

KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Summer Board Meeting, July 23, 2005
Konza Prairie Biological Station

PRESIDENT'S OPENING STATEMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Valerie Wright opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with a message emphasizing the continuing vision for the future of KNPS. She reported on the increased cooperation between KNPS and Dyck Arboretum. Dyck Arboretum has placed the KNPS logo on the front page of their website and sent a letter thanking KNPS for their financial contribution to the plant sale. The issue was raised why Dyck Arboretum is not listed as a source for plants on the KNPS website. It was pointed out that the original list was focused on seeds rather than live plants; however the list can be expanded to include live plant sources. Valerie also announced that the Easement Donation to Kansas Land Trust was delivered. Shirley Braunlich represented KNPS at the banquet where our organization was recognized for its contribution.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Membership Report: Jane Freeman announced there have been 44 new members between January 1 and June 30. She thanked the Board Members for the names of potential members they have submitted. Jane noted that about 6 new members have joined as a result of website information; 4 from the brochure, and couple of nature centers from the mailing. Valerie requested that for the fall meeting Jane attempt to track the sources of the memberships and compare new members to previous years. Jane also reported that the current membership is 251, including *gratis* memberships; 77 memberships have not been renewed. Jane will send an additional reminder to those inactive members.

A discussion followed on ideas to promote membership. Some of the suggestions were: target professionals (university research and teaching faculty, KACEE and NRCS members, District Conservationists) with mailings; request permission to use membership lists of birdwatchers, animal and conservation groups; distribute information at garden shows, Kansas Sampler; find key people or key groups who can serve as conduits or starting points within organizations (e.g. professor and their students). Reservations were expressed about the efficiency and probability of success of general mailings. It was suggested that the personal touch is the most productive. The possibility that we may have "hit the ceiling" on membership and would only be able to go above where we are now by using extraordinary means was raised. It was suggested we send e-mails as renewal reminders. Unfortunately Jane has a limited number of e-mail addresses.

It was pointed out our policy of trying to move around the state for meetings and the development of the website should help get the word out about the organization and may result in additional memberships. Finding opportunities to give talks; affiliating with a national group;

exchanging short newsletter articles about our organizations with other organizations were additional ideas presented.

The following plan was agreed on: Anita will start with her group; Craig will work on the people in academic departments; Valerie will talk to the Audubon representative. Results will be compiled at the Annual Meeting.

Website: Additions and corrections to the website should be sent to Jeff. The following sections need to be added to the website: wildflower of the year information, new bylaws, fall meeting information, award winners from last year. Jeff Hansen asked that the Award Committee send the names of the winners. It was clarified that there are two awards in addition to the scholarship award. These two are not necessarily given annually. Jeff made a motion that the names of the awards be: "Excellence in Botany Award" and "Rachel Snyder Award." Phyllis Scherich seconded the motion. Motion passed.

New Poster: The poster was designed by Craig Freeman to be a display background. The possibility of posting it on the website was considered so that it could be downloaded and printed off. A drawback to this would be the small size of what was printed. Anita Smith suggested the poster could be printed in its full size and used as a sale item. Phyllis recommended that only a few be printed at a time. Craig will bring the poster to the fall meeting and decisions about printing and use can be made at that time.

Fall Meeting: Phyllis Scherich has made all the preliminary contacts and arrangements for the meeting in Coldwater. She has a sign-up list of people who will make a bed available in their homes for Board members at \$30 per bed. There is a scarcity of motel rooms in the area. She went over the schedule and confirmed appropriate times with the members. The Board Members agreed to a preset menu for the Friday evening meal that includes: coleslaw, baked potato, and cheesecake. Individuals will choose their meat dish.

Valerie requested that the Organizing Committee send a second mailing the first week of September to be sure information on the annual meeting and photo contest gets out to the members. Anita will send out news releases to newspapers throughout the state.

Fund Raising: Valerie reminded the Board that in order to sustain the budget at our present level, we will need to find ways to raise funds. We will vote on fund raising proposals at the fall meeting. In preparation for that meeting, a number of fund-raising topics were discussed.

Sales:

A wildflower CD could be produced from the large slide collection held by Craig. Some volunteers to do the scanning and production would be needed.

Tee shirts—could have a new design for each annual meeting. A standard design (the KNPS logo) or the Wildflower of Year could be produced. Anita will take charge of design. Krista Dahlinger (Sales Committee) agreed to keep stock and send out t-shirt orders. Shirts can be made for \$8.50 and sold for \$15.

Buttons of Wildflower of the Year

Examples of Visors for outings with the KNPS logo are being made through Sister Pat.

Coloring books—still have a couple of boxes. These are not a revenue making item.

Membership Dues

It was proposed that we raise some dues categories and leave other categories as they are now (e.g. raise “Family” from \$20 to \$25 and “Organization” from \$20 to \$30). Michael Heffron suggested adding a category between “Individual” and “Student (K-12)” of “College Student” with \$10 dues. It was suggested we give premiums of tee-shirts to new members. Raising dues could potentially cause the loss of some members. The discussion on dues will continue at the fall meeting and conclude in a vote.

Mission Statement: Valerie distributed copies of the “mission statements” we are currently using and a proposed statement, made up of various parts of previous efforts, to consider for adoption. Craig Freeman moved that we adopt the following mission statement: “The mission of the Kansas Native Plant Society is to encourage awareness and appreciation of the native plants of Kansas in their habitats and in our landscapes by promoting education, stewardship, and scientific knowledge.” Carroll Morgenson seconded the motion. Motion passed. The new bylaws are now complete.

Education Committee: A discussion was introduced to assist the Education Committee in discovering new areas to develop. Education Committee Chair, Michael Heffron, proposed that the organization “endorse” and encourage his course at Butler County, “Wildflowers and Weeds in Kansas” in order to promote learning about native plants. It was pointed out that there are courses at several of the colleges and universities in the state that might also fulfill this function. It was recommended that the Education Committee research such courses and report on their findings to the fall meeting. Then a list of opportunities of “Plant Courses” could be posted on the website. The list can also be published in the newsletter.

Gary Weisenberger brought to the group the need for education about plants directed at land owners and those who manage land. He recommended a program to teach about the native and introduced plants by region and best practices related to native plants so that people can do their own monitoring of the land. Gary agreed to be on the Education Committee and to work on this task.

OLD BUSINESS

Krista reported on the status of the Wildflower of the Year. Plants have been chosen for each year up to 2012. The plant for 2005 is Rose Verbena (*Glandularia canadensis*) and for 2006 is Pitcher’s Sage (*Salvia azurea*). A list will be printed in the next newsletter. It was suggested that

we highlight the 2006 plant in the January issue of the newsletter. Anita would be able to make buttons of the Wildflower of the Year. Carroll will check to see if there is an official photo or drawing of the Wildflower of the Year that could be used on buttons.

Jeff again raised the issue of KNPS becoming affiliated with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. If we do affiliate, our members could become LBJWC members for \$15 and receive the journal. Valerie expressed concern that LBJWC sells Texas plants to gardeners outside their region. Jeff was charged to find out exactly what we need to do to join and what the benefits would be for KNPS. We will further discuss the issue at the fall meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Gary Weisenberger brought before the group a request for KNPS to help support efforts to name a State Grass. Our organization might help with the selection and write letters of support. The Board agreed to “helping in whatever way we can.”

Gary also sought permission from the Board to use our name and logo on the cover of the “Comprehensive Wildlife Plan” that will go to Congress for funding. The Board agreed.

There was also a request for the use of the KNPS name on a letter to support the return of part of the Sunflower Ammo Plant in Johnson County to native prairie. The Board agreed to this request also. Jeff will see that this is done.

A 2006 Van Tour was discussed. It was clear that there needs to be a “take-charge” person to head this up. We will put a request in the newsletter and on the website for a volunteer.

Anita reminded the members of the Silent Auction at the annual meeting. We were requested to bring items for this fund-raising project.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30.

Submitted by Nancy Goulden

Members Present: Krista Dahlinger, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Nancy Goulden, Jeff Hansen, Michael Heffron, George Lippert, Carroll Morgenson, Carl Paulie, Dee Scherich, Phyllis Scherich, Anita Smith, Gary Weisenberger, Valerie Wright