

# Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Native Plant Society of New Mexico

January 26-28, 2007

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center

---

Present:

Officers: Chick Keller, President; Tom Antonio, Vice-President; John Freyermuth, Membership Secretary; Carolyn Gressitt, Recording Secretary; Steve Robertson, Treasurer

Committee Chairs: Jim Nellessen, Conservation; Renée West, Newsletter; Gary Runyon, Poster; Lolly Jones, Website

Directors-at-Large (Chapter Representatives): Frances Robertson, Albuquerque; Jack Makepeace, El Paso ; Erma Falkler, Gila ; Al Krueger, Las Cruces ; Leslie-Lynn Sinkey, San Juan ; Carol Johnson, Santa Fe ; Judy Lister, Taos

Other Participants and Guests: Angela Flanders, Gila Chapter president; Bob Sivinski, Santa Fe

---

- A. **Call to order at 1:15 pm, Chick Keller, President:** Chick Keller called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm and determined that a quorum was present. Board members, committee chairs, other participants, and guests introduced themselves. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. **Approval of previous minutes, Carolyn Gressitt, Recording Secretary:** No changes were suggested. Al Krueger moved and Leslie-Lynn Sinkey seconded the motion that the minutes be approved. The motion passed.
- C. **Treasurer's Report, August 1 to December 31, 2006, Steve Robertson, Treasurer:** Copies of the report were provided. Discussion initially centered on items such as Publications and US 62-180 plant salvage, that should be in Treasurer's report, but not in the budget. There was also discussion on investments and whether to change investment strategies, cap investments at \$100,000, and send more money back to chapters (currently chapters receive rebates of 22-24% on dues). Gary Runyon moved and Leslie-Lynn Sinkey seconded the motion that the treasurer's report be accepted. The motion passed.
- D. **Membership report, John Freyermuth, Membership Secretary:** Copies of the report were provided. It included details of membership totals, including changes and deletions and types of memberships, as well as a listing of chapter membership secretaries. John pointed out that the closing of 2 chapters (Carlsbad and Sacramento Mts.) did not greatly impact membership totals because the people remained state members. Chick pointed out that new member attrition is still an issue. However,

John indicated that more dues are coming in because members are renewing at higher levels. Al Krueger moved and Leslie-Lynn Sinkey seconded the motion that the membership secretary's report be accepted. The motion passed.

## E. Committee Reports

1. **Finance Committee proposed annual budget:** Proposed budget was submitted by Jack Carter, outgoing chairperson.  
**Changes to Expenses:**
  - a **Communications:** Renée is looking at 3 possible new advertisers. She feels \$400 for equipment/training is maybe too much; Chick says we should allow her that just in case.
  - b **Website:** Lolly says that the NPS website doesn't have high priority in terms of technical support at UNM. She and Jane Mygatt suggested moving the rare plants website and ours to the Heritage website (Southwestern Biology Natural Heritage Survey—still affiliated w/ UNM), which will give us better support. We can take off \$100 for software/hardware and replace it with \$500 for moving the website.
  - c **Membership:** Chick questioned higher costs, but John explained that more expenses incurred this year (printing of 2,000 renewal envelopes).
  - d **Special Projects:** Chick suggests that under 3, make a *d* for plant salvage \$8,500
  - e Judy Lister makes motion to table budget discussion until after item "Value of state organization to chapters" (agenda item G.6), John Freyermuth seconded, and the motion passed.
2. **Book sales:** The annual report was submitted by Lisa Johnston (unable to attend).
3. **Posters:** Gary Runyon submitted annual report indicating better sales this year by \$700. Gary discovered some damaged posters; Judy suggests the damaged ones be the ones to give away; Gary still doesn't know how many are damaged.
4. **T-shirts:** There was no report; very few were sold. There was some discussion of whether to have more designed/produced, but no decision was made.
5. **Website:** Lolly Jones submitted her report.
6. **Newsletter:** Renée West submitted her report. She requested that chapter presidents and those submitting articles heed deadlines. She needs more articles; Leslie-Lynn suggested she appeal to grad students to submit papers. Lolly said Donna Stevens' articles on plant families were great. Carolyn will get archived newsletters to Renee. Al complimented Renée on easy-going manner in working with chapter contacts. John requested that those present go back to chapters to find out what chapters are doing with extra newsletters, who should receive them, and how many they need.

7. **Publications:** Kelly Gallagher couldn't attend, so Chick conveyed the information. Printing more *Southern Rocky Mt. Gardens* will be more expensive than we originally printed it for. Chick will e-mail us based on update from Kelly & get the sense of the board; if it's 10% more, he won't bother us; if it's 50%, he will.  
Chick read note card proposal: We would receive 10% on wholesale sales of cards, but we would have to buy some. He feels that we need to move quickly with them if we want to have them at the state meeting. (*Adjournment 4:40 pm*) (*Continuation of Meeting, 1-27-07, 8:30 am*)
8. **Conservation:** Jim Nellessen reported the extension of the plant salvage deadline to 3-31-07. Over 1800 plants have been salvaged, according to chapter reports. We could perhaps donate unused money; possibly, however, it may have to go back to foundation. We have to submit a report, including how plants have fared—what percentage has died; chapters will need to report this information to Jim.  
Leslie-Lynn suggested that we could have a potted plant sale at the state meeting. There is a fee for chapters to have sales, which should be waived—chapter needs to fill out a form.  
Chick requested article in newspaper/on website giving results of the plant salvage.
9. **Workshops & Workshop Committee:** During a lengthy discussion, options were discussed. The general consensus was that we need to coordinate information on workshops at the state level and get it on the website so that all the chapters are aware of what chapter workshops are available and what state or regional workshops may become available. Suggested popular topics were cactus, grasses, composites, and plant photography.  
Chick called for a motion, but there was further discussion and no motion was made. Chick will communicate the discussion to all of us and to chapter presidents.

## F. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Annual Meeting, San Juan chapter:** Leslie-Lynn presented the tentative schedule of activities for the State Meeting, to take place from Thursday, Aug. 2 through Sunday, Aug. 5, in Farmington at San Juan College. The keynote speaker will be Peter Kakos, and there will be both short workshops and field trips and full-day field trips.
2. **New Logo:** Tom Antonio passed around logo options (including old logo and newsletter logo), which directors voted on.
3. **Public Information Committee:** Right now there is no chairperson and no committee. The task of this chair is to be knowledgeable of NPSNM activities/news in order to write up press releases to send to newspapers or NM Magazine, i.e., advertising for us, getting the word out. Chick will approach his state representative to try to get a state stipend for a liaison of this sort. Even without a committee there are people we can easily approach for getting information out: Carol Johnson (legislative liaison); Stacey Matlock of the *Santa*

*Fe New Mexican*; Julie Dunlap, formerly AP writer, a new Santa Fe member; and Matt Mygatt, AP, who is always looking for stories. Bob suggested that this could be part-time job with more functions; Chick said one function could be working on grants.

4. **Job Descriptions:** Wynn has some done; Chick will write more and pass all of them around for editing/comments.

#### G. CHAPTER REPORTS:

During chapter reports, there was discussion of different options for locations that would be appropriate and economical for the various chapters' local meetings. In addition, Steve emphasized that chapter treasurers' reports must be submitted and signed by the treasurer; this is an IRS requirement.

1. **San Juan, Leslie-Lynn Sinkey** (Report submitted): State meeting will be their big event this year (tentative schedule submitted). The chapter has an e-newsletter that anyone can sign up for, not just local members; features include précis of what happened at last meeting, meet-a-member article, and what's happening in other chapters, especially in the summer. They hope for state meeting to boost membership.
2. **Taos, Judy Lister**: (Report submitted) Taos Chapter tries to tie field trip with lecture and plan programs relating to government agencies, herbal plants, water issues, noteworthy speakers, and knowledgeable people in own group. Field trips range from easy walks/talks, to very organized trips for plant ID, to discovery trips (rare plants), to members' gardens tours (for members only—becomes draw for membership), to weeding of invasives at Baca Park.
3. **Santa Fe, Carol Johnson** (Report submitted): New Mexico Native Plant Day is a focus for this chapter. Notices in the paper have resulted in many more people attending meetings; they also do listserv, hard-copy, and e-mail notification. Best attended programs have to do with gardening. They have good book sales because of an effective chairperson; S. Rocky Mts. is their best seller.
4. **Albuquerque, Frances Robertson**: Albuquerque, Frances Robertson: Chapter is concerned about attendance, so they will return to sending out notices for meetings; they have also discussed breaking into local chapters, e.g., Rio Rancho, Northeast Heights, to address the urban sprawl that continues in Albuquerque. The chapter had 30 members attend the state meeting in El Paso. They will work once again at the Festival of the Cranes this fall. Their Regional Science Fair project continues to be successful, as are their two plant sales, each of which garnered \$1,000 each. They had a garden tour and offered for sale the plants that grew in each garden--it worked well.
5. **Otero Chapter, Chick Keller for Chris Baker** (Report submitted): Otero Chapter is in excellent financial condition, with successful projects, member potlucks, and scholarship awards to NMSU students.
6. **Gila, Erma Falkler** (Report submitted): Gila has lots of programs; board members belong to other groups; this helps to get speakers; Erma offered everyone a speaker list. They have good book sales. A plant sale takes place on Earth Day, at WUNM; they do a pre-sale by showing slides of plants, & lots of

- people prepay. The Gila River Festival saw members leading hikes in different riparian areas. Plant Trunk project in schools continues. The Symposium in October was very successful, with 150 people attending.
7. **Las Cruces, Al Krueger:** LC chapter is low key, focused on speakers/field trips. Attendance is 20-30 for speakers, 15 or more for fieldtrips; the focus was on ecology this past year. They tried different strategies, such as a same-site fieldtrip, spring & fall, and a photography workshop followed up by a presentation of their pictures by all photographers, to be repeated this year.) They will continue to participate in the CDNP Expo with a native plant booth. The chapter supports CDNP & NMSU herbarium with yearly donations.
  8. **El Paso, Jack Makepeace** (Report submitted): State meeting went very well, but they cut back on yearly activities because of it. They supported the Frontera Land Alliance, formed to buy Resler Arroyo; this was to prevent the sort of thing that happened in Wildwood Canyon: Lots of animal & plant life was bulldozed out, then floods made people think twice about developing arroyos. They also support the Franklin Mts. Wilderness Coalition to keep Castner Rangeland in the Franklin Mts. out of the developers' hands.

## H. NEW BUSINESS

1. **New Life Member Proposals:** Tom & Eleanor Wootten, Gila; Roger Peterson, Santa Fe; Beth Hirschman, Albuquerque  
No board action was required because chapters had already paid for life memberships. Pertinent chapter members (Erma Falkler, Gila; Chick Keller, Santa Fe; Frances & Gary Runyon, Alb) each explained reasons for Life Member designations for the above; they will submit letters to newsletter.
2. **Retaining new members**
  - a. There was a lengthy discussion of ways to retain new members, which included the following ideas for chapters to try in order to retain new members:
    - Acknowledge new members at meetings, or have new people introduce themselves
    - At meeting, set up table at door w/ name tags & officers present to greet new people; have possible tasks on sign up sheet that you can hand to new members
    - Serve coffee/tea, approach new person to invite them to have some
    - Pass around sheet asking for what members need/want in terms of speakers, etc
    - Invite people to bring their mystery plants
    - Field trips—make sure that new people carpool with current members
    - Membership drive—everyone in society write down names of 5 people they think are likely to join; have form letters & persons who suggested names write a short personal note, and then mail out
    - Create survey for prospective members to go on website
  - b. Another issue raised was that it is difficult to find members who are willing to be officers, so it was suggested that some perk be offered, maybe a subscription to something, or free membership for officers. A discussion of

raising dues resulted, which concluded with consensus on not raising dues at this time.

- c. Finally, there was a discussion of solving the attrition problem through changing renewal remittance form and/or procedures, including the following suggestions:
    - A note on the society's accomplishments & what we want to accomplish in the future could be included in renewal notices, or sent prior to renewal notice.
    - Give membership levels catchy names, e.g., names of rarer & rarer plants; and give perk for certain levels.
    - Annual appeal letter might be good to get extra donation; some disagreed with this idea.
  - d. Chick concluded that these were all good ideas that will have to be given further consideration.
3. **Atlas of New Mexico Plants**—Bob Sivinski (submitted flier)

Bob explained that the Atlas will be an interactive database on the Web, not in hard copy. The Atlas is not just plants—all specimens at museums at universities are included. There are huge gaps in herbaria specimens in NM, especially in the eastern part where lots of private property—desert & grasslands neglected, pretty thorough on mountains. Herbaria need parobotanists to do collecting to bring into herbaria. Training will eventually be done out of the 5 herbaria covered by the grant. We can access database and find out, by comparing with our own lists from fieldtrips, which species on our lists are not in herbaria. The board thanked Bob for his presentation; the flier will be disseminated in the chapters.
  4. **Donna Stevens' Proposed Position Paper on Off-Road Vehicles (ORV)**

Chick will ask Donna to come up with draft to send around by email for approval.
  5. **Possible co-sponsorship for symposium on riparian restoration**—Chick Keller and Jim McGrath

No decision is needed yet because it's just in beginning planning stages. It's important to find out what is meant by "co-sponsorship"; if it means a lot of work, the board will need to discuss it. Chick will report back to him that the board is interested, but needs more details.
  6. **All-State E-mail Discussion Group**

The proposal was to have an e-mail discussion group for the board. The board discussed whether to include members other than the board, and it was decided that chapter presidents should be included, in order to get them more involved in the state organization.
  7. **Value of state organization to chapters**
    - a. Dues returns—Discussion centered on whether to raise chapter rebates, or to offer internal grants for specific projects. Some chapters have needs, but others are in strong financial shape. Internal grants from the state organization for smaller chapters who receive little rebate money is a very reasonable idea. Lolly made a motion to set aside \$2,500 in 2007 for enrichment proposals from chapters with a \$500 cap, 1 per chapter, with board deciding which 5 would be funded. Steve reminded the board that we would go into the red in terms of the proposed budget. Tom seconded the motion. Unanimous

approval. A motion by Frances to establish an emergency fund for completion of projects was discussed, but was considered too specific.

- b. Hiring of coordinator: Steve suggested a motion, and Lolly stated it: Motion to hire an administrator at \$12,000 a year, with president appointing a search committee; specific job description, to be determine, shall include applying for grants and helping with statewide coordination of statewide functions, such as speakers, workshops, etc.; executive committee will decide on both searching and hiring. Al seconded. Unanimous approval.
- c. Return to budget proposal: Steve proposes that we approve the budget as amended; Carol seconded. Unanimous approval.

*(Adjournment 4:40 pm)*

*(Continuation of Meeting, 1-28-07, 8:30 am)*

## **I. GRANT PROPOSALS**

There was discussion/information on grant proposals; Chick read letter that will be received with the check for the grant, including the requirement for a report, the deadline for the report, and a request for a summary for the newsletter.

**Grant #1**—Wild Orchids of the Southwestern U.S. (NM research portion); applicant Paul Martin Brown; requested \$1,000

This grant was viewed with some skepticism, as it involves a “formula” book in a series and is rather limited in scope in terms of NM. However, the key, introduction to orchids, and ID guide are quite good, and the request for travel funds is legitimate, a major expense for a researcher. The board approved a \$500 grant.

**Grant #2**—A Field Guide to the Flora & Fauna of the Middle Rio Grande Bosque; applicant Drylands Institute; requested \$1,000

The board recognized the importance of a book on the bosque habitat. However, the board questioned the argument that \$1,000 more will lower the price of the book. The board decided to send a letter back saying that we do not see that this grant gives much leverage in the price of book, and that instead we would like to buy books for the schools, with a bookplate saying, “Donated by NPSNM.”

**Grant #3**—Pollination of Agaves by Nectar-feeding Bats and Birds in Southwestern New Mexico; Angela E. England; requested \$1,000

The board views this as an excellent application; the requested amount is for a very specific and worthwhile purpose. The board approved the \$1,000.

**Grant #4**—High Desert Cactus Demonstration Garden; Texas Mater Gardeners’ Assoc., El Paso Co. Chapter; requested \$1,000.

In recognition that native plant societies include gardeners, not just botanists, the board chose to support this project, although not all plants are from the Chihuahuan Desert—some are even from S. America. The board approved the \$1,000.

**Grant #5**—Proposal to Secure a Greenhouse for the Propagation of Plants Native to Taos County; NPSNM, Taos Chapter; requested \$1,000.

The board felt this was a very worthwhile project to promote landscaping with native plants in an area where the local nursery trade has little in the way of native plants. The board approved the \$1,000.

**Grant #6**—Floras of the Burros Mts. and Lake Roberts: Voucher Specimen Mounting; William R. Norris; requested \$1,000.

Although NPSNM has already given them \$500, this is an important project that the board wants to continue supporting. The board approved the \$1,000.

**Grant #7**—Plant Trunk; Gila Conservation Education Center; \$926 requested.

The board again supported this worthwhile educational project. The board approved the \$926.

**Grant #8**—Lichens of New Mexico; David W. Johnson; \$540 requested.

The board views this as an important project, as there is a hole in native plants at herbaria in terms of lichens. The board approved the \$540.

**Grant #9**—Checklist of Vascular Plants in the Sandia and Manzano Mts. of Central New Mexico; Robert Sivinski; requested \$680.

The board views this work as very accurate, of high quality, and very worthwhile and valuable; \$680 was approved.

**The total of the approved grants is \$7,646.**

J. **JACK CARTER RECOGNITION:** Tom proposed that conservation grants be called “Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Grants.” Renee suggested a permanent link on the website with this name, giving information on grants. Al suggested that a framed certificate be given to the Carters at the 2007 State Meeting, maybe with a logo designed for the grants. There was general agreement to these two suggestions.

K. **Motion to adjourn**—10:15 am.