

Attendance: Pam Mount, Rick Dutko, Anne Demarais

Rick reported on the progress of the swift tower and kiosk (see note below and attached photos).

There will be a Community Conversation on Saturday March 21 in the Clark Music Center at The Lawrenceville School (8:30-12:30). Rick and Pepper Evans will be attending. Any additional volunteers to help represent the nature center will be appreciated.

Pam reports that there will be a green expo at the high school on the 14th.

Rick will be getting the DOT Lawrence Nature Center signs for Lawrence Road, hopefully in time for Earth Day.

Pam suggested that goats might be able to help us with our multiflora rose problem.

Anne reported on the Summer Family Nights schedule progress. She will contact Dave Bosted; we'll ask Carol to get in touch with Heather. Tim Steinbeiser and Rick on the schedule. We'll try to get a drumming night scheduled, a night on the Leni Lenape Indians, etc.

Rick is having a workshop for beginning birders on Saturday and will be working with the girl scouts on the 15th.

We discussed the Earth Day Festival and suggest that the tables be set up on the meadow side and that we have a display board with the day's activities. If we can get the permits in time, Rick thinks he could build the deck with volunteers by Earth Day.

Carol could not attend the meeting, but sent the following:

I am so sorry that I could not get in touch with you before the meeting; I got hit with a virus suddenly that kept me house bound. I had art display rail pictures to show you... and get feedback on. I also had a note from the WHIP grant people requesting more rose bush amendment. I wrote all the scout troops and requested help. Will let you know if anyone responds. We are getting good response to the Earth Day invite. I talked with Barb, and we are going to put together a package of lesson plans to take over to Melissa's teachers who are interested in having a class nature day at the center. I am off the week of March 15 and plan to try to clean up the garage, and work on some of the gardens and rose bushes.

Rick sends the following about the Chimney Swift Tower construction (photos attached). *I don't know exactly how many hours Eriks Svarcborgs has put into this project, but I know he and his fellow scouts and friends have met at least six times at the nature center for construction. And he has done much of the work at his home, cutting lumber, painting and constructing different phases of the project. I have been there sixteen hours myself and I am probably one of the group with the least amount of hours! I am sure there are at least several hundred person-hours thus far.*

Eriks and his family will be taking a few weekends off from the project due to a scout trip and Spring break vacation. He plans to resume in late March with the finishing touches of the swift tower that includes, a roof, painting the structure, and finishing the kiosk. It will be done by Earth Day!

In addition, I am writing an article for the local papers on Eriks' project and the upcoming memorial dedication of the tower to Eileen Katz, local resident, birder and environmental activist.

Next meeting: April 6