

**Kansas Native Plant Society
Annual Wildflower Weekend
Annual Business Meeting
Theme for weekend: Ethnobotany – Cultural Uses of Native Plants
Oct. 4, 2008 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Whiskey Creek Wood Fire Grill
Hays KS**

President Michael Heffron called the meeting to order and welcomed all attending. He announced that bidding on the auction items would close before lunch, that the Symphony in the Flint Hills will be June 13, 2008 in Florence, that KNPS will be participating in the Tallgrass Prairie Walk September 12 and 13, 2009, and that all members are entitled to one free KNPS Wildflower poster.

Michael reminded members of the Winter Board meeting at the Kirby House in Abilene Jan. 17 (snow date Jan. 24), 2009. Meet at 11:00 for lunch – each will order off the menu. The meeting will begin at 12:00. Iralee is the contact person for making arrangements with the Kirby House.

A discussion concerning the location of the 2009 AWW was held. It was determined that it will be in the southeast Kansas area on Sept 18-19-20. Rita Schartz and Jim Mayhew offered their assistance in the planning. More definite info on this later. Krista and Shirley will check into it.

Jane gave an Administrative Report showing number of new members (in Board Meeting minutes).

Earl Allen reported that the Board authorized establishment of a Legacy Fund for special long-term projects as a vehicle for tax-deductible donations and to secure the future of KNPS. Pledges may be made at any time but will not need to be paid until the total amount of pledges reaches \$2500, the minimum amount needed to open the account.

Craig presented the slate of new board members and officers for 2008 as accepted by the current Board members. Craig moved that the slate be accepted, seconded by Sheldon Cohen. Approved. (New board members and officers listed in October Board minutes.) Craig gave a special “thank you” commending Sister Pat Stanley for her 18 years as Treasurer. She was given the responsibility at her third Kansas Wildflower Society meeting. Sister Pat also started the first KWS website and the first newsletter. Thank you, Sister Pat.

Fred Coombs gave a report from the Public Policy Committee, which includes Michael Haddock, Jeff Hansen, and Ann Feyerharm. The Roadside Aesthetics Task Force, established by KDOT, is on the verge of completing its recommendations to Secretary Deb Miller. The Task Force, comprised of representatives of several environmentally oriented groups and KDOT personnel, is recommending several changes to KDOT policy consistent with our KNPS position paper on roadside management. The recommendations feature the sole use of native plants along all new roadsides, sharply reduced mowing rights-of-way, and the enhancement of selected roadside areas showcasing native grasses and forbs. Fred introduced environmental scientist Cheryl Dunn, who has been designated to coordinate the new roadside management effort for KDOT, and thanked her for her contribution to the Task Force and for coming to our AWW meeting.

Valerie Wright moved the business meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Marilyn Armstrong. Approved.

Valerie Wright presented the Awards for 2008:

Mary Bancroft Award – none

Excellence in Botany Award – Dr. Howard Reynolds of Hays. (Craig gave info) He was a charter member of KWS and started the first pre-forest curriculum in Kansas. Howard taught at Fort Hays State University for 25 years, helped build the university herbarium, and continues to help with plant identifications after his retirement.

Sheldon H. Cohen Award for Outstanding Service to KNPS – 2 awards this year

Sheldon H. Cohen New award named in honor of Sheldon Cohen honoring those who give their time and expertise to the forward movement of KNPS. Among his many contributions, he was a charter member, past president, editor of the KWS newsletter for 18 years, a KWS/KNPS board member for 20 years, and played a major roll in revising the by-laws

Nancy Goulden –Award Nancy is co-editor of the KNPS newsletter, is actively working on the State Grass Initiative, has organized KNPS volunteers for the Symphony in the Flint Hills project for all three years, has written a manual for learning how to identify our native plants, and has been deeply involved in the Tallgrass Prairie event, among other contributions.

Rachel Snyder Memorial Landscape Award – Meredith Fry, biology major at Washburn University, for her Icabod's Prairie Patch project on the Washburn campus. She gave a short explanation of her project as illustrated by her display. Meredith hopes that the garden will be an inspiration and will reconnect others to their wildflower heritage.

Valerie gave a report on the status of the "Little Bluestem" project. New materials have been developed. They will continue to take it to the Legislature. She warned it may take several more years to get it accomplished.

Valerie gave brief information for 30th Anniversary recognition for KWS/KNPS. KWS has an art history. It was initiated by a group of women in Topeka in 1978. The first office was located at the Mulvane Art Society. The first president was Ross Johnson. The 25th Anniversary was celebrated in Topeka. There were 688 original charter members over a period of about 2 years. In 2008 there are still 27 active charter members. Present today are: Sheldon and Virginia Cohen, Donna Cooper, Howard Reynolds, Stan Roth, and Valerie Wright.

Jeff called attention to the framed Wildflower Pictures donated to KNPS for the Silent Auction by Norman Kruse. He was District Conservationist in Leavenworth County for many years. There will be an article in the Manhattan Mercury on him in the near future.

All in attendance enjoyed the beautifully decorated birthday cake and continued bidding on Silent Auction items during a break.

Jeff Hansen showed a PowerPoint presentation showing member numbers and distribution throughout the state.

Frank J. Norman gave an informative PowerPoint presentation on Medicinal Native Plants of Kansas. Plants included were purple coneflower, smooth sumac, butterfly milkweed, yarrow, blue vervain, St. John's wort, New Jersey tea, prickly ash, Culver's root, mountain mint, boneset, sweet flag, purple poppy mallow, great lobelia, Louisiana sagewort, compass plant, rattlesnake master, wild bergamot, and

gayfeather.

Cindy Ford gave a talk and demonstration on “Dyeing Wool with Natural Plants”. There were many oohs and aahs (and a few ughs) as she showed samples. There were several members interested in a workshop on this skill.

Valerie announced the Photo Contest Winners:

Scenery: 1st Place – Jim Mayhew, Abilene, “Foggy Morning”
2nd Place – Fred Coombs, Holton, “Bur Marigold”
3rd Place – Jim Mayhew “Winter in the West”

People: 1st Place – Jeff Hansen, Topeka, “Milkweed Lover”
2nd Place – none
3rd Place – Jeff Hansen “Horsethief Canyon, Kanopolis”

Fauna: 2nd Place – Fred Coombs, Holton, “Zebra Swallowtail on Butterfly Milkweed”
2nd Place – Jeff Hansen, Topeka, “Cricket Frog on Moss”
2nd Place - Jeff Hansen, Topeka, “Tiger Swallowtail on Verbena”

Flora: 1st Place – Krista Dahlinger, Mulvane, “Cup Plant”
2nd Place – David Welfelt, “Dew on Sumac Leaves”
2nd Place – Rita Schartz, St. John, “Catclaw Sensitive Briar”
3rd Place – Phyllis Scherich, Wilmore, “Blue-eyed Grass”

Garden: 1st Place – Jim Mayhew, Abilene, “Grayhead Prairie Clover”
2nd Place – Phyllis Scherich, Wilmore, “View of Fred and Nancy Coombs Garden”
3rd – none

Collage: 1st Place – Norman Kruse, Waterville, “Kansas Wildflowers”
1st Place – Rita Schartz, St. John, “Indian Blanket”
2nd place - none
3rd place - Rita Schartz, St. John, “Illinois Bundleflower”
3rd place – Jim Mayhew, Abilene, “Prickly Poppy”

Lunch was served, then members caravanned to the Cedar Bluff Reservoir tour site.

Sunday morning members caravanned to Wilson Reservoir – Rocktown Natural Area in Lucas Park for a plant tour.