

2021 Annual Report / Year in Review



Some snapshots from 2021: *The 2021 first ever Zoom VNLA Winter Meeting & Trade show; gatherings/ tours at Horsford Gardens & Nursery and Greenhaven Gardens & Nursery; two new programs: the VT Blooms Passport and Plastic Pot Recycling programs; a VT Blooms Initiative project in the City of Vergennes, and the Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity volunteer planting project! It was quite a year!*



VNLA Past Presidents

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1964	-	Fred Abbey
1965	-	Lewis Hill
1966	-	T. Harold Johnson
1967-68	-	Richard Stevens
1969-70	-	Thomas Haddock
1971	-	Stanwood Wollaston
1972-73	-	Elmer Brown
1974-75	-	Emerson Holcomb
1976	-	William Horsford
1977	-	Klaus Weber
1978	-	Ned Davis
1979-80	-	Dennis Bruckel
1981-82	-	Chris von Trapp
1983	-	Ralph Knox Sr.
1984-87	-	Joan Hulbert
1988-91	-	Earl Welch
1992-93	-	Jane von Trapp
1994-95	-	Charlie Proutt
1996-97	-	Thamasin Sullivan
1998-99	-	Chris Conant
2000-01	-	Connie Gardner
2002-03	-	Charles Siegchrist
2004-06	-	Layne Tharp
2007-09	-	Tim Parsons
2010-12	-	Rebecca Lindenmeyr
2012-2016	-	VJ Comai
2016-2020	-	Ed Burke
2019-Present	-	Ashley Robinson

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Where You Can Find Us!



Facebook: @vnlavt & @vermontflowershow



Instagram: @vnlavt & @vtflowershow

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 N. Ferrisburgh, VT 05473
 802-425-5117
 kristina@vnlavt.org

VNLA BOARD MEETING DATES

March 22, 2022
9:30 am - 3:30 PM
 via ZOOM

June 16, 2022
9:30 am - 3:30 PM
 via ZOOM or TBA

September 22, 2022
9:30 am - 3:30 PM
 via ZOOM or TBA

November 17, 2022
9:30 am - 3:30 PM
 via ZOOM or TBA

January 5, 2023
9:30 am - 3:30 PM
 via ZOOM or TBA

Board meeting times/places are subject to change; please contact the VNLA office to confirm.



2021 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Ashley Robinson
Ashley Robinson Landscape Designer
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 Charlotte, VT 05445
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VICE-PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY/TREASURER

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2021 Committees

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Gabe Bushey
 Crafted Landscapes, LLC
 802.233.8551

EVALUATION & PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Ashley Robinson
 Ashley Robinson Landscape Designer
 802-922-1924

INDUSTRY AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Ashley Robinson
 Ashley Robinson Landscape Designer
 802-922-1924

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Nate Carr
 Church Hill Landscapes, Inc.
 802-425-5222

MARKETING & EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

Ashley Robinson
 Ashley Robinson Landscape Designer
 802-922-1924

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Ashley Robinson
 Ashley Robinson Landscape Designer
 802-922-1924

Hannah Decker
 Fairfax Perennial Farms, Inc.
 802-849-2775

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR

Ralph Fitz-Gerald
 Horsford Gardens & Nursery
 802-425-2811

RESEARCH & AWARDS NO CHAIR

VERMONT CERTIFIED HORTICULTURIST COMMITTEE

Nate Carr
 Church Hill Landscapes, Inc.
 802-425-5222

VOLUNTEER PROJECT OUTREACH COMMITTEE CHAIR

Ashley Robinson
 Ashley Robinson Landscape Designer
 802-922-1924

VERMONT FLOWER SHOW CHAIR

Kristina MacKulin
 VNLA/Green Works
 888-518-6484

Committee Reports- 2021

Treasurer's Report

2021 has continued to throw hurdles at everyone that we have never experienced before. We are all finding our way through the Covid storm. The VNLA is no exception to this. We have continued to receive some donations from our amazing membership. With that and the coming 2023 Flower Show, our financial position is currently strong. With that said we are continuing to be cautious while trying to continue to extend the benefits our members all deserve.

We have set this year's budget with that in mind and will be working on the Flower Show budget in the coming months. Finding vendors and sponsors, as well as presenting an amazing experience for patrons, will be

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Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2021

ASSETS	2021	2020
Current Assets		
Cash Accts-Community Bank	44,783	55,578
Cash Accts-VT State Emp Credit Un	11,520	11,498
Certificates of Deposit-Short term		
Total Checking/Savings	56,303	67,075
Total Current Assets	56,303	67,076
Other Current Assets		
Pre-paid Exp. 2023 Flower Show	5,391	5,391
Total Other Current Assets	5,391	5,391
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	6,614	6,614
Less Accumulated depreciation	-6,614	-6,449
Total Fixed Assets	0	165
TOTAL ASSET	61,695	72,632
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Credit Cards	174	16
Other Current Liabilities		
Total Current Liabilities	174	16
Equity		
Retained Earnings	61,389	35,996
Net Income	132	36,619
Total Equity	61,521	72,616
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	61,695	72,632

Gabriel Bushey, Treasurer, 2/10/22

VNLA/Green Works 2022 Budget

	Income	Expense	Net
Membership Dues	27,700		
Less Paypal exp.		(400)	
Total Membership Dues	27,700	(400)	27,300
Programs & Events			
Annual Meeting	8,000	(10,000)	
Summer Meeting	5,000	(5,000)	
Urban Forestry Mtg			
Workshops & Twilight Mtgs		(300)	
Other Programs-Plastic Pot Recycl.		(750)	
Montreal Bus Tour			
Vermont Flower Show			
Total Program & Events	13,000	(16,050)	(3,050)
VCH Program	2,500	(1,350)	1,150
Education			
Summer Meeting Auction			
Awards (Assoc & Student)		(1,600)	
Industry Awards Program	600	(2,000)	
Research Grants		(1,000)	
Total Education	600	(4,600)	(4,200)
Publications			
Qrtly Dirt (Print & Mail)	3,500		
Total Publications	3,500		3,500
Marketing & Promotion			
Marketing Other		(3,900)	
Marketing Development			
Income (hats)			
Print Materials		(2,800)	
Social Media		(300)	
VCH		(2,200)	
VNLA Booth		(750)	
Website		(1,900)	
Total Marketing & Promotion		(11,850)	(11,850)
Grants			0
Administration			
Professional Services		(28,100)	
Administrative expenses		(8,330)	
Total Administration		(36,430)	(36,430)
Interest Income	25		25
Donations	50		50
Total Income (Loss)	47,375	(70,680)	(23,305)

Gabriel Bushey, Treasurer, 2/10/22

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very important for the financial success of the show in 2023.

Our largest yearly expense is the executive director's compensation. Many organizations who don't have this paid position have folded in recent years. There really isn't any way to put all the added work on our volunteer board positions. Kristina has really built the position up over her nearly two decades of work in the position, however everyone moves on at some point. We have been working to get the compensation of the position to a point where we will be able to replace her when the time comes.

We have an amazing organization with great participation from our membership and we continue to try to make financial decisions that support our group.

Gabriel Bushey, Treasurer

Evaluation and Planning Committee Report

It is the duty of the evaluation and planning committee to review the role of the Executive Director, recommend changes to the description of responsibilities, and review bylaws of the Association and recommend changes as needed. The bylaws are available for view on the VNLA website.

The annual review of our Executive Director, Kristina MacKulin took place at our January 2021 board meeting. It was agreed that Kristina's performance as Executive Director has been stellar.

She is extremely dedicated, committed, and passionate about the organization, working overtime to ensure we are providing the best support possible to our members. The challenges around COVID-19 remain, and so too does her work above and beyond.

She is an asset and advocate for the VNLA beyond expectation. She has fulfilled and exceeded duties in her position. An increase in her contracted compensation was approved unanimously.

Ashley Robinson, Committee Chair

Flower Show Committee Report

The Flower Show Garden Display Committee began meeting via Zoom in January/February of 2021 to begin planning for the design of the 10,000 square foot + landscape display. We were still neck deep in COVID and vaccinations were not yet on the horizon for most. The talk soon turned to the difficult conversation of postponing the show one more year. At my urging, and after further conversations, both with the committee and the VNLA board, we made the decision in March to postpone the show until 2023. Let's just say there were

many sighs of relief as well as some trepidation if this was the right call. By the time November came around, however, we knew for sure we had made the right decision.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for March 3-5, 2023! If the phone calls and emails from people inquiring about the Flower Show this past year are any indication of what it will be like after a four year hiatus, I am feeling confident that people will want to set up exhibit spaces as well as attend the show. We all just want something that resembles normal again and being able to attend the Vermont Flower Show, I am hopeful, will be a the top of many peoples' list.

The Garden Display Committee met late in the year to begin brainstorming a theme and garden display ideas for the 2023 show and work in earnest will be on-going throughout 2022. The Vermont Flower Show has two full committees - one for the planning of the garden display and the second committee for planning all the other aspects of the show, which there are many. **COME JOIN US** and consider volunteering to be on a flower show committee! It is not only fun but also very rewarding and a great group of people to get to know and work with! Please contact me in the VNLA office with any questions on this committee work.

Kristina MacKulin, Flower Show Committee Chair

Industry Awards Program Report

The Industry Awards Program began in 2008. It has grown to include a variety of projects from both the public and private sector and continues to serve as a vehicle for members to learn, challenge themselves and showcase their work. It is an impressive demonstration of work by the applicants, award winners and the judges who dedicate their day to review, evaluate and award these projects. We **thank everyone** for participating in the program, showing support of the organization and valuing the VNLA mission to help strengthen the horticulture industry in Vermont.

Every spring we feature the award winners in a full color insert in **Seven Days** newspaper and digitally. They will also be featured along with previous winners at **The Vermont Flower Show** next March, 2023. We're always looking for ways to increase exposure and encourage any suggestions and connections!

Participation in this program is key to its continued growth and success. We are constantly reviewing and examining the process, considering changes for improvements and welcome feedback. We believe the program has value to our members and our industry but it is dependent on member participation, so we encourage everyone to consider entering and voicing your opinions!

Ashley Robinson, Committee Chair

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Legislative Committee Report

COVID response, work force development, and taxation are all areas of interest in Montpelier this year. What follows is a list of bills in various stages of their legislative process that coincide with the interests of the VNLA and our members are:

- Workforce development- Bill H 703 has a provision to provide grants to students who stay in the state to work here.
- Erosion Control- Bill H. 633 an act related to soil erosion certifications for those engaged in excavation activities near shorelands and streams.
- Bill S 190 an act to implement progressive street tree planting on Agency of Transportation projects where removal of trees will be replaced, where a certain budget for the project is reserved for streetscaping and landscaping and where a policy will be developed in the Agency for landscaping, streetscaping, removal and planting.
- Act #41 relating to on farm composting operations.
- H258 & S52 establish a \$15.00 an hour minimum wage by 2025.

Also expect a new rule around importing Hemlocks into Vermont from quarantined counties. Trees will be allowed to be imported provided they are treated in their originating county and are accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate. Before they are offered for sale they will need to be inspected by the state entomologist.

Nate Carr, Committee Chair

Marketing Committee Program Report

Marketing efforts in 2021 included:

- **What's in a URL?** The Marketing Committee, upon recommendation to the Board, decided it was time to simplify the url (uniform resource locator) we use. Back in 2018 we made the shift in the use of our graphics to making the "Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association" the more prominent part of our logo and reducing the words "Green Works" to more of a tag line. In keeping with that shift, we have changed our url to **www.vnlavt.org** as well as all our email addresses. Not to worry as we have kept **www.greenworksvermont.org** registered and anytime anyone visits the old url/email address it navigates to the new addresses.
 - **The VT Blooms Passport Program** was introduced to the public in April, 2021 in our *Seven Days Newspaper* 4 page full color insert. This program came about during a brainstorm session of the 2021 Flower Show Garden Display Committee in early February. At that session, the group was wrestling with a recommendation on postponing the 2022 VT Flower Show, which ultimately occurred. Future discussions then turned to how we could engage
- the public for 2021. The theme for the 2021 show (which also was postponed) was supposed to be Passport to Spring. Hence the VT Blooms Passport Program was born! Thank you to the following committee members who brought this program to fruition: Ed Burke, Melita Bass, Marijke Niles, Tanya Retz, Gabe Bushey, Ashley Robinson, Kelly Wakefield, and Kristina. We had 18 VNLA member businesses participate. We distributed passports, stamps and ink pads to them and the program ran from April-August. Participants had to mail in their passports to the VNLA by 8/31/21 and winners were drawn in mid-September. Participants had to visit a minimum of 10 businesses listed on the card and/or all 18 for the grand prize drawing. We received some wonderful feedback and even some selfies from happy participants. Each winner received \$100 gift certificates of their choice from the list of participating business, flower show tickets for 2023, and the grand prize winner gets a private tour of the show. We will be holding this program in 2022 and any VNLA members should contact Kristina in the office to learn more.
- **A Vermont Public Radio** underwriter campaign was held in April-May which highlighted our member businesses, Vermont Certified Horticulturists, the VT Blooms Passport Program and the VT Flower Show. This campaign included live announcements as well as on-line announcements during their Frequency Podcast everyday.
 - Our annual 4 page full color insert in **Seven Days Newspaper**, both in print & online, featured the winners of the 2020 Industry Awards and the VNLA Annual Awards winners. It also included information about the VNLA, the Vermont Certified Horticulturist program, the new VT Blooms Passport Program, and the Flower Show.
 - **The Dirt** now entirely online, includes the added benefit of 'clickable' content references, as well as archived newsletters for easy reference and content access. Upgraded graphics, layout & our rich range of topics continues to set us apart from the rest. We always welcome contributions and your feedback and input highly encouraged!
 - **Social Media** avenues are always a great way to share, invite and encourage participation in our VNLA community and beyond. Everyone is encouraged to participate by sharing posts, inviting members to follow us and contribute content pertinent to our membership. The success of our online presence is only enhanced with your participation. Positive, encouraging, and engaging content helps us all become a stronger voice in the state! This year we shared "Friday Member Feature of the Week" posts, both on FaceBook and Instagram that ran from May through December.
 - **Our VNLA website** is updated and hosted by Terrier Tenacity, LLC. We hire them to incorporate new features and do specific edits that cannot be done

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in-house. Their services help us keep our website current and help ensure optimal use.

- **The Flower Show** was postponed to 2023 due to COVID-19. As a result of our donation campaign in 2020, as well as continued donations in 2021, these funds continue to support the operations of the Association. These efforts by so many of you have helped make it possible to continue our programming, marketing, and support for the Horticulture Industry in VT. We can grow *with* the show in 2023!! Stay tuned and join in the efforts of this rewarding, impressive experience!
- **The VT Blooms Initiative**, a community outreach program started in the Fall of 2020 encourages VNLA members to seek out small community projects, with the help of the Association. In 2021 a project was completed in the City of Vergennes. You can view a slideshow of all projects on our website. The intention of this initiative is to help enhance, or contribute to the improvement of outdoor public spaces, thereby helping to influence positive change within a community. Join us in connecting with many more communities across the state! We're looking for locations in need, big and small, so bring us your ideas and consider volunteering for the next event!

Ashley Robinson, Committee Chair

Membership Committee Report

In 2021 the VNLA had a total of 170 members, with 19 new members joining and 13 members who did not renew. The Association grew by a total of 3 members from last year, once you factor in the new members and the members who chose not to renew.

We did three recruitment mailings in 2021. Each time these mailings targeted 100 businesses each. These mailings did help us increase our new members from 11 in 2020 to 19 in 2021, which is encouraging. **HOWEVER, WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!**

It is our members that make our organization what it is. Help us spread the word and opportunities that the VNLA brings to our industry. New members are most often motivated to join the VNLA through personal contact by existing members. We encourage all our members to accept our **MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE** for **2022** and get **ONE** colleague or associate to join. If that effort proved successful we could **DOUBLE** our membership! Growing our membership would give the VNLA more funds to provide resources and opportunities for all our members. **PLEASE ACCEPT OUR CHALLENGE!**

The VNLA is committed to supporting our members and the horticultural industry in Vermont and beyond. We would like to thank each of our members and the new

members who joined this past year for their support and membership. We would also like to thank our members who continue to renew their membership each year in support of the VNLA! We will continue to serve our members throughout the year by offering educational programs, providing up-to-date news and events alerts, providing opportunities to participate in the various VNLA programs, implementing marketing initiatives, and publishing our quarterly newsletter, *The Dirt*.

Hannah Decker, Committee Chair

Program Committee Report

We started off in 2021 with our first ever VIRUTAL Annual and Trade Show meeting on Zoom hosted by UVM Conference & Event Services. We were very pleased and surprised by the how well attended the day was and how strangely intimate it turned out to be. We have just over 90 people register. We received a lot of great feedback about the day and also about our speakers. Highlights from the day included the following:

- Keynote speaker Wambui Ippolito, landscape designer on "Migrant Landscapes: The History of the American Terrain"
- VNLA business meeting and awards presentation
- Visiting Vendors in Zoom rooms
- Industry Awards winning projects presentation
- A tour of the Living Laboratory of North Creek Nurseries w/ Angie Clelan and Scot Fisher
- Dan Segal's talk on "The Beautiful Adaptations of Native Plants". Dan owns the Plantsmen Nursery in Ithaca, NY.
- Mark Dwyer of Landscape Prescriptions "New Plants to Look for in 2021"

The spring rolled by and then it was summer and still there was COVID but the numbers seemed to be improving. The Program Committee decided it was time to plan a couple of outdoor events.

On August 18 we held a Summer Gathering Celebration hosted by Horsford Garden's and Nursery, Charlotte, VT, which included tours, dinner, drinks and great conversation. We had 60 people register/attend and it was wonderful to be unmasked and see so many smiling faces! It was a memorable evening.

Next we held an evening twilight at Greenhaven Gardens & Nursery (recipient of the VNLA 2020 Retailer of the Year Award), New Haven, VT with Danielle, Peter and Jack as our tour guides of the garden center, greenhouses and the nursery. They shared how they have improved and upgraded their nursery operations. A very big bonus/treat was the homemade venison and vegetarian chili Danielle made, along with cornbread!

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Danelia Pete and staff then served up great venison chili along with corn bread. It was another memorable evening! We would like to thank both Horsford's and Greenhaven for hosting these two events.

By the Fall many in Vermont had been vaccinated and the COVID numbers were reasonable so we decided to host one more event on October 3 at the North Branch Nature Center. Dr. Josef Gorres, UVM professor gave a presentation: *Snake Worms in Horticulture - Are There any Solutions*. This also included getting a live look at these wily worms. This presentation was also posted on the VNLA website for our members to view.

The Fall was also the time we began planning for the in-person Winter Meeting and Trade Show and we were very hopeful gathering in person would be a reality. Alas, with the on-set of the Delta and Omicron variants, by the end of 2021 the committee was taking a hard look on whether or not we should move to a virtual event.

The Program Committee takes the winter months to begin planning for the 2022 twilight gatherings and VNLA events for this year. If you have idea, know of someone who would like to host such an event, please reach out to me or Kristina. The more we hear from the membership the better the we can plan events you want to participate in.

The Plastic Pot Recycling Program

This past year the VNLA, in collaboration with Prides Corner Farms, was asked to pilot a nursery container recycling program of #2 and #5 plastics. I am pleased to report for the first year, and in working out some kinks along the way, the program was a success that we will continue to build on in 2022. We owe a debt of gratitude to Prides Corner Farms for including us in this first of its kind pilot program in Vermont.

Thank you to our drop off site participants: Gardener's Supply, Williston and Lebanon, NH, Evergreen Gardens, Waterbury Center, Horsford Gardens & Nursery, Charlotte, Pembroke Landscape & Nursery, Bennington, and Greenhaven Gardens & Nursery, New Haven. Drop off times were scheduled in July, August and September and soon after Prides picked up the palletized containers to eventually be trucked to Jordan Plastics located in Michigan for the final recycling process.

I would also like to thank Melita Bass for helping to get pallets to our pick-up locations. I also would like to thank Liam Murphy who donated lumber for the recycling racks. We would also like to thank all of the landscapers and garden centers who brought nursery pots to these drop-off sites.

The plan for 2022 is to continue this program. We need

help in getting bins built/ready as well as delivered to our drop off sites. If you are interested in helping please contact me or Kristina in the office.

Ralph Fitz-Gerald, Program Committee Co-Chair

Research and Awards Committee Report

Awards: The following awards were presented at the 2021 VIRTUAL VNLA Annual Winter Meeting and Trade Show hosted on Zoom by UVM Conference & Event Services. You can read all nominating paragraphs/testimonials on our website: <https://vnlavt.org/about-us/awards-scholarships/>.

Horticultural Achievement Award to Vincent J. Comai, Burlington City Arborist, Burlington, VT.

Environmental Awareness Award to Nan Jenks-Jay and Carl Phelps, Miller Hill Farm, Nursery & Gardens, Sudbury, VT.

Retailer of the Year Award to Greenhaven Gardens & Nursery, New Haven, VT.

Young Nursery Professional of the Year Award to Dave Berg, Horsford Gardens & Nursery, Charlotte, VT.

Allen B. Crane Horticultural Employee Acknowledgement Award to Daisy Unsicker, Walker Farms, E. Dummerston, VT.

A VNLA/Green Works student merit award of \$500 was given to Eli Wilson, Plainfield, VT.

A VNLA/Green Works student merit award of \$500 was given to Maria Potvin, Stamford, VT.

Research: In 2021 the VNLA awarded a \$1,000.00 research grant to Margaret Skinner, Bruce Parker and Cheryl Sullivan, UVM Entomology Research Laboratory for research on "Bee a Better Business by Providing Benefits to Un-Bee-lievable Beneficials".

Kristina MacKulin, Research and Awards

Strategic Planning Committee

The duty of this committee is to identify goals and strategies for the future of the association. This committee organized a core group of 20 guests representing different sectors of the industry, ranging in experience and involvement with the VNLA in January 2020.

The goal of this meeting was to identify key challenges and obstacles that face our Association and to develop a working document outlining strategies to help tackle

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these challenges. As a result of this strategic planning event, we developed a timeline, outlined goals and identified strategies to reach those goals. Then COVID hit and the work of the Strategic Planning Committee got placed on the back burner for a time. Discussions began again in November, 2021 for this Committee to resume this work moving forward for 2022 as we look to the future having lived through two years of a pandemic as an Association, which is in its 58th year! This committee will work to derive a strategic plan and process that takes the VNLA well into the future.

Growing our membership and fostering leadership roles are key to the future success of the VNLA. All members can help play a part. We value each one of you and encourage participation on any level. This Association represents a wide range of businesses within the industry. We strive to ensure each one is supported, invited and involved. As we grow together, we become stronger. It is thanks to YOU, our members, who will continue to help further enrich our communities throughout the state.

Ashley Robinson, Committee Chair

VCH Committee Report

In 2021 the VCH Program administered one test virtually and had 61 certified participants in the program. We sold 9 VCH study manuals. The second year of the pandemic has presented ample opportunity for continuing education to take place even as in person gatherings have continued to be hard to attend.

As we have seen there have been big developments as educational content has been made available on-line from places like Learning with Experts (<https://www.learningwithexperts.com/gardening>), Garden Masterclass (<https://www.gardenmasterclass.org/>) and other outlets who have video modules on gardening subjects that a person can subscribe to. The VNLA also sends out monthly emails sharing upcoming learning opportunities, both virtually and in-person. I would encourage VCH members looking to expand their credit offerings consider the content available on-line.

Nate Carr, VCH Committee Chair

Volunteer Project Outreach Committee (VPOC)

We completed 2 VPOC projects this year. Our first was a **VT Blooms Initiative** event in Vergennes on July 31, 2021. The second As with our first VT Blooms Initiative events, these projects are meant to help communities enhance a public space and affect positive change within a community. By finding public use spaces in need of improvement, big or small, the VNLA and its members

can connect with communities across the state, enhancing health and beautifying civic landscapes. The goal is to continue to create a network of events that individual members identify, have them occur simultaneously in various pockets of the state, which will help broaden our outreach, expand our presence, and make a positive impact.

This year the committee worked in collaboration with the owners of Daily Chocolate in the City of Vergennes to establish a community setting on Main St. A small pollinator garden with a stone bench was created in a once grassy patch, inviting visitors, providing habitat, and creating visual interest. The project was completed in ½ a day with the help of community members, local business owners and VNLA members & donors. We look forward to many more **VT Blooms** projects, so please help us by identifying a site in need in your community and join in! You can view a slideshow and see a list of volunteers and donors for this project, as well as past projects, on our website.

Our second VPOC project this year was a landscape installation in collaboration with **Green Mountain Habitat For Humanity (GMHH)** which was completed on October 9, 2021. This was our third collaborative project involving site planning, design and installation of landscaping for residents at a 4-plex located at 57 Hinesburg Rd, South Burlington. We solicited help from UVM students and faculty, along with the many VNLA members, donors and GMHH volunteers. The project was promoted within the membership and marketed to the public via press release and GMHH advertising. It was completed in one day with help from over 30 volunteers including students, GMHH volunteers, homeowners and donors. You can also view the slideshow of this project and see the list of volunteers/donors on our website.

Each of these events have proved valuable and rewarding for all organizations with partnering missions and strengthening and supporting community. BIG accomplishments! THANKS to all who participated! TOGETHER we can make a difference!

Ashley Robinson, Committee Chair

