

Kansas Native Plant Society
31st Annual Wildflower Weekend Business Meeting
Theme: "Plants and People – A Productive Partnership"
Saturday, September 19, 2009 9:00AM-Noon
Pittsburg State University
Pittsburg, KS

President-elect Craig Freeman called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the 31st AWW. He explained that he is presiding today because President Michael Heffron is teaching this weekend. Phyllis Scherich, who is stepping down as Secretary, is in Colorado; Nancy Coombs, nominee for the position, is substituting. Craig asked all to introduce themselves by name and location. Special notice was given to Delia Lister and Cindy Ford for their work planning this year's AWW.

Announcements/Reports: Following the picnic lakeside lunch two outings in Cherokee County are planned: Schermerhorn Park, and the Spring River Wildlife Area near Galena. The Sunday outing is Wildcat Glades Nature Center near Joplin, MO, a dolomite/chert glade. Earl Allen spoke of raising money for the Legacy Fund, offering free jazz CDs with a donation to the fund. Valerie Wright informed everyone of the photo contest. Krista Dahlinger explained how the silent auction works, another fund raising event which last year collected about \$800.00. Stan Roth reported on what is available from KU Natural History publications, showing some examples, as well as some free posters from Wildlife and Parks, "Kansas Darters" and "Kansas Crayfish." Craig announced future board meetings (see minutes from yesterday) adding that anyone is welcome to attend the board meetings. He then asked for approval of the minutes of the 2008 AWW meeting. Sr. Pat Stanley so moved, Iralee Barnard seconded; approved.

Craig's PowerPoint overview of KNPS history, events, membership, and dues gave attendees a review of where the organization has been and projections for the future. Some highlights were:

Established in 1978 in Topeka as the Kansas Wildflower Society (KWS), the name was changed to Kansas Native Plant Society (KNPS) in 2005. Current membership is now about 520 representing 68 counties in KS and 11 states. Governance consists of up to 30 directors each elected for terms of three years. Directors meet four times annually. About two-thirds of income comes from dues, and the annual budget is about \$13,000. A separate Legacy Fund is being established as a long-term investment. Krista advised donors to specify into which fund they want donations deposited. On Friday the board approved a \$5.00 dues increase in each of four categories effective 1 Jan. 2010. Our biggest expenses are the newsletter (28%) and the web site (21%). Annual meetings have evolved from a one-day event to a three-day event. Other topics included a review of volunteer work in education, stewardship, legislative initiative, and scientific discoveries of plants in Kansas.

Jeff Hansen gave a website update, adding that e-mail announcements of events seem to be popular.

Fred Coombs reported on the KDOT Roadside Aesthetics Taskforce (see Board minutes for details). Ann Simpson said highway US 69 was beautiful today, requesting that a letter of appreciation be sent to KDOT. Telephone calls to KDOT citing benefits of their new non-mowing policy were also urged. Stan Roth added that roadside road kill should be documented citing location, date, and species. He offered congratulations on the KNPS website.

The following slate of officers was presented by the nominating committee for one-year terms: Craig Freeman (President), Nancy Goulden (Vice-President), Nancy Coombs (Secretary), Krista Dahlinger (Treasurer). The slate was elected by acclamation.

The Awards Committee announced the following awards:

Mary Bancroft Award: This award promotes advancement of scientific knowledge of native plants. The two recipients, Kristen Polacik and Steve Roels, both master degree students, were unable to attend today but will give presentations at the 2010 AWW.

Excellence in Botany Award: Craig cited the outstanding work of Woody Holland, Erie, an earlier recipient of the Excellence in Botany Award. Woody, a long-time member of KNPS, travels around the US collecting specimens during his vacations; he has an amazing eye for details. When he received his award, KNPS did not give out wooden plaques; however, the Board thought it was appropriate for Woody to receive a wooden plaque for his achievements, which was presented to him by Craig.

Sheldon H. Cohen Award: An award for outstanding service to KNPS, this year's recipient is webmaster and former KNPS President, Jeff Hansen, who has also documented plants in Kansas.

Rachel Snyder Memorial Landscape Award: No award this year.

Craig called attention to Steve Timme's work on *Wildflowers of Southeast Kansas*. Steve is a former president of KNPS and a faculty member at PSU. Steve said all profits will go to KNPS. Phyllis Luedke, a new KNPS member from Colony, won a free copy of *Wildflowers of Southeast Kansas* in the drawing.

BREAK

11:00AM Cyndy Cogbill, Missouri Department of Conservation, gave an interactive presentation on "Wild Edibles from the Native Landscape." The entire audience played "Edible Bingo" on laminated cards she made showing a variety of native plants. As she discussed each plant, players guessed which one it was, and placed a seed on that photo.

Photo Contest winners were reported by Valerie Wright:

Scenery: First Place: Nancy Goulden, "Prairie on a Windy March Day." Second Place: Susan Reimer, "Prairie Evening." Third Place: Jeff Hansen, "Point of Rocks at Cimarron Grasslands."

Collage: First Place: Cynthia Pederson, "Monarda fistulosa." Second Place: Cynthia Pederson, "How Sweet to be a Bee on Betony." Third Place: David Welfelt, "Round-headed Lespedeza, *Lespedeza capitata*."

Garden: First, Second, and Third Place: Cynthia Pederson, "Silphium with Monarch," *Silphium perfoliatum* After a Rain," and "Rosin Weed with Bug."

People: First, Second, and Third Place: David Welfelt, "KNPS Folks at Tallgrass Prairie," "Michael at Wilson Lake," and "KNPS Folks at Wildflower Outing."

Fauna: First Place: David Welfelt, "Monarch on Blue Sage," Second Place: Krista Dahlinger, Grasshopper on Illinois Bundleflower, Third Place, Jeff Hansen, "Red-tailed Hawks in Shawnee County."

Flora: First Place: Emmett Sullivan, "Passion Flower, Maypop." Second Place, Emmett Sullivan, "Kansas Gayfeather," Second Place: David Welfelt, "Prickly Poppy," Third Place: David Welfelt, "Common Sunflower," Third Place: Emmett Sullivan, "American Lotus."

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.