

**Kansas Native Plant Society  
Summer Board Meeting  
Kansas Biological Survey, University of Kansas  
Takeru Higuchi Hall  
2101 Constant Avenue  
Lawrence, KS  
12-3 pm  
July 10, 2010**

**Members present:** Shirley Braunlich, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Krista Dahlinger, Mickey Delfelder, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Nancy Goulden, Mike Haddock, Jeff Hansen, June Kliesen, Frank Norman, Ken O'Dell, Evelyn Reed, Susan Reimer, Dee Scherich, Phyllis Scherich, Patricia Stanley, Dave Welfelt, Valerie Wright. **Others attending:** Allen Casey, Topeka.

**Welcome.** President Craig Freeman welcomed everyone and made a few announcements about the Kansas Biological Survey. Attendees thanked Jane and Craig for the onsite lunch they provided.

**Approval of agenda.** Jeff asked to add a note about county wildflower tours; Phyllis requested informing Carroll about history scrapbook items.

**Approval of the April 17, 2010 minutes.** June moved to accept the minutes of the previous board meeting. Mike Haddock seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**President's report**

**a. The Flint Hills Wildflower pocket guide.** The pocket guide authored by Iralee Barnard is now available.

**b. Planning for possible collaboration with Virginia Native Plant Society for Kansas outings in 2011.** Linda Wilcox from the Virginia Native Plant Society contacted Craig to request suggestions for places to visit in 2011. Linda will pick sites of interest to them, hoping to coordinate with KNPS for joint visits.

**c. Planning for September 17-19, 2010 AWW in Great Bend, KS.**

On Friday, September 17, 2010 The Kansas Wetlands Education Center (KWEC) staff will offer a presentation and provide an intern for guided tours of the wetlands. KWEC is located northeast of Great Bend. Ruth Palmer of the Nature Conservancy in Kansas will help coordinate visits to the Nature Conservancy's 8,000 acres at Cheyenne Bottoms. The dinner site for Friday evening has yet to be resolved.

On Saturday, September 18, 2010 the KNPS annual meeting will begin at 9:30 am in the basement of the Great Bend Public Library at 1409 Williams Street. Afternoon site visits include stops at Little Marsh and Big Marsh, natural communities unique in the state of Kansas in the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Attendees will be on their own for dinner Saturday evening.

On Sunday, September 19, we will visit a sand prairie on private land south of the Arkansas River.

Phyllis said the GBPL will post an announcement our meeting. Jeff suggested notifying local newspapers in the area. Craig will put a press release for AWW together. Craig will also prepare a couple of panels for display at the Great Bend Public Library ahead of time. Phyllis will look into a group rate on motels.

Krista reported on plans for the silent auction and suggested a raffle ticket sale as a new fund raiser. Two hand-stitched framed pictures have been donated to KNPS. Sister Pat will print up bid sheets for auction items.

Valerie reported on plans for the photo contest.

The Awards Committee, currently comprising Valerie, Fred, Mickey, Cindy, and Craig, needs two non-board members. The committee will evaluate nominations for the following awards: Excellence in Botany, Rachel Snyder Memorial Landscape Award, Sheldon H. Cohen Award for Outstanding Service, Mary A. Bancroft Scholarship, and Non-profit funding requests. Nominations have been received,

for the Excellence in Botany and Sheldon Cohen Service Award, and a request for non-profit support has been received from the Dyck Arboretum.

**Budget Report:** Krista reported that income from membership dues, donations, sales, the silent auction, and proceeds from a matured CD gave a boost to our mid-year budget. The PayPal addition to the KNPS website in March has resulted in more merchandise sold in this quarter, as well as two new life memberships. Krista proposed that we increase the budgeted amount to maintain the website for the balance of the year, but that no new enhancements be made to the website. She advised caution in spending for the rest of this year but suggested continuing with PayPal for a full year to see how it goes.

Jeff estimated that website maintenance would average 12 hours per month for the rest of the year. Fred moved that we increase the budgeted amount for website maintenance by \$1,400. The motion was seconded by Frank and passed unanimously.

Sister Pat and Mickey volunteered to add material, such as the bibliography Shirley created, to the website. Jeff said the website had 25,000 visits for the first half of 2009. For the first half of 2010, we have had 36,000 visits, and increase of 43%.

**Membership Report.** Jeff reported that we have 477 regular paid members and 77 gratis members. About 100 members in 2009 have not renewed. Jeff showed a Kansas map with current membership by county.

**Report on the Symphony in the Flint Hills.** Nancy G. reported that in every way our participation was a success this year. Over a thousand people visited with KNPS volunteers about plants and our organization. She praised the fantastic group of 22 volunteers, including one from Iowa, who continue to work as a team helping to set up the displays, organize plant hikes, serve as hosts on trailside stops, and answer questions of booth visitors. Nancy said that Phyllis invested a lot of time, effort, and material on the display and requested a \$25.00 reimbursement to Phyllis for her work. Craig expressed appreciation on behalf of KNPS to Nancy for her

invaluable work on the symphony. Nancy volunteered to mentor the next person to head KNPS Symphony volunteers.

**Report on KNPS Newsletter.** Nancy said that the newsletter is on its way. She said that the newsletter is among our largest budget items annually, and we could cut pages or not use color if necessary to reduce expenditures. It costs about \$5,000 a year to print and mail, about \$1,300 per issue. Jane mentioned Lawrence is getting the mailings later than previously.

**Little Bluestem promotion.** Valerie passed around a photo showing Governor Parkinson with students for the proclamation of Little Bluestem as the Kansas state grass. She said that LBS as a new icon is not well known around the state, and we need to make sure teachers have appropriate teaching materials. Valerie suggested we may need some initiative by the board to connect with teachers and perhaps a special feature on the website. Ken suggested making LBS the wildflower of the year in 2012. Valerie also said that Myra Campbell has given permission for KNPS to use her watercolor of Little Bluestem in educational materials about the Kansas State grass.

### **Other business**

**a. Volunteers to work at Coblenz Prairie.** Shirley and Jeff report that this prairie is publicly owned and quite diverse. Management has changed and now it is not well managed. Shirley asked for volunteers willing to carry a backpack sprayer to spray sericea lespedeza. She will prepare an announcement that will be distributed by email to the membership to try to attract a volunteer force.

**b Flint Hills Discovery Center.** Valerie reported that a groundbreaking ceremony was held in Manhattan on July 7 for the new Flint Hills Discovery Center. The center will represent the social and natural history and geology of 22 Flint Hills counties. The Donna Lawrence Production of Kentucky, a filmmaker of Ken Burns quality, will begin filming this fall through summer 2011. They want to include personal experiences that depict powerful connections with the Flint

Hills, for the “immersive” theater. Please share your experiences with Valerie for this project.

**c. Roadside Vegetation.** Craig indicated that he has prepared a goal statement and list of objectives for a committee that will try to focus the KNPS membership in the campaign to improve roadside management. He still needs to work out the committee membership.

At 2:30PM a motion was made by June to adjourn; Shirley seconded. Motion passed.

Nancy Coombs, Secretary  
Submitted July 13, 2010