

**Kansas Native Plant Society Summer Board Meeting**  
**Dillon Nature Center, 3002 East 30th Avenue, Hutchinson, KS 67502**  
**July 13, 2013; 1-3 PM**

**Board Members Present:** Earl Allen, Iralee Barnard, Shirley Braunlich, Nadine Champlin, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Krista Dahlinger, Mickey Delfelder, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Brad Guhr, Mike Haddock, Jeff Hansen, Michael Heffron, Susan Reimer, Matthew Richter, Dee Scherich, Phyllis Scherich, Valerie Wright. **Guests Present:** Bob Champlin  
Prior to the meeting Craig Freeman led a wildflower walk at Sand Hills State Park.

**Welcome:** President Mickey Delfelder welcomed attendees. Mike Haddock moved approval of the April 13, 2013 board meeting minutes. Earl seconded, motion passed.

**Budget Report:** Krista said as of June 30, total KNPS assets are \$20,752.94 and that about half of projected dues are in. She reported that our expenses are on track for midyear as well. Krista requested \$100.00 for visors to sell at AWW. Jeff moved to accept Krista's report. Brad seconded, approved.

**Newsletter Update:** Jeff reported for Nancy Goulden. He said Ken has retired from writing his article about seeding native plants; Nancy requests new ideas.

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**AWW Committee Report:** Jeff summarized AWW events in Salina for Friday, September 13 after the fall board meeting: a tram ride at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, an evening walkover at Susan's Buffalo Hill Prairie, and a campfire cookout at the McPherson County State Lake at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge. Participants are asked to bring lawn chairs. Following the Saturday morning meeting at Kansas Wesleyan Center in Salina, the first destination is the 34,000-acre Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range, then the Land Institute. Sunday includes visits to Coronado Heights near Lindsborg, a box lunch, and a drive to Kanopolis State Park (entrance fee) to see the canyon area. Folks may also visit Mushroom Rock State Park on their own. Krista plans to bring a guitar and a mandolin for the Friday night cookout; she will bring lyric sheets for some popular songs. Plant lists (biological survey of the range, Ellsworth County plants) will be available to download.

**35<sup>th</sup> Year Presentation:** Mickey will give an AWW presentation on the society's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He solicited information about the history of newsletters, past board members, founding members, etc. for his report.

**Little Blue Committee Activity Report:** Valerie reported Ken's idea of offering little blue seeds or pots at AWW.

**Website Report:** Jeff has been working on a major update of website pages for AWW. The Google group (email list/events) is now at 757 members. There are 965 pages on the site, 800 indexed by Google. The website has been up for eight years now; in January 2012, the site had 475 pages. There have been 29,500 visits during the last 365 days. Mickey said Facebook is now at one thousand and is still growing. In addition to posting photos on the site, from time to time he includes requests to consider membership in KNPS.

**Membership Report:** Jeff said we are now at 893 regular paying members, with 73 gratis memberships. This includes 130 new members this year; 249 are students and 22 are lifetime members. Phyllis reported that some Kansas biology teachers visited Phyllis and Dee's ranch; none had heard of KNPS.

**Nomination Committee:** Mike Haddock said that eleven board officers will continue serving, including Krista as treasurer and Nancy C. as secretary. Phyllis will serve as vice president. Evelyn Reed is stepping down. He expressed a need for board candidates from far western Kansas. Please forward names to Craig or Mike Haddock.

**Tri-fold Brochure of State Symbols (Sunflower, Little Bluestem, Cottonwood):** Committee members Ken and Joc were unable to attend so Mike Haddock shared drafts of the new brochure to seek board approval. Discussion followed on layout, printing costs, editing issues, positioning of membership information, and quantity. A motion to proceed was made by Mike Heffron, seconded by Matthew. Approved.

**Joint KNPS/Grassland Heritage Foundation (GHF) Committee:** Craig, a member of both boards, said the two organizations have been collaborating for the last three or four years to offer \$1,000 from each organization for scholarships. KNPS has been soliciting and reviewing applications, and deciding on which application to fund. With the approval of the applicants, KNPS has been sharing application materials and its funding

recommendations with GHF, which has, at least to present, been matching the KNPS awards. If KNPS and GHF continue to collaborate on scholarships, a streamlined process should be developed for soliciting, reviewing, and funding applications that would meet the criteria of both groups; either could opt out at any time. Craig will work with GHF to develop a plan, hopefully for board review at the fall meeting.

**Great Plains Nature Center (GPNC) Support for a Red Hills Guide and Re-printing of the Flint Hills Guide:** Phyllis reported that Bob Gress hopes to have the new Red Hills Guide ready for printing in two months; Craig will look at it before it goes to print. Phyllis also said the Flint Hills Guide has been approved for a third printing. KNPS is an official sponsor of both.

**The Mother Earth Fair, Lawrence, October 12-13, 2013:** Shirley announced the Lawrence Public Library will have a booth at the fair in Watson Park. Organizers are expecting ten thousand attendees. Cost for a booth for two days is \$250.00; she asked if KNPS wants to participate in this nation-wide event. Discussion followed on various topics such as costs, needs (tent, chairs), set-up, volunteers, tear down, etc. The cost for individual attendance is \$20.00. The consensus was that KNPS would not participate in the event this year.

**Public Information on Herbicides:** Jeff and Nancy G. propose a position statement for future reference when people inquire about the use of herbicides. The issue arose once again, this time with a complaint about spraying common milkweed and other forbs on county property in Topeka. Discussion followed as to how to inform the public of the difference between desirable native plants versus “weeds”. Craig suggested tapping into Chip Taylor’s information about the value of milkweeds and other native plants. Earl suggested contacting the government in charge of an area. Due to lack of funds, entire areas are sprayed, for example, to eradicate all woody vegetation on dams. The Kansas State University Extension website also is a source of useful information.

**Roadside Management Update:** Fred summarized recent meetings organized by Ron Klataske of Audubon of Kansas with the governor and KDOT personnel about roadside vegetation management. The governor suggested that representatives from our coalition of conservation groups make a presentation at the annual meeting of KDOT maintenance workers to

explain the rationale for the new policy of reduced mowing on roadsides. Fred also reported that KDOT has a new Bureau of Maintenance and has appointed Clay Adams as Bureau Chief.

**Community Assistance:** Nadine reported on contact she is having with Everest townspeople regarding saving pieces of prairie. Three places designated for prairie plants are a Monarch Waystation, a railroad station garden, and a memorial garden. She asked what KNPS could do to help educate a community on issues of native plant selection, maintenance, identification, etc.; she will bring more information to the board this fall.

**Oil Drilling at Cheyenne Bottoms:** Nancy briefly called attention to a request by two companies for oil drilling in Cheyenne Bottom. Krista said there is oil drilling there already.

Shortly after 3 PM Iralee moved to adjourn, Jeff seconded. Everyone went outside for a group photo.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Coombs, Secretary