Accomplishments for 2015

- **Virginia Agribusiness Council**
  - Legislative Banquet – the VNLA had 6 representatives at the meeting and hosted a General Assembly delegate guest.

- **VAC National and State Policy Meetings** – VNLA was a sponsor and represented. Also met with our Congressmen and Senators in Washington on labor, pollinator and other Ag related issues.
  - **Pollinators** – represented the VNLA at several meetings dealing with pollinator issues

- **Regional Meetings** – The VNLA was a sponsor of the following meetings/events and the Executive Director represented the VNLA distributing membership, certification, the Guide to Virginia Growers and sample VNLA Newsletters:
  - Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course
  - Northern Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association
  - Piedmont Landscape Association
  - Virginia Society of Landscape Designers
  - Central Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association
  - Shenandoah Valley Plant Symposium
  - Virginia Tech College of Agriculture & Consumer Services Homecoming Open House
  - Southern Nursery Association State Leader Conference in Atlanta
  - NLAE – Northeast Leadership Conference in Annapolis MD
  - Native Plant

- **VNLA Board** – held 4 board meetings, a budget meeting, multiple conference calls

- **Hosted Regional Social events** in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads areas

- **Event/Program Sponsorships**
  - Hahn Horticulture Gardens
  - Virginia Tech Horticulture Students to NALP (formerly PLANET) Career Days and Competitions
  - Virginia Tech Graduate Student to IPPS
  - Virginia Agribusiness Council
  - Ag In The Classroom (VA Farm Bureau)
  - Master Gardener Annual Conference
  - AmericanHort (formerly ANLA)
  - Legislative Beacon Fund and Lighthouse Legislative Alert Program

- **Research**
  - VNA Horticulture Research Foundation – The Research Committee monitors the permanent research fund; now at over $675,000
  - $32,301 in research projects were funded by the VNAHRF

- **Scholarships** –
  - Laird/Gresham Scholarships at Virginia Tech (2 @ $1,500 each)
  - Shoosmith Scholarships ($10,500)

- **Field Day** - was attended by 131 members at Shade Tree Farm in Upperville, VA

- **Summer Tour** – was sold out with 55 participants

- **Landscape Management Workshop** – featuring Marcus van deVliet on “Five key fundamentals to operating a successful landscape construction company” & “How to Beat the Low Bid Competition”

- **Certification**
  - 76 members passed the VNLA Virginia Certified Horticulturist (VCH) Exam
  - Updates to the Certification Manual online study review available for 2015 through VT Scholar program
  - Updates to the Plant Id study online for VCH exam
  - Working towards having the manual and test online.
  - Added a new chapter on “Conservation Landscaping Best Practices for Water Quality”
  - VCH exam reviewed and updated and prepared format for online testing in the future.

- **Communications**
  - Website Upgrades to make it more user friendly and made the online Guide to Virginia Growers mobile-friendly
  - E-News Updates to members on time sensitive and important issues
  - Newsletters – Quarterly Newsletters, 4-color, 68 pages

- **Guide to Virginia Growers** – expanded the “native plant” section to list growers who grow native plants and distributed over 4,000 copies of the Guide.

- **Legislation and Regulatory Issues** – the VNLA has been represented at meetings concerning invasive plants, noxious weeds, stormwater runoff, sustainable landscapes, Bay-friendly landscaping

- **Mission H20** – VNLA is a member of this state organization working to coordinate collaboration and development of positions on ground and surface water supply issues, advocate for regional water supply studies/solution and legislative tracking.

- **Planted native trees as living memorials** to honor Fallen Civil War Soldiers and in recognition of Governor McAuliffe, Molly Ward, Secretary of Natural Resources; Todd Haymore, Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry; Delegate Ed Scott, and Senator Emmett Hanger, through The Living Legacy Project of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership

- **Invasive plant issues** – met several times with Delegate Patrick Hope, the VAC, VDACS, DCR to resolve these.