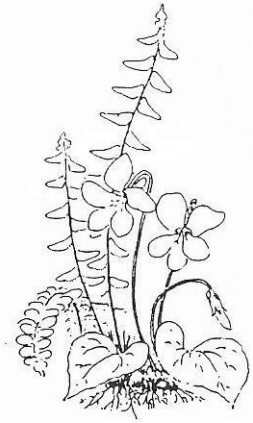


**Virginia Native Plant Society  
Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting  
9 August 2018**



The meeting was held at the Oakton Regional Library. It was called to order at 7:35 P.M. by Alan Ford, president. Board members present were Dean Arkema, Laura Beaty, Roberta Day, David Gorsline, Scott Knudsen, Donna Murphy, Mark Murphy, and Patricia Salamone.

#### **MINUTES**

The minutes from the 3 May 2018 board meeting were approved.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Scott distributed a report summarizing the chapter's year-to-date income and expenses at mid-year and comparing them to the FY18 budget. This information can be used as input for developing the FY19 budget, which we will do at the next meeting. The internship expense was higher than usual (about \$10,000) because it includes a back payment for last year's Green Spring native plant internship. The \$5,578 profit from last year's VNPS annual meeting will be donated to the state VNPS organization to be used in helping smaller chapters when it is their turn to run the annual meeting.

#### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Prior to the meeting, David sent out a report summarizing membership and donation activities since the last board meeting. Mark reported that he has written new instructions for dealing with the Neon CRM system and is setting up the complimentary memberships.

Note: David may be attending Fairfax Master Naturalist classes on Thursday evenings for a few months; board members agreed to temporarily move our meetings to Wednesdays to accommodate this.

#### **PROGRAMS**

Donna reported that the next program meeting will be the 12 September presentation by Dr. Desiree Narango, which the chapter is co-sponsoring with the Friends of Dyke Marsh. FODM does not ask co-sponsors of its programs to pay an honorarium, but Pat suggested that we contribute an additional honorarium for Dr. Narango because she is traveling from Massachusetts to give this presentation and plans to use her honorarium to help cover the airfare. Laura moved that we contribute a \$100 honorarium to Dr. Narango; Scott seconded, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

On 11 October, the speaker will be Megan Whatton, program director for the Habitat Network, a citizen science program partnership between The Nature Conservancy and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Donna is still looking for a speaker for the 4 November chapter annual meeting.

#### **WALKS**

Dean followed up on the concern he raised at the last board meeting about increasing access to chapter-sponsored walks. For the recent fern walk and grass walk he gave members two chances to sign up before announcing the walk to the public, and this worked well; we did not have to turn away any members. Dean is setting up the framework in the Neon CRM system to automate this process.

The board discussed several ideas for dealing with this concern. We agreed that we want to keep our events free and open to the public, so the idea of charging a fee to nonmembers (which would also add

complexity) was nixed. Dean again proposed recruiting backup walk leaders for walks that are expected to be popular; the backup leaders would be available to either lead a second walk or act as co-leaders if a second walk turns out not to be needed.

To increase the incentive for people to agree to serve as backup walk leaders, Mark proposed that we pay all walk leaders (including backups/co-leads) an honorarium of \$150. (Currently we do not pay an honorarium to walk leaders who are chapter members.) Alan amended Mark's proposal to state that we will try this plan as a pilot project for the remainder of this fiscal year and then revisit it. The motion passed with eight "ayes" and one abstention.

Paying these additional honoraria will add to the expense of this activity; for example, adding a second leader to each of 10 walks per year would add \$1,500 to our annual operating expenses. During the trial period, any over-budget expenses will be covered from our savings; however, this would not be a sustainable strategy for the long term, and we do not have enough annual income to support this additional expense on a regular basis without decreasing our spending elsewhere.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mark proposed that we post the approved minutes of our board meetings on the chapter website; the board agreed that this is a good idea. Pat will send him the minutes from past years for posting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETINGS**

The board meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for 5 September 2018 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia P. Salamone, Secretary