

**Kansas Native Plant Society
Board of Directors Spring Meeting
Summer Meeting July 11, 2009 1:00 – 3:15 p.m.
Maxwell Wildlife Refuge Tour Center
Pueblo Road – Canton, Kansas**

KNPS Board members present were: Earl Allen, Iralee Barnard, Shirley Braunlich, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Nancy Goulden, Mike Haddock, Michael Heffron, Evelyn Reed, Susan Reimer, Dee Scherich, Phyllis Scherich, Valerie Wright. KNPS members present were Janet and Stan Roth.

President Michael Heffron called the meeting to order and thanked all for coming. Each member introduced him/herself.

Shirley Braulich asked for two corrections to the **January 2009 minutes**. Contrary to minutes, Michael Heffron was not in attendance at that meeting. Also, \$500 from the book sales fund was placed not in the Legacy Fund but rather the general operating fund. Michael H. moved the minutes be accepted as corrected. The motion was seconded by Shirley and approved by members.

After discussion it was decided to set the **Winter Board meeting** for January 16, with the backup date of January 23 at Emporia. Craig Freeman will check if a room at Emporia State University is available for the meeting.

The **Spring board meeting** will be April 17 or 24, depending on Craig's schedule, which is yet to be determined. No location was selected.

Craig gave an update on the **AWW**. Most of the information is on the KNPS website. The Lamplighter Motel is offering rooms at \$49.00/night. 25 rooms have been reserved. A discussion was held considering whether we should charge a registration fee to cover some of the expenses. Evelyn moved we charge a nominal registration fee of \$5.00 per person for non-members for Saturday events only, and that registration for KNPS members be free. The fee might encourage non-members to join KNPS. Valerie seconded the motion. It was accepted.

In Krista's absence, Michael H. asked for comments on the **Treasurer/Budget Report** that Krista had e-mailed to Board members. After discussion, Michael H. moved to accept the Treasurer's report. It was seconded by Nancy and approved by members. Phyllis commented that Krista is proceeding with ongoing details of changing banks and that there were more forms to be signed today by Craig and Phyllis.

Jane gave the **Membership report**. There are 59 new members since January 1 – 46 since the last Board meeting. She will soon send a membership renewal notice to expired memberships from last year to encourage renewal. Shirley suggested we raise dues in all categories – to at least cover the cost of the newsletter with a single membership. Craig suggested the Finance Committee take a look at the data and make a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting.

Nancy reported on the **Newsletter**. The Summer edition is or should be in members' hands soon. She said she is watching the budget with each edition, but 14 pages seem to be the amount needed. She circulated two copies – one printed on glossy paper and another printed on the paper we have been

using. To print on the glossy paper would cost \$70 more per printing - \$280 per year. After examining the samples, the consensus was to continue printing on the paper we are currently using.

Nancy reported on the **Symphony in the Flint Hills** and thanked all volunteers who donated time and effort. Members should have received a summary by e-mail of the event. In a few words, "BEST EVER", seemed to describe the event and the wildflowers and grasses that were shared with concert-goers.

Nancy shared information on **Invasive trees**. She received a letter from Bryan Schanze. His concern was that the State Forestry is "propagating and promoting invasive trees" and also non-native trees by distributing them. He asked if KNPS would be willing to take a position on this practice. After a short discussion (Valerie suggested focusing on limited number of trees, e.g. red cedar), it was decided to turn this over to the Public Policy Committee, Fred Coombs chair. Fred Coombs indicated the Policy committee is having a discussion about invasive tree species and will report more on it at a later time.

Shirley distributed information on the Governor's Executive Order to convene environmental groups who work to **get children out-of-doors more**. Krista will be the contact person for KNPS with OWLS and KACEE. KNPS already has programs designed that will work with this program, the Prairie Patch Program and the Little Bluestem as a state grass initiative.

Iralee reported that the State Conservation Commission is requesting donations of native plant information to distribute at the SCC table at the **Kansas State Fair**, Sept. 11. The theme this year is "Protecting our Grassland Treasure." This is a great opportunity to publicize KNPS. We are almost out of posters, and no one had time to prepare a new brochure specifically for the event. It was decided we would offer copies of our membership brochure. (The Commission rejected her offer of the brochure or the KNPS display board so KNPS will not be represented.)

Iralee asked permission to take information on the Prairie Patch Program from the website to use for a **Scouting program** she will work with. There was no objection from the Board.

Fred distributed an **Ad Hoc Outreach Committee** report titled: *Recommendation on KNPS Funding for Other Organizations' Projects*. The Ad Hoc Committee on Funding Other Non-profit Organizations (Nancy Coombs, Shirley Braunlich, Jeff Hansen, Fred Coombs) recommended budgeting at least \$1,000 each year to support one or more projects that advance the education about, stewardship of, or research on native plants of Kansas. Organizations receiving an award will be requested to submit a brief application to KNPS describing the merits of their project. It was pointed out that we remember to take care of KNPS first when donating to other non-profits. Craig made a motion to accept "in principle" the recommendation and to prepare a suitable application form. It was seconded by Iralee and approved unanimously by the members. The ad hoc committee will design an application form and refine the recommendation to be presented to the Board at a later meeting. Fred asked if it would be appropriate to request KNPS funding from other non-profits. The consensus of the group was "yes, it is appropriate".

The meeting was suspended to allow Committee meetings. After the meetings reports were received.

When the meeting was resumed, Craig gave a report on the **Awards Committee**. KNPS will sponsor a photo contest at the annual meeting in Pittsburg in September. Valerie Wright will purchase ribbons for the contest. The Awards Committee has a nomination for the Shel Cohen Award, which is given to a member who makes exceptional contributions to the organization. The committee came up with several ideas for the Wayside Award; committee members Fred Coombs and Mike Haddock will look into the

possibility of nominating one or more sites for the award. KNPS, in cooperation with the Grassland Heritage Foundation, made two Bancroft Scholarship awards this year. The awardees will be invited to the annual meeting.

Nancy G. gave the report for the **Little Bluestem Committee**. Nancy and Valerie will contact several legislators to encourage support for a “state grass”. She asked all members to submit names of legislators they would like for them to contact. Nancy and Valerie will put together a packet for “talking points” when visiting with legislators and others about the Little Bluestem initiative.

Fred Coombs reported that the Public Policy Committee (Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Mike Haddock, Jeff Hansen, Frank Norman) will review state and federal policy and programs that deal with invasive species. The goal will be to determine if KNPS should advocate changes to existing policy or programs. The review will include consideration of possible ways to reduce the damage red cedars inflict upon efforts to restore or maintain desirable habitat.

Earl gave the report for the Finance Committee. KNPS is reasonably within budget for income and expenses for the year. The committee commended Krista for the great job of itemizing and explaining where money is coming from and going to in her new role as Treasurer. He reminded members that \$300 is needed to invest in the Legacy Fund.

Craig will visit with Cindy about the publicity for the Fall Meeting.

Valerie thanked Susan Reimer (for all attending) for sharing her Buffalo Hill property and organizing this meeting. Mike H. moved the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Fred and approved.

Respectively
Phyllis Scherich, secretary

Prior to the meeting the group enjoyed a tour of the wildflowers on Susan’s property. She had prepared a list of 143 plants and 12 grasses that have been identified on the property. We saw many of them, and added to her list. Several plants were “first-timers” for some of the members, including bushy seedbox, floating evening primrose, purple polygala and bright yellow pencil flowers. Craig pointed out three species in the Cistaceae (rock-rose family) and noted the differences: *Lechea tenuifolia* (narrow-leaf pinweed), *L. mucronata* (hairy pinweed), and *Helianthemum bicknellii* (Bicknell’s frostweed).

Lunch was served prior to the meeting consisting of BBQ beef sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, and tea or coffee.

After the meeting many in the group enjoyed a narrated tram tour of Maxwell Preserve and had an opportunity to view the buffalo close-up.