

**Monthly Meeting Call-  
in Information**

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**National Capital Chapter  
April 4, 2012**



**Agenda Items**

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Group feedback on the two environmental film festival NCC events
3. Bat houses on the National Mall (idea from Phil and networking with Jocelyn)
4. Discussion about Earth Day (Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>) and possible events
5. Update on the food security and conservation event
6. Stewardship and Service Activities
7. Treasurer's Report
8. NCC's 2012 Membership Status
9. NCC's Website Status

**Action Items**

~Check on logistics for the Spring 2012 Event – 1) Look into capability of USDA, EPA, and WRI video-teleconferencing systems (VTS) and 2) Video-recording of the presentations and question/answer session to be posted later on the NCC website.

**Meeting Summary**

**1. Introductions**

The Executive Board of the National Capital Chapter (NCC) of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) did not meet by teleconference during the month of March. The NCC met by teleconference on April 4, 2012. This meeting was rescheduled from March 21, 2012 so there will be no call that is regularly scheduled for April 18, 2012. President Michelle Perez presided and called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. The following members were present:

Michelle Perez  
Becky Mitschele  
Larry Holmes

Lynn Knight  
Andy Manale

**2. Group feedback on the two environmental film festival NCC event**

The people who attended the film enjoyed the outing and the opportunity to network with other professionals. At the second film event, Phil networked with Jocelyn from the Bat Conservation International (see next agenda item). Some were disappointed with the low attendance for the free events.

**3. Bat houses on the National Mall**

Michelle shared the idea about working with the National Park Service to install bat houses and an educational display on the National Mall. The NCC could partner with the Bat Conservation International to build and install these houses. Their website is <http://www.batcon.org/>. Also, Larry spoke about a past effort to put up bat houses on barns.

#### **4. Earth Day Discussion**

The NCC may want to organize an event around Earth Day. Michelle emailed around two possible ideas:

1) Clean Water Network First Annual Float-In Earth Day

Event will take place at the Earth Conservation Corps Office at the Diamond Teague Park on the Anacostia River on Sunday, April 22, 2012 from 3 to 7 p.m. The event includes boat tours of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, special speakers, displays and exhibits, musical entertainment, and a screening of Last Call to the Oasis. Website:

<http://www.cleanwaternet.org/news-events/news/join-americas-first-annual-float-earth-day>

2) For other Possible Earth Events that NCC could attend, see

<http://dc.about.com/od/specialevents/a/EarthDay.htm>

The NCC decided not to organize an Earth Day event because of timing and of low attendance at the film festivals.

#### **5. Update on the food security and conservation event**

The tentative date is June 7, 2012. The venue for the event is likely to be at WRI because of the conference size with a capacity of up to one hundred people. The space can also be divided into a smaller area. An alternative venue for the event could be at NRCS. Hosting it at NRCS may increase attendance.

The USDA economist group will be participating as well as C-FARE, an arm of the AAFA. The event will likely have three panelist and a number of candidates in the area. Andy has a list of potential speakers. The NCC discussed having food at the event to promote attendance. The event will be approximately one and half hours with one hour of presentations and 30 minutes of questions/answers. Andy is leading a call with the potential speakers next week to tailor their presentations. The presentations will focus around the question, with increasing population and food demand, what is the implications for US policy and how do we ensure that we maintain soil and water quality protection?

In addition, Becky shared a food-related event that has reached event capacity already but it's good to know about: "Exploring the True Cost of Food: A Workshop" by the National Academies of Science and the Pew Charitable Trust Foundation

<http://www.iom.edu/Activities/Nutrition/TrueCostofFood/2012-APR-01.aspx>

#### **6. Stewardship and service activities**

1) People's Garden: Call to Lisa Burks but still awaiting word. We could have a service day event during lunch time. This event would promote face to face stewardship and provide for networking.

2) National Arboretum – no update

**7. Treasurer's Report** – Larry Holmes, Treasurer

The NCC has the following funds:

Checking Account:	\$ 1,554.09
	((\$834.50 remaining)
	(\$719 from new membership dues on Feb. 8)
Savings Account:	<u>\$ 10,765.05</u>
Total:	\$ 12,319.14

Larry suggested doing an annual budget to allocate funds for activities. By having a budget, the NCC would know how much to spend for the Spring Event. Larry will follow up with Bruce to discuss scholarship ideas.

**8. NCC's 2012 Membership Status** – Lynn, Membership Chair; need to talk about it but good to have other people on.

**9. NCC's Website Status** – Becky

The NCC website address is [http://www.swcs.org/en/national\\_capital\\_chapter/](http://www.swcs.org/en/national_capital_chapter/). The website has been updated with 2012 meeting notes, a few photos, and the format is consistent with the other SWCS website.

**Next Teleconference scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2012, noon to 1:00pm**