

**Virginia Native Plant Society
Potowmack Chapter Annual Meeting
9 November 2014**

The meeting was held at Green Spring Gardens Park. The business meeting was called to order at 12:55 PM by Alan Ford, president. There were approximately 50-55 attendees.

Election of Officers: Alan introduced the nominated slate of chapter board officers for FY15: Alan Ford, president; Maureen Pardue, treasurer, and Patricia Salamone, secretary. There was no candidate for vice president. There were no nominations from the floor, and the nominated slate of officers was elected by a unanimous voice vote. We also received 10 absentee/proxy ballots, three via email and seven via regular mail; all voted for the proposed slate of candidates.

FY15 Budget: Alan presented the proposed 2015 budget approved by the chapter board. He explained that the budget is balanced in terms of standard operating expenses, but also includes an additional \$5900 in special expenses, which will be taken from our savings. These expenses are:

Special internship (Huntley Meadows)	\$1,500.00
Propagation one-time expenses*	\$1,700.00
Printing of <i>Plant NoVA Natives</i> brochure	\$2,500.00
Contribution to Larry Morse internship	\$200.00

* Includes removal of Norway maple overhanging the propagation beds.

Alan also took this opportunity to discuss the recently released *Plant NoVA Natives* brochure, which is intended to encourage greater use of native plants in gardens. Copies of the booklet, as well as two trifold brochures (*Five Easy Plants for Sun/Part Shade*), were made available to all attendees. A second edition of the brochure, which will include a number of corrections, is expected to come out in the spring.

There were a few questions on the budget:

- What is the printing cost for the *Plant NoVA Natives* brochure? Answer: About \$3 per copy under the current contract. The cost of printing the trifold pamphlets is about 75 cents each.
- How much do we have in savings? Answer: More than \$30,000.
- Why did we go so far over budget on programs? Answer: We didn't. There is an error on the slide; the actual expenditures were approximately \$3000, not \$8897 as shown.

Following this discussion, the budget was approved by a unanimous voice vote. Of the 10 absentee ballots, the three email ballots indicated approval of the proposed budget; the seven paper ballots did not indicate either approval or disapproval.

Adjournment: The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:10 P.M.

Closing Remarks: Alan encouraged members to consider participating in chapter activities (e.g., serving on the board or committees, working in the propagation beds, helping with walks and programs). He also encouraged attendees to respond to the Fairfax County Park Authority as it updates its parks and recreation needs assessment, to emphasize the importance of natural resource areas. Comments can be entered online through 5 December at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parkscount/>. He also noted that there is a new campaign to develop an electronic version of the *Flora of Virginia*, creating an app and also integrating it with other digital resources.

Program: Donna Murphy, programs chair, introduced the afternoon's speakers. Bob and Ginny Yacovissi discussed unusual plants they saw on last summer's VNPS extended field trip to West Virginia and Margaret Chatham discussed the activities of the "Grass Bunch."

Respectfully submitted, Patricia P. Salamone, Secretary