

Minutes of TNPS Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 8, 2024
Roan Mountain State Park

Meeting called to order 8:25 PM EDT

Introduction of Officers and Board Members Present

Officers:

Karen Ripple Hill, President

Vice President: Allen Trently

Secretary: Bettina Ault

Treasurer: Kim Sadler

Board Members:

Mitchell Kent (East TN), Sue Bible (Middle TN), Bart Jones (West TN)

Minutes of last board meeting, 5/7/2024

Bettina Ault

Motion to approve: Sue Bible/Bart Jones

Passed

Financial status year to date 2024

Kim Sadler

Total Annual Meeting income \$5203.00

Total book royalties \$667.33

Total donations \$1150.00

Membership dues \$4520.00

Book sales \$2270.00

Total revenue 15,529.80

Expenditures

Annual meeting \$2071.81

Bank charge \$448.47

Book purchase, wholesale \$1149.64

Newsletter \$1315.19

Communications 717.60

Total education and outreach \$1363.00

Total expenditures \$8237.49

Net revenue \$7292.31

Accounts:

Checking \$15,568.51

Savings \$8222.36

CD-Books \$30,797.10

CD-Other \$10,109.99

PayPal \$3862.75

Total \$68,560.71

Education Outreach Summary

Chattanooga Area: Mitchell Kent

Memphis Area: Anne Ballentine

Karen briefly discussed the nature of outreach events and noted that the Memphis and Nashville areas need outreach educators.

Field Trip Summary

Bart Jones

Bart noted that there were a total of 18 TNPS field trips in 2023, notable among them a trip to a “botanical lost world”, in Ketona Glades, Bibb County, AL.

Newsletter Report

Donna Bollenbach

The TNPS newsletter has been going well. The second quarter newsletter was just published.

OLD BUSINESS

NeonCRM implementation

Karen Hill

NeonCRM is an online program with a personal membership portal. It is fully operational at this point; this should make it much easier to keep up with our membership going forward. Karen asked the members to keep their portals up to date. She noted that adopting Neon allows us to get rid of PayPal.

Changes to By-Laws

Bart Jones

Recent changes to the TNPS by-laws allow for the offices of assistant treasurer and assistant secretary. The by-laws committee also clarified language on voting rights of board members. These changes are posted on the TNPS website

Legal defense of native plants in yards and communities

Karen Hill

Last year Karen made a proposal to keep HOAs from restricting use of native plants in communities but came to the conclusion that it would be difficult to get anything passed by our current state legislature. However, Deborah Rosenthal (an attorney and landowner in White Bluff TN) was able to get an ordinance passed which stated that all new developments must plant 50% native plants and no invasives. She is now planning to introduce similar ordinances in Dickson County. Thompson Station (where Karen Hill lives) shares an attorney with White Bluff, and Karen was able to introduce a similar ordinance (50% native plants, no invasives); the second reading Tuesday will be 6/11/24. Next up are

Spring Hill, Franklin, and Williamson County. Karen offered to work with anyone wanting to establish a similar ordinance in their own county. She hopes to organize a Zoom round table with Deborah Rosenthal for interested parties. Karen notes that she has a list of 800 native plants that should be available for planting.

NEW BUSINESS

Karen Hill

Seeking legal advice on liabilities and liability insurance

The TNPS does not at this point carry liability insurance. Karen has solicited attorneys for advice on this matter with the goal of getting the TNPS insured.

Recruit mentors for schools receiving grants

We now have a solid grant program that could be used for 8 \$500 grants to supply native plants to Tennessee schools; an application has been posted in the TNPS newsletter. The deadline for applications this year is June 30, 2024. In hopes of assuring that these grants will succeed, each site will need to have an external mentor.

Recruit volunteers for committees and officer/board positions

Outside the meeting hall Karen posted a list of committees for volunteer signup. She strongly suggested that members volunteer for committee slots. Bart Jones is head of the nominating committee for officer/board positions; the proposed slate of officers will be presented in the fall newsletter. Karen will be stepping down as president at the end of 2024.

Next Annual Meeting

It is time for West Tennessee to be the site of the next TNPS annual meeting. Suggestions include Paris Landing, Pickwick Landing, Natchez Trace, and Henry Horton state parks. Karen is open for any suggestions.

Drawing of names for door prizes (three plants, 2 jars of pawpaw butter, and a handmade bluebird house)

Door prize winners:

Dean Turley: pawpaw butter

Alice Thornton: Frazier magnolia

Bettina Ault: pawpaw butter

April Yenson: handmade bluebird house

Skyler Underhill: pawpaw plant

Rosanne Lovely: pawpaw plant

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM EDT.

Bettina Ault