All Staff Meeting

Wednesday, 11/6/19

Dennis Pilaske, Shane Kraus, Zack Greening, Jamie Hockstra, Megan Rider, Lindsey Harrell, Cathy Devendorf, Bruce Vaydik, Cari Marohn, Terry Lamblin, Madison Powell, Victoria Zablocki, Jenn Kirts, Mary Beth Carlisle, Michelle Fournier, Belinda Olivastri, Jennifer Dubey and Renee Johnson

Started the meeting by breaking into groups and did an activity to promote creativity and problem solving. We picked items from the tables and decided which item would be most useful in a survival setting.

Madison: One more week of Family Connection meetings. We had an amazing Professional Development meeting with other community organizations about building resilience in children. NPS family training was held Monday night and was a success. Everyone commented on how nice, clean and inviting the Visitor Center facilities were.

Victoria: Nature at Night we had 666 attending. Although the numbers were slightly lower due to competing High School football games and other community Halloween activities. Everything went well, especially the new spider slingshot activity that was a huge hit.

Working on Curriculum Mapping with the Bullock Creek schools to get everyone on the same page, to make sure their curriculums are lining up with the seasons and nature. Getting ready for maternity leave.

Lindsey: Creating profiles for the animals to be able to use in programs. The profiles will be located at the Naturalist Station.

Michelle: Snakes Alive programs coming up on Nov. 9th at the Saginaw County Parks in Freeland and on Nov. 16th at the VC. Getting ready for the Life, Society and Legacy member breakfast and other turkey programs.

Susie: Still scheduling programs.

Cathy: The Rock and Mineral show was a success with 1,597 people attending. Big thanks to Bruce for helping with parking, Terry, Lori and Michael for keeping up with cleaning, Victoria for helping with computer issues, Shane and Isaac for coming in after hours to fix the heating problem, Angela for keeping up with making copies and front office and Jamie too!

Jamie: Winter newsletters are being printed. Nature Art Show is being promoted. We will be mailing the Annual Appeals this week, if you have any, please get them in soon to the front office. Jenn and I worked on an article for the new Community Connections section in the MDN called, “A Lifetime of Nature” and have been asked to submit more articles. Working on the 2020 Newsletter schedule. Ashley will be revamping the membership brochures soon and memberships will be increasing by $5.00 next year.

Jenn: Land & Facilities did a collaboration with the Little Forks Conservancy for a CSO (Chief Science Officer) event in which it was very well received. Participated with Michelle and Tom at My Career Quest event in the Ryder Center at SVSU it was a fantastic event. The Historical Interpreter applications deadline is today and the hiring process will start soon with a committee meeting next week. Next week is Creek Week.

Isaac: Deer harvest is at 30. Trails are extremely wet so consider this when doing programs and limit golf cart use to prevent ruts in the trails. Working on the heating elements, that maybe the cause for the power outages we have had recently.

Cari: We are missing about half of our supply of micro cloths. Don’t want to order more if we don’t have to, if you have any please let Cari know.

When planning programs or events with disposable items like paper plates, silverware and cups, please check the cabinet in the kitchen before purchasing more.

Sightings: A mink at Peeper’s Pond by Lindsey, a visitor taking pictures snapped a pic of a shrike and one of our trail cams captured a hawk swooping down on a turkey.

Other Kudos: Madison to the maintenance dept. thank you for helping with the heating issues at the NPS.

Bullock Creek to CNC, they appreciate all of our work that we do for them.