

**Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting
March 10, 2018
University of Richmond, Jepson Hall, Richmond, VA**

President Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Janet Pawlukiewicz, 1st Vice President
Sally Anderson, 2nd Vice President
Kathleen Stasulis, Treasurer
Betty Truax, Recording Secretary
Roxanne Paul, Membership Chair
John Hayden, Botany Chair
Laura Beaty, Horticulture Chair
Peggy Troyer, Fundraising Chair
Mark Murphy, Co-Web Administrator
Caitie Cyrus, Co-Web Administrator
Ruth Douglas, Director at Large, Invasive Plant Education
Joyce Wenger, Director at Large, Research Grants
Johnny Townsend, Director at Large
Cathy Mayes, Director at Large
Steve Stasulis, South Hampton Roads Chapter President
Jan Smith, Upper James River Chapter President
Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson Chapter President
Mary Rhoades, New River Chapter President
Leslie Allanson, Pocahontas Chapter President
Alan Ford, Potowmack Chapter President
Peggy Stevens, Fredericksburg Representative
Butch Kelly, Blue Ridge Chapter Representative

Also in attendance was Donna Murphy

Announcements/Introductions/Agenda Changes/ Distribution of Brochures, etc.

- Nancy provided the new Membership Brochures and encouraged attendees to take them in addition to other brochures she brought. The old Membership Brochures (with the milkweed on the front) can still be used.
- 2018 Wildflower of the Year brochures will be out very soon. VNPS will need to pay to have them mailed to the chapters once they are available.
- Roxanne would like to add membership discussions to the agenda.
- Introduction of Mark Murphy and Caitie Cyrus to BOD as candidates for the Co-Web Administrator positions.

Action to Accept Executive Committee Recommendation to Appoint Caitlin Cyrus and Mark Murphy as Co- Web Administrators through November 1

- Kathleen moved to appoint Mark Murphy and Caitie Cyrus to the position of Co-Web Administrators through November 1, 2018. Roxanne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2019 Wildflower of the Year Ballot

- John Hayden distributed the ballots with instructions to vote for three and those that voted on-line should not vote again.

Minutes of the December Meeting

- The minutes of the last meeting were accepted without objection. (No vote)

Treasurer's Report

- Kathleen reported income is up about 10K. We still have some money to send to DCR and we only had 3 newsletters published last year.
- Membership goal was not met (it is usually set high).
- Reminder to chapters to fill out paperwork, deadline approaching for federal tax form 990. Please send the email approvals once received to Kathleen.
- Kathleen is still working on getting the May 5th state level submission.
- The Treasurer's Report was accepted without objection. (No vote)

2017 Fundraiser Status & 2018 Fundraiser

- 2017: \$35K net will go to Heritage (partial payment has been paid, remainder to be sent soon). We had both more and larger donations than in the past.
- 2018: Bland Crowder has asked that the VNPS fundraiser be applied to Flora updates. There may be as many as 150 plants added. Asking for \$25K. The Executive Committee will look into this for their May meeting and make a recommendation at the June BOD meeting. Announcement to the general membership would happen at the annual meeting in September.

Approval of 2018 Research Grants

- Fewer proposals are being submitted; however they are getting better.
- The team recommends the following for approval (totaling \$19,361)
 - Integrative taxonomic studies on the *Viola edulis* species group in the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains, with emphasis on Virginia populations - \$8,690 request. Ohio University, Harvey Ballard.
 - Early invasion dynamics of Wavyleaf Basketgrass (*Oplismenus undulatifolius*), a high-risk species in Virginia's forest understories - \$5,671 request. University of Richmond, Carrie Wu.
 - Survey of fungi populations growing in American and Chinese chestnut trees - \$5,000 request. Shenandoah University, Teresa Zielinski. Undergraduate project.
- Cathy Mayes moved to approve the recommendation, Steve Stasulis seconded. Passed unanimously with no further discussions.
- Joyce questioned if the team needed to continue to make an undergraduate grant a priority. John Hayden pointed out that most undergraduates work under professors/faculty.
- After additional discussion, Alan Ford moved to encourage undergraduate involvement in grant proposal evaluations rather than make it a requirement. Steve Stasulis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- It was suggested that we provide feedback when applications were declined but after discussion the decision was to continue not providing feedback.
- Johnny Townsend, speaking as a member of the Virginia Botanical Associates (VBA) asked about adding money (approx. 1-2K) to our grants that support taxonomic and plant distribution-related research. We already usually award a grant that meets VBA requirements. After some discussion, the Grant Review Team was directed to work informally with the VBA.

Update on 2018 Annual Meeting Plans

- Courtney Will (John Clayton Chapter) was not in attendance.
- The meeting place will be at the School of Education at the College of William and Mary. Caitie Cyrus reported that there will possibly be a "bike trail" excursion.

Department of Conservation and Recreation Invitation to The Cedars, May 4-5

- Registration is on-line. Free to VNPS members.
- Big Stone Gap has a Comfort Inn 45 minutes away (however lodging may be covered)
- Some members of the BOD didn't receive email, Nancy said to notify Karen York.
- Mark will resend the email to register on-line.

Nominating Committee – Conservation Committee and Publicity Chairs currently vacant

- No one has stepped up as of today for the Conservation Chair.

Membership Chair

- Roxanne pointed out that NEON is not working great for family memberships. It is cumbersome. Mark will work with Roxanne regarding the issues. Mark has spoken to Neon personnel regarding fixes.
- Discussions of renewals through NEON. Several people have signed up as new members vs renewing members. NEON automatically sends out renewal notices. It was suggested that a message be sent to the chapters notifying them of people in the three month expiration period so they can contact them personally. Another suggestion is to send paper renewal information after the 3 month period has passed.

Announcement of the 2019 Wildflower of the Year

- John Hayden announced New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) will be the 2019 Wildflower of the Year

Field Trips

- Janet P. and Peggy Troyer are working on a field trip to Texas Hill Country to include Lady Bird Wildflower Center for late March 2019. They are looking for guidance on hotel prices since there is a wide range in prices.

Next BOD meeting: Saturday, June 2, in Charlottesville (time and exact location to be emailed to BOD members)

Adjourn: 4:49 p.m.