

President's Message

The Rhode Island Wild Plant Society has presented a number of interesting programs and events this year. It has also been a year of important changes and transitions.

RIWPS is a volunteer-run organization, and we depend on all our volunteers to make our programs and events a success. At the risk of omitting someone, I want to recognize our committee chairs and officers. These include Mary O'Connor – Communications and secretary, Susan Marcus - Walks & Workshops, Sue Theriault - Plant Sale, Paul Dolan – Grants, Susan Shuster – Fund Raising, Pat Foley – Digital Communications and vice president, Anne Raver – WildfloraRI, Brian Maynard – Finance and treasurer. In addition, Brian chairs the Nominating Committee and Mary and Susan Marcus serve as the Awards Committee. It is important that we continue to get new, interested people involved in our many committees and activities and we are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested, our officers and committee chairs would welcome the opportunity to speak with you.

The ReSeeding Rhode Island Project (RSRI), which is designed to increase the availability of seed and plants from Ecoregion 59, is progressing with the good work of ethnobotanist, Shannon Kingsley, under the watchful guidance of a Steering Committee which is chaired by Sue Theriault. Shannon has written for Wildflora describing her work on RSRI and she and Sue are presenting an update on RSRI at the annual meeting. The Board acknowledges the efforts of Shannon, Sue, the Steering Committee members, and others to make RSRI a reality.

In November, we commemorated the 35th anniversary of the founding of RIWPS with a special program that featured three noted speakers: Lisa Lofland Gould, a founding member of RIWPS, naturalist and plant ecologist, and now secretary of the North Carolina Native Plant Society Board; Uli Lorimer, the director of horticulture for the Native Plant Trust; and Heather McCargo, founder of the Wild Seed Project in Maine and its executive director from its founding until 2021. The presentation was moderated by Brian Maynard, RIWPS Board member and professor of plant science at URI.

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Nominating Committee Report

For the 2023-2024 Board of Trustees, the Committee (Brian Maynard, Chr., Beatrice Pulliam, Sue Theriault, David Vissoe) presents the following:

Officers:

Pat Foley, President
David Vissoe, VP
Brian Maynard, Treasurer
Mary O'Connor, Secretary

Trustees at Large:

Suzanne Borstein	Peter Lacouture
Peggy Buttenbaum	Susan Marcus
Paul Dolan	Beatrice Pulliam
Amanda Freitas	Dorothy Swift
Summer Gonsalves	Sue Theriault
Nicole Hagan	Brenda Woodward

Year in Review

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The Plant Sale Committee was responsible for three sold-out plant sales this year: the Seed Starters West's early native plant sale on Mother's Day weekend at Casey Farm in Saunderstown; an early June sale ("The Best Native Plant Sale in Rhode Island") at the URI botanical garden in Kingston; and a fall sale at the Pawtuxet Village Farmers' Market in late August. RIWPS members are admitted to the June sale an hour before the general public which should be an incentive to join the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society and get to all of the sales early.

Seed Starters East (SSE) realized late last year that it was time to start thinking about a replacement for Plane View Nursery, where SSE has worked for 32 years, as Mike Medeiros, the owner of Plane View, nears retirement age. Recently, we learned that Mike plans to sell the property in late 2023 so we organized a group to plan for SSE's future. At the group's first meeting in late February, we defined the needs and wants of SSE and brainstormed possible new sites for SSE.

In July, the Board approved a revised Strategic Plan which will provide guidance to RIWPS for the next five years. While strategic planning may seem like a dry subject (and can be), this effort focused the Board on the future direction of RIWPS.

The Board has created a Digital Communications Subcommittee under the leadership of RIWPS vice-president, Pat Foley. Pat and his committee are examining steps that RIWPS can take to bring our digital communications into the 21st Century. While you will hear more about this effort in the future, we are looking for interested and technologically savvy volunteers to assist. If you are interested, please contact Pat.

There have been several other developments related to our digital footprint. First, Brian Maynard, our treasurer, received a grant last year to rescue the "*Among Rhode Island Wild Flowers*" website which was in danger of closing. The RIWPS Board has recently voted to take over the website although we will continue to look to Brian to manage it. Second, on the first day of each month, the RIWPS eNews appears in members' e-mail. The eNews is full of news and upcoming events from RIWPS and similar organizations. Although there is no credit line in the eNews, it is the good work of Pat Foley. I want to acknowledge Pat's editorial efforts and thank him for them.

The 2023 RIWPS Annual Meeting will be held on March 11 where we will honor Volunteers of the Year and give Lifetime Service awards. We will hear updates on ReSeeding Rhode Island, announce the recipients of 2023 grants from RIWPS, and hear presentations from three previous grant recipients.

As I mentioned above, this has been a year of transitions. Long-time Wildflora editor Anne Raver announced that she was ready to retire as editor. Some of us had heard this a year ago and figured that with a bit of persuasion, Anne would reconsider. However, we learned that she was serious this time. I am pleased to announce that Board member Beatrice Pulliam has agreed to take on the task of editing Wildflora. Marnie Lacouture has agreed to assist, and we have recruited a new group of copy editors and proof readers. Thank you, Anne, Beatrice, Marnie, and the new volunteers.

In addition to Anne's retirement, long-time RIWPS shrub and tree propagator, font of native plant knowledge, teacher, Board member, and my predecessor and mentor as president, Dick Fisher, is retiring from the Board and moving with his wife Marty (who received the RIWPS Lifetime Service Award in 2022) from Little Compton to their home in upstate New York. We will all miss Dick and Marty and wish them the best. I also want to mention Mary Lou Upham. ML has served in many capacities at RIWPS over the years. As administrative support during my presidency, Mary Lou had the answers to even to most difficult questions. Thanks again ML!

Three years ago, the chair of the RIWPS nominating committee asked me if I would be willing to serve as president for one year. After giving it some consideration, I agreed to do so. At our annual meeting this year, three years after I was elected, vice-president Pat Foley will be elected president. Pat, who has been an active Board member for several years, is very creative and enthusiastic and has many ideas for moving the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society forward. Congratulations Pat and good luck!

It has been a pleasure and a challenge to serve as president of RIWPS for the past three years and I look forward to seeing all of you at future RIWPS events.

Peter V. Lacouture, President
March, 2023

Reports

Plant Sales + ReSeeding RI 2022

After two years of on-line, members only sales, 2023 was "back to normal" with three in-person sales. Our hosts, Casey Farm, URI and the Pawtuxet Farmers Market, all welcomed us back and our shoppers came out in force! About 5,200 plants were sold resulting in gross revenues of about \$58,000. Thank you to all of our dedicated RIWPS members and volunteers for making this possible.

2022 was the first year of the ReSeeding Rhode Island initiative. Funds were allocated to hire a botanist who has been busy collecting about 30 species of herbaceous plants native to Rhode Island. About 19 of these species have been seeded and are scheduled to be planted at farms in seed bed plots in the Fall 2023. Seeds from these beds will be harvested to create a supply of ecotypic seed for RIWPS and other interested growers, without further disturbance to wild populations.

Sue Theriault, Chair



Walks & Workshops 2022

We walked more in 2022! Six 1st Thursday Botanizing walks were scheduled; four came off. Heat and covid canceled two. But our intrepid walk leaders managed to walk us across the state from Lincoln to Exeter to Little Compton and across the growing season from April till October.

We observed the rites of spring first in the wetlands of the Great Swamp and then in search of Arbutus in Arcadia with Anne Wagner and Marnie Lacouture respectively. In September, Kathy Barton joined Anne to lead a follow-up walk in the Great Swamp to see what difference a drought makes on a wetland.

Doug McGrady led two of the three walks he had planned to Boston Hollow in Ashford CT and Sweet Pond in Hopkinton RI. Heat (and permission problems) took out his third walk.

Nathan Lamb took several families on several occasions to forage for flora and fauna in Trustum Pond NWR.

To counter the effects of heat and disease, we read two books and discussed them over Zoom. Merlin Sheldrake, who describes fungi so lovingly and intelligently in *Entangled Life* was the first read. Then we followed Page Dickey's move from a well-established garden in upstate NY to her new abode in northwestern CT where she had to start anew. Her book is aptly named *Uprooted*.

You may notice that we didn't hold any workshops. We didn't visit any members' landscapes. We're planning what we hope will be a full season for 2023. Stay tuned. – Susan Marcus, Chair

2022 RIWPS Awards

2022-Lifetime Service Awards



Marty Fisher



Garry Plunkett

2022-Volunteer of the Year

Liz Bardo



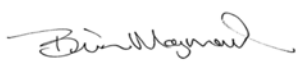
2022 RIWPS Grant Awards

- Mark Cordle, Trustum Pond Refuge-USFW - native plant purchases - \$1,100
- Edmund Croteau, Burrillville Land Trust - American Chestnut restoration program - \$1,200
- Susan Shim Gorelick, Coalition Center for Environmental Sustainability, CC4ES AS - Native plant purchases in frontline communities in Providence - \$1,000
- Nadia Grisaru, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, WRWC - seed material for native meadows and signage - \$2,000
- Brian Maynard, Among-RI Wildflowers website (RIWPS & URI) - \$1,000
- James Murphy, RIC - Native plants, seed and materials - \$1,000
- Rebecca Reeves, The Greene School - Native plants - \$500
- Katie Schortmann, Audubon-Claire D McIntosh Refuge in Bristol - Native plants and material - \$1,200
- Julia Vieira, URI-Research - Native tree planting for pollinators - \$1,000

RIWPS Budget
March 1, 2023 - February 29, 2024

	Activity		Budget	
	Mar'22-Feb'23		FY 2024	
Income				
Membership	\$ 30,844.11	\$	26,000	
Donations	12,218.55	\$	7,650	
Plant Sales	57,527.23	\$	56,000	
Education Programs	-	\$	-	
Miscellaneous Income	2,367.94	\$	1,200	
Total Income	\$ 102,957.83	\$	90,850	
Expenses				
Staffing	\$ 9,750.83	\$	10,000	
Phone	607.59	\$	650	
Internet	1,890.34	\$	650	
Office Supplies	701.86	\$	650	
Postage	2,731.38	\$	4,030	
Computer Service	2,580.93	\$	1,900	
Insurance	1,971.00	\$	2,010	
Web Site Service	3,400.94	\$	4,800	
Printing and PR	9,492.19	\$	8,350	
Data Base Management	2,454.00	\$	1,970	
CC/Bank Fees	484.99	\$	1,400	
Affiliations	-	\$	-	
Communications	170.00	\$	500	
Miscellaneous Expenses	950.32	\$	750	
Annual Meetings	4,003.65	\$	4,100	
Special Programs	-	\$	500	
Walks & Workshops	375.00	\$	1,000	
Grant Expense	10,000.00	\$	10,000	
Storage Rental	3,376.95	\$	3,432	
Plant Sales Expenses	25,311.29	\$	31,250	
Strategic Planning	884.00	\$	-	
Total Expenditures	\$ 81,137.26	\$	87,942	
Net Income	\$ 20,201.27	\$	2,908	
Native Seed Project	\$23,657.62		\$32,800	

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian Maynard, Treasurer

Assets as of Feb. 28, 2022

Bank Accounts		
Checking-Washington Trust	\$	91,875.26
Washington Trust MM		38,846.43
Petty Cash - Cash Boxes		600.00
Paypal - Website		31.87
3-Yr CDs		113,821.41
Total Current Assets	\$	245,174.97
Total Fixed Assets	\$	1,424.41
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	246,599.38
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	\$	222,517.15
Net Revenue	\$	24,082.23
Total Equity	\$	246,599.38
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$	246,599.38

Assets as of Feb. 28, 2023

Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Checking-Washington Trust	\$	87,567.76
Washington Trust MM		38,885.28
Petty Cash - Cash Boxes		750.00
Paypal - Website		38.71
3-Yr CDs		114,476.87
Total Current Assets	\$	241,718.62
Total Fixed Assets	\$	1,424.41
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	243,143.03
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	\$	246,599.38
Net Revenue	\$	(3,456.35)
Total Equity	\$	243,143.03
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$	243,143.03

2022-23 Board of Trustees

Officers:

Peter Lacouture, President
Pat Foley, VP
Brian Maynard, Treasurer
Mary O'Connor, Secretary

Trustees at Large:

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

