

**Board of Directors Meeting
December 5, 2015**

Attendees:

Nancy Vehrs – President
John Townsend – Director at Large
Paula Boundy – Northern Neck, President
John Hayden – Botany Chair
Katherine Smith – Upper James River, President
Mary Lee Epps – Jefferson, President
Suzanne Jenkins – Pocahontas, Representative
Marcia Mabee – Conservation Chair
Charles Smith – Registry Co-chair
Alan Ford – Potowmack, President
Kathi Mestayer – Director at Large
Marjorie Prochaska – 1st Vice President
Cathy Mayes – Treasurer
Sally Anderson – 2nd Vice President
Joyce Wenger – Publicity Chair
John Magee – Horticulture Chair
Betty Truax – Acting Recording Secretary

Meeting was called to order by Nancy Vehrs at 10:20am.

Introductions were made.

Announcements/Agenda changes

- Nancy brought membership and current wildflower of the year brochures as well as *Sempervirens* newsletters for representatives to take back to their members as needed.
- No agenda changes were proposed.
- Nancy introduced Betty Truax who will be acting recording secretary in the absence of Sherrie Burson. Once Sherrie formally resigns, Betty will be nominated to fill the seat through the end of the year through board appointment. She will be on the slate of candidates for election at the annual meeting.

Mary Lee Epps moved to accept the September 2015 minutes. John Townsend seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Slightly overestimated the membership numbers but budget is being kept under control. Monies committed are The Cedars Natural Area Preserve and Research Grants.

Research Grants

- Cathy Mayes moved to increase availability from \$10k to \$15k for 2016. Seconded by Joyce Wenger and carried unanimously.
- Charles Smith reported that the scanning of the herbarium specimens at George Mason University is going quickly. John Townsend said this project was helpful to DCR. The second grant that was awarded this year is in training and is assembling a core group of Master Naturalists to search for rare plants.
- Both grant recipients will be invited to the annual workshop in March.

The Cedars Natural Area Preserve

- Net amount raised \$21,638.99 which will be presented with the governor in "big check" format. Check will be made out before the end of the year.

Donation to Allegheny – Blue Ridge Alliance (ABRA)

- Sally Anderson moved that the board authorize \$200 from the Conservation budget, that wasn't used at a previously planned event, to support ABRA an organization that effectively coordinates 40 groups that oppose pipelines. Motion was seconded by Suzanne Jenkins. Motion carried with John Townsend abstaining.

Proposal that the 2017 Annual Meeting be held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WVA

- Potomack Chapter would host 2017 meeting.
- Three states (VA, WV and MD) plant societies would jointly host meeting.
- Room Costs (includes most food) per Person would be \$150 for a single room and \$105 for a double room. 150 rooms must be committed to in order to reserve center. Maryland has committed to 50.
- Meeting would be held September 29 – October 1.

- National Conservation Training Center is located 20 minutes NW of Harper's Ferry on the Potomac River.
- Large conference room cost would be an additional \$1,000 a day.
- It is estimated that 300 people will need to be accommodated for walks/workshops.
 - Workshop ideas included photographing plants, landscapes for natives.
- Alan Ford to approach his chapter to commit to pay for some of the expenses. His chapter has made down payment to hold center for VNPS use.
- Concerns regarding risk were discussed, specifically if the costs per person would be too high and if we would have 300 participants.
- Katherine Smith moved that the Potowmack Chapter host the 2017 meeting at a joint meeting with MNPS and WVPS at the NCTC at Shepherdstown, WV as presented by Alan Ford, Potowmack president at this meeting. Motion was seconded by Charles Smith and carried unanimously.

2016 Annual Workshop

- Workshop to be held March 12, 2016.
- Speakers have been selected.
 - Gary Krupnick (Smithsonian) – Pollinator Task Force
 - Kal Ivanov (VA Natural History Museum) – Ants in Acorns
 - Paulette Royt (Retired microbiologist) – Forest Mycorrhizae
 - Dennis Whigmam (SERC) – Orchid Mycorrhizae
- Sally Anderson, who arranged for the speakers, thanked Mary Rhoades for the suggested speakers.

2016 Field Trip to SW Virginia

- Trip will be limited to 20 people.
- Dates: April 24 – May 1, 2016 (actual tour dates April 25-30, 2016)
- Registration will begin after January 1st. A deposit of \$200 will be required to hold spot with payment in entirety due March 28, 2016.

- Gary Fleming, Vegetation ecologist with the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, will be the trip leader.
- Price per person will be \$885 (double occupancy) or \$1285 (single occupancy) which will include hotel for 7 nights, lunches for 6 days and a \$275 donation to VNPS and the Flora of Virginia Project.

Statewide Native Plant Marketing Campaign and Regional Campaigns

- Marketing Goal in Northern Virginia: to educate 100K households (an estimated 10% of households)
- Hampton Roads area is beginning to work on its own campaign.
- Fredericksburg is considering a campaign – working on getting a grant. Meeting will be held December 14 at the office of the George Washington Regional Commission. (This ties in well with our efforts to resurrect at Fredericksburg Area chapter.)
- VNPS can be a model of a statewide committee.
- Focus the intersection of client and landscaper.
- VNPS may consider holding a native plant conference.

Board Meeting Calendar

- June 4, 2016 will be held at Ivy Creek Natural Area in Charlottesville, however the start time will be at 12:00 with a nature walk offered before the meeting.
- Discussion of whether December meeting should be moved to November or January. Decision was made to leave it the first week in December.

Additional Reports

- Flora of Virginia Mobile Application has received a grant from Mary Morton Parsons Foundation for \$40k. The grant money is specifically to be used to pay for the developer designing the app.
- Alan Ford – Potowmack Chapter instrumental in getting guides preprinted.
- Marcia Mabee – Continuing to look for delegate information from VNPS membership.

- Charles Smith – Fairfax County will make ½ the acreage of Huntley Meadows a state natural area preserve.
- Katherine Smith – Upper James River has picked up new members including one from Amherst.
- John Hayden – Presented to Master Gardener class.
- Paula Boundy – Northern Neck producing a publication of local native plant demo gardens. Additionally, installing a demo garden.
- Johnny Townsend spoke of the loss of Mo Stevens and his contribution of native plant information. He will provide a memorial write-up of Mo Stevens for *Sempervirens*.
- Sally Anderson – Piedmont Chapter is working with VDOT (and making progress) to install more native plantings, discussing mowing schedules and pesticide use.

Nancy thanked Daune Poklis and Suzanne Jenkins for providing meeting refreshments.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.