

Kansas Native Plant Society
33rd Annual Wildflower Weekend Business Meeting
Theme: "Native Plants and Landscapes of Northeast Kansas"
Saturday, September 17, 2011 9:00AM-Noon
Raymond Nichols Hall, University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Welcome by KNPS President: Craig welcomed attendees to the AWW Business Meeting in the Apollo Auditorium of Raymond Nichols Hall at 9 am. He recognized organizers and volunteers for all events of this three-day weekend, with special thanks to Jane, Jeff, Shirley and Mickey. Krista reviewed silent auction rules and encouraged folks to enter this year's new raffle with chances to buy a \$30.00 book for one dollar. Valerie reminded everyone to vote on the photos and identified the judges: Mike, Cindy, Mickey, and Fred. She said the collage category has been replaced by a new category – wildflower of the year. She asked that digital photos be submitted next year to facilitate showing photos on PowerPoint at the 2012 AWW, as well as in the newsletter and on the website. Photos should be of native plants.

Craig made a PowerPoint presentation showing scenes of various prairie types in Kansas. He reviewed KNPS membership statistics, noting especially Jeff's tremendous initiative for increased general membership as well as Michael Heffron's efforts for continuous growth in student memberships. Craig announced that the popular *A Pocket Guide to Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses* by Iralea has been reprinted and is now available again.

Panel of Volunteer Regions: Nancy Goulden introduced panel discussion members Jeff, Ken, Krista, and Fred. She said Jeff thought of creating regional KNPS county groupings this year to promote more local plant events and increase membership. Each group of counties is named after the largest city in that region. Jeff, leader of the Topeka Region (4 counties), has held a couple of meetings in Topeka with 15-20 people in attendance. Ken O'Dell, leader of the Kansas City Region (4 counties), said the purpose should reflect the KNPS mission as well as serve to meet other plant enthusiasts in their region. He recognized Lynda Ochs, Craig Hensley, Lenora Larson and Loretta Craig as volunteers who have helped organize events for the KC Region. Krista, leader of the Wichita Region (4 counties), has 100 KNPS members, eight of whom came to the first meeting. She wanted to get to know other members and local plants and to plan activities together. Fred, leader of the Atchison Region (6 counties), spoke of the difficulty of getting folks out even after mailings and newspaper notices. Although there are 15 KNPS members in his region, only four people showed up, none of whom were members. All regional leaders share news of their events by email, but Ken's KC region is far and away the most active with many events in various locations ranging from 50-100 people attending. He proposed having joint regional meetings. Jeff said that Glen Fell has done a great job in the Emporia Region and board member Chelsea Juricek is the leader for the Hays Region. All agreed that date selection, getting the events well advertised, and involving other groups are important planning strategies.

Elections: Mike Haddock, chair of the Nominations Committee, reported that the following KNPS officers were approved at yesterday's board meeting to serve for one-year terms (September 2011-September 2012): Secretary, Nancy Coombs; Treasurer, Krista Dahlinger; Vice President, Mike Haddock; and President, Mickey Delfelder. He also presented the slate of board members continuing to serve and announced that Craig Hensley, Lead Education Specialist/Manager of the Schlagle

Library in Kansas City, was a new nominee to the board. The motion to accept the slate as presented by the committee was unanimously approved.

Awards: Valerie announced the following awards:

Mary Bancroft Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000 to graduate student Jacob Olsen, Fort Hays State University, to help support research on response of big bluestem to changes in water, temperature, and geography.

Rachel Snyder Memorial Landscape Award to artist Betsy Knabe Roe for her memorial to Jan Garton (1949-2009), the woman who worked to save Cheyenne Bottoms. Betsy gave a PowerPoint presentation on the three-acre site she created at Bird Runner Ranch near Manhattan. This award promotes the use of native plants in the landscape.

Sheldon H. Cohen Award for Outstanding Service to KNPS honors board member Shirley Braunlich for her advocacy of KNPS in a variety of ways, such as leading wildflower walks, compiling lists of events, promoting KNPS at her workplace, and working each year to get a State Proclamation naming June as Native Plant Appreciation Month.

Craig displayed a plaque to be presented to Gordon Barnhardt this afternoon at his Leavenworth prairie, a quintessential preservation of native plants.

Presentation: Rex Buchanan, Interim Director of the Kansas Geological Survey and co-author of *Roadside Kansas* gave a PowerPoint talk "Roadside Kansas: a Traveler's Guide to its Geology and Landmarks" showing generalized physiographic regions of the state. He began with the oldest rock in southeast Kansas and moved west to the Colorado border, noting elevation changes and effects of old river channels and varying sea levels through millennia. For example, he said you know you are in the Chautauqua Hills because of the very distinct line of solidified sandstone, or in the Flint Hills because of the tough chert under very shallow soil. He spoke of caves, waterfalls, springs, mining, fossils, marine invertebrates and petroglyphs as he took us over the state. He touched briefly on environmental issues such as climate changes, land reclamation (in the Cherokee Lowlands), and changes of the water table over time. He showed Mount Sunflower in the High Plains region, the highest point in Kansas at 4,039 feet, a result of the uplift of the Rocky Mountains. He said geology changes more than you think it does over time.

Photo Contest Results: Valerie announced the winners as follows:

People:

First:	Susan Reimer	"Red Beauties"
Second:	Steve Roels	"Calamity and Jane"
Third:	Nancy Luis	"Cynthia in Prairie"

Garden:

First:	Bill Muggy	"Tranquility and Time for a Garden"
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Fauna:

First:	Craig Hensley	"Banded Pennant on Old Gray-headed Coneflower"
Second:	Steve Roels	"Not Easy Being Meads – Monarch caterpillar on Mead's Milkweed"
Third:	Teresa Wickersham	"Bumblebee Drinking from Milkweed"

Flora:

First: Steve Roels "Common Milkweed"
Second: Steve Roels "Ohio Spiderwort"
Third: Nancy Luis "River Oats"

Scenery:

First: Steve Roels "Welda Prairie"
Second: Phyllis Luedke "Blue Sky Prairie Wildflower"
Third: Steve Roels "Flint Hills Fall"

Wildflower of the Year:

First: Craig Hensley "A Plethora of Prairie Coneflowers"
Second: Phyllis Luedke "Yellow Prairie Coneflower"
Third: Krista Dahlinger "Ratibida in a Pasture"

Best in Show: Mark Metcalf "Showy Evening Primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*)"

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm

Nancy Coombs, Secretary