

TNPS Board Meeting January 2016

Minutes: Sept. 2015, no corrections, no formal approval

Treasurer's Report: No report. Michelle Haynes will be assuming these duties. Lorie is to send her the necessary materials.

Newsletter Software: Adobe InDesign, a very intuitive program for creating newsletters, posters and other paper-goods as well as digital flyers, etc. It is comparable to what Latham was using and has become "the industry standard." Software used to come on CD's and you would download it directly to a computer, but now companies are moving to "cloud based" which means the software exists on their servers and you essentially pay for an annual license. The fee for InDesign is \$199/yr (or 19.99 a month.) I actually think this annual fee might be a special right now because it's usually \$239. The upside to this is that if someone else on the board wants to use the software, we can share the login. The logistics questions that we need to figure out are:

- Is this pricing ok with the TNPS board?
- If so, does TNPS have a card? If we do then I can get it from whomever over the phone when we make the purchase.
- If we don't have a card, then we'll have to figure something else out. Worst case is I can do it using my card and then I can get compensation later.
- If we use a TNPS card, would you prefer to pay monthly or annually? Annual is the cheaper option right now.

A motion was made and passed approving the purchase of Adobe InDesign. Payment arrangements have yet to be finalized.

Web Site: The website is current, but the 2016 field trips need to be added when available. Karen will need the pdf version of the newsletter to post when it is ready. If anyone notices something that needs to be changed, please let her know.

Lawn & Garden Show, Nashville:

- We have signed a contract with the Lawn & Garden Show in Nashville (Mar. 3-6) for a booth shared with TN-EPPC. Our portion of the cost is \$149. Margie mailed a personal check on behalf of both organizations and will be reimbursed.
- Dennis has the books we need on hand for the L&G Show. He can get a portion of them to someone for the opening day Thursday. He will plan to help man the booth on Friday and will bring more books then. We will have the TNPS wildflower book \$25, Winter Woodys \$35, and TN Vascular Guide \$40.
- Latham has a box of recent newsletters and will get them to someone for the show
- A supply of new membership brochures would be good to have on hand, though Margie can print out the half-sheet flyer for this purpose as well. As always we will offer new memberships at half price.
- Sunny, we like to offer new members the most recent newsletter, so if it is available in time, please print extra copies for this purpose - at least 50. Also, it might be beneficial to print a small number of just the field trip insert separately.

- Kim and everyone, please have interested booth volunteers contact me. For our booth fee, we receive 25 show tickets. We give these to our booth volunteers so they do not have to pay to get into the show. Tennessee Naturalist volunteers cover many of the hours. Unfortunately, volunteers will have to pay for parking.
- We set up the booth on Wednesday afternoon (Mar. 2). Margie has the banner, table cover, and a few other materials for this purpose and will do this.
- Jane Norris has typically handled the money and will do so again.

Knoxville Garden Club: This event will be the weekend of Feb. 11-14, 2016 in Knoxville. Susan is trying to obtain a partner group to share the table and time there. She has asked Margie to send the shorter version of our membership brochure. This will be tied in with the Dogwood Arts and lots of handouts needed. She'll give out a trip list too and asks if anyone would like to come to Knoxville and help at the booth.

TCV Priorities: Michelle Haynes would like TNPS to review the potential list of priorities developed by Tennessee Conservation Voters for the 2016 legislative session and offer our opinions. Margie will pass this information to TCV February 1.

Sunny: Water issues are a hot topic right now and efforts to regulate often also act as an umbrella for other conservation efforts. Given that, I'm personally in favor of topics 24, 25 and 26. Related to other hot topics, money speaks and often the states with the most successful conservation policies tie it VERY directly with local economies because it provides a much more tangible incentive for people to care. This would most directly relate to item 11, and also 8, 20 as well (and others.) Item 19 would tie in nicely with item 9 but taxes are generally scoffed at and there may be other areas where efforts are more successful. I think a big issue is lack of support and manpower to manage lands we already have and also research questions that would directly speak to land management practices. Not sure where this topic might fit on this list.

Margie: I agree with Sunny's assessment on both water quality and funding for parks and land acquisition. I would also add air quality. Any attempt by TN state legislature to preempt local laws on ANYTHING from billboards to guns should be opposed vigorously. Push for acceptance of either state or federal oversight regarding water, air, coal, etc., and put in place a procedure that automatically follows regulations providing the most rigorous environmental protection regardless of governmental level. There may be a day when the state would actually be more progressive than the feds as these winds blow back and forth with political fortunes rather than logic and common sense. I also oppose privatizing public lands. Previous attempts with inns and golf courses in state parks proved disastrous. Give state employees the funds to properly manage and maintain parks and natural areas. These areas are excellent environmental ambassadors to engage the general public and help them understand the importance of protecting our natural infrastructure!

Membership: Bart is planning to send out dues reminders to the e-newsletter folks, and a special reminder to those who are in arrears (did not pay dues for 2015). He will give them a couple of months to respond then delete them from the roll March 1.

Field Trip Schedule: Todd will review for finishing touches.

Conservation Hall of Fame Awards: No responses.

Education and Outreach Committee: Kim Sadler shared the committee's thoughts regarding Educational Outreach. Several of these things members are already very much involved with but others are fresh ideas. Mitchell has also developed a very nice PowerPoint that can be adapted for different events. Please let us know if you have questions.

Southeast Tennessee – Chattanooga Area, Mitchell Kent

Following are some initial thoughts on potential contacts for education / outreach opportunities in the Chattanooga area.

- Chattanooga Nature Center (CNC) / Reflection Riding - I am a member of the CNC. I hike the trails there periodically. CNC is located in a valley next to Lookout Mountain. I think TNPS already has an association with CNC, but I could follow up to explore opportunities for further outreach.
- Audubon Acres - This is one of three land tracts owned by the Audubon Society in the Chattanooga area. I am a member of the Tennessee Ornithological Society that provides volunteers for the park office at Audubon Acres. There may be some collaboration opportunities.
- Lula Lake Land Trust - This is an organization that owns a large land parcel on Lookout Mountain that is open to the public during the last weekend of each month. It has nice trails and waterfalls. It is located just across the state line in Georgia. The Georgia Botanical Society, of which I am a member hosts wildflower hikes, at Lula Lake in the Spring.
- University of Tennessee campus in Chattanooga (UTC) - Several botany courses are offered by UTC, so there may be some opportunities for collaboration.
- South Cumberland State Park – lead hikes there
- Donate field guides to these places and put out there as a lending library – will post the brochure on racks too.
- Buy books and resell to smaller nature centers.
- Powerpoint slideshow that can be adapted to region and used for shows or events or hikes
- Has TNPS explored the idea of Chapters? This would allow members in the region to get to know each other and have more events on behalf of TNPS

I received an email from the Sanctuary Manager at Audubon Acres today who would like to initiate some activity planning for 2016 with me. As I mentioned in our recent telecon with David, I have committed to leading a wildflower walk there in March/April on behalf of TNPS. I will take some TNPS brochures with me and talk about the organization in association with the walk. We will be finalizing a date for the walk in the next couple of weeks.

The Sanctuary Manager made me aware of a potential educational opportunity for Scouts in the email. See his comments below.

"We are looking for someone to lead the Plant Science class at our Merit Badge University in October this year. Would you or anyone else you know with the Native Plant Society feel comfortable being involved? Merit Badge classes are easy because the requirements for what you need to cover are so clearly defined. Here's the link: <http://usscouts.org/usscouts/mb/mb085.asp> Thank you."

I know that TNPS has supported some classes at the Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center in Chattanooga in the past. From our telecon, I believe this is the type of activity in which you have been involved. The link provides very specific information of what is expected to be covered in the class. Please review it and let me know if you think TNPS could support this as part of our outreach. Any feedback you can provide will be appreciated. Thanks.

West Tennessee -- Memphis area, David Hilgeman

- Lichterman Nature Center is an arboretum and has an annual native plant sale every spring. I volunteered at the event last year. They also provide educational outreach to groups, and have a great native plant garden with other exhibits and activities.
- The Memphis Botanical Gardens hosts events and activities, along with a summer concert series that draws big crowds.
- The TO Fuller State Park and Meeman Shelby State Park are both within 30 minutes of Memphis. I haven't seen any programs but it would be worth looking into.
- The Wolf River Conservancy and the Ducks Unlimited often host volunteer events.
- The Rhodes College botany professor is leading a collection/pressing/documentation of all plants located in Overton Park in midtown Memphis. This is ongoing and conducted by her botany classes every other semester.
- Overton Park has a unique and diverse old-growth section with hiking trails that run throughout. Another city park, Shelby Farms, is one of the largest urban parks in the country.
- The University of Memphis herbarium is alive and well. Collection trips should start back up in the spring.
- The Dixon Art Museum's Gallery and Gardens host plant lectures on various families throughout the year. I haven't attended any of these yet, but they are on my calendar.
- Email people in the region through the list serve and communicate with them about events or needs that come up.

Middle Tennessee, Kim Sadler

1. Connect with schools systems and serve as a botany advisor within a range of schools in the area. Host a teacher workshop/hike in their schoolyard and show science/biology teachers what they have growing or take them to a nearby natural area to show them what they have close by botanically.
2. Develop a PowerPoint that can be downloaded and used by science classes to help them learn native plants
3. Work with Tennessee State Parks/Tennessee Naturalist Program (several members already do this)

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Cumberland Trail -- There is now and will be a greater need in the future for botanical surveys of the Cumberland Trail (CT) and associated trails. Larry Pounds chairs a small CTC (Cumberland Trails Conference) committee for this purpose. There is a project coming probably next year to evaluate lands for trails connecting the CT to the BSF, perhaps Fall Creek Falls SP and other areas to be determined. This work needs volunteers willing to hike off trail. On the other hand some surveys are needed along existing trails. All of this work needs people willing to study a list of target species so they can be recognized in the field. People could start this work assisting others to get training. We particularly need people who can be leaders. TNPS could have an official role or act as an unofficial recruiting network. With time there will be more info on the connecting trails project which will use graduate students from UTC funded by the CTC.

Violet Study -- Dennis presented a request by Dr. Ballard of Ohio University for participation in his study of the acaulescent (stemless) blue violets in the Southern Appalachian region. He solicits plant societies and other volunteers to help with various aspects of his study which include one or more intensive field trips and perhaps even a weekend violet workshop and field studies to get folks enthused about hunting for violets in this group and learning how to identify them and detect unusual phenotypes, to cultivate (grow) diverse populations of

species and some hybrids to observe and study, to study the violets in (ideally) 100 or more sites across the Appalachians. He needs the aid of a small army of naturalists and botanists.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margie Hunter
Secretary