

**TNPS Board Meeting
Beersheba Springs Assembly
June 11, 2017**

Attendance

Todd Crabtree, Karen Hill, Susan Sweetser, Bart Jones, Louise Gregory, Margie Hunter, Dennis Horn, Larry Pounds, Michelle Haynes

Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m. Susan expressed thanks to Darel Hess for a superb job organizing the meeting and handling registration.

Minutes

January 2017 email discussion minutes were approved. Michelle's meeting house in Gallatin is a possible location for board meetings in January and other dates if we run into scheduling conflicts at Wilderness Station. She will need to check her schedule for other event booking conflicts.

Treasurer's Report

The Quicken program crashed while Michelle was entering data, and she may have lost the most recent entries. She recommended we consider an audit. It's been two years, which is the recommended timing. Kay could do it and may be able help Michelle get the current records in order. Quicken says we need to upgrade for \$70, the initial cost of the original program last year. We may switch to something simpler like QuickBooks.

Michelle provided a report showing income and disbursements for all of 2016 and the first 5 months of 2017 (attached). Current totals for our three accounts are \$23,393.31 in book savings, \$13,594.36 in checking, and \$7,676.69 in regular savings.

After paying the meeting expenses to Beersheba Springs Assembly, we came out ahead by just \$60. Registration fees were used to pay for Ken McFarland's accommodations and meals. Speaker honoraria put us in the hole. Both speakers were offered a check for \$200. David Lincicome was acting in the capacity of his state job and did not accept one. Perhaps we need to consider raising our per person registration fee from \$15.

The membership turnout was a little less this year than last with 46 registrants, though this number is about average and is not disappointing considering the June dates and likely vacation conflicts.

Education Outreach

Kim Sadler synthesized all 3 division reports into a single page, which is appended to the minutes. We were approached by two Middle Tennessee events too close to the events' dates to find available volunteers. Earlier notice would be helpful. Perhaps the outreach coordinators can make this suggestion to event organizers. With sufficient notice we can advertise in the newsletter and online for potential volunteers to "save the date." It would also be very helpful for coordinators reach out to members in their areas and develop a list per area of TNPS members willing to be contacted for these events and perhaps area TNP volunteers as well.

2018 Annual Meeting

There is little interest in returning to a fall meeting just yet. March or April to explore spring wildflowers is a strong possibility. While the board would like to locate in the western end of the state, March/April flora is not showy in West Tennessee. There are also few places where we can have both meeting space and have convenient meals. The only real options are state parks such as Paris Landing, Natchez Trace, Pickwick, and maybe Montgomery Bell.

In East Tennessee, there is Carson Springs near Newport where we met a few years ago, and the possibility of hotels in Townsend, such as the Tally Ho. Allen will stop by to talk with the management. He also mentioned another possibility near Greenbrier that we could investigate. Susan will contact Carson Springs. Best timing for a spring annual meeting in East Tennessee would be the weekend prior (April 20-22) to the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage (April 24-28).

Plant Rescue

Todd discussed an upcoming development (road, utilities) through cedar glades in Rutherford County, affecting both listed rare plants and more common glade-specific species. There are funds and a plan for moving the rare plants to state natural areas, but some of the more common glade species that are uncommon outside this environment could be salvaged for gardens at APSU, MTSU, and Tennessee Tech and use in an educational capacity with botany students. He proposed we solicit the membership to help with the rescue of these species. Tennessee Naturalists in the Owl's Hill and Cedars of Lebanon chapters could also be approached.

The rescue will take place sometime this fall when plants are dormant to increase transplantation success. Todd and others will be on hand to ID dormant plants. Todd will send all information for the board to disseminate, focusing only the educational purpose, number of volunteers needed, and place/time to meet with no mention of the site location or that volunteers may get to take plants home. Only when the educational aspect is fully satisfied and there are plants remaining will the possibility of personal plants be considered. Special tools like a crowbar may be necessary to successfully move the plants.

Wildflower Book

TNPS wildflower book is completely out of stock. Lone Pine has no inventory on hand. Dennis called for an explanation. The publisher is working with many smaller companies to print and distribute their titles. There isn't money on hand to cover our printing at this time, but they plan to put it in the pipeline for spring availability in 2018. Dennis will tell them that we need it to be available in February for early spring sales opportunities. He is in touch with the Edmonton office working with their new editor Faye Boer. She has promised to get to the bottom of 2015 royalty check and find out why we have not received a check for 2016. She would not provide Shane's (Lone Pine president) email but promised to forward any correspondence Dennis felt the need to send him if necessary.

TN Plant Atlas

Joey Shaw was not present at this meeting, and Susan will contact him requesting a written response to the board on the status of the atlas. He and his grad students have been scanning UT herbarium specimens at a furious rate as the atlas site is being built. At Joey's request, the board agreed to combine our atlas with Kentucky. The board feels it is only fair to request a letter of financial commitment from the Kentucky partners to support annual maintenance costs for a minimum of 7 years to match the commitment made by Tennessee universities and others. Dennis is still anxious for acknowledgement that the user friendly issues raised by the board are indeed on the builders' radar and will be incorporated to our satisfaction. All we ask is that regular informational updates on the site's progress include a recognition of these issues and any steps taken to address them.

Conservation & Hall of Fame Awards

The board voted to give Dr. Margret Rhinehart our Conservation Award in January and induct Dr. Eugene Wofford into the Botanical Hall of Fame. Dr. Wayne Chester provided a great write-up on Gene. Comments from Dennis and Chuck ? need to be worked into a suitable write-up on Dr. Rhinehart. Susan will consolidate all correspondence on these two recipients and send it to Karen and the newsletter.

The certificates are a printed form that Mary Priestley and Latham Davis should have. Mary paints them with watercolors.

Karen does not have information on our Conservation Award on the Web site and will add it. Past newsletters should contain all the relevant information. Bart will help her pull this together. Bertha Creitzberg was our first recipient, then Phil Bredesen, Dr. Elsie Quarterman, Dr. Chester, and maybe Kathleen Williams.

By-laws

A review of the by-laws was tabled until next meeting. Susan provided copies of a 1993 version and asked the board to review it for discussion. There are differences between the document and our current operation. Should we change to match the by-laws or change the by-laws to reflect the current setup? The mention of chapters is likely based on the organizational structure of other states' societies. TNPS has never had chapters.

TNPS Logo

Maurice Edwards developed an initial plan patterned after the Division of Natural Areas logo, working with computer techs from UTC. Karen made changes to reflect subsequent suggestions. Margie contacted LeAnne Johnson, a graphic designer with TDEC who designed the naturalist program's logo, and sent her the design files. The board is open to any suggestions as the design evolves. Margie will report on her ideas and any associated costs.

Newsletter

Todd arranged for all issues not currently in digital form from the organization's inception to be scanned by Harvard. They found a few time gaps, but it was determined that there were likely no issues published during these periods.

Hardcopies of the latest issue had a blank page as there were only seven pages. Issues need to have even numbers to avoid this. The most important items are the field trip reports. Bart reported that membership dates are often missing from the address labels, though he is not sure how that happens. This time the printer did not set it to print the date column and no newsletters had that information. The printer needs to be sure this is set for each edition.

Web Site & Facebook

Karen will update book inventory numbers on the site. The BOD link at the bottom of each page connects to a special page just for the board where all the minutes are posted. The two most visited pages are the field trip list and home-page photo slide show. Anyone can send Karen good photos to add. Susan acknowledged the good job Joanna is doing on our Facebook site.

Tennessee Conservation Voters

This has been a difficult legislative year spent defending the environment. The General Assembly passed a significantly weakened storm water bill despite opposition by TDEC. The Forever Green Tennessee initiative spearheaded by Kathleen Williams is lobbying to make the real estate transfer tax permanent. Funds raised by this mechanism have been used to purchase scenic and conservation lands. A small portion may be dedicated to historic preservation of cultural landmarks. Michelle will send information on this initiative to everyone, and encourages the membership to contact their state representatives and advocate for this fund.

Next Board Meeting

Possible date is Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Hunter
Secretary

Banking Summary
1/1/2016 through 6/10/2017

Category	1/1/2016- 6/10/2017
INCOME	
Uncategorized	295.00
Annual Meeting 2016	2,294.95
Annual Meeting Income	985.00
annual meeting income 2017	4,694.50
Book Sales	2,350.00
Contribution	3.00
Donation	50.00
Dues	4,515.00
Membership List	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00
paypal transfer income	6,000.00
royaltyincome	883.89
UT royalty income	2,450.59
TOTAL INCOME	24,521.93
EXPENSES	
Uncategorized	100.00
annual meeting 2017	1,789.72
annual meeting 2106 expense	4,733.20
Book Expense	715.44
Community Relations	731.09
Copies	30.00
Gift or Donation	650.00
Governmental Fees	20.00
newsletter	462.06
Newsletter and Website	1,355.24
Organization Membership - TCV	400.00
Postage and Delivery	123.00
printing and postage	1,660.51
Public Relations - brochures, etc.	251.00
reimbursement expesse	50.00
softwear	217.41
speaker	407.00
supplies	398.19
university of tennessee plant atlas	6,500.00
Website	350.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	20,943.86
OVERALL TOTAL	3,578.07

Educational Outreach Report June 2017

Some exciting news is a citizen science opportunity presented by Joey Shaw is to assist with digitizing Tennessee herbarium specimens. Two out of 3 people have to enter the same data from the same label before it will be entered into the *SERNEC Portal* <<http://sernecportal.org/portal/collections/index.php>>

West Tennessee – David Hilgeman has assumed the responsibility as editor of the TNPS newsletter and has reported several wonderful events there; he will be attending the annual meeting and can bring forward any additional events at that time. He also has been volunteering at the U. of Memphis Herbarium.

Middle Tennessee Report from Kim Sadler

Spring is a very busy time! For events in which we were invited, I sent out email requests to the Middle Tennessee membership, with 10 or more emails returned out of 70 or so sent. I communicated with Bart Jones who helped me update several of the addresses. Three people responded to help through this method and hopefully, as most people move forward with technology, we can increase the number of people who will volunteer in the future.

March 2 – 5 from Margie Hunter: The organization did well at the Nashville Lawn & Garden Show! Thanks to Michelle Haynes, Dennis Horn, Darel Hess, Louise Gregory, and Susan Sweetser for staffing the booth.

Memberships: 27 new, 7 renewing = \$410 total
Book Sales: 12 wildflower, 3 winter twig = \$405 total
Total income: \$815.00 (checks mailed to Michelle)

March 3 – Weed Wrangle Invitation, no notes who participated

March 25 & 26 – Spring Hill Lawn & Garden Show at Rippavilla, no volunteers were available but we will be extended an invitation next year, March 24 & 25, 2018

April 11 – Rutherford County Tennessee Trails Association. I did a presentation on cedar glade flowers.

May 5 & 6 – Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade Festival. Several TNPS members participated: Margie Hunter presented about the Running Glade Clover in the evening program as well as attended the TNPS booth; Todd Crabtree & Darel Hess were trip leaders; Linda Robertson and George Wallace did presentation/workshops and attended the TNPS booth. Trina Hayes and Dana Rinehart attended the booth. I was unable to be there on Saturday and I'm sure there were others that helped. The Friends of Cedars of Lebanon hosted a plant sale. Plan for May 4 & 5, 2018!

May 7 – Williamson County Plant Sale, invited but did not attend, no volunteers available.

May 20 – Davidson County Urban Gardening Festival. I attended the booth all day (8am to 3:30pm) with afternoon help from Wray Estes. We sold 5 copies of the book (\$125) and one membership (\$10). This was a good venue but an all day affair outside. The new TNPS tent was easy to set up (with help from others) and a necessity.

East Tennessee Report from Mitchell Kent

1. Met with Kyle Simpson, Sanctuary Manager for Chattanooga Audubon Society site known as Audubon Acres in March to discuss TNPS activities for the spring
2. Met with Corey Hagen, Director of Education for Reflection Riding Arboretum in March to discuss TNPS activities for the spring
3. Conducted a wildflower walk on behalf of TNPS at Audubon Acres on April 2nd.
4. Conducted two local area field trips for Georgia Botanical Society members during their 2017 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage held in Chattanooga on April 7-9, 2017
5. Gave a presentation for a social at First Centenary United Methodist Church on spring wildflowers of the Tennessee Valley on April 24th.