

**Virginia Native Plant Society
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting
7 May 2015**

The meeting was held at Green Spring Gardens Park. It was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Alan Ford, president. Attendees were Margaret Chatham, Roberta Day, Sue Dingwell, Scott Knudsen, Marty Nielsen, Maureen Pardue, and Pat Salamone.

MINUTES

The minutes from the 19 March 2015 board meeting were approved.

PROGRAMS

Alan reported for Donna Murphy (who was not able to attend) on plans for upcoming programs. Paulette Royt, who gave a presentation on “Plant Roots and their Fungal Partners” in June 2013, has offered to give a talk in the fall about ferns. In September, the chapter will co-sponsor the Friends of Dyke Marsh’s 16 September program on eastern forest ecology; we will not hold a separate meeting on the 10th of September.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Maureen distributed copies of the budget versus actual incomes and expenditures as of 30 April 2015. There was nothing out of the ordinary and there was no discussion.

PLANT NOVA NATIVES CAMPAIGN

The Plant NoVA Natives project is “way in the black”; we have already sold \$5000 worth of the booklets. (The budget for this initiative is maintained separately from the regular chapter budget.) Scott listed numerous plant sales and other venues at which we have recently sold the booklets.

Merrifield Gardens wants some copies of the booklet; they will be our pilot project for working with commercial nurseries. We have no precedent to draw on for working with commercial enterprises and will have to establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with them (for example, to make sure they don’t mark up the price). The details of the MOU remain to be worked out.

The board discussed Alan’s suggestion that we purchase small enamel lapel pins with the Plant NoVA Natives logo on them to give as a thank-you gift to volunteers who have supported the campaign. The cost for 100 pins would be \$300, which could come out of the Plant NoVA Natives budget. We weren’t sure that people would actually wear them, though, however attractive the pins were. The board decided that for the time being, at least, we will save the money to use it as seed money for the next printing run.

CHAPTER LOGO

There was a brief discussion about redrawing/redesigning the chapter logo. What we have now is a copy of a copy of the original line drawing and it has lost its crispness. It would also be nice to have a color version. In addition, Alan would like to replace the violet species in the current logo with a species that actually grows in our area. Margaret has been working on this. It was suggested that we contact Nicky Staunton, who may have done the original drawing, for more background.

PLANT RESCUES

May 7th was the last day of the plant rescue at the Park Pointe development site, a 15 acre forested site in Springfield that is going to be developed as townhouses. Several VNPS members spent half a day

surveying the site and developing a plant list in June 2014. It was a long complicated process coming to agreement with the developer, due to liability issues, but the seven-day rescue finally began in May. The plants go to the person who collected them; they can't sell them but can otherwise do what they want with them. Hundreds of plants were rescued, including Christmas fern, sedges, moss, mayapple, partridgeberry, and blueberry. A number of chapter members participated in the rescue.

The next known plant rescue will be at a site in Burke. This is a directed rescue; the plants will be replanted in a stormwater management site across the street from the rescue site. These will be mostly open meadow plants, grasses, etc.

PLANT SALE

At the 17 May Green Spring plant sale Maureen will test out the credit card processing device that the chapter acquired, which is installed on her phone. The board agreed that it would be useful to acquire some signs that can be used to direct people to our somewhat out-of-the-way location at the sale. Scott volunteered to acquire the signs from a company he has dealt with before, and the board authorized him to do this. These signs will also be useful for other events like walks.

PUBLICATIONS

The board discussed what publications we have on hand, which ones we need more of, and what other materials we might want to add to the collection. We need more membership brochures, which we should be able to get from the state organization. A number of other brochures are available in PDF format on the state VNPS website, under the "Resources" tab. These titles include *Wildflowers for Butterfly Gardens*, *Wildflowers for Woodland Gardens*, *Do I Have to Mow All That?*, *Meet The Natives*, *Hedgerows*, and *Alternatives to English Ivy*. We need more copies of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's *Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration & Landscaping* brochure for the Piedmont region; we may need to pay to have these reprinted.

ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The board meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 P.M. The next meeting will be on 9 July 2015 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia P. Salamone, Secretary