

**Virginia Native Plant Society
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting
26 May 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, Lori Bowes, Diana Carter, Margaret Chatham, Roberta Day, Sue Dingwell, Scott Knudsen, Karoline Oldham, Pat Salamone, and Bob Yacovissi.

MINUTES

The minutes from the 10 March 2016 board meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We made \$5138 in sales from the plant sale (this is the net after the Square fees of \$180 but before the Green Spring fee), which is a good result.

Our copy of the QuickBooks accounting software was purchased eight years ago and is in need of an upgrade. Alan suggested that we switch to using an online version of the software. This approach has the disadvantage of requiring a monthly fee (currently about \$7-10 per month) but the advantage that multiple people can use the software. The QuickBooks software is available through TechSoup, an umbrella organization that provides discounted software and technological tools to non-profits. The board approved Alan's proposal that we switch to QuickBooks online by a unanimous voice vote.

PROGRAMS

The chapter annual meeting will be on 23 October; Cole Burrell will be the speaker.

The programs committee is still looking for ideas for November; one possibility is the "Wildflowers 101" presentation that Laura and Alan gave to the Friends of Dyke Marsh. The idea would be to try to bring in new members. It was suggested that the meeting be held at a different location in the "hinterlands" of our membership area (possibly Reston) to further that goal.

For September, we are co-sponsoring the bees/pollinators presentation by Sam Droege arranged by the Friends of Dyke Marsh. Alan and Laura pointed out that the meeting room at Huntley Meadows where FODM presentations are typically held might not be large enough, since Sam Droege is expected to draw a big crowd. Pat agreed to raise this concern with the FODM board. [*At its 20 June meeting the FODM board agreed, and the meeting has been moved to the Sherwood Regional Library.*]

The board agreed that we would like to have Charles Smith as our January speaker again next year and discussed possible topics for his presentation, including the effects of invasive earthworms and stream restoration and its impact on native plants.

ECO-SAVVY GARDENING SYMPOSIUM

The Green Spring master gardeners have decided to revise the format for their annual Eco-Savvy Gardening Symposium to increase participation, and have asked VNPS to be a partner in co-sponsoring and maintaining this symposium. Alan and Laura will work with the master gardeners on this.

COX CONSERVES HEROES AWARD

Nancy Vehrs, VNPS president, nominated Alan for this award, and he is one of three finalists for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The online voting will take place in May and June, and board members

were urged to participate. The winner's organization will receive a \$10,000 donation; finalists will receive \$5000.

MEMBERSHIP

Bob reported the sad news that we are now down to 12 charter members (members who joined the year the chapter was founded since Margaret Pridgen died in February. At one time she was our chapter's hospitality chair; she later moved to Charlottesville, but did attend our 25th anniversary meeting.

ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The board meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 July at 7:30 P.M. [Later rescheduled to 4 August.]

Respectfully submitted, Patricia P. Salamone, Secretary