

**Virginia Native Plant Society
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting
4 September 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, Sue Dingwell, Scott Knudsen, Donna Murphy, Marty Nielsen, Maureen Pardue, Pat Salamone, Bob Yacovissi, and Steve Young. Donna is our new programs chair.

Leon Molyé, a member of the new “internet presence” team, also attended to meet the board members and become more familiar with chapter activities. His questions and ideas related to the chapter webpage are appended at the end of these minutes. Please contact Leon at molye@cox.net if you can help him out.

MINUTES

The minutes of the 10 July 2014 board meeting were approved.

VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANTS MARKETING PARTNERSHIP

The work of the “Plant NoVA Natives” campaign continues to progress. VNPS is a partner in this campaign, a regional program of the Virginia Native Plants Marketing Partnership. The team plans to have a presence at eight native plants sales in our area over the next few weeks, and Alan would like VNPS to be with them at as many of these events as possible.

This will be a volunteer based effort in the future, since the Coastal Zone Management grant that funded it was not renewed and the funding ends on 30 September. Fortunately, most of the “heavy lifting” has already been done.

The brochure for the northern Virginia region is about to go to the printer. The existing funding will cover the printing of 2,000 copies of the brochure, which will also be available in PDF form. Because the brochure was developed using government funding, we cannot profit from its sale, but we do expect to be able to accept donations to cover the cost of printing (roughly \$2.50 a copy). However, the grant sponsor has not formally given permission to do that yet.

Alan believes that the funded 2,000 copies will not go very far, given the expected demand. He asked the board to invest money up front to pay for the printing of additional copies; as we recoup those costs, we can reinvest in printing more. Steve moved that we invest \$1,000 to print additional copies of the brochure; Laura seconded the motion, and it passed on a unanimous voice vote.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Maureen distributed copies of the budget-versus-actuals report through August 2014 at the meeting and later provided an amended version via email. There was no discussion of the report.

PROGRAMS

Donna gave a quick rundown of upcoming fall programs. The programs committee has agreed to co-sponsor a talk by Rick Darke on 12 November, at the Arlington Central Library. He will discuss *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*, his new book co-authored with Doug Tallamy. The primary sponsor for the talk is the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia; other co-sponsors are the Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria and the Friends of

Arlington Library. The speaker's fee is \$2,100 plus incidentals. The board discussed how much we should contribute in our role as co-sponsors. There is no specific financial obligation. The board agreed that we will pay up to one quarter of the fee (\$525). Donna will contact the master gardeners to get a better sense of what is expected and what others are doing.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

Alan expects that our chapter will be asked to host the state annual meeting within the next few years. As an alternative to holding the meeting in the DC area, he suggested that we consider a three-state meeting (VNPS, MNPS, and WVNPS). They did this before, about 15 years ago; the meeting was held in Shepherdstown, West Virginia—a location that is likely a bigger draw than the DC area—and it was very successful. Bob said he and Ginny will float the idea with MNPS.

Rather than leaving organization of the state annual meeting to the chapters, MNPS has a state-wide standing committee that organizes all the annual meetings. Alan said maybe VNPS should do this too, since organizing the state annual meeting can be a big burden for a small chapter (or even a not-so-small one). Sue said the state board has discussed the idea.

ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The board meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m. The next meeting will be the chapter annual meeting on 9 November from 12:30 to 3:00.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia P. Salamone, Secretary

Questions and ideas from Leon Molyé (molye@cox.net)

Advertising Events

What's the best way for me to find out about events? I get the Newsletter and I'm on Diana Carter's mailing list. Is that the best way to be informed about upcoming events?

Ideas for web pages

Field trips – pictures

Local native places – Green Spring native plant trail, parks, ...

Advice – plants for dry shade, ground covers, mixing ferns and ephemerals, ...

Plant profiles – Violets – Everyone has them but what kind do you have?

Grasses – Grass Bunch, article about common grasses

People profiles – active chapter members, what do they do for VNPS, their yards?