

**Virginia Native Plant Society
Annual Business Meeting
Saturday, September 28, 2019
Front Royal, Virginia**

Call to Order & Introductions

- President Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. (using a beer bottle since she didn't have time to retrieve her gavel).
- She thanked the Piedmont Chapter committee who coordinated the annual meeting, as well as the wait staff, trip leaders, and sweeps.
- She announced the BOD decision to name one of the research grants in memory of Mary Pockman, a charter member and second president of the VNPS. She also acknowledged both Marion Lobstein and Jocelyn Sladen, VNPS charter members who were present at the meeting.

Minutes of the October 2018 Annual Business Meeting

- Ben Fitzgerald moved to waive the reading of the 2018 Annual Business Meeting Minutes, seconded by Steve Stasulis, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Martha Slover moved to accept the 2018 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Steve Stasulis, and the motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Annual Budget

- Kathleen Stasulis briefed the membership on the proposed budget, including explaining that the Dupont-Waynesboro Grant showed as a gain last year and as a loss this year.
- Leslie Allanson moved to accept the budget as proposed, Steve Stasulis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers and Board of Directors

- Nancy Vehrs presented the slate below.
 - Kevin Howe, 1st Vice President (2022)
 - Ruth Douglas and Jim Hurley, Co-Directors at Large, Invasives (2022)
 - Alex Fisher, Conservation Chair (2020) (He is currently serving a one-year board appt.)
 - John Townsend, Director at Large, Natural Heritage (2022)
- Vacant positions include: Membership (term expires 2021), Publications (term expires 2021), Director at Large, Grants (term expires 2021) and Publicity (term expires 2022). Please contact either the nominating committee members or Nancy Vehrs, President, if you are interested in serving.
- Harry Glasgow moved to accept the slate, Steve Stasulis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

President's Report (Nancy Vehrs)

Highlights of Past Year
September 28, 2019

Raised more than \$18,000 for the Flora Project as part of the 2018 Fundraiser.
Highlighted New Jersey Tea as 2019 Wildflower of the Year.

Presented a successful annual workshop in March entitled "Our Changing Forests: Forest Health, Management and Restoration" at Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville. This was a new venue that allowed us to offer the workshop to more people than ever.
Transferred Property to the Department of Conservation & Recreation for the Mt. Joy Pond Natural Area Preserve in Augusta County.

Recipients of 2019 Research Grants:

- Securing Virginia's plant biodiversity heritage for the future: A new life for the Lord Fairfax Community College Herbarium. George Mason University, Weeks. \$4,712 from VNPS grant budget and \$2,000 from other VNPS funds.
- The influence of toxic compounds on nectar components: A genus wide comparison of *Asclepias* spp. native to Virginia. College of William and Mary, Dalgleish/Gustafson. \$5,288.
- Drivers of tree mortality in Virginia's Blue Ridge Ecoregion. Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Terrell/Anderson-Teiceira. \$5,000.

Held two Out-of-State Field Trips

- Texas Hill Country in late March – coordinated by Peggy Troyer and Janet Pawlukiewicz.
- Bruce Peninsula in Ontario, Canada in early June – led by Sally Anderson and Emily Southgate

Chapters held programs, workshops, outreach events, plant sales, field trips, garden tours.
Website, Social Media/Facebook Outreach

Members of the Board of Directors and Annual Meeting Committee were recognized.

Member Jerome Prochaskas took the floor and proceeded to present a stand-up comedy routine about the long-suffering spouses of members of the society and the superpowers of leaders like Sally Anderson.

Betty Truax
Secretary, VNPS