

Kansas Native Plant Society  
September 22, 2007  
Dillon Nature Center, Hutchinson, KS

General Meeting

Jeff Hansen called the meeting to order by welcoming members in attendance. He thanked Dillon Nature Center and the Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce for assisting with the fall meeting.

Jeff related the past year's achievements.

- \* At the end of 2006, KNPS had \$2400 more income than expenses.
- \* At the end of 2006, KNPS had 86 new members out of 359 members (24% of our membership).
- \* The County Wildflower Tours have been the greatest accomplishment for reaching people in the state. Jeff suggested contacting Conservation Districts to help coordinate new tours.
- \* New collaborations were established with organizations, including Tallgrass legacy Alliance, Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, Kansas Conservation Coalition, Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council, and Native Plant Conservation Campaign.
- \* KNPS has business cards for marketing at events.
- \* Excellent information sources include the website (ksnps.org) and the newsletter, coordinated by Nancy Goulden, Sister pat, and June Kliesen.
- \* KNPS is collaborating with Audubon and other organizations to control mowing and spraying of native plants along Kansas roadsides.
- \* Bancroft Scholarship was increased to \$1,000 to make more appealing.
- \* Jane Freeman, Administrative Assistant, decided to stay in position since some of the work has been outsourced.
- \* KNPS participated in the Symphony in the Flint Hills (1000 people) and Tallgrass Preserve Wildflower Weekend.
- \* Shirley Braunlich promoted a Kansas Native Plant Appreciation Month with an official signing with Gov. Sibelius.
- \* Valerie Wright worked on getting little bluestem as the Kansas State Grass (although it did not make it through the legislature).
- \* Wildflower posters are available.
- \* Patch Program was updated and streamlined.
- \* Nancy Goulden composed booklet called Resources for Learning and Teaching Plant Identification which helps newcomers learn plants.

Future plans include:

- \* making it easier to renew memberships
- \* more county tours with conservation districts
- \* outsourcing publicity to reach larger audiences
- \* connecting with other organizations
- \* developing a spraying/mowing/burning brochure and get grant for funding

Dates and location were discussed by members for next year's fall workshop/meeting. October 3, 4, and 5 were accepted, but since the Kansas Ornithological Society meets at the same time, part of the meeting may combine with theirs. Both meetings will be in Hays.

Valerie Wright presented the Rachel Snyder Memorial Landscape Award to Kim Shanks, Executive Director of the Wichita Clinic, and Rollin Sachs, Health Department and Air Quality of Kansas City, KS. Kim described her vision of the native plant landscaping at the Wichita Clinic and Rollin explained the Clean Air Lawn Care Program where people are encouraged to take out turf to eliminate gas mowers and the resulting air pollution.

The Excellence in Botany Award was presented to Dr. Dwight Platt for his years of service to the field of botany, ecology, restoration, and promotion of the Kansas Native Plant Society.

Jeff presented the slate of officers (Michael Heffron, President; Craig Freeman, President Elect; Phyllis Scherich, Secretary; and Sr. Patricia Stanley, Treasurer) and new board members to the general membership. Valerie moved to accept the slate, Carl seconded, and the motion carried. Jeff introduced Michael Heffron (a biology instructor at Butler Community College), who will serve as President starting in January.

The general meeting was adjourned. Brad Guhr presented a program on the Prairie Windows Program, sponsored by Dyck Arboretum. Many members looked for native plants on the field trip to Sand Hills State Park in the afternoon.

Notes taken by Cindy Ford (for Phyllis Scherich, Secretary)