



## Community Activity Report

1.	Neighborhood	Stoneybrook Estates
2.	Class name and Instructor	Night Hike with Mark Johns
3.	Date, time and location when class was held	April 7 2017, 7:30 PM; <a href="#">Stevens Nature Center, Hemlock Bluffs.</a>
4.	Adult volunteer coordinator(s)	Terri Wilson & Felicia Moore
5.	Youth volunteer coordinator(s)	n/a
6.	# of participants	12
7.	How was the Class advertised in the neighborhood?	Email and facebook
8.	How did the class go? A brief description	<p>The hike began with Mark sharing some anecdotes about the cardinals we were seeing prior to sunset. He said that usually they are foraging for the last bit of food they can find and sometimes they are chattering back and forth even as the sun sets. Most other species, he said, are hiding away by that time. Unrelated to the night hike, he pointed out the columbine and that the ruby throated hummingbirds will be out any day now, he said columbine is almost exclusively food for hummingbirds.</p> <p>Then we went inside for a few mins where Mark showed us some owl species we might come across at night. The great horned owl, barred owl, and screech owl; Mark also made the calls of each to help us distinguish. He told us that owls use their sense of hearing and great night vision (they don't see color well but movements excellently) to find prey.</p> <p>We then set out for our hike. We almost immediately saw a gray squirrel and Mark pointed out how brave it (&amp; a few others we saw along the way) were to be out at that time, given the possibility that the owls might already be hunting for a meal.</p> <p>We saw a herring fly above while overlooking the stream. He told us many times around that time of evening he will see deer at the stream, and sometimes he sees beavers or</p>





		<p>the evidence of them. He told us that a volunteer group planted 300 new plants along the stream bed and many were eaten or taken as easy building materials by the beavers.</p> <p>Moving down the trail in two spots we got to see some deer. Mark shined his light on them and they didn't even move, he said the deer around here are very used to people and also that their populations are increasing as they have no natural predators around here, cars being the thing that kills many of them, but otherwise deer can live very long lives, up to 18 years.</p> <p>We kept stopping to look around and Mark pointed to the tree tops, which were silhouetted from the moonlight, he said many times, especially when the leaves are not grown in completely, you will see an owl silhouette in the trees. He made calls a couple times but unfortunately, we never got the opportunity to hear or see any while we were hiking.</p> <p>Some animals he told us could possibly be seen at night in our area: bats, owls, snakes (especially copperheads), foxes (gray and red), deer, insects, and other small mammals. He said in our area the only dangerous thing that might be seen would be the copperhead but many of the other animals you might see were harmless (as is the copperhead if you leave it alone or don't accidentally step on it). He did point out a news story about coyotes and the fact that, while not native, they are making homes here. In the news story, someone's small dog was snatched up by one.</p> <p>The weather was cold and windy and this prevented us from seeing many of the animals that we might see in warmer, calmer weather.</p> <p>Despite the weather, I think we all enjoyed the woods at night and it was a new experience for many of us. And even though we didn't get to see many animals Mark provided us a wealth of information about the wildlife in our area.</p>
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9.	Incentives/giveaways if any offered	Stoney brook received a voucher (as a part of CGNP give away to promote nature and wildlife education) to attend any program (at Hemlock Bluffs) of their choice for free, at another CGNP activity they attended at Hemlock in 2016. The neighborhood chose this night hike and worked with Hemlock Bluffs staff to schedule the same. Thanks!
10.	Any green event guidelines followed?	Many! No paper or any other waste to promote the program or during the program. Some carpooling. No air-conditioning or artificial lighting almost all in the outdoors. Photos shared on FB page. Electronic thankyou's.
11.	Photos	 



