

Minutes

TNPS Board Meeting

January 24, 2023

Zoom Meeting

Present

Karen Ripple Hill, President

Allan Trently, Vice President

Bettina Ault, Secretary

Kim Sadler, Treasurer

Louise Gregory (East)

Larry Pounds (East)

Dennis Horn (Middle)

Sue Bible (Middle)

Suzy Askew (West)

Bart Jones (West; Membership Chair)

Shelley King (Education Outreach – East TN)

Mitchell Kent (Education Outreach – Middle TN)

Donna Bollenbach (newsletter editor)

Aprele Griffin (Middle TN, assisting Sue Bible with Education Outreach)

Absent

Johanna Brichetto (Communications)

Jennifer Trently (Communications)

Guest

Harland Alpaugh

Update on our members

Our TNPS members Bart Jones and Donna Bollenbach have both recently had their mothers pass away. Our sympathies to them.

Minutes

Bettina Ault

Minutes from the TNPS board meeting on 9/13/2022 were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Kim Sadler

Our gross income 9/13/22-1/24/22 is \$18,819.95. Total expenses are \$9139.60. Net income for this period is \$9680.25.

We received a grand total of 13 life memberships during this period! We, along with three other groups, received a \$500.00 grant from the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show; we jointly applied this grant towards expenses for the 2023 show.

Our book sales are going well: Sales of books and supplies totaled \$2169.00. We will need to order more books.

Education Outreach

Knoxville area: Shelley King will be participating in the Knoxville Lawn and Garden Show on February 11, 2023 and the Lavender Festival in Oak Ridge in June 2023.

Chattanooga area: Mitchell Kent is active in Wild Ones of Hamilton County. The theme of this year's Wild Ones annual meeting on March 18, 2023 is Plant Native. The Wild Ones Annual Native Plant Sale will follow on March 23.

Nashville area: Sue Bible and Aprele Griffin will be participating in the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show.

West TN: Suzy Askew is active in Wild Ones in West Tennessee and will be participating in Earth Day festivities at Shelby State Community College. She is also active in the American Federation of Garden Clubs. She will be participating in Birds and Seeds in Lichterman Nature Center this coming weekend. Of note, a digital version of her gardening book *Native Plants of Tennessee: A Book of Lists* has been added to the TNPS website and can be downloaded for everyone's use; thank you, Suzy!

Native Plant Seminars

Our final seminar of 2022 was Margie Hunter, *Beyond Aesthetics: Garden As If Life Depends on It*. Our January seminar will be Dennis Bishop, *Designing in Nature: Transforming Lawns to Native Plants*. In February Allen Trently will speak on *Native Plant Highlights from West Tennessee: 2008 to Present*. Todd Crabtree will speak on *Rare Plants and Plant Communities of Southeast Tennessee* in March. And Erin Tripp, author of *Field Guide to the Lichens of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, will speak on *Tennessee: A Global Hotspot for Lichen Diversity* in April.

Field Trips

Larry Pounds, Allen Trently, and Bart Jones have finished the 2023 field trip list, which will appear in the March newsletter. We have a total of 13 field trips led by our group as well as several other collaborations.

Website

We have a new page on our website devoted to native plant gardening.

2023 Annual Meeting

Our 2023 annual meeting will be at Cedars of Lebanon State Park, in conjunction with the Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade Festival, from May 5-7, 2023. There are camping facilities and some cabins at Cedars of Lebanon, but there may not be much space left because of the Quarterman Festival. We are planning to reserve a block of rooms at one of the motels near Exit 238 off I-40 for Friday and Saturday nights; this is only 10-15 minutes from Cedars of Lebanon. We are discussing food trucks or possibly catered meals on Friday and Saturday nights. Pandy Upchurch

will speak on plant conservation on Saturday night after a brief meeting of the society. We tentatively plan to hold our 2024 annual meeting at Roan Mountain.

Newsletter

Donna Bollenbach has been doing a great job with the newsletter. She is asking for submissions for the March issue by February 17-20; the deadline is the last week in February.

Grant Program

We have been discussing an application for formal grant program for donating native plants/seeds to schools and nonprofits like Owls Hill.

Kim Sadler brought up the point at the last meeting that any application from a school needs to have a plan for caring for the gardens/plantings over the summer, and we will incorporate plans for ongoing care into the application. We discussed a budget and the board moved to cap grants at \$1500 per school.

Student Course

We have been working on a native plant course aimed at middle school students; current plan is to postpone further work on this until fall.

Dropbox Initiative

We will be using Dropbox to back up officer documents and make them available to the entire board. Instructions on how to access Dropbox will be forthcoming.

Zoom Account

We noticed that at our last Native Plant Seminar (which was very popular) close to 50 people were not able to participate because we didn't have enough Zoom slots. We discussed increasing our number of slots and the board moved to increase our participant number from 100 participants for \$149.90 per month to 300 for \$199.90.

Should we support/organize a working group of individuals and organizations to develop a Tennessee state law that would block cities/towns/HOAs from preventing the planting, or penalizing those who have planted natives on their properties?

We discussed this issue and several people brought up references and legal resources. A motion to support this issue was made and passed by the board.

Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM CST, 7:00 PM EST

Bettina Ault