

Kansas Native Plant Society Annual Business Meeting
Peters Science Hall, Kansas Wesleyan University
100 E. Claflin Avenue, Salina, KS
Saturday, September 14, 2013

Introductions/Welcome: President Mickey Delfelder welcomed everyone to the 35th annual meeting and introduced several members for announcements. Jane reminded people about registration, the raffle, membership renewals, and sale table items. Krista explained silent auction procedures. Jeff reviewed weekend events, and Valerie explained photo contest rules. Mickey thanked the 2013 AWW committee: Jeff, Susan, Brad, Matthew, Valerie, Iralee, and Craig. Virginia member Linda Johnston, author of *Hope Amid Hardship*, a collection of pioneer voices from Kansas Territory, was introduced. A representative from the Kansas Wildlife Federation spoke briefly. Members of the audience were asked to introduce themselves.

Annual Business Meeting: Mickey's PowerPoint presentation, "From KWS to KNPS, a 35 Year Retrospective" was drawn from his research of all the early journals and all the newsletters published by the society. The idea for a wildflower society grew from a 1977 wildflower exhibit at Washburn University in Topeka. Dr. Ronald McGregor suggested the name, "Kansas Wildflower Society" and by 1979, the charter year, there were 680 members from 125 Kansas communities and 13 members from other states. Currently there are over 900 KNPS members. Seven outings were held that first year. Outings from 2010-13 have averaged 50 per year, and the Society has sponsored an estimated 1200-1500 outings over its 35-year history. Annual meetings have evolved from one to three days, and there have been seven newsletter editors. The website, begun in 1999 by Sister Patricia Stanley, has grown into our own domain managed by Jeff. Mickey traced the additions of various publications, merchandise, and current updates now available on the website, as well as on Facebook. Mickey started the KNPS Facebook page in 2010. He reviewed the various scholarships and grants the society offers. In 2010, Jeff created membership regions of four to six counties to facilitate regional outings. Mickey noted especially KC Region Leader Ken O'Dell's active work promoting Little Bluestem, the iconic State Grass. Mickey closed his presentation by recognizing the work of all charter members, and 18 past presidents. From its inception in 1979 to 2013 KWS/KNPS presidents include: Mary Jo McClure, Ross Johnson, Roger Coleman, Howard Reynolds, Ted Barkley, Sheldon Cohen, Rachel Snyder, Jack Walstrom, Ralph Brooks, Stephen Timme, Carroll Morgenson, Dwight Platt, Lorna Harder, Valerie Wright, Jeff Hansen, Michael Heffron, Craig Freeman, and Mickey Delfelder.

Awards: Craig presented the **Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship Award**. He said that about four years ago members of both KNPS and Grassland Heritage Foundation (GHF) have reviewed scholarship applications with each organization contributing \$1000.00 toward the \$2,000.00 total awarded. This year, KNPS and GHF jointly funded proposals from two PhD applicants, Kathy Roccaforte (University of Kansas, pollinator use of remnant/restored habitat) and Shelly Wiggans-Ricketts (Kansas

State University, patch burn grazing/plant & pollinator diversity), each receiving \$800, and Masters applicant Anna Zahner (Kansas State University, forbs/grazing), who received \$400. The **Stephen Timme Excellence in Botany Award** this year honors the work of Michael Haddock, Assistant Dean at K-State Libraries, and author of *Wildflowers & Grasses of Kansas*. Mike has given over 60 presentations in Kansas. Valerie announced that the **Sheldon Cohen Award for Outstanding Service to KNPS** honors Craig and Jane Freeman, the backbone of KNPS, who have done everything over the years for the organization.

Elections: Mike Haddock thanked Evelyn Reed who stepped down after six years of service on the board. He reported the Nomination Committee's slate of nominees for the Board of Directors, each nominated for a three-year term: Joc Baker, Krista Dahlinger, Chelsea Erickson, Brad Guhr, Michael Haddock, Jeff Hansen, Michael Heffron, Dee Scherich, Phyllis Scherich, and Valerie Wright. The slate was approved by a unanimous voice vote by the assembled members. He reported that officers elected for one-year terms each by the Board of Directors at the September 13 meeting, some contingent on reelection to the board, were: Nancy Coombs, Secretary; Krista Dahlinger, Treasurer; Phyllis Scherich, Vice President; and Michael Haddock, President.

Photo Contest Winners: Valerie.

Flora: 1st – Janet Krack – Engaging Color of Swamp Milkweed

2nd – Carolyn Oroke – Trout Lilies

3rd – Krista Dahlinger – Little Hairy Hawkweed

Fauna: 1st – Carolyn Oroke – Butterfly Milkweed with Great Spangled Fritillaries

2nd – Mark Neubrand – Damselfly on Fog Fruit

3rd – Mark Neubrand – Butterfly on Leadplant

Garden: 1st - Wendy Koerner- My Garden Friends

No Second or Third Place

People: 1st – Phyllis Scherich – Child Studying Scorpionweed

2nd – Mark Neubrand – KNPS Members

3rd – Mark Neubrand – KNPS Members Sharing

Scenery: 1st – Phyllis Scherich – White Beardtongue in Red Hills

2nd – Janet Krack – Waves of Color

3rd – Krista Dahlinger – Hay Meadow at Sunset

Honorable Mention: Janet Krack – Big Bluestem before Frost

Presentation: “Soil Erosion: Dust Bowl to Today” by Allen Casey, Biologist/Soil Conservationist, USDA NRCS Plant Resources Center, Elsberry, Missouri. Allen, a former KNPS board member, reviewed soil erosion issues historically beginning with photos of the Midwest in the 1930s. By the end of his talk he said the same problems are still with us as seen in photos dating from 2004 of huge dust clouds in Cheyenne, Colby, Ness, and Thomas counties. A striking 2010 photo of sandy soil covering a fence in Stevens County, the heart of the 1930s dust bowl, underscored the need for better soil management practices. Allen cited several causes of soil depletion, such as various Homestead Acts, the metal plow on vast grasslands, increased population, overgrazing, the depression, and weather conditions. The push for reform in farming practices and preservation of grasslands began with the work of Hugh Hammond Bennett, a pioneer in soil conservation methods. Over the years, government efforts to address conservation issues have included such programs as the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that now has 27 Plant Materials Centers, and the Conservation Reserve Program. He said the USDA plants database has a wealth of information with over 2300 documents on the web site. Allen closed his talk with words from Aldo Leopold about two spiritual dangers: supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery store, and that heat comes from the furnace. He repeated the need to learn to live with the environment, to be at one with nature. Then he took questions from the audience.

Announcements: Mickey asked for last minute items. Valerie announced that photo contest winners should send a digital image to Nancy Goulden for publication in the newsletter. Krista said the auction bidding would close at 12:10 pm. Iralee gave directions for the buffet lunch at the Hauptli Student Center. Jeff suggested carpooling to the Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range and to The Land Institute. The meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Coombs, Secretary