

**Virginia Native Plant Society  
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting  
1 May 2014**

The meeting was held at Green Spring Gardens Park and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Alan Ford, president. Attendees were Laura Beaty, Margaret Chatham, Roberta Day, Scott Knudsen, Maureen Pardue, Pat Salamone, Jenn Truong, Bob Yacovissi, and Steve Young.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the 5 March 2014 board meeting were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Maureen distributed copies of the budget-versus-actuals report through April 2014. There was nothing unexpected and no discussion.

Our bylaws require an annual external review (by someone not on the board) but not a formal audit. Alan and Maureen are looking for someone to conduct this review, perhaps a chapter member or the treasurer of another chapter.

### **Membership Report**

Bob reported that as of 22 April, VNPS has 1849 members; this includes 1532 memberships, of which 317 are family memberships (assumed for this purpose to include two members). Our chapter has 509 members; 427 memberships, of which 82 are family memberships. We make up about 27% of the total state membership. Over the last 12 months we added 80 new memberships; this means new members make up 19% of our chapter total.

New and renewal memberships can now be processed through the state VNPS website; as of 1 May, 36 memberships had been processed through the website.

### **Outreach**

The board discussed several potential forums for outreach efforts. No one was available to speak at the Ravenswood Park Citizens' Association spring festival, but Alan and Scott agreed to staff a chapter table at the Earth Sangha plant sale on 4 May.

The "Plant NoVA Natives" campaign, funded by the Virginia DCR, is progressing. VNPS supports this campaign in partnership with a number of other organizations. This campaign is similar to the previous "Plant NNC Natives" and "Plant ES Natives" campaigns. In each case, a colorful guidebook of native plants suited to that particular part of Virginia was developed; the booklet for our area is in development.

### **Green Spring Coordination**

Coordination between our board (mostly Alan and Laura) and Green Spring staff continues. Alan wants to expand this effort to coordinate with the Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) group; there are some areas where they may view us as competition, since they too sell plants and organize programs to raise money. Alan is working with Brenda Skarphol to recruit VNPS members to help with invasives removal on Green Spring's native plant trail.

## **Flora Distribution**

The presentation of a copy of the *Flora of Virginia* to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, through their environmental committee, was scheduled for 20 May. Steve is still following up with the Fairfax County Library. Michael Reinemer, who has been working with Steve on the *Flora* distribution, has indicated some interest in joining the board as publicity chair but did not attend the board meeting, so Steve and Alan will follow up with him.

## **Website and Electronic Media**

Jenn has been busy with planning and preparation for invasive plant removal day/month activities in May, so has not had much time to work on our new chapter website. The board discussed various ideas for bringing in help for this effort: biology students from local schools? a paid summer internship? Steve planned to discuss the idea with some of his contacts; if we could establish an ongoing relationship with a local teacher/professor, he or she could potentially provide a steady stream of student volunteers.

The board discussed whether we should send out mass emails to our membership and, if so, what type of emails we should send—notice of upcoming events, requests for volunteers, other? The state organization has MailChimp which we can use for this purpose if we want to.

## **New Business**

Alan has long been concerned about the Norway maple (an invasive) that overhangs our propagation beds, making our plants a potential source of Norway maple seedlings. Alan proposed that we allocate \$1000 for the removal of this tree, to be done in conjunction with other planned Green Spring tree work. The board approved this proposal in a unanimous voice vote.

## **Adjournment and Future Meetings**

The board meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m. The next board meeting will be on 10 July 2014 (not 3 July, as originally planned).

Respectfully submitted, Patricia P. Salamone, Secretary