

## Two-Group Walks: Plan

### Background

The 2026 Chicory Lane Symposium includes three walks expected to have ~50 participants in each. One is the **Bird Walk** scheduled for **8:00 AM**. A second is the **Woodcock Habitat Walk** scheduled at **3:00 PM**. Both the Bird Walk and the Woodcock Walk will follow roughly the same route, but with very different foci. One will be looking at the sky and aerial perches for the diverse species living here or passing through; the other will be looking at the ground, shrubs, and thickets that provide the living, supporting environment that these extraordinary birds depend upon.

A third Walk will focus on **Herbaceous Plants**, also at **3:00 PM**. It will have two segments. One sub-group will walk upstream along Martha's Allee's focusing on riparian plants, then return by the same route focusing on pollinator field plants. The other sub-group group will walk around the house and grounds focusing on the mix of native and non-native plants.

Success for each walk will depend on a smooth flow of sub-groups along a route in allotted time intervals. The groups will pass one another at the approximate mid-point of the route. At that point each sub-group will continue along its path, with its Wrangler, but will transition to the other Walk Leader for the remaining walk.

**Volunteer Team Members for each walk are asked to come to the Session Tent 30 minutes before the walk's start time** to go over details one last time and to deploy Walk Leaders to their areas. **Team Members** include *Walk Leaders* and *Wranglers*, described below. **Note:** Team Members should allow an additional 15 minutes on arrival for parking and sign-in before meeting at the Session Tent 30 minutes before walk start time.

### Plan

- **Route and Areas:** The Bird Walk and Woodcock Habitat Walk involve a longish route that meanders through multiple areas. The Herbaceous Walk centers on a single area around the house and grounds.
  - **Bird Walk and Woodcock Habitat Walk**
    - The two sub-groups will begin their respective walks from opposite ends of the route
      - One sub-group of each walk will begin at the **Bridge** across from the barn
      - The other sub-group will begin from the bench overlooking the grassland on the **Knoll** behind the house

- From the bridge: they will wander downstream, cross the stream at one of several bridges, follow the open path back north by the Vernal Pools, stop at the **Transition Point** near the Culvert. Then, they will cross the lane, skirt the farm pond, cross another foot bridge to reach the Riparian North path, follow it upstream to the Wet Meadow, and then along the edge of the Grassland to the **Knoll**.
- From the Knoll, vice versa.
- **Herbaceous Walk:**
  - The two sub-groups for the Herbaceous Walk will start from the entrance to **Martha's Allee**, at the east corner of the yard near the stream.
    - One sub-group will explore the riparian area going upstream and come back downstream with the Pollinator Field on the right.
    - The other sub-group will make their way around the 200-year-old farmhouse and yard, observing present-day beds of native plants mixed with non-natives. Plantings include non-native hostas, daylilies, clematis, and peonies along with native Pennsylvania ferns, cohoshes, perennial wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Built in 1820-25 from old-growth white oak and white pine logs, the house and surrounding yard illustrate centuries of changing land use and landscaping.
    - The two sub-groups will transition when the riparian group returns to the house-yard area.

### Groups and Wranglers

- The Woodcock Walk and the Herbaceous Walk sub-groups will form at 3:00 PM at the Session Tent.
  - Both **Bird Walks** (8AM bird walk and 3PM woodcock habitat walk) will have two Co-Leaders and two Wranglers.
  - The **Herbaceous Walk** will have two Co-Leaders with an additional Resource Person to provide additional information or to help with organization.

**Intervals**

- Intervals are marked as sub-groups pass one another at the approximate mid-point of each route.

**Walk Leaders**

- As described in Three-Group Walks

**Perspective**

- Each participant will encounter the entire route.
- Each participant will spend ~equal time with each of the leaders e.g., 45 minutes)
- Each leader and each additional volunteer will encounter only one part of the Wwalk
- Trade off: a large group (approximately 50 members) will function as two smaller groups of 25 members.