

**Virginia Native Plant Society
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting
19 March 2015**

The meeting was held at Green Spring Gardens Park. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Alan Ford, president. Attendees were Margaret Chatham, Roberta Day, Sue Dingwell, Scott Knudsen, Donna Murphy, Maureen Pardue, Michael Reinemer, Pat Salamone, Jenn Truong, and Bob Yacovissi.

MINUTES

The minutes from the 22 January 2015 board meeting were approved.

PROGRAMS

Donna asked for volunteers to serve as “docents” for the 19 April garden tours hosted by chapter members Paul Kovenock and Susan Graham. Several board members volunteered. Donna will send out plant lists the volunteers can use as a reference.

Margaret will be the speaker at our April meeting and Keith Tomlinson of Meadowlark Botanical Gardens will speak in May. Paulette Royt, who gave a presentation on “Plant Roots and their Fungal Partners” in June 2013, has offered to give a talk about ferns. She is not available until June. The board discussed whether to add a June program to the schedule but decided instead to ask her if she is willing to speak in the fall.

Donna suggested holding some walks in a “meet-up” format, with no formal leader; the board agreed that this is a good idea as long as the nature of the walk is made clear in the publicity material.

PLANT NOVA NATIVES CAMPAIGN

The state funding for printing the *Native Plants for Northern Virginia* booklet developed by the Plant NoVA Natives campaign has run out. The steering committee is looking for ways to ensure that the booklet does not go out of print. Alan, who is a member of the steering committee, volunteered the Potowmack Chapter—a partner organization in this group—to help.

Alan is now developing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the copyright holder of the booklet, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program. This agreement will allow us to take responsibility for printing the booklet.

Alan reported that 100 cases of the booklets (40 books per case) will soon arrive at the Fairfax County Government Center. (The county has agreed to allow them to be stored there since it is a partner in the Plant NoVA Natives campaign.) These books were paid for with donations that include \$2500 from our Chapter (the seed money voted on at an earlier board meeting), a \$2500 grant, and private donations of about \$1500. Several organizations have already ordered copies, about \$1500 worth altogether, thus covering the \$9000 cost of the shipment.

These copies are of the second, corrected, edition of the *Native Plants for Northern Virginia* booklet. Contact Alan for copies

FLORA OF VIRGINIA DELIVERY TO FAIRFAX COUNTY LIBRARY

Alan and Michael continue to work to arrange for the presentation of three copies of the *Flora* to the Fairfax County Public Library.

PLANT RESCUE AT PARK POINTE DEVELOPMENT SITE

VNPS was approached some time ago about conducting a plant rescue at a 15 acre forested site in Springfield that is going to be developed as townhouses. In preparation for this, several VNPS members spent half a day surveying the site last year, but the project has been stalled for some time over liability issues. If these issues are settled and the rescue does happen, it will likely be at short notice and with only a short time window to complete it.

OUTREACH AT UPCOMING NATIVE PLANT-RELATED EVENTS

Scott distributed a list he has compiled of native plant sales taking place in our area over the next few months. The board discussed the list to identify volunteers who would agree to give a presentation or staff a table (selling copies of the Plant NoVA Natives booklet, but not plants) at some of these events.

- Alan has already arranged to staff a table at the Lahr Symposium on 28 March; Margaret is also attending, and will help.
- Sue agreed to speak at the Ravenwood Park Garden Reception and Tour in Falls Church on 25 April.
- Sue will coordinate with AHS about our participation in their annual spring plant sale at River Farm.

Kris Unger is planning a two-day event (17-18 April) at Americana Park in Annandale to plant thousands of native plants and came to Alan seeking experienced volunteers to serve as leaders. A request will be sent out on the VNPS listserve. This is an adjunct to a Fairfax County stream restoration program.

The board briefly discussed the possibility of using some sort of coordination tool for filling volunteer slots for upcoming events; examples include Doodle (although that is more for coordinating meeting times) and Sign-Up Genius, an online software tool for volunteer management and event planning.

Glenda Booth, president of the Friends of Dyke Marsh (FODM), contacted Alan to ask whether our chapter would like to co-sponsor FODM's next quarterly program which will be held on 16 September; the topic area is eastern forest ecology. The board agreed to co-sponsor this presentation; we will not hold a separate September meeting.

OTHER

Bob can now generate a fairly complete email list of our members. Alan will send out a test message to this list soon. This is important for reaching more of our members, since the Yahoo listserve doesn't reach a significant percentage of them.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Maureen provided copies of the budget versus actuals as of the end of February 2015.

ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The board meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 P.M. The next meeting will be on 7 May 2015 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia P. Salamone, Secretary