

**Kansas Native Plant Society
Board of Directors Winter Meeting
January 12, 2008
Great Plains Nature Center
Wichita KS**

Members present were: Jocelyn Baker, Ann Feyerharm, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Earl Allen, Mike Haddock, Valerie Wright, Jane Freeman, Craig Freeman, Iralee Barnard, Krista Dahlinger, June Kliesen, Brad Guhr, Shirley Braunlich, Nancy Goulden, Jeff Hansen, Michael Heffron, Phyllis Scherich, and one KNPS guest, Susan Reimer.

New president, Michael Heffron, called the meeting to order. Each member introduced him/herself. The minutes were presented for approval. Craig moved, June seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

After discussion Craig moved we hold the Spring Board Meeting April 12 at Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Plant near Burlington – with Pat's Pig (yes, Craig DID say it!) in Burlington as a backup location. The board meeting will begin at 9:30 am, followed by lunch. After lunch Dan Haines, naturalist at Wolf Creek will lead a tour. KNPS members and guests are welcome to take part in the afternoon tour. Second by Nancy. The motion carried.

Iralee moved we hold the Summer Board Meeting July 12 at Milford Nature Center (below the dam) near Junction City. The meeting will begin with a wildflower tour at 9:00 am, followed by the Board meeting in the afternoon. Second by Jeff. The motion carried.

Jeff, Craig, and Shirley (committee) reported that the Annual Wildflower Weekend will be held Oct. 3-5 at Hays. Tentative plans are Wildflower tours held at a private ranch, a university location, and Wilson Reservoir. The Friday evening meeting will feature Kelly Kindscher, who will talk about his research on *Echinacea*. Other presenters will be Frank Norman and Cindy Ford. The theme for the weekend is *Ethnobotany & Cultural Uses of Native Plants*. Best choices for hotels are Best Western, Vagabond, and Days Inn. June moved and Iralee seconded that we approve the tentative meeting plans and authorize the committee to work out the details. The motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Sister Pat. A sum \$463.03 was earned from CD and NOW accounts. There is \$5376.51 in the checking account with total assets of \$30,230.89 as of Dec. 31, 2007. Craig moved the report be accepted as presented. Second by Iralee. The motion carried. Craig then suggested we work on the 2008 budget later in the meeting after other issues related to the budget had been discussed.

Jane reported that there have been 9 new memberships and 38 renewals since the

Annual Wildflower Weekend. The 38 renewals are the direct result of Jeff's efforts to contact former members and to invite them to renew their memberships.

Jeff reported on an aggressive plan to encourage membership renewals each year. This includes stepped-up efforts to renew or join at the AWW meeting, e-mail renewals, reminders in the fall and winter newsletters, and postcard reminders. Jeff moved and Craig seconded that an announcement will be added in the Spring newsletter that that issue will be the last one sent to members whose membership expired on 31 December of the previous year. New member dues will run thru December of the following calendar year. The motion passed.

Shirley reported that 3000 copies of the KNPS Brochure, in color, to be sent to 400 addresses, including cover letter, addressing, and postage will cost \$1,094. Nancy moved and Craig seconded that Shirley should proceed with plans to print the brochure. The motion carried. Deadline for info to be included in the brochure is Feb. 11. They should be available by March.

After a brief break Jeff, Krista, and Shirley reported that the Guide to Wildflower Tours could be sent to all Conservation Districts via e-mail through their system. A poster could also be available to each district office. Jeff moved and Sister Pat seconded that they should proceed with plans. The motion carried.

Jeff then reported that he has a niece, Jessica White, who is a marketing major in college (in Nebraska!) who is interested in helping KNPS promote themselves and publicize events/projects. Jeff moved, seconded by Nancy Goulden, that Jessica present a plan to publicize our fall AAW. This plan will be due by Feb. 15. KNPS will pay Jessica \$15/hour for her efforts. If approved by members, other assignments will be given to Jessica. The motion carried.

Valerie and Nancy Goulden gave a report on the status of the Kansas State Grass Naming Initiative. The bill is still in the legislature, waiting for a vote. There is a need to get Kansas kids involved. Valerie and Nancy urged all members to go to the KNPS website and click on State Grass Initiative for Little Bluestem to access information. They would like KNPS members to contact teachers and administrators in their local schools and encourage them to become part of the process. Nancy has written *Little Blue's Story* that presents the project to the students and asks for their help.

Valerie reminded us of the Mary A Bancroft Scholarship. This scholarship is in the amount of \$1000.00 and is open to all students of Kansas colleges and universities conducting research on Kansas plants. There were no applicants in 2007. If you know a student who might fit the criteria, let them know about it.

Jeff proposed making a Stewardship Award available. It was tabled for discussion until the April meeting.

Jeff announced he had set up a KNPS BLOG. Its location is <http://knps.blogspot.com>.

At this time he is the only one who can post to it, but he would like to expand it so several others can also. Anyone can reply to it. Check it out.

Jeff offered to take over Judd's job as webmaster of the KNPS site at the same rate (\$20/hr), because Judd doesn't have the time for it any longer and Jeff has learned how to do it. Brad moved, and June seconded that he do so. The motion passed.

Krista reported that KNPS has not received any requests from the Symphony to date. More discussion of it in April

Iralee reported on the Tallgrass Preserve Wildflower Weekend to be held Sept 13-14. Preserve representatives have asked for assistance from KNPS. Michael will be taking students. He volunteered to be the contact person, assisted by Nancy, to coordinate KNPS involvement.

Nancy Goulden explained how the Plant ID and Mentoring Program can be obtained. Check it out on the KNPS website under Plant Identification or see the Winter newsletter for more information.

Craig reported that not much progress has been made on scanning of slides in the KNPS slide collection. He will discuss with Mike Haddock various strategies for capturing and storing images. A selective approach may be warranted given the wide availability among KNPS members of high quality digital images.

Fred reported that his committee is trying to form a coalition on Roadside Management, but that Audubon has taken the lead and is making progress. He reported he needed more volunteers on the committee.

A discussion of how committees are formed followed. Current committees will be updated on the website. It was noted that some work being done at the Board Meetings should be done in committees preceding the Board meeting.

Shirley reported on a potential partnership with Jayhawk Audubon Society. Jennifer Delisle, representing Jayhawk Audubon, is seeking cooperation from KNPS members in the Lawrence area to help with landscape restoration efforts on public lands. (Shirley may have more to add about this; I don't see anything in my notes about what was decided)

Brad described ongoing efforts with the "Earth Partnership for Schools" program. He reported on the *Prairies on School Grounds* Workshop for teachers. It will be held June 2-6 for K-12 teachers who are interested. There will be some scholarships available. He needs names of teachers who might be interested in attending.

Sister Pat reminded us that she will be retiring as Treasurer of KNPS at the end of this year. Krista expressed interest in taking over her position. There will be more discussion in April. Since this is a Board position, she could be appointed to fill an early vacancy;

eventually she will have to be nominated to fill the position and the Board will have to vote on the nomination. For now, she will “apprentice” with Sister Pat to learn more about procedures being used.

Iralee volunteered to work on this and other “appointments and committees” and report in April.

Since our meeting time had expired Nancy moved, and Craig seconded that it be extended 25 minutes. The motion carried.

The group was reminded that the Fringed Puccoon is the 2008 Wildflower of the Year.

New Business

Valerie asked for funding for Konza Environmental Education Program. Since we did not have a draft 2008 budget to determine if we had the money to support Valerie’s request, a decision was postponed.

Under the capable leadership of Craig, the group worked on the draft budget. Fred moved to accept the proposed budget (including the line item to donate \$1000 to the Konza Environmental Education Program), seconded by Sister Pat. The motion carried.

After this was completed, Earl offered his financial planning expertise to the Board. He will make a “phantom investment” to show us what he could do for us and will present this to the Board, along with additional planning ideas and suggestions, at the April meeting. This long-term planning will help KNPS when it develops annual budgets and makes decisions about which causes to support financially.

Nancy and Sister Pat, and others who had contributed, were thanked for their efforts for the *awesome Fall Newsletter!*

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned.