

TNPS Board Meeting
May 30, 2015
Wilderness Station, Murfreesboro

Attendance: Susan Sweetser, Bart Jones, Dennis Horn, Joey Shaw, Larry Pounds, Todd Crabtree, Margie Hunter, Louise Gregory, Latham Davis

Absent: Bertha Chrietzburg, Michelle Haynes, Karen Hill, Lorie Emens

Minutes: Approved Jan. 10, 2015 board minutes.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Books: Dennis reported pilgrimage sales in Gatlinburg and Georgia Botanical Society with 9 floras, 3 winter twigs, 5 wildflower totaling \$590. The following payments need to be made if they are still outstanding: UT Press \$5000 and 16 books, University of Chicago 30 books, Lone Pine 24 books.

Joey is collecting a list of errata on the new flora, about 15-20 errors presently noted.

Brochures: Our stock of membership brochures is getting low. Recommended text changes to form will include indication of email or postal newsletter delivery, new or renewing membership, and interest in being a regional volunteer. We will delete "interests" list as we have never kept track of this information. On flip side under "TNPS Projects..." delete "upcoming" and add title of the new flora. Latham will oversee edits and printing. Margie will send him a member form with email newsletter wording.

Is there a better way to manage membership database? Joey reported ASB and SABS purchased the software program C-vent, which allows flexibility of access from multiple criteria. We might consider being part of this by paying someone to input our data or investigate a similar program. Margie will ask Kristin Hopkins what free options TNP is considering. We could also use surveys.

TNPS at Public Events: Basic materials needed for our participation in a public event include brochures, old newsletters, and field trip lists, plus some kind of visual signage, such as a banner or poster to draw attention. Bart has a banner and poster in Memphis. Margie has the banner and table cloth used at Lawn & Garden. Dennis may have something, he'll check. Susan has a poster. We might need to get a third banner for East Tennessee.

We know large-scale events such as Nashville L&G and Memphis sell books and generate new memberships. How might we take advantage of regional or local events? We know of three in Davidson, Wilson, and Williamson counties. There is also the Dogwood Festival in Knoxville. Susan would like TNPS to have a presence at the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in Gatlinburg. It will be important to know if an event is outside (Davidson Cty MG Urban Gardening Festival), requiring equipment such as tent canopy, tables, or chairs. To make this work, we will need to secure a volunteer for each

grand division to serve as a coordinator. Susan will write an article on this for the next newsletter. We can also develop a presentation for the annual meeting.

Hometown Habitat: Film documentary project (90 minutes, by Catherine Zimmerman) on conservation landscaping promoting native landscaping, featuring Dr. Doug Tallamy, is seeking funding. Native plant societies in GA, VA, NC, etc., and Wild Ones are contributing. Board voiced support due to Tallamy's reputation, the national spotlight, statewide viewership, and problems of growing urbanization. Board voted to contribute \$1,500. For this, we will receive a copy of the documentary and license to host a screening as a fundraiser. Film onscreen credits are only given for donations of \$5,000.

Annual Meeting: Sept. 11-13, 2015 at Linden Valley in Perry County.

Speakers: Michelle suggested guy from Tennessee Stream Mitigation Project regarding work at May Prairie as possible speaker for Saturday. Susan will get name from Michelle and ask. Bart will approach Allan Trently to speak on state natural areas in West Tennessee Friday night

Field trip: Nine-acre Glade. Todd or Bart will contact owners for permission.

Newsletter: Need registration details, costs, arrival time (for reception), meal time. Bart will check on these. Lorie is supposed to handle registration again.

2016 Location: We need suggestions for next year. Most places require reservations a year in advance.

Certification in Native Plants: Program in Chattanooga may be faltering. The person who started it has left, and interest is dwindling. Mary Priestley will keep us informed as this plays out. The program uses our name, and we provide leaders for hikes.

Board At-Large Members: Bertha is now in a nursing home. We need to consider a board member replacement for Middle Tennessee. Rita Venable was asked, but she doesn't think this is a good time. Susan suggested Sunny Fleming. Joey texted Sunny, and she said yes. Susan will contact her officially. Bertha's position, Joey, and Michelle are up for reelection, a process initiated at the upcoming annual meeting and confirmed in Jan. 2016.

Newsletter: Timing is tough to get two issues done before the annual meeting. The board agreed to delay the Sept issue until after the meeting to include photos and a report. The upcoming issue will be the only one for annual meeting registration.

Todd is writing article on Rare Plant Act's 30th Anniversary this year. Paul Sommers kept detailed records on the process. Interesting political and personality maneuvering required to bring it to fruition.

Plant Conservation Alliance: Susan and Todd will send board the form to review all aspects before committing. We will decide at September board meeting.

There is an app, iNaturalist, for recording sightings of organisms. We might use this to develop plants lists for field trips and send them to all attendees.

Digital Herbaria: Tennessee received a National Science Foundation grant to digitize all herbarium specimens in the state, allowing purchase of five imaging units. One will go to UT, one will go to BRIT to digitize the former Vanderbilt collection, one will roam the state visiting smaller herbaria. Process should begin by late summer. Other southeastern states are doing this too, which should produce a digital library of up to 4 million specimens over the next 4 years. Grant money has only been provided for the process of image capture. These images will be put on a Web site Notes From Nature. Volunteers from the public will be allowed to search for specimens and input label info. Program requires three identical entries (to rule out typos) before a specimen's data is registered. TNPS members and others, such as Tennessee Naturalists, could help with this part.

Web site: No report.

Tennessee Conservation Voters: No report.

Next Board Meeting: Sept. 13, 2015, 9:00 a.m. annual meeting at Linden Valley.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Hunter
Secretary