

**KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SPRING BOARD MEETING**

10:00 – 1:00 April 7, 2007

1947 Founders' Circle

Wichita Clinic, Wichita KS

Members Present: Jeff Hansen, Jane Freeman, Craig Freeman, Krista Dahlinger, Valerie Wright, Shirley Braunlich, June Kliesen, Nancy Goulden, Iralee Barnard, Nancy Coombs, Fred Coombs, Phyllis Scherich, Dee Scherich, Earl Allen, Pat Stanley, Ann Feyerharm, Michael Heffron, Cindy Ford. Guests Lori Westendorf (Jane's sister) and Evelyn Reed.

Host Group: Kim Shank, Exec. Dir. Wichita Clinic; Angie Prather, Marketing Manager; Larry Mahan, Lee Angler, Brian Hollis, Les Mock, Architects; Bob Schmidt, retired Facilities Manager; and Jim Mason, Great Plains Nature Center.

Welcome and Minutes: President Jeff Hansen called the meeting to order and welcomed all. Each person introduced himself/herself. Jeff asked for corrections or additions to the minutes of the January meeting. Craig moved, and Sister Pat seconded that the minutes be accepted with a correction by Shirley Braunlich "that the brochure could be printed off the website." Passed.

Membership Report: Jane reported 7 new members since the January meeting, bringing the total to 368.

Donation to Dyck Arboretum: No request for a donation has been received from the Dyck Arboretum. No action will be taken by the board until a request is received.

Approve 2007 Budget: A vote will be taken via email to approve the 2007 Budget. President Jeff will forward the budget and ask for a vote.

Sister Pat's Retirement: Sister Pat announced she plans to retire as Treasurer of KNPS in January of 2009. This will require some transition steps. She has prepared a worksheet of responsibilities of the job. Jeff will post this via email. Michael volunteered to assist with the transition.

Planning Committee for Annual Meeting: Jeff presented preliminary plans by the committee for the September 21, 22, 23, 2007 meeting in Hutchinson. The committee of Craig, Jane, Jeff, and Krista will proceed. A block of motel rooms has been reserved. The theme for the meeting is *Wildflowers for the Masses*.

Name for Annual Meeting: In response to a desire for a more inviting name to encourage more public participation, it was left to the Annual Meeting planning committee to come up with a name, with a theme to be selected each year.

Outsourcing Work & Publicity Plan: Jeff suggested we investigate "outsourcing" various services of KNPS. We are already doing this with the web site. Other possibilities might be the newsletter, brochures, and publicity. Several members volunteered to check with marketing departments at Kansas universities to see if this is a project some student might consider. Nancy and Valerie will check with Kansas State University, Craig with the University of Kansas, Cindy

with Pittsburg State University, and Michael with Wichita State University. Other suggestions are welcome.

Status of How to Host a Wildflower Tour: Krista gave a report on the Steps to Success Guide. Several groups already are using this resource, which is available on the KNPS website.

Proclamation for 2007 Native Plant Appreciation Month – Shirley reported on the progress of the Proclamation of June as Native Plant Appreciation Month. She was encouraged to go for a signing ceremony with the Governor. She invited available board members to accompany her during the ceremony; several volunteered to attend the June 18 signing. She will notify members of more specific information when they are available.

KNPS Roadside statement to reduce mowing along roadways: Fred reported that the Public Policy Committee is working on this initiative. KDOT's policy doesn't mention anything about native plants. It was recommended to use Iowa's policy as a blueprint for KDOT.

Business Card Printing: Krista reported that KNPS cards promoting the Annual Fall Event will be ready for distribution soon.

Symphony Involvement: Nancy Goulden brought the group up to date on the plans for the prairie walks at the Symphony in the Flint Hills to be held at Eskridge on June 16. Members who are interested in helping signed up. Those volunteers will need to complete a "volunteer" form and submit it. Nancy will keep members informed. She also noted a request for other wildflower walks that need volunteers during the morning –in the Mt. Mitchell area, the Mill Creek site, and the Skyline Drive site of Wabaunsee County.

Tallgrass Preserve Wildflower Weekend: A report on activities June 9 & 10 was given by Iralee. Volunteers may still sign up. Presentations include: paper making from native plants by Jeff Hansen, dyeing with natives by Cindy Ford, medicinals, edibles by Frank Norman, and prairie slide show by Sister Pat Stanley. Other members will lead wildflower hikes.

KNPS Slide Status: Craig reported that the slide scanning process has begun. Sorting of slides is in progress. He has an assistant working on this project.

Native Plant Conservation Campaign: NPCC is a project of the California Native Plant Society and the Center for Biological Diversity. KNPS member and California resident Stan Kaufman asked that KNPS affiliate with this group. Sister Pat moved we do so, second by Valerie. Passed. Their e-mail is eroberson@biologicaldiversity.org. The cost of joining is a one time donation of \$25.00.

Pre-Plan for Topeka Garden show 2008: Carroll Morgensen was unable to attend for health reasons. No action was taken.

KS Conservation Coalition: Jeff reported that Krista has volunteered to represent KNPS on this Board.

KS Grazing Lands Coalition: Krista moved and Ann Feyerharm seconded that KNPS be an advisor to the KS Conservation Coalition and the KS Grazing Lands Coalition. Passed. Iralee will consider representing KNPS.

Pre-plan for State Grass Request: Valerie reported that no action will be taken during this legislative session on the request for a State Grass, but that the committee had listened to a presentation. She plans to try again next year. Advocates are needed to prepare educational materials to have ready for distribution when a State Grass is approved. Michael, Nancy Goulden, Nancy Coombs, Iralee, Sister Pat, and Valerie will develop these materials.

Next Meeting: Lake Kanopolis, July 14.

Meeting adjourned by President Jeff, to lunch furnished by Wichita Clinic, Founder's Circle.

Respectively submitted.

Phyllis Scherich, Recording Secretary

After lunch Kim Shank, Executive Director for Wichita Clinic, introduced members to the Prairie Restoration Landscape Project. She introduced Bob Schmidt, recently retired Facilities Manager, and Les Mock, Lee Angler, and Bryan Holler representing Wilson Darnell Mann Architectural Firm. Les Mock presented a PowerPoint presentation showing the grounds and the landscaping plan. The group then led a tour of the grounds.

KNPS members then motored to the Great Plains Nature Center where Jim Mason gave an introduction to the Center and invited members to explore the exhibits at the Center. He then led those interested on a short walk to view native plants. Most agreed they would like to return at a later date when the weather was more conducive to outdoor activities.

Action Items:

Jeff – Post 2007 budget and ask for voter approval via e-mail.

Jeff – Post responsibilities of Treasurer via e-mail, as developed by Sister Pat.

Michael & Sister Pat – Assist with transition plans for Treasurer

Craig, Jane, Jeff & Krista – Continue with planning and putting “on paper” plans for KNPS Annual Event

Nancy & Valerie will check with K-State, **Craig** with KU, **Cindy** with Pittsburg State, and **Michael** with Wichita State on a marketing plan for publicity for KNPS.

Shirley – Notify members when the date and time to sign the Proclamation are firm.

Nancy G. – Notify members who signed up for Symphony Walks when it is time for them to fill out volunteer forms.

Valerie, Nancy G., Nancy C., & Iralee – Develop educational materials for a State Grass

Jeff, Iralee – Post information on July Board Meeting via e-mail to all members.