Kansas Native Plant Society
Fall Board Meeting
Friday September 25, 2015, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Konza Meeting Hall, Konza Prairie Biological Station, Manhattan, KS

Board Members Present: Earl Allen, Iralee Barnard, Shirley Braunlich, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Nadine Champlin, Krista Dahlinger, Mickey Delfelder, Cindy Ford, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Nancy Goulden, Brad Guhr, Mike Haddock, Jeff Hansen, Michael Heffron, Brian Martin, Susan Reimer, Cynthia Rhodes, Matthew Richter, Dee Scherich, Phyllis Scherich, Valerie Wright, Anthony Zukoff

Guests: Rondi Anderson, Karen Hummel, Elizabeth Petroske, Lynn and Sandy from the Oklahoma Native Plant Society; others arrived throughout the meeting

Welcome & Introductions
President Mike Haddock welcomed everyone to Konza. He thanked Konza officials for hosting the meeting and for waiving the meeting fee. He asked board members to help take down the tables and chairs at the end of the meeting.

Mike recognized Karen Hummel as former President of the Friends of the Konza; she had information on memberships and t-shirts to that organization.

Craig moved to accept the minutes of the May 2, 2015 board meeting as circulated. Valerie seconded the motion. It was accepted unanimously.

Committee Reports
Budget/Finance Report
Krista presented the budget. The cash on hand was approximately $16,000. Total assets were just over $23,000. The total income was about 80% of what was budgeted at the beginning of the year, although we get a lot of membership renewals the last three months of the year. Expenses have come in under budget with $15,400 in expenditures thru 8/31/15.

Krista noted that she needed the approved spring minutes to get the new scholarship account set up.

Krista noted that she reduced the number of distribution points for the informational brochure.

Susan moved to accept the report. Valerie seconded. It was unanimously accepted.
**Honorariums for AWW speakers**

Mike had previously suggested via email to give $50 to each of the two AWW speakers. Earl moved that we give $50 to each speaker; Val seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was accepted unanimously.

**Newsletter**

Mike introduced the newsletter’s new co-editors--Cynthia Rhodes and Brian Martin--beginning with the winter newsletter. Nancy G. and Karen Hummel have been editors of the newsletter and had asked to step down following the October 2015 issue. Craig recognized both Nancy and Karen’s contributions to the newsletter.

Nancy and Karen both expressed their pleasure on working on the newsletter, but decided that it was a good time to step down.

Nancy solicited articles for the Annual Wildflower Weekend and reminded everyone of the short timeline.

Jeff announced that he will not be doing the landscaping article any longer and recommended Anthony as a possible replacement author.

**AWW and Outings**

Mike reviewed the plans for the 2015 Annual Wildflower Weekend.

First we will hear about the history of Konza from John Briggs, Director of the Konza Prairie Biological Station, and then take a tour of Butterfly Hill if the rain ceases.

The Kansas State University Union is under renovation and it's a little difficult getting to the room in which the meeting is being held on Saturday morning.

We will depart KSU Saturday at 1:45. We will visit beautiful sites on Saturday, including a prairie where the owner has worked to control Eastern red cedar.

Sunday morning will be near Konza on Valerie Wright’s properties.

Krista expects five to six tables will be needed for the silent auction. The raffle item will be the new “Kansas Wildflowers and Weeds” book by Mike Haddock, Craig Freeman, and Janet Bare.

Valerie reported that the photo contest is ready. There were 102 fantastic photographs, and all categories are well represented.

**Membership Report**
Craig reported that a second renewal notice was sent to 107 lapsed members in May which resulted in $423 in renewals. The result was worth the effort.

The number of general members dropped 7% since last year. We received several new lifetime memberships and some of that money will be earmarked for long term needs. The membership committee will propose in January to put a portion of the lifetime memberships into the scholarships.

Craig reported that annual membership turnover is 17% which is pretty good for an organization our size; ideally this number is under 20%.

Jeff suggested that we do a third renewal letter, excluding students. Matthew suggested that the third notice be sent using MailChimp.

**Nominations Committee**

Craig presented the nominations for the officers:
- Secretary: Mickey Delfelder, Topeka
- Treasurer: Krista Dahlinger, Mulvane
- Vice-President: Craig Freeman, Lawrence
- President: Phyllis Scherich - Wilmore

Craig pointed out that he is nominated as Vice-President and not President Elect. The distinction is that the VP is someone who can run meetings, but he will not advance to President when the President’s term ends.

The slate of officers was unanimously approved.

Craig reported that seven board members will stay onboard for another three year term: Earl Allen, Shirley Braunlich, Nadine Champlin, Mickey Delfelder, Craig Freeman, Nancy Goulden, and Matthew Richter. They will be presented, as a slate, for approval at Saturday morning’s membership meeting.

We have three new individuals joining the board: Rondi Anderson (Fort Scott), Brian Martin (Hesston), and Mark Neubrand (Salina).

Craig noted that Cindy Ford and Jocelyn Baker will be leaving the board. Cindy served on the board for 23 years, including a stint as Secretary. Joc leaves the board after eight years of service. KNPS thanks them for their service.
**Events Committee**
There was no report from the Events Committee.

**Plant Resources & Sustainability Committee**
Brad mentioned the request to develop a “10 Best Native Trees of Kansas” list. There are many good resources for this. Brad and Craig will try to determine a set of criteria for this list (height, aesthetics, etc.).

Brad mentioned that Mickey had proposed assembling a list of readily available pollinator plants. The two of them, plus Ken O’Dell, will continue to exchange emails about this over the winter and report back to the board in January if anything develops.

Brad explained that Ryan Armbrust of the Kansas Forest Service is working on a grant proposal to develop a comprehensive plan on controlling the non-native and invasive Bush honeysuckle. Ryan and Brad both expressed interest in having KNPS be a partner in the project.

*Zizia aurea* (Golden Alexanders) is the 2016 KNPS Wildflower of the Year.

**Public Policy Committee**
Fred reported that KNPS still wants to support the Old World Bluestem workshops. Krista sent them a check for $80 to cover some of the costs to host workshops. Old World Bluestem has become invasive and problematic across the nation.

**Publicity & Outreach Committee**
Mike, on behalf of Chelsea, reported that the KNPS informational brochure has been redesigned. It’s no longer an “annual” brochure and should be accurate for several years.

Elizabeth Petroske and Cynthia Rhodes continue to be the Kansas Non-game Wildlife Advisory Council liaisons for KNPS.

Mike reported that the KNPS article that appeared in the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism magazine presented the organization in a favorable light.

Chelsea and Krista updated the newsletter mailing list to eliminate the people who only received one or two brochures. This move cut the number of recipients to 238. Craig and Jane brought brochures to distribute to the board.
Chelsea had an inquiry from the Georgia NPS and will follow up.

Matthew will get in touch with Chelsea about doing partial printings in the future.

**Website Report**

Jeff is considering stepping down from doing the website because of other commitments. Jeff will not be able to do the weekly event emails once we get many listings coming into the calendar.

Jeff has instructions on how to do website updates and needs to transfer that knowledge to someone else.

Rondi says her husband, Jay Anderson, is a web developer and that he might be a good resource. Further discussion was held on what to do with the website with regards to ongoing maintenance. Mickey will work to put together a blueprint for discussion at the January meeting.

**Presentation - Ryan Armbrust**

Ryan Armbrust of the Kansas Forest Service spoke about his grant proposal from the US Forest Service to combat Bush honeysuckle. If granted, this would cover pest workshops, identification and control measures, developing a comprehensive management guide, and restoration tactics. Partnering organizations, such as KNPS, have been identified and contacted.

**Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council**

Elizabeth Petroske reported on the KNWAC which exists to get involvement and advice on how to spend federal monies within parks and other natural areas within Kansas.

The council meets twice per year: once in March to discuss legislative issues and again in the fall for follow up.

With Elizabeth’s pending move to North Carolina, Cynthia will become the voting representative for KNPS. Phyllis will find another individual to become our non-voting representative.

Ideally, our representatives will have expertise in plants, insects, the food chain, and their interactions so as to offer sage advice to the council.
A few of the council’s current topics are: a monarch butterfly initiative, KDWPT office native plant gardens, GIS-based ecological maps, and the silting in of the state’s reservoirs.

**Old business**

**Planning for 2016 20th anniversary of Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve and the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service**

Nancy passed out reminder cards about the TPNP 100th anniversary in June. She and Iralee reported that they would like to start lining up volunteers for the events. It will be an excellent opportunity to lead outings and talk about our organization.

**Hiking liability**

This topic was skipped due to time constraints.

**Membership database and email service**

This topic remains tabled and it was skipped due to time constraints.

**New business**

**2016 AWW location and dates**

Incoming board member Rondi Anderson had previously emailed the board with a thorough proposal on holding the 2016 Annual Wildflower Weekend in Fort Scott.

The board briefly discussed AWW dates—either September 9-11 or September 16-18—with a final determination to be made at the January board meeting.

Susan made a motion to hold AWW in Fort Scott and Jeff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**2016 Winter Board Meeting**

It was decided that the winter board meeting would be held on January 16th at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita. January 23rd will be the backup date. Krista will contact the GPNC to secure the room.

Mike suggested that we look at May or early June for a two-day combined spring/summer board meeting. Everyone agreed that was a good idea, although no date or location was solidified.

The board meeting was adjourned at 3pm.