

Kansas Native Plant Society Annual Business Meeting
Saturday September 22, 2012; 9am – 12pm
Wroten Hall, Southwestern College, Winfield, KS

Introductions/Welcome: Michael Haddock, substituting for President Mickey Delfelder, welcomed participants to the 34th annual business meeting. Board Member David Welfelt shared a brief history of the area, noting Winfield's historic limestone buildings and Cowley County's spring blooms. Mike thanked all members of the AWW organizing committee and other volunteers who made arrangements for this weekend. He asked the audience to introduce themselves and say where they live.

Business Report: Mike asked Jeff for a brief review of the weekend activities. Jane informed participants about items on the sale table, an important revenue stream for the organization. Chelsea spoke about the raffle, Krista explained how the silent auction works, and Valerie did the same for the photo contest. Then Mike gave a PowerPoint review of KNPS, citing the benefits of membership, the current historic high number of paid members (860). He said Kansas members reside in 74 counties 5 of which have 63 % of our members. He showed a map of the 21 regions, and introduced regional leaders. Our 2012 budget is at \$20,000; sixty-five percent is from membership. The largest expenses are the website and the newsletter. Projects sponsored by KNPS include Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition (KGLC) adult range camps, promotion of Little Bluestem as the state grass, student scholarships of \$1000 in conjunction with Grassland Heritage Foundation (GHF). In addition KNPS hosts over 140 events statewide throughout the year. The website Jeff maintains has 770 pages, averaging 80,000 page views per year. Other means of communication include the annual brochure, the quarterly newsletter, the Facebook page, and Google groups (email group). Mike closed the business report by thanking those in attendance for coming.

David added that the Stuart Fieldhouse is the oldest continuously used fieldhouse west of the Mississippi, and Cowley County has 20-30 historic stone bridges. Valerie reviewed the native "Wildflower of the Year" program. This year's selection is lead plant; little bluestem will be the 2013 plant. She announced that next year the photo contest will be entirely digital; participants should send a digital copy of their entries to the Photo Committee several months before the 2013 AWW. She promised a digital presentation of winners for the 2013 AWW.

Awards: Valerie listed the various awards sponsored by KNPS, then announced that the Sheldon H. Cohen Award for Outstanding Service this year goes to Fred and Nancy Coombs.

Elections: Mike expressed appreciation to the three board members who are stepping down: Craig Hensley, Frank Norman, and Dave Welfelt. Mike reported the board unanimously approved the Nominations Committee's recommendations of three new board members: Nadine Champlin of Sabetha, Lenora Larson of Paola,

and Matthew Richter of McPherson. The following current board members were elected to serve an additional three-year term each: Earl Allen, Shirley Braunlich, Mickey Delfelder, Cindy Ford, Craig Freeman, and Nancy Goulden. The following officers were elected to serve a one-year term each: Secretary Nancy Coombs, Treasurer Krista Dahlinger, Vice President Mike Haddock, and President Mickey Delfelder.

Craig thanked Mike for stepping in for Mickey today. Phyllis urged attendees to visit Mike's Kansas Wildflowers and Grasses website @ <http://www.kswildflower.org/>

Little Blue Committee: Nancy G. and Valerie, co-chairs of the Little Bluestem Committee, have updated Little Blue web materials including a video they showed of state icons. Nancy gave an interactive presentation on various ways to increase public awareness of the new state icon and she urged all to work on this effort. Other ideas include a Facebook page for teachers across the state to correspond with one another and a packet for teachers to use for Kansas Day in January. A page of suggestions for identifying and sharing Little Blue was distributed.

Overview of AWW Outings: Jeff suggested carpooling to the Chaplin Nature Center near Arkansas City after lunch, as well as tomorrow for visits to the Slate Creek Wetland near Oxford, KS and the Snyder Ranch near Dexter.

Presentation: "The Flying Flowers of Kansas" Craig introduced the speaker, Jim Mason, Naturalist at the Great Plains Nature Center (GPNC) in Wichita. Jim's most recent publication is *A Pocket Guide to Common Kansas Butterflies* that includes 61 of the 190 total Kansas species. During the five stages of instars, caterpillars increase 3,000 times in size. Butterflies have expanded their migratory range since the last ice age; scientists have demonstrated that monarch butterflies fly to one particular place about 80 miles west of Mexico City using the angle of the sun as a guide. Those that arrive in Mexico City are four generations away from those who began the trip North in the spring. Jim said the best habitat for hibernating butterflies in your garden is to leave the plant clutter. If you would like more information about native and ornamental plants for butterflies, send an email requesting a two-page PDF to Jim Mason at GPNC in Wichita.

2012 KNPS Photo Contest Winners were announced by Valerie:

Wildflower of the Year

First Place: Phyllis Luedke, Leadplant up close.

Second: Phyllis Leudke, Leadplant in Meadow.

Third: Susan Reimer, Leadplant on the Prairie.

Flora

First: Mark Metcalf, Prairie Wild Rose.

Second: Mark Metcalf, Prickly Pear Cactus

Third: Phyllis Luedke, Black-eyed Susan

Fauna

First: Cynthia Pederson, Aster with Insect

Second: Rondi Anderson, Great Spangled Day

Third: Rondi Anderson, Yucca Blends

Garden

No awards given, Judges discretion.

People

First: Rondi Anderson, Finding Floral Treasures

Second: Matthew Richter, People Watchers

Third: No award given

Scenery

First: Rondi Anderson, Good Night Sun

Second: Mark Neubrand, Verbena at Mushroom Rock

Third: Rondi Anderson, Hello Students

Best of Show: Mark Neubrand, Garden Visitor on Liatris

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Coombs, Secretary