

Virginia Native Plant Society
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting
November 4, 2021

Opening and Attendance

The meeting was conducted via Zoom with the assistance of Mark Murphy, Vice President in keeping with the best practices during the Covid outbreak.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Alan Ford, Chapter President

Other members in attendance:

Mark Murphy, Vice President

Scott Knudsen, Treasurer

Margaret Chatham, Newsletter Committee Chair

Nelson DeBarros, Botany Committee Chair

Donna Murphy, Member at Large

Margaret Fisher, Member at Large

Patrick Siren, Secretary

Officer Reports

Treasurer

Chapter treasurer Scott Knudsen shared a spreadsheet detailing the annual Treasurer's report. With a guarantee that the final report would be reconciled within days of the meeting, however, he reports income for the chapter above \$20k, and plant nova native guides are in the black (over the original printing purchase) about \$2500 for plant nova natives.

Final printing logistics remain in progress for Plant Nova Natives guides; the chapter is aiming to order about 5000 copies for about \$10K. While COVID continues to be an unknown challenge in all logistical endeavors, Chapter President Alan Ford shares his confidence in our printing contacts and recommends that we task PNN guide volume with our Plant Nova Native partners, as the chapter merely holds the funds from these printings on behalf of the broader PNN campaign.

After a rousing discussion Alan, Scott, and Chapter Vice President Mark Murphy have redoubled their confidence in the accurate accounting for the PNN guides and other campaign expenses. These shall continue to be reported in the Treasure's Report under the "PNN Social Marketing Campaign".

Plant Sale Figures:

Scott went on to report exciting results from the chapter's plant sales with First Wednesday Sales reporting dramatically higher income than previous years. The chapter budgeted a modest \$4k and maintained the previous year's pricing, resulting ultimately in double the income over our last non-covid sales in 2019.

Finally, Scott notes that we now hold approximately \$71k to budget in the coming year.

Propagation

The last regularly scheduled workday was held on October 27th. The crew came back twice on November to work on structural projects, such as Donna Murphy's suggestion that we update our water supply options from a single source to multiple water bibs throughout the location, and Alan's goal to extend the propagation space another four feet.

Plant Rescue has been continuing at Northfax West through the Fall. Alan reports that we have not extended plant rescue into the Winter but the option is available. Efforts to work with Fairfax City to identify a park for planting project are continuing.

The Operating Agreement (MOU) with Green Spring Gardens is awaiting final approval. The new Park Manager, Judy Zetsig, has acknowledged the need to finalize the agreement as of this meeting, however the Park Authority has not completed their review.

as proposed. Alan speaks his confidence here that the agreement will be finalized soon.

Programs

Donna Murphy, Member at Large has reached out to several friends of the chapter in search of programs for February, including Botany chair Nelson DeBarros. Nelson's possible topics include Natural Communities of Elklick Natural Area Preserve, Virginia Rare Plants in Fairfax County, New Species of Fairfax County, and Natural Communities of Scott's Run Natural Preserve. Nelson is also open to leading a walk in Early to Mid May.

Rod Simmons of the Maryland Native Plant Society recommended a talk on Gardening with Native Ecotype Native Plants, or Oats in the Region.

The grass bunch is planning to be a little bit more active in Late-March to Mid-April, depending on the temperament of the local sedges.

In short, there are many local experts with exciting program opportunities for Late Winter and Early Spring, most will depend on availability. The board will continue to explore these options and make announcements as plans solidify.

VDACS Registration

We have received authorization to , Alan marks high praise for Scott's work and Mark's invaluable assistance.

New Business

Annual Meeting

In a week and a half we are about to have our annual meeting. All members who do not vote cede their vote to the board. Scott has prepared a report for the budget, Max Ferlauto is slated to give a presentation on his experiments regarding leaf litter effects on insect populations, and Mark is confident that we are ready to stream our remote coverage of the meeting.

Plant Nova Natives Update

Margaret Fisher reports that we have many updates to the guide this year and over 100 organizations have joined in to hold events related to the tree campaigns. Other programs have been introduced including a hotline for identifying and aiding native trees and HOA outreach programs for informing community leaders about invasive plants and helping their native trees.

Invasive Plant Working Group

The final meeting of the Invasive Plants Working Group spearheaded by Propagation Chair Laura Beaty was scheduled for November 10th with a presentation to the legislature scheduled tentatively in the first part of 2022.

Bonding Bylaws

Upon review of the chapter bylaws the Executive Committee has endeavored to clarify a statement that the president and treasurer shall be “bonded”, to protect the organization from theft, fraud, etc. by volunteers and officers. The State Organization Treasure has assured us that we’re currently covered for \$10k per incident, and the question remains with the Chapter board if this is sufficient coverage or whether we need to pursue additional coverage in order to meet the requirements outlined in the bylaws. The Executive Committee will continue to gather information in order to make a good-faith defense of our position to the board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm