

**TNPS Board Meeting
Wilderness Station, Murfreesboro
May 7, 2016**

Attendance: Sunny Fleming, Joey Shaw, Dennis Horn, Karen Hill, Larry Pounds, Margie Hunter, Michelle Haynes, Susan Sweetser, Louise Gregory, Todd Crabtree.

Absent: Bart Jones

Guest: Alice Jensen

Meeting called to order at 11:15 a.m.

Welcome: Susan expressed thanks to Karen Hill, Joanna Brichetto, and Education Outreach committee for their hard work on behalf of the society with our Web site, Facebook page, and local events this spring. It was moved and approved that we should extend invitations to Kim Sadler, Mitchell Kent, David Hilgeman, and Joanna Brichetto to join the board as either ex-officio non-voting or voting members depending on wording of the bylaws.

Minutes: Minutes reflecting email correspondence in lieu of the January 2016 board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: 2015 recap shows revenue of \$9,423.12 and expenses of \$13,382.50. This does not reflect a check (\$1,018.85) from Lone Pine that was not deposited in a timely manner and was cancelled. Susan has had no luck reaching them. Dennis will contact someone he knows at Lone Pine to get the check reissued. The increase in expenses is due to our payment of \$5,000 to the University of Tennessee Press.

No transactions were entered in the books during Lorie's tenure as treasurer. There are undesignated deposits for which Michelle will consult the bank to determine how these funds should be represented. It has been recommended that we conduct another audit to verify everything, and the board concurs. Current account balances are \$7,675.90 in savings, \$29,890.40 in book sales savings, and \$5,955.37 in checking. Michelle may be contacted at michellewhaynes@gmail.com.

Annual Meeting 2016: Fall Creek Falls, Sept. 16-18, 2016

Reserving 20 rooms allows us to receive use of a conference room at no cost. Also, if TNPS handles the room reservations, we can save attendees the additional expense of room taxes and fees.

Potential speakers: Michelle suggested Tom Kimmerer, author of *Venerable Trees*, to discuss historic landscapes in the Central Basin and will contact him. Margie suggested a companion talk on fungi and their tree mycorrhizal association. Margie and Sunny will contact Brian Looney at UT or Jay Justice with the Cumberland Mycological Society. We cover accommodations and offer a \$100 honorarium.

Photos: Sunny will coordinate a request to the membership for 10 of their best plant photos to put into a rotating slide display. Members can upload them to Google Drive. Sunny will send directions. Karen suggested we let people bring photos of unknown plants for our TNPS experts to identify at the Friday evening social.

Registration: Margie will contact Mitchell Kent about handling registration for us. Sunny will need a form and all relevant information for the newsletter as well as Joanna and Karen.

Saturday field trip: Chris Fleming will send ideas to Todd.

West Tennessee Board Member-at-Large: Bart Jones, Bettina Ault, and Allan Trentley are possibilities.

Certificate in Native Plants: The board approved a continued TNPS partnership with Tennessee Valley Chapter of Wild Ones in the operation of Certificate of Native Plants courses. TVWO will handle all administration duties, finances, and marketing. TNPS members may take the courses at the same discounted rates as TVWO members. Our logo/name will appear on all course materials and advertising. TNPS will provide a member to assist with CNP planning at a retreat and advertise CNP to our membership. Any TNPS staff/members who teach (Larry led hikes for them) will receive the same pay as other instructors.

Restore America's Parks Letter: Susan received a request for support of a letter to congressional representatives regarding the \$11.9 billion backlog of infrastructure repair in our national parks. The letter, penned by Martin Penny of Cooley Public Strategies on behalf of their client Pew Charitable Trusts as part of the Centennial Campaign for National Parks, is very poorly written. We would want to make significant improvements before signing. Larry indicated TCWP received a letter regarding national parks that they opted not to support as it seemed designed to benefit certain financial interests. He will compare our request with the one TCWP rejected to see if they are the same. TNPS will withhold support pending his findings.

Plant Conservation Alliance: As a non-federal cooperator with PCA, we received a hard copy of their National Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration 2015-2016 publication. There is an online link to this document, which Margie will send to the board.

Hometown Habitat: The \$1,500 check we approved May 2015 in support of this documentary was apparently never sent. Perhaps we could get a copy to show at the annual meeting if we have trouble locating a speaker.

Education Outreach: Book money was being reserved for any expenses associated with the flora. Now that the flora has been successfully published, we can devote these funds to other efforts, including outreach.

Banners -- Mitchell Kent had two additional TNPS banners printed and gave them to Dennis. Sunny proposed a new design for the banner as well as a roll-up display (similar to TN-EPPC's). Chris Fleming will work on a mockup for the display. We

will investigate ways to improve the appearance of our current name/logo banners without replacing them for now.

Rare plant poster -- Todd proposed that we fund another Rare Plants of Tennessee poster for display.

Canopy tents -- Margie was given permission to purchase up to three canopy tents (Coleman at Target) for use at outdoor events such as the upcoming Urban Gardening Festival in Davidson County May 21.

Speaking engagements -- Dennis will speak at the Tennessee Backroads Heritage Spring Dinner in Bell Buckle June 2. Margie is giving a native plant gardening talk at the Fayetteville Library June 2. We've also had a request from the Sierra Club. No word on who might cover this.

TN Flora Web Site: Joey reported on an effort to database herbarium specimens from each TN herbarium. Within two years all data will be assembled, doubling what is represented in the online herbarium at UT. Once Gene Wofford leaves UT, their database is likely to suffer. Dwayne Estes and Joey are exploring options such as Plant Atlas, which generates maps for each species along with other data, such as full description, conservation status, invasive status, and even things such as edibility. Initial setup cost is \$8,000 with \$3,000 needed annually for maintenance. Dwayne is investigating whether or not he can allocate funds for initial costs as part of an NSF grant related to the transfer of Western Kentucky University's specimen collection to APSU. Annual costs could be borne by TNPS during the first two years, and once the site had proven its merit, state universities would likely step in to assume those costs. Alabama and Florida have similar plant atlases we can view. The board expressed strong interest in the prospect.

All 1,200 copies of the flora's first printing have been sold. A second printing of just under 2,000 is now being sold, and it is projected to last about two years. The flora committee has established a plan with UT Press for the third printing to reflect all text corrections and additions as a second edition.

Conservation and Hall of Fame Awards: Latham Davis suggested Peter White, author of the Smokies wildflower book, for the Conservation Awards, but he has not been associated with Tennessee for many years. With the approach of Eugene Wofford's retirement from UT, he was selected to be honored this year. Joey will get biographical information on Dr. Wofford.

Hall of Fame -- The board unanimously selected Edward E.C. Clebsch for the Botanical Hall of Fame. Todd will ask Dr. Chester to work up bio info on Ed.

Newsletter -- June newsletter copy is due by Monday, May 16. A draft will be sent to the board for review May 23, to the printer May 25, and in the mail May 27. Sunny needs the annual meeting information and form, field trip reports from Dennis and Bart, and a TCV report from Michelle. Sunny is working on an article regarding the Hart's tongue fern population near Chattanooga. She recommends we continue to use the printer in Winchester, who is making several concessions to keep our business. Sunny will have them email the invoice to Michelle.

Web Site & Facebook -- Our site generates the most traffic from March to May as people search for our for field trips and wildflower images, etc. Email Karen (Webmaster@tnps.org) with any concerns. Joanna posts information quickly on Facebook.

Tennessee Conservation Voters -- General Assembly adjourned May 2, and TCV's legislative scorecard will be coming soon. It was not a good session for the environment. The stormwater runoff bill prevents TDEC from monitoring water quality issues with development. Haslam didn't sign it but didn't veto it either, and it became law. Not sure of the true effect this will have since federal water regulations are more stringent than state regs.

Meeting adjourned 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Hunter