

Native Orchid Conference
2022 Annual Members Business Meeting Minutes
Port Angeles, WA
11:00 a.m. PDT. June 24, 2022

Call to Order: (11:22 a.m. PDT) President Bob Sprague called the meeting to order.

Declare a Quorum: A minimum of 31 people was needed for a quorum; with 73 attendees present, a quorum was declared.

Welcome: NOC President Bob Sprague welcomed members and guests.

Approve minutes from June 15, 2021: (Last year's minutes were distributed by email to members prior to the symposium.) Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes (Duane Erdmann/Ray Prothero) carried. Motion to approve the minutes as distributed (Robert Ramik/Terry Kennedy) carried.

Treasurer's Report: (The Treasurer's Report was distributed by email to members prior to the symposium.) Dick Barmore, Treasurer, reported that the NOC's finances are in good shape, balances are higher than the last five years, and the Case Grant Fund Drive did quite well. The Fund must carry a base amount of \$20,000; amounts over that are available for grants. Thanks to Helen Horwitz's efforts, the Fund received \$5,900 in donations and was able to award \$3,500 in grants this year. The current checking account balance is \$46,058.23 which does not include symposium expenses yet.

The biggest expenses, apart from the symposium, are premiums for group liability and officers' liability policies. Formerly, that would have been the NOC *Journal*, which is now electronic with all editions posted on the website. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report (Doug Martin/Jean Stefanik) carried.

President's Report: (The President's Annual Report was distributed by email to members prior to the symposium.) Bob Sprague reported that 2021 was a difficult and 'off-track' year because of Covid-19 but the Board continued to hold monthly meetings via ZOOM, and in addition to its standing committees, created a Membership Committee which has been actively growing the membership. He thanked Bill Kress and Amy Levengood who rebuilt the website over the past two years. The IT Committee is now led by Kyle Langford. His most recent task has been posting all the NOC *Journals* online.

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Bob announced a new photo contest which, for its first year, will be simple, inviting members to show what they have found in their travels, portrayed as they saw them in nature. Instructions will be on the web site and the best photos will be published in a *Journal* issue after the first of the year. In response, to a question about identifying orchids, Bob suggested using the chat group function Google Groups and asking for help. To submit photos, use nocphotos2022@gmail.com

The status of virtual lectures is up in the air but may resume in limited number. The Case Grant Fund grew thanks to a substantial contribution from Helen Horwitz and generous matching donations from members. In total, the challenge raised \$5,900. Bob thanked the many contributors who donated to the fund.

Committee Reports:

Audit Committee: No report.

Bylaws Committee: No report.

Nominating Committee: No report.

Publication Committee: Chelsea Kieffer noted that this year marks the 20th anniversary of the NOC. The first *Journal* issue was a special edition, a beautiful compilation by Rick Burian of the many symposium locations over the years. She thanked Rick for his work. She has just completed the second issue which will be out next Monday. She thanked John Horner for submitting a new article, the Publication Committee reviewers, and technical advisors Paul and Brenda Catling for their assistance. Bob thanked Chelsea for her great work on the *Journal* the last two years.

IT Committee: Bob noted that this committee is new and chaired by Kyle Langford. He thanked Kyle for doing a terrific job.

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Case Grant Fund Committee: Doug Martin said the grants are for students just starting to study orchids with the hope that they become orchid researchers for the rest of their lives. With grants up to \$2,500, students collect preliminary data which they can use to apply for larger grants from larger organizations. The application deadline is March 31st of each year and applications are reviewed by the Committee for quality and applicability to North American native orchids.

The first of two grants awarded this year was given to Kevin Allen at Texas Tech University who will compare rates of germination and development of immature and mature seeds of three North American species of *Platanthera*: *blephariglottis*, *chapmanii*, and *ciliaris*. Seeds will be cultured *in vitro* symbiotically and with their associated mycorrhizal fungi and asymbiotically (without fungi). Results of the study will facilitate the production of species seedlings for introduction into cultivation. The grant is for supplies. Allen is a member of Dr. Jyotsna Sharma's lab at TTU and carrying out his work at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania.

The second grant was awarded to Dylan Sedmak at Ohio State University to isolate and identify the mycorrhizal fungi of *Platanthera grandiflora*. He will collect roots, protocorms and seedlings of *Pl. grandiflora* then isolate and identify the fungi from the samples. The grant will be used to purchase DNA kits. Identifying the associated fungi will aid in conservation efforts by helping identify potential reintroduction sites and aid in *ex situ* propagation efforts. Doug noted that orchids are part of a complex ecosystem and, if conservationists want to reintroduce orchids successfully where they were extirpated, they need to know if the fungi is there.

Membership Committee: Linnea Hanson said she and Committee members Judy McCrary and Cathy Bloome were tasked with increasing NOC membership. They have developed a roster of native plant societies in the 50 US states and District of Columbia, the Canadian provinces and affiliated societies in the American Orchid Society from which Kyle Langford is generating email lists. The Committee has an information packet to send introducing the NOC to plant societies and encouraging their individual members to join. Linnea thanked Committee members for their hard work, noting she didn't know they would end up being 'spread sheet enthusiasts.'

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Bob said there are at least 500 plant groups on the Committee's roster, and within 24 hours of the initial mailing, a new member joined as a direct result of receiving the Committee's information packet from the native plant group to which she belonged.

Bob said the NOC brochure which is distributed at orchid shows, orchid society and garden club programs is being updated and reprinted. It was initially printed about three years ago. He asked symposium registrants to take the last remaining copies home and distribute them. He also encouraged registrants, particularly those attending for the first time or someone who has never seen a native orchid in the wild, to send Chelsea their impressions of the Olympic Peninsula for publication in a future *Journal*. Bob said he would reveal the location of next year's symposium at the conclusion of Sunday's lectures.

Old Business: None

New Business:

In response to a question about current membership, Bob said membership stands at 155. Considering how many people are interested in native orchids, he said, that number is not very high which is why the Membership Committee was created. In response to another question, Bob said the NOC also solicits memberships by other organizations.

In response to another question, Bob said the members do not need to vote to ratify the actions of the Board.

Adjournment: (11:58 a.m. PDT) A motion to adjourn (Ray Prothero/Terry Kennedy) carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Yates
Secretary