

**Virginia Native Plant Society  
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting  
5 March 2014**

The meeting was held at Green Spring Gardens Park and was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Alan Ford, president. Attendees were Laura Beaty, Margaret Chatham, Roberta Day, Sue Dingwell, Marty Nielsen, Maureen Pardue, Pat Salamone, and Jenn Truong.

### **Minutes**

No minutes have been distributed for the 2 January board meeting.

### **Huntley Meadows Internship**

Alan asked the board to vote on supporting the Huntley Meadows internship, as had previously been discussed (and agreed on) via email. The Friends of Huntley Meadows Park (FOHMP) will fund one intern, as they usually do. Our funding will allow the park to hire an additional intern this year, whom they badly need to help with replanting the area disturbed by last year's wetland restoration construction project. Alan encouraged board members to start thinking about whether we want to fund a Huntley Meadows internship on an ongoing basis in the future and, if so, how much involvement we want to have with the intern's activities.

Sue moved that we fully fund the internship, Jenn seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote. We have \$1200 left in our internship budget after paying for the Green Spring intern, so the board agreed to take the additional \$1600 needed to fully fund the Huntley Meadows internship from our reserve funds.

### **Announcements**

Laura agreed to staff a VNPS table at the "Best Trees for Homeowners and Small Businesses" program at the McLean Community Center on 13 March.

Alan passed around information about the "Plant NoVA Natives" campaign, which held four outreach sessions in March. VNPS supports this campaign in partnership with a number of other organizations. This campaign is similar to the previous "Plant NNK Natives" and "Plant ES Natives" campaigns. (See [Virginia DEQ - Plant ES Natives Campaign](#).) In each case, a colorful guidebook of native plants suited to that particular part of Virginia was developed. Funding for the guidebook comes from the EPA. VNPS has agreed to pay for printing additional copies—beyond the planned 2000—if we can sell them at cost.

The presentation of the *Flora of Virginia* to the Fairfax County Board was postponed until May because of snow. The Fairfax County Library agreed on three copies.

### **Coordination with Green Spring Gardens Park**

Coordination with Green Spring Gardens staff is ongoing; Alan and Laura meet with them once a month, and others are welcome to join them. We got their approval to hold an additional plant sale, but the date we had chosen turned out to be the same day as the Earth Sangha sale, so we will not hold a separate spring sale. We will participate in Green Spring's May plant sale.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Maureen handed out copies of the latest budget information, budget vs actual expenses through February 2014. She noted that we had a lot of expenses in January since we paid for both the Green Spring native plant internship (\$3300) and the Larry Morse internship (\$200) in January.

## **VNPS and Chapter Media Presence**

The new VNPS.org website is up and running, though still suffering from a few bugs. Jenn is porting the content from our old chapter website to the new chapter website now available as part of the state site. We will phase out the old website once all the content is transferred. Now we need more content; board members (and others) are encouraged to send text to Alan, Jenn, or Sue. We also need someone to be responsible for maintaining the calendar, posting "public" events, etc. We may also continue to use the Google calendar for internal coordination (who will cover which external event).

Alan would like to develop a more coherent media strategy rather than the piecemeal approach that has been used so far, based on identifying and focusing on what we most want our members to know.

## **Programs**

The board agreed to ask Glenda Booth, president of the Friends of Dyke Marsh, to speak about the Dyke Marsh restoration effort for the 10 April program. We have a speaker lined up for May and are currently not planning to have programs in June or July. Board members are encouraged to start thinking about a theme for next year's programs.

## **Discussion**

Jenn noted that the annual Mid-Atlantic invasive plant removal day will be on 3 May. (Actually goes for a whole month.) VNPS is state-level sponsor of this event, but Jenn thinks the organization can do a better job at this, publicizing it more widely and maybe hosting an invasives removal site.

Alan asked the board to think about whether we should update our chapter logo, which has become rather smudged over the years. Lara Call Gastinger, the principal illustrator for the Flora of Virginia, would be a good candidate to do this, if we can afford her. And if we do redesign the logo, should we keep the current plants (ebony spleenwort and violet) or take the opportunity to choose new plants?

## **Adjournment and Future Meetings**

The board meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m. The next board meeting will be on 1 May 2014.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia P. Salamone, Secretary