Piedmont Chapter NARGS

Board Meeting

August 3, 2024 Via Zoom

Present: Tim Alderton, Cyndy Cromwell, Chris Glen, Sandy Harwood, Jim Hollister, Charlie Kidder, Amelia Lane, Kyle Sonnenberg, Char Thomann and Bobby Ward

Chair Sandy Harwood called the meeting to order.

Minutes from the January 14, 2024 meeting were approved.

**Financial Report**: Cyndy Cromwell shared the financial report. (see attached)

Liquid balance is $8436. When our investment account matures in November, she will find the best option to reinvest those funds.

Donations for 2024-25: A motion was made to continue to donate $2500. to JCRA and $2500. to JLBC and to add $1000. donation to NARGS traveling speaker program. The motion passed.

*Post meeting* c*ommunication* from Cyndy: Chris Glenn added a generous donation to support the traveling speaker program.

**Membership**: Ruth Little provided a written report (see attached) which included numbers by city of residence. We have 75 paid members (Cyndy updated that number to 78) and now 20 who have not yet renewed. We assume some will renew at the first meeting in the fall. Our membership of around 100 members is stable.

**Programs**: Bobby Ward reviewed the list of speakers for the coming year.

(see attached list)

Ryan Schiller, September speaker, is bringing plants which we will auction. Sandy will include this in the meeting announcement.

Bobby suggested we compensate our 15 minutes speakers. A motion was made that we offer to pay their National and Chapter NARGS membership dues. The total would be $65. The motion passed.

**Refreshments:** Charlie Kidder,who makes the coffee, will leave the coffee pots inthe kitchen. Members can serve themselves there. Food will remain in the meeting room.

Sandy will remind members to bring their own mug.

**Piedmont Chapter 40th Anniversary – October 2025**

The planning committee includes Bobby Ward, Amelia Lane, Cyndy Cromwell and Charlie Kidder.

Julia Corden, our October speaker, has already agreed to speak at our Friday night event as well as our Saturday meeting.

Cyndy will check with The Sheridan and the University Club about dates.

**2027 Host National NARGS meeting**

NARGS has good information (timeline, responsibilities, etc.) on how to host a national meeting. We will establish a planning committee at a later date.

*Post meeting communication*: Kyle Sonnenberg volunteered to serve on the planning committee.

**Newsletter**:

We currently do not have a newsletter editor.

We will send out a membership survey on interest in the newsletter. It may generate a volunteer to do it for us.

Sandy can put links to speakers’ articles and/or books in the meeting announcement.

Cyndy can use the website to fill the newsletter void when possible.

**Botanizing Events**: Suggestions are welcome

**Spring Picnic**: Suggestions are welcome.

**Website:** *Post meeting communication* from Cyndy. She has added a Members Only section to the website. Password: #PiedmontInsider1985

Submitted by Char Thomann, PCNARGS Secretary

August 7, 2024

**Membership Report** – July 23 update from Ruth:

* 75 paid members
* 23 members have neither paid for the upcoming year nor expressed an intention not to renew
* 75 + the 23 potential = 98
* 4 members have informed me of their intent to not renew their membership, including one that only joined last year.
* Of our currently paid members:
* 34 members will be up for renewal at the end of next year (2025), that gives us 39 that are paid (or comped) until 2026 and beyond.
* current 98 potential members next year are made up as follows (a small amount of address data is missing)
* 32.3% from Raleigh, 12.5% from Cary, 8.3% from each Apex and Chapel Hill, and 6.3% from Durham - with shoutouts to Asheville, Clover, Creedmoor, Fairview, Hillsborough, Hurdle Mills and Wake Forest!

**Financial Report**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Piedmont Chapter Financial Summary | 2020-21  6/30/2021 | 2021-22  6/30/2022 | 2022-23  6/30/2023 | 2023-2024  6/30/2024 |
| **Assets** – Truist checking account | **$18,641** | **$20,411** | **$22,429** | **$23,672** |
|  |  |  |  | Checking $8672  CD $15,000 |
| **Income** | **$2497** | **$9299** | **$6401** | **$8436** |
| Dues | $1295 | $1987 | $1594 | $1701 |
| Plant sales | $400 | $4708 | $2759 | $5449 |
| Plant auctions | $0 | $743 | $615 | $889 |
| Bulb sales | $800 | $1860 | $852 |  |
| Donations | $0 | $0 | $350 |  |
| NARGS book sales | $0 | $0 | $229 |  |
| Bank interest | $2 | $2 | $2 | $397 |
| **Expenses** | **$1910** | **$2732** | **$2933** | **$1193** |
| Programs (speaker costs) | $1125 | $1550 | $1752 | $1048 |
| NARGS membership subsidies | $60 | $110 | $20 | $20 |
| Bulb sales | $663 | $1072 | $840 |  |
| Miscellaneous: website, plant tags, checks | $61 | $0 | $91 (new checks) | $100 M Stephenson gift |
| Other: Picnic,  NARGS books | $0 | $0 | $230 | $25 plant sale refund  (plant sold twice) |
| **Donations** | **$2000** | **$4700** | **$1450** | **$6000** |
| JCRA | $2000 | $2500 | $1000 | $3000 JCRA |
| Other | $0 | $2200: HPU | $450  Wilder/Montrose | $3000 JLBG Foundation |

**Program Schedule 2024-2025:**

**September 21, 2024**

Ryan Schiller

Clemson University student

Seneca, S.C.

“Hidden Gems of the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment”

O**ctober 19, 2024**

Jerry Yu

N.C. State University student

Cary, N.C.

“The Cradle of Southern U.S. Horticulture in My Grandmother’s Backyard in China”

Plus bonus 15-minute talk titled “It’s NufinLAND!!” by Amelia and Richard Lane, Raleigh, N.C.

**November 23, 2024**

Greg Paige

JC Raulston Arboretum

Raleigh, N.C.

“The Pleasures, Perils, and Pains of Plant Hunting Near and Far”

**January 18, 2025**

Adam Black

Shelby, N.C.

“Rockery Madness at the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories and Arboretum”

Plus bonus 15-minute talk on “Early Spring Wildflowers in the Mountains of Southern Turkey” by Cyndy Cromwell, Cary, N.C.

**February 8, 2025**

Scott Zona

Hillsborough, N.C.

“Celebrating the Botany of Charles Darwin”

Plus bonus 15-minute talk on “Some Things I Learned by Volunteering in the Galápagos Islands” by Janice Swab, Raleigh, N.C.

**March 15, 2025**

Tim Alderton

Raleigh, N.C.

“NARGS-Sponsored Argentine Patagonia Trip, December 2023”

Plus bonus 15-minute talk on “NARGS Extension Trip to Southern Patagonia, 2022” By Jim Jahnke, Chapel Hill, N.C.

**April 19, 2025**

Ozzie Johnson

Marietta, Ga.

“Shining a Light on Plant Treasures in Japan”