

Kansas Native Plant Society
32nd Annual Wildflower Weekend Business Meeting
Theme: "Wetlands, Wildflowers, and Wildlife"
Saturday, September 18, 2010 9:00AM-Noon
Great Bend Public Library
Great Bend, KS

President Craig Freeman called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the 32nd Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) at 10AM. He introduced Terri Hurley, Director of Public Relations at the Great Bend Public Library. She welcomed everyone to the library. Craig F. expressed appreciation to her and to her staff for their help and for the use of their facility.

Craig F. asked for a quick round of introductions from all present.

Announcements/Reports: Craig F. extended thanks to Curtis Wolf for yesterday's visit to Cheyenne Bottoms and to Robert Penner of The Nature Conservancy who will speak later this morning. He also thanked Rita Schartz, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) officer for Barton County, who helped arrange area wildflower tours, including one to Marla Brocher's sand prairie on Sunday. Karen Kline-Martin will cater our lunch today.

Craig F. introduced KNPS board members and officers. He followed with an informative PowerPoint overview of KNPS history and events, including maps showing statewide member populations. Charts and graphs showed dues, governance, committees, and our 2010 budget. Jane Freeman is the Administrative Assistant. This year dues were increased \$5.00 in the student, individual, family, and organization categories. About half of KNPS income is used for the web and the newsletter. New this year is Mickey Delfelder's work with FaceBook. Craig F. asked for a volunteer to do the KNPS Blog. A round of applause was given to Nancy Goulden, Karen Hummel, and June Kliesen who have been doing a phenomenal job with the newsletter that is published four times a year. Yesterday the board agreed to support three non-profit entities involved in prairie education: the Kansas Grazing Lands Collation's "Adult Range School", the Dyck Arboretum's "Earth Partnership for Schools", and the Konza Environmental Education Program (KEEP). Craig F. also

congratulated Nancy G., Valerie Wright, Phyllis Scherich, and Jeff Hansen who, after five years of effort, were instrumental in getting Little Bluestem named the state grass of Kansas this year.

Craig F. called attention to the four awards that KNPS offers each year. The awards are the Sheldon H. Cohen Service Award, the Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship, the Rachel Snyder Memorial Landscape Award, and the Excellence in Botany Award.

Craig F. cited Iralee Barnard's excellent work on the newly published "A Pocket Guide to Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses". All attendees received a copy of the popular booklet.

Craig F. announced the creation of the new Roadside Vegetation Management Committee, an idea suggested at the spring board meeting. The committee, chaired by Fred Coombs, will attempt to recommend ways to engage KNPS membership in efforts to improve roadside vegetation management of state highways and county roads.

Craig F. reviewed various volunteer outings, especially Nancy G's work organizing KNPS members for the spring Symphony in the Flint Hills as well as for the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve's (TPNP) annual fall wildflower weekend. We are still considering how to improve our participation at the TPNP event. Jeff H. has made some remarkable discoveries identifying several plants thought to be extinct in our state. Craig F. urged other members to get eyes on the ground.

Krista Dalinger spoke about renewing memberships, and giving donations for color in newsletters and/or the legacy fund.

David Welfelt called for approval of the minutes of the 2009 AWW meeting, Krista D. seconded; motion passed.

Mike Haddock summarized the nomination committee's recommendations; they were approved by the membership. He thanked Julie Torseth and Sister Patricia Stanley for their service; both are stepping down from the board after many years of service to KNPS.

Valerie W. announced that the Sheldon H. Cohen Award for outstanding service to KNPS this year honors the work of long-time member and prairie enthusiast Lorraine Kaufman.

Valerie W. also announced Iralee B. as this year's recipient of the Excellence in Botany Award. Iralee B. worked at the Kansas State University Herbarium for many years, has identified 500 species of plants at TPNP, and most recently is the author of the new pocket guide mentioned above.

The 2009 Mary A Bancroft Memorial Scholarship recipients were Kristen Polacik and Steve Roels, both master's degree students. Kristen P., a Fort Hays State University student, gave a PowerPoint presentation of her thesis research on *Tamarix ramosissima* (salt cedar), an invasive riparian shrub whose seeds are dispersed by wind and water. Salt cedar is a fire tolerant woody shrub from Eurasia. Her research focused on flood tolerance mechanisms in western Kansas. She found that plants were able to recover under longer term flooding.

Steve Roels, a University of Kansas student, was unable to attend so Craig F. read the summary of an abstract of Steve's talk on weevil attacks on the flowers of *Asclepias meadii* (Mead's milkweed). Research suggests that other prairie milkweed species serve as reservoirs for the weevils, which then can attack Mead's milkweed if it is present. It also is possible that undescribed weevils are part of the problem.

Both Valerie W. and Craig F. spoke to the importance of KNPS support for student research on native plants.

At 11:30 Robert Penner, Cheyenne Bottoms and Avian Program Manager at The Nature Conservancy, gave a PowerPoint presentation, "The Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve, more than a Wetland". He said that Cheyenne Bottoms is a 41,000-acre basin with fluctuations in water supply such that in some years water can be very scarce or even absent. The Nature Conservancy owns and manages 8,000 acres. Their property is mostly grasslands, managed for bird and wildlife habitat. Only about 2,000 acres are semi-permanent wetlands, nearly 800 acres is never grazed. One of the biggest jobs is grassland management, with cattle as a main tool but cattle are also currently a main income source. In order to create a

mosaic of vegetation heights and densities, a random rotational grazing system is employed, averaging one cow/calf per ten acres. About 3,000 acres were former cropland. Cattails, trees, roads and oil wells pose maintenance issues. Another management tool is burning but that is done infrequently. Noxious weed seeds that come down in flood waters bring plants that are spot-sprayed by hand. Basic vegetation surveys over the last 15 years show that native grasses and forbs are increasing.

Valerie W. announced the winners for the KNPS 2010 photo contest:

Flora:

First:	David Welfelt	"Large Flowered Gaura"
Second:	Phyllis Luedke	"Hedge Parsley, Hooked Bristles"
Third:	Dave Welfelt	"Prickly Lettuce"

Fauna:

First:	David Welfelt	"Juniper Hairstreak on Queen Ann's Lace"
Second:	Phyllis Luedke	"Bumblebee on Bitter Sneeze Weed"
Third:	Susan Reimer,	"Curious Critter"

Garden:

First:	Rita Schartz	"June Mix"
Second:	Phyllis Luedke	"Echinacea Seed Heads in Heavy Snow"
Third:	Sister Patrick Stanley	"My Garden"

Scenery:

First:	Phyllis Luedke	"Barber Counter Landscape"
Second:	Phyllis Luedke	"Deer Creek Winter Scene"
Third:	Susan Reimer	"Autumn Gold"

Collage:

First:	Phyllis Luedke	"Passion Flower"
Second:	Susan Reimer	"Blue Funnel Lily"

People:

First:	Matthew Richter	"1 st Pass, Tallgrass on Paint Creek"
Second:	Susan Reimer	"A Lotus by Any Other Name"
Third:	David Welfelt	"Great Plains Nature Photographers, Wildflower Photo Shoot"

Best in Show: David Welfelt "Large Flowered Gaura"

The meeting was adjourned shortly after noon.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Coombs, Secretary, on Wednesday, September 22, 2010.