

**Minutes**  
**TNPS Board Meeting**  
**January 23, 2024**  
Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM Central Standard Time.

**Present**

Karen Ripple Hill, President  
Allan Trently, Vice President  
Bettina Ault, Secretary  
Kim Sadler, Treasurer  
Shelley King (Education Outreach, Knoxville area)  
Dennis Horn (Board member, Middle TN)  
Sue Bible (Board member, Middle TN)  
Anne Ballentine (Board member, West TN; temporary Education Outreach coordinator, Memphis area)  
Bart Jones (Board member, West TN; Membership Chair)  
Mitchell Kent (Board member, East TN; Education Outreach, Chattanooga area)  
Aprele Griffin (Assisting Sue Bible with Education Outreach for Nashville area)  
Donna Bollenbach (newsletter editor)

**Absent**

Larry Pounds (Board member, East TN)  
Jennifer Trently (Communications, Assistant Secretary)

**Guest**

Harland Alpaugh

**Minutes of 5/23/2023 board meeting**

Bettina Ault  
Minutes reviewed and approved (motion to approve Bart Jones; second Dennis Horn; passed)

**Treasurer's Report**

Kim Sadler  
Our total income 1/1/23-12/31/23 was \$22,788.10. Total expenses were \$14,644.37.  
Net revenue for this period was \$8143.73.

Notable points:

1. Membership income has increased markedly, with many new life members and honoraria.
2. We are paying more for Zoom, but this allows us to accommodate more members for our monthly seminars.
3. We have adopted membership management system Neon One, which will mean additional charges.
4. We are planning to roll both our money market accounts into CDs.

Account balances as of 12/31/23:  
Checking: \$8517.10  
Book Money Market: \$30,462.04  
Savings Money Market: \$18,209.86  
PayPal: \$3862.75  
Total: 61,051.75

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Education Outreach**

The Education Outreach Committee had many successes in 2023 and is looking forward to many more this year despite the end of the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show.

Upcoming events with a TNPS presence:

1/27: Birds and Seeds, Lichterman Nature Center, Memphis; coordinators Suzy Askew & Anne Ballentine

2/14: Bee Mine Sustainability Festival, Maryville; coordinator Shelley King

3/29: TN Federation of Garden Clubs, Knoxville; coordinators Mitchell Kent & Shelley King (Mitchell plans to participate in a similar event in Crossville)

4/2: East Side Garden Club, Greeneville; coordinator Ken Rea, a new recruit!

4/13: WildOnes Spring Festival & Plant Show, Chattanooga; coordinator Mitchell Kent

4/13: Spring Garden Festival & Plant Sale, Williamson Co Ag Expo Park; coordinator Karen Hill

4/20: Nashville Earth Day; coordinator Karen Hill

5/4: Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade Festival, Cedars of Lebanon State Park; coordinator Karen Hill

### **Field Trips**

Bart Jones

Planned first quarter field trips:

3/20: Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, leaders Allan Trently and Bart Jones

4/7: Tennessee Trillium in Hawkins Co, leader Lisa Huff

4/13: Rock Island State Park, leader Dennis Horn

4/13: Frozen Head State Park, leader Larry Pounds

4/20: Head of Sequatchie, leader Larry Pounds

4/20: Stillhouse Hollow, leader Bart Jones

5/4: Oak Ridge Greenway, leader Larry Pounds

Bart plans to have a finished schedule with details by the end of the month.

Bart suggested an off-month field trip to the UT Herbarium, possibly the end of January 2025.

### **Annual Meeting**

Mitchell Kent

Mitchell gave a PowerPoint presentation about the 2024 Annual Meeting, which will be at Roan Mountain State Park from June 7-9.

The speaker on Friday night will be Matt Estep, associate professor of Biology at Appalachian State. He will talk about threatened and endangered plants of Roan Mountain. The Saturday night speaker will be Marquette Crockett, director of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, who will speak on preserving the highlands environment, including Roan's grassy balds. John Manion, currently with Overhill Gardens, will give a presentation on Saturday morning.

There will be field trips on Saturday and Sunday; destinations will include Roan Mountain State Park and Roan Highlands. Dinner will be available at the meeting on Friday and Saturday nights and box lunches will be available on Saturday; conference attendees can sign up and pay for these when they register. The meeting will be in the picnic pavilion on Friday night and in the conference center all day Saturday.

We may be able to switch to the conference center for Friday night. The board was in favor of this; a motion was made and passed. We discussed the possibility of having T-shirts and baseball caps for purchase; the board voted in favor of proceeding with this. Karen brought up the possibility of offering one or two scholarships to the conference; we would cover lodging and registration (Kim made the suggestion that we cover meals also). The board was in agreement with this.

There will be two pages dedicated to the conference in the upcoming TNPS newsletter.

### **Native Plant Seminars**

Karen Hill

On 10/17/23 Jaimie Matzko gave a presentation entitled *Biodiversity in Your Landscape: Why it Matters*. On 11/21 Dennis Horn spoke on *Tennessee Orchids*. And on 1/16/24 Mary Priestley gave a talk on *Evolution of Flowering Plants*.

Upcoming seminars:

2/20/24: John Manion, *Native Ferns*

3/19/24: Steve Murphree, *Cicadas Return*

4/16/24: Janneke Peterson, *Symbiotic Schoolyard*

Karen reported that Zoom attendance ranges from the 20s to the 150s depending on the speaker.

### **Newsletter**

Donna Bollenbach

Donna wants all submissions for the March issue by the end of first week of February at the latest.

### **Neon Feedback**

Karen reports that Neon is going well overall after some initial glitches. Karen will send links to the board members so they can look around in the system. She asked the board members to contact her if they notice any problems.

### **Student Course/Grants4Plants**

We have in the past had a committee dedicated to developing a native plant course for Tennessee middle schoolers; this has been tabled for some time due to scheduling conflicts. However, we are now aware of a school program called Symbiotic Schoolyard, which has been tested by 12 teachers over 5 years and seems to be able to fulfill the same function. Karen suggested that we reconstitute the committee to develop a plan to support Symbiotic Schoolyard. She suggested that as part of this effort, we may be able to redesign the Grants4Plants program for donating native seeds and plants to institutions into a grant program for schools. Karen suggested that members review a 15-minute presentation on the Symbiotic Schoolyard website ([symbioticschoolyard.org](http://symbioticschoolyard.org)). She suggested that the original student course committee (Karen, Allan, Sue, and Kim) meet and present a report about Symbiotic Schoolyard to the board at the next meeting. Janneke Peterson, the author of the curriculum, will be giving the native plant seminar in April.

### **Board Membership**

Anne Ballentine was introduced as our newest board member for West Tennessee, replacing Suzy Askew. Anne is also temporarily serving as outreach coordinator for West Tennessee. Karen requested nominations for this position; Anne will be speaking to some of her co-workers to determine interest.

Kim Sadler is interested in recruiting an assistant treasurer.

Dennis Horn is planning on stepping down from the board at the end of the year. He has turned responsibility for revisions to the field guide to Bart Jones and Margie Hunter.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Books/Badges**

Karen asked who needs books and TNPS badges.

#### **Protecting Native Plants**

Karen has spoken with several consultants about the possibility of a state law to support native plants in yards and gardens (keeping cities/towns/HOAs from preventing/limiting their use). The consensus seems to be that local ordinances probably have a much better chance of success than getting a state law passed. Karen notes that Deborah Rosenthal, who will be giving the TNPS seminar on 5/21, was able to get an ordinance in White Bluff TN which would require new subdivisions to include 50% native plants and no invasives in their plantings. Karen plans to try to get a similar ordinance passed for Thompson Station using Ms. Rosenthal's template; if this is successful Spring Hill and Franklin might be next! TDOT has a plan to plant natives on roadsides; they are implementing some changes, but they have a long way to go. Anne Ballentine put in a

request for volunteers from all over Tennessee for the TDOT pollinator speaker list; she can provide contact details.

### **By-Laws Committee**

Karen requested a committee to revise the by-laws, for several reasons:

1. To include new membership categories and renewal dates which will be automatically generated by Neon.
2. To include offices of assistant secretary and assistant treasurer in the board.
3. To revise our elections process to allow for e-mail and survey voting.

Bart and Anne (who will enlist the help of her sister) volunteered to help with the by-law revision.

### **Cedar Glade Flower Booklet**

Kim Sadler

Kim is on sabbatical this semester and plans to revise the existing Cedar Glade flower booklet for distribution to nature centers and state parks in middle Tennessee. Karen wrote a letter of support for this on behalf of TNPS, as did Roger McCoy from the Department of Environment and Conservation. Kim requested help with plant descriptions and has asked TNPS to sponsor the booklet (all profits will go to TNPS). Kim thinks she will charge about \$7.00 per booklet. The board was fully in support of this plan.

### **Next Board Meeting**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM CDT.

Bettina Ault