

**Virginia Native Plant Society
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting
21 January 2016**

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 Laura Beaty, Margaret Chatham, Roberta Day, Sue Dingwell, Scott Knudsen, Donna Murphy, Karoline Oldham, Michael Reinemer, Pat Salamone, and Bob Yacovissi.

MINUTES

The minutes from the 10 December 2015 board meeting were approved.

MEMBERSHIP

Bob reported that we have 435 memberships. Membership is staying fairly stable, with about a 20% turnover rate, but we are losing new members at a rate that is concerning. Alan suggested that we conduct a member survey, since we got approval for that idea at the annual meeting. The board agreed with Karoline's suggestion that the survey include some questions aimed at new members to find out what is attracting them, what they are interested in, and so on. Michael volunteered to compile a draft survey based on the board's discussion and using Pat's draft survey from March 2013 as an input.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Scott distributed copies of the final budget vs actuals for 2015. We did better than usual on sales, but we overestimated other components of our income, something we will have to consider when we develop our next annual budget. Alan has completed an inventory of our chapter's real property and has given a copy to Scott for the records.

FLORA

We still need to deliver three copies of the *Flora of Virginia* to the Fairfax County public library system, including one copy for the Virginia Room. The board agreed that we need to get these copies turned over, even if we can't arrange a presentation ceremony. We still have three more copies that we could give away. We also need to figure out what to do with other items we own, such as the original watercolors for the notecards by BJ Opfer. One possibility is to hold a silent auction at the 2017 annual meeting.

DONATION

Alan proposed that we make a donation to the Kickstarter campaign supporting the latest documentary project by Catherine Zimmerman, "Hometown Habitat," which features Doug Tallamy. A \$500 contribution would entitle us to a copy of the DVD, which we could keep in reserve as a backup program in case a planned speaker fails to show up. Sue moved that we contribute \$500 and Laura seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote with one abstention and no nays. This donation uses up half of our "special board actions" budget.

VIDEOTAPE

Karoline videotaped Charles Smith's talk in January; her brother in law is a professional videographer and she used his equipment. She is learning to edit; this is the biggest part of the cost of producing a video. (It would probably cost about \$600-\$700 to have a videographer record and edit a video). Once the video is completed she will put it (or segments of it) on our chapter Facebook and Twitter sites. In

the future we may videotape selected programs (with the speaker's permission). A downside is that the extra lighting required for videotaping is distracting to some in the audience and may wash out the slides; in addition, some audience members don't like having the camera on them. A possible solution we might explore is a voice-only recording, perhaps paired with the associated PowerPoint slides. The board thanked Karoline for her initiative and effort.

PROGRAMS

Margaret's winter shrub walk (planned for the Saturday following the board meeting) had to be cancelled because of the predicted winter storm. This was planned as a walk-and-work program, following Lori's suggestion, with Lisa Bright of Earth Sangha leading the invasives removal portion of the program. Margaret noted that one issue with planning such a program is getting permission from the appropriate authorities to remove invasives. When working near a stream EPA permission is needed in addition to any permissions received from the owner of the park.

Donna said Elizabeth Wright contacted her to ask whether anyone from our chapter might be interested in getting involved with Girl Scout or Boy Scout activities, e.g., helping them earn merit badges. It was suggested that she put Elizabeth in touch with the Green Spring staff who are already working with the Girl Scouts. Alan and Laura will do a program for a Girl Scout troop that is affiliated with Green Spring in April.

2017 VNPS STATE ANNUAL MEETING

Sue is still working on plans for the 2017 state annual meeting. She participated in a telecon with the two other sponsoring organizations (MNPS and WVNPA) and got buy-in from all, so the tri-state meeting is a go. We need to fill 175 rooms.

BYLAWS

The bylaws need to be changed to reflect the change in our fiscal year. Margaret also provided some comments on section 4.1; the material dealing with the nominating committee needs clarification.

ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The board meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for 3 March at 7:30 P.M. [Subsequently rescheduled to 10 March.]

Respectfully submitted, Patricia P. Salamone, Secretary