

**Kansas Native Plant Society
Board of Directors Spring Meeting
April 12, 2008
Dwight D. Eisenhower Learning Center
Wolf Creek Generating Station
New Strawn, KS**

Members present were: Iralee Barnard, Ann Feyerharm, Shirley Braunlich, Michael Heffron, Jocelyn Baker, Cindy Ford, Nancy Goulden, Krista Dahlinger, Jeff Hansen, Valerie Wright, Carroll Morgenson, Carl Paulie, Dee Scherich, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, June Kliesen, Sr. Patricia Stanley, Mike Haddock, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Evelyn Reed, and Phyllis Scherich. Guests present were Mark Wagner, Stan Roth, and Dan Haines.

President Michael Heffron called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. Each member introduced him/herself and told why they were there. The minutes were presented for approval. Shirley suggested we add "The consensus of the group was to proceed." to her report on a potential partnership with Jayhawk Audubon Society. Craig moved, Nancy seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

Michael reminded members that the Summer Board meeting will be July 12 at Milford Nature Center, near Junction City. It will begin with a plant walk at 9:00 am, with the Board Meeting scheduled from 12:00 – 3:00 pm. Bring a sack lunch. Craig and Jane will bring a cooler of drinks. Iralee is making the arrangements.

Jeff reported that info for the AWW meeting in Hays on Oct. 3-5 is on the KNPS website. The theme is *Ethnobotany – Cultural Uses of Native Plants*. There are still some details to be worked out, but plans are progressing nicely. The Fall Board Meeting will be at 1:00 pm at the Sternberg Museum. Three field trips are planned. Ann Feyerharm volunteered to make arrangements for the meal on Friday evening.

The Winter Board meeting will be held Jan. 17, 2009 (Jan. 24 snow date) at the Kirby House in Abilene. Time to be announced.

Sr. Pat reviewed the treasurer's report, which had been distributed. After discussion, Phyllis moved, June seconded that it be accepted as printed. Motion passed.

Jane gave the Membership Report. KNPS has a total membership of 410; 19 new members have been added since the last meeting. She reported that ALL board members have paid their dues for this year already – congratulations! Jeff suggested that postcard reminders be sent to those who haven't paid their dues. Jane will send the postcards in the next week or two. It was also suggested by the group that we have a special "membership renewal table" at the AAW meeting.

Discussion was held concerning standing committees. A list was passed asking members to update their preferences.

Nancy G. reported on the newsletter. The spring issue has been mailed. She is using a new printer in Topeka. Their rates for a color edition are about the same as the old printer's rates for black and white, therefore all newsletters should be in color now. She asked for members to send reports on outings and other articles for the summer newsletter by June 15.

Shirley reported on the KNPS Brochure printing and mailing and showed the new one for 2008.

Krista reported that the Wildflower Tour Guide has been distributed "on line" as a PDF file to each Conservation District in the state. She also announced that tour leaders can access a list of plants for each county from the K-State herbarium on-line. Iralee reported that she is compiling plants lists for Wilson Lake and Milford Lake, which she is willing to share. Craig agreed to help review Iralee's lists.

Valerie reported that the effort to name little bluegrass as the state grass will not receive a hearing this year. She has learned that a request for a hearing needs to be made to accelerate the progress. She will do this next year. In the meantime, members need to look at all the info on the KNPS website on this effort. Nancy G. and Valerie have created a lot of informational material and will continue to add more. She asked members to help promote this effort whenever they have the opportunity during the coming months.

Jeff suggested KNPS add a new award called the Stewardship Award. The awards committee will make a recommendation on this at the Summer Board meeting.

Nancy gave an update on the Symphony in the Flint Hills to be held June 14 in Morris County near Council Grove. KNPS has again been asked to furnish 16 volunteers to lead the plant walks. She has 10 volunteers so far and is asking for 6 more. She has "volunteer applications" available.

Iralee reported that the National Park Service again is asking for volunteers for the Tallgrass Preserve Wildflower Weekend to be held Sept. 13-14. Let her know if you want to participate in some way. Nancy has a list of volunteers to date for the hike.

Nancy G. gave some information on the Plant ID & Mentoring Program. Jeff and Nancy have updated the booklet.

Fred distributed a draft copy of a KNPS position paper that the Roadside Management Committee has compiled. He asked the Board what direction KNPS wants to go from here. In the meantime do we want to send the KNPS Position to KDOT? Craig suggested this be put on the agenda for the Summer Board meeting.

It was noted we do not have a finance committee. Craig moved, Shirley seconded we establish one. Motion passed. Members of the committee will be Chairman Earl Allen, Craig, Jeff, Sr. Pat, Krista, and Michael.

Craig said that a Prairie Restoration Project at Gardner, KS has asked for input from KNPS. Carroll Morgenson moved that KNPS be involved in this project, seconded by Sr, Pat. Motion passed. Craig will keep KNPS informed as to what our involvement might be.

Jeff said that Chickadee Check-off grant funds are available and suggested that KNPS check into the possibility of applying for one to be used in our education efforts. Jeff will do this and will report at the Summer Board meeting.

Jeff noted that someone from Greensburg had submitted a request on-line for KNPS to be involved with the "greening of Greensburg". Without more specific information, no action was taken.

Jeff questioned to whom the photos which are submitted to the Photo gallery on the KNPS website belong. After discussion it was agreed they could be used by anyone if they give credit to the photographer and KNPS. They should not be used or sold for profit. He will add this info to the photo gallery web page.

Carroll Morgenson reported \$400 in book sales so far this year.

Encouraged by Stan Roth's suggestion that we set AWW dates further ahead the group named the Overland Park Arboretum as the site for a 2009 board meeting; facilities there are insufficient to accommodate the AWW. No date was set. Nancy G. moved KNPS set a policy of planning the date and location of the AWW meeting two years in advance. Seconded by Carroll. Motion passed. This will be discussed at the summer board meeting.

Iralee announced that a bus load of ca. 40 members of the Virginia Native Plant Society will be coming to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve on June 2-3. She asked that any KNPS members who would like to be involved to let her know.

Valerie moved we adjourn, second by Cindy F. Motion passed.

Addendum to minutes:

Wolf Creek Generating Plant treated the KNPS Board to a fantastic lunch of tossed salad, stuffed pork chops, herbed mashed potatoes, green beans, and a choice of four kinds of pie catered by Sherri Volland.

After lunch Dan Haines, biologist for Wolf Creek Generating Plant took the group to one of the natural areas. He encouraged members of the group to use the walking paths developed by the Plant whenever they had the opportunity.