Plant Sales...Success!

We had two incredible plant sales on April 6 and May 3-4 at Francis Land House and Norfolk Botanical Garden (NBG), respectively. The total for both events was $10,063 in sales.

On April 6, gross sales were $6,800 less gross costs of $3,700 for a net to us of $3,100.

The May 3-4 gross sales were $3,263 less gross costs of $1,679 for a net of $1,584 (less the $158.40 we owe NBG for participating.)

Our coffers are enriched by $4,525.60!

The April sale was very successful, at least in part due to an awesome “sign-off” article in the Virginian Pilot by our own Mary Reid Barrow. For those of you who don’t know, Mary has written a fabulous “native plant” column each of the past several years touting our plant sale at Francis Land house. This was her final plant column…MRB, it was from your heart and it hit the spot. We have had articles in the Pilot for many years…Rebecca Burcher Jones also wrote up fine articles about the benefit of plants native to our area.

April was chilly…it “fogged” on us several times; but gardeners are a tough lot and we sold out of plants pretty much by 1:30 pm. All of the plants from Southern Branch and Knotts Creek sold out completely. Vickie Shufer and Byron Carmean took home fewer than 100 plants total. We sold over 1100 plants. I had some plants left over from last year’s plugs and they all sold. We closed down by 2:00 pm and a disappointed couple from North Carolina showed up as we packed…we had nothing to sell them.
Kit Hayden, who chaired the plant sale for many years, came by the sale and brought some plants for us to sell. There were many who made the sale succeed. Trista Imrich was teaching a class and several of her class came to help out. OMG did they do a great job! I failed to get names down but they were fantastic! Amy Jones was there when I arrived at 6:15 am. Pat Quinn, our plant sale Chairwoman, did a great job of purchasing and setting up. Byron and Vickie brought plants and truly championed the message for native plants.

The May sale at Norfolk Botanical Garden was not as high in revenue but we had some very good interest and a new member out of our efforts. Friday was hot, dry and windy…we had plugs but had to keep them out of the sun so they would live. Saturday was cloudy and cooler, and we sold out of most plants by 3:00 pm. Pat Quinn and I stayed until 5:00 pm…we made several good sales that last hour.

I will bring some leftover plants to share at the May meeting. We’ll raffle off the leftovers…first pick gets first pick. Our speaker will be Yolima Carr, who has been at Hermitage until recently. She is now with Elizabeth River Project at their Portsmouth parks project.

Steve Stasulis, President

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**Speakers**

We will need speakers for September and beyond. If you know someone who is plant, conservation or nature oriented, especially if they are a compelling speaker, please ask them if they would be interested and pass the names on to Steve Stasulis at stasulisss@hotmail.com