

KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SPRING BOARD MEETING
10:00 am TO 1:45 pm April 1, 2006
Grand Central Hotel Cottonwood Falls

President Jeff Hansen called the meeting to order and welcomed all. He applauded the group for such an excellent turn-out - 20 of 30. Jeff asked for corrections or additions to the minutes of the January meeting. With none offered, Craig moved we accept the minutes as printed and published on the Yahoo website. Second by Michael Heffron. Passed.

Members present: Jeff Hansen, Michael Heffron, Jane Freeman, Valerie Wright, Phyllis Scherich, Sr. Patricia Stanley, Iralee Barnard, Shirley Braunlich, Krista Dahlinger, Ann Feyerharm, Cindy Ford, Craig Freeman, Nancy Goulden, Brad Guhr, June Kliesen, Marion McGlohon, Frank Norman, Dwight Platt, Julie Torseth, & Gary Weisenberger.

Accomplishments since last meeting:

- President Jeff reported the budget had been finalized and copies are available.
- 3000 KNPS 2006 brochures have been mailed to 400 organizations.
- Nancy Goulden did a presentation on the *Wildflowers of the Years* at the Wichita Garden show. It was well received.
- Shirley Braunlich did a presentation on Eagle Day at Lawrence.
- Jeff did a Powerpoint presentation for the Smoky Hills Audubon Society on *Native Landscaping*.
- Jeff reported the New Book List (revised) will be in the upcoming Newsletter. He noted that Craig Freeman's book is going out of print. After groans from the membership Craig indicated he will see if there is any possibility of reprinting it either by the current publisher or another.
- Jeff reported that the Native Plant Forms have been standardized and are available on the KNPS website.

Treasurer's Report: Sister Pat Stanley distributed the report. She noted the income so far this year has been \$1755.00. Expenses this year so far total \$1881.56. Members were reminded to check to see if they owe for dues.

Jeff presented Sister Pat with a hand-made pottery pitcher from KNPS to show appreciation for 15 years (since 1991) of super service as treasurer of the organization, with many more to come!

Membership Report: Jane Freeman reported \$1495 has been received for new and renewal memberships. There are 98 in the NE section of Kansas, 61 in the SE, 48 in NC, 79 in SC, 14 in NW, and 7 in SW for a total of 345 members. She urged all present to make sure they were current on dues. She reported 9 new members since January.

Administrative Assistant Vacancy: Jeff reminded members that Jane has asked to be replaced as administrative assistant. Jane definitely will not serve in this position after Dec. 31, 2006. The job description and application information will be printed in the Spring newsletter. There was a discussion on whether the person needs to live in the Lawrence area, and even if this needs to be a paid position. An option would be to divide the position among the membership committee members. The greatest concern is the method of receiving money for dues and registrations for the Annual Membership Meeting. Jane & Craig Freeman and Jeff will study the applications and make recommendations to the Board which will make the final decision.

Fall Meeting: Fred and Nancy Coombs were unable to attend because of the death of a parent. Jeff gave their report. The meeting will be held at the Holton Middle School, with several forays planned. The theme for the event will be Restoring Small Plots of Ground to Native Plants. Complete details and reservation forms will be in the July newsletter.

Dyck Arboretum Plant Sale: Julie Torseth and Brad Guhr reminded members that the Flora Kansas Sale will be the second weekend in May (13-14). Julie asked KNPS for a \$1000 donation to support the programs of the Dyck Arboretum. Sister Pat moved we do so, second by Iralee Barnard, Discussion followed. Brad gave further information on some of the programs that include the Earth Partnership for Schools, Prairie Pocket Gardens, and Prairie Window Initiative. On the vote the motion passed with 3 abstains and 1 against. Brad & Julie extended an invitation to host KNPS at a future meeting in Hesston to further explain and show these projects to members.

Publicity Committee: Publicity for the various events was discussed. A sheet was passed around for members to indicate what publications they consider work best in their area for promoting events. Anita desires to cut down on the extensive list from last year. More electronic transfer of information was encouraged. Phyllis Scherich is in the process of doing an article for the Kansas Traveler for July printing. Julie Torseth was added to the publicity committee.

State Grass: Valerie reported the State Grass request is stuck in Senate Committee. She doesn't anticipate any further action on it this legislative session.

Publicity Display: Members were asked by Krista to view the display in the adjoining room set up by Phyllis. It is a preliminary mock-up of what is planned. Krista explained we will really use two display boards, one for KNPS info in general with large plant pictures, the other a smaller one that will feature Flint Hills grasses, flowers, and other information. Input and pictures were requested from members. The committee was instructed to proceed. There were several requests for use of the display for other events even before the Symphony so the time line needs to be stepped up. Sister Pat will investigate having her brother print a banner for the display on a more permanent type of material.

Native Plant Appreciation Month: Shirley Braunlich passed out copies of the Proclamation request to make June Kansas Native Plant Appreciation Month. She has presented it to Governor Sebelius and it has been signed. It can now be used to promote KNPS and the events the organization will sponsor in June in the newsletter, press releases, and on the website. Jeff thanked Shirley for her efforts. Shirley also distributed updated copies of 2006 KNPS Events.

Kansas Nursery and Landscape Association: Jeff showed a brochure in which KNLA has published a list of their plants of the year. He suggested we support their program and ask support from them for ours. No action was taken.

Awards: Valerie Wright gave a report for the committee. She asked for volunteers for empty seats on the committee. Frank, did you volunteer? She explained that the guidelines and application forms for the Photo Contest, the Rachel Snyder Memorial Award, the Excellence in Botany Award, and the Mary Bancroft Memorial Scholarship are available on the KNPS

website. She encouraged members to nominate someone they know for any of these awards. She noted the rules for the Photo Contest have been changed. She also announced that the Photo Contest winners from previous years will be posted on the web. Raising the Mary Bancroft Memorial Scholarship from \$500 to \$1000 was discussed. It was informally decided to try to put it into next year's budget.

Native Plant Poster: Craig told members that the printing of the poster has encountered some difficulties. He is currently redoing it in **Publisher** and it should be ready to go to the printer soon.

Growing Native Wildflowers Publication: Brad Guhr and Dwight Platt indicated this updated publication is not ready to go to print, but they are continuing to work on it. The one developed by Cindy Ford has been a popular resource. Nancy Goulden asked if a 2-page fact sheet from it could be printed in large quantities for distribution at Events. It was determined to allow whoever desires it to print it off the website and make as many copies as desired.

Invasive Plants Fact Sheet: Jeff alerted members that this Sheet has been updated on the website.

New Merchandise: Frank Norman announced that his firm has extra native plants available. Anyone or any organizations desiring them should contact Frank at Applied Ecological Services, 1904 Elm, Eudora, KS 66215 (785) 542-3090. Krista Dahlinger has T-shirts available today.

Symphony Weekend: Krista Dahlinger and Iralee Barnard presented information on the Symphony Event. Sharon Haun is Krista's contact with the symphony. Volunteers should arrive by 9:30 at the Volunteer Check-In Site by the silo. There will be opportunities to lead wildflower tours on the walking paths in the morning, and on the prairie in the afternoon starting at 1:00. The time for the Display set-up is not certain. All tours should end by 4:30. Phyllis Scherich suggested that anyone who has them bring their Motorola "talkies" the day of the event to help members communicate with one another. More information will be available on the Yahoo website. Krista reported on a stamp with contact information for Annual Meeting, and also showed some cards she is developing that can be passed out to interested persons at the Symphony. They will give contact info for KNPS membership opportunities and info on the Annual Fall Meeting. Michael Heffron moved she go ahead with both of these projects. Sister Pat seconded. Passed.

Volunteer Sign-up sheets were distributed for members to complete and return.

Michael Heffron volunteered to lead a group who will assemble at the Stone Gate Post Friday June 9 at 1:00 to stake and identify wildflowers on the paths and determine the organization of the walks on Saturday. Several members indicated they will assist him.

Adjournment: Mike moved and Valerie seconded the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35. Members were invited to re-convene at the Tallgrass Prairie for a tour to the Symphony Site and a *wildflowering opportunity*.