KNPS Spring/Summer Board Meeting  
Saturday, June 4, 2016  
Southwest Research Extension Center

Present: 13 Constituents  
Board members: Earl Allen, Iralee Barnard, Shirley Braunlich, Krista Dahlinger, Mike Haddock, Brian Martin, Susan Reimer, Cynthia Rhodes, Dee Scherich, Phyllis Scherich, Valerie Wright, Anthony Zukoff  
Guest: Sarah Howard

Agenda

1) At 12:20 PM, Phyllis Scherich, President, opened the afternoon’s meeting with a welcome to members and visitors. She addressed a special thank you to Anthony Zukoff and the Southwest Research Extension Center for the organization, arrangements, and meeting facility used today. Members and the one guest introduced themselves and told where they were from.

Added to the agenda under new business was a brief presentation by Shirley Braunlich about George Frazier’s new book *The Last Wild Places of Kansas*.

2) As the minutes were sent out by Mickey Delfelder to board members electronically prior to the meeting, Earl Allen moved to accept the 2016 winter board meeting minutes as presented/seconded by Shirley. The motion passed by unanimous voice of aye.

3) **Budget/Financial Report** – Krista Dahlinger gave the Treasurer’s May 2016 position report with a brief outline following: *(see attachment 2016 Budget)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total assets</th>
<th>5-29-16</th>
<th>$27,808.17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Available cash</td>
<td>19,422.77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy fund</td>
<td>8,385.40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total income</th>
<th>5-29-16</th>
<th>6,409.23</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>5-29-16</td>
<td>7,141.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Krista answered Valerie Wright’s question about donating money to the Mary Bancroft Scholarship fund in the name of the late Myrna Thompson Stith Campbell, well-known Kansas artist/painter of native plants and grasses, who passed away May 16, 2016. Members interested should contact Krista and she will prepare envelopes for those that want to donate to the scholarship in Myrna’s name.

Myrna Campbell was passionate about finding, identifying and painting botanical illustrations of the native plants of Kansas. She gave KNPS permission to use her painting of Little Bluestem during the drive to have it named the State Grass of Kansas.

Susan Reimer moved to accept the May 2016 budget report as presented/seconded by Earl. The motion passed by unanimous voice of aye.
4) Anthony gave a brief rundown of the field trips scheduled for the weekend and outlined what the groups would see and procedures to follow.
Sat. morning 8 to 10:30 – Southwest Extension Service pasture northeast of Garden City to observe cattle grazed native pasture with active playas. Led by Anthony, 13 people participated.
Sat. afternoon 2:30 to 5:00 – Sand Sage Bison Range and Wildlife Area south of the Arkansas River in the sand hills to observe bison grazed native prairie. Led by Anthony and Sarah Zukoff, 22 people participated. Anthony requested a $20 donation from the group to the Friends of the Sand Sage Bison Range and Wildlife Area for use of the trolley wagon for the tour.
Sat. early evening 5 to 6 – Forest Lake Park champion trees in the Garden City Zoo area. Unknown participation.
Sun. morning 9 to 11:30 – Horsethief Canyon Reservoir east of Garden City, south side trail to observe native prairie bluff habitat. Led by Anthony, 7 people participated.

5) Phyllis called for committee reports next on the agenda.

**Website** – Krista presented a brief report that Jeff Hansen has passed off the webmaster responsibilities to Jay Anderson and old site content is gradually moving to the new web host, Matthew Richter is posting events to the website with Krista as the alternate, the Google group has approximately 900 members. Incoming e-mail messages are being handled by the committee members with the expertise in that area. The Wildflower of the Year is now posted on the front page. Not completed yet are some maintenance updates such as the 2015 AWW and new photos for the Wildflower Gallery. Krista indicated that we need to post current information about native plants on our website as we are being cited in various sources such as the “Kansas Country Living” magazine (June 2016). ** (see attachment Gardening Local) If anyone has used a website format recently, please share this information with Krista. Also the group may want to use the blog capability more frequently than is being used now to communicate with constituents.

**Events** – Shirley said she was gathering events from multiple sources, organizing them, and posting them on the website, in the Newsletter, sending e-mails, and in other sources as needed and she has time. She mentioned that sometimes groups may ask that she post something they send on the KNPS website. Where she is glad to receive the information, she does not have the time to do all the organizing, updating, and posting for them. After some discussion, it was indicated that Shirley could thank the groups in reply and include a link to the KNPS website posting form so they can complete this step instead of her.

**Executive** – Phyllis indicated and the board agreed to accept the resignation of Fred and Nancy Coombs and to graciously thank them for their many years of dedicated service. Phyllis would like for members to think about names to fill the chair positions of the Publicity and Outreach and Public Policy committees.

**KNWAC** – Cynthia Rhodes gave a brief report about the council’s activities during the 2015-2016 legislative session. *** (see KNWAC attachment)

**Membership** – Phyllis presented the Membership committee report from Craig and Jane Freeman. **** (see Membership attachment) Their report recommended to send a renewal membership letter to the 2015 nonrenewal carryovers for 110 letters at a cost of
approximately $60.00. Valerie Wright moved to send this renewal letter to the 110 members at a cost of approximately $60.00/seconded by Mike Haddock. The motion carried by unanimous voice of aye. Krista said the printer and shipper will bill KNPS for the final cost. Shirley mentioned the loss of organizational members and asked the group to study the list of nonrenewing organizations for future reference and consideration.

**AWW** – Phyllis presented a brief report for Rondi Anderson of the dates of Sept. 16-18 in Ft. Scott. ***** (see AWW rough draft form) This is the same weekend as the Winfield Bluegrass Festival. It was requested to put a brief schedule in the Summer newsletter and to send out the PDF Registration form in late July. The speaker, Betsy Betros, has been confirmed for the weekend.

**Awards** – Valerie presented information that the 2016 Mary Bancroft Scholarship award of $1000 has been awarded to Matthew Galliart for his research on “Experiment of Natural Selections of Big Bluestem Ecotypes Across the Great Plains.” This project is looking at optimum ecotypes suitable for restoring grasslands for future drier climates and drought conditions.

Valerie will complete her responsibilities as Awards chair for the 2016 year, and then a new chair should be found. Susan Reimer agreed to join the committee. Mike mentioned that he would talk to Craig about jointly chairing the committee starting in 2017.

**Nominating** – Earl reported that the committee is working together to gather names for interested and qualified people to fill upcoming vacant positions on the board. He will ask Mike Kaye of Topeka of his interest in participating as a board member.

**Education** – Iralee Barnard reported that the group should consider a native plant sign for people to put in their yards to educate the public on native plant gardens. She recommended using the National Wildlife Federation’s Backyard Project sign as something the group could consider in the future. She also announced the upcoming Tallgrass National Prairie Preserve/National Park Centennial celebration on June 18-19. KNPS will be hosting several events at this weekend celebration; she passed around a schedule and invited all members to come out and take part. The National Park Service paid for buttons for participants and Plant Detective hang tags for kids.

**Newsletter** – Cynthia Rhodes and Brian Martin gave a brief report on the upcoming Summer and Fall Newsletters. ***** (see KNPS Newsletter attachment)

For the AWW Registration form mailing, Rondi sent an electronic rough draft of the PDF form. Rondi is to work with Craig and Jane Freeman for the mailing later in July.

**Plant Resources** – Phyllis presented information for Brad Guhr that the group is working on selecting the Wildflower of the Year for 2018. Nadine Champlin, with Brad’s assistance, are collecting and organizing the Top 10 Pollinator Plant list for the group. After some discussion, the board recommends to remove the names from the list, put the final list on the KNPS website with a caveat that this list is developed from the observations of a small group of native plant gardeners. Phyllis also mentioned that Brad and Craig are developing a list of native trees to plant as alternatives to the currently overplanted dogwood tree. Finally, she
reported that Ryan Armbrust has acquired the grant to control invasive bush honeysuckle and is currently setting up informational meetings around the state. There was some discussion of projects and where the meetings and control activities will take place. The group asked if the grant money is available for private landowners.

**Public Policy** – No report.

**Publicity and Outreach** – Phyllis reported this group needs the chair position filled.

6) Old Business included the following actions.

a) Earlier in the meeting, Iralee presented information and a schedule for the June 18-19 National Park Centennial celebration at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

7) New Business included the following actions.


b) Shirley also presented the Proclamation certificate signed by Governor Brownback designating June 2016 as Kansas Native Plant Appreciation Month. This is the tenth year that KNPS has organized this honored designation. It was requested to put a copy of the certificate to highlight this achievement in the upcoming summer newsletter.

8) Having no further business to discuss and effect, Phyllis adjourned the meeting at 1:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cynthia Rhodes
Acting Secretary for Mickey Delfelder