The State of Our Chapter

By Alan Ford

This year we celebrate 32 years as a chartered organization and we have had a productive and informative year. Our membership continues to grow, we now have over 490 memberships representing about 580 members. These numbers speak to our accomplishments in outreach and communication and reflect a growing interest in native plants as an integral part of our landscape. Our members are also advocating for increased protection and recognition of the critical need for conservation and restoration of our natural areas throughout the region. Your contributions of time, money, and expertise are gratefully acknowledged.

We have three important tasks to accomplish at our upcoming Annual Meeting on October 13th at 12:30 at Green Spring Garden Park. We need to elect our Chapter Officers for the next year, we need to approve a budget, and we need to address some issues with our By-Laws. This governing document was last modified in 1998.

Finances

Our Society has approved a change in the Fiscal Year to align with the calendar year starting January 1. All Chapters will follow this change. This is a welcome adjustment. Our Board has implemented a continuing budget for November and December allocating income and expenses proportional to the current budget. We will maintain the same rate for all line items.

On the ballot insert you will find our proposed budget for fiscal year 2014.

*Note: All events are free and open to the public. Meet at Green Spring Gardens.
Also of importance is the decision by the Society Board to decrease the portion of member dues returned to the Chapter from 40% to 35%. This will impact the Chapter income. We have been successful at increasing our membership this year and feel we should realize the same amount from membership dues during the coming fiscal year.

**By-Law Revision**

In recent years the Chapter Board has recognized that it is very difficult to get a quorum of members at our Annual Meeting, through which we must conduct the business of the Chapter, and without which we have not met our obligations. After much discussion and debate we approved the following amendment to the By-laws to ensure we have a quorum. Please review and vote, either in person at the meeting or by the included ballot. Without a quorum we cannot change the by-laws.

**BYLAWS  10/1998** *(Proposed revision to be submitted for membership approval at the 2013 annual meeting)*

4. **Meetings**
   4.4 Fifteen percent (15%) of the members *(including proxy votes, either written or implicit—see paragraph 4.6)* shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is present, a majority vote shall prevail.

   4.6 A member may vote in absentia by giving the Secretary, in advance of the meeting, a written proxy authorizing the Secretary to cast a vote for or against a resolution or for a candidate or slate of candidates as presented in the notice of the meeting. **In the absence of a written proxy vote, the member will be assumed to have submitted a proxy vote consenting to the proposed resolution, candidate, or slate of candidates.**

8. **Expenditures and Contributions**

   8.2 The fiscal year of the Chapter shall be concurrent with the fiscal year of the Society, **November 1 through October 31.**

**Election of Officers**

I am pleased to announce that all members of our executive committee have agreed to stand for re-election. Please review the inserted ballot.
To: C/O Pat Salamone
Virginia Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 5311
Arlington, VA 22205
The Board of the Potowmack Chapter VNPS is presenting the following slate of officers for the 2014 year, which begins on January 1. This slate will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on October 13. Note that we are recruiting for several vacant positions on the Board of Directors. Please consider volunteering for these important positions. If you have questions, please contact Alan Ford at amford@acm.org.

**Slate of Officers**

- **President:** __ Alan Ford  
  Write-in ______________________
- **Vice President:** __ Steve Young  
  Write-in ______________________
- **Secretary:** __ Pat Salamone  
  Write-in ______________________
- **Treasurer:** __ Maureen Pardue  
  Write-in ______________________

**FY2014 Budget Approval**

The Board of the Potowmack Chapter VNPS is presenting the following proposed budget for fiscal year 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>FY 2013 Budget</th>
<th>FY 2014 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Dues</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,400</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>FY 2013 Budget</th>
<th>FY 2014 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registry</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>$2,800</td>
<td>$3,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$2,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internships</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Sales</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing/Publications</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Board Action</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNC Internship</td>
<td>$0-</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,600</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you cannot attend the annual meeting, please send in this ballot by October 6.

**Save time and postage.**  
Email your vote to: vnps-pot@gmail.com
### Upcoming Walks and Talks

#### Piedmont Prairie Development at Banshee Reeks Wildlife Preserve
**September 21, 9:30 am– 12:30 pm**
Banshee Reeks  
21085 The Woods Rd., Leesburg, VA  
Preserve Manager Ron Circe will host us for a presentation on the development of a new native meadow at the Preserve, and will then lead us on a field trip to the meadow. Those who wish to do so can bring a picnic lunch and spend the rest of the afternoon exploring the fields and forests of this wonderful place. Attendance will be limited. Instructions on reserving your spot will be announced this week.

Event is co-sponsored with the Piedmont Chapter-VNPS.

#### The Forest Unseen: A naturalist’s manifesto
**September 30, 7:30-8:45 pm**  
Arlington Central Library  
1015 N. Quincy St., Arlington, VA  
703-228-5990  
Author and Biologist David Haskell will discuss his award-winning book *The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature*, hailed by E.O. Wilson as a "new genre of nature writing, located between science and poetry".

Event is co-sponsored with Arlington Master Naturalists and the Arlington County Public Library.

#### Using the Flora of Virginia
**October 6, 9:30 am– 12:30 pm**  
Banshee Reeks  
21085 The Woods Rd., Leesburg, VA  
Marion Lobstein will present an all-day workshop to help us maximize our use of the *Flora of Virginia*. Attendance will be limited. Instructions on reserving your spot will be announced later this month.

Event is co-sponsored with Banshee Reeks.

### Invasive Management Volunteer Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Falls Church Habitat Restoration Team</th>
<th>Arlington County Remove Invasive Plants (RiP) Program</th>
<th>Fairfax County’s Invasive Management Area (IMA) Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Help restore the local ecosystem in city parks. Remove invasives and plant natives that will then benefit local birds and butterflies. For more information contact Melissa Teates at 703-538-6961 or <a href="mailto:melanite@verizon.net">melanite@verizon.net</a></td>
<td>Help rescue Arlington parks from alien plant invaders! Bring your own tools. For more information contact Sarah Archer at 703-228-1862 or <a href="mailto:sarcher@arlingtonva.us">sarcher@arlingtonva.us</a></td>
<td>Remove invasive plants and learn about new species. For more information contact Erin Stockschlaeder at 703-324-8681 or <a href="mailto:erin.stockschlaeder@fairfaxcounty.gov">erin.stockschlaeder@fairfaxcounty.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Potowmack Chapter
Fall Plant Sale

All chapter events are free and open to the public. Please check our Facebook page and Yahoo List Serve for the most up-to-date information about all programs.

Saturday, October 5, 9:00 am—3:00 pm
Green Spring Gardens Park
Lincolnia, VA

Visit our propagation beds behind the Hort. Center on Saturday, Oct. 5 during the Green Spring Garden Fall Fest. Fall is a great time for planting native perennials.

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically please contact Alan Ford at: amford@acm.org

For the most up-to-date information about our events please:
Visit our website: www.vnps-pot.org
Join our listserv: vnps-pot@yahoogroups.com
Sign up at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vnps-pot

Friend us on Facebook at Potowmack Chapter - Virginia Native Plant Society