

KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

BOARD MEETING

September 30, Sun City, Kansas

President Valerie Wright called the meeting to order at 8:40 p.m. The minutes of the July meeting had been distributed by e-mail. Jeff Hansen moved that the minutes be approved. Craig Freeman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Administrative Reports

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Sister Pat Stanley, Valerie gave a general report of finances. The organization is doing very well financially. More membership dues than projected in the budget have been received. Income to date for 2005 is \$6,300. Not all budgeted amounts have been spent. Some items included in the budget were not used; other extras that were not budgeted for have been spent. This information will be used to help plan next year's budget. Of the approximately \$12,000 budget for 2005, probably about \$8,000 or \$9,000 will be spent.

Membership: Jane Freeman announced that 81 new members had been added to date. There were 71 new members in 2004. Overall there are about 300 members now in the society. Jane had been able to track the source of some of the memberships.

The issue of using lists from other organizations that was introduced in the July meeting was revisited. Audubon does not share lists. There is evidence that mailings using organizational lists results in only a 1% to 2% return. Word of mouth continues to be an effective approach.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee: Chair Craig Freeman presented the slate of nominees for the Board of KNPS. Those nominated as replacements for the seven retiring members were: Iralee Barnard, Hope; Fred Coombs, Holton; Nancy Coombs, Holton; Donna Cooper, Hays, Ann Feyerharm, Manhattan; June Kliesen, Wilmore; and Frank Norman, Lawrence. Retiring members include: Roger Boyd, Baldwin City (14 years); Sheldon Cohen, Topeka (21 years); Lorna Harder, Hesston (11 years); Lorrie Parrish, Pittsburg (5 years); Anita Smith, Fredonia (6 years); Sandra Tholen, Wichita (3 years); and Stephen Timme, Pittsburg (15 years). Officers nominated for 2006 are: Jeff Hansen, Topeka, President; Michael Heffron, Eureka, President Elect; Cynthia Ford, Pittsburg, Secretary; and Sr. Patricia Stanley, Bel Aire, Treasurer. Marion McGlohon moved that the slate of nominees be accepted. Sandra Tholen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Sales: Anita Smith reported that KNPS tee-shirts have been produced and are on sale for \$15 each. It is planned that pictures of merchandise will be placed on the website and that the shirts will also be available for sale at forays. Sister Pat has had KNPS visors designed and produced. They too will be available for sale.

Outings: Shirley Braunlich reviewed outings from last year and previewed what is coming up for next year. There were 20 KNPS sponsored or related events this year. In the new brochure for 2006, the newly approved mission statement will be used. Shirley continues to work on venues in which to promote the outings. The Landscape Tour in Lawrence, a new emphasis for KNPS outings, was successful. The presentation of the donation to the Land Trust was also an event that brought attention to KNPS. The Board was then asked for ideas about how we can get more people to attend outings that have not drawn large groups. It was suggested that Board members attend and bring guests. Gary recommended that KNPS go to other organizations in the areas and create outing with them.

Plant Resources: Although Chair Cindy Ford was not able to be at the meeting, Craig shared information about the work of the committee. As a part of Phase I of the committee's plan, there are now two documents on the website and a third document, a joint venture with the Education Committee, is being researched and developed by Gary Weisenberger on the subject of prairie management. Brad Guhr also continues to work on a document. Although he is not quite satisfied yet, the end is fairly close. Phase II will be an action plan for involvement in habitat management and restoration, including educational workshops on various resources and habitats.

Publicity and Outreach: Anita Smith reported that she had sent one news release giving information about fall outings and the Annual Meeting to all newspapers in Kansas. She will no longer be chair but will continue on the committee.

Education: Michael Heffron stated that the committee has not yet completed the list of courses about native plants being offered in the state.

Web Site: According to Jeff Hansen, the initial stage of getting the website up is completed, and the site is now in the maintenance stage. The webmaster is continuing to do updates. Jeff recommends that we give him an honorary membership for his work. As an indicator of success, the site is now at the top of the list for searching using "Kansas Native Plant Society." Jeff presented of list of items that need to be submitted to update the site: list of public gardens using native plants, updated bylaws (Craig will check on the status), rules for photo contest. Any updates of material for the site should be sent to Jeff. He also noted that all people on the Listserv will automatically get announcements. The current address is: discussion@kansasnativeplantsociety.org. There was some discussion of putting the complete newsletter on the site. It was suggested that it not be put on for six months after publication since receiving the newsletter is a member benefit.

Awards: No report.

Annual Meeting: Phyllis Scherich informed the Board that the Wilmore Opry, which Annual Meeting attendees had expected to take in Saturday night, has been cancelled. She recommended that those looking for entertainment go to the Chief Theatre. Phyllis suggested that KNPS make a donation of \$100 to the presenters from the Comanche Pool Resources Foundation for their contribution to our program. Craig moved that we make the \$100 donation. Jeff seconded it. Motion passed.

Old Business

Craig reported that an attempt had been made to reproduce the new posters, but was not successful. He requested permission to get estimates from printers to reproduce them. Phyllis moved that Craig seek estimates; Marion seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The issue of affiliating with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center was postponed until next meeting.

The push to identify and name a native grass for Kansas continues. Marci Penner with the Kansas Sample is working to discover just what needs to be done and to get sponsors for the project. She would like school children from the state to have a role in choosing the grass. She would like KNPS to work with her, but does not yet know what we need to do. We will address this again at the next meeting.

Carl Paulie made a motion that membership dues be raised for families from \$20 to \$25 and for organizations from \$20 to \$30. Sandra seconded the motion. Motion passed. We will need to make the changes on all relevant literature and the website. The student membership stays at \$5 for all students.

Shirley proposed that a new printing of the brochure be authorized since all 1,000 copies from last year have been distributed. She recommended that the new brochure be black and white and that the changes would be minor, except for the new list of outings. The new brochure needs to be ready by March. Anita made a motion that 2,000 copies of the new brochure be printed by March. Craig seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The 2006 van tour needs a volunteer to take it on in order for it to occur. Valerie asked Board Members to be thinking about it and suggested that we also ask for a volunteer at the membership meeting.

New Business

Shirley introduced the idea of instituting a Kansas Native Plant Day or Month and asking the governor to officially recognize the occasion. She asked for permission from the group to investigate the possibility.

A special event, Symphony in the Flint Hills, is planned for June 10 at the Tall Grass Prairie National Preserve. The Kansas City Symphony and Choir will perform. Five thousand people are expected to attend. KNPS has an opportunity to participate in the event. We need to have someone in contact with the planning committee. Krista Dahlinger volunteered to look into it. Michael suggested KNPS might have a drawing and give away plants.

Tentative plans were made for the January and April Board Meetings. The first will be January 21, probably at Emporia. The second will be April 1. After discussion about the date for the fall Annual Meeting, 2006, Phyllis made a motion and Shirley seconded it that the meeting be September 8 and 9. Motion passed.

Special appreciation for Valerie Wright's contributions to the organization during her terms was expressed. "The organization is much better for her time as president."

Craig moved for adjournment. Motion passed.

Submitted by Nancy Goulden

Members present: Michael Heffron, George Lippert, Shirley Braunlich, Krista Dahlinger, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Nancy Goulden, Jeff Hansen, Sandra Tholen, Marion McGlohon, Carl Paulie, Dee Scherich, Phyllis Scherich, Anita Smith, Gary Weisenberger, Valerie Wright