

**Kansas Native Plant Society
Board of Directors Spring Meeting
April 18, 2009 10 am – 1 pm
Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens
Overland Park, Kansas**

Members present were: Earl Allen, Jocelyn Baker, Shirley Braunlich, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Krista Dahlinger, Cindy Ford, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Nancy Goulden, Brad Guhr, Mike Haddock, Jeff Hansen, Michael Heffron, Carroll L. Morgenson, Ken O'Dell, Susan Reimer, Dee Scherich, Phyllis Scherich, Sister Patricia Stanley, & Valerie Wright.

In the absence of Michael Heffron who was teaching a class, President Elect, Craig Freeman, called the meeting to order and thanked all for coming. Ken O'Dell welcomed KNPS board members to the Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens and gave a brief overview of the park. It is located on 600 ecologically diverse acres in southern Johnson County. Eight different ecosystems have been identified on the site. There is no admission fee for visitors. It is an educational, recreational, and cultural resource for the Kansas City Region.

Michael Haddock moved the January 2009 Board meeting minutes be accepted as circulated. Jeff Hansen seconded the motion. Members approved it.

Krista Dahlinger distributed the Financial Report. Krista reported she is in the process of moving the KNPS account from the Citizens Bank to the Commerce Bank. When the CDs mature she will move them. She reported the Legacy fund has \$500, but there are outstanding pledges. The account will be established when the minimum amount to establish the account is reached. Carroll Morgenson reported about \$1200 in the book sales fund. He suggested moving \$500 to the Legacy fund. After discussion, Valerie Wright moved, and Nancy Goulden seconded the motion to move \$500 into the general operating fund. It was approved.

Susan Reimer reported on the arrangements for the Summer board meeting. The membership at large is invited to join the Board members on a wildflower walk on the morning of July 11 on "Buffalo Hill", her private 160 acre native prairie bordering Maxwell Wildlife Refuge in McPherson County. We will meet at the headquarters for Maxwell Wildlife Refuge. Lunch will be \$10, tram tour \$8. Reservations necessary. More information will be sent via email. Susan also showed the new Prairie Trails Poster that is now available.

Cindy Ford presented information on the upcoming AWW in Pittsburg September 18-20, with group discussion and input. More information will be on-line and in the summer newsletter.

Nancy Goulden is once again organizing KNPS volunteers for the Symphony in the Flint Hills June 13. She has enough volunteers to "fill the slots", with a few people on the waiting list. She reported that the Symphony committee has requested all "green" and "natural" displays and asked for input from members about how we should do this. Joc Baker has volunteered to assist Nancy with Symphony arrangements.

Valerie Wright gave a report for the Awards committee. She announced we have two excellent applicants for the \$1000 scholarship. After discussion Fred Coombs moved to fund each at \$500. It was seconded by Michael and approved. Craig Freeman suggested the Grasslands Heritage might have funds available to supplement the KNPS funds to fully fund both applicants. He will check with them. (After

checking Craig reported Grasslands Heritage will add \$500 to each applicant. Credit will be given to GHF and to KNPS.) Carroll Morgenson moved that the budget be amended to include \$1000 for the scholarship fund. Susan Reimer seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Sister Pat suggested the funds come from maturing CDs; Krista will handle the awards that way. Jeff Hansen suggested the first Legacy Fund project could be to use interest from the fund to support future scholarships. No action was taken. Valerie then encouraged members to submit nominees for the other awards.

Nancy Goulden thanked all who had contributed articles/photos/suggestions for the Newsletter. She is interested in including a book review in each issue and asked for members to submit book reviews, photographs, articles, etc. to her. The next newsletter due date is June 5.

Jeff Hansen gave a membership report. There are currently 517 members. He suggested we do another renewal request. After discussion of the cost of doing one it was decided that we should delay it. Craig asked for the Membership committee to consider a suggestion from an earlier meeting to raise certain dues amounts and to present any recommendations at the summer meeting.

Cindy Ford reported there is a new Flint Hills wildflower pocket guide in the works; it is being coordinated and funded by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Cindy is helping with the submissions for it. Jeff reported he had applied for a Chickadee Check-off Grant, but it was not funded. He will resubmit the next round.

Ken O'Dell gave a wildflower-of-the-year plan update. He distributed a sheet with criteria suggestion guidelines. This project was assigned to the Plant Resources committee. Ken was added as a member to that committee.

Jeff Hansen suggested that time be set aside at the July Board meeting for committees to meet. It was agreed that time will be set aside for committees to meet.

Phyllis Scherich extended an invitation to Board members to attend the Comanche County Nature Tour May 23 and invited any who would like to serve as guides to let her know.

Valerie Wright thanked KNPS for the \$1000 contribution to KEEPS.

Brad Guhr discussed a request from the Dyck Arboretum to support the work of the arboretum. After discussing budget issues, Sr. Pat moved that KNPS continue supporting the Dyck Arboretum at \$1000 from CD funds. Jane Freeman seconded it. Motion defeated. Cindy Ford moved KNPS fund it at \$500. Jeff Hansen seconded it. The motion was approved. Arrangements will be made to send a check.

Jocelyn Baker suggested we form an "ad hoc" committee to create guidelines for evaluation of future funding requests. Craig appointed Nancy Coombs, Jeff Hansen, Shirley Braulich and Fred Coombs to the committee. Fred Coombs agreed to chair the committee.

Michael Haddock distributed Poisonous Plants of Illinois posters that were given to him for a photo he has donated. He also reported on a new Biodiversity website created by K-State – biodis.k-state.edu. It includes plants and insects. It includes specimen data for plants and insects linked to Google maps and digitized historical resources such as the Frank Gates books on Kansas wildflowers, grasses, weeds, and trees.

Nancy reported that Guy Coffee is indexing the entire Kansas Wildflower Society and Kansas Native Wildflower Society newsletter for simplicity in finding an article.

Ken O'Dell introduced Check Garrett and Linda Ochs who will be helping with today's tour.

Craig declared the meeting adjourned.

The Board then was served a wonderful lunch of sandwiches and fixings furnished by Ken O'Dell. Thanks for these arrangements, Ken. The group then was given a tour of the woodland wildflowers at the Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.

Submitted by Phyllis Scherich, Secretary