

**Virginia Native Plant Society
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting
2 November 2017**

The meeting was held at the Fairfax Regional Library. It was called to order at 7:40 P.M. by Alan Ford, president. Board members present were: Margaret Chatham, Roberta Day, David Gorsline, Scott Knudsen, Donna Murphy, and Patricia Salamone. Chapter member Dean Arkema also attended.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alan reported that Lori Bowes has resigned as vice president and asked board members to consider who we might ask to replace her. The board welcomed Dean Arkema, who has agreed to help Donna with arranging field trips.

MINUTES

The minutes from the 7 September 2017 board meeting were approved.

MEMBERSHIP

We have received “recent donations” and “recent activity” reports from the new Neon CRM system. Some 20 new members have already joined using this system and there have been about 50 renewals.

PROGRAMS

Donna has contacted Joan Maloof, founder of the Old-Growth Forest Network, as a possible speaker. The board discussed Dr Maloof’s request for reimbursement of her travel expenses (about \$150 in addition to the honorarium and overnight lodging) and agreed that Donna will tell Dr Maloof that we do not cover travel expenses. However, we can offer her a venue to sell copies of her latest book, and will cover the Green Spring fee if so. Charles Smith has agreed to be our January speaker, in what is becoming an annual tradition. Alan solicited ideas for additional speakers for the spring.

SHEPHERDSTOWN AFTER-ACTION REPORT

Alan reported that we still don’t have the final bill from NCTC but it looks like there will be a net gain of about \$10,000 from the tri-state annual meeting. The final amount will be split 60/40 between VNPS Potowmack Chapter and MNPS respectively. Alan suggested that the chapter donate the proceeds to the state organization to serve as a sort of trust fund to support future annual meetings; we do not need the money, and this will help smaller chapters who don’t have the financial resources we do when it comes their turn to host the annual meeting. The board approved this proposal by a unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Chapter Annual Meeting. The chapter annual meeting will be held on Sunday, 12 November, starting at 12:30. Our speaker will be Dr. Ashley Egan, a research scientist and assistant curator at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, where she specializes in legume biology. Her topic is “A Tale of Two Vines: The Far Reaching and Few Between.”

Discussion on Recruitment & Outreach. We have several board vacancies. At the chapter annual meeting Alan will make a plea for members to consider joining the board or participate actively in chapter activities in some other way. The board discussed other possible ways to identify and recruit new board members, including reaching out to people who frequently attend presentations and/or

participate in walks, personal outreach to people we know, and possibly mining the Neon CRM membership data. The names of walk participants are available through EventBrite.

ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The board meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for 4 January 2018 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia P. Salamone, Secretary