



Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Friends of Accotink Creek

Our meeting notes serve as bulletins of our activities, interests, and discussions, supplemented by your submissions.

Friends of Accotink Creek Town Meeting - August 18, 2015

Next Meeting: September 15, 2015 (Third Tuesday of each month)
Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby

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Present:

Philip Latasa
Ted Welch
Heather Breiner
Dave Lincoln
Janet Oleszek – special guest

Upcoming events:

- Wakefield Park Plant Rescues, through September, 2015
- Daniels run Back to School, September 28 & 29, 2015
- Professional freshwater mussel survey, autumn, 2015
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, September 12, 2015
- International Coastal Cleanup, September/October, 2015
- Next FLAP meeting, October 15, 2015
- Accotink Gorge Biotrek & Wisteria Workday, October 24, 2015
- Elly Doyle Award Presentation, November 20, 2015

Action Items:

- *Kris – Develop Lanier bioretention plan*
- *Kris – Coordinate with Choose Clean Water on TMDL*
- *Sandy & Philip – Develop mussel survey plan*
- *Philip – Coordinate Wisteria Workday with Park Authority*
- *Dave – Secure staging area for Wisteria Workday*
- *Dave & Ted – Bring Ranavirus controls to cleanups*
- *Philip – Prepare comments on Supervisors bee policy*
- *Philip – Prepare comments on Legislative Package*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

Funds/Mastenbrook Grant:

Philip remarked on the need to complete the survey while weather allows, but now we now may be in conflict with our fall stream cleanups. Philip will work with Sandy to clarify scheduling with Daguna.

• International Coastal Cleanup:

Philip described the fall stream cleanup schedule, September 5 – October 24, with gaps September 12 for stream monitoring, September 19 for the Lake Accotink Park and Braddock District cleanups, and October 17 for a possible second Lake Accotink cleanup. We will also have a private cleanup at Wakefield Park September 20 with Temple Adat Reyim.

• Accotink Gorge:

Philip presented the proposal to be sent to the Park Authority for an October 24th wisteria removal workday, combined with stream cleanup and “biotreks” through the Accotink Gorge. The proposal met with consensus. Dave will make arrangements for a staging area with Costco or other adjacent businesses. Philip spoke about the larger task of controlling the wisteria in the rest of the gorge, and how we would need persons to do outreach, presentations, recruitment, and grant-seeking.

• Represent FACC:

Daniels Run cleanup days through August

Philip remarked that our sister group, Lands & Waters, could use help with maintenance of natural planting areas at Daniels Run Elementary School in August, and noted that these areas are worth a visit for anyone finding themselves in the vicinity.

Daniels Run Back to School Sept 28 & 29

Philip advised Lands & Waters invited us to share staffing a table, if anyone interested is available.

Supervisor Hudgins Bee policy

Philip reported Supervisor Hudgins of Hunter Mill district had introduced a resolution, adopted by the Board of Supervisors, to adopt policies for plantings on county property favorable to bees. Staff recommendations are due in December. This was discussed at the recent Fairfax County Restoration Project meeting, and also its relationship to the never-implemented 2007 native species planting policy. FCRP will take the lead in promoting and merging both policies. Philip will draft a supporting letter.

Legislative package

Philip related Tony Vellucci, Braddock District Park Authority Board member, submitted two proposals for the Park Authority to refer for inclusion in the Board of Supervisors legislative package to be sent to Richmond:

- A \$50 tax credit for donations to parks, as exists now for political donations
- A requirement that garden wholesalers and retailers label plants as native, invasive, or noninvasive

Philip will write a letter supporting both ideas.

• Wakefield Park Stream Restorations:

Philip noted there is no sign of construction beginning, so native plant rescues will continue week-by-week. Philip will clarify the construction schedule with Suzy.

• General Elections:

Our guest, Janet Oleszek, is a candidate for Braddock supervisor. She discussed her concerns about watershed issues, primarily the effect of the proposed widening of Braddock Road and the lack of information available to the public. Ted & Philip noted the apparent lack of environmental interest shown by citizens at public meetings.

Philip reminded that a number of state and local offices are up for election in November, including Board of Supervisors and Soil & Water Conservation District Board.

• Reimbursements:

Philip informed that he had paid \$75 for Volunteer Fairfax membership annual renewal and reimbursement was authorized without objection.

• Fairfax Pickett Road Condos:

Philip presented a draft of written comments to the Fairfax City Council on the proposed development on Pickett Road, which was approved without objection.

• Elly Doyle Award/Environmental Excellence award:

Philip passed along intelligence from Friends of Nottoway regarding the Elly Doyle Awards presentation: This is an opportunity to network and lobby, including at the after-awards buffet, primarily with Park Authority staff, Park Board, Park Foundation Board, and any supervisors present. Wearing our vests was

thought to be a good attention-getting idea. Dave and Ted agreed to attend, but the more Friends who go, the better.

- Ranavirus:

Dave shared information on the near hospital-grade decontamination methods recommended to prevent spread of amphibian [Ranavirus](#) between water bodies. There was gloomy discussion of the challenges of incorporating these practices into our regular activities. Dave and Ted will bring bleach and sprayers to cleanups as a test.

- Invasive Management Cards:

Ted brought up the topic of the invasive species playing cards the Park authority is no longer distributing. There was general discussion of making the cards available again and possible sources of funding.

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek
