

Summary of the Board Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2008

Committee Chairs reported the following:

Education/Outreach:

- CoNPS was asked to be at 2009 ProGreen Expo.
- CSU Extension Native Plant Master Program would like us to provide instructors for upcoming courses. Members are to notify Megan Bowes if interested.
- John Vickery is willing to be the point person to help other agencies/organizations when holding symposia/workshops for their speaker needs about native plants.

Field Studies:

- Attendance by members was poor for 2008, more than likely due to lack of advertising and date changes. For 2009, field studies will be advertised on our website, and to chapters, and they will be organized earlier.
- The Board would like to see a proposal for waivers and/or guidelines for attendance.
- The field studies themselves were very successful, despite the lack of participants.

Field Trips:

- In 2008, there were approximately 40 CoNPS field trips offered.
- The role of Field Trip Committee Chair needs to be more clearly defined, in light of the fact that each chapter sets up its own field trips already. The Board responded that one role of the Chair would be to consolidate information gathered from member surveys regarding field trips, to respond to those interests and suggestions, and determine paths forward for the members.

Finance:

- A new Treasurer is needed – all Board members are asked to search for a replacement.

Horticulture/Restoration:

- All out-dated documents have been pulled from website, and new documents are being drafted.

Media:

- Website:
 - Guidelines for posting to the website have been completed and are at the bottom of the 'about' page.
 - Remind members about the bookstore link to Amazon which provides a percentage of each sale back to CoNPS.
 - Calendar of Events updated quarterly or as needed. Calendar is being sent to Extension Office and Native Plant Master Coordinators twice a year.
- Technology Needs:
 - Boulder Chapter may need a projector and laptop if meeting location needs to change.
- Newsletter:
 - No. 4 issue is 20 pages in length.
 - The book order form will be distributed in the newsletter with the May issue and the November issue in the future.

- By changing printers and returning to non-profit mailing rates, we should be under budget for the fiscal year.
- Next deadline is January 15.

Membership:

- Is now based on a 12-month period starting when the member enrolls (instead of on a calendar year basis).
- New members receive welcome letter, bookmark and most recent copy of *Aquilegia* via regular mail. Renewing members receive a thank-you letter and a bookmark.
- Chapters should advertise their meetings with CSU Extension agents in their area.
- Chapters receive from Admin Asst updated lists quarterly of all their members.
- Lists of volunteers for various committees from membership survey have been distributed to Chairs.

Research Grants:

- New grant proposals are being requested and have been announced through newsletter and web, with Feb 15 as the deadline.

Sales:

- Mail order sales have been slow, but merchandise is moving briskly at the workshops.

Workshops:

- Three workshops completed this fall. Five more are scheduled for winter and spring, 3 of which are full, and 2 may be cancelled due to a shortage of registrations.
- Approximately 85 members have registered for workshops to date.
- Dissection scope fund has \$1693 contributed to date for 2008, with \$2499 needed to replace initial cost.
- Board agreed to offer a 'free' session for volunteers who host the workshops.
- Suggestions for next year's workshop topics are being solicited from members and Board.
- Chair suggested fee be increased next year, from \$20 to \$25 to cover the cost of perhaps purchasing a new or used digital projector, and to increase honorariums for speakers.

Agenda Items:

- Annual Meeting Update – Sept 11-13, 2009 at Larimer County Fairgrounds, theme "Plants Without Borders". Wyoming Native Plant Society members will be invited to join us.
- Annual Meeting Planning Manual now available. Each chapter hosting the meeting will continue to upgrade the manual.
- Matching funding (CNAP Program) request to complete pollination study report of \$301 was motioned for approval. Vote was 3 no, 11 yes.
- Center for Native Ecosystems presented their request for CoNPS to support their litigation over removal of *Penstemon grahamii* from Candidate list (using Earth Justice legal service). All costs of the suit would be paid by CNE. Vote was unanimously approved that CoNPS become a co-plaintiff with CNE to protest the removal of *Penstemon grahamii* from the Candidate list pending the receipt of a new retainer from Earth Justice specifying no financial obligations by CoNPS.

Chapter Reports:

Boulder:

- Officers selected and programs for 2009 winter season are filled.
- Last meeting's topic of "Permaculture" drew 85 people, many of whom were not members.

Metro Denver:

- Four summer field trips were well attended. The September meeting/field trip had some last minute changes, and was not as well attended.
- Winter meeting season is set.
- New president will be needed in May 2009.

Northern:

- One field trip given this summer – better advertising is needed.
- Officers in place for new season.
- Planning for annual meeting is in progress.

Plateau:

- New president is needed ASAP.
- Chapter meeting to organize the new season was today, in a potluck supper/speaker format.

San Luis Valley:

- Three field trips were successful this summer.
- New officers are in place.
- Hosted two information booths for the public

SE:

- Chapter is being reorganized, with new location in Pueblo

SW:

- Weekly summer wildflower walks in Cortez, Durango, open to the public.
- Winter schedule is based around 3 potluck suppers.
- Upcoming projects:
 - Track changes in some federal agencies' land management decisions with respect to native plant effects
 - Create floral lists for areas in San Juan mountains for use by public and agencies
 - Create a botany research fund for the students at Fort Lewis College, Biology, under Ross McCauley, by receiving donations from Chapter members.

Officer Reports:

Vice-President:

- Completed Annual Meeting Planning Manual.
- Voting of new at-large members of the Board was completed, with Turner and Yarbrough returning, and a new members are Robert Powell Catherine Kleier.
- 85 members attended the 2008 Annual Meeting in Montrose. Expenses for the meeting were \$2,400, with \$1,700 collected from the registration fee of \$20/person. Board budget of \$2,000 gave a 'profit' of \$1,300.

- By-laws update by Schneider and Turner will continue. Chairs are welcome to update their sections sending suggestions to Schneider.

Immediate Next Items:

- Calendar for Board Meetings needs to be set for 2009.
- Board Meeting Locations for 2009:
 - February, April in Denver at Regis.
- Budgets – Boyce will be drafting for February. Chairs can discuss with Boyce.