

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting
22 March 2023
Zoom Meeting

In attendance:

Nancy Vehrs, President
Kevin Howe, 1st Vice President
Sally Anderson, 2nd VP
Kathleen Stasulis, Treasurer
Mark Murphy, Website Admin
Betty Truax, Secretary
Barbara Ryan, Conservation Chair
John Hayden, Botany Chair
Laura Beaty, Horticulture Chair
Jim Hurley, Invasive Species Education
Melody Starya Mobley, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Chair
Pat Quinn, South Hampton Roads
Joey Thompson, Education
Matt Brooks, Pocahontas
Peggy Dyson-Cobb, Upper James River
Phyllis Fevrier, Upper James River
Kaye Brandt, Blue Ridge
Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson
Ruth Douglas, Guest/former board director
Virginia Witmer, Publications Chair
Anna Maria Johnson, Shenandoah
Ashley Moulton, Publicity Chair
Mitzi Fox, Piedmont
Kathleen O'Shea, Membership Chair
Alan Ford, Potowmack
Betsy Washington, Northern Neck

Nancy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Introductions/Announcements/Agenda Changes/Additions

- Melody Starya Mobley, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair, was introduced to the board.
- Nancy reminded everyone to vote for the Wildflower of the Year (16 ballots have been tallied)

Approval of January BOD Minutes

Kathleen S. moved to accept the January minutes. Barbara seconded it and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- \$1,685 made in sale of pins to date
- Doing great financially. Right where we should be.
- Chapters need to submit 990-N forms.
- Melody asked about allowing for automated monthly donations. Mark is currently working on making it happen.

- Our current bank has started charging for mailed bank statements. We will start receiving statements electronically. Karen York has access.

Investment Committee: Hasn't really started up. Nancy feels we should wait until the new treasurer comes aboard.

Research Grants 2023

- The Grants Committee is requesting that two submissions be funded this year. Dr. Harmony Dalglish of William and Mary whose proposal "Clone or flower? – Uncovering the population consequences of clonal and sexual reproduction in plants" be funded at the requested amount of \$10,913 and Ms. Melissa Burt, Ph.D. candidate under Dr. Susan Whitehead at Virginia Tech whose proposal "Climate change impacts on seed dispersal in a common Virginia native wildflower, *Sanguinaria canadensis* (bloodroot)" be funded at the requested amount of \$6,656.
- Alan moved that we fund the two recommended grants, Mark seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

State Legislation Regarding Invasive Plant Species

- Some success this year. Governor should be signing bill by March 27th. Not expecting it to be vetoed since it is bi-partisan.
- Discussed the "Bounty Hunters" program as a possible future project, replacing invasive trees, such as Callery/Bradford Pears, with native trees.

DEI(J) Committee

- Meetings are being held on the last Wednesday of every month from 6:30-8:30.
- Would like to add a J to the committee name / mission of work representing Justice.
- Melody moved to add (J)justice to the committee's name and mission. Annamarie seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Northern Neck isn't represented on the committee.

Nominating Committee: Several positions need to be filled including treasurer and recording secretary on the Executive Committee.

VNPS Membership Brochure

- Currently is an 8 ½ x11 trifold. It appears that we may have to use less information or larger paper.
- Melody will help with inclusive messaging. Virginia will help with formatting.

Flora Checklists: The Flora Board has a new director, Jenny Norwood. Nancy reached out to her today and she is interested in a checklist collaboration.

2023 Annual Meeting: Possibly the coastal plains (Gloucester). Kevin is working on trying to avoid other large groups for resources. No dates have been decided yet.

Workshop 2023

- 386 people registered. \$2,065.79 donated by 99 people.
- 130 participated in part 1; 90 in part 2. Will link the recordings in the chat room.
- Discussed charging for zoom meetings.
- Look for more diversity in speakers. Melody to help make this happen.

VNPS T-Shirts:

- Lots of interest in the competition. We had 36 entries.
- T-shirts should be available sometime in April.
- Joe Pye was a Native American medicine man who was born in Massachusetts. He treated typhoid fever patients.

Field Trips (statewide):

- Looking for someone to take the lead. Nancy is considering asking Joe Villari. Sally would still help.
- Chapters should lead at least one accessible field trip annually.

Tech/Website Updates:

- Mark referred people to his posted report.

Chapter/Committee Highlights: None

Announcement of VNPS 2024 Wildflower of the Year: *Chelone glabra* (White Turtlehead)

Adjourn: 9:00 p.m.

Next BOD Meeting: June (date and time to be determined) Zoom