

**Virginia Native Plant Society
Annual Business Meeting
Saturday, September 25, 2020
Zoom Meeting**

Call to Order & Introductions

- Following social time from 6:30-7:00pm, President Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m. with 106 members in attendance via zoom.
- She announced we had a quorum today for voting on VNPS business.
- She introduced Mark Murphy, Web Administration Chair.
- Per Office Manager Karen York, 162 proxy votes came in agreeing to changing bylaws. It was unanimously approved.

Minutes of the October 2018 Annual Business Meeting

- Suzy Harding moved to waive the reading of the 2019 Annual Business Meeting Minutes, seconded Steve Stasulis, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Suzy Harding moved to accept the 2019 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 of \$116,300.
- Jan Smith moved to accept the budget as proposed, Steve Stasulis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers and Board of Directors (Terms beginning Nov. 1)

- Nancy Vehrs presented the slate below.
 - o Sally Anderson, Second Vice President (2023)
 - o Betty Truax, Secretary (2023)
 - o Kathleen Stasulis, Treasurer (2023)
 - o Alex Fisher, Conservation Chair (2023)
 - o Joey Thompson, Education Chair (2023)
 - o Kathleen O'Shea, Membership Chair (2021)
 - o Ashley Moulton, Publicity Chair (2022)
 - o Rod Simmons and Charles Smith, Co-Registry Program (2023)

-Vacant positions include:

- o Director-at-Large – Grants Coordinator (2023), First VP Kevin Howe currently filling in.
- o Publications (2021), OPEN

Please contact either the nominating committee members or Nancy Vehrs, President, if you are interested in serving.

-Suzy Harding moved to accept the slate, Mary Anne Boyer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

President's Report (Nancy Vehrs)

Highlights of Past Year 2020

- o Raised more than \$32,000 for support of native plant guides.

- Highlighted Wild Geranium as Wildflower of the Year.
- Climate Change Workshop 2020 postponed and will be rescheduled for 2021. Thank you to the members who donated their workshop fees.
- Three research grants were awarded in 2020:
 1. Recovering native plant diversity in the Piedmont: Gilbert's Corner habitat restoration and native plant demonstration site. Submitted by Andrea Weeks, George Mason University. Amount: \$5,508. This proposal will be the recipient of the inaugural Mary B. Pockman Memorial Research Grant.
 2. The Composition, Distribution, and Status of Native Grasslands of the Northern Virginia Piedmont. Submitted by J. Berton Harris, The Clifton Institute. Amount: \$6,400.
 3. Propagation methods for the American fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*). Submitted by Janet Steven and Carter Stanton, Christopher Newport University. Amount \$4,805.
- Field Trips were cancelled due to Covid.
- Quarry Gardens in Schuyler, Virginia became a Registry Site.
- Facebook Page increased to over 20,000 followers. Mark Murphy asked chapter leaders to keep the website updated by providing him information.
- Chapters have been creative by finding ways to hold plant sales and walks safely.
- Blue Ridge Chapter has a new President, Jessica Fleming.
- We are planning to prepare a short Doug Tallamy type short video, hoping it will go viral.

Special Recognition:

- Carol Heiser, upon her retirement from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (now Dept of Wildlife Resources) for her support of VNPS
- Mark Murphy for online support of VNPS including getting older information such as minutes onto our website as well as becoming a zoom guru and providing technical support during these difficult times.

2020 Fundraiser:

Peggy Troyer announced the 2020 fundraiser will be - Flora of Virginia, Keeping the Science Current. The current Flora staff is retiring; however, they plan to help bridge the gap with incoming staff.

Next year Annual Meeting: Abington, VA (Sept. 24 – 26 2021)

Items for the Good of the Order: None

Meeting adjourned: 7:34 p.m.

Betty Truax
Secretary, VNPS