

**TNPS Board Meeting  
Wilderness Station  
Oct. 8, 2017**

**Attendance**

Susan Sweetser, Larry Pounds, Margie Hunter, Kim Sadler, Joey Shaw, Louise Gregory, Todd Crabtree, Dennis Horn, Bart Jones

**Minutes**

June 11, 2017, minutes are approved as written.

**Treasurers Report**

As of Sept. 27, 2017: \$7,677.08 in savings; \$23,394.48 in book savings, \$11,130.29 in checking. Newsletter printing payment of \$507.40 and plant atlas payment of \$6,500 to UT Chattanooga in early October will leave a checking balance of \$4,242.89. Monies from PayPal have not yet been transferred.

**Education Outreach**

David Hilgeman (WT) is now editing the newsletter. Mitchell Kent (ET) has stepped aside for a year for health recovery. Kim Sadler (MT) will call him to see if he could recommend someone to replace him.

We will share a booth again with TN-IPC and TNP in March 2018 at the Lawn and Garden Show in Nashville. Margie will take care of the contract and be reimbursed.

Native Plant Symposium is planned in Memphis for October 25-28, 2018, including speakers, workshops, and field trips. They expect to draw attendance from across the country. Thirty people serve on the steering committee, including Bart. The symposium reinitiates an alternate year hosting arrangement with Birmingham, AL. TNPS will have a booth there.

**Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage**

For 25 years it has been organized by Gene Wofford, Pat Cox, and Ken McFarland. Joey Shaw became part of it a few years ago. Gene has retired and will no longer serve. Ken also retired but has continued his critical role in planning everything. Pat still wants to take part but cannot assume Ken's role. Ken's efforts alone represent a quarter- to half-time position. UTK had counted it as his service component. However, universities don't put as much stock in service, and younger professors are not as willing to put in such hours. UTK graduate students can't do it as it would need to generate money to support their involvement. GSMNP is scaling back with staffing and cost concerns. They now want to slow down visitation rather than encourage it and have placed limitations on the programs. City of Gatlinburg wants out of financial responsibility. Their current slate of events brings in more than the pilgrimage does. A woman with the city who has worked on the Pilgrimage for several years is also retiring. All these changes place the pilgrimage at a crossroads.

Everything is set for 2018, but the future is in doubt. Perhaps it has run its course. Joey suggests letting Association of Southeastern Biologists run it, as they have the tools and experience to handle most of the organizational aspects -- programming,

transportation, reservations -- through their meeting planner. Pilgrimage committee would still plan everything but lean on ASB to assist with logistical aspects. Approximate costs include Arrowmont \$25,000, UTK conferences web site \$10,000, shirts, trolleys, and in-kind (Ken's hours and materials) \$50,000 to \$80,000. It will require a part-time person to handle the work Ken has done. Joey would like to see a committee of three to stagger and matriculate through the process, developing institutional memory among participants.

### **Tennessee-Kentucky Plant Atlas**

Kentucky is not able to provide letters of commitment but did secure funding for the first few years and is finishing contracts with South Florida. The URL will be [TNKY.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://TNKY.plantatlas.usf.edu) with all search variations leading to it.

Imaging Specimens: Much work is going on behind the scenes to gather data and image Tennessee's herbaria specimens. Each image is 26 MB. 250,000 specimens from UTK will be done by Thanksgiving. 225,000 from Vanderbilt are imaged and being populated with state data. Rhodes, MTSU, Tennessee Tech and APSU are also complete. The newly acquired Western Kentucky specimens are not yet done. Joey's team will scan Sewanee's 10,000 in one weekend. ETSU is the lone straggler, and they will be trained them by the end of year. The goal is to have all specimens imaged by Feb. 2018 -- 700,000 to 800,000 species with scientific name and state and county data at launch and coordinate with synonyms and common names. NSF funding only covers input of skeletal data.

Data Entry: Notes from Nature is used to input additional label data through use of volunteers. This platform was funded by NSF, though the atlas team is having difficulty generating sufficient volunteers. It may help to organize in-person workshops to train people and ease concerns regarding the data fields.

Ultimate goal is to provide all relevant data on 3,074 species native or naturalized. There are 400 possible data fields per species equalling 1.3 million fields of data related to morphology, ecology, etc.

Photos: Plant photos represent the third part. They need to be high quality and show diagnostic characteristics, including the plant, the flower, the fruit, or other specific identifying characters. Steve Baskauf, Dennis Horn, Darel Hess, and Margie Hunter could provide some images.

### **New Logo Design**

Margie sent the files and design questions/ideas to LeAnne Johnson, a graphic designer with TDEC. She was initially willing to look at it when contacted. As weeks passed, Margie tried repeatedly to check in by email and phone without response until last week. LeAnne apologized that she is too busy to help us. Margie contacted Chris Armour who has done good work for TN-IPC for several years. He will submit ideas and a cost estimate soon.

### **Annual Meeting March 29-April 1, 2018**

Sunday is both Easter and April Fools, but the board agreed to keep the date. Susan contacted Tally Ho hotel in Townsend, TN, which is holding 30 rooms at good rates and a conference room with the fee based on registration numbers. Three room

options are available. We need a registration coordinator and two or three field trip ideas providing a range of choices. With two simultaneous trips, we could flip-flop them morning and afternoon.

Speakers for our evening programs will include Margie on Friday and someone from the park, perhaps Rob Klein, fire ecologist, or Kristine Johnson, supervisory forester, for Saturday.

### **Rutherford County Plant Rescue**

Not sure yet on a time line for the work, but it will be this winter, maybe November. The rare phlox will be moved first and replanted at Couchville SNA. Todd talked to Shawn Krosnick (Tennessee Tech), Ashley Morris (MTSU) and Dwayne Estes APSU about use of other species in campus teaching gardens. Crowbars will be needed to extricate many of the plants. They will require special treatment to improve survivability. The site is located on the side of a very busy road, which presents a hazard. Extra plants could go to other safe havens such as Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

### **Conservation & Hall of Fame Awards**

Gene Wofford (Hall of Fame) and Margaret Rhinehart (Conservation) have been chosen. Susan has a contact for Margaret's son to let him know of the award and send the certificate. The presentations will be made at our next annual meeting. Dr. Chester wrote good piece on Gene, but more information is needed on Margaret. Latham Davis and Mary Priestley will produce and hand-color the certificates.

### **Wildflower Book**

Lone Pine editor Faye Boer says turn over in their finance department has led to their dropping the ball on our royalty checks. They have finally gotten these payments to us (as noted by email after the meeting): \$1,377.95 for 2015 royalties (originally \$1,018.85) and \$1,198.74 for 2016 royalties.

There is still no date for reprinting, but Dennis is pushing for stock before our spring sales events. Dennis also brought two minor errors to Faye's attention which she passed on to their designer to correct in the next printing.

### **Bylaws Revision**

Susan and Margie will review and propose changes at the next meeting, updating language to reflect the current way TNPS operates. The latest version, dated 1993, removed the provision requiring that two at large board members must reside in each grand division. The board proposed that any new revision should remove of language related to chapters, review board member qualifications, and use general wording to allow flexibility. It would be good to include education coordinators and newsletter editor as board members.

### **Web Site and Facebook**

Susan praised Joanna Brichetto and Karen Hill who are quick to update our sites.

**TCV**

Legislative scorecards were mailed.

**Newsletter**

Bart has updated the mailing list. He will sort it by region and send it to the board. He will also send renewal notices to those who receive the newsletter electronically. Membership time frame is by calendar year, but we are lenient with renewals. David now knows to inform our printer that the membership date needs to be included on the mailing label.

**Cedar Glades Booklet Revision**

Kim Sadler is revising the booklet on cedars glades for the Center for Cedar Glade Studies at MTSU. She needs help with plant descriptions and will send out a call to the board if anyone can assist.

**Next Meeting**

No date was set.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margie Hunter  
Secretary