

**Virginia Native Plant Society
Piedmont Chapter Annual Meeting
Shenandoah University Cool Springs Campus, Bluemont, VA
October 8, 2022**

Members met at the campus and had a BYO lunch with desserts provided by the board. The weather was chilly but beautiful for the walk that followed.

The annual meeting was called to order at 1:05 by President Emily Southgate.

Kristin Zimet moved to dispense with the reading of the 2021 minutes, Richard Stromberg seconded, and the vote was unanimous in favor. A copy of the minutes was on hand.

Emily presented the treasurer's report for Karen, who could not attend. Our bank balance is \$12,398. One project that this money will be spent on is a woodland brochure made in a similar way to the "Do I Have to Mow All That?" brochure.

Emily presented the slate for our upcoming board.

Officers

President: Vacant

Vice President: Mitzi Fox 2021-23, term 1

Treasurer: Mara Seaforest 2021-23, term 1

Secretary: Kristin Zimet 2022-24, term 1

Directors

Continuing: Phil Daley 2021-23, term 1

Ashley Landes 2021-23, term 1

Phoebe Muenger 2021-23, term 2

Jocelyn Sladen 2021-23, term 2

Kim Strader 2021-23, term 1

Richard Stromberg 2021-23, term 2

Joining:

Ed LeGrand 2022-24, term 1

Charlotte Lorick 2022-24, term 1

Laurie Denker MacNaughton, 2022-24, term 1

Leaving the Board, with our thanks: Sally Anderson, Brenda Crawford, Karen Hendershot, Bryan Payne, Mary Keith Ruffner, Emily Southgate, Robin Williams

Phoebe Muenger moved and Linda Murphy seconded a motion to accept the new and returning board members. The vote was unanimous in favor.

We asked those present to introduce themselves for the benefit of new members.

Emily presented the following report summarizing the past year:

- * Walks continue – 5 of our counties – maybe this year we can hit Culpeper and Frederick as well. Thanks to all of our leaders for these.
- * Newsletters continue to be a pleasure to read – thanks especially to our Editor Richard Stromberg for those, and to all of our authors.
- * Winter speaker series with Bert Harris and Jack Monsted was very well attended via zoom and provided an in-depth look at the methods and issues of meadow management. This year we plan on an in-person program with Zoom as well, on growing natives from seed. This complements the recent big project underway at Clifton.
- * Kristin and Emily wrapped up two years of Wildflower of the Week.
- * We received a very generous donation from Emily and Tim Faltemier. This will allow us to publish a new pamphlet, on Woodlands, to complement our Grassland and Hedgerow pamphlets.
- * We are also looking ahead to likely expenses to protect and enhance populations of the beautiful and rare Queen of the Prairie found last summer at Rady Park in Warrenton. We are embarking on this project in conjunction with the Clifton Institute.
- * We were also able to support scholarship programs at the Bull Run Conservancy, Clifton Institute and Blandy summer camps.
- * With more in-person activities, we had exhibits and offered advice and book sales at native plant sales sponsored by Blandy, Clifton Institute and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. We were also able to take part in the Clarke County Conservation Fair, which offers interactive exhibits on environmental and conservation topics to 4th graders in Clarke. We did our Habitat Game – thanks to Sally, Kristin, Phil, Karen, and Emily for that. Lots of fun!

Extra activities

- * Mara and Mitzi have developed a system for walk and event announcements. Hopefully we will be getting these out in a more timely manner. As always, of course, they will be listed early in the quarterly Leaflet.
- * Kim is managing our Facebook and Instagram pages. We try to come into the 21nd century.
- * Concern about invasive species – info from Blue Ridge Prism, signed onto petition to oppose sale of invasives by Home Depot. Jocelyn will inform us of legislative updates we can help out on.
- * Emily is a member of the Loudoun County Environmental Commission, where she represents native plant interests, along with several others. We are especially working on Wildlife Corridors, a tree ordinance, information availability on the county website and getting the county to lead by example (not working well yet – Emily just visited a park where they had planted an estimated 100 burning bush plants).
- * Several of us visited various places – Three Fox Winery, Fauquier Springs Country Club, and JK Black Oak preserve – to make recommendations about managing for native species.

Adjourned at 2:00

Following the meeting we had a drawing for plants and books, followed by a beautiful fall walk along the Shenandoah River.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Anderson, Secretary

Attendees:

Emily Southgate
Phil and Ellie Daley
Carla and Julius Overbeck
Linda Murphy
Mary Keith Ruffner
Ed Legrand
Phoebe Muenger
Leslie Durham
Richard Stromberg
Sally Anderson
Jocelyn Sladen
Anne Rowley
Kristin Zimet
Laurie MacNaughton