

**TNPS Board Meeting
Fall Creek Falls State Park
Sept. 18, 2016**

Attendance: Dennis Horn, Karen Hill, Larry Pounds, Margie Hunter, Michelle Haynes, Susan Sweetser, Louise Gregory, Todd Crabtree, Bart Jones.

Absent: Sunny Fleming, Joey Shaw

Guest: Alice Jensen, Darel Hess, Mitchell and Nancy Kent

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Special thanks to Mitchell Kent for organizing the annual meeting. Everyone really enjoyed the meeting and the speakers.

Minutes: Minutes of the May 7, 2016, board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: We have \$37,567.24 in savings, \$10,684.76 in checking, and \$6,000 in the PayPal account. Year-to-date banking summary attached.

Michelle and Darel are working to reconstruct the deposits during Lorie's tenure. Michelle asked the board for a list of categories to report income including dues, donations, book sales, and annual meeting. Under expenses, the board requested that the category currently listed as "Community Relations" for our donations and grants to others be changed to "Donations." We still want to put book royalties and sales in a separate book savings account, and keep sales and royalties separate in the books but not in the report.

Zazzle royalties are very high in the report. The figure \$2,450.59 is the same as royalty payments for the Flora, and therefore likely placed in wrong category. Michelle will check with the bank to verify that the flora checks were deposited and report to Dennis so he can assure Dr. Chester.

The refused royalty check from Lone Pine still has not been resolved. Susan and Dennis have had difficulty getting a response from Lone Pine. Dennis' contact is no longer there. The new editor said she would follow through on it, but we have not received a replacement check. Michelle will take the old check to her bank and see if they'll honor it first. If not, the board will need to send Lone Pine a certified letter. Michelle will send a scan of the check to Margie and Susan, if this becomes necessary.

Education and Outreach

- Mitchell Kent, East Tennessee: Staffed a booth for Wild Ones June conference, made Facebook posts, handled annual meeting arrangements, worked with Reflection Ridings's Corey Hagan regarding the Certificate in Native Plants and their fall plant sale.
- Kim Sadler, Middle Tennessee: Elsie Quarterman Festival at Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Nashville Lawn & Garden Show
- David Hilgeman, West Tennessee: Early spring events in the Memphis area

Mitchell requests consideration of phone credit card device similar to Square, there is one available through PayPal, and he will test it. If it works, we can get one for each area. Board gave him the go-ahead.

2017 Annual Meeting: Michelle send a check to Beersheba Springs Assembly to reserve June 9-11 and hold 30 rooms. Mitchell will handle registration again. We need speakers. Susan suggested Dennis do a presentation on his plant travels. All his images are slides; Mitchell has a projector. Perhaps someone from Nature Conservancy could speak to us, such as Sally Palmer, TNC science coordinator. Todd pointed out that Taylor Hollow and Shady Valley are the only properties they own within the state now. Another possibility is the Tennessee Land Trust, discussing how lands are acquired. They play a large role now in conservation of rare species. Everyone is asked to please suggest any other speaker ideas.

Honorarium Protocol: It has always been \$100 plus lodging/meals. This year we got a different request regarding travel expenses. The board voted to raise the honorarium to \$200, cover lodging and meals, and pay the state rate for mileage over 100 miles.

Facebook ID Requests: Bart does Web site requests, sometimes 2 or 3 a week. Mitchell is an editor. He can contact Todd, Dennis, Larry, or Bart for help but they don't want to be an editor. Facebook page is only for pictures and events directly connected to TNPS only and is not for posting by the public.

TNPS received a request for a companion 'plant checklist' for our wildflower book. We decided it is not worth our time to generate a separate document when people can simply check them off in the book or create their own list.

Bylaws and Board: Susan could not locate a current version of the Bylaws. She and Bart will look for it and create a digital file. They need to be updated to include the Education and Outreach representatives, Webmaster, past president and newsletter editor as ad hoc, ex officio board members involved in discussion but non-voting.

Voting Board Members: Board approved a motion for Bart to fill the vacant at-large position. Susan and Margie will continue as president and secretary. Todd is willing to continue as vice-president until next annual meeting but would like for someone else to step forward at that time.

Book Orders: We need a system of tracking who has books, the quantity, and what they've sold. Karen will set up password page on Web site where everyone with books can report sales and inventory including Bart, Dennis, David, Kim, Mitchell, Margie, and Michelle. Each is to give Karen a list of what they have by Sept 26 at webmaster@tnps.org. Darel will help Karen set up data site to track numbers and sales.

Membership Activities: We have between 350 and 400 members which includes several that are currently delinquent, especially email recipients. Bart will send an email notice to them and cards to those who receive newsletters by mail.

Mitchell suggested doing hikes through other organizations to promote TNPS memberships. We already offer half-price memberships at various events for all new members. We could consider sponsoring students to attend our annual meeting, though we should be careful to avoid student requests for research funding. Sponsorship would include room, meals, and registration.

Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance: Ashley Block, a graduate student from UGA and Sewanee, had worked this summer contacting various individuals, organizations and agencies in the state regarding efforts to establish a TN PCA. She was killed when a car struck her while bike riding last week. It has been requested that we send her parents a letter acknowledging her contributions to the alliance and protection of our rare plants. Margie will draft and send the letter. The board also voted to contribute \$250 in her name toward TN PCA when a suitable avenue is identified as the organization develops.

Web Site: The site's highest traffic is in March, April and May. Board information will be updated. PayPal account has \$6,245.58. Karen will sweep this into our bank checking account and walk Michelle through the process including interpretation of transactions for record keeping purposes. We should arrange for the transfer of funds on a regular basis and not let large sums accumulate over time.

There is a problem with Paypal memberships that aren't completed and paid for. Bart has not been able to verify that people have indeed paid. Karen got a list of all transactions from Jan. 2015 to present, but it doesn't go back to the last transfer of funds from Paypal. Karen will send quarterly reports to Bart to confirm memberships. Our site separates donations vs. memberships. Karen will add year categories for memberships so we can track those who pay for multiple years.

Newsletter: Sunny is frustrated with slow response for submitting articles and information. Trip leaders need to send in field trip reports with a photo. We might include excerpts from books and articles from other sources.

TCV: Michelle gave a report at general meeting and talked of changes to the land acquisition fund and the reduction in money available for buying land. Their new legislative scorecard is available. TCV's annual fundraiser is in February.

Logo: Dennis proposed that we update our logo. Mary Priestley and Maurice Edwards could collaborate on a full color version of our passion-flower logo. They should keep in mind sizing to ensure it will still look good when scaled down.

Tennessee Plant Atlas: Joey Shaw, Ashley Morris, and Dwayne Estes submitted a several page proposal requesting TNPS fund development of the plant atlas Web site, including licensing fee, configuration/customization, data import, and two years of maintenance costs totaling \$18,500. The initial proposal offered no firm funding source after year three. Several board members felt a financial commitment from universities would have to be in place before we could support the project. Members also expressed

design reservations regarding page layout and site navigation that must be addressed by site designers with a yes or no answer.

Following lengthy discussion, the board voted unanimously to fund the proposal provided we receive written commitments from other partners, in particular UTC, APSU, MTSU, to fund maintenance fees for years 3 through 7 (5 years) minimum. Bart, Susan, Margie, Karen, and Dennis will work with the atlas editorial board to ensure user friendly design elements are put in place.

The board expressed no problem with the request to shift the site's donation funds from TNPS to UTC. TNPS would prefer not to have an ongoing financial tie to the project. Margie will contact Ashley, Joey, and Dwayne regarding the board's decision.

Next Meeting: January 7, Wilderness Station. Our spring meeting will be in June at the annual meeting. Our late September meeting at Wilderness Station.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Hunter
Secretary

Banking Summary - Year To Date
1/1/2016 through 9/13/2016

Category	1/1/2016- 9/13/2016
INCOME	
Annual Meeting 2016	2,164.50
Annual Meeting Income	985.00
Book Sales	1,310.00
Dues	2,745.00
Interest Inc	1.49
Zazzle Royalties <i>Flora royalties</i>	2,450.59
TOTAL INCOME	9,656.58
EXPENSES	
annual meeting 2017	100.00
Book Expense	212.16
Community Relations	731.09
Newsletter and Website	1,355.24
Organization Membership - TCV	400.00
Postage and Delivery	123.00
printing and postage	-461.12
Public Relations - brochures, etc.	149.00
Supplies, Bus	398.19
Website	175.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,182.56
OVERALL TOTAL	6,474.02