

**Kansas Native Plant Society
Spring Board Meeting
Great Plains Nature Center, Classroom
12-3 pm
April 23, 2011
Wichita, KS**

Members present: Earl Allen, Iralee Barnard, Shirley Braunlich, Allen Casey, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Krista Dahlinger, Mickey Delfelder, Cindy Ford, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Brad Guhr, Mike Haddock, Jeff Hansen, Chelsea Juricek, June Kliesen, Evelyn Reed.

Welcome: President Craig Freeman welcomed attendees and made general announcements. A number of board members were unable to attend the meeting due to travel or medical issues.

President's Report: After discussions with representatives of the Symphony in the Flint Hills, it was agreed that KNPS would not participate in the event in 2011; individuals may participate as they choose. KNPS may be involved again in the future. There are about 214 brochures and 40 posters left for this year which may be enough. The supply of posters may be enough for the rest of 2011, but more brochures will be needed soon. Supplies of the pocket guide to *Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses* by Iralee Barnard are low, but KNPS may be able to obtain a few more from the Great Plains Nature Center. A discussion on handouts followed; Jeff will check with Capitol Graphics to see if they still have the capacity to print more posters.

Budget: Krista gave an update on donations to funds. She said income and all expenses are where we thought they would be at this time of the year. We have about \$5,000 in the checking account; about \$9,000 for expenses for the rest of this year. The CD that matures in June may be reinvested. The Legacy Fund is worth about \$3,600 now. Printing costs for the brochure are about \$600. Craig will talk to Joc Baker about getting more brochures printed. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Mike Haddock, seconded by June Kliesen. Carried.

Newsletter: In Nancy Goulden's absence, Craig reported that major problems with the printer continue and that Karen or Nancy may suggest a change from Copy Center. A discussion about other possible printers followed. Craig expressed appreciation for all the effort that goes into making the newsletter possible.

Website: Jeff reported on membership statistics as of April 23, 2011. There are 73 non-profit (gratis) member organizations and 628 regular (paying) members. Of the regular members, 587 live in Kansas, 41 out of state. Sixty new members have joined since January 1, the majority of whom have come from the website

(41) and the brochure (16). Jeff has divided the 105 counties of Kansas into 21 multi-county regions based on population and proximity, each named after the largest city in that region. The purpose of these regions is to foster more local events and local involvement. To date, 11 members have volunteered to lead their regions. Jeff also reported on other website activity and updates, including 75 events listed so far for 2011 and the new e-mail group now has 582 members. For more detail on membership statistics, distribution by county, and the new multi-county regions go to <http://www.ksnps.org> showing maps and graphs.

Roadside Vegetation Management Committee: Fred reviewed the types of options proposed by the committee at the winter board meeting to encourage involvement of members in efforts to improve roadside management. Mickey gave an analysis of the results of a survey of members to gauge how interested they were in pursuing the issue and what they might be willing to do. Six questions were posted on Facebook and the e-mail discussion group and responses were received from 74 people. Sixty-eight respondents said they were “very much” in favor of pursuing roadside restoration with native vegetation and reduced mowing. A majority of respondents indicated a willingness to talk with friends and neighbors or distribute educational materials, while lower numbers expressed interest in writing letters to newspapers or speaking at meetings. The survey results indicate that the most useful resources might be a flyer and a brochure to hand out, and a website list of useful resources on roadside management. Fred asked how the board wants to proceed. Craig said the survey indicates there is support for proceeding on a local level and that KNPS has unique expertise to bring to the issue. Comments from Mickey, Jeff, Iralee, Krista, Earl, Fred and others followed on how to proceed. It was decided to hold off on the development of additional materials and resources until we have explored what is already available regarding roadside management from states like Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois.

Craig reported that Michael Stubbs has asked if KNPS wished to co-sponsor Daryl Smith, Tallgrass Prairie Center, University of Northern Iowa (<http://www.tallgrassprairiecenter.org/>), for several speaking engagements in Kansas in June. The purpose is to share Iowa’s native plant roadside practices with the Department of Transportation and other audiences. Fred moved that KNPS contribute \$250 and join in sponsoring the talks. Earl seconded, motion carried.

Allen suggested bringing in a high profile speaker on roadside management from Iowa for the AWW; Craig will pursue getting a speaker.

New Business

Bancroft Scholarship: Valerie sent in one proposal by Jacob Olsen from Fort Hays State University who is doing master’s research on the effects of local environment on big bluestem across the Midwest. Discussion followed; a motion was made by Allen to fund Mr. Olsen at \$500. Brad seconded the motion; carried. Craig will contact GHF to investigate cost-sharing of the proposal.

Report on regional meetings: Jeff reported on meetings organized by Allen for the Topeka region and by Ken O’Dell for the Kansas City region. He listed

the names of other leaders who have volunteered to date to lead the 21 multi-county regions, and reviewed various ways to proceed to build up personal relationships. The question of funding travel expenses for prospective speakers at region events was raised. Regions are encouraged to find way to cover the expenses of speakers at their meetings. If financial help is needed to bring in a speaker, that request should be sent to Craig and Krista.

Iralee showed a certificate from the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve (TPNP); certificates are given each year to KNPS for volunteer participation. This year, however, the annual September event likely will be put on hold due to on-going major construction projects for a new visitor center.

Future meetings

- a. On July 16, 2011 the summer board meeting will be at the Kansas State University Library, Manhattan from 12-3 pm and will include lunch. Michael Haddock passed around a detailed handout of the schedule. The day will begin with botanizing at the Konza Prairie Biological Station from 9-11 am. During lunch in the Hemisphere Room of Hale Library small groups will visit the green roof on Seaton Hall in shifts. Mike will be available to provide a brief tour of Hale Library after the meeting for those interested.
- b. September 16-18, 2011: Plans for the Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) in Lawrence were discussed; some have been confirmed.

2:30PM: The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Coombs, Secretary