to our doing a workday without ranger support. Can we devise a plan to remove the debris at serpentine sites in SW corner of Park that minimizes the demands on Park resources?

Until further guidance from Jay, we will not schedule any workdays at NCP.

Lower Chrome:

Molly will request updated guidance from Pat McIlhenny in time for discussion at our September 10 board meeting. The plan is to schedule a volunteer seed collection day in October, followed soon after by a controlled burn of the southern wet land/meadow (definite) and some of the serpentine sites (possible). Pat's team will take responsibility for notifying all local stakeholders. We will try to recruit students from regional universities to participate.

Upper Chrome:

Molly will schedule a trail maintenance work day for November to clear fallen logs, add needed blazes and property boundary signs; and prepare for mowing of the grassland area.

Molly will schedule a date in March to assess the trails (under wet conditions) with local equestrian interests. The goal is to identify sections where horses and walkers ought to be separated and where modest board or stepping stone would improve the recreational experience. David to reach out to Wilson King

Restoration committee charged with:

- Walking and assessing the needs of the Laurel trail
- Assessing the needs of the scraped area
- Scheduling a time for Chris Fuller to mow.

New Texas:

Restoration committee charged with:

- Clearing stumps in preparation for spring mowing.
- Opening up trails.

Serpentine Conference: The prospect of hosting the International Serpentine Conference was of huge interest to everyone at the August 2 gathering! The timeline for this is approximately six years (we would put in a bid three years from now). We should devote one of our winter board meetings to evaluate an action plan for making this happen.

Researcher Collaboration: The barrens remain an underutilized resource for research and teaching.

Once we rebuild our science liaison committee (currently Chris), we will charge it with

- Follow up plans include creating a spreadsheet of research on the barrens. Spreadsheet will include name, org/university, which barrens, which sites, nature of the study, start and end dates, publications/presentations.

- Follow up also includes generating research best practices and protocols for us and for the researchers. Data will include any rules/protocols set forth by the property owners, contact information and how FSLSB will attempt to coordinate, record and present data.
- Clarifying permitting requirements with BoF and other property owners.

Volunteer Outreach: We continue to grapple with the challenge of maintaining our serpentine sites with a very small group of dedicated veteran volunteers. As a practical matter, our strategy appears to be

Use our band of dedicated volunteers to tackle critical projects (e.g., failed bridge or downed trees) and to prepare for high yield mowing. Then try to attack large group (e.g. Deloitte), one shot work days to handle labor intensive restorations (e.g., Lower Chrome seed collection, Goat Hill site 23).

Potential groups:

Rotary (which chapter?)

Longwood

Sally Willig

Chris Hardy

Ursinus

WCU

Lincoln University

Molly has offered to draft a volunteer outreach message to be directed through the TNC volunteer newsletter solely to SE PA TNC members.

Board governance:

Chris will send out a reminder ahead of the September 10 board meeting.

David will convene the next meeting of the Restoration Committee.

Tracy will focus her report for the September board meeting on outreach committee activities.

Chris will consider who might take on some of the responsibilities for working with researchers and academics.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 4:30 with thanks to NCP for hosting.