



HIGHLANDS  
BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

Minutes of the 2016 General Membership Meeting  
June 25, 2016 at 3:00pm in the Coker Lab of the Highlands Biological Station

In attendance: Lydia Sargent Macauley, Sue Sheehan, Sarah Morgan Wingfield, Vevie Dimmitt, Alexa Foreman, Linda Barlow, Dan Pittillo, Don Carpenter, Gail Carpenter, Amy Patterson, Cookie Patterson, Jennie Stowers, Julia Grumbles, Karen Patterson, Dick Allison, Robert Tucker, Martha Stibbs, Judy Allison, Hillrie Quin, Knox Massey, Kim Coward, Ken Conover, Lynda Anderson, Geoff Cantrell, Patricia Cantrell, Joan Cabe, Monte Gaillard, Palmer Gaillard, Melissa Delany, Liz Sargent, Zara Ellis Sadler, Hillary Cone, Glenda Zahner, Sonya Carpenter, and Madi Landrum

Julia Grumbles, President: Welcome

The Highlands Biological Foundation is essential to the functioning of the Highlands Biological Station. The Foundation assists with maintenance costs and salaries, without which the Station would not be able to effectively function. This annual meeting is going to be different, shorter, so we can show you what is new. All of the committee reports and minutes from last year's meeting can be found on the website. The first order of business will be finance.

Dick Allison, Treasurer: Finance Report

This year we are over budget with receipts and nearly on budget for our expenses. We are over on receipts because of the North Campus Improvements Project. In our budget for this fiscal year we predicted we would raise \$150,000 in contributions and \$60,000 for membership dues. We exceeded those predictions by a little over \$9,000. It costs us about \$250,000 to run the Station and Foundation for the year, which we have to raise each year because we spend the money we fundraise each year. We had approximately \$1.6 million in accounts as an emergency fund as of Thursday, but with the stock market what it currently is, it could be much lower today. \$1 million of that fund is unrestricted. Julia would like to remind everyone that our fiscal year ended May 31.

Julia Grumbles

Today we are saying goodbye to some of our Trustees at the end of their eight-year-long terms. Thank you Sue Sheehan, Sarah Morgan Wingfield, Paul Sanger, Amy Patterson, and Lydia Sargent MacCauley for serving as Trustees. As a token, we would like to present each of you with a locally grown, native plant.

Jennie Stowers, Secretary: Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee is proposing Liz Sargent for a second term. Martha Stibbs was formerly the president of HBF and has a background in marketing, which makes her an excellent candidate for election as a Trustee.

Glenn Murer was also formerly involved with HBF and has extensive experience with communications and design. The Nominating Committee is proposing him as a candidate for election as a Trustee.

Ken Conover has been a long-time supporter of HBF and has a background in public health. He is also being proposed for election.

Kim Coward is a local real-estate and business and corporate attorney. She has been a Board Member for multiple non-profit organizations, is one of the founders of the charter school in Cashiers, and would be an asset to the Foundation.

Ruthie Oliver has an MBA, lives here in Highlands year round, has extensive experience with non-profits, and is a member of the Laurel Garden Club.

Hillrie Quin is actively involved in every conservation organization in North Carolina. He is very experienced in trail construction and conservation. He is the founding president of the Greenway.

A motion was made to approve the slate of trustees. It was seconded and all were in favor. The motion carried.

Julia Grumbles

Thank you to Liz Sargent for assembling the Highlands Botanical Garden forum and writing up the results. Thank you for your commitment to creating a guide for what the Garden is, how to manage it, and how to talk about it. This forum will be posted on our website shortly.

Sonya Carpenter

The Foundation has been reaching out more and more and the organization is growing.

Thank you to the unpaid workforce that runs this organization: our Trustees.

This week is National Pollinator week. Recently we have all been hearing about colony collapse disorder in honeybees, but honeybees are not a native species. What we haven't been hearing about is how our native bees are suffering the same fate. It is extremely important for HBS to speak on their behalf, which is why we are starting the North Campus Improvement Project, Project Bumblebee Watch, and have created this incredible video about pollination on the Highlands Plateau. (Premier of Pollination in the Highlands Plateau).

Julia Grumbles

One of the most important things for us to do is to connect with the community. We are constantly working to push out more into our community and are working at it harder than ever. We are expanding our programming with more hikes, forays and programs and our summer camps are better than they have ever been. Four to five years ago no one knew what we were, and we got sick of it, so we hired a land planner.

This land planner showed us that North Campus was shovel ready and any construction on it would not disrupt the current activities and research at HBS. The Development and Executive Committees decided this would be a great place to start and a way to make the dam fell more welcoming.

(Review of the presentation boards for the North Campus Project).

Right now we are in the process of getting cost estimates and building permits, certified by the Core of Engineers, and are looking into various material options. We are estimating that the project will cost approximately \$1.2 million to complete. We have been very successful in the silent phase of our fundraising campaign (raising just over \$800,000 so far) and are now moving into the public phase.

Our first major fundraiser for this project will be the Satulah house event on July 24<sup>th</sup>, which everyone here is invited to attend. We need your help and support as members to make this project a success.

#### Questions

Q: Lydia Sargent Macauley- We can barely manage to take care of what we have now. How are we going to maintain North Campus if we are already struggling to maintain the facilities and the Garden?

A: Julia- We are incorporating the cost of maintenance funds in our fundraising efforts to help cover those costs.

Q: Hilrie Quin- It will be very important for us to have a clear policy for how others can use this new space. It should be free to use or at least inexpensive. We need to welcome use by others, rather than limit it. Also, will this space be wheelchair-friendly?

A: Julia- We agree, but we are somewhat limited by WCU. Yes, it will be wheelchair accessible and there will be ADA parking.

Q: Karen Patterson- How are we starting this project? Are we starting construction before all of the money is raised or building it all at once?

A: We will not know until our meeting with the engineers and architects from WCU on June 30<sup>th</sup>. We will not incur any debt for this project.

Q: Lydia Sargent Macauley- Can we start with the pollinator garden since it takes time to mature?

A: WCU is sending people to answer all of these questions on the 30<sup>th</sup>. They are also handling the bidding process and the contract.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm