

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2017

University of Richmond

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

Nick Ferriter, Northern Neck Chapter, 1st Vice President

Sally Anderson, 2nd Vice President / Piedmont Chapter President

Roxanne Paul, Membership Chair

Marcia Mabee, Conservation Chair

Emily Ford, Education Chair

Joyce Wenger, Publicity Chair

Betty Truax, Recording Secretary

Ruth Douglas, Director at large, Invasive plant education

Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson Chapter President

Beth Umberger, New River Chapter (guest)

Mary Rhoades, New River Chapter President

Susan Voigt, John Clayton Chapter Representative

Ellen Holtman, Blue Ridge Chapter President

Shirley Gay, Director at large

Johnny Townsend, Director at large

Erika Gonzalez-Akre, Director at large

Alan Ford, Potowmack Chapter president

John Hayden, Botany chair

Charles Smith, Registry Co-Chair/Chairman of the Ad Hoc Membership Records Management Committee

Leslie Allanson, Pocahontas Chapter President

Announcements

-Nancy welcomed Susan Voigt from the John Clayton chapter to her first VNPS Board Meeting.

-John Hayden distributed ballots for the 2018 Wildflower of the Year.

Minutes of the December Meeting

- After removing the line regarding New River Registry, the minutes were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- There were no questions.

Amazon Smile Program

-VNPS is now signed up to participate in the program.

-Marcia was approached by Natural Heritage regarding joining forces in publicizing the program and splitting any proceeds. Natural Heritage would use the money for land acquisition.

-Given the lack of any history on the possible revenue from this program, the VNPS decided not to commit to revenue sharing with Natural Heritage at this time.

Approval of 2017 Research Grants

-3 grants are being recommended. Joyce suggested that everyone take the time to at least read the three letters that were submitted.

-Total cost will be \$15K for all three projects. All were ranked by the committee. Joyce moved to fund the following proposals:

-Integrative taxonomic studies with the United Species Concept reveal four evolutionary species in Virginia populations of the Early Violet (*Viola subsinuata*). Ohio University, Harvey Ballard.

- Biotic Disturbances and Tree Mortality in Virginia's Blue Ridge Ecoregion – Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Kristina Anderson-Teixeira.
- Pollination in the Piedmont: towards an understanding of the beneficial effects of native plants and pollutants in Ashland, Virginia. Randolph-Macon College, Nicholas Ruppel.
- Charles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- The third project submitted by Nicholas Ruppel will receive only \$3990 instead of the \$5200 requested. Instead Cathy Mayes will request a plant list that they would like to use in the project and the chapters will try to fulfill their requests.

EC Recommendation to contribute \$300 to the Native Plant Conservation Campaign (NPCC)

- VNPS has been a member of NPCC for several years.
 - NPCC has made a request for support.
 - Discussion ensued about the value of a national native plant organization as well as the pitfalls of duplication of efforts.
- Roxanne moves to contribute \$300 to NPCC, seconded by Ruth. The motion carried with one abstention by Charles.

2017 Annual Meeting Status

- Maryland NPS will do registration for all three states.
- Cost will be approximately \$400.
- Alan to determine if there are reserved slots for each state.
- Interest in white elephant / auction. BOD expressed little interest which Alan will convey to planning committee.
- Nancy Vehrs thanked the John Clayton chapter for stepping up to host in 2018.

Updated on Membership Records Management (Neon)

- Plan to be operational by June.
- Charles encouraged chapter representatives to get on-line now and check out the links.
- Sue will send out an email encouraging chapters to check out Neon now.

Report from Education Task Force

- The task force met and discussed what each chapter was doing to support K-12 education.
- Task force is working on getting plants included in school curriculums (SOLs).
- Possibly add a section in *Sempervirens* - Quick Plant Things to do with Kids
- Group will continue to meet and share ideas.

Status of Shenandoah Chapter

- Shenandoah chapter has alerted Nancy that they are disbanding.
- Nancy is working on preventing the disbanding possibly by putting together a program to encourage members.
- Discussions of competition between organizations for members.
- Discussions of plant rescues possibly attracting younger members.
- Bland suggests bringing in experts for a "mulling over breakfast"
- Sally said her chapter sends out membership emails to their entire email list annually.

Nominating Committee

- Lots of positions become available including Treasurer
- Nick has agreed to join the committee.
- Sally will ask Butch Kelly to participate again.

Announcement of the 2018 Wildflower of the Year

- John announced that the 2018 WOY will be *Cornus florida* (Flowering Dogwood).

Johnny announced that staff is working on reprinting the popular DCR “Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration and Landscaping, Virginia Piedmont Region.”

Next BOD meeting: June 3rd at Ivy Creek Natural Area, Charlottesville, VA

Meeting adjourned: 5:05 p.m.