Notes: First Annual Review and Planning Meeting 1/11/2020

Rappahannock County Park Old Rag Master Naturalist Stewardship / Education Project

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| Attending | Torney Van Acker, Ruth Welch, Berni Olson, Sharon Heiser, Barbara King, Barry Bruschow, Mike Wenger, Mary O’Meara, Bonnie Beers |
| Review of major achievements in 2019 | * Monthly workdays: Management of Japanese honeysuckle, English ivy, garlic mustard, stiltgrass; identification of native plants that emerged in spaces made by invasive removal * “Octagon” garden: bloomed extravagantly and was much noticed by pollinators and park visitors * “Pollinator Plot”: planted with Keep Virginia Beautiful grant….plants bedded down for winter * Representation at Park events: Free Fishing-Rush River Conservation Day * RCHS Environmental Education class – 2 Park field-class events |
| Plans for 2020 | |  |  | | --- | --- | | February 22 | Assemble bluebird boxes donated by Kier Whitson, and install if weather-ground conditions permit. | | March xxx | Virginia Bluebell planting | | April 25 | Earth Day-Let’s Volunteer Day / Rush River Cleanup | | May xxx | TBD | | June 6 | Free Fishing / Rush River Conservation Day | | July 18 | NABA Butterfly Count | | July xxx | TBD | | August | TBD | | September 12 | Rappahannock County Conservation Day | | October xxx | TBD | | November x | TBD | | December 19 | Winter Solstice / Nature Celebration | |

Discussion and Update:

* **Bluebird boxes:** Roger Temple (ORMN Class 1) and experienced bluebird box builder, has volunteered to assemble the materials that we will need to build predator guards for our 5 boxes, and will come to workday on February 22 to help build and advise re installation. (Yay!)
* **Survey:** consider ways that we may tap into survey-submissions by people using the park
* **Education-Outreach:**

-begin to collect and catalog “modules” which might be selected by school or other groups, to explore Park resources

-Mike Wenger checking into engagement with 4H club

-explore homeschoolers connection

* **River health:** training in January to facilitate updating data re coliform bacteria levels in Rush River
* **Signage:** start noticing / researching signage (or map) that might inform park visitors re plants in gardens and on trails
* **Workshops/ Presentations**: think about starting this effort by scheduling during existing events when people are already coming to park—e.g. Rush River / Rapp Conservation Days

-Ideas: Bill Bynum: mushrooms, bats, bee houses

-talk with local schools about ideas they would like to see developed

* Other: forsythia removal and replacement with native plantings, the Bradford pear dilemma