

**Kansas Native Plant Society
Spring Board Meeting
Dyck Arboretum of the Plains
11 am–2 pm
April 17, 2010
Hesston, KS**

Members present: Earl Allen, Jocelyn Baker, Iralee Barnard, Shirley Braunlich, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Krista Dahlinger, Mickey Delfelder, Cindy Ford, Craig Freeman, Nancy Goulden, Brad Guhr, Mike Haddock, Jeff Hansen, June Kliesen, Ken O'Dell, Evelyn Reed, Dee Scherich, Phyllis Scherich, and Dave Welfelt.

Others attending: Alice Dinley (June Kliesen's sister from MA) and former board member Sandra Tholen from Wichita.

President Craig Freeman welcomed everyone and made a few announcements. Brad Guhr followed with words of welcome about the Dyck Arboretum. It was former agricultural land replanted with native and adaptable trees, prairie plants, and gardens through a gift from Harold and Elva Dyck. Now it is more of a prairie interpretation garden. Prairie restoration is currently in process on 16 acres including an Earth Partnership for Schools involving students K-12 in conservation. Brad then offered a review of outings to follow the board meeting on two remnant prairie hay meadows nearby. He expressed appreciation to Director Julie Torseth for sharing the space with us today.

Phyllis moved to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2010 board meeting. Iralee seconded the motion; it carried.

President's report:

The summer board meeting will be July 10, 2010 at the Kansas Biological Survey, Lawrence, KS.

The Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) will be September 17-19, 2010 in Great Bend, KS. The board meeting on Friday, September 17 will be at Cheyenne Bottoms Wetland Education Center, with a wetlands tour to follow the meeting. The Nature Conservancy and Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks both have areas to tour. There will be a catered meal for the board meeting. The Saturday, September 18 general meeting space is still open.

Phyllis will look into the possible use of the Great Bend Public Library for that meeting. A trip to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge will follow the meeting. Brad suggested requesting birders to lead us in the salt marshes. Sunday is still in the planning stage. The 2010 AWW theme: Wetlands.

Other future meeting dates include:
January 22, 2011 – winter board meeting;
April 23, 2011 – spring board meeting;
July 16, 2011 – summer board meeting.

Agenda items:

Jeff and Krista gave an update of the PayPal account that they recently set up for KNPS. KNPS netted \$1100 from PayPal sales in two months, at a cost of \$43.00.

Nancy G. reported on the two-page spread “In Search of Wildflowers” in the 2010 Travel Kansas publication featuring KNPS with photos and text. She urged members to take a copy and suggested placing it in a local library or other public place. Brad asked if we could get permission to put a PDF file of the article on our website. Nancy G. will inquire.

Krista reported on the budget, including a subset on the PayPal account. PayPal will also track inventory for KNPS. Expenses not yet posted include the winter newsletter at \$1300.00 and the annual brochure at \$800.00. We are now down to our last 60 posters. Discussion followed whether to reprint posters and coloring books when their supplies are depleted, and what new merchandise to make available. Dave moved, Fred seconded that the budget be accepted; motion carried.

Nancy G. noted that the Kansas state legislature has adopted Little Bluestem as the state grass of Kansas. Nancy said Valerie introduced the idea of Little Bluestem as the state grass while President of KNPS. In praising Valerie’s work, Nancy also thanked others who contributed: Phyllis and Dee for their major work with lawmakers, Jeff’s significant work with teachers, and Ken’s active writing campaign. Board members gave Nancy a round of applause for her work on Little Blue.

Jeff updated membership: we have 596 members (including 71 gratis and 94 who have not renewed since 2009). So far we have 32 new members; at the same period last year there were only 19. Most joined via the website.

Nancy G. reported that an experienced group of volunteers has been lined up for the fifth Symphony on the Prairie June 12, 2010. She also announced that this is the last year she will organize KNPS volunteer participation for the symphony and asked members of the board to consider taking over the coordination role in 2011.

Nancy G. then urged members to volunteer for the annual Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve (TPNP) event September 11 and 12. She asked for more interactive activities in the barn than last year, such as more prairie-related demonstrations and setting up an educational booth in the barn. Examples from last year include Cindy's and Iralee's dyeing and spinning, Jeff's edible native plant display, and the big bouquets of native plants. Volunteers are needed this year to ride the bus with attendees to help identify plants. Please indicate your preference for participation, and e-mail Nancy Goulden (nag@ksu.edu) to volunteer.

Phyllis and Nancy said we also need more interactive display boards and updating of the Wildflower of the Year and the Little Bluestem displays. Krista suggested printing KNPS cards with our logo. Iralee asked if we want to promote the Prairie Patch Program. Phyllis will head the display board work. Craig will work with Phyllis to update and redesign the panels. Nancy G. and Joc volunteered to help. Mickey will check on costs of a large KNPS banner that will be convenient to display and store.

Nancy G. reminded everyone that the July newsletter is devoted to articles and photos about spring outings.

Mickey said the Facebook site he manages, an extension of our regular website, had 65 fans February 1 and now has 237 fans. He posts a photo of a mystery plant every week of plants he has taken around the state. This past week the bud scales of the shagbark hickory got some fans from out of state. Fred asked if Mickey has an

age breakdown of fans. Fans are over 25 years, evenly distributed by age with two to one women over men.

Nancy G. said the roadside mowing issue offers an opportunity to involve membership at large over the state. The discussion on the web has been very active. She asked how KNPS wants to proceed with this statewide interest. Craig said KDOT has scheduled a meeting April 30; Fred and Michael Haddock will attend. Nancy G. recommended establishing a facilitation committee to provide contact information and other resources on our website, and to facilitate letter writing campaigns to raise public awareness. Mickey volunteered. Jeff pointed out that KDOT is in charge of state highways, not county roads. He referenced the work of Michael Stubbs with Wabaunsee County officials. Fred said there is a lot to be done at the county level but there are limits to what KNPS resources can do. Craig noted that specific parameters are needed for KNPS. Iralee referred to the work Gary Weisenberger did on this for years. Craig will outline the committee's tasks and will solicit volunteers. Nancy has a suggested list of names.

Shirley called for ideas to increase awareness of Kansas Native Plant Appreciation Month in June. Evelyn, Krista, Jeff, Mickey, and Cindy offered suggestions. Jeff, Mickey, Krista and Shirley will discuss this further.

Mickey proposed a new marketing idea – a full color 4" x 4" window static cling decal with the KNPS logo that could be given to new and renewing members. The cost for 1000 decals is \$580. Extras could be sold on-line @\$1.00 apiece. Craig asked for a mock-up of the sticker that the board could see; Mickey will make the arrangements. Krista said there may not be room in the budget for the expenditure this year. The board will consider these issues when an example of the decal is available.

Ken has contacts with the Kansas Nursery & Landscape Association, which has about 60 members statewide, 20 or 30 of which are active. He asked if KNPS wants to invite KNLA to join KNPS, and whether we want them to sell and promote native plants. Earl suggested Ken do an article for the newsletter. Craig noted that KNPS has not in the past promoted one nursery over another as a source for live plants or

seeds. Ken will follow through with the Wildflower of the Year program.

Spring AWW (SPAWW) - Grant County Wildflower Tour – Jeff and Mickey proposed joining the Grant County Wildflower Tour on May 29 for a spring wildflower outing. They will look into options of places to stay south of Garden City. Phyllis said it is a great tour; she advises people to go the day before to see habitats that the regular tour does not visit, such as the sand dunes.

Jeff said that this year the website has had several requests for wildflower walks, presenters, or help clearing invasive plants. He has a list of people in local areas to volunteer, also sends requests to discussion e-mails. He asked all board members to volunteer.

Iralee reported that “A Pocket Guide to Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses” will be out around May 1; KNPS is one of the sponsors. She asked how to distribute them; they are in boxes of 250 and will be stored at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita.

Shirley shared a list she developed of books available at the Lawrence Public Library, “Natural History in Our Region”, which is on the LPL website in more detail.

The meeting adjourned.

Nancy Coombs,
Secretary