

**Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens
David Ross's house – September 10, 2017**

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

A) Key Dates

1. Our next board meeting

Sunday, October 15, 2:00-4:00pm at Nottingham County Park office

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

Sun 17 Sep 0900 New Texas stewardship -- Bob leads

Sat 7 Oct Nottingham Country Fair plant sale -- Tracy leads

Fri 20 Oct 0900 Goat Hill stewardship – Leader TBD

Sun 22 Oct 1300 Lower Chrome seed collection -- Molly leads

Sun 12 Nov 1300 Upper Chrome trail work -- Molly leads

Fri 17 Nov 0900 New Texas stewardship -- Henry leads

Sun 3 Dec 0900 New Texas or Goat Hill stewardship -- Bob leads

Sun 17 Dec 0900 Goat Hill stewardship -- David leads

B) Action Items Going Forward

Tabled Agenda Items

Ex officio board representation

Draft strategic plan for hosting International Serpentine Conference

Molly Anderson

Will coordinate outreach for Lower Chrome burn.

- TNC reaches out to Union Fire Company and Elk Township before October 2 Elk Township Meeting.

- Ask Pat McElhenny to join meeting by phone
- Email latest version of burn map
- Email draft burn flyer
- Ask Pat McElhenny whether some maintenance work could be done at sites 9 and 14 without unduly diminishing fuel for a future burn.

Will lead the October 22 Lower Chrome seed collection day

Will send Chris Renee's (Mt Cuba) email address.

Mike Bertram:

Point person for our history initiatives and web master

Bob Gray:

Leads September 17 workday at New Texas.

- Review with Henry map and site inventory to finalize work plan.
- Send out workday announcement once he has verified the date with Hannums.

Will circulate a map showing potential locations for serpentine seeps at Lower Chrome.

Point person for strategic planning initiatives.

Chris Hoess:

Will confirm October 15 Board meeting with Marian for NCP.

Will schedule with Tracy a visit to Lower Chrome to identify desirable plants for seed collection.

Will send link to iNaturalist project with brief explanation to the full Board.

Potential Fair Hill-Airport Barrens field trip:

Will explore Fair Hill looking for signs of serpentine vegetation.

Will send David a map indicating underlying serpentine rock formations at West Nottingham airport site.

Will contact BoF to discuss their plans for use of the Goat Hill shed.

Will draft an announcement for Mt Cuba to circulate promoting FSLSB events.

Will contact Marian about attending a meeting at NCP concerning the pine beetle.

Will continue updating the email list.

Tracy Raymond

Will contact BoF about October 20 stewardship day at Goat Hill.

Will reach out to David Royer about participation from Lincoln University students in October 22 Lower Chrome seed collection day.

Will schedule with Chris a visit to Lower Chrome to identify desirable plants for seed collection.

Will schedule a conference-call meeting of the Outreach Committee for September 28 or October 5. Committee to propose date for Rock Springs-Goat Hill field trip.

David Ross:

Will share logistics information with Bob for September 17 New Texas work day.

Will check to see if there is way of getting mower from power line cut to site 8

Convince Kent to lead October 20 stewardship day at Goat Hill.

Will contact Wilson King and Pal Durborow about the Lower Chrome burn.

Responsible for making sure FLSLB develops list of neighbors and drafts outreach letter for Lower Chrome burn.

Will verify that brush pile in SW corner of NCP has been cleared out.

Will schedule Restoration committee meeting once Henry returns from Colorado; agenda to include scheduling workdays at NCP.

Will approach Dennis Byrne and Jim Herr about potential access to airport barrens site.

Will perform the next round of stream measurements at Barren Brook in October.

Point person for administrative initiatives.

Kent Wagner:

Henry Whitesel:

Review with Bob map and site inventory to finalize work plan.

Bill Whittaker:

C) Items Considered

Welcome and Agenda

Next Meeting Date

Sunday, October 15, 2-4pm; Chris will confirm with Marian for NCP.

Reports of Committees

- Restoration Committee

Molly provided update on the Lower Chrome burn. It will occur (based on weather conditions) between October 15 and December 29. About 4 acres will be burned, and about 0.5 acres will be reseeded. We agreed on the following outreach strategy:

TNC will contact Union Fire Company and Elk Township Board, including proposing a Q&A session at the October 2 Elk Township Supervisor Meeting. One or more FLSB reps will attend the Board meeting.

Molly will check Pat McIlhenny availability to participate via phone.

David will call Wilson King and Pal Durborow over the next couple of weeks to get a sense of potential concerns about the burn.

FLSBS will draft a letter, based on TNC flyer, to send to neighboring property owners offer to schedule a visit to address any concerns the property owner might have.

FLSBS will assist in distributing flyer about the burn (library, post offices, etc.) after the October 2 meeting.

Molly will email latest version of the burn area map and the draft flyer.

David and Chris will verify the list of neighbors for outreach.

Lower Chrome seed collection day scheduled for, Sunday, October 22, 1-4pm. Molly leads.

Tracy will reach out to David Royer about participation from Lincoln University students.

Bob will circulate a map showing potential locations for serpentine seeps at Lower Chrome.

Tracy and Chris will schedule a visit to Lower Chrome to identify desirable plants for seed collection.

Lower Chrome Serpentine sites: David expressed concern about encroaching invasives on parts of Serpentine sites 9 and 14. Molly will ask Pat McElhenny about whether some maintenance work could be done there without unduly diminishing fuel for a future burn.

Tracy provided an update on activities at Nottingham County Park

Jay believes the brush pile in SW corner has been cleared out. David will verify.

Jay is generally comfortable with us scheduling workdays at NCP, but can't supply ranger support, e.g., trailering supplies. He expressed concerns about liability if we do chain saw work.

Tracy will contact Marcy to discuss to the degree to which our PPF waiver form protects our volunteers and the Park during work days at NCP.

We just need to contact Marian at the Park when we plan a work day. Restoration Committee will consider adding NCP (along Doe Trail, or in SW corner) once Henry returns.

Stewardship Days:

Sun 17 Sep 0900 New Texas -- Bob Gray leads

Bob and Henry to review map and site inventory to finalize work plan.

Bob to send out workday announcement once he has verified the date with Hannums.

David to share information about equipment.

Fri 20 Oct 0900 Goat Hill -- Henry no longer available to lead

David will try to convince Kent to take this on.

Tracy will coordinate with BoF.

Fri 17 Nov 0900 New Texas -- Henry leads

Sun 3 Dec 0900 New Texas -- Access depends on whether fox hunting is happening that day.

- Outreach Committee:

Tracy noted that the hour-long conference-call meeting of the Restoration Committee could be a useful template for the Outreach Committee. She will schedule a meeting trying to draw in some potential members. We proposed September 28 and October 5 as potential evening meeting dates.

iNaturalist project -- Chris to send link with brief explanation of the project to the full Board.

Field trip 1: Rock Springs; lunch; then Goat Hill. The number of individuals expressing interest in participating has grown since this idea was first circulated. Outreach Committee will propose a date.

Field trip 2: We discussed the possibility of a similar outreach field trip involving serpentine sites at Fair Hill and West Nottingham's former airport site.

Chris to look for Serpentine ecosystems at Fair Hill; send David map identifying underlying Serpentine rock formations at the airport site.

David to explore with Dennis Byrne and Jim Herr willingness to open access to the airport site for a visit.

Fall plant sale: October 7, Nottingham Country Fair

Chris volunteered to help.

Tracy is cancelling participation in Oxford October 6 First Friday

Hoping that new web site will be up by spring, in time for a more aggressive spring plant sale.

Old Business

- Website: survey of needs and features

Chris will schedule time to work with Bill on the back end.

Tracy will develop survey-instrument to obtain feedback on desirable features and layout of the web site

- Scope of stream monitoring at Chrome

We still hope to link a richer water quality assessment component to our stream bank erosion monitoring project. Could be a useful partnership with David Royer at Lincoln. Chris is pursuing contacts with the Elk Creek Watershed Association.

David has contacted Brad Maurer for help in pinning down the location of the monitoring sites selected last June. He has committed to conducting measurements in October.

New Business

- Goat Hill mapping

David is meeting Joy Fritschle at Goat Hill on October 15 to support her class mapping the boundaries of site 4.

- Goals/wishlist for a fundraising campaign

We are asked to keep in mind what projects we might take on, equipment we could use if adequate funding were available.

Chris will contact BoF to discuss their plans for use of the Goat Hill shed.

- Recruiting
 - TNC call for volunteers

We endorsed the draft note Molly shared with us.

- Mt Cuba

Chris has agreed to do a class for Mt Cuba; and their coordinator volunteer coordinator will publicize FSLSB events in their volunteer base.

Chris will draft an announcement for Mt Cuba to circulate.

Molly will send Chris Renee's email address.

- Opportunities with Longwood

Colin McCallum Cook, Longwood's meadow gardener attended the "Beauty of Barrens" event. Chris has spoken to others at Longwood about collaborating on plant collecting -- e.g., moss pink on the barrens

- Trail registers

Chris shared photos of the trail registers used by the Island Heritage Trust on Deer Isle, Me. Could make a useful scout project.

- T-shirts?

A run of 25 t-shirts for \$250. Outreach will discuss.

- 9/15/17 DNS hike

Janet Ebert is doing a hike at NCP for Delaware Nature Society -- networking opportunity. Chris is hoping to attend.

Outreach material

Outreach committee will consider the state of our inventory of book marks, fliers and maps. NCP has requested an expanded handout with information about the unique plants encountered in the local barrens.

Email list: Chris continues to work on cleaning/updating our email list.

Chris has been asked to participate in a meeting (yet to be scheduled) at NCP concerning evidence of pine beetle infesting pitch pine there. He will follow up with Marian.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 6:05pm.