



Conservation: Price Park Cleanup, October 16, 2021

submitted by Melanie Stadler

We had seven PBC members attend the Price Park cleanup on October 16, 2021, and we filled just over six bags of trash, including a lot of fishing line, bait containers, and beer bottles from the fishing hotspot off of the Highwoods Trail.



*Eastern Box Turtle
photo by Box Turtle Site*

We were also lucky to get to participate in box turtle research during our event as well! Tom Gaffney, one of our members, found a box turtle while collecting trash. Jim Eldrett, another member who is permitted to work with box turtles through North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission as part of the Box Turtle Connection Project, was also in attendance to help collect garbage, and he was happy to work up the turtle. He weighed and measured the turtle, took photos, and then marked the turtle with a unique notching pattern (a painless technique) that will allow us to identify the turtle if we are lucky enough to see it again. The turtle was then released in the location where Tom found it. Jim frequently surveys Price Park for box turtles, and the turtle Tom found Saturday was a new individual (a juvenile) that Jim had not previously seen. What a great way to start the weekend!