

Minutes

TNPS Board Meeting

May 7, 2024

Zoom Meeting

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

Present

Karen Ripple Hill, President

Allan Trently, Vice President

Bettina Ault, Secretary

Mitchell Kent (Board member, East TN; Education Outreach – Chattanooga area)

Larry Pounds (Board member, East TN)

Sue Bible (Board member, Middle TN)

Dennis Horn (Board member, Middle TN)

Bart Jones (Board member, West TN; Membership Chair)

Shelley King (Education Outreach, Knoxville area)

Donna Bollenbach (newsletter editor)

Absent

Kim Sadler, Treasurer

Anne Ballentine (Board member, West TN; temporary Education Outreach coordinator, Memphis area)

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

Jennifer Trently (Communications, Assistant Secretary)

Announcements

Karen Hill

The Duke Herbarium will be closing next summer; Karen has an article about this if anyone wants details.

Roger McCoy has been given the honorary title of State Naturalist; he follows in the footsteps of Mack Prichard and Randy Hedgepath.

Todd Crabtree has passed on (from David Lincicome) the news that Tennessee affiliates of the Garden Club of America have successfully worked with the Tennessee House and Senate to pass a joint resolution to celebrate April as Tennessee Native Plant Month. They are asking for support from other organizations to make this a permanent designation. TNPS will write a letter of support when they are ready for it.

Anne Ballentine is on the steering committee for the Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance. She notes that Cooper Breeden is stepping down as coordinator at the end of June due to lack of funds, so the TNPCA will need a new interim coordinator (this will now be a volunteer position). TNPCA is eager for volunteers in other capacities as well. As part

of TNPCA, TNPS will attend the annual meeting via Zoom on 6/13/24; Bart Jones, Karen Hill, and Allan Trently are planning to attend.

In Memoriam

Dr. George Ramseur passed away on March 24, 2024 at age 97. He was a professor of botany at The University of the South and director of the Sewanee Herbarium for many years before retiring.

Dr. David Webb passed away on April 29, 2024 at age 75. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee and was an aquatic botanist at TVA for many years. He will have memorial services in Florence, Alabama and in Henry Co., TN.

Alice Jensen, long-time TNPS member and orchid lover, passed away in Fishers Indiana on May 12, 2024 at the age of 88. For many years Alice and her greenhouses were a fixture on Horse Mountain, near Shelbyville, Tennessee. There will be a Celebration of Life on August 31, 2024, her birthday, on Horse Mountain.

Minutes of 1/23/2024 board meeting

Bettina Ault

Minutes reviewed and approved (motion to approve Bart Jones; second Sue Bible; passed).

Treasurer's Report

Kim Sadler/Karen Hill

Account balances:

Checking: \$8952.23

CD Book: \$30,797.10

CD Other: \$10,109.99

Money Market \$8242.80

PayPal: \$3862.75

Total: \$61,964.87

Notable points:

1. Our book and "other" money market accounts were rolled into a CD in January; interest year to date is \$445.00.
2. The appropriate tax forms were filed in January; there is another set to be filed in June.
3. Because we now have a financial account through Neon, our PayPal account will eventually be closed.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership

Bart Jones

Bart has had a glitch dealing with Neon; he is unable to view the entire membership. He has been able to see new memberships and renewals since the beginning of the year; this came to 646 transactions, although some of these were duplicates. He feels that automatic renewals are going well.

Education Outreach Events

Knoxville area (Shelley King):

3/29: TN Federation of Garden Clubs, Knoxville; with Mitchell Kent (good event with 75 attendees from 28 East TN counties)

Upcoming:

6/15: Lavender Festival, Oak Ridge (Shelley says this was a very good event last year)

Chattanooga area (Mitchell Kent):

Late February: Mitchell met with a science teacher from Bowman Hills School in Cleveland about designing a native plant garden

3/29: TN Federation of Garden Clubs District 4, Knoxville; with Shelley King. Mitchell gave talk on Spring Wildflowers.

4/6: Mitchell led a hike at the Audubon Acres nature park in Chattanooga

4/13: Mitchell had a TNPS table at the Wild Ones Spring Festival and Plant Sale in Chattanooga

4/26-29: Mitchell led a wildflower hike at the Roan Mountain Spring Rally

Upcoming:

5/11: Mitchell plans to lead a TNPS hike in Big Soddy Creek Gulf

5/29: Mitchell plans to have a TNPS table at the Birds, Bees, Bucks, and Trees Master Gardener event on 5/29 in Crossville

Middle TN (Karen Hill, Aprele Griffin)

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

4/20: Nashville Earth Day, Centennial Mall; coordinators Karen Hill & Aprele Griffin. There were more than 100 vendors and Karen found two landscapers who deal exclusively in native plant.

5/4: Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade Festival, Cedars of Lebanon State Park; this yielded 10 new memberships and Karen sold 24 cedar glades booklets.

Upcoming:

5/11: Conservation Days in Murfreesboro

Field Trips

Bart Jones

Field trips so far this spring:

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

Planned second quarter trips:

5/11: Big Soddy Creek Gulf Park, Hamilton County, leader Mitchell Kent

5/11: Skymount Scout Reservation Orchids, Grundy County, leader Chuck Wilson

5/25: Devil's Breakfast Table scour prairies, Morgan County (leader Larry Pounds)
6/18: Southern Grasslands Institute and Prairie Project, Montgomery County (joint outing with Wild Ones Middle TN chapter), leaders Joanna Brichetto and Richard Hitt
7/13: Ghost River SNA-Walker Tract, Fayette Co, leader Allan Trently
7/20: Balsam Mountain Loop Motor tour, Swain Co., NC, leader Allen Sweetser
8/17: Ketona Glades, Bibb Co., AL, leader Bart Jones

Donna reminded field trip leaders to turn in their trip reports for the upcoming newsletter.

We discussed having field trip participants sign a liability form, which we have not been consistently doing. Mitchell Kent brought up the issue of liability insurance and there was considerable interest in exploring this further. Mitchell and Sue Bible will research this issue. They noted it might be advisable to consult an attorney.

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. So far 58 people have registered. Mail-in registration deadline is 5/15/24. Karen will communicate with the TNPS membership (by e-mail and social media) to remind them of the registration deadline and the 5/10 deadline for the group room discount at the Hampton inn in Elizabethton.

We have the conference center for Friday afternoon and evening and all day Saturday. 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 with Overhill Gardens will give a presentation on planting natives on Saturday morning. There will be field trips on Saturday and Sunday; destinations will include Roan Mountain State Park and Roan Highlands. There will also be a tour of Miller Farmstead led by a Roan Mountain park ranger. 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. Sue Bible is in charge of catering. We had discussed the possibility of having conference T-shirts; Donna Bollenbach expressed her concern that we do not seem to have enough interest to make this feasible. TNPS will be offering two scholarships to the conference; we will cover lodging, registration, and meals. Karen will be working on making this information available to students.

Native Plant Seminars

Karen Hill

Recent seminars:

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

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

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

Planned third quarter seminars:

5/21/24: Deborah Rosenthal, *Restoration Gone Wild*

6/18/24: Sandra Villasenor, *River Cane: Our Native Bamboo*

7/16/24: Alisha Millican, *Fungus Among Us – An Intro to Fungi for the Home Gardener*

8/20/24: Connie Deegan, *Snakes in Your Garden*

Newsletter

Donna Bollenbach

Donna wants all submissions for the June issue by May 20 at the latest.

Neon Feedback

Karen reports that Neon is going well overall with a few glitches. She noted that she will be able to provide additional training to anyone who needs it.

Student Course/Grants 4 Native Plants

On 4/16/24 Janneke Petersen gave our monthly seminar on Symbiotic Schoolyard, an 8 week curriculum for upper elementary and middle school students. Karen has suggested that we reconstitute the Grants4Plants committee to develop a plan to support Symbiotic Schoolyard by providing seeds and plants to schools. At our last board meeting in January we voted to earmark \$2000 yearly for this purpose; in addition a \$2000/year memorial has been pledged. This would allow us to give eight \$500 grants each year for plants, seeds, and supplies. The application form is now on the Planting Natives page of the TNPS website. Karen has suggested that members review a 15-minute presentation on the Symbiotic Schoolyard website (symbioticschoolyard.org).

Bylaws

Bart Jones

Bart Jones reported on a Zoom meeting held 5-6 weeks ago to discuss bylaw revisions, which include adding assistant secretary and assistant treasurer positions and clearly delineating who has voting privileges in our organization during business meetings. Many thanks to Amy Ballentine (Anne's sister) for making additional suggestions. A motion was made to accept the revised bylaws by Larry Pounds; it was seconded by Dennis Horn and Bettina Ault and was passed. The revised bylaws will be posted to the website.

NEW BUSINESS

Books/Badges

Karen asked about book needs: we will be ordering 3 boxes of wildflower books and one box of twig books. We will soon have Kim Sadler's cedar glade plant booklets (*Limestone Cedar Glades: An Introduction to Some Common and Rare Species*) for sale for \$10.00 each (the price will go up to \$12.00 in June); all proceeds from the first printing will go to TNPS. TNPS has the rights to subsequent reprints of this publication.

Allan and Jennifer Trently and Anne Ballentine need TNPS name badges; these will be delivered to them at the annual meeting.

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. Deborah Rosenthal, an attorney who will be giving the TNPS seminar on 5/21, was able to get an ordinance in White Bluff TN which would require land developers to include at least 50% native plants and no invasives in new developments. Karen was able to add changes to a get a similar ordinance for Thompson Station; it has passed first reading and will become law for Thompson Station on July 1, 2024 if it passes second reading. Deborah has started to work on a similar ordinance for Dickson County. Karen hopes Spring Hill, Franklin, and Williamson County will be next.

Cullowhee Native Plant Conference

In the past the TNPS has sponsored a student scholarship to the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference in Cullowhee North Carolina from 7/17-20/2024. Bart Jones made a motion to continue to sponsor one student each year; Dennis Horn seconded the motion and it passed. Cost will be \$652.00; scholarship recipients are expected to provide an article about their experience for the newsletter.

Scholarships to Annual Meeting

TNPS will be offering two scholarships to our conference; we will cover lodging, registration, and meals. Karen will be working on making this information available to students.

2025 Annual Meeting

Next year's conference is due to take place in West Tennessee; there was a brief discussion about possible venues, which include Paris Landing, Benton County, Memphis, Clarksville (which is close to the Pennyroyal Plains in Kentucky), Henry Horton State Park, and Pickett State Park. It seems it may be difficult to find a place which has both good lodging and good places for a field trip. Bart Jones and various other TNPS members will be working on this.

Committee Assignments

Karen has decided that for greater efficiency the TNPS should have committees with chairs, co-chairs and members. She has made the following committee assignments based on current positions and a survey of board member preferences (although committee members do not have to be on the board). Karen has suggested considering Ken Rea from East TN for a position.

Nominations

Chair: Allan Trently

Co-chair: Larry Pounds, Bart Jones

Members: Dennis Horn

All officers plus three board members will be up for election at the end of the year.

Nominations need to be in by the time of the third quarter newsletter.

Grants

Chair: Anne Ballentine

Members: Kim Sadler

Education Outreach

Chair: Mitchell Kent

Seminars

Chair: Karen Hill

Two additional members need to be recruited

Field Trips

Co-chairs: Bart Jones and Allan Trently

Members: Larry Pounds, Sue Bible

Communications

Chair: Sue Bible

Website: Karen Hill

Newsletter: Donna Bollenbach

Social media: Joanna Brichetto

2025 Conference

Chair: Mitchell Kent (possibly)

Co-chair: Bart Jones

Members: Sue Bible

IT

Chair: Karen Hill

Additional member to be recruited

Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 6:00 PM CST, 7:00 PM EST.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM CDT.

Bettina Ault