

**Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens  
Conference – March 4, 2018**

Participating: Chris Hoess, David Ross in person; Molly Anderson by phone

**A) Key Dates**

1. Our next board meeting

Monday, April 9, 7-9pm, David Ross's house (351 Fremont Rd., Nottingham)

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

**Participant Access Code: 445962#**

2. Hikes, Talks, Work Days and Other Commitments

April 29 -- Beauty in the Barrens -- NCP, Sally Willig leads

May 6 -- Tri-State Bird Rescue Open House

May 19 -- Chris leads Mt. Cuba event at Goat Hill

June 8 -- Deloitte Day at Upper Chrome

**B) Action Items Going Forward**

Tabled Agenda Items

Web Site Reboot

Review Strategic Plan

Board Recruiting

International Serpentine Conference

Molly Anderson

Will share recent volunteer email addresses with the Board.

Will brief Board on TNC Land Steward assessment of Chrome when it occurs.

Mike Bertram:

Point person for our history initiatives and web master

Bob Gray:

Point person for strategic planning initiatives.

Chris Hoess:

*Short-term:*

Will clear April 9 Board meeting time and location with Tracy.

Will complete map of New Texas for March 9 meeting.

Will contact Houping Liu to request of map identifying groves of pines in danger of SPB infestation.

Will send thank you note to Harold Sweetman

Will update Nottingham plant list with Roger Latham additions in time for April Beauty in Barrens event.

Will get permission from NCP to obtain contact information for Beauty in Barrens event participants.

**Longer-term:**

Leading Goat Hill event in May for Mt. Cuba -- May 19

Will pursue a meeting with LCC staff to discuss Rock Springs and New Texas.

Will determine when to return to agenda

    Web site revision

    Review FLSB strategic plan

    Draft strategic plan for hosting International Serpentine Conference

Tracy Raymond

Will produce laminated versions of the Goat Hill map (once Chris makes numbers easier to read) and New Texas map (once Chris produces it).

Point person for May 5 Tri-States Bird Rescue event.

Will pay \$55 printing bill.

Will follow up on conversation with Debbie Beer, Natural Lands

Will schedule Outreach Committee meeting.

David Ross:

Will convene Restoration Committee to plan spring work days.

Will work with Henry and Charlie Fleischman to pursue mowing at New Texas.

Will contact Henry to get ok for Chris to proceed with Goat Hill and New Texas maps and to identify contact for Media Church.

Ask Mike Bertram if he has contact info for Wood family.

Pass ATV safety course

Coordinates Barren Brook monitoring effort.

Point person for administrative initiatives.

Kent Wagner:

Pass ATV safety course

Henry Whitesel:

New Texas meeting with David and Charlie Fleischman

Bill Whittaker:

**C) Items Considered**

**Welcome and Agenda**

**Next Meeting Date**

Monday, April 9, 7-9pm, David Ross's house (351 Fremont Rd., Nottingham)

**Restoration Committee**

- **Goat Hill**

Weather has cancelled our last two attempts at work day.

Pennsylvania Game Commission protections on green snake prevent tractor mowing (but not walk behinds or brushwhackers) between November 1 and March 15. So, we likely have missed our opportunity to mow this year at Goat Hill.

- **New Texas**

Henry Whitesel, Charles Fleischmann and David Ross are scheduled to meet with the Hannums, Friday, March 9 at 1pm to discuss mowing at New Texas.

Chris will complete updating of the map for that meeting,

- **Nottingham County Park**

Chris understands that obstacles to Glatfelter logging pine snags have been removed.

Roger Latham hired as consultant for planning restoration post-logging.

David reports that local arborist has been removing trees in high traffic public areas.

- **Chrome**

Weather continues to delay controlled burn. PA TNC burn equipment is in Delaware, so well positioned to take advantage of weather window, when one opens.

After the burn, TNC will want to schedule a volunteer day to spread seeds

David will work with Henry to identify the contacts for the Media Church for the June Deloitte work day.

Pat McIlhenny continues to work with Josephine and Elizabeth on stewardship team-building exercises. Once that finishes, they plan to do a stewardship assessment for Chrome.

David will contact Brad Maurer about coordinating the March Barrens Brook monitoring.

Chris will attend March 8 Elk Open Space meeting. Main purpose of meeting is to try to persuade more landowners to put properties under easement. Reps from Brandywine Conservancy, Natural Lands Trust and the Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County will be there. Chris hopes to plant seed for follow up meeting related to stewardship practices on eased lands.

Molly happy to be liaison between general stewardship efforts in the area and Katie Turner, TNC's Pennsylvania Agricultural Program Manager

David reported Pal Durborow will be installing updated ATV signs at Upper and Lower Chrome

- **Pilot Barrens**

Chris has been in contact with TNC Maryland's Deb Landau (Conservation Ecologist) and Deb Barber, Land Management, about our volunteering for a workday at Pilot to reroute a firebreak using our brush cutters. Hope is we might get announcement about our spring workdays into their outreach material.

## **Outreach**

Expanded report will await Tracy's participation at April Board meeting.

- **Southern Pine Beetle-Houping Liu**

Chris has been in contact with Houping Liu, DCNR Forest Ecologist, about Southern Pine Beetle Response. A management plan response is still going through the drafting stage, but Houping is happy to partner with us in outreach to neighbors and to West Nottingham Supervisors.

Chris will contact to request identifying at-risk dense stands of vulnerable pines on properties neighboring Goat Hill and NCP. (Eyeballing map, Chris suspects Boy Scout camps and Wood family properties fit that profile.)

David will contact Mike Bertram to see if he has contact information for Wood family.

- **Tri-State Open House**

Tracy is proceeding with plans to trade presentation by Chris for tabling opportunity on May 6.

## **Other Business**

- **Strategic Planning**

We agreed that checking in on our strategic plan will need to await end of the academic year.

We devoted a chunk of time to brainstorming how to engage volunteers in specific-non restoration activities.

This fits with a suggestion from Henry Whitesel that we attempt more regular email or Blog post outreach to our contact list, following the model Mike Bertram developed when he was work day leader.

Chris has set up iNaturalist Stateline Serpentine Barrens project. Will solicit volunteers to look into identifying and protecting *Ceanothus americanus* and *Baptisia tinctoria*

Molly is eager to see Pennsylvania TNC promote such citizen science activities building on the example of TNC New Hampshire iNaturalist initiative

David noted that the Barrens Brook monitoring project to could use volunteers and possibly expand to include monitoring of invertebrates.

- **February Action Items still in progress**

May and Beyond:

Stakeholders meeting

Update FSLSB strategic plan

Web site

Draft strategic plan for hosting International Serpentine Conference

Update Nottingham plant list with Roger Latham additions

Laminated versions of Goat Hill and New Texas site maps.

**Adjourned** at 3:20