

Minutes

TNPS Board Meeting

September 23, 2023

Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM Central Daylight Time.

Present

Karen Ripple Hill, President

Allan Trently, Vice President

Bettina Ault, Secretary

Kim Sadler, Treasurer

Larry Pounds (East)

Dennis Horn (Middle)

Mitchell Kent (Education Outreach – Middle TN)

Jennifer Trently (Communications, Assistant Secretary)

Absent

Louise Gregory (East)

Sue Bible (Middle)

Bart Jones (West; Membership Chair)

Suzy Askew (West)

Shelley King (Education Outreach – East TN)

Donna Bollenbach (newsletter editor)

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

Johanna Bricchetto (Communications)

Guest

Harland Alpaugh

Minutes of 5/23/2023 board meeting

Bettina Ault

Minutes from the TNPS board meeting on 5/23/2023 were reviewed and approved (motion to approve Dennis Horn; second Larry Pounds).

Minutes of called meeting 8/22/2023 to discuss membership management systems

Jennifer Trently

Minutes of called meeting 8/22/2023 to choose a membership management system were reviewed and approved (motion to approve Bettina Ault; second Dennis Horn)

Treasurer's Report

Karen Hill/Kim Sadler

Our total income 1/1/23-8/31/23 was \$19,411.18. Total expenses were \$9898.83. Net income for this period was \$9512.35.

Account balances as of 8/31/23:

Checking: \$10,498.43

Book Money Market: \$30,461.11

Savings Money Market: \$18,209.32

PayPal: \$3113.8

Total: 62,282.70.

Of note, we made a profit of \$719.53 from the annual meeting.

We discussed attempting to find better interest rates for our money market accounts.

Education Outreach

The Education Outreach Committee has had 15 table events so far this year!

Knoxville area: Shelley King will be participating in the Jackson Square Lavender Festival in Oak Ridge on June 17, 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 was Plant Native. The Wild Ones Annual Native Plant Sale was on March 23.

Nashville area: Sue Bible and Aprele Griffin participated in the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show. They will participate in a native plant hike and talk at Shelby Bottoms in Nashville on June 10.

Field Trips

Recent field trips:

May 27, 2023: Oak Ridge Greenway – Paved Section (TCWP/TNPS hike led by Larry Pounds)

June 3-4, 2023: 2-day trip to Ketona Glades of Bibb County, AL (led by Bart Jones with guest appearance by Jim Allison)

June 17, 2023: Andrews Bald (TCWP/TNPS hike led by Larry Pounds and Allen Sweetser)

September 2, 2023: Big South Fork (TCWP/TNPS hike led by Larry Pounds). 9 people attended. The group looked for endemic rockhouse species.

September 23, 2023: Exploring the Sands of Ghost River State Natural Area (led by Allan Trently and Caitlin Elam). 14 people attended.

Highlights were a stand of sand post oak (*Quercus margarettae*) and TN Special Concern Plukenet's flat-sedge (*Cyperus plukeneti*).

The field trip committee will start meeting in December to plan 2024 field trips.

Native Plant Seminars

On 6/20/23 Dennis Whigham spoke on *Native Orchids in Tennessee – Ecology and Conservation Needs*. On 7/18 Nate Fields spoke on *Plant for a Change: Cultivating Native Habitats and Nurturing Greener Communities Alongside People With and Without Disabilities*. On 8/15 Sam King talked about Removing Invasive Plants. And on 9/19 Tony Lance from the National Wildlife Federation talked on *Certify your Yard*. Upcoming talks include Jaimie Matzko, *Biodiversity in Your Landscape: Why it Matters* on 10/17 and Dennis Horn, *Tennessee Orchids*, on 11/21.

Newsletter

Our September edition is out. The next edition will be in December.

Education Outreach

Knoxville area: Shelley King has participated in 3 events so far this year.

Chattanooga area: Mitchell Kent has 3 events this fall. He recently spoke on Master Gardeners of Hamilton County.

Nashville area: On a sad note, the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show, which has been a source of many membership and book sales in the past, is shutting down after this year because of declining attendance.

2024 Annual Meeting

We plan to hold our 2024 annual meeting at Roan Mountain; the board discussed scheduling this for the weekend before the Rhododendron Festival because of traffic issues (6/15-16/2024). There will be cabins for rent and camping options at Roan Mountain State Park, and we will explore hotel options in Elizabethton, TN. The park has a lecture hall, and we will explore food options. We discussed forming a planning committee.

Grants4Plants

We have been discussing a formal grant program for donating native plants/seeds to schools and nonprofits like Owls Hill. Sue, Kim, Karen, and Bettina have volunteered to serve on this committee, and we need to have a meeting soon. We discussed naming this program in honor of Louise Gregory, who did early work on the program.

Board Membership

Louise Gregory has resigned from her East Tennessee seat because of health issues. Mitchell Kent was approved unanimously to fill out her remaining term.

Neon One

We discussed our recent adoption of Neon One to help manage our growing membership (we are approaching 800 members). Karen and Mitchell have already attended two training sessions (there is a free three-month active assistance period), and Kim will join the next one. Neon Pay will take the place of Pay Pal, and we will be developing new membership forms. Under this system each member will have access to a member portal, which should help a great deal with eliminating spelling errors, updating addresses, etc. Other advantages of this new system include hike registration and ability of members to renew their memberships on the anniversary of joining rather than on January 1 every year. We discussed asking members to give their age categories. There also may be a place on the registration form for members to give their interests as a way to tailor our programs to our membership.

Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:00 PM CST, 7:00 PM EST.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM CDT.

Bettina Ault