



Board Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, April 5, 2022

The meeting was held in the Silva Creek Botanical Garden

Call to order 3:00 pm

Present: Don Graves, President; Wendy Graves, Treasurer; Betty Spence, Secretary; Mary Barrett, Margie Ann Gibson, Rick Lass, Elroy Limmer, Susan Thompson; absent Beth Leuck

Minutes: Minutes from the February 22, 2022, meeting were approved.

President's Report: Don emphasized that it was important to find ways to involve more members as volunteers. While he did not intend to serve as President after this year, he planned to be involved in GNPS educational projects, which unfortunately had languished during the Covid period.

Treasurer's Report: Wendy reported that the Gila Native Plant Society account as of 4/1/2022 had a balance of \$13,841.99. The Silva Creek Garden Account as of 4/1/2022 had a balance of \$21,978.36.

She recalled that one of the larger expenses, approved by the Board, involved the purchase of 50 copies of the updated edition of *Common Grasses of Grant and Catron Counties, New Mexico* from the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance to add to the stock of books we have for sale. Ron Groves, who has handled GNPS book sales for years, finds that he is no longer in a position to handle some of the heavier shipments and would like to relinquish responsibility for book sales. Rick volunteered to take on the job.

Board Membership: Susan Thompson said that, regretfully, she felt overextended and had decided that she could not continue as a Board member.

Silva Creek Botanical Garden:

Elroy reported that the Operations Team would like to have the Board authorize a further \$1,000 to pay the balance owed to the contractor for trimming a row of Siberian elms on the north side of the garden property. Ideally, the Operations Team would like to remove the non-native Siberian elms, which spread abundantly and caused a great deal of work removing their seedlings. However, the work was expensive and required an experienced contractor, so that it

could not be done all at once. A motion to approve the additional funds was taken and passed, with Rick abstaining.

Motion: The Board approves an additional allocation of 1,000 to pay the contractor for Siberian elm removal in the SCBG.

Margie said that the Operations Team hoped to be able to come up with a budget for the year, instead of a piecemeal approach.

Don said that the kiosk in the garden was looking very good. Margie and her volunteers were keeping the front of the kiosk up to date. He had mounted cork on the back, and now material of interest to children, among other things, was wanted for that side. Silke Schneider, who is a kindergarten teacher, had volunteered to work on children's material in the summer when the school year was over.

Old Business:

Beginner's Guide to Landscaping with Native Grasses of the Gila Region: Don reported that Denise Friedrich was working on black-and-white illustrations of grasses for the Guide. He himself was working on the descriptions. He hoped that Margie might suggest some styling for the layout.

Waterworks/Plants List: Don said that he and Mary had surveyed the Waterworks property and had talked with Brigitte Johns of SWNM Act. They noted that considerable progress had been made with landscaping and planting and with the infrastructure for trail users. Tent pads had been laid, as well as a pad for the amphitheater. There was a trailer for the camp hosts. Our input was given just as a good neighbor.

New Business:

Gila Earth Day: Don reported that this year the Gila Earth Day celebration was going to be held in conjunction with Continental Divide Trail Days. At the GNPS table Les Brandt had volunteered to have activities for kids, as he did last year. Volunteers were needed to help set up, tear down and sit at the booth. The new table runner with the GNPS logo would be ready for the event.

Give Grandly was scheduled for May 7th from 9 am to 2 pm. Betty said that she would be at the table the whole time but would like to have another person there. Rick volunteered to sit with her from 9 to 11 am. Rick suggested that we might have a form at the table on which people could sign up to indicate their willingness to volunteer for things.

Evening Programs: Don recalled that our next evening program was a talk on penstemons by Russ Kleinman. He was hoping it could be a hybrid meeting, live and via Zoom both. In fact, that might be the model in the future.

GNPS Sound System: Don would like to look into the possibility of having our own sound system instead of borrowing from the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon or WNMU. Margie

agreed that it would be good to have our own, especially a kind that would be useful in the field, perhaps with ear phones. Don said that Ann Hedlund had a knowledgeable friend he could consult. Wendy noted that the sound systems used at the last NPSNM conference had been good; we might consult the Otero Chapter, which hosted the conference.

Annual Fall Native Plant Sale: Don said that the sale was scheduled for September 10th, and he had confidence that the members of the plant sale committee last year would help again. In addition to last year's vendors, Gila Watershed Partners in Safford, native plant growers, had expressed interest in participating. He hoped Margie would design the poster for us.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Appendix:

Motions passed by exchange of email since Feb. 22nd meeting

Motion: GNPS will allocate an additional \$3,000 for tree removal/trimming in SCBG. \$500 of this will go toward the current bill, and \$2500 will be available for future trimming and removal.

Explanation: The sooner the SCBG Operations Team can get the non-native Siberian elms out, the sooner they can start planting native species. Moreover, the elms drop thousands of elm seedlings that have to be removed during garden work days. However, given the cost of removal and in order not to raise concerns in the neighborhood, the removal will be a gradual process. The contractor used in the past has done an excellent job, including chipping.

Motion: GNPS will spend \$400 to purchase 50 copies of the updated version of *Common Grasses of Grant and Catron Counties* by S. MacDonald for resale.

Explanation: Our online bookstore manager, Ron Groves, is requesting 50 copies of the newly updated *Common Grasses of Grant and Catron Counties* by S. MacDonald. We have carried the first edition for many years, as it helps support a worthy nonprofit, the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance (UGWA). Our cost is \$8 each and we will sell them for \$10 each.