



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

**Friends of Accotink Creek Town Meeting – June 21, 2022**

Next Meeting: July 19, 2022 (Third Tuesday of each month via on-line meeting: Login info will be posted with the meeting notice in the [Friends of Accotink calendar.](#))

**SUPPORT/DONATE**  
*It's easy & free!*

**Present:** Gary Bangs, Sandy Collins, Avril Garland, Renee Grebe (Audubon Naturalist Society), Tony Hill (Trout Unlimited), Philip Latasa, Dave Lincoln, Beverly Rivera, Kim Schauer, all via on-line meeting, due to COVID 19 closures and precautions.

**Opportunities to represent FACC:**

**Frontier Drive Extension:** Planning for the Frontier Drive extension at Franconia Metro is creeping forward, threatening Long Branch south, the same tributary that would be impaired by the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway . A public hearing, including NEPA hearing will take place on July 12, 7:00 p.m.

**Amberleigh HOA Yard Sale:** Dave tabled at the on Saturday, June 18 at Amberleigh’s sports area, focusing on the impact on the HOA’s common property inherent in the proposed extension of a paved and lighted trail along Long Branch South to connect a paved trail along Cinder Bed with a crossover to the Franconia-Springfield METRO Center. This was in cooperation with Audubon Naturalist Society, which has announced its formal opposition to the Bikeway in a blog entry. On June 19th, the nature tour hosted by Virginia Native Plant Society attracted about a dozen local residents. One of them turned out to be a transportation engineer who will help draft some alternate plans. The next nature tour of the area is scheduled for June 26th.

**DWR Fish Survey:** Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources will be doing an electrofishing survey of Accotink Creek fish species the first week of August in Wakefield Park. Tony and Dave intend to participate.

**FACC Subjects of Interest Discussion:**

**Friends of Dyke Marsh event May 19, Subject: Plastic pollution:** FACC is a co-sponsor of an event on May 19 at the Mt. Vernon District Government Center, with a guest speaker from Ocean Conservancy. FODM will provide more info, asking for help with publicity.

**Accotink Gorge:** On June 11<sup>th</sup>, we had another wisteria workday at the Gorge, attacking invasive wisteria and replanting about 20 trees. Turnout was disappointing, with a total of four persons. In discussion of a fall date, Avril pointed out it should be a Teachers’ Work Day to try for more student participation.

**Spicewood Court Properties:** The Spicewood Court properties sold at public auction but not to Northern Virginia Conservation Trust or the Park Authority. NVCT plans to stay involved and work toward a goal of having all 7 lots protected in the long term. These are entirely in floodplain and Resource Protection Area on Accotink Creek just downstream from Woodburn Road. In October last year, we authorized a \$2500 contribution to the purchase fund collected by Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT), but

the auction was cancelled (“Board members agreed on a \$2500 donation, specifying that it is for the project described in the appeal.”) After discussion of the possibility to withdraw the funds, Philip took an action to contact NVCT. We discussed possibility that local civic association could be stimulated to oppose building on the lots. [Dave found later that the District Supervisor’s office has no knowledge of a relevant civic association.]

***Daventry Stream Restoration site invasives:*** In response from to an inquiry from Dave, Suzy Foster has arranged for Operation Clean Stream to work on removing invasives from a recent stream restoration project in his neighborhood off Hunter Village Drive. The crew will be out June 29<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 – 12:00. Philip intends to participate and anyone is welcome to join.

**Park Authority Budget:** The Alliance of Park Friends is coordinating an effort to reverse cuts proposed by the county executive to the requested 2023 Park Authority appropriation. The budget was low enough already, after being cut back during the financial crisis of 2008 and never restored. We sent our own [comment letter](#) to the Board of Supervisors.

**Quill Camp:** On June 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to 12:30, a group of volunteers from CareFirst will be volunteering at Daniels Run Elementary school to remove invasive plant species for the outdoor classroom areas our sister group, Lands and Waters, has constructed over the years. We need a half dozen leaders to help guide the volunteers. A group of George Mason University students were looking to participate, but had to cancel for lack of registrants.



Invasives Hauled from Restoration Site

**Environmental Sustainability Award Nomination:** Beverly noted that FACC was nominated for the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Fairfax County volunteer service awards. We did not win, but got a nice certificate anyway (see below).





***Invasive Management:*** Beverley’s invasives management site at the Lake Accotink marina suffered an attack by vandals who removed all the shelters around recently planted trees and threw the shelters into the creek. They have all been recovered and put back in place. Change of schedule at Beverley’s IMA site from Saturday to Thursday to accommodate the needs of her regular group of Latter Day Saints elders.



*Beverley’s Invasives Site Vandalism*

**Water Caltrop:** Philip noted it is now the growing season for water caltrop. We need to look out for it whenever we visit Lake Accotink or any ponds in our watershed. There will likely be removal expeditions on the lake by Fall.



*Water Caltrop*

**Fairfax City Stormwater Utility Credit:** Fairfax City has implemented a stormwater utility credit program. Basically it requires properties with more impervious surface to pay more property tax, sometimes much more. The City is offering an alternative program of volunteering for stream cleanups, invasive removal, and perhaps more. We've been asked to be a part of the program and Philip am awaiting details.

**Fairfax Circle Community Bike Ride:** Fairfax City had an event called the Fairfax Circle Community Bike Ride May 21<sup>st</sup> to show off some planned bicycle projects, both trails and on-road accommodations. We raised questions about the redundancy and wisdom of the [George Snyder Trail](#) and [Pickett Road Connector](#) without any apparent effect. None of the other participants had any environmental questions.

# PAVE STREETS, NOT FORESTS!

THE TIME FOR BUSINESS AS USUAL IS OVER – CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOW  
THE TIME FOR TREES-TO-ASPHALT CONVERSIONS IS OVER  
STOP FUNDING THE SACRIFICE OF CARBON-SINK TREES FOR HEAT-SINK ASPHALT  
OUR DWINDLING SUPPLY OF FORESTS AND STREAMS CANNOT PROVIDE A PARALLEL TRANSPORT SYSTEM  
MAKE ALL OUR STREETS SAFE FOR PEOPLE INSTEAD OF MAKING OUR FORESTS SAFE FOR ASPHALT  
PROVIDE ALL OUR NEIGHBORHOODS WITH PEOPLE-FRIENDLY CONNECTIONS

#SAVEFAIRFAXTREES  
Friends of Accotink Creek  
[www.accotink.org](http://www.accotink.org)

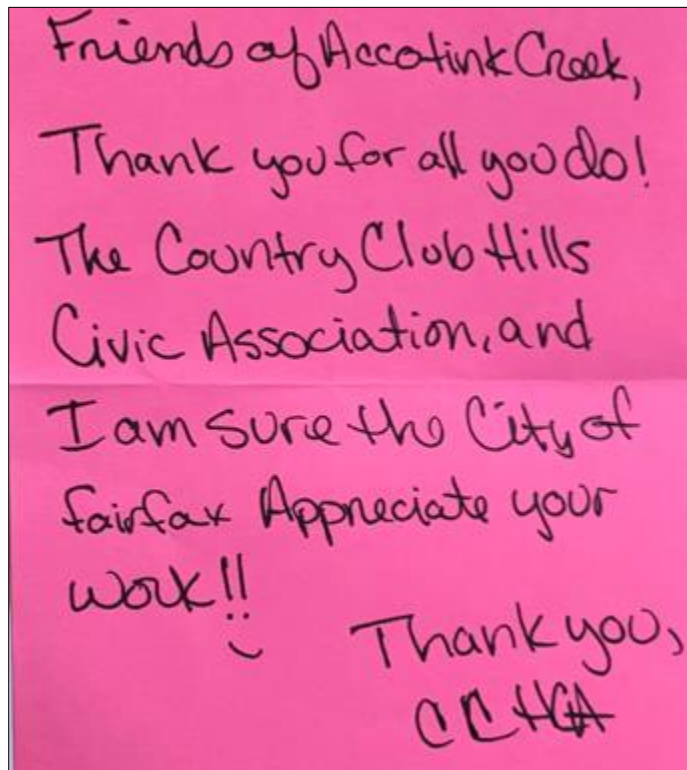


BE HEARD – BE THE VOICE OF THE FOREST!  
Use this email address to contact the Mayor & City Council  
[Mayor&Council@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:Mayor&Council@fairfaxva.gov)

*Placards displayed on our FACC vests during the Community Bike Ride*

**Quiet Clean NOVA:** Avril noted that her organization is seeking non-profit status under Tax Code 501(c)3, and she inquired whether FACC would be willing to accept donations for Quiet Clean NOVA pending the latter's tax-exempt status approval. The Board approved, by consensus.

**Donations:** Philip reported that FACC received a \$150 donation \$150 from Country Club Hills Civic Association during their March 26<sup>th</sup> stream cleanup.



[Whither FACC:](#)

**Website Modification:** [WordPress Alternative.](#) We are in need of a webmaster to continue work upgrading our web site.

**Public Schools Science POC:** Kim reported a job change whereby she will be teaching 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science to Special Needs students at Langston Hughes Middle School. Tony, who is a member of NoVA Chapter, Trout Unlimited, suggested collaborating about possible assistance from his organization.