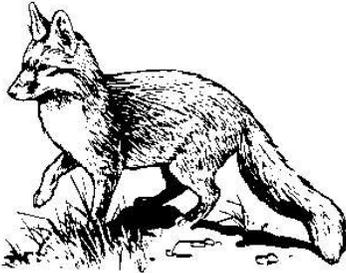


George McGee Service Award: 2017

Julia Cipriani



This award is given in recognition of a member who has contributed significantly to the smooth running of the Club over several years.

This year, Julia Cipriani is the recipient of the 2017 George McGee Service Award. Julia probably needs little introduction, for she has been involved with so many OFNC activities that she is well-known. Julia joined the OFNC in 2004, and within a few years was volunteering her time and energy to any number of club projects and initiatives.

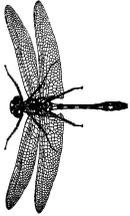
From 2007 to 2013, she was a keen volunteer with the Fletcher Wildlife Garden's Butterfly Meadow project, which relies heavily on dedicated people to maintain the habitat. In the earlier days, when Julia became involved, the meadow was still in the process of being expanded and revamped, and Julia was instrumental in helping create the Butterfly Meadow we see today.

Earlier still, in 2006, Julia joined the OFNC Board of Directors, where she served for several years as a Member at Large. Later she re-joined the Board as Chair of the Events Committee from 2014 through 2016.

Julia has been a key participant in the very active Events Committee (previously, Excursions and Lectures) from 2007 to the present, both as a member, and as the Chair. Being extremely organized, she contributes greatly to the smooth operation of this committee. It is not unknown for her to arrange more than a dozen events a year, and as another member of the committee said, "*We would not have the same number or breadth of events without the work she does.*" She is also ever on the lookout for people to serve as trip leaders, or to give presentations at the monthly meetings. Even at the Awards Night, she does not rest, but seeks out any potential new leaders or presenters willing to contribute their expertise. Julia says that she enjoys learning about the natural world, and this fuels her determination to continue looking for people who can introduce the beauty and wonder of nature to others. She says that being an extrovert and feeling comfortable talking to strangers helps! It is also her low-key but passionate approach that makes it hard for them to say "no"! In addition, she gives tremendous encouragement to other committee members, and provides them with guidance and tools which enable them to be



important contributors to the Events Committee. Julia also attends almost every OFNC monthly meeting, and many of the field trips, helping to make sure they run smoothly. Furthermore, Julia has hosted all but one of the committee meetings at her house since 2012! And she provides not only a warm and welcoming atmosphere, but snacks too.



In addition to her busy engagement with the Events Committee, Julia was also very active with the Soiree/Awards Night from 2008 to 2016. Initially, she volunteered to help find gifts for the silent auction, visiting businesses such as Focus Scientific, Wild Birds Unlimited and many more. Soon enough, however, she also began to take on more of a role in preparing the food for the Awards Night, and then, from 2011 to 2016, she purchased the food for the event, a not inconsiderable job, as well as continuing to help with preparation.

During Ann MacKenzie's term as OFNC President, Julia worked with her on ways to expand and engage membership. As part of this initiative, she co-facilitated several sessions seeking ideas on how to garner interest in the OFNC.

And last, but not least, Julia has been a keen member of the Awards Committee since 2009, providing valuable ideas and input, writing citations and helping with a variety of necessary tasks.

For all these reasons and more, we are pleased to honour Julia Cipriani with the 2017 George McGee Service Award

