

**Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting**  
**June 15, 2019**  
**Fairfield Library, 1001 N. Laburnum Ave., Henrico, VA**  
**Minutes**

President Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. (delayed due to traffic) with the following in attendance:

Janet Pawlukiewicz, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Sally Anderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Kathleen Stasulis, Treasurer  
Betty Truax, Recording Secretary  
John Hayden, Botany Chair  
Cathy Mayes, Member at Large  
Butch Kelly, Blue Ridge Wildflower Society Representative  
Alex Fisher, Conservation Chair  
Ruth Douglas, Director at Large, Invasive Plant Education  
Alan Ford, Potowmack Chapter President  
Leslie Allanson, Pocahontas Chapter President  
Mark Murphy, Web/Neon Administrator  
Laura Beaty, Horticulture Chair  
Jan Smith, Upper James River Chapter President  
Catherine Flanagan, John Clayton Chapter Representative  
Karen Hendershot, Piedmont Chapter President

**Announcements**

- Next week is Pollinator week. Governor will hold a ceremony at the Caroline County rest stop on I-95 10:45 to 11:45 on Thursday.
- Native Plant Conservation group going to the halls of Congress on Wednesday in support of the Botany Bill.
- Bob Yacovissi passed away. Nancy sent around a card to be sent to his wife Jenny. Bob was a retired Navy commander and will be laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery. Bob was a past membership chair and instrumental in the implementation of NEON for VNPS.

**Minutes of the June Board Meeting**

- Alan moved to approve the minutes. Karen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report – Kathleen Stasulis:**

- \$17K out of CDs for grants this year.
- \$5,300 sent for the Flora (Kathleen and Nancy V. to confirm all monies have been sent).
- Tax return is filed. Virginia report is complete.
- Budget requests
  - Leslie suggested hiring someone to produce native plant briefings at the state level. Store them where template presentations and photos could be shared. (These should all be in one bullet because they all refer to the production of a PowerPoint presentation.) Ruth is working on doing this for invasives. Laura, Leslie and Betty agreed to work on content and design (ensuring we don't have copyright issues). Mark and Alan agreed to work on the technical side.
  - Any other budget requests should be forwarded to Kathleen for the 2020 budget.
- Excess revenue was made on all the field trips and the workshop this year.

### **Dupont-Waynesboro Settlement Grant**

- Nancy reported that nothing is happening at the moment. Nancy Sorrells was working with landowners determining if they want to sell. Some have changed their minds and have decided not to sell. Request for anyone wanting to work on this grant.

### **Annual Meeting 2019, Sept. 27-29, Front Royal – Piedmont Chapter**

- Cathy reported that progress is on track. Programs are set up. Now working on volunteers.

### **Communications/Diversity/Inclusion**

- Janet reported that Latinos Outdoors is very interested in working with VNPS. The board discussed ways to partner with the group. Laura and Alan agreed to talk to the person in charge of Latinos Outdoors regarding linking up with us.

### **2018 Fundraiser Status & 2019 Fundraiser**

- 2018: Flora of Virginia II fundraiser is completed. \$18,466 was raised (this number excludes expenses incurred) and was sent to Bland.
- 2019: Discussions regarding the 2019 campaign. Nancy has not made a decision yet and asked for input. Per Johnny, Chris Ludwig is pushing for a looestrife/bee project.
- Discussions of general fundraising resulting in a decision that Peggy start providing Mark Murphy information for inclusions into future Leaf Letters.

### **2020 Annual Meeting**

- No chapter has agreed to host as of today. Alan suggested the meeting should be hosted at the state level, possibly hiring an event planner. Butch moved and Alan seconded that the board take responsibility to host the annual meetings, partnering with local chapters for walks and local flavor. Following discussion Ruth asked to amend the motion that the board take responsibility to host the 2020 annual meeting, partnering with local chapters and other organizations for walks and local flavor. Form a committee and evaluate, and this was accepted. The amended motion passed unanimously.
- Nancy V. will form a committee.

### **Board Vacancies and 2019 Nominating Committee**

- Still looking for someone to replace Janet as 1st Vice President.
- Ruth wants a co-chair for Director at Large, Invasive Plant Education.
- Alex will continue in his role as Conservation Chair (on ballot this year).
- Ruth will ask Henry Wilbur if he is interested in the Grants position.
- Mark to make a social media push for open positions.

### **Field Trips**

- The 2019 Texas trip sold out quickly. Peggy Troyer is willing to coordinate this trip every other year if interest remains high.
- For 2020 Sally is considering coordinating a SE Virginia trip with Gary Fleming.
- Cathy Mayes would like to organize a trip to see the Longleaf Pines.
- Other suggestions included Roan Mountain (3<sup>rd</sup> week in June), Death Valley (Feb/Mar), Colorado – Rocky Mountain Institute and Mt. Cuba.

Bruce Peninsula was popular this year and will be offered again sometime in the future

### **Highlights from Chapters, Committee Chairs, Directors-at-Large**

- Ruth is working with a group to produce a slideshow on invasive plants. She informed us that permits are needed to dispose/move (off-site) invasive plants that are on the noxious weed list. There's a simple form on the VDACS website to apply for the permit.

- Alex is attending a Dept. of Forestry meeting at Virginia Tech regarding invasive insects, fish, animals, and plants.
- Sally updated us on the Flora of Virginia project. She thanked VNPS for their fund raising effort. Flora II is on schedule with new plants (both native and invasives) being added. Chris Ludwig will continue working on the project until the goals of Flora II are complete.
- Ruth is a member of Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association (VNLA). VNLA is focusing on native plants at its annual Field Day this year – August 1-2 on the Eastern Shore. Alan moved and it was seconded by Sally that VNPS at the state level fund a membership to VNLA for our Horticulture Chair. It passed unanimously.

**Next BOD meeting: Friday, September 27 (Annual Meeting Weekend) at 3 p.m.**

Adjourn: 1:02 p.m.