KNPS Vice President Craig Freeman started the meeting at 9:32 am. He welcomed everyone to the 40th annual meeting of the Kansas Native Plant Society (formerly Kansas Wildflower Society). KNPS President Phyllis Scherich and her husband are at a family event, so Craig is filling in for her.

Craig mentioned that a member of the board, Shirley Braunlich, had a birthday. She stepped up and said a few words.

“Native Places in City Settings” is this year’s meeting focus and we are all looking forward to our speakers.

Craig thanked a few individuals for their work in making this weekend come together, including Krista Dahlinger, Joan Manor, and Jane Freeman.

Krista spoke for a bit about silent auction, raffle items, and spending time in Wichita. It will be important to stick to our itinerary so we can get back to Hughes Complex in time to make it to supper.

Craig told the attendees about the tentative board meeting and AWW dates and locations for 2019 that were decided in Friday’s board meeting.

Craig asked for approval of last year’s minutes. Having no objections, Craig accepted them as posted on the website.

Mike Haddock presented the nomination committee recommendations for a 3-year term for board members:
- Earl Allen – Manhattan
- Rondi Anderson – Pittsburg
- Shirley Braunlich – Lawrence
- Nadine Champlin – Sabetha
- Mickey Delfelder – Topeka
- Craig Freeman – Lawrence
- Mark Neubrand – Salina
- Matthew Richter – McPherson
- Brian Martin – Hesston

These are voted as a slate and passed unanimously by those in attendance.

Mike recognized retiring board member Nancy Goulden of Manhattan who is stepping down after 15 years of service. We appreciate her commitment and all of her work that she’s done over the years.

Mike introduced the officers for the next year as elected in Friday’s board meeting:
- Secretary: Mickey Delfelder – Topeka
Mike recognized Krista Dahlinger who is shifting from Treasurer of 10 years into President Elect and a wonderful 3 years of presidential service from Phyllis Scherich.

Craig began the awards portion of the program by recognizing the members of the awards committee: Cindy Ford, Mike Haddock, Mickey Delfelder, Mike Kaye, Valerie Wright, Anthony Zukoff and himself.

There were no scholarship applications this year.

The 2018 Rachel Snyder Memorial Landscape Award goes to McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kansas. Accepting the award on behalf of the base are Tina Seemayer and Laura Mendenhall.

As Craig introduced Tina and Laura, he gave a little background on the project: McConnell Air Force Base is a 3600-acre active military installation in Wichita. Tina and her colleagues in the Natural Resources Program at McConnell Air Force Base have for the past three years championed a paradigm shift adopting wider use of native plants, reducing management inputs, mitigating environmental impacts, and providing opportunities for science and nature education and engagement. Starting in 2015, they established a 12-acre, unmowed riparian buffer along waterways using a mix of native forb and grass seed. In 2016, they established a 7-acre mixed-grass prairie surrounded by buffalo grass lawns in an area slated for mowed turf grass. They also established 5 rain gardens planted exclusively with native plants. Efforts by Tina Seemayer and collaborator Laura Mendenhall epitomize the type of project for which the Rachel Snyder Memorial Landscape Award was created, and we are pleased to recognize them for their outstanding work.

Tina talked about the struggles that they faced and what this award means to them. During development, they had the same issues that we face, such as “what will this cost, will it be ugly, what will the neighbors think?” Being an active Air Force Base, they also faced unique challenges when dealing with aircraft. They proceeded step-by-step after seeing each step succeed.

The 2018 Stephen L. Timme Excellence in Botany Award goes to Brad Guhr.

Craig introduced Brad by giving a little biographical information: Brad has served on the board of the Society since 2004 and his career has centered on natural history education and conservation. After working in various roles in restoration ecology and vegetation study and analysis, he joined the staff of the Dyck Arboretum in 2004 where he currently focuses on environmental education for children and adults. Through his many efforts, Brad has had a far-reaching impact on the science literacy and conservation ethic of thousands of children and adults, especially the Earth Partnership for Schools Program.
The 2018 recipient of the Sheldon and Virginia Cohen Memorial Award for Service to KNPS is Dwight Platt.

Craig introduced Dwight with a few details on his distinguished career: Dwight Platt has left an indelible mark on Kansas and Kansans as a professor of biology at Bethel College, as an untiring conservationist, and as someone for whom service has been a lifelong calling. In Kansas, his work focused broadly on promoting awareness of, appreciation for, and conservation of prairies and prairie biota.

Dwight is a charter member of the Kansas Wildflower Society and served on the KWS/KNPS Board of Directors for 28 years, stepping down in 2006. He served twice as the President—from 1999-2000 and 2002-2003. Among his many accomplishments as President, Dwight spearheaded a successful initiative to revise the mission statement and goals of the KWS in 2000. He and Lorna Habegger Harder co-authored the popular “Growing Native Wildflowers”, a handbook issued in installments in 1991, 1992, 1994, and 1997. For his inspiring record of service to the Kansas Native Plant Society and to the state of Kansas, we are delighted to present the Sheldon and Virginia Cohen Memorial Award for Service to Dwight Platt.

Craig identified the photo contest winners as picked by the awards committee while each photo was displayed on screen:

**Wildflower of the Year**
- 1st: Cobaea Penstemon – Emmett Sullivan
- 2nd: Penstemon cobaea – Andrew Mitchell
- 3rd: Penstemon cobaea – Andrew Mitchell

**Scenery**
- 1st: Flint Hills Sunset – Brian Martin
- 2nd: Red Hills KS Landscape – Ted Beringer
- 3rd: Smoky Hills Prairie – Andrew Mitchell

**People**
- 1st: A Looking – Joan Mason
- 2nd: AWW 2017 – Dennis Everett
- 3rd: First Prairie Walk – Nadine Champlin

**Gardens**
- 1st: Fall Garden on my Patio: Valerie Wright
- 2nd: Grasses along stone stairway: Valerie Wright
- 3rd: My Monarch Waystation: Andrew Mitchell

**Flora**
- 1st: Wild Four O’clocks – Krista Dahlinger
- 2nd: Foxglove – Valerie Wright
- 3rd: Michigan Lily – Andrew Mitchell
Craig said that we have a few vacant positions on the board and said that anyone interested in joining should talk to a current board member for more information.

We took a short break at 10:20 am for refreshments and for silent auction bidding, starting back up at 10:50 am.

Craig launched into a brief history of the organization, which was founded as the Kansas Wildflower Society in 1978 (hence, this is our 40th anniversary). There were 688 charter members and several were in attendance, including Stan Roth and Dwight Platt. Founding member Iralee Barnard, who was not in attendance, is still on the board.

Dwight Platt took the stage and talked briefly about the early years of the Kansas Wildflower Society, which was founded at the Mulvane Art Center at Washburn University in Topeka. Dwight repeatedly emphasized the important contributions of founding member Mary Jo McClure who was the chair of many committees and instrumental in the success of the organization in the formative years.

Craig gave some numerical highlights about the organization:

- Total membership in our 40 years is estimated at 5,000. Paid members have averaged around 730 for the past 12.
- The newsletter has been published quarterly since 1979.
- We have had a website since 1999 and an active Facebook page since 2006.
- We have sponsored or cosponsored over 1000 events.
- We have awarded $12,000 in scholarships in 12 years.
- The Stephen L. Timme Excellence in Botany Award has been awarded 12 times.
- The Rachel Snyder Memorial Landscape Award has been awarded 13 times.
- The Sheldon and Virginia Cohen Memorial Award for Service to KNPS has been awarded 12 times.
- We have had the Wildflower of the Year since 1999.
- Our members contribute to basic science, including reporting locations of rare and declining species and invasive species, and recording phenological observations; and some of this finds its way into major publications.
- We are a sponsoring organization of the pocket guides produced by the Great Plains Nature Center.
- We spearheaded an educational initiative to get Little bluestem named the state grass of Kansas.

We took another break at 11:33 am, with Krista taking over about 11:48 am.

Krista introduced our featured speaker Katie Kingery-Page, a licensed Landscape Architect and Associate Professor at Kansas State University, who presented on “Native Places in City Settings.”
Katie’s training is in fine art, ecology and design, and she helps build public spaces, such as urban parks and wildflower meadows, through participatory practice with communities.

Katie began by thanking a handful of people who have helped shape her education, including several KNPS board members who were in attendance.

Katie has developed 10 Lessons for Urban Native Plants Meadows, based on her experience with designing and building “The Meadow” on the K-State campus. The Meadow was developed thanks to a memorial donation in honor of Professor William C. Hummel and Sara T. Hummel. The Meadow continues to be a focal point on campus for students and faculty alike.

Katie detailed her lessons:

1) Build a coalition for the life of the project - This is undoubtedly the most important part. A public project of this scope cannot be done by one person; it takes a variety of people to see this succeed.
2) Know the place - Perform a site analysis and select the right plants for the right location.
3) Let the team guide values - Each person has their own values and insights that other members may not have considered. Use everyone’s expertise!
4) Develop a thick skin - Teach everyone (i.e., the public) that this is a “patient” landscape; it’s a slow grower that might (and probably will) take years to become a mature landscape.
   a) Don’t be afraid to use the phrase “we aren’t done yet”
   b) Select a plant that will be the “bacon” of plants; include a showy annual wildflower in your mix (such as Katie’s favorite, tall coreopsis) that will provide a lot of color the first several years.
5) Tell the project story - This can be time consuming, but it’s a critical step. Show how introducing native plants increases soil porosity over time. Produce simple infographics about the prairie and its inhabitants. A good example is the interpretive touch table at the Beach Museum of Arts.
6) Connect to volunteer’s joy - Don’t call it a “volunteer work day.” Put a fun spin on it and call it a “commune with monarchs day.” Treat it as a learning day and a therapeutic day in nature.
7) Put a price on labor - Elevate working on the prairie to something requiring skilled labor; this is a skilled activity requiring knowledge about botany and biological systems. Don’t be afraid to acknowledge others and their contributions. Foster the future professions of landscape designers, architects and horticulturalists.
8) Embrace imperfection - There is beauty and potential good in weeds; many are edible and beneficial to a wide variety of wildlife.
9) Make your project a platform for the message of conservation - could it be an EPA monitoring site?
   a) Learn about the concepts of Conservation vs. Restoration
   b) Learn about Restoration vs. providing eco-system services. Realize that even 15 years after restoration, it won’t have the same soil properties as a native prairie. There is NO quick solution to destroying habitat.
10) Be a champion… stay all-in - Your project MUST have a strong champion and someone willing to stand up and fight for it.
Katie finished by answering a few questions from the audience and wrapped about 12:35 pm.

Krista wrapped the meeting by reminding everyone to finish their bidding on the silent auction items and to meet at our first outing site at 2:30 pm.