

Kansas Native Plant Society Spring Board Meeting
Karlyle Woods, 3440 NW Button Road, Topeka, KS 66618
April 13, 2013; 12-3 PM

Board Members Present: Jocelyn Baker, Iralee Barnard, Nadine Champlin, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Krista Dahlinger, Mickey Delfelder, Cindy Ford, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Nancy Goulden, Mike Haddock, Jeff Hansen, Lenora Larson, Ken O'Dell, Susan Reimer, Dee Scherich, and Phyllis Scherich. **Guests Present:** Bob Champlin, Mary Jo Kearns, Vivien Smith.

Prior to the meeting a delicious lunch was provided by Janeen Walters, with help from Lis Ballou. Janeen gave a brief introduction about Karlyle Woods, a 30-acre retreat of Karl Menninger north of Topeka currently owned by Washburn University. She said many famous people, like Helen Keller and Margaret Mead, stayed here in the mid-1900s.

Welcome: President Mickey Delfelder welcomed all and thanked both Janeen and Lis for lunch. Craig moved approval of the January 26, 2012 board meeting minutes, Lenora seconded. Approved.

New Business: Ken requested production of a tri-fold brochure, similar to our KNPS brochure, of the three native plant state symbols (sunflower, little bluestem, and the cottonwood tree) to promote awareness of native plants. Discussion followed. Lenora suggested a brochure with all three icons on the same brochure; Nancy G. agreed. Phyllis suggested other agency participation. Krista proposed applying for funds from the Chickadee Check-off. Craig said that Grassland Heritage Foundation (GHF) may be interested in co-sponsorship. The committee will explore the possibilities. Joc volunteered to help Jeff and Mickey, and Mickey volunteered to run off a prototype for the committee.

Review of 2013 Budget: Krista reported that the Legacy Fund is now \$5,350, up by 25% over four years, and total KNPS assets as of March 31, 2013 are \$25,115.64. She said that newsletter printing, now at 800 copies, has doubled in the last ten years, and that 407 different venues

now receive brochures. Craig moved to accept the treasurer's report; Iralee seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Newsletter: Nancy G. said the spring newsletter is 14 pages and was submitted to the printer on time, although there has been a delay in the mailing. She requested ideas for the July issue. Mickey will check on the mailing, which is done by a different company.

Scanning Past Newsletters: Jeff reported he has been scanning previous newsletters. He will continue to scan newsletters as he has time.

Awards Committee Report (Mary Bancroft): Fred gave the report for Valerie who was unable to attend. He said in view of receiving three strong applications for the Bancroft scholarship this year, the question is how to allocate the funds and notify applicants by the April 15 deadline. He gave a brief account of the three research proposals, adding that all were deemed worthy, with the two doctoral applications receiving especially high praise from committee members. A discussion followed as to whether to increase funding over the KNPS budget or solicit another source for co-sponsorship. It was decided that Craig, acting on behalf of the committee, would request permission electronically from the three applicants to share their proposals with GHF in an effort to supplement the \$1,000 KNPS allocation. In this way, each of the applicants will learn that their applications are still under consideration. It was proposed that if GHF agrees to co-support, the KNPS allocation would be \$400 to each doctoral candidate and \$200 for the master's project, or without GHF support, \$500 for each doctoral candidate. These proposals would keep KNPS within its \$1,000 allocation for the Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship. Jeff put the above proposal in the form of a motion. Phyllis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

AWW Committee Report: Jeff reviewed current work by Susan and others to locate a meeting place and catering for the Annual Wildflower Weekend. Although nothing has yet been secured, Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina appears to be the most likely site. Jeff proposed having the Friday board meeting at the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge followed by an outing on Susan's acreage. The Saturday speaker will be

Allen Casey, USDA-NRCS Soil Conservationist, former board member. It was decided that the committee should proceed with plans.

Little Blue Committee Activity Report: Nancy G. said the April newsletter details activities promoting Little Blue via local newspapers, classroom visits, and Ken's actual plantings of little bluestem. She thanked everyone for participating, and urged continuation. Ken suggested that the committee continue for two more years to better assess the effects. Phyllis encouraged any KNPS members to attend the Barber County Wildflower Tour. There will be a reporter from the Kansas Territorial there to do an article. Phyllis would like to see the article promote KNPS rather than just the Barber County Wildflower Tour, and a good representation by KNPS members there would help achieve this goal. The article will also contain information on Little Bluestem, the newest Kansas symbol.

Website Report: Jeff said since the last meeting logos are now downloadable in different versions, scholarship and awards are updated, as are all fact sheets of state icons and plant seed sources. More events will be added; currently 80 events are listed on the web. There are now 935 pages and PDFs. Gallery pages are very popular. In the previous 365 days, there have been 27,884 visits to the website comprising 69,020 page views.

Membership Report: Jeff said there are 799 regular members now, and that 34 new members have joined since January 1, 2013.

Number of Yearly Board Meetings: Mickey proposed switching to three meetings next year, instead of four, with one meeting out in western Kansas. Craig noted the importance of timely completion of AWW plans if we do combine two board meetings. Craig will see about reserving Smoky Valley Ranch the second or third week of May 2014.

Announcements: Ken asked about Mickey's work on a new committee list. Mike said the 2013 Symphony in the Flint Hills is on the parade grounds at Fort Riley on June 15. He said Konza Docents will be providing informative walks at the Konza Prairie the same day of the Symphony, but the walks are not officially part of the Symphony activities. The Konza Prairie Environmental Education staff let it be

known that KNPS members who might like to help lead walks would be very welcome to participate. Craig announced that Ruth Steinke, a charter member, will celebrate her 92nd birthday next month. Phyllis saw Sister Pat in Wichita recently; she is doing well.

Adjournment: Jeff moved we adjourn, Susan seconded. The motion passed, ending the meeting in a record, 1 hour 30 minutes.

Nancy Coombs, Secretary