

KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

JULY BOARD MEETING

1:35 – 2:40 pm July 14, 2007

Valley Café, Marquette, KS

Members Present: Jeff Hansen, Michael Heffron, Earl Allen, Shirley Braunlich, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Krista Dahlinger, Ann Feyerharm, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Nancy Goulden, Brad Guhr, Frank Norman.

Welcome and Minutes: President Jeff Hansen called the meeting to order and welcomed all. The minutes of the Spring Board Meeting were approved.

Membership: Jane Freeman advised that we have picked up 34 new members since our April meeting. Jeff wondered if this was a response to the amount of visibility that the Society had received this year through mailings of the KNPS brochure, KNPS participation in the weekend at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, the Symphony in the Flint Hills, and other events. There are still a number of members who haven't renewed and it was discussed whether to send a 2nd reminder notice. Nancy Goulden advised that another reminder was in the newsletter that should be in the mail any day now, so a 2nd reminder mailing will not be sent.

Annual Meeting: Jeff discussed the schedule for the Annual Meeting or AWW (Annual Wildflower Weekend) as he preferred to call it on Sept. 21, 22, 23 in Hutchinson. He showed a copy of an order form for meals, etc. that will be posted on the KNPS website. He said that he and Nancy Goulden were working on a separate mailing to all KNPS members, which will include the order form. Jane will get the final count for the meals and advise Krista Dahlinger, who is the KNPS contact with the food services for the meetings. Krista reported the cost of renting a projector for our speakers for the meetings. It was decided that Craig Freeman will bring a slide projector and Brad Guhr will bring a computer projector so that we would not incur that cost. Jeff will remind the speakers of the meeting dates and confirm that they still intend to participate.

Symphony in the Flint Hills: Nancy G. reported on the Symphony experience. She felt that KNPS had good cooperation from the Symphony people and that Sue Kidd had been an excellent liaison. She also felt that being able to visit the site several times before the event helped make our efforts this year go a bit smoother. The KNPS volunteers were very enthusiastic and she felt that showed in the response that we received from the attendees. She wondered if there would be some way to better collaborate with the Audubon group, who were there to lead walks but other than asking an Audubon person to accompany the KNPS led walk, it was decided that KNPS had enough to be responsible for in dealing with the plant side of the event. Nancy also thought it would be nice if we could lead the walks a bit later into the day as 60 people showed up after the talks were through and wanted to go on a wildflower walk. We are to email Nancy with any additional comments or concerns regarding the Symphony; she is keeping a file for next year's Symphony event.

KSU Marketing Study: Nancy G. reported for Valerie Wright. It would cost around \$500 for the KSU group to do the marketing study for us. It was decided to table this agenda item for the fall meeting when we hope to have additional information from Valerie such as who would be doing the study, etc.

Plant ID and mentoring program: Nancy G. distributed two handouts that she had worked on for mentoring or coaching those interested in learning more about how to identify the plants they are seeing on their native plant walks. She would like to put some of this into practice at the Annual Meeting outings to see how it works out. Jeff has revised the Patch Program so it is hoped that the program will see more activity. Please let Nancy G. know if you think the mentoring program is a good idea.

Little Bluestem: The Education Committee is working on this, and Nancy G. reported that Nancy Coombs has some good ideas and Val is coming up with some materials.

KNPS Poster Protocol: Krista wanted to confirm the protocol on giving out or selling the poster. There was some confusion at the Symphony. Krista thought that teachers received the poster for free as this was mentioned at an earlier KNPS meeting. She felt that the misunderstanding may have cost us a couple of new members that Phyllis Scherich was talking to when Krista had told them earlier in the day that they could receive free posters because they were teachers. The two in question were given posters at the Symphony. It was decided that the poster is free if you join KNPS or already are a member who has not obtained a free poster. Otherwise, the posters are for sale for \$5.00 each. If it is necessary to mail posters, the mailing tube and postage will be paid by the person requesting that the poster be mailed. Krista is looking into obtaining inexpensive mailing tubes for events where posters are purchased or distributed to protect them from damage. The Symphony booth at the Symphony in the Flint Hills had these tubes and it was thought that it would be good for KNPS to have them available at our booth. Jeff will bring a supply of posters to the Annual Meeting so that each board member can have a small supply.

Roadside mowing: Fred Coombs will contact Ron Klataske with the Kansas Audubon Society about an initiative to work with KDOT to reduce roadside mowing and spraying. Shirley Braunlich mentioned that she had seen signs along a highway in Anderson County marked for no spraying and that the county has a beautiful display of native plants along that roadway.

Adjournment: President Jeff declared the meeting adjourned.

Minutes were taken by Jane Freeman for Recording Secretary Phyllis Scherich who was unable to attend.