

**Virginia Native Plant Society
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting
10 July 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, Sue Dingwell, Scott Knudsen, Maureen Pardue, Pat Salamone, Jenn Truong, and Bob Yacovissi. The board welcomed Michael Reinemer, who has joined the board as the new publicity chair.

MINUTES

The minutes of the 1 May 2014 board meeting were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We received notes of appreciation from Kevin Munroe, park manager, and Dave Lawlor, natural resources manager, for our support of a summer intern at Huntley Meadows Park. The intern, Matthew Bright, worked with park staff and volunteers to plant thousands of native plants in areas of the park disturbed by last summer's wetland restoration project.
- Alan continues to chair the steering committee of the "Plant NoVA Natives" campaign, a regional program of the Virginia Native Plants Marketing Partnership. Sue and Michael are involved as well. The brochure for the northern Virginia region is in development. It identifies some 300 species, of which about a hundred will be highlighted with pictures. The committee is (or, at least, was at the time of the board meeting) still looking for some images, for example, homeowner landscape photos showing native plants working in dry shade, wet areas, or other difficult conditions, in all four seasons.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

Maureen distributed copies of the budget-versus-actuals report through June 2014. There was no discussion of the report.

The board discussed the idea of adding the ability to take credit card payments for the fall plant sale. This would be done using the Square mobile point-of-sale tool from squareup.com, a credit card reader that attaches to a phone. The device is free but the company takes a 2.5% cut, in addition to the credit card company fee. Roberta moved that we acquire the Square for use at the fall plant sale; Sue seconded the motion, and it passed by a voice vote with two abstentions and no nays, so Maureen will proceed. No decision was made on whether we should charge credit card customers extra to cover the fees (Maureen will research whether it would be legal for us to do this); we will discuss this further at the next board meeting.

Alan and Maureen are still looking for someone to conduct the annual external budget review required by our bylaws.

FLORA DISTRIBUTION

Steve Young continues to work with the Fairfax County Library regarding our intention to donate three copies of the *Flora of Virginia* to them.

OUTREACH

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy requested a VNPS speaker for their 2015 biennial conference, which will be held in Winchester, Virginia, on 17-24 July 2015. Sue volunteered to speak and Margaret agreed to help.

WEBSITE AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Alan would still like to develop a more unified, coordinated internet/media strategy. This is a big topic, and it would require a committee to work it. If anyone is interested in working on this, please let Alan know.

NEW BUSINESS

VNPS has shifted its fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year (previously it ran from 1 October to 30 September). The board discussed whether to move the date of our chapter annual meeting to be more in line with the revised fiscal calendar, as well as whether to make any other changes in the meeting's format or scheduling (e.g., hold it in the evening instead of the afternoon). In the end, the board decided (by voice vote, with one abstention and no nays) to move the meeting to the afternoon of the second Sunday in November. There will not be a walk after the meeting, but we might have one on the Saturday before the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The board meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m. The next board meeting will be on 4 September 2014 at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia P. Salamone, Secretary