

## **KANSAS WILDFLOWER SOCIETY**

Red Buffalo Ranch, Sedan

October 1, 2004

### ***Board Meeting***

Members present were Valerie Wright, Dwight Platt, Sister Pat Stanley, Julie Torseth, Gary Weisenberger, Sandra Tholen, Shel Cohen, Anita Smith, Ann Simpson, Marion McGlohon, George Lippert, Michael Heffron, Jeff Hansen, Jane Freeman, Craig Freeman, Brad Guhr, Shirley Braunlich, Cindy Ford.

#### *President's Report -- Valerie Wright*

Valerie welcomed the board members and highlighted accomplishments since the last meeting. Several committees are rearranged, combined, or changed, there are more forays scheduled, and there is now a temporary brochure (designed by Shirley, Anita, and Jeff), that can be updated and easily available for forays or other events. Valerie thanked Sister Pat for the new newsletter, Anita for the increased publicity about KWS, and Shirley for highlighting outings in the calendar of events. In addition, Jane reported that about 40 new people joined KWS since last meeting.

#### *Secretary Minutes -- Cindy Ford*

The minutes were corrected by restating that the Kansas Land Trust is requesting a donation of funds to help the prairie project north of Manhattan rather than forming a partnership with KWS. Shel moved to accept the minutes, Jeff seconded, and the minutes were accepted with minor change.

#### *Treasurer's Report -- Sister Pat Stanley*

Shel moved to accept the treasurer's report, Sandra seconded, and the motion carried.

#### *Announcements*

Gary and Valerie reviewed some of the details for the meeting tomorrow.

#### *Committee Reports*

##### *Website -- Jeff Hansen*

Jeff contacted Lorna to get the domain name and he listed what could be on website: home page with mission statement; newsletter; educational information including a definition of "native plant"; membership and contact information; outings and calendar of events; resource page with photos, book titles, and articles; places to see plants in KS by ecoregions; publicity for awards, contest, and news; and links.

The site license may be as much as \$500. Jeff proposed using the existing website of Kansas Wildflower Society to bridge the new Kansas Native Plant Society, which will be hosted by the web developer to be hired by KWS. Jeff suggested that Lorna obtain a domain name then link to new website. Shel moved to accept the strategy proposed by Jeff, Michael seconded. Discussion consisted of suggesting the

Wildflower of the Year as wallpaper on the homepage and the necessity for the website to be updated often (outings photos, events, etc.) The motion carried.

Sales -- Craig Freeman reported for Carroll Morgenson

Sales are slow. Valerie added that the board will eventually need to address sales of books or propose alternatives to selling the same books.

Publicity -- Anita Smith

Anita sent an article about this meeting to all large newspapers in Kansas. She received a few returned mailings and is not sure about the percentage of which newspaper carried the article. She sent another regional news release in the Sedan area. Postage was less than \$100 to send the news releases on all forays planned and the annual meeting. An article discussing the society name change can be sent to newspapers at later date. Anita also mentioned that additional news releases can target forays in regions by sending announcements to those area newspapers. With that comment, Jeff thought that the web information, too, should maybe be divided into regions. Anita summarized that all members must push membership at outings by obtaining names and addresses of all in attendance and sending that information to Jane.

Outings -- Shirley Braunlich

Shirley highlighted KWS sponsored events on the calendar of events and has posted the latest list on yahoo site. She thanked the leaders of forays and thanked Anita for the publicity and the great articles about the spring outings in newsletter. In order to coordinate events on the calendar, Shirley would like to set up traditional times for annual meeting, plan dates of board meetings for year, and plan on times for forays at board meetings.

Newsletter -- Sister Patricia Stanley

Nancy is interested in a question/answer column and initiated a debate among members with the following discussion topics: necessity for guidelines (growing native plants in different areas, seed and plant sources, not promoting one commercial source, recommending non-commercial sources, invasive plant control, non-chemical recommendations, no chemicals until researched, negative plants from other areas, best areas to grow regional species). Shel suggested that we should include a statement that the board is not responsible for the advice (disclaimer). Craig gets questions in his office and could contribute information to the question/answer column. Shel moved to have a question/answer column in the newsletter, Craig seconded, and the motion carried.

Sister Pat is working on the fall newsletter, which will include content on the annual meeting, invasive plants in Arkansas, how to collect wildflower seeds, new member listing, and outings. She asked if the board would approve a folding/addressing service through the print shop. The newsletter should be ready at the end of October.

#### Native Plant Resources -- Cindy Ford

Cindy reported that committee members have started drafting fact sheets on native plant resources, prairie management, and native plant landscaping. Cindy described that these fact sheets can be used at fairs, conferences, and plant sales as well as being posted on the web. Parts of the fact sheets can also be sectioned into the newsletter on occasion. Foray leaders can be encouraged to download the fact sheets from the KWS website.

#### Membership -- Jane Freeman

Jane reported that the Wichita region had a jump in membership due to Michael and his students. She encouraged board members to send her names of potential members. They receive a complimentary packet.

#### Education -- Lorna Harder not present

Anita brought four books to qualify for the Patch Program. The books were evaluated and Anita moved to award a Patch to each of the four Fredonia students who participated in Wildflower Fun. Sister Pat seconded and the motion carried. Jane gave Anita patches to give to the students.

#### Awards -- Steve Timme not present

Cindy reported for Steve. The photo contest will be an informal contest at the meeting instead of a formal competition which should encourage members to learn about wildflowers. The Bancroft Scholarship may be promoted for one more year and if no interest, then this award will be dropped. Craig and Brad will assist Steve, the committee chair. Craig suggested that the Wayside Award and the Excellence in Native Plants Award could be awarded in alternate years. Sister Pat moved to keep the awards separate, renamed, and given to recipients in alternate years. Jeff seconded and the motion carried. A suggested name for the award was the Rachel Snyder Memorial Award.

#### *Old Business*

Sister Pat and Valerie will work on the budget. Valerie needs cost estimates for each of the committees so that she can list line items.

#### Bylaws -- Shel Cohen

Shel circulated copies of the revised bylaws. He solicited suggestions from the board. A vote on the revisions will be done at the spring meeting. The mission statement is included in the packet. Craig will compile comments and present at the spring meeting.

#### Kansas Land Trust -- Shirley Braunlich

Shirley explained that the Kansas Land Trust is purchasing land north of Manhattan in a joint project with government agency and donations from organizations. Shirley is asking KWS to contribute \$2000. Future development will not be possible on this prairie (like a conservation easement). Concerns included: if the match is not made, Would KWS get money back if the match is not met? Kansas Land Trust will

take pledges. Can KWS afford to spend money from the budget? Yes. Would KWS members have access for fieldtrips? There seems to be a precedent with the owners. Shel moved to pledge \$1000 to the Kansas Land Trust and work with them for an educational link to the land. Dwight seconded. Discussion ensued where concerns of committing to this one property may lead to future inquiries of donating to other areas. The majority voted in favor, three members were against the motion, and the motion carried.

#### Posters -- Craig Freeman

Craig showed the new large poster. Two posters will be produced inhouse to use as a backdrop for events. Craig will absorb the cost of the poster. The posters will be ready in two weeks.

#### Nominations

Officers nominated included: Valerie for President next year, Jeff for President-Elect, Sister Pat for Treasurer, and Cindy for Secretary. Anita moved to accept the slate of officers, Shel seconded, and the motion carried.

#### *New Business*

Valerie posed a question of whether two meetings per year would better involve the general membership. She asked the board to consider this proposal.

#### Spring Board Meeting

The board meeting will be April 2, 2005 and will be in Pittsburg. A foray will be planned in conjunction with the meeting.

#### Fall General Meeting

Shirley moved to hold the meeting Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, Sister Pat seconded, and the motion carried.

#### Adjournment

Jeff moved to adjourn, Michael seconded, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Ford, Secretary