

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

Minutes

Summer Board Meeting
Alpine Public Library,
805 W Ave E, Alpine TX
1:00 PM CDT, September 21, 2023

- I. **Call to Order** -Meeting was called to order by Don and Wendy Graves, co-presidents, at 1:05pm. Quorum was determined to be (in-person or Zoom) present, with proxies as noted below. Welcome to all new board members, guests and proxies.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Chapter Representatives:

Albuquerque: Lee Regan, proxy for
Dana Loy

El Paso: Kevin Floyd

Gila: Betty Spence

Las Cruces: Joan Woodward

Otero: Laurel Berry

Santa Fe: Sylvan Kaufman (Zoom)

Taos: Jan Martenson

Executive Officers:

Co-Presidents: Don & Wendy Graves

Vice President: Jonathan Tanis

Recording Secretary: Jane Kruse (Zoom)

Documentarian: Barbara Fix, proxy for
Kathleen Hall

Treasurer: Tom Stewart

Guests: Mary Adams, President of Taos Chapter, to announce the location of 2024 conference.

- II. **A.** Minutes of our winter board meeting, January 7, 2023 had already been reviewed, completed, signed and archived by email.
- B. Review additional board votes since that meeting, to be included in the minutes from this meeting.
 1. Motion by Tom Stewart to make \$1000 and the possibility of an additional \$1000 available for student travel to the Natural History of the Gila Symposium. Made by Tom Stewart by email on March 9, 2023, seconded by Jan Martenson on the same day, and yes votes from Betty Spence, Joan Woodward, Sylvan Kaufman, Kevin Floyd, Kathleen Hall, Elva Osterreich, Jane Kruse, and an abstain from Don and Wendy Graves (counting as 1 vote) over the next few days.

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

2. Motion by Don and Wendy Graves to approve the substance of the collaborative letter from NPSNM, CoNPS, and AZNPS containing feedback to the proposed BLM rule because the final version might come too close to the feedback deadline for our group to vote before the commentary went in. Motion made by email on June 21, 2023, seconded by Sylvan Kaufman on the same day, and yes votes from Joan Woodward, Judith Phillips, Kevin Floyd, Jonathan Tanis, Kathleen Hall, Betty Spence, Jane Kruse, Jan Martenson, and Tom Stewart over the next few days.

III. **Finance: Report available in DropBox**

Treasurer's Report – summarized by Tom Stewart for year to date: 9/16/23.

1. Membership goes up and down and we will not match the record total of dues we had in 2022. We are doing well financially, with income exceeding operation expenses.
2. Our board agreed to use some of the surplus in our checking account for gifts to the Carter Conservation Fund, including \$500 to subsidize the conservation hero award, and to send \$1000 to the WNMU Foundation for recruiting students to attend the Gila Natural History Symposium. The latter did not fit our criteria for a CCF grant.
3. It is proper for a nonprofit organization not to continually build surplus funds but to use them to further its stated mission.
4. Investments at Edward Jones: Our mutual funds hit a low point last fall and have recovered some of their value since. We sold out one fund that was continually dropping in value, replacing it with an \$8000 CD at 5% interest.
5. Our Jones account **restricted to CCF** purposes has roughly the same value now as it did in January, despite our withdrawing \$6815 of cash to award grants. While the market value of many stocks is lower than previously, companies are actually posting record profits in the currently strong economy. Therefore, we stopped reinvesting the dividends we receive and instead are retaining them as cash, \$2100 so far this year.
6. In our **unrestricted Jones account**, we have seen only a small gain in the value of shares (about \$800) since January, but that does not yet count the 5% interest we are getting on an \$18,000 CD that matures next March.
7. The fees taken by PayPal from donations and dues paid online (\$477 so far this year) vary from 3.2% to 7% of contributions. This would be worth more to us if we could set up automatic annual billing of memberships. Members could opt out but wouldn't lapse as often.
8. We welcome new members of the Finance Committee, Joan Woodward of Las Cruces and Russell Davis of Alamogordo, joining Jan Martenson and Tom Stewart.

Tom also initiated the discussion on the collection of reimbursements for the costs of board members staying at Sevilleta vs NPSNM covering the costs for board members attending the Sevilleta winter board meeting. It was stated that any spouses attending would be expected to make a donation to NPSNM covering their costs.

According to Tom: the board should feel comfortable with the checking account to cover expenses this year and he summarized the other accounts:

		Jan2023	Sept 2023
Nusenda	Checking	\$35,424.52	\$30,921.46
	Savings (Carter Fund)	\$13,644.04	\$10,437.48
Edward Jones	Unrestricted (available for <u>special projects</u>)	\$54,690.73	\$55,538.23
	Restricted (Carter Fund)	\$130,220.33	\$130,168.79

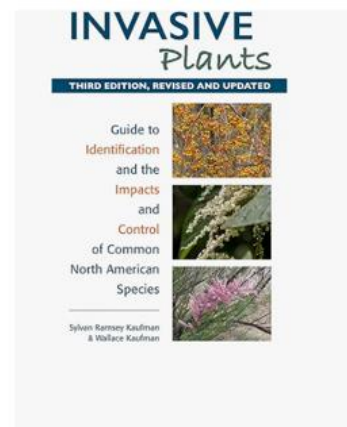
IV. Membership Report – See complete report in DropBox. prepared by Lindsey Kirchhevel, which was summarized by President. Membership up and noted increases during Covid.

V. Conservation Report – See report in DropBox as prepared by Sylvan Kaufman. This includes the mission statement and advocacy guidelines as approved by the current committee members.

Sylvan clarified Joan’s question: chapters can act alone, providing they present themselves as the chapter not the state organization. The controversial matters should go through the state conservation chair for help and guidance. Keep all informed through the chapter conservation representatives. (cc to all conservation members).

Don recognized that the Zoom meetings will make the meetings of the conservation committee easier to function and keep the committee and society informed of happenings that may be of interest locally or statewide.

Tom also mentioned Sylvan’s new release:



VI. Administrative Report -- for first half of 2023 Don and Wendy Graves, **see report in DropBox but highlighted the value of their chapter visits.**

VII. Old Business

- Wendy presented the idea to recognize Rachel for the many years of her service to the society. Up to \$200 approved, for Barbara Fix to work on this recognition.

VIII. Chapter highlights

Albuquerque-Lee: No rain all summer but field trips every month to Manzanos, Magdalenas, Jemez and Zuni mountains. About 12 or less on field trips. Richard Spellenberg was a speaker, challenging presentation. We have done more community service: Seed Cleaning at Bio Park, Plant Survey with City of ABQ Open Space Division, performed tumbleweed control at trailhead of Petroglyphs, cheat grass survey, Sandia Mts Natural History flower walk training sessions for volunteers, plant collecting foray in Zuni Mts sponsored by herbarium of UNM.

El Paso- Kevin: (other than the current conference) 6 month trial to move meeting with the cactus club on first Saturday, 10am Garden Center instead of Thursday evening. Mentioned nurseries open as something to do before the conference. Later, Kevin also noted that Bat Conservation International is spreading to El Paso chapter with agave plantings.

Gila-Betty: 900 agaves planted in collaboration with Bat Conservation International. A successful native plant sale was held in August with five vendors. The plant sale was not intended as a fundraiser for the chapter, but rather to introduce gardeners to plant growers and to get native plants in people's gardens. An open house in the Silva Creek Botanical Garden in August to introduce the community to the Master Plan; work has started on Phase 1. Evening programs: October will be a presentation by Mallory Davies, a bat researcher; November will be a presentation by John Gorey, a grant recipient, regarding rare thistles. There were two field trips to homes to view native plant landscaping, as well as several field trips in the wild. Two booklets, one on perennials, one on grasses, were given out by the Gila chapter to each of the other chapters; electronic format is offered to any chapter so it could be modified for their specific area, if desired.

Las Cruces-Joan: We have momentum, new board with 7 councils (CCCSHPG):
1. Conservation Council (such as public land issues, bat awareness thru the DNA kits, cattle project with BLM (to build a cattle enclosure to protect the spring from cattle) in Spring Canyon. 2. Communications Council (facebook, webpage and info to state), 3. Cowprints Council-shouldering the yoke of the conference for 2025)
4. Scholarship council (fundraising for scholarships for NMSU students), 5.

Hospitality Council (audience participation increased for comradery) 6. Programs- Masters of Asters (Black Range, Rock Hound)

7. Government: Dripping Springs-helping to improve the Native Plant Demonstration Garden.

Las Cruces chapter is in a better, more vibrant state than last year, especially with new recruits.

**Wendy requested anyone provide their tools or experiences for conferences which can now be found on website.

Otero-Laurel:-new vice-president, group now involved with master gardeners and cactus club. Hike to White Sands, tour of yards with native plants... and the way up high altitude hike. Plant sale this weekend at rodeo booth focused on trees and shrubs. Booth for earth day, book sales, seed give away. Laurel expressed interest in developing a portable herbarium. Don shared WNMU herbarium is readily accessible. Jan-the Taos herbarium was transferred to UNM.

Santa Fe-Sylvan: in person meetings Sept-May and field trips in summer. Barb Fix and Yvonne (from the Institute for Applied Ecology) led a field trip to Leonora Curtain Wetland Preserve, volunteers are doing weed control there. Volunteers are also helping to maintain the cactus garden on the Acequia Trail in the Baca neighborhood, including the Go fer Gopher gig to collapse the gopher tunnels there. One of the Santa Fe members requests the governor have Native Plant Day- how about a state date? Consider a coordinated state effort. Claire Noonan (science teacher award) offered to help with children's walks. Trying to do more partnership with community master gardeners, they have a certification program for habitats, and they have a native plant guide. Santa Fe is looking for more volunteers, (should take example from Las Cruces). Great attendance for walks, even need to limit. Barb mentioned audio devices to have for field trips. Contact Wendy for more information on these.

Taos -Mary: more activities, 6/8 meetings held so far very successful, chapter of 90, more hikes, more field trips. New members get-together, Don and Wendy attended. People want to know how to grow natives, collect seeds. The greenhouse manager Kathryn, in winter will take seeds and do demonstrations. Three local plant sales including one with a commercial grower, experimenting with natives. Book discussion-Taos book: Sally Wasowski's "Native Gardening in Northern New Mexico" being revised and reprinted soon. This book has been used by Master Gardeners and give aways by Sivinski's wife who is a realtor and by others in the area. It is only resource for gardening in the northern mts of NM.

The book has been reformatted to new size 5.5 x7.5 size. All updated text and pictures in place. Need reviewers. Needs to be edited. They will try to use as fund raiser but trying to make more available in a digital format. Jan requested info about the book sales, which books are being sold?

Save the date: Taos conference will be July 26-28, 2024: Sagebrush Inn will be location.

IX. New Business

- A. Tom made the motion: In years when NPSNM enjoys a comfortable surplus in its operating account and we ask board members to come to Sevilleta NWR for the winter meeting, we acknowledge their service by not asking them to pay rooming charges. Spouses and other visitors will be strongly urged to make a general donation to our organization.

Motion by Tom, seconded by Barbara. Passed with 12 voting members.

- B. Barbara reiterated her offer of \$7000 for both digitizing and indexing our full archive of newsletter. The old newsletters may have valuable information (example: information that could be used to follow salt cedar infestation rates).

Wendy noted 3 items from a handout: 1. Margaret Menache who has spent time researching this project, is interested in the project and has found some pricing information. Specifically, she has a high quality scanner and appears to be ready to start scanning when we give the word. 2. From our webmaster, Madeline: it is possible to use a search tool to search through the contents of a specified folder on the web and she found one that costs \$40. This would be something we could try out and if it didn't work to our satisfaction, we could get our money back. 3. On the website host, we have room to put the entire archive and have it searchable.

Don suggests we collect more information and consider this as a special project.

- C. NPSNM FaceBook page. This already exists, but changes are being considered. Wendy will send out an email for feedback.
- D. Sunflower scholarships and grants process-Tom provided the history of this scholarship with clarification of the availability of the coloring books which were created by Sarah Digby originally just before the last Gila conference. Jane clarified the Sunflower Scholarship was designated for our native plant conferences but the request for grant money at winter meeting was for student travel to the Gila Symposium, not a native plant conference.

E. Kevin moves to change the deadline for Carter applications for grants deadline to November 30th, starting for the year of 2024. Second by Betty, Voted to approve, 12 yes votes.

F. Kevin also suggested development of a scoring system for the grants in the future.

X. Kevin made the Motion to Adjourn, second by all. Adjourned 3 :10

Committee reports and board meeting minutes are uploaded to:
Dropbox>Board Meetings>Winter Board Meetings>2023 Summer Board Meeting. Board Members and Chapter Presidents have been given access. Don & Wendy Graves can help if you have trouble with Dropbox. You may contact them at president@npsnm.org.
Respectfully submitted,

Jane Kruse

Don & Wendy Graves

Recording Secretary
Native Plant Society New Mexico

Co-Presidents
Native Plant Society New Mexico

These minutes were accepted on October 18,2023 by a vote of the board of directors, with 9 eligible members voting in approval after a complete review and all corrections were made.

Tuesday, October 10, 2023