

**Kansas Native Plant Society  
Annual Meeting  
Saturday Sept. 20, 2014  
Benson Education Center, Pratt Community College, Pratt, KS**

**Introductions and First Presentation**

At 8:40 am, KNPS President Mike Haddock welcomed everyone to the event.

Everyone in attendance was asked to introduce themselves and indicate their city of residence.

Mike introduced the KNPS regional leaders: Anthony Zukoff (Dodge City and Garden City regions), Ken O'Dell (Kansas City), Jeff Hansen (Topeka), Nadine Champlin (Concordia), Krista Dahlinger (Wichita), and Chelsea Erickson (Hays).

In the interest of time, Mike summarized the organization's status in a handout that was distributed to attendees.

At 8:50, Mike presented on "The Plants of Oz" (the official nickname of Australia). He visited the continent in May 2014. He presented photos of 50+ plant species that are vastly different from what we would find in Kansas.

At 9:15 Phyllis discussed the Saturday and Sunday plans for the Annual Wildflower Weekend. We will visit Sun City, Belvidere, and other areas north and east of Pratt. Special thanks were extended to The Nature Conservancy Red Hills Project Coordinator Ken Brunson for helping gain access to sites around Pratt.

At 9:30, Mike surprised long-time KNPS board member Valerie Wright with the Sheldon H. Cohen Award for Outstanding Service to KNPS. She is a KNPS (formerly Kansas Wildflower Society) founding member, former President, Award Committee Chair, photo contest coordinator, active on the Education Committee, and was instrumental in getting Little Bluestem named the State Grass of Kansas. Thanks to Valerie for her many years of dedication.

Valerie, chair of the Awards Committee, describes the three awards that KNPS can give out, although not all awards are distributed each year. She was the recipient of the Sheldon H. Cohen Award. The Rachel Snyder Memorial Landscape Award was presented the previous day to the KDWPT Education Center in Pratt for their new native garden in front of the Center. The garden was designed, planted, and maintained by KDWPT and the Pratt-area Master Gardeners.

The Stephen L. Timme Excellence in Botany Award is awarded to a person for important contributions in botany in Kansas. This year's recipient was Emporia State University professor Dr. Tom Eddy. Dr. Eddy is an entomologist and conducts research in dynamics of prairie plants, including insect herbivory. He manages the ESU herbarium

specializing in the flora of Eastern Kansas and the Flint Hills. He is a long-time professor instructing in both the classroom and the field. He has helped thousands of members of the public by providing plant and animal identification. He is an outstanding member of KNPS and has been an outing leader. He often provides space for KNPS winter board meetings.

Valerie reported that the AWW photo contest had 77 entries in 6 categories. This year's contest used Shutterfly.com, making the contest digital for the first time. About 35 people entered photos.

Nine different winners, garnering 19 total ribbons, were announced. Brian Martin of Hesston won Best in Show with his photograph of Prairie Gentian.

Craig announced that KNPS officers were selected on Friday at the board meeting. Officers elected each for a 1-year term were: Mickey Delfelder – Secretary, Topeka; Krista Dahlinger – Treasurer, Mulvane; Phyllis Scherick – President Elect, Wilmore; and Mike Haddock – President, Manhattan.

Nominations for the Board of Directors are offered as a slate, each member is nominated for a 3-year term. Nominations for the class of 2014-2015 are: Iralee Barnard, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Ken O'Dell, Susan Reimer and two new members Cynthia Rhodes from Whitewater, and Anthony Zukoff from Holcomb. Craig placed the slate before the membership and Mike called for a vote. Slate passes unanimously.

Craig recognized June Kliesen who steps down after eight years of board membership.

If anyone else would like to serve on the board, speak to the Mike or another member of the board.

Nancy Goulden talked about the pocket guides published by the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita. Attendees can pick up the recently published Red Hills Pocket Guides this weekend. Nancy has distributed Flint Hills Pocket Guides for past three years at outings. KNPS has raised a fair amount of money toward a third printing. KNPS is soliciting funds for the new printing; even \$5 or \$10 is wonderful. Cash or check can be given to Krista or people can donate online.

Krista described how the silent auction is a fundraising event for KNPS each year; people bring items related to native plants, including edibles and live plants. Bidding rules were explained. She described a special decorative item – a barn-board from the Merrill Ranch. This will be a traveling plaque that the winner can keep and display it for a year and then bring it back to be put back in the next auction. Winners will be listed on the back each year. Krista also said that there was a raffle for a copy of Iralee Barnard's new book Field Guide to the Common Grasses of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska.

Intermission begins at 9:50.

At 10:30, Phyllis thanks Edward Jones investments and Dr. Choco of Greenwave for their sponsorship of the weekend.

Dr. Craig C. Freeman, Curator-in-Charge of the R. L. McGregor Herbarium at the University of Kansas, presented on “Beardtongues (*Penstemon*) in the Flora of North America”. Dr. Freeman took three years to finish the 750 page-manuscript (covering nearly 240 species) on Penstemons for the Flora of North America.

At 11:10, Iralee Barnard presented on “The Extraordinary Wild Grasses!” Iralee is the author of Field Guide to the Common Grasses of Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska, the first new book on Kansas grasses in nearly 80 years. Iralee previously worked at the KSU herbarium, for the Tallgrass Prairie National Park, and extension offices around Kansas performing plant identifications.

Following Iralee's presentation, Mike made further announcements regarding photo requests for the newsletter and website gallery. He gave final instructions for finding the cafeteria, concluding the silent auction, and getting together after lunch to caravan to the first outing of the afternoon.

Mike thanked everyone for coming and concluded the morning activities.

Submitted by:  
Mickey Delfelder, Secretary  
October 20, 2014