

Minutes

TNPS Annual Meeting

Cedars of Lebanon State Park

May 6, 2023

Welcome and Introduction of Officers

Our TNPS president, Karen Hill, reviewed the TNPS organizational chart including board members and officers:

Officers:

Karen Ripple Hill, President

Allan Trently, Vice President

Bettina Ault, Secretary

Kim Sadler, Treasurer

Board Members:

Suzy Askew, West TN (Current term 2022-2023)

Bart Jones (Membership chair), West TN (Current term 2022-2023)

Sue Bible, Middle TN

Dennis Horn, Middle TN (Current term 2023-2024)

Louise Gregory, East TN (Current term 2023-2024)

Larry Pounds, East TN (Current term 2023-2024)

Education Outreach (by major cities)

Suzy Askew (Memphis)

Karen Hill, Sue Bible, Aprele Griffin (Nashville)

Mitchell Kent (Chattanooga)

Shelley King (Knoxville)

Communications:

Newsletter: Donna Bollenbach

Facebook: Johanna Brichetto

Twitter, IG: Jennifer Trently

Field Trips:

Todd Crabtree

Bart Jones

Dennis Horn

Larry Pounds

Mary Priestley

Review of Minutes

Bettina Ault

The minutes from the TNPS board meeting on January 24, 2023 were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Kim Sadler

Our net income for the period 1/1/2022 to 5/6/2023 is 13,404.34.

Kim noted that we have received all our royalties for the book *Wildflowers of Tennessee the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachian Mountains* for the years 2020-2022 from Lone Pine Publishing and thanked Dennis Horn for his communication with the Lone Pine staff.

Education Outreach

Karen Hill

Karen summarized recent education outreach activity. We now have education outreach coordinators for each of the four major Tennessee cities, with hopes to add a coordinator for upper East Tennessee in the future.

Field Trips

Bart Jones

There are a total of 13 TNPS-sponsored field trips on the schedule for this year. We have several trips in collaboration with other Tennessee botany groups (Wild Ones, TCWP, etc.)

Bart and Karen issued a call for volunteers to add to our group of field trip leaders.

TNPS Seminars

Our monthly seminars have been a great success, to the extent that we have needed to buy a larger package from Zoom, because we were exceeding the preset number of 100 participants and people were not able to get in to the sessions; we now have a capacity of 500 participants per session.

Our next speaker, on May 16, will be Rita Venable, speaking on *Bumble Bees of TN & What They Do*. On June 20, Dennis Whigham will speak on *Native Orchids in Tennessee – Ecology & Conservation Needs*.

Newsletter Report

Donna Bollenbach

Donna reminded us that the deadline for the second quarter newsletter will be May 23, 2023. She especially needs field trip reports.

Cullowhee Conference

Karen asked the membership if we want to sponsor a full student scholarship, with room and board, for the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference at Western Carolina University July 19-22, 2023. The total cost of this scholarship will be \$573.00. A motion was made to fund this conference and the membership approved it. There was an agreement that the student who receives the scholarship will write a newsletter article about their experience or other botanical topic of their choice.

Legal Defense of Native Plants in Yards

We have been receiving a lot of complaints from Tennessee residents about pushback by HOAs and neighbors about use of native plants in landscaping. The membership was asked if we are willing to support legislation making it more difficult to interfere with use of native plants in yards. A motion was made and passed. It was noted that Wild Ones has templates for letters supporting use of native plants in landscaping. Tennessee Conservation Voters may also be of help in this effort.

Cumberland Falls Trails Conference and Alternative Spring Break

The Cumberland Falls Trails Conference is sponsoring an Alternative Spring Break in which college students are trained to build trails during the day and receive education in evening programs. Students pay to attend this program. The membership was asked if there was interest in donating to this project. A motion was made to consider this but was tabled because the membership felt that we needed more information (for example, should we sponsor a scholarship, as students pay to attend this program?). The organization will be invited to submit a more specific request for help, including a budget.

Next Annual Meeting

The membership discussed our 2024 annual meeting, which we are planning to hold at Roan Mountain State Park. Although it would be nice to hold the meeting at the time the Catawba rhododendron blooms, it was felt wise to avoid the Rhododendron Festival weekend because of crowds. More planning is pending.

Bettina Ault