

Project Committee Annual Meeting Report  
11/1/14

Hearty thanks to Gail Napora (MonarchEducation/Materials Focus) and Chris Bowlen (Plant Materials Focus) for the great kickoff panel for the Monarchs and More Focus Project 2014-5 today. Also, to Betty Forrest, Focus Project Ambassador, who is traveling and could not be here, but who continues to send great info. Four garden teams have formed, Purcell Park has already planted some milkweed, and we are on a roll towards an August 15<sup>th</sup> Migration Celebration Tour of the best we can accomplish for pollinator habitat and interpretation over the year. We are launching into this multi-team Focus Project on the platform of the wonderful success with last year's Focus on the Wildlife Habitat improvements at The Wildlife Center, coordinated by Kate Guenther.

This year, we hold up the year old HMN Newsletter (literally, in print format in a notebook) as a stellar example of a proactive and unsung project, created each month by Adrie Voors. Not only does it advertise and highlight 34 of the 39 HMN approved projects, there are photos of 34 different volunteers in those 12 issues. Background information, contacts and links make this the true and inspiring record of all the work HMNs did on projects last year. Many thanks for this outreach, Adrie! Anyone who has pictures, stories, pertinent info, can send it to Adrie anytime.

Also, a continuing thank you to other volunteers who have made longterm commitments in their projects, such as water monitoring for the Friends of the Shenandoah (twice monthly) and Friends of the Middle River (quarterly). People who worked on E-mammal had repeated and long treks to their camera sites, and Tree Stewards, gardeners, road and camp cleaners, faithfully show up and do the heavy lifting that is required to build and maintain our credibility, and actually fulfill the promise of Master Naturalists to protect our public lands.

The Project Committee invites new members, and is happy to welcome Janet James and Ginny Hoffman this year. Our next meeting is November 13<sup>th</sup> from 11-2, at Sandy Greene's house in Mt. Sidney. If you want to serve on this committee, or have any suggestions or comments, call Sandy at 234-9336, or any other Project Committee member: Art Vasy, Chris Bowlen, Adrie Voors, Betty Forrest, and RoxAnna Theiss for Training Projects.

Respectfully Submitted, Sandy Greene chair