

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting  
March 12, 2016  
University of Richmond, Jepson Hall, Richmond, VA  
Minutes

President, Nancy Vehrs, called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Marjorie Prochaska, 1st Vice President  
Sally Anderson, 2nd Vice President  
Cathy Mayes, Treasurer  
Sherrie Burson, Recording Secretary  
Betty Truax, Incoming Recording Secretary  
Leslie Allanson, Pocahontas chapter president  
Bland Crowder, Publications chair  
Sue Dingwell, Director at large, website  
Ruth Douglas, Director at large, Invasive plant education  
Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson chapter president  
Alan Ford, Potowmack chapter president  
Shirley Gay, Director at large  
John Hayden, Botany chair  
Suzanne Jenkins, Pocahontas representative  
Marcia Mabee, Conservation chair  
Roxanne Paul, Membership chair  
Mary Rhoades, New River chapter president  
Charles Smith, Registry co-chair  
Joyce Wenger, Publicity chair  
Also in attendance were Steve Stasulis and Beth Umberger

Announcements

-Nancy encouraged all chapters to replenish their supplies of brochures including the new printing of the membership and WOY brochures.

2017 Wildflower of the Year Ballot

-John Hayden distributed the ballots with instructions to vote for three.

Minutes of the December Meeting

-Marjorie moved to accept the minutes, Suzanne seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

-Cathy reported that only two months are covered and asked to let her know if something is missing.

-2015 Year End didn't meet our membership goals but we exceeded the donations goal with a net income of \$5879.

-Alan noted that \$6000 was removed from the reserve fund so the net income was not actually as large as indicated. QuickBooks is not set up for non-profits, which is why it appears that way.

-Nancy urged increased membership recruiting.

Approval of 2016 Research Grants

-Joyce requested the board grant three awards at a total cost of \$15,027 for the following.

**Patterns of introduction and dispersal during the emerging invasion of wavyleaf basketgrass (*Oplismenus undulatifolius*) into Virginia's forest understories.** Dr. Carrie Wu, University of Richmond. \$5,327.

**Estimating invasion risk in native forest in Northwestern VA.** Dr. Iara Lacher, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. \$4,700.

### **Investigation of morphological, ecological, and genetic species boundaries in *Phlox glaberrima* and *P. carolina* in the Southern Appalachians.** Dr. Gerald Bresowar, Emory & Henry College. \$5,000.

- There were only four applications received and a brief discussion ensued about why and what to do about it with the recommendation the grant program be discussed in the future to ensure it is fulfilling the Society's needs.
- Cathy moved to approve the recommended three grant awards, Joyce seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- Cathy thanked Joyce and the committee for their work this year.

### Approval of Fundraiser for 2016

(2015 Fundraiser for The Cedars netted \$24,249.33 to Natural Heritage)

- Nancy reported the EC recommended we raise money for more research grants for next year.
- There was discussion about the research grant program publication requirements and Bland will follow up about grant articles.
- Charles moved to raise more funds for research grants and Roxanne seconded. After discussion the motion carried with Shirley, Marjorie, and Ruth abstaining.

### Updates to Administrative Handbook

- Nancy suggested a change in the composition of the Nominating Committee, to be comprised of a minimum of three and not more than five members including a past president, a member of the board, and one non-board member.
- Alan moved to change the language with Betty seconding. The motion carried with Bland voting nay.

### General Assembly Legislation Update

- Ruth reported on success due to her work with the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association and Virginia Agribusiness Council. Delegate Patrick Hope gathered people on both sides of the issue to meet and develop a proposal to change the noxious weed law, which then sailed through the legislative bodies.
- The next step requires using scientific criteria and naming noxious weeds. Ruth is encouraged that industry and others worked together successfully. She does not envision success at replacing the noxious weed term with invasive species.
- Marcia expressed her frustration that membership of sub-committees changed and bills were not successful that she had worked so hard on.
- Marcia will continue to ask members to contact their legislators but will begin to ask the entire membership instead of only members who have a representative on the committee.
- Nancy pointed out that pollinator legislation passed which was a bright note.

### Award Nomination for Natural Heritage Program: Conservation Impact Award – NatureServe Network Programs Achievement Awards

- Jason Bullock, Acting Director of National Heritage, (Tom Smith was promoted to DCR Deputy Director of Operations) called Nancy to ask if the VNPS would nominate DNH for this award. DNH has won twice but not in the last 10 years.
- Nancy agreed to nominate DNH and Jason is writing the nomination.

### Electronic distribution of *Sempervirens*

- Sue mentioned changing to online distribution to save funds and reduce paper usage.
- Alan will ask Bob Yacovissi about integrating the online signups for electronic distribution into the database so that Karen doesn't have to manually remove them from the print list.
- Savings will be will be proportional for postage but not necessarily for printing due to the setup fee and minimums required.

### Online Membership

- Bob Yacovissi and Roxanne do monthly audits of renewals and new memberships to check for accuracy.

-Karen prints out the online entries and enters the data, which increases labor and paper waste and the potential for errors.

-Sue said it's electronically possible to merge the database with Access, which would eliminate any reentry errors, however that bypasses the logic checks that Bob has written into the Access program.

-Alan moved to reestablish the Ad Hoc committee on membership records management, Sally seconded, and the motion passed with Leslie abstaining.

-Charles pointed out that Access is being phased out by Microsoft so this is a good time for the committee to move away from Access.

#### Announcement of 2017 WOY

-John Hayden announced that *Actea racemosa*, Black Cohosh, received the most votes followed by *Lilium superbum*, Turks Cap Lily, and *Monotropa uniflora*, Indian Pipe.

-Nancy asked if John could have the brochure done by the end of the year and John said he could try although December worked best for his timing. He noted that he submitted his text for the 2016 WOY in October of 2015.

#### Other Reports as Time Allows

-Sherrie was warmly thanked for her service since this is her last Board Meeting.

-Mary has added a geology field trip to the others planned for the annual meeting.

-She reported that the Board meeting would be in a different place from the evening meeting because of the cost of the venue.

Next BOD meeting: Saturday, June 4, Noon, Ivy Creek Natural Area, Charlottesville (optional walk to be held before the meeting)

Adjourn: 4:45 p.m.