**MAC CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – Who we are and what we do**

As an advisory committee to the Council, our committee makes recommendations as to conservation related issues for all of our scout camps within the Council. The members of the Conservation Committee bring a unique set of knowledge and skills which augment the knowledge and skills of the formal Board of Directors.

Here is the Mission Statement from the BSA Council Conservation Committee Guidebook:

“The Council Conservation committee provides the Council with all available expertise regarding matters of ecology, conservation, and resource management so as to guide policy making and operational decisions regarding the management of the councils’ natural and cultural resources, promotion of conservation-related training, and advancement of conservation programs.” Along with that statement, we would like to add that your Conservation Committee considers management of the flora and fauna (wildlife habitat and the native wildlife) a major focus for our committee.

Some of the programs we have consulted on include: forestland management, invasive species removal, prairie restoration, fishery management, erosion control, and fish and wildlife population management.

The Conservation Committee also provides guidance for scout conservation projects including; the Eagle Award, the Hornaday Award, and the SOAR award projects. Some project ideas include: construction and mounting of bluebird nesting boxes, native bee nesting boxes, planting of milkweed seeds, fishery habitat and tree planting, to name just a few. We also provide guidance on all Outdoor Ethics and LNT Leave No Trace principals.

The Conservation Committee has also endorsed the publication of the first MAC Reptile and Amphibian book, which has color photographs and descriptions of every known reptile and amphibian on all of the Council’s Scout Camps. We use the proceeds from this book to support conservation related projects and activities throughout the Council and our scout camps.

The Council’s Conservation Committee generally has scheduled meetings 4-5 times a year, at the Durham Scout Center. Our meetings are open to the scouting community and everyone is encouraged to attend and see what is going on in the conservation arena. If you are aware of grants or other funding opportunities, please let us know, as we are always looking for our next conservation related opportunity to improve the natural resources on our camps. Questions for the Conservation Committee, contact our Council Representative Spencer Finley at 402-514-3068 or spencer.finley@scouting.org. Our scout camp’s natural resources are important to us and we hope they are just as important to you!