

**Virginia Native Plant Society
Potowmack Chapter Annual Meeting
8 November 2015**

The meeting was held at Green Spring Gardens Park. The business meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Alan Ford, president. There were approximately 65 attendees. All attendees were offered a copy of the *Plant NoVA Natives* guide.

Election of Officers: Alan introduced the nominated slate of chapter board officers for FY15: Alan Ford, president; Scott Knudsen, treasurer, and Patricia Salamone, secretary. He then called for nominations from the floor and Lori Bowes volunteered to serve as vice president. The nominated slate of officers was elected by a unanimous voice vote.

Financial Report: Alan reported that our books were audited in September and found to be in good order. The auditor made two recommendations: that we develop a more consistent method for documenting expenses and reimbursements and that we conduct and maintain an inventory of our on-hand materials. As of 31 October 2015 our overall financial status is:

Assets:	\$39,900
Debts:	\$10,300
Net:	\$29,600

FY16 Budget: Alan presented the proposed 2016 budget. The budget is balanced in terms of standard operating expenses, with budgeted expenses of \$15,600 matching our anticipated income. However, the budget is net negative since it also includes \$4000 in additional expenses for specific initiatives approved by the board, which will be paid for out of our savings. These expenses are:

Special internship (Huntley Meadows)	\$2800
Removal of Norway maple overhanging the propagation beds	\$1000
Contribution to Larry Morse internship	\$200

The budget was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Recognition: Alan thanked a number of people for their contributions to the chapter's activities.

- Sue Dingwell, who maintains the state VNPS organization's Facebook page;
- Karoline Oldham, who has joined the chapter board as technology chair;
- Departing board members Jenn Truong (technology chair) and Maureen Pardue (treasurer);
- Scott Knudsen, who has taken on the role of chapter treasurer;
- Continuing board members;
- Paul Kovenach and Susan Graham, for offering tours of their gardens in April;
- The "Grass Bunch";
- Lori Bowes, for volunteering to serve as vice president;
- Our co-sponsoring organizations such as the Friends of Dyke Marsh.

Updates: Alan gave brief updates on several topics of interest.

- The *Plant NoVa Natives* guide is in its third printing (4000 copies in September 2015). The first printing of 3500 copies and the second printing of 4000 copies are all gone. They are now working on revisions for the third edition.
- The *Flora of Virginia* project is now developing an app, at a total estimated cost of \$105,000. They have received donations and grants totaling about \$70,000, so they still need to raise \$30,000 or more.
- Alan urged attendees to review and comment on the draft revision to the master plan for Green Spring Gardens Park, either at the public meeting on 2 December or online.

Closing Remarks: Alan highlighted two issues of concern:

- (1) Funding the Huntley Meadows internship out of our savings is not a sustainable approach if we want to continue funding this internship over the long term. Various alternative approaches were discussed, including: fund the Huntley Meadows internship every other year instead of every year; partner with another organization to share the expense; send out a special fundraising appeal to fund the internship (like the end-of-year appeals sent out by the Friends of Green Spring for specific initiatives). In the future, we would like to get more feedback from the intern, for example an article for the newsletter or a brief presentation at a chapter meeting.
- (2) Our membership numbers are declining, though modestly; this threatens long term stability.

In conclusion, Alan urged the attendees to become more involved in chapter activities, for example, joining the board, working in the propagation beds, or helping to organize walks or monthly programs.

Adjournment: The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:40 P.M.

Program: Donna Murphy, programs chair, introduced the afternoon's speaker. Marcia S. Mabee spoke about "Naked Mountain: The Delights and Challenges of Owning One of Virginia's Natural Area Preserves." Naked Mountain, a 284-acre property in Nelson County, Virginia, was placed under an open space easement held by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation in 2006.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia P. Salamone, Secretary