

WildfloraRI
 2021 Winter issue
CANCELLED

Next issue
 Spring 2021

President's Message

My predecessor, Dick Fisher, predicted in last year's annual report that 2020 would be "unprecedented." At this time last year, most of us knew that things would be different; my family remembers "bumping elbows" instead of hugging at a 50th birthday party during the first week of March. Shortly thereafter, in-person gatherings were cancelled and we all went into lock down.

In Dick's message, he expressed hope that the annual meeting speaker could be rescheduled for the Fall meeting. At that time, most of us would have said that "zoom" is going fast in a car. However, in the past year we have all Zoomed. The speaker scheduled for the 2020 annual meeting, Professor Susan Barton of the University of Delaware, spoke to RIWPS members at a membership meeting in November via Zoom. Her presentation, "Enhancing Delaware Highways: Lessons from the Roadside," addressed the sustainable management of landscapes such as interstate highway rights of way, the promotion of native plants, and dealing with invasive species. While Dr. Barton was focused on Delaware highways, many of her "before" photographs would be familiar to New Englanders. Her presentation is available on the RIWPS website; we will see if some of her ideas catch on in Rhode Island.

The Plant Sale Committee, chaired by Linda McDaniel, decided to hold one on-line plant sale in 2020. A team including the Seed Starters East group, Melissa Hughes, and Sally Johnson, developed a website that RIWPS members visited to order plants in early August. Committee member Peggy Bутtenbaum recruited volunteers to staff a socially distant, no-contact plant pick-up in late August. Although the sale was much more work for the Committee, it was a financial success. The Plant Committee (co-chaired this year by Linda and Sue Theriault), looks forward to getting back to in-person plant sales in the future.

Nominating Committee Report

For the 2021-2022 Board of Trustees, the Committee (Dick Fisher, Chr., Amanda Freitas, Brian Maynard, Mary Lou Upham) presents the following:

Officers:

Peter Lacouture, President
 Sally Johnson, VP
 Brian Maynard, Treasurer
 Mary O'Connor, Secretary

Trustees at Large:

Peggy Bутtenbaum
 George Cunha
 Paul Dolan
 Dick Fisher
 Pat Foley
 Amanda Freitas
 Nicole Hagan
 Marnie Lacouture
 Susan Marcus
 Dorothy Swift
 Susan Theriault
 Mary Lou Upham
 Dave Vissoe

Year in Review

RIWPS President Report continued from page 1

RIWPS has undertaken the planting and establishment of several visible, public gardens in the past year. Linda McDaniel, Sherry Dzamba, and other members of the Plant Sale Committee established a native plant garden at the Captain Wilbur Kelly House Transportation Museum in Cumberland, which is part of the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor Project. The plants for this garden were either from RIWPS inventory or donated by members. In October, the Committee planted a native plant garden at the Roger Williams National Memorial Park in Providence. Sally Johnson and a crew of 16 volunteers planted 3,000 plants at the Roger Williams Park Botanical Garden. The plants had been acquired by the Botanical Garden but had not been planted because of the pandemic. Sally and crew rescued the plants that otherwise would have died over the winter and will return in the Spring to permanently install the plants. These initiatives which were generally "ad hoc," have led to two actions by the board. First, we are designing a sign that can be placed at gardens that RIWPS installs. Second, we have created a committee to formalize these efforts. Sally and Dave Vissoe are heading the committee and, like the chairs of all of our committees, would welcome any volunteers.

Speaking of committees, I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts that our committees and their chairs have made to adapt to this new, unprecedented, Zoom world. In particular, thanks to Mary O'Connor (Communications including the RIWPS website, the monthly e-news with Pat Foley, and Facebook with Amanda Freitas); Anne Raver (WildfloraRI); Susan Marcus (Walks + Workshops including on-line book discussions of Isabelle Tree's Wilding and Ben Goldfarb's Eager); and Linda McDaniel (Plant Sale and Seed Starters). Our treasurer, Brian Maynard, keeps tight control over our books and our secretary, Mary O'Connor, faithfully records our board meetings. Vice President Sally Johnson is a good sounding board for me and is a font of new ideas and initiatives.

Last Spring, we announced the winners of the 2020 RIWPS annual awards. Although it is about time to announce the 2021 winners, I want to acknowledge and recognize the 2020 winners. The 2020 Volunteer of the Year was Anne Raver, editor of WildfloraRI. Lifetime Service Awards were given to Kathy Barton and Fran Underwood. Congratulations to all three and thank you for your efforts.

Finally, two indispensable people. Mary Lou Upham serves as our office administrator. When I stumble over a new issue, she is able to recall how it was handled some years back — thank you ML for all of your support. My predecessor, Dick Fisher, has graciously shared his insights and guidance with me during this year. I appreciate all of the help and will continue to lean on you Dick in 2021.

Best wishes to all of RIWPS for a new year.



Peter V. Lacouture, President

Reports continued

2020 RIWPS Grant Awards

Adam Anderson, Design Under Sky Project / 10,000 Suns 2020 - Native plant garden - \$1,100

Emma Brown, URI Student Project - Bearberry Research - \$1,000 (CANCELLED PROJECT – funds returned)

Claire Comings, Block Island Conservancy - Seed collection and Propagation - \$1,000

Peggy Edwards, Blackstone Blvd South Garden - Native plant garden - \$500

Martha Fraenkel, Friends of North Burial Ground - Native plant garden - \$500

Cindy Gianfrancesco, Gentian Garden Club - Community Garden Project - \$1,300

Cortney Kingsley, Tiverton Middle School - Native Plant Garden - \$1,000

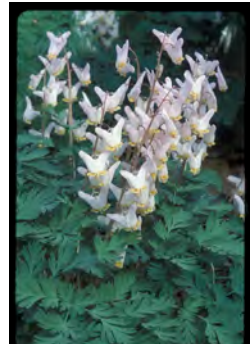
David Vissoe, US Fish & Wildlife - Plantings at Kettle Pond Visitor Center - \$2,000 (\$750 returned)

Ben Winslow, Ben Winslow UMass Dartmouth/RI Beekeepers - Native Bee Research - \$600

Grant Committee:

Paul Dolan, Susan Shuster, and Mary Lou Upham

2020 RIWPS Awards



2020-Lifetime Service Award
Kathy Barton



2020-Lifetime Service Award
Fran Underwood



2020-Volunteer of the Year
Anne Raver

Walks & Workshops 2020

We had to fold up our trail maps for 2020. The first restrictions on gatherings coincided with the first of our walks in March.

But we opened a Zoom account and held a winter book discussion. Because it was virtual and the book was popular (*Isabella Tree, Wilding: The Return of Nature to a British Farm*), the session was well attended. In fact, it was so popular that we scheduled an unprecedented second book discussion (*Ben Goldfarb, Eager: The Surprising Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter*).

Making further use of our Zoom account, Doug Tallamy talked with Anne Raver on a webinar about his latest book and his vision for a homegrown national park. Over 100 members listened in and asked questions.

Sally Johnson offered training on the app, iNaturalist, via Zoom and set up a project to accept your tagged photos of Signs of Spring.

Of course, we hope to get those trail maps again when the pandemic is under control and before the 2021 season comes to an end.

Susan Marcus, Chair, Walks and Workshops

Reports continued

CANCELED



2020
The year of the
ONLINE
PLANT SALE

Thank you to all our members who supported the 2020 native plant sale. It was an extremely unusual year with social restrictions in place and it forced us to think about different ways to sell our plants but also to grow them with few volunteers. Many thanks to our seed starter volunteers, members who donated plants, volunteers who helped with distributing orders and those of you who supported our sale by purchasing plants. And thank you to those volunteers who set up an online ordering program to make all this happen.

Linda McDaniel, Plant Sales co-chair

WildfloraRI Report

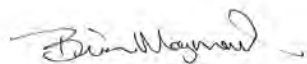
The Wildflora team took a break last year, due to the pandemic and the tumultuous events of a divided nation. It was difficult to reach people key to our research, but in truth the stress was draining our creative juices. Pat Cahalan came up with a brilliant solution: change the deadlines! So we went back to our caves for a few months to rest up and eat potato chips.

Now, the team is back in action, working on our spring lineup, which includes the return of beavers to Rhode Island, observations on caterpillars in the garden, suggestions for simple ways to improve habitat, a wheelchair accessible nature trail, reports on the indomitable seed starters and their online plant sale, native groundcovers and summer wildflowers. Look for Wildflora's spring issue in May; a late summer issue will follow in September. As always, we welcome suggestions for stories and anyone who would like to join Wildflora's writing and editing team. Just send a note to Anne, at raverview@me.com.

RIWPS Budget
March 1, 2021 - February 28, 2022

	Activity		Budget	
	Mar'20-Feb'21		FY2022	
Income				
Membership	\$ 22,925.00		\$ 20,000	
Donations	9,680.25		5,500	
Plant Sales	13,563.40		20,000	
Education Programs	-	\$	-	
Grants	250.00			
Miscellaneous Income	905.18	\$	500	
Total Income	\$ 47,323.83		\$ 46,000	
Expenses				
Staffing	\$ 8,065.57	\$	9,300	
Phone	984.90	\$	920	
Internet	1,613.28	\$	1,620	
Office Supplies	455.42	\$	650	
Postage	1,768.15	\$	1,825	
Computer Service	1,987.43	\$	1,900	
Insurance	1,775.00	\$	1,780	
Web Site Service	229.00	\$	300	
Printing and PR	2,919.44	\$	5,450	
Data Base Management	2,149.96	\$	2,850	
CC/Bank Fees	329.38	\$	500	
Affiliations	-	\$	100	
Communications	-	\$	800	
Miscellaneous Expenses	30.00	\$	590	
Annual Meetings	300.00	\$	3,700	
Special Programs	-	\$	500	
Walks & Workshops	200.00	\$	1,000	
Grant Expense	7,250.00	\$	7,500	
Storage Rental	2,682.00	\$	2,928	
Plant Sales Expenses	7,787.94	\$	9,050	
Total Expenditures	\$ 40,527.47		\$ 53,263	
Net Income	\$ 6,796.36		\$ (7,263)	

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian Maynard, Treasurer



Assets as of Feb. 29, 2020

Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Checking-Washington Trust	\$ 65,591.23
Washington Trust MM	68,760.46
Petty Cash - Cash Boxes	600.00
Paypal - Website	46.64
3-Yr CDs	82,226.15
Total Current Assets	\$ 217,224.48
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 494.83
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 217,719.31
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Retained Earnings	188,056.35
Net Revenue	29,662.96
Total Equity	\$ 217,719.31
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 217,719.31

Assets as of Feb. 28, 2021

Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Checking-Washington Trust	\$ 71,512.07
Washington Trust MM	38,807.59
Petty Cash - Cash Boxes	600.00
Paypal - Website	41.98
3-Yr CDs	113,059.20
Total Current Assets	\$ 224,020.84
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 494.83
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 224,515.67
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Retained Earnings	217,719.31
Net Revenue	6,796.36
Total Equity	\$ 224,515.67
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 224,515.67

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