

**Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting  
March 24, 2022**

**In attendance:**

Nancy Vehrs (President)  
Kevin Hart (1<sup>st</sup> VP)  
Sally Anderson (2nd VP)  
Kathleen Stasulis (Treasurer)  
Betty Truax (Recording Secretary)  
Mark Murphy, Website Admin  
Peggy Troyer, Fundraising Chair  
Barbara Ryan, Conservation Chair  
Virginia Witmer, Publications Chair  
Joey Thompson, Education Chair  
Johnny Townsend, DAL Natural Heritage  
Laura Beaty, Horticulture Chair  
Ashley Moulton, Publicity Chair  
Jim Hurley, Co-chair Invasive Species Education  
Ruth Douglas, Co-chair Invasive Species Education  
Kathleen O'Shea, Membership Chair  
Pat Quinn, South Hampton Roads  
Emily Southgate, Piedmont  
Ted Munns, Northern Neck  
Matt Brooks, Pocahontas  
Brenda Graff, New River  
Phyllis Fevrier, Upper James River  
Alan Ford, Potowmack  
Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson  
Pat Quinn, South Hampton Roads  
Marilyn Lerch, Blue Ridge

**Call to order** by Nancy at 7:02 pm.

**Announcements** – John Hayden is unable to attend this evening but will announce the Wildflower of the Year in the next couple of days.

Sally moved and Kathleen S. seconded to install Barbara Ryan as Conservation Chair. The votes was unanimous in favor.

**March Minutes** – Kathleen S. moved and Kathleen O. seconded that we approve the minutes, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

**Treasurer's Report** was circulated ahead of the meeting.

- We're doing fine financially. Natural Heritage fundraiser was very successful.
- Kathleen requested financials from the chapters; call her with any questions.
- Membership revenue has increased over the last two years despite Covid.

**2021 Fundraiser for Natural Area Preserves (final report)** \$62,180.00 raised!!! The auction was successful thanks to a lot of work from Mark and Ashley.

**T-Shirt Contest/Fundraiser:** Details are available in Mark's report. Ashley coordinated the contest. Sold almost 600 t-shirts to date and made over 3,000.00 in profits. Mark is requesting members take photos of themselves wearing the shirts and post to social media.

**Investment Committee:** The committee has only met once (Feb. 23, 2022). Discussed what other non-profit organizations are doing. They need to meet at least one more time before making recommendations to the board.

**Board Vacancies:**

Conservation – Barbara Ryan was appointed at the new Conservation Chair.

Diversity and Inclusion – The committee may have a candidate for this chair position. The discussed how to find a person of color for the position. They recommend the BOD considers trying to fill other BOD positions with minorities as well.

Secretary – Betty plans to step down at the end of her term (2023)

Fundraising - Peggy would like to step down.

Upcoming positions: 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Education, Publications, Publicity, At-Large Invasives, DAL-Heritage, Treasurer.

**2022 Annual Workshop Report:** The workshop was successful (565 people registered). Joey provided links to the workshop in his report. Discussion included considering diverse speakers at workshops. Joey reported he had reached out to a diverse community of speakers.

**2022 Research Grants:** The BOD will not vote tonight because the committee is waiting for one final review. Seven proposals were submitted for approximately \$62,000. An article is being written for *Sempervirens*. Voting will happen electronically instead of waiting for the next BOD meeting.

**State Legislation regarding Invasive Plants:** One piece is awaiting approval. Everything else died in committee along party lines. Discussed localities passing restrictions such as bamboo.

**2022 Annual Meeting:** Mark sent out a survey and received 54 responses. Sally and Nancy will discuss details in a separate discussion.

**Review of the VNPS “Position on Conservation”:** Barbara is willing to take this one with Kevin, Emily and Mark assisting. Barbara will set up a meeting within the next month or two.

**Highlights:**

- Sally announced South Carolina has banned Bradford pears effective 2024. They will provide saplings as replacements. Her chapter is considering offering a replacement program as well. Mark told her that David Coyle is the extension agent in SC that organized the program.

- Brenda Graff mentioned [www.eddmaps.org/species/](http://www.eddmaps.org/species/) as a source of education for members.

- Phyllis announced Upper James River would be hosting a wildflower walk on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Natural Bridge.
- Ted announced Nancy Garvey will be the new president of the Northern Neck Chapter. New guides of his area have been printed (different cover). They printed 3,000 copies.
- Johnny Townsend announced that S1/S2 plant, Queen of the Prairie, has been found in Warrenton, VA

**Adjourned at 8:57 pm.**