

- **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)
 - C.W. Bryant Scholarship (\$750)
- **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 H2O** – 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.