

Minutes

TNPS Board Meeting

May 13, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Present

Karen Ripple Hill, President

Allan Trently, Vice President

Bettina Ault, Secretary

Susan Sweetser, Past President

Louise Gregory (East)

Larry Pounds (East)

Michelle Haynes (Middle)

Dennis Horn (Middle)

Suzy Askew (West)

Bart Jones (West; Membership Chair)

Hilary Swaim (Communications; newsletter)

Kim Sadler (Education Outreach)

Absent

Joanna Brichetto (Communications)

Jennifer Trently (Communications)

Guests

Harland Alpaugh

Alice Jensen

Minutes

Bettina Ault

Minutes from the board meeting on 1/14/2021 were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Karen Hill

Our total balance is \$43,230.85. This includes \$13,567.60 in checking, 0 in PayPal, \$19,191.47 in money market savings, and \$10,481.78 in money market book savings.

Net YTD income is \$4074.01; most of this is from new memberships.

Books on hand:

19 Wildflowers of Tennessee the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians books; Dennis will order 4 more boxes of 18 for Karen, Suzy, Dennis, and our new Middle TN outreach board member.

4 Woody Plants of Tennessee: The Complete Winter Guide to Their Identification books; we will order a box of 20.

12 Guide to the Vascular Plants of Tennessee books; we will not order more as hopefully there will be a new edition soon.

We will reassess our need to order more books in December.

Education Outreach Report

We have had two events since our last meeting. Karen attended the Wild Ones Native Plant Sale on March 27 and sold 23 books and 14 memberships. Bettina attended the Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade Festival on May 1 and sold 3 books and one membership. The Nashville Lawn and Garden Show was not held because of Covid.

Newsletter

We discussed articles to include in the spring newsletter. Hilary will draft a template to make it easier to write up trip reports. We are considering looking for a new printing company because costs have been creeping up with the current one. In general our newsletter costs are down because most of our membership prefers to get the newsletter online.

Website and Social Media

No new business.

Native Plant Seminars

Dennis Horn's Zoom seminar on March was very well attended with 147 participants. Larry Pounds' seminar on April 20 was also well attended but did not have as many viewers, perhaps because it wasn't as well publicized. We will be sending a Facebook reminder before each seminar to make sure that future seminars are well advertised. Our next speaker is Milo Pyne, who will give a seminar on Native Plants of the Cedar Glades on May 18.

Field Trips

Dennis discussed his Old Stone Fort trip on April 3. Larry discussed his trips to Frozen Head on April 17 and Stinging Fork Falls on April 24. Bart's Meeman-Shelby trip on March 27 was rained out; his Bridgestone-Firestone trip on May 8 was well attended. The next scheduled field trip is Dennis's trip to AEDC and May Prairie on May 29.

Annual Meeting

Our 2021 Annual Meeting was held on April 9-11 at Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee. Although due to Covid there was not a formal conference weekend, eleven people stayed at the Donoho Hotel. On April 10 we visited Taylor Hollow and Larkspur Conservation natural burial area, and on April 11 we visited Winding Stairs near Lafayette. We had good weather and beautiful wildflower displays on both hikes.

New Business

Membership

Both of our two new treasurers have been unable to serve, and Karen has been filling in as treasurer. Kim Sadler has agreed to take over the treasurer position, and her nomination was approved by the board. When she assumes the treasurer position the Middle TN Outreach position will be vacant. Sue Bible was suggested for this position; Karen will see if she is interested.

Digitization of slides

Dennis has a very large collection of high quality plant photos on color slides. Karen proposed that we digitize his slides so that we will have a library of plant photos to be used for newsletters, our website, and educational programs, although Dennis will retain ownership of the slides. Karen found a company that will charge .45 per slide for digitization. The board approved this proposal for 1000 slides; Karen will check the quality of the firm's work before placing the order. Dennis noted that TNPS doesn't have a copy of the slides included in the Wildflowers of Tennessee book and suggested that these should also be digitized. Bart suggested that we offer some of the digitized photos to the Tennessee-Kentucky Plant Atlas.

Online Course on Native Plants

Karen mentioned meeting a middle school teacher at the Wild Ones plant sale in Chattanooga; he asked for resources on native plants. Karen proposed that we create an online course on Tennessee native plants aimed at middle school students. Karen, Suzy, and Kim have formed a committee to outline a curriculum; Karen plans to ask the teacher to be on the committee as well. Allan noted that Cindy Rutledge, from the Tennessee Ornithological Society, has developed teaching materials on Tennessee birds for a similar age group and might have helpful suggestions.

2022 Annual Meeting

We discussed the Chattanooga area for our 2022 Annual Meeting. A couple of suggestions were Little Cedar Mountain and Laurel-Snow State Natural Area. Bettina will do some research about places to hike and accommodations and will give a report at the next meeting.

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 PM EST, 6:00 PM CST

Bettina Ault