

**Tennessee Native Plant Society
Board Meeting, Cedars of Lebanon
Jan. 27, 2018**

Attendance -- Todd Crabtree, Dennis Horn, Louise Gregory, Alice Jensen, Bart Jones, Susan Sweetser, Michelle Haynes, Margie Hunter, Allen Sweetser, Karen Hill

Minutes -- Oct. 18, 2017, minutes approved.

Treasurer Report -- Karen Hill is the new treasurer. She met with Michelle on Jan 10 and changed our books from Quicken to QuickBooks. She has entered the last three years since Darel was treasurer to convert and categorize all entries in the new software program. Everything reconciles, but some items are missing a paper trail, in particular deposits without notation of book sales vs. memberships.

Most previous organization records prior to 2015 are missing, including our incorporation documents, past tax filings, and past annual reports. Our state tax exemption is good until June 30, 2019, but we not up to date on Charitable Solicitations registration and may never have filed that as required. Karen will call Kay Jones in Virginia and Darel to track down as much of our history as possible before contacting the state.

The board approved a motion for Karen to research and purchase a mobile credit card processing system through PayPal or Square. We will trial it at the Nashville Lawn & Garden show in March. Karen created a table for tracking sales and memberships at these events.

Plant atlas payments and expenses for Education & Outreach should come from the book account not checking. Funds will need to be transferred to correct this.

Karen will develop a budget for 2018 and help with finances for the annual meeting. Current balance totals \$40,682.66 in all accounts.

New Business

New Board Members -- This is Susan's last eligible year as president. We also need a new VP, possibly secretary, and at least one at-large member representing West Tennessee. Bettina Ault, Allan Trently, and Susan Woods are possible candidates for West TN at-large. Michelle and Louise represent Middle TN. Larry and Joey represent East TN. Bart represents West TN. Susan will be past president next year. Board members should think of other active members within the society who might be willing to serve. Someone with experience on a parks' Friends board would work well.

Education & Outreach -- Shelley King from LaFollet is the new rep in East Tennessee. Dennis brought the materials from Mitchell, and Susan will take them to her. She should check with Susan Hamilton at UT to see if they are planning another Native Plant Symposium. All other E&O reps should inventory the materials they have on hand and report to Susan.

2018 State Events

-- Lawn and Garden Show, Nashville, March 1-4. Margie will send an email for naturalist volunteers to work the booth. Michelle, Susan (Sat/Sun), Louise (early), Dennis (Fri or Sat AM) are willing to help. Bart will ask David to print extra newsletters to distribute and separate field trip schedules. We can hand out old newsletters too. The wildflower book printing will not be ready in time, and we have very few copies left. Margie will develop a flyer regarding future book availability. We can sell the twig book and flora.

-- Garden Walk, Memphis, May -- David will have our booth there. He wants a story on TNPS for a local newspaper article. Bart will help him with this request.

-- Native Plant Conference, Memphis, Oct. 26-28. This revives Larry Wilson's original idea for a shared event among Cullowhee, Birmingham, and Memphis. Suzy Askew is in charge, and Bart is on the committee, leading trips, and giving a talk. Registration will be limited to 200 people. Lichterman, Shelby Farms, and Memphis Botanic Garden are involved. Students may attend at no charge but must present a poster in exchange. They have requested TNPS to sponsor a student. The fee will be around \$200 to \$250. Bart will get the details.

-- Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, Great Smoky Mountains, April 25-28

Old Business

TN Plant Atlas Update -- Joey sent an email report after the meeting. University of South Florida created a template and "coming soon" link on their plant atlas home page. A framework for the main pages is in place that Joey, Ashley, Dwayne, Brad Ruhfel (KY) and Tara Littlefield (KY) are populating with information. The TN/KY database structure developed by Joey and Dwayne won't work within the USF framework and will need modification. Steve Baskauf has given permission to use his plant images on the site. Joey is seeking a "really good" image of a tulip poplar flower for the atlas logo. He also needs a short paragraph on TNPS' mission and history.

Annual Meeting -- Final details needed for the schedule regard the field trips. People may choose among three half-day hikes. Dennis will lead Chestnut Top Trail. The Sweetsers will lead Schoolhouse Gap. Allen will check with Mac Post about discussing research plots near West Prong Trail in Tremont. Margie will help or lead if Mac can't. We received a group rate for individual room registrations at Tally Ho in Townsend, which allowed us to get the conference room at a discount. Some people have requested specific directions to the motel. Margie will send the finished schedule to David for the newsletter and Karen for the Web site.

Plant Rescue Project -- Division of Natural Areas did a trial of moving *Phlox bifida* ssp. *stellaria* to see how the plants would fare and replanted them at Couchville SNA. A crowbar opened cracks in the rock enough to slip the root mass out with little problem. Remaining plants at the rescue site will be moved in spring.

Conservation and Hall of Fame Awards -- Susan received a finished example of the Conservation Award certificate from Mary, who will produce a one similar for the Hall of Fame. Karen will scan the blanks to create digital files for future print copies.

Wildflower Book -- It went to the printer in the middle of December with a target date of March 28. This is our fourth printing, but it is still considered the second edition. Dennis is not sure what the suggested retail price will be, hopefully it will remain at \$27.95.

Bylaws -- Susan and Margie revised and reformatted the bylaws based on versions from 1993 and 2010. Most of the revisions were done to clean up language, remove duplication, and reorder articles in a logical manner. The following additional changes are to be included.

- Sec.4 balloting, (b) notified by secretary.
- Article V “Directors-at-large shall represent the three grand divisions of Tennessee, and whenever possible at least one director-at-large shall reside in each of the grand divisions.”
- Article VII Sec. 3 (a) change October to “third quarter or fall issue”
- Sec. 4 (a) change printed to “published” and December to “fourth quarter or winter issue”
- (b) change printed to “published” and “notified by secretary.”
- Second Sec. 4 should be Sec. 5
- Vacancies, delete s on members
- Article XI Sec. 1 (a), board shall hold at least three meetings each year
- last line -- cross of “of those present”
- (b) change 60 days to 90 days

The original motivation behind the chapters provision in earlier bylaws versions was to allow existing TNPS members to form small satellites dedicated to more localized field trips. It was never intended as a mechanism for outside groups to associate themselves with us. The board agreed to delete all references to formation of chapters. A recently received inquiry from a native plant gardening group in Blount County to affiliate as a TNPS chapter will be respectfully declined. They would be best served joining Sevier County Wild Ones.

Newsletter -- David is finalizing the March newsletter and will try to make the next meeting as editor.

Web Site and Social Media -- The home page needs an update on the plant atlas. Daily average visits to the site range from 160 to 260.

Nothing has happened with our merchandise on Zazzle for a long time. Everything on the site may be edited to reflect current year (calendar) or otherwise altered (colors). Joanna regularly posts on our Facebook page.

Tennessee Conservation Voters -- Their fundraiser is Feb. 23. Michelle has four free tickets if someone wants to go. Susan will call her about that. TCV holds regular Thursday meetings, and people can call in to join the discussions on state legislative happenings.

Logo -- Several designs submitted by Nashville graphic designer Chris Armour were not acceptable. They were too simplistic in every respect. In particular, the flowers were reduced to unrecognizable cartoon images. These flowers (copper iris, Tennessee coneflower, and creeping phlox) are hard to render effectively and occur in colors difficult to reconcile. Our initial idea with a circular design is actually a “seal,” not a logo.

In light of these realizations, the board opted for a simpler approach. Using Chris’ rectangular and stacked layouts, we recommend pairing one flower, *Iris verna* or *Trillium sulcatum*, both of which can be modified easily from available clip art, with our name. The text should be a bolder color (dark green was suggested) in a font with more character, such as Georgia, Garamond, or Tahoma. Margie will send this information to Chris and request two designs with variations for each plant.

Next board meeting -- Friday, March 30 at 2:00 p.m., Tally-Ho in Townsend, TN.

Meeting Addendum

Rare Plant Comment -- Todd requested TNPS send an online comment to the US Forest Service in support of their management plan to improve the habitat for a recently rediscovered population of *Agalinus plukenetii*, the Chattahoochee False Foxglove, in Cherokee National Forest. Margie drafted and sent a comment on behalf of the group January 31.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Hunter
Secretary