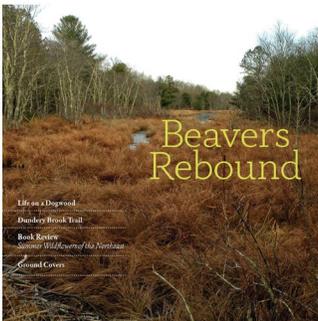




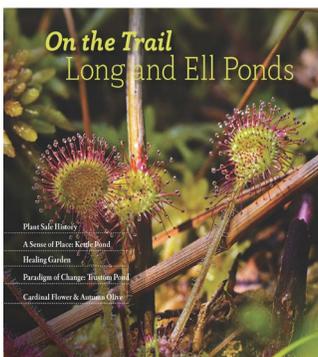
SPRING 2022  
 PUBLISHED BY THE RHODE ISLAND WILD PLANT SOCIETY • VOL. 36, NO. 1

# WildfloraRI



FALL 2022  
 PUBLISHED BY THE RHODE ISLAND WILD PLANT SOCIETY • VOL. 36, NO. 2

# WildfloraRI



## President's Message

In last year's annual report, I commented on how strange the prior year had been as we transitioned to a Zoom society from what had been our normal. Today, Zoom meetings seem much more familiar, both for work and for social events. However, as Covid subsides or at least appears to be under control, we are all looking forward to getting back to our "old normal."

Our past year was marked by many "normal" activities: plant sales, walks, lectures, and the release of new issues of our two outstanding publications.

In May, we conducted an on-line plant sale — with on-line ordering and low contact pickup of ordered plants at Plane View Nursery in Portsmouth in early June. In late August, we conducted an in-person plant sale at the Pawtuxet Village Farmers' Market at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. As in 2020, the on-line sale required a substantial effort by the members of the Plant Sale Committee, but the sales were a financial success for RIWPS. The August sale at the Farmers' Market introduced RIWPS to a new audience. We appreciate the efforts of Sue Theriault, Chair of the Plant Sale Committee, Linda McDaniel, former chair of the committee, the Seed Starters, East and West, and the many, other hard-working volunteers.

RIWPS has sponsored interesting hikes, walks, tours, book discussions and lectures over the year including two walks to observe the ongoing struggle between humans and beavers, and two tours of native plant gardens — one at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Kettle Pond Visitor Center, in Charlestown and another at the FWS Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge in South Kingstown. RIWPS board member and master gardener David Vissoe, a longtime volunteer at both Kettle Pond and Trustom, helped create native plant projects at both venues. Our Walks + Workshops Committee sponsored a lecture by Heather Holmes and has several more book discussions scheduled for early 2022.

Dr. Annie White, who is a Lecturer at the University of Vermont's Plant & Soil Science Department, was scheduled to speak remotely in November in a webinar entitled "How Native Plant Cultivars Affect Pollinators." However, because of technical issues with the video connection, we postponed the presentation. In January, Dr. White made her presentation and nearly 600  
*(continued page 2)*

### Nominating Committee Report

For the 2022-2023 Board of Trustees, the Committee (Brian Maynard, Chr., Sally Johnson, Mary O'Connor, Mary Lou Upham) presents the following:

#### Trustees at Large:

Peggy Buttenbaum	Summer Gonsalves	Beatrice Pulliam
Paul Dolan	Nicole Hagan	Anne Raver
Dick Fisher	Marnie Lacouture	Dorothy Swift
Pat Foley	Nathan Lamb	Sue Theriault
Amanda Freitas	Susan Marcus	David Vissoe

# Year in Review

---

## RIWPS President Report continued from page 1

people connected to the on-line presentation — the 2021 Lisa Lofland Gould Lecture, an annual lecture honoring one of the founders of RIWPS. The lecture was co-sponsored by RIWPS, the Rhode Island Natural History Survey, and the University of Rhode Island Master Gardener Project

The RIWPS 2022 Annual Meeting will be held on March 5 at the URI Pharmacy Auditorium in Kingston. Our speaker will be Sefra Alexandra, the self-styled Seed Huntress who will speak on “Ecotypes, Ecoregions & Ecological Restoration.” She leads The Ecotype Project in Connecticut and is an engaging speaker.

RIWPS has undertaken a major new initiative, based on the work that Sefra has done. We are launching an ecotype project, Reseeding Rhode Island. The project will identify sources of seeds in the wild from Ecoregion 59, which includes most of coastal New England, with a major emphasis on plants that are native to Rhode Island. We will collect and propagate the seeds, and ultimately distribute native plants from Ecoregion 59. The goal is to provide sources of locally grown plants and seeds, and, over time, to provide an abundance of seeds so we do not have to rely on seeds from other ecoregions. While we will use volunteers where we can, we have engaged a botanist to do the early plant identification and seed collection. This effort is being directed by a board Steering Committee under the steady hand of Sue Theriault. I expect that you will hear more about this exciting project in coming months in Wildflora, in our monthly eNews, and on our website.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the editors of our publications, Anne Raver and Pat Foley, of WildfloraRI and the RIWPS monthly eNews, respectively, and the many other writers, contributors, and editors who make these publications successful. The eNews, which appears in our e-mail on the first of every month, brings up-to-date information on activities, programs and other developments; WildfloraRI is a semi-annual printed publication which provides more in-depth articles.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the efforts that our committees and their chairs have made to continue to operate under the Covid restrictions. In particular, thanks to Mary O'Connor (Communications including the RIWPS website, the monthly e-news with Pat Foley, and Facebook with Heather Nicholson and Amanda Freitas); Anne Raver (WildfloraRI); Susan Marcus (Walks + Workshops); Sue Theriault (Plant Sale and Seed Starters East); and Helen Drew (long-time chair of Seed Starters West who is retiring this year). Our treasurer, Brian Maynard, keeps a sharp eye on 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 2021 RIWPS annual awards. Although it is about time to announce the 2022 winners, I want to acknowledge and recognize the 2021 winners. Two Volunteer of the Year awards were given in 2021. The first was to Sherry Dzamba, an active member of Seed Starters East who designed and organized the planting of two native plant gardens in the Blackstone River Valley National Park. This work was noticed by a ranger at The Roger Williams National Memorial in downtown Providence who asked her to design and install a pollinator garden at the memorial. The second award was given to Melissa Rugnes, a RIWPS member and master gardener who, with RIWPS vice president Sally Johnson, designed the ordering system that we have now used for on-line plant sales for the past two years. The Lifetime Service Award was given to Carl Sawyer, an unsung hero of many RIWPS efforts. Congratulations to all three.

Finally, I want to recognize Mary Lou Upham who has served as a trustee for the past two years and, over the past decade, has served as president for one year and vice president for five. We appreciate Mary Lou's contributions and are sorry to see her leave the board. However, she also serves as our office administrator and will continue to do so. In my report a year ago, I said that when I stumble over a new problem, she is able to recall how it was handled some years back. I continue to stumble and ML continues to provide the support I need. Thank you ML.

Peter V. Lacouture  
March, 2022

## Reports continued

### Plant Sales 2021

Thank you to all members who supported the 2021 native plant sales by either purchasing plants or volunteering. 2021 was a hybrid year with both on-line and in-person sales. The June on-line sale built on the foundation laid the previous year, the fall in-person sale was possible as the virus receded, and the January mail order sale distributed seed starter kits in time for winter sowing. Many thanks to all of the seed starter volunteers in both the east and the west, to members who generously donate plants lovingly grown or dug from their yards, and to all of the volunteers who work behind the scenes and in front of the crowds. A very special thanks to Melissa Hughes for her technical assistance, to Helen Drew for leading SSW for the last ten years, to Linda McDaniel for her continued guidance, to Peggy Buttenbaum for organizing volunteers and tracking the ecoregion 59 propagation initiative, to Sherry Dzamba for her tireless researching and to Alisson Walsh as our fall sale liaison.

Sue Theriault, Plant Sale Chair

## 2021 RIWPS Awards

2021-Lifetime Service Award  
Carl Sawyer



2021-Volunteer of the Year  
Sherry Dzamba



2021-Volunteer of the Year  
Melissa Hughes

### 2021 RIWPS Grant Awards

Summer Gonsalves, native pollinator garden on the Narragansett Indian Tribal Farm - \$2,500.

Melissa Guillet, Columbia Park project - \$1,000

Elizabeth Varkonyi, URI pollen research & installation of native pollinator plantings - \$1,500

Naya Black and Alicia Lehrer, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, WRWC project for the purchase of native plants - \$1,000

### Walks & Workshops 2021

2021 was a hybrid year with gatherings in the field but also online, and with schooling less in the Latin names of plants and more in the Greek alphabet of coronavirus mutants. While we hope for less virus-inflicted hybridization next year, meeting online opened some new opportunities. And we also got together a few times outside.

Brian Maynard (North Woods) and Kelly Perry (Swan Point Cemetery) led the only two 1st Thursday walks of the year. All the others had to be canceled. But building on our book discussion of last year, we tramped through the wet with Mike Boday and the wild as the sun set with Doug McGrady to find evidence of beavers, with mixed success. We visited new native plant projects at Trustom with Mark Cordle and Nick Ernst and Kettle Pond with Dave Vissoe. We were tutored by Garry Plunkett in the evolution of an established landscape in the Winnisimmet Woods. We created a new program of family walks led by Nathan Lamb.

Hybrid programming continued into the workshops. Dr. Robert Gegear whose lab at UMass/Dartmouth focuses on protecting endangered bumblebees and our native plant ecological system met us in a field to demonstrate how to use his beecology app to digitally collect and submit to his website ecological data on native pollinator species. Award-winning author, biologist and pollinator conservationist Heather Holm joined us online for a talk about attracting bees and beneficial insects with native plants. We closed out the year with a workshop in the URI greenhouse led by RIWPS members Jen Fallon and Nathan Lamb who led us through the steps to cultivate a native plant terrarium using a few of our evergreen natives. We went home with holiday table decorations.

Of course, we hope we've learned enough of the Greek alphabet and that we can pull on our tick gear, put our field guides in our knapsacks and get back to the pleasures of reminding each other of the Latin nomenclature of plants.

Susan Marcus, chair, Walks and Workshops

**RIWPS Budget**  
**March 1, 2022 - February 28, 2023**

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Budget</b>
	<b>Mar'21-Feb'22</b>	<b>FY2023</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Membership	\$ 26,006.89	\$ 25,000
Donations	13,203.14	\$ 6,000
Plant Sales	31,642.98	\$ 43,000
Education Programs	1,937.50	\$ 1,500
Miscellaneous Income	1,348.03	\$ 1,300
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 74,138.54</b>	<b>\$ 76,800</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Staffing	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 9,500
Phone	792.19	\$ 800
Internet	1,626.68	\$ 1,800
Office Supplies	674.23	\$ 650
Postage	2,280.65	\$ 2,649
Computer Service	1,996.51	\$ 2,000
Insurance	1,887.00	\$ 1,900
Web Site Service	229.00	\$ 300
Printing and PR	6,338.38	\$ 5,970
Data Base Management	1,239.63	\$ 2,160
CC/Bank Fees	1,048.39	\$ 1,000
Affiliations	-	\$ 100
Communications	-	\$ 800
Miscellaneous Expenses	744.01	\$ 750
Annual Meetings	500.00	\$ 2,300
Special Programs	391.50	\$ 500
Walks & Workshops	1,870.64	\$ 2,000
Grant Expense	6,000.00	\$ 10,000
Storage Rental	2,675.00	\$ 2,952
Plant Sales Expenses	9,415.60	\$ 23,450
Strategic Planning	-	\$ 1,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 48,209.41</b>	<b>\$ 72,581</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 25,929.13</b>	<b>\$ 4,219</b>
Native Seed Project		\$ 27,000

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian Maynard, Treasurer



**Assets as of Feb. 28, 2021**

<b>Current Assets</b>	
Bank Accounts	
Checking-Washington Trust	\$ 69,709.55
Washington Trust MM	38,807.59
Petty Cash - Cash Boxes	600.00
Paypal - Website	41.98
3-Yr CDs	113,059.20
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 222,218.32</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$ 298.83</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 222,517.15</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Retained Earnings	217,719.31
Net Revenue	4,797.84
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 222,517.15</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 222,517.15</b>

**Assets as of Feb. 28, 2022**

<b>Current Assets</b>	
Bank Accounts	
Checking-Washington Trust	\$ 93,447.01
Washington Trust MM	38,843.45
Petty Cash - Cash Boxes	600.00
Paypal - Website	0.00
3-Yr CDs	113,821.41
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 246,711.87</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,734.41</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 248,446.28</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Retained Earnings	222,517.15
Net Revenue	25,929.13
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 248,446.28</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 248,446.28</b>

**2021-2022 Board of Trustees**

**Officers:**

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

**Trustees at Large:**

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