

## Native Plants

### 1. **How do you enforce native-only plantings in new developments?**

- Challenge: who monitors? cost?
- Idea: encourage people who plant pretty natives. Establish list of people who will call/report when not complying.

2. **Tree falls** - not allowed to move it w/o permission.

3. **Always community-building**; partner w/ like-minded organizations.

4. **Recognize + celebrate** those doing it right! Promote them on chapter websites. Write press release to give public attention.

5. **If town ordinance**: town engineer inspects landscaping to ensure compliance.

6. **Master Gardening Pgm** - come in to do workshops: what is native gardening; Ideas to plant.

- (plug) **HELP program** - for those managing properties (municipalities, etc.)

- **Skidmore college student reco**: try to use local ecotypes - so species varieties become their own species in new location. Get seeds from your own area.

- **Get town board approvals.**

## Aging Boards

### 1. **How to engage younger bd members, volunteers, etc.**

- "Next Gen" BOD members - engage/invite young members, as early as age 16. They may come join when in 20's, etc. (start getting interest early)

### 2. **No pat answer. To challenge ourselves:** institute Term Limits. Invite others onto committees. Rotate off periodically. President should not be for life.

### 3. **Yale student: add/create a unique/new board position to fill.** At beginning of educational career: 1st yr HS; 1st yr college -> they may be able to find.

- Example: Youth Liaison (vs. not BOD Secty). Won't disrupt flow of std BOD positions.
- Find a job/something for them to do, or else they'll be bored + leave.
- Find closest campus chapter, to partner with. Check w/ faculty advisors who are mentors of the club -> Advertise the positions at schools.
- **Contact Biology Dept** - Tabling at college events - get students to start a chapt.
- Get youth involved in creating/building your chapter's social media presence.
- **Invite students to birding walks** (say, 1st Sat of mo). Be sure to make them feel welcome.
- Share the chapter's challenges w/ students for their advice, be relatable to student.
- **Audubon** - really have something w/ these summer camps -> become counselors. Come to love Audubon; "Audubon's talons really get hooked into students!" - per Skidmore student (she loved her Audubon summer camp experience).
- **Scholarships** - have been getting zero applications! WHY?
- **Challenge: NEED 35-50 yr olds too!** How to get them??
- Does the activity help to engage the younger people? Trivia night at local bar/restaurant? Bird walks?

- **Work w/ local game store**, for a local game night. ex: Hosted trivia nights at bars + museums  
-> very successful! (Ages 23-60's were interested) (reco by 31 yr old Audubon Bd Member).

- **Listen to the public.**

- **Have something for small children to do:** color, make bird feeders, etc! Games; engage the young kids + talk to parents to get involved.

- **Art + Nature; Photography**

## Brainstorming for Student Members

1. **Create a "Students/Young Birders" page on Chapter website** -> give access to that page to one or more young volunteers, to run the page, engage with their younger generation to hold bird events, post photos/sightings, trivia + games, etc, get outdoors for events/walks. Get students involved on their own, so they can take the lead, share + learn together.
2. **Have a mixer between schools**, to interact w/ each other + share their interests + knowledge of birds + nature in their communities; bd games etc.
3. **Movie nights**, low-commitment, high-interest. Making new friends -> send them a letter if they move so they can continue.
4. **Advertise community service hours**. Some schools don't want outside groups coming into their schools -> find out where you can have tear-away flyers for service opportunities.
5. **Get students to know you are a volunteer opportunities organization**.
6. **'For the Birds' programs** - strong pgm.
7. **Find out where youth are going**, to reach them w/ free stuff for listening, volunteering opportunities (Farmers Mkts, local coffee shops, libraries).
8. **High School guidance depts** - bring a specific project you need volunteers for: what/when/where; be specific, have "all details". Service-based clubs at schools.
9. **"Awards for bird scholar"** - at local Audubon; (say, come to 3 bird counts in a row, etc.)
10. **Make sure website stays updated**. Have good contact on website where youth will feel confident their inquiry will get a good, quick response.
11. **Have someone start a social media account for you**, help w/ website, contribute to your website info, etc. (not necessarily Facebook - not all youngsters still on FB).
12. **Engage w/ hands-on bird encounters** - youth love that; will def engage in that! (bird banding, rehab meet + greet, etc).
13. **Advocacy - Zoom training 101**. "Scouts for Birds" group.

14. **Video game-type: "Stewardship SuperHero"** - engagement w/ students. Get a passport book w/ stamps for accomplishments, t-shirts, etc.

15. **Reward students for participating** (like Girl Scouts patches).

16. **Be open to change:** org name (College Audubon vs. Skidmore Bird Alliance; Bird Student Assoc). Demonstrate willingness to change, flexible, etc. (Per college participants).

## Community Science Challenges

1. Whole group of kids out of city to do **Christmas Bird Count**; also, mom + kids.
2. **Need to engage non-white populations** or will run out of people to recruit.
3. **Climate Watch** - recruits don't stay interested; need to re-recruit more often.
  - Some Bd members refuse to do it.
  - Info already available; not as many birds, count requirements in one spot - too restrictive.
4. **Have young birders to run Xmas Bird Count.** Make it a whole-day, community event. Morning birding, then bagels. Then outside again w/ reception afterward later in day.
5. **Include sightings + photos in newsletters**, so people get/stay interested.
6. **Get message out to public** that no experience is necessary - if inter. Advertise "learning" rather than working.
7. **Use WhatsApp to create a community.** Take pic of your nest box, etc., and ask us questions - get neighbors interested!
  - Enjoy becoming part of a community, even elderly, less tech-savvy.
8. **Young people will do anything for free stuff!**
9. **Junk Journaling is the new thing.**
10. **Volunteer** - students need volunteer hours.
11. **Take competitiveness out of the Bird Counts.** Make it about science (and learning). All data is important.
12. **Learning + Building Community.** "Xmas Bird Count 101" - also, pair newbies w/ more experienced birders, so they can learn.

13. **Provide good explanation of what the data means** -> more programming on how + why.  
Get something on paper to get people interested in upcoming Bird Counts.

14. **Hold workshops for student engagement** -> train students how to teach others; make  
"acopians"(?) for window collisions, gave out stickers. **How to engage students/young people.**